

News at St. Mary's

January— April 2013

Volume 15 Issue 1



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

Editors

Mrs. Elizabeth P. Kurian, Mr. Joseph P. Thomas

Church Officials-2013

Vicar: Rev. Fr. Dr. Raju Varghese

Secretary: Mr. Joseph P. Thomas

Joint Secretary: Mr. Saji M. Pothen

Treasurer: Mr. Liju P. Paul

Joint Treasurer: Mr. Jeemon Varghese

Managing Committee :

Mr. Varghese Cherian, Mr. Kuriakose T. Chacko, Mr. Saju George, Mrs. Rachel George, Mr. John Jacob, Mr. Manoj John, Mr. Sunu Koshy, Mrs. Lizzy Philip, Mr. Abraham Pothen, Mrs. Sindhu Roy, Mr. Jeemon Varghese

Mr. John V. Abraham (Ex. Officio)

Building Engineer: Mr. John Thankachen Jr.

Internal Auditor: Mr. Varghese Ninan

Church Newsletter: Mrs. Elizabeth P. Kurian and Mr. Joseph P. Thomas

Webmaster: Mr. Joseph P. Thomas & Mr. Saju George

Marth Mariam Samajam

Secretary: Mrs. Lipsey Mathews

Treasurer: Mrs. Elizabeth Saji

Diocesan Representative: Mrs. Rachel Abraham

Sunday School Principal: Mr. Mathai Chacko

Arts School Coordinator: Mrs. Elizabeth Varghese

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

Vice President: Mr. Philipose Philip

Secretary: Mr. Benson Cherian

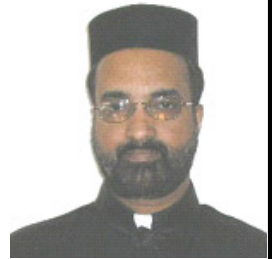
Treasurer: Mr. Nevin Pothen

Prayer Meeting: Mr. George Thamaravelil

Food Committee: Mr. Jeemon Varghese, Mr. Saji M Pothen, Mr. Varghese Cherian (Ben), Mr. Manoj John, Mrs. Rachel George, and Mr. Saju George

Vicar's Message

We all go through difficult times at some point in our life. Some of us call it as 'wrong time', and others phrase it as 'challenging time', 'hardship' etc. Sudden death of a family member, illness of someone, betrayal of some one significant to you, problems at the job or even layoff, or anything similar or with a high magnitude hits your day to day life and your future. If we realize the fact that the brick wall is there for a reason, it will make a difference to approach the brick wall. If we think about the brick wall in a negative aspect, or judging the challenge to be a problem - our chances to win will be much lower. If we take the brick wall as an opportunity, and be prepared to add brilliance to your hard work, dedication, and constant dependence in God will definitely lead you to success. There is an old saying "The way you choose to see the world, the way our world will be"



Taking challenges is not a comfortable thing for many of us. We prefer to follow the same routine, and we think about what others think about me. The choices I make may make others think that I am crazy. It requires courage to make a decision. Think about the future, where will I be in the next five years, in next ten years, and have your dreams. When you have your dreams you will choose the challenges. Visualizing, planning, working diligently with God's grace will take you to the destination of your dreams. We all are familiar saying "we learn from our mistakes". Mistakes and bad choices often allow others to take control or take advantage on our life situations.

In our day to day life we see positive and negative kinds of people. Associating with positive people will help us to think positive and enhance our ability to take challenges. We see this positive even from the beginning when God created the world. "God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good". In order to be successful we have to think positive, embrace challenges, work hard to attain the goal. When we are ready to take that challenge, God will help us to attain the success. The wrong time, bad time, challenging time and hardships will be moved and we will get the peace and happiness.

We have to understand that God allows things to happen in our lives to help us to take the challenges. Let us pray and set up our mindset to be more positive, visualize the future, work hard and seek the grace of God to face the brick wall.

Yours in His Service,

Raju Varghese Achen

BIRTHDAY LIST

JANUARY

01/05-Annamma Thomas
 01/05- Ranjith Kuruvilla
 01/07-Princy Abraham
 01/09- Tiji Kuriakose
 01/11-Thomas Abraham
 01/11- Jayson P. Mangalathu
 01/14-Rachel George
 01/19-Ashley Abraham
 01/23-Shawn Mathew
 01/23- Jensen Varghese
 01/26-Betsy Thomas
 01/27-Justin Paul
 01/30-Lipsy Mathews
 01/30-Mathai Thengampallil
 01/31-Roy Mathai
 01/31- Smitha Mathai

FEBRUARY

02/01- Liya S. Alex
 02/02-Christine Cherian
 02/03- Susan Varghese
 02/04-Roshin Varghese
 02/04-Mathews P. John
 02/05- Jaiden Jacob
 02/13 -Tina S. Thermadom
 02/14- Malena Maria John
 02/17- Abel Kuriakose John
 02/18 –Manoj John
 02/18 – Layla Chaly
 02/20 – Lida Sara Kuriakose
 02/21- Jamie R. Mangalathu
 02/21- Jubin K. Jacob
 02/23 -Justin Jacob
 02/24- Gracy George
 02/24- Cherian (Jojo Kurian)
 02/27-Mariamamma Varghese

MARCH

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 JacobVarghese
 03/07- Jacob Kurian
 03/07 - Jacob Imran
 03/07 - Becky Philip
 03/08 - Jeny Samuel
 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
 03/20VargheseGeevarghese
 03/20-Michelle George
 03/20-Meril Pothen
 03/20-Sherin Philip
 03/20-Nitha L. Alex
 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



APRIL

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
 04/24- Joshua Parackal Kurian
 04/25-Benoye Mani
 04/25 – Johnson Thomas
 04/25- Tanya Alex
 04/26-Mekha Varghese
 04/26-Sneha Varghese
 04/28- Chinnu Varghese
 04/30-Rebecca Zachariah
 04/30 -Rachel Zachariah

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

**Wedding Anniversay****JANUARY**

01/03 -Tiji & Kuriakose T. Chacko
 01/09-Elizabeth & Jeemon Varghese
 01/09-Swapnamole & Joythis Jacob
 01/19- Lipsy & Mathews P. John
 01/23- Sosamma & Samuel Daniel
 01/23- Sosamma & Jose Abraham
 01/25 - Nitha & Liju Alex
 01/27 - Jessy & James Jacob
 01/30- Soosan & Varghese Cherian
 01/31 -Jolly & G. Kochugeevarghese

FEBRUARY

02/02- Abegale & Thomas Chacko
 02/04- Marykutty & Isaac Mathew
 02/07 -Susan & Fr. Raju Varghese
 02/08-Annamma & Varghese Ninan
 02/10 - Mariamma & Baby Varghese
 02/16- Lizy & Philipose Philip
 02/18- Sheeba & John Mathai
 02/20 - Viji & Benny Kurian
 02/25- Suja & Abraham Pothan
 02/26 -Tinky & Joseph Thomas

APRIL

04/03- Gracy & Mathai Thomas
 04/06- Rachel & Mathai Thengampallil
 04/07- Sheeba & Santhosh Mani
 04/12- Sindhu & Roy Chengannur
 04/14- Leena & Liju Paul
 04/18- Ajimol & John Phillips
 04/19- Samma & Varughese Abraham
 04/24- Deepa & John Jacob
 04/27- Ruby & Mathew P. John



Church News

Holy Week Services: We were blessed to have a spiritually filled Holy Week this year. Thanks to Rev. Fr. Dr. Raju Varghese for leading these services. Special thanks to the Holy Week conveners, Mr. Abraham Pothan and to the Marth Mariam Samajam for all their help. We also like to thank the Convention coordinators Sindhu Roy, Ancy George and Lizy Philip along with everyone who participated in the Lenten Sermons. Our Retreat and Confession was a great success. We thank the Coordinators Solamen Daniel, Becky Philip, Jerry Jose, and Leena Paul. Thanks to all the families who participated in the Good Friday Vigil. We once again thank Marth Mariam Samajam for coordinating all the food, making pickles for Good Friday and providing delicious food every night after evening prayers. Thanks to Ajith Varghese for taking the wonderful pictures during Holy week. Once again thanks to everyone for their support and participation during the Holy week

Sunday school Corner: Sunday school Annual Day was celebrated on Sunday, February 3, 2013. Thank you for all the hard work from the teachers and Students. Sunday School Midterm Exam was held on Sunday, February 24, 2013. Group song competition coordinators are George Thamaravelil and Ancy George, please contact them for any additional detail.

OVBS will be from August 4-6. Please talk to OVBS Coordinators Tinky Abraham and Elizabeth (Gigi) Kurian. Sunday school Field trip was held on May 4th. Achen, Students and teachers met at the church and went to the St. John the Divine Cathedral and returned at 2:00pm. A bus was arranged for the Children. The trip was very exciting. Thanks to Mathai uncle and team for arranging the trip.

MGOCSM: MGOCSM unit of our Church conducted their election on Sunday, Jan 20, 2013. The following members were elected to various offices for the year 2013: Secretary: Mr. Benson Cherian, Treasurer: Mr. Nevin Pothan, Joint Secretary: Mr. Genuine Thomas, Joint Treasurer: Ms. Jessica John. Congratulations to the new Office bearers! MGOCSM Lenten Retreat was held on Saturday, March 16 at St. Stephen's Midland Park Church. Several youth from our church attend this program. Thanks to Mr. Philipose Philip and Mr. Saji M. Pothan for volunteering to accompany the students.

Thanks to MGOCSM for hosting the Annual Easter Egg Hunt for the Kids. MGOCSM hosted Bake sales this year for the fundraising and charity work and sold calendars to help fund the Missions trip this year. Special Thanks to all the church members for their participation and support.

Marth Mariam Samajam: The Marth Mariam Samajam election was held for 2013 and the following members were unanimously elected: Secretary – Lipsy Mathews, Treasurer – Elizabeth Saji. Congratulations to the new Office-members !! Marth Mariyam Samajam held a bake sale on Jan 13. Thank you for all the participants. Marth Mariam Samajam has placed a clothing drop box in our church for last few weeks. These donations will help to cloth the poor and homeless in India.

The Rockland area Meeting of MMVS will be held on June 1st at St. John's Orthodox Church Orangeburg.

Parents & Couples Conference will be hosted by the MMVS will be held on June 15th 2013 at St. Thomas Church, Philadelphia. All parents and couples are encouraged to attend the conference.

SMYLE: Coordinators are Mrs. Becky Philip, Mrs. Leena Paul, Mr. Solomon Daniel and Jerry Jose. SMYLE organized this year's youth retreat in our church. Many activities for the youth are under planning.

FOCUS: FOCUS hosted a pre-Marital Enrichment event on Sunday, Feb 2 at St. Gregarious Church, Elmont. Fr. Paul Cherian was the main Speaker. This event was for young adults who were recently married, engaged, or single contemplating marriage.

Arts School: Our dance School participated in the anniversary celebration of Mayura School of dance. Our children's performances were amazing. Thanks to Mrs. Elizabeth Varghese and parents for their hard work.

Church Retreat & Confession: The annual retreat was held on Saturday, March 23, 2013 and led by Fr. Bobby Varghese and Br. Shinto David. It was a real blessing for those who attended.

Family Trip: Mr. Ben Cherian & Saji K Pothan made a brief presentation regarding this year's Family Trip on July 20-27 to Bahamas cruise. Please contact them for any other questions.

Joint Council: Annual general body meeting was held Sunday, Feb 24th at St. John's Orthodox Church, Orangeburg. Thanks to all the members who attended. Our member Saji M. Pothan served as the Secretary of JCCCR during 2012.

New Church Member: We would like to welcome Mr. Joe Kunchandy & family to our church as new members.

Special Thanks: We would like to thank Betsy Thomas for doing an outstanding job with 2012 new Letters.

We also like to thank Rev Fr. Basil Thomas, Rev Fr Bitty Mathew Achen, Rev Fr. Bobby Varghese, Br. Shinto David, and Fr. Sujith Thomas for joining us on during the Holy week.

Catholicate Day: Our church celebrated the Catholicate day on March 17. Introduction was done by Rev. Fr. Dr. Raju Varghese, Vicar, Presentation by Michelle Pothan, and Felicitation by Mr. Philipose Philip. Catholicate day Pledge was done by Mr. Saji M Pothan and Catholica Mangala Ganam by Church Chior.

Donation: We like to thank Mr. Samuel Abraham and family for their donation of a Casa and Pilasa and Mr. Sajan Pothan and family for the donation of "Virrikutt" and service books to the church. We also like to thank Mr. John Alexander a non-church member for his donation of two "Muthukkudas" to our church. Special thanks to all the members who returned the Bond and Promissory note to church. May God bless these families.

Condolences: Church members and officials express condolences to the families of Mr. Aniyam Varghese member of Sparkill Church.

Our Member Mr. Mathai Mathai's father in law Passed away in india. Raju Varghese Achen attended the funeral.

Aleyamma Ouseph Mother of our member Mrs. Lisa George passed away on Sunday, April 21st. Mrs. Annamma Philipose wife of Philipose Vattasherril passed away on April 21st. She was one of the pioneer members of the Rockland church. Parish expresses its deepest sympathy and prayers to all the grieving family members.

30th Day Remembrance of His Grace Mathews Mar Barnabas

The 30th Day Remembrance of our beloved Vailya Thirumeni was held on Thursday, January 5, 2013 at St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Church, Philadelphia. The Holy Qurbana was celebrated by our Diocesan Metropolitan H.G. Zacharia Mar Nicholovos assisted by almost all priests and deacons from Northeast Diocese. Many Dignitaries including Bishops from Marthoma Church, Sero- Malankara , Chalcedonian and Orthodox Church of America participated in the service which was followed by a public meeting. All the Speakers fondly remembered the great virtues of Barnabas Thirumeni. Mr. Philipose Philip spoke on the occasion on behalf of the Diocesan Council and our Church.

40th Day Remembrance of His Grace Mathews Mar Barnabas

The 40th Day Remembrance of our beloved Vailya Thirumeni was held on Thursday, January 17, 2013 at Sts. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, Valayanchirangara, Kerala, India. Holy Qurbano was celebrated by His Holiness the Catholicos of the East assisted by His Grace Zachariah Mar Nicholovos, Metropolitan and other Metropolitans of the Church.

May the memory of our beloved Father in Christ, His Grace Mathews Mar Barnabas, Metropolitan be eternal, and may he continue to intercede for each of us, before the Throne of Christ our God

His Grace Geevarghese Mar Ivanios taken to heavenly abode

Geevarghese Mar Ivanios, 72, Metropolitan of the Kottayam Diocese of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, the beloved Mar Ivanios Thirumeni for many of the Orthodox faithful, passed away in Kottayam on April 12, 2013 owing to age-related ailments. Mar Ivanios, who was under treatment for renal problems at a private hospital at Kottayam, breathed his last around 7.30 am on Friday.

The mortal remains were laid to rest at Mar Baselios Dayara at Njaliyakuzhi near Kottayam, a monastery which was founded by him in order to spread the radiance of Orthodox spirituality and monasticism.

Geevarghese Mar Ivanios was born on November 14, 1940, at the Keeyath family, Othara, Tiruvalla, as the son of George and Annamma. After his schooling, he did his BSc from Fathima Matha College, Kollam. Further to that he took his post-graduation in Hebrew and Syriac from Mansfield College, England. He also took a Masters in Theology from Oxford University. Meanwhile, he learnt Sanskrit and Latin.

He was ordained a deacon in 1963 and a priest in 1973 by Mathews Mar Kurilos. There upon, he worked as the vicar of Karappuzha Chapel. In 1979, Marthoma Mathews I ordained him to the rank of a Ramban. Geevarghese Ramban was elected a bishop on December 28, 1982, convened at MGM High School Tiruvalla. He was later consecrated as Mar Ivanios Episcopa on May 15, 1985, at St Mary's Orthodox Church, Puthiyakavu, Mavelikkara. Since then, he was serving the Kottayam Diocese as Bishop. He was elevated a metropolitan in 1991.

From 1971 onwards, he had been teaching at the Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kottayam, and has authored books, 'Hridaya Sudhikaranam,' 'Nirlepam,' and 'Mounathinte Lavanyam.' ~ By Express News Service

“When we lose one blessing, another is often most unexpectedly given in its place.” ~ C.S. Lewis



God Hears and Answers Prayer

Prayer Meeting

A special thanks to the following families who have already hosted the prayer meetings this year and the volunteer for the

rest of the year; there has been a great turnout at these prayer meetings, so please continue the support. We are looking for a volunteer for January 2014. If anyone interested please contract the Monthly Prayers coordinator Mr. George Thamaravelil.



<u>Month</u>	<u>Host</u>
January	None
February	None
March 17	Mr. Aby T John and Family
April 27	Dr. Mano Zacharia and Family
May 25	Mr. Saji K Pothan and Family
June	Mrs. Annakunju Varghese
July	Cancel
August	Mr. George Thamaravelil And Family
September	Mr. John Varghese and Family
October	Mr. Jeemon Varghese and Family
November	Mr. Mathai Chacko and Family
December	Cancel

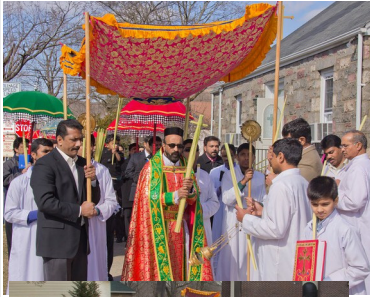
St. MARY'S CHURCH EVENTS-2013

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FEASTS AND EVENTS</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Jan 23	Nineveh Lent & Mayaltho	H. Qurbana: 6:30pm
February 11	The Great Lent Begins	9:00 am
March 5	Mid Lent	H. Qurbana: 6.30pm
March 21	40 th Day of lent	H. Qurbana: 6.30pm
March 23	Retreat and confession	10:00 am
		08.00am -04.00pm
March 24	Plam Sunday	Prayer 5:30pm
March 25	Evening Prayer	6:30pm
March 26	Evening Prayer	6:30pm
March 27	Maundy Thursday	H. Qurbana: 6:30pm
March 28	Evening Prayer	H. Service: 8.30am
March 29	Good Friday	H Good Friday Service – 8:30 AM, Eve. Prayer- 5:30 PM
March 30	Holy Saturday	H. Qurbana – 10:00 AM, Evening Prayer- 5:30 PM
March 31	Easter	H. Qurbana – 8:00 AM
May 8	Ascension/Swargarohanam	H. Qurbana –6:30pm
May 19	Pentecost	H.Qurbana—8:30am
May 16	Apostle Lent Begins	
June 23	Half Yearly General Body Meeting	

St. MARY'S CHURCH EVENTS-2013

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FEASTS AND EVENTS</u>	<u>TIME</u>
July 10 to 13	Family Conference	
July 20-27	Family Trip	
August 2-4	OVBS	
August 17	Church Perunnal, Evening Service & Rassa	6:30pm
August 18	Church Perunnal & Auction	H. Qurbana: 8:45am
August 24	Church Picnic	
Sept. 6 to 7	Convention	6:30pm
Sept 15	Sleebe Perunnal	H. Qurbana: 6.30pm
Oct 26	Family Night (tentative)	
Nov. 3	Parumala Perunnal	H. Qurbana: 8:45am
Dec 1	Annual General Body-Election of Office Bearers	
Dec 1-7-8- 14,15,21	Christmas Caroling Dates	-
Dec 22	Christmas Program by the Sunday School	-
Dec 25	Christmas-Birth Of Lord Jesus	H.Service: 8.00am
Jan 1, 2014	New Year Service	H.Service: 9.00am

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 gigikurian@gmail.com or Tinkymary@gmail.com