



Newsletter
St. Ignatius Sunday School
Carrollton, TX - 75006
Quarter 1, 2 2017



From the desk of the Clergy



New year is the time for a fresh beginning. Many of us make new year resolutions. Resolutions are a firm decision to do or not to do something. This new year is also a time to reflect and think about what the past year has brought and what the new year could bring.

We need to ask questions like "Who am I, what am I doing with my life? What should I be doing as a child of God with my life God has given me?"

We are inviting you to have a fresh and different look at new year resolutions!

In 2017, be sure to LIE, CHEAT, DRINK, SWEAR and STEAL more than you did last year!

LIE back and be cool, just a little more this year. Slow-down, let a little more life happen to you without so much worries and stress.

CHEAT failures. Do not be afraid to try something new because you think you may fail. It is through failures that we are learning the most valuable lessons.

DRINK from the fountain of knowledge. Look around, many have already been down roads you are about to travel. Learn from the mistakes they have made. Take what they have learned and use it. Be wise and pray for wisdom. Wisdom is the gift of God; it is not just information or knowledge about something.

SWEAR to do your best. All the time, in every situation.

STEAL a little time for God. Everyday take a little more time to strengthen your relationship with God. Read from the word of God, pray at least in the morning and evening, and spend silent time with God.

If you lie, cheat, drink, swear and steal just a little more, you will have a blessed and enjoyable year ahead! God, bless you!

O Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, we are your children, help us to live this year in a way that will be pleasing to you. Amen.

Rev Fr Sajan T. John,
Rev Fr. Dr. Renjan Mathew &
Rev Dn Dr. Abin Puravath

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A note from your HM

'1-2-3 Go' is a phrase anyone who has taken up a challenge has heard growing up. By nature we are all so driven to compete & win, and as we are growing up we find our strengths and weakness. If we don't receive enough training or practice we fall way behind and the phrase '1-2-3 Go' becomes a scenario we dread versus look forward to.

Our faith and connection to God given that fact that it is not a competition but rather a constant area that we find ourselves trying to grow & improve upon. Just take a look at the spiritual growth you have achieved in the 2016-2017 Sunday School academic year. If you do a true self examination you can assess how much you are truly growing, and also before it is too late reach out to your parents and our church to help you train properly so that you don't loose all the great opportunities in front of you.

There are two surveys you filled out at the year end, where the first one provided feedback to the Sunday School staff and the second to assess your spiritual growth. Your feedback has been very valuable in the

past where we have implemented changes solely based on your valuable input. The second survey is to follow up on the initial survey given before lent to help identify the gaps in your spiritual life and make the necessary corrections whether at home or personally.

Understanding Qurbana, regular confession, daily Bible reading and prayers are all there for one purpose, which is to keep us connected and grow closer to God. As we have reminded you, the 2nd coming is the time for judgment similar to how the priest comes counter clockwise during the final procession reminding us of the day of Judgment where we will all be judged on our deeds.

Now that summer vacation is almost at the corner, don't forget to start practicing for the Local Competition which has been scheduled for Saturday, September 9th at our church. You have worked really hard this year and on behalf of all the Sunday School staff members, I would like you all to really enjoy your summer vacation by making some great memories and utilizing your downtime to adjust your behavioral patterns so you can truly work to get more closer to God.

Jeeth Thomas

Have any questions or concerns, please email
St.Ignatious.SundaySchool@gmail.com

Check out our Blogs which include Sunday Lections (Bible Reading & Devotional)
<http://stignatious.com/blogs/category/sschool/>

We're on the web!
www.stignatious.com/sundayschool.php

10th Grade Centralized Exam Winner!

Congratulations to Jacob Thomas for winning the Third place in the American Archdiocese . We are so proud of you!!!



Congratulations to all 10th graders for 100% success in the exam

Ultimate Faith



“Then Jesus told his disciples,” “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” Matthew 16:24. This Bible verse beholds the true meaning of what a Christian should be, which is following the path of Christ. Different people have distinctive things that define them and make them into the individuals they are today. Something that differentiates us as Christians is our faith, because it affects our personality and decisions on a daily basis. That could be helpful, because in the real world, there are many hurdles and traps in our path that will make us lose our unbreakable connections with God, and prevent us from achieving eternal salvation, but we must avoid those obstacles by praying daily and participating in activities in church. Attending church or other daily prayers is not the only clarification of being a Christian, because being a Christian’s means being kind to people and being sympathetic with the pain of others as your own.

Every single person have their thoughts and beliefs on certain things and that affects how they act. We as Christians can differentiate on what is right and wrong, based on our belief on the Bible. Understanding the Bible instills humanity in us. The Bible teaches us to be respectful of our elders, parents, teachers and priests. In Hebrews 11:1 says “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see”. We can relate to this in the real world whenever we crave for something we have faith that we will have it.

As humans we have work or school to attend every day and often we come across peers who doubt our faith and question our belief. Science can help explain evolution and prolong life through medical practices. However, no human being can explain what a life really is and the essence of a human being. Our belief is the fact that we believe in an ultimate power who watches over us and protects us. We are his beloved beings. Faith gives us hope and in the most devastating of situations the only thing that has helped people survive is our faith. We show other people what Christianity is and what it means to be a Christian by our actions. Jesus is the light and love of the world. Through him we treat others with kindness and help the unfortunate and most of all forgive. Being kind doesn’t have to do with donating a bunch a money instead helping an elderly woman cross the street or even just sharing your lunch with someone who can’t afford food. Through our actions we follow in the footsteps of Christ and others will witness Christ in you.

In conclusion, faith is confidence in what we believe in if we believe in evil or good. You could easily get distracted in the real world and lose your connection with God. That’s why we attend church on Sunday and pray daily so that we don’t lose our connection and in-

By Basil Baby

7th Grade Student



Regional & Local Competition 2016 - Individual Champions



**Dueul Zachariah
KG Regional & Local Champion**



**Isabel Aramath
KG Regional Champion**



**Naithan Mathew- Primary
(Local)**



**Riya Thomas
Sub-Junior (Local)**



**Hannah Mathew
Junior (Local)**

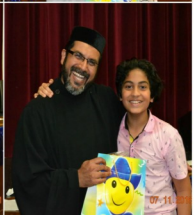


**Reshma Philipose
Intermediate (Local)**



**Jacob Thomas
Senior (Local)**

VBS 2016



Student/Teacher Retreat



Anniversary Programs from Sunday School 2016



Ragan's Hope Charity

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Ragan's HOPE is committed to helping parents of children with catastrophic illnesses or injuries endure the initial impact and embrace the future by providing financial, emotional and spiritual support, in the name of Christ.

Our Sunday school families provided 65 shoebox-sized bins of toys and gifts for children, and their siblings in the Dallas area with serious health problems. The children ranged from 2 months to 16 years of age. The children we supported suffered from a wide range of conditions from extremely low birth weight, autism, Down's Syndrome, Cancer, severe burns, and a variety of other serious diseases and health issues.

A few teachers and Sunday school parents helped deliver packages on the weekend before Easter to families in the local area. This service project was a great experience for our kids and parents to experience true giving and to demonstrate Christian charity and compassion this Easter. We are thankful to all the families who supported this very worthy cause on behalf of our Church in the name of Jesus Christ.

<https://raganshope.org/>



Preservation of Faith



History will most likely look back on our generation as not very spiritual. Today, our generation is distracted by so many materialistic things, such as smartphones, the internet, and television, in which misuse further separates us from God. At Christmas time, we tend to think about what we're getting for Christmas, how many parties we are going to, etc. The central purpose of Christmas is to reflect on our relationship with God, and how we can strengthen it. Preserving our faith on Sunday is easy, but keeping it throughout the entire week is much more challenging.

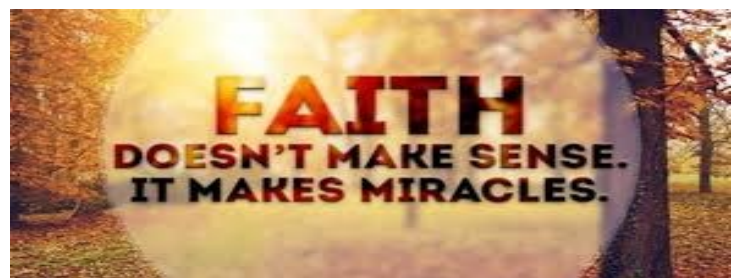
As schools are growing more diverse ethnically, geographically, and socioeconomically, we often meet peers of different backgrounds. They have different moral and ethical standards in their daily lives. We come across peers who don't believe in the concept of sin or repentance. They may tempt us to look at inappropriate websites on the internet, take part in cruel gossiping, or bully others at school. When we succumb to these temptations by our friends; we are not preserving our faith in God at all. Hypocritical Christian peers are also equally guilty. By participating in these actions, we are separating ourselves from God. Another commonplace sin, especially among adults and teenagers is swearing. Society tells us swearing is not a serious issue; everyone does it. Current music, movies, and T.V. shows are filled with it.

A great way of preserving our true faith in the real world is to make our beliefs known to others. Though this is politically incorrect, and against many modern social rules, it is sometimes necessary. The Bible clearly states in Matthew 10:33, "But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." I believe this clear and simple verse also tells us that if others know of our beliefs, they will think twice before approaching us with their ideas. We should not exclude others, but we should try to associate with positive influences. The saying, "A man is known by the company he keeps," is true. Our faith is our armor in our modern world. The dangers might not be bullets or missiles; however, the dangers are real in how they separate us from God.

In conclusion, we should not let distractions become an excuse to deter ourselves from God. Matthew 26:41 states, "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." As we believe that the power of prayer is the greatest power we possess, we should pray for strength against temptations in times of weakness. Holy Confession of our inappropriate choices is also essential in preserving our faith. By doing this, we accept what we did wrong and seek repentance for our actions. This ultimately helps us to become more resistant to temptations at school, college, or wherever we may be. By resisting these short-term pleasures, we can preserve our faith in the real world.

By Gabriel Skariah

9th Grade Student



Bible WordSearch

Instructions: 1. Find the words in the puzzle looking up words listed in the right side.
2. Once you have found all the words the left over words spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 248

Matt.8:28-9:8

Jesus the Healer 3

S	J	W	E	L	O	H	W	L	G	H	T	R	A	E
S	E	A	D	E	M	O	N	S	I	N	W	O	T	S
A	S	T	C	R	O	W	D	D	E	S	I	A	R	P
P	U	E	H	D	N	O	I	G	E	R	B	M	W	T
D	S	R	D	E	I	D	R	I	V	E	N	O	O	E
E	F	E	W	G	A	V	I	O	L	E	N	T	A	C
L	E	A	E	G	N	R	T	S	V	K	K	S	O	T
L	E	R	H	E	R	D	T	I	D	T	I	L	H	M
I	D	R	T	B	F	E	G	E	W	E	O	G	A	P
F	I	I	T	R	E	O	S	N	R	O	U	M	L	W
H	N	V	A	P	U	S	R	L	I	O	L	E	B	G
T	G	E	M	L	O	S	A	G	R	D	A	L	N	S
I	Y	D	C	R	A	R	H	B	I	D	N	I	E	R
A	Y	F	C	O	G	K	R	E	E	V	Y	E	M	F
F	E	R	L	E	A	V	E	D	D	L	E	C	T	Y

PASS	ARRIVED
BOAT	BEGGED
DIED	BROUGHT
DRIVE	CROWD
EARTH	COMING
EASIER	CROSSED
FAITH	DEMONS
FILLED	FEEDING
GIVEN	FORGIVE
HEART	FELLOW
HERD	MATTHEW
JESUS	PLEADED
KNOW	PRAISED
LAKE	REGION
LARGE	RUSHED
LEAVE	STEEP
LYING	TENDING
TOWN	TOMBS
WALK	VIOLENT
WATER	WHOLE

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

How can I make Christmas more meaningful and what does it mean to me?

As we celebrate the birth of Christ during this holiday that is filled with cheer and celebration, individuals do not realize the true meaning of Christmas. Their spirit is leaned towards acquiring materialistic items such as toys, clothing and much more. The reason behind this is that the only thought that runs through their mind is receiving presents. It is natural for an individual to place affection towards items that gives pleasure. No matter how each individual celebrates Christmas, we should also spend some time praying and being thankful for what Jesus has showered upon us.



Bible verse John30:16 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Believing in him also means leading a Christian life.

One of the most important things you can do during this holiday season is to give to the less fortunate. Even if you cannot buy a brand new item, you can go through your closet for gently used clothes that you have outgrown and no longer wear. As well as toys that you no longer play with.

In conclusion, you can cherish this joyful occasion by praising the birth of Jesus and thanking for all the blessings we have received. Christmas should be the day for giving. Although people celebrate Christmas in unique ways throughout the world, we should thank God for our family, friends and all the blessings he showered on us. Most importantly focus on sharing your blessings with others.

By Emily Markose

5th Grade Student



Helping Hands for the Less Fortunate

My family always inspires me to help people in need. Let me explain, when we do really good deeds, my mom and dad give us money and with it we buy toy for ourselves. But this year and onwards we plan to donate half of our saved money to the people who are less fortunate.



Coupled with that, I will donate my clothes for the poor to wear. I know that my family drives to the donating box once in a while. I will make use of that. In addition, I will donate shoes, sandals, and toys.

Aside from donating, I will visit an orphanage. I will ask my mom to cook her best recipe, vegetable noodles for them. I bet they would like it.

I can also buy medicines for the people who are sick and help them heal and get better. When I grow up I would like to go on a mission trip to provide food and medicines to people who were caught in natural disasters.

Furthermore, I would go to old age homes to visit people and accompany them for lunch or dinner and spend time with them.

With this in mind, I will ask dad and mom to give me two presents on Christmas, so that I can donate one present to the unfortunate to play with and enjoy. Above all, I plan to help kids in miracle league, who are physically disabled. For example, I can help push the kids around on wheel chair so that they can play games and have fun.

God gave me many blessings to be fortunate and I will pray for the less fortunate.

By Naythan Kallungal

4th Grade Student

Rev. Fr. Sajan John

Know Your Vicar...



Rev. Fr. Sajan John Thazhethil Achen is a native of Omalloor, Kerala. His home parish in Kerala is St. Peter's J.S.O. Valiyapalli, Omalloor. He was ordained as priest on January 17, 2002 by H.G. Thomas Mor Themotheos. Achen holds M.A. degree in Syriac and B.D. from Senate of Serampore. Achen served 10 years at MSOT Seminary (Udayagiri Vettikkal Mulanthuruthy) as a liturgy teacher. His wife is Leena Sajan and they have two lovely kids Eldho and Ephrem.

Know Your Teachers...

Johnsy Varghese



Hi this is Johnsy Varghese. I'm a substitute teacher at our Sunday School today and a past full time student and Head Master. I hold a BS and MS in Electrical Engineering and am currently working at TI in Product Marketing. I'm married to Priya and have two kids Jenna and Jasmine plus our fur-baby Zeus residing in Frisco, Texas.

As a kid that grew up in our church a looong time ago, I'm excited to see all the growth our Sunday school is seeing and the tremendous cooperation between our Vicar, board of directors, Head Master, teachers, parents and children. Our ultimate goal is the education of our children, who are the future of our church, in the fundamentals of our sacred church. I'm looking forward to your continuous support and Peace be to all of you!

Angitha Zachariah



My name is Angitha Zachariah. I am the secondary teacher for 2nd grade. This is my first year teaching in Sunday school. I am married to Reji Paraekulathu Zachariah and we have two kids Divone and Deuel. We currently live in Flowermound. I work as a Family Nurse Practitioner at Parkland hospital. My hobbies include writing, singing, painting and listening to music. I love spending time with my family and doing creative art work. Growing up in Karimattom, a small village in Muvattupuzha as an active part of Sunday school and church, I observed how important Sunday school is keeping the children connected to the Church. I considered it's a privilege and blessing to be part of the St. Ignatius Sunday school team.

Know Your Teachers...



Mariam Kurian



My name is Mariam Kurian and I am currently a secondary teacher for 10th and 12th grade. I am a freshman at UTD and I am majoring in Neuroscience. I enjoy books, movies and music.

Except for the five years that I lived in India, I have always been a member of the St. Ignatious family. While I was in India, I had the opportunity to attend Malayalam and English Sunday school. I was so surprised at the difference between the Sunday School at our church and the ones that I attended in India. I only realized how lucky I was after I left St. Ignatious.

My message to the Sunday school kids here is that you all are blessed to be part of an amazing, well-organized and dedicated group that is under the leadership of Jeeth Uncle. I look forward to many more years of sharing God's words and spreading his love.

Blessy Kuriakose



My name is Blessy Kuriakose. I graduated from Sunday School this past year and now, as a teacher's assistant for 9th grade, I am continuing to learn and grow in our faith. I currently live in Lewisville and my hobbies include reading and watching dramas.

Sunday School Staff

<u>President</u>	<u>Headmaster</u>	<u>Assistant Headmistress</u>	<u>Adviser</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Charity Coordinator</u>	
Rev Fr Sajan John	Jeeth Thomas	Shiji Jacob	Rev Fr. Dr. Renjan Mathew	Ashley Mathew	Binoi Skaria	
<u>Pre-KA</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	Anu Abraham	Simi George
Babitha Markose,	Dr. Sherley Aramath	Jamie Thomas	Angitha Zachariah	Ruby Kurian	Gigi Paul	Angela Abraham
<u>6th</u>	<u>7th</u>	<u>8th</u>	<u>9th</u>	<u>10th</u>	<u>11th</u>	<u>Substitute</u>
Shiji Jacob	Ramya Aramath	Emily Mathew	Binoi Skariah	Mini Mammen	Reji Paul	Johnsy Varghese
Stacey Ninan	Ashley Mathew	Dona Padanilam	Alisha Paul Blessy Kuriakose	Jessy Kuruvilla Mariam Kurian		Shalet Punnose Joanna Mammen





UPCOMING EVENTS

2017

April 2017:

- ◆ April 1: Lent Retreat for all Sunday School
- ◆ April 30: Church Camping Trip; No Sunday School

May 2017:

- ◆ May 14: Final Exam
- ◆ May 21: Last Day of Sunday School—Dessert Day

June 2017:

- ◆ VBS Target VBS?

August 2017:

- ◆ August 19: Back to School Retreat/Confession
- ◆ August 20: Sunday School Reopens for Academic Year 2017-2018

September 2017:

- ◆ September 9: Local Competition at St. Ignatius Church
- ◆ September 23: Regional Competition - Venue to be finalized.



We're on the web!

www.stignatious.com/sundayschool.php

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

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

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

