

ST. PAUL'S MAR THOMA CHURCH
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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

**WE'RE ON THE
WEB!**

WWW.STPAULSMTC.ORG

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St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church
2425 Gus Thomasson Rd.
Mesquite, TX 75150

THE EPISTLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



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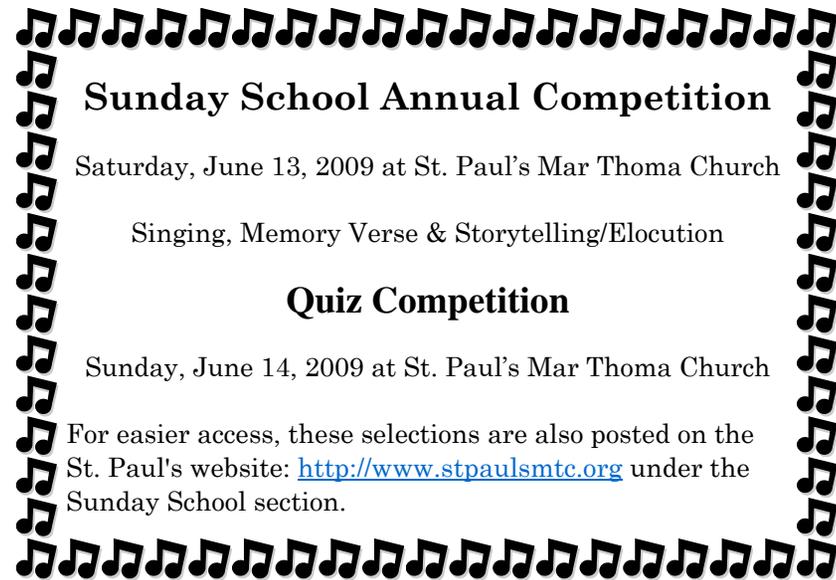
VBS 2009

June 25—28, 2009

Theme: Studio Go! Game Show

Early Registration : \$15 Per Person

Late Registration : \$20 Per Person



Sunday School Annual Competition

Saturday, June 13, 2009 at St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church

Singing, Memory Verse & Storytelling/Elocution

Quiz Competition

Sunday, June 14, 2009 at St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church

For easier access, these selections are also posted on the St. Paul's website: <http://www.stpaulsmtc.org> under the Sunday School section.

The Four Candles *Contributed by Miriam Chacko*

The Four Candles burned slowly.
Their Ambiance was so soft you could hear them speak...
The first candle said, "I Am Peace, but these days, nobody wants to keep me lit."
Then Peace's flame slowly diminishes and goes out completely.
The second candle says, "I Am Faith, but these days, I am no longer indispensable."
Then Faith's flame slowly diminishes and goes out completely.
Sadly the third candle spoke, "I Am Love and I haven't the strength to stay lit any longer. People put me aside and don't understand my importance. They even forget to love those who are nearest to them."
And waiting no longer, Love goes out completely.
Suddenly...
A child enters the room and sees the three candles no longer burning.
The child begins to cry, "Why are you not burning? You are supposed to stay lit until the end."
Then the Fourth Candle spoke gently to the little boy, "Don't be afraid, for I Am Hope, and while I still burn, we can re-light the other candles."
With shining eyes the child took the Candle of Hope and lit the other three candles.

Never let the Flame of Hope go out of your life. With Hope, no matter how bad things look and are...Peace, Faith and Love can shine brightly in our lives.

-- Author Unknown

Prayer Meetings

AGAPE

LEADER: VINOD CHERIYAN

June 20, 2009 - Saturday at 6:30 pm - Residence of Mr. & Mrs. Bincent Jacob

EBENEZER

LEADER: LIZY JOHN

June 7, 2009 - Sunday at 6:30 pm - Residence of Mr. & Mrs. Raju George

June 20, 2009 - Saturday at 7:00 pm - Residence of Mr. & Mrs. N. V. Abraham

EMMANUEL

LEADER: VIJU VARGHESE

June 6, 2009 - Saturday at 6:30 pm - Residence of Mr. & Mrs. Ipe George

June 21, 2009 - Sunday at 6:30 pm - Residence of Mr. & Mrs. George Mammen

MANNA

LEADER: SAJI P. GEORGE

June 6, 2009 - Prayer Meeting Cancelled

SHALOM

LEADER: ABRAHAM KOSHY

TBD



MESSAGE FROM VICAR

Dearly beloved in Christ,

It is our great pleasure that God gave us an opportunity to come over here to do his ministry. My wife Reny, daughter, Sneha, and son, Vineeth join with me to greet you all. We need your prayer, support and cooperation to do the parish ministry fruitfully. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Rev. C.K. Koshy for his sincere efforts he made for the growth of the parish. The church is the body of Christ, the continuation of the incarnation of Jesus Christ. The world sees the church through the local parish. The renewal of the church is possible only through the revitalization of the parishes. The parish can do its ministry more effectively only if its members have a good relationship with Lord Jesus Christ and with one another. Christian spirituality is based on three factors such as i) tradition of the church, ii) the word of God and iii) personal experiences. Unless we give equal importance to all these three factors, then perverted spirituality will be formed. Our Mar Thoma Church is a reformed Eastern Episcopal church which gives equal importance to them. We should study the word of God, we should understand the faith and practices of the church and we should enjoy the salvation experience in Christ. For a better understanding about our faith and practices, a study series is also included in our parish news letter. I hope you will take it seriously. Like the early church, let us be a worshipping, witnessing, and caring community. May God bless us all.

Yours in Christ,
Noble Achen.

Faith and Practices of the Church: Study Series.

Questions About Worship

1. What is worship?
The word worship is formed from two words worth and ship. So worship means proclaiming the greatness of God who has worth. It is giving praise to God of salvation, glory and power (Revelation : 19:1)
2. What is Holy Qurbana?
It is one of the seven sacraments in the church, sacrament means experiencing God's grace. The life of Jesus is the greatest sacrament through which we received God's grace. When we receive Jesus, our life will become a channel of God's grace in the world. Qurbana means thanks giving. It is the remembrance of the death of Jesus, the celebration of his resurrection and hope of his second coming.
3. Why should we use written form of worship?
 - i) to transfer our basic Christian faith to the new generations.
 - ii) to worship in a proper and orderly way (1 Cor: 14: 40) iii) to reveal the collective aspect of the faith community rather than the individualistic interests, and
 - iii) to keep up the unity of the church.

Our liturgy has two main parts : i.) liturgy of the word of God and ii.) liturgy of breaking of bread. Our church gives equal importance to these two parts.

4. Why do we use symbols in worship?

Eastern liturgy is very much symbolic. Symbols are used to make the worship more meaningful and attractive. Three types of symbols are used :

a) gestures

Bow down heads, kneel down, stand up, raise hands etc.

b) persons

Church is the priesthood community of Christ. (Heb 7:26-28; 1 Pet 2:9). Priest is the representative of the worshipping community. The worshipers represent the whole creation (Psa:148). Choir represents the angels in the heaven.

c) things.

i) Sanctuary : it is built in east-west direction to worship Jesus who is like the morning star (Rev: 2:28) . Sanctuary has two parts, representing the heaven and the earth. The curtain separates them. Curtain symbolises the body of Jesus Christ through which we enter into the heaven. (Heb :10 :19).

ii) Thronos : it symbolises the seat of God's grace and the altar where Jesus was crucified (Heb :4:16)

iii) cross : It symbolises the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

iv) candles : They remind us that we are called to be the light of the world reflecting the real light Jesus Christ (Mt 5:14 ; Jn 8:12).

v) bread and wine: They are the symbols of the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

vi) incense: it is a symbol of our prayer going up to heaven. The smell and smoke also symbolise the faith and love by which the hearts of believers are filled.

vii) Baptismal font: it symbolises the spiritual womb through which every believer becomes a member of the church.

viii) Syth (olive oil) and muron : They are the symbols of healing and anointing of the holy spirit respectively.

ix) ring, crown and minnu: they are used in wedding. Ring and crown symbolise the faithfulness of the couple with Jesus Christ.. Jesus is the bridegroom and church is the bride. Jesus had redeemed the church and sealed it for him through the cross. Minnu is a symbol of female fertility and it reminds about the faithfulness between bride and bridegroom.

x) priestly dress (vestments). It symbolises the preparation of the priest for the worship, glory of worship and the armour of God (Exo: 28:2 ; Eph 6:13-18). Head dress of bishops (masnapsa) symbolizes the inheritance of Jesus and his twelve apostles, and the crown of Jesus he got on the cross.

Next issue : History and Vision of the Mar Thoma Church

Lectionary Information

Sunday, June 7, 2009 - (Malayalam Service) Students' Sunday- Education: true search for knowledge	
Lesson 1: 1 King 3:5-14	Epistle: Philip.4:4-9
Lesson 2: Jam. 1:1-8	Gospel: Mat. 7:24-29
Sunday, June 14, 2009 - (English Service) Integrity of Creation - Divine Plan	
Lesson 1: Levi. 25:8-24	Epistle: Rom. 8:18-27
Lesson 2: Rev.22:1-7	Gospel: John 15:1-15
Sunday, June 21, 2009 - (Malayalam Service) Challenges of Christian Spirituality	
Lesson 1: 1 King.21:1-21	Epistle: Jude 3-16
Lesson 2: Acts.8:14-24	Gospel: Luke. 12:13-21
Sunday, June 28, 2009 - (English Service) Second Millennium Jubilee of the Conversion of St.Paul	
Lesson 1: Exo. 3:1-14	Epistle: Philip. 1:12-26
Lesson 2: Acts.9:1-17	Gospel: Mat. 10:16-23

BIRTHDAYS

1-Jun	Abraham Perumal	Mesquite	13-Jun	Michelle Mathai	Mesquite
1-Jun	John Thomas(Kunju)	Mesquite	17-Jun	Shilu Varghese	Dallas
1-Jun	Varghese A. Varghese	Garland	17-Jun	Thomas P . Chacko	Garland
2-Jun	Jacob C .C	Garland	19-Jun	Abigail Mammen	Rockwall
2-Jun	John K John	Mesquite	20-Jun	Joice Phil Mathew	Sunnyvale
2-Jun	Susan SaumiChacko	Mesquite	22-Jun	Raju Chacko	Rowlett
3-Jun	Sudha Varghese	Rockwall	25-Jun	Thomas Philip	Mesquite
4-Jun	Bassy Philip	Mesquite	26-Jun	Sherril Ann Raju	Mesquite
4-Jun	Sosamma Varghese	Garland	30-Jun	Annamma Thomas	McKinney
5-Jun	Amita Edison	Garland			
5-Jun	Kunjamma Thomas	Garland			
8-Jun	Ashish Mathai	Mesquite			
8-Jun	Jenny Mammen	Rockwall			
8-Jun	Lincy George	McKinney			
8-Jun	Subin John	Mesquite			
9-Jun	Joseph Koshy	Garland			
10-Jun	Keren Cherian	Sunnyvale			
10-Jun	Oommen Koshy	Sunnyvale			
11-Jun	Thankamma Thomas	Mesquite			
11-Jun	Vijee Mathew	Plano			

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

5-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Reji Philip Thomas	Garland
6-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. John K . Mathew	Mesquite
7-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Beji Pappachan	Mesquite
8-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Jonathan Jones Mathew	Sunnyvale
9-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Abey Kuruvilla	Wylie
12-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Anish Mathew Thomas	Garland
17-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Bincent Jacob	Garland
19-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Abraham Koshy	Mesquite
20-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Zachariah Thomas	Sunnyvale
20-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. George Mammen	Rockwall
30-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Viju Varghese	Rowlett
30-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Thomas George	Rockwall

Youth Chaplain's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



and .. Saul is stopped by the first TRAFFIC LIGHT on the road to Damascus. **Acts 9:1-6**

What does it mean to be called? Do you feel you have a call from God?

What is it for? Why is it?

In the Old Testament, we observe that Abraham and the nation of Israel were called to be a "light to the Gentiles" and a "blessing to all nations". Yet, we also understand call in terms of God electing certain individuals for a great and specific task. However, we may simply understand, the call, as listening and responding to the ever-present voice and direction of God for our lives.

The experience of being called may also be understood in terms of, promise. In the book of Jeremiah 1:5 it reads, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you as a prophet to the nations". Here, God intends to communicate to Jeremiah that you are not by accident and that your life has a purpose! Jeremiah told God he was too young! The disciples doubted Jesus even after the Resurrection (Mt. 28:17) and yet Jesus used them mightily. In the call, we understand that no matter how imperfect we may be God still has a great purpose that he wants to accomplish through each one of us.

The call is also a promise that God will be with us! In Jeremiah 1:8, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you to deliver you!". We are often surrounded by different types of pressures and often standing in Christ is much harder than we would expect. Yet, God tells us as well that no matter how great our problems may be, no matter how tough His way may seem, He is by our side leading us forward in His

Church Activities

love! Jeremiah, the disciples and so many others overcame their own inadequacies and were made powerful instruments in the hand of God!

Trust in God today! Know that He has called you! And He keeps calling until you listen and reply to His voice! Accept His call and His promise and be encouraged knowing that God has tremendous plans for your life!

May God Almighty strengthen us all to obey His call and live for Him all the days of our life!!!

Your brother in Christ,

Jaisen Achen
H- 972-495-5393
C- 214-604-6678
revjathomas@yahoo.com

Church Building Update

As you may have noticed, we have much to thank God for the latest progress on our Church building. The outer walls and frames of the building are being built rapidly. Also, we will see the interior walls going up as well as the roof within the next few weeks. So far we have passed all the structural and steel inspections and have corrected all the deficiencies. We will continue to see rapid progress until the completion of our new church building. All subcommittees are continually working to complete the various aspects of the building such as pews, audio, video, and finance.

Please continue to pray earnestly for the success of the project. With God NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE! Let us work for the glory of God and his kingdom.

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Regular classes at 8.45am.

Saturday, June 13 - Annual Competition

Sunday, June 14 - Quiz Competition Selection - After Holy Qurbana.

June 25-28, 2009 - VBS 2009

SEVIKA SANGHAM:

June 12—Breakfast Sale

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:

Tuesdays - Bible Study with Rev. Jaisen Thomas

Thursdays - Prayer Call

Fridays - Prayer Fellowship - Study of "Romans"

Sundays 6-8pm - Open Gym at Sunnyvale First Baptist Church

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM:

TBD

PARISH MISSION:

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

Sundays 9-9:30am - Intercessory Prayer

CHOIR:

Sundays - Practice sessions after Holy Qurbana.

SPECIAL PRAYER:

Fridays, June 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 9.30 to 11.30am - The residence of Mrs. & Mr. Jaisy & Raju George, 922 Dandelion Dr, Mesquite, TX.

OTHER EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

Ecumenical Convention

June 26, 27, 28 - 7-9pm - St. Thomas Catholic Church, Garland, TX

Family Conference

July 2-5, 2009 - Westchase Marriott Hotel, Houston, Texas

Hosted by Immanuel Mar Thoma Church, Houston

Ecumenical Choir of KECF

Sunday at 5pm at St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church, Mesquite, TX.