

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



EDITION : 13

MARCH 2015

*St. Thomas
Mirror*

Annunciation to St. Mary



Vicar's Message

Dearly Beloved ones in Christ,

Great Lent is the greatest fasting period in the church year in Orthodoxy. First of the six Sundays, beginning with the wedding feast of Cana, the church celebrates miracles of Jesus Christ and it ends with the healing of the blind man and raising of Lazarus from the dead on the Saturday before Palm Sunday. The seventh Sunday is Palm Sunday and the eighth Sunday, of course, is Easter. Each miracle performed by Jesus is a reminder for believers to grow in our faith and come closer to Him during this spiritual journey of Great Lent. 1st Sunday of Great Lent like we heard few weeks ago, was the miracle at the wedding feast in Cana, where we see the perfect trust of Mother Mary and obedience of the disciples. In the entire Bible, St. Mary the Mother of God speaks very few words. In the Gospel reading on "Kothine Sunday" she says: "Do whatever He tells you" and the miracle happens, water turns into fine wine. 2nd Sunday of Great lent, we commemorate the miracle of the healing of the leper. St. Luke's gospel says "And it came to pass when he was to a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on his face and besought him, saying, Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." Like this Leper who was confident that the Lord was able to cure him though his disease was so serious but he gave complete submission to God's will. This is the way of prayer expected from each of us to submit to His will.

3rd Sunday is the healing of the Paralytic, which actually teaches us the miracle of forgiveness and healing of the weakness performed by our Lord .An imperfect man in body and spirit was healed by the power of God not because of his own faith because of the faith of his friends. 4th Sunday of the Great lent commemorates the miracle of healing the Canaanite's daughter. This miracle is teaching us the persistence, the humility and the deepest faith of this woman. The question we must ask ourselves is do we give up our faith in God when He does not answer? Like the Psalmist says "Be silent and know that I am God". Listen to the Lord's silence and be persistent in your prayer. Likewise the Sundays after this remind believers of God's unconditional love and affection for humankind. Church is reminding her members to meditate on these Bible passages and potentially be healed inwardly and outwardly.

May God bless you all abundantly during this Great Lent.

Yours in Christ,

Johnson Achan

Dates to remember

03/01/2015 - Palsy Sunday
03/08/2015 - Canaanite Woman
03/11/2015 - Mid Lent
03/14/2015 - Memory of Forty Martyrs
03/15/2015 - Crippled Woman
03/22/2015 - Catholicate day
03/25/2015 - Annunciation to St. Mary
03/27/2015 - 40th day of Lent
03/28/2015 - Retreat and Confession (10:00 AM to 5:00 PM), Lazarus Saturday
03/29/2015 - Hosanna/Palm Sunday
03/29/2015 - 04/04/2015 - Passion week



Members celebrating birthday

Sajan Mathew	- 3/3
Aarav Jacob	- 3/3
Reggie Thomas	- 3/4
Navya Vargese	- 3/6
Ajay Mathew	- 3/8
Neena Jacob	- 3/9
Suresh Varghese	- 3/10
Steven Saji	- 3/11
Vinoy Thomas	- 3/13
Reena Thomas	- 3/14
Elyssa Marie Parampil	- 3/15
Prince Joseph	- 3/16
Tiju Mathew	- 3/17
Abin Lukose	- 3/19
Sam G Mattammel	- 3/25
Lissy Joseph	- 3/27
Nithin George	- 3/28
Aakash Palathra	- 3/29
Leemol Johny	- 3/30
Jacob Aronnil	- 3/31

**** 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

03/01/2015 – Malayalam

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.
O.T. Bible Reading family: Thomas K. Varghese Family
[Exodus 4 : 10-17, II Kings 2 : 1-11, Isaiah 5 : 20-25]
Epistle Reading
[Romans 5:1-11, St. Mark 2:1-12]

03/08/2015 – English

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.
O.T. Bible Reading : Jacob Benny, Joel Johnson, Johann Varghese
[I Samuel 7:10-17, Numbers 17:1-8, Isaiah 56:1-7]
Epistle Reading
[Acts 4:1-12, Matthew 15:21-28]

03/15/2015 – Malayalam

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.
O.T. Bible Reading family: Biju Lukose Family
[Genesis 9:1-7, Jeremiah 51:1-9, Isaiah 50:1-5]
Epistle Reading
[I Peter 3:8-16, St. Luke 13:10-17]

03/22/2015 – English

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.
O.T. Bible Reading : Joji Thomas, Jonathan Varghese, Keith Thomas
[Deuteronomy 25:13-16, Deuteronomy 26:1-13, Job 42:1-10]
Epistle Reading
[I Peter 4:12-19, II Corinthians 9:6-15]

03/29/2015 – Palm Sunday - Malayalam

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.
[Genesis 49:8-15, Daniel 1:16-20, Micah 4:1-5]
Epistle Reading
[I John 5:1-12, Romans 8:18-25]

Men's Forum & Martha Mariyam Samajam Announcements

03/01/2015 - Prayer at John C.Thomas's Residence
03/08/2015 - Class - Isaac John
03/15/2015 - General Class - Shibu Varghese
03/22/2015 - Men's Forum & MMVS Group Class – Fr Johnson
03/29/2015 - Palm Sunday

Do You Know ?

1. What is Pentateuch?
2. How old was Methuselah when he died?
3. Moses builds an altar named Jehovah-Nissi which means:
4. One day the trees went out to anoint a King for themselves: In which book it is mentioned?
5. What does the term Ebenezer mean?
6. Who ascended to heaven without dying?
7. What is the name of bronze serpent Moses has made?
8. Which is the shortest Psalm?
9. What Book in the Bible does not contain the name of GOD?
10. Just before He died on the cross, Jesus cried "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani," which means?
11. Is there an "unforgiveable sin"?
12. Which book is known as Gospel of Holy Spirit?
13. What does Aceldama mean?
14. What does the name Barnabas mean?
15. How many Books in the Bible have only one chapter?

1. The first 5 books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.
2. 969 years. Genesis 5:27. He was the oldest man that ever lived.
3. "The Lord our Banner" Exodus 17:15
4. Judges 9:8
5. "Thus far the LORD has helped us" 1st Samuel 7:12
6. Elijah 2 Kings 2:11 and Enoch Genesis 5:24, Hebrew 11:5
7. 'Nehustan' 2 King 18:4
8. Psalm 117
9. The book of Esther
10. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" - Matthew 27:46
11. Yes, blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Mark 3:28-30
12. The Act of Apostle
13. "The field of blood." Act 1:19
14. "The son of Encouragement" Act 4:36
15. Five - Obadiah, Philemon, 2 John, 3 John & Jude

Answers

A Men's Forum Contribution...