



GREGORIAN GAZETTE

**FEAST OF ST. GREGORIOS OF PARUMALA
OUR PATRON SAINT**

FROM NOV-5 FRIDAY

T0 NOV -7 SUNDAY



H H Basalius Marthoma Didimos-I
will demit office

Catholicate designate H B Poulose Mar
Milithios will be enthroned on November 1st



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CHARACTERISTICS OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

SCRIPTURAL: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. He who believes in him is not condemned. He who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God." [John 3:16-18]

ECCLESIAL: "And I believe in One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church." [Nicene Creed] *The Last part will appear in the December edition of the Gazette*

A word from Shibu Achen...The days are passing by really fast, the weather is getting cold and the trees have shed their leaves to welcome the seasonal change. Do these changes in nature mean anything in our life? God has a plan and wants to convey special messages to each and every one of us through the cyclic changes in nature. In order to understand that and be in harmony with His plan, we need to meditate upon it with an open mind and tune our ears to listen. The Church also is on the way to enter in to a new liturgical year with the *Qoodosh etho* Sunday (the Sunday of sanctification) on October 31. Let us meditate upon our lives with respect to the liturgical year, which just ended. Let us do a self evaluation and analyze where we stand and measure the progress that we are making. Let us rededicate our lives in the new liturgical year with deeper faith, wider love and higher hope. Let us prepare ourselves with holiness and meekness to start a new spiritual journey with Christ and HIS church. May God bless us all.

We Remember

Nov 8 . Monday



His Holiness Basalios Marthoma Mathews I. He was the 88th successor to the Throne of St. Thomas, the Apostle of India and the 5th Catholicose after re-establishment of the Catholicate in Malankara

Fr. M. K. Thomas
Fr. V.M. Shibu
Liju Paul
Liju Varghese
Elizabeth Varghese
Gladstone Mammen

George Panicker
Joe Varghese
Peter Varghese
George Varghese (Publisher)

EDITORIAL BOARD

2. Tuesday – Feast day of St. Gregorios

5. Friday – Evening prayer and Perunnal convention 7PM

6. Saturday - Ministry leaders meeting @ 4PM

Evening prayer and Perunnal convention 6 PM

7. Sunday - Church Perunnal

Hoodosh Eatho (Dedication of the Church)

Acts 7:44-53, Hebrews 9:1-14, St. John 10:22-38

8. Monday – Memorial of H. H. Baselios Mathews I

13. Saturday - Existing leaders training @ 3PM

Prayer fellowship Ward 9 C.K Easo & Saramma's residence, Wadsworth

14. Sunday – Annunciation to Zachariah

2 Peter 1:1-15, Ephesians 5:21-6:4, St. Luke 1:5-25

Upcoming leaders training @ 1.30PM

Prayer Fellowship Ward 6 John & Aleyamma Mulanthara's residence, Bloomingdale

17. Friday - Sunday School Teachers Training @ 7PM

18. Thursday - Willowbrook Bible study @7.30PM

19. Friday – Skokie Bible study @ 7.30PM

20. Saturday - Divyabodhanam Seminar @ 10.39AM

Ecumenical Basketball Tournament

21. Sunday - Annunciation to St. Mary

1 John 3:2-17, Galatians 4:1-7, St. Luke 1:26-38

26. Friday - Youth Group Thanksgiving Dinner (location TBD)

27. Saturday - MGOCSM Basketball Tournament

28. Sunday – St. Mary visits Elizabeth

1 Peter 3:1-7, 1 Timothy 2:9-15, 3:11-13, St. Luke 1:39-56

General body meeting after Holy Qurbana - Election 2011

Carol schedule for this year:

Nov. 27th - Sat. - Elmhurst, Homewood...

Nov. 28th - Sun. - Naperville

Dec. 4th - Sat. - Elgin, Buffalo Grove, Arlington Heights...

Dec. 5th - Sun. - Gurnee, Waukegan

Dec. 12th - Sun. - Des Plaines, Glenview..

Dec. 19th - Sun. - Chicago, Skokie

Dec. 11th or Dec. 18th - Milwaukee, Waukesha

We welcome :~**Baptised**-Rohan (baptismal name- Andrews), son of Diana and Sajjan Andrews

Alyssa (baptismal name -Elizabeth), daughter of Sincy and Rin Abraham~

Birth - Jordan, born to proud parents Senin and Simi Paulose.

HISTORIC REIGN OF CATHOLICOS DIDYMUS I

His Holiness Moran Mar Basalios Marthoma Didymus I, Catholicos of the East and Malankara Metropolitan, the 90th prelate seated on the Apostolic Throne of St Thomas, the 7th Catholicos in Malankara after the establishment of the Catholicate in India in 1912 and the 20th Malankara Metropolitan, has decided to abdicate and to enthrone his successor, present Catholicos elect, His Beatitude Paulose Mar Miltithios as Catholicos on November 1st.

The spiritual leadership of the Holy Father Didymus I is historic, record creating and has several firsts. The Holy Father became the Malankara Metropolitan on Oct 29, 2005 and the Catholicos on Oct 30, 2005. Now in his 90th year of his birthday on Oct 29, 2010, the Holy Father has decided to pass on his responsibilities to his successor.

In the history of Malankara Church, His Holiness Didymus I, the supreme head of the Church is fit to be called a privileged and honored Father. The Holy Father himself will consecrate his successor. With this, His Holiness Didymus I will have the rare privilege of being the sole Catholicos of Malankara, who has been consecrated by his predecessor and of consecrating his successor as well. He also had the special privilege to elect his successor and two joint trustees.

In only five years of reign, the Holy Father as Catholicos consecrated 14 Metropolitans on two separate occasions (seven on each occasion), creating a historic record for the most Bishops consecrated by a Catholicos. Based on the requirement of securing the stipulated percentage of votes, the planned # of candidates were elected is another historic record and that too on both occasions.

It may also be seen as a privilege to have organized Association meetings and consecrations outside of the Parumala Church after a long period, that too without much preparation and publicity. For the first time in the all male Malankara Association, in an official capacity a lady served. To move towards a full democratic set up, another step of allowing ladies to sit in the parish general body has been taken and this is a positive step.

We can see as a positive sign the organized structure of Bishop Election, the laying down of rules and regulations and its strict implementation in the Malankara Association and the flawless conduct of the meetings. He reestablished the wearing of the official vestments by the Malankara Metropolitan at the Association meetings. He also streamlined trainings and orientation for the top leadership of the Church and thus paved the way to bring everyone on one page.

We are witnesses to the ascetic life of this great shepherd and spiritual father, who through his sacramental and liturgical life led His sheep with grace and humility and strived to perfect the steps to lead us to divine transformation.

Q: Is the Orthodox Church Biblical?

A: We must first understand and acknowledge with humility that this question is often asked due to the general ignorance of Scripture by those who call themselves Orthodox Christians. But we see very clearly in the writings of the Church Fathers, the importance of Scripture in the Church.

In fact, one of the first clear acknowledgments of the 27 books of the New Testament (in order) appeared in an Easter letter by St. Athanasius in 367A.D. It's important to understand here that it was not St. Athanasius who decided the books of the New Testament, but the One Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. This pre-denominational Church is what we refer to as the Orthodox Church.

St John Chrysostom (also remembered in the fifth Thubden as Mar Ivanios) clearly stated that the cause of all evils in the Church comes from not knowing the Scriptures. More recently, Dr. Geevarghese Mar Ostathios, Metropolitan also emphasized that the sacred traditions of the Church will never contradict Scripture, and that in fact "we must always explain the Scriptural truth in the context of the sacred traditions of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church and not establish any dogma on the basis of the traditions alone".

The Bible is the Holy Book of the Orthodox Church, and for us Scripture and Tradition are one and the same. It is written by and for those who believe in God and constitute His People. The Four Gospels are the center of the Bible, just as Christ is the center of the Church.

The Orthodox generally interpret the Bible in terms of Christ. In this sense, the Old Testament is partial in that it prepares for the time of Christ, the Messiah, who fulfills its message and history. The New Testament writings are also centered around Christ and tell of His action in the world and in the Church through the Holy Spirit. Thus, the Orthodox position about the Bible would be that the New Testament is prefigured in the Old, and the Old Testament is fulfilled in the New.

The Bible is central in the life of the Church and gives both form and content to the Church's liturgical and sacramental worship, just as to its theology and spiritual life. Nothing in the Orthodox Church can be opposed to what is revealed in the Bible. In fact as the Bible came from the Church, the teachings and the message therein reinforce the life in the Church. Everything in the Church is biblical. The Bible itself, however, not only determines and judges the life of the Church, but is itself judged by the Church since it "comes alive" and receives its proper interpretation and significance only within the life of the Church as actually lived and experienced by the People of God. This would be the basic Orthodox approach to the Bible

We prayerfully report the sudden demise of Jacob Kalarickal (34 years), the beloved brother of Issac Kalarickal, a parishioner of our Church. He was an active member of Mar Elia Cathedral and is survived by his wife and son. Please keep both the families in our Prayers. May God grant eternal rest to the departed soul with the community of the saints

MMVS: Godly women and intimacy towards their families (October MMVS meeting discussion).

Our intimacy with Christ is our time - communicating and sharing what we do with Christ. How do we show that to our family? Even if we have many great qualities but if our relationship with each other is not good, our life is poor. Man is created in the image of God. With the fall of man, there came corruption, disintegration of relationship and mortality. Then, Christ came to save us. Man has the freedom to respond to Christ; thus we have divination (theosis). When we have divination, we receive forgiveness. This is one of the virtues we receive when we are truly intimate with Christ. This, we can share with our families. When we try to strengthen our family without the grace of God, the relationships in the family will become strained. When we don't give time to God as a family; our family togetherness is diminished. Short cuts are only temporary. Praying for insight and sharing that insight with our spouse and our children and strengthening Godly qualities of our families are true virtues of Godly women.

Theosis (divination) and family intimacy go hand in hand. God bless each and every one of us!

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

The Sunday School teachers' meeting was held on Fri, Oct 29 at the church. Steve Thomas led the Bible study and discussion on "Becoming Holy". Being holy means to be set apart. The idea of becoming holy is not only something that we see in the New Testament but also in the Old Testament. (1 Peter 1:16 and Exodus 3: 5). We have to separate ourselves from lust and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace. Sin separates us from God. We have to flee from evil and replace evil with good. Start practicing virtue and it will become a habit. Jesus Christ calls the scribes and Pharisees hypocrites (Mathew 15: 7). We should not have hypocritical values and fake holiness. Christ is concerned with our heart and holiness should come from within, the heart. As Teachers, we need to be mindful of our life style and actions. We need to be prepared each Sunday and allocate time to prepare properly.

Shibu Achen in his concluding remarks stated that we have to relate our lives with the Liturgy. We all possess holiness. God is perfect. We have to acquire God's holiness with our application and strive for perfection. We have to do self evaluation and not be satisfied with where we are. We should always work towards spiritual growth. Let us all prayerfully sanctify and purify ourselves, and dedicate our lives as teachers and ministers in serving in His vineyard.

Kids Corner

MILITHIOS THIRUMENI TO BE ENTHRONED AS CATHOLICOS:

Supreme head of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, H H Basalius Marthoma Didimos-I will demit office due to old age. Catholicate designate H H Poulose Mar Milithios will be the successor and will be enthroned as Catholicose of the East and Malankara Metrapolitan on November 1st 2010. His Holiness is the 91st successor of St Thomas, the apostle of India and will be named H H Basalius Marthoma Poulose II.

The decision regarding the enthronement was taken by the Holy Synod held at the head quarters of Malankara Orthodox Church, Devalokam Aramana on Friday, October 28. H H Basalius Marthoma Didimos-I expressed his desire to relinquish office during his 90th birthday celebration. The enthronement will take place on November 1st at Parumala Seminary Church following the Holy Qurbana presided over by H. H. Basalius Marthoma Didimos I and the members of the Holy Synod

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/03 Varghese, Jannice	11/15 Markose, Nina
11/06 Geevarghese, Alexander	11/17 Areekal, Niharika
11/06 Mathew, Sara	11/20 Mathew, Alicia
11/06 Jacob, Stefan	11/21 Panicker, Jomin
11/08 Mathai, Jovanna	11/21 Panicker, Hridya
11/09 Dileep, Priya	11/25 Panicker, Jisha
11/11 Philip, Sheeba	11/27 Alias, Basil
11/11 Molayal, Mark	11/28 George, Rekha
11/12 George, Sneha	11/28 Gandi, Raj
11/13 Joy, Alwin	
11/13 Skariah, Meera	
11/13 Isaac, Jiji	



Catholicose Elect - HB Paulose Mar Milithios:

Paul was born on 30th Aug 1946 in Kerala, India. He was groomed by his parents and grandparents; He did his postgraduate studies in sociology at CMS College, Kottayam. From his childhood, Paul showed keen interest in spiritual matters. His parish church, St. Mary's Orthodox Church was the nerve centre of his spiritual growth. At the age of 13, he was selected by his parish priest to be part of the 'washing of feet' service celebrated by H G Paulose Mar Severios Metropolitan. This marked a turning point in the life of young Paul when the metropolitan invited him to the priesthood. The influence of his parents especially that of his mother who hails from the famous Pulikkottil family played a great role in molding his early life. Young Paul joined the Orthodox Theological Seminary from where he secured GST and took BD from the Serampore University. He was ordained as a priest in 1973. He was professed Ramban in 1983 at Parumala Seminary. In 1985, he was consecrated as Episcopa with the name Paulose Mar Milithios.

H B had the privilege of becoming the first bishop of the newly formed Kunnankulam diocese in 1985. His Grace was elevated as Metropolitan in 1991. Besides shepherding the Kunnankulam diocese, His Grace served as the president of orthodox Syrian Sunday school association of the east (OSSAE), the president of the Orthodox Youth Movement and the vice president of Mar Gregorios Orthodox Christian Student Movement of India. He also guided, led and directed several educational institutions and hospitals. The Holy Episcopal synod and the Managing committee nominated His Grace as the successor to the Catholicos of the East and Malankara Metropolitan in 2006. Since then, His Beatitude has been assisting and helping the Catholicose and Malankara Metropolitan, HH Didymos I in shepherding the Malankara Church.

At 64 years, Milithios Thirumeni is young, has foresight and enthusiasm to lead and guide the Church in this technological world. As Thirumeni becomes the Catholicose and Malankara Metropolitan, we pray that God may continue to bless him and strengthen him with good health, grace and wisdom and through him, spiritually empower the clergy and the laity of His Church. Glory, honor and praise be to the Triune God! Ref: <http://moscdigitaldiary.malankaraorthodox.tv/Kunnankulam-Metro.html>

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