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ARTICLES NEEDED!

If you would like to submit any articles in English or Malayalam,
please send it to: Jacobkab@hotmail.com

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WEB!**

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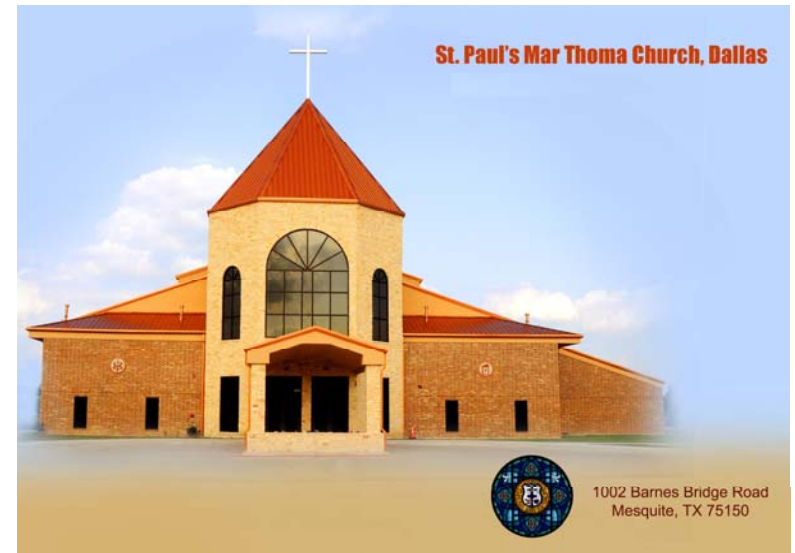


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St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church
1002 Barnes Bridge Rd.
Mesquite, TX 75150

THE EPISTLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



November 2010





KECF Christmas Carol

Saturday, December 4, 2010

Venue: MGM Auditorium

hosted by

St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church

Baptism

Nathan, son of Jacob and Elizabeth Abraham was baptized on October 2, 2010.
We welcome Nathan to the St. Paul's Family.

Laity Duties

	Worship Service Assistant	1st Lesson	2nd Lesson	Prayer
Nov 7 <i>Manna</i>				
Nov 14 <i>Agape</i>				
Nov 21 <i>Shalom</i>				
Nov 28 <i>Ebenezer</i>				



MESSAGE FROM VICAR

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

November 1st is "All Saints Day". This day is set apart to remember all the saints both living and dead. Who is a saint? As Saint Paul says, a saint is one who fought the good fight, finished the race, kept the faith and receives the reward (2 Timothy 4:8). As St. Peter says the church is the royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God (1 Peter 2:9). St. Paul addresses the believers as saints in his epistles (Romans 1:7, 2 Corinthians 1:1, Ephesians 1:1, Philippians 1:1). Does this mean that there is not sin in the church and the church is perfect in holiness? The psalmist says that all are sinners (Psalms 53:1-3). But we are sanctified in Christ. (1 Corinthians 1:1)

The church is the body of Christ, the community of believers. The church consists of the victorious church that are in rest in Christ and the struggling church in the world. That means the church is both visible and invisible. The believers are addressed as saints not because they are perfect in holiness but is because they are to be holy as God is holy (1 Peter 1:16). Salvation is a process of growing up in holiness. All human beings can be divided into two; those who run after the sin and those who run away from the sin. We are called to be sanctified in church and to run away from the sin.

In the liturgy of the Holy Qurbana, when the celebrant lifts up the bread and the wine and says "Holy things for Holy People" the response of the congregation is that "Holy is the Father, Holy is the Son and Holy is the Holy Spirit". The Celebrant then says that "The Holy Triune God in his Mercy is with Us." This means only God is Holy and the presence of the Holy God makes us worthy to receive the Holy Blood and the Holy Flesh of Jesus Christ. The Sacraments of the Church are the means through which we are being Sanctified by God's grace. It was the traditional believe that only spirit is holy and matter is evil. Not in the Holy Qurbana, Jesus used the matter, which is the bread and wine, and made it holy. It means God can make our body a sacrifice- living, holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1-2)

So Let us remember all the saints and submit ourselves before God to be sanctified in Christ and to grow in holiness. May God bless us and make us a Holy People.

Yours in Christ Service,
Noble Achen
revnobleap@yahoo.com

Study Series: The Faith and Practices of the Church

The Faith and Practices of the Church: The History of Our Church

The word “Church” came from the Greek word “Ecclesia” which means “people set apart”: Various images are used in the bible to narrate the character of church.

- i) The church is the New Israel, the community of the new covenant (Galatians 6:16)
- ii) It is the faith community who affirm Jesus Christ as Lord and God (Matthew 16:16; John 20:28)
- iii) It is the Body of Christ. The Body is one, holy, apostolic and Catholic(Universal) (Ephesians 4:12) as we affirm in the Nicene Creed.
- iv) It is the flock (sheep) of Jesus (John 10:16 and 21:16).
- v) it is an eschatological community who awaits the second coming of Jesus and eternity (1 Corinthians 11:26)

The History of the Universal Church can be divided into Ten Periods-

- i) Apostolic Period (A.D. 30-90)
- ii) Period of Persecution by the Roman Emperors (A.D. 70-313)
- iii) Period of arguments about humanity and divinity of Jesus and Formation of Creeds (4th Century)
- iv) Growth of the church as a powerful religion within the political support of Rome after the conversion of Constantine (5th- 10th Century)
- v) The great division in the church between Eastern and Western traditions due to the differences in understanding about the Holy Spirit (A.D. 1056)
- vi) Dark ages of immorality and misuse of power (11th- 15th Century)
- vii) Reformation by Martin Luther in Europe and formation of protestant churches. (16th Century)
- viii) Period of War between Roman Catholic Church and Protestant Churches (17th Century- 18th C)
- ix) Period of Missionary movements (19th century)
- x) Period of Ecumenism for Unity and Co-operation (20th Century)

Next Issue: History of Malankara Church in India

Address Change

Mr. Thomas K. George
3618 Hamlet Ln.
Garland, TX 75043

Lectinary/Worship Information

Sunday, November 7, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana - English)

Day of Renewal of the Church and the World
Sunday School Day—Children—Valuable to God

Lesson 1: 1 Deut 6:1-13

Epistle: Eph 6:1-4

Lesson 2: Colossians 3: 12-21

Gospel: Mark 10:13-16

Sunday, November 14, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam)

Festival of Unity of Churches: One Shepherd

Lesson 1: Ezek 37:15-23

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:12-20

Lesson 2: Eph 5:1-14

Gospel: John 10:7-18

Sunday, November 21, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana—English)

Annunciation to Zechariah
God’s Concern for the Creation

Lesson 1: 1 Chro 24:1-19

Epistle: Hebrews 5:1-10

Lesson 2: Rev 8:1-8

Gospel: Luke 1:5-23

Sunday, November 28, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam)

Annunciation to Virgin Mary
Coming of God’s Kingdom

Lesson 1: Zech 2:1-13

Epistle: Eph 1:3-14

Lesson 2: Gal 4:21-31

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Youth Fellowship Regional Retreat

Hosted by Sehion Mar Thoma Church

November 5th—7th, 2010

unable to fix it. As he pranced around, frustrated, a well-dressed man, middle-aged man came up to him and asked what the problem seemed to be. The young man explained all that had happened and expressed his absolute frustration. The middle-aged man offered to help and eventually the young fellow reluctantly acquiesced claiming it wouldn't make any difference anyhow. Within a matter of five minutes, the car was up and running again and the young man stood in awe. He asked, "How did you do it? This is my car and I had been working on it for so long..." . The middle-aged man replied, "You see, my name is Henry Ford and this is my car; I built this car and so I know every single detail about it!". Similarly, we are His creation and He knows everything about us for He has great plans for us!

May God Almighty empower us to be respond to His plans for our life so that we would be all that we are meant to be!

Your brother in Christ,
 Jaisen Achen
 214-604-6678
 revjathomas@yahoo.com



Privileges of Citizens of Heaven by Miriam Chacko

What does it mean to be a Citizen of Heaven? Ephesians 2:19 says that we are the fellow citizens with the saints. It means that we are under Heaven's government. Jesus Christ reigns in Heaven and in our hearts. We pray daily that "Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven." (Mat 6:10) We are a chosen generation, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation and a Peculiar people; God called out of darkness into His Marvelous Light. (1 Peter 2:9) The Proclamations issued from the Throne of God are freely received by us; the Decrees of the Great King. Then as Citizens of Heaven (New Jerusalem) we share Heaven's honors. The glory that belongs to the beautiful saints belongs to us also, as we are already sons and daughters of God. We are already the Princes and Princesses of the Blood Imperial. We wear the spotless Robe of Jesus' righteousness. We have angels for our service, saints for our companionship. Jesus Christ as our Brother, God as our father. Crown of Immortality as our reward. As citizens, we have common rights to all property in heaven. Viz. ours are the Gates of Pearl, walls of Chrysolite, the River of the Water of Life, and the 12 Manner of Fruits. As Citizens of Heaven, we enjoy its delights also. Do they cast their crowns at Jesus' feet and we do the same. We look forward and wait for His second coming. We are thus the Citizens of Heaven. Let our walk and actions be consistent with our high dignity as we share the Honors of Citizenship of Heaven.

Church Organizational Activities

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Regular classes at 8.45am.

SEVIKA SANGHAM:

TBD

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:

Tuesdays - Bible Study with Rev. Jaisen Thomas on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month

Thursdays - Prayer Call

Fridays - Prayer Fellowship -

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM:

PRAYER MEETING AND GENERAL BODY— RESIDENCE OF MR.BABU P SIMON & LIGI BABU 4117 CLARIDGE TERRACE, GARLAND , TX -75043 ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2010 - 6:30 PM.

ELECTION OF 2011 YUVAJANA SAKHYAM OFFICE BEARERS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CHURCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER FROM YUVAJANA SAKHYAM WILL BE HELD DURING THIS MEETING.

PARISH MISSION:

Fridays at 7pm - Bible Study/Prayer fellowships at the Church.

Sundays at 9-9:30am - Intercessory Prayer

CHOIR:

Sundays - Practice sessions after Holy Qurbana.