



Parish Voice

SEPTEMBER 2022



We believe in the Christ
who will come again

ST. THOMAS MAR THOMA CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. – (James 5:16)

Dearly beloved in Christ,
Greetings!

It was Game 6 of the Stanley Cup Hockey Finals on June 2000 in Texas, where the Dallas Stars and the New Jersey Devils were playing. This was a must-win, do-or-die type of game. As the game started, Darryl Sydor, one of the Stars' best defensemen, took a hit on the boards on the near side and his leg was injured very badly. He quickly realizes that something significant is wrong, but his eyes show the determination of knowing what this game, this play means. He turns his focus away from the pain and onto the puck as it is still in play. He moves closer to the goal, crawling across the ice. He reaches up to block a shot and in doing so he trips his teammate. He tries to stand up, but is not successful. Finally, the whistle blows, and the game is stopped. Four medical personnel rush onto the ice to assess his injury and it's very bad. He is helped off the ice by the medical team and he would not return to the game.

Sometimes in our areas of influence, we can try to play even while hurt. We can sometimes do it without even knowing it. Playing hurt can be good or it can be bad, but it will affect our lives. The enemy loves it when we are playing hurt, because there is a place that is vulnerable to attack. When Sydor went down, the Stars were down a player. He tried his very best to not make that the case, but ultimately his injury was too much to keep playing. In our life, in our home, in the office, in the church, we will go through seasons where it seems like we are all playing hurt; emotionally and spiritually.

Sometimes playing in a game with this type of injury is therapeutic, and sometimes it can cause fractures in the relationships of the team. What about those of us who play when we are spiritually and emotionally hurt? There are varying levels of pain and injury. Sometimes when we're playing hurt, it causes a little discomfort but we can still play at the top level. Sometimes it's a little more serious but we are still an asset to our team and we can recover just fine while playing the game. And sometimes, we need to sit and rest to get better. How hurt are we?

If we are playing hurt and don't acknowledge it or call it out, we are running the risk of hurting others too. Our team members are thinking we are 100% but we are operating at less. Therefore, be honest with ourselves. We hurt ourselves and our dear ones because we're trying to carry a load that we simply cannot carry alone.

Prayer, fasting, and God's Word are our best defenses when we are injured emotionally and spiritually. They give us protection, strong footing, and the tools needed to play the game of life. Without this, we might as well be trying to block the puck with a glove when we can't stand. We need to communicate with God and communicate with our co-believers. As long as we are honest with each other and with God, we will pick up where others can't, and hold each other accountable. When we are hurt, use that opportunity to stop and pray for forgiveness, healing, and the solution. Instead of looking at all the tasks at hand, let's first look to Jesus and pray for each other, and that produces wonderful results in our life.

Our Sunday school classes are started in the last week of August. I request all the parents make sure to bring our children to the Sunday school classes.

May God bless you all and keep you safe,

Yours in Christ,

Ajith Achen

Phone: 630 489 8152

Email: stmtcvicar@gmail.com

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES AS IN EZEKIEL 37 - 39.

1. The political and spiritual revival of the nation of Israel after it appeared they were dead and forgotten -
Ezekiel 37:1-4
2. The reunification of the Jews -
Ezekiel 37:15-20
3. The establishment of Israel and the Millennium -
Ezekiel 37:21-28
4. End-time battles -
Ezekiel - 38:1-39:29
5. All against Israel -
Ezekiel 38:1-16
6. Victory over Gog -
Ezekiel 38:17-39:20
7. Both Israel and her enemies will know who the one true God is -
Ezekiel 39:21-29

Source:-

<https://blueletterbible.org/blb/2013/02/27/the-old-testament-on-the-second-coming-of-jesus/>

Dearly beloved in Christ,

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

As our summer comes to a close, let us thank God for all the blessings and mercies that we experienced thus far. Being the second summer since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, we noticed many changes as people once again slowly resume the normal course of life. Let us thank God for the opportunities that we have had in visiting our loved ones far away as well as celebrating events such as graduation and weddings more freely. At the same time, let us exercise caution in our gatherings, knowing that there are many in our midst that are more likely to be affected by Covid than others.

The end of August and the beginning of September often mark the beginning of the new academic year. September 4th is set apart by the Mar Thoma Church as Education Sunday. Education has been an important part of Christian life, mainly in part because of its importance in our spiritual pursuit to understand God. John Amos Comenius, who was considered to be the “father of modern education”, spoke of the first schooling that a child receives as “school at mother’s knees”. His belief in the training provided by the mother for a child until the age of six echoes a very ancient understanding of education. The Book of Proverbs is an ancient collection of wisdom sayings of the Hebrew people. In it, we find the admonition to the children about knowledge and learning: “Hear, my child, your father’s instruction, and do not reject your mother’s teaching; for they are a fair garland for your head, and pendants for your neck. (Proverbs 1:8 – 9)” This also reminds us of the great responsibility given to parents. A child is often like a sponge; they soak up everything that they see and hear around them. It is the parents’ responsibility to give the young children a proper framework on how to grow to their fullest potential as well as grow as children of God. Sadly, we live in a fragmented familial and social existence. In the past, the extended family provided a support structure to the young families; the influence of older siblings, cousins, grandparents, aunts and uncles help to shape the life of the children. Another danger is in introducing young children to digital media in order to appease them. YouTube, TV, video games, etc. can be positive influences but they can also hinder the proper physical, mental and social development that is essential for children. Therefore in today’s society, parents have to pay close attention to their children and employ parenting styles that work best in their context. Children are a blessing, but they are also a great responsibility. Let us prayerfully understand our roles as parents

and teachers in order that our next generation may be grounded securely in God.

In the last month, many were able to attend the Diocese Youth Fellowship Conference, which took place at Bryn Athyn College, just outside Philadelphia, from July 29-30. A large group from the Midwest, including our parish, participated over the course of those three days in the conference, which was themed “Slip-Not: Anchored”. The Rev. Larry Varghese led the main talks and other sessions were led by Mr. Tom Philip (Mar Thoma Diocese lay chaplain), Mrs. Betsy Chacko (Christian counselor), and the Youth Chaplains of the Diocese. Let us thank God for the opportunities presented to the youth to mature in their faith. As our children enter into the new academic year in Sunday school as well as secular schooling and higher education, let us uphold them all in prayers as well as all the teachers and parents who are given great responsibility in educating and raising children to be productive members of society and faithful disciples of Christ.

Rev. Jeswin S. John

August 28, 2022

(Youth Chaplain, St. Thomas MTC Lombard IL)

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

DATE	PROGRAM	ASSISTING
4 th Sunday 10.15am	Malayalam Holy Communion	Area-1
11 th Sunday 10.15am	English Holy Communion	Area-2
18 st Sunday 10.15am	Malayalam Holy Communion	Sevika Sanghom
25 th Sunday 10.15am	English Holy Communion	Area-3

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.



SEPTEMBER - BIRTHDAYS

Jibu John	1	Ava Marrie Kurian	17
Betsy J. Mathai	2	Aleyamma Abraham	18
Sindhu Kurian	2	Abey Koshy	18
Angelin Thomas	2	Cherwin C. Thomas	19
Emylin Thomas	2	Bryan R. Tharakan	19
Renny Anna Samuel	3	Joel J. Varghese	20
Jaime Thomas	4	Rebecca Susan Mammara pallil	20
Saramma George	5	Alyssa Maria Jacob	20
M. T. John	5	Annamma Mathew	21
Cyril Mathew George	5	Noel M. Varghese	21
Sam K. Bobby	6	Ben Joe Thomas	23
Rebecca Mathew	6	George Varghese	25
Sean J. Mathews	7	Lincy John	25
Nathaniel Abraham Thomas	8	Benjamin Varghese	25
Anila Sunil	9	Alyssa Sara Mathew	25
Subith John Mathew	9	Alex M. Zachariah	26
Joshua Jacob Ninan	9	Mathew M. Mathai	28
Jibi Jacob	10	Daniel R. Alex	28
Josh P. Mathew	10	Mathew Joseph Cherukara	28
Lizy Mathew	11	Gladson Varghese	29
Mariamamma Mathew	12	Susamma Thomas	29
Shibu Jacob	12	Rojin M. Thomas	29
Stanley Mathew	14	Rosin E. Thomas	29
Ansara Mathew	14	Alina Kurian	29
Ruben Abraham	15	Beena J. Varghese	30
Maya Varghese	16	Benjamin Mathew	30
Thomas Joseph	17	Rony M. Abraham	30
Shiny James	17		
Gabriel Mathew George	17		

SEPTEMBER - WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Annie & Stanley Thomas	4
Reeny & Bobby Mathew Skariya	5
Resmi & Monu Koshy	9
Biju & Georgie Varghese	12
Nicole & Sabu Kurian	12
Manasa & Binu Skariah	14
Soniya & Sibi John	14
Preenu & Sobin John	17
Jaime & Manoj Philip Thomas	27
Elsy & Koshy Mathew	30

LECTIONARY

SEPT 04	Education that based on Divine Grace. Education Sunday, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ ദിനം: ദൈവകൃപയിൽ ഊന്നിയ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം	
Lessons	Prov 2:1-15	Jas 3:13-18
Epistle Gospel	Col 1:24-29	Matt 7:24-29
SEPT 11	Senior Citizen Day - 'Care to the Elders' പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാവിനാൽ നവീകരിക്കപ്പെടേണ്ട സഭ	
Lessons	Gen 47: 1-12	2 Tim 4:9-18
Epistle Gospel	Eph 6:1-7	Mark 7:6-13
SEPT 18	Sevika Sanghom Day 'Women: Defenders of Faith' സ്ത്രീകൾ: വിശ്വാസ സംരക്ഷകർ	
Lessons	1 Sam 1:20-28	2 Tim 1:1-8
Epistle Gospel	Acts 16:11-15	Mark 16:1-7
SEPT 21	Holy Communion- Healing of the Body and Soul വിശുദ്ധ കൂർബ്ബാന- ആത്മാവിന്റെയും ശരീരത്തിന്റെയും സൗഖ്യം	
Lessons	Isa 4:1-6	Rev 4:4-11
Epistle Gospel	1 Thess 1:2-6	Matt 9:9-13
SEPT 25	We believe in the Christ who will come again വീണ്ടും വരുന്ന കർത്താവിൽ ഞങ്ങൾ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു	
Lessons	Exod 3:1-15	Acts 1:1-11
Epistle Gospel	1 Thess 4:13-18	Matt 25:31-40
SEPT 27	Inauguration Day of the Church of South India (CSI) ദക്ഷിണേന്ത്യ സഭയുടെ സ്ഥാപക ദിനം	
Lessons	Ezak 37:15-22	1 John 3:1-12
Epistle Gospel	Eph 4:1-6	John 17:20-28

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Classes are held each Sunday 9am to 10am
No Sunday School on September 4th

[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]

SEVIKA SANGHOM Bible Study (Book of Revelation) and prayer meeting will be held on every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month. Our Vicar Ajith K. Thomas Achen will be leading this class. Dates in September: Wed, September 7th and Wednesday, September 21 both at 8pm via Zoom.

Sevika Sanghom is celebrating Varam Week from September 11th-17th, 2022. Morning and evening audio messages will be sent thru parish email. Also, on September 18th, Sevika Sanhm is cebraitng Sevika Sanghom Day with a special song on that day during Holy Communion Service in Malayalam.

There will be a Midwest Regional Sevika Sanghom Monthly Prayer meeting on every second Thursday of every month at 7:30pm via Zoom.

[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

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM Mid West Region *Kalamela* on September 24th

[Samu Thomas

Yuvajana Sakhyam Secretary]

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP Please contact Helen Anil for any details.

[Helen Anil

Youth Group Secretary]

Financial Summary

Income/Expense Summary

Jan 1 - August 15 (2022)

Category	Income	Expense	Difference
Donations	\$148,733	\$0	\$148,733
Offerings	\$43,856	\$0	\$43,856
Fund Raising	\$43,957	\$4,049	\$39,908
Mission & Pass Thru	\$70,290	\$44,361	\$25,929
Other Income & Expenses	\$3,508	\$9,754	(\$6,246)
Church Activities	\$4,440	\$6,165	(\$1,725)
Diocese	\$5,632	\$3,797	\$1,835
Maintenance and Repair	\$0	\$32,605	(\$32,605)
Vicar's Services	\$0	\$51,243	(\$51,243)
Mortgage and Utilities	\$4,242	\$127,063	(\$122,820)
Total Income/Expense	\$324,659	\$ 279,036	\$ 45,622

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS -2022

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(** Denotes Non Committee members)

For Corrections please contact secretary at TLATHARA@HOTMAIL.COM

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