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ANGEL VOICE

ST. MARY'S KNANAYA CATHOLIC FORANE CHURCH
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NATIVITY

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

◆ 7:30 AM MALAYALAM MASS

◆ 9:30 AM ENGLISH MASS

◆ 11:30 AM MALAYALAM SOLEMN MASS

🔍 Readings



Sunday December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Annunciation

- Gen 18:1-10 God confirms the promise to Abraham
- Judg 13:2-7, 24 Birth of Samson
- Eph 3:1-13 Paul is called to witness the mystery of Christ
- Lk 1:57-66 Birth of John the Baptist

VICAR'S MESSAGE

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Wishing You the Blessings of Christmas!

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, I extend my heartfelt blessings and prayers to you and your families during this holy season. May the light of Christ fill your hearts with peace, joy, and hope.

The mystery of Christmas begins with the humility of God. Imagine the Creator of the universe choosing to dwell for nine months in the womb of the Virgin Mary. This profound act of humility teaches us that God does not seek power or glory in the worldly sense but instead comes to us in simplicity and love. He is Emmanuel, God with us, choosing to share in our humanity so that we might share in His divinity.

The birth of Jesus in a manger is a powerful reminder of God's way, which often contrasts with human expectations. The King of Kings was not born in a palace but in a stable, surrounded by animals. This unusual and humble setting invites us to reflect on the values of simplicity, humility, and the need to make space for God in our lives. Just as there was no room for Him at the inn, we must ask ourselves: Are we making room for Jesus in our hearts and lives?

God sent His angel to announce the birth of Jesus to shepherds, humble workers who were often overlooked in society. This divine choice shows that God's message of salvation is for everyone, especially the poor and marginalized. The shepherds, in turn, responded with faith and worship. They came to adore the Good Shepherd, who would one day lay down His life for His sheep. Their visit encourages us to come to Jesus with the same simplicity and faith, to worship Him wholeheartedly.

Surrounding the newborn Jesus were lambs, a poignant image of the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Jesus was born among the animals used for Temple sacrifices, foreshadowing His ultimate sacrifice on the cross for our redemption. This connection reminds us of the great love of God, who gave His only Son for our salvation.

VICAR'S MESSAGE

On the other hand, we see the rejection Jesus faced even at birth. There was no room for Him at the inn or in any home. This lack of hospitality reflects how we, too, can sometimes deny Jesus' presence in our lives. Whether through neglect, distraction, or sin, we fail to welcome Him into our hearts. Yet, the shepherds, despite their simple circumstances, opened their cattle house to welcome the Savior. This act of kindness and faith challenges us to open our hearts and lives to Jesus and to those in need.

The Christmas story invites us to reflect deeply on its message. It calls us to humility, faith, and hospitality. It reminds us to seek God in the simplicity of life, to welcome Him into our hearts, and to share His love with those around us. Let us also remember that the greatest gift of Christmas is the presence of Jesus in our lives. His love and grace are gifts that transform us and bring us lasting peace and joy.

As we celebrate this joyous season, let us carry the message of Christmas in our hearts throughout the year. Let us be like the shepherds, spreading the good news of Jesus' birth and sharing His love with all.

May the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts and homes this Christmas and always.

With prayers and blessings,

Fr. Abraham Mutholath

Pastor





SNAPSHOTS

AUCTION





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HOLY CHILDHOOD





UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [Homily on Luke 1:5-25 by Fr. Abraham Mutholath in Houston on December 1, 2024.](#)
- **Thanks to Koodarayogams for doing the Christmas Carol.**
- **Thanks to those who have made annual contribution this year. Others please do so. \$500 is the expected amount per year.**
- **Mission League is having a toy drive this month to give to children in need. Please bring them and deposit in the box of CML in the hallway.**
- **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.**
- **Confession on December 20th from 6:30 P.M. and December 21st Saturday from 9:00 A.M. by priests from outside**
- **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.**
- **Seniors monthly program with Christmas celebration will be held on Saturday, December 21st after 9:30 A.M. Qurbana. All seniors from age 60 are expected.**
- **Syro-Malankara Qurbana will be held next Saturday, December 21st at 11:30 A.M.**
- **All Koodarayogams will have an opportunity to do Christmas Carol songs on Sunday, December 22nd after English Qurbana for five minutes each. The songs can be in Malayalam or English with maximum people participation. It will not be a competition.**



UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **This year we will have competition on Koodarayogam basis for prayer space setting at homes. Please rearrange your prayer room or wall according to the directions given, take a photo and send to your Koodarayogam coordinator. The Koodarayogam executive will select the best from them and forward to the church executive. Prize will be given to the winners on Koodarayogam and parish level after the Christmas vigil Qurbana. All submissions shall be made on or before December 22nd.**
- **At the start of this year, Holy Childhood introduced a New Testament Bible reading challenge. Three children completed the New Testament! Following the Qurbana , they will receive prize.**
- **You are invited to bring Christmas cake when you come for Christmas vigil Qurbana on December 24th and that will be distributed to all who come to the church that day.**
- **The bedridden people who like to have confession and communion please let us know. One of the priests will come to your house at your convenience to do the service.**
- **Christmas Vigil Mass will be at 5:00 PM in English and 7:00 P.M. in Malayalam. Holy Childhood will have a Live Nativity Show and Carold song at 6:40 PM.**

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 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! 🌲



WEDDING BANNS

- **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. (Third Bann)**
- **Vince Joseph, son of Joseph and Valsamma Adyanoor from St. Kuriakose Knanaya Catholic Church, Kakkanad with Elizabeth Jose, daughter of Jose and Josephine Kallickal from this parish to be held on January 8, 2025. (Second Bann)**
- **Ashik Jomon son of Jomon and Bindhu Manumkal from St. Augustine's Knanaya Catholic Church, Karimkunnam with Alina Sabu, Daughter of Sabu and Jiji Chakalackal from this parish to be held on February 2, 2025. (Second Bann)**



5:30-5:45
Food

7pm English
Mass



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

Teen Zone

ADORATION

GAMES

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)



IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER 2024

DEC 18 WED: FEAST OF THE MIRACULOUS CROSS AT MYLAPORE

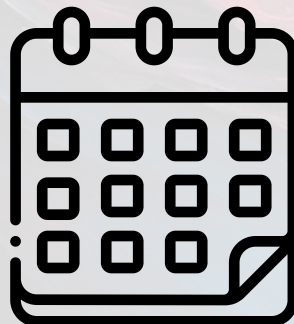
DEC 25 WED: CHRISTMAS – THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

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

SAINT OF THE WEEK

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS
FEAST DAY:
DECEMBER 14

PATRONAGE:
CONTEMPLATIVES,
SPANISH POETS, MYSTICS



BIBLE PASSAGE

VERSE OF

THE WEEK

**Galatians 4:16 - Have I
then become your enemy
by telling you the
truth?.**

- GENESIS 24:50-67
- 1 SAMUEL 1:1-18
- EPHESIANS 5:5-21
- MATHEW 1:18-24

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

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