



Parish Bulletin. December 7, 2014, Vol. 10, Issue 12

# SACRED HEART KNANAYA CATHOLIC PARISH

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നമ്മുടെ ഇടവകയിലെ എട്ടു കൂടാരയോഗങ്ങളുടെ ആഭിമുഖ്യത്തിൽ നടത്തുന്ന ക്രിസ്തുമസ് കരോളിനുവേണ്ടി ഉണ്ണിമിശിഹായുടെ തിരുസ്വരൂപങ്ങൾ വികാരി ഫാ. ഏബ്രഹാം മുത്തോലത്ത് ആശീർവ്വദിച്ച് കൂടാരയോഗം പ്രതിനിധികളെ ഏല്പിച്ചപ്പോൾ.

Photo below: Thanksgiving Canned food drive organized by Tenth Graders of our Religious Education School.



## FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

ഗുഡലൂപ്പെ മാതാവിന്റെ തിരുനാൾ  
ഡിസംബർ 14 ഞായറാഴ്ച രാവിലെ  
10:00ന് ആചരിക്കുന്നു.

പ്രസുദേന്തിമാർ:  
ജേക്കബ് & ആലീസ് പ്ലാമ്പറനിൽ.



നൂറുങ്ങുവെട്ടം

ആഗമനകാലം  
ആഘോഷകാലഘട്ടമല്ല;  
25 നോമ്പിന്റെ സമയമാണ്.



## READINGS & READERS

**മംഗലവാർത്തക്കാലം രണ്ടാം ഞായർ / Second Sunday of Annunciation**

DECEMBER 7	READINGS	10:00 AM	11:30 AM
1st Reading	Numbers (സംഖ്യ) 22: 20-35	Lincy Kaniyaly	Christian Chelackal
2nd Reading	Colossians (കൊളോസ്യർ) 4:2-6	Denny Pullapally	Isabel Malithuruthel
Gospel	St. Luke (ലൂക്കാ) 1: 26-38	Announcement about the birth of Christ.	

**Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe / മംഗലവാർത്തക്കാലം മൂന്നാം ഞായർ / Third Sunday of Annunciation**

DECEMBER 14	READINGS	10:00 AM	11:30 AM
1st Reading	Isaiah (ഐസയായ്) 7: 10-16	Surej Kolady	Mercy Chammalakuzhy
2nd Reading	Hebrews (ഹെബ്രായർ) 1: 1-3 + 2: 16-18	Charles Pullappallil	Jarena Panayaparambil
Gospel	Luke (ലൂക്കാ) 1: 46-55	The magnificat.	

### Koodara Yogam Gatherings

**Holy Family:** Saturday, December 13 at 6:00 P.M. at Cyriac & Sona Keezhangattu's House, 3720 Nicanoa Ln, Naperville (630) 790-1806.

**St. Sebastian:** Sunday, December 14 at 6:00 P.M. at Mathewkutty & Veena Kadavil's House, 839 N. Neva Ave, Addison, (630) 400 -7566.



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**Mathew M. Visacanthara**, son of Mathew and Biby from Visacanthara family, of Kumarakom parish, with **Vinaya Vincent** daughter of Vincent and Suma from Thadathil family, of Sacred Heart Knanaya Catholic Parish, Chicago to be held on January 10, 2015 in Kerala. (2/3).

OFFERINGS	Nov. 30
Holy Qurbana Collection	787.00
Guadalupe Shrine	62.00
St. Antony Novena Offering	47.00
St. Joseph novena offering	12.00
Sponsorship	488.16
Annual Contribution	720.00
Adoration Fund	100.00
Wedding Donation	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,316.16</b>

### AGAPE MOVEMENT

Agape Store Sacred Heart	18.00
St. Mary's Agape Store	20.00
Sponsor A Seminarian	500.00
<b>TOTAL AGAPE</b>	<b>538.00</b>

### SUNDAY SNACK SPONSORS WELCOME

ഇടവകയിലെ മിനിസ്ട്രികളുടെ ആഭിമുഖ്യത്തിൽ ഞായറാഴ്ചകളിൽ തിരുക്കർമ്മങ്ങൾക്കു ശേഷം ലഘു ഭക്ഷണം നേർച്ചയായി വിതരണം ചെയ്യുന്നതാണ്. \$50 നൽകി സ്പോൺസർമാരാകുവാൻ ഏവരെയും സ്വാഗതം ചെയ്യുന്നു.

**Sponsor a Snack**

### CHURCH SCHEDULE

#### MONDAY - FRIDAY, DEC. 1 - 5, 2014

Holy Mass at 7:00 PM

#### 25 Days Fasting Begins on Monday

Novena of St. Anthony & Benediction on Tuesday

Novena of St. Joseph on Wednesday

Feast Day of St. Francis Xavier on Wednesday.

**First Friday Adoration** on Friday after Holy Mass.

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014

Holy Mass and Novena at 10:00 A.M.

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2014

Malayalam Mass and Religious Education Class at 10:00 A.M.

English Mass at 11:30 A.M.

#### MONDAY - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 - 12, 2014

Holy Mass at 7:00 PM

Feast of Immaculate Conception on Monday.

Novena of St. Anthony & Benediction on Tuesday

Novena of St. Joseph on Wednesday.

Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Friday.

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2014

**Syro-Malankara Mass** and Novena at 10:00 A.M.

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2014

**Feast Celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe at 10:00 A.M.**

Malayalam Mass and Religious Education Class at 10:00 A.M.

English Mass at 11:30 A.M.

Selection of office bearers for St. Vincent de Paul Society.



**Pastoral Letter**

GEORGE CARDINAL ALENCHERRY, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, to the Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Men and Women Religious and Lay Faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church, May the Grace of the Lord be with you all!

My dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

Holy Father Pope Francis has announced that 2014 Nov.30-2016 Feb.2 would be declared as a Year of the Religious. In this context, I am presenting a few introductory reflections on Religious Life. May these thoughts be helpful to all the reflections, studies and renewal programs that would be planned for the celebration of the year!

The religious way of life has been in existence from the early years of the Church. Christian monasticism is basically the following of Christ or the imitation of Christ. We can understand religious life only in the background of a call from God. Religious life is a gift that God the Father has given to the Church through the Holy Spirit. Jesus said to the disciples at the Last Supper: "You have not chosen me; I have chosen you (Jn.15:16). He calls people to follow Him. He wants all those who are called to abandon everything they have. What Jesus is saying is that as the basis for discipleship, one has to abandon everything that one considers important or as one's own.

From the early periods of the Church, there were people who had dedicated their whole lives to Christ in order to follow Him more freely, conforming to the message of the Gospel. Religious life has existed in the Church through several ways like leading a Solitary life, Living in the Wilderness, Begging, Leading a Monastic or Religious life etc. Among these, it is the communitarian and monastic lives that have become prominent.

Even though there are some similarities between Christian religious life and those of other religions, the differences are many. Detachment from the world is a characteristic of Hindu and Buddhist monastic life. Until the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> C., detachment from worldly matters was also the primary focus of the Christian religious life. The awareness behind this religious mind-set was that those who follow Christ intimately cannot indulge in worldly pleasures. But it began to become clear, once the religious life was understood as Gospel-based, that along with this detachment, there should be a strong attachment to God and to the Kingdom of God. Now Christian religious life is understood to be a very zealous life according to the will of God.

Christ is the model for those who follow the religious way of life. He came as one who was drinking and eating. He lived as a pauper and lived with the poor. In order to follow the will of

the Father, he dedicated himself to the Father and lived a chaste life. The life that Christ lived was in total obedience to the will of God. Hence, the Church considers those who take the vows of obedience, poverty and celibacy to be the religious. They are also considered to be belonging to the monastic way of life. Second Vatican council speaks about the life style of the religious as consisting in Praying at the top of the mountains, Preaching the Kingdom of God, Converting the sinners, Blessing children, Doing good to all and Following the will of the Father.

Each religious community has its own special charism. It is their founders who have discerned their charisms. Members of these communities accept these charisms and live by them. All these charisms are based on the values of the Gospel, preached and witnessed to by Jesus. There are many congregations who have accepted some of the following charisms like the Proclamation of the Gospel, Education, Ministry to the sick, Protection of the orphans etc. These communities have also established many institutions to carry out these activities. The charitable activities of the Church become evident through the activities of these religious congregations. It is because of the great witness given by the religious to the Gospel values that the Second Vatican Council affirms that the religious have a special place in the Church (Constitution on the Church, 43; Religious Life, 1).

There are religious communities for priests, for celibate men who are not priests and for women. There are also celibates living in communities who are engaged in missionary activities. These communities sometimes get together to engage in activities that are intended for the renewal of their religious life. The aim of all the religious is to promote the glory of God, their own personal sanctification, the growth of the kingdom of God and the well-being of all the people in the world.

At the beginning of religious life, the ministry of priests was not thought of as an essential factor. Even now, priesthood is not a necessary element for religious life. Since most of the members of the men religious congregations are priests, there is a prevalent notion that all the religious have to be priests. Hence some think that there is something missing in the communities where the members are not priests. Since in the religious life, all the members whether they be priests or non-priests are equal, the Franciscan religious congregations call every one as a brother. Some of these would even elect the non-priests as their Superiors. Some of the brothers function as Ministers General among the Franciscan and Capuchins. Religious brothers who are not priests just like the religious who are priests follow Christ very intensely and offer their lives as witnesses to love. They do not celebrate Holy Qurbana or other sacraments as they are not priests. The religious brothers in the Syro-Malabar Church engage in various pastoral ministries, collaborating with priests, the women religious and lay people.

The Syro-Malabar Church was a thriving ground for religious vocations. There are about 5000 religious priests, thirty three thousand religious sisters and 170 religious brothers in the Syro-



Malabar Church. But there is a slight decrease in religious vocations recently. It is the families that are the nurturing place for vocations. The challenges that the families face will definitely influence the call to religious vocations. We cannot ignore the fact the decrease in Catholic population is seriously affecting the call to religious life. Also the derisive comments or deliberate distortion of religious life that are taking place in the social media and family gatherings are also causes for the decrease in vocations.

Priests and those who are engaged in the faith –formation programmes have to encourage the people who opt for religious life and instruct the young about the special nature of religious vocations. Parents by nurturing the young in Christian virtues have to promote the vocations to religious life. Also the religious have to be successful in attracting the young to the religious way of life through their own personal examples.

As the Second Vatican council declares, we shall acknowledge and encourage the services of the religious who are working in monasteries, educational institutions, missionary endeavours through their constant, faithful and devoted religious life, befitting the bride of Christ. (LG, 46)

In the year of the Religious, I pray and wish that the services of all the children of the Church together with the services of our brothers and sisters in religious life may undergo a deep spiritual renewal.

Lovingly in Christ Jesus,

George Cardinal Alencherry  
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Given from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church at Mount St Thomas, Kakkannad, on 23 November 2014.

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*N.B: This pastoral letter is to be read out during the Holy Mass on Sunday 30 November 2014, in all churches and chapels of the Syro-Malabar Church where there is Sunday Mass for the public.*