



Newsletter St. Ignatius Sunday School Carrollton, TX- 75006

Quarter 2,3, 2014



From the desk of the Clergy

Theophorus the God Bearer

St. Ignatius of Antioch, our patron saint, called himself Theophorus which means 'God Bearer'. A tradition arose that he was one of the children whom Jesus took in his arms and blessed.

His time witnessed severe persecution of Christians; Ignatius kept up the courage of his flock by daily preaching, by prayer and fasting. During that time Emperor Trajan ordered that Christian should die if they disobey to respect the Pagan Gods.

There is a legend that the Emperor Trajan examined the aged Bishop Ignatius in the year 115, with questions such as these:

"Who are you, 'spirit of evil', who dare disobey my orders and goad others on to their destruction?"

"No one calls Theophorus a spirit of evil," the bishop replied.

"Who is Theophorus?"

"He who bears Christ within him."

"And do we not bear within ourselves the gods who help us against our enemies?"

"You are mistaken when you call gods those who are no better than devils. There is but one God, who created heaven and earth and all that in them is; and one Jesus, made Christ, into whose kingdom I earnestly desire to be admitted."

nestly desire to be admitted."

"Do you mean Him who was crucified under Pontius Pilate?"

"Yes, the same, who by His death has crucified both sin and its author, and who has proclaimed that every malice of the devil shall be trodden underfoot by those who bear Him in their hearts."

"Do you then," asked the Emperor, "bear Christ within you?" "Yes," said Ignatius, "for it is written, 'I will dwell in them and will walk with them.'"

According to the legend, Trajan ruled that Ignatius should die.

St. Ignatius' welcomed martyrdom, as he firmly believed that martyrdom is the apex of Christian faith and ministry.

St. Ignatius martyrdom and his important contribution to the development of Church doctrine are remarkable in the nurturing of early Christian church.

Let the intercession of St. Ignatius, our patron saint, be a blessing and a fortress for our Sunday School Students!

**John Corepiscopa Achen,
Renjan Chemmachten
& Abin Chemmachten**



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A note from your HM

It is amazing how quickly this year is going so far. We are already half way thru October and before we know it, this academic year will be over. As the old saying goes, "Time and tide waits for no man". As we are all going on in our daily lives and working to succeed in life, it is very easy to forget our ultimate goal which is to enter the kingdom of heaven

If you are following the news, there are Christians who are being, killed, captured as slaves and sold to the highest bidder or ISIS soldiers. Christianity is being challenged even here in the USA where now prayers are stopped in schools and the words "Merry Christmas" were replaced with "Happy Holidays" just a few years back. Just recently there was a black mass honoring "Satan" in Oklahoma, which was an act of blasphemy.

So today, it is even more imperative that we all step up and truly walk proud as Christians, living a Christ-centered life and not taking our freedom for granted. As kids, start small with activities such as following your daily morning and evening prayers, coming early to Qurbana, truly taking part with the knowledge and heart that you are participating in an actual miracle. Always keep Christ in the center of your life, who will guide you as you face daily challenges

Take advantage of the Holy Sacrament of Confession as often as you can, in order to keep a Christ-centered life. You have been trained and already participated in full-fledged confession. Follow-up is needed; confession is not reserved for just once a year.

It is important to know that others can only attempt to tell you or teach you about Jesus Christ. But it is only when you have felt a *personal* connection with Christ that you will be able to truly experience and understand the greatest gift given to humanity. For instance, think of one of your friends telling you how great it is at Six Flags or Disneyland. You can see pictures, and try to relate if you have never been there before, but until you go there yourself, you won't know what it's truly like. It is a feeling that only you can experience!

From a Sunday School perspective, we have a number of fun events coming up, such as the local and regional competition, game day, visiting the food shelter, and more fun activities along with learning more about our faith in Sunday School. But the greatest joy for a Sunday school teacher is watching his/her students grow in knowledge of Christ and becoming more and more like Christ!

Jeeth Thomas

We're on the web!

www.stignatious.com/sundayschool.php

**Have any questions or concerns, please email
St.Ignatious.SundaySchool@gmail.com
or reach out to any Sunday School Staff**

Check out our Blogs which include Sunday
Lessons (Bible Reading & Devotional)

<http://stignatious.com/blogs/category/sschool/>

Easter Egg Hunt

April 20th, 2014



Simon Says...



Waiting for the hunt



We are ready..



Hunt begins..



Prize distribution



Volunteers

Vacation Bible School

July 7-11, 2014



VBS Participants



VBS Poster



Registration



Assembly led by the Youth

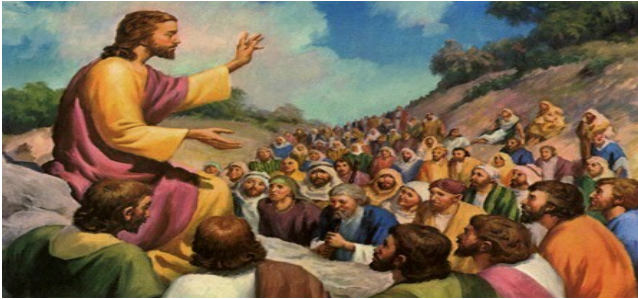


Crafts Session



Volunteers

Which trait of Jesus do you wish you could have... Why would you want that trait? What would you do if you had it?



Jesus had many wonderful character traits, such as love, compassion, and forgiveness, but the trait that I most wish I could have like Jesus is leadership. Leadership is important because it provides an inspirational figure to lead groups of people towards great accomplishments. A person's character is often revealed in actions, reactions, and the choices made under challenging circumstances. A leader is a person who makes decisions based on what is right, not what is popular.

The gospel of Mark begins by telling the reader some characteristics of Jesus as a leader. Jesus was not self-promoting, Jesus was obedient to the Holy Spirit, as detailed in Mark 1:12-13. "at once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him." He cast a vision, with clarity, simplicity, and directness. This was shown in his preaching and teaching. His ability to tell a truth through a simple parable was the foundation of all he did. For example, Jesus led people with sermons and prayers and one of his most famous sermons is The Sermon on the Mount.

As Jesus began his ministry he made it clear that there was a great power at work. In Matthew 3:13-15, the bible explains in more detail why Jesus began his ministry by not promoting himself but allowing John to be in charge. Matthew

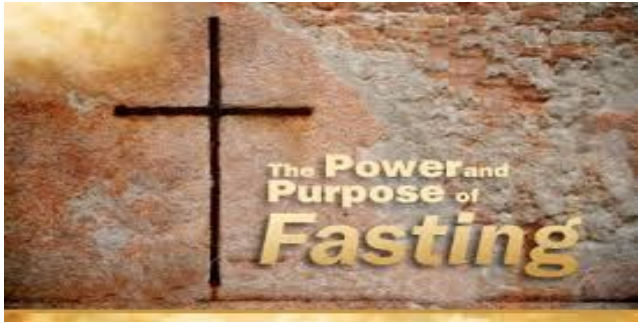
wrote: Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. The fact, that he placed himself under the care of John the Baptist to allow himself to be baptized also showed that Jesus was going to teach his followers that submission does not mean weakness. In fact, what he was displaying was the first expression in his ministry of what true leadership through servant-hood looked like.

Jesus was a strategic team builder. The first two men that Jesus called were fishermen, who were also brothers. Their names were Peter and Andrew. The next two recruits were friends of Peter and Andrew who were also fisherman. They were brothers whose names were James and John. The act of Christ in recruiting the first disciples is a lesson in how important it is for any leader to begin with people who share common traits and values. These four men did not have to explain themselves to one another, neither did they have to learn each other's backgrounds.

Jesus was a strong relationship builder. This strong foundation led to calling those of differing character. For example, Matthew the tax collector from Rome and Simon the Zealot. The differences of these two individuals show how Jesus can build relationships between very different people. Matthew worked in Rome in the collection of Roman taxes while Simon the Zealot was a strong Jewish nationalist. For Simon, the idea of paying taxes to Rome went against everything he believed. Simon probably hated Roman tax collectors with a passion. The bringing together of these two men showed the power of Jesus to merge diverse people together. It started with two sets of brothers that like fishing together, to drawing a tax collector and a Zealot.

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How Effective is Fasting in Orthodox Christian life?



Fasting is an effective and necessary practice in Orthodox Christian life. It helps you abstain from certain foods and is a useful way to limit your diet. However, fasting in the church is primarily done to become one with God spiritually. Through the two aspects of fasting, your life can change dramatically for good.

Maintaining a healthy stability within your body is a problem for many people nowadays. In our society, people always want to look their best in public, but that can be difficult at times. Fasting is a simple and convenient solution. It regulates your food intake so that you can be like the fit person you want to be!

Spiritually, fasting is supposed to help us not stray away as we walk in the path of God. In Hebrews 10:22, the Bible says for us to, “draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from all evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.” For us to be cleansed, we must fast and pray to realign ourselves with God. It is to be a humbling experience and can help you gather yourself through the troubles of life.

As Saint Nikolai of Zicha once said, “Gluttony makes a man gloomy and fearful, fasting makes him joyful and courageous. And, as gluttony call forth a greater and greater gluttony, so fasting stimulates a greater and greater endurance. When a man realizes the grace that comes through fasting, he desires more and more. And the graces that come through fasting are countless...”

Fasting is an essential aspect in Orthodox Christian life. It can result in physical benefits for your body, while also clearing your mind to be more in touch with the Lord. When you fast, you are only doing yourself a service that can positively impact your life.

Joshua Thomas
8th Grade

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There can be no doubt, or question, that Jesus Christ was the greatest of all leaders known to man. The biblical truths of his teachings and the pattern of his leadership are valuable to any leader. Our Messiah performed miracles, such as bringing Lazarus from the dead, healing the sick, and walking on water, and numerous other miracles. But without his leadership, the Christian faith would not have been organized and flourished throughout the development and growth of his Church.

My leadership, with Christ as a role model, could begin at home with my younger brother. For example, I could teach my younger brother the importance of studying the Bible. My leadership could further grow through being a leader on team projects at school, and later on in college and in my job. The leadership of Jesus Christ, as written in the Bible, would be my textbook for leadership throughout my life.

Gabe Skariah
7th Grade

Sunday School Volunteers at North Dallas Food Bank



Given the great enthusiasm from the Sunday School kids who were able to participate in the January volunteer program, they unanimously requested to have a follow-up volunteer program. The Sunday School teachers were truly humbled by their request and scheduled a follow up visit in May which also turned out very well. The Sunday school students, teachers and chaperones had a great turnout on May 3rd at the North Dallas Food bank to help sort cans for the needy. They started at 1PM and wrapped up at 3:30 PM in the afternoon. All the volunteers had a heartfelt experience and are looking forward to follow-up activities in the near future.

Sunday School Staff



Word Searches

Find and circle the search words in the puzzle grid. Spell out the hidden phrase with the leftover letters.

A BELOVED SON IS SENT

MARK 12:1-12

ANOTHER
BEAT
BELOVED
BUILDERS
CAST
CAUGHT
CORNER
COUNTRY
DESTROY
DIGGED
EMPTY
FRUIT

GIVE
HANDLED
HEAD
HEIR
HUSBANDMEN
INHERITANCE
KILL
LORD
OTHERS
PLANTED
RECEIVE

REJECTED
REVERENCE
SENT
SERVANT
SHAMEFULLY
STONE
TOWER
VINEYARD
WELL
WINEFAT
WOUNDED

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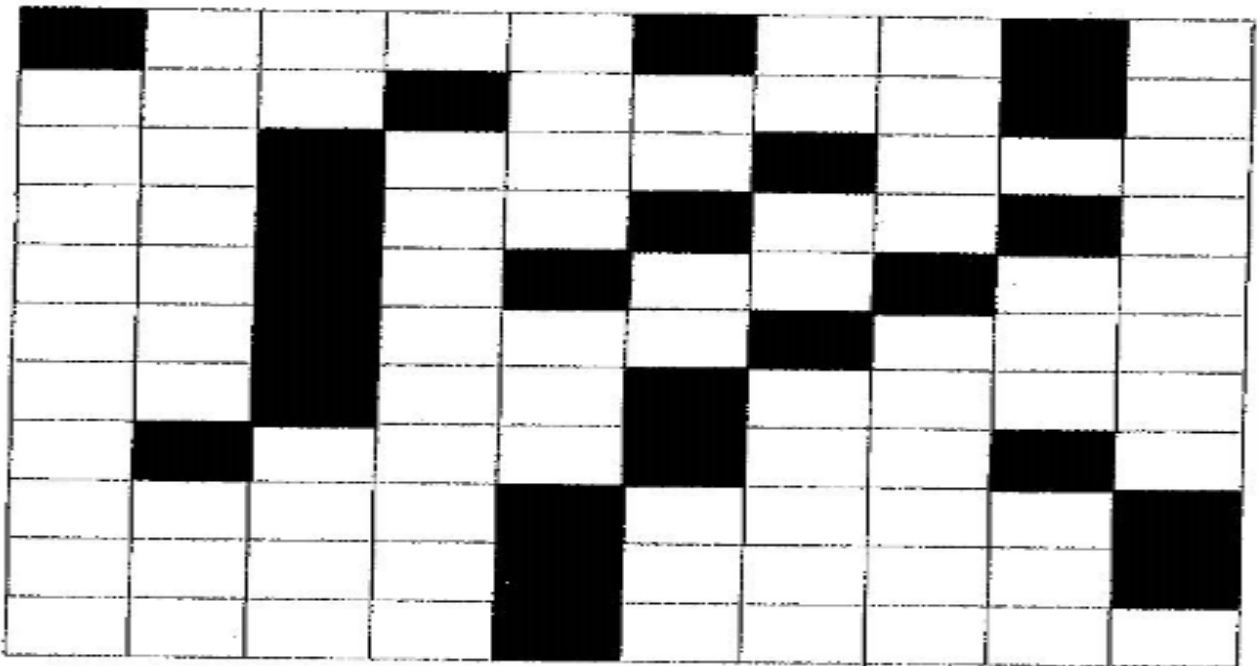
Hidden Phrase: _____

_____?

Bible Quotation Puzzles

Place the letter in each column in the following puzzle grid to form Words. The letters may or may not fit into the grid in the same order which they're given; black spaces indicate the ends of words. When a letter has been used, cross it off and do not use it again. When the grid has been properly filled in, you'll be able to read a Bible verse by scanning the lines of the grid from left to right.

MATTHEW 11:29



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Drop Two Puzzle

Remove two letters from each seven letter word in the left hand column to create a new five letter word (you may need to rearrange the remaining letters). Put the two dropped letters in the spaces to the right of the blanks. Then use these letters to spell out a phrase or sentence from the Bible.

2 CORINTHIANS

MEDICAL	Sticker	_____	1.	_____	_____
CLARIFY	Fragile	_____	2.	_____	_____
GLACIER	Understandable	_____	3.	_____	_____
PREMIER	Highest grade	_____	4.	_____	_____
ANGERED	Avarice	_____	5.	_____	_____
CHATTED	Abhorred	_____	6.	_____	_____
FEASTED	Help	_____	7.	_____	_____
SCORPIO	Marines	_____	8.	_____	_____
RESTFUL	Recorder	_____	9.	_____	_____
THERMOS	4-base hit	_____	10.	_____	_____
UNCOUTH	Nobleman	_____	11.	_____	_____
FEARING	Oats	_____	12.	_____	_____
FRAGILE	Holy cup	_____	13.	_____	_____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

Know Your Teachers...



Nina Abraham



Hi, my Name is Nina Abraham and I am the Kindergarten teacher. I have been teaching Kindergarten for the past 5 years. I am married to Saaju Paulose and we have two boys – Roshan (13) and Rohan (9). I work as a Financial Systems Manager for a construction company. I came to the US 15 years ago. I am from Puthencruz, Ernakulam. It has been an honor and privilege to be a part of the spiritual growth of our children.

Sini Paul



I am Sini Paul and currently serve as the primary teacher for 1st-grade. This is my second year of teaching in Sunday School and consider it as a great blessing to be a part in their spiritual life. I completed my Bachelors in Computer Science from Bharathiar University and Masters in Computer Application from Cochin University of Science and Technology. I got married to Aji Mathew and came to United States in 2000 and have been living in Dallas since then. We are blessed with two girls, Hannah and Serah. I am in the software profession and currently employed with HP Enterprise services. I love music, movies and spending time with my family and friends.

Ruby Kurian



My name is Ruby Kurian and I currently serve as the secondary teacher for 3rd grade. I am from Niranam and was a member of St. Mary's Orthodox Church, Niranam. I came to USA (New York) in 1986 along with my parents. While attending a graduate program in Clinical Nutrition at NYIT, I accepted a job with the New York State Health Department and worked as a Clinical Dietitian until I relocated to Dallas in 1997.

I am married to Jose Kurian and I am the mother of Mathew, Mariam and Martin. I have been a full time mom since 2004 after resigning the job I had with City of Dallas as a Public Health Nutritionist.

It is not only an Honor to teach these little kids on Sunday but also a very fulfilling line of work because I am serving God through these children.

Know Your Teachers...



Shiji Jacob



My name is Shiji Jacob and I have been living in the DFW area for the past 15 years. I am from Pampady (Kottayam). I live in Keller with my husband Biju Thomas and our two children Joshua and Jeanette. I am an IT professional. I enjoy music, watching movies and spending time with family and friends.

I started teaching Sunday School in 2008. I had the privilege to teach 1st grade last year and now I am with 6th grade. I consider it as an honor to be a part of our Sunday School.. I believe that God brings us into the lives of others so that we can be difference-makers in their lives. I hope I can make a positive impact on the kids I am teaching.

Sunday School Staff

<u>President</u>	<u>Headmaster</u>	<u>Assnt. Headmistress</u>	<u>Adviser</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
V. Rev John Varghese	Jeeth Thomas	Mini Mammen	Dn. Dr. Renjan	Jolly Kuriakose

<u>Pre-K</u>	<u>Kindergarten</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>
Asha Reji	Nina Abraham	Sini Paul	Ciney Skariah	Seena Abraham	Gigi Paul	Simi George
Babitha Mar-kose	Deepthy Zachariah	Jamie Thomas	Nimmy Abraham	Ruby Kurian	Priya Varghese	Angela Abraham

<u>6th</u>	<u>7th</u>	<u>8th</u>	<u>9th</u>	<u>11th</u>	<u>12th</u>	<u>Substitute</u>
Shiji Jacob	Binoi Skariah	Emily Mathew	Ashley Mathew	Binu Aramath	Paul Reji	Stacey Ninan
Anu Abraham	Alisha Paul	Dona Padanilam	Josh Mammen	Babu Mathew	P. C. Varghese	



SUNDAY SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS

2014—2015

August 2014:

- ◆ Sunday School Retreat and Confession before Opening
- ◆ Sunday School Reopening

October 2014:

- ◆ No Sunday School the week before the Church Anniversary Program for the Teachers/Students to use the time to prepare the kids for the programs from Sunday School
- ◆ St. Ignatious Perunnal (No Sunday School)

November 2014:

- ◆ November 1st: Local Sunday School competition
- ◆ November 22nd: Regional Sunday School Competition

December 2014:

- ◆ If all classes are on track & no weather classes makeup needed, December 21st & December 28th will be Winter Holidays Dates where we will not have Sunday School
- ◆ Teacher Team Event

January 2015:

- ◆ January 4th: Sunday School Reopening
- ◆ January 11th: Review for Midterm
- ◆ January 18th: Midterm Exam
- ◆ Teacher Training

March 2015:

- ◆ March 29th Palm Sunday - No Sunday School

April 2015:

- ◆ April 5: Easter - No Sunday School

May 2015:

- ◆ May 3rd- Final Exam for Sunday School
- ◆ May 10th - Dessert Day and Last Day of Sunday School

Note: All Dates Subject to change depending on circumstances in the future.



We're on the web!

www.stignatious.com/sundayschool.php

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<http://stignatious.com/blogs/category/sschool/>

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St.Ignatious.sundayschool@gmail.com
 or reach out to any of the Sunday School Staff*

