

Dearly Beloved,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

December 14, 2025, Sunday – Revelation to Joseph, Yaldo Season

Scriptural Readings:

- OT: Genesis 37:5-11, 2 Samuel 22:26-51, Isaiah 45:18-25, 46:1-2
- NT: 1 Peter 2:1-10, Galatians 1:11-24, Holy Gospel St Matthew 1:18-25

Holy Gospel: St Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ^[a] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; ¹⁹and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; ²¹she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emman'u-el” (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Reflections:

From here, looking out through the glass window to see a snowy morning where everything is covered in white. It is a blank white landscape. Slowly, the morning sun's golden rays begin to warm the surrounding, shedding a glow on nature's serene setting to make it a mesmerizing camaraderie of trees, houses, vehicles, morning walkers and chirping birds. At the end of the long street, the road, the woods and the horizon fade and merge into a saffron cloud. The view transcends time and space. The Holy Scripture is kept open on the table with the Lukan narrative of events that took place in a man's life reminding one of a Rorschach test with all its ambiguity. Joseph was confused. He had no clue as to what to do. His age, conscience, social pressure, urge for justice, care and responsibility for the family together with religious morality pushed and tossed him to various poles. He looked at the virgin mother, her young age, the promises given to her from heaven. Torn between what he wanted to do and what he was expected by the Divine to do, Joseph found himself in a space of senselessness as if everything around was white for him without a sense of direction filled with chaos and without clarity or certainty.

The passage says that he had a dream. Was he able to get into sleep? Was it a dream or a vision? Or did the weariness of spending days in thought and tension cause him to catch some hours of sleep? God did not allow that moment of peace that Joseph seemed to be oblivious of everything around him, to slip by just like that. He was so considerate of Joseph's confusion and a likely plan to divorce Mary, that He sent an angel like the morning sun glowing the unseen with its heavenly rays. Joseph who was blind to the reality so far, could now see.

The vision awakened him to his natural senses, the senses of being a human not manipulated or adulterated by pseudo pressures. He got enlightened like a Buddha. He got the answer to the question of his very life: What was God's purpose in his life? And thus: what was to be his mission? A situation that could have resulted in the banishment of an expectant young lady to be stoned and torn apart by the religious morality was now transformed to purpose-filled moments where Joseph was energized by a new determination devoid of fear and anxiety. **He was not bothered anymore**

about what others would say. He loved his life and he was going to love and care for his wife. With love, he felt more courage within. He arose to a new dawn of action, like Moses went to meet Pharaoh asking him to release his people. Joseph experienced God's dynamism in his life in a surer manner. Thenceforth, he never suspected his calling and role. ***He stood by Mary, being with her and the child in a world that was not in favour of them. It was like a one-man army against all forces of challenges and destruction.***

Humans have limitations and preoccupations, mostly driven by a restricted vision of the self and of the family. We work, earn, spend and live for ourselves. We may get involved in some charitable or community work. Some of us dare to dream, some of us can turn those dreams into realities. **Dreams die if they are not turned to visions.**

For everything, there will be a vision and mission declaration. What could be the vision and mission individuals hold and work for? Without a vision larger than oneself, no one can attempt great things. ***One would never initiate a project of social relevance without getting enlightened. We are God's Images sent to the world with a higher purpose.*** In carrying out our true mission, we may face risks and challenges. **However, we will never be left alone.** If Joseph and Mary had the Divine provisions and support, we would also have them. May we all have a vision to live and a mission to accomplish. We leave this world only after the mission is accomplished. If we feel weak or confused, He will guide us. When we die, we will be resurrected in Jesus' name!! He is Immanuel. God with us!

1.FEASTS AND REMEMBRANCES:

- **December 08**, H. H. Baselios Mar Augen I Catholicose, 50th anniversary, entombed at Devalokam Aramana Chapel, Kottayam
- **December 09**, H. G. Mathews Mar Barnabas Metropolitan, 13th anniversary, entombed at St Peter's and St Paul's Church, Valayanchiranga\ra
- **December 10**, Martyrs St Behana, his sister Marth Sara and Co-Martyrs
- **December 10**, Mar Philoxenos of Mabugh
- **December 13**, H. G. Daniel Mar Philoxenos Metropolitan, 35th anniversary, entombed at Mar Basil Aramana Chapel, Pathanamthitta

2.Clergy Demise: Very Rev K V Joseph Ramban (1935-2025)

Very Rev K V Joseph Ramban, 90 years, a senior priest of the Malankara Orthodox Church, was taken to heavenly abode on Thursday Dec 11. He was the secretary to HH Baselios Mar Augen I Catholicose, worked with HH Baselios Marthoma Mathews I & II. Rambachan had served as Manager at M D Seminary, Old Seminary and Parumala Seminary. He also served as member in the MOC College Governing Board, Parumala Seminary Council, Diocesan Council Kottayam, secretary to the Episcopal Synod Office, and various parishes in the Diocese of Kottayam including Mar Elijah Cathedral. He also assisted the Consecration of Holy Myron 7 times, led by all Holy Catholicoi in succession from H H Baselios Marthoma I in 1978 until HH Baselios Paulose II in 2018. After retirement, he resided in Mar Kuriakose Dayara, Pampady. Rambachan will be remembered for his devotion, humility, dedication, faith and exemplary pastoral care. The funeral service will be

conducted on Dec 14 Sunday at Puthuppally Church. May the Lord comfort him. May his soul rest in peace.

4.IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS: Please note in your calendar

A. Christmas House Caroling & Church Carol

Evening

B. Sunday Nov 30- Brampton St. George Area. *Well Done!*

C. Sunday, Dec 07- St. Paul's Prayer: Scarborough. *Well Done!*

D. Sunday, Dec 14- St. Mary's Prayer: Mississauga, Hamilton, Stony creek Area

5. Saturday, Dec 20- Carol Evening at Church starting with evening prayer at 06:00 pm followed by Carol singing, skits and presentations by organisations.

6.Christmas, Dec 24-Wed, Evening Prayer at 05:30 pm followed by Divine Fire, Holy Qurbana and the Liturgy of Nativity

7.New Year 2026: Dec 31-Wed, Evening Prayer at 06:30 pm followed by Holy Liturgy

8.Feast of Epiphany-Jan 06: Holy Liturgy on Jan 05-Mon with Evening Prayer at 06:00 pm followed by Liturgy of Danaha and Holy Qurbana

9.Nineveh Lent: Jan 26-Monday to Jan 28-Wednesday: Holy Liturgy on Wed 28th with Evening Prayer at 06:30 pm followed by Holy Qurbana

10.Great Lent: Feb 16- April 04

11.Easter: April 05-Sunday

12.Urava Volume 7

URAVA Volume 7, based on the theme 'the Council of Nicaea', was released on October 25, 2025. Updated version with cover design chosen from the contest, additional articles, pictures from the Council of Nicaea event and drawings submitted for contest shall be made available soon.

Two contests for the journal with the title: "Nicaea 325 AD":

1. Cover Page Icon Contest – open to all parish members ages 18+
2. Inner Page Drawing Contest – open to children

13.Attention Please:

a. Parking: Please be considerate while parking our vehicles, only park at designated space. Leave reserved lots for the intended and please park within lines and markings leaving enough space for others to open their doors without scratching or hitting nearby parked vehicles.

b. Children at Parking Space: Please attend to children as it has been noticed that at times they play and run around within the parking lots, which may cause accidents and incidents. Please take care.

14.AREA PRAYER MEETINGS:

A. Prayer Meetings: The general body decided and agreed to have the meeting started in New Year 2026

b. Saturday, January 3, 2026: Prayer meeting at the residence of Sen and Loozy Mathew

c. Saturday, January 10, 2026: Prayer meeting at the residence of Manu and Elizabeth Abraham

d. Saturday, January 17, 2026: Prayer meeting at the residence of Alex George and Sosamma Alex.

15.Winter Season Precautionary Arrangements effective Sunday, December 7, 2025.

As we did last year, we are introducing a small change to the church entrance plan for the winter

season. This is for everyone's comfort and safety, especially to prevent entering the church with wet shoes or socks. Please use the south side entrance where the elevator is located when you arrive. After entering, kindly leave your shoes in the designated areas. Then proceed to the church through the stairs on the north side.

These precautionary steps are intended to help our members avoid discomfort and maintain cleanliness during the winter months.

Clear signs were posted at the entrance and exit routes. Your cooperation in following these instructions is greatly appreciated

16. FOR OUR ATTENTION & TO NOTE:

Children, please occupy front benches during our Liturgical Services
Kindly avoid crowding at the back of the church. A few concerns.

- Due to safety concerns and for assuring an undistracted worship space, we request all our members to proceed to the front rows except those that are reserved for children when we enter the temple. It would be a bit difficult for our volunteers to suggest moving to the front during the service as it would cause distraction and noise. We need to avoid crowding at the entrance and stair areas as this has raised safety concerns.
- Please be considerate to our senior members to help them find seats or while they try to access the washroom. A slip or a hit should be avoided in any circumstance.
- Please be watchful at the shoe rack area which is also the entrance to both washrooms.
- We request our parents to attend our children not to pull the alarm lever at the back wall.

17.Hand Waving Machine & Common Absolution Prayer for all communicants

The hand waving machine has been installed at the church entrance for taking count of the communicants. Whoever wishes to take Holy Communion, upon entering the temple, please wave your hand once at the machine. Please be aware that after the Nicene Creed, the machine shall be disabled. Absolution shall be done during the morning prayer.

18.WEEKLY IN-PERSON MEETINGS:

December 14, Sunday – in-person meetings

- **Sunday School**
- **House Caroling after the refreshment.**

19. LIVE streaming has been reactivated: All services' Live Streaming is now available.

20. Holy Liturgical Text for this Sunday

We will be using the Taksa of Mar Abraham this Sunday.

May the Gracious Lord keep us from all evil and heal the entire world.

21. Next Week

Dec 21, Sunday: Genealogy of the Lord, Sunday before Christmas, Yaldo Season

Scriptural Readings:

- OT: Genesis 46:8-27, 1 Kings 9:3-7, Isaiah 7:14-15, 11:1-9
- NT: Acts 3:20-26, Romans 4:13-21, Holy Gospel St Matthew 1:1-17

Yours in Christ

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