

St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Church,
Greater Washington



EDITION : 18

AUGUST 2015

*St. Thomas
Mirror*

Festival of Transfiguration



Vicar's Message

Dear Beloved ones in Christ Jesus,

It is a fact that we are all different in age, color, financial or work status we're all called into a special spiritual relationship with God and with one another. Our church calls us into a vertical relationship with God and we have to maintain horizontal relationships with those people we know and don't yet know to experience harmony which is a desire of our God. What is harmony? Dictionaries define harmony as seeking peace and living a life without enmity. How can we have harmony among one another? Before we can have true peace and harmony with others, we must first be reconciled with God and must have a stronger harmony with Him.

We often forget to submit to the will of God. When you lose the sensitivity of fear of God, people gradually draw themselves closer to the world and the sin of this world will entangle. You may be a regular church goer, yet may not feel that peace with God until and unless we submit ourselves to the will of God. Once an individual finds peace with God, his family will start to feel the peace too. Harmony and peace at home is important before we can achieve peace and harmony in our church. All things would go well in a house if the family members are in harmony and peace. Writer of Proverbs in 15:17 says, "Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened calf with hatred". How is it possible to love others if we cannot find that love and harmony at home? Christ's Sermon on the Mount reminds us "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God". Paul reminds us in Ephesians 4:2, "Be humble and gentle", then he continues to say "patient with one another, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love". Peacemaking requires forgiveness. We cannot have the attitude of "an eye for an eye; a tooth for a tooth," there will be no peace, rather take a step closer to God's command "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you".

Let's try to remove self-righteousness and obstinacy from our hearts, let's remove self-interest and seek the interest of others and be understanding, be forgiving, and be yielding. Let's try to practice these principles and be blessed by our God abundantly. As it's said in the gospels, if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. This means that if the people cannot agree on basic things, that household or that nation will not survive rather it will crumble. It is a fact that happiness springs out of the roots of unity. Let's work together to achieve that internal peace and harmony towards our terminal goal to please our God almighty.

Yours in Christ,

Johnson Achen

Dates to remember

08/02/2015 - Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
08/06/2015 - The Festival of Transfiguration/Koodaara Perunnal
08/09/2015 - First Sunday after the Festival of Transfiguration
08/15/2015 - The Festival of the Assumption of St. Mary (Marth Mariam Samajam Day)
08/16/2015 - First Sunday after the Festival of the Assumption
08/23/2015 - Second Sunday after the Festival of the Assumption
08/30/2015 - Third Sunday after the Festival of the Assumption

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Members celebrating birthday

T.P Varghese	- 8/3
Justin Abraham	- 8/6
Alex Johny	- 8/7
Binu Abraham	- 8/15
Reena Benny	- 8/20
Ginu C Paul	- 8/23
Siby Mathew	- 8/23
Sherena Baby	- 8/26
Susan Thomas	- 8/27
Daniel Saji	- 8/28
Jonathan Varghese	- 8/30
Jinin Koshy	- 8/31

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Members celebrating wedding anniversary

V.M Joseph & Lissy Joseph	- 8/7
Baby Daniel & Gracy Baby	- 8/18
Benny Varghese & Gigi R Mathew	- 8/18
Bixa Kurian Kanneth & Preethy K Kanneth	- 8/21
Johnson Varghese & Shibi Paul	- 8/22
Joy C. Thomas & Jessy Joy	- 8/23
Suresh Eapen & Kochumol Suresh	- 8/23

**** 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 ****

Men's Forum Announcements

08/02/2015 - Class - Varghese Kurian
08/09/2015 - Bible Class
08/16/2015 - Class - Johnson Achan
08/23/2015 - Bible Class
08/30/2015 - Bible Class

Worship Schedules

SERVICE

08/02/2015 – Sunday - Malayalam

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.
Old Testament Bible Reading Family :
Johnson Alexander Family
[Exodus 15:23-27, Job 42:7-17, Psalms 112:1-10]
Epistle Reading
[Acts 28:23-30, Romans 10:5-21]

08/09/2015 – Sunday - English

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.
Old Testament Bible Reading :
Shalet James, Sharena Daniel, Sneha Abraham
[Deuteronomy 25:13-16, Psalms 27, Ezekiel 7:1-4]
Epistle Reading
[Philippians 4:8-20, St. Matthew 21:28-32]

08/16/2015 – Sunday - Malayalam

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.
O.T. Bible Reading Family:
Joy C. Thomas Family
[Exodus 14:21-31, I Samuel 8:4-9, Isaiah 43:1-5]
Epistle Reading
[Ephesians 6:10-17, St. Luke 6:39-45]

08/23/2015 – Sunday - English

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.
Old Testament Bible Reading:
Sunu Koshy, Teena Varughese, Amy Abraham
[Genesis 6:3-12, Ecclesiastes 7:1-7, Psalms 12:1-7]
Epistle Reading
[II Peter 3:8-14, St. Luke 11:9-20]

08/30/2015 – Sunday - Malayalam

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.
O.T. Bible Reading Family:
James John Family
[Exodus 24:12-18, I Samuel 3:16-21, Ezekiel 18:21-24]
Epistle Reading
[St. James 5:1-6, II Corinthians 10:1-7]

MMVS Announcements

08/02/2015 - Bible Discussion
08/09/2015 - Bible Discussion
08/16/2015 - Bible Discussion
08/23/2015 - Bible Discussion
08/30/2015 - Bible Discussion

Sunday School Schedule

08/02/2015 : General session with Malayalam class
08/09/2015 : General session with Malayalam class
08/13/2015 : OVBS at St. Thomas church, Baltimore
08/14/2015 : OVBS at St. Thomas church, Baltimore
08/15/2015 : OVBS at St. Thomas church, Baltimore
08/16/2015 : General session with Malayalam class
08/23/2015 : Area assigned competition at 12noon in our church
08/30/2015 : Balabalika Samajam Meeting
08/30/2015 : Teachers Meeting

July Events...

After giving the 2015 Catholicate Day Collection of St Thomas IOC at Philadelphia with
HH Baselios MarThoma Paulose II



Church Picnic on 07/11/2015

