



St. Thomas Malankara Syrian Orthodox Church Los Angeles

124 North 5th Street Montebello, CA 90640 (323) 838 0353; <http://stthomasla.com> ; mailto: news@stthomasla.com
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Vicar's Desk



By Rev. Fr. Yohannan Panicker

What is Holy Qurbana?

HOLY QURBANA - VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE ACT

Our Lord once for all died on the cross for us. It will not be repeated. The Holy Qurbana, the remembrance of which kindles our faith, lead us to new spiritual experiences. In this, past time, present time and the future time are all combined. Even though Our Lord is invisible now he is sitting on the right hand of the Father in heaven and offers the living sacrifice to God., the creator of all on behalf of us all in calm and peace. We are made part and parcel of this sacrifice. The Lord himself as the chief celebrant is celebrating this sacred act which is mercy, peace, sacrifice and thanks giving. In the Holy Qurbana the celebrant is the priest but he really represents the Lord. Now we can understand that the Holy Qurbana is the union of the visible and the invisible.

IT IS HOLY SACRIFICE ITSELF.

The Holy Qurbana is the remembrance of the Holy sacrifice done on Calvary once for all, Rom 12; 1 Holy Qurbana is actually a living sacrifice. Like Abraham who prepared to offer his son Isaac as sacrifice. Like Abraham who prepared to offer ourselves as sacrifice for the remission of debts and forgiveness our sins and for life eternal. Holy Qurbana is the sacrifice of the New Covenant.

Special Topic

Saint Ignatius of Antioch (AD 30 – 107)

Saint Ignatius was a Syrian by birth who became attracted to the first generation of Christians. He

may have been a disciple of St. John the Evangelist. He certainly was a friend of St. Polycarp, one of St. John's closest followers. It is believed that St. Peter himself made Ignatius the third bishop of Antioch, the second largest city (after Rome) of the entire Roman Empire. Some believe that he was the child whom our Lord took in his hands and blessed (Mark 9:33 → 36). He was known as Ignatius Nurono (the fiery one). He was also called Theophorus (God-Bearer in Greek).

As Bishop of Antioch, Ignatius wrote seven epistles that helped solidify the beliefs of the second and third generation of the early Church. He wrote that the Church can only preserve its unity if each member of the Church fulfills his or her role as a Christian in the world while recognizing that their bishop and priests represent Christ and his apostles.

Ignatius wrote that in Christ we see a unity of opposites. Christ is flesh and spirit, of Virgin Mary and of God, a subject of suffering and yet incapable of suffering. Through Christ's life, the life of grace has come into the world. The prophets and patriarchs of the Old Testament received portions of this grace to prepare for his coming. We ourselves can receive this grace and, like the prophets, become Instruments of God. Our main means of receiving this grace is through the Eucharist, which Ignatius calls the medicine of immortality and defines as the real presence of Christ.

When Ignatius was arrested in Antioch (AD 98) during the persecution of Roman Emperor Trajan, he was known throughout the Christian world. Wherever the ship carrying him to Rome touched port he was greeted by hundreds of Christians. He literally had to beg wealthy Christians not to use their political connections to prevent his martyrdom. On December 20 in the year 107, Ignatius was escorted from the

Roman galley that had taken nine years to deliver its prisoner from Antioch to Rome and was brought to the Flavian Amphitheater, the Coliseum, where at the conclusion of the Roman festival he was fed to the lions. Within Thirty years from his death he was venerated as a saint by the church.

By Thomas Joseph

Children's Corner

The Footsteps of a Teenager

Sigh. My feet hurt for standing for so long! What am I doing here anyway? What is Achen talking about? I wonder what's for lunch. Stop. Fast-forward...10 years. Play.

When I look back on the precious years enlightened with so many memories of our church, I realize St. Thomas Malankara Orthodox Church has been an immense part of my life. The mold of my footstep is still in the same church – except in XL size of course! And as I was raised in our church, may other teens were growing up right beside me.

A place of worship like our church gives the youth a special warmth because we are all tied in with the church – we are the ribbon of brotherhood. Some of the benefits for staying for long together are:

- “We’re like a family” *Anish M. (15)*
- “[We’ve] grown together with lots of experiences so now we’re a close community of kids. It’s our way to communicate” *Sarah T. (13)*
- “We’re all tight and associate with everyone – [all] ages from 5 to 19” *Nirmal M. (16)*
- “We’re really hyper and sometimes off-topic, but nevertheless, we look out for each other” *Basil T. (12)*
- “It makes sense to have a big youth [in our church] because we have a chance to know each other better and a better chance to get closer to God” *Divya P. (15)*
- “Whether the youth is religious or not, we all have one thing in common: we stand by

each other through thick or thin, and rain or snow because we’ve been great friends within the three generations the church has been established. No, I didn’t get this from a Hallmark card” *Susan A. (15)*

- “The youth is educational because everyone teaches everyone else. We all learn from each other” *Anil M. (16)*.

So there you have it. The voice of the adolescence reveals an educational and spiritual brotherhood that stood in the roots of our church. Even the generations behind me, on step taken, and the generations ahead of me, one step away, have a similar atmosphere. When we pray together, we live together. And that’s what counts.

By Bibi Babu

Shushafo (Veil)



This white veil is used to cover the Paten and Chalice. It represents the fact that the Divine Mysteries are hidden from the understanding of men and that the divinity and humanity united in Christ, the Divine Word, is beyond human comprehension just the same way as the transformation of bread and wine to flesh and blood of Christ is beyond our perception (Samuel, 1967)

Bible Trivia

1. Who was the man, who lived the longest life?
2. Who was the first naval captain?
3. Who was the first man who born after the 40 days of flood?
4. Who was the priest of God Most High?
5. What is the other name of Eu-phrates river in the Bible?

Answers in next edition

Answers From Last Month Trivia:

1. Adam.
2. Peeshon, Geehon, Hidheckal and Fhrat.
3. The tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
4. Habel.
5. Hanoak and Noha.

By Lalu Kurian

Daily Bible Reading:

JUNE 2005

- 20 - Monday - Matthew 18:10-20; Ephesians 5:8-19
21 - Tuesday - Matthew 4:23-5:13; Romans 1:1-17
22 - Wednesday - Matthew 5:20-26; Romans 1:18-27
23 - Thursday - Matthew 5:27-32; Romans 1:28-2:9
24 - Friday - Luke 1:1-25, 57-68, 76-8; Romans 13:11-14;
25 - Saturday - Matthew 5:42-48; Romans 1:7-12
26- Sunday Pentecost VI
Romans 10: 5-21, Matthew 18: 1-11
27- Monday - Matthew 6:31-34; 7:9-11; Romans 3:1-18
28 - Tuesday - Luke 6: 1-11; Romans 4:4-10
29 - Wednesday - Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul
1 Corinthians 12: 28-13: 13, Matthew 20: 1-16
30 - Thursday - Feast of the Twelve Apostles
1 Corinthians 14: 1-25; Luke 6: 12-26

JULY 2005

- 1 - Friday - 1 Corinthians 14: 26-40; Luke 6: 27-36
2 - Saturday - 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11; Luke 6: 37-42
3 - Sunday - Pentecost VII
Ephesians 2: 11-22, St. Mark 3: 20-30
4 - Monday - 1 Corinthians 15: 12-19; Luke 6: 43-49
5 - Tuesday - 1 Corinthians 15: 20 -34; John 6: 1-14
6 - Wednesday - 1 Corinthians 15: 35-44; John 6: 15-21
7 - Thursday - 1 Corinthians 15: 45-58; John 6: 22-29
8 - Friday - Hebrews 4: 1-5; John 6: 30-35
9 - Saturday - Hebrews 4: 6-13; John 6: 36-46
10 - Sunday - Pentecost VIII
Hebrews 4: 14-5: 5, St. John 6: 47 - 59
11 - Monday - Luke 7:36-50; 2 Corinthians 6:1-10
12 - Tuesday - Matthew 11:16-20; Romans 10:11-21; 11:1-2
13 - Wednesday - Matthew 11:20-26; Hebrews 2:2-10
14 - Thursday - Matthew 11:27-30; Romans 16:1-16
15 - Friday - Matthew 17:24-27; 18:1-4; 1 Cor. 13:11-14
16 - Saturday - Matthew 8:14-23; Romans 6:11-17
17 - Sunday - Pentecost IX
1 Corinthians 6: 1-11, St. Luke 14: 7-11
18 - Monday - Matthew 12:9-13; Romans 12:4-5,15-21
19 - Tuesday - Matthew 12:14-16; 22-30; Romans 14:9-18
20 - Wednesday - Luke 4:22-3; James 5:10-20
21 - Thursday - Matthew 12:46-50; 13:1-3; Romans 15:17-29
22 - Friday - Luke 8:1-13; 1 Corinthians 9:2-12
23 - Saturday - Matthew 9:9-13; Romans 8:14-21
24 - Sunday - Pentecost X
Romans 10: 5-21, St. Matthew 18: 1-11

Schedules

Sunday Service:

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

Sunday School:

Every Sunday After the Church:

06/25/05:

Summer Fun Event – Movie Day

07/10/05:

Sunday School Celebration and Competition

08/05/05 to 08/07/05:

OVBS 2005 (Fri., Sat., & Sunday)

Church Events:

Summer Picnic is scheduled in July-Aug 05. Date not finalized yet.

July 3rd : St Thomas Day



Prayer Corner

Prayer Group Meeting:

No schedules available at this time. Stay tuned every Sunday after Church announcement for prayer meeting schedules.

From Editors Desk:

Dear Members,

I would like to thank all the members for active participation and interest in our news letter. Please keep up this effort and inspiration for us to deliver the best. Also keep them in your prayers. May 05 Edition could not be published due to some technical challenges. We are trying our best to keep the news letter distribution at least monthly. Please email at news@stthomasla.com with your articles and suggestion for continuous improvement.

**Yours in Christ
Editor**

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