

Dearly Beloved,

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

January 04, 2026, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Yaldo, Yaldo Season

Scriptural Readings:

- OT: Genesis 37:1-4, 1 Samuel 2:18-21, Psalms 45:1-7
- NT: 1 John 3:21-24, Hebrews 11:23-31, Holy Gospel St Matthew 2:19-23

Holy Gospel: St Matthew 2:19-23

<sup>19</sup>But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, <sup>20</sup>“Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” <sup>21</sup>And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archela'us reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup>And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

Reflections:

Joseph was a man of vision. When he was in a dilemma of whether to accept or reject Mary after knowing about her conception before their marriage, it was his vision that guided him to accept Mary. The dilemma was replaced by his decision to stand by her when faced with societal challenges. When the life of the child was under Herod’s threat, God sensed Joseph’s fear and again sent an angel to Joseph. Thus, visions played a big role in the journey of the Holy Family.

Without vision, no mission would be accomplished. When we talk about a life with vision, it does not mean a life free from problems. All the great visionaries and missionaries lived their life through severe challenges and hard situations. They had to work hard, fight, sweat a lot, attempt repeatedly, taste failures of great magnitude and often felt all alone in the arduous path that they chose to tread due to the dreams they were not prepared to give up. Being convinced about the visions they had received, they moved on working hard. Every time they fell, they got up and kept going. *They believed that whatever they were going through and whatever they were attempting to achieve had a purpose not limited to personal or familial significance, but rather universal.* They were not selfish. Their vision of their own life was more inclusive. They fought against the world for the best of the world. If they spoke against systems, governments or rulers, it was for the wellness of everyone.

Mary bore the child for the entire world. She knew whom she was carrying and for whom all her son came. Joseph knew his role in the great redemptive initiative by Heaven, and he took it to his heart. All the apostles and prophets were aware of their role in transforming the wider world. Hence challenges and hardships sounded meaningful to them. *Whoever hears and accepts God’s calling would understand that they are called for a greater life with greater moments.* Whenever faced with hardships or big challenges, there would be inbuilt solutions and possible results with divine providence. They would need to look for it with more diligence as the mission progresses. If the focus shifts to problems and the divine guidance is missed or neglected, panic and losses would result.

The assurance, “Fear thou not, for I Am with thee” must be the miraculous mantra one should

**have.** We submit our life to God's mission, stay aware of the challenges and sense the Lord's forever presence with us everywhere. Let us resolve to work hard and to expect God's miraculous intervention anytime. *With Him, we become victorious. In the new year, we rededicate ourselves and walk with the Lord! What a friend we would have in Him!!*

#### **FEASTS AND REMEMBRANCES:**

- January 01, Feast of Circumcision of the Lord
- January 01, Feast of Mar Basil & Mar Gregorios, All Teachers of Faith
- January 03, Baselios Geevarghese II Catholicose, 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary, entombed at Catholicate Aramana Chapel, Devalokam
- January 03, 62<sup>nd</sup> commemoration of the Oath of Koonan Cross

#### **Clergy Demise:**

Very Rev John Panicker Cor Episcopa, senior priest of the Diocese of Kollam, passed away on Thursday Jan 01. The funeral service will be held on Saturday, Jan 03 at 03:00 pm at St Peter's & St Paul's Orthodox Church, Maranad, Kundara.

Rev Fr George Pattlatt, senior priest of Angamaly Diocese, passed away on Thursday Jan 01. The funeral service will be held on Friday, Jan 02 at 02:30 pm at St Peter's & St Paul's Orthodox Church, Valayanchirangara.

We thank the Lord for the ministry they rendered and pray for their souls. May they rest in peace.

#### **Urava Journal Vol 7: Nicaea 325 (Digital Copy available)**

Contents include insightful articles by members. Weekend reports and pictures of Nicaea 325 event hosted by parish OCYM & Choir.

Pramitha Elizabeth Pothan, Ann Varughese, Santosh Varghese and Nanma Susan Siju were awarded for their artistic contributions.

Sincere thanks to parish MC, Editorial Board, John Mathews for printing hard copies, all authors and artists.

#### **Clothing Donation Drive – SDOF**

St. Dionysius Orthodox Fellowship is organizing a clothing donation drive to support seniors and adults being discharged from hospitals, many of whom face homelessness or mental health challenges and lack clean clothing.

We kindly request clean, washed, and folded winter jackets and sweaters.



Collection Dates: Sunday, January 11 & 18



Drop-off: Please hand over donations directly to SDOF committee members.

#### **UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS: Please note in your calendar**

1. Jan 06: Feast of Epiphany- Holy Liturgy on Jan 05-Mon with Evening Prayer at 06:00 pm followed by Liturgy of Danaha and Holy Qurbana
2. Jan 07-Beheading of St John the Baptist

3. Jan 08-Feast of St Stephen
4. Jan 26-Monday to Jan 28-Wednesday: Nineveh Lent: Holy Liturgy on Wed 28th with Evening Prayer at 06:30 pm followed by Holy Qurbana
5. Feb 16- April 04: Great Lent:
6. April 05-Sunday: Easter:

**Attention Please:**

- **Parking:** Please be considerate while parking our vehicles, only park at designated space. Leave reserved lots for the intended and kindly 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 Residence, from 04:00 to 06:00 pm.

Saturday, Jan10, Mississauga Area, Manu P. Abraham & Geetha's Residence , from 04:00 to 06:00 pm.

Saturday, Jan 17, Scarborough Area, (Venue shall be updated soon), from 04:00 to 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:**

January 04, Sunday – in-person meetings

- **SGOCT Choir 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 English Taksá of Holy Fathers this Sunday.

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

**Next Week**

January 11, Sunday: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany, Yaldo Season

Scriptural Readings:

- **OT: Genesis 25:19-34, 2 Kings 3:13, 20-25, 5:9-15, Isaiah 49:7-13**
- **NT: Acts 2:37-47, Ephesians 1:3-14, Holy Gospel St Matthew 4:12-22**

Yours in Christ

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