

**St. Joseph's Syro-Malankara Catholic Mission of British Columbia,
Vancouver**



Annual Report - 2020

Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

The Annual Report for the Syro-Malankara Mission at Vancouver, British Columbia is being presented on behalf of parish committee for the year 2020.

2020 Parish Committee for the Mission

On 18th January we had our first "Pothuyogam" of the year where Mr. Benny Rajan presented the report for the year 2019 (Mr. Christin Jacob George and Mrs. Susan Thomas supported) and Mrs. Nidisha Rajan presented the church accounts for 2019 (Mr. Jacob John and Mr. Peeush Thomas supported).

During this meeting we chose the new representatives for our parish committee:

- Mr. Teny Idicheriya, as Secretary
- Mrs. Susan Thomas, as Treasurer
- Mr. Benny Rajan
- Mr. Christin Jacob George
- Mrs. Bibily Thomas

Other units of the Church are led by-

- Faith Formation- Mrs. Leena Varghese (To be part of the Parish Committee)
- MCA and Prayer Meeting- Mr. Jacob John
- Parish Council Member- Mr. Wilson George (To be part of the Parish Committee)
- MCCL- Mrs. Becky Jose
- Mathrusangham- Mrs. Susan Thomas
- MCYM- Mr. Joel Jacob

COVID-19

This year was a really challenging one for all of us as well as our community too. Due to the pandemic and restrictions, we did not have holy mass and catechism from March 2020 and until the end of May 2020 for the feast of Pentecost. During the month of May, we began our online prayer meetings and catechism classes. Due to the increasing Covid-19 cases, and new restrictions from the Government of BC activities and religious gatherings were once again suspended from November 2020 onwards and all this time around we had prayer meeting, committee meeting and catechism classes virtually.

Faith Formation Classes for Kids and Young Adults

This mission is very dedicated to providing children and youth with a lively faith formation class. In the current year, we are fortunate to have 15 students and 4 teachers. The students were divided into classes based on their age and the following is the structure of the classes:

Head Mistress: Mrs. Leena Varghese		
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Class	Teacher in Charge	No. of Students
1	Leena Varghese	3
3	Becky	2
5	Bennet Wilson	3
7	Joshua Jacob	2
9	Joel Jacob	3
11	Susan Thomas	1
12	Leena Varghese	2

Our catechism classes are held online every Saturday. We start our catechism classes with prayers and bible reading. The final exam for the year 2019-2020 was held online on June 28, 2020 by Fr. Liju Thundy. Five of our students grabbed rank at the eparchy level and all others succeeded in flying colours. We also had the midterm exam for the year 2020-2021 online on January 24, 2021. Our kids also participated in the online VBS conducted by our diocese in the month of August 2020. On August 22, 2020 we have conducted bible quizzes, for our junior and senior groups, respectively.

Family Conference

The fifth Western Syro-Malankara family conference was called off due to Covid-19 which was supposed to be held in Calgary in the month of July.

Other Activities

- Jan 11, 2020- Baptism of the daughter of Reji and Jilu
- June 16, 2020- Housewarming of Geogy and Lima
- And we had other several housewarmings done privately because of Covid-19 and the protocols
- July 11, 2020- Mar Ivanios Day celebration
- July 18, 2020- Committee meeting
- July 26, 2020- Picnic to Alice Lake, Squamish
- September 03, 2020- Zoom meeting with our bishop of the U.S.A and Canada diocese, Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos
- September 13, 2020- Birthday celebration of Mr. Thomas Mathew and Faith Formation prize distribution
- October 11, 2020- First Holy Communion of Neva Elsa Thomas, daughter of Mr. Peeush Thomas and Mrs. Bibily Thomas

New Members to our Parish.

We are fortunate to have new members to our community. On behalf of the parish committee, I extend a warm welcome to all our newly members.

- Harry John Thundiyathu
- Anish & Family
- Prince & Family
- Jinu Kattukallil

Focus for the next year

- Register our church under the CRA for 'Charity' status
- Do more charity works
- Resume our regular holy mass, catechism classes and prayer meetings

We thank Almighty God for his continued blessings on our community and on each of us. We are thankful for the guidance of our bishop Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos, support and prayers of our Rev Fr. John (Daiju) Kuriakose and participation and fraternity of each and every single church member during this tough pandemic period.