

ST. THOMAS INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

1009 UNRUH AVE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19111

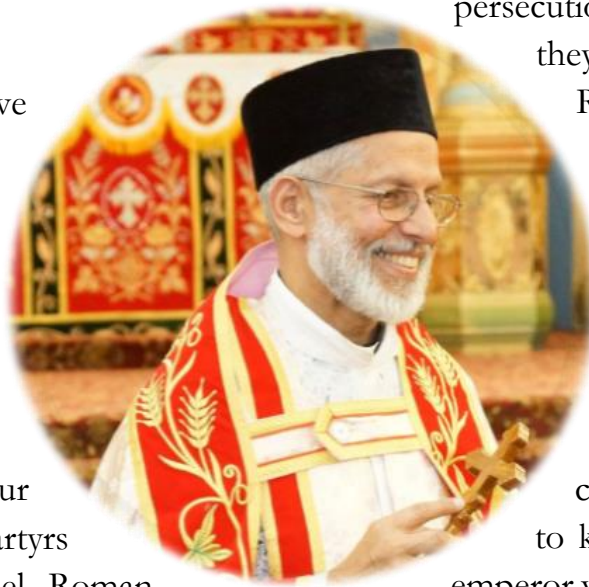
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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vicar's Message

Saints Kuriakose and Yulithi Remembered

In the month of July, we remember our patron Saint Thomas the Apostle and Sts. Kuriakose and Yulithi. Their memories are respectively observed on July 3 and 15. In this message I would like to take the life of St. Kuriakose and his mother Yulithi for our reflection. They were martyrs during the time of the cruel Roman Emperor Diocletian. They became martyrs in 304 AD. They are venerated in Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox Churches. Their names are differently used in history records, Cyriacus and Julietta, Quiricus and Julietta, and so on. In the Indian Church they are known as Kuriakose and Yulithi, mostly a Greek and Syriac combined version of the names.



They were natives of Iconium, (known this way in the Bible) but now known as Konya in Turkey. St. Kuriakose was a three-year-old boy who lost his father soon after his birth. They lived during the time of severe persecution. To avoid persecution, they were fleeing from the Roman Empire. Diocletian had ordered killing of all Christians in his country because, like other Roman Emperors, he was also afraid of the spread of Christianity like wildfire resulting in a division in the country. The emperors wanted to keep the Roman religion and emperor worship with a view to uniting the country. It was reported that the emperor asked soldiers to go to each house to check the faith of the household. The local Governors oversaw executing the order to wipe out Christianity from his country. Both Sts. Yulithi and Kuriakose went through Tarsus (the birthplace of St. Paul) where the Governor Alexandros caught them to question their faith. They were forced to worship idols to which they did not budge. It is recorded that the small

boy Kuriakose told the Governor that he is a Christian and cannot worship idols. They both said that the Roman gods are made of stone or wood by human beings and confessed that there is no other God than our Lord Jesus Christ. Being very angry the governor threw the child over the stony steps, and he died breaking his head. Yulithi was beheaded. Both became martyrs.

The story of Sts. Yulithi and Kuriakose gives us the strength to follow their model of confessing Christ where the faith is hated or not heard. We are living in a time and culture where Christ is becoming even more irrelevant because of our desire for worldly things. For many it is not a fashion to call themselves 'Christian' even though they are born, baptized and live in a Christian family. Christianity is just a name's sake religion for many Christians of today. The ideals of Christ are alien to them. Mahatma Gandhi made the comment about Christians that they are after wealth of others, as reported by J H Holmes while he visited Mahatma in India. It was aimed at the British people who were exploiting many nations for their prosperity. Nowadays we can see that many Christians are after wealth. We are no more the sharing Church like the Early Church as seen in the Acts of the Apostles (chapter 2:43-47 and 4:32). To become rich is not a sin but to hesitate to share it with others is a sin. The era of martyrs proved that despite

persecution and hatred they were able to keep their faith and willing to die for it.

It will be amazing to see that a three-year old child was able to confess the faith because of the spiritual education received from the parents. The parents' faith was strong, and they conveyed the same to the child Kuriakose who was trained well at such a young age. It is a challenge to us Christians of today because we don't train our children that strongly in the faith. Indeed, we train our children for their worldly growth and professional future. But spiritual training given to children is truly insufficient. Even those trained are not able to sustain in faith. As soon as they become mature their faith becomes very weak because the parents and the community, they live in are unable to practice their faith in real life. There is nothing much we do for our children to see as a witness to enrich their life in Christ. Therefore, when they interact with other secular friends, they adapt to their modes than imparting their faith to them. As a parish and as families we must give much more emphasis to witnessing faith. In this time of commemoration, may life of the martyrs be models for our life and the prayers of St. Thomas, St. Kuriakose and St. Yulithi be a stronghold to us!

Lovingly,

Rev. 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 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 June 2024

June 2nd: Dr. Issac Mathai, M.D. founder and medical director of SOUKYA International Holistic Healthcare in Bangalore, India presented an informational presentation on health and wellness.

June 13th – June 15th: MMVS held their annual retreat at Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center.

June 16th: Rev. Fr. Eldo Jacob joined us with his presence and celebrated Holy Qurbana. Our Parish celebrated the fathers of our community this Father's Day. MGOCSM distributed gifts to all fathers, and Jonathon Cherian spoke on behalf of MGOCSM.

June 22nd: The Annual Diocesan Assembly was held at St. John's Orangeburg. Both of our Priests, and representatives: Abraham Varghese, Binny Cherian and Oommen Kappil attended the meeting.



Dr. Isaac Mathai, founder and medical director of SOUKYA presenting to our congregation



Celebrating Rev. Fr. Sujit's Birthday!

Upcoming Events and General Announcements

Spiritual Organization Updates

Sunday School

- OVBS will be Friday August 2nd and Saturday August 3rd, from 9AM to 4PM. It will be held at our church.

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 Area Retreat will be held on Saturday, August 10th at St. Johns Indian Orthodox Church Drexel Hill. Keynote Speaker is Divya Thomas Kochamma
- MMVS Food Drive will be held until August 9th

FOCUS

- FOCUS will be hosting a service event on September 14th, please contact Danny George for more information

General Announcements and Save the Dates

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

The 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, Justin Abraham.

OCYM- Christian Devotional Concert will be held on Sunday, September 29th. Tickets are available for purchase!

Member Announcements

June Memorials

- ❖ **Mr. Shibin Sony**, Nephew of Sheena Jose (#141) and Shyni Anu (#354)
- ❖ **Mrs. Ammini Thomas (#113)**, Mother of Manoj Thomas (#113) and Mini Ninan (#155)
- ❖ **Mr. Shine Panicker**, Brother of Sheena Vaidyan (#282)
- ❖ **Mrs. Mariamma Thomas**, Sister of Annamma Mathew (#119)

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.

JULY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Mathew	Jul 1	Mr. & Mrs. Sathees Easow	Jul 13
Mr. & Mrs. Mohan Samuel	Jul 1	Mr. & Mrs. Jobin Regi	Jul 16
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. Nebu Daniel	Jul 20
Mr. & Mrs. Isac P. George	Jul 4	Mr. & Mrs. Jacob P Sam	Jul 20
Mr. & Mrs. Matt P. Geevarghese	Jul 4	Mr. & Mrs. Samkutty John	Jul 21
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Vaidian	Jul 4	Mr. & Mrs. Sajjan Varughese	Jul 22
Mr. & Mrs. Cherian Varghese	Jul 5	Mr. & Mrs. Shaji Thomas	Jul 23
Mr. & Mrs. Sunil George	Jul 5	Mr. & Mrs. Rev. Fr. Sujit Thomas	Jul 25
Mr. & Mrs. Rev. Fr. Geevarghese John	Jul 5	Mr. & Mrs. Anu. Pulickal Varughese	Jul 27
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas George	Jul 6	Mr. & Mrs. Sanju John	Jul 28
Mr. & Mrs. Kochukoshy P Oommen	Jul 6	Mr. & Mrs. Anish Mathew	Jul 28
Mr. & Mrs. John Varghese	Jul 7	Mr. & Mrs. Varughese M M.	Jul 28
Mr. & Mrs. Varghese Mathew	Jul 8	Mr. & Mrs. Alexander P. Pathrose	Jul 28
Mr. & Mrs. Oommen V Kappil	Jul 9	Mr. & Mrs. Goldy Mathew	Jul 29
Mr. & Mrs. Raju T Chandy	Jul 10	Mr. & Mrs. Joby George	Jul 29
Mr. & Mrs. Ajin John Abraham	Jul 11	Mr. & Mrs. Reji Joshua Varughese	Jul 30
Mr. & Mrs. Reynold Educula	Jul 12	Mr. & Mrs. Chacko P Chacko	Jul 30
Mr. & Mrs. John P Mathai	Jul 12	Mr. & Mrs. Benny Mathew	Jul 31
Mr. & Mrs. Philip K Thomas	Jul 12		



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Mohan Samuel	Jul 1	Abigail M Alexander	Jul 10	Aleyamma Rajan	Jul 22
Rachel Bincy Nebu	Jul 1	Viola Charly	Jul 11	Charly Mathai	Jul 22
Meenu Ann Mathews	Jul 1	Leah Mariam Thomas	Jul 11	Sujith Mathew Thomas	Jul 23
Joy Jacob	Jul 2	Noah Mathew Alexander	Jul 12	Nathan Gregor Niju	Jul 23
Jodan P. Shinu	Jul 3	Felix Ronnie	Jul 12	Alvin Shibu Mathew	Jul 23
Abrielle James	Jul 3	Thomas Koshy	Jul 13	Julian Raju Geevarghese	Jul 24
Hanna Marie Raju	Jul 4			Angela S Panicker	Jul 24
Sosa Philip	Jul 6			Tobin Thankachen	Jul 25
Zephaniah Varghese George	Jul 6		Reji	Reshma Brown	Jul 25
Joel George Varghese	Jul 7	Joshua Varughese	Jul 13	Cynthia Vattasseril	Jul 25
Geevarghese K John	Jul 7	Regi Mathai	Jul 14	Remya Brown	Jul 25
Jancy Joy	Jul 8	Messina Ann Abraham	Jul 14	Reeja Saji	Jul 26
Jiji Mathew	Jul 8	Prasad George	Jul 15	Lijin Joyes	Jul 26
Mathew P Cherian	Jul 8	Rev. Fr M K Kuriakose	Jul 15	Mariamamma Joseph	Jul 28
Zane Cheeran Rijon	Jul 8	Jacob George	Jul 15	Chinnu Reba Mathews	Jul 29
Rachel Thomas	Jul 8	Achamma Thomas	Jul 15	Thankachan K Mathai	Jul 29
Suvarna Varghese	Jul 8	Jeremiah Goldy Mathew	Jul 16	Sobin Benny	Jul 30
Manoj Thomas	Jul 9	Emil John Sam	Jul 16	Thomaskutty Varghese	Jul 30
Beena R John	Jul 9	Emma Joy Vergis	Jul 18	Alvin Panicker	Jul 30
Sylvia S Renji	Jul 10	Jerin Jacob	Jul 18	Jaxen Daniel Jacob	Jul 30
Saramma Thomas	Jul 10	Reuben Liju	Jul 19	Thomas Vaidian	Jul 30
Ryan Liju	Jul 10	Beena Mathew	Jul 19	Amelia Annie Paul	Jul 30
Mathew N K.	Jul 10	Joseph M C.	Jul 20	Thomas George	Jul 31
Annamma Chacko	Jul 10	Dana Job	Jul 21	Suja Elizabeth George	Jul 31
		Josslyn Susan Johnes	Jul 22		

Sunday School News

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

- Classes will resume after Labor Day.
- OVBS will be held on Friday, August 2nd and Saturday, August 3rd, from 9AM to 4PM at our church.

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.