**ST. THOMAS SYRO MALABAR FORANE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**CCD – FAITHFEST 2017**

**Arts & Literary Competitions for Religious Education School Children**

**Saturday, March 4. 9:00am – 5:00 pm**

**General Rules for Competitions**

Following rules and regulations will be strictly enforced while conducting the competitions. Every effort will be made to conduct each competition in a fair and transparent manner so that there won’t be any room for complaints. The whole idea of conducting these competitions is to nurture the inborn talents of our children so that they can practice, improvise and sharpen their skills.

1. The competitions are open only to children studying in the parish Religious Education School in any grade from Pre-K to 12th grade.
2. Children who are not in the current CCD roster are not eligible to compete.
3. Pre-registration is required to participate in the competitions.
4. Registrations will be taken from each classroom until February 19. Students can also register in the parish office or e mail the completed form to the office or to the General Coordinator. Registration fee is $10 per student, payable at the time of registration.
5. The maximum number of items a child can compete is 4.
6. Each child will be assigned a unique **ID Number** after registration and this will be his/her tag # or ID for all competitions.
7. This ID # (Chest number) should be prominently displayed on the person during the time of the competitions. Chest Number must be visible to the judges during competition.
8. The name of the participant should not be written on the answer sheet for any item that has an answer sheet. Write only the assigned ID number on the answer paper.
9. If there are less than 3 entries (contestants) for any item in any group, that item will not be conducted as a competition but contestants will be given a chance to perform and will not be considered for first or second places, instead may get performance prize.
10. Competitions will be conducted in three stages at same time and every effort will be made to accommodate all participants without clash or overlap.
11. In order to avoid schedule conflict and to finish all items the same day, all non-stage items such as coloring, painting, pencil sketching etc will be conducted on another day either before or after March 4.
12. Each competition has specific guidelines which will be explained to the contestants well in advance.
13. Topics for Spelling Bee, Bible Story, speech, pencil sketch, painting, prayers etc will be given to all contestants well in advance for them to prepare and perform better.
14. There will be penalty for exceeding the time allotted for any performance.
15. There will be separate competitions for Solo Song in English and Malayalam. Theme should be Christian devotional.
16. Music track is recommended and made requirement for group 3 & 4 only for song competition. The music track should be submitted prior to the event.
17. The time for elocution (English speech) will be 5 minutes. There will be penalty for exceeding this time limit.
18. The final topic for speech will be selected from 3 topics given for practice. The specific topic will be selected by a panel of judges and will be given to each contestant 10 minutes before the scheduled time at the stage.
19. For each competition, a three member judging panel will evaluate the participants based on previously set criteria and breakdown of marks.
20. To ensure fair and transparent evaluation, Judges or Raters will be selected from outside our church. There will be clear criteria for picking judges for all items.
21. In unavoidable circumstances, persons from our church will be considered as judges provided his/her child is not competing for that item
22. For each item, there will be strict judging criteria which will be explained to the contestants before the competition.
23. Any person whose child is a contestant for a competition item cannot serve as a judge or facilitator for conducting that item on stage.
24. Judges will be impartial and fair, there should not be any interference from contestants or their parents.
25. This is not a competition of parents, so parents are requested to not involve in any of the judging process or conduct of competitions.
26. The competitions will start on time and it is the contestant’s responsibility to be on time. Late comers may not be accommodated.
27. All competitions should be based on **Christian Themes** only.
28. Participant’s attire should be appropriate to the place and occasion.
29. There will be only FIRST and SECOND prizes for all items.
30. Participants should follow the guide lines and be considerate to each other.
31. Those that violate these rules will be disqualified.
32. Decision of Jury of Appeal will be final and binding to all.
33. Bible spelling bee competition will be conducted on a Sunday March 19, 2017. There will be two cash prizes worth $200 each for group 3 and group 4 champions.
34. Faithfest theme song is encouraged. Inspirational prize of $50 will be given to the best song!

**Jury of Appeal**

1. Very Rev. Fr. Johnykutty George Puleessery, Vicar
2. Dr. James Kurichi, former DRE
3. Mody Jacob, Trustee

Grouping is as follows:

***Group 1 Grades Pre-K & KG & Grade 1***

***Group 2. Grades 2, 3 & 4***

***Group 3. Grades 5 , 6, 7 & 8***

***Group 4. Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12***

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**Coordinators**

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