



Parish Voice

AUGUST 2022



The Transfiguration of
Jesus Christ

ST. THOMAS MAR THOMA CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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<https://www.stthomasmtcchicago.org>



OUR SPEAKER



SUBI PALLICKAL
(Eva. Kuryan Thampy)

EDAVAKA MISSION
ANNUAL
CONVENTION
2022

AUGUST 2022

11-14

THURSDAY - SATURDAY
7.00 PM
... ..
SUNDAY
10.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION
&
CONCLUDING SESSION

ST. THOMAS MARTHOMA
CHURCH OF CHICAGO
LOMBARD

EDAVAKA MISSION COMMITTEE
+1 (630) 863 5473

Livestream Available 

“In union with him, the whole building is joined together and rises into a holy sanctuary for the Lord” (Eph. 2:21)

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Greetings!

‘We are called to be united in Christ’- It’s a powerful statement about the church. In his letter to Ephesians Apostle Paul acknowledged that unity is not a natural phenomenon in this world. In chapter 2, the author begins by acknowledging that even in the midst of that fledgling church there were differences between the Jewish Christians and the Gentile Christians, or the circumcised ones and the uncircumcised ones as they are referred to here. Yet the author also acknowledges that it is by the blood of Christ that people who were once divided are now united. The passage has a strong Jewish emphasis because the Jews have a strong belief that the Messiah would be one who comes to bring unity among people. But what is the exact nature of this unity that is being spoken of here? In the modern world ,today unity has become nothing more than a euphemism for control.

The kind of unity that is being spoken of here is not a violent or forced unity that exists in so many contexts. We can basically speak of two kinds of unity that are violent: the first one is a projected unity that one finds within the caste or race system or the patriarchal family system. There is no doubt that the caste or race system holds the various sections of society in ‘a unity’ or that the patriarchal family system holds the different members of the family in unity but this is a projected unity that hides the violence and systems of control that exists within such structures.

The second kind of unity is a suppressing kind of unity where all are expected to conform to some set of rules and standards that are created by the powerful. Again in this type of unity, the seeming unity is maintained by the use of overt force and coercion. On the other hand ,however ,Christ calls us to a unity that is based on peace and as we all know true peace has as its prerequisite justice. The unity that Christ calls us into is a unity based on peace, a unity that springs from the giving of life as Christ gave his life and not the taking away of life and all that promotes life.

Lastly, when we are all united in peace we are spiritually built into a temple, the uniqueness of this temple is that Christ is its cornerstone and that its foundations are the apostles and the prophets. Here, Apostle is using the imagery of the temple implicitly to make clear the idea that comes out clearly in ch.2:22 that this temple becomes the dwelling place of God. The idea that is being expressed here is that, where there is unity, which should be based on the Peace of God. Are we as a parish community going to allow ourselves to truly be a place where God is found? If so then we must aspire to build ourselves into a place where there is a true unity based on peace, a unity based on giving and sharing. When we are able to build ourselves into such a community then we will be a place where God dwells.

Our Summerfest-2022 was a time of expressing unity. I congratulate everyone who worked hard for the success of the event; especially thanking our conveners Mr. Johnson Valliyil and Mr. Philip Mathew for their leadership. We have Student Dedication Service and Edavakamission Annual Convention this month. We are going to restart our Sunday School classes after summer vacation. Our children are also going back to school. May they be able to walk in the Divine Wisdom.

May God bless you all and keep you safe,

Yours in Christ,

Ajith Achen

Phone: 630 489 8152

Email: stmtvicar@gmail.com

August 01, 2022
Lombard

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

Christian commemoration of the occasion upon which Jesus Christ took three of his disciples, Peter, James, and John, up on a mountain, where Moses and Elijah appeared and Jesus was transfigured, his face and clothes becoming dazzlingly bright (Mark 9:2–13; Matthew 17:1–13; Luke 9:28–36). The festival celebrates the revelation of the eternal glory of the Second Person of the Trinity, which was normally veiled during Christ's life on earth. According to tradition, the event took place on Mount Tabor.

It is not known when the festival was first celebrated, but it was kept in Jerusalem as early as the 7th century and in most parts of the Byzantine Empire by the 9th century. It was gradually introduced into the Western Church, and its observance was fixed as August 6 by Pope Calixtus III in 1457

In the Syriac Orthodox, Malankara Orthodox, Malankara MarThoma, Revised Julian calendars within Eastern Orthodoxy, Catholic, Old Catholic, and Anglican churches, the Feast of the Transfiguration is observed on 6 August.

Mark 9:-

Mar 9:2 And after six days Jesus taketh *with him* Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them.

Mar 9:3 And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them.

Mar 9:4 And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus.

Mar 9:5 And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

Mar 9:6 For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid.

Mar 9:7 And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.

Mar 9:8 And suddenly, when they had looked round about, they saw no man any more, save Jesus only with themselves.

Dearly beloved in Christ,

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

Let us thank and praise God for the manifold blessings that we have experienced thus far. Last month, we were able to host the Sunday School Midwest Regional Junior Camp. We were blessed by the leadership of our beloved *Baskiamo* Mrs. Neethi Prasad Kochamma. I was deeply impressed by the depth of her presentation and interaction with the youth and truly appreciate the level of preparation she put in to build such an engaging presentation. The Youth Fellowship was also able to lead the Graduation Recognition Event. We congratulate all those who graduated and who are moving into the next stage of their life. The Summer-fest which took place was also a blessed time. Such activities remind us what it means to be a “church community” when we recognize the hard work behind it. It was a purely voluntary effort. I pray that we understand that whatever we do must be for the glory of God and our love for God and one another.

We are entering into one of the hottest seasons of the year. The meteorological community has started to call heat waves by name. The city of Seville, Spain has developed the naming system with the first heat wave being named Zoe. How ironic that the Greek word for “life” is now associated with deadly weather patterns. But maybe we can learn something from this paradox. In the New Testament English translations, the word ‘life’ comes from three different Greek words: *bios*, *psuche*, and *zoe*. *Bios*, as in ‘biology’, refers to “worldliness”. The Parable of the Sower illustrates this word (see Luke 8:14). *Psuche* refers to the ‘soul-life’ or ‘breath of life’ and is connected with mind and inner-being, hence it forms the root of our word ‘psychology’. The biblical meaning is found in Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 16:25. *Zoe* is defined as the eternal life of God which is something unique compared to human life. When St. John explains who Jesus Christ is, he uses this word in John 1:4. The corresponding Syriac word found in ancient Peshitta Bible (Syriac New Testament) is *haye*. This word is always used in connection with the Holy Spirit (“Holy is the Holy and Living Spirit”; *qadeesh* [holy] *ruho* [Spirit] *hayo* [living] *qadeesho* [holy]). So when Jesus teaches the disciples, “I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10b), he is talking about giving us the opportunity to participate in the divine life of God. Do we desire the “life abundant”? It is not the life of worldly prosperity (*bios*) but rather to partake of the divine blessing of life with God (*zoe*). The gift of heavenly life (Kingdom of God) we have

been promised is to once again have that close relationship with God, just as Adam and Eve walked with God in the Garden of Eden (Gen 3:8). I urge you, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let the pursuit of divine life (*zoe*) be our life's (*bios*) desire.

As we enter into August, we begin the month with the 15-day Lent (Aug. 1—15). This is the Lent related to the life of the mother of Jesus, St. Mary. Churches interpret this Fast in different ways. For Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox, it is a doctrine related to death and ascension of St. Mary in heaven. In Protestant churches such as Lutheran and Episcopal/Anglican, it is in relation to life of St. Mary without much discussion on this point about death of St. Mary. The Mar Thoma Church, as an independent Church, distinct from Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, and Western Protestantism, holds on to the ancient tradition which reveres the life of St. Mary as a model of discipleship and submission to God's will. These fifteen days of fasting should be a time to understand the type of living that God calls us to, just as St. Mary submitted to God's call with the words, "Here am I, a servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). I pray that God strengthen us all, through the working of the Holy Spirit.

Rev. Jeswin S. John

July 28, 2022

(Youth Chaplain, St. Thomas MTC Lombard IL)

Philadelphia, PA

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2022

DATE	PROGRAM	ASSISTING
7 th Sunday 8.00am 10.15am	Contemporary Worship Malayalam Holy Communion	Youth Group Area-3
14 th Sunday 10.15am	English Holy Communion	Area-4
21 st Sunday 8.00am 10.15am	Contemporary Worship Malayalam Holy Communion	Youth Group Area-5
28 th Sunday 10.15am	English Holy Communion	Area-6

Visit our website:

<https://www.stthomasmtcchicago.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.



AUGUST - BIRTHDAYS

Varghese George	1	Saon Das Mathew	18
Lija Mary Jacob	3	Madhu Mathew	19
Johann Mathew Bijo	3	Priya Mary Mathew	19
Nathan Philip	3	Aria Mary Muthalaly	19
Subin Jacob Varghese	5	Lesley Mary Ann Samuel	21
Prakash Varghese	7	Anil Issac	23
Jonathan K. Abraham	7	Agith T. Muthalaly	24
Jonas Wilson Chacko	7	Boney George	25
Mathew M. John	9	Andrew Jibu Mammrapallil	25
Mariamamma Jacob	11	Smith Mathew Jogy	26
Georgie Varghese	12	Royson L. Valliyil	29
Koshy Mathew Jr.	12	Mariamamma George	31
James K. Jacob	12		
Alvin Gladson Varghese	12		
Reeni Karavattuveetil	13		
Stephy Samuel	13		
Rachel Annie Santhosh	13		
Annie S. Chacko	15		
Talia Grace Philip	15		
Elsy Mathew	16		
Thomas C. Thomas	17		
Emy Muthalaly	17		
Jeana Jexie	17		
Angela M. Varghese	17		

AUGUST- WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Suja & Varghese George	2
Susan & George Philip	4
Lynn & Roy G. Varghese	5
Marykutty & M. T. John	7
Sneha & Mano C. Zachariah	7
Latha & Eby P. George	8
Nimmy & Bobby Paul	8
Lesley & Allen Biju Samuel	9
Leena & Binu T. Jose	12
Naina & Mathew Joseph Cherukara	12
Reena & Nithish Mathew Tharakan	16
Elizabeth & Jameson K. Mathai	17
Ivey & Jacobson Mammrapallil	17
Jennifer & Bobby Cherian	24
Milanie & Jacob Philip	25
Valsamma & John Thakadiyil	26
Roshmi & Kevin George	27
Nisha & Varghese Thomas	29
Geetha & Koshy Jexie	30

LECTIONARY

**AUG
07**

I am not Ashamed of the Gospel | Mission Sunday

സുവിശേഷത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് എനിക്ക് ലജ്ജ ഇല്ല

Lessons

Jere. 7: 1- 7

Rom. 1: 8- 17

Epistle | Gospel

2 Tim. 2: 1- 13

St. Matthew. 10: 16- 23

**AUG
14**

Christian Presence in the Nation Building

രാഷ്ട്ര നിർമ്മിതിയിൽ ക്രൈസ്തവ സാന്നിധ്യം

Lessons

Neh. 2: 13- 20

Acts. 26: 24- 32

Epistle | Gospel

1 Tim. 2: 1- 7

St. Luke. 3: 7- 14

**AUG
21**

Reformed by the Holy Spirit | Reformation Sunday

പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാവിനാൽ നവീകരിക്കപ്പെടേണ്ട സഭ

Lessons

2 Kings. 23: 1- 7

Heb. 4: 1- 13

Epistle | Gospel

Titus. 3: 1- 11

St. Matthew. 5: 17- 20

**AUG
28**

Holy Communion- Healing of the Body and Soul

വിശുദ്ധ കർബ്ബാന- ആത്മാവിന്റെയും ശരീരത്തിന്റെയും സൗഖ്യം

Lessons

Exo. 16: 11- 18

1 Cor. 11: 23- 30

Epistle | Gospel

1 Cor. 10: 14- 22

St. John. 6: 26- 35

SATURDAY

**AUG
06**

The Feast of Transfiguration of our Lord

നമ്മുടെ കർത്താവിന്റെ തേജസ്കരണം

Lessons

Deut. 4: 1- 12

Heb. 12: 18-29

Epistle | Gospel

2 Pet. 1: 16- 25

St. Matthew. 17: 1- 18

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

STUDENTS DEDICATION SERVICE is on Sunday, August 7th during the Sunday Service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY is on Sunday, August 21st, 2022 after Sunday Service

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES begin on August 28th at 9am We are looking for teachers for the new academic year. No prior experience necessary. Seeking dedicated and committed individuals. Training will be provided. Please contact the Superintendent if you are interested.

[Shinu Ninan
Sunday School Superintendent
(630) 886-8066]

EDAVAKAMMISSION ANNUAL CONVENTION-2022

From August 11th to 13th at 7 pm at church.

Main speaker; Mr. Subi Pallickal

EDAVAKAMMISSION PRAYER on Mondays and Fridays on Zoom at 8.00pm. See the Zoom Meeting link.

[Zachariah Kurian
Edavaka Mission Secretary]

1. **SEVIKA SANGHOM** Midwest Regional monthly Prayer Meeting on Thursday, August 18th, 2022 at 7.30pm.

2. **BIBLE STUDY (Book of Revelation)** on August 10th and 24th at 8pm via Zoom. Our vicar Ajith Achen will lead both Bible Studies. See the Zoom meeting Link.

[Elizabeth Agi Abraham
Sevika Sanghom Secretary]

Zoom Meeting Link

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

Meeting ID: 501 401 0301

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,5014010301# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 501 401 0301

CHOIR FEST Midwest Region on August 6th, 2022.

[Roy George

Choir Secretary]

AREA 3 PRAYER at Simon Chacko & Elizabeth's House on Sunday, August 21st at 6 pm.

Please join the meeting prayerfully.

Address: 8519 Baron Ct., Tinley Park, IL 60487

(708) 253-3344 | (708) 570-4011

AREA 6 PRAYER at Deepu Thomas & Geetha's House on Sunday, August 14th at 6:30pm

Please join the meeting prayerfully.

Address: 428 Springwood Drive, Roselle, IL 60172

(630) 855-1180 | (224) 715-7443

Financial Summary

Income/Expense Summary

Jan 1 - July 16 (2022)

Category	Income	Expense	Difference
Donations	\$155,720		\$155,720
Offerings	\$37,972		\$37,972
Fund Raising	\$0	\$1,120	(\$1,120)
Mission & Pass Thru	\$63,245	\$33,360	\$29,885
Other Income & Expenses	\$2,776	\$7,823	(\$5,047)
Church Activities	\$4,380	\$4,409	(\$29)
Diocese	\$5,632	\$3,797	\$1,835
Maintenance and Repair	\$0	\$23,705	(\$23,705)
Vicar's Services	\$0	\$46,135	(\$46,135)
Mortgage and Utilities	\$4,242	\$111,679	(\$107,437)
Total Income/Expense	\$273,968	\$ 232,028	\$ 41,940

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS -2022

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(** Denotes Non Committee members)

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