

**St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Church,
Greater Washington**



*St. Thomas
Mirror*

EDITION : 11

JANUARY 2015

Epiphany (Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ)



Vicar's Message

Dearly Beloved ones in Christ,

First of all, let me wish you all a bright and prosperous New Year 2015! As we look back over the last 12 months, let's thank Almighty for His abundant mercies showered upon us even though we were unworthy. We were somewhat like players in a baseball game, some were batters and some were considered pitchers, but one thing for sure, at times we were all struck out. So let's try to be able to start afresh. Like Apostle Paul, never let the circumstances conquer you, rather you may conquer the circumstances with the help of our God and be determined to win the victor's crown.

In this New Year, let's do good planning. There's rightfully only one way to plan ahead in our life, "Seek the Lord Jesus in all things and seek to know Him personally"...that's God's planning. Let's concentrate on Him who is the creator of everything we are part of, make your homes more spiritual, stay away from idol talks, be role models to your younger generation. Give importance to family prayers, Bible reading and meditations. Value the time; don't be in bondage to the past rather find time in establishing priorities in our lives.

Let me take this time to thank each and every one of you for your sincere cooperation during the last year, special thanks goes to 2014 Secretary Mr. Joy C. Thomas, Trustee Mr. Rajan Yohannan, all committee members, office bearers of every spiritual organization in our church and Acolytes who all helped selflessly to make STIOC stand out bright in our community.

This new year, let's start with new hopes and new spirits. Let's pray for a year with Godly peace and contentment. May God bless you throughout this New Year 2015!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Fr. Dr. Johnson C. John Chirathalackal

Men's Forum & Focus Announcements

01/04/2015 - Bible Class - St. Mathew Chapter 24
01/11/2015 - No Meeting - Denaha Perunnal
01/18/2015 - General Class - Libu Varkey
01/25/2015 - No Meeting - General Body

Dates to remember

01/06/2015 - Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ (Danaha)
01/07/2015 - Beheading of St. John the Baptist
01/26/2015 - Three days Lent starts



Members celebrating birthday

Soni Paul	- 1/3
Robin Varghese	- 1/4
Ashley Abraham	- 1/7
Molly Varghese	- 1/7
Jicin Koshy	- 1/9
Issac John	- 1/11
Jason Abraham	- 1/12
Anjali Mathew	- 1/17
Thomas Varghese	- 1/21
Johann Thomas	- 1/25



Members celebrating wedding anniversary

Varghese Abraham & Anu Mathew	- 1/2
Thomas Varghese & Mercy Thomas	- 1/7
Rajan Yohannan & Mary Rajan	- 1/17
Suresh Varghese & Nyssa Parampil	- 1/19
Vinod Abraham & Reena Thomas	- 1/21
Abraham Yohannan & Mariamma Abraham	- 1/30

**** 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 ****

Worship Schedules

SERVICE

01/01/2015 – Special New Year Service

Morning Prayer 9:00 am - 10:00 am.

O.T. Bible Reading

[Genesis 12:1-9, Deuteronomy 10:12-11:1 & Ezekiel 18:21-24]

Epistle Reading

[I John 3:13-18 & Romans 2:28-3:8]

01/04/2015 – Malayalam

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

O.T. Bible Reading family:

[Genesis 37:1-11, Psalms 45:1-17 & Isaiah 26:1-12]

Epistle Reading

[I John 3:21-24 & Hebrews 11:23-31]

01/11/2015 – Danaha Service

Morning Prayer 8:15 am - 9:30 am.

O.T. Bible Reading : Sharena, Sneha & Amy

[Genesis 25:19-34,30:36-31:2, II Kings 5:1-14 & Isaiah 49:7-13]

Epistle Reading

[Acts 2:37-47 & Ephesians 1:3-14]

01/18/2015 – Malayalam

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

O.T. Bible Reading family: Thomas Varghese & Nita Thomas Family

[Leviticus 22:26-33, Proverbs 9:1-9 & Isaiah 51:1-8]

Epistle Reading

[I Peter 3:7-15 & Hebrews 1:1-2:4]

01/25/2015 – English

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

O.T. Bible Reading : Sunu, Teena & Angeline

[II Kings 2:19-22, Joel 2:21-32 & Jeremiah 31:1-12]

Epistle Reading

[Acts 17:16-34, I Corinthians 3:16-4:5]

Know your contacts

Office Bearers for 2015

Vicar & President - Rev. Fr. Dr. Johnson C. John
Trustee - Mr. Oommen Koshy
Secretary - Mr. Thomas Varghese (Gigi)
Committee Members - Mr. Biju Mathew, Mr. Bixa Kurian, Mr. Shibu Varghese, Mr. T.M. Chacko, Mr. T.P. Johny, Mr. V.M. Joseph, Mr. Rajan Yohannan (ex officio)
Auditor - Mr. Mathew C. Paul
Board of Directors - Mrs. Ammini Chacko, Mr. George K. Daniel & Mr. Johnson Alexander
Rental Coordinator – Mr. Mathew C. Paul

Coordinators

Food - Mr. T.P. Johnny
Will be assisted by MC and Board of Directors:
⇒ *Jan & Feb - Mr. Shibu Varghese*
⇒ *Mar & Apr - Mr. T.M. Chacko*
⇒ *May & Jun - Mr. Biju Mathew*
⇒ *Jul & Aug - Mr. V.M. Joseph*
⇒ *Sep & Oct - Mr. Bixa Kurian*
⇒ *Nov & Dec - Mr. Johnson Alexander*

Christmas Carol - Mr. Bixa Kurian
Holy Week - Mr. T.M. Chacko
Monthly Prayer - Mr. Shibu Varghese
Maintenance - Mr. V.M. Joseph
St Thomas Mirror Editor - Mr. Bixa Kurian
FOCUS - Mr. Shibu Varghese
Picnic - Mr. T.M. Chacko
Web Master - Mr. Shine Jacob
ECKC Representative - Mr. Joy C. Thomas
Guest Masters - Mr. Shine Jacob, Mr. Shibu Varghese, Mrs. Jessy Johnson & Mrs. Shiji Thomas
Church Choir - Mrs. Mini John

St.Thomas Bala Balika Samajam

President - Rev. Fr. Dr. Johnson C. John
Vice President - Shalet James
Secretary - Sara Shibu
Joint Secretary - Anand Abraham
Treasurer - Kevin Bixa
Staff Advisor - Sinobia Shibu

St.Thomas Sunday School

President - Rev. Fr. Dr. Johnson C. John
Principal - Ms. Neethu George
Vice Principals - Ms. Jinin Mariam Koshy (Sunu) & Ms. Sherena Baby
Secretary - Ms. Jinin Mariam Koshy (Sunu)
Sunday School Programs Trainer – Mrs. Nirmala Thomas
Malayalam Teacher- Mrs. Giji Varghese

St.Thomas MGOCSM

President - Rev. Fr. Dr. Johnson C. John
Vice President- Ajesh John
Secretary - Alex Johnson
Joint-Secretary - Steve Sam
Area Council Rep. - Alex Johny
Area Representative - Kevin Manakkunnel
Treasurer - Roshni Thomas

St.Thomas MMVS

President - Rev. Fr. Dr. Johnson C. John
Vice President - Mrs. Mariamma Abraham
Secretary - Mrs. Preethi Bixa
Joint secretaries - Mrs. Anu Binu Abraham & Mrs. Leemol Johnny
Treasurer - Mrs. Annie George
MMVS Choir - Mrs. Mercy Thomas

St. Thomas Men's Forum

President - Rev. Fr. Dr. Johnson C. John
Vice President - Mr. Yohannan Abraham
Secretary - Mr. Baby Daniel
Joint Secretary - Mr. Johnson Alexander

St. Thomas Monthly Prayer

President - Rev. Fr. Dr. Johnson C. John
Vice President - Mr. George V. Thomas
Secretary - Mrs. Anila Mathew
Joint Secretary - Mr. Biju Lukose
Treasurer - Mr. Johnson Alexander



My Culture

India, a place I have longed to live
My clothes, my taste, my life
can't reflect the ancestry that flows through me
The blood that runs through my veins
belongs to a country far away
across dazzling blue oceans and evergreen forests

A place I left years ago
Yet how far I may be
Its culture grows in me.
In the sweet lullabies sang by my mother
In the childhood bedtime stories of my father
The wisdom of my grandmother
The memories of my late grandfather
Through the queer words that rolls on my tongue
In my American accent I stutter and stop
Yet I proudly speak the language
Of the ones I left long ago.

I have treasured my short moments of India
I remember that cold droplets of rain
Soothing my hot sweaty body
The grass and gravel tickling my bare feet
Tiptoeing across the scorching hot roads
My efforts in vain; with tomato red toes
Dancing in bright colors of Holi
Mourning through Good Friday
Feasting during Onam, savoring every bit
Singing through Christmas.

I come back to a world
Hectic, misguiding, and confusing
It seem I have waken
From a faraway dream.

The truth, never will I be a pure Indian
My American childhood influencing every decision
I am a mix of two different cultures, a cross breed
Yet, I am proud of what I am.
The color of our skin is different
But the color of our blood is the same
Yet, identity does not come physically
It comes with the culture that abides in our soul.

*Poem by **Nidhi Mathew** (published in 7th Grade by MCC
Friends of library)*