



Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church North-East Diocese of America

ORTHODOX VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - 2012

Respected Coordinators, Principals and Teachers,

The Orthodox Vacation Bible School (OVBS) has been a longstanding educational outreach program of the Malankara Orthodox Church. It provides our younger generation with an opportunity to learn more about the basic tenets of the Orthodox faith through participation in a fun and interactive program that takes place over a series of days. Your participation in the planning and execution of this program is not only a great service to the Church, but a wonderful way to enhance your own faith and knowledge of Christ and Church.

Like the previous year, we will work together with the South-West Diocese towards a common vision - to strengthen the OVBS program and curriculum for all children in this continent and throughout the world. Moreover, with your help and support, we can sharpen and shape the curriculum to meet the ever-changing needs of our youngsters.

Each one of you played a critical part in making last year's OVBS a great success and blessing, and again this year let's continue to work together to make our 2012 OVBS an enriching experience for all the participants.

THEME:

Every year, the OVBS program in America chooses to coordinate their theme with that of the OVBS program back home in Kerala, India. I am proud to announce that the theme for this year's OVBS will be taken from **Galatians 3:28** -

“We are one in Christ”

(“Naam Kristhuvill onnu”)

TRAINING CAMPS:

Training camps are conducted to help prepare each area on how to conduct the OVBS with the provided materials. If any region would like to conduct a camp for 2012, please email us with **“Training Camps”** in the subject line.

We look forward to working with each and every one of you. It is only by God's grace and guidance that we can make this year's OVBS a fitting service to the Church. Your prayers, participation, help and support are very much needed to make this year's OVBS a success. Please feel free to email or call us at the contact information below, regarding any questions, directions or suggestions.

THEME PICTURE:

The OVBS committee invites students from Sunday Schools across the diocese to participate in a drawing competition. The picture should be related to the theme for OVBS 2011. Here are some of the guidelines:

1. The pictures should be **hand drawn** and NOT computer generated on an 8.5"x11" paper.
2. Select the **ONE** best picture from the church and mail selected picture to the OVBS Director. Please make a color scan of the drawing before mailing in case the picture is lost.
3. The 1st and 2nd prize winners be announced at the Sunday School talent show..
4. Pictures not chosen for prizes may be used in other capacities for OVBS.

The OVBS committee will judge pictures based on the quality of drawing and how well it relates to the theme. **The deadline for all drawing submissions will be April 15th.** Please mail all submissions on or before April 15th to:

Fr. Gregory Varghese
OVBS Director
46 Dimond Avenue
Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567

Any late submissions and parishes that send in more than one picture will be disqualified. If you have any questions, please send an email to ovbs.america@gmail.com

SONGS:

Theme related songs are a vital part of the OVBS experience. As in previous years, we provide individual parishes with an opportunity to submit songs. This year, we are conducting a theme song competition. Each parish is encouraged to submit lyrics (must be original and not copied from popular songs) and a basic recording of the song. The OVBS committee will choose a 1st and 2nd prize winner for the song. These songs will be re-recorded by the OVBS committee and used for the 2012 OVBS year. **The deadline for all drawing submissions will be March 31st.** Please email song submissions to ovbs.america@gmail.com.

Any late submissions and parishes that send in more than one song will be disqualified. If you have any questions, please send an email to ovbs.america@gmail.com

With Prayers,
Fr. Gregory Varghese
OVBS Director