

ST. ALPHONSA

SYRO-MALABAR CATHOLIC CHURCH

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*“Glory to God
in the highest, and
on earth peace to
people of good will.”*

DECEMBER 3

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

*“We must pray without tiring,
for the salvation of mankind does not
depend upon material success...
but on Jesus alone.”*

DECEMBER 8

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

*“O Mary, conceived without sin,
pray for us who have recourse to thee.”*



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 November, the Youth helped celebrate and make the silver jubilee year of our Achan memorable. As thanksgiving came and most of our college youth came back home for break, the youth organized a hiking trip for ages 18 and older. The hiking trip was held on Friday, November 24th. As a way of giving back to our community, the youth has and continues to volunteer at Missionaries of Charity.

We are now in the final phase of the Year of Youth which focuses on building

community. As we are leading up to the end of the year, the youth plans to host a retreat for the ages 18 and above. The retreat is still being planned and more information will be provided. As the year comes to an end, we have seventeen youth from our parish that will be attending Summit, a national youth gathering organized by our Diocese, in Houston, Texas. The gathering will be from December 28th through the 31st. Please keep this gathering and our youth in your prayers.



Retreats with the theme, "Journey of a Catholic," were held from October 27-29, 2017 at our church for both youth and young children.



Children dressed as angels for the Holyween celebration on Halloween night



We shall have 'Peace on Earth' only through obedience to God by using our free will to empty ourselves of all that is not God's will.

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

Mrs. Sally Joseph
Ms. Melanie Mavunkal

Legion of Mary Coordinator

Mrs. Dency Mavunkal

Pilgrimage & Picnic Coordinators

Mrs. Della Joseph Njaralakkattu
Mr. George Nirappukandathil

4Life Ministry Coordinators

Mr. Paul Mangalath
Ms. Melanie Mavunkal

Social Work & Safe Environment Coordinator

Mr. Joby K. Jose

ECKC Representatives

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Mr. Joseph Njaralakkattu

Family Apostolate Coordinator

Mr. Christi Baby Kanjirathinkal

Charity Ministry Coordinators

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Mrs. Manju James

Women's Forum Coordinators

Mrs. Bindu Johnson
Mrs. Solly Abraham

CML Coordinator

Mrs. Manju James

Media & Fine Arts Coordinator

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Newsletter Chief Editor

Mrs. Saija Jose Chirayath

Newsletter Designer

Mr. Mathew K Mathew

Vicar

Fr. Seby Chittilappilly
(630) 317-4837
sebychittilappilly@gmail.com

Kaikkarans

Mr. Jain Mathew
(443) 834-5967
Mr. Sunny Cyriac
(410) 370-7004
Mr. Tony Vithayathil
(443) 760-8449
Mr. Vinu Michael
(410) 318-9847

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Mr. George Thomas Eyalil

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Mr. George Nirappukandathil
Mrs. Bindu Johnson
Mrs. Manju James Perumattathil
Mrs. Saly Joseph Kottaramkunel
Mr. Francis Kuzhipallil
Mr. Joby K Jose
Mrs. Sheeba Anil Alousyes
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Dr. Ginto Pottackal
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Mr. Abraham Pulickal
Mr. Benny Vithayathil

Malayalam School

Mr. Saji Thayyil (Principal)

Food Coordinator

Mr. Benny Thomas



Message from the Vicar



സ്നേഹം അവസാനിക്കാതിരിക്കാൻ

മാലാഖ വന്ന് കുഞ്ഞുവാവക്ക് ഒരു ലിസ്റ്റ് കാണിച്ചു കൊടുത്തു. ദൈവത്തെ സ്നേഹിക്കുന്നവരുടെ പേരുകളാണതിൽ. വാവക്ക് സങ്കടമായി. ഇത്രമാത്രം സ്നേഹിച്ചിട്ടും... അതിൽ പേര് കണ്ടില്ല. അപ്പോഴതാ മാലാഖ മറ്റൊരു ലിസ്റ്റ് കാണിച്ചു. ദൈവം സ്നേഹിക്കുന്നവരുടെ പേരുകളാണതിൽ. വാവക്ക് സന്തോഷമായി... ആദ്യഭാഗത്തു തന്നെ പേരുണ്ട്.

സ്വർഗ്ഗ സന്തോഷം ഭൂമിയിൽ വിടർന്ന പൊൻസുദിനമാണ് ക്രിസ്തുമസ്സ്. ദൈവസ്നേഹം ഭൂമിയിൽ വെളിപ്പെട്ടതിന്റെ ആഘോഷമായ ഓർമ്മത്തിരുന്നാൾ! ദൈവസ്നേഹം മനുഷ്യനായി അവതരിച്ചത് മനുഷ്യസ്നേഹമെല്ലാം ദൈവത്തിൽ എത്തിച്ചേരാനാണ്.

**ക്രിസ്തു
സ്നേഹം
മനുഷ്യ
സ്നേഹം**

മനുഷ്യൻ ദൈവത്തെ സ്നേഹിച്ചതിനേക്കാൾ ദൈവം ക്രിസ്തുവിലൂടെ മനുഷ്യകുലത്തെ സ്നേഹിച്ചു. ... തന്റെ ഏകജാതനെ നൽകാൻ തക്കവിധം ... അത്രമാത്രം സ്നേഹിച്ചു...

മനുഷ്യൻ മനുഷ്യനെ സ്നേഹിക്കുമ്പോൾ ദൈവം ജനിക്കുന്നു.
മനുഷ്യൻ മനുഷ്യനെ വെറുക്കുമ്പോൾ ദൈവം മരിക്കുന്നു.

‘ഞാൻ നിങ്ങളെ സ്നേഹിച്ചതുപോലെ നിങ്ങൾ സ്നേഹിക്കുവിൻ.’

അതിരില്ലാത്ത ആ സ്നേഹത്തിൽ സമർപ്പണമുണ്ട്, സന്തോഷമുണ്ട്.
ആർദ്രതയുണ്ട്, ആഘോഷമുണ്ട്.

"സ്നേഹം സകലതും സഹിക്കുന്നു; സകലതും വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു;
സകലതും പ്രത്യാശിക്കുന്നു; സകലതും അതിജീവിക്കുന്നു." (1 കോറിന്തോസ് 13:7)

അവസാനിക്കാത്ത ആ സ്നേഹത്തിന്റെ നിർമ്മല ആഘോഷമാകട്ടെ ക്രിസ്തുമസ്സ്.

ആശംസകളോടെ,
ഫാ. സെബി ചിറ്റിലപ്പിള്ളി
(വികാരിയച്ചൻ)



**THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER
INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2017**

"That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations."

READINGS - DECEMBER 2017

Seasons of Annunciation-Nativity

The liturgical year of the Syro-Malabar Church begins with the period of Annunciation. The four weeks in preparation to the feast of the Nativity of Jesus, celebrated on 25th December constitute this season.

Day/Date	Notes	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Gospel Reading
Friday, December 1	First Friday		Revelation 14: 1-7	Luke 19: 45-48
Saturday, December 2			2 Corinthians 6: 3-10	Mark 6: 7-13
Sunday, December 3	First Sunday of Annunciation St. Francis Xavier	Isaiah 43: 1-7, 10-11 Isabelle George	Ephesians 5: 21-6:4 Anna Augustine	Luke 1: 5-25
Monday, December 4			Galatians 3: 9-14	Luke 9: 37- 43a
Tuesday, December 5			Romans 13: 8-14	Luke 1: 18-20
Wednesday, December 6			1 Corinthians 1: 4-9	John 8: 26-30
Thursday, December 7	St. Ambrose		1 Timothy 4: 11-16	Matthew 24: 45-51
Friday, December 8	Immaculate Conception of Our Lady		Hebrews 1: 1-3+2:16-18	Luke 1: 46-55
Saturday, December 9			Galatians 3: 1-9	Luke 9: 57-62
Sunday, December 10	Second Sunday of Annunciation	Isaiah 43: 25-4:5 Steven Johnson	Colossians 4: 2-6 Alexin Thomas	Luke 1: 26-38
Monday, December 11			Ephesians 4: 13-16	John 14: 11-14
Tuesday, December 12			1 Thessalonians 5: 5-11	Luke 10: 21-24
Wednesday, December 13			Ephesians 1: 3-12	Luke 1: 34-38
Thursday, December 14	St. John of the Cross		Romans 12: 9-18	Luke 1: 39-45
Friday, December 15			2 Corinthians 8: 11-15	Luke 1: 46-56
Saturday, December 16			Hebrews 3: 12-18	Luke 11: 33-36
Sunday, December 17	Third Sunday of Annunciation	Genesis 18: 1-10 Agnathayathil	Ephesians 3: 1-13 Andrea Green	Luke 1: 57-66
Monday, December 18	The Miraculous Cross at Mylapore		Ephesians 2: 14-22	John 14: 1-6
Tuesday, December 19			Ephesians 2: 1-10	Matthew 3: 1-6
Wednesday, December 20			1 Thessalonians 2: 13-17	Luke 16: 10-13
Thursday, December 21			Galatians 3: 26-29	Luke 1: 67-79
Friday, December 22			Colossians 1: 10-16	Mark 1: 1-8
Saturday, December 23			Galatians 1: 11-17	John 3: 31-36
Sunday, December 24	Fourth Sunday of Annunciation	1 Samuel 1: 1-18	Ephesians 5: 5-21	Matthew 1: 18-24
Monday, December 25	CHRISTMAS The Nativity of Our Lord	Isaiah 7: 10-16 + 9:1-3, 6-7	Galatians 3: 15-4:6	Luke 2: 1-20
Tuesday, December 26	St. Stephen		2 Corinthians 1: 18-22	Matthew 10... 16-22
Wednesday, December 27	St. John the Apostle		Romans 8: 35-39	John 21: 20-24
Thursday, December 28	The Holy Innocents		Hebrews 11: 32-38	Matthew 2: 13-18
Friday, December 29			Colossians 1: 1-9	Matthew 9: 27-31
Saturday, December 30			1 John 2: 26-29	John 1: 19-29
Sunday, December 31	First Sunday of Nativity Feast of Holy Family	Genesis 21: 9-21	1 Timothy 6: 6-12	Luke 13: 6-9

Eucharistic Anointment Retreat

ദിവ്യകാരുണ്യ അഭിഷേക ധ്യാനം

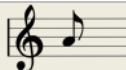
October 27-29, 2017



A 3-day retreat was conducted by Rev. Fr. Joy Chembakassery, Director, Benedictine Retreat Centre, Wayanad, Kerala. Accompanying him was Shaijan, a very accomplished singer/orator who did inspire everyone with his real-life stories of wayward life and conversion. Our parish collected around \$6,000 and donated the same to Fr. Joy.

WARD PRAYER - DECEMBER 2017

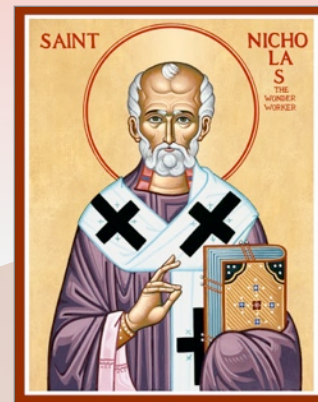
Please contact your Ward Representative to host Ward Prayer at your home. Also watch for e-mail notifications for any changes in the schedule.

WARD	DATE/TIME	HOSTING FAMILY
St. Joseph	December 2 at 7:00 pm	Mr. Baby and Mrs. Lissy Michael 8132 Rose Haven Road, Rosedale, MD 21237
St. Thomas	December 8 at 7:00 pm	Mr. George and Mrs. Veena Poovannilunnel 8381 Montgomery Run Road, Ellicott City, MD 21073
St. Jude	December 16	Caroling instead of Ward Prayer 
St. Mary	December 30 at 7:30 pm	Mr. Jose and Mrs. Sally Kottaramkunel 27 Laurence Brooke Road, Baltimore, MD 21228

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Samuel Christi	December 8	Joshua Mathew	December 17
Diya Moozhiyil	December 14	Sara Venginickal	December 20
Agnes Koodaly	December 16	Joel George	December 21
Ethan Cherussery	December 17	Alita Thomas	December 30

SAINT OF THE MONTH



St. Nicholas

By Alan Vithayathil

St. Nicholas was born on March 15, 270 AD. St. Nicholas, also known as "Nikolaos of Myra," was a fourth century saint and Greek bishop of Myra. Nicholas was born in Asia Minor in the Roman Empire as an only child to Christian parents. The child, watched over



by the church, enlightened his mind and encouraged his thirst for sincere and true religion." Both of his parents tragically died during an epidemic

when he was a young man. Nicholas was determined to devote his inheritance to works of charity, and his uncle mentored him as a reader and later ordained him as a presbyter (priest). An opportunity soon arose for St. Nicholas because a father in his neighborhood was so poor that he was going to hand his daughters to bad people for money. When he was informed of this he threw bags of gold in the house so the father would not sell his daughters. After that he did this over and over at night time, that's why a lot of people refer to him as Santa, but this Santa was not just a saint he was also a bishop. He still gave alms and helped all the people he could. He is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, archers, repentant thieves, children, brewers, and pawnbrokers.

His feast day is December 6.

HOLYWEEN: The Night of Saints and Prayer Vigils



When some familiar faces transformed themselves into some very famous saints



India's own saints St. Alphonsa, St. Teresa of Kolkata, St. Euphrasia and St. Kuriakose Elias



Two saints from Down Under

The Catholic Church has called for Halloween to be replaced with "Holyween", a night in which children would dress up like saints and attend prayer vigils and Masses.

Fr. Aldo Buonaiuto, an Italian priest of the International Association of Exorcists and director of a charity that assists young people who have become involved in satanic cults, warned: "Many say Halloween is a simple carnival, but in fact there is nothing innocent or fun about it – it is the antechamber to something much more dangerous."



"Young Saints" with Fr. Joy Chembakassery, Bishop Mark Brennan, and Fr. Seby Cittelappilly

CCD UPDATES

Holyween

Thanks to all those who participated in Holyween. Approximately 80 CCD children participated in the event. His Excellency Bishop Mark Brennan, Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, who was the chief guest for the occasion was so impressed by the participation and our spiritual richness. Thanks to all the parents, teachers and children!



Mid-Term Exam

Mid-term exam for the CCD program is scheduled for Sunday, January 14, 2018. Exam will be from Chapters 1-7. The question papers are given to us from the diocese. Please direct any questions concerning mid-term exam to your child's class teacher.

Bible Quiz

An exciting Bible Quiz competition for Adults, Youth and CCD Children is planned for our parish members. The winners will be selected through a competition that will be conducted in two phases. Phase I will be a written exam on December 10, 2017 and Phase II will be a combination of written and verbal exam. Dates will be announced later. The top 10 individuals who have the top scores from each group from Phase I will compete in Phase II. CCD children will be tested from the Book of Proverbs and St. Paul's first letter to Corinthians. Adults will be tested from the Book of Proverbs, Gospel of St. John and St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Prizes, test format, time and other information will be communicated later.

Please contact Mr. Tison Thomas, CCD Principal, if you have any questions.



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