

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

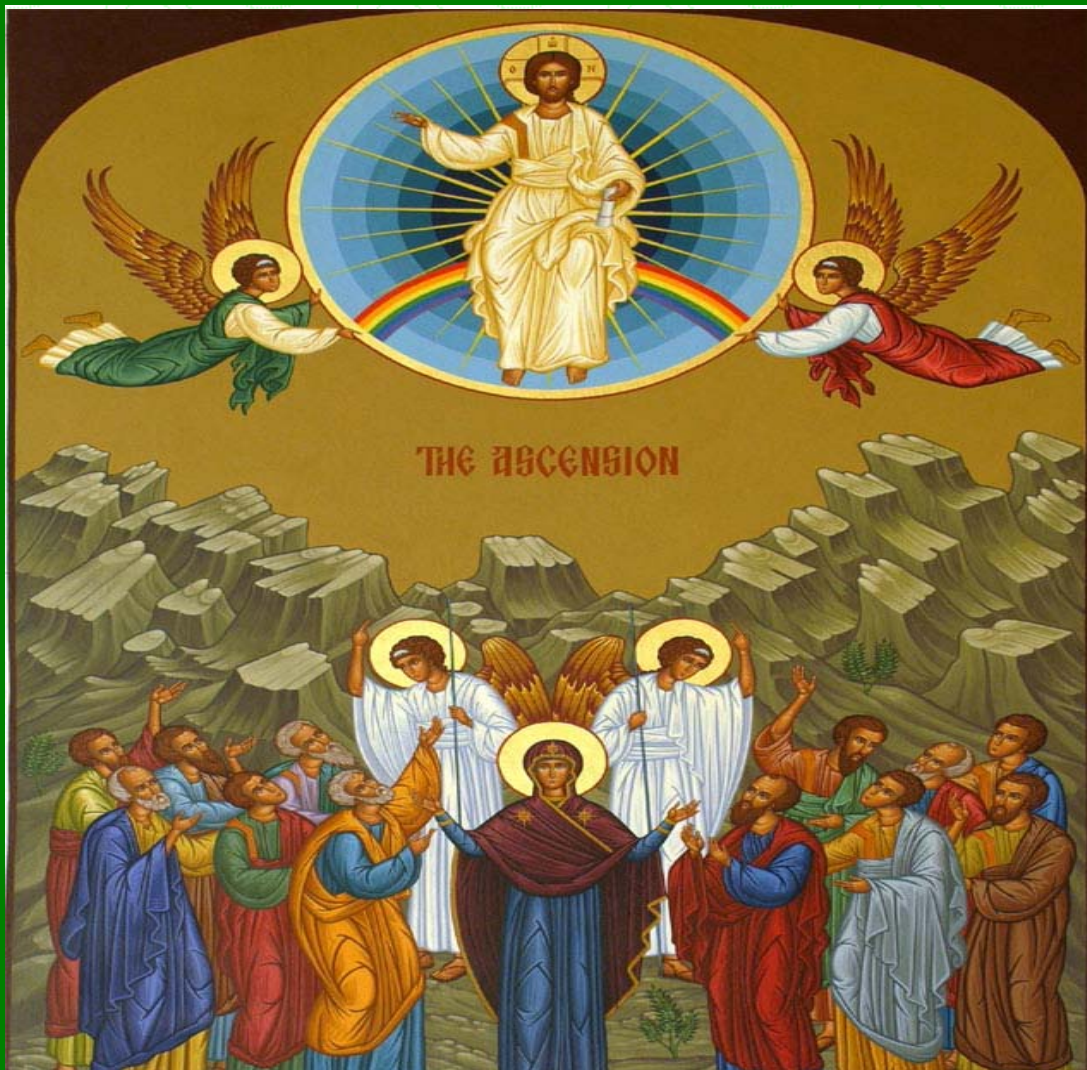


EDITION : 15

MAY 2015

*St. Thomas
Mirror*

Ascension of Christ



Vicar's Message

Dearly Beloved ones in Christ,

As you all know, Ascension of our Christ falls 40 days after Easter, which is the 6th Thursday of Easter. In The Acts of Apostles, St. Luke gives a detailed description about Jesus' ascension to heaven following 40 days of His resurrection. What is the importance of ascension in a Christian's life? Along with resurrection, ascension makes a proof of His existence as 'Messiah'. Ascension proves definitive entry of Jesus' human body into heaven, and He proceeded into God's eternal Kingdom, which definitely is a hope for our humanity that one day we will be with Him in that Kingdom. His ascension is the pledge of His return.

John's Gospel tells us, "When I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." (John 14:3), His Ascension to heaven was to prepare a place for us. It continues in St. John as "I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you." (John 16:7). Who's this Counselor? We see that Holy Spirit came onto Apostles on Pentecost (50th day After Easter) which happened after His ascension.

We see that in Acts of Apostles that the disciples went to the Upper Room there they remained in prayer. Prayer was necessary to receive Holy Spirit. If they needed to pray, how much more do our families need prayer? Now days in our current busy lives, how many of us find time for this kind of prayer? If you don't breathe your body will die, in the same way, if you don't pray and keep constant contact with Christ, you'll spiritually die. Once you're spiritually dead, we can easily get corrupted by the world around us.

Remember, "the family that prays together stays together." Thus apostles received Gifts of Spirit on Pentecost after they waited patiently with prayers. Ascension of Christ is thus equally important like Jesus Christ's passion, death and resurrection as it waded a path for our salvation and for us to receive the Holy Spirit. These days after Easter are the prayer days in anticipation of our Lord's ascension and to receive the Gifts of Holy Spirit. Let's our church as a whole dedicate our lives with more earnest prayers to receive this Gifts of Holy Spirit into our lives in these blessed days.

May you all be blessed abundantly!

Yours in Christ,
Johnson Achen

Dates to remember

05/03/2015 - Third Sunday after New Sunday
05/10/2015 - Fourth Sunday after New Sunday
05/14/2015 - Ascension of our Lord
05/17/2015 - Sunday before Pentecost (Sunday of the Monks)
05/24/2015 - Pentecost (Fiftieth day after Easter) (Sunday School Day)
05/31/2015 - First Sunday after Pentecost

Men's Forum Announcements

05/03/2015 - Class - Isaac John
05/10/2015 - Divyabodhanam Class
05/17/2015 - Class - Shibu Varghese
05/24/2015 - Pentecost Sunday - No Class
05/31/2015 - Class - Fr. Johnson

MMVS Announcements

05/03/2015 - Bible Discussion
05/10/2015 - Bible Discussion
05/17/2015 - Bible Discussion
05/24/2015 - Pentecost Sunday - No Class
05/31/2015 - Bible Discussion



Members celebrating birthday

Nathaniel Eldo	- 5/1
James John	- 5/3
Oomman Koshy	- 5/3
Nirmala Thomas	- 5/4
Diya Oommen	- 5/8
Benny Varghese	- 5/10
Vinod Abraham	- 5/10
Skaria Jomon	- 5/10
Anya Jacob	- 5/10
Eapen Varghese	- 5/11
Nita Thomas	- 5/11
Ashwyn Koshy	- 5/13
Mathew C Paul	- 5/15
Jessy Joy	- 5/15
Varghese Isaac Parampil	- 5/16
George Varghese	- 5/16
Shibi Paul	- 5/16
Saramma Varghese	- 5/17
Nyssa Parampil	- 5/17
Leelamma Varghese	- 5/18
Aleyamma George	- 5/20
T.P Johny	- 5/20
George V. Thomas	- 5/21
Fr. George C Mathew	- 5/21
V.M Joseph	- 5/21
Biju Lukose	- 5/22
Jaison Johny	- 5/22
Gigi Varghese	- 5/24
Annamma Jays	- 5/24
Chinnakutty Abraham	- 5/26
George Koshy	- 5/26
John C. Thomas	- 5/27
Nithin Vargese	- 5/27
Chirstina Abraham	- 5/28
Mini John	- 5/28
Alina Varghese	- 5/28
Johnson Varghese	- 5/28
Jolly John	- 5/30
Jemini Eapen	- 5/30
Lizy John	- 5/30
Joy C. Thomas	- 5/30
Fr.Dr.Johnson John	- 5/30
Alexander Abraham	- 5/31

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

Worship Schedules

SERVICE

05/03/2015 – Sunday - Malayalam

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.
O.T. Bible Reading Family : Biju Mathew Family
[Exodus 34:4-12, Micah 4:1-7, Zachariah 8:4-9]
Epistle Reading
[I John 5:13-21, Hebrews 11:3-6]

05/10/2015 – Sunday - English

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.
O.T. Bible Reading : Sneha Abraham, Sunu Koshy, Teena Varughese
[Deuteronomy 16:1-8, Joshua 8:30-35, Isaiah 54:1-8]
Epistle Reading
[I Peter 3:17-22, Hebrews 11:32-40]

05/14/2015 – Ascension of our Lord - Malayalam

Evening Prayer 6:30 pm.
O.T. Bible Reading :
[Jeremiah 31:31-34, II Kings 2:9-15, Isaiah 48:20-49:4]
Epistle Reading: Acts 1:4-11, Ephesians 4:1-16

05/17/2015 – Sunday - Malayalam

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.
O.T. Bible Reading Family: Benny Job Family
[Leviticus 25:1-13, Joshua 1:5-9, Isaiah 44:23-28]
Epistle Reading
[Acts 21:7-9, St. John 17:13-26]

05/24/2015 – Pentecost Sunday

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.
O.T. Bible Reading
[Numbers 11:16-35, I Samuel 10:9-12, Isaiah 42:1-27]
Epistle Reading
[Acts 2:1-13, Galatians 5:16-26]

05/31/2015 – Sunday - Malayalam

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.
O.T. Bible Reading Family: Bixa Kurian Kanneth Family
[Genesis 41:38-40, Exodus 12:31-40, Joshua 5:9-12]
Epistle Reading
[Acts 17:10-15, St. John 6:26-35]



Members celebrating wedding anniversary

Saji Mathai and Sheba Saji	- 5/3
Varghese Kurian and Gigi Varghese	- 5/10
Jacob Aronnil and Chinnama Jacob	- 5/12
Oomman Koshy and Lali Koshy	- 5/12
Eldo Mathew and Ritu Mary	- 5/14
George V. Thomas and Gracy Thomas	- 5/21
Manoj Abraham and Susan Varghese	- 5/25
George P. Thomas and Susan Thomas	- 5/29

April Events...

Spring Break Trip to Lancaster to watch the Biblical show 'Moses'



Easter Song by our Sunday School Children...



We got email...

Not a member of your congregation, I had quite a pleasant spiritual experience at your service this past Sunday. Your parishioners were so helpful in keeping me on track in reading the manual, and I enjoyed singing the hymns in full voice. There is much to admire in the pageantry and display of Orthodox services. Above all, it was an amazing delight to me to find such an ancient Church so near my home, and to see in its practices so much in common with the Anglican services that I usually attend. How widespread is the message of Jesus Christ! - I am happy for the opportunity for seeing it, to some degree, through your Church's eyes.

-Charles Clark

Story of Bible Books...

I went to **Genesis** Hotels through **Exodus** road. On the way, I saw **Leviticus** recording the **Numbers** of people at **Deuteronomy**, while **Joshua** was waiting at the beautiful gate for **Judges** to see **Ruth** calling loudly "**Samuel, Samuel**". At a stage, the, **first and second Kings** of **Chronicles** were coming to visit **Ezra, Nehemiah** and **Esther** for the misfortune of **Job** their brother. Then they noticed that Mr. **Psalms** was teaching his children **Proverbs** concerning **Ecclesiastes** and **Songs of Solomon**. This coincided with the period that **Isaiah** and **Jeremiah** were engaged in **Lamentation** for **Ezekiel** and **Daniel** their friend. By that time, **Hosea** and **Joel** were not around. Three days later, **Amos, Obadiah** and **Jonah** traveled in the same ship with **Micah** and **Nahum** to Jerusalem. **Habakkuk** then visited **Zephaniah** who introduced him to **Haggai** a friend of **Zechariah** whose cousin is **Malachi**.

Immediately after the old tradition, **Matthew, Mark, Luke** and **John** got involved in **Acts** with the **Romans** who were behaving like the **Corinthians**, who were also always at loggerhead with the **Galatians**. At that time too, the **Ephesians** realizing that the **Philippians** were close to the **Colossians**, suggested to the **Thessalonians** that they should first of all see **Timothy** who had gone to the house of **Titus** to teach **Philemon** his younger brother how to read and write in **Hebrew**. On hearing this, **James** asked **Peter** to explain to him how the **three Johns** have disclosed to **Jude** the **Revelation** of my journey.

An MMVS Contribution..