

ST. THOMAS INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

1009 UNRUH AVE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19111

Phone: (215) 342 1500 Fax: (215) 342 2700 www.stthomasphiladelphia.org

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2023

VOLUME XXVII ISSUE 7

Assistant Vicar's Message

Ordination

If it takes a village to raise a child, then the life of the child as an adult is reflective of the village that raised them. July 1st, 2023 is an occasion for the village that is St. Thomas Unruh to celebrate how it has raised one of its children: Predeep Chacko. Predeep was raised in church from his birth and was even baptized in the church. As Predeep becomes ordained we can all rejoice in the growth of one of our children. Predeep's ordination to Sub-deaconate will be an important milestone in the long journey towards priestly ministry that he has been travelling.

The order of Sub-deacon is one of the ranks of ordained ministry in the church. The Syriac title is Yavphadiakno which literally means "Door-keeper". The Yavphadiakno probably served to watch the doors of the church in the ancient days. As the various ranks of angels serve God in his

heavenly temple, so the various ranks of earthly ministers serve God and His Church here below. Traditionally it is said that there are 7 ranks of priesthood with (1) Baptism, (2) Chrismation, (3) Singer / Msamrono, (4) Reader / Korooyo, (5) Sub-deacon / Yavphadiakno, (6) Deacon / Mshamshono, (7) Priest / Kaseeso / Kohano. In some lists two other ranks are substituted for 1 and 2. In Malankara we refer to those ordained to ranks 4-7 as deacon or semassan.

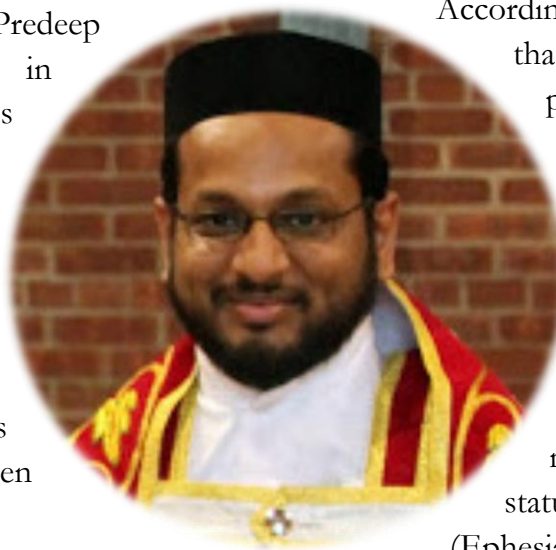
Why are ministers ordained in the church?

According to St Paul, "And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"

(Ephesians 4:11-13). These ministers are

ordained to equip the church in its work of ministry, and to build up the body of Christ so that each believer may grow in the image and likeness of God.

The main act in the ordination is the laying on of hands. We see the practice of laying on of hands



to ordain ministers in the New Testament. For example, when the church ordained deacons it says, “These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them” (Acts 6:6). When St Paul was sent out as a missionary, the leaders in Antioch “had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off” (Acts 13:3; see 1 Timothy 5:22).

The ordination service includes several parts and is done in the middle of Holy Qurbana. It begins with “omologia” or profession of faith which is doctrinal and moral exhortation to the candidate of ordination. The candidate declares that he will follow the instructions given by the bishop. Then the bishop clips the hair of the candidate in the shape of cross while saying “(NAME OF ORDINAND) is tonsured and sealed to signify his rejection of carnal habits by the clipping of his lifeless hair off his head.” The Bishop then holds

the right hand of the ordinand and leads him to the sanctuary saying, “The Holy Spirit calls you to be a sub-deacon in His Holy Church.” The candidate then remains in the altar kneeling while several prayers are completed. One such prayer states, “Make this Your servant worthy to receive the divine gift of the laying upon of hands in purity and holiness.” Several scripture portions are read including selections from Isaiah by the candidate. After the gospel and creed, the bishop stands on the steps of the altar and calls forth the Holy Spirit. Following two declarations and one proclamation, the bishop lays his hands on the candidate and makes the sign of the cross thrice on the forehead of the candidate.

Let us continue to remember Predeep in our prayers. May God use Predeep for the building up of His Church.

Lovingly, Fr. Sujit Thomas, Asst. 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
- Steven Kurian: 267.450.6815



Parish Highlights from June

Badminton Tournament – June 24th

Badminton Tournament- The OCYM conducted a badminton tournament in our Parish gym. The winners were Mr. Nebu Daniel and Mr. Lins John. Mr. Renji Varghese and Mr. Alex Babu were the runners up.



Last Day of Sunday School – June 25th

We ended the school year by giving awards to the top students from 2021-2022 followed by pizza lunch for all the children.

Church Perunal and Ordination of Rev. Subdeacon Zachariah Chacko (Predeep) – June 30th

We celebrated our Church's Annual Perunal this year from June 29th through July 1st.

The Perunal was inaugurated with the hoisting of the Church flag on the previous Sunday,

June 25th. The first night featured a virtual Zoom conference led by Rev. Fr. Vivek Varghese, the global MGOCSM General Secretary. On Friday, June 30th, our Chief Guest, our Diocesan Metropolitan, His Grace Zachariah Mar Nicholovos, arrived and led the Evening Prayer and gave the devotional address. The planned Rasa (procession) around the Church was canceled due to the poor air quality warning issued by the city. Finally, the Holy Qurbana was celebrated the following morning by the Metropolitan. In addition, our member, Predeep Chacko, was ordained to the order of Subdeacon by the Metropolitan in the presence of our many clergy and guests from our sister parishes.

Rev. Subdeacon Zachariah (Predeep) Chacko grew up a member of our parish and has been an active MGOCSM and FOCUS member. He completed his Bachelor's Degree in Accounting at Temple University, then went on to complete his Masters in Divinity from St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary in South Canaan, Pennsylvania. Most recently, he completed his studies in Syriac at St. Ephrem Ecumenical Research Institute (SEERI), in Kottayam, Kerala, India. Let us as a Parish continue to pray for Rev. Subdeacon Predeep as he continues his ministry.



July Events and General Announcements

Church Reminders

Charity: Please continue to bring in donations for the Parish Housing Charity. This Charity intends to build 5 homes in India for those less fortunate. Please also consider supporting our General Charity Initiatives as well.

Dip Jar: Those who are interested in submitting their offertory or any other small donation may do so in the Church dip jar located by the Meditation Room.

Digital Payment: All donations may be made by Applepay / GPay / Venmo - members can scan QR codes affixed on the glass wall outside the Church office

Lost and Found: Many small items such as jewelry and watches have been submitted to the office "Lost and Found". Please see the Secretary if you believe you may be missing one of these items.

Spiritual Organization Updates

OCYM, MMVS, and Men's Forum Meetings will be held weekly after Refreshments.

Upcoming Diocesan Events

Northeast American Diocese Family and Youth Confernce (July 12-15)

July 12-15, 2023 at the Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center.

Registration still available at Regular Rate at:

<https://form.jotform.com/fyconf2023/fyc-2023-registration>

See **attached** flyer for more details.

MGOCSM Sabro High School Camp (July 19-22)

The MGOCSM of the NE American Diocese presents this year's Sabro High School Camp: "The Mirror of Erised".

Date: July 19-22, 2023

Venue: Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center (Dalton, PA)

Early bird registration ends on May 30th. See **attached** flyer for more details.

**MGOCSM College Summer Summit
(August 15-18)**

Theme: “Love is the passport with which man passes through all the heavenly doors without obstacles.” (St. John Chrysostom)

Main Speaker: Rev. Fr. Immanuel (Amal) Punnoose

Dates: 8/15 (Tuesday) to 8/18 (Friday)

Venue: Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center (Dalton, PA)

Registration (April 17th - July 23rd) - \$200 US (\$200CA)

"Late" Registration (July 24th - August 1st) - \$250

DEADLINE FOR ANYONE WHO NEEDS TRANSPORTATION WILL BE JULY 1st

Registration will close after August 1, 2023

For more information, please contact:

Convenor - Joshua Santosh: (516) 698-9343
Assistant Convenor - Jonathan Mathai: (516) 636-9292

Parish Committee Members:

- Rachel David: (610) 755-2668
- Neha Joseph: (215) 820-7574
- Jaime George: (484) 364-7450

See **attached** flyer for more details.

Fasts & Feasts

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
	No events noted.

Diocesan Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
July 12-15	Family & Youth Conference @ HTRC
July 19-22	MGOCSM Sabro High School Camp
July 26-29	Talmeedo Men's Retreat
August 15-18	MGOCSM College Camp at Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center
September 27-28	Clergy Conference
October 14	MMVS Annual One-Day Conference
November 25	MGOCSM One-Day Conference

Member Announcements

Memorials

- ❖ **Mr. Renny Varghese**, our former member who had been residing in Pittsburgh for last few years, passed away on June 8th. Funeral was conducted at our Church on June 16th as led by our clergy in the Orthodox rite.
- ❖ **Mr. Jacob V. Abraham**, brother in law of Sheeja Mammen (#324) and John Abraham (#323), passed away on June 11th.
- ❖ **Mrs. Aleyamma John**, mother of Susan Mathew (#120), passed away on June 15th.
- ❖ **Mrs. Mariamma Thomas (Chinnamma)** (#107) passed away on June 26th. She is the wife of late Mr. Thomas C. Thomas, mother of Mini, Reena, and Beena. Funeral was conducted at our Church on June 30th as officiated by our clergy.

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 loves 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.

Life Events Announcements


Do you have a special day that you would like to announce, like a milestone wedding anniversary (25th, 50th etc.) or a birthday (50th, 60th, 70th, 80th 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.

JULY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Mathew	Jul 1	Mr. & Mrs. Philip K Thomas	Jul 12
Mr. & Mrs. Mohan Samuel	Jul 1	Mr. & Mrs. Sathees Easow	Jul 13
Mr. & Mrs. Manoj Mathew	Jul 1	Mr. & Mrs. Alex Pothen	Jul 16
Mr. & Mrs. Jestin K Abraham	Jul 3	Mr. & Mrs. Binu K. Mathew	Jul 17
Mr. & Mrs. Renjy Vattasseril	Jul 3	Mr. & Mrs. Jacob P Sam	Jul 20
Mr. & Mrs. Isac P. George	Jul 4	Mr. & Mrs. Nebu Daniel	Jul 20
Mr. & Mrs. Matt P. Geevarghese	Jul 4	Mr. & Mrs. Samkutty John	Jul 21
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Vaidian	Jul 4	Mr. & Mrs. Sajan Varughese	Jul 22
Mr. & Mrs. Sunil George	Jul 5	Mr. & Mrs. Shaji Thomas	Jul 23
Mr. & Mrs. Cherian Varghese	Jul 5	Mr. & Mrs. Rev. Fr. Sujit Thomas	Jul 25
Mr. & Mrs. Rev. Fr. Gheevarghese John	Jul 5	Mr. & Mrs. Anu. Pulickal Varughese	Jul 27
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas George	Jul 6	Mr. & Mrs. Anish Mathew	Jul 28
Mr. & Mrs. Kochukoshy P Oommen	Jul 6	Mr. & Mrs. Varughese M M.	Jul 28
Mr. & Mrs. John Varghese	Jul 7	Mr. & Mrs. Sanju John	Jul 28
Mr. & Mrs. Varghese Mathew	Jul 8	Mr. & Mrs. Joby George	Jul 29
Mr. & Mrs. Oommen V Kappil	Jul 9	Mr. & Mrs. Goldy Mathew	Jul 29
Mr. & Mrs. Raju T Chandy	Jul 10	Mr. & Mrs. Chacko P Chacko	Jul 30
Mr. & Mrs. Reynold Educula	Jul 12	Mr. & Mrs. Reji Joshua Varughese	Jul 30
Mr. & Mrs. John P Mathai	Jul 12	Mr. & Mrs. Benny Mathew	Jul 31



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Meenu Ann Mathews	Jul 1	Noah Mathew Alexander	Jul 12	Nathan Gregor Niju	Jul 23
Mohan Samuel	Jul 1	Felix Ronnie	Jul 12	Angela S Panicker	Jul 24
Rachel Bincy Nebu	Jul 1	Reji Joshua Varughese	Jul 13	Joanne Samuel	Jul 24
Joy Jacob	Jul 2	Thomas Koshy	Jul 13	Julian Raju Geevarghese	Jul 24
Abrielle James	Jul 3	Regi Mathai	Jul 14	Tobin Thankachan	Jul 25
Hanna Marie Raju	Jul 4	Messina Ann Abraham	Jul 14	Cynthia Vattasseril	Jul 25
Sosa Philip	Jul 6	Prasad George	Jul 15	Reshma Brown	Jul 25
Geevarghese K John	Jul 7	Jacob George	Jul 15	Remya Brown	Jul 25
Joel George Varghese	Jul 7	Rev. Fr M K Kuriakose	Jul 15	Lijin Joyes	Jul 26
Zane Cheeran Rijon	Jul 8	Achamma Thomas	Jul 15	Reeja Saji	Jul 26
Zephaniah Varghese George	Jul 8	Merrin Abraham	Jul 16	Mariamamma Joseph	Jul 28
Jancy Joy	Jul 8	Jeremiah Goldy Mathew	Jul 16	Chinnu Reba Mathews	Jul 29
Mathew P Cherian	Jul 8			Thankachan K Mathai	Jul 29
Rachel Thomas	Jul 8			Sobin Benny	Jul 30
Suvarna Varghese	Jul 8			Thomas Vaidian	Jul 30
Manoj Thomas	Jul 9	Emil John Sam	Jul 16	Alvin Panicker	Jul 30
Beena R John	Jul 9	Reuben Liju	Jul 19	Thomaskutty Varghese	Jul 30
Ryan Liju	Jul 10	Beena Thomas	Jul 19	Jaxen Daniel Jacob	Jul 30
Annamma Chacko	Jul 10	Joseph M C.	Jul 20	Amelia Annie Paul	Jul 30
Sylvia S Renji	Jul 10	Dana Job	Jul 21	Suja Elizabeth George	Jul 31
Abigail M Alexander	Jul 10	Charly Mathai	Jul 22	Thomas George	Jul 31
Saramma Thomas	Jul 10	Aleyamma Rajan	Jul 22		
Mathew N K.	Jul 10	Josslyn Susan Johnes	Jul 22		
Leah Mariam Thomas	Jul 11	Sujith Mathew Thomas	Jul 23		
Viola Mathew	Jul 11	Alvin Shibu Mathew	Jul 23		

Sunday School News

*Submitted by Binny Cherian, Principal
(Tel.: 914.708.7981, Email: cbinny@gmail.com)*

- Classes will resume after the Labor Day on September 10th.
- OVBS 2023 will be held in person at our church on Friday, August 4th, and Saturday, August 5th from 9am - 4pm. Flyer is attached.

One Year Bible Reading Schedule - July

Date	I	II	III
July 1	1 Samuel 13	Isaiah 56-57	Rev. 21-22
July 2	1 Samuel 14	Isaiah 58	Matt. 1-2
July 3	1 Samuel 15	Isaiah 59	Matt. 3-4
July 4	1 Samuel 16	Isaiah 60	Matt. 5
July 5	1 Samuel 17	Isaiah 61	Matt. 6
July 6	1 Samuel 18	Isaiah 62	Matt. 7
July 7	1 Samuel 19	Isaiah 63	Matt. 8
July 8	1 Samuel 20	Isaiah 64	Matt. 9
July 9	1 Samuel 21-22	Isaiah 65	Matt. 10
July 10	1 Samuel 23	Isaiah 66	Matt. 11
July 11	1 Samuel 24	Jer. 1	Matt. 12
July 12	1 Samuel 25	Jer. 2	Matt. 13
July 13	1 Samuel 26-27	Jer. 3	Matt. 14
July 14	1 Samuel 28	Jer. 4	Matt. 15
July 15	1 Samuel 29-30	Jer. 5	Matt. 16
July 16	1 Samuel 31	Jer. 6	Matt. 17
July 17	2 Samuel 1	Jer. 7	Matt. 18
July 18	2 Samuel 2	Jer. 8	Matt. 19
July 19	2 Samuel 3	Jer. 9	Matt. 20
July 20	2 Samuel 4-5	Jer. 10	Matt. 21
July 21	2 Samuel 6	Jer. 11	Matt. 22
July 22	2 Samuel 7	Jer. 12	Matt. 23
July 23	2 Samuel 8-9	Jer. 13	Matt. 24
July 24	2 Samuel 10	Jer. 14	Matt. 25
July 25	2 Samuel 11	Jer. 15	Matt. 26
July 26	2 Samuel 12	Jer. 16	Matt. 27
July 27	2 Samuel 13	Jer. 17	Matt. 28
July 28	2 Samuel 14	Jer. 18	Romans 1-2
July 29	2 Samuel 15	Jer. 19	Romans 3-4
July 30	2 Samuel 16	Jer. 20	Romans 5-6
July 31	2 Samuel 17	Jer. 21	Romans 7-8

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

OVBS 2023
PHILADELPHIA AREA
August 4th-5th

Fri. & Sat. (9am -4pm)

Theme: Abide in God

St John 15:4

**At St Thomas Indian Orthodox
Church , Unruh Ave, PA**

Registration:

<https://tinyurl.com/OVBS2023>

Fee: \$30



For more information contact :
Judy Benny and Marina Mathew (Coordinators 2023)



ST THOMAS INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH INC.

1009 Unruh, Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19111

ANNUAL PICNIC

2023

AUGUST

19th

SATURDAY

**WILSON
FARM PARK**

500 LEE RD. WAYNE, PA 19087

\$40*
PER
FAMILY

\$10*
PER
PERSON

GRILLING
GAMES
FELLOWSHIP
& FUN

*** TICKETS
MUST BE
PURCHASED
IN ADVANCE**

For more info: Secretary : Steve Kurien - 267 - 450 - 6815, Email - stevekurian@yahoo.com
Cordinator : Mathews Varghese - 267 - 597 - 9870

THE MGOCSM OF THE NORTHEAST AMERICAN DIOCESE

PRESENTS



MGOCSM OF THE NORTHEAST AMERICAN DIOCESE

SUMMER SUMMIT

HOLY TRANSFIGURATION RETREAT CENTER

Love is the Passport

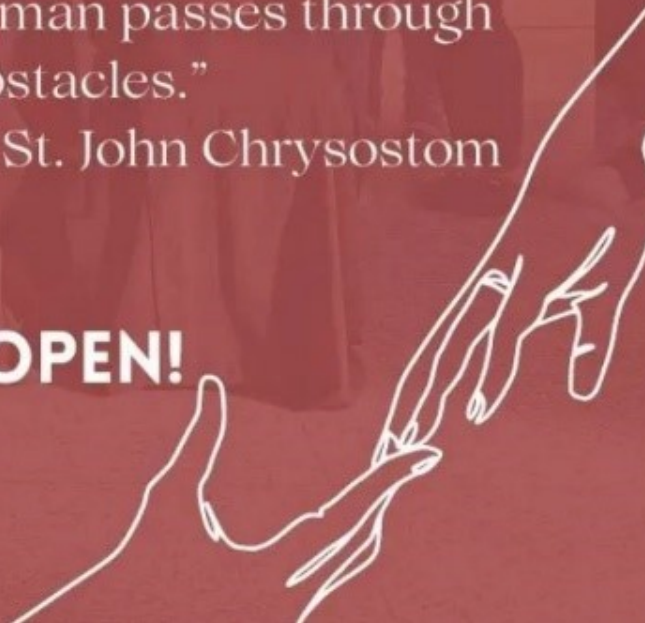
"Love is the passport with which man passes through all the heavenly doors without obstacles."

- St. John Chrysostom

EARLY REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

<https://tinyurl.com/w9n73w6k>

   @MGOCSMNE





THE MGOCSM OF THE NORTHEAST AMERICAN DIOCESE PRESENTS...

The Mirror of Erised

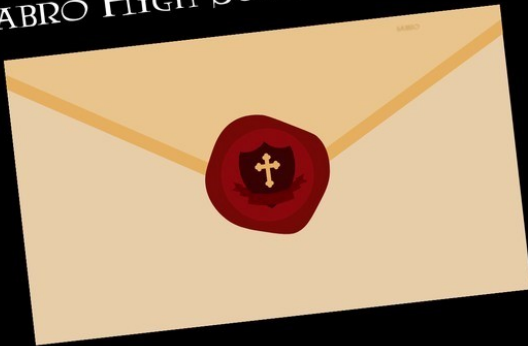
HE SAID TO THEM, "BUT WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?"
SIMON PETER REPLIED, "YOU ARE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD."
MATTHEW 16:15-16



MAIN SPEAKER

Steven Christoforou

YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED AT
SABRO HIGH SCHOOL CAMP



Early Bird Registration (May 4th - May 30th): \$175

Regular Registration (May 31st - July 1st): \$200

Late Registration (July 2nd - July 8th): \$225

[TINYURL.COM/SABRO2023](https://tinyurl.com/sabro2023)

JULY 19 - 22, 2023

AT THE HOLY TRANSFIGURATION RETREAT CENTER