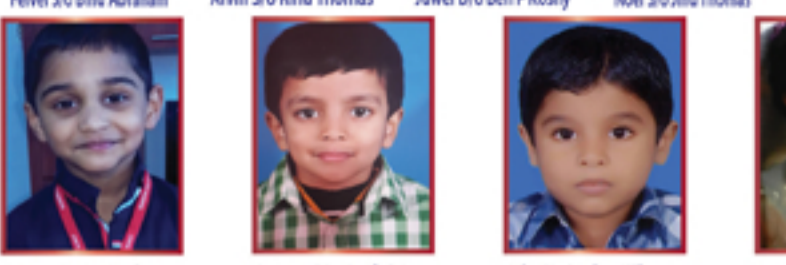


HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Wedding Anniversary



Stephanian

St. Stephen's Indian Orthodox Church Kuwait



ST. STEPHEN'S INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH KUWAIT



Worship Time: Friday Morning 6:30 am, Sunday Evening 6:30 pm, Daily Evening prayer 6:30 PM (Except Friday), Vicar Rev. Fr. Saju John 90998001

Prayer Meeting Schedule for Aug-2017

| | | | | |
|---|------------------------|--|--------|------------------|
| Prayer Group General Co-ordinator : Mr. Mathews Oommen - 69950722 | | | | |
| St. Gregorios Prayer (Abbasiya) Secretary : Mr. Binu Varghese - 65837243 (Time : 5:00 pm) | | | | |
| 04.08. | Mr. Minu Varghese | Next Address Bldg, Opp. Revathy Tailors | Flt. 4 | Flat 08 50104545 |
| 11.08. | Mr. Eldhos Joseph | Behind Old Parsonage, Baitak Rest. Bldg. | 7 | 08 65993200 |
| 18.08. | Mr. Binu Thomas | Opp. Unique Stores / Malabar Rest. | 2 | 12 99169720 |
| 25.08. | Mr. Issac Varghese | Next Address Bldg, Opp. Revathy Tailors | 3 | 05 66253617 |
| St. Basil Prayer (Abbasiya) Secretary : Mr. Alex P. George - 97435242 (Time : 5:00 pm) | | | | |
| 04.08. | Mr. Sunoj Thankachan | Next Child Saloon Building | 3 | 14 69956163 |
| 11.08. | Mr. Benson K Babu | Joy Alukkas Exchange Building | 5 | 38 65942858 |
| St. Dionysius Prayer (Abbasiya) Secretary : Anil C. Joy - 55081701 (Time : 5:30 pm) | | | | |
| 11.08. | Mr. Alex Polachirackal | Opp. Food land Rest. | 5 | 9 60323834 |
| 18.08. | Mr. Binu K Mathai | St. Stephens Church Hall. | | 66943254 |
| St. George Prayer (Abbasiya) Secretary : Mr. Geevarghese Cherian - 66045301, Mr. Ebin Baby 51077786 (Time - 5:30 pm) | | | | |
| St. Mary's Prayer (Reggae) Secretary : Binoy M John - 94064571, Ullas Babu : 66592881 (Time : 6:30pm) | | | | |
| St. John's Prayer (Hawally, Salmiya, Abu Halifa) - Secretary : Mr. Shibu Abraham 51077900 (Time : 06:00 PM) | | | | |
| 18.08. | Mr. Santhosh Mathew | Kalavara Rest. Bldg, Nr. IC Senior School, Salmiya | 07 | 33 55665366 |
| St. Thomas Prayer (Farwania, Khaitan) - Secretary : Mr. Starjet Kurian - 97614849 (Time : 06:30 PM) | | | | |

Transportation Facility : To & from transportation facility is available to all who attend the Holy Qurbana at St. Stephen's Abbasiya. - **Contact Details :** Gen. Coordinator - Mr. Kuriachan P.K. : 96681598
Mr. Cherian V.T. (Farwania, Khaitan & Reggae) : 99285095, Mr. Joby Chacko. (Hawally & Salmiya) : 99503968
Parish Trustee : Mr. Stephen K Thomas. : 94060948, **Parish Secretary :** Mr. Binu Thomas : 50166267

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കർത്താവിൽ വാത്സല്യമുള്ളവരെ !
നമ്മെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം വളരെ പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട ഒരു അനുഭവമാണ് പ്രവേശിക്കുന്നത്. നമ്മുടെ കർത്താവിന്റെ കഹത്യത്തെയ്ത് വെളിവാക്കിയതുകൊണ്ട് അനുഭവം Aug. 6th ന് കൊണ്ടാടുന്നു. കൂടാതെ Aug 15 ന് നമ്മുടെ കർത്താവിന്റെ അമ്മ വി. കത്യക ഭദ്രിയാദിന്റെ വാങ്ങിപ്പ് കൊണ്ടാടാനും നമ്മുടെ ഭാര്യമാരായ ഭാര്യമാരുടെ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യദിനവും ഒരുപോലെ നാം കൊണ്ടാടുകയാണല്ലോ. ഒന്ന് ആത്മീയ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം ഒറ്റൊന്ന് ഭാര്യമാരുടെ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം. ഒറ്റൊരു തരത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞാൽ ആമ്മാദിന്റെ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യവും അമ്മിന്റെ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യവും. നമ്മുടെ തിന്മയും തിന്മകളെയും കുറിച്ചുള്ള കഴിവാണു സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം. ഒറ്റൊരു വർഷം നമ്മെ ചെല്ലുന്നതാണ് സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം. പൂർണ്ണമായും ഉപേക്ഷിക്കപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്. ആ അർത്ഥത്തിൽ പരി. ഭാര്യമാർ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം പരിപൂർണ്ണമായി ഉപേക്ഷിക്കുകയും തത്ഫലമായി പരി. അമ്മ സ്വർഗ്ഗത്തിലേക്ക് എടുക്കപ്പെടുകയും ചെയ്തു. നമ്മുടെ ജീവിതം അമ്മയുടെ സ്വർഗ്ഗമാണ്. കഴിവാതും ഒറ്റൊരു വർഷം നമ്മെ ചെയ്ത് ജീവിക്കുവാൻ നമ്മുടെ ശ്രമിക്കാം.

ഭാര്യമാരുടെ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യവും ഇതുതന്നെയാണ് നമ്മെ അർപ്പിക്കുന്നതും. അർപ്പിക്കാനും സാധ്യമാണെന്നും നമ്മുടെ പല കടമകൾ ഉണ്ട്. അത് അമ്മയായ വിരമത്തിൽ വിനിയോഗിച്ചാൽ ഭാര്യമാരുടെ സമൂഹവും അർപ്പിക്കാനും ഒരുപോലെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയിലേക്കും ഉയരുന്നതിലേക്കും വളരുകയുള്ളൂ. അല്ലാത്തപക്ഷം സമൂഹത്തിൽ അസഹയാന്വര്യം അനുഭവിക്കാനും ഭീതിയും ഭയംകൊണ്ടും കൂടിക്കൊള്ളുന്നതാണ്. സമൂഹസമൂഹത്തിൽ നാം സ്വതന്ത്രരാണോ എന്ന് ഒന്ന് ചിന്തിച്ച് നോക്കുന്നത് നല്ലതാണ്. സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യത്തിന്റെ വിനിയോഗം പലരെയും പലയിനവും അടികൊടുക്കുന്നതായ വസ്തുത നമ്മുടെ അറിയാമല്ലോ. ആയതു കൊണ്ട് നമ്മുടെ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം നാടിനും വീടിനും പ്രയോജനം ചെയ്യുന്നതാണോ എന്ന് പരിശോധിക്കാം. ഭാര്യമാരുടെ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം അമ്മിന്റെ അമ്മയായ അർത്ഥത്തിൽ വിനിയോഗിച്ചാൽ ഭാര്യമാരുടെ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യത്തിലേക്കും പ്രവേശിക്കുവാൻ സാധ്യമാകുന്നതല്ല.

ആയതു കൊണ്ട് നമ്മെ തന്നെ ദൈവസന്നിധിയിൽ പ്രാർത്ഥനയോടെ സമർപ്പിച്ചു കൊണ്ട് നമ്മുടെ സ്വന്തം തുണയായ ഒന്ന് വിരമകരം ചെയ്യാം. ഉപേക്ഷിക്കേണ്ട തിന്മകളെ കളഞ്ഞ് നമ്മുടെ നമ്മെ സ്വീകരിക്കാം. അതിന് പരി. ഭാര്യമാരുടെ ഭാര്യമാരുടെ നമ്മുടെ തീർച്ചയായും ഉണ്ടാകും. ദൈവം നമ്മെ അനുഗ്രഹിക്കട്ടെ.

സംസ്ഥാനപുരസ്കാരം നീങ്ങളുടെ _____ സഞ്ജു അച്ഛൻ.
Mob: 90998001 (E-mail : sanjuachen@gmail.com)

Holy Qurbana at St. Stephens IOC, New location : Street 10, Opp. Orma Plaza Jewellery, Abbasiya
Morning Service - Every Fridays at 06:30 am, **Evening Service** - Every Sundays at 06:30 PM
N.E.C.K. Service - On 2nd Saturday (12.08) at 07:00 AM to 09:00 AM
E-mail : stephanian.kuwait@gmail.com - www.ststephensq8.org

SPIRITUAL KURUKSHETRA, AN UNCEASING AND UNSEEN WARFARE

Fr. Dr. Bijesh Philip
continue...from July edition

Enlightened minds also remind us to fight against evil thoughts and destroy them at the very beginning itself. Otherwise, they will grow and destroy us and others around us. Abba Dorotheos of Gaza says "Do not allow a passion to harden into a habit. We must go on fighting and praying to God, night and day so that we do not fall into temptation."4 He explains this insight with the story of a Guru asking his disciple to uproot a grass, then a plant and then a big tree while they were walking together. By noticing the difficulty or impossibility of the disciple to uproot the tree, the Guru advises to uproot sins when they are very small. Delayed and reconciling approach to misguiding and damaging thoughts will be destructive later on (James 1:14, 15). The Chinese classic work The Art of War clearly says that "Rapidly is the essence of War"5 Rapid movement like a thunder bolt against the enemies is very decisive in spiritual warfare also. Many spiritual authors remind us that evil thoughts need to be destroyed when they are small thoughts against the saving rock, Jesus Christ.6 Blocking the roads which bring food stuff and weapons to the enemy soldiers is a key strategy to victory in war. Likewise, a planned attack against the breeding grounds of negative and destructive thoughts is very significant in spiritual warfare. Occasional repentance and confessions must be supported with initiative to avoid or destroy the sources. Using just mosquito bats inside the house, while doing nothing for the nearby defiled small pond which breeds mosquitoes abundantly, is the foolishness of the superficial spirituality. "Whatever one sows, that will he also reap" (Galatians 6:7). In present times, end of many sinful pipelines from all over the world, which develop many unnecessary thoughts are opened to our senses through Internet. Those who have no self control, discerning power or spiritual maturity are becoming victims and losing their lives. Such people may think of inner spiritual warfare as a foolish concept. But, God who renews all, gives hope to progress in unseen warfare, by cutting off all supply lines and supporting sources of sinful desires and thoughts.

Suppression of enemies or end of a war is not a guarantee that there will not be any attacks in future. Enemies will come again to attack and the war becomes a continuous process. This is an accepted fact in spiritual warfare. Hence, spiritual gurus teach us to take unseen warfare till the last breath of life. They warn us against vacation from this war. "If you give up, and go after worldly pleasures and then come back, then the fight will be incomparably harder, more acute, more painful and in addition less successful"7. Most of the saintly followers of Christ have exhorted us about the need of unceasing repentance. The spiritual counsels of Mark, a fifth century monk in Asia Minor guide us thus: "Just as we eat and drink and speak and hear, so too by nature ought we to repent."8 Mark the Monk beautifully describes that repentance is perfected through three virtues: subjugating thoughts, praying without ceasing (I Thess. 5:17), and patiently enduring afflictions that occur.9 The sacrament of baptism in the orthodox Christian tradition is an initiation in to this lifelong warfare. Just before anointing the candidate with the Holy Oil in baptism, the chief celebrant recites a prayer thus: "Lord, let your servant who has been counted among your soldiers ... may not be seized by the hostile armies." Yes, we have been called in Christ to fight against evil in mind and also in society, unceasingly with the power of the Holy Spirit. The beautiful picture of St. George in a soldier's dress killing a monster with a lance can be interpreted as a meaningful representation of the unseen spiritual warfare of each one of us. It must be noted that during the baptismal service the symbolic crown is removed by giving the hope that it will be awarded again at the end, if the candidate takes the spiritual war seriously and successfully throughout his or her life. Many, who have evaluated the Second World War, think that a major reason for the defeat of Germany was due to its under-estimation of the red army of Russia. Many are defeated in life either because they underestimate the dehumanizing and misguiding thoughts or because they are ignorant of such enemies. Once destructive habits have been developed, there is no space for discernment of thoughts because thoughts form in mind and immediately and automatically they are translated into actions. Even in such cases, there is hope with sincere repentance and special help of the Lord. In normal spiritual warfare an unceasing watchfulness and mercilessness with regard to sinful thoughts and attack against them with the spiritual weapons by the help of God guarantee success and peace.

Unseen Warfare is an unceasing warfare. War with our thoughts prevents us from warring with others. Spiritual warfare is a secret of our inner peace and also that of enthusiasm for good works for the well being of family life, Church, society and non-human creation. Unlike other wars, unseen warfare, if taken seriously, is rewarding; it protects life, contributes to the progress towards perfection and to peace in mind and the world. Victory in this by the help of our Eternal Helper leads us to further glorious heights of life.

Special day : 6th Koodara Perunnal - H. Qurbana will be on Sunday at 6:30 PM
15th August, Ascension of St. Mary. (H. Qurbana on Monday 14th August evening at 6:30 PM)
Evening Prayer : Every day at 6:00 PM
Choir : Choir practice will be held on every Wednesdays at 7:00 PM.
Sunday School : Closed for Summer vacation and will re-open on Friday, 8th Sept. regular classes will be on Friday morning after Holy Qurbana at St. Stephens Church Hall.
Martha Mariam Vanitha Samajam : 4th Friday (25.08.) at Church after H. Qurbana. 2nd Saturday (12.08.) at the residence of Mrs. Jency Rinchu Varghese (Abbasiya) at 05:00 PM. One month long Bible reading will end on 15th August. Thanks to all who participated.
St. Stephen's Youth Movement: 1st Friday (04.08) after H. Qurbana & 3rd Saturday at the residence of Mr. Saju Stephen at 7 PM.
Divyabodhanam : 1st Saturday at Church, Time 5 PM
Birthdays & Marriage Anniversaries : Vicar and the members of the Church wish many many happy returns of the blessed occasion to all those who are having Birthdays and Marriage Anniversaries during this month.
New Members : We welcome all the new members to our Church whole heartedly.

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Sanoo P Joseph | St. George Prayer | Anitta Abraham | St. Marys, Reggai |
| Sobin T Mathew | St. Thomas, Farwania | Anju Paul | St. Marys, Reggai |
| Nidhi Raichel Varkey | St. Johns, Salmiya | Aby Varghese | St. Dionysius, |

CHURCH CALENDAR - AUGUST, 2017

| | | | |
|------|--|------|--|
| 01st | Soonoyo Lent begins (15 days) | 15th | Commemoration of Patriarch Mar Ignatius |
| 01st | Commemoration of HG Paulose Mar Pakomios (Ranny) | | Abded Messiah (Devalokam) |
| 06th | Koodara Perunnal | 19th | Commemoration of HG Joseph Mar Pakomios (Carmelkunn) |
| 06th | Commemoration of HG Alexios Mar Theodosios (Ranny) | 29th | Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist |
| 15th | Feast of Assumption of St. Mary (Lent Ends) | 31st | Commemoration of HG Mathews Mar Evanius (Pampady) |

15 Days lent - Feast of St. Mary.
Aug. 1st - 15th : Soonoyo lent is observed in the name of the mother of God and in remembrance of her Assumption. The Assumption of Mary was the bodily taking up of the Virgin Mary into Heaven at the end of her earthly life. Let us submit ourselves to the Lord in the valuable intercession of St. Mary. Evening prayer and Special Intercessory prayer will be on every day at 6:00 PM. 14th Aug. : Holy Qurbana followed by Special Intercessory Prayer & Nercha will also be served on Monday, 6:30 PM.

Koodara Perunnal - August 6
The transfiguration of Jesus Christ is remembering on 6th August every year. The primary significance of the transfiguration exists in the light which shines from Jesus' body on the mountaintop, which is typically held to be a sign of His internal divinity fully manifesting itself in the material world. It is also of time that he is called a Beloved Son by a heavenly voice, the first being when he was baptized by John the Baptist. The Transfiguration not only proclaims Christ's divine sonship, but foreshadows His future glory when He, as the Messiah will usher in the long awaited Kingdom. H. Qurbana will be on Sunday 6th August evening 6:30

