

ST. THOMAS INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

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Vicar's Message

Preparing for the New Liturgical Year

The liturgical calendar of the Indian Orthodox Church adopted from the West Syrian Orthodox Calendar indicates that from the month of November the new liturgical year begins. Beginning with the Koodosh Eetho Sunday, the sanctification of the Church and continuing with Hoodosh Eetho Sunday, the dedication of the Church, and coinciding with the sacred memory of St. Gregorios of Parumala on November 2nd, we are entering into a very spiritually purifying season. The readings for this season are indicative of the significant experience of sanctification of the Church. This season then culminates with the nativity of the Lord.

Sanctification is the process that the Christian Church proposes for every believer from the very beginning of a Christian's journey with Christ starting with Holy Baptism, Holy Chrismation and Holy Qurbana. When the sanctification season begins, we are reminded



of our declaration of faith after casting out demon from our life. How true it is that we cannot confess Christ if we cannot clean up our lives, casting out the demons. Several kinds of demons influence our life by corrupting our thoughts, words and deeds. We simply become slaves to satan who always looks for our destruction. The kind of attractions he would bring to us are so difficult to resist. Some of them look so cozy and enjoyable to us. All kinds of addiction come into our life through this path. A Christian must be extremely watchful to read the temptations that lure us. If for a moment we are lazy or unwatchful, we will be lured into the wrong path of satan. All addictions are leading to dangers and

destruction. The first step of this watchfulness is the simple acknowledgement of the wrong doings and immediately confess them and block satan's path. Sometimes it is very difficult because our secular surrounding is so powerful to trap us into the net of satan. "Many people do it, so I also did it" is the justification for many. We don't follow any human weakness, but we follow path of the Lord where there is love, cooperation, hard work, sharing and caring.

The second step in our spiritual ladder is the sense of dedication that we need to inculcate to hold fast the values that the Lord imparted to us through His Word. Our Lord said one parable of satan sowing the seeds of weeds in the field. We sometimes make our life a fertile land for the weeds. We rarely clear the weeds

and for some, finally the weeds crush the good crops and nothing good will be there to harvest. When we have dedication to the Lord, we will not allow weeds to be sown in our life. It will be very hard to avoid the destructive forces. But we should take bold steps to ward off satanic temptations, no matter who they are coming through - friends, parents, spouses, children and so on! Be watchful! Our call is to sanctify our life. Thinking holy is the way to make our life meaningful to those around us. Even if we must lose a little bit of entertainment or enjoyment, let us not go after the worldly forces of destruction; let us follow the path of the Lord: sanctity and dedication. God bless you all!

Lovingly,

Rev. Fr. M. K. Kuriakose, Vicar

Events and Announcements

Past Events Highlights

- **Oct 1st** – OCYM trip to St. Tikhon's Seminary, HTRC & St. George Orthodox Church.
- **Oct 4th** – Northeast American Diocese MMVS Annual Conference.
- **Oct 11th** – Parish Harvest Festival.
- **Oct 18th** – Northeast American Diocesan Talent Show.

Upcoming Events

- **Nov 1st** - Golden Jubilee Ordination Anniversary of Rev. Fr. K. P. Varghese.
- **Nov 2nd** – Koodosh Eetho (Sanctification of the Church) & Feast of St. Gregorios of Parumala.
- **Nov 9th** – Hoodosh Eetho (Renewal of the Church).
- **Nov 9th** - Heart Disease Awareness and Prevention session conducted by Good Samaritan Society (Snehatheeram).
- **Nov 15 – 17** - GROW Sisters Staycation 2025.
- **Nov 23rd** – Parish Thanksgiving Day.
- **Nov 27th** – MOCF Thanksgiving Service.

Parish Highlights

Northeast American Diocese Sunday School Centralized Exam



Deepu Daji, son of Mrs. Shiji Daji & Mr. Daji Mathew (#330) won Silver Distinction on the Northeast American Diocese Sunday School Centralized Exam. Congratulations Deepu!

Northeast American Diocese Sunday School Group Song Competition Winners



Our Group Song Team placed 2nd at the Northeast American Diocese Sunday School Group Song Competition.

Team members include Tania Jossy, Abia Mathew, Sneha Mathew, Johanna Mukadiyil, Haya Mathew, Noel Cherian, Andrew Cherian, Aaron George, Reeja Saji, Hanah Mathew, Elizabeth Varghese, Olivia Alex, Emily Varghese, Abiel Mathew, and Joel Zachariah.

Coaches: Deepa Thomas Kochamma, Anitha Jossy, and Steffin Manoj.

Congratulations to our student achievers and their coaches!

Northeast American Diocese Sunday School Talent Show

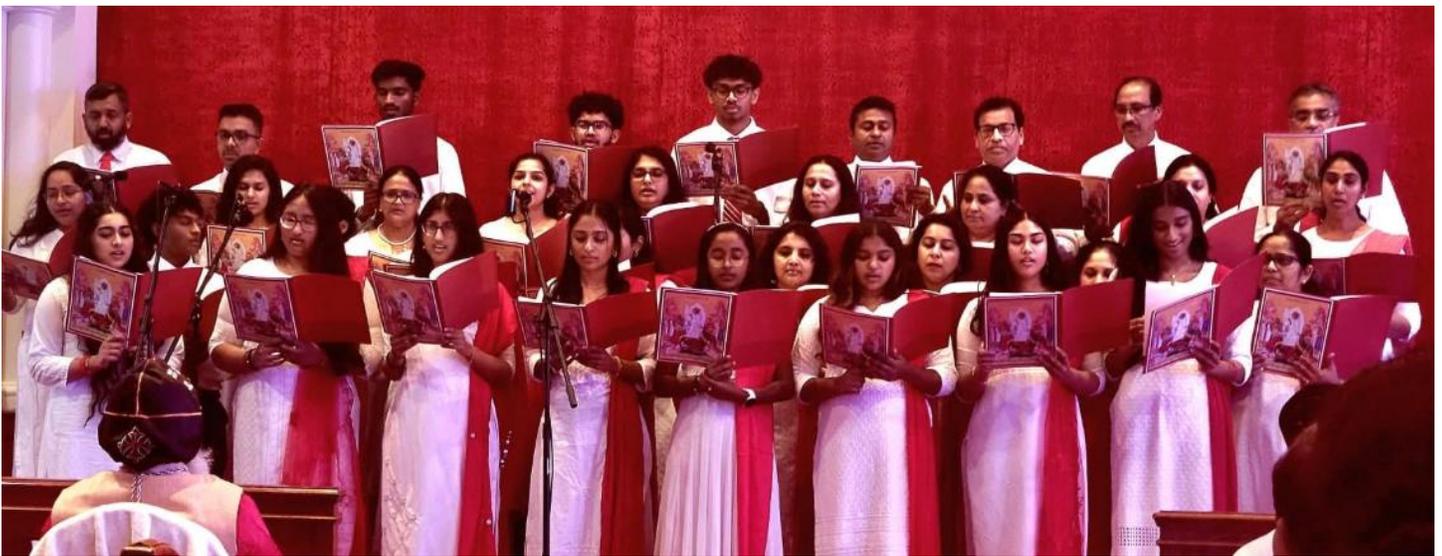




MMVS Annual Conference



Gospel Choir Fest



Church Reminders

Digital Payment: All donations can 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 items such as coats, 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. Unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

Spiritual Organization Updates

Men’s Forum

- Weekly meetings are held after the Holy Qurbana every Sunday.

FOCUS

- Monthly meetings are conducted by FOCUS.

MMVS

- MMVS has weekly meetings after the Holy Qurbana every Sunday.

MGOCSM

- Bible Study will be held in church on the last Saturday of the month.

OCYM

- OCYM has weekly meetings after Holy Qurbana every Sunday.

CAYA

- Regular monthly meetings are conducted virtually or in person.

Save the Dates

Golden Jubilee Ordination Anniversary Celebration of Rev. Fr. K. P. Varghese – Nov 1st

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED BY HIS FAMILY TO
THE GOLDEN JUBILEE
CELEBRATION OF THE
PRIESTHOOD OF
REV. FR. K. P. VARGHESE
 ON
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025
AT 3:00 P.M.
 ST. GREGORIOS MALANKARA ORTHODOX CHURCH,
 4136 HULMEVILLE RD, BENSALEM, PA 19020
Prayer followed by Public Meeting and Refreshments
 Kindly RSVP by October 20th
<https://tinyurl.com/FRKPV50>
 Please direct any questions to Fr. Shibu Mathai at
frvmshibu@gmail.com
 Vicar, St. Gregorios Malankara Orthodox Church,
 4136 Hulmeville Road, Bensalem, PA 19020




GROW Sisters Staycation – Nov 15 - 17

G.R.O.W. Philly presents

G.R.O.W. Sisters Staycation 2025

Dates: Saturday, November 15 - Monday, November 17
Check In: 11/15/25 9:00 AM | **Check Out:** 11/17/25 5:00 PM
Location: Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center
Fee (Covers Food & Stay): \$100

Join us for a weekend at HTRC with fellowship among sisters and a trip to a women's monastery!

Hosted by Philly, but open to all ladies of G.R.O.W. ages 18+!

Registration closes 11/1/25
bit.ly/growstaycation2025




G.R.O.W.
 G.R. O. R. O. W. (G.R. O. R. O. W.)
 Young Women's Ministry

Member Announcements

New Members

- ❖ **#395** – Mrs. Alisha Chacko & Mr. Shamlin Oommen.
- ❖ **#396** – Mrs. Sofi Ann Alexander & Mr. Varghese Babu with parents Mr. Babu P.V and Mrs. Molly Babu.

First Temple Entry

- ❖ **Oct 12th** - **Christian Anoop George**, son of Mrs. Tigy Anoop and Mr. Anoop George (#311).

Wedding

- ❖ **Oct 12th** – The wedding of **Mr. Reuben Sam**, son of Mr. Jacob P. Sam and Mrs. Beena Sam, (#191) and **Ms. Elsa Paul**, daughter of Mr. Mathew Paul & Mrs. Marina Paul took place in The Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Philadelphia.

On behalf of the parish, we express our heartiest congratulations to our new members, newlyweds, new parents and grandparents. May God grant you many blessings!

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.

Memorials

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- ❖ **Sep 30th – Mr. Korah Palakkappillil**, grandfather of Mrs. Nitha Alex (#373) passed away in India. The funeral was held on Oct 1st.
 - ❖ **Oct 3rd – Mrs. Sosamma Mathai**, mother of Mr. Manoj Mathew (#298) passed away in India. The funeral was held on Oct 7th.
 - ❖ **Oct 3rd – Mr. K. E. Varghese**, uncle of Mrs. Gigi Thomas (#144) passed away in India.
 - ❖ **Oct 15th - Mrs. Molly Chacko**, sister-in-law of Mr. N V Thomas (#161) passed away in Kerala.
 - ❖ **Oct 16th - Mr. N.C Mathew**, grandfather of Mr. Oshin Shinu (#328) passed away in India.
 - ❖ **Oct 16th - Mr. Raju K. G. Varghese**, a good friend of our Parish passed away in Baltimore. Funeral services will be held on Oct 24th at St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Church of Baltimore.
 - ❖ **Oct 21st - Mrs. Sosamma Mathunni**, elder sister of Mr. N. V. Thomas (#161) passed away in India. The funeral will be held on Oct 24th.
 - ❖ **Oct 22nd - Mrs. Marykutty Pathil**, mother of Mrs. Susan John (#216) passed away in Kerala.

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 only names, no dates.

October Wedding Anniversaries

Mr. & Mrs. Daji Mathew	Oct 1	Mr. & Mrs. Niju Mathew	
Mr. & Mrs. George Eapen	Oct 1	Cherian	Oct 21
Mr. & Mrs. Varghese P		Mr. & Mrs. Saju Mathew	Oct 21
Abraham	Oct 2	Mr. & Mrs. Varghese Panicker	Oct 23
Mr. & Mrs. Mathukutty George	Oct 2	Mr. & Mrs. Alex Babu	Oct 23
Mr. & Mrs. Zachariah Thomas	Oct 3	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kurian	Oct 24
Mr. & Mrs. Anil T. Babu	Oct 7	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	
Mr. & Mrs. Renju R Padiyara	Oct 16	Chacko	Oct 29
		Mr. & Mrs. Binish George	Oct 31



October Birthdays

Bincy Stephen	Oct 1	Ponnamma Thomas	Oct 10
Prince Sam Jacob	Oct 1	Isabel Vattasseril	Oct 10
Anish Mathew	Oct 1	John Varghese	Oct 10
Moni Thomas	Oct 2	Aji Panicker	Oct 11
Alaina Mathew	Oct 3	Irine Sara Abraham	Oct 11
Jacob P Sam	Oct 3	Saji Philip	Oct 11
Mathew George	Oct 3	Alen Shibu Varghese	Oct 11
Aiden Jacob	Oct 3	Gabriella Sofia Cherian	Oct 13
Alvina Alex	Oct 3	Tom P. Biju	Oct 14
Abbey M Mathew	Oct 4	Subha Baby	Oct 15
Eleena Suja John	Oct 4	Shaju Varghese	Oct 15
Kunjamma George	Oct 4	Salikutty John	Oct 15
Abraham Mathew	Oct 4	Aaron T Mathew	Oct 15
Evan Luke Thomas	Oct 4	Bishel B Baby	Oct 15
Rinju Abraham	Oct 4	Sosamma Jacob	Oct 15
Reuben B Varghese	Oct 4	Oommen V Kappil	Oct 17
Olivia A. Alex	Oct 4	Asha Joel	Oct 17
Varghese K Issac	Oct 5	Risha A. Binu	Oct 17
George T Charia	Oct 5	Georgie George	Oct 17
Shania M. Alex	Oct 5	Saramma Raju	Oct 17
Reynold Educula	Oct 5	Annamma G Panicker	Oct 18
Mony Babu	Oct 6	Mathew Samuel	Oct 18
Rufus Paul	Oct 6	Varghese Jacob	Oct 18
Ezra Isaac Thomas	Oct 7	Dinah Jubee	Oct 18
Thomas T Varghese	Oct 8	Gemma Valsa Kurian	Oct 19
Babu P V	Oct 8	Mercy Cherian	Oct 19
Noel Varghese	Oct 8	Cibu Joseph	Oct 19
Jacob Abraham	Oct 8	Abiel B Mathew	Oct 20
Jacob K. Thekekkuttu	Oct 8	Justina Pothen	Oct 21
Susan John Varghese	Oct 9	Jensina Pothen	Oct 21
Esther Mariam Niju	Oct 9	Nebu Daniel	Oct 21
Oommen Mathai	Oct 10	Abia R. Mathew	Oct 22

Emily Ann Varghese	Oct 22	Marilyn Sarah Cherian	Oct 26
Elizebeth Varghese	Oct 22	Jeena Joseph	Oct 26
Lisa Mariam John	Oct 22	Elizabeth A Kappil	Oct 26
Delwin Thomas	Oct 22	Kondoor Chacko	Oct 26
Nebu Joseph	Oct 22	Kripaya Varghese	Oct 27
Mariam T Raju	Oct 23	Joseph Philip	Oct 27
Jesna Mariam Varghese	Oct 23	Libu K Geevarghese	Oct 28
Biju Mathews	Oct 23	Thankamma Varghese	Oct 28
Neha Joseph	Oct 23	Johan Jins	Oct 28
Ashley Varghese	Oct 24	Liju Cherian	Oct 28
George G Panicker	Oct 24	Tania Jossy	Oct 29
Sharon Cherian	Oct 25	Annamma Varghese	Oct 29
Thara E. Jaison	Oct 25	Alex Babu	Oct 30
Oommen George	Oct 25	Elizabeth Abraham	Oct 31
Jeney Joseph	Oct 26	Abraham Varghese	Oct 31
Susan Shibu Varghese	Oct 26	Nisha George	Oct 31



Sunday School News

- ❖ Until Nov 17th – Operation Christmas Child.
- ❖ Nov 22nd – Annual Holiday Craft Fair.
- ❖ Nov 23rd – Parish Thanksgiving Day – No classes.

Steven Kurian, Principal

Tel.: 267.450.6815, Email: stevekurian@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 keep the Sunday School children and staff in your daily prayers.