

St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Church,
Greater Washington



*St. Thomas
Mirror*

EDITION : 25

MARCH 2016

Christ is Risen



Vicar's Message

Dearly Beloved in Christ Jesus,

As we are approaching another Palm Sunday, Passion Week and Easter, I want to remind you of one very important event which precedes Christ's crucifixion. After the Last Supper, Jesus took Peter, James and John and went to Garden of Gethsemane. The name Gethsemane means "oil press", like a beam which would press the oil out of the olives. His soul was sorrowful, the sorrow and pain that He was going to go through was crushing Him like the 'Olive Press'. Jesus was going through suffering in Gethsemane and He started praying to His Father in heaven. Jesus prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." It was the time of great prayer, a prayer that gave Jesus His strength to take the pain and suffering to death, a prayer that gave Him the courage to take up the cross. His Father in Heaven did not take away the cup from Him; rather He gave Him what he needed to survive to drink from that same cup.

What an amazing illustration of importance of prayer and the answer to a prayer! When we pray, God may not take away the cup, but definitely will He provide anything and everything that we may need to drink of it. We should never doubt God's love for us in our suffering. Always remember 'Gethsemane', our Jesus was the sin-bearer of the world. We may go through hard times and lonely times, but it's not a Gethsemane. We should use these last days of Great Lent to pray and meditate His words. Let's pray that His will be done in our lives. The prayer at Gethsemane enabled Jesus to win the battle on Golgotha, Jesus pressed on to the cross to give us the ultimate gift of life for us. We see that after the prayer at Gethsemane, Jesus returns to the crowd with courage to be arrested and received all the mistreatments without any complains.

Dearly beloved, our Christ is a Christ who died on our behalf to take the consequences of sin and temptation and He is constantly urging us to watch and pray so that we may not fall into temptations. In our prayer, we should surrender ourselves to the will of our Father in Heaven where our weakness will change to strength in our life.

May God's grace be with you all!

Yours in Christ!

Johnson Achen



Members celebrating birthday

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

Dates to Remember

March-6: Fifth Sunday of Fifty days Lent (Kpiptho/Crippled Woman)
March-12: Memory of Forty Martyrs
March-13: Sixth Sunday of Fifty Days Lent (Catholicate Day)
March-18: Friday before Hosanna (40th Friday)
March-19: Saturday before Hosanna (Lazarus' Saturday)
March-20: Hosanna/Palm Sunday - (Boys' and Girl's Day)
March-24: Pesaho (Maundy Thursday)
March-25: Annunciation to St. Mary
March-25: Good Friday
March-26: Gospel Saturday (Saturday of Good Tidings)
March-27: Easter Sunday

Spiritual Organizations

03/06/2016 MMVS & Mens' Forum – Passion Week Song Practice
03/13/2016 MMVS & Mens' Forum – Passion Week Song Practice
03/20/2016 Palm Sunday
03/27/2016 Easter

Sunday School Announcements

Bible Trivia 5 will be held on 03/06/16 Sunday on St. Mathew 21-28 and there will be a Syriac vocabulary quiz too.

Centralized exam dates are as follows :

12th Grade : 06/05/16
5th,8th and 10th grade : 06/25/16

Food Roaster - Coorilos group

Anu Binu Abraham (Leader),
Jessy Johnson,
Jessy Joy,
Leelamma Yohannan

SCHDULE UPTO HOLY WEEK

March-6, 8:30 AM : Fifth Sunday **Holy Qurbana** (Crippled Woman)
March 12, 9:30 AM : Retreat: Rev. Fr. George Panakkamattom
March-13, 8:30 AM : Sixth Sunday **Holy Qurbana** (Catholicate Day)

**** 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 ****



2016 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 19, 6:30 PM : Hosanna Evening Prayer

March 20, 8:00 AM : Hosanna/Palm Sunday Services and **Holy Qurbana**

March 23, 6:00 PM : Evening Prayer, Pesaho (Maundy Thursday) Services and Holy Qurbana

March 24, 9:00 AM : Morning Prayer

March-24, 12:00 AM : Noon Prayer

March 24, 6:00 PM : Evening Prayer, Annunciation to St. Mary (Vachanippu) and **Holy Qurbana**

March-25, 8:00 AM : Good Friday Services

March-26, 8:30 AM : Morning prayer and **Holy Qurbana** Gospel Saturday

March 26, 6:00 PM : Easter Sunday Evening Prayer

March-27, 8:00 AM : Easter Sunday and **Holy Qurbana**

Worship Schedules

SERVICE

03/06/2016 – Malayalam

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

O.T. Bible Reading :

[Genesis9:1-7,Jeremiah51:1-9,Isaiah50:1-5,Barazeera51:13-30]

Epistle Reading

[IPeter3:8-16,Romans12:1-15,St.Luke13:10-17]

03/13/2016 – English

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

O.T. Bible Reading : Anand Abraham , Sara Shibu, Johann Thomas

[Deuteronomy25:13-16, 26:1-13, Job42:1-10]

Epistle Reading

[IPeter4:12-19,IICorinthians9:6-15 or Ephesians5:1-14,St.John9:1-41]

03/20/2016 – Malayalam

Hosanna/Palm Sunday Services and Holy Qurbana 8:00 AM

O.T. Bible Reading : Sharene Daniel, Neethu George and Sunu Koshy

[Genesis49:8-15,ISamuel2:18-26,16:1,Daniel1:16-20,

Micah4:1-5,IKings3:4-14,Zephaniah3:11-20,Jeremiah30:18-22]

Epistle Reading

[IJohn5:1-12,Romans8:18-25,St.John12:12-19]

For Procession (at the Western Entrance)

[St.Luke19:28-40]

For the Blessing of the Palm leaves

[Zechariah9:9-12,Isaiah51:9-11,IJohn2:7-14,Romans11:13-4,

St.Mark11:1-11]

03/27/2016 – Malayalam

Easter Sunday and Holy Qurbana 8:00 AM

O.T. Bible Reading : Naveen Ninan, Teena Varghese, Nithya Ninan

[Leviticus23:26-32, Isaiah60:1-7,11-16,61:10-62:5]

Epistle Reading

[Acts2:22-36, ICorinthians15:1-19, St.Matthew28:1-20]

Celebration of the Holy Cross

Isaiah60:17-22, IPeter5:5-14, Romans16:1-16,

St.John14:27,15:11-15,17-19]