



Grow in Unity

St. Gregorios Malankara Orthodox Church

2013

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace Ephesians 4:3

905 S Kent Ave, Elmhurst, IL 60126

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DENHO (THEOPHANY)

The Feast of Nativity (or Christmas) was once celebrated together with the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Dehaha or Denho) on January 6th. Later the Feast of Christmas was moved to December 25th to replace a pagan solar festival, and centuries later the Western world began to associate the Feast of Epiphany with the coming of the Magi on January 6th. However, for Eastern and Oriental Christians, the focus remained on the Baptism of our Lord.

In this Syriac icon, Christ receives baptism at the hands of St. John, the last of the prophets of the Old Covenant. Here the Old and the New Covenants meet in the waters of the Jordan—the old, temporary baptism for repentance of sins, and the lasting baptismal rebirth of water and the Spirit, as brought by Jesus in the New Covenant (Luke 3:16). For this reason the bottom of this icon depicts symbols of the 3 initiation Sacraments—Baptism, Chrismation and the Eucharist. The day of the Epiphany is the day when the whole world is being renewed and becomes a partaker of the holiness of God.

Grow in Unity

JANUARY 2013

SPECIAL EVENTS

- 1st New Year Divine Liturgy
MC Meeting
- 4th Friday Prayer - Elmhurst
- 11th Friday Prayer - Elmhurst
- 13th Sunday School Mid Terms
- 18th FOCUS Meeting
- 23rd HQ @ 7pm
- 25th Friday Prayer - Elmhurst
Bible Study - Skokie
- 26th PHAT/WOW Meeting
- 27th Senior Fellowship
Parent-Teacher Conference

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday School begins @ 8:45 AM Friday Prayer @10:30AM Sunday Holy Qurbana begins @ 10AM Sunday Prayer Meeting begins @ 6PM	1	2	3	4	5	
	Circumcision of our Lord <i>John 15:5-19</i>		H.H. Baselius Marthoma Geevarghese II <i>Luke 18:9-14</i>			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Baptism of our Lord (Denho) <i>Luke 3:7-22</i>	St. John the Baptist <i>Matthew 14:1-12</i>	St. Stephen <i>Matthew 23:34-39</i>				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<i>Matthew 4:12-22</i>		Feast of St. Mary				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<i>John 1:43-51</i>	Nineveh Fast Begins <i>Matthew 7:1-12</i>	<i>Matthew 24:36-46</i>	HQ @ 7 PM <i>Matthew 12:38-50</i>	Nineveh Fast Ends <i>Luke 12:54-13:9</i>		H.H. Baselius Mathews II
27	28	29	30	31	HQ – Holy Qurbana OCYM – Orthodox Christian Youth Movement MC – Managing Committee POCE – 1st Level DB – Divya Bodhanam	
All departed Priests <i>Matt. 24:42-51</i>						

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FEBRUARY 2013

SPECIAL EVENTS

- 1st Friday Prayer - Church
- 2nd MC Meeting
- 3rd 2012 MC Meeting
- 8th Friday Prayer - Church
- 9th Ward 10 Prayer Meeting
- 10th General Body Meeting
- 13th Evening Prayer @7pm at Church
- 14th DB - POCE
Teleconference
- 15th Friday Prayer - Church
- 16th MC 2012
- 17th MMVS, DB - DOCE
- 20th Evening Prayer @7pm at Church
- 22nd Friday Prayer - Church
- Bible Study - Skokie
- 23rd Sunday School Youth
Festival
PHAT/WOW Ministry
- 24th Annual General Body
- 27th Evening Prayer @7pm at Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday School begins @ 8:45AM Sunday Morning Prayer begins @ 9AM Sunday Holy Qurbana begins @ 10AM Sunday Prayer Meetings begin @ 6PM Saturday Prayer Meetings begin @ 6:30PM		Friday Prayer @ 10:30AM		1	2	Entry of Christ into the Temple <i>Luke 2:22-40</i>
3 St. Bar Saumo All departed Faithful <i>Luke 12:32-48</i>	4	5	6	7	8 St. Severios of Antioch	9 Commemoration of Mathews Mar Epiphanius Metropolitan
10 Kothine Sunday <i>John 2:1-11</i>	11 Great Lent Begins <i>Matthew 4:1-11</i>	12 <i>Matthew 6:1-6</i>	13 Commemoration of Patriarch Ignatius <i>Matthew 6:25-34</i>	14 <i>Matthew 7:13-27</i>	15 <i>Matthew 5:27-37</i>	16 <i>Mark 8:34-38; 13:9-13</i>
17 Healing the Leper <i>Luke 5:12-16;</i>	18 <i>Luke 6:27-36</i>	19 <i>Mark 4:21-34</i>	20 <i>Luke 11:1-13</i>	21 <i>Matthew 18:18-22</i>	22 Est. of Throne in Antioch By St. Peter <i>Matthew 5:38-48</i>	23 Feast of St. Dionysius <i>Mark 1:21-31</i>
24 Healing of the Paralytic <i>Mark 2:1-12</i>	25 <i>Mark 2:13-22</i>	26 <i>Mark 4:1-20</i>	27 <i>Luke 12:32-40</i>	28 <i>Mark 8:30-42</i>		

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All Orthodox Churches celebrate the Raising of Lazarus on the eve of Palm Sunday, prior to the start of the Holy Week that leads to the Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The reading for the day includes the shortest verse in the Holy Bible—"Jesus wept" (John 11:35). Lazarus dies, Jesus wept and then Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. What a powerful reminder for the reason of the events of Holy Week—man was dead (The Fall in Genesis), God wept and then God raised man from the dead (through Christ's Resurrection). In this icon, Christ stands as the Lord of Life and Death, reaching out His hand to call His friend from the dead. Lazarus stands upright, awakened while his sisters are at His feet. People look on, some covering their noses to show that Lazarus truly had been dead. Our Lord teaches, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die." (John 11:25-26)

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MARCH 2013

SPECIAL EVENTS

- 1st Ward 1 Prayer Meeting
- 2nd Ward Prayer Meeting
- 3rd MC Meeting
- Ward Prayer Meeting
- 5th **HQ @ 7pm**
- 6th Evening Prayer @7pm at Church
- 8th Friday Prayer - Church
- Bible Study - Skokie
- 9th KFC
- Ward 10 Prayer Meeting
- 10th DB - DOCE
- Ward Prayer Meeting
- 13th Eve. Prayer @7pm at Church
- 14th DB - POCE Teleconference
- 15th Friday Prayer - Church
- 16th OCYM
- Elgin Fellowship
- 17th MMVS
- DB - DOCE
- Ward Prayer Meeting
- 20th Eve. Prayer @7pm at Church
- 22nd Friday Prayer - Church
- HQ @ 7pm**
- 23rd Lenten Retreat 10am
- PHAT/WOW Ministry
- 24th **HQ 8:30am**
- 25th **HQ 8:30am**
- Evening Prayer & Devotional (7- 8:30pm)
- 26th Evening Prayer & Devotional (7- 8:30pm)
- 27th **HQ 6:30pm**
- 29th Good Friday Service 9am
- 30th **HQ 10am**
- 31st **HQ 8:30am**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday School begins @ 8:45AM Sunday Morning Prayer begins @ 9AM Sunday Holy Qurbana begins @ 10AM Sunday Prayer Meetings begin @ 6PM					1 <i>Luke 1:26-38</i>	2 <i>Mark 8:1-10</i>
3 Canaanite Women <i>Matthew 15:21-31</i>	4 <i>Mark 12:35-44</i>	5 HQ @ 7pm <i>Matt. 11:25-12:8</i>	6 Mid-Lent <i>John 3:13-21</i>	7 <i>Matthew 19:16-26</i>	8 <i>Luke 17:1-10</i>	9 Forty Martyrs of Sebaste <i>Luke 9:10-17</i>
10 Healing the Crippled Women <i>Luke 13:10-17</i>	11 <i>Luke 4:31-41</i>	12 <i>Mark 5:1-20</i>	13 <i>Matthew 14:14-23</i>	14 <i>Mark 6:47-56</i>	15 <i>Matthew 9:18-31</i>	16 <i>Luke 6:1-11</i>
17 Catholicate Day Healing the Blind Man <i>John 9:1-41</i>	18 <i>Luke 18:31-34; 19:1-10</i>	19 <i>Mark 10:32-45</i>	20 <i>Mark 4:35-41</i>	21 <i>Matthew 20:17-19</i>	22 40th Day of Great Lent HQ @ 7pm <i>Matthew 4:1-11</i>	23 Lazarus Saturday <i>John 11:28-46</i>
24 Palm Sunday <i>John 12:12-19</i>	25 Annunciation HQ 8:30am <i>Luke 1:26-38</i>	26 <i>John 8:28-59</i>	27 HQ 6:30pm <i>John 6:63-7:13</i>	28 Passover <i>Luke 22:14-30</i>	29 Good Friday <i>John 19:31-42</i>	30 Holy Saturday HQ 10am <i>Matthew 27:62-66</i>
31 Easter <i>Matthew 28:1-20</i>	HQ- Holy Qurbana DOCE - 2nd level MGSF-Mar Gregorios Seniors Fellowship MMVS-Morth Mariam Vanitha Samajam		POCE- 1st level DB- Divya Bodhanam		SS- Sunday School MC-Managing Committee	

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ROAD TO EMMAS

The joyful, light colors of the Resurrection continue in this icon of the encounter of the disciples at Emmaus with the Risen Lord. (Luke 24:13-35). Scripture tells us that one disciple is St. Cleopas (verse 18) and the other is St. Luke himself according to the teachings of the Church. We read how Jesus dispels their gloom, doubt and sorrow as He talks with them but He is ultimately recognized by them only after the breaking of the bread (i.e., the Holy Qurbana). All who commune with the Lord in His risen Body in faith have their eyes opened (verse 31) to know Him, for the Lord is known most perfectly in Holy Qurbana (verse 35).

In this icon, Jesus is in the center, portrayed crossing His arms in sacramental priestly blessing as He gives the bread to His disciples. The highly decorative designs are taken from Syriac sources and enhance the simplicity of this icon.



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APRIL 2013

SPECIAL EVENTS

- 5th Friday Prayer - Church
Bible Study - Skokie
- 1st-6th Hevoro (Days of Light)
- 6th Engagement
- 7th MC Meeting
Ward Prayer Meeting
- 11th DB - POCE
Teleconference
- 12th Friday Prayer - Church
Bible Study - Skokie
- 13th KFC
Ward 10 Prayer Meeting
- 14th DB DOCE
Ward Prayer Meeting
- 17th Bible Study (Willowbrook)
- 19th Friday Prayer - Church
- 20th OCYM
Ward Prayer Meeting
- 21st MMVS
DB DOCE
Ward Prayer Meeting
- 26th Friday Prayer - Church
- 27th PHAT/WOW Ministry
Elgin Fellowship
- 28th MGSF
Ward Prayer Meeting

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	Hevoro <i>John 2:18-25</i>	Hevoro <i>Mark 8:11-21</i>	Hevoro <i>Mark 8:27-33</i>	Hevoro <i>Matthew 16:20-27</i>	Pampady Thirumeni Hevoro <i>Mark 9:9-13</i>	Hevoro <i>Matthew 22:23-33</i>	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
New Sunday <i>John 20:19-31</i>							
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
2nd Sunday after Easter <i>John 21:1-14</i>							
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
3rd Sunday after Easter <i>John 21:15-19</i>		Feast of St. George <i>Mark 8:34-38: 9-13</i>		Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist			
28	29	30	HQ – Holy Qurbana SS – Sunday School DB – Divya Bodhanam MGSF – Mar Gregorios Seniors Fellowship		POCE – 1st level DOCE – 2nd level MC – Managing Committee		
4th Sunday after Easter <i>Luke 24:13-35</i>	Feast of St. James the apostle & son of Zebedee						

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Η ΠΕΝΤΗΚΟΣΤΗ

عيد الفصح

العنصرة



PENTECOST

This Pentecost icon is full of the strong colors of light and power, symbolic of the purging reviving fire. The movement of color is in the form of an apse, with the newly-born Church embraced within the dome of Heaven. In the center of the icon is St. Mary, surrounded by the Apostles who, filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit, would take the Gospel to the four corners of the earth ... including St. Thomas who brought the Word to India! In the foreground of this icon, the kneeling women symbolize those who would be the martyrs of the Church. At the top of the icon a blue semi-circle, representing the divine realm and God the Father, and the form of a dove the Holy Spirit. The red, yellow and blue of this icon symbolize the fire of Pentecost and the birth of the Church. This icon reminds us of the spiritual gifts of the Church and that we, as true children of God and His Church, should be zealous disciples in our world today

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MAY 2013

SPECIAL EVENTS

- 3rd Friday Prayer - Church
- 4th Sunday School Sports Day
- 5th MC Meeting
- 8th **HQ @7pm**
- 10th Friday Prayer - Church
- 11th Sunday School TTC Exam
Ward 10 Prayer Meeting
- 12th Mother's Day
DB - DOCE
Sunday School 12th Exam
Ward Prayer Meeting
- 16th DB - POCE
Teleconference
- 17th Friday Prayer - Church
Bible Study - Skokie
- 18th PHAT/WOW Ministry
Ward 8 Prayer Meeting
- 19th Ward 6 Prayer Meeting
- 24th Friday Prayer - Church
Wedding
- 25th Wedding
- 26th MG Senior Fellowship
DB - DOCE
- 31st Friday Prayer - Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday School begins @ 8:45AM Sunday Morning Prayer begins @ 9AM Sunday Holy Qurbana begins @ 10AM Sunday Prayer Meeting begins @ 6PM Saturday Prayer Meetings begin @ 6:30PM			1	2	3 H.H. Baselios Paulos I	4
5 5th Sunday after Easter <i>Luke 9:51-62</i>	6	7	8 St. John the Apostle HQ @ 7pm	9 Ascension <i>Luke 24:36-53</i>	10 St. Simon the Zealot	11
12 Mothers Day <i>John 17:13-26</i>	13	14	15 Feast of St. Mary	16	17	18
19 Pentecost HQ 8:30am <i>John 15:1-14</i>	20	21	22	23	24 Golden Friday <i>Matthew 19:23-30</i>	25
26 1st Sunday after Pentecost <i>John 6:26-35</i>	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	

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APOSTOLIC FAITH

Christ chose His Apostles, and in turn sent forth His Apostles and disciples with the command - "As the Father has sent me, I also send you ... receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:21-23). In Scripture, we read how Christ taught and fully revealed to His Apostles the understanding we need to become His followers. This is the teaching that became the foundation of the Christian Church, which is the "Apostles' doctrine" that is referenced in Acts 2:42. This is the correct understanding of "Apostolic" i.e., the Church is built upon Christ. The Holy Spirit is sent from God and upon those Apostles who were sent by Christ and filled with the Holy Spirit. The Church in its earthly members is itself sent by God to bear witness to His Kingdom, to keep His word and to do His will and His works in this world. No teachings were added to the Faith handed to us, nor was anything taken away. Rather, through the active presence and guidance of God, the Church continues to grow in the fullness of the revelation of Christ.

Grow in Unity

JUNE 2013

SPECIAL EVENTS

- 1st Ward 9 Prayer Meeting
- 2nd MC Meeting
Sunday School Finals
- 7th Friday Prayer - Church
- 8th Ward Prayer Meeting
- 9th DB - DOCE
Ward 10 Prayer Meeting
- 13th DB - POCE
Teleconference
- 14th Friday Prayer - Church
Bible Study - Skokie
- 15th Ward 6 Prayer Meeting
- 16th Father's Day
DB - DOCE, MMVS
Ward Prayer Meeting
- 21st Friday Prayer - Church
- 22nd OCYM
PHAT/WOW Ministry
Ward 9 Prayer Meeting
- 23rd Ward Prayer Meeting
- 27th - 30th Nuhro
- 28th Friday Prayer - Church
HQ @7pm
- 29th Ward 2 Prayer Meeting
- 30th MGSF, DB - DOCE
Ward Prayer Meeting

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday School begins @ 8:45AM Sunday Morning Prayer begins @ 9AM Sunday Holy Qurbana begins @ 10AM Friday Prayer @ 10:30AM Sunday Prayer Meetings begin @ 6PM Saturday Prayer Meetings begin @ 6:30PM						1
2 2nd Sunday after Pentecost <i>Matthew 10:5-16</i>	3	4	5	6 H.G. Augen Mar Dionysios	7	8
9 3rd Sunday after Pentecost <i>John 6:35-46</i>	10	11 St. Bartholomew	12	13	14	15 Apostle's Lent Begins
16 Fathers Day <i>Luke 10:1-16</i>	17	18	19 Feast of St. James	20	21	22
23 5th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Luke 9:10-17</i>	24	25	26	27	28 HQ @7pm	29 Apostle's Lent Ends St. Peter & St. Paul
30 Feast of 12 Apostles <i>Matthew 15:32-39</i>	HQ— Holy Qurbana POCE— 1st level SS— Sunday School DOCE - 2nd level OCYM— Yuvajana Prasthanam DB— Divya Bodhanam MGSF-Mar Gregorios Seniors Fellowship MMVS-Morth Mariam Vanitha Samajam					

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ST. THOMAS

St. Thomas, the Apostle of India, is often known as “Doubting Thomas”, on account of his refusal to believe the accounts of the other disciples that Christ had risen (John 20:24-29). However the Church focuses on the fact that St. Thomas worked through his initial doubts and ultimately testified that Jesus Christ is his personal “Lord and God” – a greater confession of faith than any of the Apostles had previously uttered. Sometimes this confession of faith is held in Thomas’ hands in icons depicting him, though more commonly it is the scroll denoting his rank of Apostle that is shown. Often St. Thomas is written in icons as a beardless youth, which is worthy of consideration when thinking about his “doubts”.

Some icons depicting this event are incorrectly inscribed as “The Doubting Thomas”. Rather, this is correctly titled “The Touching of Thomas” or “The Belief of Thomas”. When St. Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he affirmed the foundation of all Christianity, “My Lord and My God”

Grow in Unity

JULY 2013

SPECIAL EVENTS

- 5th Friday Prayer - Church
- 6th Wedding
- 7th MC Meeting
Ward Prayer Meeting
- 10th - 13th Midwest Regional Family
and Youth Conference
- 11th DB - POCE Teleconference
- 12th Friday Prayer - Church
- 13th Ward 10 Prayer Meeting
- 14th Half yearly General Body
Meeting
Ward 9 Prayer Meeting
- 18th - 20th OVBS
- 19th Friday Prayer - Church
- 20th Ward Prayer Meeting
- 21st DB - DOCE, MMVS
Ward Prayer Meeting
- 24th - 26th MGOCSM
Leadership Camp
- 26th Friday Prayer - Church
Bible Study - Skokie
- 27th Church Picnic
- 28th MG Senior Fellowship
DB - DOCE
Ward Prayer Meeting

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5	6
				St. Thomas Day Matthew 5:21-26	Independence Day	The 72 Evangelists	
7 7th Sunday after Pentecost Mission Sunday Mark 3:20-30	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14 8th Sunday after Pentecost John 6:47-59	15 St. Kuriakose Yulitti, Abhai	16	17	18	19	20 St. Simeon the Stylite	
21 9th Sunday after Pentecost Luke 14:7-11	22 St. Mary Magdalene	23	24	25	26	27 Church Picnic	
28 Matthew 18:1-11	29	30	31	Sunday School begins @ 8:45AM Sunday Morning Prayer begins @ 9AM Sunday Holy Qurbana begins @ 10AM Sunday Prayer Meetings begin @ 6PM Saturday Prayer Meetings begin @ 6:30PM			

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TRANSFIGURATION



Protrayal of the Transfiguration in this icon is strikingly simple, but strong in translucent light and the use of blue and turquoise bands of color symbolizing heavenly revelation. Our Lord stands upon the high Mountain of Tabor in shades of blue representing the divine realm and eternity. His clothes are dazzlingly white, fringed with gold. He holds a scroll representing the divine Word and He raises His right hand in a gesture of blessing. On His right and left, on separate peaks of the mountain, stand Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets. They also share in the brightness of the Transfiguration of the Lord. The three halos and the rays of light emanating from the figure of Christ are depicted in silver, representing eternity, contrasting with the gold of the central background. The three disciples, Peter, James and John, fall to the ground in worship and some bewilderment at such a transformation. They can no longer gaze directly at such a sight. Now even they are changed and their clothes reflect the transfiguring light of Christ. For them it is a foretaste of resurrection glory and majesty that they will never forget (2 Peter 1:16-18)

Grow in Unity

AUGUST 2013

SPECIAL EVENTS

- 2nd Friday Prayer - Church
- 3rd Elgin Fellowship
- 4th MC Meeting
Ward Prayer Meeting
- 5th **HQ @7pm**
- 9th Friday Prayer - Church
- 10th OCYM
Ward 10 Prayer Meeting
- 11th DB - DOCE
Ward Prayer Meeting
- 14th **HQ @7pm**
- 15th DB - POCE Teleconference
- 16th Friday Prayer - Church
- 17th Ward 6 Prayer Meeting
- 18th MMVS , DB - DOCE
Ward Prayer Meeting
- 21st Bible Study (Willowbrook)
- 23rd Friday Prayer - Church
Bible Study - Skokie
- 24th Sunday School Kick-Off
PHAT/WOW Ministry
Ward Prayer Meeting
- 25th MG Senior Fellowship
Ward Prayer Meeting
- 30th Friday Prayer - Church
- 31st OCYM
Ward Prayer Meeting

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday School begins @ 8:45AM Sunday Morning Prayer begins @ 9AM Sunday Holy Qurbana begins @ 10AM Sunday Prayer Meeting begins @ 6PM Friday Prayer @ 10:30AM				1 Dormition Fast Begins Sts. Shmuni, her 7 sons and Eleazer	2	3
4 11th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Mark 6:7-13</i>	5 HQ @7pm	6 Transfiguration <i>Luke 9:27-36</i>	7	8	9	10
11 1st Sunday after Transfiguration <i>Matthew 21:28-32</i>	12 St. Labbaeus	13	14 HQ @7pm	15 Dormition of St. Mary <i>John 19:25-27</i>	16	17 St. Matthew
18 1st Sunday after Shoonoyo <i>Luke 6:39-45</i>	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 2nd Sunday after Shoonoyo <i>Luke 11:9-20</i>	26	27	28	29 Beheading of St. John the Baptist	30	31

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HOLY CROSS

The Feast of the Holy Cross is an important day for Orthodox and Catholic Churches, tracing back to Sts. Constantine and Helen and the discovery of the actual Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. This photo of St George's Orthodox Church (Puthuppally, Kottayam) shows the large granite Crosses typically seen in the front of the old Churches in India, reflecting the importance and glory given to the Cross. The granite Cross is artistically carved and mounted on an octagonal cupola resting on a square base in front of the Church. In this Cross at Puthupally, there are 84 wick slots in the base representing the 12 Apostles and 72 divine messengers (Luke 10:1-24). On either side of this cross there is a multi step wick lamp made of granite (kal vilakku). As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Cross, let us also remember not to glorify Christ once a year but very day by making the simple sign of the Cross as our celebration, our exaltation ... our way to honor the Lord for all that he has bestowed on us. St. Cyril of Jerusalem teaches, "Let us not then be ashamed to confess the Crucified. Let the Cross be our seal made with boldness by our fingers on our brow and in everything"



Grow in Unity

SEPTEMBER 2013

SPECIAL EVENTS

- 1st MC Meeting
- Ward Prayer Meeting
- 3rd - 6th Evening Prayer
- 7th Ward 10 Prayer Meeting
- 8th DB - DOCE
- Sunday School Re-opens
- Ward Prayer Meeting
- 12th DB - POCE
- Teleconference
- 13th HQ @ 7pm
- Friday Prayer - Church
- 14th Wedding
- 15th MMVS, DB - DOCE
- Ward Prayer Meeting
- 18th Bible Study (Willowbrook)
- 20th - 22nd MMVS Annual
- Conference, Canada
- 20th Friday Prayer - Church
- 21st Onam Celebration
- 22nd Ward Prayer Meeting
- 27th Friday Prayer - Church
- 28th PHAT/WOW Ministry
- Ward 5 Prayer Meeting
- 29th MGSE, DB - DOCE
- Ward Prayer Meeting

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Ascension of St. Mary 8-day Fast Begins <i>Matthew 17:22-27</i>	2 Labor Day	3	4	5	6	7
8 Nativity of St. Mary <i>Matthew 5:38-48</i>	9 Sts. Joachim & Anna	10	11	12	13 HQ @7pm	14 Holy Cross <i>Luke 21:5-28</i>
15 1st Sunday after feast of Holy Cross <i>Mark 13:28-37</i>	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 2nd Sunday after feast of Holy Cross <i>Matthew 16:5-12</i>	23	24 St. Demetrius	25 Feast of Mar Ignatius Peter III Patriarch	26	27	28
29 2nd Sunday after feast of Holy Cross <i>Mark 2:23-28</i>	30	HQ— Holy Qurbana SS— Sunday School DB— Divya Bodhanam MGSE-Mar Gregorios Seniors Fellowship		POCE— 1st level DOCE - 2nd level MC-Managing Committee		

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ST. MARY

St. Mary was confirmed as the Theotokos (Greek for “God-bearer”) by the Council of Ephesus in 431 A.D. as she was undoubtedly the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ. Above her head are the letters “MP OV”, the Greek abbreviation of Mother of God. This title tells us more about the nature of her Son than about St. Mary herself. As such, icons of St. Mary are actually icons of Jesus Christ., and all veneration of her is actually glorification of God. It is a sad misunderstanding when people here the faithful pray the Hail Mary and think it is a prayer worshiping St. Mary as every word is from Scripture. In the icon, St. Mary is shown wearing a veil that speaks to us of her humility and piety. The veil is red, the color of divinity (Luke 1:35) upon her veil are three stars, which represent her eternal virginity (i.e., before, during, and forever after). Mother Mary’s hand directs us to the Infant Jesus Christ (IC XC), which is written with adult-like features to reflect that even as a baby He embodies all the wisdom of the One True God. St. Mary – who literally had Christ within her - is our role model and we venerate her humility, her piety, her tenderness, and the sorrow she endured.

Grow in Unity

OCTOBER 2013

SPECIAL EVENTS

4th Friday Prayer - Church
 5th Fall Fest
 6th MC Meeting
 Ward Prayer Meeting
 11th Friday Prayer - Church
 12th OCYM
 Ward Prayer Meeting
 13th DB - DOCE
 Ward Prayer Meeting
 15th DB - POCE
 Teleconference
 16th Bible Study
 (Willowbrook)
 18th Friday Prayer - Church
 Bible Study - Skokie
 19th Ward Prayer Meeting
 20th MMVS
 DB - DOCE
 Ward Prayer Meeting
 25th Friday Prayer - Church
 26th PHAT/WOW Ministry
 Ward Prayer Meeting
 27th MG Senior Fellowship
 Ward Prayer Meeting
 29th Elgin Center Conventions
 30th-31st Convention (Church)

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4	5
			Sts. Adai, Abhai & Malke		St. Baselius Eldon		Fall Fest
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Seminary Day <i>Luke 2:22-40</i>	Sts. Sergius & Bachus					
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	5th Sunday after feast of Holy Cross <i>Matthew 23:1-12</i>		St. Osio the Faster			St. Luke	
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	6th Sunday after feast of Holy Cross <i>Luke 18:18-27</i>		Baselius Shakralla	St. James the less			
	27	28	29	30	31	HQ– Holy Qurbana POCE– 1st level SS– Sunday School DOCE - 2nd level DB– Divya Bodhanam MC-Managing Committee	
	7th Sunday after feast of Holy Cross <i>Matthew 5:21-26</i>						

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace Ephesians 4:3

THE CHURCH

This Syrian icon represents the Church in heaven and the Church on earth. Christ the Pantocrator, Lord of all, is seated in glory, holding in His lap with His left hand the Church and with His right hand gives blessing. The throne of God is supported by the Cherubim and symbols of the Gospel writers (man, lion, ox and eagle). Under this is written the song of the Cherubim, "Holy, Holy, Holy!" written in Syriac. Between heaven and earth stand the heavenly priests with incense representing the prayers of the Saints, holding harps and scrolls to represent liturgical worship. In the lower portion of the icon is an ancient Syriac representation of the Communion of the Apostles – the Holy Qurbana – representing the Mystery of Christ, His Church and the Sacraments. The 6-winged Seraphim symbolize the joining of heaven and earth during Qurbana. On the left is St. Mary, the Theotokos and on the right is the symbolic representation of the Church as a Tree in the Garden of the Beloved described in an old Syriac hymn. In the branches of this tree are the psalms and the prophecies, the Apostles and Martyrs, who shed their blood for the faith.



Grow in Unity

NOVEMBER 2013

SPECIAL EVENTS

- 1st **Divine Liturgy 7PM**
- 8th Friday Prayer - Church
- 9th Ward Prayer Meeting
- 10th MMVS Election
DB - DOCE
Ward Prayer Meeting
- 14th DB - POCE Teleconference
- 15th Friday Prayer - Church
Bible Study - Skokie
- 16th OCYM
MMVS Annual Exam
Ecumenical Basketball
Tournament
- 17th MG Senior Fellowship
Ward Prayer Meeting
- 20th Bible Study (Willowbrook)
- 22nd Friday Prayer - Church
- 23rd PHAT/WOW Ministry
Ward Prayer Meeting
- 24th General Body Election
- 29th Youth Thanksgiving Dinner
Friday Prayer - Church
- 30th MGOCSM Basketball
Tournament
Church Caroling

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday School begins @ 8:45AM Sunday Morning Prayer begins @ 9AM Sunday Holy Qurbana begins @ 10AM Sunday Prayer Meetings begin @ 6PM Saturday Prayer Meetings begin @ 6:30PM			Friday Prayer @ 10:30AM		1	2
					All Saints and Martyrs HQ @7pm <i>Luke 18:9-14</i>	St. Gregorios of Parumala
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sanctification of the Church Perunnal <i>Matthew 16:13-23</i>		Commemoration of H.G.Stephanos Mar Theodosios			H.H. Baselius Marthoma Mathews I	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Dedication of the Church <i>John 10:22-38</i>			St. John Chrysostom	St. Philip		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Annunciation to Zachariah				Entrance of St. Mary into the Temple		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Annunciation to St. Mary <i>Luke 1:26-38</i>				Thanksgiving Day St. Jacob Baradaeus	St. Jacob of Sarug	St. Andrew

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INCARNATION OF OUR LORD

This Syrian icon shows St. Mary and the infant Jesus in a star that shines for all eternity, a light that illumines the children of men from before creation. This icon helps deepen our understanding of the mystery of the Incarnation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Rays of light emanate outwards and are symbolically represented by a gradual movement of the refracted colors of the rainbow, the sign of God's covenant with man (Genesis 9:16-17). Between the rays are depicted the events heralding the coming of our Lord into the world. Following the anti-clockwise movement of the Syriac orientation, these are the Annunciation to Zacharias, the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary, the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth, the Birth of John the Baptist, the Revelation to Joseph, the Genealogy of our Lord, the Birth of our Lord and the Circumcision, and finally the inscription in Syriac of all the names of Christ, from the prophecy of Isaiah – "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given .. and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:5)



Grow in Unity

DECEMBER 2013

<i>SPECIAL EVENTS</i>		<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>	
1st	Church Caroling	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
6th	Friday Prayer - Church	Nativity Fast Begins St. Mary visit to Elizabeth <i>Luke 1:39-56</i>			St. Baraba & St. Juliana		St. Nicholas		
7th	Ecumenical Christmas								
8th	Sunday School Day Church Caroling								
13th	Friday Prayer - Church	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
14th	Church Caroling	Nativity of St. John the Baptist <i>Luke 1:57-80</i>							
15th	MMVS Church Caroling								
18th	Bible Study (Willowbrook)								
20th	Friday Prayer – Church	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
21st	Church Caroling	Annunciation to St. Joseph		H.H. Baselius Marthoma Geevarghese I			St. Ignatius	St. Thomas	
22nd	Church Caroling								
24th	Christmas Holy Qurbana								
27th	Friday Prayer - Church Bible Study - Skokie	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
28th	PHAT/WOW Ministry Family Night 5:30pm	Sunday before Christmas		HQ @ 6pm	Nativity of our Lord <i>Luke 2:1-14</i>	Praises of St. Mary <i>Luke 8:16-21</i>	Slaughter of the Holy Innocents <i>Matthew 2:13-18</i>	Family Night	
29th	DB - DOCE								
31st	New Year's Eve Dedication Service 6pm								
		29	30	31	HQ – Holy Qurbana POCE – 1st level SS – Sunday School DOCE – 2nd level DB – Divya Bodhanam MC – Managing Committee MGSF – Mar Gregorios Seniors Fellowship MMVS – Morth Mariam Vanitha Samajam				
		Ist Sunday after Christmas <i>Matthew 2:9-15, 19-23</i>							

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace Ephesians 4:3

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