

ST. PAUL'S MAR THOMA CHURCH
2425 GUS THOMASSON RD.
MESQUITE, TX 75150

Phone: 972 613 9080

PARSONAGE ADDRESS

5906 BLUE OAK DRIVE
GARLAND, TX 75043
972 226 0976

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

PRESIDENT
REV. A. P. NOBLE

VICE PRESIDENT
BABU MATTHEW

SECRETARY
JACOB ABRAHAM

TREASURER
ANIL MATHEW

ACCOUNTANT
MATHEWKUTTY GEEVARGHESE

LAY LEADERS
RAJANKUNJU CHIRAYIL
JUSTIN MATHEW

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

THE EPISTLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



October 2009





MESSAGE FROM VICAR

Dearly beloved in Christ,

The month of October is very important for us because on 4th Sunday the church as a whole to celebrate as Christian family day. This is the time to meditate up on our family life. It is God who designed and instituted the first family in the Garden of Eden with a purpose that is to become heaven on earth with justice peace and joy in the spirit. But due to sin, man lost the meaning and purpose of the family life. It is through Jesus Christ we get back the happiness of the family life. Family is the basic unit of the church and society. It is the basic community from where we understand the global world. But today rapid changes are taking place in families. A number of families end up in broken relationships including divorces and become dysfunctional. Many youth do not want to get married; many of them live together having intersexual relationships without marriage bond. It is pleasure seeking and has no obligation to each other. In America, one third of the children are born out of illegal relationships and fifty percent of the total children are brought up under care of single parents. The destruction of family is the main reason of immorality of the society. The families will have strong foundations only when they rest on eternal values of the kingdom of God, like justice, love reconciliation and peace. The family set up will become real only when the members are related to each other and they play different roles as it is determined and given to them by God.

The famous Christian theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer sitting in the Nazi prison cell, wrote a wedding sermon for his niece who was about to be married. "Marriage is more than your love for each other. It has a higher dignity and power, for it is God's holy ordinance. Through which he wills to perpetuate the human race till the end of the time. In your love, you see only the heaven of your happiness. But in marriage you are placed at a post of responsibility towards the world and mankind. Your love is your own private possession, but marriage is more than something personal it is status, an office."

Let us think up on our family life. If we have fallen from God's purpose, with true confession, let us come before God who can make us holy and guide us in his wisdom. May God Bless Us all.

Yours in Christ
Noble Achen
revnobleap@yahoo.com
Cell phone: 469-964-7494
Home phone: 972-226-0976

Family Renewal Meetings

When: October 23-24, 2009 at 7 pm

Where: St Paul's Mar Thoma Church

Family Sunday - October 25, 2009

All member of the parish are expected to participate in Holy Qurbana as each family on Family Sunday.

Church Picnic

When: Saturday, October 3, 2009

Where: Ablon Park, 3850 Ablon Trail Drive, Garland, TX

Talent Night

When: Saturday, October 10, 2009 at 6:30 pm

Where: St. Paul's MTC Auditorium

Please see Choir for more details.

Faith and Practices of the church– Study about God

Prayer Meetings

AGAPE

LEADER: VINOD CHERIYAN

TBD

EBENEZER

LEADER: LIZY JOHN

TBD

EMMANUEL

LEADER: VIJU VARGHESE

October 4, 2009 at 6 pm—Residence of Mr. & Mrs. George Mammen

MANNA

LEADER: SAJI P. GEORGE

TBD

SHALOM

LEADER: ABRAHAM KOSHY

TBD

1. How can we believe in God's existence?

God is a reality. In the eastern tradition, the church fathers emphasized the mysteriousness and incomprehensibility of God. In Western tradition the church fathers assembled the arguments to prove the existence of God. St. Augustus set forth the following arguments.

i. Ontological argument

The name God itself proves God's existence because we cannot give a name to who/which does not exist. The name Yahweh means 'one who is being' (Exodus 3:14). It means God is the only one reality and everything else will be vanished. There is always within human beings a search for God as a higher supreme being that gives life to all.

ii. Cosmological Argument

Since there is an order within the universe, there ought to be an originating intelligence, the creator.

iii. Moral argument.

Since human beings are created as moral beings, God is seen as the source of all moral values and goodness.

iv. Theological argument

Since everything in the universe has a purpose in creation, God is seen as the one who gives purpose.

2. How do we know God? We cannot make God as an object of our study. But we can know God only as far as he has revealed himself to us. God had revealed himself through the following means:

i. Since the sky reveals God's glory (Psalms 19:1). The universe is God's revelation.

ii. Human beings are created in God's image and likeness. So they are God's revelation. (Genesis 1:26)

iii. History can be seen as God's revelation because it is the written past of what God has done in the world.

iv. The scripture, the Bible is the revelation of God. It is the word of God because it speaks about God.

v. Jesus Christ is the final and complete revelation of God. Jesus is the incarnated word of God. (John 1:1-3) and the incarnated love of God. (1 John 4:8). Jesus said that he and God are one. Jesus was the man in whom God revealed himself in every aspect. So Jesus is fully human fully divine at the same time. The death of Jesus to redeem them from. The secret things belong to God, but he revealed things belong to us. (Deuteronomy 29:29) God is not impersonal principle, but is a person with whom we can have communication and relationship.

3. What are the characteristics of God?

The Bible gives many attributes of God.

i. God is the God of love.(1 John 4:8). It is agape love that means conventional, steadfast, unconditional and self giving love (Romans 5:8). God is the one who takes initiative in loving the sinful human beings. God's love is relational love such as husband loves his wife or as parents love their children. Because of God's relational love, we understand God as our companion, guide and our all. God wants us to love one another (John

Lectionary/Worship Information

13:3)

- ii. God is the God of Justice (Isaiah 40:14). The word justice means right relationship. Since God always does justice, he wants his people to do justice with one another (Isaiah 1:7, Amos 5:24, Micah 6:8) For this purpose God gave ten commandments to the people of Israel (Exodus 20)
- iii. God is the God of righteousness. God's righteousness is revealed in the death of Jesus Christ on the cross to forgive our sins. (1 Peter 2:24, Philippians 3:9, Romans 14:17)
- iv. God is always active in history creating, sustaining, redeeming and renewing his creation. God created everything out of nothing. He created human beings as stewards of his creation and his coworkers. God has opened a new way in Jesus Christ to return to the original humanity. The incarnation, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ give us hope of salvation. Salvation is our participation in God's love and forgiveness that is revealed in Jesus Christ.

4. Why God is Triune?

God is called triune, because there are three persons in God- father, son and Holy Spirit. They are not three Gods but three persons in one Godhead of same substance. Three persons are con-essential in terms of being co-equal in terms of status and co-eternal in terms of time. Three persons have same characteristics and they work together always. This relationship is a community in God-head. It is like arithmetic equation $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$. Trinity is intended to be a model for us to make a community with accepting, respecting and submitting to each other.

5. Is it right to say that God changes from time to time?

No. God is an unchanging God but human understanding about God changes. For example, the Samaritan woman's understanding about Jesus had changed as Jew, master, prophet and then messiah, the Christ (John 4:9, 11, 19, 26). The understanding of disciples about Jesus also changed as leader, teacher, master, son of God and then God. In the Old Testament times, the people of Israel understood Yahweh as their own God who led them in war and destroys their enemies. The Jews never thought that the gentiles have a space in God's salvation. But the prophet Amos says that God is God of all the people in the world (Amos 9:7). God called Israel as his people to become a blessing for others. God's call is more a responsibility rather than a status. In Jesus we see God as loving, relational and dwelling among us who is active in history leads the history to its fullness which is the new heaven and new earth.

Next Issue: Questions about the Bible

Sunday, October 4, 2009 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam) Voluntary Evangelistic Sunday : Equipping the Local Congregation for Mission	
Lesson 1: Neh. 2:11-18	Epistle: Eph. 4:11-16
Lesson 2: 2 Tim. 4:1-18	Gospel: Matt. 5:13-16
Sunday, October 11, 2009 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam) Sunday for Physically and Mentally Challenged	
Lesson 1: 2 Sam. 9:1-13	Epistle: Acts. 3:1-10
Lesson 2: Heb. 12:12-17	Gospel: Mat. 15:29-31
Sunday, October 18, 2009 - (Ordinary English Worship Service) Youth Sunday: In Search of a Meaningful Life	
Lesson 1: Eccl.11:9-12:8	Epistle: 1 Tim. 4:6-16
Lesson 2: Heb. 12:1-11	Gospel: Mat. 6:24-34
Sunday, October 25, 2009 - (Holy Qurbana - English) Christian Family Day: Warmth and Love in the Family	
Lesson 1: Gen. 27:1-29	Epistle: 2 Tim. 1:3-14
Lesson 2: 1 John 2:7-17	Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

Laity Duties

	Worship Service Assistant	1st Lesson	2nd Lesson	Prayer
Oct 4				
Oct 11				
Oct 18				
Oct 25	Ashish Mathew	Jonathan Jones Mathew	Smitha Mathew	Patrick Marathamootil

BIRTHDAYS

1-Oct	Philip Samuel	Sunnyvale	21-Oct	Lillykutty Mathew	Mesquite
1-Oct	Thomaskutty Thomas	Garland	21-Oct	Thomas Abraham	Mesquite
3-Oct	Suja J Thomas	Garland	22-Oct	Alice Simon	Mesquite
4-Oct	Mollykutty Koshy	Sunnyvale	22-Oct	Angela Abraham	Mesquite
4-Oct	Teena Abraham	Mesquite	22-Oct	Anney Thomas	Sunnyvale
5-Oct	Aby Thomas	Mesquite	22-Oct	Varghese K. Mathew	Garland
5-Oct	Idiculla Mathew	Garland	24-Oct	Anne George	Sunnyvale
5-Oct	James Mepurath	Sunnyvale	26-Oct	Anney Abey	Wylie
7-Oct	Ashlen Abraham	Mesquite	26-Oct	Jonathan Mathew	Sunnyvale
7-Oct	Daliya Edison	Garland	26-Oct	Thomas Varghese	Mansfield
7-Oct	Samma Abraham	Mesquite	27-Oct	Elizabeth Abraham	Garland
8-Oct	Mary Thomas	Mesquite	27-Oct	Jacob Abraham	Garland
10-Oct	Jotham Babu Simon	Mesquite	27-Oct	Lydia Philip	Sunnyvale
11-Oct	Rachel P. Joseph	Mesquite	28-Oct	Alwin Mathew	Mesquite
13-Oct	Sunny K John	Sunnyvale	28-Oct	Sarah M. George	Garland
14-Oct	Kevin Cherian	Sunnyvale	29-Oct	Joshua Skariah	Garland
15-Oct	Susan John	Garland	30-Oct	Mini Varghese	Garland
17-Oct	Jerril Raju	Mesquite	31-Oct	Shone Sherry George	Garland
18-Oct	Jim K Jacob	Mesquite			
19-Oct	Jojoy Koshy	Sunnyvale			

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

11-Oct	Mr. & Mrs. Rajith K M	Mesquite
16-Oct	Mr. & Mrs. Idiculla Mathew	Garland
22-Oct	Mr. & Mrs. Mathai Abraham	Mesquite
25-Oct	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph George	Garland

Youth Chaplain's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



TRICK OR TREAT IN HELL - A time when the little hellions dress up as nuns, priests, tv evangelists, and angels of light scaring the 'HECK' out of the locals.

What characterizes true repentance? How essential is spiritual preparedness? Why?

A Halloween Story

Historically, Halloween or "All Hallows Eve" is the night before the solemn observation of "All Saints Day" wherein the Christian Church honors all saints in heaven, known or unknown. Although, this festival may have had certain pagan origins it became a significant occasion where prayers and sacrifices were conducted in honor of and to the dead.

One of the characteristic elements of Halloween has been the "Jack O' Lantern" or more correctly the "Jack of the Lantern", typified by a carved pumpkin with a candle or light inside. The story behind this is quite interesting and conveys a message of faith, spiritual maturity and preparedness. The story goes like this:

Jack was a unique person who grew up in a small simple village. He was quite intelligent and had earned a reputation for cleverness and laziness. Yet, in his whole life he never made a single enemy, a single friend and never performed a selfless act for anyone. However, in order to earn some money to spend at the local pub, he looked for an "easy shilling (coin)" from gambling, a pastime at which he excelled. While lazily drinking at the pub one Halloween, it came time for him to die. When the devil arrived to take his soul, he asked permission to finish his drink. After which, he challenged the devil to transform himself into a shilling. The devil accepted and instantly took the form of a shilling whereupon Jack grabbed the coin and held it tightly in his hand which bore a cross-shaped scar. The power of the cross kept the devil imprisoned there, until Jack negotiated an-

Church Organizational Activities

other year of his life for the devil's freedom. He assumed another year would be ample time to repent. However, at the end of the year the devil came to meet him once again. This time, too, Jack tricked the devil into giving him another year of life so that he could repent. He kept thinking he'd get around to repentance later, at the last possible minute. But the agreed-upon day arrived and death took him by surprise. Jack first found himself before the pearly gates before St. Peter who shook his head sadly and denied him entrance. Then he found his way to the gates of hell only to be confronted by the anger and wrath of Satan who did not want to have anything to do with him. Jack, utterly desperate, in the dark shouted out, "Where can I go?" cried Jack. "How can I see in the darkness?" Satan answered him by tossing a burning coal into a hollow pumpkin and ordered him to wander forever with only the pumpkin to light his path. From that day forward he has been called "Jack o' the Lantern."

This story conveys the necessity of the believer to repent and transform in order to be worthy of the eternal life and joy that Christ offers. It is easy to get caught up in the ways of this world and forget the reality and hope of eternity. Jack enjoyed all the pleasures of the flesh and was blind of the faith and Christian lifestyle. True repentance, brings about a radical change in the very lifestyle and perspective of an individual.

May this All Hallows Eve be a time to rejoice in the faith, commitment and sacrifice of our ancestors before us and may each Jack o' lantern you see remind of our need for true repentance and spiritual renewal!

Your brother in Christ,
Jaisen Achen
214-604-6678
972-495-5393
revjathomas@yahoo.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Regular classes at 8.45am.

SEVIKA SANGHAM:

TBD

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:

Tuesdays - Bible Study with Rev. Jaisen Thomas

Thursdays - Prayer Call

Fridays - Prayer Fellowship -

Sundays at 7-8:30pm - Open Gym at Sunnyvale First Baptist Church

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM:

TBD

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.

SPECIAL PRAYER:

Fridays from 9.30 to 11.30am - The residence of Mrs. & Mr. Jaisy & Raju George, 922 Dandelion Dr, Mesquite, TX.

Diocesan Convention at Dallas

Thursday, Oct 15, 2009 at 7 pm at St. Paul's MTC.

Friday, October 16, 2009 at 7 pm at Carrollton MTC.

Saturday, October 17, 2009 at 7 pm at Farmers Branch MTC

Sunday, October 18, 2009 at 9 am Common Holy Qurbana at
Sehion MTC

Guest Speaker: Very Rev. Abraham Samuel

Sevika Sangham Diocesan National Conference

Oct 1—4, 2009

New York