

St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Church,
Greater Washington



EDITION : 22

DECEMBER 2015

*St. Thomas
Mirror*

Merry Christmas



Vicar's Message

Dearly Beloved ones in Christ,

We are entering into another December, a time when annually we hear about Christmas and celebrate Christmas. We hear about angels, shepherds, wise men, manger and Bethlehem...it's too familiar to us, but actually the danger is that we are forgetting the real message of Christmas in these busy schedules of celebrations. Let's pay attention to Luke 2:10, "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." The announcement of birth of Jesus Christ didn't happen to a King in a palace nor to any socially eminent rich person, rather did the announcement come into the midst of a group of ordinary poor shepherds who were in the field, who were keeping a close eye on their flocks in the field.

The angel of God came to the most despised and said 'fear not', what a good God we have. He sends His angel to the most despised and proclaimed the birth of our Savior. It's even more interesting to see the response of the shepherds. Being uneducated and of low social stature, they could have doubted this angel's announcement or could have debated over it, rather they chose to believe. Their faith is revealed in their words, "let us now go and see this thing that has come to pass." That's true faith. Their faith drew them into take action. They simply followed angel's directions and went to Bethlehem to see Baby Jesus. The shepherds received God's call to their heart and that changed their lives. As a sinner, we should take God's call for action very seriously, heed His message, deny and repent about your sins and must come closer to God. The shepherds, after they met Jesus in the manger, they couldn't keep the secret; they went out and spread the news to others. We as God's people have the responsibility to be messengers of God's salvation after we meet Christ in our lives.

Holy Church has set apart the first 25days of December as lent days before the Feast of Nativity, in order for us to prepare for the birth of Christ. Let us pray and fast in the hope to encounter Jesus Christ in our lives like the shepherds, so that our lives transformed forever.

May God bless us all abundantly.

Yours in Christ,

Johnson Achen

Dates to remember

- 12/06/2015 - Birth of John the Baptist (Children's day)
- 12/13/2015 - Annunciation to St. Joseph
- 12/20/2015 - Sunday before Christmas
- 12/25/2015 - Yeldho / Incarnation of our Lord (Christmas)
- 12/26/2015 6:00 PM : Christmas program and spiritual organizations anniversary
- 12/27/2015 - First Sunday after Christmas (The Holy Family flee to Egypt)

Men's Forum Announcements

- 12/06/2015 - Bible Class
- 12/13/2015 - General Class - Varghese Kurian
- 12/20/2015 - General Class - Shibu Varghese
- 12/25/2015 - No Class
- 12/27/2015 - Bible Class

MMVS Announcements

- 12/06/2015 - Bible Discussion
- 12/13/2015 - Bible Discussion
- 12/20/2015 - Bible Discussion
- 12/25/2015 - No Class
- 12/27/2015 - Bible Discussion

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Members celebrating Birthday

Rajan Yohannan	- 12/1
Angeline Johny	- 12/5
Shanu Eapen	- 12/5
Jacob Benny	- 12/8
Ethan Sajan	- 12/8
Sara Shibu	- 12/9
Anu Mathew	- 12/9
Saji Mathai	- 12/11
Sheeba Chacko	- 12/14
Libu Varkey	- 12/19
Delin Varghese	- 12/20
Sheba Saji	- 12/22
Joel Johnson	- 12/24
Anika Jacob	- 12/25
Johnson Alexander	- 12/28
Lukose Cyril Parampil	- 12/29
Della Varghese	- 12/29
Thomas Palathra	- 12/31

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Members celebrating Wedding Anniversary

Sajan Mathew & Renju Rajan	- 12/26
Riyo Rajan & Della Varghese	- 12/28
Aby Oommen & Devi Alphonsa George	- 12/28
Johnson Alexander & Jessy Johnson	- 12/29
Mathew C Paul & Aleyamma Paul	- 12/30

**** 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

12/06/2015 – Sunday - Malayalam

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.
Old Testament Bible Reading Family :
Thomas Varghese & Nita Family
[Genesis 21:1-21, Exodus 2:1-10,
Psalms 127:1-5, Isaiah 62:1-12]
Epistle Reading
[I John 3:1-3, Ephesians 6:1-4,
Colossians 3:20-21, St. Luke 1:57-80]

12/13/2015 – Sunday - English

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.
Old Testament Bible Reading :
Christina Abraham, Jacob Benny
[Genesis 13:1-11, Isaiah 1:2-9]
Epistle Reading
[I Peter 2:11-17, Galatians 1:11-24, St. Matthew 1:18-25]

12/20/2015 – Sunday - Malayalam

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.
O.T. Bible Reading Family:
Suresh Eapen Family
[Genesis 46:8-27, I Kings 9:3-7, Isaiah 7:14-15, Isaiah 11:1-9]
Epistle Reading
[Acts 3:16-26, Romans 4:13-25, St. Luke 3:23-38]

12/25/2015 – Friday - Malayalam

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.
Old Testament Bible Reading:
[Genesis 21:1-8, Micah 5:51-4, Isaiah 9:1-7]
Epistle Reading
[I John 1:1-10, Galatians 3:23-4:7, St. Matthew 2:1-12]

12/27/2015 – Sunday - English

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.
Old Testament Bible Reading:
Johann Thomas, Jonathan Varghese, Neethu George
[Genesis 37:13-28, Zechariah 8:3-8, Isaiah 5:20-30]
Epistle Reading
[Acts 16:6-10, I Corinthians 10:1-13,
St. Matthew 2:9-15, 19-23]

G.R.O.W. Announcement

G.R.O.W. is having a clothing drive through December until January 9th. There is a collection box placed in Church and we are accepting any lightly used clothing for all ages.

November Events...



New Acolytes :

Joel Johnson,
Aakash Palathra,
Benjamin Thomas



STIOC Caroling in Gaithersburg area on 11/28/2015

Sunday School Announcements

12/06/2015 (Sunday) :- 3rd Bible Trivia : (St.Mathew 1-10)

12/26/2015 (Saturday) 6:00 PM : Christmas program and anniversary of Spiritual organizations : STIOC

12/27/2015 (Sunday) Balabalika Samajam

01/02/2016 (Saturday) at 3:00 PM : DMV area Christmas program: STIOC basement



Winner of 2nd Bible Trivia on
parables from St. Mathew:

Team Luke :

Nithya Ninan, Benjamin, Joel,
Aakash, Joshin and Mable