



THE CHURCHMAN

THE ST. MARY'S CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

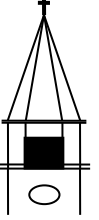
ST. MARY'S CHURCH (C.N.I.), 1A Sholapur Road, Pune - 411001

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Dear Family of God at St. Mary's,

The Season of Advent has begun and with it another Church Year. During this time, no doubt, we will be busy preparing for Christmas—getting our homes ready for family and friends and shopping at the many big malls and small shops that are in our city. It's truly the season we all look forward to through the whole year. But in all the hustle and bustle may we not get too busy to take some time out alone in prayer and with the Bible. Advent means 'coming' and it's the time when we not only look forward to the coming celebration of the Incarnation but also turn out attention especially to quiet preparation and longing for the coming of our Lord again.

The second Sunday of Advent is observed as 'Bible Sunday' as a way of reminding ourselves of the truth about Christmas, that the Eternal Word became flesh in Jesus Christ to dwell among us (Jn. 1:14). This year too we shall have friends from the Bible Society of India to join us in our worship service on 4th December and to bring us the word of God. There will be a retiring offertory taken which will be given to the Bible Society of India's ministry of printing and making available Bibles at very low costs.

We have an entire schedule of worship services and programmes during this month to celebrate Christmas. Please take a look at it in this issue and do join in as many as possible so that we may all come together to share the joy and peace of this season. On Christmas Eve, this year too we intend to bring out a special Christmas and New Year issue of The Churchman. For this I request you to kindly contribute articles on Christmas, Epiphany or New Year which you can give by Sunday, 11th December either to Mrs. Denise Chakranarayan, our Editor or to me.

In closing I would like to point out a special day in the Calendar of the Church in this month. 28th December is observed as 'The Holy Innocents' Day which many of us do not know about or do not know what it is about. On this day the Church specially looks at that incident in the Nativity Narrative in the Gospels when Herod in his jealousy and rage killed innocent children in Bethlehem as a way to ensure the death of the Christ Child (Matthew 2:13-18). In the midst of the goodness of the birth of our Saviour there is sorrow and pain. The coming of the Son of God into the world was costly, to the Father and to the world because of the forces of evil that were against it. In the celebration of Christmas may we not forget that there is still suffering in our world with the weak oppressed by the strong; that we cannot close our eyes to the poverty around us; and especially that there are children who lose their childhood due to labour, abuse and living in risk. Our Lord came to bring God's rule of justice, love and peace and the true meaning of Christmas is to have that rule our hearts and to reach out to those in need to help them also share in this rule.

May this Christmas be a wonderful time of cheer with family and friends but also a time of personal spiritual renewal and of touching someone else's life with the faith, hope and love that Jesus brings, especially someone who is an innocent victim of suffering. May we all have a meaningful and blessed Advent.

Revd. Sumesh Jacob

Presbyter-in-charge

Wish you and your families a very Peaceful & Blessed Christmas!!!

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Rohit John Matthew; Aditya Chopade;
- 2 Mary Smith; Melvin Joel; Stella Chavan; Wayne Turner; Tabitha Nerella; Evelyn John
- 3 Frank Freese; Swanand Torne; Vandana Borge;
- 4 Michael Young; Sabrina Sequeira; Shawn Macarius
- 5 Cdr. Prafulchandra Socky; Aarav Tribhuwan; Savio Silimkar; Elizabeth Birnur
- 6 Tichnor Charles; A. Sagayanathan; Taronish Karkaria; Stuti Salvi
- 7 Maya Andrew; Matilda Gandhi
- 8 Candida Loos; Dr. Anita Ramdas; Joanna Mankad; Grace Thomas; Shirley Lall
- 9 Sandesh Banijwadkar; Yohaam Ramdas; Cyril Clement
- 10 Rohan Bhonsale; Hemant Kedar; Manik Kotak; Ebinezer Dason; Sheila Simon; Sharon Herbert; Lalita Phillips;
- 11 Susan Thomas; Yash Jadhav
- 12 Shawn Fernandes; Rajeev Phillips; Merlin Fernandes;
- 13 Mary Mathew; Sareeka Abhane; Desmond Michael; Troy Fernandes
- 14 Rachel Shah; Rajeev Pandkar; Simone Lokku
- 15 Sunil Khilare;
- 16 Romir Williams; Rydon Johnson; Vijiya Pathare
- 17 Kenneth Charles; Ajay Ranbhise
- 18 Ronald Naik; Glenn Vastrad; Brett Lariviere
- 20 Grenville Wood; Sandra Fernandes; Neeharika Patro;
- 21 Maj. Gen. F. Bhatt; Nawal Tribhuwan
- 22 Vinod Pawar; Cherisma Lahori; Christopher Harris; Rachana Jacob; Creswell Vincent; Karishma Tribhuvan
- 25 Kenan Rogers; Dinshaw Eduljee; Angela D. Rajan; Adrian G.M. David
- 26 Veena Ranganathan
- 27 Jayasheel Jently; George Michael; Vikram Negi; Akshit Prasad; Ayaan Pardhe
- 28 Henry Chakranarayan;
- 29 Bhal Chakranarayan; Reuben Kale; Pallavi Makasare; Neelima Lingam
- 30 Grace Roy
- 31 Moira Jolly; Rev. Dr. Graham Simpson

***May God shower his choicest blessings
on each one of you!***

The bells at St. Mary's rang!!!!

Rajesh Joseph David, a member of our Church was joined in holy matrimony to **Esther Andrews Jadhav** of Brother Deshpande Memorial Church, Pune on 9th November, 2011.

Kirti Sarah Mittal from our Church, and **Abraham David Eric Joseph** of Sacred Heart Church (RC), Mhow, said their "I do's" on 22nd November 2011.

Please uphold these couples in your prayers!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Surendra & Sulbha Suryavanshi
- 5 Deepan & Anny Gaikwad
- 6 Vinod & Carol Kulkarni
- 8 Ronojoy & Tripti Basu
- 12 Ranjan & Vanita Samuel; Neeraj & Joanna Mankad;
- 14 Sandesh & Deepti Banijwadkar; Vinay & Deepti Jadhav
- 15 Ravikumar & Victoria Joseph; Henry & Grace Joseph
- 18 Rakesh & Sunila Kashinath; Edward & Geraldine Wood
- 19 Kailash & Gail Choudhari
- 20 Rev. Padmakar & Sushma Gaekwad; Rev. Dale & Victoria Robins; Darrel & Meghna Shaw; Vijaykumar & Leena Rao;
- 21 Dudley & Wendy O'Berne
- 22 Lt. Col. Justin & Shobhana Jacob; Dr. Nitin & Manisha Joseph;
- 23 Tichnor & Nandini Charles; Rev. Vijayanand & Rupa Salve
- 26 James & Vijaya Nicodemus; Prabhat & Tanya Bist; Ronen & Joanne Chatterjee
- 27 Hemant & Soni Kedar; Jayant & Savita Pathak; Col. Santosh & Padma Jena; Wayne & Lorraine Turner; Alok & Bhavna Lall; Annu & Manisha Anjan; J.C. & Sophia Jentley; Winston & Suganthi Dhanraj; Clement & Anupama Cyril;
- 28 Andrew & Vijaya Rathod; Dennis & Joyce Massey; Alfred & Maggie Santram; Grenville & Sandra Wood; Drs. Hemant & Meenakshi Pathak; Lt. Col. Arvind & Shalini Singh;
- 29 Theo & Simin Lazarus; Ravi & Sonali Ghodke;
- 30 Sameer & Neha Londhe; Shekar & Janet Sapaliga; Ajay & Renuka Tribhuwan; Ramdas & Catherine; Siddharth & Sunaina De

Wishing all of you a very happy wedding anniversary! God Bless you all!

The Rt. Rev. Vijay Sathe, Bishop of Pune (CNI) **confirmed** Sejal Naomi Sathe, Aishwarya Lia Rao, Stephanie Nandini Torne, Trisha Eduljee, Shreya Sanjeev Hiwale, Shimron Waikar, Desmond Raman Michael and Kunal Rohit Bara, all members of our congregation during the Morning Worship Service on **Sunday 20th November 2011.**

Please continue to pray for them!

All those who would like to **DONATE** cash for the **flowers** for the Church for **Christmas**, kindly place your donation in one of the Church Offertory envelopes and specify "**Flowers for Christmas**" against the box titled "Donations for....."



Worship Services Schedule for December 2011

Date & Time	Worship Services & Bible Readings	
Sunday, 4 th December <i>Third Sunday before Christmas/Advent 2</i>	8 am. & 6 pm. The Lord's Supper Service – Bible Sunday Theme: <i>The word of God demands a response from its hearers.</i> 11 am. Contemporary Service – <i>Holy Communion & Dr. Frank Fox</i> (preacher)	
8.00 a.m.	The Lord's Supper (Said Eucharist)	OT: <i>Zechariah 1.1-6</i>
11.00 a.m.	Contemporary Worship Service	Psalm: <i>Psalm 119.129-136</i>
6.00 p.m.	The Lord's Supper (Said Eucharist)	Epistle: <i>2 Timothy 3.14—4.5</i> Gospel: <i>John 5.31-40,45-47</i>
Sunday, 11 th December <i>Second Sunday before Christmas/Advent 3</i>	8 am. & 6 pm. The Lord's Supper Service Theme: <i>The coming of Christ is good news for the oppressed.</i> 11 am. Contemporary Service – <i>The Bel Canto Choir & Revd. Dr. Jagat Santra</i> (preacher)	
8.00 a.m.	The Lord's Supper (Said Eucharist)	OT: <i>Malachi 3.1-5</i>
11.00 a.m.	Contemporary Worship Service	Psalm: <i>Psalm 146.5-10</i>
6.00 p.m.	The Lord's Supper (Said Eucharist)	Epistle: <i>James 5.1-9</i> Gospel: <i>Matthew 11.2-11</i>
Sunday, 18 th December <i>The Sunday before Christmas/Advent 4</i>	8 am. The Lord's Supper Service Theme: <i>The Lord's coming gives joy and peace to his people.</i> 11 am. Contemporary Service – <i>Mizo Christian Fellowship & Rev. Marc Billimoria</i> (preacher) 6 pm. The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols	
8.00 a.m.	The Lord's Supper (Said Eucharist)	OT: <i>Zechariah 2.10-13</i>
11.00 a.m.	Contemporary Worship Service	Psalm: <i>Psalm 89.19-28</i>
6.00 p.m.	The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols	Epistle: <i>Philippians 4.7-7</i> Gospel: <i>Luke 1.26-38</i>
Saturday, 24 th December <i>Christmas Eve & Sunday, 25th December Christmas Day</i>	Sat. 24 th 11pm. & Sun. 25 th 8 am. The Lord's Supper Service Theme: <i>The birth of the Saviour who is the Word made flesh.</i>	
11.00 p.m.	The Lord's Supper (Sung Eucharist)	OT: <i>Isaiah 9.2-3,6-7</i>
8.00 a.m.	The Lord's Supper (Sung Eucharist)	Psalm: <i>Psalm 86.8-13</i> Epistle: <i>Hebrews 1.1-6</i> Gospel: <i>John 1.1-14</i>
Saturday, 31 st December <i>New Year's Eve</i>	11 pm. The Lord's Supper Service – The Naming of Jesus Theme: <i>The Name of Jesus.</i>	
11.00 p.m.	The Lord's Supper (Said Eucharist)	OT: <i>Exodus 3.13-17</i> Psalm: <i>Psalm 20.1-9</i> 2 nd Reading: <i>Acts 3.1-16</i> Gospel: <i>Luke 2.15-21</i>

Special Days of the Church Calendar in December 2011

- 1 December - John Wilson of Mumbai, Evangelist and Educationist (1875)
- 4 December - *Bible Sunday*; Clement of Alexandria, Theologian (c. 215)
- 14 December - Gopinath Nandi, Convert and Confessor (bap. 1832)
- 17 December - Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop, Theologian and Martyr (c. 107)
- 28 December - ***The Holy Innocents***; Krishna Pal, Convert and Bishop (bap. 1800)

Christmas & New Year Schedule 2011-2012

Date	Time	Worship Service/Programme
Sunday, 11 th Dec.	8.00 am.	Sunday School Nativity Play during the Worship Service
Thursday, 15 th Dec.	10 am.	St. Mary's Church Nursery School Christmas Programme
Sunday, 18 th Dec.	6.00 pm.	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols & Campfire Fellowship Dinner
Monday, 19 th Dec.	6.00 pm.	Carol Singing Rounds by the Youth Fellowship
Tuesday, 20 th Dec.	6.00 pm.	Carol Singing Rounds by the Youth Fellowship
Wednesday, 21 st Dec.	6.00 pm.	Carol Singing Rounds by the Youth Fellowship
Thursday, 22 nd Dec.	6.00 pm.	Christmas Outreach Programme at Katraj
Friday, 23 rd Dec.	10 am. onwards	Church Cleaning by volunteers
Saturday, 24 th Dec.	10.00 am. onwards	Church Decoration with flowers by volunteers
	11.00 pm.	Christmas Eve Worship Service
Sunday, 25 th Dec.	8.00 am.	Christmas Day Worship Service
Monday, 26 th Dec.	10.00 am. onwards	Sports Day
Tuesday, 27 th Dec.	6.30 pm.	Christmas Fellowship Dinner & Sports Day Prize Distribution
Saturday, 31 st Dec.	10 am. onwards	Church Decoration with flowers by volunteers
	11.00 pm.	New Year's Eve Worship Service
Sunday, 1 st Jan.	8.00 am.	New Year's Day Worship Service

THE GOLD WRAPPING PAPER - An Inspiring Christmas Story

Once upon a time, a man punished his five-year-old daughter for using up the family's only roll of expensive gold wrapping paper before Christmas.

Money was tight, so he became even more upset when on Christmas Eve, he saw that the child had used the expensive gold paper to decorate a large shoebox she had put under the Christmas tree.

Nevertheless, the next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you, Daddy!"

As he opened the box, the father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, now regretting how he had punished her.

But when he opened the shoebox, he found it was empty and again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady," he said harshly, "when you give someone a present there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispered: "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was all full."

The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later. It is told that the father kept this little gold box by his bed for all the years of his life. Whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems, he would open the box, take out an imaginary kiss, and remember the love of this beautiful child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us as human beings have been given an invisible golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family, friends and God.

There is no more precious possession anyone could hold!