



St. Thomas Malankara Orthodox Church Of India

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Special Topic



By Rev. Fr. Yohannan Panicker

This information is compiled from I.O.C

LENTS OF OUR CHURCH

The following is a list of the lent of our church, and a short description.

Canonical Lent:

Sundays and Marayana feast days are not to be observed as lent days. But the church insists us to observe Wednesday and Friday of every week as lent days. The church father Polycarpus of Smyrna of the 2nd Century exhorted the observance of these two days.

(A) Wednesday is the day of Annunciation to the Mother of God and hence to the well-being and prosperity of the family. This day is observed as a day of the mother and also observed as a day of mourning, as on this day, Judas Iscariot betrayed the Lord.

(B) Friday lent is for remembering the persecution and sufferings of the Lord on this day of crucifixion.

Three Day Lent (Nineveh lent):

This lent started in the 4th Century. It falls in January or February every year. When the prophet Jonah proclaimed that great danger was imminent to Nineveh, to escape the anger of God, the king, subjects, and animals went without eating or drinking food or water, wearing sacks and sitting on ashes for 3 days. Those days' even mothers were abstaining breast-feeding to their children. God saved the city out of mercy. Even before Jonah, in the time of Esther, Nehemiah and Daniel, three day lent were observed.

Fifty days lent (The Great Lent):

The fifty days lent started in A .D 325. This lent is observed for forty days as the Lord observed, plus ten days to remember His persecution. This lent highlights the salvation of mankind through the incarnation of God. In order to avoid a break in the fasting, Holy Qurbana is celebrated only on Saturdays and Sundays during this lent time. Not only our Lord observed 40 days lent. Moses and Elijah also observed it. It is written by Mar Athanasius, Mar Polycarpus, and Mar Iraneous that this lent was observed by the early church in its early days. The date of this lent is arrived in accordance with the date of resurrection fixed by the synod of Nicea in A. D 325. Every year the date of this lent changes.

Fifteen days lent (Assumption Lent or Soonoyo Lent):

It has been observed since the sixth century. It is observed in the name of the mother of God and in remembrance of her Assumption. This lent ends on the day of the Assumption of the mother of God. Every year we celebrate this lent from August 1st to 15th of that month.

Thirteen-Day Lent (Apostles-Lent):

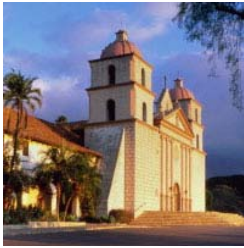
This lent has been observed since the sixth century. We observe this lent in the name of the apostles numbering 12. Every year this lent falls between June 16th and 29th of that month.

Twenty-Five days lent (Lent of Advent):

This lent has been observed since the sixth century. It is connected with the birth of Christ. Every year it falls between December 1st and 25th. (Incarnation of Jesus Christ)

Children's Corner

Mission Santa Barbara was the tenth of the California mission to be founded and only mission still cared by the Spanish Franciscans.



It was established on the feast of Santa Barbara on December 4th 1786. This Mission is named after the Saint Barbara, a legendary martyred church figure. Padre Junipero Serra, who had founded the first nine missions, died 2 years later. This is also a Parish Church.

Prior to the Spanish arrival, Chumash inhabited the area from Malibu to San Luis Obispo. They were Hunters and gatherers oriented to the sea. They built plank boats, which were capable of traveling to the Channel Islands. Their religious practices and ceremonies included the creation of elaborate polychrome rock art located in remote caves and rock outcroppings. Chumash villages were autonomous, headed by a hereditary leader. Houses were dome shaped with tules covering a window frame. Basketry was a major art form as were stone bowls and tools. Early explorers as being high quality noted Chumash manufactures. Their skilled handiwork greatly contributed to the mission's success.

The original purpose of the mission was the Christianization of Chumash Indians. This was considered accomplished by the 1830's. With no new converts the mission's Indian population started to go down. Spain had lost California to Mexico in 1822 and in 1834 the mission was secularized. Indians were placed under civil jurisdiction not church authority. Civil administration resulted in a deterioration lifestyle

and buildings. In 1845 the Governor confiscated the lands and in 1846 the mission was sold. The missionaries were allowed to conduct services in the church. In 1865 Abraham Lincoln returned the mission to the Catholic Church.

Santa Barbara mission today is a monument to the cultural diversity of California's heritage.

Compiled from Sunday school field trip report of Deepu Varughese, Seenu Varughese and Sherin Mathew

"Bible teaches us to respect the parents and the elderly. It promises us a reward and the reward is 'long life' in our earthly life. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday today and tomorrow and so is the Word. By keeping 'the Word' the promise will come true in our earthly as well as heavenly life."



*Metropolitan Mathews Mar Barnabas
This information is compiled from I.O.H*

Why do we face the east when we pray?

The church is built with the altar at the eastern most part so that the priest may celebrate facing the east and all may stand behind him facing east. It is believed that the second coming of Christ, the Son of Righteousness, will be from the east, the place of the rising sun. "For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man" (Mathew 24:27).

Daily Bible Reading:

Feb 05

- 14 - I Timothy 2: 1-15; Luke 6: 27-36
- 15 - 2 Corinthians 6: 1-11; Mark 4: 21 -34
- 16 - I Cor 8: 1-13; Luke 11: 1-13
- 17 - 1 Corinthians 9: 1-12; Luke 18: 1-8
- 18 - Romans 1: 16-25; Matthew 7:13-23
- 19 - 2 Corinthians 8: 1- 9; Mark 1: 21-31
- 20 - Lent III - Sunday of the Paralytic**
Romans 5: 1-11, Mark 2: 1-12
- 21 - I Timothy 6: 1-12; Mark 2: 13-22
- 22 - Ephesians 2: 1-18; Mark 4: 1-20
- 23 - Ephesians 6: 1-9; Luke 12: 32-40
- 24 - Philippians 1: 1-11; Mark 9: 30-42
- 25 - Romans 2: 2- 13; Luke 18: 9 -17
- 26 - Philippians 2: 12-30; Mark 8: 1-10
- 27 - Lent IV - Canaanite woman**
Romans 7: 14 – 25; Matthew 15: 21-28
- 28 - 2 Corinthians 11: 1 – 15; Mark 12: 35- 44

March 05

- 01 - 1 Corinthians 16: 13-24; Matthew 11: 25-.
12: 8
- 02 - **(Mid Lent)** 2 Corinthians 9: 1-15; John 3:
13-21
- 03 - 2 Corinthians 1: 13-22; Matthew 19: 16-26
- 04 - 2 Corinthians 12: 19-13: 13; Luke 17: 1-10
- 05 - 1 Corinthians 9: 14-27; Luke 9: 10-17
- 06 - Lent V - Crippled Woman**
Romans 12: 1-15; Luke 13: 10-17
- 07 - Romans 9: 14-21; Luke 4: 31-41
- 08 - Romans 1: 26-32; Mark 5: 1 -20
- 09 - 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13; Matthew 14: 14-23
- 10 - Colossians 3: 1-17; Mark 6: 47-56
- 11 - 1 Timothy 1: 1-20; Matthew 9: 18-31
- 12 - 1 Thessalonians 2 13-20; Luke 6: 1 - 11
- 13 - **Lent VI - Catholocate Day**
Ephesians 5: 1-14; John 9: 1-41



Schedules

Sunday Service:

Namaskaram	: 9.00 am – 9.45 am
Holy Qurbana	: 9.45 am onwards
English	: 1 st & 2 nd Sunday
Malayalam	: 3 rd , 4 th & 5 th Sunday

Sunday School:

Every Sunday After the Church:

2/13/05: Midterm Examination

3/12/05 (Sat): Confession Day

3/20 & 3/27/05: Easter Break (No Class)

4/9/05 (Sat): LA Clipper Basketball Game

(Vs San Antonio Spurs)

Church Events:

Choir Practice will be held on Saturday **Feb 19th 2005 at 10.30 AM to 1.30 PM.**

Rev. Fr. Mathew Varughese will be visiting our parish on Sunday **Feb 20th 2005.**

Mid Lent Service will be held on **March 2nd 2005 at 6.30 PM** at church.



HG Zachariah Mor Nicholovos will be visiting our parish during the Passion week. His Grace will be the chief celebrant for the Passion Week Services at our church.



Prayer Corner

Prayer Group Meeting:

Zonal Prayer meeting will be held at the residence of Mr. Abraham George on Saturday **March 5th at 6.00 PM.**

Marthamariam Samajam, one day retreat will be held on **March 19th** at Church between **9.00 AM and 12.30 PM.** HG Zachariah Mor Nicholovos will be chief speaker.

Prayer meeting will be held at the residence of Mrs. Aleyamma Mathew on Saturday **March 19th at 6.00 PM.** HG Zachariah Mor Nicholovos will lead the prayer meeting.

Have any Questions?

OR

Your Comments may be directed Editorial Board

Rev. Fr. Yohannan Panicker

Mr. Gigi Kurian, Mr. Mathew Varughese

And Mr. John P. Varughese