



2009 Activity Report

Dear Parishioners

On behalf of our Vicar Fr. Varghese Naickampampil and the parish council members of year 2009 - 2010, I am presenting the 2009 Annual activity report.

Here is the summary of all the activities we had during the year 2009.

Parish Administration:

Parish Council:

Vicar

Trustees

Secretaries

Ecumenism, Fund Raising & Public Relations

Treasurer

Sunday School & Youth co-ordinator

Cultural co-ordinators

Building Maintenance

Social Coordinator

Varghese Anthony was replaced by Robel George

Fr. Varghese Naickampampil

Mathew Joseph & Benny Poothembra

Mathew Maliekal & Shibu Mathews

Jose Philip & Toms Mathew

Mathew George

James Varghese

Bindu Vengachuvattil & Simy Thymalil

Kurian Job

Robel George

Youth Representatives:

President

Secretaries

Shiju Philip & Pavy Joseph

Sheena Mananel & Jobin Philip

The general body approved the following sub-committees for 2009 – 2010:

Choir

Mathew V. Mathew, Jaison Paulose, Reji, Denzil,
Jessy Jacob, Tessa Mathew, Shiny, Zeenus

Building Maintenance

Kurian Job (Coordinator)
Augusty Parapuram, Joseph Manalel, Titty Thomas,
George Babu.

Social

Benny Poothembra (Coordinator)
Robel George

Darpan

Toms Mathew (Coordinator)

Accountant

Mathew George (Coordinator)
Sebastian Kallungal

Auditors:

Sunny Jacob & Diaz Thomas



General Body Meetings

We had our annual general body meeting on February 1st, 2009. These were the key decisions and approvals from General Body meeting.

1. Approval of 2008 financial report & activity report.
2. Approval of 2009 Budget.
3. Approval of Parish Council members:
4. Focus on participation of maximum families for offertory:
5. Approved to publish the pledge/contribution list.
6. Approval for funding of \$60,000 for major repairs including parking lot and building roof

Parish Council Meetings

In year 2009 Parish council met 12 times to monitor, discuss, plan and execute the activities of our church. As per the suggestions from General Body Meeting held in February, Parish council approved procedure for selecting the parish council members as per the diocesan procedure and published the same. All the parish council members contributed in making decisions on our parish activities

Liturgy Activities:

Year 2009 had many Liturgy activities. The following is a nutshell of all the events.

- Two Malayalam Masses and one English Mass on every catechism Sunday.
- Daily Mass Monday through Saturday.
- Weekly confession offered on Sundays.
- Way of the cross on Friday's during Lent Season.
- Celebrated Mass on special days such as Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Christmas, New Year etc.
- Celebrated the feast of St George, St. Joseph, Pentecost, Most Holy Trinity, St. Mathew, St. Thomas, St Antony, St. Vincent De Paul, St. Alphonsa, and St. Therese, St. Pious XI, and Assumption of our Lady.
- Rosary and Praise and Worship after Saturday Morning Mass.
- 10 days of Rosary devotion in October with Mass, Rosary and Benediction.
- Adoration on the first Friday of each month with a 7 pm Holy Mass.
- Weekly zonal prayer meetings.
- We were invited to offer our Holy Qurbana in the National Shrine of the Little Flower Church during the lent season.
- Visits of International Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima on the 2nd day of Rosary devotion.
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Liturgical Organizations

CML

A unit of Cherupushpa Mission League was inaugurated at our church during summer camp. There are now 38 members, both kids and adults. The mission league is under the coordination of President Tison Thomas and Secretary Philomina Albert.

Women's Forum

We started a women's forum, known as St. Thomas Women's Forum. It was inaugurated during the Parish Onam Festival. Its president is Tessy Mathew, secretary Hency George, North Zone representative Kunjamma Villinasery, South Zone representative Mary Chakkalamuriyil, West Zone representative Renny Rojan, East Zone representative Reena Robel.

SMCC

10 families of parish participated in the SMCC convention held at Philadelphia from July 17-19.

Youth Forum

For the year 2009 our youth were involved in various activities. They held general youth meetings which included Bible studies, movie day and general discussions. Together, as a group they gathered to decorate our church for Christmas, held a bonfire, had a bakesale (proceeds for Haiti) and volunteered at Medilodge of Southfield Nursing Home. They ended the year with a successful youth retreat lead by Rafi and team. Pavi Joseph, Regina Mathew and Shermin Manalel attended the diocesan youth leadership camp in Chicago.

Constructions

Parking Lot Repair

We made a major repair work on the parking lot and on the underground drainage system. We spent about \$45,000 for this project. This will eliminate water floods in our parking lot.

Church Hall Stage

This year, a stage for the church hall was built. It was blessed by Mar Mathew Vaniakizhakkal, Bishop of Satna diocese, on July 5th.

Swing Set

We bought a new swing set that is now placed in the front lawn. The play area was blessed on March 27, 2009 after the 7 PM Holy Mass.

Extra entry Door

An extra door was built for the kindergarten catechism / green room.

Chair & Table Stackers

We purchased two chair stacker and one table stacker for the parish hall.



Religious Activities

Retreat for School Going students

We hosted a retreat for School going students on February 7th and 8th, 2009 which was led by **Gethsamaneministries Team** from Toronto, Canada. Around 80 children attended the retreat.

Parish Retreat

There were two Annual retreats specifically for our parishioners. Our annual retreat during Lent led by Rev. **Fr. Joseph Puthenpurail OFM Cap** on April 3rd, 4th, and 5th. The second one was on September 11,12 and 13, and it was lead by Fr. George Vadakekara V.C. We had many other one-day community retreats held in our church.

Family Faith Formation Classes

We started a once a-month-family faith formation class for adults. The classes are given by Fr. Roy Kappil. The topics are based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Out of the Chicago diocese, this unique program is only held at our parish. This is something we should be proud of.

Youth Retreat

This year's youth retreat was held on December 28 thru 30 and was led by Rafi & team. More than 50 youth participated in this retreat, and very good feedback was received by the participants.

Charitable Contribution

We collected and contributed over \$3000 for north Indian mission activities through Fr. Bobby Embrayil V.C

Catechism School

We have total of 133 students in our Catechism school. Apart from regular Catechism classes, preparation for first communion and confirmation is also held in the Catechism school. Catechism students had their anniversary on June 8th. We are collecting \$25 per child for the catechism school year of 2009-2010. We have 18 CCD teachers including 2 reverent sisters of the missionaries of charity and 4 youth members, teaching in various classes under the leadership of James Varghese. A training program was held for the CCD teachers on 10/19/2009 by Fr. George Madathiparampil.

Gust Priest:

We were fortunate have the presence of Fr. James Palackal in November.09 .He gave several classes to the parishioners on liturgy. Everyone appreciate these classes.



Social Celebrations

Wedding Jubilee Celebration:

We celebrated the Wedding Jubilee of the couples who have reached their Silver Jubilee during Sunday Mass at 10.00 a.m. April 19, 2009 with a reception afterwards. His Excellency Mar Jacob Angadiath was the Main Celebrant of the Jubilee Qurbana. 28 couples participated in this joyful event

Family Fun Day

On July 5th we held a brand new function, 'Family Fun Day'. This was a fundraising program coupled with fun activities. We also had competition for couples called Sa-Ri-Ga-Ma.. We collected over \$2,000 from parish Family Fun Day.

Parish Picnic

Our annual parish picnic was organized and held at Halmich Park in Warren on July 11th. Everyone enjoyed the picnic activities and sports. There were about 220 church members present at the picnic, and they all had an amazing time.

Summer Camp

We held a summer camp on July 13 through July 19 under the leadership of Fr. Vinod Madathaparambil from Chicago. Ninety-five kids participated, and everyone loved it. There were many activities involved with summer camp, such as a helicopter ride and a cruise. The cruise was held for everyone in the family, and 198 people participated. Thanks to all the volunteers for your dedicated, timely help for the summer camp.

ACT Prep Classes

From June to August, Jubi Chakankal, along with the help of some of our bright youths, held an ACT prep class for the high school students. Seventeen students enrolled in this class and said that it was very helpful and well organized. Thank you, Jubi and youth teachers for your hard work!

Onam Celebration

We celebrated Onam Sadya on September 14th with our traditional Kerala Style. More than 400 people were able to participate in this feast which was organized by Women's Forum.

Parish Day:

From this year Annual Day was renamed to The Parish day. This Day was celebrated at Divine Providence Lithuanian Catholic Church, Southfield on October 10th, 2009. There were approximately 35 programs consisting of dances, songs, comedy skits, and more. All the participants performed their best in this annual day celebration. This program was a great success. Special thanks to all the cultural coordinators.



Annual Cultural Competition:

The annual cultural completions were held during the month of November and December. There were nine competition items and each item had separate age group level competition. This year we introduced Family Bible Quiz for adults in order to encourage Bible reading.

Christmas Carol

This year all the Christmas carol teams visited families from all 4 zones and conveyed the message of Christmas. This year we had zonal competitions for most visited homes and for most funds collected. North zone won both prizes. We were able to visit 206 families.

Ecumenical Programs:

Our church participated in the Ecumenical Christmas program held at St. Thomas Orthodox Church, in Warren on December 26. Our kids presented the Nativity Show, which was one of the major highlights of the program. Jose Philip coordinated Ecumenical program for our church.

Parish Communications

We started a monthly Church Bulletin "San Thome News" a newsletter that includes Pastor's message, upcoming events, articles from parishioners, advertisements, life events (ex: birthday, death announcement, wedding anniversary, etc.). This was first released on September 13th on our Perunnal. (It is coordinated by Jose Philip, Philomina Albert, Primus John, Mathew Joseph, Maya Maliekal, Treesa Anthony and Chrystal Zachariah.) There is an editorial board to co-ordinate the news letter.

Feasts and Holiday's

Holy Week Programe

We celebrated this year's Holy week programme in a traditonal way with the help of Fr. Roy kaduppil from Chicago. Our youth participated in the Good Friday passion play which was coordinated by Aji Joseph. Our Easter mass was held on 04/12/10, Dinner was followed.

First Communion and Confirmation

There were total of 17 children who received their first Holy Communion and/or Confirmation on June 7th 2009 from His Excellency Mar Jacob Angadiath. The reception held afterwords was sponsored by the parents of First Communicants and Confirmation.

St Thomas Day

St Thomas Day was celebrated on July 4th this year. We were blessed with the presence of Mar Mathew Vaniakizhakkal, Bishop of Satna diocese for this event.



Perunnal

This year's Perunnal began with flag hosting during the *Festival of Immaculate Conception of Mother Mary* on 09/11/2009. It was concluded with the Perunnal Qurbana on 09/13/09.

Presudhenthithi of this Perunnal was Vadakkekudy Families. Main Celebrant during the Perunnal Qurbana was Rev. Msgr. George Madathiparambil and there were 10 co-celebrants (the co-celebrants were Rev. Fr. Varghese Naickampampil, Rev. Fr. George Vadakkekara, Rev. Fr. Jacob Vadakkekudy, Rev. Fr. Mathew Meledam, Rev. Fr. Joy Chakian, Rev. Fr. Mathew George, & Rev. Fr. Koshy Chirakkarott.) Most Rev. Mar. Ibrahim Namoo Ibrahim gave the Homily. Presudanties sponsored the Agappe after the procession. The Mass ended with blessing of the New Presudhenthithi for 2010, Dr. James Joseph & Anna Family.

Christmas:

Christmas celebrations started with Vigil Mass on Dec 24th 7:00 pm, followed by a Nativity show by the kids. The show was choreographed by Aji Joseph, Bindu Vengachuvattil and Simi Thymalil.

Financial Status and Member Participation

There were around 28 new families registered in our church during year 2009. Some of families moved out of state and they have been removed from our mailing list. We were able to raise enough funds to meet all the expenses and set aside \$50,000 for Church loan repayment and \$15,000 for other Major Repair. As you all know, Mathew George meticulously maintained our church account this year following the generally accepted accounting principles. Thank you, Mathew George for your dedicated services to our community. Thanks to all who supported our church fund in 2009.

Summary

As you all know, year 2009 was another remarkable year in the history of our church with many activities. We had more participation in catechism, Zonal prayers, and community volunteer activities. This would not have been possible without the whole hearted support and involvements of all parishniors. The leadership, and dedication of Vicar, Fr. Varghese Naickampampil and our trusty Mathew Joseph are the main reasons for all the success we had in the year 2009. On behalf of the 2009-2010 parish council, I extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Varghese Achan and Mathew.

We would also like to thank all families who helped in 2009 for their support.

May God bless you all

Submitted by

Mathew Maliekal & Shibu Mathews Secretaries (2009&2010)