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Seasonal Greetings By Fr. George Pulikkottil

A monthly bulletin for the parish can be helpful in the following ways: serving as a handbook for our spiritual life, highlighting the liturgical importance of the periods like Lents, Fasts and Feasts, reminding the parish of the activities of its spiritual organizations and social welfare projects, informing its members of news and projects from the diocese and Catholicate office, and discussing ideological issues and challenges that the Church may face from time to time. Yes, the aspects and possibilities are far and wide. Though we have a very good internet web-page, thank God and the web-master, we may not be able to go each and every occasion to its details. But through just keeping this bulletin on our drawing-room table will call our attention to parish programs. This is the purpose of this bulletin.

The month June, in secular history, is named for the Roman Goddess Juno, wife of Jupiter. Juno is the equivalent of the Greeks' Hera, queen (Regina) of the Gods.

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05. Third Sunday after Pentecost.

Christy and Sunil's wedding.

09. Binu Achen leaves for India.

10. MGOCSM Friday Night 7.00PM.

11 OVBS Training camp at Detroit.

12. Fourth Sunday after Pentecost.

Marthamariam Samajam Bible Study

16. Apostles' Fast begins.

18 Sunday School Teachers Meeting.

Marthamariam Samajam

The motto of the Marthamariam Samajam is to Pray, Act, and Shine. The objective is to spiritually develop the women of our Church. Towards this, a monthly meeting was conducted on May 1 presided over by Binu Achen. The meeting also welcomed George Achen to our midst. A flower arrangement and handicraft sale was conducted on May 29 for raising funds to help the less fortunate. June programs include Bible study on Sunday, June 12 and monthly Meeting on Sunday, June 26.

Sunday School

Learning to Live the Life Sunday School program is to teach and facilitate the and become successful persons. The academic year 2004-2005 ends on June 12, 2005. The charity drive is expected to total \$1500.00 in this academic year. \$500.00 is earmarked for educating a boy and a girl from Bethel institution in India and \$1000.00 is to be given to Prerana Society in Nagpur, India. Our Teachers will be participating in the OVBS training camp which will be held at Detroit on June 11, 2005. Grades 5, 8 and 10 will be participating in the Centralized exams conducted by the Diocese on June 26, 2005. Review classes for the centralized exams will be conducted on June 12, 19 and 26 at 8.45 AM. The last Teachers Meeting for this academic year will be held on June 18, 2005.

Planning Ahead:

1. **Malayalam Classes** will be conducted during July and August 2005 on Sundays at 8:45a.m.
2. **OVBS** is scheduled to be conducted on July 22 and 23, 2005 at our Church.
3. **Sunday School classes** for academic year 2005-2006 will start on September 4, 2005.
4. **A Teachers' One Day Conference** is planned to be held on Sep 24, 2005 Saturday at our Church. Rev (Dr) Raju Varghese, Sunday School Director of the American Diocese will be the main speaker.

After months of preparation, the celebration of Binu Achen's five-year ministry took place on May 21, 2005. Good feelings and fond memories overflowed in the large gathering that assembled at St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Oak Park, IL. Members of many Chicagoland communities gathered to celebrate and honor the dedicated and compassionate service that Binu Achen provided over the last five years. It was a time to look back and savor the precious moments and valuable experiences that blessed the entire community, from the youngest to the oldest.

The night began with the Vespers Service led by Fr. MK Thomas, Fr. Paul Isaac, Fr. VM Abraham, Fr. Daniel George and Fr. George Pulikkottil. Following the Evening Prayer, the entire gathering joined together for dinner. At 7:00pm, the facilitators convened the meeting as presenters from the various organizations of the church and representatives from the Chicagoland communities spoke of and honored Binu Achen's valuable contributions to the Malayalee community. The program neared its conclusion with Binu Achen's address to the congregation as he thanked those who had helped and supported him in the last five years. The night was memorable; thanks to all those who participated and supported the program under the guidance of the Managing Committee. On behalf of the Gregorian Gazette, we wish Binu Achen all the best in his future endeavors and God's grace upon him as he serves God's Church. We will miss your infectious smile, your sense of humor, and your loving nature.



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The Latins and Greeks consider June as a month of new hopes. Hence they start new enterprises and institutions at this time of fortune. Juno is also a symbol of fertility and prosperity. In June, in Kerala, we have Monsoon season. A natural cleaning of land takes place, water reservoirs get filled and the land gets prepared for vegetation. One can easily see glimpses of new hope. The farmers start to sow and the kids (in Kerala) walk to schools for a new start of higher grades.

In the Church too the month June has her special meaning and importance. According to Church calendar, June comes in the fifth period, known as the Pentecostal period. The Church experiences the renewal power, charisma of the Holy Spirit. This is also the time of remembrance of the early developments of the Church. Virgin Mary, the mother of God, Apostles, Martyrs, Fathers and Mothers in Faith are specially remembered in this season.

The Apostles' Fast, also called the 13 day Fast, is observed from June 16 to 29. On 29th the Church celebrates the Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, the great leaders in Faith. The following day, June 30, is the Feast of all Apostles. Their witness through their self-less ministry and martyrdom is the strong citadel of the Church for all times. Being witnesses of the Charisma of Pentecost, we too should experience the Power of Resurrection like them. This is why we, as a witnessing and living Church, observe the Apostles' Fast.

Why do we observe this Fast thirteen days? **The twelve Apostles (excluding Judas Iscariot and including Mathias) and Paul, the Apostle of the Gentiles bring the number to thirteen.** The Gk. Term 'Apostle' means 'being sent'. They were commissioned and sent to the four corners of the world for spreading the Gospel of Christ. The Apostleship is thus given to the Church by the Holy Spirit. This is why we say; "we believe in One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church..." Out of this authority and virtue, the Church officiates and dispenses the Holy Sacraments. We should keep always in our mind that we are the apostles and ministers of the Church in given contexts. The Apostles' Fast is a great call and opportunity to redefine and dedicate our apostleship of Christ in Holy Spirit by the blessing of God the Father.

May the Triune God make us worthy and bless us to receive the real Charisma of Apostleship so that we as a parish and Church could join in the Feast of Holy Apostles toward the end of this lent season.

Kids for Christ youth ministry is a program established for the youth of St. Gregorios Orthodox Church to teach the importance of the traditions of the Orthodox faith and the Holy Sacraments while maintaining a strong fellowship bond between fellow youth. The KFC ministry is targeted towards the youth in order to better prepare them at a young age so that as they mature into adults they will have a strong foundation in the Orthodox church and be well equipped to pass on the traditions to others. KFC ministry would not work without the strong support of our Achens and parents. We ask that you continue to pray for this ministry so that it may grow to be beneficial to the new and present generation of our church. The next topic of study is the Nicene Creed.



Gregorian Gazette wholeheartedly welcomes *Reverend Father Pulikkottil* to the St. Gregorios Orthodox Church in Oak Park. joining our parish, George Achen served as Professor of Ecumenical and Comparative Religions at the Orthodox Seminaries in Nagpur and Kottayam. He earned his Doctorate in Theology from the **Fredric-Alexander-University, Erlangen-Nuremberg** in Germany. Also, George Achen's expertise in etymology and knowledge of Sanskrit, German, Greek, Syriac, and English will be a valuable addition to our community's spiritual growth. We are excited to have such an accomplished thinker, writer, teacher, and spiritual leader to help in the mission of our parish and community.

Congratulations: We also congratulate *Rev. Dr. V M*

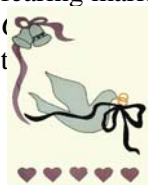
Abraham on earning his Doctor of Ministry degree from Chicago Theological Seminary.



Weddings: We wish the following couples a blessed and fulfilling married life:

Ajay and Ansarie Easo & Suni and

(names obscured). Please pray for them that God continues to bless them and their families and guide them in their journey.



MGOCSM : Summer Conference Registration has begun! The Conference will be held from August 4-7, 2005 at Taylor University with keynote speaker, Father Michael Dahulich, of St. Tikhon's Orthodox Seminary. Please contact Sibyl Thomas for registration and information.

Early Reg. by 6/12-\$140.
Final Reg. by 6/26-\$160.

Fundraising: Church Building Fund Drawing : Ticket sales are under full swing led by the Fundraising Committee and Convener. Special thanks to Fundraising Committee members who visited Detroit to sell tickets for the drawing on November 6, 2005.

5K Walk: The Youth Group is currently accepting volunteers to walk in the 5K track on June 24th on the city's lakeshore to raise funds for the church. We are accepting pledges per kilometer walked and looking for each walker to raise \$100. Please contact Sherene Panicker or Libu Yohannan for more information

Hey kids! This section is just for you. We will have fun games, trivia, puzzles, and prizes each month. Please ask us your questions, give us your suggestions, or submit pictures and poems to help us to make this a fun corner to visit!

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FACE 2 FACE

*Our youngest reporter,
Geoffery George,
interviewing Thomas Achen*

Geoffery: Why did you want to become a priest?

Achen: God encouraged me to become a priest.

G: Did you pick to be a priest in this church?

A: No, Barnabas Thirumeni asked me to serve here, so here I am.

G: Would you be famous?

A: No...

G: Were any of your ancestors priests?

A: Yes.

Question of the Month:

In your own words, what is an etymologist and do you know one at our church? Please submit your answers in the "Gregorian Gazette" Box in the Library by 6/19/05. If there is more than one winner, we will select one winner randomly. Contest is open to Sunday School children only.

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REV. DR. M.K THOMAS LIBRARY:

Our Church Library was established in 2002, for honoring our beloved Thomas Achen. The purpose of the library is to provide resources for education and spiritual enrichment of our parishioners. Our collection of books include books from India and US, books in English and Malayalam, and books covering a variety of topics, as well as audiovisual materials. Come and visit your library for a whole new learning experience!



Obituary

"Sabhakavi" Sri C. P. Chandy passed away on Wednesday 4th May 2005. Sri C. P. Chandy was the Heavenly Trumpet of Malankara. He translated most of the songs and liturgy from Syriac to Malayalam that we use in our services

If there are any omissions in this issue please bear with us. The assistance and co-operation of all members is sought to make this newsletter more professional. Any suggestions in this respect may be forwarded to info@gregoriangazette.com. All are welcome to submit articles, news, and events information to the Librarian, Editorial Board Members or by e-mail. The newsletter is to be published on a monthly basis and will be released in advance on the last Sunday of the preceding month. Please submit all articles by the second Sunday of the month. Any information pertaining to family events like baptism and marriage are welcome.

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