

## St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Parish Bulletin – December 2020

Greetings from our Parish!

*"How great is the joy experienced when everything  
is offered in the Sacred Heart of Jesus"*  
– St. Alphonsa



### WEEKLY SERVICES

#### SUNDAYS

Dec 6, 13, 20 & 27  
\*Holy Mass – 5:30pm  
Online Streaming – YouTube

#### SPECIAL MASS

Christmas Special Holy Mass  
Date & Time will be announced later  
Online Streaming – YouTube

\*See Holy Mass Schedule section for more details

### St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Catholic Church

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PHONE: +1-306-450-7790 WEB: [www.stalphonsabc.org](http://www.stalphonsabc.org)

Email: [parish@stalphonsabc.org](mailto:parish@stalphonsabc.org)

Follow us on   

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### GLORIA-ONLINE RETREAT FOR CHILDREN

Grade 5 – 8  
Dec 12, Sat, 9am to 12:30pm

#### CHRISTMAS

Dec 25, 2020

#### SILVER JUBILEE OF PRIESTLY ORDINATION OF FR. SAJY THOMAS

Dec 30, 2020

### HOLY MASS SCHEDULE\*

\* Based on the Provincial Health Order from Dr. Bonnie Henry, Archdiocese of Vancouver has issued a directive that until further notice starting Nov 20<sup>th</sup>, Holy Masses are to be offered without public congregation.

We will continue to livestream our Sunday Holy Mass at 5:30 pm through YouTube. Online Mass can also be viewed at our website home page [www.stalphonsabc.org](http://www.stalphonsabc.org)

### December – The Advent Season

In this month of December, as we journey through the advent season and the beginning of a new liturgical year, let us be attentive to the role and action of Holy Spirit in the Scriptures offered to us in the liturgy. The spirit is presented to us as re-creative, giving a new start to God's people. In Matthew 3:11; "I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit".



The spirit is a source of strength and power who sends us out a source of energy for the mission. The spirit will keep us sound and blameless, as we wait for the coming of the Lord. The grace of the Holy Spirit has a particular direction and goal, it leads us individually and communally to incarnation; giving flesh to our participation in the mission of Christ.

The name "Jesus" comes from the Greek form of an underlying Semitic "Yeshuah", which means, "Yahweh Saves". The name given to him thus identifies Jesus as the one who will save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). The virgin will conceive and bear a son, and he will be called Emmanuel, which means: God – with – us. (Matthew 1:23). From the gospel, we can understand that "Jesus is Emmanuel" ... "God with us".

The message of Christmas is that "to know God, we must know Jesus" It is in Him that we live and move and have our being. In short, keep Christ in Christmas.

- Fr. Sajy Thomas Chakkittamuriyil

## ➤ Social Media



We continue livestreaming our Sunday worship services through YouTube. Subscribe to our YouTube channel and click the bell icon to receive notifications.

Check your email and Parish Whatsapp group regularly and stay connected with the community!

## ➤ Family Units

The registered members of the Parish are divided into several family units based on the location of their residence. Each family unit gathers once a month (currently online) for prayer meeting. Please contact us (email: [parish@stalphonsabc.org](mailto:parish@stalphonsabc.org)) to know which family group you belong to. Get involved and be part of this community!

## ➤ Catechism

Faith formation in our kids is an essential part of our community. Online Catechism classes are arranged for Kindergarten to Grade-12.

Registrations for new students are still open. For registration to Grade 1 and above, please contact Shanty Poulouse at 604-441-2869 or email [shanty.kp@gmail.com](mailto:shanty.kp@gmail.com). For registration of new students to Kindergarten (Both Junior Kindergarten & Senior Kindergarten), please contact Ninu Joseph at 604-505-8640 or email [ninuabhilash@gmail.com](mailto:ninuabhilash@gmail.com).

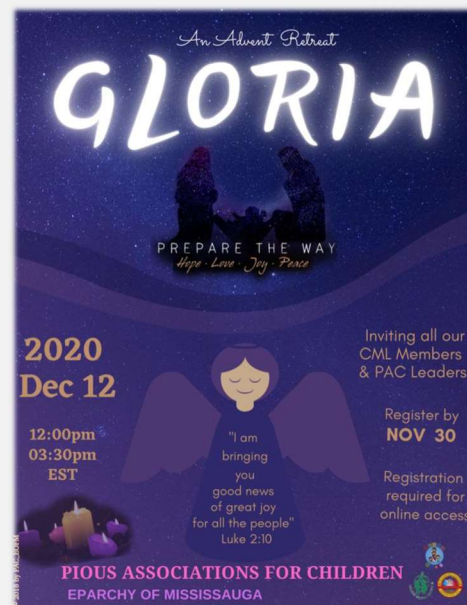
## ➤ Silver Jubilee of Priestly Ordination



***Congratulations and prayers to Fr. Sajy who celebrates his 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Priestly Ordination on Dec 30, 2020!***

## ➤ Gloria

An Advent Virtual Retreat will be conducted by Eparchy of Mississauga for students of Grade 5-8.



## ➤ Christmas Retreat

In preparation for Christmas, under the leadership of SMYM International youth group, an online retreat (Zoom) has been arranged by Eparchy of Mississauga.

The preacher will be Rev. Fr. Davis Chiramel. Please save your date – Dec 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00pm EST (6:00pm PST). You don't want to miss this great opportunity during the blessed Advent season. All are welcome!



**Eparchy of Mississauga**  
welcomes you to



## ➤ Christmas Cheers



Christmas is here!

Let's spread some Christmas cheers virtually. You are whole-heartedly invited to join the online contests organised by our church. Please contact your family unit leaders for more details on the rules and criteria for participation!



## Parish Council

*Pastor: Fr. Sajy Thomas Chakkittamuriyil*

<b>Trustees</b>	Sunil Thomas & Joji Alex
<b>Secretary</b>	Ninu Joseph
<b>Financial Coordinators</b>	Prince James, Lucy Varghese & Somini Chelat
<b>Spiritual Coordinator</b>	Biju Arackal
<b>Liturgy Coordinator</b>	Jobu J. Mathew
<b>PRO &amp; Communications</b>	Abraham Varghese
<b>Catechetical Coordinators</b>	Shanty Poulse & Biju Arackal
<b>Youth Coordinators</b>	Soalwin J Kallingal & Jenson James
<b>International students &amp; New Immigrants</b>	Alvin George, Jojo Kurian, Velby Jose & Ninu Joseph
<b>Social Coordinators &amp; Food Committee</b>	Thomas Kunjavoo & Prince James
<b>Mathrudeepthi</b>	Ninu Joseph
<b>Knights of Columbus</b>	Jobu J. Mathew
<b>Pioneers Coordinator</b>	Vincent George
<b>Pastoral Council</b>	Abraham Varghese Biju Arackal Lucy Varghese

## Bible Readings for December 2020

**Dec 06, 2020** Num 22:20-35 (22:20-23:2)  
Is 43:25-44:5 (43:14-44:5)  
Col 4:2-6 (4:2-18)  
Lk 1:26-38 (1:26-56)

**Dec 13, 2020** Gen 18:1-10 (18:1-19)  
Judg 13:2-7, 24 (13:2-24)  
Eph 3:1-13 (3:1-21)  
Lk 1:57-66 (1:57-80)

**Dec 20, 2020** Gen 24:50-67  
I Sam 1:1-18 (1:1-28)  
Eph 5:5-21  
Mt 1:18-24

**Dec 27, 2020** I Gen 21:9-21 (21:1-21)  
I Sam 1:21-28 (1:19-28)  
Gal 4:21-5:1  
Mt 2:1-12 (2:1-23)

## Prayer requests

If you have a prayer request or if you know someone sick or shut-in who would like the church to visit or bring communion, please contact Fr. Sajy Thomas.

## Food Donation

Our church has been donating food coupons to the needy. We are so glad that we have been able to help several families who desperately needed our help and support.

If you are someone who is affected by the pandemic and in need of food and groceries, you may please contact Fr. Sajy Thomas (1-306-450-7790).

If you are willing to contribute towards this and be a part of this mission, please contact Fr. Sajy.

## Donations to Church

It is the most wonderful time of the year – Christmas, a time of giving and feeling loved. The joy of receiving a nice gift fades in a short time, but the wonderful feeling of ‘giving’ offers memories that last a lifetime.

Would you consider contributing to our church generously during this Christmas? As you can understand, our parish has no income other than the offerings received from parishioners. We humbly request all parishioners to contribute whatever you can afford. Any small amount will make a big difference.

*“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” - 2 Corinthians 9:7*

You can Interac e-transfer your donations to our church email or direct deposit to the church account. Our church email Id and account details are given below:

[parish@stalphonesabc.org](mailto:parish@stalphonesabc.org)

TD Bank account (Branch 0275);

Account Number - 7888-5251473

Please note that tax receipts will be provided for all donations above \$20.

## Sign up for PAD System

We also encourage our parish members to join our PAD system for Sunday collections. For PAD Agreement Forms, please contact:  
Prince James (604-499-1116)  
Sunil Thomas (604-761-4562)  
or your Family unit leaders.

## Welcome, New Comers!

We invite you to register and be part of our parish community. You may please contact Fr. Sajy Thomas and register with our church. Registrations forms are available at Church and also on our website.

International Students, please do register with us and contact any of the parish council members for any questions or concerns you may have.

We are happy to help you in every possible way we can!

Also, please notify us if you are moving out from the parish.

*“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” - Jeremiah 29:11*



## PASTORAL LETTER

Prot. No. 178/2020

Mar Jose Kalluvelil, Bishop of the Eparchy of Mississauga, to the Priests, Religious Men and Women and Lay Faithful in the Eparchy of Mississauga.

May the Grace of God be with you all during these times!

In the Syro-Malabar tradition, the liturgical year starts with the divine mystery of Jesus' Incarnation as true God and true man. We celebrate the beginning of God's salvific plan during the season of Annunciation. The people of the Old Testament cried out to God to be with them and guide them- and God's answer came through the Incarnation of His Only Begotten Son. As we enter the Christmas season, we must remember the true meaning of the season. "I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people" (Luke 2:10). Christmas is a season where we remember that God is with us, that he is our Emmanuel. While we are navigating through the turbulent waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, the thought that God is always with us will continue to serve as a beacon of light and hope.

In his message for World Mission Day 2020, His Holiness Pope Francis exhorts the faithful saying, "Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat... are all of us. Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying 'We are perishing' (v. 38), so we too have realized that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together can we do this" Pope Francis calls us to meditate on this thought while we go about our daily lives during this pandemic.

After informing the shepherds of the Saviour's Birth, the angels returned to Heaven. As they departed, the shepherds started talking to each other about what they had just heard. "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So, they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child" (Luke 2:15-17). The life-changing experience that received when they saw Jesus, the Saviour of the world, lying in a shoddy manger was what led the shepherds to proclaim the Good News. Let this Christmas and the 25 days of Advent leading up to it help everyone to sustain and deepen their own Jesus experience. Pope Francis poses the following question to those who wish to achieve this divine experience: "Why should we not speak of Jesus, why should we not tell others that he gives us strength in life, that we enjoy talking with him, that we benefit from meditating on his words?" (Christus Vivit No. 176).

Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that "being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction" (Deus Caritas est No. 1). Each Christian that has been initiated into the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism is responsible for upholding these duties and proclaiming their experiences with Jesus Christ.

The pilgrim church is "missionary by her very nature" (AG-2). Therefore, the evangelical church is called to spread the Good News all over the face of the Earth (Acts. 1:8) till the end of days (Mt. 28: 19-20). A church without its missionary spirit has no life. Therefore, the evangelization of the Good News is the obligation, right and responsibility of every member of the Church. Very often it is mistakenly assumed that only priests and other missionaries bear this responsibility. Through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, all initiated Christians are called to be active contributors to the missionary nature of the Church. This responsibility is to be encouraged within us personally.

We, the Marthoma Nazranis, are people who received their faith from St. Thomas the Apostle. Our population is growing in Canada. Through our growth, we are fulfilling the command that Jesus gave to us in Mark 16:15 "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation". Just as water that flows freely allows plants to flourish and bring forth produce, we are called to bring forth the fruits of faith wherever we go. Family is the focal point of both our catechetical life and our daily witnessing to the Good News. We can raise evangelical families through participating in the sacraments of the Church, initiating daily familial prayers and encouraging parents to act as good role models for their children. In this way, let us strive toward making our families an example of the missionary nature of the Church. Likewise, we can become missionaries in our workplaces and our schools through our interactions and presence.

I gratefully acknowledge that our social Service Department has been laying solid foundation during last five years through various activities. Now God is graciously providing the opportunity to expand geographically and spread the "Joy of the Gospel" to all peoples across Canada. On December 22, 2020, the third anniversary of the elevation of the Exarchate into Eparchy, we will register federally a Non-profit organization by name "Mother Teresa Social Service Society". Let us joyfully receive this ineffable gift as a precious Christmas gift from God.

"Take care of them - they are mine. Bring them to Jesus to them carry Jesus to them - Fear not!" I cordially invite you give credence to this vision of St. Mother Teresa's social work by actively involving in the evangelical mission of the Church. Let Infant Jesus bestow his blessings On you!

Wishing you all the joy of Birth of Our Saviour!

Lovingly in Christ Jesus,

**Mar Jose Kalluvelil**

Bishop of the Eparchy of Mississauga