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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!**

WWW.STPAULSMTC.ORG

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

THE EPISTLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



February 2011



Lectionary/Worship Information

Sunday, February 6, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - English)

Medical Mission Sunday : Jesus the Healer.

Lesson 1: 2 Kings 5: 1-14

Epistle: James 5: 13-18

Lesson 2: Acts 3: 1-10

Gospel: Mark 7: 31-37

Sunday, February 13, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam)

Repent & Come Back.

116th Maramon Convention Begins

Lesson 1: Gen 4: 1-15

Epistle: Rom 15: 1-9

Lesson 2: James 1: 19-27

Gospel: Mat 5: 43-48

Sunday, February 20, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana—English)

God`s Pain for those who are to be Redeemed.

Maramon Convention Ends

Lesson 1: Isa 44: 21- 28

Epistle: 2 Cor 2: 12-18

Lesson 2: Acts 20: 17- 28

Gospel: Mat 9: 9-13

Saturday, February 27, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam)

Redeeming Love of God

Lesson 1: Jer 18: 1-10

Epistle: Eph 2: 1-10

Lesson 2: Philemon 8-22

Gospel: John 3: 16-21

BIRTHDAYS

1-Feb	Gracy Abraham	Mesquite	26-Feb	John K.Mathew	Mesquite
1-Feb	Ligit Mathew	Mesquite	26-Feb	Maya Thomas Easow	Mesquite
4-Feb	P.C.George	Mesquite	27-Feb	Cheryl Babu	Rockwall
4-Feb	Sydni Rebecca Philip	Rockwall	27-Feb	Ruben Reji John	Garland
5-Feb	Alex Sam koshy	Garland	28-Feb	Jennifer John	Sunnyvale
8-Feb	Stan Philip	Sunnyvale			
11-Feb	Ritz Thomas	Mesquite			
11-Feb	Bindu Reji	Garland			
14-Feb	Edison K.John	Garland			
14-Feb	Neethu Manu	Garland			
14-Feb	Sibu Joseph	Garland			
15-Feb	Thomas Mathew(Valson)	Mesquite			
17-Feb	P.P.Simon	Garland			
18-Feb	Johnkutty Mathai	Mesquite			
21-Feb	Joy Thomas	Plano			
21-Feb	Mini Mammen	Mesquite			
23-Feb	James Joy Thomas	Plano			
23-Feb	Raju Mathew	Rowlette			
23-Feb	Ritika Grace Reji	Garland			
23-Feb	Jaiden Bincent	Garland			

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

4-Feb	Mrs. & Mr. Easow Chacko	Garland
6-Feb	Mrs. & Mr. Chacko T Oommen	Garland
6-Feb	Mrs. & Mr. Babu P. Simon	Mesquite
13-Feb	Mrs. & Mr. Ajit Cherian	Garland
14-Feb	Mrs. & Mr. Mathew P . Samuel	Garland
22-Feb	Mrs. & Mr. Ashish Thomas	Garland
23-Feb	Mrs. & Mr. Thomas K. J	Mesquite
25-Feb	Mrs. & Mr. Thomas Mathew	Garland
28-Feb	Mrs. & Mr. Joseph Varghese A.	Garland
28-Feb	Mrs. & Mr. Geevarghese Mathew	Garland



MESSAGE FROM VICAR

MARAMON CONVENTION.

Dearly Beloved in Christ,
The month of February is important for the Mar Thoma Church because of the Maramon Convention. The Reformed Mar Thoma Church got a great vision of evangelization that is to preach the Gospel all over India. For this purpose, the Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association was started in the year 1888. Under this organization the Maramon Convention was started in 1895 at the sand bed of the river Pampa. It was started to preach the Gospel to renew the Church and the Society. Now it has become the biggest convention in Asia. Million of people attend its meetings every year.

During the past years the Maramon Convention could challenge all the Churches of Kerala and the Society to be transformed based on the values of the Kingdom of God. Many people got transformation in life through this convention. As a result of this Convention, mission fields were started in and out side Kerala. Many people submitted themselves to become evangelists. Various Organisations such as Sunday School, Yuvajana Sakhyam, Sevika Sangam, Voluntary Evangelistic Association etc were started at this Convention. Orphanages, Destitute homes and Social Welfare Institutions were started as social outreach of the Church. Messages of this Convention against the social evils such as ecological issues, alcoholism, smoking, caste system, dowry system, luxury life style, political corruption etc challenged the society. Maramon Convention is the celebration of relationships. It also promotes wider Ecumenism. World famous speakers were invited to this Convention to share the Word of God.

Last year the theme of the Convention was 'LIVE THE GOSPEL'. This year 116th Convention is going to be held from 13th to 20th February. The main theme of this year consists of two questions – WHERE ARE YOU ? & WHERE IS YOUR BROTHER ? These are the first questions asked by God. God asked Adam the first question (Gen: 3:9) when Adam went away from God. God asked the second question to Cain (Gen: 4:9) when Cain killed his own brother. Sin is the breaking of relationships with God and with our fellow beings. And absence of relationships means death. Salvation is coming back to relationships with God and with fellow beings. And it is life and eternal life. Today we live in a world where relationships are broken. So God asks us these questions to repent and to turn back to God. Jesus gave us the two commandments to love God and to love our neighbours (St.Mat:22:37).

Let us pray that this year's Maramon Convention may help the members of the Church and society to take up the challenge to find themselves and their fellow beings.
May God bless and guide us so that our life may become blessing for others.

Yours in Christ,
Noble achen.

Faith and Practices of the Church – A Study Series.

Study of the Liturgy.

Liturgy means the Order of Worship.

The Greek term of 'Liturgy' is 'Leitourgia' and it came from two terms :

(Laos = People; Ergos = Work).

Liturgy means work or service rendered by the people to God or to the King or to the Society or to the Country.

Fuctions of Liturgy in the Church.

1. Liturgy is the celebration of God's redemptive action through Christ.
2. It is the expression of faith and source of theology.
3. It is the means of sanctification.
4. It is the means of Christian Education.
5. It forms, informs and transforms the Church.
6. It is a corporate or Ecclesial act.
7. It is for mission.
8. It gives identity to the Church for existence and expression.

Elements of Liturgy / Worship.

1. Adoration or Glorification.
2. Confession or Repentence.
3. Thanks giving or Praising.
4. Supplication or Intercession.
5. Dedication or Surrender.

Sacraments and Liturgy.

Sacrament is the outward sign of receiving God's grace.

Our Church has seven sacraments:

1. Baptism
2. Confirmation or Anointing with Holy Muron
3. Confession
4. Holy Qurbana
5. Holy Matrimony
6. Ordination
7. Anointing the sick.

Sacraments have four elements:

1. The celebrant (priest/minister)
2. Matter (eg. Bread, wine, muron, water, cross etc.)
3. Biblical basis (words of institution)
4. Intention (purpose).

All the sacraments have their own Liturgy.

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 ANNUAL GENERAL BODY WILL BE HELD AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. SIBU JOSEPH & THARA , 5734 DIANA DR., GARLAND, TX 75043 ON SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2011 - 6:30 PM.

- AGENDA

1. REVIEW AND APPROVE 2010 YUVAJANA SAKHYAM ANNUAL REPORT
2. REVIEW AND APPROVE 2010 ANNUAL AUDITED ACCOUNTS
3. AOB WITH PERMISSION OF CHAIR

PARISH MISSION:

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

Sundays at 9-9:30am - Intercessory Prayer

CHOIR:

Thursdays - Malayalam Choir Practice sessions for the prior week of Malayalam Qurbana

Saturdays - English Choir Practice sessions for the prior week of English Qurbana..

Vice President - Mr. Jonathan Jones Mathew.

Secretary - Mrs. Bindu Joseph Koshy.

Treasurer - Mr. John Mathew (Sibu).



Birth Announcement

We proudly announce the birth of

Sanjay

Daughter of

Shiju and Salamma

Youth Chaplain's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

KARTOON KNUGGETS

By Troy Knechtel



What keeps us from being spiritually fit? Do you ever feel like you lost direction? Do you know where you are going?

God requires that we as Christians must "...throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Heb.12:1).

Imagine you only ate food once a week?! How would that affect your health? Suppose an athlete only practiced for a couple of hours once a week? How would that affect his game?

It is the same way in our Christian life! If we are just training one day a week, it is very difficult for us to have the endurance to finish the race. As a Christian, Christ calls us to be "spiritually fit" athletes for Him.

First, the Christian athlete must have **clear vision of finish line**. It is as St.

Paul said, "...I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing". (2Tim.4:7-8)

Secondly, to be a spiritual athlete one must have **discipline** and **perseverance**. We must constantly be working towards our goal. Just as one can't expect to run a marathon a week after training, spiritual athleticism involves patience and commitment. It involves denying yourself certain things you may want because they are not good for your training. There are constant hurdles that one will come across. They may seem insignificant at the time like missing church one Sunday, not taking time for reading the Bible, or not praying because you are too tired, not going to prayer meetings, etc. But when you add them up, they are all designed to keep you from training... to keep you from progressing toward your spiritual goal.

So, remember, you must be a Christian athlete and **train** in this way:

Prayer, is a unique experience where we confess our sins, dialogue and communion with him and God strengthens us through conversation and relationship with Him.

Worship, all our life and not just on certain days alone.

Reading the Bible, everyday as spiritual food and source of strength and endurance.

Fasting, denying the physical desires for the sake of the spiritual.
"Man does not live by bread alone but, by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Mt.4:4).

Mission, sharing the blessings God has given us with others so that we may be a blessing to all people.

May God strengthen us all to be spiritual athletes for Him and as the faithful before us, keep the faith and finish the race!

Your bro in Christ,

Jaisen Achen
revjathomas@yahoo.com
214-604-6678

Features of Mar Thoma Liturgy.

1. Theology of the Church is embedded in the Liturgy.
2. Eastern worship involves the whole body, mind and spirit.
3. Mar Thoma Liturgy is unique blend of Reformation and Orthodoxy.
4. It emphasizes both majesty and immediacy of God.
5. It has loyalty both to Scripture and Apostolic tradition.
6. It has sufficient rigidity and flexibility.
7. It is pastorally oriented and relevant to the ministry in the parishes.
8. It gives separate identity to the worshipping community.
9. Language of our Liturgy is more Aramic – Syriac – Semitic.
10. It is theological in content and devotional in nature.
11. It is altar centered and faced to the East.
12. Signs and symbols are very much used in Eastern Liturgy.

Next issue : This Study will be continued.