



BAY AREA TAMIL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

இனிய தமிழால் இறைவனில் இணைவாம்!

Monthly Newsletter – March 2009

*“A great prophet has risen among us! And God has looked favorably on his people!”
Luke 7:16*

Pathariyar Pakkam ...

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

A baby camel once turned to her mother and said, “Mom, why do we have these ugly hoofs?” The Mother Camel replied: “Honey, they keep us from sinking in the sand as we walk through the desert”. The baby Camel continued, “But, Mom, why do we have these wide nostrils?” The Mother Camel said, “Honey, they protect our respiratory system as we go through the desert.” “But Mom, why do we have these long eye-lashes?” asked the young camel. The Mother answered, “They shield our eyes from the sands and the dust should a sand storm arise as we travel through the desert”. At this the young camel became pensive and said, “Mom, I think I begin to understand: the ugly hoofs, the wide nostrils and the long eye-lashes serve a purpose as we go through the Desert but, Mom, what on earth are we doing in the San Francisco Zoo?”

The camels are desert-animals. And if they wish to understand themselves, they need to be out in the desert. Desert-experience is a must if they are to realize who they truly are.

We Christians are a Desert-people. And in order to come to grips with our real identity, we too need to have the Desert-experience. And that’s why the Church has set aside the season of Lent, a time of desert-experience.

Lent invites us to fast, to pray and to give alms.

Why do we fast? We do so because unless we fast we will never realize how hungry we are for God. In our day to day life, we find ourselves hungering for food, drink, wealth, power, honor, pleasure and the like. These are superficial hungers which when given in to would not allow that deep hunger in us for God to emerge. May this time of Lent help us to hunger and thirst for God!

And as we hunger and thirst for God, we turn to him in prayer. Fasting necessarily leads us to prayer.

And as we connect with God in prayer, we cannot but turn to our sisters and brothers in their need; this leads to alms giving. Love of God and love of neighbor are like the two sides of the same coin. Lose one and you lose the other!

May this season of Lent draw us closer to God and to one another.

With prayerful wishes,
Rev. William Rozario

Kommunity Kathaigal ...

Dear friends in Christ,

Last month “To Go Dinner” was a great success! Thanks to James, Leenus, Alex and Romilda for helping in the kitchen. Thanks to John Durai, Nimmi, Sundar Durairaj, Jayanthi Rayan, Berlin and Shanthi who volunteered their time with packing the food and cleaning up the kitchen. Thanks to Alex Rayan, Aggie, Paneer, Felix Dhanaraj and Leenus for sponsoring food items. Lastly, Thanks to all those who contributed towards buying and relishing the “To Go Dinner” and making it a great success. This proceed go to our Community Fund.

Please visit our [website](#) to view the Christmas 2008 and January 09 Altar server training photos. Thanks to our web Admin Jasmine Prabhahar for keeping the website updated.

Important Please read:

A full day **Lenten retreat by Fr. Lawrence** is planned to be on **Saturday, April 4th**. Stay tuned and reserve this day to make use of this wonderful opportunity to prepare ourselves to celebrate Pascal Mystery.

Easter vigil is on April 12th - second Saturday, Our **Easter Vigil celebration in Tamil starts at 11:00 p.m**, no regular 6:45 p.m Mass.

May month Mass is scheduled to be on **May 2nd due to unavailability of the church on May 9th**. Please remind each other of this date change just for May 09.

“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High” -Psalms 92:1 We are in need of male singers and welcome you to offer the gift of voice to the Lord! Please email rc@tamilcatholic.org if interested.

The facilities team ensures that the place we gather in the name of our Lord is left safe and holy in perfect condition after each Mass. We need people like you to help! Please keep this request in your prayer and consider volunteering! Contact facilities@tamilcatholic.org.

Dates to Remember ...

- March 8: Daylight savings, Turn clock forward by 1 hour
- March 14: Stations of the Cross @6:45 p.m. Followed by Tamil Mass (**No Children Liturgy, no after Mass fellowship at the basement**)
- March 19: St. Joseph’s feast
- March 25: The Annunciation of The Lord
- March 20, 27, April 3: Way of the Cross in Tamil at St. Joseph’s Church, Mountain View at 8.00 p.m.
- March 28: Marriage Workshop @ church basement from noon to late evening, more information will follow.

Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from eating meat. The law of abstinence requires a Catholic 14 years of age and above to abstain from eating meat on Fridays in honor of the Passion of Jesus on Good Friday.

Ash Wednesday (February 25th) and Good Friday (April 10th) are also days of fast. All persons between the ages of eighteen, until the beginning of their sixtieth year are bound by our Catholic Church law.

Birthdays, Anniversaries and Announcements

Blessings and prayerful wishes to our friends those who are celebrating memorable events!

If someone in your family is celebrating a birthday or anniversary or has a major announcement, please send their names and dates to be published in this section to newsletter@tamilcatholic.org.



Thank you to all committees and individuals those who volunteered their time, talent, treasure for our February Mass, and special thanks to Dominic Paul raj and Jasmine Prabhahar family for snacks.

Kuttis Korner...

Hi Kutties,
You are all precious gift to us; our good Lord is always watching you as you grow in his love. Be patient and kind to all who you meet every day. Remember that Jesus gave his life for us, and that we should give up some little thing, like candy! Try to attend Stations of the Cross and stay few minutes with Jesus at each station.

Please remember that there is no Children Liturgy during March Mass.

Try this word search at your leisure!

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

Find the following words:

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| APOSTLES | BARABBAS | BETRAY |
| BREAD | CAESAR | CROSS |
| CROWS | CUP | CYRENIAN |
| DENIED | DISCIPLES | FATHER |
| HEROD | ISRAEL | JESUS |
| JEWS | KING | KISS |
| OLIVES | PARADISE | PASSOVER |
| PETER | PILATE | SANHEDRIN |
| SIMON | WORD | |

Ungal Manrattu...

Let us pray for all sick, unemployed and world peace.

Please send any special intentions you may have to newsletter@tamilcatholic.org.