

News at St. Mary's
January— April 2012



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

Editors

Mrs. Betsy Thomas

Mr. Varghese Cherian

Church Officials-2012

Vicar: Rev. Fr. Dr. Raju Varghese

Secretary: Mr. Varghese Cherian

Joint Secretary: Mr. Saju A. George

Treasurer: Mr. John V. Abraham

Joint Treasurer: Mr. Jeemon Varghese

Managing Committee

Mr. Benny Kurian (Ex. Officio), Mr. Philipose Philip, Mr. John Jacob,

Mr. Liju Paul, Mr. Alex Abraham, Mrs. Kunjamma Jacob

Mr. Joseph P. Thomas, Mr. Manoj John, Mr. Saju A. George

Mrs. Abegale Thomas, Mr. Chacko Paul, Mr. Mathai Thomas (2013)

Mr. Jeemon Varghese (2013)

Building Engineer: Mr. Samuel V. Abraham

Internal Auditor: Mr. Mathew P. John

Church Newsletter: Mrs. Betsy Thomas & Mr. Varghese Cherian

Webmaster: Mr. Saju George & Mr. Benny Kurian

Martha Mariam Samajam

Secretary: Mrs. Lisa A. George; **Joint Secretary:** Mrs. Elizabeth Saji

Treasurer: Mrs. Lizy Philip; **Joint Treasurer:** Mrs. Soosan Cherian

Central Committee Member: Mrs. Rachel Abraham

Sunday School Principal: Mr. Mathai Chacko

Arts School: Mr. John Jacob

M.G.O.C.S.M.

Vice President: Mr. Philipose Philip

Secretary: Ms. Michelle George; **Joint Secretary:** Ms. Tiffany George

Treasurer: Mr. Prince Abraham, **Joint Treasurer:** Mr. Nevin Pothen

Area Representative: Ms. Michelle Pothen

Prayer Meeting: Mr. Saji M. Pothen

Food: Mr. Sunu Koshy, Mr. Jeemon Varghese; Mrs. Abegale Thomas

Vicar's Message

Christ is risen, Indeed He is risen..

We are so blessed to have another blessed Easter. Most of us had the privilege to observe the Holy Lent, and join with the divine church services especially from Palm Sunday to the Easter. The orthodox worship and most importantly the Passion Week services have a lot of visual characteristics. The Church decoration, colors used and other arrangements basically help us to have the spiritual feeling accordingly. We have joined in processions at different parts of the services, be a part of the procession reminds us the events and sequences in this journey. The procession from Palm Sunday is different than the Good Friday processions. The procession at the Easter service proclaims the final victory of life, love, and truth. Chanting and melodious singing of the different Syriac traditional music, standing and kneeling brings us up in the physical and spiritual levels of most reverence to the Triune God. Bowing, prostrating, and making the sign of the Cross etc. are expressions of a much higher degree of respect and reverence. The canonical prayers and the Evengelion alert us the different events, and prepare us to have the most devotional moments.

The Son of God because of his love for the human race came down from heaven, and became a man to save us from the eternal destruction. We sinned and He suffered on the Cross, died and buried. The victory over sin is His resurrection.

My dear brothers and sisters, we are living in a world with hardships, injustice, illness, and economic crisis. We have to look forward and experience the power of resurrection. Let this Easter bring love, peace, and tranquility to our lives and the people around.

Christ is risen, Indeed He is risen – Happy Easter every one.

Yours in His Service

Raju Varghese Achen



JANUARY-FEBRUARY**BIRTHDAY LIST**

01/05- Annamma Thomas	02/02-Christine Cherian
01/05- Ranjith Kuruvilla	02/03-Susan Varghese
01/07-Princy Abraham	02/04-Roshin Varghese
01/09-Tiju Kuriakose	02/04-Mathews P. John
01/11-Thomas Abraham	02/05-Jaiden Jacob
01/11-Jayson P. Mangalathu	02/13-Tina S. Thermadom
01/14-Rachel George	02/14-Saramma George
01/19-Ashley Abraham	02/14-Malena Maria John
01/23-Shawn Mathew	02/17-Abel Kuriakose John
01/23-Jensen Varghese	02/18-Manoj John
01/26-Betsy Thomas	02/18-Layla Chaly
01/27-Justin Paul	02/20-Lida Sara Kuriakose
01/30-Lipsy Mathews	02/21-Jamie R. Mangalathu
01/30-Mathai Thengampallil	02/21-Jubin K. Jacob
01/31-Roy Mathai	02/23-Justin Jacob
01/31-Smitha Mathai	02/24-Gracy George
	02/24-Cherian Kurian
	02/27-Mariamamma Varghese

Wedding Anniversary

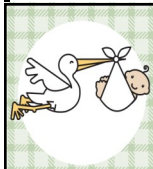
1. 01/03-Tiji & Kuriakose T. Chacko
 2. 01/09-Elizabeth & Jeemon Varghese
 3. 01/09-Swapnamole & Jyothis Jacob
 4. 01/19-Lipsy & Mathews P. John
 5. 01/23-Sosamma & Samuel Daniel
 6. 01/23-Sosamma & Jose Abraham
 7. 01/26-Nitha & Liju Alex
 8. 01/27-Jessy & James Jacob
 9. 01/30-Soosan & Varghese Cherian
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1. 02/02-Abegale & Thomas Chacko
 2. 02/04-Marykutty & Isaac Mathew
 3. 02/07-Susan & Fr. Raju Varghese
 4. 02/08-Annamma & Varghese Ninan
 5. 02/08-Neetha & Thomas Kurian
 6. 02/10-Mariamamma & Baby Varghese
 7. 02/16-Lizy & Philipose Philip
 8. 02/18-Sheeba & John Mathai
 9. 02/20-Viji & Benny Kurian
 10. 02/25-Suja & Abraham Pothan
 11. 02/26-Tinky & Joseph Thomas

MARCH**BIRTHDAY LIST**

03/01-Sheena Roy
03/03-Christa George
03/05-John Abraham
03/06-Rachel Abraham
03/06-Diana Jacob
03/07-Sarah Pothen
03/07-Leions George
03/07-Ajith Jacob Varghese
03/07-Jacob Kurian
03/09-Leelamma Mathai
03/11-Alexia Jacob
03/12-Betsy Abraham
03/14-Joshua Varghese
03/15-Jocelyn Jacob
03/18-John Phillips
03/19-Amelia George
03/20-Varghese Geevarghese
03/20-Michelle George
03/20-Meril Pothen
03/20-Sherin Philip
03/20-Nitha Mathai
03/21-Lincy Mathew
03/23-Cyril John
03/26-Mary Zacharia
03/28-Sheeja Varghese
03/28-Rhea Mathews
03/28-Angel Nixon
03/30-Vincy Thomas



*“Wishing you all a happy birthday. May God Bless
you with many more wonderful years.”*

**Congratulations**

Congratulations to Anne and George Chaly on the birth of their new baby girl, Layla. Layla was born on February 18, 2012. May God bless the family.

APRIL**BIRTHDAY LIST**

04/02- Ciji Mani
04/04-Bindu Thomas
04/05-Varughese Abraham
04/05-Clare Sera John
04/06-Reshma Varghese
04/09-Ruby Mathai
04/11-Noah Abraham
04/12-Genial Thomas
04/13-Libin Baby
04/13-Kevin Mathew
04/13-Christina Maria Joseph
04/15-Tony George
04/15-Samma Abraham
04/15-Santhosh Mani
04/18-Roy Chengannur
04/19-Cherian Tharakan
04/20-Solamen Samuel
04/21-Jose Abraham
04/21-Robby Abraham
04/22- Mathai Thomas
04/24-Sheeba Mani
04/25-Benoye Mani
04/25-Johnson Thomas
04/25-Tanya Alex
04/26-Mekha Varghese
04/26-Sneha Varghese
04/28-Chinnu Varghese

**Wedding Anniversary**

1. 04/03-Gracy & Mathai Thomas
2. 04/06-Rachel & Mathai Thengampallil
3. 04/07-Sheeba & Santhosh Mani
4. 04/12-Sindhu & Roy Chengannur
5. 04/14-Leena & Liju Philip
6. 04/18-Ajimol & John Philips
7. 04/19-Samma & Varughese Abraham
8. 04/24-Deepa & John Jacob
9. 04/27-Ruby & Mathew P. John



Church News**Martha Mariam Samajam:**

The Martha Mariam Samajam election was held for 2012 and the following members were unanimously elected:

Secretary: Mrs. Lisa A. George

Treasurer: Mrs. Lizy Philip

Joint Secretary: Mrs. Elizabeth Saji

Joint Treasurer: Mrs. Soosan Cherian

Central Committee Member: Mrs. Rachel Abraham

Congratulations to the new Office-bearers!!

MGOC SM

MGOC SM unit of our Church conducted their election on Sunday, February 5, 2012. The follow members were elected to various offices for the year 2012:

Secretary: Ms. Michelle George

Treasurer: Mr. Prince Abraham

Joint Secretary: Ms. Tiffany George

Joint Treasurer: Mr. Nevin Pothen

Area Representative: Ms. Michelle Pothen

Congratulations to the new Office bearers!

MGOC SM Lenten Retreat was held on Saturday, March 10 at St. Mary's Church Linden, NJ. Several youth from our church attend this program. There were two key speakers, Dn. Shinto David and Mr. John Malek. Special thanks to Mr. George Thamaravelil for providing transportation.

Church Retreat & Confession

The annual retreat was held on Saturday, March 24 and led by Rev. Fr. Joseph George Parankimamootil. It was a real blessing for those who attended.

One Day Young Women's Conference

The first ever One Day Young Women's Conference was held on Saturday, April 21 at St. Mary's Staten Island. It was open to all young women ages 14 and up. This conference aimed at helping young women become more active in their Orthodox faith and to deepen their relationship with the Lord. Key speakers were Matushka Jennifer Mosher and Dr. Roberta Ervine. Several young women from our church attended this conference.

Church News

Holy Week Services

We were blessed to have a spiritually filled Holy Week. Thank you Rev. Fr. Dr. Raju Varghese for leading these services. Thank you to all members who participated this week. Special thanks to the Holy Week conveners, Mr. George Thamaravelil, Mr. John Jacob and Mr. Abraham Pothan and to the Martha Mariam Samajam for all their help.

Sunday School Corner

Sunday School Day will be celebrated on Sunday, April 29, 2012. There will be several programs presented by the Sunday School children. All classes having been working hard on their presentations for Sunday School Day, so make sure to attend this event. The annual Sunday School report will be presented at this time.

The centralized exam for the 12th grade will be conducted on June 03, 2012 after the Holy Qurbana. The centralized exam for 5th, 8th and 10th grades will be conducted on June 24, 2012.

This years OVBS will be conducted on August 3-5. It will be a fun-filled educational event for all youths, so please plan on attending.

Sabha Managing Committee Election

Election/Nominations to the Sabha Managing Committee for the Northeast American Diocese was held at our church on February 11. The meeting was presided by our Diocesan Metropolitan H.G. Zachariah Mar Nicholovos. Approximately 100 elected association members from all over the American Diocese participated in the meeting.

Malankara Association Meeting

A meeting of the Malankara Association was held on March 7 at Pathanamthitta to elect the Association managing committee members for 2012-2017, and to elect the priest trustee and lay trustee. The meeting was attended by our vicar Rev. Fr. Dr. Raju Varghese and Mr. Philipose Philip, managing committee member. Four thousand delegates from all over the world participated in this meeting.

Family and Youth Conference

The Family and Youth Conference for 2012 will be held on Wednesday, July 11-Saturday, July 14 at Honor's Haven Resort and Spa, 1195 Arrowhead Rd. Ellenville, NY. This year's conference is based on the theme "Witness of Orthodoxy in the 21st Century". The main speaker for the conference is learned theologian Elizabeth Joy. For those who are interested in attending, register as early as possible, for this is an event not to be missed.

Church News

Prayer Meeting

A special thanks to the following families who have already hosted the prayer meetings this year; Saji Pothen and family, Abraham Pothen and family, Saju George and family and Mr. Varghese Cherian and family. There has been a great turnout at these prayer meetings, so please continue the support.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Host</u>
January 28	Saji Pothen and Family
February 25	Abraham Pothen and Family
March 31	Saju A. George and Family
April 21	Varghese Cherian and Family
May	Joseph Thomas (Terry) and Family
June	Alex Abraham and Family
July	Rev. Fr. Dr. Raju Varghese and Family
August	John V. Abraham and Family
September 22	John Varghese and Family
October	George Thamaravelil and Family
November 17	Manoj John and Family
December	Liju Paul and Family

Please check the notice board for exact dates.

“A family that prays together, stays together” -Al Scalpone

St. MARY'S CHURCH EVENTS-2012

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FEASTS AND EVENTS</u>	<u>TIME</u>
February 01	Nineveh Lent & Mayaltho	H. Qurbana: 6:30pm
February 11	Sabha Managing Committee Election	9:00 am
February 20	The Great Lent Begins	
March 13	Midlent	H. Qurbana: 6.30pm
March 25	Annunciation to St. Mary	H. Qurbana: 08.45am
March 24	Retreat & Confession	09.00am -04.00pm
March 29	40th Day of Lent	H. Qurbana: 6:30pm
April 1	Palm Sunday	H. Service: 8.00am
April 4	Maundy Thursday	H. Qurbana: 6:30pm
April 6	Good Friday	H. Service: 8.30am
April 7	Holy Saturday	H. Service: 10.00am
April 8	Easter	H. Qurbana: 8.00am
May 16	Ascension	H. Qurbana: 6.30pm
May 27	Pentecost	
June 10	Half-Yearly General Body Meeting	
June 16	Apostles Lent Begins	
June 28	St.Peter and St. Paul Day	H. Qurbana: 6.30pm

St. MARY'S CHURCH EVENTS-2012		
<u>DATE</u>	<u>FEASTS AND EVENTS</u>	<u>TIME</u>
July 11-12- 13-14	Family Conference	
July 25-28	Family Trip	
August 3-5	OVBS	
August 18	Church Perunnal Evening Service & Rassa	6:30pm
August 19	Church Perunnal & Auction	H. Qurbana: 8:45am
August 25	Church Picnic	
Sept. 7&8	Convention	
Sept 13	Sleebe Perunnal	H. Qurbana: 6.30pm
October 6	Family Night (tentative)	
Nov. 4	Parumala Perunnal	H. Qurbana: 8:45am
December 2	Annual General Body-Election of Office Bearers	
December 1- 8-9-15-16	Christmas Caroling	-
December 23	Christmas Program by the Sunday School	-
December 25	Christmas Birth Of Lord Jesus	H.Service: 8.00am
January 1, 2013	New Year Service	H.Service: 8.00am

Easter's Pictures



Newsletter

If you have any articles or suggestions that you would like to see in the Church newsletter, please send requests to betsythomas126@yahoo.com or vcherian38@yahoo.com