



**ST. MARY'S INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF ROCKLAND, INC. NEW YORK**
66 E. Maple Ave, Suffern, New York 10901
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News Letter –September 2004

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Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

People in all lifestyles complain about the problems they face in every day life. Many of us complain about disorders and dysfunction. Some of us name it as fear and try to find antifear techniques. Some of us put the blame on others. Others accept the fact that they are emotionally distracted. Many people talk about stress and stress management. Others think about anger and the cause of anger. In a place like America, it is very easy to find a therapist or counselor and many of us are not even willing to share the problems with any one. Finally, they have to accept the fact that they are alienated and isolated.

Spouses talk about their husband or wife that “ S/he is the most brilliant person I have ever seen”, “ S/he is very humorous” “ The person with the good balance of emotions” etc. After a while the impression changes, the flame in the romance shuts down, and from little things, they start arguments and fights. Then the relationship goes to the extreme end of separation and divorce.

In my perception, the central bolt of marriage and relationship is the dedication and dependence on God’s will and presence. Many of us forget the fact that the grace and mercy of god is keeping us. Riches, positions and higher things in life make us forget God and the divine blessings. We replace God’s image and think of our own images instead.

Everything we have is from God. We mistake with the thought that God is like a human being. We misunderstand God’s feelings, God’s power, and God’s mercy and justice. If we think about the earth and planets in the solar system, there are hundred million stars in the galaxy. Each one has its functions and it is keeping the harmony. If we travel in a car with 65-mile speed, from earth to Pluto, estimated time will be more than 7000 years. The sun, the moon and all planets are God’s creation. We have the image of God. This does not mean that we have the power and attributes of God.

Let me conclude by saying this. My dear friends, we have to realize who we are and what we are. God is the creator, sustainer, and the alpha and omega. When we are tired, distressed, or confused with an answer to a problem, we have to put our complete trust in the Lord. Proverbs 3:5 “ Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, Never rely on what you think you know”.

May God bless every one.
Raju Varghese Achen

PARISH NEWS

Perunal

Church Perunnal was held on August 15th. H. G. Geevarghese Mar Coorilos, Metropolitan of Mumbai Diocese was the chief celebrant of the perunnal. Thirumeni lead the evening prayer on Saturday, August 14th and enlightened us with the devotional address. On Sunday, Thirumeni celebrated the Holy Qurbana. The Holy Qurbana was followed by Rassa and benediction. Church hosted the traditional Perunnal feast. During the feast, annual auction was conducted.

We had a blessed Perunnal this year. Plenty of members from neighboring Churches participated in this event.

Thanks to all the members for their participation in the Perunnal the annual auction ,cleaning of Church and yard

Special thanks to Marthamariyam Samajam members, especially Mrs. Molly Roy for coordinating the dinner for the Thirumeni.

Prayer Meeting:

- Monthly prayer meeting was held on Saturday August 28th at the residence of Mr. Mathew P. John, 125 Zugibe Ct, West Haverstraw, NY 10993.
- This month's prayer meeting will be conducted on Saturday September 18th at 6:30 PM at the residence of Mr. Saji M. Pothen 15 Durham Lane, Suffern, NY 10901. (845) 369-6011.

MGOCSM:

MGOCSM fund-raising raffle drawing was conducted on August 15th (Perunnal day). The winning ticket went to Mr. Liju Paul who donated the prize winnings back to MGOCSM. May God bless Liju for his generosity. Parish appreciates the hard work of MGOCSM office bearers and members for selling the tickets and making this a successful event.

Picnic:

Church Picnic was held at Anthony Wayne Park on July 31st. Kids annual sports were conducted and winner of the events were presented with a medal/trophy at the end of the picnic. Thanks to all the members who brought food, barbeque and other items for the picnic. Thanks to members who helped in barbeque and in organizing picnic events. Special thanks to the picnic coordinators Mr. Thomas Kurian and Mr. Jino Muckadackal.

Sunday School:

Sunday School Talent Competitions will be conducted on Sunday, September 26th and October 3rd.

Donation:

Mr. Thomas Alex & family donated jugs (for dispensing water during the Holy Qurbana) and Golgotha cover/cloth.

Lisa George and family donated some manglish Holy Qurbana service books and some Good Friday service books.

Annual Chhurch Trip:

Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard Church two-day trip was held on August 20th and 21st. Everybody who went to trip has a great time. Special thanks to trip coordinators Mr. Chacko Paul and Mr. Abraham Pothen for organizing a well planned trip.

Graduates:

Parish recognized the college and 12th grade graduates on the Perunnal day. Coorilos Thirumeni presented the recognition awards to the graduates. This year's graduates are:

12th grade: Jerry Jose, Justin Paul and Stephan Samuel.

College:

Vincy Thomas – Doctorate in Physical Therapy, Binu Pappen – BS in Communication

Liju Paul - BS in Finance, Shilu Roy – BS in Accounting

Recognized:

Parish recognized relentless and dedicated service of Mr. Abraham Pothen by presenting a plaque on Perunnal day.

Parish also recognized the devoted service of the previous Secretaries and Treasures by presenting them with the plaques on the perunnal day.

Coffee Hosts for September:

9/5/2004 – Manchayil T. Roy & Family, 9/12/2004 – Elias Joseph & Family

9/19/2004 – P. K. Mathai & Family, 9/26/2004 – Varghese Cherian & Family

Church Maintenance for August:

8/1/2004 – John Abraham & Samuel Abraham, 8/8/2004 – Varghese Abraham and Aleyamma Pappen. 8/15/2004 – Mathai Chacko and Jose Abraham, 8/22/2004 – Andrews Cherian and Samuel Daniel

New Born:

Mr. Roy Chengannur and Sindhu Roy were blessed with a baby boy on August 25th. Congratulations to the proud parents and kin.

Committee Meeting:

There was a joint meeting of the Board of Turstees and Church Managing Committee on July 25th to discuss half-yearly accounts and parish visit report.

Half Year General Body Meeting:

Half year General body meeting was conducted on August 1st, after the Holy Qurbana.

Holy Matrimony:

Congratulations to Mrs. Smitha Thomas and Mr. Robin Thomas who entered into the bonds of Holy Matrimony on August 22nd at College Hills St. Thomas Orthodox Church, Alwaye, Kerala.

We pray for their happy, prosperous and blessed married life.

Visiting India:

Mr. Mathew Thomas & Family

Demise :

Elder Brother of our member John Muckadackal passed away in Kerala on July 28th.

Preist Visited:

Rev. Fr. A. P. George celebrated the Holy Qurbana on August 7th as our Achen was visiting Detroit for an OVBS session. Parish extends sincere gratitude towards A. P. George Achen for accepting our invitation and celebrating the Holy Qurbana for us.

BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

1. 08- Ally Rachel Cherian
2. 10- John Thankachen
3. 12- Ashley Joseph
4. 12- Swapnamole Jacob
5. 13- Anju A. Philips
6. 14- Manchayil Roy
7. 14- Aleyamma Pappen
8. 15- Jerry Jose
9. 18- Sheeba Mathai
10. 23- Thomas Varghese
11. 23- Merin George
12. 25- Benson Cherian
13. 28- P. S. Varkey
14. 28- Mathew P. John

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY IN SEPTEMBER

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 1. | Mariakutty & Cherian Tharakan | -09/01 |
| 2. | Mariamamma & Mathew Jacobkutty | -09/11 |
| 3. | Mariamamma & Varghese Geevarghese | -09/11 |
| 4. | Leena & Benoye Mani | -09/15 |
| 5. | Gladys & Saji John Thankachan | -09/17 |
| 6. | Soosan & P. K. Mathai | -09/19 |
| 7. | Molly & Manchayil Roy | -09/25 |

Reminder

- Coffee host list for the year is available. Please fill up the vacant dates.
- *Please e-mail your articles to be published in our news letter To sajanpothen@yahoo.com or benny@starbeamsoft.com*

DIOCESEN NEWS

MGOCSM Felicitates Mar Barnabas and Mar Nicholovos

Franklin Square, NY: Aug. 18, 2004: The American Diocese of the Malankara Orthodox Church celebrated the birthdays of His Grace Mathews Mar Barnabas, Diocesan Metropolitan and His Grace Zachariah Mar Nicholovos on Friday, August 13, 2004 at St. Basil Orthodox Church, Franklin Square.

Following the evening prayers, both Metropolitans were felicitated by Mar Coorilose of Mumbai diocese, Fr. Dr. O. Thomas (Priest Trustee of MOC) other clergies, Secretaries of the different organizations, council members and the faithful.

Dn. Paul Cherian, MGOCSM General Secretary felicitated both Metropolitans on behalf of the MGOCSM of the North, Southern and Central Regions as well as the MGOCSM Council and all the youth of the American Diocese. Jacob Thomas Jr., MGOCSM NE Regional Secretary presented a token of their love and affection to both Metropolitans. Leeson Daniel, Offic

New Office bearers For MGOCSM America

New York: Aug. 14, 2004: Metropolitan H. G. Mathews Mar Barnabas of American Diocese appointed Dn. Paul Cherian (61 Mary St, Tappan, NY 10983) as the General Secretary of MGOCSM America after the election held at Tampa annual Conference on July 28- Aug. 1, 2004.

The conference acknowledged the outstanding performances of the outgoing General Secretary Dn. Aju Mathews for his last few years service as the General Secretary.

Also His Grace appointed Geevarghese John (Vladimir Seminary) as the Treasurer, by approving his election.

CHURCH NEWS

Holy Synod To Canonize Kurichi Bava, Mar Athanasius and Pampadi Thirumeni

Kottayam: August 17, 2004: The standing committee of the Holy Episcopal Synod of the Malankara Orthodox Church has begun the process to canonize Blessed Baselius Gee Varghese II (Kurichi Bava), Paulose Mar Athanasius and Kuriakose Mar Gregorios (Pampadi Thirumeni) here at Kottayam.

His Holiness Baselius Marthoma Mathews II presided over the meeting. After the meeting His Holiness announced the decision of canonizing these Church fathers in a near future after it's process is completed.

"Though the process of canonizing Blessed Paulose Mar Athanasius was began in early 2003, the standing committee now carefully examined the reports and added two more names to consider. Thus included Baselius Gee Varghese and Kuriakose Mar Gregorios' names for further process." said His Holiness.

Bishops-Elect Elevated As Rambans

Kottayam: Aug. 10, 2004: A warm reception was given to Dr. K. J. Gabriel Ramban and Dr. M. C. Zachariah Ramban after their elevation to the new order at Devalokam Aramana.

The elevation service was conducted after the Holy Qurbana on Saturday, August 7, 2004 at the Catholicate Aramana Chapel. His Holiness the Catholicos Baselius Marthoma Mathews II was the chief celebrant.

Catholicos-Elect H. G. Thomas Mar Themothios, H. G. Geevarghese Mar Osthathios, H. G. Mathews Mar Epiphanius, H. G. Paulose Mar Milithios, H. G. Kuriakose Mar Clemis, Dr. Yoohanon Ramban and Augen Ramban were also present. About 4000 believers attended the function from different parishes.