

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



**Parish Voice
June 2022**

FROM THE VICAR'S DESK

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

Spring is one of the most favorite seasons for many people. Joyful sights of flowers in myriad hues, sizes and fragrance are all around. Flowers speak to us eloquently without a single word - irrespective of its muddy messy surroundings, its allure and beauty is never diminished. Well tended or wild grown flowers, its beauty never ceases to amaze us. The gardener can prepare the flower bed and water them in time but its intricate texture, shade and fragrance is given by the great gardener who created it all.

Holy scripture uses flowers as metaphor for the transience and brevity of human life.

Psalm 103:15-16 'The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; 16 the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.'

It is also used to impart to the faithful, the futility of anxiety in our life even in a turbulent world.

Mathew 6:28-29. 'And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.'

As these lines are written, airwaves and TV screens are saturated with news of a horrible shooting at Uvalde, Texas. Nineteen elementary school children, all below or around the age of ten and two teachers were senselessly and incomprehensibly shot in cold blood. This is the latest in the series of mind numbing mass shootings in unexpected places - Grocery stores, high schools, synagogues, churches - and the list goes on. It seems no place is safe or sacred anymore and no one is immune to diabolic designs of the deviant minds, not even innocent children.

Our minds are constantly bombarded with images of blood stained shooting scenes, charred, bombed-out ruins of once majestic cities, new born babies in bomb shelters, refugees fleeing for dear life, unending pandemic and other devastating events. It is only human to be anxious and worry about the future. We all long for certainty and assurance of safety. In the midst of all these tragic uncertainties, Scriptures ask us to develop absolute faith in God's mercy and promises.

Philippians 4:6-7 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'

Even when the circumstances look bleak, Lord's promise He delivered through the Prophet Jeremiah should brighten our spirits. "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you." Jeremiah 31:3.

In the gospel, St Luke reminds us of the absolute futility of worry.

Luke 12:25 "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?"

We started this meditation alluding to flowers. Perhaps it's fitting to close these thoughts with a magnificent poem by 13th century mystic poet Rumi on the majesty of the almighty God who most delicately unfolds a rose buds without ever leaving a scar on its petals.

UNFOLDING THE ROSE

It is only a tiny rosebud,
A flower of God's design;
But I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine.

The secret of unfolding flowers
Is not known to such as I.

GOD opens this flower so sweetly,
When in my hands they fade and die.

If I cannot unfold a rosebud,
This flower of God's design,
Then how can I think I have wisdom
To unfold this life of mine?

So I'll trust in Him for His leading
Each moment of every day.
I will look to Him for His guidance
Each step of the pilgrim way.

The pathway that lies before me,
Only my Heavenly Father knows.
I'll trust Him to unfold the moments,
Just as He unfolds the rose.

I thank God Almighty for the divine strength at the time of pain and loss. I sincerely thank my St Thomas parish family for your care and affection. I cannot express in words my gratitude to the officials for all the timely arrangements for my travel. Our members who are in Kerala also found time to attend the funeral service. Thanking Jeswin Achen and Kochamma for their solace and support.
May God bless you all.

Yours in Christ,

Ajith Achen

Phone: 630 489 8152

Email: stmtcvicar@gmail.com

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June 2022 Worship Schedule

Date	Service
Sunday 6/5/2022	English Contemporary Service at 8:00 am followed by Malayalam Holy Communion at 10:15 am
Sunday 6/12/2022	English Holy Communion at 10:15 am
Sunday 6/19/2022	English Contemporary Service at 8:00 am followed by Malayalam Holy Communion at 10:15 am
Sunday 6/26/2022	English Holy Communion at 10:15 am

FROM THE YOUTH CHAPLAIN'S DESK

Dearly beloved in Christ,

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

Summer is here! The cold and the dreariness of wintertime have been replaced by the light and warmth of the sunshine. Even late into the evening, we are blessed with the late sunset which allows us to have our backyard barbeques. How interesting is it that sunlight is such a powerful phenomenon in our world. In addition to providing plants with the energy to produce oxygen and food for so many creatures, it also is vital for our own wellbeing. We all may have heard of Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), which is a health condition inducing lethargy and depression in those affected by it. It commonly occurs in the wintertime due to lower amounts of sunlight. Not enough sunlight affects our biological clock, serotonin and melatonin levels, all of which are important for our daily functioning. Often, this is fixed by artificial light therapy to increase our Vitamin D levels. That our well-being requires such an intricate connection with our environment can be baffling as well as amazing.

One of the key images in the theology vision of the Mar Thoma Church is God as "light." Our Holy Qurbana begins with the change "In your light, we see the light..." This is taken from Psalm 36:9: *For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.* God is the source of enlightening and enlivening divine light. The Bible often speaks of people who live in darkness (Isa 9:2; Eph 5:8). Jesus also taught: *The eye is the lamp of the body. So if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light* (Matt 6:22). While darkness signifies ignorance, disease, and death, light symbolizes knowledge, health, and life. These are not mere symbols but the divine truth that apart from God, who is the source of true light and life, we are dead spiritually and often sick physically. **It does not mean that all who are sick are not believers in Christ; there are various reasons for diseases.** Instead, a spiritual sickness can often manifest as poor health. Those who live in the light of God will enjoy a deep inner bliss and hope, even though their life circumstances may be difficult. Jesus Christ has given us this assurance: *In the world you face persecution* [Greek *thlipsis*, also meaning anguish or burden]. *But take courage; I have conquered the world!* (Jn 16:33)" The Christ who conquered sin and death has given us the courage to overcome the burdens we face in the world today. Bask in the light of the Son of God and He will enliven and enlighten you with "the rays of [His] blissful and shining light" (*Mar Thoma Order of Service for Divine Worship*, Opening Prayer).

This past May and into June, our youths are finishing up their classes and others are graduating from highschool and college. Let us congratulate them for their hard work and uphold them in our prayers as they move forward in life. Sunday School and the Diocesan

exams have been completed. Let us remember the hard work that our Sunday School teachers have put in equipping our children to know God and live as Christians in society. As our VBS approaches, let us be mindful that the Sunday School needs many to volunteer in various capacities to make it a success. Every year in summertime, the Diocese helps to facilitate VBS in Native American communities in Alabama, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Utah. I am proud to say that I have witnessed the deep impact of such mission activity among those who partake from both our community and their community. Let us keep this opportunity in mind so that more youths from St. Thomas can participate in such mission activity in the future. May the Holy Spirit continue to lead us in the righteous path.

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

JUNE LECTONARY

<h2 style="margin: 0;">05</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">JUN</p>	<p>The Feast of Pentecost: "The Holy Spirit – The Gift", Student Sunday; പെന്തിക്കുസ്റ്റി പെരുന്നാൾ: പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാവ് എന്ന ദാനം, വിദ്യാലയ വർഷാരംഭം</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f4b084; padding: 5px;">Lessons</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">Joel 2:28-32</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">Acts 2:1-21</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f4b084; padding: 5px;">Epistle Gospel</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">Gal 5:16-24</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">John 16:6-16</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f4b084; padding: 5px;">Evening Reading</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">Exod 19:10-21</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">1Cor 2:10-16</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Lessons	Joel 2:28-32	Acts 2:1-21	Epistle Gospel	Gal 5:16-24	John 16:6-16	Evening Reading	Exod 19:10-21	1Cor 2:10-16
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<h2 style="margin: 0;">12</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">JUN</p>	<p>Trinity Sunday: "Holy Trinity", Environment Sunday; ത്രിത്വ ഞായർ: പരിശുദ്ധ ത്രിത്വം, പരിസ്ഥിതി ഞായർ</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f4b084; padding: 5px;">Lessons</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">Gen 1:1-19</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">Rom 8:18-27</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f4b084; padding: 5px;">Epistle Gospel</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">2Cor 13:11-14</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">John 1:1-18</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f4b084; padding: 5px;">Evening Reading</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">Ps 19</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">1John 1:1-10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Lessons	Gen 1:1-19	Rom 8:18-27	Epistle Gospel	2Cor 13:11-14	John 1:1-18	Evening Reading	Ps 19	1John 1:1-10
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<h2 style="margin: 0;">16</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">JUN</p>	<p>Beginning of the Fast of the Apostles, Calling and Election of Apostles; ശിഷ്യന്മാരുടെ വിളിയും തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പും</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f4b084; padding: 5px;">Lessons</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">Jer 1:1-12</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">Heb 10:32-39</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f4b084; padding: 5px;">Epistle Gospel</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">1Cor 12:27-31</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">Luke 6:12-19</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Lessons	Jer 1:1-12	Heb 10:32-39	Epistle Gospel	1Cor 12:27-31	Luke 6:12-19			
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<h2 style="margin: 0;">19</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">JUN</p>	<p>Discipleship: Calling for Christ Experience; ശിഷ്യത്വം: ക്രിസ്താനുഭവതിനായുള്ള വിളി</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f4b084; padding: 5px;">Lessons</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">2Kgs 2:1-5</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">Acts 1:15-26</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f4b084; padding: 5px;">Epistle Gospel</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">Gal 1:11-17</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">Mark 3:13-19</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f4b084; padding: 5px;">Evening Reading</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">Amos 7:12-15</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">1Cor 4:1-10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Lessons	2Kgs 2:1-5	Acts 1:15-26	Epistle Gospel	Gal 1:11-17	Mark 3:13-19	Evening Reading	Amos 7:12-15	1Cor 4:1-10
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<h2 style="margin: 0;">26</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">JUN</p>	<p>People of God – Ministry and Model; ദൈവജനത്തിന്റെ ശുശ്രൂഷയും മാതൃകയും</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f4b084; padding: 5px;">Lessons</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">Isa 6:1-8</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">1Pet 2:1-10</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f4b084; padding: 5px;">Epistle Gospel</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">Titus 2:1-11</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">Matt 28:16-20</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f4b084; padding: 5px;">Evening Reading</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">Neh 9:1-5</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">2Pet 1:5-11</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Lessons	Isa 6:1-8	1Pet 2:1-10	Epistle Gospel	Titus 2:1-11	Matt 28:16-20	Evening Reading	Neh 9:1-5	2Pet 1:5-11
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<h2 style="margin: 0;">29</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">JUN</p>	<p>End of the Fast of the Apostles, St. Peter and St. Paul the Apostles' Day; ശ്ലീഹാ നോമ്പ് വീടൽ, പത്രോസ് / പൗലോസ് ശ്ലീഹന്മാരുടെ നാൾ</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f4b084; padding: 5px;">Lessons</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">Josh 1:1-9</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">Gal 2:1-10</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f4b084; padding: 5px;">Epistle Gospel</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">2Tim 1:3-12</td> <td style="background-color: #fff; padding: 5px;">Matt 20:25-28</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Lessons	Josh 1:1-9	Gal 2:1-10	Epistle Gospel	2Tim 1:3-12	Matt 20:25-28			
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Wedding Anniversaries in June

Wedding Anniversary List	
Mary & Mathew George	2
Marykutty & Abraham M. Mammen	4
Mariamamma & Thomas Mathew	6
Annie & Thomas Abraham	7
Catherine & Alexander Mathew Kizhavara	8
Sheryl & Royson L. Valliyil	9
Saramma & Philip Mathew	10
Annie & Philip Ninan	11
Swati & Biju Mathew	11
Thankamma & Thomas C. Thomas	14
Gigi & Sebu George	14
Risa & Thomas John	15
Elizabeth & Agi P. Abraham	18
Jessy & Binu Daniel Johnson	19
Neethu & Siju P. Varghese	21
Emy & Agith T. Muthalaly	23
Rachel & Thomas Idiculla	27
Jibi & Renoj N. Jacob	27

Birthdays in June

Valsamma Eettickal	1
Melvy S. Mathew	1
Shebin Mathew Philip	1
Koshy Mathew	2
Reny M. Mathew	2
Sheri Thomas	2
Sybil A. Alex	3
Dhivya Alex	3
Natalia Varghese	3
Stellamma Itticheria	4
Thomas Jacob	4
Johnikutty Philipose	4
Jolly B. Cherian	5
Joel K. Jexie	5
Lisa Mathew	6
Sobin John	6
Cara Jacob	7
Johnson Mathew	8
Roshen G. Karavattuveetil	8
Tanya Eliza Philip	8
Christo Simon Chacko	10
Isabel Skariya	10
Resmi Monu	11
Neethu Eliza Thomas	11
Shaun Shibu Jacob	11
Stephen Chacko	12
Abel Jacobson	13
Ann Jacobson	13

Alka Ann Thomas	13
Vinod J Mammen	14
Risa Thomas John	15
Austin Cherian	15
Saju Abraham	17
Sasha Susan George	17
Alex Thomas	18
Sandra Sara Joshy	18
Christian Mathew	18
Christina Mathew	18
Alisha Susan Binu	18
Justo Wilson Chacko	19
Lucas Anaan Samuel	19
Sarah P. Mathew	20
Andrew Agi Abraham	20
Mathew P. Alexander	21
Tony Mathew	23
Sajan Thomas Philip	23
Elizabeth J. Mathai	24
Siju P. Varghese	24
Rini Shaji	26
Jessy John	28
Nathan J. Mathai	28
Arya Cherian	28
Rajeev Kalsi	29
Anna Cherian	30
Brian Thomas	30

ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHOIR

Please contact Mr. Roy George, Choir Secretary, for details.

EDAVAKA MISSION

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

SEVIKA SANGHAM

Please contact Mrs. Elizabeth Agi Abraham, Sevika Sangham Secretary, for details.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

VBS for students in PreK to 8th grade will be on the following days at church.

Thursday, June 23rd 5:30pm to 9pm

Friday, June 24th 9am to 5pm

Saturday, June 25th 9am to 5pm

Registration details will be emailed to all parents first week on June. Youths who would like to volunteer, teach or be part of the singing team please inform Sunday School superintendent.

July 8th to 10th - Midwest Regional Junior Camp hosted by STMTC. The camp is open to children in 3rd to 8th grade. More details will be provided in the coming weeks.

Shinu Ninan

Email: 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 May 22, 2022

Income/Expense Summary

Jan 1 - May 22 (2022)

Donations	\$102,562	\$0	\$102,562
Offerings	\$26,866		\$26,866
Fund Raising	\$0	\$0	\$0
Mission & Pass Thru	\$47,862	\$12,030	\$35,832
Other Income & Expenses	\$300	\$6,536	(\$6,236)
Church Activities	\$4,140	\$3,639	\$501
Diocese	\$4,785	\$3,000	\$1,785
Maintenance and Repair		\$6,502	(\$6,502)
Vicar's Services		\$30,668	(\$30,668)
Mortgage and Utilities	\$5,885	\$81,623	(\$75,739)

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

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(** Denotes Non Committee members)

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