

# ST. THOMAS INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2022

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### Vicar's Message

#### THANK YOU LORD!

St. Paul said in his second letter to the Corinthians 9:15, "Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift."

I personally used this verse in several sermons and say that often in my prayers. St. Paul, from the bottom of his heart, gives thanks to his Master as he enjoyed much blessings from Him. We have to remember that St. Paul's blessings were not devoid of his sufferings. In spite of the troubles and tribulations, St. Paul was thankful to God for the blessing he received.

We are now approaching the Thanksgiving Day for this year. Don't we have so much to thank God for? The very gift of life, the opportunity God gave us to live on this earth, our own families, the spiritual community around us, the employment, health, good will, financial stability, good



friends, and so on are matters of thankfulness to God. We cannot count the abundant mercies that we received from God. They are too many.

Often our people are not aware of what we owe to the Lord. We live in a world where people think that all their achievements are because of their own hard work and ability. But they don't even think that they are gifts from God. Indeed, hard work is essential. But if God did not give good health will one be able to do the hard work? If God did not give the intelligence will one be able to do anything? Also, when depending on one's own ability, pride overcomes the

mind. Such people never give glory to God who gave those gifts.

Material gifts alone are not the gift from God. The atmosphere of peace, tranquility, courage and faith are also gifts from God. We lose our ability to combat all evil forces around us because we lack faith in the Lord who is powerful to guide us. St. Paul depended on the Lord in all his adversities. Even when many people stood against him in some communities, he stayed strong in the power of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 11 and 12 stand as witness of his adversities. He knew whom he trusted (2 Timothy 1:12).

A personal experience with the Lord was St. Paul's reason for his gratitude. He was able to see the hand of God in all what he went through. From time to time the Lord guided him. It was during the shipwreck

that St. Paul took courage to console his co-travelers in their trouble, as recorded in Acts of the Apostles 27:22-25. He said, "nothing will happen to you". We lack such strong faith these days because we lack personal experience with the Lord.

During this Thanksgiving season let us be thankful to God for all blessings He showered upon our life.

Happy Thanksgiving Day!

Lovingly,

Fr. M. K. Kuriakose, Vicar

### **COVID-19 and Support System**

#### **Financial Assistance to Members**

If any of our members need any assistance with food, medicine, transportation, shopping, or any other needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they may contact our Achens or the Secretary. They will coordinate help. Our MC members, along with other volunteers will be available to provide any possible help.

***We are all in this together.***

#### **Contact:**

- Rev. Fr. M. K. Kuriakose: 201.681.1078
- Rev. Fr. Sujit Thomas: 516.754.0743
- Binu Mathew: 267.893.9571



## Parish Highlights from October

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### Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival was celebrated on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. Many families brought vegetables, fruits and plants from their houses as offerings. Many others offered household items. There were stalls for clothing, electronics items and much more. Breakfast, lunch, snacks, take out dinner etc were enjoyed by everyone. Variety entertainment programs included solo and groups songs, dances and a live concert with full orchestra. Active participation of spiritual organizations and the parish families made it a memorable day.

### Honoring of Senior Parish Members

Senior members of our parish who are of age 70 and above were honored in our church after the Holy Qurbana on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 in connection with Parish Day. The event was coordinated by the Men's forum. HG Yuhanon Mar Meletus, Metropolitan of Trichur Diocese was the chief guest. His Grace and our Vicar Rev Fr M. K. Kuriakose thanked the seniors for their services to the church

and for being an inspiration to the younger generation.

### Diocesan Metropolitan's Visit

HG Zachariah Nar Nicholovos Metropolitan visited our parish on Saturday, October 22. His Grace met with the Managing Committee members and leaders of Parish Ministries. On Sunday, October 23, His Grace was the chief celebrant of the Holy Communion Service. Afterwards, HG led a Town Hall meeting during which HG spoke about current Diocesan initiatives and also answered questions from the parish members.

### COVID/Flu Vaccination Clinic

In collaboration with Shop and Carry Pharmacy, a vaccination clinic was held at our church on October 30 after Holy Qurbana. Both COVID Booster vaccine and flu vaccine were offered. Many people from our church and our community made use of this service.

## Spiritual Organization Updates

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### Middle School Fellowship (CAYA)

The Come As You Are (CAYA) Middle School Fellowship focuses upon instilling its main values of kindness and compassion in the students through weekly general sessions during the school year and monthly meetings throughout the year. CAYA will not be having a November monthly meeting, but the Sunday School's annual Holiday Craft Fair will be held in person on November 19, 2022. The youth prayer line will also be held the last Sunday of the month, 11/27/22 @ 9PM.

Men's Forum meets every Sunday. The meetings will be held in person immediately after the HQ at our church. Christian songs, Bible reading, prayer, and preaching the word of God are included in the meeting. Our achen also share valuable messages at their convenient timings. For anyone who wants to join the meeting, please contact Lukose Mathew, Secretary (267-467-4993), Vakkayil Joseph, Treasurer (267-205-7986), or Thomas Daniel, Prayer Coordinator (267-303-1898).

### Men's Forum

OCYM meets every Sunday after Holy Qurbana. Our achen answer various questions from our members

regarding Faith, theology, and other general topics.

Please contact Joel Manoj for more information.

## Upcoming Events

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### Parish Meeting on November 6

Our Parish meeting (Special General Body) is scheduled for Sunday, November 6 after Holy Qurbana. We request all members of our church to attend this event.

**Agenda:**

1. Long term planning for our present facility considering the age and condition.
2. How to improve the involvement of our younger generation in spiritual and administrative activities of the parish and how to effectively cater to their needs.
3. How we can better serve our aging population.
4. What improvements shall we make for the parish administration; giving participation for the youth in parish administration and equip them to take leadership.

### Big Offertory Day and Thanksgiving

Our Big Offertory Day and church Thanksgiving will be on Sunday, November 20. All attendees will be served a catered Thanksgiving Lunch and we will dedicate this day as our big offertory day.

### Christmas Carol

Under the leadership of OCYM, we are planning for caroling this year. We will post a signup sheet for members who are interested in taking part in the caroling services. Also, we are planning to post a signup sheet for members who are interested (as individuals or as clusters) in inviting the caroling team to their house. The Caroling team is planning to visit the houses of those who are pre- registered. Please sign up within two weeks after publishing the list to organize this event.

### Christmas Social on December 24

Our Christmas social is scheduled for Saturday, December 24 from 2 pm to 6:30 pm followed by evening prayer and dinner. More details will be provided in the following weeks.

## Fasts & Feasts

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Nov. 2	Dhukrono of St. Gregorios of Parumala

## Parish Calendar

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Nov. 6	Parish Meeting
Nov. 19	Christmas/Holiday Craft Fair
Nov. 20	Parish Thanksgiving/Big Offertory Day
Nov. 27	FOCUS Meeting
Dec 19-22	MGOCSM Winter Summit

## Member Announcements

### Life Events Announcements

Do you have a special day that you would like to announce, like a milestone wedding anniversary (25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> etc.) or a birthday (50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup>, 80<sup>th</sup> etc.)? If you would like to, please inform the Secretary in advance. Please remember that even though our parish database includes birthday and wedding day, it doesn't include the year of birth or marriage. Unless you notify the Secretary or Clergy, they wouldn't know milestone events.

## Death Announcements

- ❖ **Mr. T.M. Varghese (80)**, father of Mr. Shibu Varghese (Membership # 346) passed away in Philadelphia on October 12<sup>th</sup>. The viewing was held on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> in our church Sanctuary. Funeral was held in Kerala.
- ❖ **Mr. P.K. Varghese (94)**, father of Mr. Achen Varghese (Membership # 178), Mr. Babu Varghese (Membership # 316), and Mr. Biju Varghese (Membership # 256), passed away in Kerala. Funeral was held at Mar Gregorios Orthodox Church, Pazhakulam, Kerala on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ **Mrs. Ammukkutty Zachariah (84)**, mother of Mr. Joe Zachariah (Membership # 374), passed away in Kerala on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Funeral took place at her home parish on October 26<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ **Mr. Cherian Zachariah (72)**, brother of Jacob M. Zachariah (Membership # 164) and Thomas Zachariah (Membership # 364) passed away in Kerala on October 16. Funeral took place at his home parish on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

*On behalf of the parish, we express our deepest condolences to the bereaving families. Let us pray for the departed souls and for the bereaving families. May our heavenly Father grant peace and comfort that surpasses human wisdom and understanding.*

### Memorial Prayer List

As you know, members can submit names of departed loved ones that needs to be included on the Memorial Prayer List. You probably have given the names of your departed ones in the past. However, please note that our church doesn't have a system to save such names with dates or automatically track and decide on which Sunday the name should be included on the prayer list. You need to enter the name on the Memorial Prayer list kept in the church office. Note: We do have a master list of departed faithful that we keep for remembering them on the Sunday of the departed faithful, which is a week before the Holy Lent begins. This list has names only no dates.

## NOVEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. & Mrs. Santhosh M Baby	3-Nov	Mr. & Mrs. Toby Johnes Fen	21-Nov
Mr. & Mrs. Panickal Y Mathaikutty	7-Nov	Mr. & Mrs. Vakkayil V. Joseph	24-Nov
Mr. & Mrs. Alex T Raju	8-Nov	Mr. & Mrs. Philip John	24-Nov
Mr. & Mrs. Saju John	8-Nov	Mr. & Mrs. Kondoor E.a Chacko	28-Nov
Mr. & Mrs. Bibin P. Baby	8-Nov	Mr. & Mrs. Anish Thomas	28-Nov
Mr. & Mrs. Jibu Vergis	9-Nov	Mr. & Mrs. Abraham John	28-Nov
Mr. & Mrs. John Polayil Abraham	11-Nov	Mr. & Mrs. Philip Skaria	29-Nov
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Yohannan	18-Nov	Mr. & Mrs. Abraham K. George	29-Nov
Mr. & Mrs. Jubee P Mathai	20-Nov		



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Rebu Roy	1-Nov	Marykutty John	15-Nov	Manju Eldho	21-Nov
Saju Mathew	2-Nov	C C John	15-Nov	Haya Saly Mathew	23-Nov
Thomas Varghese	2-Nov	Marykutty Johnkutty	15-Nov	Aji P Abraham	23-Nov
Jacob P Oommen	3-Nov	Raphael Reynold	15-Nov	Bobin Mathew Thomas	23-Nov
Deepa Thomas	4-Nov	Abel V Mathew	15-Nov	Aleyamma Joy	24-Nov
Saiju Jubee	5-Nov	Yohannan Mathew	16-Nov	Mathew A.P George	25-Nov
Saramma Varghese	5-Nov	Jonah Stephen	16-Nov	Daniel P Bivin	25-Nov
Linu John	6-Nov	Sheela K. Abraham	16-Nov	Jubee P Mathai	25-Nov
Marygrace Pothan	6-Nov	Beena Jacob Sam	16-Nov	Rajan T Samuel	25-Nov
Susy Jacob	8-Nov	Aleena Mariam	16-Nov	Thomas P Oommen	25-Nov
Amos Geo Vaidian	8-Nov	Omana Mathew	18-Nov	Annamma Regi	25-Nov
Leelamma Vergis	8-Nov	Joshua Mathew	18-Nov	Ann Maria Sabu	26-Nov
Joanna K Alex	8-Nov			Philip K Thomas	26-Nov
Georgeyo Oommen	9-Nov			Annamma Mathai	26-Nov
Lilly Elias	10-Nov			Elizabeth Jacob	27-Nov
Elsamma Koshy	10-Nov			Noah K Alex	27-Nov
John P Eapen	10-Nov	Leni S Mampallil	18-Nov	Bivin Varghese Pulivelil	27-Nov
Asish Mathew	11-Nov	Kochukoshy P Oommen	19-Nov	Susan George	27-Nov
Evelyn Panicker	12-Nov	Liju Alex	19-Nov	Christina Elizabeth George	27-Nov
Anu Vergis	13-Nov	Issac Mathew	19-Nov	Bethenny John	27-Nov
Suja Mathew	13-Nov	Eapen V Kalathil	19-Nov	Mercy Panicker	28-Nov
Johanna M. Mukadiyil	13-Nov	Tony P. Biju	20-Nov	Elias K Issac	29-Nov
Anie Mathew	13-Nov	Neena A George	20-Nov	Saju John	29-Nov
Benny Mathew	13-Nov	Abraham K. George	20-Nov	John Panicker	29-Nov
<b>Rev. Fr. Geevarghese John</b>	14-Nov	Libi Thomas	20-Nov	Annamma George	29-Nov
Varghese Varghese	14-Nov	Predeep Chacko	20-Nov	Vakkayil Varghese Joseph	30-Nov
Anju John	14-Nov	Salamma Varghese	20-Nov		



# Sunday School News

*Submitted by Binny Cherian, Principal  
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## One Year Bible Reading Schedule - November

Date	I	II	III
<i>November 1</i>	2 Chron. 30	Daniel 10	Acts 10
<i>November 2</i>	2 Chron. 31	Daniel 11	Acts 11-12
<i>November 3</i>	2 Chron. 32	Daniel 12	Acts 13
<i>November 4</i>	2 Chron. 33	Hosea 1	Acts 14-15
<i>November 5</i>	2 Chron. 34	Hosea 2	Acts 16-17
<i>November 6</i>	2 Chron. 35	Hosea 3	Acts 18-19
<i>November 7</i>	2 Chron. 36	Hosea 4	Acts 20
<i>November 8</i>	Ezra 1-2	Hosea 5	Acts 21-22
<i>November 9</i>	Ezra 3-4	Hosea 6	Acts 23-24
<i>November 10</i>	Ezra 5-6	Hosea 7	Acts 25-26
<i>November 11</i>	Ezra 7	Hosea 8	Acts 27
<i>November 12</i>	Ezra 8	Hosea 9	Acts 28
<i>November 13</i>	Ezra 9	Hosea 10	Col. 1
<i>November 14</i>	Ezra 10	Hosea 11	Col. 2
<i>November 15</i>	Neh. 1-2	Hosea 12	Col. 3-4
<i>November 16</i>	Neh. 3	Hosea 13	1 Thess. 1-2
<i>November 17</i>	Neh. 4	Hosea 14	1 Thess. 3-4
<i>November 18</i>	Neh. 5-6	Joel 1	1 Thess. 5
<i>November 19</i>	Neh. 7	Joel 2	2 Thess. 1-2
<i>November 20</i>	Neh. 8	Joel 3	2 Thess. 3
<i>November 21</i>	Neh. 9	Amos 1	1 Timothy 1-3
<i>November 22</i>	Neh. 10	Amos 2	1 Timothy 4-5
<i>November 23</i>	Neh. 11	Amos 3	1 Timothy 6
<i>November 24</i>	Neh. 12	Amos 4	2 Timothy 1
<i>November 25</i>	Neh. 13	Amos 5	2 Timothy 2
<i>November 26</i>	Esther 1	Amos 6	2 Timothy 3-4
<i>November 27</i>	Esther 2	Amos 7	Titus 1-3
<i>November 28</i>	Esther 3-4	Amos 8	Philemon
<i>November 29</i>	Esther 5-6	Amos 9	Hebrews 1-2
<i>November 30</i>	Esther 7-8	Obadiah	Hebrews 3-5

**Please remember to pray for the Sunday school Children and Staff in your daily prayer.**