

St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Church,  
Greater Washington



*St. Thomas  
Mirror*

EDITION : 31

September 2016

**Festival of Holy Cross**





### Members celebrating birthday

Melvin Lukose :9/1  
Avishai Jacob :9/4  
Anand Abraham :9/7  
Annu Suresh :9/9  
Amy Abraham :9/10  
K Yohannan :9/11  
Robin Biju Lukose :9/13  
Sini Varghese :9/13  
Nitha Mary George :9/14  
Devi Alphonsa George :9/15  
Susan Varghese :9/15  
Faith James :9/17  
Hope James :9/17  
Anju Johnson :9/18  
Jobin Johnson :9/19  
Reena Palathra :9/22  
Roshny Thomas :9/22  
Anish John :9/24  
Denny Thomas :9/25  
Gigi R Mathew :9/25  
Thomas Varghese :9/25  
Alex Johnson :9/26  
Preethy Kanneth :9/27



### Members celebrating wedding anniversary

Shine Jacob and Neena Jacob :9/7  
Thomas Varghese and Nirmala Thomas :9/8  
Eapen Varghese and Jemini Eapen :9/11  
Fr.Dr.Johnson John and Susamma Johnson :9/16  
Benny Job and Reena Benny :9/20  
James John and Shiji James :9/24

### Food Roaster - September – Nicholovos

Giji Varghese (Leader),  
Nirmala Thomas,  
Anju Sony,  
Amy Abraham,  
Christina Abraham

### Sunday School Announcements

Talent Competition

Date: 10/22/2016

Venue: Damascus Church

Please see the details of rules and regulations of talent competition at :

<http://nesundayschool.org/competitions/competitions/>

\*\*\*\* 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**

#### **09/04/2016 – Malayalam**

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

O.T. Bible Reading :

[Exodus24:12-18;ISamuel3:16-21;Ezekiel18:21-24]

Epistle Reading

[St.James5:1-6;ICorinthians10:1-7;St.Matthew17:22-27]

#### **09/11/2016 – English**

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

O.T. Bible Reading :

[Exodus3:1-6,11-14;Job1:1-5;Isaiah1:15-20]

Epistle Reading

[IPeter2:1-5;ICorinthians3:16-23;St.Matthew5:38-48]

#### **09/18/2016 – Malayalam**

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

O.T. Bible Reading :

[Psalms34;Genesis42:1-28;Isaiah1:10-20]

Epistle Reading

[ Acts3:21-26;ICorinthians2:10-16;St.Mark13:28-37]

#### **09/25/2016 – English**

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

O.T. Bible Reading :

[ Genesis42:9-17;IKings3:5-9;GreatWisdom6:1-9;Isaiah48:12-16]

Epistle Reading

[ Acts5:17-32;ICorinthians2:14-3:9;St.Matthew16:5-12]

# 10 Benchmarks of a Healthy Missional Church

[Caesar Kalinowski](#)

No one sets out to have or lead an unhealthy church or ministry. But often we find ourselves stuck in a loop of numbers and metrics that we may have inherited or are imposed on us by the “higher-ups”.

Who hired this Jesus guy?!

Jesus was immeasurably the most successful person in human history. In every way. Yet, if we were to measure his lifetime effectiveness using today’s current standards, he would probably find it hard to get hired on at most churches.

Here are 10 benchmarks of a healthy missional church:

Growth in...

1. **The number of mature disciples being made.** Disciples make disciples; they don’t just hang out or sit in rows together once a week.
2. **The number of relationships with not-yet-believers.** Is the relational base among those who are not a part of our church growing? Are we moving beyond a tight “holy huddle” and building true, meaningful relationships?
3. **Gospel display in and through culture.** Is our physical proclamation of the gospel expanding through serving others, especially the “least of these”? Is the Good News demonstrated as good news for today?
4. **Gospel conversations taking place naturally.** Is our verbal proclamation of Good News increasing? Are folks growing in their gospel fluency? Does the gospel come up naturally and often?
5. **The number of indigenous leaders being developed.** Are new leaders, teachers and preachers coming to faith through your ministry or are you often hiring from outside the “family”?
6. **Multiplication of missional/discipleship communities.** Healthy things grow and if we are making disciples who make disciple the number of our missional communities will be quickly expanding.
7. **Ministry “ownership” levels going up among the saints.** Are our people increasingly, willingly taking on the responsibility for every area of life and ministry as a community or congregation?
8. **5-Fold Maturity.** Are there maturing leaders being allowed to lead in all five of the key giftings that are outlined in Ephesians 4: *apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers*? This is KEY to maturity throughout the entire church!
9. **Priest-hood of all believers engaged in every area of ministry and mission.** Another thing we learn from Ephesians 4 is that leaders are to equip the saints for the ministry and acts of service. Leaders are not to be *doing* all of the ministry. Look across your church or community. Who is doing most of the teaching, preaching, counseling, strategic planning etc.? Is it paid or non-paid people? Is it mostly men? What about the women? What about teens and kids?
10. **People “sent” to start new works / new church plants.** It should be the most normal thing for a church or missional community to be sending their folks out to start new communities. Are we “raising the kids to move out”?

Courtesy: <http://www.caesarkalinowski.com/new-measurements-of-a-successful-church/>