



St. Thomas Malankara Orthodox Church Of Los Angeles

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Vicar's Desk



By Rev. Fr. Yohannan Panicker

WHAT IS THE BASIS FOR MOORON ANOINTING?

The practice of anointing of oil was common during the Old Testament times. Psalms 45 :7-8, Ex 28:41, 1 Samuel 10:1-2, 1 Samuel 16:13. Psalms 89:20, 2 kings 9:3

In the New Testament the gift of the Holy Spirit at the day of Pentecost is described by St Peter as the fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel mentioned in Acts. 2:17

With the development and spread of the Church far and wide, the apostles and their co-workers could not reach all places and lay their hands on the faithful. In these circumstances the use of holy oil for anointing came into practice.

The following verses from the New Testament prove that anointment by holy oil (Mooron) was practiced in the church from the apostolic times.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 "Now it is God who has confirmed us with you in church, and who anointed us, and who has sealed us, and pledged his Spirit in our hearts." Also Eph 1:13, Heb 1.9 and 1 John 2:27. Mooron is the Syrian word for myrrh or the oil of frankincense.

Special Topic

Prayer: Codes for Formal Prayer

The important guidelines for formal prayer comprise the following categories: *Length, Language and Content.*

Length: There is no stipulated (time) length for prayers. The length of the prayers varies according to the context and the occasion. The spectrum of formal prayers consists of short exclamatory prayers such as *Kurielaison* (Lord have mercy upon us!) to long prayers such as the *Matins* (morning prayers) or *Vespers* (evening prayers). *Kauma* is a short prayer that includes all the basic necessary contents of prayer that are discussed later.

Language: As prayer is the communication with God, the language and the type of language of the prayer are important. The prayers should be in a language that is understood by all the participants in the prayer. There is no use in mechanically saying a prayer that the worshipper does not understand. This is why it is important for our Sunday Schools to teach children the meaning of Syriac and Malayalam words that are used in our prayers, so that they can comprehend the complete meaning of the prayers that they participate in. It is also important that we use elegant language in our prayers so that the beauty and the serenity of the prayer elevate the participants. Mixing of languages in prayers is not advisable as it often lends itself to confusion.

Content: A prayer should include the following aspects.

- **Acknowledging the existence of God:** If you do not believe in God, prayer is meaningless.
- **Praising** the Lord for all that He is and for all that He does.
- **Adoration:** Expressing our love, esteem and adulation for God.
- Expressing **gratitude** to God for all the grace that He has showered upon us.
- **Penitence:** Confession of our sins,

admitting that we are sinners, repenting and begging God for forgiveness.

- Intercession: Praying for the saints and the departed. Petitioning the saints to intercede on our behalf to God.

Why do we have intercessory prayers? There are many instances in the Bible where St. Mary interceded on the behalf of others to Jesus. In the marriage of Cana, it is Virgin Mary who approached Jesus to turn water into wine to help the wedding hosts when the wine ran out. Martha and Miriam approached Jesus on behalf of their brother and He raised Lazarus from the dead. We believe that all the saints and the departed ones are present during the Holy Qurbana. They are praying along with us and praying for us. No one is perfect, but Jesus. That is the reason why we need to pray for the saints and our departed ones so that all of us will be lifted into heaven at the second coming of Christ.

We pray to the Trinity of Father, Son and the Holy Ghost so that the Holy Spirit will live in us and help us to live a life that is pleasing to God. This is what Jesus taught us.

By Rev. Fr. Mathew Philipose

Children's Corner

The Rich Young Ruler

One day a young ruler came to Jesus and fell on his knees before him. He said, "Good teacher, what must I do to get eternal life?"

Jesus told him to keep the commandments. "Which ones?" the man asked. Jesus started quoting some of the 10 commandments; "Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother."



Then he mentions a commandment, not one of the 10 commandments, but one from the book of Leviticus, "Love your neighbor as yourself." In Leviticus 19:18 the people were told to

not seek revenge, or to bear a grudge against one of their people, but instead they were to love their neighbor as they loved themselves.

The young man said he had kept all these commands from the time he was a boy. He had lived a good life. The Bible says that Jesus looked at him and loved him, but Jesus looked into the man's heart and saw something that was keeping him from becoming a follower.

Jesus told him that if he wanted to be perfect, he must sell the things he owned and give the money to the poor. Then he would have treasure in heaven, and he could follow Jesus.

The young man's face fell and he sadly went away because he had great riches that he would not part with.

After the young man left, Jesus talked to his disciples about how hard it is for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. "It is easier", he said, "for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, but with God all things are possible."

What does this story mean to me?

When we read the story of the young ruler we learn the importance of putting Jesus first. The ruler thought he was a really good person. He did not mistreat people, and he obeyed the laws.

But the love of money was his weakness. He probably thought that he could take care of himself without God's help.

Whether you have a little money or a lot during your lifetime, you still need God's help.

Sometimes children use their allowance money to help others rather than spending it

on themselves. They have learned to put God first. You can learn at an early age to put God and others ahead of yourself. You will be blessed if you do.

Memory Verse

No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.
Matthew 6:24 (NIV)

From Children's Bible Story Collection

The Second Coming



During the Holy Qurbana the veil is opened the second time symbolizing the second coming of our Lord and

the Day of Judgment. The priest, carrying the paten in his right hand and the chalice in his left hand, turns counter-clockwise to face the congregation to specially signify the coming of the Lord of judgment. This is in contrast to the usual clockwise turn, which is symbolic of the first coming of our Lord as the Redeemer. The priest then proceeds west in a procession which signifies the anticipated second coming.

The accompanying deacon's with lighted candles, marvahtso (fans), and bells represent the tumultuous second coming of the Lord with trumpets and accompanied by the angels. (Mathew 25: 31 - *"And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together his elect from*

the four winds...")

The priest returns to the altar where he sets the paten and chalice on the tablitho.

Daily Bible Reading:

NOVEMBER 2005

1 – Tuesday - Matthew 10:1,5-8; 1Cor. 12:27-31;13:1-8
2 – Wednesday - Feast Day St. Gregorios[Parumala]
Hebrews 9: 1-14, St. John 10: 22 - 38
3 – Thursday - Luke 11:47-54; 12:1; Philippians 3:1-8
4 – Friday - Luke 12:2-12; Philippians 3:8-19
5 – Saturday - Luke 9:1-6; 2 Corinthians 1:8-11
6 – Hudod-Eetho – Dedication Sunday
Hebrews 9: 1-14, St. John 10: 22 - 38
7 – Monday - Luke 12:13-15, 22-31;Philippians 4:10-23
8 – Tuesday - Luke 10:16-21; Hebrews 2:2-10
9 – Wednesday - Luke 12:48-59; Colossians 1:18-23
10 – Thursday - Luke 13:1-9; 1 Corinthians 4:9-16
11 – Friday - Luke 13:31-35; 2 Corinthians 4:6-15
12 – Saturday - Luke 9:37-43; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
13 - Annunciation to Zechariah (Parents' day)
Ephesians 5: 21 -6: 4, St. Luke 1: 5 - 25
14 – Monday - John 1:43-51; 1 Corinthians 4:9-16
15 – Tuesday- Luke 14:25-35;Colossians 2:20-23;3:1-3
16 – Wednesday - Matthew 9:9-13; 1Corinthians 4:9-16
17 – Thursday - Luke 16:1-9; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11
18 – Friday - Luke 16:15-18;17:1-4; Colossians 4:10-18
19 – Saturday - Luke 9:57-62; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10
20 -Annunciation to St. Mary, Mother of God.
Galatians: 4: 1-7, St. Luke 1: 26-38
21 – Monday - Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28; Hebrews 9:1-7
22 – Tuesday - Luke 17:26-37; 18:8; Philemon 1:1-25
23 – Wednesday - Luke 18:15-17, 26-30;
Thessalonians 2:1-8
24 – Thursday - Luke 18:31-34; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-14
25 – Friday - Mark 5:24-34; Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5
26 – Saturday – 1 Timothy 2:9-15; Luke 10:19-21
27 - St. Mary's visit to Elizabeth (Ladies' day)
1 Timothy 3:11-13, St. Luke 1: 39-56
28 – Monday - Luke 19:37-44; 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20
29 – Tuesday - Luke 19:45-48; 1 Thessalonians 3:8-13
30 – Wednesday - John 1:35-52 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

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:

11/20/2005:

Food Drive Ends / Feed The needy

12/04/2005:

Sunday School Quiz

Church Events:

Nov 6th : Feast Day St. Gregorios[Parumala]

Nov 6th Sunday:

Marthamariyam Samajam Auction.
Zone III Potluck lunch.

Nov 13th Sunday:

Parish Assembly after holy Qurbana.

Nov 27th Sunday:

Ecumenical Program Selection day.

Christmas Carol:

Dec 3rd and 4th: San Diego County, Orange county and Riverside, San Bernardino.

Dec 10th and 11th: Los Angles County and Ventura county.



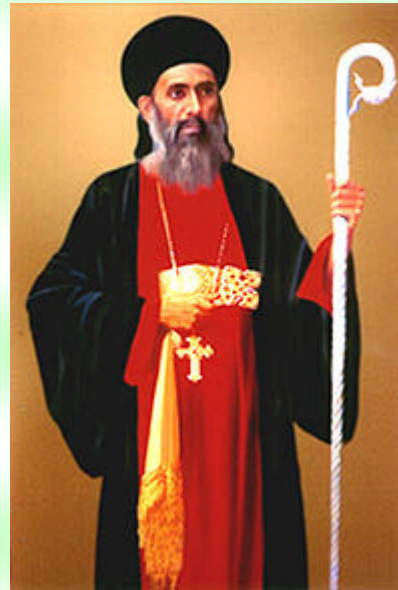
Prayer Corner

Prayer Group Meeting:

Parish-wide prayer meeting will be held at the residence of Mrs. and Mr. K M Mathew, Diamond bar on Nov 5th sat at 5.50 pm. RSVP @ 909 396 4444

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

St.Gregorios Of Parumala



"Remember your forefathers, who spoke God's message to you. Think back on how they lived and died, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

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