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

THE EPISTLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



November 2011



MESSAGE FROM VICAR



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Nov. 1st Sunday is the 'Day of Renewal of the Church' (Hudos Eetho) and Oct. last Sunday was the 'Day of Sanctification of the Church' (Koodosh Eetho). The Liturgical Year of the Church begins with Koodosh Eetho and Hudos Eetho. The Lectionary of the Church is prepared based on this Liturgical Year. It is a spiritual journey and yearly celebration of salvation. The salvation event of Christ is unfolded and celebrated through out the year. These events includes the following four periods:

1. Annunciation Period (Subaro : Good news).

It includes annunciation to Zechariah, Virgin Mary, Elizabeth and Joseph.

2. Nativity – Baptism Period (Valdo – Danaha).

It includes birth, circumcision and baptism of Jesus and the entry of the Lord into the temple.

3. Great Lent Period (Saumo Rabo).

It is 50 days Lent that is divided into seven weeks. This is the period of manifestation of the Kingdom of God. It is the time of meditation of signs and healing of Jesus and passion and death of Jesus.

4. Resurrection – Pentecost Period.

50th day after resurrection is the day of Pentecost and 20 -22 Sundays after Pentecost are for the sanctification of the Church.

Fast and Feast of the Church.

The Church has five fasts (Lent):

1. Twenty five days Lent as the preparation for the birth of Jesus.
2. Three days Lent to remember the fast of Nineveh.
3. Fifty days Lent to remember the fasting, passion and death of Jesus.
4. Fast of the Apostles to remember life and witness of the Apostles.
5. Fifteen days Lent for the Reformation of the Church.

Feasts are of four types:

1. Christological Feast (Moronaya Perunal) related with life of Jesus.
2. Pneumatological Feat (Ruhanaya Perunal) related with the Holy Spirit.
3. Ecclesiological Feast (Eethonaya Perunal) related with the Church.
4. Sanctoral Feast (Dukrana Perunal) related with commemoration of Saints.

Let us enter into a new Liturgical year and celebrate the salvation event of Christ. Let us travel the spiritual journey through out the year. May God strengthen us to participate in God's mission of salvation.

Yours In Christ's service,

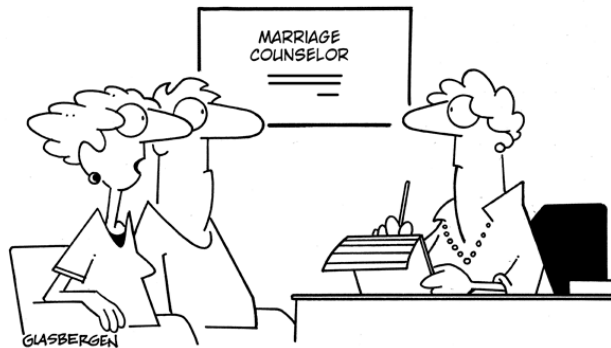
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Youth Chaplain's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



"We were made for each other. I needed new luggage and he came with a lot of baggage."

What is **LOVE** really?

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another". 1 John 4:10-11

Today, more than ever, sex is a commodity. Sensuality and exaggerated sexuality shout at us on every corner. Love is sex, sex is pleasure...pleasure is all that matters. Like the Christians in Corinth, **we have two lifestyles to choose: God's or the world's.**

It is important to recognize and reject the world's pattern of love:

We must understand that all the world's deceptions flow from the belief that love is primarily for the fulfillment and comfort of self. The world poisons love by focusing first and foremost in meeting one's own needs.

Love is primarily a feeling. When we make our feelings the most important measure of love, we place ourselves at the center of importance. If actions don't communicate love, feelings mean nothing.

The world tells us love is beyond our control. This thinking has found its way into our language, e.g. "falling in love", we're madly in love with each other". Such statements in part remove personal responsibility. That is, we may think of love as something beyond our control and thus excuse ourselves from having to behave responsibly.

As Josh Harris rightly states, "The world takes us to a silver screen "this is love". God takes us to the foot the cross and cries, "this is love". **God always defines love by pointing to His Son.** (1 John 4:19; Matt. 16:24)

God's pattern of love:

Christ taught that love is not for the fulfillment of self but for the glory of God and the good of others. John 15:13. True love is selfless. It gives; it sacrifices; it dies to its own needs. (if you can't do this, then you are not ready for marriage).

Liberty

By Miriam Chacko

God's will is liberty. Now the Lord is Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (2 Cor. 3:17). This liberty makes us free to Heaven's charter – the Bible.

When thou passed through the water, I will be with Thee (Isa. 43:2) The mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but my kindness shall not depart from thee (Isa. 54:10). We are a welcomes guest at the table of our Master's – Jesus Christ's promises. Scripture is a never failing treasury filled with boundless stores of Grace. It is the Bank of Heaven, and we can draw as much as we want, without permission or hindrance. If we have faith, we can boldly approach to the Throne of Grace and obtain all Covenant Blessings. There is not a promise in the Bible that will be withheld. In the depths of troubles and tribulations, let this Liberty comfort you. Amid waves of distress let his liberty cheer you.

When sorrow surrounds you, let this liberty be your solace. This is our Father's love – token He promised. This is our (believers) privilege to have access at all times to our Heavenly Father. We can spread all our cares and desires before Him. He is our Healer and Comforter. It does not matter what our needs are: for there is fullness and supply in Christ and it is for us. We are free to all that is treasured up in Jesus Christ – wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. Oh, what a freedom is ours, freedom from condemnation, freedom to His promises, freedom to the Throne of Grace, and at last our freedom to Eternal Life through Jesus Christ – our Savior and Master. Alleluia

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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:

TBD

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..

Christ showed that true love is not measured or governed by feeling.

He went to the cross when every emotion and instinct in His body told him to turn back. (Mark 14:32). Christ wants us to have the same attitude.

He did not say, "If you love me, you will feel warm, cascading sensations of religious emotion." Instead he told us, "if you love me, you will obey what I command" (John 14:15) *True love always expresses itself in obedience to God and service to others.*

Jesus' example also shows us that love is under control.

He chose to love us. He chose to lay down his life for us. We need to throw out the misconception that love is some strange "force" that tosses us around against our will like leaves in the wind. True love is not in reckless or selfish behavior – we choose these behaviors. Let us not be enslaved to sinful desires (1 John 2:16) and our passionate lust (1 Thess. 4:5)

Love must be sincere (Rom. 12:9)

There is nearly always a hidden agenda in worldly love: What can you do for me? What can I get from you? John 13:35. We have an incredible responsibility to reflect Christ's love on earth.

The wrong mindset today: Many of us have fallen prey to the idea that we can and should pursue romance for its own sake. In other words, "I'll become intimate with you because I'm prayerfully considering marriage". This attitude is not fair to the other person and is terrible preparation for marriage.

May God Almighty strengthen to follow His pattern of love in our life and thus lead lives pleasing to Him!

Your brother in Christ,

Jaisen Achen

214-604-6678

Birth Announcement

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Stanley
George on the birth of their baby girl, Niya.

BIRTHDAYS

1-Nov	Annama P. Philip	Rockwall	14-Nov	Jeffrey Alexander	Fate
1-Nov	Dylan Thomas	Mesquite	14-Nov	Marykutty Skariah	Garland
2-Nov	Anish M.Varghese	Mesquite	15-Nov	Susamma Varghese	Mesquite
3-Nov	Cherian P.P.	Sunnyvale	15-Nov	Omana Abraham	Mesquite
3-Nov	Deny John	Mesquite	16-Nov	Christina S Raju	Rowlett
4-Nov	George Ipe	Garland	16-Nov	Ribu Thomas	Mesquite
4-Nov	Skariah P.M.	Garland	16-Nov	Samuel Kurian	Mesquite
6-Nov	Sherwin Thomas	Rockwall	17-Nov	Chandy Jacob K	Mesquite
7-Nov	Joshua Thomas	Sunnyvale	17-Nov	Jency Thomas	Garland
7-Nov	Kevin Thomas	Garland	19-Nov	Abraham Oommen	Sunnyvale
7-Nov	Mariamamma Mathew	Mesquite	19-Nov	Beji Pappachan	Mesquite
8-Nov	Susan Chacko	Garland	20-Nov	Mathewkutty Geevarghese	Mesquite
8-Nov	Varghese K. Mathew	Mesquite	25-Nov	Bincent Jacob	Garland
10-Nov	Jiby Thomas	Plano	26-Nov	Zachariah Thomas	Sunnyvale
10-Nov	Suja Mathews	Garland	27-Nov	Bennet B.Jacob	Garland
10-Nov	Thomas K.J	Mesquite	28-Nov	Bindu Koshy	Garland
12-Nov	Albin Thomas	Sunnyvale	30-Nov	Annamma Chacko	Garland
12-Nov	Jennie Mathew	Mesquite	30-Nov	Rajan Mathew	Mesquite
12-Nov	John Mathew	Garland			

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

6-Nov	Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Kurian	Mesquite
9-Nov	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Philip	Garland
18-Nov	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas K. Geroge (Toy)	Garland
24-Nov	Mr. & Mrs. Koshy Thomas	Mesquite
27-Nov	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Koshy	Garland
30-Nov	Mr. & Mrs. Philipose M.V.	Dallas

Lectionary/Worship Information

Sunday, November 6, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam)

Renewal of the Church & World Sunday School Day
Nurturing the Faith

Lesson 1: Prov, 23:15-26

Epistle: Eph 6:1-4

Lesson 2: Heb 12:1-13

Gospel: John 6:1-14

Sunday, November 13, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - English)

Festival of Unity of Communion of Churches in India (CCI, CSI, CNI)
Unity through Worship

Lesson 1: Ezek 37: 15-23

Epistle: Acts 2:43-47

Lesson 2: Eph 4: 1-16

Gospel: John 17: 17-24

Sunday, November 20, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana—Malayalam)

Fifth Sunday before Christmas
Annunciation to Zechariah : Hope to the World.

Lesson 1: 1 Chron: 24: 1-19

Epistle: Heb. 5: 1-10

Lesson 2: Rev 1:1-8

Gospel: Luke 1: 8-23

Sunday, November 27, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - English)

Fourth Sunday before Christmas
Annunciation to Virgin Mary : Submission for God's will.

Lesson 1: Zech 2: 10-13

Epistle: Gal. 4: 21-31

Lesson 2: Eph. 1: 3-14

Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38

Important Events

Thanksgiving Day service:

Holy Qurbana on Thursday 24th November at
9:30 am.

Counseling Institute

November 17-19