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ARTICLES NEEDED!

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please send it to: Jacobkab@hotmail.com

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St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church
1002 Barnes Bridge Rd.
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THE EPISTLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



May 2011



Lectioary/Worship Information

Sunday, May 1, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - English)

First Sunday after Resurrection

The Lord appears before Thomas the Apostle

Lesson 1: Exodus 3:7-15

Epistle: 1 Tim 2:1-7

Lesson 2: 1 Pet 1:1-9

Gospel: John 20:24-29

Sunday, May 8, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam)

Second Sunday after Resurrection

Live in the Risen Lord

Lesson 1: Ezek 37:1-14

Epistle: Rom 6:1-14

Lesson 2: Col 3:1-11

Gospel: John 21:10-14

Sunday, May 15, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana—English)

Third Sunday after Resurrection

Jesus who walks along with us in midst of adversities

Lesson 1: Joshua 1:1-9

Epistle: 2 Cor 12:1-10

Lesson 2: 1 John 3:1-12

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Sunday, May 22, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam)

4th Sunday after Resurrection (Sacred Music Sunday)

With Psalms and Praise

Lesson 1: 1 Sam: 2:1-11

Epistle: Eph 5:15-21

Lesson 2: Rev 4:1-11

Gospel: Luke 1:46-55

Sunday, May 29, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - English)

Fifth Sunday after Resurrection

Jesus who is Life and Resurrection.

Lesson 1: 1 Kings 17:13-24

Epistle: 1 Thes 4:13-18

Lesson 2: 1 Cor 15:50-58

Gospel: John 11:17-25



MESSAGE FROM VICAR

LIVE WITH THE RISEN CHRIST.

This is the main theme of meditation during Sundays in month of May.

The message of Resurrection can be explained through five statements:

1. Resurrection speaks of a Living God.

Jesus is the Lord of life and the living God cannot be defeated by the Devil.

2. The Resurrection validates Christianity.

The transformation happened in the life of the disciples and the growth of the Church reveal the fact that Jesus is risen.

3. The Resurrection guarantees the Redemption of the soul.

We have received redemption from sin through the resurrection of Christ.

4. The Resurrection is the Foundation of our eternity.

We have the hope of eternal life after death because Jesus is resurrected.

5. The Resurrection demands to continue the mission of Christ.

The Church is called to witness the risen Christ and to continue the mission of the Kingdom of God.

Where we can see the risen Christ ?

- (1). In Galilee (Mt:28:7) where the poor and ordinary people live;
- (2). On the mountain (Mt:28:16);
- (3). On the road (Lk:24:15).
- (4). At the dining place (Lk:24:30);
- (5). Inside the room (Jn:20:19).
- (6). At the sea shore (Jn:21:4);

(7). At the garden (Jn:20:15).

This means that we can see and experience the risen Christ any where and any time. The presence of Jesus gives us hope, courage and peace in our life in midst of trials and temptations.

May God bless us and guide us to live with the risen Christ for ever.

Yours in Christ`s service,

Noble achen.

In Christ`s service,

A.P.Noble achen.

Email: revnobleap@yahoo.com

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WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

4-May	Mr. & Mrs. James Mepurath	Sunnyvale
4-May	Mr. & Mrs. Raju George	Mesquite
9-May	Mr. & Mrs. Varghese Alexander	Fate
9-May	Mr. & Mrs. George P.C.	Mesquite
17-May	Mr. & Mrs. Mathew Kurian	Mesquite
17-May	Mr. & Mrs. Mathewkutty Geevarghese	Mesquite
18-May	Mr. & Mrs. Saji P. George	Sunnyvale
18-May	Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Johnkutty	Mesquite
22-May	Mr. & Mrs. Jiju Thomas	Mesquite
23-May	Mr. & Mrs. Thomaskutty Thomas	Garland
23-May	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Mathew(Valsan)	Mesquite
28-May	Mr. & Mrs. John Thomas	Garland
30-May	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Thomas	Garland

BIRTHDAYS

1-May	Rev. Biju P Simon	Garland	22-May	Abraham N.V.	Mesquite
2-May	Asha Abraham	Mesquite	22-May	Princey Varghese	Garland
2-May	Alwin Thomas	Garland	23-May	Dr. Vinu Ipe	Garland
2-May	Julie Vincent	Mesquite	24-May	Sam Koshy	Mesquite
4-May	Nisha Jacob	Garland	24-May	Susheela Thomas	Mesquite
5-May	Stanley Varghese	Garland	25-May	Anupa Zachariah	Mesquite
7-May	Leelamma Mammen	Rockwall	25-May	Hanna M.John	Garland
8-May	Janse John	Mesquite	25-May	Alex Koshy	Garland
8-May	John Thomas	Garland	26-May	Chacko T. Oommen	Garland
8-May	M.M.Mathai	Sunnyvale	27-May	Salomi Chacko	Garland
10-May	George C.George	McKinney	27-May	Thomas George	Rockwall
10-May	P.V.George	Sunnyvale	28-May	Babu Mathew	Rockwall
12-May	Phil Mathew	Sunnyvale	28-May	Gemini Mathew	Sunnyvale
12-May	Amalea Edison	Garland	28-May	Mini John	Mesquite
13-May	Ancil Mathew	Sunnyvale	28-May	Philipose M.V.	Dallas
13-May	Vinod Cherian	Garland	29-May	Mathew Kurian	Mesquite
13-May	Tiny Thomas	Mesquite	30-May	Abraham Koshy	Mesquite
13-May	John Yohannan	Mesquite	30-May	Podiyamma Johnkutty	Mesquite
15-May	Allen Mathew	Garland	30-May	Rajankunju C.	Sunnyvale
15-May	Janet Philip	Rockwall	30-May	Sherly K Jacob	Mesquite
15-May	Melvin Idikulla	Garland	30-May	Susan Sunny	Sunnyvale
15-May	Miriam Easo	Mesquite	31-May	Babu John	Mesquite
16-May	Abraham Mepurath	Mesquite	31-May	Jaisy Raju	Mesquite
16-May	Asha Thomas	Garland	31-May	Laly Abraham	Mesquite
18-May	Thomas Koshy	Mesquite	31-May	Philip P.S.	Rockwall
19-May	Mathai Abraham	Mesquite	31-May	Raju George	Mesquite
20-May	Jezy R. Chacko	Rowlett			
20-May	Kurien Easo	Mesquite			
20-May	Mathew Mathai	Mesquite			
20-May	Susamma Varghese	Garland			
20-May	John Mepurath	Sunnyvale			
21-May	Leelamma Jacob	Garland			
21-May	Liana Cherian	Garland			

FAITH AND PRACTICES OF THE CHURCH: A Study Series.

Liturgy of Sacraments – Continued from last issue.

Sacrament of Holy Matrimony (Marriage).

Scriptural basis:

God created human beings as male and female (Gen:1:27).

God made them family and provided suitable partner (Gen:1:28; 2:22).

“Man shall leave his father and mother and cling on to his wife. They are no longer two but one. What God has united let no one separate” (Gen:2:24; Mt:19:4-6).

God`s purpose about marriage.

God takes initiative for marriage and God is present in marriage.

Christian marriage is not just a contract between two individuals, but it is a covenantal relationship with God.

It is a Sacrament, an Ecclesial act which is a means of Grace of God.

Marriage is physical, spiritual, emotional and social union between husband and wife.

It is centered around the divine love that has revealed on the cross.

God instituted the first family in Paradise of Eden as an early Heaven on Earth.

Two parts of the Service of Holy Matrimony.

1. Blessing of the Ring.

Minister puts the ring on the finger of the bride and the bridegroom.

It symbolizes the saving act of Christ to his Church.

Christ offered his body and blood as ring for saving the Church His bride.

Here Christ is pictured as the Heavenly Bridegroom and the Church as Bride.

The Church becomes instrumental in bringing together the couple.

Christ by suffering out of His love towards the Church, embraced her as bride.

2. Blessing of the Crown.

It is the Coronation where Bride and Bridegroom are considered as King and Queen of the family by virtue of their Royal Priesthood.

Crown is the sign of victory over sin, devil and death and it is the reward to the believers.

It also points towards the future crown of righteousness (2 Tim:4:8).

Marriage is symbolized as the Christ – Church relationship (Eph: 5:20-32).

Tying of Minnu which is a diminutive cross is adapted from Indian Custom with Christian interpretation and it is a symbol of faithfulness in marital relationship.

Mantrakodi (Bridal dress) is the sign of the imperishable Garment that Christ is going to give the true believers.

Note: This study will be continued.

Youth Chaplain's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



How meaningful do you find the presence of someone to be? Have you ever really felt the presence of God with you? If so, how does it feel? What is the basic purpose of the Church and how does it relate to the Ascension of Christ?

As we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ may we be encouraged to seek Him in the experiences of this life.

The awesome presence of the Resurrected Christ on the mountain in Galilee preceding the Ascension proclaims His majesty and victory over sin and the vices of evil. The Ascension remains a promise, as well, in that no matter the weight of the cross or the sufferings of this world, their lies a greater glory in the eternal presence of God.

Furthermore, Jesus says, "...And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (St. Matt. 28:20). These powerful words of Jesus Christ to his disciples as he ascended into heaven remind us of His limitless presence. In fact, it is a paradox of faith wherein the Ascension suggests a dynamic of presence and absence. So, the physical body or physical world is no obstacle for Christ who continues to live and move among His people.

Additionally, the experience of the Ascension is significant in that it was also a commission to His disciples and therein, the Church. Jesus says, "Go out into all the world..." and "be my witnesses". Thus, we are called out to be empowered by His presence to serve all humanity in the love of God through His example. As a Church, this is our purpose and call.

Jesus Christ through the Resurrection and Ascension assures us in our personal struggles, as well as, in His greater purpose of mission for our lives that He will always be with us. His presence is not stagnant but, empowering for our every specific need.

May God Almighty strengthen us all to discern the limitless and awesome presence of Jesus Christ in our lives that renews and rebuilds for the sake of His mission!

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

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..