

Vol. 02
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PARISH BULLETIN

ST. THOMAS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL - DUBAI



SPECIAL DAYS & EVENTS

- 01/10/2014 - Feast of St. Adai, St. Abhai and Mar Malke
- 03/10/2014 - Commemoration of H.H. Mar Baselios Yeldo Catholics
- 07/10/2014 - Feast of Martyrs St. Sargis and St. Bakos
- 12/10/2014 - Commemoration of H.G. Philipos Mar Dionysius IV Metropolitan and H.G. Yuhanon Mar Athanasios
- 15/10/2014 - Feast of Mar Osyo
- 18/10/2014 - Feast of St. Luke The Evangelist
- 22/10/2014 - Commemoration of H.H. Mar Baselios Shakralla Catholics

for private circulation only



Fr. Shaji Mathews
Vicar & President

An insight to orthodoxy

Question :

I was wondering why we fast before Nativity/ Birth of Christ? The Lenten/Great Lent fast seems more obvious.

Answer :

We fast before the Great Feast of the Nativity in order to prepare ourselves for the celebration of our Lord's birth. As in the case of Great Lent, the Nativity Fast is one of preparation, during which we focus on the coming of the Savior by fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. By fasting, we "shift our focus" from ourselves to others, spending less time worrying about what to eat, when to eat, how much to eat, and so on in order to use our time in increased prayer and caring for the poor. We learn through fasting that we can gain control over things which we sometimes allow to control us and for many people, food is a controlling factor.

We live in the only society in which an entire TV network is devoted to food! While fasting from food, however, we are also challenged to fast from sin, from gossip, from jealousy, from anger, and from those other things which, while well within our control, we all too often allow to control us.

Just as we would refrain from eating a lot before going to an expensive restaurant for dinner-if we "ruin our appetite" we will enjoy the restaurant less-so too we fast before the Nativity in order to more fully feast and celebrate on the Nativity itself.

Finally, it seems quite odd that in our society-a society in which people gladly and freely spend huge sums of money for diets, most of

which recommend that one refrain from red meats and dairy products-fasting is not more widely embraced. How odd that a consultant or diet guru or physician will tell us to refrain from eating meat or cheese or butter and we will gladly embrace-and pay large sums of money for-his or her advice, while when the Church offers the same advice [at "no cost"] we tend to balk, as if we were being asked to do the impossible.

Question :

How did Christ through the Cross and Resurrection effect Hades and Paradise?

Answer :

Before Christ's Descent into Hades, when people died, they all went to Hades-the region of the dead. To the degree that they sinned, they suffered torment. To the degree that they were righteous, they received comfort. It was much like how the conscience can inflict torment or offer consolation to us in this life. Although the righteous still went to Hades, since they too had fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23), they did receive comfort through their God-pleasing lives and their hope for deliverance through Christ. Because of this they were said to dwell in Abraham's bosom, which is referenced by our Lord Himself in the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. The Father's see in the great chasm between the rich man and Lazarus not so much a description of physical geography but rather one of spiritual disposition (ie. distance or closeness to God and one's neighbor).

When Christ descended into Hades, He offered relief from spiritual torment and

complete forgiveness of sins to everyone, sinners and righteous alike, just like He had done on earth. Those who accepted the invitation entered into Paradise-the state of joyful and peaceful communion with God.

the glory which He shared with the Father before the world was. This love, glory, life, light, power, wisdom, etc., had been revealed to mankind at the fullness of time-the time when mankind was sufficiently prepared to repent and return to the Father.

It is important to note that Paradise had been opened to man through Christ's work; not because He changed God the Father, as some incorrectly believe, but rather because He changed us, drawing all men to Himself by being lifted up on the Cross, changing the world by the revelation of His divine love,

Now, through Christ, the means for the healing of soul and body are available, and man is gifted, through the unutterable groans of the Holy Spirit to truly desire full repentance and salvation.

സെപ്റ്റംബർ മാസത്തിൽ ഇടവക തലത്തിൽ നടത്തിയ പ്രധാന പരിപാടികൾ.....





Fr. Lany Chacko
Asst. Vicar

As Orthodox Christians, we have a sacramental understanding of the world. The whole world was created and given sacramentality, and our departure from it is what defines sin. Sin is itself perceived as a falling away of man, and in him of all creation, from its sacramentality, from the 'paradise of delight,' and into 'this world,' which lives no longer according to God, but according to itself and in itself and therefore corrupt and mortal. And if this is so, then Christ accomplishes the salvation of the world by renewing the world and life itself as sacrament.

Then, what is sin? Sin, from the Greek hamartia ('amartia) literally means "not complete" or "not whole." It is from a (ha or 'am) meaning "not" and artia (from artios) meaning "complete, whole, full mark or full measure." This is also why hamartia is also defined as "missing the mark." Sin is, in Orthodoxy, seen as primarily spiritual illness and disengagement from cooperating with and participating in God's grace. It is the result of departing from the commandment and the spiritual law of God, since these were given to show us the path to be in union with God by synergy, or co-operation with God. The tragedy and locus of sin, therefore, is not "legal violation" or "rule-breaking," since man was not created for the commandment, but the commandment for man that He might have synergetic union with God. Sin is truly transgression of the divine law, but sin's tragedy and locus is in severance of the soul from the Divine Grace and its departure from thinking and operating in union with God. The divine law "of freedom" in the New Testament is God's path to wholeness and union with Him. Just as the natural law tells us that we cannot take poison without physical death, and therefore to violate the natural

law by taking poison will result in illness and death, so also, when we transgress the divine law, the result is spiritual illness and death. Therefore, to say it is transgression of the law is true, in that transgression of the law both is an act of spiritual illness and death and also results in the same.

Sin destroys us as people. Our personhood erodes more and more as sin viciously feeds on it. Since God does not force us to do anything apart from our will, in order to achieve a lasting happiness we must cooperate with Him and let His grace enter our lives. "The soul is susceptible to sin in three ways: in actions, in words, and in thoughts.

The Church Fathers teach us that in order to be saved from sin, we need not only forgiveness, but also remission of our sins. Forgiveness and remission are two distinct things and indicate two distinct modes of divine healing in Scripture and in Orthodox theology. Forgiveness is mending the breach, but remission, as with remission of cancer, is removing of the illness. If a drug addict repents, they can be forgiven, but the illness of addiction remains until it is remitted. Both forgiveness and remission are spiritual healing—healing the breach then healing the illness. If one severs his arm, he will lose his arm and die unless two things happen: 1. The breach is mended—to try and regraft the muscles, ligaments, etc. but also 2. That the resulting infection is also healed. Thus, when Orthodoxy speaks of "cleansing" sin, it is referring to cleansing the infection—removing by the "washing" of the grace of God that which corrupts the soul as spiritual infection and leads to death. This is accomplished through the Mysteries of

the Church, the Sacraments, in conjunction with a life dedicated to following God's commandments and to repenting when we fail to follow His commandments. May God help us all so that, through our whole lives we remain receptive to the grace given to us at our Baptism and Chrismation, our sins are forgiven through repentance and through the mystery of Confession, that our sins are then further remitted through

Holy Communion, that we are healed by the power operative in these, and in the Mystery of Holy Unction, in which our soul is healed, and our body is either healed of its sufferings or else its sufferings are united to those of Christ who suffered for the salvation of the world.

May God bless us all
Lany achen

News

പ്രാർത്ഥനാ ശീതങ്ങളും കുടുംബാരാധന ക്രമവും

2006-ൽ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിച്ച പ്രാർത്ഥനാ ശീതങ്ങളും കുടുംബാരാധന ക്രമവും എന്ന പുസ്തകത്തിന്റെ പരിഷ്കരിച്ച രണ്ടാം പതിപ്പ് മലങ്കര സഭയുടെ പരമാദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ പ. ബസേലിയോസ് പൗലോസ് ദ്വിതീയൻ ബാവ കെടോബർ 4-ാം തീയതി വെള്ളിയാഴ്ച വി. കുർബ്ബാനയ്ക്കു ശേഷം പ്രകാശനം ചെയ്തു.

ധ്യാനം

എല്ലാ മാസത്തേയും ആദ്യ ബുധനാഴ്ച രാവിലെ 9.00 മണി മുതൽ 12.00 മണി വരെ ധ്യാനം ക്രമീകരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഏവരും പ്രാർത്ഥനാ പൂർവ്വം വന്ന് സംബന്ധിച്ച് അനുഗ്രഹം പ്രാപിക്കണമെന്ന് താത്പര്യപ്പെടുന്നു.

ഛാലിലി കോൺഗ്രസ്സ്

ഇടവകയുടെ ആഭിമുഖ്യത്തിൽ ഈ വർഷത്തെ ഛാലിലി കോൺഗ്രസ്സ് 2014 ഒക്ടോബർ 23, 24 (വ്യാഴം, വെള്ളി) ദിവസങ്ങളിൽ നടത്തപ്പെടുന്നു. പേരുകൾ മുൻകൂട്ടി രജിസ്റ്റർ ചെയ്യുക.

നീതിമാന്റെ ഓർമ്മ വാഴ്ചിനായ് തീരട്ടെ

പ. പരുമല തിരുമേനിയുടെ 112-ാം ഓർമ്മപ്പെരുനാൾ

പ. പരുമല തിരുമേനിയുടെ 112-ാം ഓർമ്മപ്പെരുനാൾ ഇടവകയിൽ 1-ഉം, 2-ഉം തീയതികളിൽ കൊണ്ടാടുന്നു.

നവംബർ 1-ാം തീയതി ശനി

വൈകിട്ട് 7:30 ന് സന്ധ്യാനമസ്കാരം, ധ്യാന പ്രസംഗം, ഭക്തിനിർഭരമായ റാസ

നവംബർ 2-ാം തീയതി ഞായർ

വൈകിട്ട് 7:30 ന് സന്ധ്യാനമസ്കാരം, വി. കുർബ്ബാന, നേർച്ച വിളവ്

പരിശുദ്ധന്റെ മദ്ധ്യസ്ഥതയിൽ അഭയം പ്രാപിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഏവരും പ്രാർത്ഥനയോടെ വന്ന് അനുഗ്രഹം പ്രാപിക്കണമെന്ന് താത്പര്യപ്പെടുന്നു.

NEW MEMBERS JOINED IN AUGUST 2014

NAME	CARDEX	AREA	HOME PARISH
RENJU MATHEW THOMAS	R289	RASHIDIYA	ST. MARYS ORTHODOX VALIYAPALLY, KATTOR
ROBIN BABU	R290	DEIRA	ST. THOMAS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, KADAMPANAD, PTA DIST
KURIEN THOMAS	K153	BUR DUBAI	MUTHUKURISL, ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH
HEBY K MATHEW	H005	AL NADHA II	ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH, ANCHAL
SHIBU SAMUEL	S585	AL NADHA II	ST. PETERS ORTHODOX CHURCH, KAROOR, PTA
JOSEPH A MATHAI	J635	AL NADHA I	THEKKAN PARUMALA ST GREGORIOUS CHURCH, AMBALAMUKKU, TVM
TOMCY JOHN THOMAS	T292	KARAMA	KADEESHA ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, KAYAMKULAM
SHIJU RAVILA RAJU	S586	AL QUOZ I	MAR GREGORIOUS ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH, BARODA PARISH
KARAYAMVATTATHU NINAN PHILIP	N33	KARAMA	ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH, PALARIVATTOM

HOLY SERVICES, PRAYERS & MEETINGS

Fridays	: 06.45 am - 07.25 am	Night Prayer, Morning Prayer
	: 08.15 am - 10.30 am	Holy Qurbana
Fridays	: 07.00 pm - 07.30 pm	Evening Prayer
	: 07.30 pm - 09.00 pm	Holy Qurbana
Sundays	: 07.30 pm - 08.00 pm	Evening Prayer
	: 08.00 pm - 09.30 pm	Holy Qurbana
Tuesdays	: 05.30 am - 07.00 am	Holy Qurbana
Wednesdays	: 07.30 pm - 08.30 pm	Evening Prayer & Intercessory Prayer for St. Mary
Saturday, Monday, Tuesday	: 07.00 pm - 07.30 pm	Evening Prayer
Thursdays	: 07.00 pm - 09.15 pm	Holy Confession, Evening Prayer Intercessory prayer to St. Thomas Church Prayer Meeting & Choir Practice
Sunday School	: 10.45 am - 12.10 pm	All Fridays
Marth Mariam Samajam	: 11.00 am - 12.20 pm	All Fridays
M.G.O.C.S.M	: 11.00 am - 12.20 pm	All Fridays
Youth Movement	: 11.00 am - 12.20 pm	All Fridays

SUNDAY SCHOOL

10th October - Annual Zonal Competition at St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Sharjah. No Sunday School Class on this Friday.
 17th October onwards Regular Class from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm as usual.
 17th October - Registration for OKR Examination of 10th & 12th students.
 Students of the classes mentioned above are advised to submit one passport size photograph and registration fee Dhs. 20/- to the class teacher.

ST. THOMAS ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT

10/10/2014 Youth Fest
 17/10/2014 Thesubehutho
 31/10/2014 Zonal Youth Fest

Divyabodhanam Class - Every Monday 8 pm to 9.30 pm (To increase general awareness of the Bible, Church History & Basic Believes of the Malankara Orthodox Sabha.)

OCYM Job Cell - Highly active Job Cell that matches job seekers with employers from a wide range of sectors. (More Informations Contact Co-ordinator, Mr. Shiju Thankachan : 052 6901433)

Email : ocymdubai@gmail.com Website: www.stthomasocymdubai.org

Job Cell : jobcellocymdubai@gmail.com

More Informations Contact: Secretary Mr. Anto Abraham : 055 5468982

Library - Library opens every Friday after the holy mass. Morethan 10,000 collection of books in various topics. Especially the books available for children. Library membership will be available for all the church members.

MGOCSM

MGOCSM Day competitions (painting,drawing,essay writing) Dates will be announced in church.
 Regular meeting - every Friday morning after service in parish hall.

MOMS

10/10/2014 Medical check up, Class about Malankara Sabha Charithra Vazhikaliloode-AD-1653-1912.
 17/10/2014 Akhila Malankara Marthamariyam Exam.
 24/10/2014 MOMS Onam Celiberation.
 30/10/2014 Regular Meeting.

St. Thomas Orthodox Cathedral-Dubai

Harvest Festival 2014

Friday, 14th November 2014

Key Attractions

- Stars & Celebrities
- Public Meeting & Awards
- LIVE Performances
- LIVE Musical Concert
- LIVE Food Courts
- LIVE Game Zone
- PRODUCT Display Zone

AREA PRAYER MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER - 2014

DAY & DATE	WEEK	AREA	NAME	CARDEX	ADDRESS
11-10-2014 SATURDAY	SECOND	BUR DUBAI	Ajee P. Mathews	J-393	Flat No. 504, Gold Souq Bldg., Mankool, Bur Dubai
11-10-2014 SATURDAY	SECOND	JEBEL ALI/AL QUOZ	Flemin Johnson	F-02	Flat No. 104, Bldg. 27, Al Khail Gate, Al Quoz
13-10-2014 MONDAY	SECOND	Al Ghusis Al Nahda	Jacob P. Mathew	J-320	Flat No. 107, Wasel Bldg., No. 491, Nr. Emirat Petrol Pump, Al Nahda
14-10-2014 TUESDAY	THIRD	GHUSAIS	Thomas Joseph	T-130	Flat No. 206, Bh. Emirates Driving School, Nr. Apple International School, Ghusais
14-10-2014 TUESDAY	THIRD	KARAMA	Bijumon Kunjachan	B-149	Flat No. 314, K.M. Trading Bldg, Oud Mehta
18-10-2014 SATURDAY	THIRD	YUSUF BAKER FRIJ MURAR NAIF ROAD	Jacob T. Alex		Flat No. 304, Burj Nagar Bldg. 1, Nakheel, Nr. Nakheel Centre, Yusuf Baker Road, Deira, Dubai
20-10-2014 MONDAY	FOURTH	RASHIDIYA LULU VILLAGE	Rajan P.K.	R-051	Wasl Bldg., (Oasis South), Flat No. 272, Near Gulf Model School, Muhasina 4
25-10-2014 SATURDAY	FOURTH	SATWA	Manoj J. Rajan	M-251	Flat No. 604, A1 Hamoudi, Bh. Move N Pick Hotel Oud Mehta Road, Satwa
25-10-2014 SATURDAY	FOURTH	SHARJAH AL NAHDA	David Thomas	D-08	Flat No. 174, Block A, Jumal Majid Bldg., Opp. Sahara Centre, Al Nahda, Sharjah
27-10-2014 MONDAY	FIFTH	MUHAISNAH LULU VILLAGE	Thomas Kurian	T-160	Flat No. 111, Block No. 18, Samri Residence, Ras Al Khor

SONAPUR PRAYER MEETING - EVERY FRIDAY EVENING AT EVERHOT CAMP@17 : 00 - 19 : 00 HRS

CHURCH OFFICE BEARERS - 2014

Rev. Fr. Shaji Mathews	<i>Vicar & President</i>	052 8711031	frshajimathe@yaho.co.in
Rev. Fr. Lany Chacko	<i>Asst. Vicar</i>	050 8379905	frlanychacko@gmail.com
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Thomas K. Monichan	<i>Secretary</i>	050 6742773	thomas.monichan@alfuttaim.ae
Mathai Chacko	<i>Jt. Trustee</i>	050 6542260	mathaiem@eim.ae
Kurian Philip	<i>Jt. Secretary</i>	050 5259310	kurianphilipdx@gmail.com