

Sunday School Report

“The Fear of the Lord is The Beginning of Wisdom.” Proverbs: 1. 7

With the grace of God Almighty, St.Stephen's Orthodox Church has a full-fledged Sunday school consisting of 58 students and 27 teachers attending classes from Kindergarten to 12th grade. Following are the teachers: Abey.K.Tharian, Leena Varghese, Aju Tharian, Aleyamma John, Jimmy John, George Varghese, Leena George, Valsamma Joseph, Jinu Kurian, Joshila Mathew, Lovely Philip, Saly Abraham, Latha Panicker, Saramma Jacob, Sunita Varghese, Jasmine Biju, Nizy Roy, Aleyamma Varghese, Rinzy Roy, Smitha Mathai, Stephanie John, Neena Oommen, Timothy Mathew, Shelby Varghese, Ancy George, Elizabeth Varghese and Titus Mathew.

Three students from grade 5, four students from grade 8, four students from grade 10, and three students from grade 12 registered and passed the Centralized Examination conducted by the North East American Diocese. Andrew Philip scored 4th rank and Julia Mathew scored 6th rank at the Diocesan level Centralized Grade 5 exam. In Grade 10, Jocelyn Mathew scored first rank and Philip Varghese scored the third rank in the centralized exam and made us all proud. Congratulations to all the top scorers.

To encourage our Sunday school children for better academic performances, we have introduced cash awards from our church sponsors for the highest scoring children in fifth, eighth and tenth grade centralized examinations. These children should score 80 or more to be eligible for this award. This year, Mrs. Ponnama Mammen Memorial \$100 Cash award was given to Andrew Philip from grade 5 by Johnson & Shirley Thomas and P.K. Koshy Memorial \$50 Cash award was given to Julia Mathew from Grade 5 by Sunny& Leena Varghese. Mr.O.M.Kunjukunju memorial \$100 cash award sponsored by Titus Mathew & family was given to Bernice Biju from 8th grade. In grade 10, Mr & Mrs. T.K.Mathew memorial \$100 cash award sponsored by Abey Tharian & family was given to Jocelyn Mathew and Mr. Sam David memorial \$50 Cash award was given to Philip Varghese by Mrs.Jomy David. In grade 12, P.K. Koshy Memorial \$100 Cash award was given to George Varghese by Sunny& Leena Varghese.

Our Sunday school children displayed commendable performance in the area talent competitions held at St.Mary's Orthodox Church, Staten Island, NY. We captured five first prizes and six second prizes in the area talent competitions. Congratulations to Andrew Philip, Angelle Philip, and Philip Varghese for winning prizes during the North East American Diocese final talent competitions held in Philadelphia.

OVBS-2016 was held on July 21 to 24 in our church with the help and cooperation of Sunday school teachers, Marthamariam Samajam Members, Church Office bearers and many well-wishers. Vicar Rev. Fr. Babu. K.Mathew delivered the keynote message based on the theme "Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy." (Psalms 43:4)

Area-3 Sunday schools together conducted a field trip to St.Vladimir Orthodox Theological Seminary in New York City on October 1, 2016. Our children also participated in the event. This was an opportunity for Sunday school children to observe and understand different activities and interact with clergy inside an orthodox Seminary.

Christmas Eve Program was held with great joy and celebration with the help and participation of all Sunday school children, teachers and parents on Dec 24th 2016. Children performed dances, dramas, instrumental music and sang many carol songs during the event. A charity drive called "hats for charity" raised \$125 by Sunday school children during Xmas time. This money was donated to educational expenses of a needy student at Snehasadan in Bangalore.

Sincere thanks to all members of our church for their continued prayers, support and encouragement of our Sunday school. Also on behalf of the Sunday school teachers and students, I express my deepest gratitude towards our Vicar Rev.Fr. Babu. K. Mathew for his consistent care, guidance and prayers that make our Sunday school, the foundation of Orthodox faith.

Mr.Abey.K. Tharian
Sunday School Principal