



Teresa Mathews Theccanat

December 5, 1928 - November 23, 2025

Teresa Mathews Theccanat, 96, of Houston, Texas, passed away on Sunday, November 23, 2025, at home after a long illness.

Teresa was born in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, East Africa, December 5, 1928. She was the first-born and eldest daughter in the Africa Kurian Alapatt family. Her father worked with the Tanganika Railways for 25 years and later was a Sergeant in the British Military Mission. After the birth of Teresa, she and her mother left Tanzania and moved back to India while her father continued his work in Nairobi, Kenya, then Mogadiscio, Somalia, followed by Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, before returning a few years later to rejoin his wife in their home state of Kerala, India.

In 1944 Teresa married Mathew Theccanat. In 1947 Teresa and Mathew left India for Nairobi, Kenya. After four years of marriage a son was born to them, Joseph. Sons Cyril, George and Stephen were to follow. Shortly after the birth of Stephen, Teresa interviewed for and landed a secretarial job at the United Nations in Ethiopia. Teresa soon had a succession of successful jobs beginning as a secretary and working her way up to a supervisory position as a Senior Bilingual Administrative Assistant at the UN. She remained in Ethiopia through the bloody and violent revolution in 1974 when the Marxist military took over and deposed the Emperor Haile Selassie. She retired in 1986 and returned to Kerala, India. Mathew died in 2003.

Teresa was deeply devoted to her faith as a Roman Catholic from the Knanaya community. She stated, "I am extremely proud to be a Knanaya. Many years ago, I wrote a small book so that my sons would be able to read and know the importance of being Knanayas." She was very proud of her sons and their accomplishments and continued to lead an active life well into her 90s, maintaining her independence, learning Spanish, playing Bridge, attending church services, and participating in, as well as hosting, gatherings of both family and friends. After moving to the United States in her 80's, she even managed to get her driver's license and drove to church and grocery stores on a regular basis.

Teresa was preceded in death by her eldest son, Joseph; her husband, Mathew; as well as her sister, Baby. She is survived by her siblings, Francis Alapatt, Cyril Alapatt, and Josephine Neicheril; her sons, Cyril, George and Stephen; as well as their spouses, Gigi, Jomol, and Lou; and three grandchildren, Nicholas, Matthew, and Maria Teresa; as well as Joseph's spouse, Anne.

A viewing and visitation will begin at 9:00 a.m. followed by a Mass of the Resurrection at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 in the Chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 6800 Buffalo Speedway in Houston, Texas. A reception with the family will immediately follow the Mass.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Houston.

Teresa had a long and productive life, was devoted to the church and her family and was well loved by all. She will be deeply missed.

Previous Events

Mass of the Resurrection

DEC 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
6800 Buffalo Speedway
Houston, TX 77025
<https://svdp-houston.org/>

Tribute Wall

CA

“ *My sister was very generous. She contributed generously my airfare to the USA - Valsan*

cyril alapatt - December 02, 2025 at 04:05 PM

GO

“ *George O. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Teresa Mathews Theccanat.*

George O. - December 02, 2025 at 01:46 PM

ZS

“ *Zeeshan S. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Teresa Mathews Theccanat.*

Zeeshan S. - December 02, 2025 at 08:42 AM

M

“ Spending time with my aunt and godmother was a gift - from the lovely hot lunches she cooked for me every Thursday when I was working to the family history on my maternal side. We shared so much love and laughter. I will miss all of this. Her resilience should be an example of what we should all strive for. Rest in peace dearest aunty.



Mary Ann Dhir - November 27, 2025 at 09:00 PM

M

“ Yesterday I picked up the phone to call my sister and then realized I would not be able to talk to her again then sat back and thought of my visits with her which were always a great ride down memory lane with much laughter. I will miss her terribly but I know she has gone home to rest in peace.



Mary Ann Dhir - November 27, 2025 at 08:25 PM

G

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Gigi Theccanat - November 27, 2025 at 05:04 PM

G

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Gigi Theccanat - November 27, 2025 at 04:57 PM

M

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Matt - November 27, 2025 at 04:51 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Matt - November 27, 2025 at 04:48 PM



“ 10 files added to the album Memories Album



Tresa Thomas - November 27, 2025 at 05:07 AM



“ 12 files added to the tribute wall



Tresa Thomas - November 27, 2025 at 05:04 AM



“ *Tresa Thomas lit a candle in memory of Teresa Mathews Theccanat*

Tresa Thomas - November 27, 2025 at 04:59 AM



“ *Paremma, lots of good memories. We both sent pictures each other. We laugh each other, you were the one of the discipline person I know. Timing is very important. Lunch or dinner always set up the table, special seats for everyone. Last lunch was only 3 of us. You , me & Reji. You always welcome me in your place. Last week, you told me , I will be able to see you. Now your soul is gone. I really miss you. You called me last week & talk to me. I did not know , that was our last talk. You were always independent woman. Now you are independent again. Thank God for healthy, memorable life. You were very smart & intelligent. Appreciate all the love & care. You will be with all the angels & God. Prayers Paremma.*

Tresa Thomas - November 27, 2025 at 04:57 AM



“ 21 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Joseph Earthman Generations - November 26, 2025 at 03:35 PM