

ST. THOMAS INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

1009 UNRUH AVE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19111

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2023

VOLUME XXVII ISSUE 8

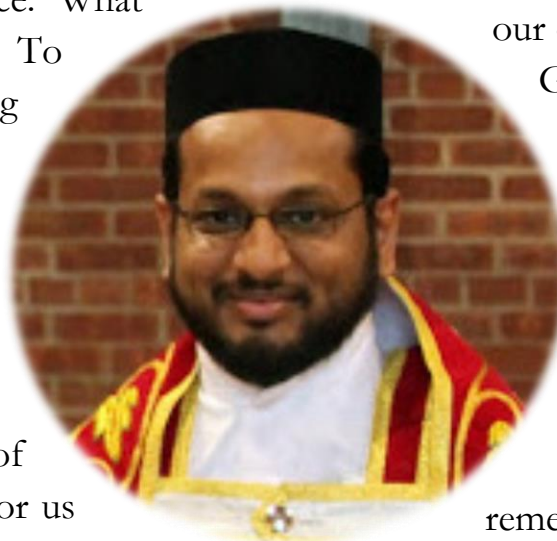
Assistant Vicar's Message

Goal of Prayer

When we begin any task, we should consider its goal. For example, if we begin piano lessons, we know that our goal is to play a classic musical piece. What then is the goal of prayer? To what end are we striving when we pray?

1. To be united with God.

God loved us even when we did not yet exist and created us out of nothingness. God's desire for us is for us to love Him and to be united to Him. Since this is how God created us, we have a built-in desire for God. As Augustine famously confessed to God, "You stir man to take pleasure in praising you, because you have made us for



yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you" (Confessions I.i.1). When we pray, we can be completely united to God.

2. To be in the presence of God.

Prayer keeps us in the presence of God. St James says, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8). Prayer is a continual movement into the presence of God. Through this presence we fulfill our calling to become a temple of God (see 1 Cor 3:16).

Remember that we were anointed with Holy Chrism which is used only to anoint the baptized and consecrate churches. (see Matt 28:20; Psalm 27:4)

3. To continually remember God.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 asks us to "pray without ceasing." This continual prayer is a continual remembrance of God. St Gregory Nazianzus states, "It is more important that we should remember God

than that we should breathe” (Oration 27.4). The distractions of life can take our minds away from God often. Eventually we might remember God only on Sundays, or even worse never at all. Prayer at regular intervals in the day help us to have a continual remembrance of God.

4. To pour out our hearts before God.

God created us for us to be united to Him through a continual communion with Him. For this communion we need to speak to God from the bottom of our hearts. It is said about Moses that, “So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend” (Exodus 33:11). We can speak to God as we speak to a friend. In fact, God knows us more intimately than we know ourselves. Hannah, the

mother of the prophet Samuel entered the house of the Lord and “And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the Lord and wept in anguish” (1 Sam 1:10). Later Hannah told Eli, I “have poured out my soul before the Lord” (1 Sam 1:15).

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for creating us out of your love. Help us to pray to you regularly so that we can become one with you. O Lord help us to be aware of your presence and to make us into worthy temples suitable for your indwelling. Help our minds to be in continual remembrance of you and to speak to you as to a friend. We praise You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and always forever and ever. Amen.

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 July

General Body Meeting Updates

On July 16th, the General Body of the Parish met for the Half Yearly General Body. At this meeting, the half-yearly accounts were reviewed. In addition, the Parish has approved the appointment of Rev. Subdeacon Predeep Chacko as Youth Minister of the Parish. Congratulations to Semassen on his appointment.



75th Birthday Celebrations of our Vicar- July 16th

The Parish celebrated the 75th birthday of our Vicar, Rev. Fr. M.K. Kuriakose. After the Holy Qurbana, our Assistant Vicar, Rev. Fr. Sujit Thomas gave a Birthday Felicitation and

gift to Kuriakose Achen. Lunch was provided to all followed by cake, which was cut by



Velyachen in the presence of his family and friends. We thank God for Velyachen's continued good health.

Graduate Felicitation – July 19th

Our Parish congratulated all the graduates from Middle School, High School, College, Post-Graduate, and Professional Programs. Our Committee member, Miss Ashley Varghese Esq. gave a congratulatory address and our Vicar gave his own personal felicitations as well. The graduates each received a gift from the Parish and were invited to a Presidential Lunch with the clergy after Service.



2022-23 Graduates

Diocesan Family and Youth Conference – July 12th – 15th

After a 3-year hiatus due to COVID, the Family and Youth Conference was re-started and hosted at the Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center in Dalton, PA. In addition to our Metropolitan, His Grace Zachariah Mar Nicholovos, the conference chief guests were His Grace Abraham Mar Stephanos and Rev. Fr. Matt Alexander. Our members, Mrs. Susan John Varghese and Bishel Santhosh served on the Conference committee as well as many others who volunteered in other various support items. Congratulations to all who made the conference go well.





Sabro High School Camp – July 19th-22nd

Over 100 of our Diocese’s high school youth attended this camp at HTRC including 21 of our own. The chief speaker was author and speaker Mr. Steve Christophorou. Our members Marilyn and Carolyn Cherian were the lead conveners of the camp.



August 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.

Save the Date

MMVS Retreat

When: Saturday, August 12th, 9:30am – 12:30pm

Where: Our Church

Details: Devotional Message will be given by our Vicar, Rev. Fr. M. K. Kuriakose. Lunch will also be provided. Please contact Jessy Mathew or Omana Varughese for more details.

Feast of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary

When: Monday, August 14th:

Evening Prayer will begin in the main Sanctuary at 6:30PM followed by Holy Qurbana and Festal Services

Church Picnic

When: August 18th

Where: Wilson Farm Park – 500 Lee Rd. Wayne, PA, 19087 (Flyer Attached)

Please purchase tickets as soon as possible so the planners may have the correct headcount.

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>
8/15	Feast of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary

Diocesan Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
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. John Alexander**, father of Paul C. John (#179), passed away on July 5th. Funeral was held July 7th at St. Joseph's Orthodox Church, Harmavu, Bangalore.
- ❖ **Rev Fr. Dr. Samuel K. Mathew**, former Vicar of St. Mary's Malankara Orthodox Church, Philadelphia (Devereaux) fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, July 30th. Achen was a friend of our parish whom we will grieve for deeply. The funeral details are attached.

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.

Birth Announcements

- Betsy and Alvin Kuruvilla have been blessed with a baby girl, Jaqueline. Congratulations to the parents and grandparents, George and Rosamman Eapen.
- Shinu Thankachen (#328) and Oshin Shinu were blessed with a baby boy, Jordan. Congratulations to the parents and grandparents.

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.

AUGUST WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Abraham	Aug 2	Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Kuruvilla	Aug 20
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Rajan	Aug 2	Mr. & Mrs. Ajo Raju	Aug 21
Mr. & Mrs. Abraham K. Varughese	Aug 14	Mr. & Mrs. Nadukemuriyil V. Thomas	Aug 21
Mr. & Mrs. Varghese Baby	Aug 15	Mr. & Mrs. David Philip	Aug 21
Mr. & Mrs. Renji Varghese	Aug 15	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Vakkayil	Aug 22
Mr. & Mrs. Mathew P Cherian	Aug 15	Mr. & Mrs. Anoop Joseph George	Aug 22
Mr. & Mrs. Georgeyo Oommen	Aug 16	Mr. & Mrs. Shibu Thomas	Aug 22
Mr. & Mrs. Ashok Mathew Koshy	Aug 17	Mr. & Mrs. Vinod Jacob	Aug 24
Mr. & Mrs. Rajan Koshy	Aug 17	Mr. & Mrs. Jiju Mathew	Aug 26
Mr. & Mrs. Gibson Thomas George	Aug 18	Mr. & Mrs. Kochupurackal Thomas	Aug 27
Mr. & Mrs. Manoj Thomas	Aug 19	Mr. & Mrs. Suresh Cherian	Aug 29
Mr. & Mrs. Cibu Joseph	Aug 19	Mr. & Mrs. Alex P Symon	Aug 29



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Zeena Jacob	Aug 1	Alexandra Geevarghese	Aug 14	Mariamamma Mathew	Aug 21
Jijo George Varghese	Aug 2	Liana John	Aug 14	Aben G Panicker	Aug 21
Cherian Philipose	Aug 2	Johan Anto Panicker	Aug 14	Isabel J Mathew	Aug 22
Joel Jacob	Aug 2	John Thomas	Aug 14	Varghese Varghese	Aug 22
Chinnamma M Varghese	Aug 2	Jojoy Varghese	Aug 14	Joel Joe Zachariah	Aug 22
Merly Mary Mathews	Aug 3	Nadukemuriyil V. Thomas	Aug 15	Shyni Anu	Aug 22
Justin Mathai	Aug 4	Achamma Cherian	Aug 15	Bindu Job	Aug 23
Saya Alina Thomas	Aug 4	Abel T Anooj	Aug 16	Anoj Thomas	Aug 23
Dony Davy	Aug 4	Rachel A Varghese	Aug 16	Sajan Thomas	Aug 23
Jaison Daniel	Aug 5	Tincy Raju	Aug 16	Bindu Job	Aug 23
Abraham John	Aug 5	Mikayla Maria Cherian	Aug 17	Kochupurackal Thomas	Aug 24
Jonathan M. Cherian	Aug 5	Shelby Alisha Thomas	Aug 18	Jonah Thomas	Aug 25
Aleyamma George	Aug 6	Alex Mathew	Aug 18	Riny Saju Mathew	Aug 25
Siny Varghese	Aug 7			Shawn Stephen	Aug 25
Lambert Thomas	Aug 7			Annamma Mathew	Aug 26
Mathews T Varghese	Aug 8			Judy Philip	Aug 27
Leelamma O Panicker	Aug 8			George Varghese	Aug 27
Josh Job	Aug 9	Thomas Abraham	Aug 18	Nallumalayil J. George	Aug 27
Crisia Maria Shibu	Aug 9	Christina S Thomas	Aug 18	Agin G. Thomas	Aug 27
Ashok Paulose	Aug 10	George Abraham	Aug 18	Luke Lynnson	Aug 28
Sheena Jose	Aug 10	Hannah Mary Thomas	Aug 19	Sharon Jacob	Aug 29
Varghese Mammen	Aug 10	Paul P Mavelly	Aug 19	Thomas Samuel	Aug 29
Eliza Leela Panicker	Aug 12	Ninan Mathai	Aug 19	Bibin George	Aug 30
Jibin Verghese Jacob	Aug 13	Sherin Sara Anish	Aug 20	Betsy George	Aug 30
Sneha Reynold	Aug 13	Stephan Kalthil	Aug 20	Cijo Joseph	Aug 30
Emersyn Grace Jacob	Aug 13	Aaron George	Aug 21	Anugraha Thankam John	Aug 30
Augustin Babu	Aug 13	Flamy Philip	Aug 21		
Joel G Panicker	Aug 13	Amelia E George	Aug 21		



Sunday School News

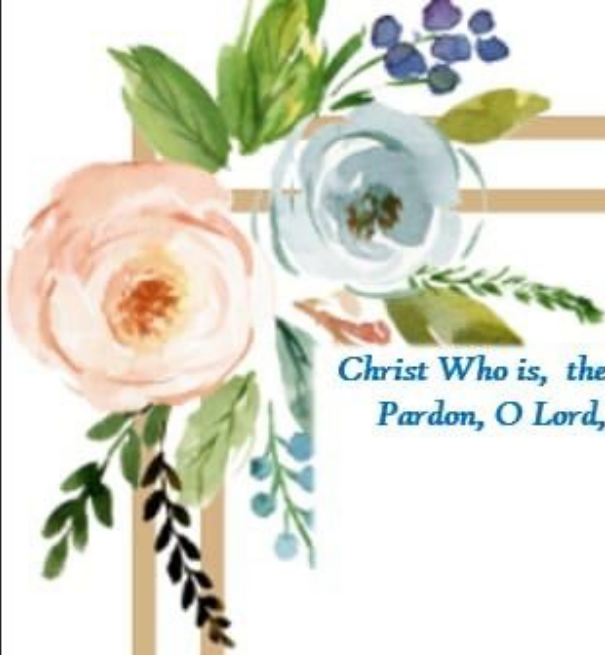
*Submitted by Binny Cherian, Principal
(Tel.: 914.708.7981, Email: cbinny@gmail.com)*

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

One Year Bible Reading Schedule - August

Date	I	II	III
August 1	2 Samuel 18	Jer. 22	Romans 9
August 2	2 Samuel 19	Jer. 23	Romans 10-11
August 3	2 Samuel 20-21	Jer. 24	Romans 12
August 4	2 Samuel 22	Jer. 25	Romans 13-14
August 5	2 Samuel 23	Jer. 26	Romans 15-16
August 6	2 Samuel 24	Jer. 27	Mark 1
August 7	1 Kings 1	Jer. 28	Mark 2
August 8	1 Kings 2	Jer. 29	Mark 3
August 9	1 Kings 3	Jer. 30	Mark 4
August 10	1 Kings 4-5	Jer. 31	Mark 5
August 11	1 Kings 6	Jer. 32	Mark 6
August 12	1 Kings 7	Jer. 33	Mark 7
August 13	1 Kings 8	Jer. 34	Mark 8
August 14	1 Kings 9	Jer. 35	Mark 9
August 15	1 Kings 10	Jer. 36	Mark 10
August 16	1 Kings 11	Jer. 37	Mark 11
August 17	1 Kings 12	Jer. 38	Mark 12
August 18	1 Kings 13	Jer. 39	Mark 13
August 19	1 Kings 14	Jer. 40	Mark 14
August 20	1 Kings 15	Jer. 41	Mark 15
August 21	1 Kings 16	Jer. 42	Mark 16
August 22	1 Kings 17	Jer. 43	1 Cor. 1-2
August 23	1 Kings 18	Jer. 44	1 Cor. 3
August 24	1 Kings 19	Jer. 45-46	1 Cor. 4-5
August 25	1 Kings 20	Jer. 47	1 Cor. 6
August 26	1 Kings 21	Jer. 48	1 Cor. 7
August 27	1 Kings 22	Jer. 49	1 Cor. 8-9
August 28	2 Kings 1-2	Jer. 50	1 Cor. 10
August 29	2 Kings 3	Jer. 51	1 Cor. 11
August 30	2 Kings 4	Jer. 52	1 Cor. 12-13
August 31	2 Kings 5	Lam. 1	1 Cor. 14

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



*Christ Who is, the Lord of priests and – the great High – Priest
Pardon, O Lord, Your priests who served - Your mysteries*



Rev. Fr. Dr. Samuel K. Mathew

FUNERAL SERVICES

AUGUST 13, SUNDAY (08-13-2023), 09:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

St. Mary's Orthodox Church of Philadelphia, 514 Devereaux Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19111

AUGUST 13, SUNDAY (08-13-2023), 01:30 PM TO 8:30 PM

St. Mary's Malankara Orthodox Cathedral, 1333 Welsh Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

FINAL SERVICES

AUGUST 14, MONDAY (08-14-2023), 09:00 AM TO 11:00 AM

St. Gregorios Malankara Orthodox Church, 4136 Hulmeville Road, Bensalem, PA 19020.

INTERMENT SERVICES & MILITARY HONORS

11:00 AM: ROSEDALE MEMORIAL PARK,
3850 Richelieu Road, Bensalem, PA 19020

Chief Celebrant

H.G. Dr. Yuhanon Mar Meletius





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

