



# മാലാഖാ ദൂത്

## ANGEL VOICE

ST. MARY'S KNANAYA CATHOLIC FORANE CHURCH  
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### SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

◆ 7:30 AM MALAYALAM MASS

◆ 9:30 AM ENGLISH MASS

◆ 11:30 AM MALAYALAM SOLEMN MASS

### 🔍 Readings ✕

Sunday December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Annunciation

- Num 22:20-35 Balaam gets instructions from the messenger
- Isa 43:25-44:5 Announcement about the salvation of Israel
- Col 4:2-6 Pray that we may declare the mystery of Christ
- Lk 1:26-38 Annunciation about the birth of Christ

## VICAR'S MESSAGE

### THE ANNUNCIATION AND THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PROMISE

Dear Parishioners,

This week, the Gospel of Luke (1:26-38) presents the profound moment of the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel visits Mary with the extraordinary news that she will conceive and bear the Son of God. This passage reveals not only Mary's pivotal role in salvation history but also the fulfillment of ancient promises made by God to the people of Israel. Let us take a moment to explore the significance of Gabriel's words to Mary in the context of Old Testament history and Jewish expectations of the Messiah.

#### Gabriel's Message and the Fulfillment of Ancient Promises

When Gabriel proclaims to Mary, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus" (Luke 1:31), he speaks to a people deeply rooted in the hope of divine intervention. The Israelites were awaiting the Messiah, a figure prophesied throughout the Old Testament. The name "Jesus," derived from the Hebrew "Yeshua," means "God saves." This naming connects directly to the people's longing for deliverance, a hope that had sustained them through centuries of exile, oppression, and struggle.

#### The Son of the Most High

Gabriel continues: "He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High" (Luke 1:32). In the Old Testament, the title "Most High" (El Elyon) is used to refer to God's supreme authority and sovereignty (Genesis 14:19, Psalm 47:2). By describing Jesus as the "Son of the Most High," Gabriel reveals that the child Mary will bear is not just a great prophet or king, but the divine Son of God. This would have been a momentous revelation for Mary, whose people understood their covenant relationship with God as unique but never imagined such intimate closeness to the divine.

#### The Throne of David and the Eternal Kingdom

Gabriel further declares: "The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end" (Luke 1:32-33). This statement resonates deeply with Israel's history and prophecies.

**1. The Throne of David:** The promise of an everlasting kingdom is rooted in God's covenant with King David, found in 2 Samuel 7:12-16. God assured David that his throne would be established forever through his offspring. For generations, the Israelites interpreted this as a prophecy of the

## VICAR'S MESSAGE

Messiah - a descendant of David who would restore the kingdom and bring eternal peace. Gabriel's words to Mary affirm that Jesus is this long-awaited heir to David's throne.

**2. The House of Jacob:** The mention of the "house of Jacob" recalls God's covenant with the patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel, represents the twelve tribes and the entirety of the Jewish people. Jesus' rule over the "house of Jacob forever" signifies the fulfillment of God's promise to bless all nations through Abraham's descendants (Genesis 12:3).

**3. An Everlasting Kingdom:** Unlike earthly kingships, which rise and fall, Gabriel proclaims that Jesus' kingdom will have no end. This aligns with Daniel's vision of the everlasting dominion of the "Son of Man" (Daniel 7:13-14). The eternal kingdom promised to Mary is not of political power but of spiritual sovereignty, encompassing all who believe in Christ.

### Mary's Role and the Immaculate Conception

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrates Mary's unique role in this divine plan. From the moment of her conception, Mary was preserved from original sin to be the pure vessel through which God's Son would enter the world. This grace reflects the fulfillment of Genesis 3:15, where God promised that the offspring of the woman would crush the serpent's head.

Mary's response to Gabriel, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38), is a testament to her faith, humility, and complete trust in God. Her "yes" echoes the faith of Abraham, who trusted in God's promises, and the obedience of David, who sought to serve the Lord despite his human flaws. Mary's fiat opens the door for God's plan of salvation to be realized.

### Reflection for Our Lives

This passage calls us to reflect on our own openness to God's will. Just as Mary said "yes" to God's plan, trusting Him despite uncertainty, we are invited to surrender our lives to His will. The Annunciation and the Immaculate Conception remind us that God's promises are always fulfilled, even when the path seems unclear.

In this Advent season, let us prepare our hearts to receive Christ as Mary did - with faith, humility, and joy. Let us also remember that, like Mary, we are called to bring Christ into the world through our words, actions, and love for others.

# VICAR'S MESSAGE

## Closing Thought

Mary's story teaches us that God's grace can work wonders in our lives when we open our hearts to Him. As we celebrate the Immaculate Conception, let us honor Mary's faith and strive to echo her "yes" in our own lives, trusting that God's plans for us will lead to eternal joy.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Abraham Mutholath  
Pastor



*"Trust in God's promises, for His grace can work wonders through our humble 'yes.'"*





# SNAPSHOTS

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS





# SNAPSHOTS

## DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES





# SNAPSHOTS

**RECOGNITION OF PEOPLE WHO WORKED  
BEHIND THE SCENES FOR THE CULTURAL  
PROGRAMS OF OUR MAIN FEAST.**





## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [Homily on Luke 1:5-25 by Fr. Abraham Mutholath in Houston on December 1, 2024.](#)
- Koodarayogams, please do Christmas Carol. Intention is for altar renovation. Sponsors are welcome.
- We will celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Sunday December 15. Sponsors are welcome.
- Bonding Families zoom meeting this Wednesday, December 4, at 8:30 P.M. Please join.
- This Friday is First Friday of the month. We will have adoration after the 7:00 P.M. Holy Qurbana.
- Those who have not made annual contribution this year, please do so.
- Buffallo (പോത്തൻ) auction on Sunday December 15th after 9:30 A.M. Qurbana.
- Youth Ministry Charity drive in December. Collecting clothes, non-perishable food items, household items, personal care items like soap, shampoos, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. Donation boxes will be available at the hallway during December.
- Youth Ministry meeting to plan our next year feast will be on Sunday, December 22nd after English Qurbana. All of the ages 15-35, whether married or unmarried, are welcome. Please invite your friends for that meeting.



## Christmas Carol Songs by Koodarayogams



**Celebrate the Spirit of Christmas with Us!**



**Date:** Sunday, December 22



**Time:** After the 9:30 A.M. Qurbana



**Venue:** St. Mary's Knanaya Catholic Church, Houston

### Event Highlights:

- **Time Limit:** Maximum 5 minutes per Koodarayogam.
- **Not a Competition:** Let's unite to celebrate the joy of Christmas!
- **Involvement Encouraged:** Maximum participation from children, youth, and adults.
- **Dress Code:** Festive attire is warmly welcomed.

### How to Participate:

Register the names of participating Koodarayogams at the **Reception Desk**.

Let's come together as one community to celebrate the birth of Christ through melodious carols!

**Bring your voice, your spirit, and your heart to make this celebration memorable.**



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🎄 Share the Sweetness of Christmas! 🍰



### Offering Cake for December 24th Evening Qurbana

As we gather to celebrate the joyous birth of Christ on **Tuesday, December 24th**, we invite you to share in the spirit of community and love by bringing **cakes** to enjoy with our parish family after the evening **Qurbana**.

#### How You Can Participate:

- 🍰 **Bake or Buy:** Feel free to bring a cake or two made in your own unique style.
- 📝 **Register Your Name:** Sign up at the **Reception Desk** to let us know you're participating.

Your thoughtful contribution will help us share the sweetness and joy of Christmas with everyone in our parish family. Let's come together to make this celebration truly special!

🎅 **Thank you for your generosity and cooperation.**

Wishing you a **Merry Christmas** filled with love, peace, and happiness.

## 🏠 Prayer Space Competition 🙏



### Create a Sacred Space in Your Home this Christmas

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, let's renew our homes with a dedicated **Prayer Wall or Room**, a peaceful space for spiritual reflection, free from distractions. Let this Christmas be an opportunity to center our lives around faith and prayer.

#### Conditions for the Prayer Wall / Room

1. **Sacred Focus:** Include only statues and images of Jesus, saints, and religious items like the Bible, rosary, holy water, and candles. Decorations are acceptable if they enhance the sacredness of the space.
2. **No Personal Photos:** Avoid displaying photos of living or deceased family members in the prayer area.
3. **Alcohol-Free:** Ensure no display of alcohol in the house.

#### Competition Guidelines

- **Participation:** Organized on a **Koodarayogam** basis.
- **How to Enter:** Take a clear picture of your prayer wall or room and submit it to your **Koodarayogam coordinator or secretary via WhatsApp or email.**
- **Selection Process:**
  - Koodarayogam executives will choose the best prayer space from their group.
  - Selected entries must be emailed to [mutholath2000@gmail.com](mailto:mutholath2000@gmail.com) on or before **December 22** with the subject Prayer space competition.
  - The **Parish Executive Team** will select the top prayer wall or room from all submissions for the **First Prize.**
  - All Koodarayogam winners and the overall best prayer space will receive a **special prize** after the Christmas services.
- **Verification:** Koodarayogam and Parish Executives reserve the right to verify prayer spaces in person with prior notice.

#### Why Participate?

This competition aims to encourage every parish family to create or renew their sacred space, making prayer an integral part of our homes. It's a chance to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and invite the presence of Christ into our daily lives.

#### Let's Make This Christmas Extra Special!

We look forward to seeing your creative and reverent prayer spaces. Let's come together as a parish community to honor the season's spiritual significance.

🌲 Merry Christmas and prayerful wishes to all! 🌲

## Make Your Christmas Dinner Unforgettable With Organic Water Buffalo Meat!

*This Christmas, treat your family to a flavorful, organic Kerala-style delicacy while contributing to the growth of our parish. Here's your chance to enjoy premium water buffalo meat and support a great cause!*

Join the Excitement at Our Auction!

Location: St. Mary's Knanaya Catholic Parish Grounds, 6400 W Fuqua Street, 77489

Date: Sunday, December 15th

Time: 10:30 AM



Important Details:

- Transportation and cleanup are the responsibility of the winning bidder.
- Winners must collect an official letter from church officials to claim the buffalo from the farm.
- The buffalo must be picked up from the farm before Christmas.

This generous gift comes courtesy of Mr. Sabu Mapilasseril.

**Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to make your Christmas feast extraordinary and support our parish mission!**

*See you at the auction!*



# WEDDING BANNS

- **Jojo Mathew, son of Jose and Sherly Medayil from St. John Nepumcene's Knanaya Catholic Parish, Kumarakom with Stacy P Philip, daughter of Jacob and Josephina Palanilkumthadathil from this parish, originally from Kuruppanthara to be held on January 18, 2025. (Third Bann).**
- **Ajomon Joseph, son of Joseph and Kunjumol Palanilkumthadathil from St. Thomas Knanaya Catholic Church, Kuruppanthara with Sonia Paul, daughter of Paulson and Reena Parasseril from this parish (originally from Makudalayam) to be held on January 23, 2025. (Third Bann).**
- **Fabin Saju son of Saju and Meena Vattakunnathu from Holy Family Knanaya Catholic Church Atlanta with Selina Mary John daughter of Biju and Kavitha Pulickal from this parish to be held on January 18, 2025. (Second Bann)**
- **Anters Thomas Alexander, son of Alexander and Beena Mattappillil from St. Joseph's Knanaya Catholic Church, Vadakkummury with Amrutha Maria Joy, daughter of Joy and Shanti Palackaparambil (Ilikkaparambil) from this parish (originally from Karikunnam St. Augustine's parish) to be held on January 9, 2025. (Second Bann)**
- **Crisjo Jaimon, son of Jaimon and Shiny Parayamkalayil from this parish with Olivia Joseph, daughter of Titus and Linsey Meleth from St. Mary's Knanaya Catholic Parish, Detroit to be held on May 29, 2025. (First Bann)**



5:30-5:45  
Food

7pm English  
Mass



**ST. MARY'S KNANAYA CATHOLIC  
FORANE CHURCH, HOUSTON**

# Teen Zone

12/20 @ 5:30 PM

**Fun, Games, Activities & Food**

**Every Third Friday**

**5:30-6:45 TEEN ZONE (8TH-12TH GRADERS ONLY)**

**7:00-8:00 ENGLISH QURBANA (OPEN TO EVERYONE)**

**8:00-8:45 ADORATION (OPEN TO EVERYONE)**

ADORATION

GAMES



## IMPORTANT DATES

### DECEMBER 2024

**DEC 3 TUE: FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER**

**DEC 7 SAT: FEAST OF ST. AMBROSE & FEAST OF THE  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY**

**DEC 14 SAT: FEAST OF ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS**

**DEC 18 WED: FEAST OF THE MIRACULOUS CROSS AT  
MYLAPORE**

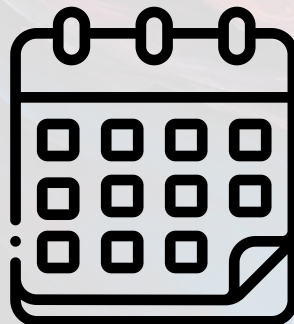
**DEC 25 WED: CHRISTMAS – THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**

**DEC 26 THU: FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN**

**DEC 27 FRI: FEAST OF ST. JOHN, THE APOSTLE**

**DEC 28 SAT: HOLY CHILDHOOD DAY (THE INFANTS' DAY)**

**DEC 29 SUN: FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**





## CATECHISM CORNER

### UPDATES

- DEI VERBUM BIBLE QUIZ ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 7 BETWEEN 1:00PM AND 9:00PM. REGISTER BEFORE DECEMBER 1
- CCD FINAL EXAM ON DEC 15

### SAINT OF THE WEEK

**SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER**  
FEAST DAY:  
DECEMBER 3

**PATRONAGE:**  
PLAGUE EPIDEMICS, GOA,  
PARISH MISSIONS



### VERSE OF THE WEEK

**Colossians 3:15-And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful**

### BIBLE PASSAGE

- NUMBERS 22:20-35
- ISAIAH 43:25-44:5
- COLOSSIANS 4:2-6
- LUKE 1:26-38



# WEEKLY SCHEDULE

## QURBANA SCHEDULE

MON - FRI: 9:00 AM (MAL)  
7:00 PM (MAL)  
SATURDAY: 9:30 AM (MAL)  
SUNDAY: 7:30 AM (MAL)  
9:30 AM (ENG)  
11:30 AM (MAL - SOLEMN)

## CATECHISM

SUNDAY: 10:30 AM

## CONFESSION

MON - FRI: 6:00 PM -6:45 PM  
(ALSO ANYTIME UPON REQUEST)

## NOVENA (AFTER QURBANA)

TUESDAY: ST. ANTONY  
THURSDAY: ST. JUDE  
FIRST FRIDAY: SACRED HEART  
SATURDAY: B.V. MARY

## ADORATION

MON - FRI: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
SATURDAY: 8:30 AM- 9:30 AM  
FIRST FRIDAY: 8 PM TO 9 PM (MAL)  
THRID FRIDAY: 8 PM TO 9 PM (ENG)

## OFFICE HOURS

PLEASE CALL FOR APPOINTMENTS

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### VICAR / PASTOR:

FR. ABRAHAM MUTHOLATH: 773-412-6254

### ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

FR. JOSHY VALIYAVEETIL:  
224-775-8039

### TRUSTEES:

JASSIM THAYILPUTHENPURAYIL  
713-498-0604

### PASTORAL COORDINATOR:

BIBY THEKKANATT: 248-974-5100

BABU PARAYAMKALAYIL: 832-971-0924

### OFFICE SECRETARY:

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GEORGE POOVAPADATH: 281-912-4150

### PRO:

SHAJUMON MUKALEL: 832-497-6656

ALVIN MUKALEL: 346-702-9498

JAMES EDUKUTHARYIL: 847-897-8028

### DRE:

JOHNSON VATTAMATTATHIL:  
201-270-9360

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