



# ST THOMAS SYRO-MALABAR CHURCH BOSTON

SAINT JEREMIAH & SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE SYRO-MALABAR CHURCH  
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MY LORD,  
MY GOD!

SIXTH SUNDAY OF ELIJAH, CROSS & MOSES  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2008

EXALTED  
BY GOD!

## Apostle Matthew

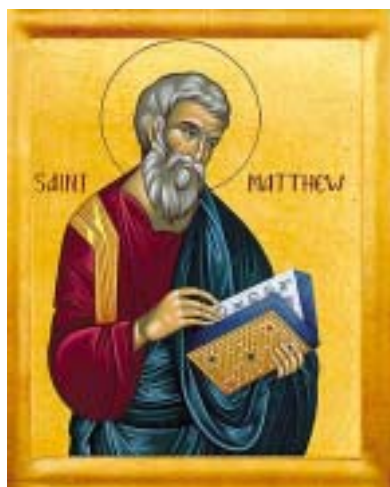
### Today's Gospel (Mt. 9:9-13)

....*"As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" He heard this and said, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."*

The name Matthew is derived from the Hebrew Mattija, being shortened to Mattai in post-Biblical Hebrew. Matthew is spoken of five times in the New Testament and is one of its authors.

Matthew is spoken of five times in the New Testament; first in Matthew 9:9, when called by Jesus to follow Him, and then four times in the list of the Apostles, where he is mentioned in the seventh (Luke 6:15, and Mark 3:18), and again in the eighth place (Matthew 10:3, and Acts 1:13). The man designated in Matthew 9:9, as "sitting in the custom house", and "named Matthew" is the same as Levi, recorded in Mark 2:14, and Luke 5:27, as "sitting at the receipt of custom". The account in the three Synoptics is identical, the vocation of Matthew-Levi being alluded to in the same terms. Hence Levi was the original name of the man who was subsequently called Matthew.

Matthew, the son of Alpheus (Mark 2:14) was a Galilean, although Eusebius informs us that he was a Syrian. As tax-gatherer at Capharnaum, he collected custom duties for Herod Antipas, and, although a Jew, was despised by the Pharisees, who hated all publicans. When summoned by Jesus, Matthew arose and followed Him and tendered Him a feast in his house, where tax-gatherers and sinners sat at table with Christ and His disciples. This drew forth a protest from the Pharisees whom Jesus rebuked in these consoling words: "I came not to call the just, but sinners".



Matthew gives a detailed account of the ancestors of Jesus, and about His birth through the Virgin Mary, and about the beginning of His public ministry in Chapters 1-4. Matthew's gospel includes a series of Jesus' speeches, including the Sermon on the Mount (see Chapters 5-7), the mission discourse (see Chapter 10), the parables of the Kingdom (see Chapter 13), the discourse on Christian living (see Chapter 18, and the final end time warnings in Chapters 23-25).

Matthew probably remained in the Holy Land, as tradition says, for 15 years and after this, encouraged by the reports of the success of other Christian leaders among the Jews (the Diaspora) and also among the Gentiles, he went forth on several missionary journeys. It is certain that he went to Persia and the mysterious area in Persia known as "Ethiopia." It is also possible that he traveled to the Ethiopia in Africa as the Roman Catholic tradition indicates and there is also a belief that Matthew was martyred in Egypt upon his return from Ethiopia in Africa but this is not certain. There is a tradition which says that Matthew was martyred in Parthia.

Matthew was a gifted writer, an ardent disciple, and was perhaps the best educated of any of the Twelve Apostles.

**Today...**

10 am : CCD; 11 am : Holy Qurbana

**Marching forward...****Sunday Celebration Assignments****Today : Infant Jesus Family Unit****Sept 28: Faith Formation Team****Sept. 27 Saturday : Holy Qurbana at 11 am, Novena,****Orientation classes for the Faith Formation Team****Sept. 27 : Saint Vincent De Paul****Sept. 29 : Archangels Michael, Gabriel & Raphael****Oct. 1 : Saint Little Flower****Oct. 4 : Saint Francis Assisi****Readings - Sept. 21****Is. 26:1-19****Phili. Heb. 11:23-26****Mt 9:9-13****Readings - Sept. 28****Is. 33:1-14****1 Cor. 14:31-40****Mt.18:1-9****OCTOBER - ROSARY MONTH****PLEASE NOTE : WE WILL BEGIN OUR  
ROSARY OCTAVE ON OCT. 16 AND  
WILL END ON OCT. 25.****On Orissa**

About 60,000 people have taken refuge in thick forests including new-born babies, children, old, infirmed, pregnant women .... and about 23,000 people are living in overcrowded relief camps and many others are in hiding. They are mainly Tribals and Dalits of Christian faith, whose lives are threatened if they do not convert to Hinduism. The ongoing Anti-Christian violence has resulted in the death of at least 35 individuals and the destruction of more than 6,000 houses and over 90 religious buildings.

The episodes of violence are also a result of the continuous discrimination faced by lower castes and "outcasts". Continuous efforts are needed to abolish this pattern of discrimination.

1. Please pray for the persecuted christians in India.
2. Please observe a day of fasting.
3. Please contribute generously to the cause of Orissa.

We will make sure that the money we donate is used properly.

**Father Frank O'Brien,**

Pastor of Saint George's Parish, Framingham, passed away in his home Friday at the age of 68.

Fr. Frank's body will be welcomed into Saint George's church, Sunday, September 21, 2008 at 2:30 P.M. The wake will be held from 3 to 7 PM.

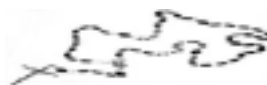
The funeral Mass, celebrated by Cardinal Sean O'Malley, will be Monday, September 22, 2008 at 10 AM.

**Tomy John Areekuzhuppil**

brother of Sherly Jose Kochuparampil passed away on Thursday, in Kerala. Funeral was conducted at Holy Ghost Forane Church, Muttuchira on Friday.



Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you do I come; before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen!



**Please pray the Rosary every day in your families.**

**FAITH FORMATION CLASSES****Classes begin TODAY.****WELCOME BACK.****RESPECT FOR THE CHURCH,  
PREMISES AND OTHERS**

Please make sure that everything is in order, neat in the Church and the hall. Admonish the children to respect order and discipline.

**ORIENTATION FOR  
FAITH FORMATION TEAM**

Rev. Dr. Roy Kaduppil, Diocesan Director of Religious Education and Rev. Fr. Vinod Madathiparambil will lead the classes on Sept. 27 (afternoon) and Sept. 28.

All members of the Faith Formation Team must attend. Youth and parents are welcome to attend.

Please arrange your duty so that you will be able to attend the classes both the days.

**Marriage Preparation Course** The next one conducted by the Syro-Malabar Diocese of Chicago will be held at at Rosary Hill Retreat Center, Chicago on Oct 31 - Nov. 2.

Please call Thomas Purathur (708) 544-7250 or Thomas Moolayil (630) 910-0669 to register.

**HEARTY WELCOME****NEW COMERS!!!****Sunday Mass Schedule : 11 am****Saturdays : 11 am Mass followed by Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help.****Memorial services will not be conducted on Sundays.****They may be conducted on any of the week days.****First Fridays : Mass at 7 pm followed by Holy Hour and Benediction.****TO ALL**

**PLEASE recite the PRAYER FOR OUR DIOCESE AND OUR PARISH every day in your families.**

# HAPPY BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

01st -	Jamie Fernandez
02nd-	Rhea Marie Kunnel
02nd-	Reena Thopurathu
02nd-	Chelsa Maria Jijo Potteparambil
03rd-	Reena Naduviledom
04th -	Sarah Johnson Poovathummoottil
05th -	Jose Thomas Kutticherry
07th -	Sophia John Mundackal
09th -	Christina Ellen
10th -	Christy Anthiamkulathu
10th -	Rev. Fr. Cyriac Mattathilanickal
10th -	Jewel Thomas Thekkevalavumkal
10th -	Joseph Kunnel
14th -	Samuel John Mundackal
16th -	Joshua Sebastian Puthanpurackal
16th -	Maria Benny Uppamthadathil
19th -	Rev. Fr. Raju Muringayil
20th -	Joshua Kutticherry
22nd -	Diya Ayyanimoottil
25th -	Maria Paul Mechery
25th -	Laly Uppamthadathil
25th -	Ancy Vithayathil
28th -	Andrea Malanakarot
28th -	Angel Mary Pachikara
28th -	Pradeep james Mannathamcheril
29th -	Ann Mary Kurian Arupathil
29th -	Shreya Stanley

# MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES IN SEPTEMBER

07th-	John & Jancy Kuzhikannil
07th-	Dinny & Shanty Pathupally
16th-	JAnish & Jasmine Malayil
24th-	Julaiton & Regina Koola
29th -	Thomas & Rekha Kodenkandath
29th-	Sino & Rani Ottalankal
30th -	Saji & Manju Parampukattil

*May God bless them and keep them in His love and protection.*

# സെൻറ് തോമസ് സീറോമലബാർ രൂപതക്കും ഇടവകക്കും വേണ്ടിയുള്ള പ്രാർത്ഥന

പിതാവു, പുത്രനും, പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാവുമായ ത്രിത്വൈക ദൈവമേ/ ഭിക്ഷയെ ഞങ്ങൾ ആരാധിക്കുകയും, / സ്തുതിക്കുകയും പുഷ്പാർച്ചനകളും ചെയ്യുന്നു./ ഭിക്ഷിപ്പുന്നത് ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് നല്കുന്നു/ നിരന്തരപരിപാലനത്തിനായി/ ഞങ്ങൾ നന്ദി പറയുന്നു./ ഭിക്ഷയുടെ സന്നിധിയിൽ/ ഞങ്ങൾ ചെയ്തുപോയ തെറ്റുകൾ/ ഞങ്ങളുടെ ക്ഷമിക്കണമേ./ ഭിക്ഷയുടെ കൃപാവരങ്ങൾ നിറച്ച്/ ഭിക്ഷയുടെ പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാവിനാൽ/ ഞങ്ങളെ നയിക്കണമേ.

നല്ല ഇടയനായ ഈശോമേ/നിത്യപുരാഹിതനായ ഭിക്ഷിപ്പുന്നത്/ ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് നല്കിയ/ ഭിക്ഷയിലേയിലെ സെൻറ് തോമസ് സീറോമലബാർ രൂപതയേയും/ രൂപതാദ്ധ്യക്ഷനായും മേൽത്ത്/ ഭിക്ഷക്ക് ഞങ്ങൾ സ്തോത്രം ചെയ്യുന്നു./ കാര്യബുദ്ധനായ കർത്താവേ./ ഞങ്ങളുടെ അഭിവന്ദ്യപിതാവിനെയും/ ഹൃദയാർപ്പിക്കുകയും/ സന്യസ്ഥിയേയും/ ഭിക്ഷയേയും/ ഭിക്ഷയുടെ വരദാനങ്ങളാൽ നിറച്ച്/ ഭിക്ഷയുടെ വിവിധ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെ/ ഭിക്ഷക്കിഷ്ടമകുന്ന തീതിയിൽ നടത്തണമേ./ ഈ രൂപതയിലെ ഹൃദയാർപ്പിക്കുകയും/ ഞങ്ങളുടെ ഹൃദയാർപ്പിക്കുകയും/ മറ്റുള്ളവർക്കും/ മറ്റുള്ള വിശ്വാസത്തിലും/ ദൃഢമായ പ്രത്യാശയിലും/ തീവ്രമായ സ്നേഹത്തിലും/ ക്രിസ്തീയമായ കൃപയ്ക്കുമായിലും/ നിയന്ദ്രിയങ്ങളും വളർത്തുകയും ചെയ്യണമേ./ ഭിക്ഷയുടെ സഭയിലെ ശുശ്രൂഷക്കായി/ ഞങ്ങളുടെ കൃപയ്ക്കുമായിൽനിന്നും തന്നെ/ യുവതീയുവാക്കളെ വിളിക്കണമേ.

“എന്റെ കർത്താവേ എന്റെ ദൈവമേ” എന്നു പറഞ്ഞ്/ വിശ്വാസപ്രഖ്യാപനം നടത്തിയ/ഞങ്ങളുടെ പിതാവായ മാർത്തോമ്മാസ്റ്റീഹായുടെ നന്മത്തിലുള്ള ദൈവങ്ങളുടെ ദൈവലയത്തിന്റെ ക്രമീകരണത്തിനുള്ള പരിശ്രമങ്ങളെ / അവിടുന്ന് അനുഗ്രഹിച്ചാശീർവ്വദിക്കണമേ./ ഇതിനു നേതൃത്വം നല്കുന്നവരെയും/ ഇതിന്റെ വിജയത്തിനായി/ പ്രാർത്ഥനയും പണവും പരിശ്രമവും വഴി/ സഹായിക്കുന്ന എല്ലാവരെയും/ സമൃദ്ധമായി അനുഗ്രഹിക്കണമേ/ ഞങ്ങൾക്കെന്നെയും/ ജീവിക്കുന്ന ദൈവലയങ്ങളായി തീരൻ ഇടയാക്കട്ടെ./

നല്ലവനായ ദൈവമേ/ഭിക്ഷയുടെ തിരുഹിതം നിറവേറ്റുവാൻ/പരിശുദ്ധ ഭിക്ഷയുടെയും / മാർത്തോമ്മാസ്റ്റീഹായുടെയും / വാക്യങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റിയും/ ചാപന കൃപയ്ക്കുമായിലും/ അർഹമായ സഹായങ്ങളുടെയും/ മറിയം ഭക്തസമൂഹങ്ങളുടെയും/ കുഞ്ഞുങ്ങളുടെയും/ ഹൃദയാർപ്പിക്കുകയും/ മാതൃകയും മദ്ധ്യസ്ഥിയേയും/ സഹായകരങ്ങളെ./ ഭിക്ഷയുടെ മഹത്വത്തിൽ പങ്കുകൊടുക്കുവാൻ/ ഞങ്ങളെ യോഗ്യരാക്കുകയും ചെയ്യണമേ./ സകലത്തിന്റെയും നന്മ, ഹൃദയം, ആത്മം, ആത്മം.

## **Injured Priest Tells of Hindu-Extremist Attack Assailants Attempted to Burn Him Alive**

**NEW DELHI, India, SEPT. 8, 2008 - A priest who has survived the wave of attacks on Christians by Hindu extremists in India considers himself safe "in the hands of God."**

**The account of Father Edward Sequeira was made available by one of his seminary classmates, Father Edwin Vas of the Society of the Divine Word.**

**Father Sequeira was the victim of an attack Aug. 25; a young laywoman who worked at the orphanage where he worked did not survive.**

**The Indian state of Orissa has been the scene of a spate of anti-Christian violence that intensified at the end of August after a Hindu leader, Swami Laxmananada Saraswati, was killed. Extremists placed the blame for his death on Christians. In fact, the eastern Indian state has long been plagued by Christian-Hindu violence, as Christian missionaries work with poor tribal peoples of the region and Hindus accuse them of forcing or bribing conversions.**

**Benedict XVI appealed for an end to the violence after the general audience of Aug. 27, and last Sunday was declared a day of prayer and fasting for peace in India.**

**Father Vas reported Father Sequeira's account of the day he was attacked.**

**He recounted: "[Father Edward] came back to his residence to have lunch. [...] Some people came to see him, and asked him, 'Who is the priest here?' Father Edward thought they must have come for some help like, somebody is sick and needs to be taken to the hospital. So he said, 'I am the one.' When he looked outside he saw there were about 20 people with sticks, iron bars, shovels and spades. He realized what was going to happen. So he tried to close the door. [...]**

**"Anyhow they managed to pull Father Edward out and then started beating him all over. [...] So he has fractures now on both shoulders, on his right hand and his skull is broken at the back of his head. [...] This [beating] went on for 45 minutes and then Father Edward collapsed. Meanwhile some others had gone inside the house [...] they set fire and came out."**

**The priest explained that the assailants proceeded to lock Father Sequeira in the house.**

**Not alone**

**"Remember Father Edward has lost his strength and had collapsed," Father Vas went on. "But at this moment, when he was alone inside the burning house, he realized he was not alone. There was Jesus with him. He experienced tremendous strength at this moment. He experienced Jesus not as a separate entity from him, but, 'He in me and I in him.' He experienced Jesus suffering in him. [...]"**

**"He collected half a bucket of water and went and threw it in his bed room and the fire went off. Miracle?"**

**"He filled another half bucket of water and threw it in the office and the same result. Fire in the office was put off. He had a deep sense that God was with him. He went back to the bathroom and locked himself inside."**

**Father Vas went on to report that as the assailants tried to find Father Sequeira and confirm his death, despite the smoke filling the house, young Rajani Majhi arrived. The 19-year-old student was a helper at the orphanage.**

**Before Father Sequeira lost consciousness he heard the young woman scream, "Father they are going to burn me." Majhi, though a Hindu, was killed. Father Sequeira learned of her death only two days later, from the hospital.**

**The priest said the efforts of two doctors, including a Baptist missionary,**

**were the key to saving his life. They heard of the attack and managed to get an ambulance and fire fighters to the scene -- some four and a half hours after the arrival of the assailants.**

**Father Sequeira is now recovering in a hospital in Mumbai.**

**"When people come and tell him, 'We are praying for you,'" Father Vas reported, "he says, 'Do not pray for me, I am in the safe hands of God, you go and work for the rights of the minorities.' Father Edward believes that God has saved him miraculously and he has a purpose for him."**