



Introduction

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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SMJH NEWS



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Dearly beloved brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ,

We welcome the New Year with new hopes... especially when we go through a pandemic period. The month of January takes its name from Roman god Janus. He is the god of opening or beginnings. He is a god with two heads, one turning forward and the other turning backward. Naturally two of his eyes look forward to what is ahead and the other two eyes take a glance of what is behind. When we look back, it was truly a miserable year, so bad for the entire planet.

"It was an epically bad year. In our nearly 250 year history as a country, this was probably one of the two or three worst", a historian Ted, a professor at CUNY's said. He said 1861 and 1929 were potentially worse, but 2020 was right up there in terms of illness. When the bell rings to close 2020, about one and a half million lives have been taken away from this planet, due to CORONAVIRUS. As many of our people say, "It's been the craziest year of my life." But we look forward to COVID vaccines for CORONAVIRUS. With two eyes, we look forward with hope and retrospection. Even if we were going through a pandemic situation, The New Year is to remember with gratitude all the blessings God showered upon us. We hear David exclaim: "Bless the Lord, O! my soul and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O! my soul and forget not all His benefits". Memories of the blessings received will raise new hopes about the future. Let us also look forward to take a pledge to take up the responsibilities and opportunities that arise and to face everything optimistically.

Wish you all a blessed New Year.

Yours in His service,
Lovingly,
John Thomas Achen



Important Church Dates



- Jan. 1st: Feast of St. Basil and St. Gregory the Theologian
- Jan. 2nd: St. John the Apostle and Evangelist
- Jan. 6th: Danaha (Epiphany of our Lord)
- Jan. 10th: St. Gregory of Nyssa
- Jan. 25th: Nineveh lent begins
- Jan. 26th: In memory of Mathews Mar Coorilos Bava (aka Angel Bava)
- Jan. 28th: Nineveh lent ends (18-day countdown to Great Lent begins)
- Jan. 31st: In memory of all the departed clergies

English Qurbana Date : January 16th



The Nineveh Fast commemorates the three days that Jonah spent in the belly of the fish and the repentance of his city.



Upcoming Events



Children's Day!
 All programs to be given to the coordinators - Amrita Roy and Shari Jacob - by Jan. 15th.
 Our scheduled date for the virtual program to go on air is Feb. 7th.

Message from the Youth Leaders

Hello Everyone,
 Happy New Year and we hope everyone is safe! We understand it has been a difficult one for many of our church members, but let us go into this new year with high hopes. We can use 2021 to better ourselves and each other with the love of the Father. We also want to thank the previous youth leaders, Vice President Ryan Jose, Secretary Roshen John, and Treasurer Josiah George, for encouraging active participation and their continuous event planning within the church especially during a difficult year. For this upcoming year, we have many zoom events including the game nights, movie nights and fellowship meetings, which we can use to get closer as a youth and with our God. We are also very open to suggestions from the youth to have a better experience with each other. We give a warm welcome to the new youth members. If you have any questions or simply want to talk to somebody you can contact any of the youth leaders, we will try our best to make everyone feel welcome and help those who need it.

Love,
 The Youth Leaders





January's Gospel Readings

The Second Sunday After Christmas (1/3) - St. Matthew 2: 19-23

Joseph is commanded by an angel in his dream to bring Jesus and Mary to the land of Isreal upon the death of King Herod.

The First Sunday after Epiphany (1/10) - St. Matthew 4: 12-22

Jesus Christ starts his ministry upon the imprisonment of St John the Baptist. Christ's mission was to attract people to the "Kingdom of Heaven" through repentance.

The Second Sunday after Epiphany (1/17) - St. John 1:43-51

Jesus searches for faithful disciples who would take over leadership after Christ completes his mission. Christ's response to those who doubted his mission was "Come and See". Jesus is proclaimed as the "Son of God" and "King of Israel".

The Third Sunday after Epiphany (1/24) - St. John 3: 1-12

Through his early ministry, Christ reveals that we must be "born again" to enter the eternal "Kingdom of God". The "new birth" depicts our union with Christ through the water of baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit through chrismation. This "new birth" is necessary to enter the "Kingdom of God".

Remembering the Departed Priests (1/31) - St. Matthew 24: 42:51

Jesus is talking to his disciples and gives them a parable of the returning master. Christ's purpose with this parable is for us to watch, be ready, and vigilant by following his commandments as well as purifying ourselves through repentance in preparation to receive the Lord.

Special thanks to:

- President: Rev. Fr. John Thomas
- Church Leaders:
 - Secretary: Mr. Monzy Mani
 - Treasurer: Mr Geevarghese Jacob
- Youth Senior Advisors: Blessy Tharian & Tharun Eapen

- Editors: Michael Mani & Ryan Jose
- Youth Leaders:
 - Vice President: Alvin Cherian
 - Secretary: Emma Joseph
 - Treasurer: Alex Mani

Danaha (1/6)
 Also known as the
 Theophany, it →
 commemorates the baptism
 of our Lord Jesus Christ and
 marks the beginning of his
 public ministry.

Zoom Links

- EVENING PRAYER:**
 SATURDAYS AT 6:15 PM MEDITATION &
 6:30 PM PRAYER
 DIAL +16465588656
 MEETING ID: 841 6201 2423
 ENTER # FOR PARTICIPANT
- SUNDAY SCHOOL GENERAL SESSION**
 (RESUME JAN. 9TH):
 SATURDAYS AT 5:30 PM
[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/83091421672](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83091421672)
 MEETING ID: 830 9142 1672
 PASSCODE: 935461
- YOUTH BIBLE STUDY:**
 (FRIDAY JAN. 15TH @ 6:30PM)
[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/82561969617](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82561969617)

Prayer Requests

For the well-being of our church and community

(Please let a Church leader know if you would like a prayer request)

