



**REV. ASHISH THOMAS**



## **Vicar's Message to the Parish**

### ***Faithful Today, Hopeful Tomorrow***

**Dear Parish Family,**

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As we enter September, let us pause and thank God for His faithfulness during the first eight months of 2026. We have much to be grateful for as individuals, families, and as a parish.

Our theme this year, **“Faithful Today, Hopeful Tomorrow,”** reminds us to receive the past with thanksgiving, live the present faithfully, and embrace the future with hope.

## 1. PARISH DAY – SEPTEMBER 27

Let us prayerfully prepare for our Parish Day celebrations, praising God for his abiding presence in our faith journey thus far

- Our beloved Diocesan Episcopa, **Rt Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulose Thirumeni**, will lead the Holy Communion Service at 8.00 a.m.
- **16 children** will receive their First Holy Communion. Let us pray for them, their parents, teachers, and all who are preparing them.
- We will honor:
  - Parish members who completed **80 years of life** during the past year.
  - Couples who completed **50 years of family life**.
- We give thanks for their years of faith, prayer, leadership, sacrifice, and service to the Church.

## 2. NEW PARISH INITIATIVES

On Parish Day, Thirumeni will also launch:

- **Our new Parish App**
- **Our new Songbook**
- **Our updated Parish Website**

May these resources strengthen our worship, communication, participation, and fellowship as one parish family.

### 3. A LONG-CHERISHED DREAM – OUR PARISH CEMETERY

We give special thanks to God for the fulfillment of a long-cherished dream of our parish.

- We have reached an agreement with **Mary Hill Cemetery** for a designated plot for our parish.
- This provides our families with a place where our loved ones can be laid to rest with dignity, faith, and the hope of resurrection.
- We sincerely appreciate **Dr. Joe M. George** for his tremendous effort, time, and commitment in making this possible.
- Those interested in securing a plot are encouraged to **contact Dr. Joe M. George for details** and avail themselves of the pre-booking opportunity.

We praise God for opening this door and pray that this provision will serve our parish family for generations.

### 4. SPACE FOR THE FUTURE

We continue to prayerfully prepare for our **Space for the Future – Worship Center and Multipurpose Building**.

- Our parish family is rapidly growing and is approaching **400 families**.
- Our existing building has served us faithfully, but our growing ministries increasingly require more space.

- We particularly need additional space for:
  - Classrooms and Christian education
  - Ignite worship services
  - Parish organizations and ministries
  - Fellowship and community gatherings
  - Intergenerational activities and recreation
- We envision a facility where **children, youth, adults, and seniors can worship, learn, serve, fellowship, and grow together.**
- This is more than a building project—**it is a ministry for generations to come.**

## Our Call to Stewardship

- God has entrusted each of us with different gifts, talents, and resources.
- We invite **every family to prayerfully participate through faithful and sacrificial contributions over the next two years.**
- Subject to the completion of the approval process, we hope to make our **first collective contribution on Parish Day, September 27,** and continue monthly contributions thereafter.
- We are beginning with an estimated budget of approximately **\$5 million,** which may increase as the project progresses.
- Every family's participation matters.

**Let us prayerfully ask: “What can my family contribute toward God's work?”**

We trust that God, who has provided for us thus far, will continue to provide and replenish what we faithfully offer for His purposes.

## **5. DIOCESAN PROJECT – LIGHT TO LIFE**

Let us also participate in the Diocese's **Light to Life** initiative.

- Sponsor a child with **\$20 per month**.
- As our own children receive opportunities to learn and succeed, let us help provide similar opportunities for another child.
- Let us become partners in transforming a child's future.

I also encourage everyone to **subscribe to the Diocesan Messenger** so that we remain connected with the Church's ministries, values, vision, and mission.

## **6. IN MEMORIAM**

We praise God for the blessed life of our beloved **K. V. Abraham Uncle**, who has entered his eternal abode.

- We thank God for his life of faith, sacrifice, leadership, and service to the Church.
- May his legacy continue through **Gracey Aunty, the children, the grandchildren and each one of us whose lives he touched.**

- May God comfort and strengthen the bereaved family.

## **7. WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS**

We rejoice with:

- **Sara Safdar**
- **Ari Chacko**

who have joined the Church through the sacrament of **Holy Baptism**.

May they grow in the knowledge and love of Christ and experience the joy of belonging to the Church family.

## **8. CELEBRATING NEW FAMILIES**

We praise God for those who entered into family life during the past month:

- **Jerrin and Megha**
- **Jeslin and Annrose**
- **Justin and Jerin**
- **Brian and Preeti**
- **Alwin and Diya**

May God bless their homes with love, joy, peace, and His abiding presence and guide them throughout their journey together.

## 9. A MONTH OF THANKSGIVING

As we enter September, let us remember that everything we have is ultimately a gift from God:

- Our families
- Our children
- Our homes
- Our Church
- Our talents and resources
- Our opportunities to serve

Our theme, “**Faithful Today, Hopeful Tomorrow,**” calls us to:

***Be thankful for yesterday.***

***Be faithful today.***

***Be hopeful for tomorrow.***

***“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.” — Psalm 107:1***

May God bless every family, strengthen every ministry, guide our leaders, protect our children and youth, comfort those who grieve, and use each of us for His divine purposes.

Let us enter this new month with **thanksgiving in our hearts, faithfulness in our service, generosity in our stewardship, and hope for tomorrow.**

**Faithful Today. Hopeful Tomorrow.**

With prayers and blessings,

**Rev. Ashish Thomas**

*Vicar*

*Chicago Mar Thoma Church*