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## **News at St. Mary's JUNE-2005**



St. Mary's Indian Orthodox Church of Rockland Inc.

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President & Vicar: Rev. Fr. Dr. Raju Varghese

Secretary: Mr. George Thamaravelil Treasurer: Mr. Samuel Daniel

### **News Letter Editors**

Mr. Philipose Philip

Mr. George Thamaravelil

### Church Officials-2005

**Vicar** : Rev. Fr. Dr. Raju Varghese

Secretary: Mr. George Thamaravelil

Treasurer: Mr. Samuel Daniel

Joint Secretary: Mr. Varghese Cherian

Joint Treasurer :Mr. G.Kochu Geevarghese

**Board of Trustees**

Mr. Mathai Thomas-Mr. Manchayil T. Roy  
Mr. Abraham Pothan-Mr. Andrews V. Cherian  
Mr. Benny Kurian-Mr. Philipose Philip

**Managing Committee**

Mr. Saji M. Pothan (Ex-officio)-Mr. Saju George  
Mr. John Abraham-Mr. Chacko Paul  
Mr. Thomas Alex-Mr. Varughese Abraham

**Auditor**

Mr. Mathai Chacko

**Prayer Meeting Coordinator**

Mr. Jose Abraham

**Building Engineer**

Mr. John Abraham

**Sunday School**

Mr. John Muckadackal: Headmaster

Mrs.Viji Kurian: Asst.Headmistress

**Martha Mariam Samajam**

Mrs. Aleyamma George, Secretary -Mrs. Aleyamma Pappen, Treasurer

Mrs. Lipsy Mathews, -Young Women's Representative.

**MG.O.C.S.M**

Secretary: Ms.Linda Baby—Treasurer: Ms.Ponnu Varghese

**Malayalam & Music School**

Coordinator: Thomas Alex– Principal : Mathai Chacko

## Devout Christians...

Can devout Christians reconcile their beliefs with the college culture? There was an article in the Time Magazine in May 9 2005. 'College is traditionally the time for transitions and new freedoms', we have to agree with that. What this freedom means? At the younger age, youngsters have to make decisions in their life, rather than the parents make the decision. The state and federal regulations accept a person as an adult when they turn at the age of twenty one. The auto



insurance companies will consider them as an adult to own and operate a car only at the age of twenty five. The insurance premiums are high for drivers below the age of twenty five. The study in the Time magazine states, when kids reach college, they find out their identity, likes, and dislikes. They made a survey on 112,000 freshmen, and the study says 26 percent of the students claim they are Christians with high spirituality with the terminology 'born again'. 80 percent discuss religion or spirituality to their friends. 79 percent believe in God. 57 percent have questioned their faith, and 69 percent of them pray regularly. 40 percent of them think it is very important to follow religious teachings in every day life. Many of them are for the first time living away from home. The study states 'the wide world with all freedom gives them a chance to go with the flow of the majority', such as peer pressure to secular things and enjoyments. Few of them are locked with high spirituality and personal salvation.

Now the struggle for an average Indian orthodox youngster is very high to find his or her identity. There are different groups and cults pulling young people for good things and bad things. Some of them do not even know why the prayer people and cults want them to join with them. Some of them are money makers and some of them are building their own glory rather than the glory of the name of God. Some of them are forcing or tempting youngsters to involve in criminal activities. Our young people have to understand who we are and what we stand for? We have a wealth of Christian heritage with the tradition goes back to St. Thomas for more than 2000 years. Our family values are different than many people we see around. Our spirituality and devotion is different than many who claim as high spirituals. Our homes must be the place to discuss the religious and spiritual aspects of daily life. MGOCSM and the youth movements have to help the young people to adjust with the identity crisis. In my personal encounter with many young people, it is always good to open up your religious orientation and struggles to an older friend, or a priest or some one who can really trust, to help or assist in the struggle. Parents have to take more time and efforts to pray for their children to choose the right ways and move in the right direction.

My prayers and best wishes

Raju Varghese Achen

June 4, 2005

## **Church News**

### **Family Trip**

We have planned this year's family trip to Thousand Island on July 29 & 30 for two days. Please pray and cooperate for the enchanting trip. For further information please contact Mr. Chacko Paul or Mr. Abraham Pothen

### **MGOCSM One day trip**

MGOCSM unit of our Church is planning a one day trip to Six Flags, NJ on July 16, Saturday. Please contact Ms. Linda Baby or Ms. Ponnu Varghese for more information

### **Church Renovation**

ZBA hearing for the church renovation was held on May 18 Wednesday. The decision is postponed to June 16, Thanks to everyone who participated in the hearing

### **The Feast of Ascension (Swargarohana Perunnal)**

The Feast of ascension (Swargarohana Perunnal) was celebrated on May 4, Wednesday at 7.30 PM. A good number of our members participated.

### **Pentecost Perunnal**

Pentecost Perunnal was celebrated on May 15 Sunday. This was a solemn occasion where the presence of the Holy Spirit was experienced by many devotees.

### **Mothers day Celebration**

MGOCSM of our Church honored all our Mothers—who are the embodiment of Love and sacrifice, on Mothers day by giving Flowers. Thank you MGOCSM for your noble deeds.

### **May Prayer Meeting**

May Prayer Meeting was held on May 28<sup>th</sup> Saturday at 6.30 Pm at Mr. Raju Zachariah's residence. Many of our members attended the prayer. Rev. Fr. Dr. Raju Varghese and Mr. Mathew T. Pappen spoke on the occasion.

### **June Prayer meeting**

June Prayer meeting will be held on Saturday June 11, 2005 at 6.00 PM at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Mathai Thomas (Thampachan), 71 Lakewood Drive Congers, NY.

### **Young Women's Conference**

Young Women's Conference will be held on June 18, 2005 at St. George Orthodox church, Staten Island. All our Youngsters are encouraged to attend the Conference.

### **Diocesan Metropolitan's Visit**

Our Diocesan Metropolitan H.G. Mathews Mar Barnabas visited our church on Sunday May 22 and conducted the H. Qurbana. Thirumeni's presence was a great blessing for all. On Saturday evening Thirumeni conducted the evening Prayers and visited patients. Thanks to Benny Kurian & Family for arranging Thirumeni's stay and Mr. George Thamaravelil for taking care of Thirumeni's needs.

### **Congratulations- Dr. Susan Jacob**

Susan Jacob daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Varkey and wife of Mr. Anup, got her Doctorate in Pharmacy from Philadelphia Pharmacy College. The Church congratulates Mrs. Susan on her achievement.

### **Parents & Couples conference**

Parents & Couples conference under the auspices of the Marthamariyam Samajam was held at St. Gregorios church, Cherry lane Queens on May 22 Saturday. The church was packed with attendees. 10 members from our Church participated. Rev. Fr. George Ninan, Vice Principal, Nagpur seminary was the key note speaker. H.G. Mar Barnabas and H.G. Mar Nicholovos blessed the meeting with their presence. Mr. Philipose Philip was elected as the coordinator for the 2006 Parents and Couples conference.

### **Family & Youth Conference**

Family & Youth conference of The American Diocese of Indian Orthodox Church will be held at Hudson Valley Resort & conference center on July 6<sup>th</sup> thru 9<sup>th</sup>. Register immediately if you haven't.

### **Church Directory**

Updated Church directory is ready for publication. All members are requested to get their copies from the Secretary or Treasurer.

### **Parking Issues**

All the members are reminded to park orderly and properly when attending Church services

- 1) Do not park beyond the Church Parking lot on E. Maple Avenue.
- 2) Do not double park in the parking lot
- 3) Park in the Municipal parking or other streets without blocking driveways and fire hydrants.

We are hearing a lot of complaints about parking from our members as well as neighbors, Please cooperate.

### **Donation**

Mr. Jacob T. Varkey donated Incense & Chenniyam to the church

### **Condolence**

#### **Mr. C.K. Abraham**

The Church extends its deep condolence to Mr. Jose Abraham on the passing away of his father Mr. C.K. Abraham in India on May 6, 2005. May his soul rest in peace.

#### **Sabhakavi C.P. Chandy**

Was remembered by members of the Church for his great contribution in translating and composing most of the songs used in our Services. C.P.Chandy's contribution to the Church is so much that there is no parallel. The great soul of the Church was called to eternal life on May 5, 2005. May his soul rest in Peace.

### **Diocesan Assembly**

Diocesan assembly was held at Philadelphia St. Thomas Church on May 7, 2005. Our Vicar Rev. Fr. Dr. Raju Varghese, Diocesan assembly member Mr. George Thamaravelil and Managing Committee member Mr. Philipose Philip attended the assembly. The assembly discussed many issues including Priests salary, transfer, Diocesan Jubilee, Seminary etc. The decisions will be communicated by the Diocesan Metropolitan.

### **Unity Sunday Service**

Unity Sunday service under the auspices of the Joint Council of Churches, Rockland was held at our church on May 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 5.00 PM. Our Diocesan Metropolitan His Grace Mathews Mar Barnabas was the main speaker. His Grace spoke on "Unconditional Love". Members from St. James Marthoma Church, Hillburn, Bethany Marthoma church, Orangeburg, CSI Christ Church, Valley Cottage, St. Johns Orthodox Church- Montebello, St. Mary's Orthodox Church- West Nyack, St. Peters & St. Pauls Orthodox Church Sparkill and St. Mary's Orthodox Church Rockland- Suffern participated in the Program.. A 28 member choir from various Churches added beauty to the service. JCC President Rev. Johncey George welcomed the audience and Mr. Philipose Philip, secretary proposed vote of Thanks. Special thanks to Mrs. Liza George Mrs. Lizy Philip & Ms. Linda Baby for their participation in the Choir.

### **Malankara Sabha Bi-Weekly Publication**

Malankara Sabha has started a bi weekly publication from Kottayam from March 20, 2005. This Publication is intended to update our members with current Church events. This is really a great publication which every member should read and understand.. Please subscribe by paying \$ 30/ for one year and secure your copy.

**Birthdays– Wedding Anniversaries– Coffee Hosts****Birthdays in June**

06/01	James Jacob	06/01	Marykutty Mathew
06/02	Ancy George	06/02	Betty Zacharia
06/06	Thomas Alex	06/07	Amy Phillips
06/08	Samuel Daniel	06/14	Shilu Roy
06/16	Sheeba roy	06/18	Thomas kurian
06/19	Gladys John	06/21	Stephen Samuel
06/22	Abigail George	06/24	Annie Abraham
06/27	Samuel Abraham	06/27	Sophie Madampil
06/29	Susan Alex	06/29	Thomas Chacko

Let us wish them a very happy Birthday and extend our Prayers.

**Wedding Anniversary– June**

06/02	Reny & Jacob Cherian
06/12	Stinsey & Abraham Thenampallil
06/16	Saramma & John Thankachen
06/20	Suseela & Abraham V. Abraham

Let us wish them a very happy Anniversary

**Coffee Host– June**

06/05	Mr. Alex Abraham & Family
06/12	Mr. George Mangaletu & Family
06/19	MGOCSM
06/26	Mr.Samuel V. Abraham

May God Bless them

**Sabha News– Budget for 2005-2006 Passed**

2005-2006 Budget for the Malankara Orthodox Church was passed at the Managing Committee meeting held at Old seminary, Kottayam on May 24. The proposed budget in 4 schedules is Rs.114.38 crore. The Managing Committee will take up the matter of Bishops' transfer and allocation of Diocese to the new Bishops at its next meeting which will be held on June 23, 2005

**St. Mary's Church : Events' Schedule for 2005**

Family Conference	July	6 – 9	Wed thru Sat
Picnic	July	23	Saturday
Family Trip	July	29 & 30	Fri & Sat
OVBS	August	11 – 13	Fri thru Sun
Perunnal	August	20 & 21	Sat & Sun
Ettunombu	September	4 – 11	Sun thru Sun
Convention	September	9 & 10	Fri & Sat
Thanksgiving	November	24	Thursday
Christmas Carol	December	3,4,10,11 17&18	Only Sat & Sun

Please mark your calendar and plan in advance for all events.

George Thamaravelil  
Secretary

Samuel Daniel  
Treasurer

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**Important dates in June**

June 16 Apostles Fast begins ( Sleeha Nombu)

June 29 Apostles Fast ends. St Peter & St. Paul memorial

**Our Members at different levels of the Church**

American Diocese S.S Director  
Rev.Fr. Dr. Raju Varghese  
Sabha Managing Committee Member  
Mr. Philipose Philip  
F&Y Conference Secretary  
Mrs. Susan Varghese  
Men's Forum Regional Coordinator  
Mr. Abraham Pothen  
Sunday School Area Inspector  
Mr. Mathai Chacko  
Diocesan Assembly Member  
Mr. George Thamaravelil  
M.M. Samajam Central Committee Member  
Mrs. Saramma Abraham