# ST. ALPHONSA

## SYRO-MALABAR CATHOLIC CHURCH

5709 Oakland Road, Halethorpe, MD 21227 | Phone: (410) 247-0240 Web: stalphonsachurch.org

"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is his name." (Luke 1:46-49)



The Visitation of Mary



The ascension of the Savior is an integral part of the proposition that Christ is the "Lord," who has the right to exercise "all authority in heaven and on earth." (Matthew 28:18) On Pentecost, after arguing for the resurrection and ascension, Peter contended: "Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly, that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." (Acts 2:36)



#### **HOLY QURBANA SCHEDULE**

Sunday | English: 9:00 am | Malayalam: 11:30 am

Monday | Malayalam: 7:30 pm

Tuesday - Friday | Malayalam: 8:30 am (Except First Friday)

First Friday | Malayalam: 7:00 pm Saturday | Malayalam: 10:30 am



For the month of March, the Youth of the parish led a special Lenten Retreat: "The Way, The Truth, and The Life" for the younger children of the parish. There were three tracks for each age group respectively: Middle School, Elementary School, and Little Angels. Youth Coordinators, along with the assistance of High schoolers, College students, and young adults led sessions based on: "To Know, Love." and Serve God" over the course of two days. Each day began with the rosary, Praise & Worship, a skit introducing the theme of each day preceding each session, and the theme was reinforced during each session, with confession and adoration available for the duration of the retreat. Topics for sessions for the Lenten Retreat included: "How to recognize God's love in your daily life," "How to personally pray," "The 10 Commandments," and a special session on doing community service.



Youth Lenten Retreat



The Stations of the Cross on Good Friday

For the month of April, the Youth of the parish performed a live reenactment of the Stations of the Cross for Good Friday and performed a live reenactment of Jesus resurrecting from the tomb for Easter Vigil Qurbana. The youth would like to thank for all who assisted in these efforts, especially Seby Achen, the kaikarrans, the decoration committee, Sheeba Aunty, Babu Uncle, Tison Uncle, and all the Youth animators that helped in all our efforts! We could not have had a successful Lenten Retreat and Holy week activities without all your support and prayers!

More events for the youth are being planned as we approach the next phase of the Year of Youth, so be sure to keep your eyes and ears open for future events at our parish!



Jerome Mathew, Aaron Sebastian, Ryan Mathew, Anusha Alousyes, Austin Koodaly, Maria Nedumthuruthil, and Agnes Koodaly represented our church under the leadership of Roy Mathew for the Annual ECKC Bible Competition held on April 21, 2017 and won third prize. Congratulations to the team!



The cast of The Stations of the Cross

#### Youth Coordinators

Ms. Stency Stephen Ms. Teena Vithayathil Mr. Alex Paranilam Mr. Jonathan Cyriac

#### **Youth Representatives**

Mr. Arun James Ms. Melanie Mavunkal

#### **Diocesan Regional Youth Coordinators**

Mr. Arun James Mr. Jubin Joseph

#### **Youth Animators**

Mrs. Sheeba Alousyes Mr. Vinu Michael

#### **Youth Choir Coordinators**

Mr. Bennett Babu Ms. Ann Mary Bon

#### **Angel Voice Coordinators**

Mr. & Mrs.Tomcy & Laura Mr. & Mrs. Shaji George & Dolly

## **Church Music Coordinator** Mrs. Jain Alvin

#### **Sports & Games Coordinator**

Mr. Maijo Michael Payyappilly

#### **Intercession Ministry Coordinators**

Mrs. Sally Joseph Ms. Melanie Mavunkal

#### **Legion of Mary Coordinator**

Mrs. Dency Mayunkal

#### Pilgrimage & Picnic Coordinators

Mrs. Della Joseph Njaralakkattu Mr. George Nirappukandathil

#### **4Life Ministry Coordinators**

Mr. Paul Mangalath Ms. Melanie Mavunkal

#### Social Work & Safe **Environment Coordinator**

Mr. Joby K. Jose

#### **ECKC** Representatives

Mr. George Nirappukandathil Mr. Joseph Njaralakkattu

#### **Family Apostolate Coordinator**

Mr. Christi Baby Kanjirathinkal

#### **Charity Ministry Coordinators**

Mr. George Eyalil Mrs. Manju James

#### Women's Forum Coordinators

Mrs. Bindu Johnson Mrs. Solly Abraham

#### **CML Coordinator**

Mrs. Manju James

#### Media & Fine Arts Coordinator

Dr. Ginto Pottackal

#### **Newsletter Chief Editor**

Mrs. Saija Jose Chirayath

#### Vicar

Rev. Fr. Seby Chittilappilly (630) 317-4837

#### Kaikkarans

(443) 834-5967 Mr. Sunny Cyriac Mr. Tony Vithayathil (443) 760-8449 (410) 318-9847

## Parish Council Secretary Dr. Sheeba Jose Paranilam

#### **Pastoral Council Representatives**

#### **Parish Council Members**

Mrs. Bindu Johnson

Mrs. Saly Joseph Kottaramkunnel

Mr. Joby Kizhakkethottam

Mrs. Sheeba Anil Alousyes

Mrs. Saija Jose Chirayath

Ms. Melani Mavumkal

Mr. Benny Thomas Mr. Christi Baby Kanjirathinkal

Mr. Maijo Michael Payyappilly

#### **Religious Education (CCD)**

Mrs. Elsy Bon (Assistant Principal) Mr. Saji Thayyil (Secretary & Registrar)

#### **Eucharistic Ministers**

Mr. Jose Pathaparambil

#### **Accountant**

#### Auditors

Mrs. Smitha Alappatt

Mr. Jose Chirayath

#### **Liturgy Coordinators**

Mr. James Bon

#### Malayalam School

Mrs. Lincy Koodaly (Principal) Mr. Saji Thayyil (Secretary & Registrar)

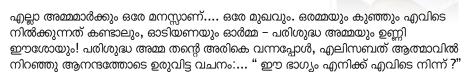
#### **Food Coordinator**

## Message from the Vicar

## ഈ ഭാഗ്യം എനിക്ക് എവിടെ നിന്ന്?

"എന്റെ കർത്താവിന്റെ അമ്മ എന്റെ അടുത്തു വരാനുള്ള ഭാഗ്യം എനിക്ക് എവിടെ നിന്ന്?" [ലുക്കാ 1: 43]

മെയ് മാസം അമ്മ മാസം ആണ്. പരിശുദ്ധ അമ്മയ്ക്ക് പ്രതിഷ്ടിത മാസം. മാതൃദിനം കൊണ്ടാടുന്ന മാസം.



ഈശോ തന്റെ അമ്മയെ യോഹന്നാനിലൂടെ നമുക്കായി ഭരമേൽപ്പിച്ചു -- "ഇതാ നിന്റെ അമ്മ." ആ അമ്മയിലൂടെ വചനമായ ഈശോ മാംസമായി അവതരിച്ചു. ഈശോ ഒരിക്കൽ അരുൾ ചെയ്തു: ദൈവ വചനം കേട്ട് അത് പാലിക്കുന്നവർ അമ്മസ്ഥാനീയരെന്നുപോൽ, ഉന്നതരാണ്... ഭാഗ്യമുള്ളവരാണ്. തള്ളക്കോഴി കുഞ്ഞുങ്ങൾക്കെന്നപോലെ, ഈശോ തന്റെ പ്രിയരെ ഒരുമയോടെ.... ഒന്നായി ചേർത്തണയാൻ ശ്രമിക്കുന്നു. കാണാതായ നാണയ ഉപമയിലും സ്ക്രീത്വത്തിലെ ദൈവിക ആനന്ദത്തെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചു.

സ്ത്രീത്വത്തിൽ അമ്മ ഉണ്ട്.... അമ്മയിൽ എല്ലാം ഉണ്ട്.... എല്ലാവരും ഉണ്ട് -- മകൾ, സ്ഹോദരി, സ്നേഹിത, ഭാര്യ... 'അമ്മ' എന്ന രണ്ടക്ഷരമാണ് ലോകത്തിലെ ഏറ്റവും വിലയേറിയ വാക്ക്. എല്ലാ ഭാഷകളിലും അധികമാർന്ന ആവർത്തന ഉച്ചാരണ് സ്ഥാനവും അമ്മക്ക് തന്നെ. നേരറിഞ്ഞ, നേരിട്ടറിഞ്ഞ അമ്മസംഭവങ്ങളിൽ ഹൃദയസ്വർശിയായ ഇത് വേറിട്ടുനിൽക്കുന്നു.

അന്നാണ് അവരുടെ വീട് വെഞ്ചരിപ്പ്. പുതുവീട്ടിൽ അതിഥികൾ, അയൽക്കാർ വന്നുചേരുന്നു. എല്ലാവരും വീടുപടിയുടെ മതിലിൽ നോക്കി. 'അമ്മ' – വീടിൻെ പേരാണത്. ചിലരുടെ മുഖത്ത് ആകാംഷ... ആശ്ചര്യം!... കുറേപേർ കരുതി സ്വന്തം അമ്മയോടുള്ള വാത്സല്യം രണ്ടക്ഷരത്തിൽ കുറിച്ചതാണെന്ന്; വേറെ ചിലർ പരിശുദ്ധ അമ്മയോടുള്ള സ്നേഹം ആണെന്നും ... അവളിൽ നിന്ന് തന്നെ ഉത്തരം വന്നു – മേൽപ്പറഞ്ഞ രണ്ടു കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കൊപ്പം മറ്റൊരു ഹൃദയവിചാരം എല്ലാ കണ്ണുകളെയും ഈറനണിയിച്ചു.

വിവാഹം കഴിഞ്ഞു വർഷങ്ങൾ പോയതറിഞ്ഞില്ല. അമ്മയെന്ന് വിളിക്കാൻ ഒരു കുഞ്ഞു സ്വരം ഉണ്ടായതുമില്ല. ദൈവത്തിൽ ആശ്രയം! എന്നാലും 'അമ്മ' എന്നൊരു വിളി കേൾക്കാൻ കൊതിച്ച അവൾ വീടിനു പേരിട്ടു -- 'അമ്മ.' "മറ്റാരു മറന്നാലും തപാൽകാരനെങ്കിലും ഇടയ്ക്കിടെ ആ പേരുവിളിക്കുമല്ലോ..." ആത്മസംതൃപ്തിയോടെ അവൾ അത് പറഞ്ഞവസാനിപ്പിച്ചു.

താഴുകളെ കടാക്ഷിക്കുന്ന ദൈവം, തലമുറകളോളം ഭാഗ്യവതികളാകാൻ എല്ലാ അമ്മമാരെയും അനുഗ്രഹിക്കട്ടെ.

മാതൃദിനാശംസകളോടെ,

ഫാ. സെബി ചിറ്റിലപ്പിള്ളി (വികാരി)





#### THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MAY 2017

"That Christians in Africa, in imitation of the Merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice, and peace."

READINGS - MAY 2017						
Day/Date	Notes	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Gospel Reading		
Monday May 1	St. Joseph, Patron of the Working Class		James 5: 7-12	Matthew 25: 1-13		
Tuesday May 2			1 Thessalonians 5: 12–22	Mark 4: 13-20		
Wednesday May 3			Exodus 15: 1-6	John 14: 1-6		
Thursday May 4			2 Corinthians 8: 1-11	Mark 4: 35-41		
Friday May 5	First Friday		Romans 15: 1-6	Luke 6: 6-11		
Saturday May 6			James 2: 14-17	Luke 6: 46-49		
Sunday May 7	4th Sunday of Resurrection	Isaiah 49:13-23	Acts 8: 14-25	John 16: 16-24		
Monday May 8			1 Timothy 6: 13-16	Luke 20: 9-16		
Tuesday May 9			1 Timothy 6: 17-21	Matthew 19: 23-30		
Wednesday May 10			Hebrew 7: 1-10	John 5: 30-38		
Thursday May 11			2 Peter 2: 1-3	Matthew 15: 1-9		
Friday May 12			Ephesians 5: 13-21	Mark 6: 35-44		
Saturday May 13			1 Corinthians 14: 20-25	Mark 6: 1-6		
Sunday May 14	5th Sunday of Resurrection Mother's Day	Isaiah 49:7-13	Acts 9:1-9	John 21: 1-14		
Monday May 15			1 Peter 4: 12	Luke 11: 29-32		
Tuesday May 16			James 1: 22-27	Matthew 21: 18-22		
Wednesday May 17			Colossians 3: 7-13	John 3: 1-18		
Thursday May 18			Hebrew 3: 7-13	John 5: 24-29		
Friday May 19			1 Corinthians 2: 1-5	Matthew 15: 10-20		
Saturday May 20			Hebrew 7: 1-17	John 15: 26-16		
Sunday May 21	6th Sunday of Resurrection	Isaiah 52:7-12	Acts 10:9-16	John 17: 20-26		
Monday May 22			1 Peter 2: 1-5	Matthew 23: 23-28		
Tuesday May 23			2 Peter 3: 10-13	Mark 13: 32-37		
Wednesday May 24			Ephesians 5: 1-5	John 15: 11-17		
Thursday May 25	Ascension of the Lord		Acts 1: 6-11	Luke 24: 44-53		
Friday May 26			Philippians 3: 12-15	John 3: 31-36		
Saturday May 27			1 Corinthians 7: 32-35	Matthew 3: 7-12		
Sunday May 28	7th Sunday of Resurrection	Isaiah 6:1-13	Phil 2: 1-11	Mark 16: 14-20		
Monday May 29			2 Thessalonians 2: 13-17	John 4: 3-15		
Tuesday May 30			1 Corinthians 8: 8-13	Luke 12: 13-21		
Wednesday May 31	The Visitation of Mary		1 John 4: 12-21	John 17: 1-5		

## SAINTS OF THE MONTH

## OUR LADY OF FATIMA: **MOTHER MARY**

By Sara Venginickal



Mother Mary appeared to three children on the 13th of each month for six months at Fatima, Portugal from May 13- October 13, 1917. When Our Lady of Fatima first appeared to Jacinta Marto, Franciso Marto, and their cousin Lucia Santos they were scared but Our Lady said "Do not be afraid, I will not harm you." Our Lady performed the miracle of the sun, when the sun started changing color and spinning which was witnessed by thousands of people. Our Lady encourages all of us to be faithful and pray the rosary daily.

## MARY MAGDALENE: **THE FIRST WITNESS**

By Jerome Mathew



Mary Magdalene was born in Magdala, Israel and died in Ephesus, Turkey. Since she was the first to see Christ resurrected, she is what people consider to be the first witness. In the Bible, we read that when she came across the empty tomb and not finding Jesus, started weeping outside the tomb. A man later appears to her, asking why she was weeping—that man turned out to be Jesus. Earlier in the Bible, she is known as the sinner who anointed Jesus' feet with perfume and wiped them with her hair.

#### **WARD PRAYERS - MAY 2017**

Please contact Ward Representatives to host Ward Prayers at your home. Also watch for e-mail notifications for any schedule changes.

WARD	DAY/TIME	HOSTING FAMILY	
St. Joseph	May 6 at 7:00 pm	Mr. Babu and Mrs. Susan Thomas	
St. Thomas	May 12 at 7:00 pm	Mr. Jose and Mrs. Saija Chirayath	
St. Jude	May 19 at 7:00 pm	Mr. Siju and Mrs. Raji Sebastian	
St. Mary	May 26 at 7:00 pm	Mr. James and Mrs. Gracy Thomas	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!					
May 3	Joshua Sebastian	May 18			
May 5	Cristine Anto	May 29			
May 6	Kaitlyan Mathew	May 30			
May 12	Mathew Sebastian	May 31			
May 13	Michael Sebastian	May 31			
	May 3 May 5 May 6 May 12	May 3 Joshua Sebastian  May 5 Cristine Anto  May 6 Kaitlyan Mathew  May 12 Mathew Sebastian			



MAY 1 ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER



MAY 6 ST. DOMINIC SAVIO



MAY 13 Our lady of fatima



MAY 22 ST. RITA



MAY 30 ST. JOAN OF ARC

### FAITH CORNER | TISON THOMAS

### The Holy Priesthood and Holy Thursday

The Bible presents to us in Exodus Chapter 30 the ordination ceremony of the first priest Aron, with the washing of feet. In this chapter we learn how Aron the older brother of Moses and the firstborn son of each generation of Aron's lineage were dedicated in a special anointing ceremony as high priests. The ceremony of Aron started with the washing of the feet. We can see such a similarity in what Jesus did during His Last Supper. Jesus' washing of the feet must be understood by looking from this perspective as well. The consecration ceremony started with the washing of the feet, similar to what we read in Exodus Chapter 30. Jesus the true High Priest, washing the feet of His disciples consecrate the Apostles during Last Supper and prepared them and taught them how to offer His Body and Blood to His people in atonement of the sins, instead of the lamb or food offerings

- the very first Holy Qurbana. Jesus' washing of feet is a culmination of His attitude - humility, leadership, mercy, and love. Jesus also calls us to participate in the Holy Qurbana with such fervor.

The gospel mystifies this event of Last Supper by having Jesus given the command to His newly ordained priests, "Do this in remembrance of Me." What does this mean? In Greek, "Do" also means "offer" - which means, lesus is asking the Apostles to "offer" His Body and Blood in atonement of our sins, so we all can have eternal life with God. A clear authority and blessing. Since this consecration ceremony the Catholic Church can trace back its authority of priesthood to the upper room. Every Catholic priest's lineage can be traced back to the anointing of Jesus's first priests, the apostles, and to the upper room.

#### Volunteering at Our Parish

All church volunteers are required to submit a volunteer application form, complete an online background check application, and take a Safe Environment Training (Protecting God's Children Awareness Program). If you haven't completed the requirements, please complete them as soon as possible. Please Note: In order to volunteer, you must complete the training program, background check and submit the volunteer application form.

#### **Church Registration**

The parish invites you to actively participate in our church activities. If you are not registered at this parish, please do so. Registration is necessary to participate in church activities and to receive sacraments. Registration form is on the notice board or you may request it from the Vicar or Kaikarans. Please complete it and return to the Kaikarans.

# Prayer to St. Joseph of Cupertino for Success in Examination

O Great St. Joseph of Cupertino who while on earth did obtain from God the grace to be asked at your examination only the questions you knew, obtain for me a like favor in the examinations for which I am now preparing. In return I promise to make you known and cause you to be invoked. Through Christ our Lord. St. Joseph of Cupertino, Pray for us.

Amen.

#### **Women's Forum**

Mother's Day celebration will be held on May 14th. Anyone interested to participate, please contact Bindu Johnson or Solly Rajan.

## CCD CLASSES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Adoration by class every Sunday at 11:00 am.
- English Holy Qurbana for each class

   Started on April 16, 2017, each
   English Qurbana will be dedicated
   for two CCD classes. The children
   from those classes will lead the
   Karozuza, Altar Serving, Ushering,
   Presentation of Gifts, and Bible
   Reading.

## The following classes are scheduled for English Qurbana:

- Sunday May 7 Grades 6 & 7
- Sunday May 14 Grades 4 & 5
- Sunday May 21 All grades

## CCD Registration for 2017-2018 Calendar Year

Please submit the registration form before May 21. Registration form submitted after May 21 will have an additional \$10 for each child.

Solemn Holy Communion Classes Solemn Holy Communion will be offered for 2018. Solemn Holy Communion is for children who are in 4th grade and up. 2017-2018 Classes for receiving the Sacrament will start in September.

Please let Mr. Tison Thomas know if your child is interested.

#### **Upcoming Important Dates**

- Bible Quiz Competition, Coloring & Bible Verses - May 7, 2017
- Final Exam and last day of CCD classes - May 21, 2017. Chapters 8-15 and questions are open ended
- CCD picnic and cook out June 3, 2017
- Graduation Day and Distribution of Certificates/gifts – June 4, 2017

Please contact Mr. Tison Thomas, CCD Principal, if you have any questions.

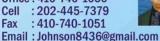


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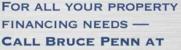
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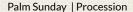




DROP BEFORE CHURCH • PICK UP AFTER CHURCH

### **HOLY WEEK IN PICTURES**







Holy Thursday | Washing of the feet



Good Friday | Crucifixion



Easter Vigil | Holy Mass

#### **EDITORIAL BOARD**

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