53RD PARISH DAY · SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

Faithful Today, Hopeful Tomorrow

Parish Day Report 2026 · The Chicago Mar Thoma Church

As 2026 began, lights lit from the Holy Altar reminded us of our calling: we are lighted to lighten this world wherever God places us. This parish report for 2026 gives thanks to Lord Almighty for a year of that light at work.

53rd	Four	July 2026	Ruby Jubilee	9
Parish Day	Worship Types	Received Des Plaines City Approval for SFTF	of Church Building Dedication	New Initiatives

WORSHIP & PRAYER

Faithful in worship, rooted in prayer

Worship services

Blessed to offer four distinct service types to reach and equip members. Likely the only parish in the North America Diocese offering this many varying services.

Service	When
Divine Service (English)	7:30 AM, 1st & 3rd Sundays
Holy Qurbana (Malayalam)	7:00 AM, 2nd & 4th Sundays
Holy Communion	10:00 AM, alternating English & Malayalam weekly
Ignite (contemporary)	10:00 AM, Fellowship Hall 2nd & 4th Sundays
Ephphatha Holy Qurbana	4:00 PM monthly, on request, for members who can't be in crowds
Easter Sunday, April 5	8:00 AM, bilingual Holy Qurbana

Shepherded with love

Diocesan Bishop: Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Episcopa, every moment is a treasure for Parish, even yesterday Thirumeni spent time with our First Communicant children and had meal with them.

Our Vicar: Rev. Ashish Thomas

Our Associate Vicar: Rev. Biju Yohannan

Senior clergy in our parish: Rev. V.T. John, Rev. Johnson Varughese, Rev. Jaims Thomas

Diocesan Secretary: Rev. Joel Samuel Thomas and the Diocesan staff

Prayer, and worship is our root

- 25 days of Lent prayer at home and at Church
- A packed Church for Passion Week Sandhya Namaskaram (from March 29)
- Area Prayer Revival: We started Area Meetings at 4 PM led by both Achens,
- Started two Holy Communions a month for the Wisconsin Prayer Group (Area 11)

Spiritual formation, highlights

- ABCG: 13 children finished Phase 2, enrolled in Phase 3; monthly meetings begun
- LEAD: 4 members completed all phases joining the LEAD alumni from 2013.
- Maramon Convention Choir: Mr. Leboy Wilson Thoppil served again in 2026

SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP

Nurturing Faith, serving our neighbors, and growing together

GROW IN CHRIST

Sunday School
173 children, 47 teachers, bi-monthly kids' ministry

Choirs
Junior, English and Malayalam

Parish Mission
Prayer Cell, visiting the sick, revival meetings: Every Marthomite is a missionary.

Youth Fellowship
Friday nights and Young Adult Ministry

Yuvajana Sakhyam
Home for homeless project. Harvest festival funds portion set aside for Space for the Future

Senior Fellowship
Monthly Bible study and their own picnic

Sevika Sanghom
Education and marriage aid. Fall festival funds portion set aside for Space for the Future

Young Family Fellowship
An active fellowship for young families

SERVE

$5,000

From our Tithe Fund to Oakton Community College scholarships, presented by Thirumeni today.

Neighbourhood Mission: Des Plaines Falls Fest Fall Clean-up

Moments together along with our Corporate Worship

MAR 15	Leadership retreat for the Executive Committee, auditors and suborganization ministry leaders
APR 5	Easter Brunch at Church
JUN 27	Parish Picnic
Sep 27	Parish Day Lunch at Church

Called to wider service

Rev. Ashish Thomas: VP, Diocesan Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association Fellowship

Rev. Biju Yohannan : VP, Diocesan Yuvajana Sakhyam

Mr. Leboy Wilson Thoppil: elected as Diocesan DSMC Secretary, 2026–2029

Mrs. Lalu Thomas: elected as Diocesan Council Member, 2026–2029

NEW INITIATIVES

New tools for a faithful, growing parish

LAUNCHED 09/27

CMTC Psalter

New parish songbook

A subcommittee listened to songs especially Maramon Convention Songs 1986-2026. Corrected proofs and transliterations, spent many long hour sessions and continuing. Thank you, Songbook team.

LAUNCHED 09/27

Parish App

The Chicago Mar Thoma Church (iOS)

Members only. Apple approved it two days ago; a limited first release soon. Android work soon to begin.

LAUNCHED 09/27

Parish Website

Redesigned, with online giving

Online payments through Stripe, rolling out for general use in the days ahead. Thank you Parish Website Redesign subcommittee.

STRENGTHENING OUR FOUNDATIONS

Maryhill Cemetery

After nearly a decade, a designated resting place for our members at Catholic-member pricing. Thanks to Dr. Joe M. George and many other who worked in the past.

Cloud migration

Membership database and accounting s/w (Church Windows) moved to the cloud. Thanks to Dr. Abraham George.

Creative Service Team

Formed under Mr. Shinoj George for our worship ministry's digital needs.

Zelle giving

Trustees Mr. Mathew Varghese and Dr. Abraham George enabled Zelle for convenient parish giving.

Carpool Ministry

Attempted; a few volunteers stepped up, but interest was not enough to launch.

SPACE FOR THE FUTURE

Defining our Worship Center & Multipurpose Building

Why we are building

One thing is increasingly evident: we are running short of space. We prayerfully decided to build for the generations to come.

The Space for the Future Committee gives many hours each week to realize our shared dream.

Thank you for your fervent prayers and ongoing commitment.

MAY 12

Planning & Zoning Board hearing

Over 50 parishioners attended at the Des Plaines Civic Center. A 2–2 tie vote meant the motion did not pass at this level.

JUNE 1

City Council

By divine grace and wisdom, we received 7 votes for conditional Planned Unit Development (PUD) approval.

JULY 6

Second reading and final vote

Formal conditional PUD approval under Ordinance Z-12-26.

AUG 9

Parish-wide appeal launched

Sponsorship opportunities and pledge forms shared with every member family. We need to raise 2 million in-house to fast track our vision.

LEADING THE WORK

Convenor	Co-convenor	Construction	Finance	Media & Publicity
Mr. Shani Abraham	Mr. Monish John	Mr. Sibin Sam	Dr. Shijy Alex	Dr. Joe M. George

Serving alongside the General, Core, Finance, Construction and Media committees.

In Loving Memory

May God comfort their families and fill them with Christian hope of seeing them again one day.

Baby Raelynn Liz Jijo
Area 4

Mrs. Aleyamma Varughese
Area 5

Mr. Shaji Koshy
Area 8

Mr. John K. Thomas
Area 3

Mrs. Mariamma George
Area 4

Mr. Amal Raju
Area 6

Mr. K.V. Abraham
Area 8

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."
Hebrews 13:8

Yesterday

The Lord planted this parish community, and for 53 years has been guiding us as a faith community in Chicagoland. He has never failed us, even when we were not faithful.

Today

We stand firm and worship in the building constructed by our seniors, which we expanded in 2010.

Tomorrow

With city approval in hand for Space For The Future: if it is God will, we build a Worship Center and Multipurpose Building for generations to come.

Faithful Today, Hopeful Tomorrow

If we are faithful today, we can surely be hopeful tomorrow. Thanks be to God.

FAITHFUL TODAY, HOPEFUL TOMORROW
2026
LIGHTED
TO
LIGHTEN
CHICAGO MAR THOMA CHURCH