



# SUNDAY SCHOOL

"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them." St Mat 19:14

## St. Thomas Orthodox Church Sunday School Annual Talent Competition (ATC)

### Church Competition –March 18, 2023

**1. Date: March 18, 2023**

**2. Venue:** St. Thomas Orthodox Church of India, Warren, MI

**3. Core Competition Committee:** Rev. Fr. Philip Jacob, Rev. Fr. Shawn Thomas, Mr. Jacob John, and Mrs. Seema Ajai

**4. Program Schedule:**

- ☐ All the Judges must be present at the Church for a briefing and information session at 9 a.m. on the day of the event. Volunteer committee report at 8:30 a.m.
- ☐ Program will start at 9:30 a.m. with an introductory prayer.

**5. Registration Deadline:**

- Participants are required to register through Google Form before **Feb. 25**.
- Registration link: <https://forms.gle/1QSK4gPVgGNzrCzT9>
- Preliminary list will be posted on the bulletin board on **Feb. 26** for parents and Sunday School students to view and changes can be submitted after reviewing that list.
- Final list will be published and posted on the bulletin board at church on **March 5**.  
No further changes, addition, subtraction, or substitution of participant names will be made after the final list is published.

**6. Core Structure for the Competition**

- Committee will assign MC coordinators, judges, timekeeper and volunteer group to help assist on the competition day.
- Assign and maintain files for each individual event with their perspective participant contestant name.
- Volunteers assist in providing judges with the appropriate judging/ rubric sheets prior to events.
- Collect and deliver judging sheets to the tabulation person/committee.
- Time each event and maintain the time log for each contestant.
- Timekeeper is responsible for letting contestants and judges know of the times through appropriate flash colored cards.
- Volunteers assist in maintaining decorum between events and during performances.





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### 7. Competition Categories:

#### a) Group 1 (Grades Pre-K and KG) (ages 4 and up) (performance only)

i. Group Song [Malayalam/ English]: *Dhanye Mathave-ninnodullanpaal* (pg.241- 1 stanza)/*O Bless'ed mother- intercede for us*

#### b) Group 2 (Grades 1 & 2)

i. Solo Song [Malayalam/ English]: Individual selection

ii. Group Song [Malayalam/ English]: *Masiha rajavam nadhan* (pg.217-2 stanzas)/*By the work of Christ our king*

iii. Memory Bible Verses [Malayalam/ English]: see pages 5-9

iv. Bible Story [Malayalam/ English]: *The birth of Moses* (Exodus 2:1-10)

#### c) Group 3 (Grades 3 & 4)

i. Solo Song [Malayalam/ English]: Individual selection

ii. Group Song [Malayalam/ English]: *Vismayasahitham* (pg.319-2 stanzas)/*When your glorious tomb opened* (pg.269)

iii. Memory Bible Verses [Malayalam/ English]: see pages 5-9

iv. Bible Story [Malayalam/ English]: *Elijah helps a widow* (3 Kingdoms 17:8-24)

#### d) Group 4 (Grades 5 & 6)

i. Solo Song [Malayalam/ English]: Individual selection

ii. Group Song [Malayalam/ English]: *Agnimayanmaar* (pg.225-3 stanzas)/*Through the fiery ones fear*

iii. Memory Bible Verses [Malayalam/ English]: see pages 5-9

iv. Elocution [Malayalam/ English]: *The Lord is my light and my savior; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defender of my life; whom shall I dread? Ps.26(27):1(OSB)*

#### e) Group 5 (Grades 7 & 8)

i. Solo Song [Malayalam/ English]: Individual selection

ii. Group Song [Malayalam/ English]: *Ente kadangala sesham nin* (pg.229-3 stanzas)/*Wipe away, Lord, all my debts*

iii. Memory Bible Verses [Malayalam/ English]: see pages 5-9

iv. Elocution [Malayalam/ English]: *The Lord is the strength of those who fear Him, And to those who fear Him, His name is the Lord, And He will show them His covenant. Ps.24(25):14 (OSB)*





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### f) Group 6 (Grades 9 & 10)

- i. Solo Song [Malayalam/ English]: Individual selection
- ii. Group Song [Malayalam/ English]: *Arimathiyannattil-dharmikanaai vaana/Joseph of Arimitha (Festival Song)*
- iii. Memory Bible Verses [Malayalam/ English]: see pages 5-9
- iv. Elocution [Malayalam/ English]: *Our God is the God who saves us, and the issues of death belong to the Lord's Lord. Ps.67:21 (OSB)*

### g) Group 7 (Grades 11 & 12)

- i. Solo Song [Malayalam/ English]: Individual selection
- ii. Group Song [Malayalam/ English]: *Eden thottam nattone (Wedding Song-3 stanzas)*
- iii. Memory Bible Verses [Malayalam/ English]: see pages 5-9
- iv. Elocution [Malayalam/ English]: *.... To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. 1 Sam.15:22(Holy Bible)*

### 8. General Guidelines:

- All participants must be officially registered prior to the competition deadline date **Feb 26**. Final list will be published **March 5**, no changes will be made once final list is published.
- All biblical reference must be from the Holy Orthodox Study Bible (OSB) or Malayalam Sathyavedapusthakam (MS).
- All group songs must be taken from the new Service Book of the Holy Qurbano, unless specified.
- Students can participate in one (1) Group song, either English or Malayalam.
- Books, notes or electronic devices are NOT allowed to use by the participants. If the participant uses any assistive equipment, then the participant will not be graded for that item.
- First and Second place winners will be awarded with trophies.

### 9. Judging Guidelines:

- a) Time limit for certain events
  - i. Solo Song - maximum 3 minutes.
  - iii. Elocution - minimum 2 minutes and maximum 5 minutes.





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### 10. Solo Song Guidelines

- i. The song can be Liturgical or Non- Liturgical/Christian Devotional songs.
- ii. The maximum time limit for the solo song is three (3) minutes. A Yellow card sign will be shown after two (2) minutes and a Red card sign after three (3) minutes. Overall, five (5) points must be deducted by each judge if the song is more than three (3) minutes (continuation of song after Red card).
- iii. Four copies of the solo song must be brought by the participant for the judging purpose. If any judge does not get a copy of the song, the judge will not grade the participant.
- iv. For Malayalam solo song, four copies of the song must be in Malayalam and four copies of the song in Manglish.
- v. No accompaniment music or karaoke is allowed

### Solo Song Rubric

Evaluation will be done based on:

- I. Song Selection: Notes variation, vocal range and tone, and overall quality of the song. (10 points)
- II. Singer Vocal quality and Dynamics: Quality of the voice tone and texture for the selected song, clarity and smoothness of voice, volume intensity, range and gradations (10 points)
- III. Intonation/Pitch/Melody/Feel (*Sruthi, Ragam, Layam*): Singing in tune, keeping the right notes and the feel of the song (40 points)
- IV. Rhythm (*Thaalam*): Keeping the right beats, timings and breath control: 20 points.
- V. Diction (*Pallavi*). Clarity of words, accent, capturing the meaning and spirit of the song (10 points)
- VI. Stage Presence and Performance: Confidence, preparedness, appeal, eye contact with the audience, movement, playfulness (10 points)

Total of 100 points.





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### 11. Group Song Guidelines

- The candidate must sing only the liturgical song assigned for each group and must sing exactly the same version of the group songs provided for the competition. No other songs or versions will be graded.
- A participating group must have a minimum of three (3) participants and a maximum number of seven (7) participants in a group. If any participant from the official registration list is absent, the remaining group will be allowed to sing, provided there is a minimum of three (3) participants present.
- No substitution/ addition of participants will be allowed. Only participants whose names are in the official list will be allowed to participate.
- Groups of less than three may participate but no evaluation will be performed.

### Rubric for Group Song (English/Malayalam)

Evaluation will be done based on:

- I. Singer Vocal quality and Dynamics: Quality of the voice tone and texture for the selected song, clarity and smoothness of voice, volume intensity, range and gradations (15 points)
- II. Intonation/Pitch/Melody/Feel/Group Harmony (*Sruthi, Ragam, Layam, Swarachercha*): Singing in tune, unison and harmony complementing the melody, keeping the right notes and the feel of the song (40 points)
- III. Rhythm (*Thaalam*): Keeping the right beats, timings and breath control (20 points)
- IV. Diction (*Pallavi*): Clarity of words, accent, capturing the meaning and spirit of the song (15 points)
- V. Stage Presence and Performance: Confidence, preparedness, appeal, eye contact with the audience, movement, playfulness (10 points)

Total of 100 points.

### 12. Memory Bible Verse

The Memory Bible Verse competition consists of two parts: **Prayers** and **Bible Verses List**

#### **Prayers**

- i. All participants will be provided with the same prayers from the Service Book of the Holy Qurbano (SBHQ)
- ii. Participants have the choice of selecting prayers that they are more familiar with.





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iii. **Recitation-** All participants will recite verses within the prayers in the order as it is written in the SBHQ.

- If the student self corrects during recital, that is not considered an error and cannot be marked down. Only one correction per verse is allowed and silence should not last more than 10 seconds.
- The proctor will mark down the most accurate memory verses recited.

### Prayers Rubric

Evaluation will be based on

1. Accuracy of verses in the prayers recited: 1 point
2. Total points are based on the number of recited verses with in the prayers

### **Assigned Prayers:**

- *Psalm 51*, pg. 10 of SBHQ (10 verses)
- *St. Matthew 5:3-12*, pg. 130 of SBHQ (10 verses)
- *Psalm 91*, pg. 40 of SBHQ (15 verses)
- *Psalm 63*, pg. 112 of SBHQ (12 verses)
- *Psalm 19*, pg. 116 of SBHQ (8 verses)

Total of 55 verses = 55 points

### **Bible Verses List**

- i. All participants will be provided with the same list of Bible memory verses along with reference (book, chapter and verse). List will comprise of total 50 Bible verses.
- ii. Recitation- All participants will recite their memory verses the day of competition in the order of the provided list.
- iii. All students will recite the memory verse and the reference accurately to be awarded points.
- iv. If the student self corrects during recital that is not considered an error and cannot be marked down. Only one correction per verse is allowed and silence should not last more than 10 seconds.
- v. The proctor will mark down under the student the most accurate memory verses recited.





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### **Bible Verses Rubric:**

Evaluation will be based on

1. Accuracy of memory verse recited, 1 point
  2. Accuracy of quoted reference (book, chapter and verse) 0.25 of a point each
  3. Clarity of recitation 0.25 of a point
- Total of 2 points per verse for 50 verses = 100 points

### **Assigned Bible Verses (OSB):**

1. Proverbs 22:12- The Lord loves holy hearts, And all the blameless are acceptable to Him.
2. Psalms 18:8- The law of the Lord is blameless, converting souls; The testimony of the Lord is trustworthy, making children wise.
3. 1 John 1:7- But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin.
4. Proverbs 22: 27-28- Do not be a companion to an angry man, And do not associate with a quick-tempered friend, Lest you learn his ways and receive a snare for your soul.
5. 1 Thessalonians 5:8- But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.
6. Romans 15:4- For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.
7. Proverbs 18:10- The name of the Lord is of great strength, And when the righteous run to it, they are exalted.
8. Psalms 70:5- For You are my patience, O Lord; The Lord is my hope from my youth.
9. Romans 13:8- Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.
10. Psalms 62:3- So in the holy place, I appear before You to see your power and glory.
11. Psalms 62:4- Because Your mercy is better than life, My lips shall praise You.
12. Proverbs 10:12- A fountain of life is in the hand of a righteous man, But the mouth of an ungodly man will hide destruction.
13. St. John 14:27- Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
14. 2 Corinthians 13:11- Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.
15. Roman 5:1- Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,





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16. Psalms 68:31- *I will praise God's name with a song; I will magnify Him in praise.*
17. Proverbs 4:22 *Keep your heart with all watchfulness, for from these words are the issues of life*
18. St. John 3:5- *Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."*
19. Galatians 5:22-23- *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*
20. 1 John 2:16- *For all that is in the world-the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-is not of the Father but is of the world.*
21. Exodus 14:13- *Then Moses said to the people, "Be of good courage. Stand still and see the Lord's salvation which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you will never see again."*
22. Proverbs 17:24- *A cheerful heart makes a man healthy, but the bones of a sorrowful man dry him up.*
23. St. Luke 1:37- *For with God nothing will be impossible.*
24. St. Matthew 6:33- *But seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*
25. Joshua 1:9- *Behold, I have commanded you. Be strong and courageous. Do not be cowardly or fearful, for the Lord your God is with you in all things, wherever you go."*
26. St. Matthew 6:21- *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*
27. Psalms 117:24- *This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice, and be glad therein.*
28. St. Matthew 16:26- *For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*
29. Psalms 45:11- *Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.*
30. St. John 8:32- *And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*
31. Psalms 133:1- *Behold now, bless the Lord, All you servants of the Lord, Who stand in the house of the Lord, In the courts of the house of our God.*
32. Psalms 36:39- *Now the salvation of the righteous is from the Lord, And He is their protector in time of affliction.*
33. St. John 14:23- *Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him and, We will come to him and make Our home with him."*





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34. *St. Matthew 6:19- Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal.*
35. *St. John 1:1- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
36. *Revelation 3:20- Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.*
37. *Isaiah 60:19- The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor shall the rising of the moon shine on you at night, but the Lord shall be your everlasting light, and God, your glory.*
38. *Micah 7:7- But I will look to the Lord, I will wait for God my Savior, for my God will hear me.*
39. *Job 19:25- For I know He is everlasting, He who is about to set me free on the earth.*
40. *Job 28:28- he said to man, 'behold, the fear of God is wisdom, And to abstain from evil is understanding.*
41. *Jeremiah 9:23- "Instead, let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows that I am the Lord, who shows mercy, judgement, and righteousness on earth, for in these is My will," says the Lord.*
42. *Isaiah 55:6- Seek God, and when you find Him, call upon Him when He draws near to you.*
43. *St. Luke 12:8- Also, I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God.*
44. *Phillipians 2:14- Do all things without complaining and disputing*
45. *Psalms 138:14- I will give thanks to You, For I am fearfully and wondrously made; Marvelous are Your works, And my soul knows this very well.*
46. *Hosea 6:6- For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than whole burnt offerings.*
47. *Romans 5:8- But God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
48. *Jeremiah 1:5- "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born, I sanctified you. I established you a prophet to the nations".*
49. *Psalms 118:10- I searched for You with my whole heart; Do not drive me away from Your commandments.*
50. *Ephesians 4:32-And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*





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### 13. Bible Story

- i. Presentation of the story can be in either English or Malayalam language as it is depicted in OSB or MS.
- ii. Participants must present the story assigned for each group. No other presentations will be graded.
- iii. Participants should speak about the given story for a minimum of two minutes in order to be graded for the item.
- iv. The Maximum time limit for the story is five (5) minutes. A Yellow card sign will be shown after four (4) minutes and a Red card sign after five (5) minutes. Overall, five (5) points must be deducted by each judge if the story is more than five (5) minutes (continuation of story after Red card).

#### **Bible Story Rubric:** Evaluation is based on

- a) Introduction: An introduction should provide the background leading to the story including Bible reference (15 points).
- b) Knowledge: The knowledge of the story as well as an accurate portrayal of the story as depicted in the OSB or MS. (35 points).
- c) Presentation: The speaker should talk very clearly with vivid expression and keep the audience interested with voice, body language, enthusiasm, and fluidity (35 points).
- d) Conclusion: The speaker should sum up the story with a moral lesson or liturgical reference (15 points).

The total score is out of 100 points.

### 14. Elocution

- i. Presentation of the elocution can be in English or Malayalam language.
- ii. Participants must present the topic assigned for each group. No other presentations will be graded.
- iii. Participants should speak about the given subject for a minimum of two minutes in order to be graded for the item.
- iv. The Maximum time limit for the elocution is five (5) minutes. A Yellow card sign will be shown after four (4) minutes and a Red card sign after five (5) minutes. Overall, five (5) points must be deducted by each judge if the elocution is more than five (5) minutes (continuation of elocution after Red card).





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**Elocution Rubric:** Evaluation is based on

- a) Introduction: An introduction should provide the background knowledge and courtesy towards the audience to introduce them to the topic (15 points).
- b) Knowledge: The knowledge on the topic should well inform all the audience in a clear and appropriate manner (35 points).
- c) Presentation: The speaker should talk very clearly and keep the audience interested with voice, body language, enthusiasm, and appropriate attire (35 points)
- d) Conclusion: The speaker should sum up with points and end the speech making sure that the topic was fully presented to the audience (15 points).

The total score is out of 100 points.



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