



GREGORIAN GAZETTE

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

FROM NOV-5 FRIDAY

T0 NOV -7 SUNDAY



MELODIES USA 2010



A GRAND SUCESS

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CHARACTERISTICS OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**TRINITARIAN:**

INCARNATIONAL: 'Who for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man ... " [Nicene Creed].

EUCCHARISTIC: This is My Body" ... "This is My Blood" [Mark 14:22, 241. The Eucharist brings us into the one joy. "Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord" (Mt 25:21). The Eucharist is our means of entering into this.

Look for more Characteristics of Christian Spirituality in the upcoming issues of the Gazette!

KOODHOSH EETHO (SANCTIFICATION) SUNDAY

The first period of our liturgical year begins at the end of October or at the beginning of November, on the Sunday between October 30th and November 5th. It is the beginning of the Orthodox Church calendar. This Sunday is called Koodhosh-Eetho Sunday. It means to "sanctify or purify the church. All major religions celebrate this day of purification; for example, the Jews call this day "Hanukkah" to commemorating the purification of the Jewish temple. But remember, just like purifying the church, we have to purify and dedicate our families and ourselves.

Seminary Day

This year, Seminary Day will be observed on Sunday October 3rd. Please continue to pray for all our seminarians, as well as those who work in the seminaries so as to bring forth devoted spiritual leaders to do the work of Christ (Luke 10:2).

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

3. Sunday - Third Sunday after the Feast of Holy Cross

Acts 7:2-5, Romans 8:1-11, St. Mark 2:23-28

Divyabodhanam

5. Tuesday –Divyabodhanam**8. Friday - Skokie Bible Study**

Campus Ministry @ University of IL campus: Fr. V.M.Shibu
and Dn. Aby George

9. Saturday - MMVS Retreat

Ecumenical Youth Retreat @ Mar Thoma Church

Leadership Training @ church

Managing Committee Meeting @ 4PM

10. Sunday — Fourth Sunday after the Festival of Holy Cross

Acts 21:17-26, I Corinthians 1:21-29, St.Luke 16:9-18
Bai'tho bake sale

Leadership Training @ church

Prayer Fellowship Ward 4

14. Friday— Willowbrook Bible Study**16. Saturday – Focus Charity Event.****17. Sunday - Fifth Sunday after the Festival of Holy Cross**

Acts 22:22-29, I Timothy 6:13-21, St.Matthew 23:1-12

MMVS meeting & Divyabodhanam after Holy Qurbana

FOCUS Bible Study

23. Saturday – H. Qurbana @ Elgin**24. Sunday – Sixth Sunday after the Festival of Holy Cross**

Acts 21:27-40, I Corinthians 5:6-13, St.Luke 18:18-27

31. Sunday – Koodhosh Eetho (Sanctification) Sunday .

The Sunday that comes on of after October 30th is called Koodhosh Eetho (Sanctification of Church) Sunday. It is the beginning of the church calendar

I Peter 2:1-12, I Corinthians 3:16-17,6:15-20 ,
St.Matthew16:13-23

Walking over troubled waters



Mathew 14: 22 – 33 states that Jesus went up the mountain to pray. When evening came, the disciples were in a boat in the middle of the sea. Jesus went to them walking on the sea. The disciples when they saw Jesus thought that it was a ghost and they were frightened. But Jesus immediately told them not to be afraid. Peter seeing Jesus walking on the water wanted to come to Jesus and Peter started walking. But doubt in the mind of Peter causes him to sink. Then, Jesus stretched out his hand and held him safely.

What do we learn from this? Jesus is always inviting us to walk over the sea. Walking over means not to get involved in problems or difficulties but to walk above them, overcoming them in peace and with calmness. The disciples were fishermen and Jesus tells them that I will make you fishers of men (Mathew 4:19). Jesus is calling them to a higher style of living. Jesus' thinking is different from ours. Disciples were led and guided to walk over troubles and persecutions. From ordinary men, they became great men.

Why did Peter fall? Ego leads to our inward fall. Jesus leads us by hand and assists in our travel over trouble. Walking over trouble is simple but we need to develop a mental attitude to see over the petty issues and view the big picture. Though Jesus lived with the sinners, he was not a sinner. We should not be afraid of our circumstances. A Christian life is walking over troubled waters. Do not get tempted by the worldly passions and desires. Do not get entangled in trouble and temptations. Pressure and disappointments should not drown us. We should not allow ourselves to be submerged in our whirlpools. Let us prepare to walk over the sea. As we enter the new liturgical year at the end of this month, let us challenge ourselves to walk over the circumstances of life that surround us. Let us act as a beacon of light to all our brothers and sisters. May the sacramental life and prayer help us in walking over the troubled waters of the world!

Shibu Achen

Q: How can an infant 'believe and be baptized'? Where in Scripture does it show an infant being baptized?

A: For a complete answer, please visit this wonderful explanation given by the Greek Orthodox Church i.e., <http://www.goarch.org/ourfaith/ourfaith7067>

Baptism in and of itself, of course, is not enough. The Orthodox Church does not follow the Roman Catholic teaching of Original Sin, nor do we believe like the Protestants that at any given point in time we are "saved" and need to do nothing further to work on our Salvation. In short, our Salvation is the healing of man, and the transformation into the perfect Man Jesus Christ.

Baptism is the entry into the Holy Church, and must be accompanied by genuine faith. No parents should be allowed to baptize their infant if they themselves have not made an expressed commitment to serve Jesus Christ and raise their child in accordance with God's Word. God parents should be chosen as role models for the child to emulate. It is into the Church and an environment of holiness that the child is being accepted.

This is also why at every Orthodox Baptism, all those present are called to also renew their Baptismal vows and accept the challenge of our baptism and live dedicated lives for Christ.

Original articles from church members are always solicited, please submit your articles to gregorian-gazettee@yahoo.com





The first Teachers Meeting of 2010-2011 academic year was held on Fri Sep 3

Bible study on Spirituality, Faith and commitment was led by James Semmassan and we covered the following points: Sunday school is the monastery of the Church. Monasticism focuses on God. Worship happens in the totality of a person – human personality. Prayer is the greatest expression of love for a person (dead or alive). As a teacher we have to administer love and as a spiritual guide, we have to create relationships. There is no contradiction between Church and science. The Resurrected body is the glorified body and is in a special form. The body sins but the soul desires to be holy. The Church considers the body to be holy- that is why no tattoos should be put on our body. We are part of the body of Christ. We receive the body and blood of Christ- therefore, we cannot abuse the body. Psalm 147 praises God and is alive in spirit. Correct praise happens when soul and body are together. Sin separates body and spirit. The perfect person is the union of soul and body. We have to clean the body through the life in the Church. Death was not God's plan.

Religion gives dogmas and doctrines. Religion gives theory and spirituality is the application. Spirituality is a sacramental process- knowing. Faith is true belief based on the infallible dogma. Commitment is the preparation. It includes takeout time, learning the faith and practicing the spiritual values.

As Teachers we are authorized to touch each child's spiritual life. Therefore we have to be spiritual. Call of a Christian life is to become like Christ. We should have the fire of God in our lives. Besides the spiritual preparation, teachers discussed and focused on the academic programs and activities. Syllabus and curriculum, lesson plan per the calendar and promotion policies were discussed.

In conclusion, Shibu Achen summarized that as teachers we are called to a serious ministry- 24/7, 365 days. We are not to confine ourselves to the text. Be a spiritual teacher. We have to work together. Christ called us to be helpers and ministers in His Kingdom. Parents are entrusting their kids to us. We have to prepare and teach lessons well. Impart Christ to them.

We appreciate James Semmassan for leading the Bible discussion and the inspiring teachings. We thank Shirley Panicker and family for opening their house for the teachers meeting and for the delicious food.

Classes for the new academic year started on Sunday, Sep 12. All the teachers came together at 8.30 am in the Church and prayed before the actual start of the class.

Awards and trophies for the last academic year were distributed last week. We also held the first Parents teachers conference on Sun Sep 26. If you did not get a chance to talk to your child's teacher, do call him/her and talk about the class program and plans. Please keep the Sunday school program, students, teachers and parents in your prayers.



CHICAGO REGIONAL TEACHERS TRAINING PROGRAM was conducted on Sat Oct 3 at St Thomas Orthodox Church, Chicago. The training program was led by Rev Dr Mathew Koshy who is the director of the Sunday school of the South West diocese of America. Mathew Koshy Achen conducted a resourceful and motivating session on the objective of the Sunday school, teaching methodology, resources and curriculum. Beena Korah from St Thomas taught an excellent model class based on the 6th grade lesson – Sacrament of Baptism. She also supplemented the class with use of modern technology and other innovative teaching methods. Following are the coordination and streamlining efforts at the Diocesan level to bring uniformity in syllabus and curriculum, and to better equip the Sunday schools to teach: Teachers training certification program, use of the textbooks issued

by the North East diocese of America, Bible Read and study, Centralized exams in grades 5, 8, 10 and 12, Parents Teachers Coordination program, Sunday school teachers yahoo group e-mail, etc. There were fruitful discussions on general concerns and issues at the Parish Sunday school level. A business session to think about what programs we should do in the future at the regional level also was held. The training was conducted for the benefit of all the four Chicago land Malankara Orthodox Syrian Churches. We thank Mathew Koshy Achen for coming from Atlanta to lead the training and St Thomas Orthodox Church, Chicago for hosting it. We acknowledge and appreciate all the teachers who attended, all the Principals who actively led the training and all those who helped to make the training a success. Special thanks to Rev Fr Ham Joseph for his leadership and guidance. May God bless us all.



PHAT

PHAT Man's Ministry held their monthly meeting on September 25 at Nevin Markose's house. The meeting was a great fellowship and we learned a lot at the meeting. During the meeting, we discussed another chapter in the *Twelve Apostles* and this month it was Judas, the Value of a Dollar. We learned how Judas was driven by money and the reasons why he may have betrayed Jesus. After the meeting, we ate pizza and Chinese food for lunch. Thank you Nevin and his family for having the PHAT Man's Ministry at your house.

Shane Jacob

WE REMEMBER

OCT 3 SUNDAY-Commemoration Of H.H. Mar Baselios Yeldo Catholicos(Kothamangalam Cheriya Palli)



OCT 12 TUESDAY-Commemoration of His Grace Philipos Mar Divanasios IV Metropolitan 152th (Cheppadu Church)
Commemoration of His Grace Yuhannon Mar Athanasios (Perunadu Bethany Ashram)

OCT 22 FRIDAY-Commemoration of His Holiness Mar Baselios Shakralla Catholicos (Kandanadu Church)

H.G Joshua Mar Nicodimos , one of the newly consecrated bishops and the Metropolitan of Ranni diocese conducted Holy Qurbana at our church on Sept.5th. H.G conducted the baptism of



Mathew Benedict Jr. the same day.

H.G is the brother of Mr. Joy Mathai, a member of our Parish. Our church gave him a warm welcome at the airport with Shibu Achen, the Trustee , the Secretary and many managing committee mem-

bers receiving him at the airport. The church also held a felicitation meeting after the H. Qurbana on Sunday.

MELODIES USA-2010 Program a Grand Success

Let us praise and glorify God for the blessings that He continues to shower upon us.

By the grace of God, through the mediation of our patron Saint Parumala Thirumeni and by the joint effort of all the parishioners, our fund raising program - Melodies USA-2010 turned out to be a grand success. We saw more than what we expected in all the aspects of this mega event. Once again, it was evident that **with God nothing is impossible**. But we have to work together with one spirit for our Parish. We would like to appreciate and express thanks to all those who those who put in their efforts through prayers, logistics, organizing, sponsoring, ticket sale, bake sale, ushering etc.

We especially acknowledge the dedicated and sincere efforts of the Trustee, Secretary, Core Committee Coordinators, Managing Committee members, Ticket sales volunteers, Bake sale coordinators and the youth of our Church. All of them in close cooperation with the Parishioners worked tirelessly for making the program a resounding success. May God bless all the persons who worked in any small or big way either through prayers or actions.

WELCOME: We welcome the following infants as the youngest members of our Church:

Matthew Benedict, son of Suma and Bency Benedict and

Rohan Sajan Andrews, son of Diana and Sajan Andrews

We congratulate the parents, grandparents and God parents.

KIDS KORNER

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The Tale of the Three Trees An American Folktale

Long ago in the far away land of Palestine, three trees stood on a hillside overlooking a seaport town.

Each three had great hopes and dreams of what it would be when fully grown. The first tree boasted that it's lumber would be used to make a great and beautiful treasure chest. The chest would be decorated with bright golden hinges and polished to a fine and shiny finish. Inside it would hold great riches, jewels which were the colors of the rainbow and gold and silver coins.

The second tree claimed that it would be fashioned into a fine sailing ship. The ship would sail the high seas and travel to far and exotic places. The passengers would be kings and soldiers and statesmen who would marvel at the beauty of such a wonderful ship and the smooth and safe voyages it gave them.

The third tree declared that it would not be cut down and used by man for any of his needs. This tree would be left standing because of its beauty and strength. People would look at the reach of this tree's branches and would think of God and all His glory as they gazed upward to the sky.

Then one day three men with axes came to the hill where the trees stood tall and full. As each tree stood in anticipation of their fate, the first man approached the first tree. He examined it and decided it was a good tree for his uses and so he cut it down. The second man looked at the second tree and assessing its sturdiness and good quality proceeded to chop it down. The third man stood looking at the third tree who reached its branches ever upward, hoping he would leave the tree alone to live its days on that hill. However, the third man judged the tree to be perfect for his needs, and cut it down.

Now the first tree that had dreamed of being a beautiful treasure chest was instead made into a manger. It was sold to a farmer who used it in his cave where he kept and fed his animals. From this manger the animals of the farm ate the hay that lay in it. Until one night a young woman and her husband came to the cave looking for shelter for themselves and their newborn baby. In that manger, they laid their infant son. It was at that moment that the tree knew that it held the greatest treasure in the world, God's gift to mankind. And as the child lay sleeping in the manger, the angels sang and the stars shown brightly in the sky.

Sometime later, the second tree was made into a small fishing boat. Its dreams of becoming a great sailing ship were gone. Now it carried fishermen and the quantities of fish that they caught each day from a small sea. Suddenly a great storm arose and waves rocked the boat back and forth as it tried to steady itself to keep from being wrecked. The man who led the others had no fear. He admonished His friends for being frightened and having so little faith. Then He stood in the

Then He stood in the boat and raised his hand saying, "Peace." As suddenly as the storm had come up, it went away and all was calm around them. At that moment the second tree knew that it carried a man greater than any worldly king, soldier or statesman and that it sailed a greater adventure than it could ever have dreamed of. The third tree spent many years in a lumber yard until one Friday morning it was yanked out of the pile of lumber it had lain in. It was made into a crucifix and put on the shoulders of a tired man who had been badly beaten. The man was forced to carry the crucifix to a mountain top and there it was planted into the ground. The man was then put upon the cross and his hands and feet were nailed to it. The tree shuddered with fear and sorrow as it felt the man's pain. The tree was filled with shame at what it had become a part of. Then as the man died upon the cross a great storm descended from heaven and the earth shook. At that moment the tree felt the power of God radiating through it.

Two days later, on Sunday morning the sun rose and joy and warmth filled the air as God's love changed all that had gone before. God's love made the first tree beautiful. It made the second tree strong. And each time people looked upon the third tree they thought of God.

*Taken from **The Children's Magazine**, Volume 1, Issue 2, December 1995.*

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/01 Varghese, Jocelyn	10/13 Samuel, Roshen
10/02 George, Jacob	10/15 Mani, Matthew
10/03 Chacko, Sharon	10/15 Mulanthara, Gina
10/03 Samuel, Rubin	10/21 Molayal, Mathew
10/06 Varghese, Shawn	10/21 Geevarghese, Hope
10/08 George, Nina	10/22 George, Neha
10/09 Issac, Ansu	10/24 Varghese, Ephraim
10/10 Mathew, Tarun	10/25 Thomas, Sean
10/11 Mathen, Tristan	10/26 Thomas, Merrin
10/12 Panicker, Sonia	10/31 Panicker, Jilu





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