

St John's Church, Hamilton-First prayer meeting Minutes

Dear all,

We had our first prayer meeting on the 22nd of February at the residence of Mr. Roy Jacob.

Thanks to all who came to enjoy the evening in the serenity of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The meeting was well attended. The prayers were led by Rev. Dr. Thomas George Achan. As part of the prayer gathering Achan discussed the importance of Family Life, values and emphasised that the Christian Family is the cornerstone of the Orthodox Church. Continuing his dissertation, he stated there was nothing unattainable by prayers and opined that the choice of St. John the Apostle as the name of the congregation was a good omen. He elaborated that St. John was the Apostle of Love, who had the privilege to take care of Mary the Mother of Our Lord, and was the only disciple of Christ to have died a natural death. Achan further encouraged each household in the congregation to pray together as a family at least once a day.

Subsequent to the prayer, Achan chaired a meeting to discuss and plan the evolution of the congregation.

- The next Holy Qurbana will be held on March 9th 2013. Subsequent Holy Qurbana's will be held on the First Saturday of every month, except for special occasions.
- Monthly prayer meetings will be held on the 3rd Friday of every month.

Holy Qurbana Timings & Location: Assyrian Church, 63 Stone Church Rd. W, Hamilton, First Saturday of every month (subject to availability of the church). Morning Namaskaram at 8:30 am and Holy Qurbana at 9:00 am.

Prayer Meetings: To be held on the third Friday of the month at 7:00 pm at the residence of a member. The meeting will be held at a member's residence in sequential order as per the alphabetical list of the members. If a member has any inconvenience in conducting the prayer meeting at his/her residence, the hall at the church could be rented out with prior notice. It was also stressed and agreed upon that the host member should only provide a snack/tea/coffee after the meeting. (Everyone please have dinner and come). An annual pot-luck prayer meeting could also be arranged.

The meetings will start at 7:00 pm sharp with a half an hour session for the kids. The kids could break-out at 7.30 pm till 8:00 pm while the adults have a class/session and then the kids could rejoin the group at 8:00 pm for the scripture readings, songs and prayers. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own copy of the Bible- the International Version or the Orthodox Bible - no Good News Bibles please. The meetings will emphasise on Orthodox Christian beliefs and principles.

Next Prayer Meeting - To Commemorate the Holy Week: The next prayer meeting will be held at Assyrian Church, 63 Stone Church Rd. W, Hamilton on March 17th 2013, Sunday evening from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. This prayer meeting to commemorate the Holy Week will include Retreat, Prayer and Confession.

Rev. Dr. Thomas George Achan will be leading the session and there will be an opportunity for Confession.

Holy Week: Achan recommended that all the members should try to attend the Holy Week masses/prayers at any one of the Orthodox churches in Toronto.

Coordinators: The co-ordinators for various activities were also nominated.

Listed below are the co-ordinators for various Church activities.

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Full Name</i>	<i>Email-address</i>
President of all Activity groups	Rev. Dr. Thomas George	frthomasgeorge@yahoo.com
Prarthana Yogam (Prayer group)	George Easo (Kunjumon-Dundas)	geaso@cogeco.ca
Martha Mariam Samajam	Elizabeth Abraham (Becky)	elizabeth.abraham@sympatico.ca
Sunday School	Jency Jose	jency.alex@gmail.com
Youth & MGOCSM	Sherin Jacob	sherindiya@hotmail.com
Youth & MGOCSM	Nathan Philip	mphilip@hotmail.com
Finance	Roy Jacob	roy_ply@hotmail.com
Newsletter editor-in-charge	Daisy Korah	dpkorah@gmail.com
Website	Ann Thomas	annthomastvm@yahoo.com
Communication & Minutes	James Samuel	jsamuel@jpsamuel.com

Regards,

St. John's Orthodox Church, Hamilton.