

INVITATION

The Feast Day of Saint Peter and Saint Paul commemorates the martyrdom of the two great Apostles, assigned by tradition to the same day of June in the year 67. They had been imprisoned at the Mamertine Prison of Rome and both had foreseen their approaching death. Saint Peter was crucified in 64; Saint Paul, a Roman citizen, was slain by the sword in 67. This feast day is the first of such commemorations instituted by the Christian community. This even predates the celebration of Christmas.

St Peter's and St Paul's Church, Sparkill commemorates the Feast Day of the Patron Saints as Church Perunal. In a beautiful stone church in rustic Sparkill, the small Malayalee community has been celebrating this Holy Day with the Holy Qurbana followed by a "rasa" - for the past twenty five years.

Yes.. for the past twenty five years!.

In June of 1985, the Malayalam Service was conducted at United Methodist Church at Congers – it was the beginning of the first ever Malayalee Christian congregation in Rockland county, which moved to Sparkill Christ Episcopal Church in September of 1985. On November 3 1985, The Saint Peter's and Saint Paul's Church was officially inaugurated at a function attended by many religious and political dignitaries.

Since then, this institution continued to be a beacon of spiritual guidance for a whole group of first generation Malayalee American youths to help them traverse the dynamic subculture shaped by the confluence of strong American, Indian and Malayalee cultures.

Therefore, the Feast Day of Saint Peter and Saint Paul of 2010 is very special to us. It is the celebration of one quarter century of Orthodox Qurbana at this beautiful stone church.

"The local church is the full manifestation of the One Church when the community is gathered together for the hearing of the Word of God for the Eucharistic participation of the one eternal sacrifice of Christ on the Cross" - H. G. Paulose Mar Gregorios..

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On this day of rejoicing, we want to use the opportunity to look back and give thanks to Our Lord and to a whole lot of people who made it all possible; – to our own Malankara Orthodox Church and to our own Metropolitans who guided us; – to the able vicars including Rev Fathers KC Mathews, ME Idikulla, PS Samuel, MK Kuriakose, KK Kuriakose, TM Zachariah and Thomas Mathew; – to the Christ Episcopal Church who taught us a lesson in love by sharing the glorious church with us; – to several selfless people who have given their time and resources at various points in time; - and to the very many sisters, brothers and children who gathered with us for the Eucharistic participation of the One Eternal Sacrifice.

In humility and in appreciation of the gifts of our Church and Community, we wish to celebrate the Silver Jubilee during July 2-4, along with the Feast of our Patron Saints..

On behalf of our whole congregation, we request you to join us during these precious days.

Fr Thomas Mathew
Vicar

John V George
Secretary

Sabu Kurian
Treasurer

February 14, 2010

