

Dearly Beloved,

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

December 21, 2025, Sunday – Genealogy of the Lord, 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**

Holy Gospel: St Matthew 1:1-17

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, 3 and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram,[a] 4 and Ram[b] the father of Ammin'adab, and Ammin'adab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, 5 and Salmon the father of Bo'az by Rahab, and Bo'az the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, 6 and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uri'ah, 7 and Solomon the father of Rehobo'am, and Rehobo'am the father of Abi'jah, and Abi'jah the father of Asa,[c] 8 and Asa[d] the father of Jehosh'aphat, and Jehosh'aphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzzi'ah, 9 and Uzzi'ah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezeki'ah, 10 and Hezeki'ah the father of Manas'seh, and Manas'seh the father of Amos,[e] and Amos[f] the father of Josi'ah, 11 and Josi'ah the father of Jechoni'ah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

12 And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoni'ah was the father of She-al'ti-el,[g] and She-al'ti-el[h] the father of Zerub'babel, 13 and Zerub'babel the father of Abi'ud, and Abi'ud the father of Eli'akim, and Eli'akim the father of Azor, 14 and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eli'ud, 15 and Eli'ud the father of Ele'a'zar, and Ele'a'zar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, 16 and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Reflections:

Close to the feast of Nativity, we hear about the family tree of our Savior and Redeemer. With the genealogy, the apostolic intention could be to affirm two facts about Christ.

Firstly, Christ was God. God entered human history through incarnation. He was conceived and delivered by a woman. He had no earthly father, which reveals that he was not of regular biological origin. By enlisting the names in Christ's ancestry, the gospel writer proves the divinity and humanity that seamlessly united in Him. Over the centuries, this thread was developed so that it would one day be declared at the Council of Nicaea that Christ was fully God and fully human.

Secondly, Christ came to the world to save souls who were dead to sin. His arrival initiated this act of redemption, not by keeping them away, but by holding them close and being one with the fallen humanity. Christ limited Himself, leaving heaven's glory to take form in the

smallest space available for a human being- a womb! His self-limiting was not limited to physical alone, but it was seen in His political, social, religious and cultural interactions. Despite several religions and cultures to choose from as His origin, although He was universal, He chose a minor culture and religion from among the Greco Roman Persian multi options. The religion that He was born into, had a far less powerful political presence as compared to other religions of the time. Had He been born into Roman or Greek regions, He probably would have been inducted as one among their many gods, hailed and not harassed, without rejection, torture, crucifixion or killing. The people he chose to be born into were under invasion without freedom. They had no king. Under colonial rule, they lived in poverty and scarcity. They had no rights or privileges. Due to their economic condition, most of them were struggling and faced many restrictions.

The kingdom of David was divided into two after Solomon's reign, namely Judah and Israel. Judah lasted from the rule of Rehoboam (930-913 BC) until Zedekiah (597-586 BC). It went to exile by Babylon in 586 BC. Israel's kingship began with Jeroboam (930-909 BC) till Hoshea (732-722 BC). It got assimilated by Assyria in 722 BC. Both kingdoms never enjoyed freedom within their country since the last king. A 'people' living under foreign rule or in exile would be less nourished in all aspects. They had lost their confidence, almost forgotten their Davidic glory and were unable to think of fighting for freedom. They were diminishing as a race almost on the verge of becoming non-existent. We should be aware that the people of God were once a no-people nation who later evolved into a nation. They grew to great heights in the time of David and enjoyed all kinds of privileges for many centuries. Now they had lost all their powers and rights and had become a no people tribe again.

For His people, it was their expected Messiah who came to be among them and would take them into prosperity. They were waiting for Him to conquer foreign rulers to receive again David's throne. Jesus was of Davidic lineage. As the firstborn of the Heavenly Father, Jesus is elder to the whole human race. Though He was born a human through Mary after many generations since Adam, He is older to everyone. Because He became human, all humans are connected to Him, through all ages and eras. He received human flesh from Mary; it was the mystery of the Union of God and human in her womb. While looking at the genealogy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we realize the fact that everyone in the lineage had a role to play in His coming despite their life's realities, each one chosen for the fulfilment of a purpose so that He would be in us and we in Him, eternally united. We need not look for Christ outside of us. He is within us, united with our fallible nature to make us divine like Him. It is our calling and our identity. Glory to Him in the highest!!!

FEASTS AND REMEMBRANCES:

- December 17, HH Baselios Mar Geevarghese I Catholicose, 97th anniversary, entombed at Vallikkattu Dayara, Vakathanam, Kottayam
- December 18 -21, Feast days of St Thomas the Apostle (Stabbing)
- December 20, Feast of Ignatius Nurono of Antioch
- December 21, Dukrono of St Thomas

Area House Caroling went well, thanks to all!

We are grateful to all the hosts and cohosts in Brampton, Scarborough and Mississauga areas for their gracious hosting of the carolers. Thanks to you for welcoming us, serving delicious snacks and for generous donations. Thanks to Sen Mathew & Loozy, Shaji Thomas & Anchu, and Joju Thomas & Rebecca families for serving dinner in their respective areas. Sincere thanks to area coordinators Shibu Cherian, Varghese Panicker and John Simon, all singers, drummers, families, children for their exemplary participation, hard work and dedication. Santas who cheered us, Renin Thomas and Abey, sincere thanks. The way they engaged our children was wonderful! Thanks to Libi Zacharia leading us in the coach and for compiling of carol songs. Thanks to Samson Joseph for printing the songs booklet. Thanks to the coach drivers for safe and comfy conveyance. Thanks to MC members and organizational leaders for their support. We look forward to the area caroling 2026!

MMVS Charity: Ms.Teresa Watroba & Stanley from Mar Gregorios Asram visited us last Sunday. Teresa Watroba, Vice President of Mar Gregorios Asram visited us last Sunday to receive the MMVS's monetary contribution. She and her husband Stanley Watroba blessed us through their visit and prayers. They briefed us about the many works they offer to the society. St Gregorios Asram in Moolanthuruthy, Kerala provides care, education and shelter for orphaned children. This project was initiated by Sister Susan Kuruvilla of blessed memory. Our parish MMVS has been supporting them for many years. Thanks to all our members contributed towards MMVS charity.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS: Please note in your calendar

1. **Saturday, Dec 20- Carol Evening at Church starting with evening prayer at 05:30 pm followed by Carol singing, skits and presentations by organisations. All our members are requested to join the Carol celebration.**
2. **Sunday Dec 21- Khadija Ali (Kathy) from Earnestine Women Shelter will be visiting us this Sunday to receive the MMVS donation.**
3. **Christmas, Dec 24-Wed, Evening Prayer at 05:30 pm followed by Divine Fire, Holy Qurbana and the Liturgy of Nativity. Please bring the palm leaves of Hosannah.**
4. **New Year 2026: Dec 31-Wed, Evening Prayer at 06:30 pm followed by Holy Liturgy**
5. **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**
6. **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**
7. **Great Lent: Feb 16- April 04**
8. **Easter: April 05-Sunday**

Urava Volume 7- Nicaea 325 AD

URAVA Volume 7, based on the theme 'the Council of Nicaea', was formally 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

Attention Please:

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.

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.

AREA PRAYER MEETINGS: Please bring your Holy Bible and song books.

Saturday Jan 03, Brampton Area, Sen Mathew & Loozy's Res, starting at 04:00 pm to finish by 06:00 pm.

Saturday Jan 10, Mississauga Area, Manu P Abraham & Geetha's Res, starting at 04:00 pm to finish by 06:00 pm.

Saturday Jan 17, Scarborough Area, Alex George & Sosamma's Res, starting at 04:00 pm to finish by 06:00 pm.

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.

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.

WEEKLY IN-PERSON MEETINGS:

December 21, Sunday – in-person meetings

- **Sunday School Yaldo Winter Camp 01:00 pm – 03:30 pm. Hymns training, Baking, Dump Charades, Study on Yaldo Liturgy, Christmas Tree Decoration, Ornaments, Learning on Symbolism. Join and be enlightened!**
- **OCYM Monthly Meeting after refreshment.**

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

Holy Liturgical Text for this Sunday

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

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

Next Week

Dec 28, Sunday: 1st Sunday after Christmas, Fleeing to Egypt, Yaldo Season

Scriptural Readings:

- **OT: Genesis 21:8-13, 24:2-7, Judges13:24-14:4, Zachariah8:3-8**
- **NT: 1 Peter 5:5-11, Hebrews 3:1-6, Holy Gospel St Matthew 2:9-15, 19-23**

Yours in Christ

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