

ST. ALPHONSA

SYRO-MALABAR CATHOLIC CHURCH

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JANUARY 6 | EPIPHANY

Epiphany means manifestation.

What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him.



BAPTISM OF THE LORD

By being baptized, Jesus identified himself with sinful humanity. His prayer and the revelation of Father and Spirit tell us that Baptism unites us with the Trinity and makes us beloved children of God.

JANUARY 25

THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL

**"BY THE GRACE OF GOD
I AM WHAT I AM AND
HIS GRACE TOWARD
ME WAS NOT IN VAIN."**

- 1 Corinthians 15:10 -

May 2018 be filled with
many blessings for you
and your family!



HOLY QURBANA SCHEDULE

Sunday | English: 9:00 am | Malayalam: 11:30 am

Monday | Malayalam: 7:30 pm

Tuesday - Friday | Malayalam: 8:30 am (Except First Friday)

First Friday | Malayalam: 7:00 pm

Saturday | Malayalam: 10:30 am

Youth News Column

For the month of December, as the year came to an end, we had seventeen youth from our parish that attended Summit, a national youth gathering organized by our Diocese, in Houston, Texas. The gathering was from December 28th through the 31st. In addition, this holiday season, the youth participated actively in caroling activities and enjoyed fellowship with the adults.

Though the Year of the Youth has come to an end, we want to continue the mission and hope to see an increase in youth activity in our Parish. The youth would like to wish each parish member a Merry Christmas and thank each and everyone for their continued support for the youth.



For the Thanksgiving holidays most of our college youth came back home, and they organized a hiking trip to Sugarloaf Mountain for ages 18 and older. The trip was held on Friday, November 24, 2017.

The hiking video is on YouTube:
<https://youtu.be/3BQC4yNPJMY>

NEWS IN A CLICK



Fr. Seby Chittilappilly and Tony Vithayathil with Ambassador Navtej Sarna at the Christmas Celebrations hosted by the Embassy of India on Wednesday December 20, 2017



Newlyweds with Fr. Seby Chittilappilly after lighting the ceremonial nilavilakku

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

May God make my year a happy one!
 Not by taking away my sorrows and pain,
 But by strengthening me to bear them.
 Not by making my path easy or straight,
 But by making me ready to traverse it.
 Not by shielding me from hardship,
 But by emboldening me to embrace it.

May God's love, peace, hope and joy be yours
 This year and in the years to come.



Youth Coordinators

Ms. Stency Stephen
 Ms. Teena Vithayathil
 Mr. Alex Paraniham
 Mr. Jonathan Cyriac

Youth Representatives

Mr. Arun James
 Ms. Melanie Mavunkal

Diocesan Regional Youth Coordinators

Mr. Arun James
 Mr. Jubin Joseph

Youth Animators

Mrs. Sheeba Alousyes
 Mr. Vinu Michael

Youth Choir Coordinators

Mr. Bennett Babu
 Ms. Ann Mary Bon

Angel Voice Coordinators

Mr. & Mrs. Tomcy & Laura
 Mr. & Mrs. Shaji George & Dolly

Church Music Coordinator

Mrs. Jain Alvin

Sports & Games Coordinator

Mr. Maijo Michael Payyappilly

Intercession Ministry Coordinators

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 Ms. Melanie Mavunkal

Legion of Mary Coordinator

Mrs. Dency Mavunkal

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 Mr. George Nirappukandathil

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 Ms. Melanie Mavunkal

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Malayalam School

Mr. Saji Thayyil (Principal)

Food Coordinator

Mr. Benny Thomas



Message from the Vicar

ധന്യമീ ജീവിതം

സമയം സമ്പത്ത്. വളരെ പ്രസിദ്ധമായ കഥ. പണത്തിനു പകരം സമയം വിൽക്കാം... വാങ്ങാം. സമ്പത്ത് ആവശ്യമുള്ളവർക്ക് സ്വന്തം ആയുസ്സിന് നിന്ന് സമയം വിൽക്കാം. വസ്തുക്കളുടെ മൂല്യമനുസരിച്ച് സമയത്തെ വിൽക്കാം. മിനിറ്റുകൾ... മണിക്കൂറുകൾ... ഇനി ആയുസ്സാണ് ആവശ്യമെങ്കിൽ, സമ്പത്ത് ഇല്ലാത്തവരുമായി പങ്കുവെച്ചാൽ മതിയാകും.

അങ്ങനെ ഒരാൾ ജീവിതം ആസ്വദിക്കാൻ... അടിച്ചുപൊളിക്കാൻ ആഗ്രഹിച്ചു. തന്റെ സമയത്തിന്റെ വലിയ പങ്ക് വിൽക്കാൻ തീരുമാനിച്ചു. സമയം വിറ്റ്, മണിമാളികയും ആഡംബരവസ്തുക്കളും അയാൾ സ്വന്തമാക്കി. അപ്പോഴാണ് അയാൾക്ക് ബോധ്യമായത്: ആയുസ്സ് ഇനി ഏതാനും മണിക്കൂറുകൾ മാത്രമേ ശേഷിക്കുന്നുള്ളൂ എന്ന്. ആകുലപ്പെട്ട് നടുങ്ങിത്തരിച്ച അയാൾ സമ്പത്തും വസ്തുവകകളും വിറ്റ് ആയുസ്സ് നീട്ടാൻ ശ്രമിച്ചപ്പോഴേക്കും അയാളുടെ ജീവൻ നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടിരുന്നു...

മനുഷ്യജീവിതം സമ്പത്തു കൊണ്ടല്ല ധന്യമാകുന്നത്. ഹൃദയം പറഞ്ഞു: "നിങ്ങളുടെ നിക്ഷേപമെവിടെയോ, അവിടെയായിരിക്കും നിങ്ങളുടെ ഹൃദയവും" (മത്താ. 6:21).

2018... പുതുവർഷമായി. പുതുവർഷത്തിലെ നവോന്മേഷചിന്തകളും ധാരണകളും എന്തെല്ലാം? കുറച്ചു ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ നമ്മോടു തന്നെ ചോദിച്ചാലോ?

- സ്വീകരിക്കുന്നതിനേക്കാൾ കൊടുക്കുന്നവരാകാൻ എന്തുചെയ്യണം?
- നിത്യായുസ്സിനുവേണ്ടി ഞാൻ എന്തുചെയ്യുന്നു?
- തിരികെ തരാൻ ഒന്നുമില്ലാത്തവരുമായി പങ്കുവെക്കാൻ ഞാൻ എത്രത്തോളം വളരണം?
- 'ഇല്ലാത്തവർ' (സമ്പത്തു മാത്രമല്ല, സന്തോഷം, സ്നേഹം, വിശ്വാസം)... അവരെ ആശ്വസിപ്പിക്കാനാവുമോ?

ജീവിതം ധന്യമാകാൻ... ധന്യമാക്കാൻ പുതുവർഷപ്രകാശം ജ്വലിക്കട്ടെ!

ഫാ. സെബി ചിറ്റിലപ്പിള്ളി
(വികാരിയച്ചൻ)



THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER
INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY 2018

"That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom."

READINGS - JANUARY 2018

Seasons of Nativity and Epiphany

Day/Date	Notes	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Gospel Reading
Monday, January 1	The Holy Name of Jesus	Exodus 3:1-12	Ephesians 4: 17-24	Matthew 1: 18-25
Tuesday, January 2			Galatians 6: 1-10	Luke 2: 41-52
Wednesday, January 3	St. Kuriakose Elias		1 Peter 4: 12-19	Matthew 5: 1-12
Thursday, January 4			Acts 3: 20-26	Matthew 4: 12-17
Friday, January 5	First Friday		Acts 1: 12-14	Luke 1: 39-45
Saturday, January 6	The Feast of Epiphany		Titus 3: 1-7	Matthew 3: 13-17
Sunday, January 7	First Sunday of Epiphany	Isaiah 11: 1-5 Michael Perumattom	2 Timothy 3: 10-15 Rebin Vithayathil	Luke 4: 14-30
Monday, January 8			Acts 14: 8-15	John 14: 1-6
Tuesday, January 9			Titus 3: 8-11	Luke 13: 23-30
Wednesday, January 10			1 Corinthians 6: 15-20	John 2: 13-17
Thursday, January 11			1 Corinthians 2: 6-10	Luke 7: 11-17
Friday, January 12	St. John the Baptist		Ephesians 2: 19-3:7	Mark 6: 14-29
Saturday, January 13			Romans 10: 10-20	Mark 1: 21-28
Sunday, January 14	Second Sunday of Epiphany	Numbers 10: 29-36 Kevin Chavara	Hebrews 3:1-6 Scaria John	John 1: 14-18
Monday, January 15			1 Corinthians 11: 17-22	John 17: 20-26
Tuesday, January 16			1 Corinthians 12: 12-18	John 15: 1-10
Wednesday, January 17			Ephesians 2: 11-19	John 21: 15-19
Thursday, January 18			Ephesians 4: 11-16	John 17: 6-11
Friday, January 19	Saints Peter and Paul		2 Corinthians 11: 21-31	Matthew 16: 13-19
Saturday, January 20	St. Sebastian		Philippians 1: 27-30	Matthew 15: 21-28
Sunday, January 21	Third Sunday of Epiphany	Numbers 11: 11-20	Hebrews 4: 1-10	John 1: 29-34
Monday, January 22			1 Timothy 2: 1-7	Matthew 18: 23-35
Tuesday, January 23			Romans 12: 1-8	Luke 18: 9-14
Wednesday, January 24			Ephesians 3: 8-13	John 15: 9-17
Thursday, January 25			Acts 9: 1-22	Matthew 20: 1-16
Friday, January 26			Acts 5: 12-16	Matthew 10: 1-15
Saturday, January 27	St. Thomas Aquinas		1 John 5: 13-21	John 8: 39-47
Sunday, January 28	Fourth Sunday of Epiphany	Numbers 11: 23-35 John Michael	Hebrews 7: 23-28 Ryan Mathew	John 2: 1-11
Monday, January 29			Acts 16: 25-34	Luke 5: 12-16
Tuesday, January 30	World Day of Peace		Ephesians 2: 14-22	John 14: 27-31
Wednesday, January 31	St. John Bosco		Galatians 1: 6-10	John 10: 1-6

Silent Night! Holy Night!



The Angel Voice Choir



The Christmas celebrations began with the Solemn Holy Mass in Malayalam

WARD PRAYER - JANUARY 2018

Please contact your Ward Representative to host Ward Prayer at your home.
Also watch for e-mail notifications for any changes in the schedule.

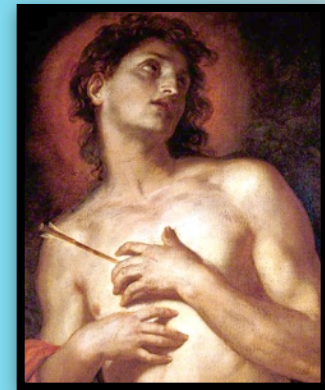
WARD	DATE/TIME	HOSTING FAMILY
St. Joseph	January 6 at 6:30 pm	Mr. Stephan Jacob and Mrs. Rani Jacob 4 Hillside Avenue, Cockeysville, MD 21093
St. Thomas	January 12 at 7:00 pm	Mr. Abraham and Mrs. Chinnu Pulickal 3609 Hollow Fields Court, Ellicott City, MD 21043
St. Jude	January 20 at 7:30 pm	Mr. George and Mrs. Dolly Padiyanickal 1730 Oakdale Drive, Cooksville, MD 21723
St. Mary	January 26 at 7:00 pm	Mr. Shaji and Mrs. Ronnie Thayyil 821 Warwick Road, Baltimore, MD 21229

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Steven Johnson	January 2	Elizabeth John	January 18
Rosemerin Vithayathil	January 4	Riya George	January 19
Gianna Pottackal	January 8	Joshua Cyriac	January 21
Maria Nedumthuruthil	January 12	Kiran Chavara	January 28



SAINT OF THE MONTH



Saint Sebastian

Died: 288 AD | Feast Day: January 20

By Bettina Shaju



St. Sebastian was born in Gaul and later went to Rome. He joined the army of emperor Carinus, and soon after became a captain under Diocletian.

While he was serving Diocletian, it was discovered that he was a Christian who had converted many soldiers. Sebastian was ordered to be killed by arrows, which is the reason why St. Sebastian is associated with arrows. St. Sebastian is the patron saint of soldiers, athletes, and those who desire a saintly death.

THE WINNER IS...



A Bird's Nest, the winning entry by Mrs. Ambili George in the Flower Arrangement Competition organized by St. Alphonsa Women's Forum on December 17, 2017.

Caroling Caroling

December 16, 2017



St. Mary Ward

Caroling, caroling now we go
Christmas bells are ringing
Caroling, caroling through the snow
Christmas bells are ringing
Joyous voices sweet and clear
Sing the sad of heart to cheer
Ding, dong, ding, dong
Christmas bells are ringing ...
Mark thee well the song that we sing
Gladsome tidings now we bring
Ding, dong, ding, dong
Christmas bells are ringing.



St. Joseph Ward



St. Jude Ward



St. Thomas Ward

WHO IS JESUS?

By Tison Thomas

When asked "Who is Jesus?" the reply often is: "Jesus is the son of God." Even though it is true, it does not explain fully enough who Jesus really is. The problem is that we are all sons and daughters of God yet we are not God. So, while Jesus is the son of God, He is also **God the Son**. It is the second part of the statement "...God the Son..." which gives the real clue to understanding the person of Jesus.

Unfortunately, some people today have downplayed Jesus' divinity. They stress His human qualities: His compassion, love, justice, social teaching and so on. The Church teaches that Jesus Christ is one person having two natures. The Church teaches that in one person, in all time, since His conception in the womb of a human mother, the divine, and human natures are united in the person of Jesus Christ. Because Jesus possesses fully the nature of God and the nature of man we describe Him as true God and true man.

Because Jesus possesses fully the nature of a man, He has a human body and soul. Furthermore, His human soul, like ours, has intellect and will. He is a man in all things but sin. We know that although Christ is spiritually present as God everywhere around us, He is also physically present in His Body and Blood, God and man. In every Holy Qurbana and in every tabernacle in every Catholic Church in the world, this same infinite, eternal, omnipotent and all-loving God/man is really physically present just as He was after the Resurrection. Whereas the Apostles saw Him with their eyes, we can see Him with the eyes of faith. We need only enter a Catholic Church and we enter the physical presence of the Mighty King, Lord of the Universe who was born in a manger, lived as a humble village carpenter, suffered, died and rose again for us.

CCD UPDATES

Thanks to all those who participated in the Bible Quiz. We have 33 people participated in the Youth/Adult Bible Quiz competition. Seby Achan conveyed his sincere appreciation to all those who participated in the Bible Quiz competition. For all of you who participated in the Bible Quiz, "not concerned about how others judge you", exemplified the humility of witnessing Christ.

Classes will re-open on Sunday, January 7 after Christmas Holidays. Mid-Term exams are scheduled for January 14, 2017. Please contact your child's class teacher with any questions.

Please contact Mr. Tison Thomas, CCD Principal with any questions.

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