



# THE CHURCHMAN

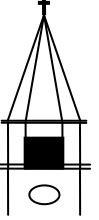
**THE ST. MARY'S CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**  
**ST. MARY'S CHURCH (C.N.I.), 1A Sholapur Road, Pune - 411001**

**Presbyter-in-charge: *The Revd. Sumesh Jacob***

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Dear Family of God at St. Mary's,

For this year this is the last month of the Season of Pentecost as from the first Sunday of December the Season of Advent will begin. Before we go into Advent, in our endeavour of focusing on growing in our Christian faith and vision, this month we shall turn our attention to the Mission of the Church. The Church does not exist for itself but is called by God for him and for the world. Therefore, as the primary work of the Church is to worship God, part of our worship is to reach out to the world with the love of Christ which we have received so freely. The Apostle Paul, writing to the Christians in Rome and indeed it is God's word to us, states, "And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him" (Rom. 12:1 NLT). Therefore, worship is not just what we do on a Sunday morning or evening within the church-building but is actually our entire lives lived to please him and to be a blessing to others each day, each moment. This is possible when we have experienced in our lives the love and mercy of God through Jesus Christ and are being transformed by it daily. The Apostle Paul continues to exhort the Roman Christians and the Holy Spirit speaks to us today with the words, "Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect" (Rom. 12:2 NLT).

On November 4<sup>th</sup> at the 8 am. worship service, we will focus on the Mission of the Church as we observe World Mission Sunday. At this service the word of God will be brought to us by the Lord's servant L.T. Jeyachandran who after serving with the Government of India followed God's call and entered full-time ministry with Ravi Zecharias International Ministries (RZIM). Also at this service friends from Gideons International Ministries Pune-Camp division will join us and share about their ministry.

On November 18<sup>th</sup> friends from Union Biblical Seminary (UBS) in Pune will join us at all the worship services and will share about their ministry of theological training for equipping future ministers for the Kingdom of God. The word of God will be brought to us by the UBS Principal, Revd. Dr. Shekhar Singh at the 8 am. service; Revd. Dr. Praveen Paul at the 11 am. service; and by the Student Representative of the UBS Practical Training Department at the 6 pm. service. Not only will the UBS friends minister to us through the word of God but will also do so through music and song by the Touring Choir and Weekend Ministry Team. In all of these services on this Sunday a retiring collection will be taken so that we as a congregation will be able to financially support the ministry of UBS even as we uphold them in prayer. Please do come prepared and give as the Lord leads you to this important work of his Kingdom.

On November 25<sup>th</sup> we will be having the confirmation of four of our church young people at the 8 am. worship service. We shall have our new Bishop, the Rt. Revd. Andrew Rathod coming to confirm them and to bring to us all the word of God. Since Confirmation is an important event in the life of our church, we shall be having only one service at 8 am. so that all the members can come together for it. Please note that this Sunday we will not be having the 11 am. and 6 pm. services. Please do pray for those to be confirmed and for the Confirmation Service.

Finally, I would like to mention that even as you receive this issue of our church newsletter and read my address to you all, I am away to be with my mother who is suffering with cancer and is undergoing treatment for it. I request your sincere prayers for her healing so that she may come through this recurrence. It was due to your earnest prayers last year when it was first detected that she so wonderfully came through and was well again. I am confident that the Lord who has been faithful in the past will continue to be so. The Psalmist echoing God's words says, "Be still and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10) and these are the words that remind me to trust him that he is in control and that he knows what is best for us. I share this verse with you as each of us have our share of trials which God can use to bring us closer to him. God bless you all this coming month.

Revd. Sumesh Jacob

*Presbyter-in-charge*

### BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Valerie Freese, Samuel Moses.  
3 Anaiah Bangera, Amit Chatterjee, Proshila Patro.  
4 Anupama Cyril, Maureen Johnson, Robert Lobo, Amber Nicholas, Sulbha Silimkar.  
5 Geeta Sachdev.  
6 Padma Jena.  
7 Robin Andrew, Kanika Bhatta.  
8 Michelle Pal, Rashmi Patra, Ernest Scott.  
9 Rev. Suhasini Farande, Meghana Sapre, Esther David, Upahar Bhatnagar.  
10 Amit Das Gupta, Martin Meghnath, Kranti Tiwari, Abijeet Roy.  
11 Joyce Massey, Sahil Pandit, Majid Shaikh.  
13 Cheryl Chakranarayan, Deepali Chakranarayan, Sonia Paul, Sharon Prasanja Lall,  
14 Louiza Choudhari.  
15 Aneesha (Das Gupta) Wadhwa, Rev. Ajit Farande.  
16 Kevin Joel, Lucus Patole, Rhea Pandkar, Sulbha Suryavanshi.  
17 Jason Amalraj, Denise Chakranarayan, Raymond Raj.  
18 Shubhangi Jadhav, Sanky Joel, Sahil Pandit, Nirmala Bhatta, Diana Devapaa.  
21 Dr. Vimla Abraham, Cecilia Singh.  
22 Ajay Dason, Jagruti Santra, Prafulla Satpalkar, Sonal (Bangera) Bhatti  
23 Jessie Amalraj  
24 Shreya Ranbhise, Shalom Robins, Lata Devappa.  
25 Ritvik Thomas, Wg. Cmd(Retd) Michael Wilson, Albert Wood.  
26 Dr. Mary Dasgupta, Wg. Cmd. Atul North, Sarah Robins, Pramod Waghmare, Atul Shinde, Esther David.  
27 Col (Retd) S.K. Jena, George Wood, M.T. Phillip.  
28 Victoria Joseph.  
29 Ashish Das Gupta, Ayesha Eduljee, Rekha Bangera, Naveen Bhatta.  
30 Mahima Andrew, Terence Phillips, Megha Shaw, Alan Gaikwad, Jayant Pathak, Natasha Dennis, Estelle Yardi.

### December

- 1 Aditya Chopde, Rohit Mathew

***Wishing you all a very Happy Birthday! God Bless!***

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Sangeeta & Sanjeev Kadam.  
5 Joel & Carol McKenzie.  
6 Vincy & Lt. Col. Amit Saxena.  
7 Ritesh & Sheetal Ohal.  
9 Rajesh & Esther David.  
12 Samson & S. Ophiya Paul.  
15 Sanjay & Sujata Pandit.  
19 Ritesh & Aruna Shah.  
20 Vidyasagar & Sampada Chopde.  
22 Rajiv & Chanda Pandkar.  
23 K. Prabhakar & Sunita.  
24 Boniface & Rekha Bangera, Nayana & Ajay Phase.  
26 Deepak & Sharon Laxmikanth.  
27 Henry Richard & Hemlata Soggee.  
28 Patrick & Sharon Crawford.

***Wishing you all a Long and Happy Married Life!***

### CONFIRMATION

Four of our young people – Enoch Patole; Shreya Ranbhise; Joshua Ranbhise and Kenneth Vastrad, will be confirmed in our Church on **Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2012**, during the 8 AM Worship Service.

*Please remember them in your prayers as they prepare for their confirmation.*

### BAPTISM

RHEA MARY JACOB d/o Rono and Rini Jacob was baptized in our Church, on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2012.

*May God Bless Rhea, as we welcome her into the family of Christ!*

*Wishing all children, especially the children of our Church, a very Happy Children's Day!!!*

*May God's abundant blessings be on each one of you and may the Holy Spirit guide and protect you!!!*

## Sunday Worship Services Schedule for November 2012

Date	Worship Services	
Sunday, 4 <sup>th</sup> November <i>Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost</i>	8 am. The Lord's Supper Service - World Mission Sunday 6 pm. The Lord's Supper Service	Old Testament: <i>Jeremiah 22.1-9</i> Psalm: <i>10.12-18</i> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: <i>Revelation 19:1-8</i> Gospel: <i>Mark 12.13-17</i>
	11 am. Contemporary Service (Holy Communion) Conducting and Preaching by the Clergy.	
Sunday, 11 <sup>th</sup> November <i>Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	8 am. & 6 pm. The Lord's Supper Service Theme: <i>The great commandment.</i>	Old Testament: <i>Micah 6.1-8</i> Psalm: <i>24.1-6</i> Epistle: <i>1 John 4.16-21</i> Gospel: <i>Mark 12.28-34</i>
	11 am. Contemporary Service	
Sunday, 18 <sup>th</sup> November <i>Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	8 am. & 6 pm. The Lord's Supper Service - Union Biblical Seminary Sunday	Old Testament: <i>Exodus 35.20-29</i> Psalm: <i>50.1-2,7-10,14-15</i> Epistle: <i>2 Corinthians 8.1-9</i> Gospel: <i>Mark 12.38-44</i>
	11 am. Contemporary Service – Union Biblical Seminary Sunday	
Sunday, 25 <sup>th</sup> November <i>Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	8 am. The Order of Confirmation with The Lord's Supper - Confirmation Sunday <b>Note: There will be no 11 am - Contemporary Worship Service or 6 pm - The Lord's Supper Service.</b>	Old Testament: <i>Ezekiel 36.26-28</i> Epistle: <i>Romans 8.11-17</i> Gospel: <i>John 14.15-17</i>

### Special Days of the Church Calendar in November 2012

- 1 November - **All Saints' Day**
- 2 November - **Commemoration of the Faithful Departed**  
Mar Gregorios, Bishop & Evangelist (1902)
- 20 November - Thomas Kempis, Monk & Mystic (1471)
- 24 November - John of the Cross, Monk & Mystic (1591)
- 29 November - **Inauguration of the Church of North India**
- 30 November - **Andrew, Apostle & Martyr**

### A Child's Prayer of Thanks

Thank you, God, for sun and trees;  
 Thank you for the summer breeze;  
 Thank you for all plants that grow;  
 And thanks for rain and winter snow.  
 Thank you for all things you give,  
 And thank you, God, because we live.

### A CHILD LEARNS

If a child lives with criticism- he learns to condemn;    If a child lives with hostility - he learns to fight.  
 If a child lives with ridicule - he learns to be shy;    If a child lives with shame- he learns to feel guilty.  
 If a child lives with tolerance- he learns to be patient;    If a child lives with encouragement - he learns confidence.  
 If a child lives with praise – he learns to appreciate;    If a child lives with fairness- he learns justice.  
 If a child lives with security - he learns to have faith;    If a child lives with approval - he learns to like himself.  
 If a child lives with acceptance, and friendship - he learns to find love in the world.

*Let us create an environment of acceptance and love for our children!!!*

# THE HOLY SPIRIT

This year, during this present Season of Pentecost, I delivered a series of sermons to help us have a better understanding of the Holy Spirit and as a result to help us open our lives more to experience him and his working.

From Advent to Pentecost, we trace the events of Jesus' earthly life from the promise of his coming and its fulfillment till his own promise of sending the Holy Spirit and its fulfillment. This is the first half of the Christian Calendar. In the second half we focus on the difference all of this makes in our daily lives. For it *does* make a difference to you and me and the difference is the Holy Spirit.

This series of sermons on the Holy Spirit had 5 topics, each touched on once a month. Below are given the main points covered in the sermons on each topic.

## **I. The Holy Spirit—his Person**

### **Scripture Portion**

John 16:5-15. We come to realise that Jesus' departure from earth is not a disadvantage for his disciples but an advantage for his people. The advantage is that because Jesus departed to the Father, the Holy Spirit has come, fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost and ever since.

### **Main Points**

1. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity and coming from the Father and the Son, he is equal to them (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; Jn. 15:26).
2. The Holy Spirit *knows, feels* and *acts* as a person carrying out God's purposes and is active in the life of the Christian (1 Cor. 2:10-12; Eph 4:30; Heb. 10:29; John 16:8,13; Acts 8:29; 16:6; 20:28).

### **Closing Thoughts**

The ascension of Jesus and the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost meant that although Jesus was no longer visibly and physically present, the Spirit would be invisibly present with God's people everywhere. Christ now comes to every believer through the Holy Spirit. In having the Holy Spirit, we have Christ.

## **II. The Holy Spirit—his Name and Descriptions**

### **Scripture Portion**

Acts 2:1-13. We come to realise that the Day of Pentecost in 1<sup>st</sup> century AD in Palestine was no ordinary day in the purposes of God. Pentecost was unique in that the Holy Spirit was poured upon those who believed in and received Jesus as Saviour and Lord and there was nothing like this that had ever happened before—the Holy Spirit came with power upon all of them, not just a few and it was a visible phenomenon which resulted in a supernatural experience not just for these believers but a real fact for others who witnessed this. It was unique not just for that time and place but Pentecost became the starting point of the giving of spiritual power to all the Church anywhere in the world from then on until Christ returns—this is the secret of the Church's life. We also come to understand more about the character and activity of the Holy Spirit from the way his coming has been so vividly described—not just in this passage but also some other passages of Scripture describe him by the particular use of some names and descriptions for him.

### **Main Points**

1. His Names: Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of Truth, the Counselor/Helper/Advocate—Paraclete (Acts 2:32-33; Matthew 12:28; Romans 8:9; John 16:13-14; 16:5-7).

2. His Descriptions: Wind, Water, Fire, Oil, Dove (Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 3:8; 4:13-14; 7:37-39; Malachi 3:1-3; Matthew 3:10-12; Exodus 30:30; 1 Samuel 16:11-13; 2 Samuel 2:7; Acts 10:37-38; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Mark 1:9-11; John 1:32-33; Matthew 1:18, 20; Luke 1:35).

### **Closing Thoughts**

What we must be careful about is not to over-emphasise these images of the Spirit's work into being anything more than helpful pictures/explanations/illustrations for us to understand—no illustration can fully explain the Spirit and his work in the life of the Christian because he is God and works in ways beyond our understanding. But having said that, even as we meditated on the various names used of the Spirit, there would have been a name with which you identify more in your personal spiritual experience. Also there may be a description of the Spirit which we looked at that you may want to give thanks to God for or pray for his work to increase in your life. The names and descriptions of the Spirit are meant for us to realise more on who he is and what he can do and so to open our lives to him and his work.

### **III. The Holy Spirit—his Work**

#### **Scripture Portion**

Romans 8:1-17. We have a description of the Christian life lived by the power of the Holy Spirit: Vs. 1-4 tells us what the Holy Spirit accomplishes in us—the life-giving Spirit has freed us from the power of sin which leads to spiritual death/separation from God; this is made possible by God who sent his Son Jesus Christ in a body like the bodies we sinners have and in that body, through his sacrifice on the Cross, he declared an end to sin's control over us. Vs. 5-11 challenges us to live a life controlled by the Holy Spirit and focused on God which leads to abundant life and peace rather than a life dominated by our sinful nature and focused on self which leads to spiritual death; and this depends on our mind. Vs. 12-17 therefore mentions that our duty is to live as children of God by being led by the Spirit which means to focus on the new life to which the Holy Spirit calls each of us. From Romans 8:1-17 we also come to understand that all Christian growth happens because of the Holy Spirit and that we should not underestimate what takes place in the life of a person who has allowed the entering and controlling of the Holy Spirit.

#### **Main Points**

1. His convicting of sin (John 16:8-11; Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12).
2. His illuminating of truth (John 14:25-26, 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:12-14).
3. His revealing of Christ (John 15:26, 16:14; Acts 7:55).
4. His living in the believer (Ezekiel 36:26-27; Ephesians 3:16-17; Romans 8:9-11).
5. His inspiring of prayer (Romans 8:26; Ephesians 6:18).
6. His preparing for heaven (Romans 8:1-4, 16-17; 2 Corinthians 3:18).

### **Closing Thoughts**

However, even as we have seen that Christian discipleship and growth is governed by the Holy Spirit, this doesn't mean that there is no part for us to play, that there is nothing left for us to do. In Phil. 2:12-13 Paul mentions that we must work hard to show the results of our salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear because God through the Holy Spirit is working in us, giving us the desire and the power to do what pleases him. In other words we are to cooperate with the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives for the result of our salvation to be seen. Christian conversion and growth happens because of the work of the Holy Spirit—a life lived in the power of the Spirit, under the control of the Holy Spirit can and should never be underestimated.

#### **IV. The Holy Spirit—his Activity in the Christian**

##### **Scripture Portion**

Ephesians 3:14-21. We have the mention of a prayer of the Apostle Paul for the Christians at Ephesus emphasizing his desire for a special 'power' for his friends: Vs. 16-17 states that by this 'power' Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith. Vs. 18-19 states that by this 'power' they might grasp the immensity of the love of Christ and experience this love, though it is too great to understand fully. All this so that they might be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. This 'power' that the Apostle prays about is the spiritual power through the Holy Spirit in the inner being of the Christian. From the beginning of our discipleship, the Holy Spirit lives within us. He gives us the power to follow Christ, confidence in believing, and unity with other Christians.

##### **Main Points**

1. Life which is the new birth by the Spirit (John 3:3-8; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:4-7).
2. Assurance which is the witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:15-16).
3. Unity which is the fellowship in the Spirit (Mark 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:3-6).
4. Ownership which is the seal of the Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30; Romans 8:38-39).
5. Power which is the fullness of the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18; Acts 4:31).
6. Confidence which is the pledge of the Spirit (2 Corinthians 5:5; 1 Corinthians 2:9-10).

##### **Closing Thoughts**

Among all these different blessings of the Holy Spirit, think about which of them has meant the most to you personally in your life. Also let us think about which of these blessings I need to live out more and develop in my life because Christian discipleship and growth, although governed by the Holy Spirit, requires our part to be played. In Phil. 2:12-13 Paul mentions that we must work hard to show the results of our salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear because God through the Holy Spirit is working in us, giving us the desire and the power to do what pleases him. In other words we are to cooperate with the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives for the result of our salvation to be seen. Finally, think about the words of the Apostle Paul in the end of the prayer in Ephesians 3:20, "Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish more than we might ask or think." What instance can you recall from your own experience that illustrates these words of the Apostle? The Holy Spirit's blessings for the Christian are great and wonderful and therefore 'glory to God the Father in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen' (Eph. 3:21).

#### **V. The Holy Spirit—his Fruit and Gifts**

##### **Scripture Portion**

Galatians 5:22-23 We have the mention of a list of qualities that are developed in us by the Holy Spirit. It is the work of the Spirit to transform our character. The Fruit of the Spirit is to do with who we are—our identity. 1 Corinthians 12:4-13,27-31 We have a mention of a list of a variety of ministries/expressions of spiritual power which all originate from the Holy Spirit. It is the work of the Spirit to distribute as he decides various spiritual gifts among Christians and every believer receives something. The Gifts of the Spirit are to do with the building up of Christ's body, the Church and therefore it has to do with what we do—our ability.

##### **Main Points**

1. The Fruit of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control (1 Cor. 13:4-8a; 1 Pt. 1:6-7; Jn. 14:27; 1 Pt. 2:23; Tit. 3:2; 1 Pt. 2:11-12; Matt. 25:14-30; 11:28-30; 1 Cor. 9:24-27).
2. The Gifts of the Spirit: The Gifts exalt Christ; the Gifts involve all and should unite all; the Gifts build up the fellowship; the Gifts promote mission (Jn. 16:14; 1 Cor. 12:12-26; 1 Pt. 4:10; 1 Cor. 14:24-25).

## Closing Thoughts

If you noticed, all Bibles mention in Galatians 5:22 the singular 'fruit' and not the plural 'fruits'. This implies that all these 9 qualities are to be developed in the Christian with the help of the Holy Spirit. There is no pick-and-choose in this and so it's like a single fruit with 9 different flavours. On the other hand, the plural is used for 'gifts' and we have seen in 1 Cor. 12 how it is the Holy Spirit who picks-and-chooses/distributes these gifts among believers and he alone decides which gift each should have. Therefore, the proof of one having the Holy Spirit and belonging to Christ is the evidence of the Fruit of the Spirit seen lived out and not that a particular Gift of the Spirit has to be exercised to prove it (e.g. the Gift of tongues). All the qualities of the Fruit of the Spirit are to be seen in each of us and some Gift of the Spirit is given to each of us, differing from one individual to another, that we must use to help and serve others. In closing, let us think about how we can develop all the qualities of the Fruit of the Spirit—one by one, all together at the same time, instantaneously, painfully. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to help and guide us personally to enhance our character and identity as true Christians. Also let us think about how we can discover what our Spirit-given Gifts are and how we can give and receive help from other Christians for this. Let us also seek to understand why certain Gifts cause problems for a church as it did for the Corinthian Church. May we have a right understanding and attitude about the Fruit and Gifts of the Spirit.

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### Wet Sloppy Kisses

One of these days you'll explode and shout to all the kids, "Why don't you just grow up and act your age!" And they will...

Or, "You guys get outside and find something to do — without hurting each other! And don't slam the door!" And they don't.

You'll straighten their bedrooms until it's all neat and tidy, toys displayed on the shelf, hangers in the closet, animals caged. You'll yell, "Now I want it to stay this way!" And it will...

You will prepare a perfect dinner with a dish that hasn't had all the chicken picked out and a cake with no finger traces in the icing and you'll say, "Now this is a meal for company." And you will eat it alone...

You'll yell, "I want you to stay quiet while I'm on the phone. No screaming, Do you hear me?" And no one will answer.

No more tablecloths stained. No more wild hand-picked bouquets. No more iron-on patches. No more wet, smelly socks, muddy shoes or rubber bands for ponytails.

Imagine... a lipstick with a point, actually being able to go out on New Years Eve, washing clothes only once a week, no PTA meetings or silly school plays where your child is a tree, no school trips, blaring music or forgotten lunch boxes.

No more Christmas presents made of crumpled paper and toothpicks, no wet sloppy kisses, no more tooth fairy, no more giggles in the dark, scraped knees to kiss or sticky fingers to clean.

Only a voice asking, "Why don't you grow up?" And the silence echoes: "I did"

#### Children in Church - Priceless

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?" "Sixteen," the boy responded.

His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly. "How do you know that?"

"Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up, like the pastor said, 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."