

ST. THOMAS INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

1009 UNRUH AVE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19111

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023

VOLUME XXVII ISSUE 10

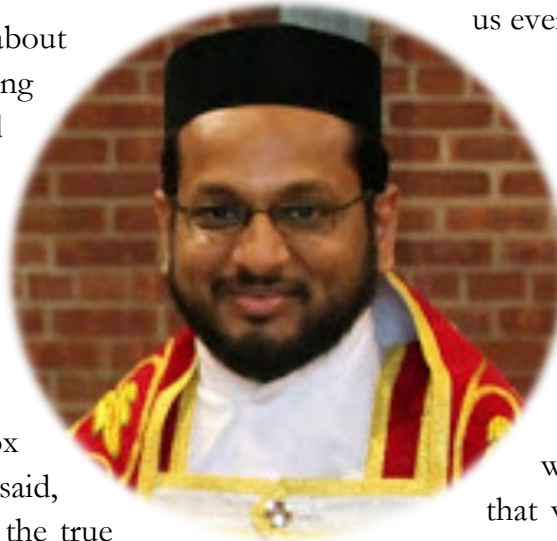
Assistant Vicar's Message

3 – What should we pray for?

Last time we learned that supplications (requests) are an important element of prayer? What should we request from God? What should we pray for?

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus was teaching about prayer, He said, "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:13). If we ask for the Holy Spirit, then we will receive the Holy Spirit. Russian Orthodox Saint Seraphim of Sarov said, "Acquiring the Spirit of God is the true aim of our Christian life, while prayer, fasting, almsgiving and other good works done for Christ's sake are merely means for acquiring the Spirit of God" (On the Acquisition of the Holy Spirit). The presence of Holy Spirit can continually increase.



2. Pray for grace and mercy.

At the start of the opening prayer of our services the priest begins with praising the Holy Trinity. The congregation responds by saying, "May His grace and mercy be upon us." In the book of Hebrews we read, "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Grace is God's energy working in our lives through his presence and blessings. Mercy is the forgiveness we receive for our sins. In one sense even blessings are sign of mercy because God blesses us even though we are undeserving.

3. Pray for God's will not our desires.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ taught us the perfect prayer when he prayed, "not as I will, but as You will." (Matt 26:39). Some people think prayer is just giving our wish list to God in the same way that we give wish list of gifts for our birthday or Christmas. As we grow in our life of prayer our requests will change. Our requests will change from material to more spiritual things. But even in the spiritual life we will submit all our requests to God's will. We must remember that

God's will for us is always for our benefit (see Romans 8:28; Jeremiah 29:11).

4. Pray for others.

One of the signs of spiritual maturity is praying more for others than for us. Praying for others is called intercession. In the Holy Qurbana, diptychs (thubdhen) are intercessions for the living and departed (1 Timothy 2:1-4). We also give names of living and departed to be remembered in the Holy Qurbana. One way to become better intercessors is by keeping a regularly updated list

of people to pray for. When you hear that someone is sick or suffering, add their names to the list. We should take special care to remember those who have hurt us and pray for their forgiveness and for our reconciliation with them.

Lovingly, Fr. Sujit Thomas, Asst. Vicar

Ref: See "Abba Father" by Rev Fr Baby Varghese, Unit I, Lesson 3 "Elements of Worship"

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 September

September 11th – Beginning of Sunday School Year

Our Sunday School year began with a joint general session in the main Sanctuary at which the opening message of good luck was given by our Assistant Vicar, Rev. Fr. Sujit Thomas. Achen also gifted each student with a prayer book. The function concluded with the treat of water ice for all who attended. Regular classes began the following week.

September 15th & 16th – MOCF Gospel Convention

The MOCF Gospel Convention was held at St. George Malankara Orthodox Church in Fairless Hills, PA. The Chief Guest was His Grace Zachariah Mar Severios, Metropolitan of the Idukki Diocese. Over two days Thirumeni gave the Devotional Message. Many members of our Church participated in the MOCF choir leading the music sessions as well.



September 23rd – MGOCSM Back to School Conference-

The Area held our Back to School Conference on September 23rd at our Parish. The speaker

was our Youth Minister, Rev. Sub. Dn. Predeep Chacko who spoke on the theme on "Finding our Identity as Christians" based on Psalms 139:14.



October 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 Apple Pay / 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

October 7th – Parish Harvest Festival (Flyer Attached)

We experienced fun and games at our Annual Harvest Festival. There was also be food, auctions, and our world class cultural performance.

October 14th – MGOCSM Gala & Reunion (Flyer Attached)

October 27th – FOCUS Meeting

The next FOCUS meeting will be held at the residence of Anu and Jibu Vergis on 10/27 at 6:30PM. Please reach out to Danny George, FOCUS coordinator, for more details.

October 28th – Diocesan Sunday School Talent Fest, at our Parish (Flyer Attached)

November 11th – Diocesan One Day Conference for I.T. Professionals (Flyer Attached)

November 18th – Holiday Craft Fair

All Sunday School children from lower Pre-K to 7th grade are welcome to attend. Please sign up by October 21st:



October 14th MMVS Annual Conference; beginning at 9am at our Parish.

Theme: “Be of good courage. Stand still and see the Lord’s salvation which He will accomplish for you today.” Exodus 14:13

Keynote Speaker: Mrs. Ceena Mathew



Registration Fee: \$25/person

Register Here:



Fasts & Feasts

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
	None for this month.

Diocesan Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
September 17	FOCUS on Family Event
September 15-16	MOCF Gospel Convention
September 23	MGOCSM Back to School Conference
September 27-28	Clergy Conference
October 14	MMVS Annual One-Day Conference
October 14	MGOCSM Gala & Reunion
October 27	Parish-level FOCUS Meeting
October 28	Diocesan Sunday School Talent Fest
November 11	Diocesan One Day Conference
November 18	Sunday School Holiday Craft Fair
November 25	MGOCSM One-Day Conference

Member Announcements

Memorials

- ❖ September 2nd – **Mr. Samuel Thomas**, nephew of Molamma Regi (#112)
- ❖ September 3rd – **Mrs. Marykutty John**, sister of Saramma Thankachen (#328)
- ❖ September 30th – **Mr. M.K. Mathai**, brother of Mrs. Omana Mathew (#242) and uncle of Viji Saji Varghese (#365)

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.

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.

Births

Our members Thomas and Omana Abraham have been blessed with a new granddaughter, Maya on September 13th. Manju and baby are both doing well. Congrats to the Parents and Grandparents on behalf of the Parish.

Weddings

Mr. Varughese Jacob, son of the late Jacob Varughese and Sosamma Jacob, members of our Parish, wed Rae Varughese, daughter of Thomas and Saramma Varughese, members of Trinity Mar Thoma Church, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, on September 30th, 2023 at Haddonfield Methodist Church, Haddonfield, NJ, according to the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Rite. Congratulations to the newlyweds!

OCTOBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. & Mrs. Daji Mathew	Oct 1	Mr. & Mrs. Nowell V Philips	Oct 21
Mr. & Mrs. George Eapen	Oct 1	Mr. & Mrs. Dustin Paul	Oct 22
Mr. & Mrs. Mathukutty M. George	Oct 2	Mr. & Mrs. Varghese Panicker	Oct 23
Mr. & Mrs. Varghese P Abraham	Oct 2	Mr. & Mrs. Alex Babu	Oct 23
Mr. & Mrs. Anil T. Babu	Oct 7	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kurian	Oct 24
Mr. & Mrs. Divya Panicker	Oct 8	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Varghese	Oct 25
Mr. & Mrs. Lijin Joyes	Oct 11	Mr. & Mrs. John Abraham	Oct 28
Mr. & Mrs. Ajish Kutty	Oct 12	Mr. & Mrs. Paul P Mavelly	Oct 28
Mr. & Mrs. Binny Cherian	Oct 12	Mr. & Mrs. Varughese Pulickal Chacko	Oct 29
Mr. & Mrs. Niju Mathew Cheriyan	Oct 21	Mr. & Mrs. Binish George	Oct 31
Mr. & Mrs. Saju Mathew	Oct 21		



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Anish Mathew	Oct 1	Biju Varghese	Oct 13	Nebu Joseph	Oct 22
Bincy Stephen	Oct 1	Gabriella Sofia Cherian	Oct 13	Sanji George	Oct 22
Prince Sam Jacob	Oct 1	Tom P. Biju	Oct 14	Lisa Mariam John	Oct 22
Moni Thomas	Oct 2	Shaju Varghese	Oct 15	Elizebeth Ann Varghese	Oct 22
Mathew George	Oct 3	Salikutty John	Oct 15	Emily Ann Varghese	Oct 22
Jacob P Sam	Oct 3	Subha Baby	Oct 15	Neha Joseph	Oct 23
Alaina Mathew	Oct 3	Aaron T Mathew	Oct 15	Biju Mathews	Oct 23
Kunjamma George	Oct 4	Bishel B Baby	Oct 15	Jesna Mariam Varghese	Oct 23
Reuben B Varghese	Oct 4	Sosamma Jacob	Oct 15	Mariamamma T Raju	Oct 23
Evan Luke Thomas	Oct 4	Georgie Abraham George	Oct 17	Ashley Varghese	Oct 24
Abbey M Mathew	Oct 4	Saramma Raju	Oct 17	George G Panicker	Oct 24
Eleena Suja John	Oct 4	Risha A. Binu	Oct 17	Ammini Thomas	Oct 24
Abraham Mathew	Oct 4	Asha Joel	Oct 17	Oommen George	Oct 25
Olivia A. Alex	Oct 4	Oommen V Kappil	Oct 17	Sharon Cherian	Oct 25
Rinju Abraham	Oct 4	Aleyamma Jacob	Oct 18	Thara E. Jaison	Oct 25
Reynold Educula	Oct 5	Varughese Jacob	Oct 18	Susan Shibu Varghese	Oct 26
Shania M. Alex	Oct 5			Jeney Joseph	Oct 26
George T Charia	Oct 5			Marilyn Sarah Cherian	Oct 26
Varghese K Issac	Oct 5			Jeena Joseph	Oct 26
Mony Babu	Oct 6			Elizabeth A Kappil	Oct 26
Jacob K. Thekekkuttu	Oct 8	Dinah Jubee	Oct 18	Kondoor Educula Chacko	Oct 26
Jacob Peediyakkal Abraham	Oct 8	Annamma G Panicker	Oct 18	Kripaya Varghese	Oct 27
Noel Punnoose Varghese	Oct 8	Mathew Samuel	Oct 18	Joseph Philip	Oct 27
Thomas T Varghese	Oct 8	Mercy Cherian	Oct 19	Thankamma Varghese	Oct 28
Esther Mariam Niju	Oct 9	Gemma Valsa Kurian	Oct 19	Johan Jins	Oct 28
Susan John Varghese	Oct 9	Cibu Joseph	Oct 19	Liju Cherian	Oct 28
Oommen Mathai	Oct 10	Abiel B Mathew	Oct 20	Libu K Geevarghese	Oct 28
Isabel Vattasseril	Oct 10	Smitha Mathew	Oct 20	Tania Jossy	Oct 29
Ponnamma Thomas	Oct 10	Nebu Daniel	Oct 21	Annamma Varghese	Oct 29
John Varghese	Oct 10	Justina Pothen	Oct 21	Alex Babu	Oct 30
Saji Philip	Oct 11	Jensina Pothen	Oct 21	Elizabeth Abraham	Oct 31
Irine Sara Ealias	Oct 11	Abia R. Mathew	Oct 22	Abraham Varghese	Oct 31
Aji Panicker	Oct 11	Delwin Thomas	Oct 22	Nisha George	Oct 31
Alen Shibu Varghese	Oct 11				



Sunday School News

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

One Year Bible Reading Schedule - October

<i>Date</i>	I	II	III
<i>October 1</i>	1 Chron. 15	Ezekiel 27	Luke 24
<i>October 2</i>	1 Chron. 16	Ezekiel 28	Galatians 1-2
<i>October 3</i>	1 Chron. 17	Ezekiel 29	Galatians 3-4
<i>October 4</i>	1 Chron. 18-19	Ezekiel 30	Galatians 5-6
<i>October 5</i>	1 Chron. 20-21	Ezekiel 31	Ephesians 1-2
<i>October 6</i>	1 Chron. 22	Ezekiel 32	Ephesians 3-4
<i>October 7</i>	1 Chron. 23	Ezekiel 33	Ephesians 5-6
<i>October 8</i>	1 Chron. 24-25	Ezekiel 34	Phil. 1-2
<i>October 9</i>	1 Chron. 26	Ezekiel 35	Phil. 3-4
<i>October 10</i>	1 Chron. 27	Ezekiel 36	John 1
<i>October 11</i>	1 Chron. 28	Ezekiel 37	John 2-3
<i>October 12</i>	1 Chron. 29	Ezekiel 38	John 4
<i>October 13</i>	2 Chron. 1-2	Ezekiel 39	John 5
<i>October 14</i>	2 Chron. 3-4	Ezekiel 40	John 6
<i>October 15</i>	2 Chron. 5-6	Ezekiel 41	John 7
<i>October 16</i>	2 Chron. 7	Ezekiel 42	John 8
<i>October 17</i>	2 Chron. 8	Ezekiel 43	John 9-10
<i>October 18</i>	2 Chron. 9	Ezekiel 44	John 11
<i>October 19</i>	2 Chron. 10-11	Ezekiel 45	John 12
<i>October 20</i>	2 Chron. 12-13	Ezekiel 46	John 13-14
<i>October 21</i>	2 Chron. 14-15	Ezekiel 47	John 15-16
<i>October 22</i>	2 Chron. 16-17	Ezekiel 48	John 17-18
<i>October 23</i>	2 Chron. 18-19	Daniel 1	John 19
<i>October 24</i>	2 Chron. 20	Daniel 2	John 20-21
<i>October 25</i>	2 Chron. 21-22	Daniel 3	Acts 1
<i>October 26</i>	2 Chron. 23	Daniel 4	Acts 2
<i>October 27</i>	2 Chron. 24	Daniel 5	Acts 3-4
<i>October 28</i>	2 Chron. 25	Daniel 6	Acts 5-6
<i>October 29</i>	2 Chron. 26-27	Daniel 7	Acts 7
<i>October 30</i>	2 Chron. 28	Daniel 8	Acts 8
<i>October 31</i>	2 Chron. 29	Daniel 9	Acts 9

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



ST THOMAS INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

1009 Unruh Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19111



ATTRACTIONS

- Games
- Variety Stores
- American Auction

Come and Enjoy
On OCT 7th
8:00am to 4:00pm

Variety of entertainment programs

Pre-Order Now

- POTHI CHORU \$15** MMVS
- POROTTA AND BEEF CURRY \$15** Deym
- KAPPA BIRIYANI \$10** Men's Form
- FALOODA \$5** Tusker's Badminton Group
- FISH FRY \$12**

Limited Quantities Only

Lunch special

Fried Rice and Kozhi curry \$10

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Masala Dosa \$10



Pancake \$10



THE MGOCSM OF THE NORTHEAST AMERICAN DIOCESE
INVITES YOU TO OUR FIRST EVER

GALA & REUNION

3-COURSE MEAL - LIVE MUSIC - COMEDY -

Join us as we to celebrate the MGOCSM leaders of North America! Reconnect with old friends, and meet new ones over a great meal & entertainment! All proceeds will support the ministry of the MGOCSM of the Northeast American Diocese

~ 10.14.2023 ~

AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING
BARNYARD & CARRIAGE HOUSE
754 TOTOWA ROAD, TOTOWA, NJ 07512

Formal Attire is Requested



SCAN CODE FOR TICKETS
RSVP BY SEPT. 25 2023
VENMO: @MGOCSM-NEAD



O.S.S.A.E.
 Northeast American Diocese
 — Let the Little Children Come to Me —



NORTHEAST AMERICAN DIOCESE SUNDAY SCHOOL TALENT FEST

DATE - OCTOBER 28, 2023

TIME - 9 AM TO 6 PM

**VENUE - ST. THOMAS ORTHODOX CHURCH,
 1009 UNRUH AVE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19111**

Guest speaker

REV. FR. SUJIT THOMAS

REGISTRATION

**Register with your
 Sunday school Principal!**

Cost - \$10 per attendee

AGENDA

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| 9-9:30 AM | Registration & Light Breakfast |
| 9:30-10 AM | Prayer & Welcome |
| 10-10:30 AM | Seminar |
| 10:30-12:30PM | Mabartha (Group Song Competitions) |
| 12:30-1 PM | Lunch |
| 1-4 PM | Charisma (Talent show) |
| 4-5 PM | Awards, Closing ceremony |

PRESIDENT - H.G. ZACHARIAH MAR NICHOLOVOS
DIRECTOR - REV. FR. DR. TIMOTHY THOMAS

Talent Exhibitions Coordinator - Mrs Reny Biju 215-526-7926
Talent Show Coordinator - Mrs Shiny Raju 973-780-0800
Secretary - Mrs Aju Tharian 201-724-9117
Treasurer - Mr John Jacob 201-527-5279

NORTHEAST AMERICAN DIOCESE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS FORUM

ONE-DAY CONFERENCE SATURDAY, NOV 11, 2023

ST. GEORGE MALANKARA ORTHODOX CHURCH
520 HOOD BLVD, FAIRLESS HILLS, PA 19030



Hear from Industry Leaders
Share your experiences
Fellowship with Other Participants
.... and Much more!

REGISTER AT:
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/9O93D
KHADKKWQEZSA](https://forms.gle/9O93DKHADKKWQEZSA)
OR SCAN HERE:



CALLING ALL IT
PROFESSIONALS!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
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