

Come, ye sinners, and implore,
Seek forgiveness here;
To one knocking at the door,
Openeth the Lord,
He that asketh, doth receive,
He that seeketh, he shall find.



Lent is a season for soul-searching, repentance, reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory for initiation into the Christian community. The Great Lent has many aspects that are difficult spiritually and physically. But it is also a special time of the year with more services and prayer sessions. Some of the Hymnography of this period are used only once a year. We can call it "School of repentance". When we speak of repentance, we have to quote St. Isaac of Syria: "He who is able to see himself has accomplished more than one who has seen angels." and "One who overcome sin is better than one who through his prayer raises the dead."

This is the time for us to return from the abyss as Prodigal Son of the scriptures did. He assessed his position correctly, drew the right conclusion and returned to his right mind and his Father's House. Similarly we have to make proper self assessment and lay aside every weight and the sin that prevent us running the race. (Hebrew 12:1)

Crucial part of the observation of the Great Lent is the participation in the Crucifixion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We start the journey forty days ahead of the Passion Week, remember the sufferings of Christ on the cross and finally on Easter day, see Him resurrected. This enables us to understand clearly the fall of man, his exile from Paradise and what the Son of Man has done for mankind. Adam was expelled from the Garden of Eden and with him; mankind is essentially in exile from the Kingdom of Heaven. We are outcasts exactly as was Prodigal son in the distant land subsisting on bran. Witnessing and participating in this salvation plan increases our joy and understanding of His Life, Death and Resurrection.

One question frequently raised about the observation of the Great lent is: "Why lent? Why not do this on all days of the year? Why are you satisfied with just 50 days of a year for this?"

We have to understand that traditions of the Orthodox Church prescribe five fasting seasons in the year and fasting on all Wednesdays and Fridays. Some would quote St. Paul in Colossians 2:16: "So let no one judge you in food or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths" and Romans 14:5: "Some people regard one day above another and some regard every days the same" But St. John the Chrysostom has clarified both these verses as: "It doesn't says do not to observe them, he says not to judge them" Lent is all about fasting and self - discipline and is continual through all seasons. Church is about Christ and not any philosophical school. The goal of lent is to transform ourselves in to the image of God. We have to submit to spiritual discipline, guided and directed by the authority of the Church to actually make progress in spiritual life.

May Almighty bless our observation of this Great Lent and help us to progress in spiritually. In His Service

Jose Mathew Achan

Prayer Meeting Schedule for March 2011

DATE	TIME	HOST	GROUP	BG.#	FL.#	FT.#	LOCATION	Tel. No.
03/25/2011	6:00 PM	Shibu Varghese	St. Andrews	32	8	29	Old Chicken Hut Building Opp. Junior ICSK	97772812
03/04/2011		Suby George		25	10	30	Hayat Optical Shop Building	97218267
03/11/2011	5:30 PM	Anil Varghese	St. Behnans		4	11	Near Makka Store	24316434
03/18/2011		Bejoy Eapen		27	2	8	Asia Store 2 Bldg.	24347300
03/25/2011		Tinkumon Joice			3	11	Beside Kyber Supermarket	24319846
03/25/2011	5:00 PM	George Paul Paret	St. Dionysius		5	14	Takkar Building	66368640
03/04/2011		Varghese P V			6	24	Anwar Supermarket building	67601256
03/11/2011	5:00 PM	Jerry Jacob Mathew	St. Elias		3	1	Near New Building backside ALH	97286528
03/18/2011		Naian Thomas			5	17	Anwar Supermarket building	66284523
03/25/2011		Abraham Thomas			7	64	Cochin Gift House Building	66185184
03/04/2011		K S Vargherse (Sam)			6	18	Chachoose Rest.Build.(Next to Parsonage Building	66623384
03/11/2011	5:00 PM	Varghese V G	St. George	18	GF	13	Behind Al Lewa store(Next to New building)	97952910
03/18/2011		Roy Varghese Samuel		1537	3	12	Old Pakistani Mosque- 1st Bldg	97419770
03/25/2011		Mathew A G (Jojji)		58	5	23	Unique store # 3, building	66812495
03/25/2011	7:00 PM	Sajin Ninan Philip	St. James		3	9	Near Indian Public school	65058904
03/04/2011	8:00 PM	Saji Chacko	St. Joseph	15	5	16	Old Nurses hostel next Fathair shop, New Riggai	99109344
03/25/2011	8:00 PM	Shaji Thankachen	St. John	25	GF	2	Near Salmiya Garden round about	25646251
03/04/2011		Kurien Varkey		40	3	11	Royal A C Building	97560329
03/11/2011	5:30 PM	Santhosh Koshy Mathew	St. Luke	29	4	44	Between Jas Cargo& Electrical sub station	97608625
03/18/2011		John Mathew		38	2	6	Opp. Electric Sub Station - New Bldg	24341082
03/25/2011		C T Kochumman		1716	2	5	Opp. Lovely store old bldg	97569908
03/04/2011		Jacob V Job		18	8	48	Sreeragam Furniture Building	24339467
03/11/2011	5:30 PM	Shinu Baby	St. Mark		4	15	Variety Building	24342405
03/18/2011		Lal Oommen		18	9	49	Sreeragam Furniture Building	24313440
03/11/2011	8:00 PM	Varghese M I	St. Mary		7	36	Street 2,Block 6,New Arbeed Building,Corner Bldg.	25646251
03/04/2011		Saju Baby			2	6	Pulari Fabrics Building	66180813
03/11/2011	5:00 PM	Mathew Philip	St. Mathew		2	11	Opp. Mosque Near Safari Restaurant	24315247
03/18/2011		Varghese Puthukulangra			6	46	Opp. Madina Supermarket	97255101
03/25/2011		Sleeba Cherian			3	13	Robin Store Building	24334106
03/04/2011		Byju Sam Varghese			7	50	Opp. Uduppi Palace - Right	66398599
03/11/2011	5:30 PM	Sam P Joseph	St. Pauls	29	GR	22	Opp. Apsara Beauty Parlour	66835334
03/18/2011		John George			3	14	Eden Store-Right Corner Building	66604227
03/25/2011		Wilson AV			5	17	Dyna Super Market, Right	99241667
03/18/2011	8:00 PM	Roy Zachariah	St. Peter		5	14	Opp. Ritz Hotel	66549475
03/04/2011		Zachariah P C			1	4	Opp. German Clinic	24319785
03/11/2011	5:00 PM	Biju Thomas	St. Philipose		10	40	Opp. German Clinic	24310866
03/18/2011		Varghese Samuel			2	8	Beside Hadha Centre	99318690
03/23/2011	8:00 PM	K E Mathew (Shaji)	St. Stephens	8			Street 1, Block 4, Villa 8, Salwa	99669174
03/04/2011		Ronny Daniel		48	4	9	Cochin Gift Corner Building	24315521
03/11/2011	5:30 PM	Prince Chacko	St. Thomas	24	4	10	Behind Family Center	24331217
03/18/2011		Saju Cherian		20	2	9	Total Workshop Building	24337657
03/25/2011		Thomas Varghese		21	1	2	Golden Tree Restaurant Building	24344748

GREAT LENT SCHEDULES

Evening Prayer Schedule

Day	Time	Venue
Sunday	6:30 PM to 7:30 PM	Both parsonages
Monday	6:30 PM to 7:30 PM	Both parsonages
Wednesday	6:30 PM to 7:30 PM	Both parsonages
29th March (Tuesday)	Holy Qurbana (Pathi Nombu) Mid Lent	NECK

* There will be no Holy Qurbana on Tuesdays during Great Lent *

Confession

Day	Time	Venue
Sunday	5:30 PM to 6:30 PM	Both parsonages
Monday	5:30 PM to 6:30 PM	Both parsonages
Tuesday	5:00 PM to 6:30 PM	NECK
Wednesday	5:30 PM to 6:30 PM	Both parsonages
Thursday	5:15 PM to 6:30 PM	NECK
Saturday	11:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Both parsonages

* Please contact priests and confirm the availability of other timings.
NO CONFESSIONS AFTER 40th FRIDAY OF GREAT LENT *

General Body

Election General Body will be held on Tuesday, 22nd March in NECK and ward election of committee members will be held on Friday 18th March at both parsonages

Bhramavar Prayer Group

The Bhramavar Prayer meeting will be held on March 4, 2011 at 8:00 PM at the residence of Mr. Daniel D'souza, Behind Metro Cinema, Farwaniya Tel: 24757358

Orthodox Christian Youth Movement

Annual picnic will be on Friday March 4, 2011 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Reggae Gardens

Monthly Prayer meeting will be held on Thursday March 17, 2011 from 7:00 PM at the residence of Mr. Shaiju Kurien (Flat # 34, Floor # 3, Opposite Chennai Restaurant, near Shai Tandoori restaurant Abbasiya; Phone: 99594221)

Election General Body Meeting will be on Friday March 18, 2011 at Abbasiya Parsonage from 11:30 AM