



Newsletter
St. Ignatius Sunday School
Carrollton, TX- 75006

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SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:
 Nov. 11 - Perunal Sunday – No Sunday school.
Dec. 2nd – Mid Term Exam

OUR SCHOOL HISTORY

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With the blessings and approval of the Dioecson Metropolitan Late Mor Athanasios Y. Samuel, Rev. Fr. John Jacob (Dr. Yuhanon Mor Philaxinous Metropolitan) offered the Holy Qurbano at St. Alban's Colligate chapel in Dallas on Sept. 4th 1977, and thus St. Ignatious church was established. In the early stages we had only a handful of memebers and we did not have a Sunday School. But we grew slowly by adding members and our children also grew up. Then we felt that our children need to be brought in our tradition and faith. We started the Sunday School in early 1980's with very few children. But by 1986 we had more members and we had more than 40 children. We had 5 classes and 8 teachers. The Sunday School anniversary and the entertainment program held along with the

anniversary in 1986 was a turning point in our Sunday School. Mr. Mathew V. Malil, as a teacher and the entertainment coordinator did a very good job in 1986. After that every year, we added on each class.

In 1992, we purchased the property at 2707 Dove Creek lane in Carrollton. We had 39 members at that time. More members began to join our church and our Sunday School children also increased. Mr. Oomen Chandy was the headmaster for almost 25 years. The Sunday School grew with teachers and students. Now we have Pre-k to 12th grade with 100 students and 25 teachers. By the grace of our God almighty we can go forward with more enthusiasm and strength. Praise be to Him.



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

Have any questions or concerns, please email Head Master @ St.Ignatious.sundayschool@gmail.com

P.C

From Church to Cathedral

What if you could own a lighthouse and receive it for free? Because global positioning and radars are replacing lighthouses, the U.S. Government has decided to give them away! It's already been given to non-profit groups and local governments who agreed to maintain them. If you've ever seen one of America's great lighthouses, you know how impressive they are - and why so many people are responding to the offer. One inquirer explained her appeal to lighthouses: "It's the idea of someone watching over you, bringing you safely home."

The church's lectionary coincides with another milestone for our parish today. After the Sunday of the Purification of the Church, today is known as the Sunday of the Feast of the Dedication of the Church. The festival recalls the purification and dedication of the Jewish temple in 164BC after it was looted and profaned by an outside empire. The desecrated temple had to be purified and the altar rebuilt. In the Jewish tradition, this joyous festival is

known as Hanukkah or the Festival of Lights. The ancient Christian church took this Jewish festival as the beginning of the church calendar, with the understanding that Christ our Lord is the "Light of the world" (John 8:22).

On this Sunday when our parish is rebuilt and dedicated as a cathedral, what does this declaration entail? Is it merely a title of prestige and recognition? A cathedral is typically known for its size and significance. But more importantly, a cathedral serves as a model parish for the diocese. As the Jewish temple was rebuilt and consecrated with the festival of lights, St. Ignatius Cathedral is designated today as a beacon of light. Our cathedral is given the task of serving as a "lighthouse" to other churches.

In the olden days, our faith was handed down to us by our family, which included the extended family we think of today. The church was an integral part of the local community. One prayed and worshipped to-

gether as a church family within a village.

But now our children are typically raised by their father and mother only. Grandparents, uncles, aunties, and cousins are either in another state or country. Our friends may not even know Christ. And the church is where we go for 3-4 hours within a 168 hour week.

St. Ignatius Cathedral is given the challenge to break away from this ineffective model. The cathedral is called upon to no longer exist as a Sunday-only institution. Its light must shine even brighter and wider. A cathedral calls for more active and ongoing ministries focused on the light of Christ.

Essentially, a cathedral models the true purpose of a church. Other churches may have turned into an ethnic social club with little regard for the content of the faith and the sacramental, ethical and spiritual life inherent in Orthodoxy. These churches may exhibit qualities of a country club type of atmosphere.

Inside such churches one could count the number of people who are in church during the Gospel reading and then double it in order to know how many people would be in church that day! These churches are typically led by those who place secular matters first; their leaders are often not seen inside the church during liturgy. Moreover, service times are not followed, which negatively impacts ministries outside the liturgy.

A cathedral stands apart from these practices, modeling the true essence and purpose of a church. It is the cathedral that stands in the forefront with the mission of continuing the work of Christ on earth. Such work entails teaching the word of God, directing the spiritual life of the believers, and serving the poor and needy. In effect, it is the cathedral that must be a lighthouse, serving as a model for other churches on how to continuously watch and direct its members towards Christ.

In order to fulfill this function, a cathedral must break apart the notion of a

Sunday-only secular institution. Their doors are open not only on Sundays.

Where there is a church with ongoing spiritual nourishment, there you will find members who are more attached to their faith. Such nourishment is provided to all believers in the cathedral, including the children, youth, college students, young adults, married couples, older adults, and the elderly. No one group is ignored. As the community gets together regularly to learn more about their liturgy, tradition and faith, they have a deeper understanding and appreciation for it.

The concept of infant baptism alludes to this idea. Why do we baptize a child who is ignorant of what's happening to him/her? One of the main reasons is because the church is seen as a family, the One Body of Christ. It therefore becomes the role of the church to form this child into the faith that he/she will eventually accept. Additionally, why does our church not allow the mother or father to be the godfather/godmother of their child?

In summary, on this Sunday of the Feast of the Dedication of the Church, our St. Ignatius church, too, is dedicated as a cathedral today. Such a designation entails a self-introspection of how a cathedral can serve as a model and lighthouse for its diocese. We are given the responsibility to answer a vital calling. How can St. Ignatius Cathedral become a beacon of light of a vibrant and active community focused on continually bringing its members closer to God?

George
Aramath

What we are learning:

1st Grade: Lesson 9 thru 10, Review for Midterm
2nd Grade: Lesson 9 thru 10, Review for Midterm
3rd Grade: Lesson 15 thru 18
4th Grade: Lesson 9 thru 14
5th Grade: Lesson 9 thru 10, Review for Midterm
6th Grade: Lesson 9 thru 12
7th Grade: Lesson 7 thru 12
9th Grade: Qurubana unit and Review for Mid term.
10th Grade: Second coming, Plan for redemption and Salvation Theory.
11th Grade: Holy Qurubana
12th Grade: Introduction to Lithergy and different parts of Church.

Did you know in Qurubana?

All of our prayers start by saying Holy art Thou...(3 times). This prayer is called Qauma or Qaumo. What does the symbolic actions and prayers in the Qaumo mean?

This is a Syriac word meaning *standing*. We face the east in our worship because; we are looking for the Second coming in our Lord, which is expected from the east.

We usually stand in worship. This posture combines respect for God, who is the Lord of Lords and freedom of children of the resurrected Lord. On special occasions, we kneel or sit.



Know Your Teacher: Babu Uncle

My name is Babu C. Mathew. I came to USA in 1982 from Kerala and

joined the St. Ignatious family. There were about 20 families and less than 15 children in our Sunday school at that time. I had the privilege of serving in the Church Managing Committee in various capacities beginning in 1985. Like many teachers, I joined the Sunday school when my children started Sunday school. Oommen Chandy uncle, the first Headmaster, encouraged me to become a teacher in 1995. Over the years I had the opportunity to know many of our young adults who graduated from our Sunday school. It is so good to see many of them active in our Church and Sunday school. As a teacher, that is my proudest achievement. Now we

have over 100 students and twenty five teachers in our Sunday school from Pre K through twelfth grade. There are so many special moments from the past years. One of the most memorable moments was the trip to Dallas Children Theater. VBS is another exciting part of Sunday school. Children get to show their creativity and talent in many ways. The saddest moment is during competition when you have to choose one winner from several young children.

It is really hard to explain to them why they didn't win and to see their disappointed faces. I always encourage children to do their best in all activities. My dear children, scoring 100% on an exam is not the real achievement. Rather it is what you learned and how much you can show in your real life that mat-

ters most. A God fearing good child is a model to others. Our goal in Sunday school is to make each student a role model. They are the real inspirations to the coming generations. I am so happy to say many of the children are good role models and we can be proud of them.

My humble advice to all fellow teachers: Your service is so valuable and the reward is the satisfaction you receive from the children saying thank you for everything at the end of the year. Don't get distracted and turn away from your commitment for small criticisms. A loving hug from a child is more valuable than any other gift and I know you all agree. I am so grateful and happy to be a part of our Sunday school and the St. Ignatious family.

Babu C.

Mathew