



ST. ALPHONSA SYRO-MALABAR CATHOLIC CHURCH

# PARISH BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2023



*"For God so loved the world that  
he gave his one and only Son, that  
whoever believes in him shall not  
perish but have eternal life"*  
*John 3:16*



## Message From The Pastor



Season of Annunciation is the first season in the liturgical year. A season of waiting in preparation for the birth of infant Jesus which begins on the 1st Sunday of December. We, Syro-Malabar Catholics traditionally observe the disciplines of fasting and abstinence of meat in the **Season of Annunciation**. True fast is the estrangement from evil, temperance of tongue, abstinence from anger, separation from desires, slander, and falsehood. I recommend everyone try their level best to stick with these good practices to sustain the spirit of 25 Nombu.

**Eparchial Assembly** was a great time of attentive listening, thoughtful reflection, and in-depth analysis to form the future pastoral plans to build up our Eparchy to continue the mission of Christ. Being part of this inaugural historical event fills all

participants with pride, as together, we have accomplished a significant milestone in the Eparchy's journey.

Our parish is really thankful to **Rev Fr. Jison Paul Vengassery** for the fruitful retreat to our community.

Get ready to embrace the festive season with the delightful cultural expression and creativity from our parishioners, **CHRISTINGLE EVE 2023**. Stay tuned for details and mark your calendar.

As you all know, we have been working hard to buy a mission house and we are very close to accomplishing our dream. To raise awareness and donations to accomplish this mission we are launching a concert on 2024 May 25 Saturday **"CHITHRAVARNAM 2024"**.

I request your wholehearted support and great participation for the success of this event. May God bless you all.

**Fr. Thomas Venmanthara (Vicar)**

## ST. ALPHONSA SYRO- MALABAR CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**WEB:** [www.stalphonsabc.org](http://www.stalphonsabc.org)

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

### Follow us on:



### Pastor

Fr. Thomas Venmanthara

### Trustees

Abraham Varghese

John Sebastian

Shiju Joseph

Vincy William

### Secretary

Anju Thomas

# Christmas Schedule



Let's come together to share the magic of Christmas through the timeless tradition of caroling.

Embracing the joyous spirit of the holiday season, there will be Christmas Carols at the family unit level. This heartwarming event will be coordinated by each of our family unit leaders, ensuring a delightful and harmonious celebration of the festive season. For more details, contact **Prince James (604-499-1116)** or **Shiju Joseph (778-707-0182)**

## Christingle Eve 2023

Join us for our Christmas and New Year Program "Christingle Eve 2023" on Saturday, January 6th, 2024, at 6:30 PM. Tickets, priced at \$15 (for ages 10 and above), covering dinner, will be available for purchase throughout December and during the Carol events. Exciting entertainment programs are in the works at various ministry levels. All parishioners have been invited to actively participate in this special event. For more details, please reach out to the coordinators: **Aneesh K @ 778-682-4900** & **Asha Febin @ 204-963-3136**



January 06 2024  
Saturday 06:30 pm



Saint Bernadette Church  
Parish Hall, 6543 132nd Street  
Surrey, BC V3W 4L4



## Catechism Updates

### Upcoming Catechetical Activities:

- **December 3:** Regular class, Food drive, Advent Calendar distribution
- **December 10:** Regular class, Food drive
- **December 17:** Regular class, Food drive, Catechism & Pious Association Christmas Celebration
- **December 24:** Christmas break
- **December 31:** Regular class



## HOLY QURBANA

**December 3, 10, 17**

Holy Mass in Malayalam at 5 PM

**Saturday, December 23**

Holy Mass in Malayalam at 7 PM

**Sunday, December 24**

Christmas Eve Mass at 10 PM

**Monday, December 25**

Christmas Day Mass at 5 PM

**Sunday, December 31**

Holy Mass in Malayalam at 5 PM, followed by Adoration

## CATECHETICAL DEPT.

Beena Parappilly (Principal)

Georgey Varghese (Vice Principal)

## PIOUS ASSOCIATIONS

Ninu Joseph

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Jobin Jacob

## MATHRUVEDHI

Preetha Sebastian

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 6 2024**

Christingle Eve 2023

**May 25 2024**

Chitravarnnam



## Annual Parish Retreat

The yearly retreat took place at St. Alphonsa Parish in Vancouver from Nov 17 to 19, led by Rev. Fr. Jison Paul. It was a profound spiritual feast, and the classes offered during the retreat were particularly enlightening.



Children participated in dedicated sessions facilitated by the Pious Association, while adults engaged in the retreat activities

## Eparchial Assembly Mission Quiz



Our parishioners were winners in the **Mississauga Eparchial Assembly – Mission quiz** held on November 4, 2023. Congratulations to **Meera Jaril**, securing the 1st position at the Forane level, and **Rosin Mathew**, securing the 3rd position at the Forane level!

## Eparchial Assembly

First Mississauga Eparchial Assembly was held on Nov 9-12 2023 in Toronto. Fr. Thomas, Lucy Johnson & Sanitha Loyd attended the assembly representing our parish.

[Eparchy assembly](#)



## BIBLE READINGS

### December 3 2023

#### First Sunday of Annunciation

Gen 17:1-5, 15-19

Mal 2:17-3:5

Heb 11:1-12

Lk 1:5-20

### December 10 2023

#### Second Sunday of Annunciation

Gen 3:8-24

Jer 33:14-26

Rev 5:1-5

Lk 1:26-38

### December 17 2023

#### Third Sunday of Annunciation

Gen 21:1-12

Isa 40:1-11

1 Cor 1:26-31

Lk 1:57-66

### December 24 2023

#### Fourth Sunday of Annunciation

Ex 34:1-9

Zech 2:7-13

Rev 21:1-7

Mt 1:18-24

### December 25 2023

#### Christmas

Isa 7: 10-16, 9: 1-3, 6-7

Mic 4:1-3, 5: 2-5, 8-9

Gal 3:15-4:6

Lk 2: 1-20

### December 31 2023

#### Second Sunday of Nativity

Ex 34:28-35

1 Sam 3:1-10

Rom 11:33-12:2

Lk 2:22-24, 41-52





## Altar Servers Ministry



A sacred vestment ceremony was conducted on November 26 to warmly welcome all our new altar servers

On November 11, a training session was conducted for all altar servers.

## International Youth Day

On November 26, International Youth Day was celebrated with a meet-and-greet session, bringing together both national and international youth members.



## DONATIONS



Big thanks to all of our church's donors. May God bless you!

To make a donation to our church, you can either e-transfer to our church email or direct deposit to the church account.

Our church email id and account details are given below:

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

TD Bank account (Branch 0275);

Account Number - 7888-5251473

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

## SIGN-UP FOR PAD

We encourage our parish members to join the Pre-authorized Debit (PAD) system for Sunday collections.

For PAD Agreement Forms, please contact:

John Sebastian (604 360 2843)

Vincy Williams (604 366 4068)

or your Family unit leaders ( Visit

<https://www.stalphonsabc.org/family-units/>)

## FAMILY UNITS

The registered members of the Parish are divided into family units based on the location of their residence. Each family unit gathers once a month for prayer meeting. Please visit

<https://www.stalphonsabc.org/family-units/> to know which family unit you belong to and the leaders information.

## NEWCOMERS HELPDESK

We warmly welcome new parishioners to register and become a part of our community. Registration forms are available at church or on our website.

As a new member, you can take advantage of our parish's dedicated helpdesk for newcomers, which can assist you with finding accommodation, arranging transportation to church, purchasing a vehicle, and any other essential needs. For further inquiries, please contact Biju Ukken (778 709 3834) or Renji Jose (778 986 4005) or send us an email at [help@stalphonsabc.org](mailto:help@stalphonsabc.org).