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QUEEN OF PEACE

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE EPARCHY

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The Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchy in the USA and Canada

THE MALANKARA SYRIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

**IInd MAJOR ARCHIEPISCOPAL ASSEMBLY
2019**



"GRACE FILLING FAMILIES"



Queen of peace

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St. Mary, Queen of Peace
Syro-Malankara Catholic
Eparchy in USA and Canada
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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Message from the Bishop

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ,

On Easter day we acclaimed: "Christ is Risen Alleluia. Jesus is Alive!" Now we are in the Season of Easter. In our liturgical calendar, the week after Easter is known as HEVORO week which means white week. In the holy week we commemorate the passion and the death of Jesus. On Easter Sunday we celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus which is the most central theme of faith of Christianity. St. Paul categorically teaches: "...if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and our faith has been in vain" (1Cor.15:14). The Resurrection of Christ is the model and guarantee the Christians that those who sleep in death will be raised. Resurrection Jesus is the definitive answer to those who are in search of the meaning and the status of life after death. We confess and proclaim daily in our creed: "we believe in the resurrection of the dead and in life eternal. Indeed, resurrection is the final destiny of a true believer in Jesus Christ.

Our proclamation on Easter Day that "Jesus is Alive" is an existential expression of faith. It is an acknowledgement that Jesus lives in my body, mind, and heart. My soul rejoices in the Lord. The spirit of Jesus dwells with the believer and enable to experience the spiritual power. Resurrection was the victory of Jesus over sin and death. It was a liberative and salvific event. It conveys a message of hope to all believers in



this world who experience varied forms of pain, suffering, tribulations and bondages in life. Jesus who heals the sick, forgives sins, raise the dead, provides peace and joy, is alive amidst us. The Risen Lord can break and remove the power of the sealed doors of frustrations, failures, defeats, tragedies, misfortunes in life and lead the believers to total joy, peace, and fulfillment. It is also the revelation that Jesus lives and his grace encompasses in our human society, the world and in the entire creation.

The Risen Lord enkindled and reunited the disappointed and scattered disciples. They were strengthened by his post resurrection apparitions and encounters. Among them the revelation to St. Thomas, the father of faith is very significant. The confession of Thomas that the Risen Lord as “MY LORD and MY GOD” is in fact contains the true faith of the church. It is proclamation of the Lordship of Jesus. “Therefore God has highly exalted him and given him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven and those on earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father” (Phil 2:9-11). The confession of the Lordship of God implies fourfold dimensions of our faith that God is simultaneously our ultimate Creator, Provider, Xavier and Judge. Easter Season invites us to experience these meanings of Resurrection in our personal, familial, social and ecclesial life.



+Philipos Mar Stephanos



St. Mary, Queen of Peace
Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchy in the USA
and Canada

Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos Thottathil
Bishop of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchy of the USA and Canada

Circular 3/ 2019.

Dear Reverend Monsignori, Fathers, Sisters and Faithful,

Cordial greetings to you and I wish you all the choicest blessings of the Risen Lord!

I am very pleased to inform you that the Holy Episcopal Synod of the Syro Malankara Catholic Church has graciously accorded to confer the Sacred Priestly Honor of '*Corepiscopo*' to Rt. Rev. Monsignor Peter Kochery and Rt. Rev. Monsignor Augustine Mangalath of our Eparchy. His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos has kindly consented to officiate the function on July 6, 2019 Saturday at 9.30 AM.

Kindly inform about this event to our parish community. It will be an opportunity to express our appreciation and love to these priests who have been rendering outstanding services to our Eparchy. I would request you to attend and encourage the participation of maximum number of our people in this function. Detailed program will be communicated soon.

Soliciting your prayers for our Eparchy,
With gratitude and prayerful best wishes,
Yours lovingly in Christ,

+ **Philipos Mar Stephanos**
Dated May 4, 2019.

EPARCHY NEWS

23rd Holy Episcopal Synod

His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos participated in the 23rd Holy Episcopal Synod of the Syro Malankara Catholic church which was held from March 11-15 at the Catholicate Center in Pattom.

Convention Souvenir Release

The souvenir of the 10th Syro-Malankara Catholic Convention held from August 2 to 5 at the Hilton Hotel in Stamford, Connecticut was released on April 11. His Excellency Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos released the souvenir and handed over the first copy to Mr. Philipose Mathew, Secretary of the Eparchial Pastoral Council and Mr. John P. Varghese, General secretary of the 10th Syro Malankara Catholic Convention . The Chairman of the Souvenir Committee, Rev. Fr. Noby Ayyaneth thanked all the members of the committee and all the sponsors. The valuable service of Deacon Jobin Thomas, Mr. Sunil Chacko and Mr. John M.Ettikkalayil was specially acknowledged as they played a major role in the preparation of the souvenir. Congratulation to Fr. Noby Ayyaneth and his team for this remarkable achievement. Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter Kochery, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Augustine Mangalath, Rev. Liju Thundiyl and Mr.Sunil Chacko were present.

New *Cor-episcopos* for the Eparchy

The Holy Episcopal Synod of the Syro Malankara Catholic Church has graciously accorded to confer the Sacred Priestly Honor of 'Cor-episcopo' to Rt. Rev. Monsignor Peter Kochery and Rt. Rev. Monsignor Augustine Mangalath of our Eparchy. His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos has kindly consented to officiate the function on July 6, 2019 Saturday at 9.30 AM. Congratulations to both the Monsignori.

Deacon Jobin Thomas Graduates

Deacon Jobin Thomas will graduate from St. Joseph's Semi-

nary, Dunwoodie, on May 10, 2019. He received his Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Theology, and Bachelor of Sacred Theology. Having now completed his course in Dunwoodie, Deacon Jobin will be spending some time in Kerala undergoing intensive Liturgical training.

PARISH NEWS

The Cathedral Parish

March 24, 2019 Inauguration of the MCCL

On Sunday, March 24, the Cathedral MCCL inauguration was conducted. The following members were elected as the office bearers: Christopher Johnson (President), Elizabeth James (Secretary), Melissa Sunnykutty (Treasurer), Lavina Chacko (Vice President), , Joan Josy (Joint Treasurer). The coordinators are as follows: Mr. Jose Thomas and Joseph Ettikkalayil , and the Jesus Kids coordinators are Ms. Tripti Johnson and Christina Johnson.



Feast of Annunciation

On Monday, March 25, the Cathedral celebrated the feast of the Annunciation with evening prayer at 6 PM followed by the Holy Qurbano at 6:30 PM. The main celebrant was the Cathedral Rector, Rev. Fr. Noby Ayyaneth.

Middle Day of Great Lent

On Wednesday, March 27, the Cathedral marked the midpoint of Lent with special prayers and services which began at 6 PM. The Golgotha was also erected in the middle of the church. The Holy Qurbano was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Thomas Chaprath and the Cathedral Rector, Fr. Noby Ayyaneth concelebrated.



MCYM Retreat – Fasting and Prayer

The MCYM held a day of Fasting and Prayer on April 6th. The Retreat began with an opening prayer and talk by the Eparchial Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos, and talks were also given by Bro. Michael Daum, a 2nd year theology seminarian studying for the Archdiocese of New York, and Deacon Jobin Thomas. James Thomas also shared a testimony with the group as well.

Lenten Retreat –

The Lenten retreat for this year was held on April 12 and 13 led by Rev. Fr. Saji Mukkoot, the vicar of the St. Jude Malankara Catholic Church in Philadelphia. Adoration and praise and worship were held during the retreat. The retreat for the Youth and Sunday school children was held on April 13, which was led by Bro. Michael Daum and Deacon Jobin Thomas.

Holy Week



The Pesaha service concluded with 'Pesaha Appam' on March 29th Thursday evening. The Good Friday service ended at 2:30 PM with Nercha Kanji.



The Holy Mass for the departed was celebrated on Holy Saturday. The Holy Week ended with Easter service and Holy Qurbana in the evening on April 20, 2019. We are very grateful

to His Excellency Most Rev. Philipos Mar Stephanos for leading the Hosana services in the Cathedral Parish.

Celebrated Birthday of Fr. Noby

The parish celebrated the birthday of the Cathedral rector, Fr. Noby Ayyaneth on April 28th. Prayerful best wishes to Fr. Noby and may God continue to shower His abundant blessings upon him.

Calgary

Holy Week Celebrations



Rev. Dr. George Madathikunnath, the vicar celebrated the Holy Week services this year. After the Pesaha (Holy Thursday) service, the traditional appam murikkal was taken place. The Nercha Kozhukatta was distributed after the Easter celebration. Prior to the start of the Holy Week, the community also spent a Holy Hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament and there was opportunity for confession/reconciliation.

MCYM & MCCL

The MCYM Calgary Unit organized a charity event "Lunch for Homeless" on two occasions, one in association with the golden jubilee celebration of MCYM and the other during the Len-

ten season. These were blessed occasions and many of the youth and parishioners were able to take part.

MCCL Calgary Unit celebrated MCCL day with the official inauguration festivities in accordance with the parish day celebrations. Master Sanju Byju, president of MCCL, Mr. Tiju Joseph and Jithy Kuruvila, the animators of MCCL organized the programmes.

Knights of Columbus

Malankara Catholic Mission Calgary is starting a new unit of Knights of Columbus and the process of registration is going on. As per the plan, the unit will start its activities in the month of May. Mr. Renju Korath and Mr. Alex Kadakampillil are spearheading the initiative to organise the new Unit in Calgary.

Chicago

Great Lent

On Fridays during the Lenten season, we had the Way of the Cross and Holy Mass at 6.30 PM. The parish was happy and blessed to have His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos in Chicago Parish from Tuesday Until Easter to lead the liturgical services of Holy week. Maundy Thursday was celebrated with Holy Eucharist, washing of the feet service and traditional cutting of pesaha appam.

Washing of feet ceremony



His Excellency Mar Stephanos washed 12 parishioners' feet on Holy Thursday, showing the humility and servanthood that Jesus displayed to the disciples. The commentaries of His Excellency during the service made the ceremonial feet washing more attractive and meaningful.

Holy Week Celebrations

Good Friday was observed and the parishioners participated in the prayer of the 4th station of the cross in front of our church, conducted by the neighboring St. Nicholas Church of the Arch diocese of Chicago. His Excellency Mar Stephanos gave a meaningful reflection on 'Jesus meeting his sorrowful Mother'. On Holy Saturday, Holy Mass for all the departed souls were celebrated in the morning. Easter was celebrated solemnly and meaningfully. Fr. Babu Madathilparampil was the concelebrant in the Holy week celebrations alongside of Mar Stephanos who presided over the Holy Week services this year.



One day retreat

The parish conducted a one-day retreat on Saturday, April 13 which was led by Fr. Rajesh from India. Separate sessions were also held for youth and children by Fr. Binz and Br. Sam from

Syro- Malabar Catholic Church. The Holy Qurbano, Eucharistic Adoration, recitation of the Holy Rosary and confession were conducted during the retreat.

MCYM

The MCYM held a fundraising raffle event for charity: Malankara Catholic Thapovanam, Rohingya refugees and Pro life-Women's center of Chicagoland. The MCYM raised more than \$8000. The Raffle was drawn in the esteemed presence of His Excellency Mar Stephanos on Easter



Pilgrimage

The Mothers forum organized a one-day pilgrimage tour to The Shrine of Christ's Passion in Indiana during the Lenten season. The Shrine has a half mile winding prayer trail that depicts the last days of Christ's life. The parish vicar, Fr. Babu Madathilparampil, and 40 people participated in the pilgrimage.

Detroit

MCYM Golden Jubilee Celebrations

The MCYM members celebrated MCYM Golden Jubilee on Sunday, March 3rd with various cultural programs.



MCCL

On Sunday, April 7th the MCCL was inaugurated, and the following members were elected as office bearers: Christo Varughese (President), Abel Biju (Vice President), Abin Biju (Secretary), Jacob Cherian (Joint-Secretary).

Holy Week & Easter

On Saturday, April 13th the MCYM members took the initiative to lead the Way of the Cross. Evening Prayer and the Way of the Cross were conducted every day during Holy Week. Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter were celebrated according to the liturgical traditions. The main celebrants for these liturgies were Rev. Fr. Saju Nedumankuzhiyil, along with Rev. Fr. John Nedumcheril and the parish vicar vicar, Rev. Fr. Pathrose Panuvel.

Houston

Talent Competition 2019:

The annual St Peter's Malankara Catholic Church Sunday School Talent Competition was conducted on Saturday, March 16. There was good participation from all the Sunday school students. The participants were divided into 5 different age groups. The prizes were distributed on Sunday, March 24 after Holy Mass by the parish vicar, Fr. John S. Puthenvilayil

MCYM Houston Prayer Meeting and Discussion

The MCYM has been conducting these spiritual sessions for



the last three years. Members gather at a house of one of the youth members, and one or two youth present a small paper on a particular subject, followed by a group discussion on the topic. The last meeting was held on April 6.

Holy Week

The Holy Week liturgies were solemnly celebrated by the vicar Rev. Fr. John S. Puthenvilayil and most of the parishioners were able to attend this year's Holy Week services.



Miami

Malankara Catholic Children's League (MCCL)

The parish inaugurated the MCCL during the Lenten Season, and the following are the elected office bearers: Aron Prakash (President), John Kurian (Secretary), Geemol George (Coordinator), and Sanil Prakash (Animator).



New Jersey

Easter Celebration

St. Thomas Syro-Malankara Catholic Parish of New Jersey celebrated *Qyomtho* (Easter) in the traditional manner with proclamation of Jesus' resurrection, procession around the church and a solemn Holy Qurbono celebrated by the parish vicar, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter Kochery. Easter Sunday, the most important and oldest festival in the Church renewed the parishioners' faith and belief in the Almighty God - nothing is impossible for Him. At the conclusion of the Holy Qurbono, Rev. Sr. Jocelyn Edathil, SIC offered the message about the meaning of *Qyomtho* and thereafter, the parish family gathered for a grand luncheon organized by the Parish Council. Happy Easter!

Good Friday



Rev. Fr. James Varghese Illitharyil, OIC led the Good Friday service at the parish for the second consecutive year. The message given by Rev. James was poignant and reminded the parishioners of man's frailty and how Jesus carried the burden of all mankind on the Cross. The parish is extremely grateful to Rev. James for praying with us on holiest day in the Malankara calendar. After the burial service concluded, the parish family gathered for the traditional *kanji* and *payar* meal sponsored by the families.

Palm Sunday

The commemoration of the Passion of Christ began at the parish with a grand celebration on Palm Sunday in true Malankara tradition. The blessing of the palm leaves, *sleebo agosham*, procession around the church, the spreading of the flowers and the solemn Holy Qurbono was truly inspirational and befitting the entry of Our Lord to Jerusalem, and at the same time preparing hearts and minds to the suffering our Lord must endure for our sins. At the conclusion of the Holy Qurbono Rev. Sr. Jocelyn Edathil, SIC offered a special message about the celebration of Palm Sunday and how we can better prepare ourselves for the Passion week.

Annual Parish Lenten Retreat

This year's Parish Lenten Retreat was conducted on Saturday, April 13th. The parish is truly honored and indebted to Rev. Fr.

Liju Thundyil, Vicar of St. Mary Syro-Malankara Catholic Parish of Yonkers who was the main speaker for this year's Annual Parish Lenten Retreat for adults. Rev. Liju arrived only two days earlier from Kerala, after the funeral of his beloved Ammachi. The parish members and guests who attended the retreat were personally touched by the message given by Liju Achen - no matter how heavy the burden or tribulations may be, Our God will never abandon us, and he will always carry us and our burden if we believe in him.

The retreat for MCYM and children were conducted by Mr. Steven Braunstein, a devoted Catholic and Broadway actor, Ms. Jenna Campo, an ardent Catholic and Ms. Tessy Philip of St. Jude Syro-Malankara Catholic Parish of Philadelphia.

At the conclusion of the three simultaneous retreats Dr. T.J. Thomas, the Parish Council Secretary thanked the retreatants for their inspirational messages and directing our thoughts toward the holiest week in Christian calendar.



MCCL Donation to Sisters of Charity

On Sunday, March 31st, the St. Thomas Syro-Malankara Catholic Parish of New Jersey's Malankara Catholic Children's

League donated \$2,000 to the Sisters of Charity who serve the poor and needy in Newark, New Jersey. Since the official establishment of the MCCL at the Parish this year, the small group of children have been extremely active under the leadership of Mr. Sunny Thomas, the Director and Sunday School Principal and Ms. Betsy Mathews, the MCCL Animator. The current MCCL leaders are Ryan David (President), Johan Feby (Treasurer), Aleena Abraham (Treasurer), Liz Mary George (Vice President) and Jeremy George Varghese (Asst. Treasurer). The parish is very blessed to have wonderful, caring and true Christian children.



MCYM Praise and Worship Service

On Sunday, March 3rd, after the Divine Liturgy, a praise and worship service led by the MCYM was conducted. This was the first time the parish conducted such a service at the Elizabeth church. Rev. Sr. Jocelyn Edathil, SIC and Mr. David Samuel, MCYM President coordinated the program. Mr. Samuel was joined by his wife, Nicole Samuel who led the melodious singing of the hymns. The event was very inspirational and touching to everyone who attended the program. The service concluded with the adoration of the blessed sacrament.

Philadelphia

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer was conducted on March 2nd by the Ecumenical Fellowship of Indian Churches at St Gregorios Malankara Orthodox Church. This year, the prayers were directed towards the central European nation of Slovenia. The program included information about Slovenia, cultural programs, songs and prayers. Thanks to the Mothers Forum and the Ecumenical Representatives for their continuing contributions towards the continued success of this event.

MCYM Soldiers Care Service Event

The parish MCYM gathered at St Jude on March 2nd to make care packages to benefit members of the Armed Forces. Thank you to the MCYM and all those who helped with this event.

Lenten Retreat—March 29 & 30

The parish held a two-day Lenten Retreat, which began on Friday, March 29 with a YOUCAT talk given by Sr Jocelyn, S.I.C., co-animator of MCYM North America, followed by Evening Prayer, Stations of the Cross, and Holy Qurbano. The retreat continued Saturday with 3 tracks of presentations by Fr Noby Ayyaneth (Malayalam – Adults), Dr. Antone Raymundo (English – Adults) and Sr Jocelyn SIC (Children 14 & Under). Holy Qurbano was celebrated as well as praise and worship and eucharistic adoration. Special thanks to Shine D. Thomas for coordinating the musical ministry for this function.

Archdiocese of Philadelphia Cultural Heritage Mass

On Saturday, March 23rd, the parishioners of St Jude attended the Cultural Heritage Mass, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Office for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees, at the Sts. Peter & Paul Cathedral Basilica in Philadelphia. This multi-lingual, multicultural celebration of the Eucharist was concelebrated by Philadelphia Archbishop Charles Chaput and Archbishop of Coutonou (Benin) Roger Hounghbedji, along with the priests of the various Philadelphia immigrant communities. The Mothers Forum organized a prayer at the St. Katherine Drexel Shrine inside the Cathedral, and transit to and from St Jude was provided by bus. Philip John, Anju Mathew, Shan-

ty Kuruvila and Feba Chacko presented the offertory gift to the Archbishops during Mass. 37 members of our parish attended this wonderful event. Special thanks to Archdiocese Representative Philip John and the Mothers Forum President Rajamma Edathil for their leadership in coordinating this function.



MCYM Church Cleanup – Mar 31

The MCYM organized a church cleanup on March 31. Thanks to the Philadelphia MCYM board and the parish youth and children for taking responsibility to beautify our worship space.

Choir Training – March 10 & March 31

The parish vicar, Fr. Saji Mukkoott conducted choir training for the various choir units of our parish. The training consisted of both fundamentals of Qurbono music as well as practices of standards songs and those specifically for use during Lent.

Holy Week – April 14-21

St Jude Holy Week celebrations commenced with Palm Sunday, including some training for the congregation on special Holy Week songs. English translations were implemented for parts of the Good Friday and Easter Services, including Stations of the Cross in both Malayalam and English. Holy Week services were capped off by the Easter Service (in Malayalam with some English) followed by Holy Qurbono in English and Easter lunch. Thanks to the parish council for their hard work during Holy Week.

Prayer Group Meetings

The parish has been conducting regional prayer group meetings throughout the Lenten season. The regions cover the Western Suburbs (St Mathew), Northeast & South Jersey (St Mark), Far Northeast (St Paul) and the Northern Suburbs and Central Jersey (St Thomas). A fifth group, comprising of our Young Families Ministry, meets monthly with a special focus on the family apostolate and devotion to Mother Mary and conducts its meetings in English. Our gratitude to the coordinators of these groups – John Samuel, Sosamma Abraham, Jacob Abraham, Susan Thomas, and Dr. Debbie Thevervelil – as well as those who have hosted these meetings.

Rockland

Annual Lenten Retreat

Rockland parish had a very blessed Lenten season, as in previous years. The Lenten retreat was held on Saturday March 23rd. Rev. Fr. Mathew Thundiyl conducted the retreat. Fr.



Mathew talked about actions of Satan and how one can protect against it by means of: rosary as the hidden weapon; building a fort with the holy Eucharist; and using the tools of lent and prayers.

Great Fast & Holy Week

During the Lenten Season, the parish conducted Lenten prayers as part of Sunday morning service, conducted Way of The Cross on Sundays after Holy Qurbano, and evening prayers on Wednesdays.

Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday services were held the traditional way.

On Good Friday, the parish was blessed to have Fr. Sam John, and Fr. Deny Varghese join Msgr. Augustine Mangalath for the services. Easter services were held on Saturday evening



San Jose Bible Study

The parish started a weekly bible study class for adults in January 2019 with the Gospel according to Matthew. The Bible

study was concluded in March, just prior to the start of Lent. The parish prayerfully started Great Lent with the *Subkono* Service after the Holy Qurbono on March 3rd in the Hoffman Center.

General Body Meeting

A *Pothuyogam* was held on April 7th after Holy Qurbono to communicate Holy Week schedule and planning for church events for the year 2019.



Holy Week Celebrations

Palm Sunday service including solemn Hosanna Procession and Holy Qurbono were celebrated on April 14th at 10:00 am in the Howley Hall. Pesaha Service was on Wednesday April 17th at 6:30 pm in the Hoffman center. After Holy Qurbono, prayerfully cut and shared Pesaha appam by the elders of the community gathered and Fr. Biju explained the Old and New Testament stories behind this celebration. On Good Friday, April, 19th the services started at 9:00 am in the Hoffman center. It was a full-

fledged solemn traditional celebration and many people participated wholeheartedly. At 2.30 pm after Sreeba Vandanavu followed by *Kabararakkasuroosha*, the special services of that day ended. After receiving *Kayppuneeru*, all faithful received *nercha kanji* and broke the fast. Many gathered again in front of the Khabar and did Vigil and Night Prayer. On April 21st solemn Easter Services started at 9:30 am. Many families participated in the service. *Nombu Veedal* celebrated after the services with a potluck lunch

MCCL Inauguration

The Malankara Catholic Children's League was inaugurated on April 21st. Joby Varghese, Animator to MCCL along with Clara Matthew, the Sunday School Headmistress, will lead the San José MCCL Unit.



Toronto

Youth Catechism (YouCat)

The MCYM of the parish held their first YOUCAT discussion on Feb 9, 2019. They began the day with the 6th hour prayers. Rev. Fr. Abraham Lukose talked about the importance of God in the lives of the youth and about the need to keep reading the Bible. He touched upon various aspects of the Bible and taught the importance of knowing the faith. A talk from Rev.

Fr. John Sims Baker discussed the first few chapters of the YOUCAT book. He touched upon several features of the Bible such as how it was written, how the Bible should be read, and how God reveals himself through the Bible and its teachings. Afterwards, they discussed God's relationship with humankind and the Bible. Soon after, they watched another talk done by Fr Jewel Aytona, which was a presentation and teaching of what sin is and what happens to human life when we commit a sin. They discussed what they thought of sin and what can be done to be free of sin. The group felt that the day was a wonderful opportunity for the youth to grow closer with God and learn our faith in depth.

MCCL March Break Gathering

The MCCL students came together on March 15th, 2019 for a day of community gathering during the March Break. The day was led by Rt. Rev. Msgr. Dr. Gigi Philip and Rev. Fr. Abraham Lukose.



Lenten Retreat

The Lenten Retreat for the parish community was conducted on April 5 and 6, 2019, by Rt. Rev. Msgr. Dr. Gigi Philip. The retreat began with the Holy Qurbano and the Way of the Cross followed by the preaching. The retreat ended on April 6th with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and confession. The retreat for the youth was conducted on April 13th, 2019.

Holy Week

On Palm Sunday, we celebrated Our Lord's triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, with a procession carrying palm leaves and the Holy Qurbano at 4pm. We also celebrated Maundy Thursday which included distribution of Pesaha Appam. Good Friday services began at 7.00 am and was followed by serving of Nercha Kanji to the parish community. Easter service began



at 5 AM followed by a solemn Holy Qurbano.

Washington D.C.

Daily Lenten Mass

Following a new tradition started a few years back, Holy Qurbano was offered every day for the Malankara families at the Church or Chapel during the Great Lent.

Lenten Retreat

The annual Lenten Retreat was held on Saturday, April 13th. The preacher for the adults was Fr. Vinod Angadathu George, Sch. P. The speaker for the younger group was Fr. Fernando Negro, Sch.P, the provincial superior of the Piarists serving in America and Puerto Rico. Both priests received high praises from their respective audiences for their effective evangelical talks. The day also included Malankara Holy Qurbano, Adoration and Confession. Fr. Joseph Palathingal also heard confessions in addition to the two aforementioned priests. The previous evening on Friday, April 12th (40th day) also included

Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and Confession. Sr. Anceline, D.M. and Sr. Divya, D.M. led the prayerful mediation during both days during the time of Adoration. Everything was concluded by lunch prepared by the families.



Holy Week and Easter

With the assistance of the whole parish, the Holy Week Services including the Palm Sunday was Solemn and beautiful. There was Hosanna procession with blessed Palms outside the church. During the Holy week, everyone was uplifted as they remembered the events of the Passion and Death of our Lord.

Day of Prayer at the Convent

On April 5th, the D.M. Sisters hosted a day of prayer at their Convent in Bowie, MD. The day started with Latin Rite Mass and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament by Fr. Albert Puliyadan, OFM. Different families, individuals and groups of the

parish including the children lead the Rosary and other pious prayers during the day of Eucharistic Adoration. The Adoration concluded with Malankara Benediction lead by Fr. Michael Edathil. After Adoration, there was the monthly prayer meeting for the month of April , at the Convent. The day concluded with dinner prepared by the Sisters and parishioners including kanji.

MCYM

The MCYM had a meeting on April 7th to plan future events. The MCYM also organized the Easter Egg Hunt for the children. All the children participated with great enthusiasm.



MCCL

The MCCL-Jesus Teens/Jesus Kids had a Charity food sale on Sunday, March 3rd to raise funds. It was a grand success. The MCCL also did a great job in doing the Stations of the Cross during Lent.

MCA Office Bearers

The MCA had its first meeting on Sunday, March 24 led by the president, Mr. T.C. Geevarghese, to elect the new office bearers. Congratulations to Mr. Binu Varghese (Secretary), Mrs. Shiji Mathew (Vice President) and Mr. T.C. Thomas (Treasurer) on being elected. The MCA is planning a Bible Quiz competition over the Summer among other events.

Departed Soul

Mrs. Thankamma George, the mother of our parishioners, Mrs. Gracy Stephen, Mrs. Shiny Devasia, Mr. Isaac George, Mrs. Annie George passed away in India last month. May the departed soul of Ammachi rest in peace.

Yonkers

Lenten Prayer

The parish came together to have Lenten Prayer meetings in different geographical locations in the weeks leading up to the Holy Week. On March 17th, the parish conducted a Lenten Prayer at Mr. Johnson's house with Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter Kochery leading the prayer meeting. On March 23rd, the prayer meeting was hosted at Mr. Titus Mathai's house led by Fr. Nobby Ayyaneth. In addition to the Lenten Prayer Meetings, on March 27th, there was a prayer meeting at Mr. Thomas John's house. Along with the prayer meetings, there were also seven-hour adoration on certain days followed by Holy Qurbano, and on Fridays, the Way of the Cross followed by Holy Qurbano was celebrated. Many of the parishioners came together for the adoration, Way of the Cross, and Holy Qurbano. These Prayer meetings and the days of adoration were great opportunities for the parish community to grow closer to God, especially in the weeks leading up to the Holy Week.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday service started at 10 AM on April 14th, led by Fr. Liju. *Oshana* procession, around the Church, with blessed palms, followed by Holy Qurbano was held. During Holy Week, there were evening prayers and Holy Masses on Mon-

day, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 6:00 PM.

Maundy Thursday

On Maundy Thursday, there was a Holy Hour which began at 6:30 PM, followed by Holy Qurbano at 7:30 PM. Rev. Fr. Liju encouraged everyone to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in order to better prepare oneself to participate in the Holy Week services. This was followed by *appam murikkal*, commemorating the Last Supper.

Good Friday

Good Friday services started at 9:00 AM and were led by Fr. Liju and Fr. George Onnoony, who delivered the Good Friday message. Good Friday services were concluded with the *nerchakanji*.

Holy Saturday

On Holy Saturday, there was Holy Qurbano at 10 AM for the faithful departed. The faithful brought candles to commemorate their beloved departed.

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday services started at 9:30 AM, led by Fr. Liju, and it included a procession around the Church announcing the resurrection of Jesus Christ, followed by the solemn celebration of the Holy Qurbano.



Demise

The beloved mother of the parish vicar, Fr. Mathew (Liju) Thundiyl, passed away on March 29th, in India. The funeral was held on April 1st at Holy Family Catholic Church, Varavoor. Mathew Achen went to India for this sad event, and during his absence, the Eparchial Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos and Rev. Fr. Sam Kuzhippara celebrated the Holy Qurbano on Sundays.

Sr. Savidha's grandmother, Mrs. Elikutty Joseph, also passed away in India. The funeral was held on Tuesday, April 2nd at St. George Forona Church, Aruvithura.

Mr. Thankachan lost his nephew, Shon, on April 3rd and Mr. Jacob George lost his mother, Mrs. Mariamma George (88), on April 7th in India.

Vancouver

New Parish Council

On March 15, the new parish council members took the oath after the holy mass. The first committee meeting was held on April 27th. The council discussed the financial plan and the upcoming programmes for the year.



Catechism

Two of the parish catechism children, Erin and Joshua Jacob obtained first rank in the Eparchial Catechism exam for grades 7 and 11 respectively. The children were given a special recognition and award by the vicar, Rev. Fr. Regi Mathew. The parish congratulated the children on their achievement!

Lenten season and Easter services

The parish conducted the Way of the Cross every Saturday during Great Lent. The parish held their Easter service on April 20. The main celebrant was Fr. Reji Mathew, and following the Holy Mass, there was a potluck dinner.

New members to our Church:

The Vancouver mission was blessed with the addition of Benna Rose Benny, born on Feb 8, 2019. Congratulations to the parents, Mr. Benny Rajan and Mrs. Betsy Benny. Another new member to the Vancouver community is Mr. Clemon Alex, who was a member of the Malankara church in Calgary.

Sendoff to Mr. Feby and Family

Mr. Feby and family moved to Ontario and he was given a warm send off by parish.

OTHER EPARCHIAL NEWS

Demise of the mothers of Rev. Fr. Mathew Thundiyl & Fr. Mathai Mannoorvadakkethil

The Eparchy extends its heartfelt sympathy and prayers to both Rev. Fr. Mathew Thundiyl and Rev. Fr. Mathai Mannoorvadakkethil and their respective families.

St. Mary, Queen of Peace Syro-Malankara
Catholic Eparchy in the USA and Canada

Corepiscopo Installation



Rev. Msgr. Peter Kochery
and
Rev. Msgr. Augustine Mangalath



at
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SYRO MALANKARA CATHEDRAL
1500 DEPAUL STREET, ELMONT, NY 11003
JULY 6TH, SATURDAY 2019 AT 9:30 AM