

ST. THOMAS INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

1009 UNRUH AVE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19111

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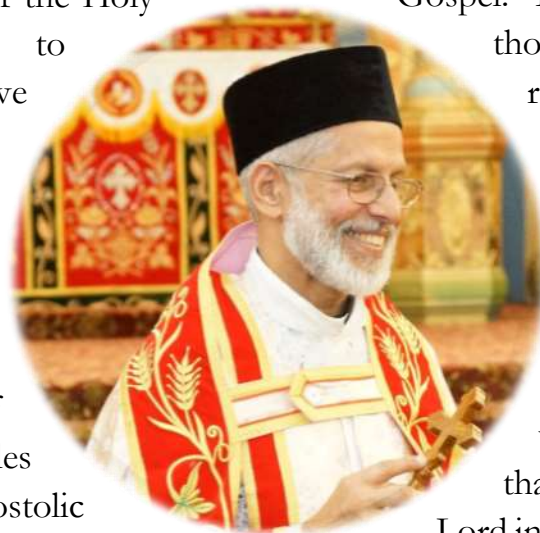
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vicar's Message

Heart, Hands, Head: God-Human Relationship's 3 Nodes

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
Matthew 28:19, 20.

The month of June brings good and sacred memories of the thirteen Holy Apostles including St. Paul. The apostolic tradition that we have imbibed is the foundation of our faith the way Jesus taught us. It was through them that we got the divine light which they received from the Lord. India will remember St. Thomas just for that reason. Their life witness and their teachings are our



inspiration. No special qualification is needed for this witness. The way they obeyed the Lord, we must obey the Lord. We can do it if we put our mind to it. The Apostles were ordinary people, selected from the lower strata of the society. None of them were intellectually superior in the society. But their submission to the words of the Lord and their zeal to hold on to the faith were the reasons for spreading the Gospel. Let us ponder on two quick thoughts on this occasion of remembering the Apostles:

1. Make disciples of all nations:

How do we make others disciples of Christ? This is a simple job but appears to be very cumbersome for many. All that we need to do is to obey the Lord in organizing our lifestyle. There are missionaries or evangelists who go to the corners of city streets preaching the Gospel. It may not be easy for us to do that today. But we can make our life itself the mission. Our personal, family or corporate life can be the mission field where the Word of God is properly taught and practiced. People around

us are watching us do things. Our words, actions, behavior, lifestyle etc. are the means of spreading the good news to others. People around us are doubting our faith and witness because of the behavior we present before them. They can't get the message of Christ's love and understanding through our actions. How long should the world wait to see Christ in the life of Christians? We should take the courage to share our faith in action. Just to say, "I am a Christian, I can't do like that" or I can't talk like that", will be a good message to those who we meet in our day-to-day life. Especially to our children we should impart that message. Our children should get the message of Christ from us. Some of us who are older, may remember how our parents shared their faith with us. Most of them were not intellectual giants. We survived through their simple faith. Most of our parents were not even rich to give us all that we needed. Indeed, we missed a few worldly comforts but our suffering has made us better people. In today's world even poor parents try to provide their children with everything they want, not what they need! We spoil them leaving matters to their ideas. We are so constrained to tell them, "as Christians we

don't do that". If only the parents knew Christ as a personal experience, this will be possible.

2. Jesus promises that He will be with us to the end of the world:

This is the strengthening factor. Often, we forget this. We hesitate to carry out the mission that Jesus entrusted us because we don't feel or recognize the presence of the Lord with us. The Apostles were living with that sense of presence of the Lord. In the post resurrection appearances, the Lord has been assuring the Apostles of his presence any time in need. After ascension, His continuous presence was experienced in the Holy Eucharist. To this day the Christian Church has been experiencing the Lord's presence through our participation in the Holy Eucharist. That is our solace. Jesus needs us to do the mission He entrusted to the Church. May the way the apostles chose to witness to their master be ours as well. Jesus will fulfill promise, "I will be with you to the very end of age".

Lovingly, MK Kuriakosachan.

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 Aichens 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
- Jobin Regi: 267.226.6366



Parish Highlights from May

May 12th: Dn. Roby Antony was present for our Holy Qurbana. Mother's Day was celebrated, gifts and a sweet treat was served to all of our mothers and motherly figures of our Parish. Sunday School held Assigned Competitions; thanks to all the teachers, volunteers and students who participated.

May 18th: MMVS held their prayer meeting.

May 19th: Very. Rev. Mathai Alakot celebrated Holy Qurbana. **Karuna**, in conjunction with the American Red Cross

conducted a Blood Drive. They were able to collect 30 units of blood. Thank you to all the volunteers and those who donated.

May 26th: Rev. Fr. Biju T. Mathew celebrated Holy Qurbana and Merlin Mathew Kochamma delivered the weekly sermon. They were visiting from the Chengannur Diocese. **Karuna** held the first in a new Health Series. Mrs. Sherry Kurian spoke on "Reducing Your Cancer Risk." It was well attended and very informative for all.

June Events and General Announcements

Spiritual Organization Updates

Sunday School

- OVBS will be August 2nd and 3rd, from 9AM to 4PM. It will be held at our church. Registration is \$15, please register early.
- Last day for Sunday School Classes is Sunday, June 16th

Men's Forum

- The Men's Forum has weekly meetings after the Holy Qurbana every Sunday.

MMVS

- MMVS has weekly meetings after the Holy Qurbana every Sunday
- MMVS Annual Retreat will be June 13th - 15th. It will be held at the Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center in Dalton, PA.

Family and Youth Conference

- The conference will be from Wednesday, July 10th to Saturday, July 13th.

Middle School Fellowship

- Middle School Fellowship continues to meet on a monthly basis. Grades 5 - 7 are encouraged to attend.
- Next meeting is on June 8th from 2pm-4pm.

OCYM

- OCYM has weekly meetings after the Holy Qurbana every Sunday

FOCUS

- FOCUS is planning a service event in September, more information to follow.
- FOCUS meets on a monthly basis.

MGOCSM

- MGOCSM meets on a monthly basis.

Karuna

- Karuna Charity issued financial support for 3 cancer patients in India. These patients demonstrated a need for financial support with written documentation from their parish priests.

General Announcements and Save the Dates

Annual Church Perunnal Weekend - July 6th and 7th - Saturday and Sunday. Please attached flyer for more details.

Family Night - Saturday, July 6th. For more information, please contact our Program Coordinator, Sujith Thomas.

Housing Charity- Please continue to support our housing charity as our goal is to achieve \$40,000, in order to build 5 houses in Kerala for those who are needy.

Annual Church Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 27th at Wilson Farm Park, the same location as last year. More information to follow. Any questions, please contact our Sports and Picnic Coordinator, Jestin Abraham.

OVBS- August 2nd and 3rd, Friday and Saturday at our Church from 9AM to 4PM

Member Announcements

Memorials

- ❖ **Very Rev. Fr. T. M. Zachariah.** He was one of the longest serving priests of our Diocese.
- ❖ **Mr. C.P. John,** Uncle of Sanju John (#339)
- ❖ **Mr. Varghese Varghese (#111),** husband of Saramma Varghese
- ❖ **Mr. Sunny Sam,** Uncle of Ajan Thomas (Silvy, #138) and Alex P. Symon (#154)
- ❖ **Mrs. Mary John,** Mother of Suja Thomas (#278)
- ❖ **Mr. K. M. Symon,** Brother-in-law of Abraham John (#304) and Samkutty John (#305)

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 need 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.

JUNE WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. & Mrs. Mathew Koshy	Jun 1	Mr. & Mrs. Ninan Chacko	Jun 9
Mr. & Mrs. Marshel Varghese	Jun 3	Mr. & Mrs. Shinu P Thankachan	Jun 10
Mr. & Mrs. Jacob P Chacko	Jun 3	Mr. & Mrs. Mathew Varghese	Jun 10
Mr. & Mrs. Sunil Thomas	Jun 3	Mr. & Mrs. Sanju Varghese John	Jun 11
Mr. & Mrs. Anooj K Thomas	Jun 3	Mr. & Mrs. Nallumalayil	
Mr. & Mrs. Biji Joseph	Jun 5	Joseph George	Jun 12
Mr. & Mrs. T C Varghese	Jun 6	Mr. & Mrs. Rijon C Simon	Jun 12
Mr. & Mrs. Shaju Varghese	Jun 7	Mr. & Mrs. Asish Mathew	Jun 12
Mr. & Mrs. Anoop T George	Jun 7	Mr. & Mrs. Jins Thomas	Jun 12
Mr. & Mrs. Tibin Koshy	Jun 8	Mr. & Mrs. Brown Varghese	Jun 21
Mr. & Mrs. Varghese Mammen	Jun 8	Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy James	Jun 22
Mr. & Mrs. Thankachan Samuel	Jun 8	Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Varghese	Jun 25
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Varghese	Jun 9	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Philip	Jun 26
Mr. & Mrs. Rojin Thomas	Jun 9	Mr. & Mrs. Jose Ninan	Jun 30
Mr. & Mrs. Justin Mathai	Jun 9		



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Mini Koshy	Jun 1	Anna G Thomas	Jun 9	Joshua Jose	Jun 19
Abraham T George	Jun 1	Steven Kurian	Jun 9	Elna Mariam Thomas	Jun 20
Jins Thomas	Jun 1	Micah Cheeran Rijon	Jun 10	Jissy Abraham	Jun 20
Anushka Sara Abraham	Jun 1	Rachel Mathew	Jun 11	Timothy P. Biju	Jun 21
Rev. Fr. Sujit Thomas	Jun 1	Jessy Jacob	Jun 13	Gina Abraham George	Jun 21
Mary Varghese	Jun 2	Mathew E Thomas	Jun 13	Rohan Z Paulose	Jun 22
Oommen Geevarghese		Anooj K Thomas	Jun 13	Suma Philip	Jun 22
Panicker	Jun 2	Emily Vattasseril	Jun 14	Abraham Varghese	Jun 22
Jancy Manoj	Jun 2	Elizabeth George	Jun 15	Hayden Joel Varghese	Jun 23
Nathen Samuel	Jun 4			Shishira Philip	Jun 23
Jiju Mathew	Jun 4			Marina Philip	Jun 23
Trintumol Thomas	Jun 4			Aidan Robin	Jun 23
Merlin M. George	Jun 4	Tibin Koshy	Jun 17	Ronnie Cherian	Jun 23
Aleyamma Thomas	Jun 5	Aleyamma Mathew	Jun 17	Melissa Thomas Regi	Jun 24
Santhosh M Baby	Jun 5	Treena Jossy	Jun 17	Anoop John	Jun 28
Mabel Thomas	Jun 6	Sheen Marie Thomas	Jun 17	Renjy Vattasseril	Jun 29
Andrew Varghese	Jun 6	Lillian Mathai	Jun 18	Shawn Vaidyan Lukose	Jun 29
Steven Tobin	Jun 6	Mathew George	Jun 18	Ashley Ann Abraham	Jun 29
Rachel Varghese	Jun 6	Zachary Mathai	Jun 18	Maya S Raju	Jun 29
Sneha Mathew	Jun 7	Teena S Anu	Jun 18	Leah Sara Thomas	Jun 29
Sunitha Anish	Jun 7	Varghese Mathew	Jun 18	Justin Vaidian	Jun 29
Lynnson Mathews Rajan	Jun 9	Jia Elizabeth Varghese	Jun 19	Misha P Mathai	Jun 29

Sonia Kalathil

Jun 30

Divya Mariyam Babu

Jun 30

Ancy Binu

Jun 30

Sunday School News

Submitted by Steven Kurian, Principal
(Tel.: 267.450.6815, Email: stevekurian@yahoo.com)

- The last day for Sunday School for the academic year, 2023-2024 is June 16th. Classes will resume after Labor Day.

One Year Bible Reading Schedule - June

Date	I	II	III
June 1	Joshua 18	Isaiah 24	Hebrews 6-7
June 2	Joshua 19	Isaiah 25	Hebrews 8-9
June 3	Joshua 20-21	Isaiah 26-27	Hebrews 10
June 4	Joshua 22	Isaiah 28	Hebrews 11
June 5	Joshua 23-24	Isaiah 29	Hebrews 12
June 6	Judges 1	Isaiah 30	Hebrews 13
June 7	Judges 2-3	Isaiah 31	James 1
June 8	Judges 4-5	Isaiah 32	James 2
June 9	Judges 6	Isaiah 33	James 3-4
June 10	Judges 7-8	Isaiah 34	James 5
June 11	Judges 9	Isaiah 35	1 Peter 1
June 12	Judges 10-11	Isaiah 36	1 Peter 2
June 13	Judges 12-13	Isaiah 37	1 Peter 3-5
June 14	Judges 14-15	Isaiah 38	2 Peter 1-2
June 15	Judges 16	Isaiah 39	2 Peter 3
June 16	Judges 17-18	Isaiah 40	1 John 1-2
June 17	Judges 19	Isaiah 41	1 John 3-4
June 18	Judges 20	Isaiah 42	1 John 5
June 19	Judges 21-21	Isaiah 43-43	2 John - 3 John
June 20	Ruth 1-2	Isaiah 44	Jude 1
June 21	Ruth 3-4	Isaiah 45	Rev. 1-2
June 22	1 Samuel 1	Isaiah 46-47	Rev. 3-4
June 23	1 Samuel 2	Isaiah 48	Rev. 5-6
June 24	1 Samuel 3	Isaiah 49	Rev. 7-9
June 25	1 Samuel 4	Isaiah 50	Rev. 10-11
June 26	1 Samuel 5-6	Isaiah 51	Rev. 12-13
June 27	1 Samuel 7-8	Isaiah 52	Rev. 14
June 28	1 Samuel 9	Isaiah 53	Rev. 15-16
June 29	1 Samuel 10	Isaiah 54	Rev. 17-18
June 30	1 Samuel 11-12	Isaiah 55	Rev. 19-20

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



ST. THOMAS INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
Philadelphia
Perunnal

Thursday, July 4th, 2024
Gospel convention (Link will be provided in Church Whatsapp Group)
8:30 PM: Evening Message by Rev. Fr. Philip Tharakan

Friday, July 5th, 2024
Gospel convention (Link will be provided in Church Whatsapp Group)
8:30 PM: Evening Message by Rev. Fr. Aji K. Thomas

Saturday, July 6th, 2024
3:00 PM - 5:45 PM: Family Day
6:00 PM: Evening Prayer & Message by Very Rev. John Panarayil Cor-Episcopa
7:15 PM: Rasa
8:00 PM: Benediction and dinner

Sunday, July 7th, 2024
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM:
Holy Qurbana by Very Rev. John Panarayil Cor-Episcopa
11:30 AM: Lunch

Dress Code for St. Thomas Perunnal Day
Women: Golden Sari or Traditional Indian Wear.
Men: Black/Navy Pants, White Shirt, Blue Tie.
(Traditional Indian Wear is also welcome)

For More Information, Please Contact:
Rev. Fr. M. K. Kuziakose (Vicar): (201) 681-1078
Rev. Fr. Sujit Thomas (Assistant Vicar): (516) 754-0743
Jobin Regi (Secretary): (267) 226-6366
Ajin Abraham (Treasurer): (267) 309-7095
Sujith Thomas (Program Coordinator): (215) 501-2327

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1009 Unruh Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19111

WILSON FARM PARK
500 LEE RD. WAYNE, PA 19087

St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Church
ANNUAL PICNIC

2024 July 27th
SATURDAY 9AM - 5PM

\$40 PER FAMILY

\$10 PER PERSON

FOOD GAMES FELLOWSHIP & FUN

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE

For more info: Secretary : Jobin Regi - 267 - 226 - 6366, Email - jregi270@gmail.com
Cordinator : Jestin Abraham - 484 - 347 - 1060, Email - jka1281@gmail.com