

ST. ALPHONSA

SYRO-MALABAR CATHOLIC CHURCH OF BALTIMORE

JULY 2019 ◆◆◆ VOLUME 5 / ISSUE 7

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JULY 3 | SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE

"MY LORD AND MY GOD"

The encounter between the risen Christ and a "Doubting Thomas" by the Italian sculptor Andrea del Verrocchio (unlike any other sculptor on the Orsanmichele), captured one of the most poignant narratives from John's Gospel: "Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail-marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.'" (John 20:24-25)

Verrocchio freezes the moment in bronze when Thomas reaches out toward Christ, his finger inches from the wound. Christ raises his arm and bares His side to allow Thomas to touch and see. In one of the most haunting expressions of Christ

in the history of art, Jesus looks down at Thomas with both sadness and compassion. He understands Thomas' need to know but the words written along the hem of his garment reprove this doubt, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." (John 20:29)

Emeritus Pope Benedict, then-Cardinal Ratzinger, wrote in "Introduction to Christianity" that this uncertainty, "this unceasing rivalry between doubt and belief" could draw believers and non-believers together and become an avenue of communication. "Doubt," he wrote, "prevents both from enjoying complete self-satisfaction; it opens up the believer to the doubter and the doubter to the believer." Ultimately it "saves both sides from being shut up in their own worlds."

IMPORTANT DAYS OF THE MONTH

Wednesday: 7/6/2019

St. Maria Goretti

Maria Goretti, an Italian peasant girl who was murdered on July 6, 1902, for refusing to give in to the wishes of Alessandro Serenelli, her neighbor. She is one of the youngest canonized saints in the Catholic Church and is the patron saint of teenage girls, and victims of rape.

Saturday: 7/11/2019

St. Benedict

St. Benedict was born ca. 480 in Nursia, Italy. He is regarded as patriarch of Western Monasticism. Pope Paul VI announced him as the main patron saint of Europe on October 24, 1964.

Sunday: 7/16/2019

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Hermits lived on Mount Carmel in northern Israel in the 12th century. By the 13th century these hermit Carmelites became known as "Brothers of Our Lady of Mount Carmel."

Sunday: 7/22/2019

St. Mary Magdalene

On June 10, 2016, the liturgical celebration honoring St. Mary Magdalene was raised from a memorial to a feast, putting her on par with the apostles.

Sunday: 7/28/2019

St. Alphonsa

St. Alphonsa is the first person of Indian origin to be canonized as a saint by the Catholic Church and the first canonized saint of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church.

FEAST DAYS: JULY 26-28, 2019

It's a new chapter in the history of our parish: a parishioner's illustrious journey to priesthood.
 (See Page 5)



HOLY QURBANA SCHEDULE

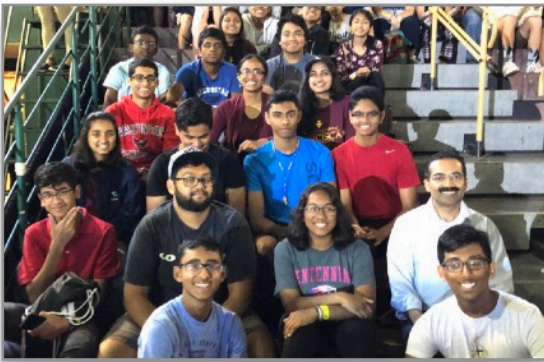
Sunday | English: 9:00 am | Malayalam: 11:30 am
 Monday | Malayalam: 7:00 pm
 Tuesday – Friday | Malayalam: 8:30 am (Except First Friday)
 First Friday | Malayalam: 7:00 pm
 Saturday | Malayalam: 10:30 am

JUNE UPDATES



SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Our parish celebrated the First Holy Communion of Mathew Binu, Michael Binu, Gianna Pottackal, Sara Venginickal, Angelina Thayyil, Matthew Vallamattam and Joshua Christi on Saturday, June 8, 2019, during a Solemn High Mass. Bishop Mar Jacob Angadiath was the main celebrant with Fr. James Nirappal, Fr. Wilson Kandankery, and Fr. Binoy Akkalayil as concelebrants.



Youth Outreach

Teens from St. Alphonsa Church, Baltimore (10 boys and 8 girls) attended the Steubenville Conference this year from Friday, June 21 through Sunday, June 23. It was a spiritually filled experience for the teens and the leaders Robin Paraniham, Stency Stephen and Roy Mathew (Group Leader). Thanks to all parents who worked hard and those who prayed for the students. A special thanks to Wilson Achan for his relentless support and prayers.



Women's Forum

Announcements:

- July 7 - Free Blood Pressure screening and Blood Sugar testing after the Malayalam mass
- July 14 - Women's Forum monthly meeting

Recent activities:

- Conducted a workshop on the importance of family communication for parents and high school students on June 8 and 9 by Sr. Grace Kochuparambil. The sessions were truly enlightening and informative.
- Fundraising events, Spring Plant Sale and Homemade Snacks & Bake Sale, were organized on 19 May and 16 June respectively. The proceeds from the sales will be utilized to cover the expenses incurring from women's forum initiatives.



CCD Graduation

St. Alphonsa CCD School celebrated the graduation ceremony of the 12th Grade Class of 2019 with a special Holy Mass solemnized by Fr. Wilson Antony on Sunday, June 23. The graduates include: Alan Bon, Austin Koodaly, Bettina Shaju, Bosco Jain, Joseph A, Joshua Cyriac, Michael Perumattathil, and Rosemerin Vithayathil.

**Youth Parish Council
Representatives**
Miss Reeny Periera
Mr. Jubin Joseph

**Diocesan Regional
Youth Coordinators**
Mr. Alex Paraniham
Miss Ann Mary Bon

Youth Animators
Mrs. Ansu Green
Mr. Babu George

Angel Voice Coordinators
Mr. Tomcy Thomas
Mrs. Laura Tomcy

Church Music Coordinator
Mrs. Ligi Thomas Vithayathil

Sports & Games Coordinator
Mr. Jose K. Abraham

Intercession Ministry Coordinators
Mrs. Anu Jovy Vallamattam
Mrs. Smitha Biby

Legion of Mary Coordinator
Mrs. Dency Mavunkal

Pilgrimage & Picnic Coordinators
Mr. Vails Thomas
Mrs. Sumi Venginickal

4Life Ministry Coordinator
Mr. Shaji George Padiyanickal

**Social Work & Safe Environment
Coordinators**
Mr. Joby K. Jose
Mr. Roy Mathew
Dr. Thomas Mathew

ECKC Representative
Mr. Joseph Aluvathingal

Charity Ministry Coordinator
Mr. Thomas Varghese

Women's Forum Coordinators
Mrs. Lincy Joy Koodaly
Mrs. Sumi Venginickal

Fine Arts Coordinators
Mr. Thomas Jose Eyalil
Mr. Alvin Aluvathinkal
Mrs. Anita Richard
Mr. Nijo John

Media & Communication Coordinator
Mr. Jubin Joseph

Decoration Ministry Coordinator
Mrs. Josy Stephen

Newsletter Editor & Designer
Mr. Mathew K. Mathew

Contributing Editor
Mr. Roy Mathew

**If God sends you many sufferings,
it is a sign that He has great plans
for you, and certainly wants
to make you a saint.**

— St. Ignatius of Loyola

Vicar

Fr. Wilson Antony Kandankery
(832) 614-6654
wphilipose@gmail.com

Kaikkarans

Mr. Henry Thomas
(443) 621-3241
Mr. Sebastian Jockey
(443) 615-8390
Mr. Shaji Thayyil
(443) 854-4788

Parish Council Secretary

Mr. Richard Johnson

Pastoral Council Representatives

Mr. Joseph Naralakkattu
Mr. Shaji George Padiyanickal

Parish Council Members

Mrs. Ansu Green
Mrs. Anu Jovy Vallamattam
Mr. Babu George
Dr. Ginto Pottackal
Mr. Jose K. Abraham
Mr. Joseph Aluvathingal
Mrs. Josy Steephann
Mr. Joy Parickappally
Mr. Jubin Joseph
Mrs. Lovely George
Mr. Mathew K. Mathew
Miss Reeny Pereira
Mrs. Smitha Bibi
Mrs. Sumi Venginickal
Mr. Thomas Jose Eyalil
Mr. Thomas Varghese
Mr. Vails Thomas

Religious Education (CCD)

Dr. Ginto Pottackal (Principal)
Mrs. Laura Tomcy (Vice Principal)
Mrs. Ginitha Philip (Secretary)
Mr. Alex Chavara (Registrar)

Eucharistic Ministers

Mr. Jose Pathaparambil
Mr. James Bon
Mr. Jovy Vallamattam
Mr. Roy Mathew

Accountant

Mr. Bibi Thoms

Auditors

Mrs. Smitha Alappatt
Mr. Jose Chirayath

Liturgy Coordinators

Mr. Alex Chavara
Mr. Benny Vithayathil
Mr. James Bon
Mr. Jovy Vallamattam

Malayalam School

Mrs. Annamma Sebastian (Principal)
Mrs. Lincy Joby (Vice Principal)
Mrs. Tina George (Secretary)

Food Coordinators

Mr. Joy Parickappally
Mrs. Lovely George

MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

Let us see the Risen Lord
in the Eucharist and say
with unwavering faith,
"My Lord and My God!"

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

*"Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of faith is to see what you believe."
- St. Augustine*

St. Thomas the Apostle, who is our father in faith made what is certainly the most explicit statement of faith in the New Testament: "Yahweh Elohim" in Hebrew, which means "My Lord and My God!" (John 20:24-28). This is one of the most profound pronouncements of the Divinity of Jesus. This declaration of Jesus as God demonstrates the unconditional acceptance of St. Thomas in the Risen Lord. Instead of portraying Thomas for the lack of faith or being called as Doubting Thomas, St. John in his gospel presented Thomas as a man who desired nothing less than a personal encounter with the Risen Lord.

Just as Jesus had led Mary Magdalene on her journey to faith, so too would Jesus now lead Thomas to an unconditional faith. Mary Magdalene and the women were the first witnesses to the empty tomb and announced it to the disciples. So too did St. Thomas who enabled future generations to believe in the Resurrection of Jesus. This proclamation of appearance of the Risen Lord by St. Thomas has led all of us to a faith which is not dependent upon "seeing". In the gospel we see that St. Thomas was an Apostle who embraced the Risen Christ, so too were subsequent believers, since faith in the Lord was not purely dependent upon 'seeing'.

Our tradition and faith comes from St. Thomas who had both a personal encounter of divine Jesus and his unwavering faith in our Lord. This is what we experience in every Holy Qurbana. The Eucharistic experience Thomas had while he met the Risen Lord is what Church offers: the Risen Lord in every Holy Qurbana.

I invite you to have a deeper understanding of Thomas's proclamation and the ability to "see" the Risen Lord in the Eucharist and say with an unwavering faith, "My Lord and My God!"

Wishing you all the blessings of the Dukhrana!

Love & Prayers,

Fr. Wilson Antony Kandankery



**THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER
INTENTIONS FOR JULY 2019**

That those who administer justice may work with integrity, and that the injustice which prevails in the world may not have the last word.

READINGS - JULY 2019

Season of Apostles

The Season comprises 7 weeks from the feast of Pentecost.
In this season we give importance to the working of the Holy Spirit.

Date	Notes	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Gospel Reading
1			2 Cor 1: 3-7	Mark 5: 25-34
2			Phil 1: 12-18	Luke 10: 38-42
3	St. Thomas		Eph 2: 19-22	John 20: 24-29
4			1 Cor 8: 1-6	Mark 7: 24-30
5			Gal 2: 15-18	Mark 5: 21-24
6	St. Maria Goretti		2 Cor 2: 12-17	Mark 1: 40-45
7		Isaiah 1: 21-31	1 Cor 14: 1-12	Luke 12: 22-34
8			2 Cor 1: 8-11	John 16: 25-33
9	St. Augustine	Acts 2: 1-13	Col 2: 20-23	Matthew 11: 1-6
10			Romans 5: 12-21	Mark 12: 1-12
11	St. Benedict		Romans 8: 12-17	Matthew 5: 1-12
12			1 Peter 3: 14-18	Matthew 13: 24-30
13	St. Henry		Romans 7: 7-13	Mark 12: 38-44
14		Isaiah 2: 1-5	1 Cor 10: 23-31	Luke 12: 57-13:5
15			Heb 11: 3-10	Matthew 10: 16-33
16	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel		2 Cor 1: 3-7	Luke 11: 24-28
17			2 Cor 1: 12-15	Luke 15: 8-10
18			Romans 11: 1-10	Mark 10: 46-52
19			Romans 13: 1-6	Matthew 22: 15-22
20			2 Cor 11: 1-6	John 7: 14-24
21		Isaiah 5: 8-20	1 Cor 16: 1-14	Luke 13: 22-30
22	St. Mary Magdalene		Romans 8: 35-39	John 20: 1-18
23	St. Bridget		Romans 13: 7-10	Mark 1: 29-34
24			1 Cor 7: 17-24	Luke 16: 9-17
25	St. James		1 Cor 4: 6-15	Matthew 20: 20-28
26			Heb 11: 8-12	Matthew 1: 1-16
27			Gal 2: 19-21	John 12: 20-26

Season of Kaitha

The term 'Kaitha' means summer. It is the season of harvest. This season reminds us the growth of the Church as a result of the missionary activity of the apostles.

28	First Sunday of Kaitha St. Alphonsa Feast of 12 Apostles	Acts 5: 12-20	1 Cor 1: 9-16	Luke 14: 7-14
29	St. Martha		1 John 4: 7-16	John 11: 17-26
30			1 Cor 14: 20-25	Luke 19: 11-27
31	St. Ignatius of Loyola		1 Cor 10: 31-11:1	Luke 14: 25-33

SAINT OF THE MONTH



ST. ALPHONSA

AUGUST 19, 1910 – JULY 28, 1946

By ANNA MARY AUGUSTINE



St. Alphonsa is the first Indian to be canonized as a saint by the Catholic Church and the first saint of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church. She was born on August 19, 1910, at Kudamaloor to Joseph and Mary Muttathupadathu, and baptized with the name Anna.

Anna had lost her mother at a young age and was raised by her maternal aunt. Anna came from a rich family, so she received many marriage proposals from reputed families. Her foster mother wanted her to marry a rich man and become the perfect housewife.

After St. Theresa of Lisieux appeared and told her that she would become a saint, she realized that she wanted to dedicate her life to Jesus Christ. To avoid her foster mother's attempts of arranging a marriage for her, she intently fell into a pit of burning chaff, burning her foot in order to fulfill her will of becoming a religious sister instead. When it became possible, Anna joined the Franciscan Clarist Congregation of the Third Order of St. Francis at Bharananganam. On August 2, 1928, she took the name Alphonsa of the Immaculate Conception, in honor of St. Alphonsus.

Unfortunately, Alphonsa was gravely ill and was struck by pneumonia. After many serious health problems, she died on July 28, 1946. She came to love suffering because she loved the suffering Christ. She learned to love the Cross through her love of the crucified Lord.

Her tomb at Bharananganam has become a great center of pilgrimage and attract people from far and near. She is a patron against illness and her feast day is on July 28.



Diaconate of Brother Melvin Paul Mangalath

Br. Melvin Paul Mangalath returned home from Rome after studying there for years and was ordained a Deacon soon after his arrival in Baltimore. He will now embark on another journey to St. Joseph's Pontifical Seminary in Aluva, Kerala where he will study for a year before getting ordained as a priest.

“ I would like to express my gratitude in a special way to so many of you who spent countless hours of your busy schedule helping to make my diaconate ordination possible. I especially want to thank Fr. Wilson, trustees and various committees whose support was crucial to the success of this blessed occasion.

I ask you especially for your prayers as I attend the training and ministry for Deacons at St. Joseph Pontifical Seminary, Aluva. I will remember you in my prayers and I am especially grateful to God for your commitment and help. Once again, thank you.

May God Bless you all! ”

Br. Melvin Paul



It's a special family and a rare photo opportunity!
Bishops, priests, and alter-servers assemble with the new Deacon.



Br. Melvin Paul is ordained a Deacon by Mar Jacob Angadiath, Bishop of Syro-Malabar Diocese of Chicago



It all began with a ceremonial procession and a Solemn Holy Mass. The diaconate ceremony was witnessed by believers of many faiths.



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FRIDAY, SATURDAY: 5:30PM-10PM

LUNCH
SUNDAY: 12PM-3PM
MONDAY-FRIDAY: 11:30AM-2:30PM
SATURDAY: 12PM-3PM



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**OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL,
PRAY FOR US.**

Feast Day: July 16

Appearing in the 13th century to Carmelite brother Saint Simon Stock (1165-1265), Our Lady held out the scapular and promised her special aid for the salvation of all who wore it.

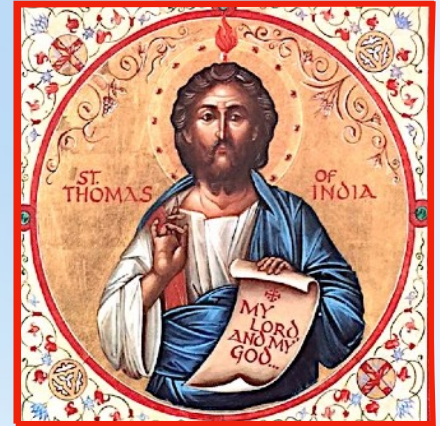


FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

Fathers got together after the Holy Mass on June 16, 2019, to celebrate Father's Day. Every father was presented with a coffee mug emblazoned with the image of St. Joseph, the ideal father.



DID ST. THOMAS REALLY GO TO INDIA?



The Catholic Church maintains a neutral stance on the proposition that Christianity might have been established in India long before it was in most of Europe. There is more evidence of St. Thomas's visit to India than anywhere else; in 1956 Pope Pius XII granted minor basilica status to San Thome Cathedral in Chennai.

Even if every other part of the St. Thomas story is one day proved to be false, there can be no doubting the incontrovertible links the St. Thomas Christians have with the Syrian Christianity. Churches in the southern Indian State of Kerala still use the liturgical Syriac language – a dialect of the Aramaic language spoken by Jesus and St. Thomas. Syria was the bedrock of early Christianity and an important part of the Roman empire, trading with southern India from the Red Sea. This was inevitable for the Romans, with their addiction to black pepper and knowledge of monsoon winds. Roman coins and other artifacts were also found in abundance in Kerala and Arikamedu in Puducherry.

At a time when the earliest Christian communities are being eradicated in the Middle East, their legacy at least lives on in India, thanks to St. Thomas. However, under the present political climate, Christians in India may face the same fate in the coming days.

പറയിപെറ്റ പന്തിരുകുലത്തിന്റെ നാട്ടിൽ, അന്ധവിശ്വാസങ്ങളും അനാചാരങ്ങളും അഴിഞ്ഞാടിയപ്പോൾ മഹത്വത്തിന്റെയും മാനവരക്ഷയുടെയും സന്ദേശം പേരി, നൂറ്റാണ്ടുകൾക്കുമുമ്പ്, ഒരു ക്രിസ്തുശിഷ്യൻ കേരളത്തിൽ വന്നിറങ്ങി. അനാഥർക്കും അശരണർക്കും ആലംബമായി അവതരിച്ച നസ്രായൻ ക്രിസ്തുവിനെ, ഇരുളടഞ്ഞ ഇന്ത്യൻ ഉപഭൂഖണ്ഡത്തിൽ, തോമ്മാശ്ലീഹാ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചപ്പോൾ, മാലോകർ ഇരുകൈകളും നീട്ടി സ്വീകരിച്ചു.

സഹോദരരെ, ഇരുപത് നൂറ്റാണ്ടുകൾക്കുമുമ്പ്, സ്വർഗ്ഗീയ സ്നേഹത്തിന്റെ സന്ദേശം, നമ്മുടെ പൂർവ്വികരിൽ പുണ്യമായി അവതരിച്ചപ്പോൾ, നസ്രാണി ക്രിസ്ത്യാനികൾ ഭാരതത്തിലുണ്ടായി. ലോകത്തിലെ തന്നെ, ഏറ്റവും പുരാതന കത്തോലിക്കാ സഭകളിലൊന്നായി മാറുവാനും, സുവിശേഷത്തിലും ക്രിസ്തുവിശ്വാസത്തിലും അടിയുറച്ച ഒരു ജനസമൂഹമായി മാറുവാനും നമുക്ക് മാതൃകയായത്, ധൈര്യശാലിയായ ക്രിസ്തുശിഷ്യൻ തോമ്മാശ്ലീഹായാണ്.

ഒരു അപ്പസ്തോലന്റെ നാമത്തിലറിയപ്പെടുന്ന, ലോകത്തിലെ ഒരേ ഒരു കത്തോലിക്കാ സമൂഹം, നമ്മുടേതാണെന്ന കാര്യം, അഭിമാനത്തോടെ നമുക്കോർക്കാം. ഇന്ന്, ലോകത്തിലെവിടേയും കടന്നു ചെല്ലുവാനും, വിശ്വാസം അഭംഗ്യരും കാത്തു സൂക്ഷിക്കുവാനും, വിശ്വാസസമൂഹം പട്ടുത്തുയർത്തുവാനും, നമുക്ക് മാതൃകയായത്, നമ്മുടെ തോമ്മാശ്ലീഹാ ആണെന്ന കാര്യം, നാം വിസ്മരിക്കരുത്.

"നമുക്കും അവനോടൊപ്പം പോയി മരിക്കാം" എന്ന് കുസലില്ലാതെ പറഞ്ഞ്, മറ്റുശിഷ്യന്മാരെ ധൈര്യപ്പെടുത്തിയ തോമ്മാശ്ലീഹായാണ്, ഓരോ നസ്രാണിയിലും അടിയുറച്ച ആത്മധൈര്യത്തിന്റെ സ്പെലിംഗും ആദ്യം നിക്ഷേപിച്ചത്. പന്തക്കുസ്താതിരുന്നാളിൽ, മാതാവും ശിഷ്യരും സ്വീകരിച്ച അതെ പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാവാണ്, ഇന്ന് നമ്മിലും, ആത്മധൈര്യവും, വിശ്വാസതീക്ഷണതയും അനുസ്മരണം ഉണർത്തുന്നത് എന്ന വസ്തുത നമുക്ക് മറക്കാതിരിക്കാം.

'....വിജയം വരിച്ച നീതിമാന്മാരുടെയും മകുടം ചൂടിയ രക്തസാക്ഷികളുടെയും സ്മരണയോടുകൂടെ നമ്മുടെ പിതാവായ മാർത്തോമ്മാശ്ലീഹായുടെ ഓർമ്മ വിശുദ്ധ ബലിപീഠത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടാകട്ടെ' എന്ന് പുരോഹിതൻ പരിശുദ്ധ കുർബ്ബാനയിൽ പ്രാർഥിക്കുമ്പോൾ നമുക്ക് ആ പുണ്യചരിതനെ ആത്മാർഥമായി സ്മരിക്കാം. ഒപ്പം, ഓരോ പരിശുദ്ധ കുർബ്ബാനയിലും ഈ ആത്മധൈര്യത്തിന്റെ ആത്മാവിനെ, നമുക്ക് ചോദിച്ചു വാങ്ങാം. അങ്ങനെ, വിശ്വാസത്തിനെതിരെ വരുന്ന തിന്മകളെ, നമുക്ക് തോൽപിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കും. ഒപ്പം, തിന്മക്കുമേൽ നന്മ സ്ഥാപിച്ചുകൊണ്ട്, ഭൂമിയിൽ ദൈവരാജ്യം നമുക്ക് സംസ്ഥാപിക്കാം. മാർത്തോമ്മാശ്ലീഹായുടെ ഓർമ്മത്തിനാൾ ആഘോഷിക്കുന്ന ഈയവസരത്തിൽ, സർവ്വേശ്വരൻ നമ്മെ സമൃദ്ധമായി അനുഗ്രഹിക്കട്ടെ.

WARD PRAYER - JULY 2019

Please contact your Ward Representative to host Ward Prayer at your home.
Also watch for e-mail notifications for any changes in the schedule.

WARD	DATE/TIME	HOSTING FAMILY
St. Joseph	July 6 at 7:00 pm	Mr. Sebastian and Mrs. Mary Abraham 1602 Bedworth Road, Lutherville, MD 21093
St. Thomas	July 12 at 7:00 pm	Mr. Jose and Mrs. Thankamma Pallickal 8309 Governor Run, Ellicott City, MD 21043
St. Jude	July 20 at 7:00 pm	Mr. George and Mrs. Dolly Padiyanickal 1730 Oakdale Drive, Cooksville, MD 21723
St. Mary	July 20 at 7:00 pm	Mr. Joy and Mrs. Lincy Koodaly 1108 Vineyard Hill Road, Catonsville, MD 21228

A HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Alexin Thomas	July 7
Pranav Moozhiyil	July 11
Matthew Vallamattam	July 19
Emma Vallamattam	July 27
Tom Mathews	July 30



"All your dreams can come true if you have the courage to pursue them."

— Walt Disney —

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