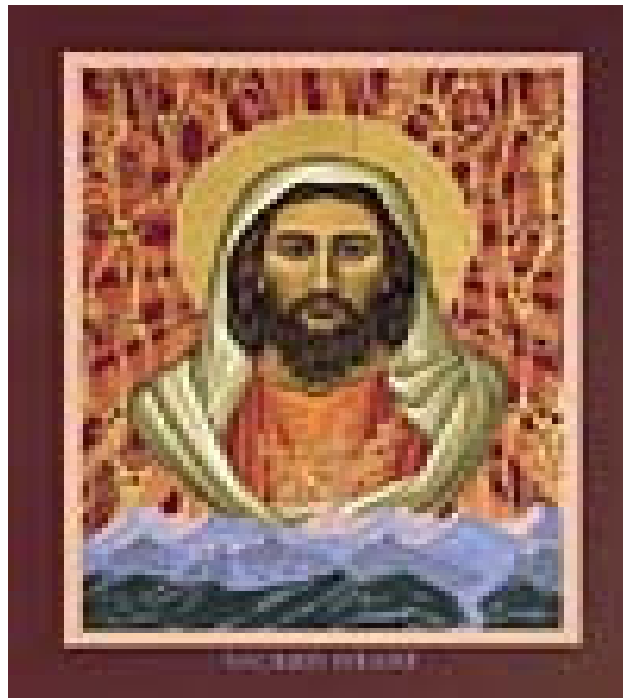


Newsletter Date: Mar. 6, 2005
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News at St. Mary's March-2005



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

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News Letter Editors

Mr. Philipose Philip

Mr. George Thmaravelil

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Joint Treasurer :Mr. G.Kochu Geevarghese

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Mr. Jose Abraham

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Mrs.Viji Kurian: Asst.Headmistress

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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

Dear friends,

We are about to reach the middle of the great Lent. The Sunday Gospel readings focus on Jesus healing sick persons from different walks of life. The work of Jesus Christ to a great extent is an account of healing.



Healing means restoring, curing, or bringing back to the original form. Healing is a common terminology we hear in the areas of medicine, psychology, and religion. Healing ministry is popular in the Christian field. Some of these instant healers are famous than God in His power, and unfortunately, healing is a multi million dollar industry now in the U.S.

Psychologists, psychotherapists, and similar professionals look for the emotional state of the mind. Physicians try to find out the physical cause of the ailment. Research and studies continue in the field of genetic engineering, cloning, and many similar forms to develop new methods in medicine and technology. What is the Healing ministry Jesus has done? He was healing people who really want to be healed. Jesus' healing was the restoration of the full human person.

Healing that Jesus has done was bringing the harmonious unity of the body, mind, and soul. If I rephrase this, the healing Jesus has done was restoring physical health, psychological harmony and spiritual well being.

Fathers of the church emphasized that man needs God and His grace. When we go away from God, sin and the attributes of sin will enter in our life. Healing is the cleaning process in the physical, mental, and physical stages. Jesus told the paralytic 'son, your sins are forgiven'. Sin and the attributes of sin can create ailments in the body and mind. When Jesus forgives the sins of the paralytic, his physical ailment is cured, and he could walk carrying his bed. My dear friends, let us think about the healings Jesus has done. Let us pray for His grace and mercy to give a healing touch to each one of us and be cured from the ailments of sin.

With prayers and best wishes

Raju Varghese Achen

02/23/05

Parish News: St. Mary's

General Body Meeting

A General Body meeting of our Church was held on February 13, Sunday after the H. Qurbana. The General Body unanimously approved the annual Budget for 2005. The following decisions were also taken.

1. **Diocesan share:** To pay \$ 60.00 per membership to Diocesan office every year till further Kalpana .Each & every subscribed member has to pay \$ 30.00 towards this a/c and balance of \$ 30.00 will be taken from church a/c to make the Diocesan share.
2. **Roof Repair:** To invite different plans & estimates from a qualified & competent architect to carry out the work of Roof & Remodeling of the church building, including the office building. The architectural fee for the Plan & Estimate should not exceed more than \$ 10,000/
3. **Custodian & Maintenance Fee:** \$50.00 should be paid by every subscribed member to meet the expense of Custodian and maintenance.
4. **Restricted Key Ways:** Since we have a custodian & the church cleaning is done by the Custodian, the General body had decided to replace the church key with a new system of " Restricted Key Ways" which means a duplicate/copy can not be made by any locksmith other than the manufacturer with the consent of the church officials. Any subscribed member who wants to have an extra copy is advised to inform the church officials prior to installing the system, so that order can be placed for extra keys and the church can maintain record of the keys.
5. **Church events and date:** Approved the church events and dates. A copy is displayed on the notice board and another copy will be published in the News letter, so that you can update your planner accordingly.
6. **Tsunami Disaster Relief Fund:** Decided to send \$ 5,000.00 to Diocesan office towards Tsunami Disaster Relief Fund.

Martha Mariam Samajam

Parent couple conference will be held at Jackson heights St. Mary's church on May 21st Saturday, 2005. Reg. Fee will be \$ 7.00 per head. Details to follow .The Annual Conference of MMS will be conducted at St.Thomas church, Philadelphia on October 15th. For further details please contact Mrs. Lisa George, Secretary or Mrs. Aleyamma Pappen. T.treasurer.

Sunday School Corner

Mid term Exam : Sunday school mid term was held on February 20, 2004. Thank you Teachers, Parents and Children for your hard work

Sunday school day celebration : Sunday school day will be celebrated on March 6, Get ready for sharing your talents

Welcome back: Our S.S Headmaster John Muckadackal and Family is back from India after a long vacation.

Sunday school Teachers for the year 2005

Mr. John Muckadackal (Headmaster)
Mrs Viji Kurian (Asst. Headmistress)
Ms. Binu Pappen
Ms. Chinnu Varghese
Ms. Elizabeth Pappen
Mrs. Rachel George
Mrs. Suja Pothan
Mrs. Annie S. Thermadom
Mrs. Lizy Philip
Mr. Liju Paul
Mr. Geevarghese Yohannan
Mr. George Thamaravelil
Mr. Jose Abraham
Mr. Mathai Chacko
Mr. Saju A. George
Mr. Varghese Geevarghese
Mr. Varghese M. Ninan
Mr. Philipose Philip

February Prayer Meeting.: Prayer meeting for the month of February was held on February 26 5.00 Pm at the residence of Mr. Varghese Abraham (Babu) New Jersey. So many of our Members participated. Our Achen Rev. Fr, Raju Varghese & Mr. Mathew T. Pappen spoke on the occasion. The meeting was a great blessing.

Congratulations!

Our Members Thomas Kurian (Kochumon) and Neetha is blessed with a Baby Boy "Gregory". The Church Family extends them our Congratulations and wish good health to Mom and Baby.

Healing of a Paralyzed Man

(Speech by Libin Baby on the Third Sunday of the Great Lent)

Today's Bible reading is taken from the gospel of St. Mark chapter 2 verses 1 through 12. In this passage St. Mark explains the miraculous healing of a paralyzed man. Jesus was sitting in a home at Capernaum, preaching to the multitude. All of a sudden four men carry a paralyzed man to Jesus. The four men lowered the sick man from the roof of the house, and Jesus healed him.

Let me explain some important points. **Four** men carried the man to Jesus. One person was not able to perform the task, so they made a group of four men. They united together to achieve the needed goal. In the same way we can accomplish great missions with the help of our fellow beings.

Secondly on their way to Jesus they faced a big obstacle—the crowd. But they did not turn back and instead found a way to break the barrier. In our daily lives we face big problems to overcome these problems you need courage and determination. In the middle of trials and tribulations don't lose heart. "Call upon me on the days of your trouble and I will deliver thee and you will glorify my name."

The third and most important lesson we learn from this miracle is the great faith of the four men. Jesus appreciated their great faith and healed the paralyzed man. What a beautiful moment! A man who has never walked in his life has finally now started to walk. This man was both physically sick and spiritually dead. Jesus forgave his sins and delivered him from his spiritual death also. God is a healer. Without faith no body can satisfy God.

Abraham is known as the father of the faithful. Hebrews chapter 11 contains a list of people who overcame great obstacles because of their great faith. Dearly beloved when we are not able our God is able. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. In this time of Great Lent we should carry over all our problems to God and be faithful to him. Thank you and may God bless you.

Important dates in March

March 02	Wednesday	Mid- Lent
March 06	Sunday	Kpiptho (Bowed Woman)
March 13	Sunday	Samiyo (Blind) and Catholicate day
March 18	Friday	40th day of Lent
March 20	Sunday	Palm Sunday
March 24	Thursday	Maundy Thursday
March 25	Friday	Annunciation to St. Mary, Good Friday
March 27	Sunday	Easter

Cleansing of a Leper

(Speech by Crystal Kuriakose on the second Sunday of the Great Lent)

This narrative we have in Matthew, Mark and Luke.

This man is said to be full of leprosy; he had that distemper in a high degree; which the more filthy represents our natural pollution for sin.

The belief in that time was that, leprosy is the punishment of God and they are forbidden to go to church. But, he believed that Jesus could heal him. Even though no body would touch a leper, Jesus touched him and he got healed. Jesus told him not to tell anybody about this blessing. I think, this is a very important advice to all of us that we should not be boasting about the small blessing from God. Jesus told him to go to the church and meet the priest. Jesus is pointing out the importance of Church and priesthood.

We are also in the same path of that leper. We are infected with leprosy of the heart and mind, from the crown of the head to the sole of the foot; there is no soundness in us.

What we must do in the sense of our spiritual leprosy?

We must seek Jesus, enquire after him, acquaint ourselves with him, and reckon the discoveries made to us in Christ by the gospel the most acceptable and welcome discoveries made to us of Christ, by the gospel the most acceptable and welcome discoveries that could be made to us.

#2. We must humble ourselves before him, as this leper seeing Jesus fell on his face, we must be ashamed of our pollution, and in the sense of it, blush to lift up our faces before the holy Jesus.

#3 We must be earnestly desire to be cleansed from the defilement, and cured of the disease of sin, which renders an unfit for communion with God.

#4 We must first believe Christ's ability and sufficiency to cleanse us: Lord, thou can't make me clean though I be full of leprosy. No doubt is to be made of the merit and grace of Christ.

#5 We must be importunate in prayer for pardoning mercy and receiving grace.

#6 We must refer ourselves to the good will of Christ: Lord if thou will, thou can't.

Dear friends, The Great Lent started already. How many of you are doing the Lent. If not, it is not late, start today.

Cleanse your body from Leprosy, let Jesus touch you and heal your sins of leprosy.

Prepare yourself to carry the holy body with Arimathya Joseph. Be ready to touch the wounds of Jesus with Thomas.

THANK YOU

Wedding at Cana

(Speech by Jerrin Jose on the First Sunday of the Great Lent)

In the John chapter 2 verse 11, Jesus performs his first miracle at Cana. Cana of Galilee is a village west of the Sea of Galilee. Which is about nine miles from Nazareth. Jesus, his mother and his disciples were invited to a wedding there. Jewish weddings usually lasted around a week and were occasions of celebration and feasting. Providing the wine for the celebration was a matter of honor for the host. The shortage of wine at the wedding put the host in a desperate situation. The host may have discussed this deficiency with his family. Jesus' mother may also have been included in this meeting. By changing water to wine, Jesus proved that he is the Son of God, and reveals Himself as the One Who has come to bring joy to the world.

Jesus' mother was the one who informed him that there was no more wine. The fact that she told Jesus about the situation means that she possessed great faith in him and expected him to do something remarkable to help the host of the wedding. Then Jesus replied "Dear woman, why do you involve me? My hour has not yet come." His reply does not mean that he has no respect for her. The term woman in Greek is one of respect. When Jesus said My Hour, he was referring to his crucifixion. Then his mother told the servants to "do whatever he says." This is another example of her faith. The pots Jesus asked the servants to fill were stone water pots that were used by the Jews for ceremonial washing. Each one was able to hold 18 to 27 gallons of water. When the servants filled the pots with the water, they were then told to go and give some of the water to the master of the wedding. When the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine, he did not know where it had come from. The servants followed Jesus' directions obediently. In verse 10, the master of the banquet said that the wine that was brought out last was the best. This is because God's provision is better than man's. When we have problems, we should ask God and not rely on ourselves.

One of the lessons from this passage is that Jesus was invited to the wedding. We must also invite Jesus, into our lives. When we invite Jesus into our lives, he will provide for us. He will help us overcome our obstacles with his blessings. In Psalm 18 verse 6 David writes In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried, unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him even into his ears. At the wedding, the host probably worried about the lack of wine so Jesus was called upon in their time of distress. Just as Jesus was informed about the shortage of wine, at the marriage, we must also inform him of our problems and obey his instructions so that he could help us. Like the servants we must also be obedient. We must surrender our will to his so that his blessings and miracles can help us.

The water turning into wine symbolizes that Jesus is able to improve ordinary people like his disciples. When we allow Jesus to enter our lives, he is also able to improve us. In second Corinthians five verse 17, “therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away: behold, all things are become new.” Also in this passage we see that they turned first to God. We should also ask God first as it says in Matthew chapter 6 verse 33, But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

During the great lent let us all submit our worries to Jesus, and ask him to change our lives. Lent is the time for purification and renewal. May God almighty wash us all with his blood.

Malayalam & Music classes

Malayalam and Music classes are functioning regularly at our Church . Please enroll your Children for the classes. For more information contact Mr. Thomas Alex or Mr. Mathai Chacko

Consecration of New Bishops

Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church is consecrating 4 New Bishops on March 5, Saturday at Parumala. H.H. Moran Mar Baselius Marthoma Mathews II, Catholicos of the East and Malankara Metropolitan will be the chief celebrant. The newly elected Bishops are **1) Very Rev. Yoochanon Ramban:** Rambachan is from Niranam Diocese and a member of the Sabha Managing Committee. He is currently the coordinator at Karuniya Guidance Center, Tvm. Very Rev. got his Doctorate in Christian Ministry from U.S

2) Very Rev. Ougen Ramban: Currently serves as the Manager at Vakathanam Vallikkattu Dayara. He had been Secretary to H.H Marthoma Mathews I for many years.. He has also served as Manager at Devalokam & Diocesan Secretary at Kottayam Central

3) Very Rev. Gabriel Ramban: Very Rev. Gabriel has a Doctorate from Serampur University. He is currently a Professor at Kottayam Theological Seminary. He is a great writer and author of many thought provoking books and articles..

4) Very Rev. Zacharia Ramban: Very Rev. Zacharia Ramban is well known to our Parish as Rev. Fr. M.C. Cherian. He is currently serving as the general Secretary of M.G.O.C.S.M . Very Rev. got his Doctorate from the U.S

Let us all pray to God to give them spiritual Strength to guide our Church in the true faith.

ST.MARY'S CHURCH OF ROCKLAND
SUFFERN, NEWYORK

Proposed Church Events Schedule for 2005

Annual Retreat	March	12	Sat
Catholicate Day	March	13	Sun
Passion Week	March	20– 26	Sun thru sat
Easter	March	27	Sun
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

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

03/01	Sheena Roy,	03/01	Reny Cherian
03/03	Christa George	03/04	Shan Andrews
03/05	John Abraham	03/06	Rachel Abraham
03/06	Diana Jacob	03/07	Sarah Pothen
03/07	Leions George	03/07	Teena Muckadackal
03/09	Leelamma Mathai	03/12	Betsy Abraham
03/18	John Phillips	03/20	Varghese Geevarghese
03/20	Michelle George	03/20	Meril Pothen
03/20	Sherin Philip	03/20	Nita Mathai
03/21	Lincy Mathew	03/23	Alexander Madampil Jr.
03/28	Sheeja Varghese	03/28	Rhea Mathews
03/30	Vincy Thomas		

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

Wedding Anniversary

No Anniversary in March

Coffee Host– March

March 6	Sunday	Mr. Varghese M. Ninan
March 13	Sunday	Mr. Mathew Thomas
March 20	Sunday	TBD
March 24	Maundy Thursday	Marthamariam Samajam
March 27	Sunday	Church

From The Editors,

We thank you all for your valuable feed back. We have tried to make this issue more attractive based on your suggestions. We think you don't need eye glasses this time. Please let us know more of your comments.

All members are encouraged to send articles, stories etc. for the News letter.

Philipose Philip

George Thamaravelil

Newsletter Date: Mar. 6, 2005
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**Our Members at
different levels of the
Church**

American Diocese S.S Director
Rev.Fr. Dr. Raju Varghese

Sabha Managing Committe
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



Grand Finale to Navathi Celebrations

The Navathi celebrations of our Supreme Head- His Holiness Moran Mar Baselius Marthoma Mathews II was celebrated at Adoor in presence of a large crowd. Kerala Chief Minister Shri Oommen Chandy inaugurated the closing ceremony. In his Speech he symbolized our Bava Thirumeni as a super Spiritual leader with enormous humility and love for others. So many dignitaries from other Churches spoke on the occasion and congratulated Bava Thirumeni.

Upcoming Events

- 1) Consecration of 4 more Bishops for the Malankara Orthodox Church will be held at Parumala on March 5, Saturday.
- 2) Our Sunday School Day: March 6, 2005 Sunday
- 3) F&Y Conference: July 6-9 at H.V Resort, Albany
- 4) Church Calendar is published on page 10
- 5) March prayer Meeting at the residence of Mr. George Joseph- Date T.B.D