



Parish Voice

JULY 2022

I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. (John 12: 24)



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BRANSON TRIP



PARISH PICNIC



VBS 2022



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<https://www.stthomasmtcchicago.org>

"Those with good sense are slow to anger, and it is their glory to overlook an offense." (Proverbs 19:11)

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

It's an inevitable part of our life that we're going to get bothered, hurt, or offended, and it may happen on almost a daily basis. But what isn't inevitable is an imprudent response. It is important that we handle the situation with grace and caution. When we are hurt, there can be numerous ways to respond, and it takes discernment and intentional effort to ensure we're doing so in a healthy manner. Since we are believers, we need to do all we can to work through potentially divisive issues, showing that fellowship and love with each other are more important than an impulsive response for emotional gratification. Often, a rift will naturally develop if we choose to handle our situations in an unhealthy manner.

As Proverbs 19:11 reminds us, it's to one's glory to overlook an offense. Our first critical decision is whether or not we'll choose to get others involved. Why is this so important? Because internalizing my frustration, anger, or hurt can end up rotting my soul from the inside out. Keeping those feelings inside, without having a proper way to vent or process them, just leads to festering those wounds over and over. By doing this, I allow roots of bitterness and resentment to grow in my heart, ultimately affecting my view of those around me and even the parish as a whole. It can affect my outlook on life and my relationships. Eventually, it may sour all my relationships and fellowship with co-believers.

But when I do choose to share my emotions or feelings with others, the manner I choose to do that is another critical decision to make. Am I seeking wise counsel and insight from others who can provide perspective to resolve an issue or guide me through processing my feelings in a healthy way, or am I just finding people in the crowd to whom I can complain or give vent to my bitterness knowing that they will help me rationalize or justify my feelings? Am I looking for guidance; or am I just yearning to gossip? If we are ranting about a person or situation to someone who can't help resolve the issue, then it really is gossip. Then, I am spreading the roots of dissension with others and allowing an attitude of negativity to start permeating the parish.

The more we vent to others, the more we develop a reputation as complainers. It can get to the point where people expect us to be 'the Negative' that's constantly fussing about people or even leadership decisions. Then, the chances are that we have allowed our own hearts to get infected with such a negative attitude that we now fixate on other people, looking for the worst in them and even expecting them to make mistakes. It then becomes easier for us to seek out things in their behavior that will hurt and offend us, just so we can continue to rationalize our distaste for that person.

At that point, there may be no other healthy option than for me to leave the fellowship and ultimately the parish. Either someone will recognize that I've become bitter and resentful and will ask me to leave, or I need to have the wherewithal to leave on my own, accepting the fact that I'm no longer capable of being a healthy believer in that parish. Sadly, I allowed myself to rot from the inside out because I chose to process my feelings in an unhealthy or unproductive way.

But is there a healthy, beneficial way to get others involved? Absolutely!

In multiple places in Proverbs, the writer reminds us that one of the keys to victory and a way of problem-solving is seeking the counsel of wise people. When a person is dealing with hardship, the best thing to do is **not** to pour out the frustrations to his/her buddies who will just pat him/her on the back and help justify the offense or frustration. The best thing to do is to seek out people of wisdom in positions of influence, even if they might tell him/her that his/her feelings are unfounded or unjustified and that the person is actually in the wrong. Counselors don't fix problems; they just provide another perspective. Sometimes when we get our feelings hurt, we may need more than just a shoulder to cry on. We may need a distant, third-party observer who sees more than we do and can help us understand different angles or avenues we previously may not have considered. Maybe I made a mistake that I'm not capable of seeing on my own. Maybe I have blind spots that led to the initial tension. Maybe I have some level of immaturity or insecurity that I need to deal with so I'm not so bothered by others' words and actions.

Without having someone to help us see those things, our human nature is to assume that we're whole and just and the issue is with the other person. It's not about finding others to make us feel better in the moment, it's about finding solutions. Gossip may make us feel better now, but getting healthy guidance will

ensure we always have a solid foundation to build on. May the Holy Spirit help us to lead a spiritually healthy life.

I take this time to thank all our teachers, volunteers, and students for their active participation in the VBS. I appreciate the leadership of VBS convener Mr. Blesson, Sunday School Superintendent Mrs. Shinu Ninan and VBS leader Miss. Lexin. Praying for those who are suffering from illness and praising God for the healing.

As many churches now follow, we are also arranging an online directory for our parish members. I request everyone to download the App and sign in using your email. If you have any doubts, please contact our Convener Mr. George Mathew.

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

Yours in Christ,

June30, 2022
Lombard

Ajith Achen
Phone: 630 489 8152
Email: stmtcvicar@gmail.com

Your mind is like
this water, my friend;
when it is agitated,
it becomes difficult to see.
But if you allow it to settle,
the answer becomes clear.



Dearly beloved in Christ,

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

July means peak summertime! The shining sun, barbecues, and sounds of children fill the air. We start off July with Independence Day. The year 2022 marks 245 years since the first Independence Day of the United States. What does independence mean for us today? As Indo-Americans, Fourth of July should become celebration of the experiment now known as USA. At a time when kings and queens ruled, America became the symbol of the "people's rule." Although today, democracy is being eroded on all sides and people are losing faith in the governing institutions, we must not forget the origin of the nation and the struggles that had to be overcome to give us this land of freedoms.

In the Old Testament, the prevailing form of government was the monarchy. However, before the monarchy in Israel was established during the time of the prophet Samuel, there were religious leaders. First there was the leadership of Moses and Joshua and later, the judges. It is hard to find support of these forms of government in the pages of the Bible; often we find the tragedy of the leaders and the government systems. We can see with clarity that any human institution will be flawed and falls short of God's design. The kingdom of God which Jesus inaugurated is the sign of God's perfect rule. The kingdom of God was and is and is to come. This means that we cannot find its completion through human design but only in the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Until then, God calls each one of us to raise our families in God's righteousness and be the fragrance of Christ wherever we go. Honesty, faithfulness, hard work, and loving kindness are many of the divine characteristics that we the citizens of God's kingdom are to practice while we wait for the fullness of the kingdom of God.

In the past month, schools started to close for the summer break. Students graduated from high school and college. With the start of summer vacation, many families have started to travel to various places. Covid has become a part of our life but we need to

continue the precautions for our safety and well-being of others. One of the most memorable events in our lives is our yearly Vacation Bible Schools. In the past years, due to Covid, we held virtual events. The VBS experience best occurs when we come together with song and dance and stories. Nothing can replace the joy we feel and the joy we see in the children as they jump into the Word of God. Let us thank God for being able to conduct the VBS for the glory of God and edification of our children. Let us also be thankful to all the leaders and volunteers, including the leadership of Rev. Ajith K. Thomas Achen. The Sunday School Midwest Regional Junior Camp, which we will host in July, is another opportunity for us as parents and teachers to build up our children with knowledge of God. A graduation recognition program will be held in July to recognize the graduating youth of 2022. We must always uphold our youth in prayers. We as a church community must understand that we are a family brought together by Jesus Christ. Just as we want the best for our own children, we as a church community must participate in the growth of all the children in our parish, in order that they may be productive members of society and faithful children of God. Let us uphold our parish and our community in our prayers and in all that we do.

Rev. Jeswin S. John

Youth Chaplain, St. Thomas MTC

June 30, 2022

Lombard, Illinois

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR JULY 2022

DATE	PROGRAM	ASSISTING
3rd Sunday 8.00am 10.15am	Contemporary Worship Malayalam Holy Communion	Youth Group Area-5
10th Sunday 09.00am	English Holy Communion	Area-6
17th Sunday 8.00am 10.15am	Contemporary Worship Malayalam Holy Communion	Youth Group Choir
24th Sunday 10.15am	English Holy Communion	Area-1
31st Sunday 10.15am	Divine Service	Area-2

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.



JULY - BIRTHDAYS

Name	Da y
Ryan V. John	1
Reny E. John	1
Luke Thomas Lathara	2
Anila M. Varghese	3
Immanuel Abraham	3
Mathew Varghese	4
Sujit G. Philip	4
Anna Rachel Kuruvilla	4
T. G. Abraham	5
Jim Thomas	5
Janeen George	5
Nevin J. Mathai	6
Sunitha Mathew	7
Jacob Mathew	8
Christina Ninan	8
Johnson K. Mathai	10
Accamma Varghese	11
Deepu V. Thomas	11
Ren Jacob Chacko	11
Josephine Susan Philip	11
Abel Gladson Varghese	12
Nicole Kurian	13
Jacob Ninan	14
Anna Susan Thomas	14
Ajit V. John	15
Jacob Chacko	17
Susamma Paul	17
Nimmy Ann George	17

Name	Da y
Thomas Idiculla	18
Preetha	19
Kurian Varghese	19
Andrew Thomas	19
Nancy Mary George	19
Helen Marium Anil	19
Susan Mathew	20
Ashley Eettickal	20
Sybil Merin Varghese	20
Jayden Mathew	20
Thomas T. Cheriyan	21
Serina Mariam Varghese	21
Bibin George	22
George Thomas Kandankara	24
Jolly S. Varghese	24
Regeni George	25
Jeffrey A. Varghese	25
John Mathew	25
Abraham P. Mathew	26
Varghese A. Jacob	27
Renju Z. Mathew	27
Cayla Susan Abraham	27
Shena Mary Varkey	29
Susan Philip	30
Mathew Abraham	31
Ashley Thomas	31

JULY - WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

NAME	DAY
Sheeja & Mathew Varghese	1
Jessy & Sansom John	2
Cema & Philip Stephen	4
Sheeba & Alby J. Keneth	5
Anila & Sunil Thankachen	9
Annie & Zachariah Kurian	11
Sunith & Ren Jacob Chacko	11
Susamma & George Paul	14
Valsamma & Mathew T. Eettickal	20
Alice & Mohan C. Abraham	21
Sherine & Alex Cherian	21
Mola & Roy Mathews	22
Susamma & Chacko P. Thomas	24
Anitha & Abraham K. Thondemvelil	27
Elizabeth & Jacob Stephen	30

LECTIONARY

**JUL
03**

Apostle Thomas - Faithful unto Death | Tithe Offering Day
 മരണപര്യന്തം വിശ്വസ്തനായ തോമസ് അപ്പോസ്തോലൻ

Lessons

Isa. 52: 7- 15

1 Thess. 1: 2- 9

Epistle | Gospel

2 Tom. 3: 10- 17

St. John. 11: 10- 16

**JUL
10**

Priests- Ambassadors of Christ | Priest's Sunday
 വൈദികർ: ക്രിസ്തുവിന്റെ സ്ഥാനാപതികൾ

Lessons

Ezek. 33: 1- 7

1 Pet. 5: 1- 11

Epistle | Gospel

2 Cor. 5: 14- 21

St. John. 10: 1- 11

**JUL
17**

Choir Sunday - Lord worthy of Praise
 ദിവ്യസംഗീത ഞായർ - സ്തുതിക്ക യോഗ്യനായ കർത്താവ്

Lessons

Exo. 15: 1- 18

Acts. 16: 19- 31

Epistle | Gospel

Phil. 2: 1- 11

St. Luke. 1: 46- 56

**JUL
24**

The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony
 വിശുദ്ധ വിവാഹം എന്ന കൂദാശ

Lessons

Gen. 24: 10- 27

Heb. 13: 1- 6

Epistle | Gospel

Eph. 5: 20- 32

St. Matthew. 19: 1- 12

**JUL
31**

Theological Education for the Confirmation of Faith
 ദൈവശാസ്ത്ര അഭ്യസനം

Lessons

Deut. 6: 1- 13

Gal. 3: 1- 14

Epistle | Gospel

1 Cor. 4: 14- 21

St. John. 3: 10- 21

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER FEST- 2022 on July 23rd, 2022

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Midwest Regional Junior Camp 2022 will be held **July 8th to 10th** and is open to students who have completed 3rd to 8th grade. This year our church is hosting the event. This is an opportunity to meet children from the churches in our region. It will be time of learning, fellowship and fun. We are blessed to have Mrs. Neethi Prasad Kochamma (w/ o Rev. Christopher Daniel) as our main speaker!

We welcome volunteers who have completed 9th and above. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to me.

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

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

[Zachariah Kurian
Edavaka Mission Secretary]

1. **SEVIKA SANGHOM** prayer meeting with activity (songs , group discussion about Book of Genesis story telling and witnessing) on July 16th, 2022 from 2pm to 4pm in-person at church. Sevika Sanghom members , if any one interested to singing songs, story telling; please let me know. The Google form will be sent out as soon as possible for sign up. Please join .

2. **Bible Study** in the month of July will be held on July 6th and July 20th 2022 at 8pm via Zoom. Our vicar Ajith Achen will lead both Bible Studies. See the Zoom meeting Link.

3. Sevika Sanghom members, if any one interested to do the skit for summer fest, please provide your name for Mrs. Grace David, Mrs. Saramma Mathew or inform me.

[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 SUNDAY and Dedication Service on 17th July 2022.

All choir members are requested to participate.

[Roy George

Choir Secretary]

GRADUATION RECOGNITION PROGRAM on 10th July 2022
immediately after the Sunday Service.

[Helen Anil

Youth Fellowship Secretary]

Financial Summary

Income/Expense Summary

Jan 1 - June 30 (2022)

Category	Income	Expense	Difference
Donations	\$122,811	\$0	\$122,811
Offerings	\$30,679	\$0	\$30,679
Fund Raising	\$0	\$0	\$0
Mission & Pass Thru	\$60,580	\$60,220	\$360
Other Income & Expenses	\$2,310	\$6,827	(\$4,517)
Church Activities	\$4,260	\$8,048	(\$3,788)
Diocese	\$4,785	\$3,797	\$988
Maintenance and Repair		\$14,984	(\$14,984)
Vicar's Services		\$36,668	(\$36,668)
Mortgage and Utilities	\$5,748	\$97,800	(\$92,052)
Total Income/Expense	\$231,173	\$ 228,344	\$ 2,829

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS -2022

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