

NEWS AT ST. MARY'S- JANUARY 2008

Volume 8 Issue 1



St. Mary's Indian Orthodox Church of Rockland

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Dearly beloved,

I shall only be satisfied when I wake in your likeness... (Psalms 17:5)

In the modern world the concept of salvation is interpreted differently. We listen to the election campaigns for the next president election. Political programs also target on eradication of evil and establishment of peace. Latest Christian religious movements talk about 'born-again' experiences. Many of them claim a date and time about the born again experience. Salvation is misinterpreted or misunderstood. Salvation is a process and is evolved through real repentance. Use of free will to choose God's way and strengthen the spirit through sacramental worship is the basics of salvation experience. Salvation is a continuous process and this will continue whether we are alive or dead. We are growing to the likeness of God. Salvation is the process to get back the original image the first man Adam had before his fall. Becoming Godlike is our final destination and the journey continues without any interruption. This experience is defined by David in the psalm as awakening in His Likeness.



St. Basil A.D. 270 "Salvation is not a matter of instant experience, not is it one of cosmic fate or election. Rather it is like everything else, a process, a struggle, a climbing of a spiritual ladder". The answer to the question – How we are saved? is very simple. Struggling to become like Christ, salvation is dynamic and moving constant towards the likeness of Jesus.

Sin according to the fathers is choosing to not be like God. Jesus taught us that salvation is the journey towards God. "narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life' (Mt:17:14) We must learn self discipline and good habits. More than learning about salvation, we must practice in daily life with an earnest desire. Always remember 'not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of God my father in heaven' (Mt:7:22). 'Let your light so shine before men, they may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven' (Mt:5:16) Repentance is change of heart followed by a change of behavior. This journey will lead us to salvation; will lead us to the likeness of god.

May God bless every one.

Raju Varghese Achen

01/27/08

Parish News

Metropolitans Visit

Our Diocesan Metropolitan HG Mathews Mar Barnabas visited in connection with the memorial service of late Mr. K G Issac, father of our Raju Varghese Achen, and celebrated Holy Qurbana on January 14TH Sunday.

Monthly Prayer Meeting

Prayer meeting for the month of January was held on the 26th at the residence of Mr. Samuel Daniel. Our vicar Fr. Dr. Raju Varghese and Mr. Varghese Geevarghese gave messages. Our children actively participated and made presentations. It was a blessing for many of our families who attended.

Next Prayer Meeting

Prayer meeting for the month of February will be held on 2/23/08 Saturday. Please plan and make every effort to attend.

Election of Church Officials

The Managing committee elected Mr. Thomas Alex as Joint Secretary and Mr. Chacko paul as Joint Treasurer for the year 2008. Committee also elected Mr. John Jacob as coordinator for holy week, Mr. Jyothis Jacob and Jeemon Varghese as Food/Refreshments Coordinators..

Ecumenical Christmas Celebrations

Ecumenical Christmas celebrations of the Joint council of churches was held at our church on 6th January. Our church members sang Carol song and our children presented a beautiful Christmas show. It was a grant event.

Condolence

Mrs. Podiamma Mathai, sister in law of Mr. Mathew P John passed away in Kerala. The church extended prayers for the departed and sympathy to the bereaved family.

MGOCSM

The MGOCSM elected the following office bearers for the year 2008

Secretary- Meghan Mathew, Treasurer- Nithin Mathai

Jt Secretary- Arun Zachariah, Jt Treasurer- Simi Alex

Area Representative- Ponnu Varghese, & Amy Philips

Bible Quiz

- 1.) Where was Moses buried?
- 2.) What servant woman was the mother of Ishmael?
- 3.) What is the first color mentioned in the Bible?
- 4.) What king had Daniel thrown into a Lion's den?
- 5.) What was St.Paul's birth name?
- 6.) What prophet ordered a king to shoot arrows out a window?
- 7.) What book of the Bible portrays wisdom as a woman?
- 8.) Who made an ax head float on water?
- 9.) What was Israel's birth name?
- 10.) Where did Jesus weep over Jerusalem?
- 11.) What prophet was imprisoned in a cistern?
- 12.) What Roman official did Peter baptize?
- 13.) What took Elijah into heaven?
- 14.) According to Proverbs, what kind of water is sweet?.
- 15.) Who died after falling out of a window during one of Paul's sermon's?
- 16.) In what country did Jesus talk to an immoral woman besides a well?
- 17.) What was the name of the angel who appeared to Mary?
- 18.) What kept Adam and Eve from returning to the Garden of Eden

Birthdays

Removed for Privacy sake

Wedding Anniversary

Removed for Privacy sake

Quiz Answers:

1.Mt. Nebo 2.Hagar 3.Green 4.King Darius 5.Saul 6..Elisha
7.Proverbs 8.Elisha 9..Jacob 10.The Mt of Olives 11.Jeremiah
12. Cornelius 13.A whirlwind 14. Stolen Water 15. Eutychus
16.Samaria 17. Gabriel 18. Cherubim with a flaming sword

My Lenten Experience

When I was a small boy being brought up by my parents, I kind of hated the Lenten season. Apart from having to give up on some of my favorite food stuff, I loathed the long, "special" Lenten prayers. And there was no way out. I had to actively participate in them whether I detested them or not. It happened year after year. Now it seems that the steadfast and strict discipline with which I was brought up is paying rich dividends. It has, unconsciously yet conspicuously, enriched and transformed me into a better and more spiritual person. When I started living away from my family for my higher studies, daily prayers that was engrained in me as a deep rooted habit by then, remained with me, and provided me with much needed refuge and strength. It was then (as I recited those prayers alone and aloud) that I really started to contemplate and brood over the meaning of those profound, breath-taking Lenten prayers, which until then I used to recite mechanically. Believe it or not, now I indeed look forward to the Lenten season, especially to recite those really wonderful prayers taken from the Holy Scriptures as well as written by our Church fathers truly inspired by the Holy Spirit!

I hope my experience will be an inspiration for all parents who find their children troublesome and disinclined to pray. In spite of the initial abomination that they may have towards prayer, it is important to persist with a regular prayer life. Slowly but surely, it will enrich them and become an integral part of their lives. I also beseech all those who have not yet started the habit of praying the special Lenten prayers to take up their prayer books, and discover the priceless treasure that is in them. You will be amazed by its depth, and rest assured, it will have a profound impact upon your spirituality!

With love & prayers,

Sanjoy

Courtesy ICON

Editors Note: If you have a spiritual experience please email to the address on the back cover. Those who are interested for a Lenten Guide visit www.stgregoriosAustin.org and look for Lenten guide which can be down loaded.

2008 Proposed Church Events Schedule for Feb & March

Mid-Lent	Tuesday Feb 26	Holy Qurbana	6:30 PM
Catholicate Day	Sunday March 9	Holy Qurbana	8:45 AM
40 th day of lent	Thursday March13	Holy Qurbana	6:30PM
Retreat	Saturday March 8 (15)		10.00 AM
Palm Sunday	Sunday March16	Holy Qurbana	8:30 AM
Pesaha	Wednesday March19	Pesaha Service	6:45 PM
Good Friday	Friday March21	Good Fri Service	8:00 AM
Holy Saturday	Saturday March22	Holy Qurbana	10:00 AM
Easter/Annunciation	Sunday March 23	Holy Qurbana	8:00 AM

Sunday School Anniversary February 3 Sunday

Next Monthly Prayer Meeting: February 23 Saturday 6.00 PM

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

Men's Forum Regional Director & Family Conference Souvenir Editor

Mr. Abraham Pothan

M M Samajam Central Committee Member

Mrs. Saramma Abraham

Family Conference Committee Member

Mrs. Viji Kurian

Diocese S.S. Talent Competitions Coordinator & Board Member

Mr. Mathai Chacko

We invite articles, poems etc. to publish in the news letter. Please e-mail to: lionmathai@yahoo.com or josenirappil@hotmail.com. Thank You.