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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 January 19, 2025

- Numbers 11:11-20 Moses bears the sufferings of his people.
- Isaiah 45:18-46:4 Turn to God who protects and saves.
- Hebrews 4:1-10 Let us enter Lord's rest through faith.
- John 1:29-34 (29-42) The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world

VICAR'S MESSAGE

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF ST. SEBASTIAN

Dear Parishioners,

This week, as we celebrate the Feast of **St. Sebastian** on January 19, we honor a saint whose life of extraordinary faith, courage, and dedication to Christ continues to inspire believers across the world. Let us reflect on the life, mission, and lessons of St. Sebastian, whose devotion reminds us of the power of living boldly for Christ, even in the face of immense suffering.

The Life and Witness of St. Sebastian

Early Life and Service in the Army

St. Sebastian was born in Narbonne, Gaul (modern-day France), to parents from a wealthy family in Milan, Italy. He was educated in Milan and later joined the Roman Imperial Army in 283 under Emperor Carinus. Rising through the ranks, he became a captain of the Praetorian Guard under Emperor Diocletian, who valued him highly.

While serving as a Roman soldier, Sebastian secretly became a Christian. Despite the emperor's hatred for Christians, he used his influential position to assist persecuted believers. He supported Christian prisoners, comforted them in their suffering, and encouraged them to remain steadfast in their faith.

Encouraging the Faithful

One of St. Sebastian's notable contributions was his role in strengthening wavering Christians, such as the twin deacons, Marcus and Marcellianus, who were imprisoned and pressured by their family to renounce their faith. Through his Spirit-filled exhortations, St. Sebastian inspired them to embrace martyrdom courageously.

Sebastian's ministry also included miraculous healings that led to numerous conversions. For example, he healed Zoe, the wife of Nicostratus, who had been mute for six years. Her healing inspired the conversion of her family, including Nicostratus, the jailer Claudius, and many others. His faith and dedication to Christ even led to the conversion of the Roman governor Chromatius and his son, who then freed Christian prisoners and resigned from their positions of power.

Martyrdom of St. Sebastian

The First Martyrdom

When Emperor Diocletian discovered Sebastian's Christian faith, he was enraged by what he saw as betrayal. He ordered Sebastian to be executed by tying him to a tree and having archers shoot him with arrows until he was presumed dead.

However, Sebastian survived this ordeal. A devout Christian widow, Irene of Rome, found him still alive and took him to her home, where she nursed him back to health.

The Second Martyrdom

Rather than fleeing to safety, Sebastian boldly confronted Emperor Diocletian again, this time openly proclaiming the Gospel. The emperor, unmoved, ordered his soldiers to beat Sebastian to death with clubs. After his death, they disposed of his body in the sewers to prevent Christians from venerating him.

VICAR'S MESSAGE

St. Sebastian later appeared in a vision to St. Lucy, a Christian widow, and revealed the location of his body. She retrieved it and buried him in the catacombs along the Appian Way in Rome.

St. Sebastian's Legacy

St. Sebastian became widely venerated for his courage and intercession during times of plague. His faith and steadfastness inspired generations of Christians to endure trials with unwavering trust in God. Today, he is the patron saint of those suffering from plagues, soldiers, athletes, and those in law enforcement.

Lessons from St. Sebastian

- 1. Courage in Faith:** St. Sebastian reminds us that faith calls for courage, especially in the face of adversity. His steadfast witness challenges us to stand firm in our beliefs, even when pressured to compromise.
- 2. Lay Leadership in Evangelization:** As a layperson, St. Sebastian evangelized in ways that clergy and religious could not. He used his position to reach prisoners, soldiers, and officials, showing us how we can bring Christ into every corner of our lives.
- 3. Faith in Action:** St. Sebastian lived his faith through acts of service, healing, and encouragement. His example inspires us to be proactive in supporting those who are struggling in their faith.
- 4. Intercession and Trust in God:** While we seek St. Sebastian's intercession for protection and blessings, we must remember that he leads us closer to Christ, our ultimate source of salvation and grace.

Our Call to Witness

The Church has been nourished through the blood of Christ and the sacrifices of saints like St. Sebastian. Today, it is our turn to build the Church by being faithful witnesses of Christ in our homes, workplaces, and communities. Let us draw inspiration from the life of St. Sebastian to live courageously and compassionately in the service of God and others.

May St. Sebastian's example strengthen us in our faith, and may his prayers bring protection and grace to us all.

Wishing you all a blessed Feast of St. Sebastian!

Fr. Abraham Mutholath





SNAPSHOTS

RECOGNITION OF AJI VARGHESE SANKARAMANGALAM FOR THE SANCTUARY RENOVATION



SEMINAR FOR CATECHISM STUDENTS





SNAPSHOTS

TEACHERS APPRECIATION DAY





UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **[Homily on John 1:14-18 by Fr. Abraham Mutholath in Houston on January 12, 2025](#)**
- **Parish Council will be on Tuesday, 14th at 8:00 P.M.**
- **Feast celebration of St. Sebastian on January 19. Sponsors are welcome!**
- **Knanaya Region is organizing Ezra Meet 2025, a Family Conference from February 28-March 2nd in Chicago.**
- **Holy childhood is celebrating Holy childhood day on January 26. Students of grades 1 through 4 must wear white dress. Please ensure that students arrive by 9:15 AM for the procession.**
- **Fr. Mutholath will be going to India from January 30 to February 11.**
- **Reservation for Europe and Guadalupe pilgrimages from our parish in 2025 is full now. If more people wish to join, they will be in the waiting list.**
- **There is a Charity box inside the church for Jubilee Year charity.**
- **Annual contribution and Building fund list are published. Please check for any difference.**
- **Those who participated in the Auction: Please give the amount if you have not yet given.**



WEDDING BANNNS

- **Jobin K Joseph, son of Joseph and Betsy Koovappillil from Holy Family Knanaya Catholic Church Velloor with Roshni Macheril Sabuji, daughter of Sabuji and Elsy Poozhikunnel from this parish to be held on April 28, 2025. (Third Bann)**



5:30-5:45
Food



7pm English
Mass

ADORATION

ST. MARY'S KNANAYA CATHOLIC
FORANE CHURCH, HOUSTON

Teen
Zone

GAMES

1/17 @ 5:30pm

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

JANUARY 2025

JAN 14 TUE: FEAST OF ST. DEVASAHAYAM PILLAI

JAN 17 FRI: FEAST OF STS. PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

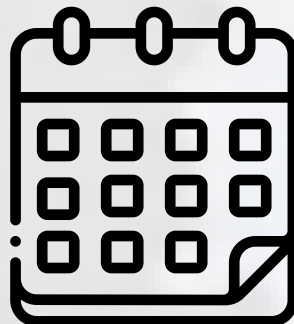
JAN 18 SAT: UNITY OCTAVE BEGINS

JAN 20 MON: FEAST OF ST. SEBASTIAN

**JAN 24 FRI: FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES &
EVANGELISTS**

**JAN 25 SAT: THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL &
UNITY OCTAVE ENDS**

JAN 26 SUN: FEAST OF STS. TIMOTHY AND TITUS





CATECHISM CORNER

UPDATES

JANUARY 17

TEEN ZONE: AT 5:30PM

ENGLISH QURBANA: AT 7:00PM

ADORATION IN ENGLISH: 8:00PM - 8:45PM

SAINT OF THE WEEK

**SAINT SEBASTIAN
FEAST DAY:
JANUARY 20**

**PATRONAGE: ARCHERS,
ATHLETES, HOLY DEATH,
PLAGUE VICTIMS, ENEMIES
OF RELIGION, POLICE,
SOLDIERS**



BIBLE PASSAGE

VERSE OF THE WEEK

REVELATION 1:7 Look, he is coming with the clouds," and "every eye will see him, even those who pierced him"; and all peoples on earth "will mourn because of him.

- **NUMBERS 11:11-20**
- **ISAIAH 45:18-46:4**
- **HEBREWS 4:1-10**
- **JOHN 1:29-34(29-42)**

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

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