



MALKTO D'

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QUEEN OF PEACE

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE EPARCHY

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Volume 7: Issue 2

march 2019

The Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchy in the USA and Canada

Prayerful Greetings,
**On The 9th Anniversary Of Your
Episcopal Ordination!**



A boon Mar Stephanos!



Queen of peace

Official bulletin of the eparchy

Vol. 7

March 2019

No. 2



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

Congratulations Deacon Jobin



Diaconate Ordination Feb. 24, 2019



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Message from the Bishop

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ,

According to the Malankara Tradition, the Great Lent starts on Monday 4th March this year. During this season we commemorate the forty days of fasting, the passion, the crucifixion and the death of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It is also known as the season of great Fast. On the first day of the Fast, the church prays: “The fast of Our Lord has come. Let us receive it worthily. Let us take it up sincerely and labor in it zealously with all purity, that we may obtain true conversion and find our way to the Kingdom which does not pass away”. This prayer strongly communicates the message and meaning of the Holy Lent. It begins with the service of reconciliation. As a sign of worthy preparation, the members of the community ask one another pardon for their sins of commissions and omissions and exchange peace to all. Genuine Conversion to God is the fundamental thrust of Lent. Special prayers of the season, abstinence, fasting, almsgiving and other expressions of virtues are integral aspects of the practice of Great Lent.

All our Lenten prayers and exhortations underline the great need for keeping our minds and hearts to be holy always. Lent solicits us to maintain our emotional and bodily purity. It promotes moral and spiritual hygiene. Maintaining the right conscience is so fundamental to Christian living, and the holy Lent firmly uphold it. During this season one is urged to make deliberate acts of contrition, confession and penance. Above all, the

holy Lent proclaim to the whole world that the spirit of love, mercy, and justice shall prevail and permeate in our families and in every area of existence.

This season exhorts us to draw strength from the Lord to overcome all types of temptations on our journey towards our ultimate destination and to be faithful in Christian discipleship. In our Lenten prayer, we pray: “Christ our God who by your Holy Fast strengthen us to shake off all sluggishness, and to set our minds on the things of the Spirit, make us to be renewed unceasingly by the Spirit who led You unto the unseen warfare.” May the Lord who fasted for forty days empower us to follow his footsteps in our pursuit for full happiness, perfection and salvation.

+Marstephanos

+Philipos Mar Stephanos

EPARCHY NEWS

Festal Celebration of Aboon Mar Stephanos



The feast of our Bishop Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos was celebrated on January 9, 2019. The Holy Qurbano began at 6:30 PM with Bishop Philipos Mar Stephanos as the main celebrant. Rev. Rijo Puthenparambil, Rev. Liju Thundiyl, and Rev. Fr. Noby Ayyaneth were concelebrants. After the Holy Qurbano a brief felicitation and cutting of the festal cake were done. Several sisters, and a good number of faithful were present and exchanged the festal greetings to loving Pithav.

New Bishops' Orientation

The New Bishops' Orientation Program (NBOP) was held on February 12th at the USCCB Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The USCCB President Daniel Cardinal DiNardo inaugurated the program via teleconference. The program presented the new bishops about the USCCB operations, strategic planning, the functioning of various committees, along with fraternal discussions on issues pertinent to the newly ordained Bishops. His Excellency Mar Stephanos attended the meeting.

Diaconate Ordination of Bro. Jobin Thomas

Our Eparchial Bishop, His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos, ordained Br. Jobin Thomas to the Order of Diaconate on Sunday, February 24, 2019. Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter Vaccari, Rector of St. Joseph's Seminary, New York, was the homilist, and around 10 priests were present in the liturgy. The Vicar General and Proto-syncellus Rt. Rev. Msgr. Augustine Mangalath, Syncellus Rt. Rev. Msgr. Gigi Philip, and Rev. Fr. Baby Madithikunnath were concelebrants. Revered Sisters, 17 deacons and seminarians from St. Joseph's Seminary were present along with Rev. Fr. Michael Bruno and Rev. Fr. Charles Caccavale, who are Deacon Jobin's formation and spiritual directors respectively. After the liturgical celebrations, His Excellency Mar Stephanos felicitated the new Deacon. Deacon Jobin Thomas offered a vote of thanks at the end of the celebration. The program concluded with a cake cutting in celebration of the new Deacon while the choir sang congratulations, and a dinner followed.



Pre-Cana

The Department of the Family Apostolate of the Eparchy conducted a Pre-Cana (Marriage Preparation) Course on Saturday, February 23 at the Bishop Molloy Retreat House (86-45 Edger-

ton Blvd, Jamaica, NY 11432). 20 people participated in the course.

The course was inaugurated by His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos, Bishop of the Eparchy. Classes were offered on the following topics: Sacramental and Liturgical Theology of Marriage and the Meaning of the Signs and Symbols of Malankara Catholic Marriage (Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos), Marriage Canon Laws (Rev. Dr. George Oonnoonny), Theology of Body, the Meaning and Purpose of Human Sexuality and Sexual Morality (Mr. Binu Abraham), Intimacy & Sexuality (Mr. & Mrs. Sebin & Sherin Alexander), Communication in Family Life and Family Relationship (Deacon Tom Cabeen & Mrs. Gloria) and Sacrament of Reconciliation & Faith and Family Spirituality, (Rev. Fr. Mathai Mannoovadakkethil), and Marriage stewardship and Family Budgeting (Mr. Binu George). There was a Discussion & Sharing Session on Present Day Challenges on Marriage. Adoration and the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation were also held. The Course was coordinated by Rev. Fr. Mathai Mannoovadakkethil, Director of the Department of Family Apostolate and Rev. Fr. Michael Edathil.





Pastoral Council Meeting



On January 26, 2019, the Pastoral Council meeting was held at 10 AM in the Eparchial Chancery, Elmont, NY. His Excellency Philipos Mar Stephanos presided over the meeting. Rt. Rev. Msgr. Gigi Philip offered the opening prayer and made a reflection on the duties and responsibilities of the Pastoral Council Members.

His Excellency extended a formal welcome to the newly consti-

tuted Pastoral Council members and gave the orientation talk and announced the names of the nominated Pastoral Council members.

Following that, the election for the new Pastoral Council was conducted. The Very Rev. Fr. Saji Mukkoot, the Chancellor of the Eparchy was the presiding officer for the election.

Mr. Philipose Mathew was elected as the new Pastoral Council secretary and eight new commissions were established for the effective functioning of the Eparchy. The Pastoral Council held a brainstorming session on what the objectives of each commission may be.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Augustine Mangalath, the finance officer, presented the 2018 financial statement, and later, gave the vote of thanks. The meeting concluded with noon prayers and the blessing from Mar Stephanos. A group picture of the Pastoral Council and lunch followed.

India Catholic Association



On Saturday, February 9, His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos attended the 2019 Committee Inauguration and Handing Over ceremony for the India Catholic Association of America (ICAA). His Excellency delivered the inaugural speech and emphasized the value of life and the need to

continue to bear the witness of Christ to the world, especially in light of the new abortion legislation signed by New York Governor. Rev. Fr. Noby Ayyaneth also delivered a speech during the meeting. Mr. Paul Jose, the new president of the ICAA and the member of the Cathedral Parish presided over the meeting.

Visit of Bishop John Barres



On Sunday, February 17, Most Rev. John O. Barres, the Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Center made a friendly visit to the Eparchial Chancery. The Eparchial Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos warmly greeted Bishop Barres and they had breakfast.

PARISH NEWS

The Cathedral Parish Election of Parish Council



On January 27, after the Holy Qurbano, the new Parish Council members took the oath. The Cathedral Rector, Rev. Fr. Noby Ayyaneth administered the oath. The new secretary, Mr. Lin Abraham, expressed the heartfelt appreciation for the work of the outgoing parish council members, especially to the previous secretary Mr. Geevarghese Mathews. Mr. Rajan Mathew was re-elected as the treasurer for 2019.

Bishop's Feast Day



On January 9, 2019, the Cathedral celebrated the feast day of His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos. The

Holy Qurbono was celebrated at 6:30 PM, and following the Qurbono, there was a brief felicitation and cake cutting by Pithav. All those in attendance exchanged festal greetings to loving Pithav.

Congratulations to ICAA President and Treasurer



Heartly congratulations to Mr. Paul Jose and Mr. George Kutty, members of the Cathedral Parish, who were elected as the Indian Catholic Association of America's President and Treasurer respectively.

Sunday School

Under the tremendous leadership of the Sunday School Headmistress Jeny Chacko and the Sunday School teachers, the Sunday School continues to find new, and creative ways to mold the children to become true disciples of Christ through both study and play. Some of the activities held by the Sunday School thus far are as follows:

Sunday School Hangout

On February 18, the Sunday School Hangout was held at the Cathedral. Many of the children attended and enjoyed a great

night of fellowship. Along with delicious snacks and food, there were many games including dodgeball.



Movie Night & MCYM Games Night



On February 22, a movie night was conducted. The Sunday School children gathered to watch the movie Samson. Prior to the movie, the Cathedral Rector, Rev. Fr. Noby Ayyaneth had the children read the story of Samson in the Bible and held a short Q&A session with them.

The MCYM held a games night where they played some video games, board games, and some card games like 28. Great fun was had by all who participated in these events

Feast Day Celebration of Sr. Arpitha

The feast of Rev. Sr. Apritha S.I.C., was celebrated on February 3, 2019. With deep gratitude and appreciation the Cathedral recognized the continued service of Sister Arpitha SIC. All present exchanged festal greetings to Sr. Arpitha.



Diaconate Ordination of Bro. Jobin Thomas

A word of gratitude goes out to the Cathedral Rector, Fr. Noby Ayyaneth, Parish Council, the Mothers Forum, MCA, MCYM, Sunday School and all the parishioners who assisted in organizing the diaconate ordination of Bro. Jobin Thomas. Every single detail ranging from colors of decorations to placement of silverware was meticulously planned and executed. The hard work of the parish along with the Eparchy is appreciated.

Chicago

Parish Council 2019

On February 3, the 2019 Parish Council members had taken their oath administered by Fr. Babu Madathiparambil after the Holy Qurbana. The new Parish Secretary is Mr. Benjamin

Thomas, and the Treasurer is Mr. Renjan Abraham.



Ecumenical New Year Gathering

Bishop Jacob Mar Angadiath, the Patron of the Ecumenical Council of Kerala Churches in Chicago held a New Year gathering in which our Eparchial Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos was the chief guest.



MCYM Service Project: Soup Kitchen

MCYM participated in a service project of the Missionaries of Charity serving the underprivileged in Chicago.



Feast Day Celebration of Bishop Stephanos & Danaha Service



Bishop Stephanos solemnly celebrated the Holy Qurbana and the service of Danaha for the parish. Afterwards the entire parish celebrated the Bishop's feast day with a cake cutting.

Chicago Ecumenical Council

Hearty congratulations to the parish vicar, Rev. Fr. Babu Mada-thilparambil, who was elected as the President of the Eucmenical Council of Kerala Churches in Chicago, which consists of 15 churches in the Chicago area.

Detroit

Feast Day

On January 6th, 2019, the parish celebrated the Feast day of the Vicar, Rev. Fr. Pathorse Panuvel.

New Member

On January 15th, 2019, Mr. Binu Philip and Mrs. Lucina Philip were blessed with a baby girl. Congratulation to Mr. Binu Philip and Mrs. Lucina Philip.

Commemoration of Bishop Cyril Mar Baselios & Joseph Mar Severious

The parish celebrated the commemoration of Bishop Cyril Mar Baselios and Bishop Joseph Mar Severious on January 20th, 2019. Holy Qurbano was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Manoj Mammen.

Parish Council 2019



The Parish elected the following members as new office bearers for 2019: Mr. Jose T. Abraham (Trustee), Mr. Wilson V. Pothen (Secretary), Mr. Cherian Idicheria (Auditor), Mrs. Gracy Mathew (Pastoral Council Representative & Mothers' Forum President), Mrs. Shyla Wilson (Parish Council Representative), Mr. Biju K. Mathew (MCA President), Mr. Cherian Mathen (MCYM President), Ms. Elsina John (MCYM Secretary), Mr. Priyan Abraham (Pastoral Council Representative),

Mr. George Varghese (Sunday School Principal), Mrs. Sunu Varghese (MCCL Coordinator), Mr. Chacko Edicheria (Ecumenical Representative) and Mr. Biben Mathen (Ecumenical Representative). All new office bearers for 2019 took the oath on February 3rd, 2019.

Houston

New Year's Celebration

The parish celebrated the New Year with a Eucharistic Adoration and the Holy Qurbono on December 31, 2018. This was a blessed opportunity for the parishioners to gather together and to give thanks to God for all the blessings God has bestowed upon them over the last year.

New Parish Council

The newly elected Parish Council took charge on February 3 with the oath administered by the Vicar, Fr. John S. Puthenvila , after the Holy Qurbono.

Miami

New Year Activities

On New Year's Day the parish conducted a Holy Hour followed by the Holy Qurbono. On January 20, Sr. Jocelyn Edathil SIC visited the mission and gave a beautiful message for kids and youth.

General Body Meeting

On February 27th, the parish held its general body meeting to present report and accounts of the year 2018.

New Jersey

New Altar Servers & Lectors Dedication

On Sunday, January 13, 2019, before the Divine Liturgy was celebrated, by His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos blessed and officially dedicated five (5) new altar servers - Jeremy G. Varghese, Reuben John, George Rens, Nevil Rogen and Ryan David, and four (4) lectors - Aleena Abraham, Shreya Thomas, Sarah Cecil and Jiya Feby. After

the Sunday Morning Prayers, the proud parents (and a grandparent) presented the children before the sanctuary for the special blessing.

At the conclusion of the Holy Qurbano, the Parish utilized the special occasion to celebrate Bishop's Feast. Rev. Msgr. Peter felicitated His Excellency and a cake was cut. After, the entire parish enjoyed the time with Thirumeni during the grand luncheon arranged by the Parish Council.



2019 Parish Council Members Sworn In

St. Thomas Syro-Malankara Catholic Parish of New Jersey conducted the swearing in ceremony on Sunday, February 3, of the newly elected and/or appointed members of the 2019 Parish Council:

Dr. T. J. Thomas – Secretary

Mr. Simon George – Treasurer

Mr. Sunny Thomas, Sunday School Principal / Malankara Catholic Children League (MCCL) Director

Mr. George K. James - Pastoral Council Representative (3-Year Term) *

Mr. John P. Varghese - Pastoral Council Representative (3-Year Term) *

Mr. Philip John - Pastoral Council Representative (3-Year Term)

Mr. Rens George – Pastoral Council Representative (3-Year Term) / MCYM Animator **

Mr. Ansel Vijayan – MCA President

Mrs. Tinsy M. Varghese – Mother’s Forum President

Mr. David Samuel – MCYM President

Mrs. Lisa David – Member

Mr. Abraham Bhagavathiparampil – Member

Mr. Saji Varughese – Member / Event Coordinator

Mr. Dany Sam – Member

Mr. Thomas Karakattu – Auditor **

Ms. Betsy Mathews, MCCL Animator **

* Appointed by the Bishop

** Independent Auditor, not member of Parish Council



Philadelphia

New Parish Council

The 2019-2020 Saint Jude Parish Council took its oath of office

on Sunday, February 3rd, comprising of:

Secretary: John Edathil

Treasurer: Raju P. George

Susan Thomas

Biju Kuruvila

Sona Sankarathil

Renu Philip

Philip John

Sanju John

Kunjumol Sunny

Dr Biju Paul

Silvy Cherian

Rajamma Edathil

John Samuel

Elsy Varughese

Jacob (Abey Mannil) Abraham

Family Units

In order to strengthen the regional activities, St. Jude Parish formed four family units named after Apostles St. Thomas, St. Paul, St. Mathew and Evangelist St. Mark. Each family unit conducts monthly prayer meetings and take initiative in various activities of the parish.

Demise of Mrs. Aleyamma John

On February 9, 2019 Most Rev. Philipos Mar Stephanos officiated the Funeral Service of Aleyamma John (66) wife of John Chakkulledath, a member of St. Jude Parish.

World Day of Prayer

Many of parish members participated in the World Day of Prayer held on Saturday, 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 program, songs and, of course, prayer. Thanks to our Mothers Forum and the Ecumenical Representatives for contributing to the continued success of this event.

Rockland

Ecumenical Christmas Celebrations



Rockland church actively participated in the ecumenical Christmas celebration held on January 6th at St. John's Malankara Orthodox Church, Orangeburg, NY; organized by Joint Council of Churches of Rockland (JCCR). Several churches participated in the event which included a prayer service followed by caroling and a skit. Organizers expressed their sincere appreciation to Fr. Augustine Mangalath for his leadership in coordinating our participation.

New Parish Council

Newly elected Parish Council was sworn in on January 27th – Mr. Philipose Mathew as Secretary, and Mr. Sherin Joseph as Treasurer, along with the other office bearers and committee members.



MCCL Inauguration



Rockland Church chapter of MCCL was inaugurated on February 10th. Sr. Anjali Mathew and Mr. Philips Abraham were selected as animators. Miss Judith Mathew was elected as President.

Toronto

New Parish Council

The new Parish Committee for 2019 took their office on 17 February 2019 after the Holy Mass. Mr. John Thomas and Mr. Rajesh Jacob took oath as the new secretary and treasurer respectively. The Parish council members are Aswathi Mathew, Binoy Thankachan, Thomas Jacob, Biji Vazhayil, Tom Cheriyan, Shajee Jose, George Thomas (Pastoral Council), Vincent Tomas (Pastoral Council), Richu Pattiyanicke (Pastoral Council) Alvin Mathew Mammottil(MCYM), Geo Varghese (Sunday School), Roy Pattiyanicke (MCA) Shirley Wilson (Mother's Forum)

Youth Catechism Discussion

The Parish held its first YOUCAT discussion on February 9, 2019 and it was a great success. 17 youth members attended the session. The introductory talk was given by Fr. Abraham and the theme was on the importance of God in our life and reading the Bible. Fr. Abraham reviewed different aspects of the Bible and emphasized on having the basic knowledge about one's own faith. There also was a talk from Fr John Sims Baker, who discussed the first few chapters of the YOUCAT book. He touched upon different features of the Bible such as how it was written, how we should read the Bible, and how God reveals himself through the Bible and its teachings. Afterwards, a discussion about God's relationship with humankind and the Bible was conducted. Another discussion was held on the topic of sin. A video presentation by Fr. Jewl Aytona was shown. It was a presentation and teaching of what sin is and what happens to our life when we commit a sin. Fr Jewel used some real-life situations engaging all participants. The program concluded with dinner and evening prayers. There was also a social hour to conclude the day.

Sunday School and MCCL

The Sunday School and MCCL jointly had the opportunity to collect toys and other useful items for the less privileged children in the community at large. During the season of Christmas, the children collected gifts and other toys which they got from their loved ones and gathered it together to give to those children who have nothing. On January 12, the Sunday School and MCCL representatives went to Ronald McDonald's Charity Home, Toronto and gave what we collected for the kids. A special thanks goes to the Sunday School Principle Geo Varghese and MCCL animator Mrs. Aswathy Mathew for organizing this special activity.



Washington

MCYM Elections

On Sunday, January 6th the MCYM conducted their yearly elections, congratulations to Alex, Ashley, Jancy, Irene and Steve for being elected as the local 2019 MCYM leaders. The leadership in the DC MCYM expressed the desire to take more of a

leadership role in certain aspects of parish life.

2019 Parish Council Sworn In

On February 3, the new parish council members took the oath of office. That same day we had the joint committee of the old and new committees. Many interesting ideas and insights came from that meeting and the subsequent Budget Committee on February 17.



March for Life

Fr. Michael represented the parish at the annual March for Life on Friday, January 18th in Washington D.C. The March for Life was started to be a public witness against the evil of abortion; now it is also a public witness opposing the Culture of Death and promoting what St. John Paul II calls the Culture of Life.

Alter Server Training

On February 3, Catholicos Day, after the Catholicos Oath and kaimuth, continuing formation for altar servers was conducted. The topic was how to do the incensing. Recently, Joshua did the incensing for the first time and we anticipate more of the old-

er severs taking the censer also during Holy Qurbano and other liturgies.

MCCL Day

On Sunday, February 10th we celebrated MCCL day. The Holy Qurbano was said by the pastor and lunch was provided. Afterwards, fantastic programs in the form of songs, speeches and presentations about the faith made by the Jesus Teens and Jesus Kids. The children presented projects on Baptism saints. Thanks to the Sisters, MCCL animators, leaders, parents and kids and all those who assisted.



New Addition

Emmanuel Shaan Zachariah was born on January 31, 2019. Congrats to the parents, Mr. Shaan Zachariah and Mrs. Divya and the family.

Yonkers

Birthday Celebration of Rev. Fr. Mathew Thundiyl

On January 13, 2019, the Parish celebrated Fr. Mathew Thundiyl's birthday. After the Holy Qurbano there was a brief felicitation meeting and cake cutting. His leadership and sacri-

ferences were acknowledged and appreciated by the speakers, on behalf of the entire parish.

Installation of new Altar servers, Feast of Sr. Agnes, and Oath taken by new Parish Council



On January 27, 2019, the Eparchial Bishop, Most Rev. Bishop Philipos Mar Stephanos celebrated the Holy Qurbano and blessed the new Altar servers for our church. The new Altar servers are Jordan, Christos, Kenny, Andrew, and Felix, who, after being blessed along with their parents, participated in the Holy Qurbano as altar servers.

After the Holy Qurbano, the feast of Most Rev. Bishop Philipos Mar Stephanos, Rev. Sr. Agnes, and visiting Sr. Maria Agnes, and the initiation of the Altar Servers were celebrated with cake cutting and presentation of flowers. This was followed by the Oath Taking Ceremony of the new Parish Committee for the year 2019, with the blessings of the Bishop.



Fr. Thundiyl's 11th Ordination Anniversary

On February 3, the parish celebrated the 11th anniversary of the ordination of the vicar Fr. Mathew Thundiyl. The parish celebrated the joyous occasion with a congratulatory speech, which highlighted the sacrifices Fr. Mathew has undertaken and his dedication to the Yonkers parish. The felicitation program concluded by a cake cutting and thank you speech by Fr. Thundiyl.

Inauguration of the Knanaya Mission

On March 2, 2019, the Knanaya mission inaugurated their mission with the Holy Qurbano in St. Mary's Syro-Malankara Catholic Church in Yonkers. The parishioners of the Yonkers parish joined the Knanaya community in the celebration of the Holy Mass. The Yonkers parishioners warmly welcomed the Knanaya community. The Knanaya community will celebrate the Holy Qurbano every Saturday, from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM, under the leadership of Fr. Jose Adhopalli. Fr. Adhopalli took

this initiative to establish a mission in Yonkers in order to bring the Knanaya community in Yonkers together.



MCCL Inauguration

On February 17, 2019, Malankara Catholic Children's League (MCCL) was inaugurated and new leaders were elected at Yonkers Church for the Sunday School kids from 5 to 18 years of age . The elected members are: Joseph Jacob (Unit Coordinator), Thanuja & Liby Thomas (Unit Animators), John George (President), Chris John (Secretary), Preethi Philip (Vice President), Emily George (Joint Secretary), and Jeff John (Treasurer). The Sunday School kids were excited about this new endeavor and volunteered enthusiastically to be in leadership positions.

Great Lent

During the Fridays of Great Lent, the Way of the Cross and Holy Qurbono are celebrated.

Gethseman prayer

On March 9, the parishioners participated in a Lenten Prayer Meeting, led by Fr. Deny, at Mr. John Joseph Koickal's house,

in Yonkers. This Lenten prayer meeting is part of a three day prayer meetings, named *Gethseman Prayer*, where the meetings are held at three different households, in three different locations, and led by three different priests. While the March 9th meeting was in Yonkers, the March 17th prayer meeting will be in New Jersey led by Fr. Peter Kochery, and the March 23rd meeting will be in Rockland, led by Fr. Noby Ayyaneth.

Dallas

New Year Holy Mass & Denho service

St Mary's Malankara Catholic Church Dallas started off this year with a Midnight Holy Mass by the vicar Fr. Mathai Manoorvadakathil. The parish also celebrated the Feast of Denho with a Holy Mass and a special prayer.

New Parish Council and Department Coordinators

The new parish council members took the oath in the month of January. The new coordinators of the different departments functioning in the parish, also took the oath on the same day.

MCCL Annual Day Celebration

In the month of February, the parish celebrated MCCL day. There was a special prayer conducted for all the kids. A special programme was held for the children, and the children explained what they could learn and how they could benefit from MCCL. A few of the children dressed up as saints.

Three days Nineveh Lent



The celebration of Nineveh Fast began with evening prayer on Sunday, February 10. On all the three days, a 12 hours adoration was observed. The faithful were reminded about the fasting, special prayers and abstinence during this period.

Vancouver

First General Body Meeting for the year

On January 5, the first General Body Meeting for the year was held. The annual report and financial reports of the year 2018 were presented by Mr. Benny Rajan, the parish Secretary. The General Body also expressed their gratitude to the mission development committee and Rev. Fr. Regi Mathew for their efforts during 2018. The parish has prepared a schedule of events for 2019 and is working on a parish registration list. On the same day, a sale of devotional articles was organized by the MCYM members in the community.

Half Yearly exams for the Faith Formation classes

The church vigorously prepared the children towards the Half Yearly examinations of the Faith formation. The teachers in coordination with the Headmistress, Mrs. Leena Varghese reviewed the lessons with the students. The mission recognizes the efforts of the children and teachers.

Visiting Priests

Rev. Fr. Jossy Chirayath and Rev. Dr. Varghese Madathikunath, vicars of Syro-Malankara Catholic Churches of Edmonton and Calgary, visited the mission on January 19 and February 3 respectively. They celebrated the Holy Mass for the mission and preached with charism for the community. The mission also expressed their whole-hearted support to Rev. Fr. Jossy Chirayath in the coordination of Western Canada Syro-Malankara Family Conference to be held in the month of June at Edmonton.

Rev. Dr. Saji Mukkoot, Vicar, St. Jude's Syro-Malankara Catholic Parish, Philadelphia and the chancellor for St. Mary's, Queen of Peace Eparchy in the USA and Canada visited the mission on February 16 and celebrated the Holy Mass.



OTHER EPARCHIAL NEWS

23rd Holy Episcopal Synod

The 23rd Malankara Catholic Holy Episcopal Synod was held from March 11 to 15 at the Catholicate Center in Pattom with His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Major Archbishop-Catholicos as the Chairperson. The Eparchial Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos took part in the Holy Synod. The 23rd Ordinary Holy Episcopal Synod concluded on March 15 with noon prayer and dhoopa praarthana at the tomb of Servant of God Mar Ivanios.

YOUTH APOSTOLATE

MCYM East Regional Retreat

On March 9, 2019, MCYM East had a Lenten retreat from 9 AM to 4 PM at St. Mary's Yonkers Church. The topic was "*Being United in Christ in All Things*" and the main speaker was Mr. Savio Paul, a second-year seminarian studying for the Archdiocese of New York. Approximately 25 youth from the Eastern region, participated in the retreat, which was a blessed occasion for all who attended. Deacon Jobin Thomas and Sr. Jocelyn Edathil were also present during the retreat.

APOSTOLATE OF CATECHISM



Sunday School Eparchial Board Members Meeting

A meeting of the members of the Sunday School Board of the Eparchy was held at the Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchial Chancery, on February 2nd, 2019.

The meeting was presided over by the Eparchial Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos. The following members attended the meeting:

Rev. Fr. Abraham Lukose, Eparchial Sunday School Director, Rev. Sr. Dr. Jocelyn Edathil, S.I.C; Rev. Sr. Anjali, D.M; Mrs. Jasmine Thomas (Elmont); Mr. Sunny Thomas (New Jersey) and Mrs. Elizabeth Kalampanayil (Washington D.C)

The meeting began with a prayer by Fr. Abraham Lukose. He welcomed everyone and thanked for making the effort to attend the meeting. During the meeting, it was decided to conduct MBOC in a more systematic way following the guidelines and handbooks approved by the Synodal commission for Faith Formation.

The first draft of the text book revision is due in November 2019 and the final draft is expected by December 2019.

A Sunday school diary with all general information pertaining to Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, our Liturgy and Magisterium will be available to all teachers by September 2019. The work on a Sunday school website is also in progress and will be launched soon.

Rev. Sr. Jocelyn has kindly accepted the responsibility of compiling a handbook for first communion preparation and a basic Malankara catechism manual for Sunday school teachers.

His Excellency Most. Rev. Philipos Mar Stephanos thanked everyone for their dedication and commitment to the faith formation ministry of the Eparchy. The meeting concluded with a prayer by the catechism director, Fr. Abraham Lukose, followed by lunch.

CONGRATULATIONS MR. PHLIPOSE MATHEW



**ON YOUR ELECTION AS THE
PASTORAL COUNCIL SECRETARY!**

DIACONATE ORDINATION OF BR. JOBIN THOMAS



**Seminarians, Deacons & Faculty of St. Joseph's
Seminary, Yonkers, NY**

**Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter I. Vaccari,
Rector of St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers, NY**









THE MALANKARA SYRIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
23RD HOLY EPISCOPAL SYNOD, 2019 MARCH 11 TO 15
at Catholicate Centre

