



Introduction

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

VOL. 1 ISSUE 3 · MAR 2021

SMJH YOUTH NEWS



March 2021 Issue:

Introduction

PAGE 01

Important Church Dates

PAGE 02

Upcoming Events

PAGE 02

English Qurbana Date

PAGE 02

Prayer Requests
& Zoom Links

PAGE 03

This Month's Gospel
Readings

PAGE 03

Dearly beloved brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ,

We started the 50 days Lent on 15th February. Our parish gives much importance for prayers on these days. Since it is virtual, it is easy for us to arrange virtual prayers and meditations. We have virtual evening prayers every day. I'm happy that the youth initiated the prayers in English on Fridays and it is going well. In fasting, we voluntarily forgo certain meals and certain items of food, as well as give up some of the usual activities in life. This abstention is possible to be undertaken with joy; when we have a sense of detachment to many things like food, physical pleasures, and so on. When we abstain from certain food and other dispensable things of life, it should be set apart for the benefit of helping others in need.

I have noticed many of our children were reluctant to observe lent., but they learned from their colleagues coming from Byzantine church backgrounds and Coptic church backgrounds in their classes and campus. Even parents followed it from their own children. Fasting was a practice among the Jews. The Church must have taken over fasting from them, with a new meaning. Please refer to St. Matthew chapter 9:14 - 17. In other words, fasting in the Church is related to faith in Jesus Christ and His Gospel.

When we look at Lent, Lenten fasting has traditionally been about food. Avoid a heavy diet and give alms. But the main part of the lent is of course prayer. Prayer not only sustains our own hope, but it has powerful world-changing effects far beyond our sphere. At this epidemic period, we have to humble ourselves to the Creator and ask for the complete eradication of the CORONA - 19 virus. We have to pray for the peace of the world and the Church.

Let us continue our Lenten journey to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. (April 4, 2021)

With greetings and prayers

Sincerely,

John Thomas Achen

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Important Church Dates

- Mar. 7th: 4th Sunday of Great Lent
Canaanite Woman (Knanaitho)
- Mar. 10th: Mid-Lent
- Mar. 14th: 5th Sunday of Great Lent
Bent Woman (Kpiptho)
- Mar. 21st: 6th Sunday of Great Lent
Blind Man (Samiyo)/ Catholicate Day
- Mar. 25th: Annunciation to Virgin Mary (**Suboro**)
- Mar. 26th: 40th Day of Lent
- Mar. 27th: **Lazarus Saturday** - Lazarus raised from the grave after being dead for 4 days.
- Mar. 28th: **Hosanna/Palm Sunday**

English Qurbana Date : March 14th

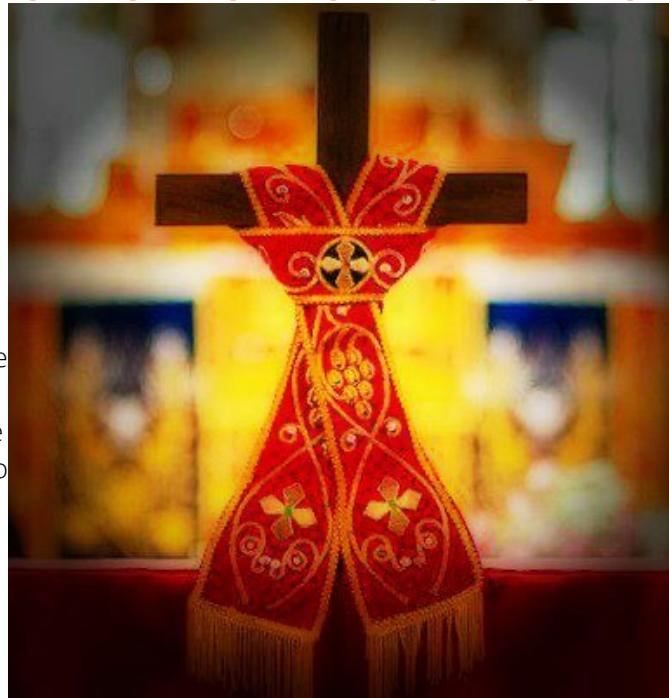
Upcoming Events

- MARCH 10TH: MID-LENT QURBANA
- MARCH 13TH: YOUTH RETREAT
- MARCH 14TH: ENGLISH QURBANA
- MARCH 20TH: SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS' CONFERENCE (10AM-12PM)
- MARCH 20TH: CHURCH RETREAT
- MARCH 24TH: QURBANA TO CELEBRATE THE ANNUNCIATION TO VIRGIN MARY
- MARCH 31ST: QURBANA TO CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF PASSOVER



Middle of Lent

The 25th Day of the Great Lent which always falls on a Wednesday is known as Mid-Lent. The service is comprised of a procession around the church with the carrying of the Cross followed by the Exaltation of the Cross. This service is linked to the Gospel reading taken from John 3: 14-15. "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." Moses lifted up the servant so that those who are bitten by the serpent may have their lives back. As we move towards the middle of the lent, we must turn to the cross and repent to gain eternal life.

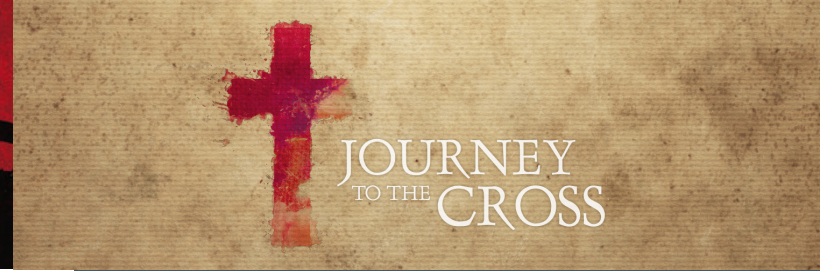


Message from the Youth Leaders

Hello Everyone,

We are hoping that everyone is doing well throughout the beginning of this new year! Our 50 day lent has begun and we are working our way towards the mid-lent on the eleventh. This month we will be having our Lenten Retreat which will be held over zoom on March 13th. Rev Fr. Dr. Timothy (Tenny) Thomas will be going over the theme- Overcoming Stress & Anxieties from Romans 8:38-39- and we should aim to receive a large attendance from us youth members. We encourage feedback from the youth to have a better overall experience in each of our meetings. Also, if you ever need someone to talk to about something going on in your life, you can contact any of the youth leaders through GroupMe or WhatsApp.

Sincerely,
The Youth Leaders



March Gospel Readings

4th Sunday of The Great Lent (Canaanite Woman) (3/7) - St. Matthew 15: 21-31

Jesus heals the daughter of a Canaanite woman who was possessed by a demon. This passage shows Christ's salvation and healing are not only limited to Jews but to all.

Mid-Lent (25th day of the Great Lent) (3/10) - St. John 3: 13-21

5th Sunday of The Great Lent (Bent Woman) (3/14) - St. Luke 13: 10-17

Jesus heals a crippled woman on Sabbath. According to the Jewish tradition, healing was considered work and thus was not permissible on Sabbath.

6th Sunday of The Great Lent (Blind Man) (3/21) - St. John 9: 1-41

Jesus heals a person who has been blind from birth. The blind man symbolizes all of humanity and his healing confirms that Christ is "the light of the world" and is an illustration of baptism.

Annunciation to Virgin Mary (3/25) - St. Luke 1:26-38

This is when Mary was given the assurance of God's plan (birth of Christ) by Angel Gabriel.

Hosanna/Palm Sunday (3/28) - St. John 12:12-19

Palm Sunday is celebrated as Christ's Triumphal entry on a donkey into Jerusalem with palm leaves. This entrance into the Holy City declares the establishment of the Kingdom of God. The palm trees symbolize Christ's victory over the devil and death.

Palm Sunday

On Sunday, five days before the Passover of the Law, the Lord came from Bethany to Jerusalem. Sending two of His disciples to bring Him a donkey, He sat thereon and entered into the city. When the multitude there heard that Jesus was coming, they straightway took up the branches of palm trees in their hands and went to meet Him. Others spread their garments on the ground, and yet others cut branches from the trees and strewed them in the way that Jesus was to pass; and all of them together, especially the children, went before and after Him, crying out: "Hosanna: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel" (John 12:13). This is the radiant and glorious festival of our Lord's entry into Jerusalem.



Zoom Links

LENTEN EVENING PRAYER:

SUN - FRI 7-8PM

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

SATURDAYS AT 5:30 PM

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/83091421672](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83091421672)

MEETING ID: 830 9142 1672

PASSCODE: 935461

LENTEN RETREAT:

FRIDAY MAR 13TH @ 11AM

(ZOOM LINK WILL BE SENT VIA GROUPME/WHATSAPP)

Prayer Requests

For the well-being of our church and community:

His Holiness Mar Baselios Marthoma Paulose II

Rev. Fr Geevarghese (Bobby) Varghese

The church mourns the loss of our church friend

Joyan Kumarakom

Keeping the family in our prayers.

Special thanks to:

Editors:

Michael Mani & Ryan Jose

Youth Leaders:

- Vice President: Alvin Cherian

- Secretary: Emma Joseph

- Treasurer: Alex Mani

President: Rev. Fr. John Thomas

Church Leaders:

- Secretary: Mr. Monzy Mani

- Treasurer: Mr. Geevarghese Jacob

- Youth Senior Advisors:

Blessy Tharian & Tharun Eapen