

St. Mary's Malankara Syrian Orthodox Church

Newsletter



April 10, 2016 — Volume I Issue 1

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INTRODUCTION

Dear Parish Members,

Opinions were aplenty but if not for the unified stance and common vision adopted by the members of the church, the newsletter would not have borne fruit. It is my immense pleasure to inform all that we will be publishing the copy of the newsletter on April 10, 2016.

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Jesus Christ.”

[Philippians 2:5]

I am grateful for our members for their input and suggestions that went a long way in making this mission possible.

May God Bless you all

Fr. Binu Joseph

Vicar

Why Should We Pray In The Morning?

Starting your morning off with a prayer is a great way to begin your day. We should always show our gratitude to our Lord for letting our eyes see another sunrise because we never know what could happen to us. In Isaiah 50:4-5, it says “*The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears....*” Our Lord has given to us everything we possess as of now, however he can take it away just as quick. Therefore, I hope everyone gives thanks to the Lord and makes a good bond with him, so that he will walk in front of you, providing the shadow of His right hand all day long.

By Cissimol Joseph

**GOD
DOESN'T
DEMAND
YOUR
WORSHIP.
HE DESIRES
YOUR LOVE.**



"No Sunday school lesson should ever be taught without first having prayer."

The kids in this year's Sunday school had so much fun doing many of the various activities that were provided for them. Every month we had a day called 'Sunday School Day,' where we, the Sunday School kids and teachers, come to church and enjoy ourselves by playing games together, watching movies, eating, etc. We appreciate the many uncles and aunties who took time out of their busy schedules to make this happen. Before separating to go to class on Sunday, we sing songs and hear speeches from Achen about topics that bring us closer to God as well as enlighten us as to what is occurring during service. Nearing the end of the Sunday school year, the students are preparing to take the final exams. We wish them all the luck and hope that by the grace of God, they may be able to do a very good job.

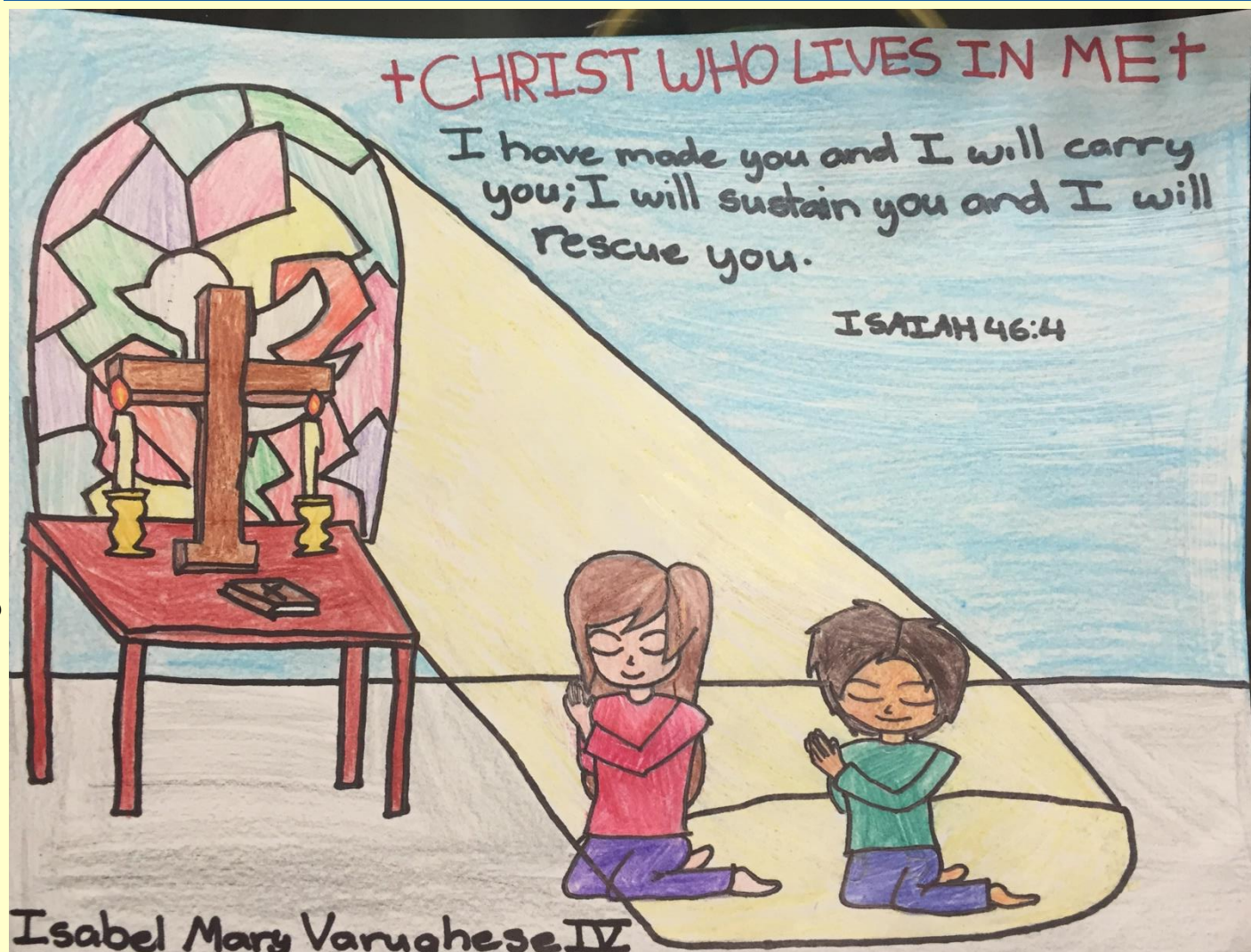
By Reshma Vilson



Sunday School Activities



Credits: Isabel Varughese



Sunday School Art

Credits: Annmary Thomas



The Fox and the Jackal

By Aiden Thomas

Hi friends! This is the story about rules. Few weeks ago, my classmates and I had a school field trip to Brazos Bend State Park. I wanted to go everywhere in the park and explore everything there. However I couldn't do anything I wanted to do because of the rules made by my teachers, parents, and the park and so on. At the end of the field trip, I realized I had fun because I had listened to my chaperones and teachers and followed all the rules, so I made home safe. After my amazing trip, I was surprised to find out that we have rules everywhere, like this story:

Once upon a time there was a clever fox and a jackal, who didn't want to listen to anyone. There was also a farmer who wanted to catch Fox and Jackal. One day Fox and Jackal were hunting in the forest but couldn't find anything to eat. Jackal was so angry by this that he told Fox, "Let's go catch an animal from the Farm."

"It's the forest rule that we can hunt and eat any animal in the forest but not any animals from the farm. The farmer has set lot of traps to capture us and you will be in trouble," replied Fox. But Jackal still wanted to go catch one of the Farmer's animal, so he didn't listen to what the clever fox said. The jackal went to the farm and immediately the farmer caught him. He was stuck in a cage forever. If Jackal had followed the rules of the forest or had listened to what the Fox said, he wouldn't have been in trouble.

So rules are made for your own good and it's made by responsible people. In the house, parents are setting the rules to make the kids good people in the future. Yesterday, I read in the Bible, Emphases 6:1, "Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." So even Jesus wanted us to obey our parents. This is why I realized my parents, teachers, elders and all were giving us the instructions to make sure our safety and to make us good kids. They love us and care about us.

So friends let's follow the rules.





The youth at our church is very excited for the upcoming events for this year. We are pleased to inform that this Easter egg hunt was a success. We have had a youth retreat at church during the Lenten Season and many of us had a better understanding of one of the seven sacraments, Confession. We were blessed to have speakers that helped us gain more insight about confession. We have had many bake sales that helped us gain profit. The youth has gotten closer through these events and has helped us get closer to God. An upcoming retreat in Dallas this year as well as the family conference in Maryland is in our bucket list for us to attend. May god bless us and our church. *Written By Christy Cecil*

“Don’t let anyone look down on you for your youth but set an example for the believers in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.” (1 Tim. 4:12)



Quiz Bowl

By Samantha Markose

When: April 16th, 2016

Location: St. Gregorios Malankra Syrian Church, Dallas

Finalist: Lissy Mathew, Aney George, Cissimol Joseph, Sruthi Martin, and Susan Jacob

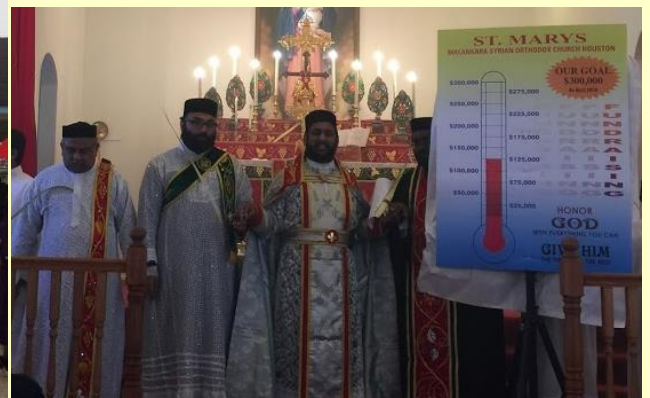
On March 27, 2016 8 adults from our church participated in this year's elimination round held to determine the finalist that will be representing our church this year. This year's topics are priesthood, marriage, and are from books Deuteronomy and Joshua. Our 2016 finalist are: Lissy Mathew, Aney George, Cissimol Vilson, Sruthi Martin, and Susan Jacob. According to 2 of the finalists, the quiz Competition is very inspirational for anyone who's interested in learning more about the bible. There has been an increase by 3 people in the people who are interested to compete in the competition. The Quiz Competition is good learning experience for all adults who would like to participate and learn more about the Words of God. There is nothing to be nervous about, but you should fully read the chapters assigned and be prepared. "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6). This year's competition is held on April 16, 2016, at St.Gregorios Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, Dallas, for those who would like to support their fellow church members as they compete for the 1st place recognition. Our church has been undefeated for the past three years and are planning to keep that record.



Church Activities

“Church is not a museum for good people; it’s a hospital for the broken.”
—Jefferson Bethke







Win a prize!

∴ By answering these few questions, you will be able to enter your name into a drawing. Please submit completed quiz to Headmaster. All ages are allowed to participate. However there is deadline. Hurry up and do this before April 17th. Good Luck!

Bible quiz- St Mathew, Chapters 1-5

1. What is the meaning of the word 'Immanuel'?
2. How many generations from Abraham to Christ?
3. 'A virgin shall conceive and bear a son'. This is whose prophecy?
4. Name the king who killed the boys under the age of two years?
5. How many times the angel of God appeared before Joseph?
6. How many women are included in the genealogy of Jesus Christ and who all are they?
7. What was the food of John the Baptist?
8. What were the gifts the wise men of the east brought for Jesus?
9. How many times was Jesus tempted?
10. Who was the brother of Peter?

Editor's Note

This newsletter is filled to the brim. I as your humble editor am very excited and thankful to all who contributed to this project. This is a project which the Youth and Sunday School of our St. Mary's Church has organized and I express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have worked on this edition of our newsletter and made this possible. This newsletter is designed to highlight the talents of our kids as well as our adults and also share some of the great events at our church. Please read, and enjoy the work of our dear kids. Also please send or let us know of any feedback or if you would like to submit something for the next issue. As we move forward let us pray and ask the intercession of our Patron Saint, St. Mary as well as St. George and St. Gregorios.

Sincerely,
Fr. Martin, Chief Editor