

Stephanian

St. Stephens Indian Orthodox Church

Kuwait

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കർത്താവിനാൽ അനുഗ്രഹിക്കപ്പെട്ടവരെ, അനുഗ്രഹിതരായ സമാധാനത്തിന്റെയും പ്രത്യാശയുടെയും അനുഭവമായ ഉയിർപ്പ് പെരുന്നാളിന് ശേഷം 40 ദിവസങ്ങൾ നമ്മുടെ കർത്താവ് തന്റെ ശിഷ്യന്മാരോടുകൂടി നടന്ന് അവരുടെ ഭയത്തിൽ, പ്രയാസങ്ങളിൽ പ്രതിസന്ധികളിൽ, പിൻമാറ്റത്തിൽ, നിരാശയിൽ, അവരെ ധൈര്യപ്പെടുത്തി ശക്തികരിച്ച് നടത്തിയ അനുഭവങ്ങൾ നാം വചനത്തിലൂടെ ഈ ദിവസങ്ങളിൽ ധ്യാനിക്കുകയാണല്ലോ. ആയതിനുശേഷം കർത്താവ് തന്റെ പിതാവിന്റെ അടുക്കലേക്ക് കരേറിയ ദിനം സ്വർഗ്ഗാരോഹണ പെരുന്നാളായി (മെയ് 5) നാം കൊണ്ടാടുന്നു. ഈ പെരുന്നാളിലൂടെ ചില സത്യങ്ങൾ ദൈവം നമുക്ക് വെളിവാക്കി തരുന്നു. ഒന്നാമതായി, പരിശുദ്ധ റൂഹാ ആകുന്ന ദൈവത്തെ നമ്മിലേക്ക് അയക്കുകയും അവൻ നമ്മെ സത്യത്തിലും നീതിയിലും വഴി നടത്തുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതാണ് (വി. യോഹ. 14:16). രണ്ടാമതായി, (വി. യോഹ 14:13) കർത്താവ് വീണ്ടും വന്ന് നമ്മെ കൂട്ടിക്കൊണ്ട് പിതാവിന്റെ വലതുഭാഗത്ത് നല്ല വാസം നൽകും എന്ന വലിയ പ്രത്യാശയും ഉറപ്പും തരുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. പിന്നീടുള്ള 10 ദിവസങ്ങൾ കാത്തിരിപ്പിന്റെ നാളുകളാണ്. പരിശുദ്ധാത്മ കൃപയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി ശിഷ്യന്മാർ പ്രാർത്ഥനയോടു കൂടി കാത്തിരുന്ന ദിനങ്ങൾ. അങ്ങനെ പെന്തക്കോസ്ത് നാളിൽ (പെന്തക്കോസ്ത് എന്ന വാക്കിന് 50-ാം ദിവസം എന്ന അർത്ഥമേതുളളൂ.) പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാവ് ശിഷ്യന്മാരുടെമേൽ അഗ്നിനാവുകളുടെ രൂപത്തിൽ ഇറങ്ങി ആവശിച്ച് അവരെ ആത്മീയ ശക്തികൊണ്ട് നിറച്ചു. ആ വലിയ പെരുന്നാൾ നാം പെന്തക്കോസ്തി പെരുന്നാളായി (മെയ് 15) കൊണ്ടാടുന്നു. ആയതുകൊണ്ട് കർത്താവിൽ പ്രിയരെ, വിശുദ്ധ ലാഭോദീസായിലൂടെ നാം പ്രാപിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാവിന്റെ കൃപകൾ ധാരാളമായി വ്യാപരിക്കുവാൻ ഈ ദിവസങ്ങളിൽ കൂടുതലായി പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കണം. അന്ധകാരം നിറഞ്ഞ ഈ ലോകത്തിൽ ക്രിസ്തുവാകുന്ന പ്രകാശം നമ്മിൽ കൂടി തെളിയുവാൻ സാധ്യമാകട്ടെ എന്ന് ആശംസിച്ചും പ്രാർത്ഥിച്ചും കൊണ്ട് സന്തോഷപൂർവ്വം

നിങ്ങളുടെ സഞ്ചു അച്ചൻ
 Mob.: 90998001, E-mail : sanjuachen@gmail.com

Prayer Meeting Schedule for May-2016

Prayer Group General Secretary : Mr. Mathews Oommen - 69950722			
St. Gregorios Prayer (Abbasia) Secretary : Mr. Binu Varghese - 66764194 / 65837243 (Time : 5:00 pm)			
06-05	Mr. Binu Thomas	Address Shopp Building	Fl. 08 Flat 44 50166267
13-05	Mr. Anish Baby	Opp. Old Nayana Sweets, Near Mosque	GF 993066991
20-05	Mr. Issac Mathew	Opp. Makka Store	01 05 99654864
27-05	Mr. Binu K Mathew	Apsara Bazar Building	09 71 66554783
St. Basil Prayer (Abbasia) Secretary : Mr. Alex P. George - 97435242 (Time : 5:00 pm)			
06-05	Mr. Biju Joy	Old St. George Chapel Bldg.	06 64 55374493
13-05	Mr. Benson K. Babu	Kuwait Star communications bldg.	05 38 65942858
St. Dionysius Prayer (Abbasia) Sec : Mr. Robin Abraham - 65087056 (Time : 5:30 pm)			
06-05	Mr. Linu Varghese	Successline Bldg (Near Hi-Dine Super Market)	10 10A 66745714
20-05	Mr. Shaji Varghese	Orma Plaza Bldg.	03 11 60934347
27-05	Mr. Anil C Joy	Opp. Lens & Frame Bldg.	02 08 66021395
St. George Prayer (Abbasia) Coordinator : Mr. Shobin Yohannan - 90951725 (Time - 5:30 pm)			
13-05	Mr. George Pappachan	Madan Saloon Bldg.	03 09 51505581
27-05	Mr. Biju George	Golden Supermarket, Nr Intergrated School	07 25 97824160
St. Mary's Prayer (Riggai) Secretary : Mr. Babukutty K. Mathew - 50322192 (Time-6:30 pm)			
06-05	Mr. Aji Philip	Bldg. No 2, Opp. Plaza Rest., New Riggae.	03 10 97569055
13-05	Mr. Raju K Ulahannan	Bldg. No 27, Holy Sweet Bldg., New Riggae.	05 21 99489601
20-05	Mr. Aju M. Thomas	Bldg. No 25, Opp. Andalous Safari Laundry, New Riggae.	02 08 66023802
St. John's Prayer (Hawally Salmiya & Abuhalfia) Secretary : Mr. Sibiu Abraham - 51077900 (Time-6:30 pm)			
20-05	Mr. Sibiu Abraham	Near Al Plaza Bldg, Hawally	03 12 51077900
St. Thomas Prayer (Farwanija, Khaitan) Secretary : Mr. Cherian V.T. - 99285095 (Time - 6:30 pm)			
06-05	Mrs Preethi & Mrs Diya	Bldg. 28 - Opp. Indian Community School, Khaitan	03 13 97924739



Biju Mathew & Santhi Biju



Binu K Mathew & Preetha Binu



Jacob Cherian & Divya Jacob



Biju George & Mercy



Shaju John & Giji



George Pappachan & Sumi



Obituary
 C. John Mammootil



Shibu Abraham and Linu



HEARTFUL MEMES

The Spiritual Significance of Pentecost?

So, then, what difference does it make for us today that the first Christians were filled with the Holy Spirit almost two millennia ago on the day of Pentecost?

There is no simple, one-size-fits-all answer to this question, because Pentecost knits together several themes, emphases, and experiences. Four possible ways that Pentecost matters today.

1. The Presence and Power of the Spirit

On the day of Pentecost, seven weeks after the resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon those followers of Jesus who had gathered together in Jerusalem. What happened on the first Pentecost continues to happen to Christians throughout the world today, though usually not in such a dramatic fashion. We rarely get a heavenly wind and tongues of fire anymore. Nevertheless, God pours out the Spirit upon all who put their faith in Jesus Christ and become his disciples (see Romans 8:1-11).

Christians are meant to live in the presence and power of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit helps us to confess Jesus as Lord (1 Cor 12:3), empowers us to serve God with supernatural power (1 Cor 12:4-11), binds us together as the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:12-13), helps us to pray (Rom 8:26), and even intercedes for us with God the Father (Rom 8:27). The Spirit guides us (Gal 5:25), helping us to live like Jesus (Gal 5:22-23).

Personal Implications: Pentecost presents us with an opportunity to consider how we are living each day. Are we relying on the power of God's Spirit? Are we an open channel for the Spirit's gifts? Are we attentive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit? Is the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, etc.) growing in our lives? Most Christians I know, including me, live in the presence and power of the Spirit, but only to an extent. We are limited by our fear, our sin, our low expectations, not to mention our tendency to be distracted from God's work in us. Pentecost offers a chance to confess our failure to live by the Spirit and to ask the Lord to fill us afresh with his power.

2. The Central Role of the Church in God's Work in the World

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on individual followers of Jesus as they were gathered together in Jerusalem. This gathering became the first Christian church. New believers in Jesus were baptized as they joined this church. They, along with the first followers of Jesus, shared life together, focusing on teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. They shared their belongings so that no one was hungry or needy. As these first Christians lived out their new faith together, "the Lord added to their number those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47). Thus we speak of Pentecost as the birthday of the church. In theory, the Spirit could have been poured out on the followers of Jesus when they were not gathered together. There are surely times when the Holy Spirit touches an individual who is alone in prayer, worship, or ministry to others. But the fact that the Spirit was given to a gathering of believers is not incidental. It underscores the centrality of the church in God's work in the world. The actions of the earliest Christians put all of this in boldface. The Holy Spirit is not only given to individuals, but also, in a sense to the gathered people of God. Thus, in 1 Corinthians 3, the Apostle Paul observes that the church is God's temple and that the Spirit dwells in the midst of the church (3:16-17; in 1 Cor 6:19-20 we find a complementary emphasis on the dwelling of the Spirit in individual Christians).

Personal Implications: Many Christians, especially those of us who have been influenced by the individualism of American culture, live as if the church is useful but unnecessary. We seem to believe that as long as we have a personal relationship with God, everything else is secondary. But Pentecost is a vivid illustration of the truth that is found throughout Scripture: the community of God's people is central to God's work in the world. Thus, Pentecost invites us to consider our own participation in the fellowship, worship, and mission of the church. It is a time to renew our commitment to live as an essential member of the body of Christ, using our gifts to build the church and share the love and justice of Christ with the world.

3. The Multilingual Nature and Mission of the Church

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit empowered believers in Jesus to praise God in many languages that they had not learned in the ordinary manner (Acts 2:5-13). Symbolically, this miracle reinforces the multilingual, multicultural, multiracial mission of the church. We are to be a community in which all people are drawn together by God's love in Christ. As Paul writes in Galatians 3:28: "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

Personal Implications: Although there are some glorious exceptions, it seems that the church has not, in general, lived out its multilingual mission. We are often divided according to language, race, and ethnicity. Pentecost challenges all of us to examine our own attitudes in the regard, to reject and repent of any prejudice that lurks within us, and to open our hearts to all people, even and especially those who do not share our language and culture. Yes, I know this is not easy. But it is central to our calling. And it is something that the Spirit of God will help us to do if we are available.

4. The Inclusive Ministry of the Church

After the Holy Spirit fell upon the first followers of Jesus, Peter preached a sermon to help folks understand what had just happened. In this sermon he cited a portion of a prophecy from Joel: "In the last days," God says, "I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike—and they will prophesy. (Acts 2:17-18; Joel 2:28-29) Later, Peter explained that the Spirit would be given to all who turned from their sin and turned to God through Jesus (Acts 2:38).

This was a momentous, watershed event. For the first time in history, God began to do what he had promised through Joel, empowering all different sorts of people for ministry. Whereas in the era of the Old Testament, the Spirit was poured out almost exclusively on prophets, priests, and kings, in the age of the New Testament, the Spirit would be given to "all people." All would be empowered to minister regardless of their gender, age, or social position. Although this truth would not mean that every Christian would be gifted for every kind of ministry, it did imply that all believers would be empowered by the Spirit. The church of Jesus Christ would be a place where every single person matters, where every member contributes to the health and mission of the church (see Eph 4:11-16).

Personal Implications: Each Christian needs to ask: Am I serving God through the power of the Spirit? Am I exercising the gifts of the Spirit in my life, both in the gathered church and as I live for God in the world? Pentecost is a time to ask God to fill us afresh with the Spirit so that we might join in the ministry of Christ with gusto. And it is a time to renew our commitment to fulfilling our crucial role in the ministry of God's people in the world.

Moreover, those of us who hold positions of power in the church should examine our attitudes and actions. Are we encouraging all of God's people to minister through the power of the Spirit? Are we open to what the Spirit of God wants to do in our churches and communities through his empowered people? Or are we gatekeepers of the church who would even keep the Holy Spirit out of our carefully tended and controlled communities? As a pastor, my role is to equip God's people for doing the ministry of Christ in the church and the world (Eph 4:11-12). Sometimes, however, we pastors are so concerned about our own position and power that we fall short of this central pastoral calling. Pentecost is a day for pastors and other church leaders to recommit to equipping and encouraging all Christians for their ministry. When we do this, the Holy Spirit will be free to use the church of Jesus Christ for God's purposes in the world.

Holy Qurbana at ACE Hall (Subway Rest. Bldg.) Abbasiya
Morning Service - Every Fridays at at 06:30 AM to 09:00 AM)
Evening Service - Every Sundays at 06:30 PM to 08:30 PM)
N.E.C.K. Service - On 2nd Saturday (14.05.2016) 07:00 AM to 09:00 AM
Special Service - 05th May, 2016 - Ascension of Jesus Christ (Holy Qurbana will be on Wednesday 4th May at 6:30 PM) 15th May, 2016 – Pentecost - (H. Qurbana and Special service will be on Sunday, 15th May 2016 at 06:30 PM)

Choir - Practice will be held on every Wednesdays at ACE hall from 7:00 PM to 08:00 PM.

Sunday School - On every Thursdays Evening 05:15 to 07:30 at St. Johns Marthoma hall, Abbasiya.

Martha Mariam Vanitha Samajam - 2nd Saturday (14.05.2016) at the residence of Mrs. Bini Subi 05:00 PM 4th Friday (27.05.2016) at ACE Hall after H. Qurbana.

St. Stephen's Youth Movement - 4th Wednesday (25.05.2016) at ACE Hall 07:00 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.

OVBS : Date : 22nd June to 1st July, Venue : St. John's Hall, Abbasiya

വിദ്യാരംഭം

മെയ് 15 ഞായറാഴ്ച്ച പെന്തിക്കൊസ്തി ആരാധനയ്ക്കുശേഷം പ്രത്യേക പ്രാർത്ഥനയാൽ കുഞ്ഞുങ്ങൾക്ക് ആദ്യാക്ഷരം കുറിയ്ക്കുന്ന (എഴുത്തറിവുരുത്ത്) ശുശ്രൂഷ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നതാണ്.

പെരുന്നാൾ ആഘോഷിച്ചു.

പാമ്പാടി തിരുമേനി:

കോട്ടയം പാമ്പാടിയിൽ കബരടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്ന പരിശുദ്ധ കുറിയാക്കോസ് മാർ ശ്രീഗോറി യോസ് തിരുമേനിയുടെ ഓർമ്മചെരുന്നാൾ ഏപ്രിൽ 8, 10 തീയതികളിൽ കേന്ദ്രീയോടെ കൊണ്ടാടി. വി. കുർബ്ബാനയ്ക്ക് ശേഷം വിശ്വാസികൾക്ക് നേർച്ച നൽകുകയും ചെയ്തു.

പരിശുദ്ധ ശിവറുഗീസ് സഹദാ:

മൂന്നാം നൂറ്റാണ്ടിൽ ജീവിച്ച് ക്രിസ്തുവിനുവേണ്ടി രക്തസാക്ഷിമരണം സ്വീകരിച്ചു സഹദായായിത്തീർന്ന വിശുദ്ധ ശിവറുഗീസ് സഹദായുടെ പെരുന്നാൾ ഏപ്രിൽ 29, മെയ് 1 തീയതികളിൽ ഇടവക വളരെ കേന്ദ്രീപുരസരം ആഘോഷിച്ചു. വി. കുർബ്ബാനയും മദ്ധ്യസ്ഥ പ്രാർത്ഥനയും നേർച്ചയും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. നേർച്ചയ്ക്ക് സെന്റ് ജോർജ്ജ് പ്രയർഗ്രൂപ്പ് നേതൃത്വം വഹിച്ചു.

NEW MEMBERS

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Mrs. Preethy John | St. Thomas Prayer Group |
| 2. Mrs. Divya Jose | St. Thomas Prayer Group |
| 3. Mr. Alex P Oommen | St. Gregorious Prayer Group |
| 4. Mr. Binu Elias | St. Johns Prayer Group Salmiya |
| 5. Mr. Rohin T Saju | St. Thomas Prayer Group |
| 6. Mr. Lijo T Jose | St. Gregorious Prayer Group |
| 7. Mr. Aneesh Babu | St. Gregorious Prayer Group |
| 8. Mr. Thomas P John | St. George Prayer Group |

We welcome the new members to our Church whole heartedly.

Condolences :

Mr. C John (Father of our Church member Mr. Binoy M John) passed away on 09.04.2016. We pray for the departed soul and convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of their deep grief.

Free Transportation Facility : To & fro free transporation facility is available to all who attend the Holy Qurbana of SSIOC at ACE Hall, Abbasiya.

Contact Details : **Mr. Alexander Y.S : 99269450**

Mr. Cherian V.T. (Farwaniya, Khaitan & Reggae) : 99285095, Mr. Joby Chacko. (Hawally & Salmiya) : 55005114

Parish Trustee : **Mr. V.Y. Thomas. : 97924739, Parish Secretary : Mr. Jinu Thomas : 60639003**