# ST. ALPHONSA

SYRO-MALABAR CATHOLIC CHURCH

5709 Oakland Road, Halethorpe, MD 21227 | Phone: (410) 247-0240 Web: stalphonsachurch.org

#### **AUGUST 15 | THE ASSUMPTION**

Belief in the Assumption of Mary rests on tradition and on solid theological grounds, although nothing is written in scripture, or otherwise known historically for certain, about it. Theologians over the centuries have all agreed that it was only fitting that the Blessed Virgin Mary joined her divine Son in both body and soul in her Assumption into Heaven!

The Assumption of Mary was declared a dogma of the Catholic Church by Pope Pius XII on November 1, 1950 when he proclaimed, in a document entitled **Munificentissimus Deus**, "The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heaven."



#### AUGUST 6

#### TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS

Our Lord Jesus encountered the Father in a moment of dazzling glory at the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor. This event took place as Jesus prayed, a point that brings the meaning of the Transfiguration close to us: Just as Jesus was transfigured in prayer, we too can be transfigured through prayerful contemplation of Christ.





#### **HOLY QURBANA SCHEDULE**

Sunday | English: 9:00 am | Malayalam: 11:30 am

Monday | Malayalam: 7:30 pm

Tuesday - Friday | Malayalam: 8:30 am (Except First Friday)

First Friday | Malayalam: 7:00 pm Saturday | Malayalam: 10:30 am

## **Youth News Column**

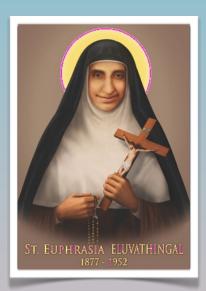
or the month of July, the Youth was working hard to help coordinate and organize the feast (perunal) of our patroness, St. Alphonsa. A special skit is also being organized by the youth to be performed on the *perunal* day. Along with that, the youth is also planning and organizing our annual Vacation Bible School for the younger kids. VBS will take place August 11<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup> for kids Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. More information regarding VBS can be found in the flyer.

On July 15<sup>th</sup>, our church competed in Dynasty, a basketball tournament hosted in New

York. There will be a soccer tournament happening July 29<sup>th</sup>, where our youth will compete and represent our parish. We have also moved into phase two in the Year of Youth which focuses on building fellowship amongst the adults and youth within our parish. The youth is working along with the parents to help organize games and events for our church picnic which will be hosted on August 26<sup>th</sup>. More events for the youth are being planned as we approach the next phase of the Year of Youth, so be sure to keep your eyes and ears open for future events at our parish!

## Saint of the Month

#### St. Euphrasia | August 29



St. Euphrasia (Rosa Eluvathingal), perhaps the least known of the three newly canonized saints of the Syro-Malabar Church, was born on 17 October 1877 at Kattoor near Irinjalakuda in Kerala. A Carmelite nun, she endeavored to lead a life of constant prayer and devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, becoming known to many people as the **Praying Mother.** Euphrasia spent much of her day in the convent chapel before the Blessed Sacrament, to which she had a strong devotion. She also nourished a great love and devotion for the Virgin Mary. Euphrasia died on 29 August 1952 at St. Mary's Convent, Ollur near Thrissur where she had spent most of her life. Her tomb has become a pilgrimage site as miracles have been reported by some of the faithful. She was canonized as a Saint by Pope Francis on 23 November 2014 in Vatican City.

## Feast of St. Alphonsa

Kodiyettam: July 23 • Perunal: July 28–30

The week-long feast of St. Alphonsa commenced on Sunday July 23, 2017 with *kodiyettam* (the hoisting of the church flag). The flag was blessed and hoisted by Fr. Seby Chittilappilly.







#### **Youth Coordinators**

Ms. Stency Stephen Ms. Teena Vithayathil Mr. Alex Paranilam Mr. Jonathan Cyriac

#### **Youth Representatives**

Mr. Arun James Ms. Melanie Mavunkal

#### Diocesan Regional Youth Coordinators

Mr. Arun James Mr. Jubin Joseph

#### **Youth Animators**

Mrs. Sheeba Alousyes Mr. Vinu Michael

#### **Youth Choir Coordinators**

Mr. Bennett Babu Ms. Ann Mary Bon

#### **Angel Voice Coordinators**

Mr. & Mrs.Tomcy & Laura Mr. & Mrs. Shaji George & Dolly

#### Church Music Coordinator

Mrs. Jain Alvin

### **Sports & Games Coordinator** Mr. Maijo Michael Payyappilly

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#### **Intercession Ministry Coordinators**

Mrs. Sally Joseph Ms. Melanie Mavunkal

#### Legion of Mary Coordinator

Mrs. Dency Mavunkal

#### Pilgrimage & Picnic Coordinators

Mrs. Della Joseph Njaralakkattu Mr. George Nirappukandathil

#### **4Life Ministry Coordinators**

Mr. Paul Mangalath Ms. Melanie Mavunkal

### Social Work & Safe Environment Coordinator

Mr. Joby K. Jose

#### **ECKC** Representatives

Mr. George Nirappukandathil Mr. Joseph Njaralakkattu

#### **Family Apostolate Coordinator**

Mr. Christi Baby Kanjirathinkal

#### **Charity Ministry Coordinators**

Mr. George Eyalil Mrs. Manju James

#### Women's Forum Coordinators

Mrs. Bindu Johnson Mrs. Solly Abraham

#### **CML Coordinator**

Mrs. Manju James

#### Media & Fine Arts Coordinator

Dr. Ginto Pottackal

#### **Newsletter Chief Editor**

Mrs. Saija Jose Chirayath

#### Vicar

Rev. Fr. Seby Chittilappilly (630) 317-4837 sebyjchittilappilly@gmail.com

#### Kaikkarans

Mr. Jain Mathew (443) 834-5967 Mr. Sunny Cyriac (410) 370-7004 Mr. Tony Vithayathil (443) 760-8449 Mr. Vinu Michael (410) 318-9847

#### **Parish Council Secretary**

Dr. Sheeba Jose Paranilam

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Dr. Thomas Mathew Mr. George Thomas Eyalil

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Mrs. Sheeba Anil Alousyes

Mr. Tison Thomas

Mrs. Saija Jose Chirayath

Mr. Arun James

Ms. Melanie Mavunkal

Mr. Benny Thomas

Mr. Christi Baby Kanjirathinkal

Dr. Ginto Pottackal

Mr. Maijo Michael Payyappilly

Mr. Sebastian K. Jockey

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Mr. Tison Thomas (Principal) Mrs. Elsy Bon (Assistant Principal)

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#### Accountant

Mr. Sebastian K. Jockey

#### **Auditors**

Mrs. Smitha Alappatt Mr. Jose Chirayath Mr. Henry Thomas

#### **Liturgy Coordinators**

Mr. James Bon Mr. Abraham Pulickal Mr. Benny Vithayathil

#### **Malayalam School**

Mr. Saji Thayyil (Principal)

#### **Food Coordinator**

Mr. Benny Thomas

## **Message from the Vicar**



Fr. Seby Chittilappilly

#### അന്വേഷണവും ലക്ഷ്യവും

ശിഷ്യൻ ഗുരുവിന്റെ മുമ്പിൽ ഇരിക്കുകയായിരുന്നു. അനങ്ങാതെ നിശബ്ദനായി. പെട്ടെന്ന് ഗുരു അയാളോട് പറഞ്ഞു: "അലമാരയിൽ നിന്ന് ആ ചെറിയ പുസ്തകം ഒന്ന് എടുത്തു തരുമോ?"

ശിഷ്യൻ ഗുരുവിനെ നോക്കി ചോദിച്ചു: "ഏത് അലമാര...? ഏതു പുസ്തകം...?"

"ഏതു അലമാര എന്നോ? പത്തിലധികം വർഷങ്ങളായി താങ്കൾ ഇവിടെ വരാൻ തുടങ്ങിയിട്ട്. ഇത് വരെ ഇതൊന്നും കണ്ടിട്ടില്ലെന്നോ?"

"ഇല്ല ഗുരു. എനിക്ക് എന്താണ് അലമാരയുമായി ബന്ധം? ഞാൻ ദിവസവും വരുന്നു. എന്റെ ഗുരുവായ താങ്കളുടെ മുന്നിലിരുന്നു കണ്ണടക്കുന്നു. പറയുന്നത് എല്ലാം കേൾക്കുന്നു. ഹൃദിസ്ഥമാക്കുന്നു. പോകുന്നു. മറ്റൊന്നും കാണാറോ, കേൾക്കാറോ ഇല്ല."

ഗുരു കൃതാർത്ഥനായി ശിഷ്യനെ അനുഗ്രഹിച്ചു പറഞ്ഞു: "താങ്കൾക്കിനി സ്വന്തം ഗ്രാമത്തിലേക്ക് പോകാം. അവബോധം തെളിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു..."

ഈ ശിഷ്യൻ അനേകരെ ദൈവാശ്രയത്വത്തിലേക്ക് ആനയിച്ചു. ഒരിക്കൽ ഇങ്ങനെ കുറിച്ചു: "ഞാൻ മുപ്പതു വർഷങ്ങൾ ദൈവത്തെ തിരഞ്ഞലഞ്ഞു. അവസാനം... മനസ്സിലായി... ദൈവം അന്വേഷകനും ഞാൻ ലക്ഷ്യവുമാണെന്ന്."

"എന്റെ മനസ്സും ശരീരവും ജീവിക്കുന്നവനായ ദൈവത്തിന് ആനന്ദഗാനമാലപിക്കുന്നു." (സങ്കീ. 84:2)

ആശംസകളോടെ,

ഫാ. സെബി ചിറ്റിലപ്പിള്ളി (വികാരിയച്ചൻ)





"That artists of our time, through their ingenuity, may help everyone discover the beauty of creation."

## READINGS - AUGUST 2017

#### Seasons of Kaitha | Elijah | Cross | Moses

Day/Date	Notes	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Gospel Reading
Tuesday August 1	St. Alphonsus Liguori		Romans 8: 1-11	Mark 12: 28-33
Wednesday August 2			2 Corinthians 4: 14-5:1	John 12: 23-28
Thursday August 3			James 1: 2-8	Mark 11: 12-14 20-26
Friday August 4	First Friday St. John Maria Vianny		2 Corinthians 1: 3-7	Matthew 9: 35-10: 1
Saturday August 5			James 2: 1-8	Luke 14: 15-24
Sunday August 6	Third Sunday of Kaitha Transfiguration of Our Lord	Exodus 19: 1-8 + 20: 18-21	Acts 1: 15-26	Matthew 17: 1-9
Monday August 7			James 2: 21-26	Matthew 23: 34–39
Tuesday August 8	St. Dominic		James 3: 13-18	Luke 4: 25-30
Wednesday August 9			2 Corinthians 5: 15-21	Mark 1: 16-20
Thursday August 10			James 5: 13-20	Matthew 10: 5-15
Friday August 11	St. Clare		Ephesians 3: 14-21	Mark 8: 22- 26
Saturday August 12			James 4: 13-17	Luke 9: 49-56
Sunday August 13	Fourth Sunday of Kaitha	Deut 5: 16-24	2 Corinthians 10: 12-18	Mark 7: 1–13
Monday August 14	St. Maxmillian Kolbe		1 Peter 3: 14-17	Luke 9: 23-26
Tuesday August 15	Assumption of Our Lady Day of Obligation	Exodus 15:11-18	Acts 1: 6-14	John 2: 1-12
Wednesday August 16			2 Corinthians 13: 1-4	Matthew 9: 35-10: 1
Thursday August 17			James 4: 7b-12	Luke 12: 49-53
Friday August 18			John 1: 9-11	Matthew 22: 34-40
Saturday August 19			2 Thessalonians 2: 5–12	Matthew 11: 20-24
Sunday August 20	Fifth Sunday of Kaitha	Leviticus 23: 33-44	2 Corinthians 12: 14–21	Luke 16: 19-31
Monday August 21	St. Pius X		2 Timothy 3: 10-17	Mark 4: 26-34
Tuesday August 22			2 Timothy 4: 1-6	John 4: 27-38
Wednesday August 23			1 Timothy 6: 17-21	Matthew 7: 15-20
Thursday August 24	St. Bartholomew, the Apostle		1 Corinthians 12: 27-31	Luke 6: 12-19
Friday August 25	St. Simoni and Her Seven		Acts 7: 54-60	Matthew 10: 16-25
Saturday August 26			2 Thessalonians 2: 1-4	Mark 13: 3-13
Sunday August 27	Sixth Sunday of Kaitha St. Monica	Isaiah 29: 19-24	1 Thessalonians 2: 1-12	Luke 17: 11-19
Monday August 28	St. Augustine		1 John 4: 7–11	Luke 6: 43-45
Tuesday August 29	St. Euphrasia		1 Thessalonians 4: 1–8	Mark 10: 35-45
Wednesday August 30			1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11	Matthew 24: 37-44
Thursday August 31			Romans 15: 14-21	Matthew 12: 46-50
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## CONGRATULATIONS!



Andrew Thayyil Catonsville High School



Anne Mary Bon Centennial High School



Joel Steephan Hammond High School



Jonathan Cyriac Centennial High School



Kevin Johnson Mt. Hebron High School



Tony Thomas St. John's Catholic Prep



Angela George BS | GWU



Reeja Pereira BSN | GMU



Teena Vithayathil BS | UMBC



Babu George MEd | Loyola University



Nijo John MS | U of Bridgeport



Austin Pothen DPT | USciences



Christy Rose Abraham PharmD | USciences



Ginto Pottackal PhD | UMBC



#### **WARD PRAYER - AUGUST 2017**

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	August 5 at 7:00 pm	Mr. Henry and Mrs. Sophy Plathottathil
	St. Thomas	August 11 at 7:00 pm	Mr. Bijo Thomas and Mrs. Ambily Bijo
	St. Jude	August 19 at 7:00 pm	Dr. Thomas and Mrs. Ruby Mathew
	St. Mary	August 25 at 7:30 pm	Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Sheena Kanjirakadan

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!							
Gabriela Green	August 6	Anna Augustine	August 18	( ) ·			
Ann Thomas	August 10	Isabelle George	August 23	11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1			
Austin Jain	August 15	John Michaels	August 24				
Aaron Sebastian	August 16	Kevin Chavara	August 30				
Rebin Vithayathil			August 31				

Dear graduates!
You have stamped an indelible mark on your record of achievements.
Now go chase your dreams and reach for the stars!

## A Graduate's Prayer by Napoleon Hill

"I ask, Oh God, not for more riches, but more wisdom, with which to accept and use wisely the riches I received at birth in the form of the power to control and direct my mind to whatever end I desire."



# SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Diocesan Safe Environment Policies for Protecting Minors: What You Need to Know

The St.Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago is committed to the protection of minors from sexual abuse. The diocesan effort in this regard is based on "The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People", established by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in June 2002. The Charter provides a comprehensive set of procedures for addressing allegations of sexual abuse of minors, along with clear guidelines for healing, accountability, reconciliation, and prevention of abuse in the future.

If you minister to young people, you must maintain a professional role, and be mindful of the trust and power you possess as a minister to young people. To achieve this, the Diocese has established a **Code of Conduct** that lists conduct that is not permissible, and those that are permissible. If you took the Safe Environment Training at our Parish, you have also pledged to abide by the code of conduct policies given below.

These are reproduced here as a reminder to everyone who work with the children in our parish, even if your role is a minor one, such as giving an occasional ride to children.

- Never touch a minor in a sexual way or other inappropriate manner.
   Never be alone with a minor in a residence, rectory, sleeping facility or any other closed room.
- Never share a bed with a minor. Never take an overnight trip alone with a minor. Never introduce sexually explicit or pornographic topics, vocabulary, music, recordings, films, games, web sites, computer software, or entertainment. Never provide drugs, alcohol, or tobacco to a minor. Never use, possess, or be under the influence of illegal drugs.
- Never use alcohol when engaged in ministering to a minor.

• Never engage in physical discipline for behavior management of minors (no form of physical discipline is acceptable).

In addition, the following are examples of affection that are NOT to be used:

- Inappropriate or lengthy embraces, kisses on the mouth. Holding minors over four years old on the lap. Touching buttocks, chests or genital areas. Showing affection in isolated areas such as bedrooms, closets, staff-only areas or other private rooms.
- Touching knees or legs of minors.
- Wrestling with minors, tickling minors, piggyback rides.
   Any type of massage given by minor to adult or adults to minor.
   Compliments that relate to physique or body development.
   Any form of unwanted affection.

In the next bulletin, we will cover some measures to aid observance of the Code of Conduct. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Joby K Jose, Mr. Roy Mathew or Dr. Thomas Mathew, Parish Safe Environment Coordinators.

#### Reporting child sexual abuse

Anyone sexually abused as a minor, or who knows about a case of sexual abuse of a minor should immediately report it to the civil authorities. Call 911 or contact Department of Human Resources – Child Protective Services in Maryland (Hotline: 1-800-332-6347).

When such sexual abuse has been committed by a cleric, religious, seminarian, diocesan or parish employee, or a diocesan or parish volunteer, it also should be reported to the Bishop of St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago through the Committee for Sexual Abuse Investigation at (630) 474-5172.

#### **CCD UPDATES**

CCD Opening Day

CCD classes for 2017-2018 will start with orientation classes on Sunday, August 20, 2017.

CCD Registration for 2017-2018 Calendar Year If you haven't completed the class registration, please do so immediately.

**Solemn Holy Communion Classes** 

Classes for receiving the Sacraments of Holy Communion, Confirmation and Confession will start in September 2017. Please register their names with Mr. Tison Thomas.

Please contact Mr. Tison Thomas, CCD Principal with any questions.

## MALAYALAM SCHOOL UPDATES

Malayalam school will re-open on September 9, 2017. Classes are scheduled for an hour on Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. If your child has not registered yet and is interested in attending, please contact Mr. Saji Thayyil, Malayalam School Principal.



#### **ALTER SERVER MINISTRY**

Beautiful Are the Feet of Those Who Bring Good News — Romans 10:14-15

Are you interested in being part a new generation of children who love Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament? Are you committed to developing a life around Holy Qurbana? If you said yes to either of the questions above, you are welcome to join the Altar Server Ministry of St. Alphonsa Church. You can be a member of Altar Server Ministry if you have received Holy Communion (both boys and girls), are in 5<sup>th</sup> grade or up, and lead a sacramental life. To participate in the Altar Server Ministry children must attend and complete the special training offered by the church for Altar Servers. Altar Servers will be participating the English or Malayalam Holy Qurbana based on their language skills and interest.

If you are interested please contact Mr. Roy Mathew.

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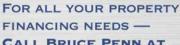
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DROP BEFORE CHURCH • PICK UP AFTER CHURCH

WE'RE FIRING UP THE GRILL
AND WE WANT YOU TO JOIN US







COME ONE, COME ALL!
OUR CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC HAPPENS
ONLY ONCE A YEAR... LET'S GET TOGETHER
ONCE AGAIN AND HAVE FUN!

## THERE WILL BE SPORTS, GAMES, AUCTION AND PLENTY OF FOOD!

Location: Cedar Lane Park Pavilion-East Date: August 26, 2017 (Rain or Shine)

Time: 9:00 am to 6:00 pm



#### EDITORIAL BOARD

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Mr. Thomas Jose 443-722-3845

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