

**St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church  
of Chicago, Lombard, IL 60148**



**Parish Voice  
May 2022**

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

Dearly beloved in Christ,  
Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Many people have the false assumption that being a Christian or a born-again experience is fun, peaceful, and totally without conflict. It doesn't take much time for one to realize that nothing could be farther from the truth. Certainly, there are things that are joyful and exciting in our spiritual life, but conflict is inevitable.

Maybe it's a conflict between you and your partner or children or a co-worker. Or perhaps it is a conflict between two other people, and you are simply involved in it. Conflict is not always bad; in fact, sometimes, it is necessary to clarify certain things and come to a decision. It simply means that two people have differing views and they are passionate about them.

How do we handle the conflict? Consider rising above the conflict. When we walk through downtown Chicago or New York, we cannot be but watch the massive structures with awe. The most robust humans seem puny in comparison with the skyscrapers and tall buildings built of granite and steel. However, when we are flying out of O'Hare, these massive structures look like stick figures. Conflicts are not different. Conflicts that look humongous at our eye level may look much different if we decide to rise above it. As a christian, we are called to rise above the conflicts, not to wallow in it.

Conflict that goes unresolved for any length of time can soon turn into bitterness and anger. These things are not healthy for any person, family, especially a church.

Jesus has called us to be peacemakers. He wants us to work hard to bring peace in our own lives as well as in the lives of those around us. God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God (Matt. 5:9).

The important thing we need to do is confront in love. It is wise to consider how we would like to be confronted or restored if the situation was reversed. If we try to treat the other party as we would like to be treated, we will be well on our way to bringing lasting peace to the situation. Nowhere does Scripture say that it is acceptable to gossip about the situation with others in-person or on social media.

The goal of making peace with others is not to prove that you, or someone else, is in the right. The goal is to bring peace. In Scripture, we see that God reserves a special blessing when you work to bring peace to others. May God help you to be peacemakers in this world.

I take this time to thank all who worked hard for our Easter day service and the First Communion Service. I welcome our First Communicants to the full communion of the church and invite them to assist our worship services in various ways.

Also, offer prayers and blessings to our Jeswin Achen as he is going to put a step forward to married life. May the Holy Spirit be with all the arrangements of the marriage ceremony. If it is not already done, I request everyone fill out and return the Parish Register updating form. As many churches now follow, we are also arranging an online directory for our parish members.

May the divine peace and hope be with you for a peaceful life.

Yours in Christ,

**Ajith Achen**

**Phone: 630 489 8152**

**Email: stmtcvicar@gmail.com**

***“Peace is not absence of conflict, it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means”  
- Ronald Reagan -***

***“10% of conflict is due to difference of opinion and 90% is due to delivery and tone of voice”  
- Maya Angelou -***

## WORSHIP SERVICES FOR MAY 2022

DATE	PROGRAM	ASSISTING
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday 10.15am	Malayalam Holy Communion	Area-2
8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 10.15am Mother's day	English Holy Communion	Area-3
15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 8.00am 10.15am	Contemporary Worship Malayalam Holy Communion	Youth Group Area-4
22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday 10.15am	English Holy Communion	Area-5
29 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 10.15am	Divine Service	Area-6

Visit our website:

<https://www.stthomasmtchicago.org>

Our YouTube channel for worship services and messages:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/STMTCChicago>

Our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/stthomasmtchurchofchicago>

Install **Instant Church Directory** on your iPhone or Android phone for viewing our Parish Directory. Instructions are to be emailed to you.



## FROM THE YOUTH CHAPLAIN'S DESK

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Let us thank our God for yet another opportunity to celebrate our Lord's Passion and Resurrection this year. For a Christian, the events in the earthly life and ministry of Jesus are transformative and paradigmatic. They are transforming in the sense that Jesus Christ became the sacrifice by which we receive the salvation of God. They are paradigmatic in the sense that all aspects of his life become models for us to follow. For example, the Incarnation calls us to the incarnational living. It follows the kenotic principle (Greek, *kenosis*, meaning 'to make empty') described by St. Paul regarding Jesus Christ: *who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness* (Philippians 2:6-7). This Incarnational model is often applied to various aspects of Christian living, including ministry and leadership. As disciples of Christ, the molding of our life should be in the pattern Christ showed to us. We strive for the perfect humanity found in Christ but we will reach the fullness only at the Second Coming of Christ. It is the Holy Spirit, who will transform us into the likeness of Christ. This should be our prayer and our practice.

We have also been fortunate to participate in the various Lenten meditations. The Diocese Youth Fellowship Lenten Prayer Fellowship brought together the youth for a time of meditation and prayer. The annual Midwest Regional Leadership Retreat was hosted by our parish on April 22. The main talk was led by Rev. Christopher Phil Daniel, who spoke on the theme "Lead by Example". On April 23, I had the privilege to go to University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. It is my prayer that this visit will be the start of a sustainable campus ministry to our youths in colleges for years to come.

College is often that stressful and hectic time leading to the stagnation of spirituality or a disengagement from one's own church. Due to the prevailing consumer-oriented lifestyle in America and the overwhelming "cultural-ness" of Kerala churches, our youth are drawn away to seek spaces that cater to their needs. Even more distressing is that a lack of engagement with the home parish can lead to neglect of the Christian faith. Jesus Christ has called us to grow in our faith. Yet if the parish doesn't offer the tools for Christian discipleship, then we fail to obey God's Word. We are very eager to "do mission-work". But we must not forget that the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) involves "being disciplined to disciple others". We must remember that leadership in the Mar Thoma Church is neither personality nor charisma-oriented. Great importance is placed on the leadership by the laity. However, our lay

leadership must be “disciplined to disciple”. The vicars and youth chaplains play a vital role in guiding the parishes. The leadership of the laity is essential to the stability of a parish into the future. As an example, many parents may not understand the “culture” of their children. Still, it is their God-given responsibility to guide and nurture them. In the same way, we may not always understand others in our parish but it is our responsibility to be mature Christians who lovingly strengthen and guide others to be disciples of Christ. But first let us learn what it means to be a disciple of Christ. May God strengthen each of us and may the Holy Spirit empower us to grow in our personal and church life.

Rev. Jeswin S. John  
Youth Chaplain, St. Thomas MTC  
Lombard, IL

# MAY LECTONARY

<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">01 MAY</p>	<p>Dignity of Labour and Divine Commissioning-May Day, മേയ് ദിനം-അധ്വാനത്തിന്റെ മഹത്വവും ദൈവിക നിയോഗവും</p>	<p><b>Lessons</b></p> <p><b>Epistle Gospel</b></p> <p><b>Evening Reading</b></p>	<p>Judg 6:11-24</p>	<p>Acts 18:1-4</p>
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">08 MAY</p>	<p>St. John the Apostle's Day - "The Church that has to bear witness to the Resurrection", ഉയിർപ്പിന് സാക്ഷ്യം വഹിക്കേണ്ട സഭ- മാർ യോഹന്നാൻ ശ്ലീഹാ നാൾ</p>	<p><b>Lessons</b></p> <p><b>Epistle Gospel</b></p> <p><b>Evening Reading</b></p>	<p>2Kgs 4:27-37</p> <p>2Cor 4:7-15</p> <p>Gen 50:22-26</p>	<p>Rev 22:16-21</p> <p>John 21:15-25</p> <p>2Cor 5:1-10</p>
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">15 MAY</p>	<p>Journey with the Risen Christ, ഉത്ഥിതനോട് ഒപ്പമുള്ള യാത്ര</p>	<p><b>Lessons</b></p> <p><b>Epistle Gospel</b></p> <p><b>Evening Reading</b></p>	<p>1Kgs 19:1-13</p> <p>Eph 5:1-10</p> <p>Ps 107:1-21</p>	<p>Acts 8:26-40</p> <p>Luke 24:13-35</p> <p>Heb 11:1-12</p>
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">22 MAY</p>	<p>Lord worthy of Praise- (DSMC Sunday), സ്തുതിക്ക് യോഗ്യനായ കർത്താവ് - ദിവ്യ സംഗീത ഞായർ</p>	<p><b>Lessons</b></p> <p><b>Epistle Gospel</b></p> <p><b>Evening Reading</b></p>	<p>Exod 15:1-18</p> <p>Phil 2:1-11</p> <p>Ps 98:1-9</p>	<p>Acts 16:19-31</p> <p>Luke 1:46-56</p> <p>1Cor 14:15-19</p>
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">26 MAY</p>	<p>Ascension of our Lord, സ്വർഗ്ഗാരോഹണ പെരുന്നാൾ</p>	<p><b>Lessons</b></p> <p><b>Epistle Gospel</b></p>	<p>2Kgs 2:1-16</p> <p>Acts 1:1-11</p>	<p>Eph 4:1-16</p> <p>Luke 24:36-53</p>
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">29 MAY</p>	<p>"The Church that has to be on Watch", ജാഗ്രതിക്കേണ്ട സഭ</p>	<p><b>Lessons</b></p> <p><b>Epistle Gospel</b></p> <p><b>Evening Reading</b></p>	<p>Ezek 22:23-31</p> <p>Eph 6:10-20</p> <p>Ps 40:1-17</p>	<p>Acts 1:12-14</p> <p>John 6:10-20</p> <p>Col 4:2-6</p>

## MAY - BIRTHDAYS

Name	Day
Mariamamma Samuel	5/1
Molamma Mathews	5/1
M. V. Abraham	5/2
Sanju Abraham	5/3
Jobin Stephen	5/3
Soniya Sibi	5/4
Sneha Zachariah	5/5
Preethy Abraham	5/5
Ammini Abraham	5/6
Mathew Thomas	5/6
Georgi Mathew	5/6
Annie K. George	5/7
Sudha Jacob	5/7
Jacob G. Philip	5/7
Shaji Georgekutty	5/8
Varghese Philip	5/9
Joshua Titus Mathews	5/9
Jaylen George Philip	5/9
Leelamma John	5/10
Roy K. George	5/10
Ajeena Mary Kurian	5/10
Varghese Alex	5/11
Annamamma Stephen	5/11
Elizabeth Agi	5/11
Nevin Abraham	5/11

Helen Anna Iype	5/11
Miny A. John	5/12
Jessy Binu Johnson	5/12
Alvin Cherian	5/12
Levi Mathew Thomas	5/12
Susamma Alex	5/13
Joshy T. Mathew	5/13
Isaac A. Chacko	5/14
Philip Mathew	5/14
Libina Mathew	5/14
Nidhi Sara George	5/14
Thomas Philip	5/15
Ronish Jacob	5/15
Tiji Varughese	5/15
Joann Mathew	5/15
Brittany E. Keneth	5/16
Alina Mary Jacob	5/16
Sarah A. Philip	5/16
Sheeba Wilson	5/17
Jacobson	5/18
Mammarapallil	5/18
Charles C. Thomas	5/18
Alyssa Marie Philip	5/18
V. A. Marykutty	5/19
Parul P. Cheriyan	5/19
Jeswin John	5/19





## MAY - WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Stella & Chacko Itticheria	5
Accamma & Varghese V. Mathew	6
Ajeena & Abey Koshy	6
Dhivya & Sunil Thomas Philip	6
Angel & Lijo Kunjumon	9
Tiji & Sujit G. Philip	9
Grace & Mathew K. David	10
Jabula & K. S. Samuel	10
Susan & Thomas Philip	10
Geetha & Deepu V. Thomas	12
Renny & John B. Samuel	12
Aneena & Reji Thomas John	15
Marina & Sini George	15
Sunitha & Saju C. Thomas	15
Aleyamma & Mathew M. John	16
Jane & Alan Philip	17
Marykutty & Varghese Philip	17
Santhamma & Melethil A. Abraham	18
Bindu & Joshy T. Mathew	21
Shinu & Jacob Ninan	24
Annie & Shibu Chacko	25
Preethy & Santhosh Pappachen	26
Sally & Mathew Thomas	28
Tina & Tune A. Koshy	28
Elsie & Ninan George	29
Lija & Tony P. George	29
Sudha & Jacob P. George	30
Susamma & Daniel George	31

# **ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **CHOIR**

### **Choir Auditions**

STMTTC choir is conducting auditions for all members of the choir, both new and existing members. Both Malayalam and English auditions will be conducted on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> immediately after the church service for church members ages 9 and above.

### **Malayalam choir-Song**

- 1) Anputhingum dayaparane (Kristheeya Keerthanangal -30). One stanza.
- 2) Any Christian song (Your Choice)

### **English choir - Song**

- 1) What a Friend We Have in Jesus (Hymnal - 435). One Stanza.
- 2) Any Christian song (Your Choice)

If anybody wish to participate, please give your name to Choir Secretary, Roy George.

## **EDAVAKA MISSION**

Please contact Mr. Zachariah Kurian, Edavaka Mission Secretary, for details.

## **SEVIKA SANGHAM**

1. Bible Study in the month of May will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Our vicar Ajith Achen will lead both Bible Studies. I am attaching below the Zoom Link.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5014010301>

Meeting ID: 501 401 0301

One tap mobile

+13126266799,5014010301# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,5014010301# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
Meeting ID: 501 401 0301

2. Sevika Sangham health awareness day will be held on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 at 9am in person at church parish hall and also health talk in the same evening Dr. Ivy Abraham will take the class via zoom.

3. There will be a STMTC Sevika Sanghom Family Trip on May 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to Branson, Missouri. There will be a live on-stage show named, "Jesus.  
If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you,  
Elizabeth Agi Abraham  
STMTC Sevika Sangham Secretary

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

May 8th - Review classes for students taking the Diocesan Exam. Teachers will provide details to their individual classes

May 15th - Diocesan Exam (Virtual), 2:30-4pm. Details will be emailed to registered students.

June 23rd to June 25th - VBS

June 25th - Sunday School Anniversary after VBS

July 8th to 10th - Midwest Regional Junior Camp hosted by STMTC (tentative dates)

Please reach out to the Sunday School Superintendent with any questions or concerns.

Shinu Ninan  
Email: [shinu\\_sara9n@yahoo.com](mailto:shinu_sara9n@yahoo.com)  
Cell: 630-886-8066

## **YOUTH GROUP**

Please contact Helen Anil, Youth Group Secretary, for details.

## **YUVAJANA SAKHYAM**

Please contact Samu Thomas, Yuvajana Sakhyam Secretary, for details.

# Financial Summary as of April 16, 2022

## Income/Expense Summary

Jan 1 - April 16 (2022)

Category	Income	Expense	Difference
Donations	\$73,043	\$0	\$73,043
Offerings	\$16,136	\$0	\$16,136
Fund Raising	\$0	\$0	\$0
Mission & Pass Thru	\$29,698	\$3,900	\$25,798
Other Income & Expenses	\$100	\$1,458	(\$1,358)
Church Activities	\$3,600	\$0	\$3,600
Diocese	\$4,500	\$4,297	\$203
Maintenance and Repair	\$0	\$5,352	(\$5,352)
Vicar's Services	\$0	\$24,097	(\$24,097)
Mortgage and Utilities	\$3,925	\$64,341	(\$60,416)
<b>Total Income/Expense</b>	<b>\$ 131,002</b>	<b>\$ 103,444</b>	<b>\$ 27,558</b>

**PARISH VOICE IS PUBLISHED BY ST. THOMAS MAR THOMA CHURCH OF CHICAGO  
2022 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>
PRESIDENT AND VICAR	REV. AJITH K. THOMAS	630-489-8152	AJITHACHEN@GMAIL.COM
YOUTH CHAPLAIN	REV. JESWIN S. JOHN	630-489-7169	JESWINJOHN@OUTLOOK.COM
VICE PRESIDENT	MR. JOHNSON MATHEW	847-830-7276	JVALLIYIL@HOTMAIL.COM
SECRETARY	MR. THOMAS LATHARA	630-497-1806	<a href="mailto:TLATHARA@HOTMAIL.COM">TLATHARA@HOTMAIL.COM</a>
TREASURER	MR. SHAJI THOMAS	630-347-0841	<a href="mailto:SHAJI_THOMAS@ATT.NET">SHAJI_THOMAS@ATT.NET</a>
ACCOUNTANT	MR. MATHEW VARGHESE	630-400-3565	<a href="mailto:MVARGESE@GMAIL.COM">MVARGESE@GMAIL.COM</a>
LAY LDR (MAL)	MR. P.K. BOBBY	630-863-0530	PKBOBBY1120@GMAIL.COM
LAY LDR (MAL)*	MR. GEORGE M. JACOB	708-415-8542	JASAJ96@HOTMAIL.COM
LAY LEADER (ENG)	MR. ALBY KENETH	630-258-6679	<a href="mailto:ASKENETH@SBCGLOBAL.NET">ASKENETH@SBCGLOBAL.NET</a>
LAY LEADER (ENG)*	MR. SAMU THOMAS	847-909-1979	SAMUTHOMAS101@GMAIL.COM
MANDALAM MEMBER	MR. MATHEW GEORGE	708-614-1755	<a href="mailto:MGEORGE86@HOTMAIL.COM">MGEORGE86@HOTMAIL.COM</a>
DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY	MR. SAJI MATHEW	630-215-5147	<a href="mailto:MATHSJ@GMAIL.COM">MATHSJ@GMAIL.COM</a>
DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY	MR. JOEL VARGESE	630-890-9996	<a href="mailto:JOELV9213@GMAIL.COM">JOELV9213@GMAIL.COM</a>
DIO. ASM.REP.	MR. JACOB K. GEORGE	630-858-7853	<a href="mailto:J.K.GEORGE@SBCGLOBAL.NET">J.K.GEORGE@SBCGLOBAL.NET</a>
CHOIR	MRS. GEETHA THOMAS	224-715-9662	GEENINAN@YAHOO.COM
EDAVAKA MISSION	MR. ZACHARIAH KURIAN	630-863-5473	<a href="mailto:KURIANZ@HOTMAIL.COM">KURIANZ@HOTMAIL.COM</a>
SEVIKA SANGHAM	MRS. ELIZABETH AGI ABRAHAM	708-362-3358	<a href="mailto:ELIZABETHAGIABRAHAM@GMAIL.COM">ELIZABETHAGIABRAHAM@GMAIL.COM</a>
SUNDAY SCHOOL	MRS. SHINU S. NINAN	630-886-8066	<a href="mailto:SHINU_SARA9N@YAHOO.COM">SHINU_SARA9N@YAHOO.COM</a>
YOUTH GROUP	MR. NATHANIEL THOMAS	708-855-4066	NXTHXNTHOMXS01@GMAIL.COM
YUVAJANA SAKHYAM	MR. SAMU THOMAS	847-909-1979	SAMUTHOMAS101@GMAIL.COM
AUDITORS*	MR. A.P. JOHNIKUTTY	630-238-8206	<a href="mailto:APJOHNI@GMAIL.COM">APJOHNI@GMAIL.COM</a>
	MR. BINU T. JOSE	847-741-6722	<a href="mailto:BINU.T.JOSE1@GMAIL.COM">BINU.T.JOSE1@GMAIL.COM</a>
AREA 1	MR. MATHEW THOMAS	630-673-2534	<a href="mailto:MTTHOMAS625@GMAIL.COM">MTTHOMAS625@GMAIL.COM</a>
AREA 2	MR. MATHEW V. MATHEW	630-852-7994	<a href="mailto:MMATHEW028@YAHOO.COM">MMATHEW028@YAHOO.COM</a>
AREA 3	MR. CHACKO P. THOMAS	708-415-8542	<a href="mailto:CETEES4@HOTMAIL.COM">CETEES4@HOTMAIL.COM</a>
AREA 4	MR. MATHEW ABRAHAM	312-404-6983	ABRAHAM12STER@GMAIL.COM
AREA 5	MR. VARGHESE PHILIP	630-250-0619	<a href="mailto:PHILIP1481@HOTMAIL.COM">PHILIP1481@HOTMAIL.COM</a>
AREA 6	MR. ANIL ISAAC	224-542-0041	ISSAC_ANIL@YAHOO.COM
P.V. EDITOR*	MS. ROSIN THOMAS	630-824-7176	RTHOMA17@GMAIL.COM

(\*\* Denotes Non Committee members)

For Corrections please contact secretary at [TLATHARA@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:TLATHARA@HOTMAIL.COM)