

NEWS AT ST. MARY'S- MAY 2008
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St. Mary's Indian Orthodox Church of Rockland

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Tree is known for the fruit that bear.....

Every tree is identified by the fruit that bear. 'Fruit' means the results, outcomes, accomplishments, achievements etc. Jesus warned "every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and is thrown into fire" (Mt: 7:19). Good fruit comes out from a healthy tree. Jesus wants us to be healthy and produce good fruits. A fruitless tree will eventually cut down and thrown into fire.

In order for the branch to bear fruits, the branch has to abide in the true vine. Jesus is the true vine and we are the branches. Through baptism, we are engrafted to the body of Christ like a branch engrafted to the vine. Abide in me and I in you, imply the intimate relationship with Christ and the believer.

The spring season is over and we are entering the summer season. We see people planted their gardens and caring for the lawns. We see beautiful flowers and trees everywhere. When we see plants and trees we think about the flowers and fruits from each plant or tree. The gardener has a plan and an expectation of each plant in his garden. God is passionately looking to see the good fruits from each one of us. According to St. Paul, Jesus the gardener is waiting to see the fruits of the spirit from each one of us. The fruits are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self control. Our goal is to make sure we produce the fruits that the gardener wants us to produce. He is giving us chances to get back through repentance and bear good fruits. If we don't produce the good fruits, the tree or the plant will be destroyed and thrown into everlasting fire "he will gather the withered branches and throw them into fire" (John 15:6)

My dear friends, when we see the beautiful plants and trees, let us think about the fruits they produce and in a similar manner let us think about what kind of fruits we produce. Always think that God is expecting some good fruits from us. He is patiently waiting to see the good fruits from us.

Parish News

May Prayer Meeting

The monthly prayer meeting was held at the residence of Mr. George Koshy (Sudish) in Suffern on Saturday May 24th 6:00 PM. Many of our members participated. Rev Dn. Sujith Thomas gave an inspirational speech at the prayer meeting. The children made various presentations. The meeting was a great blessing for the participants.

June Prayer Meeting

The monthly prayer meeting for the month of June will be held on the 28th Saturday at 6.00 PM at the residence of Mr. George Mangaleth, 12 Topaz Court, New City. Everyone please make plans to attend.

Mother's Day

Mother's Day was celebrated on May 11. All the mothers were thanked and appreciated for all their service and contributions. MGOCSM took the initiative and coordinated it very well.

Holy Matrimony:

1. Sheeba, daughter of Mrs. Molly and Mr. John Thomas, got married to Santhosh on 4/7/08 in India
2. Bindu, daughter of Mrs. Gracy and Mr. Mathai Thomas, got married to Rajeev on 5/8/08 in India
3. Chinnu, daughter of our Vicar Rev Dr. Raju Varghese and Kochamma Mrs. Susan Varghese, got married to Jenson Varghese on 5/26/08 in New York.

Unity Sunday Celebration and Ecumenical Convention

JCC will hold the ecumenical convention on June 7th Saturday from 6.30 PM and the Unity Sunday celebrations and 2nd day of convention will be held on 8th Sunday from 5.30 PM at the St James Marthoma Church, Hillburn. All are requested to attend.

Diocesan News:

Parents and Couples Conference

The Parents and Couple conference was held on Saturday May 31, 2008 from 9.00 AM to 4 PM at the St George Orthodox Church, Portchester. Rev Fr. Dr. O . Thomas was the key note speaker. He delivered a very powerful and informative speech in his own unique witty style based on the theme Christian family in the globalized world. Many of our members were fortunate to attend and listen to him.

Family and youth Conference:

The family and youth conference will be held from July 16 to 19. Please plan to attend. For more information and registration please visit www.dioceseconference.org. Registration form is also available with the secretary Mr. Mathai Chacko.

Sunday School News

Sunday School Final Examinations:

Centralized Examinations for the 12th Grade will be held on June 1st Sunday. All other grades will have their examinations on June 29th Sunday .

Sunday School Web Site:

A new web site has been launched for the American Diocese Sunday School Please check the web site www.indianorthodoxsundayschool.org for up to date information of Sunday school examinations, competitions, OVBS, and other programs.

Sunday School assigned competitions:

American Diocese Drawing and Essay competitions deadline is on June 30. For details check the last month news letter (copy is available on our church web site) or the Sunday school web site mentioned above.

Wedding Anniversary In June

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JUST A PHONE CALL

-by Rhea

Mathews

It was late at night when my family and I were on our way to Canada when there was a phone call. We learned that my grandfather had died. We were on vacation and a horrible call had changed our moods. We were in an unsuitable van and now everyone felt like crying.

I loved my grandfather very much. I felt like crying. I also felt like someone was tearing my heart. My uncle was turning the car around. I felt like a firework had died inside me. I still wanted to go on vacation. I could hear my mother and father crying. My family was saying we can't enjoy someone's death. We have to go home. When we got home it was late so we went to bed.

The next morning the priest came to say a prayer for my grandfather's death. At Church we said another prayer for him. In this prayer, I wished my grandfather was with me and didn't die. Now, not going to Canada was not so important to me anymore. The worst thing was that my mom and dad had to see my grandfather's funeral, which was far away from our home. My mom kept saying, "You will cry if we take you." She was right. I would've been crying.

Quiz Answers.1. Abraham 2. Crispus, Gaius and household of Stephanas 3. Timotheus 4.Christ 5.Melchizedek 6. Death / Eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord 7.1 Corinthians 13 8.Sin 9.Jesus Christ 10.The love of money 11. Onesimus 12.Abraham

BIBLE QUIZ:

1. Who was made The Father of many nations by God?
2. Who were being baptized by St: Paul in the Church of Corinthians?
3. Who does St: Paul refer as “my beloved Son and faithful in Lord”?
4. According to Paul, who was made a curse for our sins?
5. According to the Epistle to the Hebrews, what Old Testament priest is Jesus like?
6. What are the wages of sin and what is the gift of God?
7. Which is the great chapter on love?
8. What is the sting of death?
9. Who is the one mediator between God and men?
10. What is the root of all evil?
11. What is the name of the slave who St. Paul says has become his son while he was in chains?
12. Which person is used by St.Paul in Romans 4 as an example of justification by faith?

(Answers on page 6)

BIRTHDAY LIST

JUNE

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CHURCH EVENTS SCHEDULE FOR 2008

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| St Peter's & St Paul's Sunday June 29 Holy Qurbana 8:45 AM | | | |
| Family Conference | Wed – Sat | July | 16-19 |
| Picnic | Saturday | July | 26 |
| OVBS | Fri – Sun | August | 1-3 |
| Transfiguration | Tuesday | August | 5 H. Qurbana 6:30 PM |
| Soonoyo/Perunal | Sat & Sun | August | 16&17 |
| Family Trip | Fri & Sat | August | 22&23 |
| Ettunombu | Mon–Mon | Sep. | 1-8 |
| Convention | Fri & Sat | Sep. | 5 &6 |
| Sleeba Perunal | Sunday | Sep. | 14H. Qurbana 8:45 AM |
| Family Night | Sunday | October | 26 |
| St. Gregorious Parumala | Sunday | Nov. 2 H. | Qurbana 8:45 AM |
| Christmas Carol | Sat & Sun | Dec. | 6&7, 13&14, 20&21 |
| Christmas | Thursday | Dec. 25 | Christmas Service 8:00AM |

Obituary:

Mr. Mathai Manaparambil (Baby), father of our members, Mr. Mathai Thomas, Mr. Isaac Mathew, Mr. Mathai Mathai and Mrs Rosamma Baby, passed away in India on may 11. We had special incense prayers after the Holy Qurbana for the departed soul and the church members expressed their deep condolence to the family members.

Annamma Yohannan, mother of our members, Mr. John Philips, Mr. John Varghese and Mr. John Jacob, passed away in India on May 20. We had special incense prayers on Sunday after the Holy Qurbana for the departed and the church members expressed their deep condolence to the family members.

Mr Abe Abraham of St Peters and St Paul's Church Sparkill passed away in India. Our condolence.