

**NEWS AT ST. MARY'S- JANUARY 2009**  
Volume 10 Issue 1



St. Mary— Mother of God, Pray for us

**St. Mary's Indian Orthodox Church of Rockland  
Suffern , New York**

**Editors**

**Mrs. Lizy Philip    Mr. John Jacob**

**Church Officials-2009**

**Vicar: Rev. Fr. Dr. Raju Varghese**  
**Secretary: Mr. John Jacob**  
**Treasurer: Mr. Varghese Abraham**  
Joint Secretary: Mr. Saji K.Pothen  
Joint Treasurer: Mr. John Muckadackal

**Board of Trustees**

Mr. John Varghese (2011) Mr. Philipose Philip (2011)  
Mr. John Jacob (2010) Mr. John V.Abraham (2010)  
Mr. Samuel Daniel (2009) Mr. George Thamaravelil (2009)

**Managing Committee**

Mr. Abraham Pothen - Mr. Saju George  
Mr. Mathai Chacko - Mr. Mathew Thomas  
Mr. Thomas George - Mr. P.K.Mathai (Ex-Officio)

**Auditor:** Mr. Simon Thermadom  
**Prayer Meeting Coordinator:** Mr. Saji M.Pothen

**Building Engineer**

Mr. Samuel Daniel

**Sunday school**

Mr. John Muckadackal: Principal  
Mrs.Viji Kurian: Vice Principal

**Martha Mariam Samajam**

Secretary: Mrs. Rachel Abraham  
Treasurer: Mrs. Aleyamma Pappen  
Central committee member: Mrs. Lisa George

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

Vice President: Mathai Chacko,  
Secretary: Ms. Meghan Mathew, Treasurer: Nithin Mathai  
Jt. Secretary: Arun Zachariah, Jt. Treasurer: Simi Alex,  
Area Representative: Ponnu Varghese & Amy Philip

**Music School:** Mrs. Viji Kurian

**Webmaster:** Mr. Saju George

**Photography :** Mr.Jeemon Varghese

How to select a Bible?

There are different versions and translations for the English Bible. People are very confused which Bible to use. If we go to a book shop or try to shop online for a Bible, we will be very confused to pick up the right version.



Most of us are familiar with the King James Version (KJV). This was originally published in A.D 1611, as per the orders of King James 1<sup>st</sup> of England. This version originally has the old English language. King James Version is now available in the modern English language. The Orthodox Bible published recently is a modern version of the new KJV with foot notes and illustrations.

Bible translation has two different methods when translated from original languages like Greek and Hebrew – word for word, and thought for thought methods. American Biblical scholars wanted to preserve the beauty of the KJV, make the language most modern, and to increase clarity and accuracy. A new revised version of the Bible came out in 1952; this is known as the Revised Standard Version (RSV). This is the most accepted version, and we use this version of the Bible for study and research.

There are so many different translations. The most popular are The New American Bible, and The New English Bible both published in 1970. Most of us are familiar with Today's English Version; popularly known as Good News Bible, originally published in 1976 sponsored by the American Bible Society. This version has very simple language; even a person with limited English knowledge can read and understand.

My suggestion is to have an RSV for study and research, and a lighter modern version for regular readings. Orthodox Churches accept the Bible with Apocrypha, so make sure to have a Bible with Apocrypha.

May God bless every one

Raju Varghese Achen

01/26/09

**BIRTHDAY LIST**

**JANUARY**

**Removed for sake of Privacy**

Congratulations on your Birthday!

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**PLEASE NOTE**

We invite articles, poems etc to publish in the news letter. Please e- mail to [jacdeepa@aol.com](mailto:jacdeepa@aol.com) or [adoor2@aol.com](mailto:adoor2@aol.com)

Editors

**BIRTHDAY LIST**

**FEBRUARY**

**Removed for sake of Privacy**

Congratulations on your Birthday!

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**The new light and hope of United States:**

“Our challenges may be new. The instruments with which we meet them may be new. But those values upon which our success depends – hard work and honesty, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism – these things are old. These things are true” .....

**President Barack Obama**

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

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**Congratulations on your Anniversary!**

## **THE MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH**

The Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church was founded by St. Thomas, one of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ, who came to India in A.D. 52.

At least from the fourth century the Indian Church entered into a close relationship with the Persian or East Syrian Church. From the Persians, the Indians inherited East Syrian language and liturgies and gradually came to be known as Syrian Christians. In the sixteenth century Roman Catholic missionaries came to Kerala. They tried to unite the Syrian Christians to the Roman Catholic Church and this led to a split in the community. Those who accepted Catholicism are the present Syro-Malabar Catholics. Later Western Protestant missionaries came to Kerala and worked among Syrian Christians; That also created certain splits in the community.

In the seventeenth century the Church came to a relationship with the Antiochene Church which again caused splits. As a result of this relationship the Church received West Syrian liturgies and practices.

The Church entered into a new phase of its history by the establishment of the Catholicate in 1912.

At present the Church is using the West Syrian liturgy. The faith of the Church is that which was established by the three Ecumenical Councils of Nicea (A.D. 325), Constantinople (A.D. 381) and Ephesus (A.D. 431).

The Church is in communion with the other Oriental Orthodox Churches namely, Antiochene, Alexandrian, Armenian, Eritrean and Ethiopian Orthodox Churches. The Church is in good ecumenical relationship with the Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches.

At present the Church has over 2 million faithful with 24 dioceses all over the world.

## **Church News**

### **From the Secretary's Desk:**

With God's blessings and our prayers, one more year of hope and faith was added to our lives. Thank God for giving me the opportunity to serve our church. Being the newly elected secretary to the desk, I thank all members and well wishers of our church. From the past few years of development, our church has attained today's vigor and vitality, with the hard work of many of our elected members to the desk, **and kind gratitude of our members of the church.** I have a wonderful co-worker, Mr. Varghese Abraham, and with the co-operation of the elected team members to the committee to strengthen the souls of our church. During this year, I pray to God that our church be blessed with health, wealth and even more spirituality to come together in church and stand together for a common end- the welfare of this church; this is my wish as well as my prayer too, that this year, may God bless us with more strength to attain this Goal.

**“Wishing you all a Happy Healthy New Year”**

John Jacob (Achenkunju)

### **New Year Service:**

The New Year Service was conducted on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Most of our members participated in the Holy Qurbana and took Holy Communion, which was followed by refreshments. Thank you, to all our members who wrote their first check of the year to the church on New Year's Day. Refreshments were hosted by the families of Mr. John Jacob and Mr.Varghese Abraham. The New Year cake was blessed by our vicar Rev.Fr.Dr.Raju Varghese.

### **Charge Handing Over:**

Charge handing over of St.Mary's church administration for the year 2009 was held on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 after the Holy Qurbana. The newly elected secretary Mr. John Jacob received the documents from the out going secretary Mr.Mathai Chacko and Treasurer Mr.Varghes Abraham received the documents from Mr.P.K.Mathai. Our Vicar in his speech thanked the services of the outgoing Secretary, Treasurer, Board of trustees and all Committee members appreciating their distinguished services and congratulated the new office bearers for 2009.

### **Dhanha Perunal:**

Our church celebrated Dhanaha perunal (baptism of Jesus) on January 11, Sunday 2009.The Holy Qurbana started at 8.30 AM .Most of our members participated in the service. Achen during his message pointed out the importance of baptism . The service came to an end by serving Dhanaha water and Kaimuth, followed by refreshments.

### **Prayer Meeting:**

The prayer meeting for the month of January was held at the residence of Mr. Philipose Philip, on Sunday January 11 at 5.00PM. Most of our members participated and our Sunday school kids presented different spiritual programs .Our Vicar Rev.Fr.Dr. Raju Varghese and Mr. Mathai Chacko spoke on the occasion. The meeting was a great blessing. We thank Mr.Philipose Philip and family for hosting the first prayer meeting for 2009.

**February prayer meeting will be conducted on Saturday, February 28 at 6.00PM at the residence of Mr. Abraham Pothan, 39 Pelham Place, Bergenfield NJ 07621 (201-385-7322). All members are requested to participate.**

### **General Body Meeting:**

The General Body meeting of the parish was held on Sunday January 18 after the Holy Qurbana .The General Body took the following major decisions:

**Financial Planning:** The General Body unanimously approved the annual budget for the year 2009. We decided to collect \$1300/yr from all members that include subscription, Sunday refreshments, special day refreshments and other collections which is \$200.00 less than previous year.

**Church Events and Date:** Approved the church events and dates. A copy is displayed on the notice board. Another copy will be published in the news letter, and will also posted on the church website, so that you can update your planner accordingly. Coordinators for the church events are as follows:

Holy Week	Mr. Abraham Pothan
Perunal	Mr. Kuriakose T. Chacko
Picnic	Mr. Jeemon Varghese
Convention	Mr.K.Geevarghese
Family Trip	Mr.Saji K.Pothan
	Mr.Jeemon Varghese
Family Night	Mr. Joseph P.Thomas
Christmas	Mr. Mathew Thomas
Men's Forum	Mr. George Thameravelil
Prayer meeting	Mr.Saji M.Pothan
Food & Reception	Mr. John Varghese
	Mr. Mathew Thomas

The proposed events' Schedule is given at the end.

### **Sunday School Corner:**

**Mid Term Exam:** Sunday school mid term exam will be held on February 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 2009. Teachers and Parents make sure children are getting ready for the exam. **Sunday School Day** will be celebrated on February 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after the Holy Qurbana .Programs will be presented by Sunday School children. Please contact the Principal Mr. John Muckadackal or Vice Principal Mrs.Viji Kurian for more info.

### **Martha Mariam Samajam:**

Martha Mariam Samajam elected new office bearers at a meeting of the Martha Mariam samajam that was held on Sunday January 25, 2009. Samajam elected the following individuals as officials for the year 2009.

Secretary	Mrs. Rachel J.Abraham
Treasurer	Mrs. Aleyamma Pappen
Central committee member	Mrs. Lisa George.

Our vicar in his speech thanked the sincere services of the out going central committee member Mrs. Saramma Abraham .

**Nineveh Lent (3 Day Lent)**

Three day lent begins on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday and ends on 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday. There will be Holy Qurbana on 4<sup>th</sup> evening 6.30PM. All are requested to observe the lent and attend the Holy Qurbana.

**Great Lent (Valiya Nombu)**

Fifty Day lent is a time of prayer and purification. This year Valiya Nombu is starting on February 23<sup>rd</sup> Monday. Every one is requested to observe the Great Lent.

**“A family that prays together stays together ”**

**Dues 2008:**

The Treasurer is reminding every one to pay off their dues as soon as possible.

**Upcoming Events:**

**F& Y Conference 2009.** Family & youth conference from July 15 to 18 at Double Tree Hotel, Executive meeting center, 200 Atrium drive, Somerset, NJ 08873 (732-469-2600). Please note the date in advance and be part of this great family event.

**CHURCH EVENTS, 2009**

<b>New Year</b>	Thursday, January 01	Holy Qurbana 8.45 AM
<b>Epiphany</b>	Sunday, January 11	Holy Qurbana 8.30 AM
<b>Sunday school day</b>	Sunday, February 01	Holy Qurbana 8.30 AM
<b>Three Day Lent Ends</b>	Wednesday, February 04	Holy Qurbana 6.30 PM
<b>Mid Lent</b>	Tuesday, March 17	Holy Qurbana 6.30 PM
<b>Annunciation to St.Mary</b>	Tuesday, March 24	Holy Qurbana 6.30 PM
<b>Catholicate Day</b>	Sunday, March 29	Holy Qurbana 8.45 AM
<b>40th Day of Great Lent</b>	Thursday, April 02	Holy Qurbana 6.30 PM
<b>Retreat</b>	Palm Saturday April 04	
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	Sunday April 05	Holy Qurbana 8.00 AM
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	Wednesday, April 08	Holy Qurbana 6.30 PM
<b>Good Friday</b>	Friday, April 10	Service 8.00 AM
<b>Holy Saturday</b>	Saturday, April 11	Holy Qurbana 10.00 AM
<b>Easter</b>	Sunday, April 12	Holy Qurbana 8.00 AM
<b>Ascension</b>	Wednesday, may 20	Holy Qurbana 6.30 PM
<b>Pentecost</b>	Sunday, May 31	Holy Qurbana 8.00 AM
<b>O.V.B.S</b>	Friday, Saturday & Sunday	June 26, 27 & 28

<b>St.Peters/St.paul</b>	Sunday, June 28	Holy Qurbana 8.45 AM
<b>St.Thomas Day</b>	Thursday, July 02	Holy Qurbana 6.30 P
<b>Family Conference</b>	Wednesday to Saturday	July 15, 16, 17 & 18
<b>Church Picnic</b>	Saturday	July 25
<b>Transfiguration</b>	Wednesday, August 05	Holy Qurbana 6.30 PM
<b>Perunal</b>	Saturday & Sunday	August 15 & 16
<b>Family Trip</b>	Friday & Saturday	August 21 & 22
<b>Ettunombu</b>	Tuesday to Tuesday	September 1 to 8
<b>Convention</b>	Friday & Saturday	September 04 & 05
<b>Sleeba Perunal</b>	Sunday, September 13	Holy Qurbana 8.45 AM
<b>Family Night</b>	Sunday	October 11
<b>St.Gregorios perunal</b>	Sunday, November 01	Holy Qurbana 8.45AM
<b>Christmas Carol</b>	Saturdays & Sundays	December, 5, 6, 12, 13 & 19
<b>Christmas</b>	Friday, December 25	Holy Qurbana.

**Obituary:**

1) Mrs. Elizabeth Chandapilla, Aunt of our member Mrs. Anie Thermadom, passed away in Houston.

2) Mrs. Mary Thermadom, Aunt of our member Mr. Simon Thermadom passed away in India.

We had a special incense prayer for the departed souls and the church members expressed their deep condolence to the family members.

**Metropolitan Kirill as Patriarch of Russia.**

The Russian Orthodox Church has selected 62-year-old Metropolitan Kirill as her new patriarch. A seasoned operator after long service as head of the church's foreign relations section, Kirill was elected by an overwhelming majority in a ballot of church leaders in Moscow's ornate cathedral of Christ the Saviour.

Addressing the incense-filled gathering earlier, Kirill had made a strident call for church unity. **The Indian Church has traditionally had good relations with the**

**Russian Church and has been visited by three consecutive Patriarchs, HH Pimen, Patriarch Alexi (when he was Metropolitan) and Patriarch Kirill (when he was Metropolitan).**

**His Holiness Abuna Paulose**

The Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church His Holiness Abuna Paulose visited the Malankara Church from 29-31 December 2008. On 31 His Holiness attended the centenary celebrations of MGOCSM.

**Consecration of the 7 New Bishops** of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church will be St. George Orthodox Valiyapally, 'The Georgian Pilgrim Center of the East', Puthupally on February 19th, 2009. **Please pray**

**His Grace Dr. Philipose Mar Eusebius.**  
Metropolitan of Thumpamon diocese



H.G. Philipose Mar Eusebius entered in to eternal life on January 22nd .His Grace was admitted in the Muthoot Hospital, Kozhencherry for the last few days. The funeral was held at Basil Dayara Chapel, Pathanamthitta. Upon hearing the news, our church paid homage to His Grace and held special incense prayers on Sunday 1/25/2009. During the Holy Qurbana, members of St. Mary's Rockland expressed their deepest and heartfelt condolence and prayed to God almighty to grant eternal rest and peace in heaven to our beloved Thirumeni. Thirumeni, who was the President of MGOCSM at the time of departure, is a great loss to the Malankara Church.

We shall remember the fathers who taught us the gospel and follow their faith  
(Heb 13.7)



**H.H Moran Mar Basalios Marthoma Mathews 11**  
1915-2006  
3<sup>rd</sup> DUKRONO, January 26