



St. Thomas Malankara Orthodox Church Of Los Angeles

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Vicar's Special



Rev. Fr. Yohannan Panicker Ordination Silver Jubilee Celebration

The Ordination Silver Jubilee Celebration of Fr. Yohannan Panicker was held on August 27, 2005 at A Mi Hacienda, Pico Rivera. The assistant Metropolitan of American Diocese His Grace Zachariah Mar Nicholovos accompanied Achen procession reception, while our little ones held balloons and thalapoli to welcome Achen. Our Indian Traditions were brought back as guests were welcomed with chandana kuri, panineer, nilavilaku, nirapara, pookula, and coconut trees. The dears and nears of Achen welcomed him with ponada and kasavumala. Makarios Thirumeni, Barnabas Thirumeni, Nicholovus Thirumeni, and clergy and friends from sister churches and community gave Achen delightful appreciation and wishes.

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Special Topic

Prayer: What is Prayer?

The literal meaning of the word prayer is: demanding something from another person. But, we often use the word prayer to mean a form of communication between two persons. The meaning of the word prayer is something more important than mere asking. In the Christian context, the essential aspects of prayer are the following:

- It is the communication initiated by

the created (i.e. human beings) to the Creator (i.e. God) who is omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent.

- It is not a communication between equals.
- The created (on their own power) cannot equal the status of the Creator or approach the nature of the Creator.
- The Creator can come down to the nature of the created to elevate them to be in fellowship with Him. This happens only when a person empties oneself or opens oneself to God to be in close relationship with God, the Father.

Why is prayer necessary for man?

Prayer is to spiritual life as respiration, hydration (drinking water) and eating are to physical life. Prayer sustains the spiritual soul as air, water and food nurtures and maintains the body. Even some living creatures living under water has to come up frequently to gasp for air to continue living. Likewise, every human being needs to constantly keep in touch with God in order to be spiritually alive. Atheists deny the existence of God. They are like men walking under the shadow of bushy trees denying the existence of the sun, when the shadow itself is proof that sun exists.

Types of prayer: There are two types of prayer – one is private or personal prayer and the second is formal prayer. When the church insists on formal prayers at least two times a day, one forgets that the fact this constitutes only one half of a person's communication with God. The other half

is obviously personal prayer. There is no formal code for private prayer. It has neither language nor form. We know that Jesus Christ spend the whole night in private prayer and communion with God in the garden of Gethsemane before his ultimate sacrifice. The saints spend their time in prayer and meditation in the presence of God. The saints were able to face the hardships of the world because of the strength they derived from their private communion with God. Formal prayers are often public prayers involving a community of people such as a family, a parish or a prayer gathering. These prayers have to conform to the needs of the group or society. Necessarily, these prayers require codes for form and language as they involve a multitude of people.

In Our next Issue: Codes For Formal Prayer

By Rev. Fr. Mathew Philipose

Children's Corner

Wisdom vs. Knowledge

In the Bible the word most used for wisdom is *hokmah*, which refers to skill. Hokmah is used to describe the skill of craftsmen, sailors, and other workers. These workers, having the knowledge of their trade, also had the skill or wisdom to perform their trades.

We can read the Bible everyday and we can even memorize passages in the Bible. We can know all about the Bible. We can memorize how many books are in each Testament. We can memorize where each book is placed in the Bible.

We can even read devotionals everyday.

We know where to find what; we can tell people what passages to read for different situations. But, do we have the skill, the wisdom to apply this knowledge to everyday life? Do we have the wisdom to put all the pieces together?

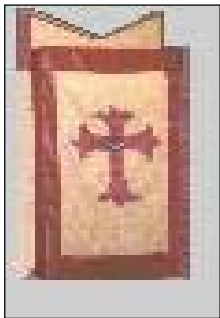
Look at these verses:

1. Col 1:9-10 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.
2. Proverbs 2:10 For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; ¹¹ Discretion will protect you, understanding will guard you: ¹² Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse.
3. In the spiritual realm a person who possesses hokmah in reference to God is one who is both knowledgeable and experienced in following God's way. So in the Bible's Wisdom literature being wise means being skilled in godly living. Having God's wisdom means having the ability to cope with life in a God-honoring way. *Crawford H. Toy wrote, "Wisdom is the knowledge of right living in the highest sense"*

Gain both knowledge and wisdom. Practice living in a God-honoring and Christ-Centered manner.

By Gigi Kurian

The Lectern (Gospel stand or Evengelion table)



This is the pulpit which symbolizes the heights of Mount Sinai from where God spoke to Moses and handed him the stone tablets (Exodus 34:2). Mathew 5:1 tells us that Christ went up a mountain to preach the gospel to the multitude.

Therefore the Book of gospel, which points to Christ Himself, is placed on the gospel stand.

Daily Bible Reading:

SEPTEMBER 2005

1 – Thursday - Luke 4:16-22; 1 Timothy 2:1-7
2 – Friday - Matthew 24:27-33, 42-51; 2 Corinthians 4:12-18
3 – Saturday - Matthew 19:3-12; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
4 – Sunday Dormition III
2 Corinthians 10: 1-7, Matthew 17: 22-27
5 – Monday - Matthew 23:29-39; 2 Corinthians 5:10-15
6 – Tuesday - Luke 10:16-21; 2 Corinthians 5: 16-
7 – Wednesday - Mark 1:23-28; 2 Corinthians 6:11-16
8 – Thursday - Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28; Philippians 2:5-11
9 – Friday - Luke 8:16-21; Galatians 4:22-27
10 – Saturday - John 3:16-21 Epistle: 1 Corinthians 2:6-9
11 – Sunday - Dormition IV
1 Corinthians 3: 16-23, St. Matthew 5 : 38 - 48
12 – Monday - John 11:47-5;4 2 Corinthians 8:7-15
13 – Tuesday - John 12:25-36; 2 Corinthians 8:16-24; 9:1-5
14 – Wednesday - Exaltation of Holy Cross
Galatians 2: 17-3; 14, St. Luke 21: 5 - 28
15 – Thursday - Matthew 10:16-22; Colossians 1:24-29
16 – Friday - Luke 7:36-50; 2 Corinthians 6:1-10
17 – Saturday - John 8:21-30; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31;2:1-5
18 – Sunday - Holy Cross I
1 Corinthians 2: 10-16, St. Mark 13: 28 -37
19 – Monday - Luke 3:19-22; 2 Corinthians 12:10-19

20 – Tuesday - Luke 3:23-38, 4:1; 2 Cor. 12:20-21; 13:1-2
21 – Wednesday - Luke 4:1-15; 2 Corinthians 13:3-13
22 – Thursday - Luke 4:16-22; Galatians 1:1-3,20-24; 2:1-5
23 – Friday - Luke 1:5-25; Galatians 4:22-27
24 – Saturday - Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28; 2 Timothy 3:10-15
25 – Sunday - Holy Cross II
1 Corinthians 2: 14-3: 9, St. Matthew 16: 1-12
26 – Monday – John 19:25-27; 21:24-25;1 John 4:12-19
27 – Tuesday – Luke 5:12-16; Galatians 2:21; 3: 1-7
28 – Wednesday – Luke 5:33-39; Galatians 3:15-22
29 – Thursday – Luke 6:12-19; Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5
30 – Friday – Matthew 24:42-47;1 Corinthians 16:13-24

OCTOBER 2005

1 – Saturday - Luke 5:17-26; Acts 9:10-19
2 – Sunday - Holy Cross III
Romans 8: 1 – 11, St. Mark 2: 23 - 28
3 – Monday – Luke 6:24-30; Acts 17:16-34
4 – Tuesday – Luke 6:46-49, 7;;1 Galatians 6:2-10
5 – Wednesday – John 20:19-31; 1 Corinthians 4:9-16
6 – Thursday - 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9; Luke 7:31-35
7 – Friday – 1 Corinthians 1: 10-16; Luke 5:27-32
8 – Saturday – 1 Corinthians 1: 17-20; Luke 16: 1-8
9 - Holy Cross IV
1 Corinthians 1: 21-29, St. Luke 16: 9 -18
10 – Monday - Luke 7:36-50; Ephesians 1:22-23;2:1-3
11 – Tuesday - Luke 8:1-3; Acts 8:26-39
12 – Wednesday - Luke 8:22-25; Ephesians 3:8-21
13 – Thursday - Luke 9:7-11; Ephesians 4:14-17
14 – Friday - Luke 9:12-1;8 Ephesians 4:17-25
15 – Saturday - Luke 6:1-10; 1 Corinthians 14:20-25
16 - Holy Cross V
1 Timothy 6: 13-21, St. Matthew 23: 1-12
17 – Monday - Luke 9:18-22; Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2
18 – Tuesday - Luke 10:16-2;1 Colossians 4:5-11,14-18
19 – Wednesday - Luke 9:44-5;0 Ephesians 5:25-33
20 – Thursday - Luke 9:49-5;6 Ephesians 5:33;6:1-9
21 – Friday - Luke 10:1-15; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
22 – Saturday - Luke 7:1-10; 1 Corinthians 15:39-45
23 - Holy Cross VI
1 Corinthians 5: 6-13, St. Luke 18: 18-27
24 – Monday - Luke 10:22-24; Philippians 1:1-7

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:

10/08/2005 Sat: Field Trip
10/23/2005 : Food Drive Start

Church Events:

Sunday Sept 11th 2005, Parish Assembly Meeting at Church after the Holy Qurbana
Wednesday Sept 14th 2005, *Sleebea Perunal* (Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross). No Service.



Prayer Corner

Prayer Group Meeting:

Annual Retreat: Saturday, September 17th
9:30 AM to 3:00 PM at our church.

Zone 2 prayer meeting will be held at the residence of Mr. George Alex at 6.00pm
Address: 39864 Hillsboro Circle, Murrieta, CA 92562

Stay tuned every Sunday after Church announcement for prayer meeting schedules.

Vicar's Special

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The members of St. Gregorious Church of San Francisco and St. Thomas Church of Los Angeles presented Achen with an enlightening Mangala Pathram plaque. The managing committee, Martha Mariam Samajam, Youth League, and Sunday School did a wonderful job in presenting their talents, love, and wishes thru words and gifts. The participation of the Panicker families from the East Coast were incredible. As a church, we would like to thank Achen for everything he was done for us.



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