

St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Church,
Greater Washington



*St. Thomas
Mirror*

EDITION : 6

AUGUST 2014

The Festival of the Assumption of St. Mary



Vicar's Message

Dearly Beloved ones in Christ Jesus,

First and foremost, all the Orthodox Churches celebrates many fasts and feasts in **remembrance of St.Mary**, our church mandates Soonoyo feast which is considered in connection with her death and we remember it on August 15th preceded by two weeks of fasting. Apart from our Church, the Roman Catholic, the Byzantine Churches and several others observe this lent which points to the fact that this has a common origin, going back to the times when all Churches were one. The Theotokos (Mother of God) did not fear death, nor did she seek to avoid it. She knew that death had already been overcome by her Son and God. Beyond all heretical teachings and deviations, the prominence of Saint Mary is made clear in the words of Cyril of Alexandria, "I have been amazed that some are utterly in doubt as to whether or not the Holy Virgin is able to be called the Mother of God. For if our Lord Jesus Christ is God, how should the Holy Virgin who bore him not be the Mother of God?" This feast, which is also sometimes called the Assumption, commemorates the death, resurrection and glorification of Christ's mother.

Secondly, we are celebrating the inauguration of our **Golden Jubilee on September 28th, 2014**. When we review the parts of the Holy Bible we read the instructions that "And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family."(Leviticus 25:10). God instructed His people not to reap or sow during the 50th year, rather he instructed them to free the slaves, to clear the debts and celebrate the liberty throughout the land. Because God is sovereign over His people and the land, the people of God should live in harmony with the character of God.

We thank God Almighty who led us in the true light and right path for last fifty years. We are so blessed by the announcement that **His Holiness Moran Mar Baselios Marthoma Paulose II** will celebrate the Holy Qurbana and will inaugurate the Golden Jubilee. **His Grace Zachariah Mar Nicholavos** will preside over the meeting. This Jubilee year, let's make it as a renewal journey. During this Jubilee year of our parish, God is instructing us to forgive each other, come with repentance, free ourselves from the slavery of sins and come together in harmony with the character of our God. I exhort all of you to come together for the inauguration celebration scheduled for September 28th 2014.

May God bless you all.

Yours in His Service

Rev. Fr. Dr. Johnson C. John Chirathalackal

Food Roster

08/03//2014 - *** Please signup
08/10/2014 - V.M. Joseph
08/17/2014 - *** Please signup
08/24/2014 - *** Please signup
08/31/2014 - Thomas Varghese/Nirmala

Dates to remember

- General Body August 3rd
- 08/06/2014 Koodara Perunal (Transfiguration of Christ on Mount Tabor)
- August 1st to 15th Soonoyo Nombu (remembering the passing of the Blessed Virgin Mary).
- OVBS August 14, 15 & 16. Venue our Church.
- Sunday School area assigned competition on August 24th at 1:00pm.

Future Dates to remember

- Jubilee Inauguration ceremony will be conducted by HH Moran Mar Baselios Marthoma Palouse II on September 28, 2014.
- Sunday School talent competition October 11th. Venue St. Thomas Damascus Church

MMVS Announcements

08/03/2014 - Bible quiz by Leemol Johny
08/10/2014 - Speech by Laly Koshy
08/17/2014 - Bible study by Jessy Alexander
08/24/2014 - Song Practice by Mercy Thomas
08/31/2014 - Bible study by Jessy Alexander

Men's Forum & Focus Announcements

Bible Class by:

08/10/2014 - General Class - K.Yohannan
08/17/2014 - Bible Class - Matthew Chapter 11 & 12 - Eapen Varghese
08/24/2014 - Bible Class - Matthew Chapter 13 & 14 - Eapen Varghese
08/31/2014 - Bible Class - Matthew Chapter 15 & 16 - Eapen Varghese

August 2014 Worship Schedules

SATURDAY

08/02/2014

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Evening Prayer & Song Practice

08/09/2014

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Evening Prayer & Song Practice

08/16/2014

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Evening Prayer & Song Practice

08/23/2014

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Evening Prayer & Song Practice

08/30/2014

Monthly Prayer Meeting 6:00 - 8:30 PM

Mr. T.P. Varghese & Leelamma
14349 Stilton Circle,
Silver Spring MD 20905
(H) 301-236-6875
tpvarghese@verizon.net

SUNDAY

08/03/2014 – Malayalam

Morning Prayer 8:30 - 9:30 am.
O.T. Bible Reading family: Mr. Johnson Alexander & Family
[Exodus 3:9-15, Jeremiah 7:21-25 & Isaiah 52:1-6]
Epistle Reading: Ashwin John & Stephen Sam
[I Peter 2:4-10 & Hebrews 4:14-5:5]

08/10/2014 – English

Morning Prayer 8:30 - 9:30 am.
O.T. Bible Reading : Alka Jason, Shareena Daniel & Neethu George
[Deuteronomy 25:13-16, Psalms 27 & Ezekiel 7:1-4]
Epistle Reading: Alex Johny & Bennet Thomas
[St. James 4:7-5:6 & Philippians 4:8-20]

08/17/2014 – Malayalam

Morning Prayer 8:30 - 9:30 am.
O.T. Bible Reading family: Mr. Libu Varkey & Family
[Exodus 14:21-31, I Samuel 8:4-9 & Isaiah 43:1-5]
Epistle Reading: Steve Sam & Alex Johnson
[I John 2:22-29 & Ephesians 6:10-17]

08/24/2014 – English

Morning Prayer 8:30 - 9:30 am.
O.T. Bible Reading : Angeline Johny, Sunu Koshy & Amy Abraham
[Genesis 6:3-12, Ecclesiastes 7:1-7 & Psalms 12:1-7]
Epistle Reading: Kevin Shibu & Ajesh John
[II Peter 3:8-14 & I Thessalonians 5:1-11]

08/31/2014 – Malayalam

Morning Prayer 8:30 - 9:30 am.
O.T. Bible Reading family: Mr. K Yohannan & Family
[Exodus 24:12-18, I Samuel 3:16-21 & Ezekiel 18:21-24]
Epistle Reading: Stephen Sam & Bennet Thomas
[St. James 5:1-6 & II Corinthians 10:1-7]



Members celebrating birthday in August

John Eappen	8/02
T.P Varghese	8/03
Justin Abraham	8/06
Tintu Abraham	8/06
Alex Johny	8/07
Binu Abraham	8/15
Ritu Mary	8/19
Reena Benny	8/20
Siby Mathew	8/23
Ginu C. Paul	8/23
Sherena Baby	8/26
Susan Thomas	8/27
Daniel Saji	8/28
Jonathan Varghese	8/30
Jinin Koshy	8/31

**** 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 ****



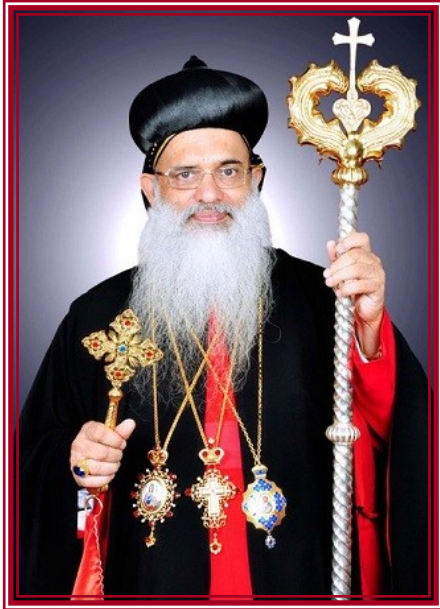
Members celebrating wedding anniversary in August

V.M Joseph & Lissy Joseph	8/07
Baby Daniel & Gracy Baby	8/18
Benny Varghese & Gigi R Mathew	8/18
Bixa Kurian Kanneth & Preethy Kuriakose	8/21
Johnson Varghese & Shibi Paul	8/22
Suresh Eapen & Kochumol Suresh	8/23
Joy C. Thomas & Jessy Joy	8/23
Deepak George & Tintu Abraham	8/25
Sajjan George & Anu George	8/29

Member's Corner

Golden Jubilee Update

HH Moran Mar Baselios Marthoma Palouse II will inaugurate our Golden Jubilee on September 28th 2014 after celebrating the Holy Qurbana. H.G. Zachariah Mar Nicholovos will be present on all the occasions with Bava Thirumeni. This is the first Apostolic Visit of our Bava Thirumeni to Washington DC area.



During the year 2014 - 2015 we hope and pray to celebrate 50 years of growth and achievement with all of you through an exciting program of events and activities. See below the golden jubilee updates:

- ⇒ Informal Jubilee Kick off by Vicar, Rev. Fr. Dr. Johnson C. John on Mar 2, 2014
- ⇒ Jubilee Celebration approved by His Grace Zachariah Mar Nicholovos on Jul 21, 2014
- ⇒ Confirmed jubilee inauguration ceremony by HH Moran Mar Baselios Marthoma Palouse II on
September 28, 2014
- ⇒ Appointed jubilee committee members
- ⇒ Song practices by MMVS, Sunday School and MGOCSM in progress
 - ⇒ Jubilee celebration advertisement design in progress
- ⇒ Planning in progress on giving one time financial help to fifty needy families in Kerala
 - ⇒ Planning on local community development programs in progress
 - ⇒ Planning on inviting guests for the jubilee celebration in progress