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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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St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church
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THE EPISTLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



March 2011





MESSAGE FROM VICAR

LENT

Dearly beloved in Christ,

We are entering in to the great 50 days Lent period on Sunday, 06th March. Practice of the Lent was started in early centuries of the Church. Various kinds of Lent were existed in all Churches. The Mar Thoma Church after reformation accepted Lents only those which are related with the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and rejected festivals and Lents in the name of saints.

50 days Lent is to meditate up on the 40 days of fasting, passion and death of Jesus. This Lent is the preparation of celebrating the victory of Jesus over the temptations of Satan and death on the cross. Lent is for our repentance, renewal and sanctification. It is for our participation in God's pain to redeem this World. All religions in the world have traditions of Lent.

Three main pillars of Lent are : (1). Fasting, (2). Prayer & (3). Alms giving. Jesus taught his disciples about these three things (St.Mat: 6:1-18).

1. Prayer.

Prayer has four factors (ACTS):

1. Adoration or Praising God's glory,
2. Confession or Repentance about our sins,
3. Thanks giving or Gratitude for blessings of God,
4. Supplication and Surrendering of our lives for God's will.

Prayer in the name of Jesus means Prayer in nature of Jesus.

2. Fasting.

It is living with God through meditating the Word of God and giving up the sinful natures of the body including control on food habits. It is our willingness to deny ourselves and to take up the cross to follow Jesus.

3. Alms giving.

It is our responsibility to share our wealth for the poor and needy in the society. Prophet Isaiah (58:5-8) speaks about the fasting that is acceptable to God. It includes justice in relationships, humbleness in attitude and sharing for the poor. Jesus also taught that what ever we did for the brothers who are the least in the society is done for Christ (Mt: 25:40). The Bible teaches that we can't love God without loving our fellow beings.

Let the Lent period be a time for our sanctification, renewal and dedication. Let us participate in the sufferings and victory of our Lord Jesus Christ and celebrate his resurrection. May God Bless us all.

In Christ's service,
A.P.Noble achen.
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NEW MEMBER

Miss. Siby Varghese, Cedar Briar Dr., Mesquite, TX-75181
took membership in parish.

BAPTISM

Master Nevin, son of Mr.Liju Thomas and Sarah became
member of parish through Holy Baptism held on 26th Feb.,
2011.



Important Dates to Remember

06th March – The Great 50 days Lent begins.

First St.Paul's Mar Thoma Church day celebration:

Saturday, 19th March – Community out reach program :

Medical Camp.

Sunday, 20th March – Public meeting after the worship service.

Lectioary/Worship Information

Sunday, March 6, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - English) Beginning of Great Lent Lent for Transformation and Renewal	
Lesson 1: Isaiah 58:1-10	Epistle: Col 3:1-11
Lesson 2: 2 Cor 5:11-21	Gospel: John 2:1-11
Sunday, March 13, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam) Second Sunday in Lent Lord Jesus Christ who cleanses	
Lesson 1: Isaiah 6:1-8	Epistle: 1 John 1:5-10
Lesson 2: Heb 10:1-10	Gospel: Mark 1:40-45
Sunday, March 20, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana—English) Third Sunday in Lent Illumination of Faith	
Lesson 1: 1 Kings 17:17-24	Epistle: Colossians 1:1-14
Lesson 2: Acts 9:26-35	Gospel: Mark 2:1-12
Sunday, March 27, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam) Fourth Sunday in Lent Lord who listens to the Cry	
Lesson 1: Joel 2:12-20	Epistle: Phil 4:4-9
Lesson 2: Acts 10:34-48	Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

FAITH AND PRACTICES OF THE CHURCH: A Study Series.

Liturgy of Sacraments – Continued from last issue.

1. Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

It is a Dominical Sacrament that is commanded by Lord Jesus Christ (Mt:28:17-20). This sacrament is associated with the ministry, suffering, death and resurrection of Christ.

Purpose of Baptism.

Identifying with suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus (Rom:6:1-8);
Cleansing from sinful nature (John:3:5-6);
Incorporating in to the Church which is the body of Christ;
Grafting into Christ the True Olive (Rom:11:17,24);
Entering into the Royal Priesthood of Christ.

Practice of Baptism.

The Liturgy of Holy Baptism includes the following:
Initial prayers;
Reading of the Epistle and the Gospel and Sermon;
Enrolment of the candidate and announcing the name;
Seal of Grace in the name of Trinity as sign of ownership;
Renouncing Satan and Professing Christ by Parents and God Parents;
Confession of Faith (Nicean Creed);
Anointing with Saith (Olive oil) as a sign of protection, healing and ownership by Christ;
Baptizing in the name of the Trinity at the Baptismal font by mixing hot and cold water as symbol Baptism by fire and water;
Exhortation to the Parents and God parents.

2. Sacrament of Confirmation (Anointing of the Holy Muron).

This Sacrament is done at the time of Holy Baptism.
It is sign of anointing of the Holy Spirit and to be united with Christ (Eph:5:2).
It is an act of Crowning the candidate as a symbol of:
Royal Priesthood,
Victory over sin through Jesus Christ and
Future reward for the faithful.

Note: This study will be continued in the next issue.

