

St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Church,
Greater Washington



*St. Thomas
Mirror*

EDITION : 27

MAY 2016

Pentecost



Vicar's Message

Dearly Beloved,

The Feast of Holy Pentecost is celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Easter and ten days after the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. The Feast is always celebrated on a Sunday. The Feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, a feast of the Jewish tradition. It also celebrates the establishment of the Church through the preaching of the Apostles and the baptism of the thousands who on that day believed in the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Feast is also seen as the culmination of the revelation of the Holy Trinity.

If you go back and read the Old Testament, you will discover that Pentecost was one of the Jewish feast days. Only they didn't call it Pentecost. That's the Greek name. The Jews called it the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks. It is mentioned five places in the first five books—in Exodus 23, Exodus 24, Leviticus 16, Numbers 28, and Deuteronomy 16.

According to the Old Testament, you would go to the day of the celebration of First fruits, and beginning with that day, you would count off 50 days. The fiftieth day would be the Day of Pentecost. So First fruits is the beginning of the barley harvest and Pentecost is the celebration of the beginning of the wheat harvest. Since it was always 50 days after First fruits, and since 50 days equals seven weeks, it always came a "week of weeks" later. Therefore, they either called it the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks. There are three things you need to know about Pentecost that will help you understand Acts 2.

1. Pentecost was a pilgrim festival.
2. Pentecost was a holiday.
3. There were certain celebrations and sacrifices and offerings which were prescribed in the Law for the day of Pentecost.

Pentecost serves as an annual reminder that our Creator still works miracles, granting His Spirit to those called to be the first fruits of His spiritual harvest, empowering them to carry out His work in this world

Yours in Christ,

Fr Johnson



Members celebrating birthday

Nathaniel Eldo On 5/1
James John On 5/3
Oomman Koshy On 5/3
Nirmala Thomas On 5/4
Diya Oommen On 5/8
Benny Varghese On 5/10
Vinod Abraham On 5/10
Skaria Jomon On 5/10
Anya Jacob On 5/10
Nita Thomas On 5/11
Eapen Varghese On 5/11
Ashwyn Koshy On 5/13
Mathew C Paul On 5/15
Jessy Joy On 5/15
Varghese Isaac Parampil On 5/16
George Varghese On 5/16
Shibi Paul On 5/16
Samma Varghese On 5/17
Nyssa Parampil On 5/17
Leelamma Varghese On 5/18
Aleyamma George On 5/20
T.P Johny On 5/20
George V. Thomas On 5/21
Fr. George C Mathew On 5/21
V.M Joseph On 5/21
Biju Lukose On 5/22
Jaison Johny On 5/22
Gigi Varghese On 5/24
Annamma Jays On 5/24
George Koshy On 5/26
Chinnakutty Abraham On 5/26
John C. Thomas On 5/27
Nithin Vargese On 5/27
Chirstina Abraham On 5/28
Mini John On 5/28
Alina Varghese On 5/28
Johnson Varghese On 5/28
Jolly John On 5/30
Jemini Eapen On 5/30
Lizy John On 5/30
Joy C. Thomas On 5/30
Fr.Dr.Johnson John On 5/30
Alexander Abraham On 5/31
Varghese Kurian On 5/31



Members celebrating wedding anniversary

Saji Mathai and Sheba Saji 5/3
Varghese Kurian and Gigi Varghese 5/10
Jacob Aronnil and Chinnama Jacob 5/12
Oomman Koshy and Lali Koshy 5/12
Eldo Mathew and Ritu Mary 5/14
George V. Thomas and Gracy Thomas 5/21
Manoj Abraham and Susan Varghese 5/25
George P. Thomas and Susan Thomas 5/29

Food Roaster - May - Eusebios

Sinobiya Cheriyan (Leader)
Dr. Kochumol Suresh
Chinnakutty Abraham
Mrs. Subha Mathew

Sunday School Announcements

1. Bala Balika Samajam : 05/22/16
2. Final exam for this Sunday School year : 06/12/16
3. Assigned Competition : Parish level competition in June and Area level on 08/14/16
4. Talent Competition: Parish Level in August and Area level on Oct 15th 2016.
5. OVBS 2016 : August 18th,19th and 20th at St.Gregorios DC

Dates to Remember

May-5: Ascension of our Lord
May-15: Feast of Pentecost

**** 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

05/01/2016 – Malayalam

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

O.T. Bible Reading :

[Deuteronomy16:1-8,Joshua8:30-35,Isaiah54:1-8]

Epistle Reading

[IPeter3:17-22,Hebrews11:32-40]

05/08/2016 – English

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

O.T. Bible Reading : Teena Varghese, Sneha Abraham, Joshua Thomas

[Leviticus25:1-13,Joshua1:5-9,Isaiah44:23-28]

Epistle Reading

[Acts21:7-9,ICorinthians7:1-2,25-34,9:1-10]

05/15/2016 – Malayalam

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

O.T. Bible Reading

[Numbers11:16-35,ISamuel10:9-12,IIKings2:14-17,12:1-27

Ezekiel11:17-20,36:25-27,Isaiah42:1-27]

Epistle Reading

[Acts2:1-13,Galatians5:16-26]

05/22/2016 – English

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

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

[Genesis41:38-40,Exodus12:31-40,Joshua5:9-12,Jeremiah29:10-16]

Epistle Reading

[Acts17:10-15,IICorinthians5:14-6:10]

05/29/2016 – Malayalam

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

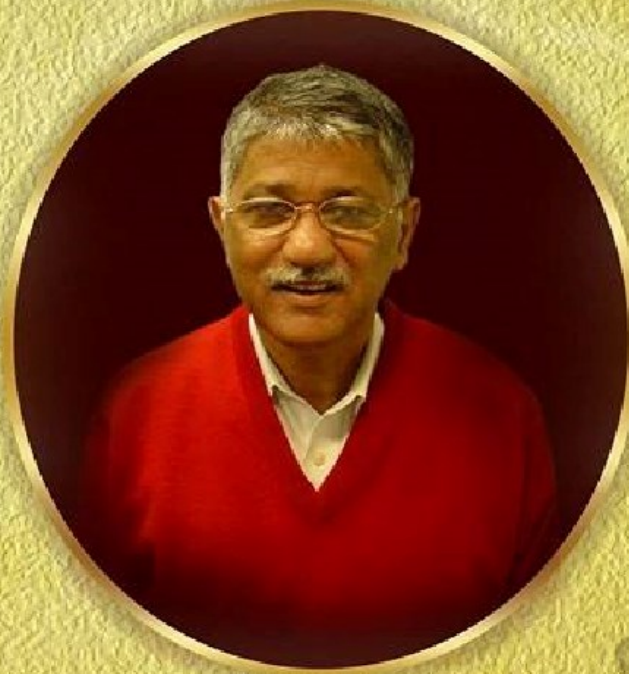
O.T. Bible Reading

[Leviticus19:1-8,IISamuel5:1-10,Daniel6:25-28]

Epistle Reading

[Acts4:23-31,Ephesians2:11-22]

In Loving Memory



John C. Thomas

May 27, 1940 - April 27, 2016

St. Thomas church is deeply saddened by the loss of it's long time member John C. Thomas (aged 76), brother of Joy C. Thomas, Mini John and Mary Job. He passed away peacefully on April 27th surrounded by his family members.

John Cherian Thomas, affectionately nicknamed Johnny by his friends and family, was born on May 27th, 1940 in Kadampanad, India. Johnny came to America in 1974 to study for his MBA from Howard University. After completing his MBA, he became an assistant to the Dean of Pharmacy at Howard University. He continued his hard work, receiving his CPA and becoming the Director of Financial and Administrative affairs for the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Health Sciences at Howard University. After many years of service at Howard University, he retired in 2005. Johnny was diagnosed with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP), deteriorating his health and immobilizing him.

Even his body weakened, he continued helping people by providing guidance and resources in their professional and personal endeavors. Johnny valued spending time with family and friends. He was a board member of the Janey Foundation. Johnny was a man of faith and was instrumental in developing the Indian Orthodox community in the Greater Washington area.

Johnny is survived by his wife Mary, daughters Gita and Sarah, son in laws Shaji and Steve, and, his five grandchildren Priya, Joshua, Conor, Hannah, and Kamala.