

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



St. Thomas Mirror



July

2014

Prophet Elijah - Feast Day: July 20th



Vicar's Message

Dearly beloved in Christ,

By God's amazing grace, we are entering the seventh month of 2014. With a humble spirit, I graciously remember and praise God for His abundant mercies upon us. As we are getting ready to officially welcome our Jubilee Year, let's not forget His grace and mercies throughout these past years.

According to our Church's Liturgical Calendar, July 3rd is one of the feast days of St. Thomas, which is considered to be the day on which the relics of St. Thomas were moved from Mylapore to the city of Edessa in Mesopotamia. The church doesn't give much importance to this day as we celebrate the day of the earthly departure of our Fathers and Saints, where St. Thomas feast day is primarily celebrated on December 21st which is the day when he was martyred in Mylapore, Madras. In the month of July, we see another unique person's feast day in the Liturgical Calendar, Prophet Elijah. Feast of Prophet Elijah falls on July 20th of this year, which is the 6th Sunday after Pentecost. Who was Prophet Elijah? I am sure you have read or heard of him many times. Please read 1 King chapter 17 through 19 to get a background on Elijah's story. He was a man who was fearless because he feared God so much. When we are living in such frightening, exciting, unsettling days, we need many armies of such Elijahs. Elijah's life is a message to every one of us in many ways: the power of prayer and the providence of God (when three times God fed his people by a raven, by a widow and by an angel), and the need for commitment to do the will of God (Elijah chose to be committed to face the issues, rather than hiding from the issues), how to face the challenge of discouragement in life and the hope for the righteous (there was a point, Elijah asked God to take his life as he was in despair, but God made him to walk through that road of disappointments to a bigger hope where we can see that he didn't even die, he was taken up to heaven at the end). When we are remembering this great prophet of God, let's ask ourselves, do we believe in the power of prayer? Are we willing to make a commitment to our Lord? What do we do when we get discouraged and depressed? Are we hopeful for the Kingdom of God promised for the righteous?

Just as God provided the needs of Elijah, let's believe in the power of prayer and the providential care of God when problems arise in our life.

May God bless you abundantly.

Yours in Christ

Rev. Fr. Dr. Johnson C. John Chirathalackal

Food Roster

07/06//2014 - Rajan Varghese
07/13/2014 - James John
07/20/2014 - Biju Mathew
07/27/2014 - George Daniel

Dates to remember

- 07/12/2014 - Monthly Prayer Meeting 6:00-8:30 PM
- 07/26/2014 - Church Picnic 10:00 – 4:30 PM
Black Hill Regional Park, Shelter J
20930 Lake Ridge Drive, Boyds, MD 20841

Future Dates to remember

- OVBS August 14, 15 & 16. Venue our Church.
- Sunday School talent competition October 11th. Venue St. Thomas Damascus Church

MMVS Announcements

07/06/2014 - Bible class - 1 Thessalonians Chapter 4 by Mrs. Jessy Alexander
07/13/2014 - Song practice
07/20/2014 - Bible class - 1 Thessalonians Chapter 5 by Mrs. Jessy Alexander
07/27/2014 - Bible class - Revision Chapter 4 and 5 by Mrs. Leemol Johny

Men's Forum & Focus Announcements

Bible Class by:

07/06/2014 - Eapen Varghese
07/13/2014 - Eapen Varghese
07/20/2014 - Eapen Varghese
07/27/2014 - Eapen Varghese

July 2014 Worship Schedules

SATURDAY

07/05/2014

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Evening Prayer & Song Practice

07/12/2014

Monthly Prayer Meeting 6:00 - 8:30 PM

Mr. Thomas Varghese & Mercy

7200 Green Spring Ln.,

Lanham, MD 20706

(H) 301-304-1314, tomvarg54@msn.com

07/19/2014

Evening Prayer & Song Practice

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Evening Prayer & Song Practice

07/26/2014

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Evening Prayer & Song Practice

SUNDAY

07/06/2014 – Malayalam

Morning Prayer 8:30 - 9:30 am.

O.T. Bible Reading family: Mr. Issac John & Family

[Deuteronomy33:23-29, Psalms 15 & Isaiah 65:8-12]

Epistle Reading: Ajith Johnson & Aswin John

[Acts 6:1-7 & I Corinthians 16:14-22]

07/13/2014 – English

Morning Prayer 8:30 - 9:30 am.

O.T. Bible Reading : Sunu Koshy, Amy Abraham &

Sneha Abraham

[Exodus 23:14-19, Psalms 16 & Isaiah 40:27-31]

Epistle Reading: Kevin Shibu & Stephen Sam

[Acts 9:10-18 & II Corinthians 5:14-20]

07/20/2014 – Malayalam

Morning Prayer 8:30 - 9:30 am.

O.T. Bible Reading family: Mr. James John and Family

[Exodus 3: 1-22, Psalms 20 & Isaiah 14:22-27]

Epistle Reading: Bennet Thomas & Steve Sam

[Acts 1:15-20 & I Corinthians 8:1-6]

07/27/2014 – English

Morning Prayer 8:30 - 9:30 am.

O.T. Bible Reading : Jacob Benny, Teena Varghese &

Nidhi Mathew

[Leviticus 16:29-34, Hosea 5:1-5 & Isaiah 57:15-19]

Epistle Reading: Ajesh John & Alex Johny

[Acts 4:32-37 & Ephesians 2:11-22]



***** 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 *****



July Birthdays

Milan Palathra	-7/1
Shanthi Abraham	-7/2
Anu Paul	-7/3
Josephine George	-7/4
Shine Jacob	-7/5
Kieth Thomas	-7/6
Shiji James	-7/8
Ajesh John	-7/8
Stacey Sam	-7/12
John Koshy	-7/13
Jaysen Skaria	-7/14
Subha Mathew	-7/14
Manoj Abraham	-7/16
Anna Abraham	-7/16
Renju Rajan	-7/17
Jacob Varghese	-7/18
George P. Thomas	-7/27
Abraham Yohannan	-7/28



July Wedding Anniversaries

T.P Johny and Leemol Johny	- 7/1
Fr. George C Mathew and Regina George	- 7/1
K Yohannan and Leelamma Yohannan	- 7/5
George Daniel and Aleyamma George	- 7/6
Jason Abraham and Ashley Abraham	- 7/10
Jaysen Skaria and Annamma Jays	- 7/11
Bavan Vargese and Soni Paul	- 7/12
Binu Abraham and Anu Abraham	- 7/15
Issac John and Mini John	- 7/17
Biju Lukose and Ansa Lukose	- 7/30

Member's Corner

FUNDAMENTAL BASIS FOR OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH:

Our Church recognizes written and unwritten foundations for faith, order, and disciplines of the Church.

Written: Holy Bible (Old and New Testament), decisions of Ecumenical Synods, Writings of the Fathers, and Apocryphal Books.

Unwritten: Traditions - the living transmission of the Word of God which has been entrusted to the Apostles by Christ and made complete in the Holy Spirit and lived by the Christian Communities.

1. Luke 1:2: From the beginning eyewitnesses and ministers delivered to us.
2. John 16:12-13: Many things revealed by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost were not recorded in the Bible.
3. John 21:25: There are many things that Jesus did were not written
4. Acts 1:21-22: Witness of Jesus' ministry, death and resurrection
5. 1 Corinthians 11:2: Keep the traditions
6. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26: "I received from the Lord....."
7. 1 Corinthians 11:34: "I will set in order when I come....."
8. Galatians 1:8: Any other gospel to you than we have preached
9. Galatians 1:13: Heard of former conduct
10. 2 Thessalonians 2:1: By word or by letter
11. 2 Thessalonians 2:15: Stand fast and hold the traditions
12. 2 Thessalonians 3:6: The tradition which we received
13. Philippians 4:9: The things learned, received, heard and saw
14. Titus 1:5: Set in order the things that are lacking
15. Colossians 4:16: Epistle to be read in the Church of Laodicea and vice versa
16. 2 Timothy 1:13: Hold fast the patterns of sound words heard
17. 2 Timothy 2:2: Things that heard to be committed to faithful men
18. Hebrews 2:1: Give the more earnest heed to the things heard
19. 1 John 1:1: Things we have heard and seen
20. 3 John 13: Shall speak face to face.

THE SEVEN COMMANDMENTS OF THE CHURCH

1. Take part in the Divine Liturgy (Holy Eucharist) on Sundays and important Festival and Feast Days. Keep holy the day of Resurrection (Easter).
2. Observe the Fasts and Feasts prescribed by the Church.
3. Refrain from restricted food and wed-locks on Wednesdays and Fridays.
4. Refrain from wed-locks during Fast and Festival days.
5. Confess before priests appointed by the Church for the forgiveness of sins.
6. Receive Holy Eucharist on a regular basis. Lead a sacramental life ... and receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion at least once a year.
7. Give tithes, offerings, dues, and alms to the Church.

Reference:

St.Gregorios Indian Orthodox Church, London.