

[+CMTC: 2132] CMTC Weekly Digest: August 28th, 2026

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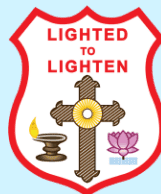
CMTC Secretary <thesecretarycmtc@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 28, 2026 at 6:11 AM

To: cmtc@googlegroups.com

Cc: "Rev. Ashish Thomas" <cmtcvicar@gmail.com>, "Rev. Biju Yohannan" <cmtcasstvicar@gmail.com>

WEEKLY DIGEST



THE CHICAGO MAR THOMA CHURCH

Friday August 28th, 2026

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



CHICAGO MAR THOMA CHURCH

240 Potter Rd, Des Plaines, IL 60016

SUNDAY **AUGUST 30** 2026

പരദേശികളെയും അഭയാർത്ഥികളെയും ഉൾക്കൊള്ളുക
Embracing the Migrants and Refugees

Holy Qurbana in Malayalam -10 AM

First Lesson: Leviticus 19:9-10,33-37

Second Lesson: Acts 10:30-35

Epistle: Ephesians 2:11-22

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

Holy Qurbana (Mal): 10:00 AM
Join Live Streaming

Prayer

Gracious Lord,

We pray that You wrap Your loving arms around Your vulnerable and persecuted children, surrounding them with Your love, protection, and peace. Give them hope, dignity, and a place of belonging. Open our hearts to see their suffering, respond with compassion, and treat them with kindness, grace, and love. May we be instruments of Your mercy and advocates for those who are in need.

In the name of Lord Jesus Christ, we pray:

Amen.

Parish Announcements

Monthly Messages

Vicar's Message

Assistant Vicar's Message

Space for the Future Building Project

(Worship Center & Multipurpose Building)

Our Next Milestones

1. Submit the Final Planned Unit Development (PUD) plans to the City by mid-September 2026.
2. Raise more than \$500,000 by fall 2026.

What We Accomplished This Week?

- Met with the civil engineer to review and expedite the civil engineering documents for submission to the City, (important prerequisite to proceed with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago /MWRD submittal and approval process).
- The Space for the Future General and Finance Committee members have been asked to conduct prayerful outreach for raising funds for the project.

Our Focus for Next Week

- 1) Continue work with the architect and civil engineering.
- 2) Continue the outreach for fundraising.

A Prayerful Invitation

Kindly consider the role God is calling you to play in this historic endeavor. We humbly request every family to make a generous financial commitment by submitting a pledge in support of the Space for the Future Building Project (Worship Center & Multipurpose Building).

Together, by God's grace, we can build a lasting legacy that will serve generations to come.

[Space For The Future Informative Video](#)

[Space For The Future Pledge Form](#)

Maryhill Catholic Cemetery – Information Session

This Sunday (August 30th) representatives from Maryhill Catholic Cemetery will be visiting our church to share information about services specifically created for the Mar

Thoma community. If you are interested in learning more, please stay back after the service to hear the details and interact directly with the representatives.

The Parish sincerely appreciates our Trustees, Mr. Mathew Varghese and Dr. Abraham George, and Assembly Member Dr. Joe George for their valuable liaison with Maryhill Catholic Cemetery.

Parish Day

Our Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Episcopa Thirumeni, will be with us on Sunday, September 27th, 2026 for our Parish Day. Please keep the Episcopal Visit in our prayers. Please uphold the 18 children getting prepared through first communicant dedication classes by Biju Achen and Ashish Achen.

Light To Life



Light to Life Promoters: The Parish warmly congratulates Mr. N. M. Philip and Mr. Koshy Varghese (Roy) on their appointment as the Parish Light to Life Promoters for the term 2026–2029. We thank them for accepting this responsibility and pray that their dedicated service will bring greater support, hope, and opportunities to children in need.

Tuesday Fasting Prayer

Will be held at 10:00 am at Church with optional Zoom

Tuesday Prayer: Join Zoom Link

Meeting ID: 836 3456 1383

Passcode: 156818

Dial by your location : +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 836 3456 1383 | Passcode: 156818

Wednesday Online Bible Study

Will be held via Zoom at 8:00 pm.

The weekly Online Bible Study is coordinated on alternate weeks by the Parish Mission and Sevika Sangham. Please join and be spiritually enriched.

Wednesday Online Bible Study: Join Zoom Link

Dial by your location : +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 898 0070 4611 | Passcode: 083373

Zelle Digital Payment

Zelle Payment for Parish is now operational and available!

Steps to send donation through Zelle:

1) Register the Parish Trustees' email:
cmtctrustees@gmail.com as a recipient

2) To send, select cmtctrustees@gmail.com as the recipient

3) In the memo field (very important), include your parish account number and donation category (e.g., "Act.101 Space For The Future")

4) Enter the desired amount and send

Altar Flowers

Families who wish to sponsor altar flowers for a Sunday are kindly requested to contact our Lay Leaders. The sponsorship amount is \$50.

Website

Parish Website

Forms

Parish Forms

YouTube

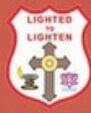
Please subscribe to get access to all live stream links.

YouTube

Area & Sub-Organization Announcements

Sevika Sangham

All grandparents are warmly invited to join for a time of celebration, fellowship and Onasadhya this Saturday.



CHICAGO MAR THOMA CHURCH

SEVIKA SANGHAM

Sevika Sangham is cordially inviting all our Grandparents for

GRANDPARENTS' DAY CELEBRATION

August 29th, 9:00am - 1:00pm



TOPIC

**"YOUR HEALTH IS THE GREATEST
GIFT FOR YOUR GRANDCHILDREN"**

VENUE

CHICAGO MAR THOMA CHURCH
240 POTTER RD, DES PLAINES IL



GUEST SPEAKER

MS. SEEMA M. PILLAI, APN



Lunch - Onasadhya

Rev. Ashish Thomas
Vicar

Rev. Biju Yohannan
Asst. Vicar

Dr. Aney Abraham
Secretary

Annual Sevika Sangham Fall Fest:

Date: Saturday, September 5th, 2026

We look forward to enthusiastic participation from all our members! All proceeds from this year's Fall Fest will directly support the fundraising efforts for the Space for Future project and our Education Aid initiatives.

Parish Mission

Prayer Cell : Prayer Cell will meet every Sunday during Sunday School in the Children Room. All parishioners who are present at that time are encouraged to join for prayer and intercession.

Yuvajana Sakhyam

Diocesan Yuvajana Sakhyam: The Mar Thoma Yuvajana Sakhyam invites everyone to join an informative session this Saturday on the topic "Cancer: Myths vs. Facts" led by renowned pediatric oncologist Dr. V. P. Gangadharan.

Time: Aug 29, 2026 7.30 pm CST

Cancer: Myths vs. Facts: Join Zoom Link

Meeting ID: 876 0030 9468 | Passcode: 988242

One tap mobile +15074734847,,87600309468#,,,,
*988242#

Midwest Region: The Midwest Region Yuvajana Sakhyam invites members to participate in this year's Book Review competition. This event will focus on the inspiring biography of Sadhu Sundar Singh, which encourages us to pursue Christ wholeheartedly and offers relevant inspiration for Christians of all generations. To ensure everyone can participate, the book is available in English and Malayalam.



MAR THOMA YUVAJANA SAKHYAM

Midwest

WORSHIP | STUDY | WITNESS | SERVICE

Book Review

Featured Book:

The Life & Ministry of Sadhu Sundar Singh

Renowned for his miracle-filled journey from Sikhism to Christian mysticism, the celebrated evangelist Sadhu Sundar Singh served as a powerful speaker at Kerala's historic Maramon Convention.



SADHU SUNDAR SINGH
1889 – 1929

BOOKS FOR REVIEW



ENGLISH EDITION
Sadhu Sundar Singh: Called of God
by Mrs. Arthur Parker



MALAYALAM EDITION
സാധു സുന്ദർ സിംഗ്
by George Mathew



ENTRY RULES

Each Church can submit **One English** and **One Malayalam** entry

PRIZES

1st
English & Malayalam

2nd
English & Malayalam

SUBMISSION DEADLINE — OCTOBER 25, 2026

Rev. Biju Y
President

Ancy V
Secretary

Anjana S
Treasurer

Thomas S
Convener

Book Review Guidelines

Area 11: In Area 11-Wiscons Prayer Group, there will be Holy Communion Service in Malayalam this Sunday August 30th, 2026. at 3:30 pm (at Unity Lutheran Church, [4600 Pilgrim Road, Brookfield, WI 53005](#)). All Area 11 families please join

Area 9 Prayer Meeting -Cancelled: The Area 9 Prayer Meeting scheduled for this Sunday, August 30th, at the residence of Mr. Thomas Mammen, has been canceled.

Area 6 Prayer Meeting (Postponed): The Area 6 Prayer Meeting scheduled for September 6th at the residence of Mr. Biju Jacob has been postponed.

Diocesan Announcements

India Mission 2027

The Mar Thoma Mission Board of the Diocese of North America is organizing India Mission 2027: ERGON: Threaded, offering young adults an opportunity to move beyond hearing about mission and experience the work of the church firsthand from February 10–21, 2027, in Kerala, India. ERGON, from the Greek word meaning work or deed, reflects the call to put faith into action. This year's theme, "Threaded," draws inspiration from Tabitha (Dorcas) in Acts 9:36–42, whose life of good works and service reminds us that the gifts God has entrusted to us are meant to be used for the sake of others. Woven by Grace. Crafted to Serve captures that vision for this year's mission.

WHO CAN SERVE? Working young adults between the ages of 22 and 40, including medical professionals and non-medical volunteers, are encouraged to participate. Participation is limited to 13 participants and will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to the guidelines provided in the registration form.

THE COST OF MISSION: Mission asks something of us: our time, our energy, our gifts, and our willingness to

sacrifice. Participants are therefore asked to personally invest in this experience as part of their commitment to serve. The registration cost is \$700 USD per participant, covering accommodation, meals, bottled water, snacks, air-conditioned ground transportation, and heritage-related expenses during the mission. Participants are also responsible for the full cost of their airfare and travel to and from India. The Diocese and Mission Board will not provide airfare reimbursement or financial assistance.

Registration Deadline: September 12, 2026

Registration Form

For additional information, please contact:

Rev. Jason Varghese (India Mission Convener):
neryfchaplain@gmail.com

Mrs. Riya Georgy Mathew (Non-Medical Convenor):
rabyv524@gmail.com

Ms. Zenia George (Medical Convenor):
zenia1989@gmail.com

THE MAR THOMA MISSION BOARD
DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA



Epyov
"Work"
THREADED

A Mission for Professional Young Adults

 Medical Camp
  Child Development Classes
  Community Service
  Health and Hygiene Awareness

What are you doing this Lent?






DATES
February 10 to 21, 2027

Must arrive in Kerala before Feb. 10, 2027

PRE-REGISTRATION CHECKLIST

- 1 Check you Visa/eOCI Status
- 2 Medical Clearance Form
- 3 Liability Waiver Form
- 4 Flight Ticket & Registration

COST

Each participant funds their own trip.

Your Airfare plus a \$700 Registration covers the trip's expenses.

Airport transportation is provided only at designated times from COK.

CONTACT

Rev. Jason Varghese (US Contact)
Rev. Dr. Philip George (India Contact)
Zenia George – Medical Convenor
Riya Varughese – Non-Medical Convenor
NERVChaplain@gmail.com

THE VISION

**Christ is the Weaver.
We are the threads.**

Epyov is Greek for work, deed, action: a faith made visible in what we do. Individually, each thread seems small. Woven into Christ, our gifts and our lives become something greater than we could build alone.

FORMATION

- I **Vocationally Awakened**
Hone your gifts, build relationships, and discover how serving others deepens your response to God
- II **Relationally Connected**
Be shaped alongside others, together through prayer, devotion, serving and learning.
- III **Historically Rooted**
Learn about your legacy by tracing the steps of St. Thomas and listening at Maromom Convention.

THE ITINERARY

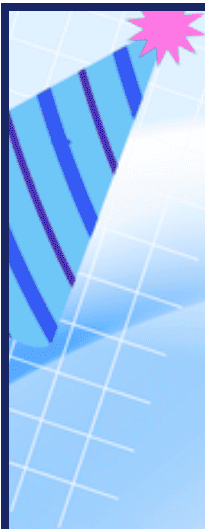
- Feb 10 to 14, 2027
Orientation and Medical Camp in Ranni
- Feb 15 to 17, 2027
Visit the 75 St. Thomas Churches
- Feb 18 to 19, 2027
Medical Camp in Trivandrum
- Feb 20 to 21, 2027
Maromom Convention

Who We're Looking For

Our Church in India is faithful and already at work, and we come to join, learn, and serve under their guidance. This is a call to second generation Mar Thoma young adults across the Diocese: *whatever gifts, talents, or knowledge God has given you, there is a place for you on this mission.*

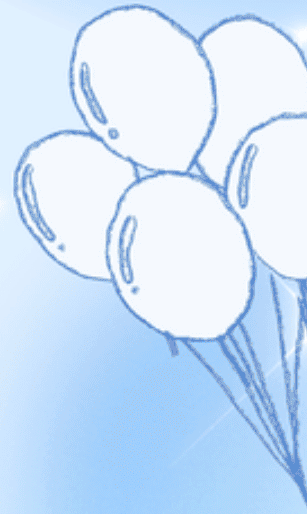
Prayers & Blessings

To all our beloved parishioners celebrating birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week, may Christ, who welcomes us and calls us to love our neighbors, fill your hearts with compassion, open your hands to those in need, and make your lives a refuge of hope, dignity, and grace for all who seek a place to belong. May God bless you and your families with abundant grace, joy, peace, and His abiding presence in the year ahead.



Happy **BIRTHDAY**

08/28 Salomi George
08/28 Shyla Annie Varughese
08/29 Vince Sam George
08/30 Rachelamma Mathai
08/30 N. Mathew Philip
08/30 Bobby George
08/30 Robin A. Mathew
08/30 Ashley R. Mohan
08/30 Sahana Ann Chacko
08/31 E. J. Jacob
08/31 Marina P Issac
08/31 Leah Rachel Varghese
09/01 Aliamma Chacko
09/01 Viji George
09/01 Jake A John
09/02 Isabella Maria Jacob
09/03 Jessy John
09/03 Linsu Abraham
09/03 Jensen P. Mathew



Happy ANNIVERSARY

08/28 Dr. J. D. Khandekar &
Mrs. Amita Khandekar
08/28 Mr. Sibin Purackal Sam &
Mrs. Gem Anna Jaims
08/29 Mr. Stanley George &
Mrs. Sheryl George
08/30 Mr. Renchi K. Thomas &
Mrs. Shiny K. Thomas
08/30 Mr. Kedangail S. Philip &
Mrs. Leelamma Philip
08/30 Mr. Jacob Thomas &
Mrs. Lovely Jacob
08/30 Mr. Jomy Cherian &
Mrs. Sherry Elizabeth Cherian
09/01 Mr. Mathew Varughese &
Mrs. Sosamma Mathew
09/01 Mr. Steven Pearlman &
Mrs. Vini Pearlman
09/02 Mr. Vinod George &
Mrs. Suja George
09/02 Mr. Shibu M. David &
Mrs. Shiny Shibu
09/02 Mr. Senju Johnson &
Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson
09/03 Mr. Zachariah T. Chacko &
Mrs. Sobi Chacko
09/03 Mr. Jibu Mathew &
Mrs. Raji Jibu Mathew
09/03 Mr. Thomas Mathew &
Mrs. Silpa Ann Mohan



"You shall have honest balances, honest weights, an honest ephah, and an honest hin: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt."
Leviticus 19:36

Prayerfully, Together in His service,

Mr. Monish K. John
Secretary - The Chicago Mar Thoma Church

Ph: +1 (302) 607-3240

e-Mail: thesecretarycmtc@gmail.com

The Chicago Mar Thoma Church, [240 Potter Rd. Des Plaines, IL 60016](#)

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