



OLPH VOICE

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP SYRO MALABAR CATHOLIC CHURCH OF GREATER WASHINGTON



From our Vicar

Beloved OLPH family members,

On Friday, March 3rd, Fr. Rijo Cheerakathil will take charge as the new Vicar of OLPH Syro Malabar Church of Greater Washington.

After four years and three months of being your Vicar it is time to bid farewell. My mind is filled with gratitude and joy. I thank God for all the providence and protection during these fruitful years. By God's grace, on the day of our church consecration, September 6, 2021, our mission was raised to the status of a parish, and I was appointed as the first vicar of the OLPH parish. We all experienced the power of the intercession of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and the miracle happened. Indeed, I continue to believe that the construction of our church is a miracle. "For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible." (Mt.19:26).

...Continued on pages 2 & 3

I am thankful for your support in the construction of our Church - the prayers, sacrifices, volunteer services and financial contributions including monthly automatic contributions, capital amount contributions, sponsorships, gold donations, special donations, loan support and participation in fund raising programs. I have placed your names and contributions under the tabernacle, and they will remain there forever. I express my sincere thanks to Washington Archdiocese, Cardinal Wilton Daniel Gregory and the Auxiliary Bishops Mario E. Dorsonville and Roy Edward Campbell. I thankfully remember Bishop Michael William Fisher who arranged my stay at St. Peter's rectory, the then auxiliary bishop of the Arch diocese of Washington and now he is the bishop of the diocese of Buffalo, New York. I am so grateful to St. Peter's parish and pastor Rev. Fr. Tom Kalita and all the associate pastors of St. Peter's who provided me a wonderful residence for the last four years. They also agreed to give residence to Fr. Rijo Cheerakathil, the new OLPH vicar and I wish him all the very best. I also take this opportunity to thank all the office-bearers and volunteers who served during the two terms I was here:

- The trustees, Thomas Abraham, Jenson Jose, and Manoj Mathew, as well as the parish council members and its sub-committees.
- Johnson John, Manoj Mathew, Thomas Abraham and the Building committee members.
- Roby, technical, planning and drawing support.
- Jijo, for the beautiful oil paintings in the church and fund-raising with his paintings.
- Jenson, Rinosh and Joby for light and sound support.
- Catechism principals and Vice principals, Biju Issac, Tessie Alapatt, Liji Scaria, Anila Jeffy, Suneetha Thomas and all catechism teachers.
- Anila Jeffy and the Mission League members.
- Binoy Matthews, the Safe environment facilitator.
- Liz Binoy and the youth choir.
- Youth leaders Digna, Kevin, Melwin, Riya and OLPH youth.
- Tessie Alapatt and the OLPH Voice editorial board.
- The Choir leaders Cherian, Renju, Saly and all the OLPH choir members.
- Knights of Columbus leaders Jijo, Bobby and all the knights.

- Sacristan Bobby, Thomas Antony and all the adult and young altar servers.
- Saly, the accountant.
- Internal auditors Tenny, Justin, Sandeep and Jeffy.
- Noble, Accounting, IRS and tax related service.
- Joby, Designing and printing help.
- Justin, church website management.
- Roy Raphael for his support and dedication.
- Jose, Sally, Joyce for their services.
- Sandeep and Thomas Abraham, Sponsor a Road program.
- Thomas Abraham, Manoj Mathew, Bijesh, and Jenson for the vegetable garden.
- Thomas Sebastian and the Souvenir editorial board.
- Altar decoration volunteers
- Jijo, Antony and Deepu, for Video and photos
- Thomas Abraham and Rex Thomas, the Pastoral Council Members.
- Shaji Kottooran for his encouragement and support
- Drs. Shobha Asha and Shema for their commitment and support to the church
- Sojan Abraham for helping with cleaning of the church.
- Sr. Anitta and Sr. Linta for their services.
- All the neighboring priest friends for their kind services.

Thank you very much for your selfless services to the Church.

Dear parishioners thank you for all your support, friendship, and love. **I would like to be known as a priest who loves you, rather than a priest who built the Church.** Our Church is the visible witness in our lives that God is with us always. God has worked through each one of us to make our church a reality. The construction happened only because God decided to give you a Church. I was just an instrument in the hands of God and I cannot claim anything. **“So should it be with you. When you have done all you have been commanded, say, we are unprofitable servants: we have done what we were obliged to do.” (Luke 17:10)** Until this time I was the custodian of this Church, and from now on, I will be a guest here. If I come back, I will be a visitor and that is the beauty of the ministry of priesthood. **Before I sign off, I have a request - please offer one Hail Mary every day for me until I remain in your memory.**

With Love
Royachan



Until we meet again...

Royachan became our Vicar at a time when we were only dreaming of building a Church. Thanks to his leadership, this dream became a reality in less than three years, and that too in the middle of a pandemic that was ripping the world apart.

In the past, many of us have heard Mathew achan quoting Isaiah's prophecy for our church "I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron. I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name" (Is 45:2)

Well... mountains were indeed leveled, bronze gates were indeed broken down and iron bars were indeed cut through!! Hidden treasures and riches emerged as well!! God worked in powerful and mysterious ways through Royachan. Royachan never gave up on us even though he encountered many hurdles and dead ends. He took every difficult situation as a challenge... and he sure does love a good challenge... nothing fazes him!

Royachan was a great source of energy and encouragement to the youth of our church – playing volleyball, going on field trips and just being their buddy, while also nurturing their spirituality and leading them to know Jesus.

OLPH Voice team is ever grateful to Royachan for his encouragement, patience, perseverance and great ideas that has brought the newsletter this far. We will greatly miss the dynamic presence of Royachan in our lives - all the fun times, prayerful times, fellowship, jokes, laughter, games – everything.

Dearest Royacha, today as we bid you farewell, it's not with "Goodbye" but "Until we meet again". The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Thank you dear Royacha for EVERYTHING!!

With Love and Best Wishes from your OLPH family!

**PLEASE JOIN
US TOMORROW
26 FEBRUARY,
2023, 11AM**



Our Lady of
PERPETUAL HELP

Syro Malabar Catholic Church-Greater Washington

CCD Annual Day

**Malayalam Mass
at 9.30am**

DAILY SCHEDULE

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Syro Malabar Catholic
Church of Greater Washington**

20533 Zion Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20882

SATURDAY	February 25, 2023	9:00 AM	WAY OF THE CROSS	1st Reading: Rom 3:21-26 Those who believed are justified
		9:30 AM	HOLY MASS IN MALAYALAM	Gospel: Mt 6:9-15 (6:5-15) The prayer taught by Christ
		10:15 AM	OLPH NOVENA	
SUNDAY	February 26, 2023	9:00 AM	WAY OF THE CROSS	1st Reading: Gen 5:19-31 Persons who lived with God
		9:30 AM	HOLY MASS IN MALAYALAM	2nd Reading: Josh 4:15-24 To the Lord of salvation through Jordan
				3rd Reading: Rom 6:15-23 (6:1-23) Newness of life in Christ through baptism
		11:00 AM	CCD ANNUAL DAY	Gospel: Mt 7:21-27(7:15-27) The true disciple
SATURDAY	March 4, 2023	9:00 AM	WAY OF THE CROSS	1st Reading: 1 Cor 5:9-13 Keep away from immorality
		9:30 AM	HOLY MASS IN MALAYALAM	Gospel: Mt 11:16-19 Unrepentant attitude
		10:15 AM	OLPH NOVENA	
SUNDAY	March 5, 2023	9:00 AM	WAY OF THE CROSS	1st Reading: Gen 7:6-24 (7:1-24) Noah and family are saved
		9:30 AM	HOLY MASS IN MALAYALAM	2nd Reading: Josh 5:13-6:5 Destroy the fortress of evil with the power of the Lord
			CCD CLASS	3rd Reading: Rom 7:14-25 The fight against evil
		11:00 AM	HOLY MASS IN ENGLISH	Gospel: Mt 20:17-28 Call to discipleship is to participate in the sufferings

**NO WEEKDAY MASSES
FROM FEBRUARY 27th
THROUGH MARCH 3rd**

UPCOMING EVENTS

2022-2023

26

F E B

CCD ANNUAL DAY
FAREWELL TO FR. ROY

3

M A R

WELCOME FR. RIJO CHEERAKATHIL

24

M A R

3-DAY LENTEN RETREAT BY FR. KURIAN
MUKKAMKUZHIYIL

02

A P R

PALM SUNDAY

06

A P R

HOLY THURSDAY

07

A P R

GOOD FRIDAY

09

A P R

EASTER

16

A P R

KOC FAMILY DAY

04

J U N

CCD FINAL EXAM

08

J U L

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

26

J U L

SYRO YOUTH FESTIVAL & WORLD
YOUTH DAY IN PORTUGAL

01

S E P

3-DAY PARISH FEAST PREPARATION
RETREAT BY FR. DAVIS CHIRAMEL

08

S E P

3-DAY PARISH FEAST CELEBRATION



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