

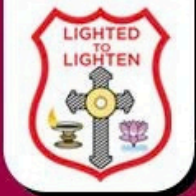
WEEKLY DIGEST



THE CHICAGO MAR THOMA CHURCH

Friday September 25th, 2026

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



**CHICAGO
MAR THOMA
CHURCH**

53rd

**ഇടവക
ദിനം
PARISH
DAY**

**FIRST
HOLY
COMMUNION
SERVICE**

**Honoring Senior Members
and Couples**



**Space for Future
Fund Collection**



CMTC App Launch



Re-Designed Website Launch



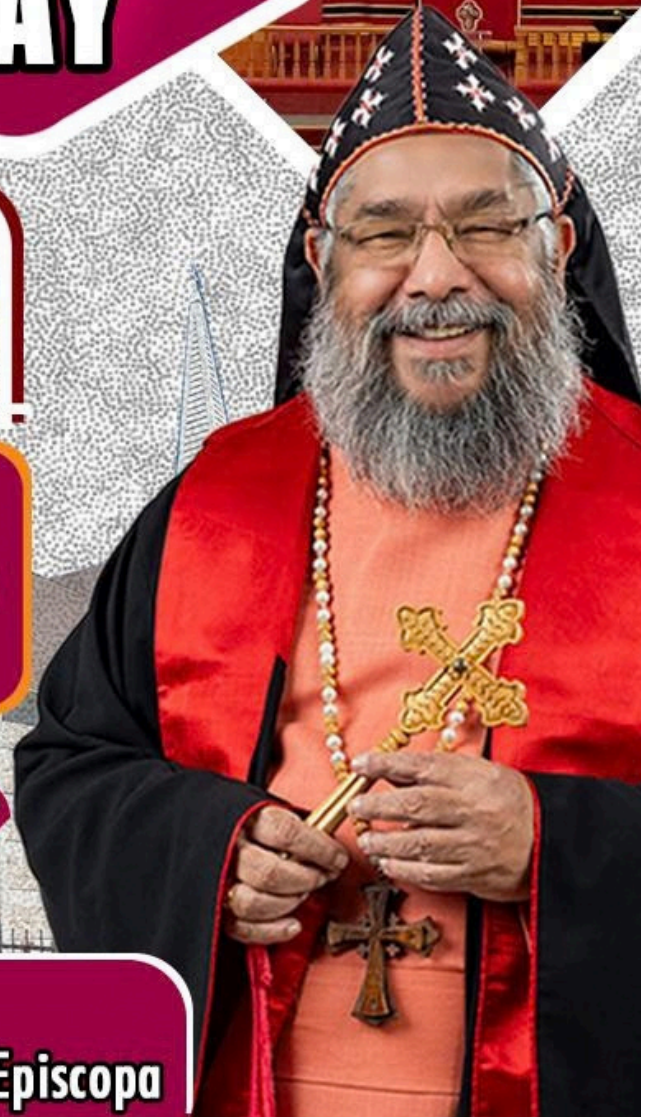
New Song Book Release

**SUNDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER 2026
8:00AM**

Chief Guest

Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Episcopa

240 Potter Rd, Des Plaines, IL 60016



Prayer

Gracious God,

In every crisis, remind us that You are near and Your presence never fails.
Calm our fears, strengthen our faith, and give us courage to trust You through every storm, knowing that You will never leave nor forsake us.

Amen.

Parish Day & First Communicant Dedication



CHICAGO MAR THOMA CHURCH
240 Potter Rd, Des Plaines, IL 60016

53rd PARISH DAY
ഇടവകദിനം

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE
SUNDAY, 27TH
SEPTEMBER 2026
8:00 AM

First Communicants

Abel Cherian	Abel John	Dim Varughese	Elizabeth John	Esthera Varughese	Isabella George	Jared Thomas	Jed Thomas
Sallina Jacob	Sam Sudhakar	Priscilla Chacko	Alissa Sandhu	Abel C. Sandhu	Simona Varughese	Sham Varughese	Anna Philip

Chief Celebrant
RT. REV. DR. ABRAHAM MAR PAULOS EPISCOP
(DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA)

The Holy Communion service in English will begin at 8:00 AM and conclude around 10:15 AM, followed by the Parish Day public function at 10:30 AM. We look forward to concluding the celebration with Parish Day fellowship lunch starting at 12:00 PM.

Parish Announcements

Space for the Future Building Project
(Worship Center & Multipurpose Building)

Call to Action for Parish Day:

Support from **every family** is needed for our **Space for the Future: Worship Center & Multipurpose Building**. Kindly come forward this Sunday when exhorted during Parish Day and submit the [offering](#) you have decided to give, a portion of your pledge. The [envelopes](#) are available in the lobby.

Those of us who can sponsor, please look at sponsorship opportunities.

Sponsorship Opportunities

The Pledge Form

Space For The Future Informative Video

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

Monthly Messages

[Vicar's Message](#)

[Assistant Vicar's Message](#)

Light To Life



The poster features a central image of four smiling children in school uniforms. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with green foliage and a bright sky. At the top left, a branch with green leaves hangs down. At the top center is a shield-shaped logo with a cross and a lamp, containing the text 'LIGHTED TO LIGHTEN'. To the right of the logo is a quote in cursive: 'You are the light of the world.' followed by 'Matthew 5:14' and three small pink hearts. Below the quote is the text 'THE MAR THOMA CHURCH' and 'DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA'. The main title 'LIGHT TO Life' is in large, bold letters, with 'LIGHT' in white and 'TO Life' in yellow. Below the title is the word 'PROGRAM' in white. The section 'SEPTEMBER - LIGHT TO LIFE PROMOTION MONTH' is in bold, with 'SEPTEMBER' in purple, 'LIGHT TO LIFE' in blue, and 'PROMOTION MONTH' in green. Below this is a paragraph: 'Light to Life is our commitment to educate, empower, and bring hope to children in need.' To the left of this paragraph is a small pink heart. Below the paragraph is a blue box with the text 'SPONSORSHIP \$20/month PER CHILD'. To the right of the box is a small image of hands holding a seedling. Below the box is a section titled 'BE A BLESSING...' with three columns. The first column has a purple icon of hands in prayer, the title 'PRAY', and the text 'Pray for the children, families, and the Light to Life ministry.' The second column has a green icon of a megaphone, the title 'PROMOTE', and the text 'Promote Light to Life in your parish and encourage others to get involved.' The third column has a red icon of hands raised, the title 'PARTICIPATE', and the text 'Participate by sponsoring a child and supporting this life-changing ministry.' At the bottom left is a lit oil lamp. At the bottom center is a quote: 'Together, let us be the light that brings hope, changes lives, and honors Christ.' At the bottom right is an open book with a small plant growing from it.

LIGHTED TO LIGHTEN

You are the light of the world.
Matthew 5:14

THE MAR THOMA CHURCH
DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

LIGHT TO Life
PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER - LIGHT TO LIFE PROMOTION MONTH

Light to Life is our commitment to educate, empower, and bring hope to children in need.

SPONSORSHIP
\$20/month
PER CHILD

BE A BLESSING...

PRAY
Pray for the children, families, and the Light to Life ministry.

PROMOTE
Promote Light to Life in your parish and encourage others to get involved.

PARTICIPATE
Participate by sponsoring a child and supporting this life-changing ministry.

Together, let us be the light that brings hope, changes lives, and honors Christ.

Please connect with Mr. N. M. Philip and Mr. Koshy Varghese (Roy) for brochures and applications.

Suggestion Box

The Parish has placed a suggestion box next to the envelope holder in the upper lobby near the TV. You can share an idea you may have that benefits the faith community, along with any other related suggestions. The Vicar will personally review the suggestions and follow through with next steps and closure.

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.

Parish Website

Parish Forms

Subscribe to receive access to all our live-stream links.

YouTube

Area & Sub-Organization Announcements

Sunday School

No Sunday School this week: Since we are celebrating our Parish Day this Sunday with Holy Communion starting at 08:00 AM, we will not have regular classes.

Parish Mission

No Prayer Cell this week: Since we are celebrating our Parish Day this Sunday with Holy Communion starting at 08:00 AM, we will not have Prayer Cell.

Sevika Sanghom

National Conference: Kindly keep the Sevika Sanghom National Conference (October 1st to 4th), in your prayers for divine grace, blessings and guidance.

Young Family Fellowship



CHICAGO MAR THOMA
YFF

Young Family Fellowship Gathering

*Praise & Worship, Bible Study &
Potluck Dinner*

*Friday, October 2, 2026
6:30 PM*

Chicago Mar Thoma Church
240 Potter Rd, Des Plaines, IL 60016

Midwest RAC Announcements

2027 Diocesan National Family Conference

The conference will be held from July 1–4, 2027, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Oak Brook, Illinois. The Midwest Regional Activities Committee warmly invites all clergy, parish leaders, families, youth, and members of our Diocese to participate in this special gathering of faith, fellowship, and family.

Invitation for Submissions: Logo & Theme Song-

The Midwest Regional Activities Committee (RAC) is pleased to invite submissions from our parishes and families throughout the Midwest Region for the Logo and Theme Song for the 2027 Diocesan National Family Conference. The theme for our conference is: **Faith Life: Rooted in Christ, Routed through the Family** | വിശ്വാസജീവിതം: ക്രിസ്തുവിൽ വേരൂന്നി, കുടുംബ വഴികളിലൂടെ (2 Timothy 1:5)

Logo Submission: Invite creative and meaningful logo designs that visually capture the spirit of the conference theme - our faith being rooted in Christ and lived out through the family. | Submission Deadline: **October 9, 2026.**

Theme Song Submission: Invite original theme songs that reflect the conference theme and can be used throughout the conference and related programs. The song may be submitted in English or Malayalam. Submission Deadline: **November 30, 2026.**

Please submit the logo and theme song to: secretarymidwestrac@gmail.com

Diocesan Announcements

Altar Boys and Covenant Girls

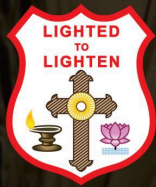
Registration deadline **extended** till September 27th Sunday.

Our Diocese started the Altar Boys and Covenant Girls ministry in 2013 with the aim of encouraging our children and youth to

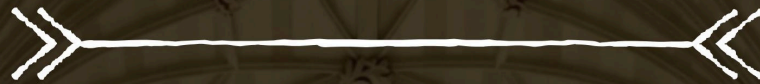
- a) Learn more about our church, faith, heritage, and tradition
- b) Grow spiritually, and
- c) Be well-equipped as leaders in the church.

Participants in this ministry are to be 12 years of age and above, be full communicant members of the church, be committed to learning through training programs, be able to help with the various needs of the parish (in consultation with the parish Vicar), and serve for at least three years.

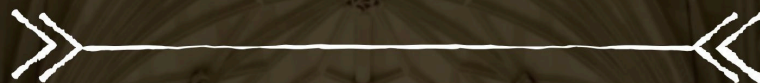
Now the program and training are done in three progressive phases: Phase 1, Phase 2, Phase 3. The registration for all phases is now commencing. Encourage parents and Sunday School teachers to register children in appropriate phases to further their spiritual education and get them trained for parish ministry.



Mar Thoma Church Diocese of North America



Altar Boys & Covenant Girls Learning Program Phase 1 Fall 2026



***Tuesdays, 8:45PM-9:50PM (EST)
September 29 to November 17, 2026
via Zoom & Google Classroom***

Classes are open for Full Communicant Mar Thoma members (Ages 12-18) of parishes & congregations in the Diocese. Seats are limited.

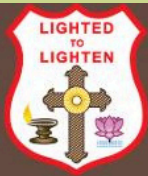
Registration will be complete upon Vicar approval &

Registration Fees: USD \$30 / CAD \$30

Deadline: September 21, 2026
(or when seat capacity is reached)

For more information: marthoma.abcg@gmail.com

-Altar Boys & Covenant Girls Subcommittee-



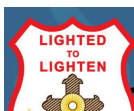
Mar Thoma Church Diocese of North America

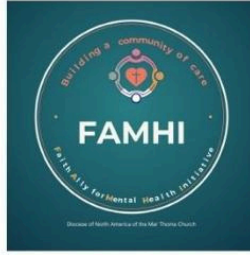
Altar Boys & Covenant Girls Learning Program Phase 2 - Fall 2026

Classes are open for Full
Communicant Mar Thoma members
(Ages 12-18) of parishes &
congregations in the Diocese.
Students must have successfully
completed Phase 1.
Registration will be complete upon
Initial Registration &
Registration Fees payment :
USD \$30 / CAD \$30
Deadline: September 21, 2026

**Thursdays, 8:45PM-9:50PM (EST)
October 1 to November 19, 2026
via Zoom & Google Classroom**

For more information: marthoma.abcg@gmail.com





Mar Thoma Church Diocese of North America
Southern Regional Activities Committee (SRAC)

From Silence to Wholeness

Women's Series – Session 1

Open to all women — bring a friend

A safe space — no pressure to have it all together

For young mothers, working women, caregivers, empty nest

Faith-rooted, research-informed

Leave with real tools — and permission to say "I'm not okay"

Featured Speaker: **Dr. Sunitha Chandy**

Clinical Psychologist & Lead Trainer

September 27th Sunday

7:30 PM Eastern Time | 90 min

Dial-in (US): +1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 863 9230 3741

Passcode: 186712

<https://tinyurl.com/FAMHI-S1>



Building Our Community of Care

Faith Ally for Mental Health Initiative (FAMHI)

famhi@marthomana.org

Eccumenical Announcements

Ecumeical Sunday School Fest



The poster features a central white circle with the title 'ECUMENICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL FEST' in large, colorful letters. Above the circle is the logo of the Ecumenical Council of Kerala Churches in Chicago, Illinois. Surrounding the circle are illustrations of musical notes, a Bible, a dancer, a girl playing a flute, a paint palette, and a boy. Below the circle, three circular photos show children performing and painting. The text 'HOSTED BY ECUMENICAL COUNCIL OF KERALA CHURCHES IN CHICAGO' is written below the circle. At the bottom, it says 'HOSTED BY ECUMENICAL COUNCIL OF KERALA CHURCHES CHRISTIAN ARTS & LITERARY COMPETITIONS'. A red starburst says 'REGISTER BY OCT 10TH'. The date 'SAT, OCT 17, 2026' is in large yellow letters, with '9 AM to 5 PM' below it. The location 'SACRED HEART KNANAYA CATHOLIC FORANE CHURCH 145 E. GRAND AVE, BENSENVILLE, IL 60126' is in a green box. Contact information for the Chairperson (Rev. Arun David) and Convenor (Binoy Stephen) is provided. Registration links for individual events, group events, and rules are listed. A purple starburst says 'LOWER FEES!'.

ECUMENICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL FEST

HOSTED BY
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL OF KERALA CHURCHES IN CHICAGO

HOSTED BY
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL OF KERALA CHURCHES
CHRISTIAN ARTS & LITERARY COMPETITIONS

REGISTER BY OCT 10TH

for Toddlers and Sunday School Students!
SAT, OCT 17, 2026
9 AM to 5 PM

SACRED HEART KNANAYA CATHOLIC FORANE CHURCH
145 E. GRAND AVE, BENSENVILLE, IL 60126

INDIVIDUAL EVENT REGISTRATION: <https://bit.ly/Ecu26Indv>
GROUP EVENT REGISTRATION: <https://bit.ly/Ecu26GR>
RULES: <https://bit.ly/Ecurules>

Chairperson:
Rev. Arun David,
Phone: 224-848-9678

Convenor:
Binoy Stephen,
Phone: 312-513-2361

LOWER FEES!

A Joyful Celebration of Faith, Unity, and Community! Hosted by the Ecumenical Council of Kerala Churches in Chicago. Registration Deadline: October 10, 2026

Individual Events Registration

Group Events Registration

Official Rules & Guidelines

Prayers & Blessings

To all our beloved parishioners celebrating birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week: may the Lord's unfailing presence sustain you through every crisis, strengthen you in every trial, and fill your hearts with the peace, courage, and assurance that He is with you in every season of life.

Happy BIRTHDAY

09/25 Varghese K. Varghese
09/25 Yohan Abraham Mathai
09/25 Heavenlin Anna Liju
09/26 John Samuel
09/26 Soumya E. Mathew
09/26 Priya Ann Varughese
09/26 Diana Elizabeth Chacko
09/26 Naithen Niju Pothan
09/27 Kevin K Varghese
09/27 Stephanie Sarah George
09/27 Shebin Money Chacko
09/27 Ahin Philip Mathew
09/27 Jacob Shinoj George
09/28 Neethu E. Thampy
09/29 Aleyamma George
09/29 Eapen Chacko



09/29 Jessica M. John
09/29 Ancy John
09/29 Amy Ann Koshy
09/29 Riya Johnson
09/30 Annamma Varghese
09/30 Rachelamma Oommen
09/30 Staicy Jacob
09/30 Charles Sam Cherian
09/30 Finny M. Varghese
10/01 Chacko K. Chacko
10/01 Joseph Mathew
10/01 Betsy Benedict
10/01 Siby Varughese
10/01 Ronnie Koshy
10/01 Rev. Jess M. George
10/01 Joshua Jibu Mathew



"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

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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