

News at St. Mary's

May— October 2012

Volume 14 Issue 2



**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 Pothan**Area Representative:** Ms. Michelle Pothan**Prayer Meeting:** Mr. Saji M. Pothan**Food:** Mr. Sunu Koshy, Mr. Jeemon Varghese; Mrs. Abegale Thomas

Vicar's Message

Dearly beloved

In this issue of the newsletter, I am including a short study of the eschatological thoughts based on Mark 13:28-37. These Bible verses emphasize about The Day and Hour Unknown.



The New Testament teaches that our Lord will come in person. 'The Lord himself shall descend from heaven' (1 Thess. 4:16).

Facing east is an ancient tradition, grounded in sure knowledge about the Second Coming. This eastward direction developed in Christianity has a strong biblical basis: In the biblical story of creation we read: "And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed (Gen. 2:8). Eventually Adam and Eve, after their act of disobedience were sent out from the Garden of Eden in the East. Salvation is understood partly as a return to the original home. A popular Christian belief developed in the course of time that in the Second Coming, Christ would come from the East. The basis of this tradition is the Gospel reference. The coming of the Son of Man would be like lightening that shines from the east to the west. (Matt. 24:27) Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, (Mat 2:1-2) Ezekiel saw the "glory of the Lord" when facing East: "And the glory of the Lord came into the house, by the way of the gate looking eastward." (Eze 43:4). **We build our churches in the east-**

west direction. The whole congregation together with the priest turns to east in remembrance of all that God grants us from the time of our creation in Paradise to the fulfillment of all in the Second coming of Christ. **The bodies of our beloved departed faithful are laid to rest facing the east with the hope of resurrection and meeting Jesus face to face.** Turning to the East, of course is a symbolic act,. In special situations when the place or building where we worship happens to be inconvenient for the traditional orientation of the community, we are free to turn to any suitable direction. It is clearly taught in the New Testament that the Lord will return visibly. His coming will be 'as a thief in the night. (1 Thess. 5:2). His coming would be 'as the lightning' (Matt. 24:27) Let us prepare ourselves for the day of the Lord.

With prayers and best wishes

Raju Varghese Achen

Church News

FAMILY AND YOUTH CONFERENCE

The Family and Youth Conference for 2012 was held on Wednesday, July 11-Saturday, July 14 at Honor's Haven Resort and Spa. The conference's theme was "Witness of Orthodoxy in the 21st Century". Mrs. Elizabeth Joy from UK was the main Speaker. Several of our church members attended the conference. Please check the pictures posted on the Northeast American Diocesan website at neamericandiocese.org

CHURCH TRIP

This year's church family trip was to the Poconos and Bushkill Falls. Twenty families from our church attended this fun filled trip. Everyone enjoyed the waterpark, movie night, and the nature hike to the Bushkill Falls. Special thanks to Mr. Liju Paul and Mr. Joseph Thomas for organizing this trip.

CHURCH PERUNNAL & AUCTION

The Church Perunnal was held on August 18-19 and the Perunnal Auction was held on Sunday, August 19th after the Holy Qurbana. Rev. Fr. Dr. O. Thomas conducted the Holy Qurbana on Sunday. Thank you to all the members who donated items and participated in the auction.

CHURCH PICNIC

The church picnic was held on Saturday, August 25 at Rockland Lake State Park. It was a day filled with lots of fun, games and great food. Sports activities for all ages, bake sales and face painting, this picnic had it all. Special thanks to Mr. Manoj John for organizing the picnic.

CHURCH CONVENTION

The Church Convention was held on Sept. 1-2. Many church members attended. Key note speaker was Rev.Fr. Philip Mathew Achen from India. Special thanks to Mrs. Abigail Thomas for organizing the convention.

ONAM SADYA

On Sunday, September 16, church members had the opportunity to celebrate Onam. The elaborate cuisine was created by our church members preparing and donating various dishes. It was truly an event enjoyed by all. Special thanks to Mr. Jeemon Varghese and Mr. Sunu Koshy for organizing the event. Martha Mariam Samajam members actively participated in the Onam Sadya.

Church News

SUNDAY SCHOOL CORNER

- This year's OVBS was conducted on August 3-5. It was enjoyed by all children who attended. The theme was "We Are One In Christ" (Galatians 3:28). This year's OVBS was unique because it was a joint effort by four churches: St. John's Orangeburg, St. Mary's Valley Cottage, St. Peter's & St. Paul's Sparkill and our church. Chief guest was Rev. Fr. Gregory Varghese, who is the director of OVBS for the Northeast American Diocese. Special thanks to Mr. George Thamaravelil and Mrs. Deepa Jacob for coordinating this program.
- Sunday School competitions for song and story/elocution were held on September 2 and 9. Many Sunday school students competed in these events. Special thanks to Mrs. Suja Pothan for organizing the competitions. The results of the Area and Diocesan level competition will be published in the next newsletter.
- TSS Examination was held for Sunday School teachers on June 24. All Sunday School teachers who took the exam passed. Mr. Saju George received second rank at the Diocesan level. Congratulations to all.

2012 ANNUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS MEETING

The Northeast American Diocese Annual Sunday School Teachers meeting was held on Saturday, September 22 at St. Mary's Indian Orthodox Church in Linden, New Jersey from 10 AM to 3PM.

Diocesan Metropolitan HG Zachariah Mar Nicholovos presided over the meeting; Sunday School Director Rev. Fr. Dr. Raju Varghese led the meeting.

Teachers training, model classes, election for few of the vacant offices, planning for the 2012-13 Sunday School year were included in the agenda. Vicars, Sunday school principals, Teachers, Board Members and other Sunday School Officials participated.

PARENT'S AND COUPLE'S CONFERENCE

This year's Parent's and Couple's Conference was held on Saturday, June 10th at St. Mary's Church, West Sayville. The theme of the conference was "Be Filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18). Several of our church members attended this conference.

Church News

NEWLY WEDS

Congratulations to the following newly wed couples:

Susan and Matson Kokkara married on July 7

Janet and Vinoy Thomas married on August 20

Becky and Siju Philip married on September 29

Jenny and Stephen Samuel married on October 15

May God bless you with a happy married life.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Congratulations to the following couples:

- Reena and Joby on the birth of their new baby boy, Joshua. He was born on April 24.
- Sheeba and Bobby on the birth of their new baby girl, Anya. She was born on May 10.
- Elizabeth and Aby on the birth of their new baby girl, Emily. She was born on May 15.
- Giya and Robby on the birth of their new baby girl, Elizabeth. She was born on June 5.
- Jisha and Vinu on the birth of their new baby boy, Isaiah. He was born on July 14.
- Chinnu and Jenson on the birth of their new baby boy, Jacob. He was born on August 30.

May God bless the families.

PRAYER MEETING

Special thanks to the following families who hosted the prayer meetings; Mr. Joseph Thomas and family, Mr. Jyothis Jacob and family, Rev. Fr. Dr. Raju Varghese and family, Mr. John Abraham and family, Mr. John Varghese and family and Mr. George Thamaravelil and family. There has been a great turnout at these prayer meetings, so please continue this support. The following prayer meetings are scheduled for the remainder of the year.

November 17– Manoj John and Family

December 29– Liju Paul and Family

Church News

MARTHA MARIAM VANITHA SAMAJAM

The Martha Mariam Vanitha Samajam is actively involved in all aspects of the church. They donated beautiful book holders for the church. They also held several bake sales this year. The money they raised has been donated to various charities.

MARTHA MARIAM SAMAJAM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Martha Mariam Sajem Annual Conference was held St. George Orthodox Church in Portchester on Saturday, October 20. More than 400 people attended the conference. Our church won 2nd prize in Bible quiz competition. Congratulations to all the participants who made this possible. Mrs. Lizy Philip, was elected as the Martha Mariam Samajam Joint Treasurer. Congratulations Lizy Philip.

MGOCSM

MGOCSM honored the mothers and fathers on Mother's Day and Father's Day and presented them with gifts. MGOCSM held several bake sales for fundraising. Thank you everyone for your participation.

Many of the MGOCSM members attended a back to school conference which was held on Saturday September 8. The conference was held at St. Mary's Church in Linden, NJ. The speaker was Rev. Fr. Aju Philip Mathews.

GRADUATES

The church honored all high school and college graduates on Sunday, August 19 by giving them plaques. Congratulations to all the following graduates on your great achievement:

High School Graduates: Annie Abraham, Shinu Philip, Robin Mathai

College Graduates: Libin Baby, Gladys John, Princy Abraham, Arun Zachariah, Priya Zachariah,

Master's Degree: John Abraham, Jerry Jose, Ponnu Varghese, Sherin Philip, Geejo Geevarghese

FAMILY NIGHT

Family Night was held on Saturday, Oct. 27 at Knanaya Center at Letchworth. Forty five families from the church participated in the event and enjoyed the evening. The performances by the children, youth and ladies were superb. During the function we honored the newly weds, newborn babies and all couples celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary. Special thanks to our Achen for his leadership and to the coordinators, Mr. Philipose Philip, Mr. Benny Kurian and Mr. Joseph Thomas. This was an evening filled with entertainment and fun for all. Thank you everyone for attending.

St. MARY'S CHURCH EVENTS-2012

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FEASTS AND EVENTS</u>	<u>TIME</u>
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	-
	Christmas	
December 25	Birth Of Lord Jesus	H.Service: 8.00am
January 1, 2013	New Year Service	H.Service: 8.00am

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

The Diocesan Assembly meeting was held on Saturday, June 23, 2012 at St. Mary's Church White Plains. More than 100 delegates participated. The annual accounts and budget were passed. The election for the Diocesan council was held in the morning session. Our member, Mr. Philipose Philip was elected as one of the four Lay Council members. Congratulations Mr. Philipose Philip.

RECEPTION TO HIS HOLINESS

We were privileged to have Bava Thirumeni in our church on Sunday, September 9, 2012. Bava Thirumeni was accorded a warm reception by our members. Our vicar, Rev. Fr. Dr. Raju Varghese received Bava Thirumeni with a lighted candle. H.G. Zachariah Mar Nicholovos, our Diocesan Metropolitan was also present at the occasion. It was a great moment in the history of St. Mary's church to have the holy presence of our Catholicos and receive His blessings.

CATHOLICATE CENTENARY

The Northeast American Diocese of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church conducted the 1,960 years of Holy Orthodoxy in India and the Centenary of the Holy Catholicate on Sunday, September 9, 2012.

The celebrations began promptly at 5PM at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, in Suffern with an outdoor procession. Over 1000 of the faithful members attended the event.

His Holiness Moran Mar Baselios Mar Thoma Paulose II, Catholicos of the East & Malankara Metropolitan was the Chief Guest on the occasion, along with the presence of honorable Hierarchs and Clergy of the Orthodox Church community, and political leaders.

MAY**BIRTHDAY LIST**

05/01- Benny Kurian	05/22- George Andrews
05/02- Robert Varghese	05/22- Aby T John
05/03- Jacob Thengampallil	05/24- Sharon Sara Saji
05/07- Jerrin Jose	05/24- Jinu A George
05/08- Kunjamma Andrews	05/24- Beena George
05/09- Prince Abraham	05/24- Ammukutty Jacob
05/10- Soosan Mathai	05/25- Ruby Abraham
05/11- Crystal Pathrose	05/25- Chacko Paul
05/12- Mariakutty Cherian	05/25- Beena Mathew
05/13- Jeemon Varghese	05/26- Liju Paul
05/14- Tobin Alex	05/28- Jessie James
05/15- George Chaly	05/29- Philipose Philip
05/15- Molly Roy	05/29- Rachel Mathai
05/15- Binu Pappen	05/29- Rebecca Pothan
05/15- John Varghese	05/30- Elizabeth Varghese
05/15- Elizabeth Kurian	05/30- Sheeba Alex
05/16- Soosan Cherian	05/30- Saji M. Pothan
05/16- Deepa Jacob	05/30- John Jacob
05/18- Kunjamma Jacob	05/30- Kuriakose Chacko
05/18- Abigale Thomas	05/31- Saji K. Pothan
05/21- Susan Jacob	05/31- Alex Abraham
05/21- Nevin Pothan	05/31- Ponnu Varghese
05/21- Sindhu Roy	
05/22- Abigail Ann George	

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

05/10- Elizabeth & Saji K. Pothan
 05/19- Kunjamma & Jacob Varkey
 05/20- Bindu & Anil Abraham
 05/26- Chinnu & Jensen Varghese
 05/28- Beena & Mathew Thomas
 05/28- Sheeba & Roy Mathai
 05/31- Anie & Simon Thermadam

JUNE**BIRTHDAY LIST**

06/01- James Jacob
06/01- Abey Alex
06/02- Ancy George
06/02- Betty Zachariah
06/03- Rohan George Kuriakose
06/03- Anne Chaly
06/06- Thomas Alex
06/07- Amy Phillips
06/08- Samuel Daniel
06/10- Jaylen Luke Paul
06/14- Shilu Roy
06/14- Daisy Nixon
06/15- Jessy Pathrose
06/16- Sheeba Roy
06/19- Gladys John
06/21- Stephen Samuel
06/23- Gogi George
06/24- Annie Abraham
06/27- Samuel Abraham
06/29- Susan Alex
06/29- Thomas Chacko

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

06/07- Mary & Roshin Varghese
06/10- Jinu & George Koshy
06/12- Stinsey & Abraham Thengampallil
06/16- Saramma & John Thankachen
06/20- Suseela & Abraham V. Abraham

JULY**BIRTHDAY LIST**

07/02- Mathew Thomas	07/26-Liju Philip
07/02- Jeramia James	07/26-Raju Zachariah
07/04- Mathai Chacko	07/27-Robert Pathrose
07/05- Abraham Pothan	07/27-Saramma Pathrose
07/05- Simi Alex	07/29-John V. Abraham
07/06- Saramma Thankachan	07/29-Dn. Jacob Mathai
07/06- Feby George	07/31-Mathai Mathai
07/07-Nicholas Samuel Kuruvilla	
07/09- Korah P. Kurian (Joby)	
07/14- Robin Mathai	
07/16- Lincy George	
07/17- Marisa Elizabeth John	
07/18- Michele Pothan	
07/20- Abraham Thengampallil	
07/23- Sosamma Samuel	
07/24- Christal Kuriakose	
07/25- Cyrus John	

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

07/01- Neeta & Dn. Jacob Mathai
07/01- Ammukutty & Jacob Kurian
07/03- Rebecca & Saji M. Pothan
07/04- Anu & Ajith Jacob Varghese
07/07- Aleyamma & Kurian Korah
07/07- Beena & Gogi George
07/11- Reena & Korah P. Kurian (Joby)
07/15- Ruby & Samuel Abraham
07/17- Leelamma & Mathai Mathai
07/24- Robby & Giya Abraham
07/26- Rachel & John Abraham

AUGUST**BIRTHDAY LIST**

08/03- Arun Zachariah
08/03- Priya Zachariah
08/03- Reba Mathwes
08/04- Linda Baby
08/07- Krisy George
08/09- Elizabeth Kurian
08/10- Anie S. Thermadam
08/11- Vinoy Thomas
08/11- Aleyamma Pothen
08/13- Christopher Koshy
08/15- Julie Geevarghese
08/15- Issac Mathew
08/15- Kurian Korah
08/19- Geejo Geevarghese
08/19- Joseph Thomas
08/20- Suseela Abraham
08/20- Ruby P. John
08/20- Mark Stanley Pathrose
08/21- Christopher Raj Paul
08/22- Lauren Mani
08/23- Beena Pappen
08/26- Jessica P. John
08/27- Jake Roy

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

08/17- Bekkie & George Thamaravelil
08/18- Sheeba & Alex Abraham
08/21- Elizabeth & Aby John
08/22- Smitha & Robin Thomas
08/24- Mano & Mary Zacharia
08/24- Rinu & John Varghese
08/31- Annie & Philip Cherian

SEPTEMBER**BIRTHDAY LIST**

09/04-Mariamamma Thomas
09/05-Anysha George
09/06-Anil Abraham
09/10-John Thankachen
09/11-Swapnamole Jacob
09/13-Anju A. Philips
09/14-Manchayil Roy
09/14-Aleyamma Pappen
09/15-Jerry Jose
09/15-Stanley Pathrose
09/16-John Thomas
09/18-Sheeba Mathai
09/18-Tinky Abraham
09/23-Thomas Varghese
09/23-Merin George
09/23-Dylan John Jacob
09/25-Benson Cherian
09/26-Annakunju Varghese
09/28-Mathew P.John
09/29-Manju John

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

09/01-Mariakutty & Cherian Tharakan
09/05-George & Anne Chaly
09/09-Manju & Manoj John
09/11-Jessy & Stanley Pathrose
09/11-Mariamamma & Varghese Geevarghese
09/12-Molly & John Thomas
09/17-Gladys & Saji John Thankachan
09/17-Betsy & Sunu Koshy
09/19-Soosan & P. K. Mathai
09/25-Molly & Manchayil Roy

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**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](mailto:betsythomas126@yahoo.com) or [vcherian38@yahoo.com](mailto:vcherian38@yahoo.com)*

**SAD NEWS**

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of our beloved member, Mr. Kurian Korah, on September 8, 2012. Our prayers and condolences to the grieving family.



August 15, 1942- September 8, 2012

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