

St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Church,
Greater Washington

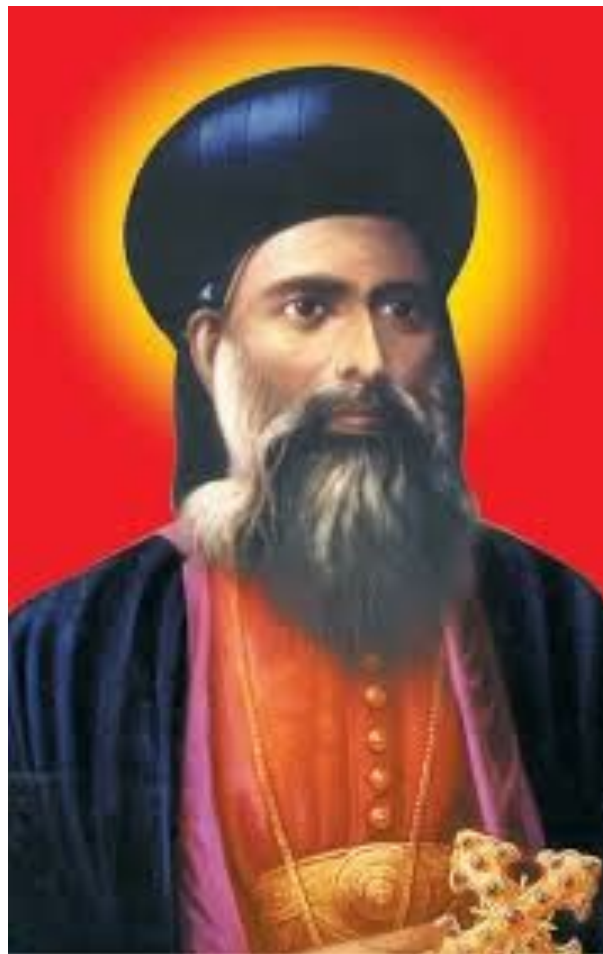


*St. Thomas
Mirror*

EDITION : 9

NOVEMBER 2014

**Koodhosh Eetho
&
Parumala Perunnal**



Vicar's Message

Dearly beloved ones in Christ,

The Sunday that comes on or after October 30th is called KoodhoshEetho (Sanctification of Church) Sunday. It is the beginning of the Church calendar, followed by the Hoodos Etho, the dedication of the Church.

The Holy Church invites us to consecrate ourselves, in our spiritual expedition. This is the time of self-examination, assessing our spiritual strength to continue the journey. We are called to be holy, as God our Father is holy. This is a time as individuals and as a body of believers, we have to examine our lives and mission. As the church is staying in this world and as the devil is after the mankind to commit sin every time, it is a must for all members of the church to renew his sanctification individually so that we can introduce that purification in us and around us.

Remember, In St. Matthew 5: 13 we read "you are the salt of the world." Salt is the symbol of Godly love, when we merge the real love and purification in us in to this world, we could change the world around us, we can retain the peace and order of the world. When we are sanctified, the church gets sanctified and thus the world around us retains that sanctification. We again see this in St. Matthew 5: 14 that "you are the light of the world." When we the members of the church accumulate the light from our God and we can reproduce this light in to the darkness of this world so that the world could feel His presence. As true Christians it is our duty and obligation to introduce the cleaning and purification in us and around us. Sanctification requires a deep faith in our God, a willingness to confess our sins and renew our spirit through the different sacraments of the church.

As you all know, ormapperunnal of Parumala Kochu Thirumeni is celebrated on the first and second of every November. Our church is also humbled and honored to celebrate His Blessed feast this year. Parumala Thirumeni led the simplest life possible and gave maximum help to the poor and suffering. Following the example of Thirumeni is the most important aspect of celebrating his festival. Let us pray that Parumala Thirumeni may intercede for us so that we may be enabled to lead a Godly humble life like him.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Fr. Dr. Johnson C. John Chirathalackal

MMVS Announcements

11/02/14 - Speech by Leemol Johny
11/09/14 - Speech by Jessy Johnson
11/16/14 - Song Practice
11/23/14 - Speech by Mini John
11/30/14 - Song Practice

Food Roster

11/02/2014 - T.P Families
11/09/2014 - Davis Varghese
11/16/2014 - Oomman Koshy
11/23/2014 - George P. Thomas
11/30/2014 - Benny Varghese

Men's Forum & Focus Announcements

11/02/2014 - Bible Class - St. Mathew 18 - Eapen Varghese
11/09/2014 - Bible Class - St. Mathew 19 - Eapen Varghese
11/16/2014 - Bible Class - St. Mathew 20 - Eapen Varghese
11/23/2014 - Bible Class - St. Mathew 21 - Eapen Varghese
11/30/2014 - Bible Class - St. Mathew 22 - Eapen Varghese

Dates to remember

11/15/2014 - Diocese level Talent Competition and
Talent Show, Yonkers, NY from 8am to 8 pm.
11/27/2014 - Thanksgiving.
11/29/2014 - Christmas Carol starts.
11/30/2014 - General Body Meeting.
11/30/2014 - Bala Balika Samajam.

Bala Balika Samajam Announcements (11/30/2014)

Bible Reading - Hope James & Jacob Varghese
Song Malayalam - Joel Johnson
Song English - Teena Varghese
Speech - Johan Thomas
Bible Verses - Joshua Thomas

Worship Schedules

SATURDAY

11/01/2014

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
Evening Prayer & Procession

11/08/2014

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Evening Prayer & Song Practice

11/15/2014

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Evening Prayer & Song Practice

11/22/2014

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Evening Prayer & Song Practice

11/29/2014

Christmas Carol followed by Monthly Prayer Meeting

6:00 - 8:30 PM

Mr. V.M. Joseph & Lissy
13721 Creola Ct.,
Germantown, MD 20874

josephchemmana@yahoo.com, (H) 301 528 2858



Members celebrating birthday

Ammini Chacko	11/1
Ansa Lukose	11/3
Arion Koshy	11/4
Shiji Varghese	11/5
Joshin Johnson	11/11
Aby Oommen	11/14
Shalet James	11/15
Teena Varghese	11/18
David George	11/20
Aleyamma Paul	11/25
Rino Rajan	11/27
Shinu Eapen	11/27
Justus Koshy	11/28

SUNDAY

11/02/2014 – Malayalam

(Koodhosh Eetho (Sanctification) Sunday & Parumala Thirumeni Ormapperrunna)

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.

O.T. Bible Reading family: Mr. T.P. Abraham & Family
[Exodus 33:7-11, Exodus 40:17-38 & Isaiah 6:1-8]

Epistle Reading

[I Peter 2:1-12, I Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:15-20]

11/09/2014 – English

(Hoodhosh Eetho (Dedication))

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.

O.T. Bible Reading : Alka, Amy & Angeline

[Exodus 33:7-11, I Kings 8:22-40 & Isaiah 55:1-13]

Epistle Reading

[Acts 7:44-53 & Hebrews 9:1-14]

11/16/2014 – Malayalam

(Annunciation to Zechariah (Parents' day))

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.

O.T. Bible Reading family: Mr. Shibu Varghese & Family

[Genesis 17:15-22, Numbers 8:13-20 & I Samuel 1:9-17]

Epistle Reading

[II Peter 1:1-15 & Ephesians 5:21-6:4]

11/23/2014 – English

(Annunciation to St. Mary, Mother of God)

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.

O.T. Bible Reading : Avishai, Bijoy & Christina

[Genesis 28:10-22, Judges 13:2-14 & Zechariah 2:10-13, 4:1-7, 8:3]

Epistle Reading

[I John 3:2-17, Galatians 4:1-7]

11/30/2014 – Malayalam

(St. Mary's visit to Elizabeth (Ladies' day))

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.

O.T. Bible Reading family: Mr. Sam G. Mattammel & Family

[Genesis 1:24-31, 24:15-38, Judges 4:4-16 & II Kings 5:1-5]

Epistle Reading

[I Peter 3:1-7 & I Timothy 2:9-15, 3:11-13]



Members celebrating wedding anniversary

Thomas Varghese & Nita Thomas	11/01
Davis Varghese & Shiji Varghese	11/22
Tiju Mathew & Tintu Abraham	11/24
Ajay Mathew & Subha Mathew	11/25

**** If any of your family member's anniversary/birthday falls on this month and doesn't see under birthday/anniversary column; please login to our church website and update ****

Saint Geevarghese Mar Gregorios of Parumala

Geevarghese Mar Gregorios or popularly known as "Parumala kochu thirumeni" is the first declared saint of The Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church. It was on June 15, 1848 that Kochu Ipeora (Geevarghese) was born in Mulanthuruthy Kerala. His parents were Kochu Mathai and Mariam. He was called by the name 'Kochaippora' and was given the baptismal name 'Geevarghese'. Kochaippora had two brothers and two sisters; Kurian, Eli, Mariam and Varkey. Kochaippora was the youngest and was therefore the most beloved to everyone. His mother passed away when he was only two years old. His eldest sister Mariam became to him all that a mother was meant. After the early days of education under Malpan (teacher) Geevarghese of Chathuruthy, Kochu Ipeora was ordained as deacon on September 14, 1859; he was only ten years old at that time.

One day Malpan became seriously ill with smallpox. Deacon Geevarghese was the only one who stayed and took care of him, while all others were sent home. On the eighth day Malpan died and Deacon became ill. During this time he had a vision of St. Mary in his dream, descending to console him, and exhorting him to dedicate the rest of his life to the Lord. He pledged: "He would". This was a heavenly vision that enabled him to become a humble servant of God. Very soon the deacon recovered.

At the age of 18, in 1865 he was ordained as a priest. Joseph Mar Dionysios raised him to the order of monks (Ramban) in 1872. The Patriarch of Antioch consecrated four metropolitans at Paravoor Church, Kerala in December 10, 1876. The youngest among them was Geevarghese Ramban and who was named Mar Gregorios. Because of his age everybody called him "Kochu Thirumeni" (Youngest Bishop). Mar Gregorios was appointed the bishop of Niranam, Kerala. He started a monastery at Parumala, Kerala. At Parumala Seminary he led a strict life. He observed his own special fasts and people came from far and near to seek his blessings and paternal advices. In his own words "Prayer brings truth, religious faith, honesty and respect among the people."

St. Gregorios became sick when he returned from Veeyapuram Church after blessing a marriage. Even from the beginning of his illness he knew that he was in his last days. The news of illness spread all over Malankara. Although he grew weaker day by day, his face shone brighter and brighter. Though leaders of the church took extra care in giving treatment to Thirumeni, he knew that his end was near. One day, he enquired which date it was and on hearing he said "Oh Jesus, I should suffer for 2 more days." Other bishops, priests, deacons and laity remained with him praying and singing hymns. It was on November 2, 1902, midnight he was ready to meet his heavenly father. He left his earthly abode and flew to eternity. He was buried at Parumala Seminary Church, at a place which was shown by His Grace prior to his death. In 1947, The Holy Episcopal synod canonized and proclaimed him a Saint of the Orthodox Church. There are hundreds of instances that proved his Saintliness. Thousands of people receive favors and blessings through his intercession.

It is his way of life that differentiated Parumala Thirumeni from his contemporaries and us, his predecessors. He strode a different way that they and we do not prefer to stride. When we long for physical comforts, he placed preference to the inner well being. When we concentrate on our own well being, he identified with the sufferings of others. When we deliberately broke the communion with our Creator, he constantly maintained that relationship.