

St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Church,  
Greater Washington



EDITION : 19

SEPTEMBER 2015

*St. Thomas  
Mirror*

**Festival of Holy Cross**



## Vicar's Message

Dearly Beloved ones in Christ,

There is no question that everyone has to go through some time of pain, agony , disappointment and failure in their life time. It's easy to tell someone 'it's ok' or 'you're in my prayers'. Those words are consoling but not fully consoling to the person who's going through the difficulty in their life. How can a Christian face life's challenges? It can only be achieved through faith, hope and prayer.

The book of James which is one of the most practical books in the New Testament , gives us this great verse "consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (1:2-4)". We have to believe that everything which happens in our lives is for a reason , especially it will strengthen our faith in our God. There's an old saying that 'life must be lived in a forward motion , but it can be understood only by looking back'...greatly meaningful . When we look back only , we can greatly appreciate the grace and care we received from our sovereign God. A great example to learn from is Joseph in the Old Testament . Imagine how much a 17 year old youth had to go through ...he was torn from his family and even sold into slavery especially it was more painful because it was done by his family. It would have been very easy for bitterness and revenge to grow up in Joseph's mind, but that didn't happen to Joseph. Even though, he was far from home, but he experienced presence of God with him. He was able to turn the bitterness and revenge into true love for his family because of his walk with God. Through the adversities in his life, Joseph was able to develop a caring, compassionate character, he became more sensitive to the needs of people. He exemplified grace, no revenge but gave full forgiveness. He discarded the wrongs of the past for the love for present and he exemplified faith and trust by believing that God is in control .

Dearly beloved, let's learn some virtues from our life experiences , let's not turn our anger into bitterness and revenge which can lead to self - destruction ,rather lets develop a positive character out of it with the grace of our God. When you go through pains and heartaches of life , let's put full confidence in the goodness and plan of God so that it could become the building blocks on the journey of faith for you and me.

May God bless us all!

Yours in Christ

Johnson Achen

### Dates to remember

09/06/2015 - Forth Sunday after the Festival of the Assumption

09/13/2015 - Fifth Sunday after the Festival of the Assumption

09/14/2015 - The Festival of Holy Cross

09/20/2015 - First Sunday after the Festival of Holy Cross

09/27/2015 - Second Sunday after the Festival of Holy Cross

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## 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

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

## 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

## Men's Forum Announcements

09/06/2015 - Class - Varghese Kurian  
09/13/2015 - Bible Class  
09/20/2015 - Class - Suresh Eapen  
09/27/2015 - Bible Class

# Worship Schedules

## SERVICE

### 09/06/2015 – Sunday - Malayalam

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.  
Old Testament Bible Reading Family :  
K Yohannan Family  
[ Exodus 3:1-6, Job 1:1-5, Isaiah 1:15-20 ]  
Epistle Reading  
[ I Peter 2:1-5, I Corinthians 3:16-23, St. Matthew 5:38-48 ]

### 09/13/2015 – Sunday - English

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.  
Old Testament Bible Reading :  
Angeline Johny, Benjamin Thomas, Christina Abraham  
[ Leviticus 18:1-5, Joshua 22:1-6, Ezekiel 34:1-6 ]  
Epistle Reading  
[ Acts 11:2-10, Romans 2:28-3:8, St. Luke 11:33-41 ]

### 09/20/2015 – Sunday - Malayalam

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.  
O.T. Bible Reading Family:  
Oomman Koshy Family  
[ Psalms 34, Genesis 42:1-28, Isaiah 1:10-20 ]  
Epistle Reading  
[ Acts 3:21-26, I Corinthians 2:10-16, St. Mark 13:28-37 ]

### 09/27/2015 – Sunday - English

Morning Prayer 8:30 am - 9:30 am.  
Old Testament Bible Reading:  
Jacob Benny, Joel Johnson, Johann Thomas  
[ Genesis 42:9-17, I Kings 3:5-9, Isaiah 48:12-16 ]  
Epistle Reading  
[ Acts 5:17-32, I Corinthians 2:14-3:9, St. Matthew 16:5-12 ]

*\*\*\*\* 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 \*\*\*\**

## MMVS Announcements

09/06/2015 - Bible Discussion  
09/13/2015 - Bible Discussion  
09/20/2015 - Bible Discussion  
09/27/2015 - Bible Discussion