# St. Thomas Malankara Orthodox Church LI Annual Sunday School Newsletter

MEMORIES FROM THE YEAR 2017 PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 2018

A service and activity publication for the St. Thomas Orthodox Church Community



#### **Sunday School Education Day**

The MGOCSM and Sunday School held our parish's first Education Day. The theme of the event was from Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ, who gives me strength." Arts and crafts such as making prayer hands, coloring sea animals, classes on how God strengthens us, and melodious singing made this day educational and memorable.







#### Anil John Memorial Basketball Tournament





Pictured here, our students were multitalented and active in the 2017 AJM Tournament. From bake sale management, kids' free throw competitions, the halftime show performance, and even playing in the tournament itself in one of four women's teams, our Sunday School was all hands on deck to make this another successful year at Island Garden Gym.





# Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center Visit



Our parish's FOCUS and Sunday School students were eager to visit our very own Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center with Abey Achen. They were able to tour the Center and see the new conference rooms and halls preparing for events in the coming year. They were filled with awe by the breathtaking landscape, which the children especially enjoyed as they were able to run around and play.

#### **Annual Orthodox Vacation Bible School**





Over 60 students from our church and other churches were in attendance for the Annual OVBS. Children from ages two to twenty were involved as this year's OVBS had efficiently enthralled preschoolers and college students to attend. From qurbana bread making demonstrations to bouncing in a bounce castle, Valliachan, Abey Achen, and our wonderful guest speaker, Shawn Semassen, were great mentors.









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#### St. Tikhon's Seminary/Monastery Visit

Our parish's Sunday School students along with FOCUS members toured the seminary campuses, the classrooms, and the library which was filled with books about faith. They also explored the Burning Bush Cafe, had a fellowship lunch and enjoyed the scenic and serene views.





# Long Island Ducks Game

An annual trip to watch a local baseball game was cherished among the pictured Sunday School students and their families. Although the weather was rainy, sunshiny spirits of our children kept the Long island Ducks game fun and relaxing for all who were in attendance.









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## **Annual Thanksgiving Potluck**



The MGOCSM of our parish hosted the annual Thanksgiving potluck for the Sunday School students, Youth and FOCUS members. Many of our **Sunday School students** brought delicious home cooked meals for everyone to share.

## Giving Back to St. Jude's Hospital



To show gratitude and love towards fellow children, our Sunday School students made friendship bracelets for patients at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Our Youth Committee arranged for the collection of old t-shirts and with these, the bracelets were made in all sorts of colors and shapes by many students.

# **Annual Council of Churches Program**





Sunday school students participated in the Council of Churches **Christmas Talent Show of** 2017 by performing a group song while donning cheerful red garments both in our parish and for the Council of Churches.