



# The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony



## Knanaya Catholic Region

St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago  
(For private use only)

### General Instructions

1. There shall be a table on the Bema to keep the thali, manthrakodi (rings, rosaries and garlands).
2. The lamp (Nilavilakku) I candle shall be kept ready for lighting during the ceremony.
3. The giving of peace before Gospel reading shall be done with the Gospel itself.

The bride, and the groom, accompanied by their relatives and friends, enter the church through the main door and proceed to the Bema. With the proper liturgical vestments on and flanked by the servers, the celebrant proceeds to the Bema from the sacristy. Meanwhile, the choir sings the opening hymn.

### പ്രാരംഭ ഗീതം

ആദിയിലഖിലേശൻ, നരനേ സൃഷ്ടിച്ചു;  
അവനൊരു സഖിയുണ്ടായ്; അവനൊരു ഇണയുണ്ടായ്.

ആദിയിലഖിലേശൻ ...

വാനവർ സാക്ഷികളാം, പാവന മംഗല്യം  
ആദേൻ വനികയിലേ, ആദിമ ദമ്പതിമാർ

ആദിയിലഖിലേശൻ ...

ഇരുമെയ്യല്ലവരി, ധരമേലൊരുനാളും  
ഏകശരീരം പോൽ, വാഴണമന്നാളും.

ആദിയിലഖിലേശൻ ...

When the procession reaches the Bema, the deacon receives the Thali, Mandrakodi (rings, rosaries, garlands, etc.) and places them on the table. Keeping the right and the left respectively, the bride and the groom, flanked by two witnesses. stand in from of the Bema.

(If Holy Mass is included sing the following)

സ്നേഹത്തിന്റെ കല്പന (യോഹ. 13:34-35)

**കാർമ്മി:** അന്നാപെസഹാത്തിരനാളിൽ  
കർത്താവരുളി കല്പനപോൽ  
തിരനാമത്തിൽ ചേർന്നീടാം  
ഒരുമയോടി ബലിയർപ്പിക്കാം.

**സമൂഹം:** അനരഞ്ജിതരായ് തീർന്നീടാം  
നവമൊരു പീഠമൊരുക്കീടാം  
ഇരുവിൻ സ്നേഹമൊടീയാശം  
തിരുമുന്മാകെയണച്ചീടാം.

**കാർമ്മി:** അത്യുന്നതമാം സ്വർലോകത്തിൽ  
സർവ്വേശന സ്തുതിഗീതം.

**സമൂഹം:** ഭൂമിയിലെങ്ങും മർത്യനു ശാന്തി  
പ്രത്യാശയുമെന്നേക്കും.

OR

**CEL:** Glory to God in the highest. (3)

**ALL:** Amen. (3)

**CEL:** Peace and hope to people on earth, always and forever.

**ALL:** Amen.

**CEL:** Our Father in heaven

**ALL:** : Holy be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done / on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day the bread we need / and forgive us our debts and sins / as we have forgiven those who offended us. Do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Angels and people sing out Your glory, Holy, holy, holy are You.

**SER:** Let us pray. Peace be with us.

**CEL:** Lord God, You have called these servants / to be united in holy matrimony / and to live in union of hearts. Graciously enrich this bride and the groom / with Your heavenly gifts, and help them form an ideal family / that observes Your commandments. Enable us, O Lord, / to administer this sacrament worthily / for Your glory / and for the good of the whole human race. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, / Lord of all, forever.

**ALL:** Amen

**Psalm 45, 128**

**CEL:** Hear, O daughter, / consider, and incline your ear; / Forget your people / and your father's house.

*(Canon)*

Rejoice, O Church, the spouse of our Savior, / God the Eternal has chosen you / as His spouse by love.

**ALL:** The princess is decked in her chamber /With gold-woven robes;

**CEL:** In many-colored robes she is led to the king, / Behind her the virgins, her companions, follow.

**ALL:** With joy and gladness they are led along / as they enter the palace of the king. I will cause your name / to be celebrated in all generations.

**CEL:** Your wife will be like a fruitful vine / Within your house; Your children will be like olive shoots / around your table.

**ALL:** Thus shall the man be blessed / who fears the Lord. / The Lord bless you from Zion. / All the days of your life.

**CEL:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son / and to the Holy Spirit.

**ALL:** From eternity and forever, Amen.  
*(Canon)* Rejoice O Church, the spouse of our Savior, God the Eternal has chosen you / as His spouse by love.

**SER:** Let us pray. Peace be with us.

**CEL:** Lord God, for all the helps and blessings / You have bestowed on us / and for which we can never be grateful enough, we offer You never-ending praise / and glory in the Church, crowned like a spouse, with every goodness and grace. You are the Creator and Lord of all, / the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, forever.

*(The celebrant lights the lamp or candle saying).*

**CEL:** May Christ who said: "I am the light of the world; He who follows me / will not walk in darkness," / be our beacon all the way.

*(The unity candle shall be lit at this time).*

സർവ്വാധിപനാം കർത്താവേ  
നിന്നെ വണങ്ങി നമിക്കുന്നു  
ഈശോ നാഥാ വിനയമൊടെ  
നിന്നെ നമിച്ചു പുകഴ്ത്തുന്നു.

മർത്യനു നിത്യമഹോന്നതമാ  
മൃതമാനം നീയരുളുന്നു  
അക്ഷയമവനുടെ ആത്മാവി  
ന്നുത്തമരക്ഷയുമേകുന്നു.

**OR**

**CHOIR & ALL:** Lord of all, we praise You. Jesus Christ, we glorify You. For You are the one who raises our bodies, and saves our souls.

**SER:** Let us pray. Peace be with us.

**CEL:** My Lord, You are truly the one who raises our bodies. You are the savior of our souls / and the preserver of our lives. We are bound always to thank, adore, and glorify You, / the Lord of all, forever.

**ALL:** Amen.

ശബ്ദമുയർത്തിപ്പാടിടുവിൻ  
സർവ്വരുമൊന്നായിപ്പാടിടുവിൻ  
എന്നെന്നും ജീവിക്കും  
സർവ്വേശ്വരനെ വാഴ്ത്തിടുവിൻ.

പരിപാവനനാം സർവ്വേശാ  
പരിപാവനനാം ബലവാനേ  
പരിപാവനനാം അമർത്യനേ  
നിൻകൃപ ഞങ്ങൾക്കേകണമേ.

**OR**

**SER:** Brothers and sisters, raise your voices and, glorify the living God.

**CHOIR & ALL:** Holy God, holy mighty One, holy immortal One, have mercy on us.

**SER:** Let us pray. Peace be with us.

**CEL:** Glorious, Mighty, Immortal, and Holy God! You who are pleased to dwell in the holy ones! We beseech You! Look upon us, pardon us, and show us compassion / according to Your nature. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Lord of all, forever.

**ALL:** Amen.

**CEL:** O Sovereign Lord, knowing everything, You are the source of every grace and blessing / and the amazing provider for all in Your household. We beseech You. Look upon us, / bless us, and show us mercy in accordance with Your nature. The Father,

the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Lord of all forever.

**ALL:** Amen.

**READING**

**READER:** Brothers and sisters, a reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians. *(Eph. 5:20-33 / 1 Peter 3:1-7).*

**READER:** *(Bowing to the celebrant)* Bless me, my Lord.

**CEL:** May Christ + bless you.

*(All sit. A server stands near the reader with a lit candle. At the end of the reading)*

**ALL:** Praise be to the Lord, our God.

*(The celebrant takes the Gospel and goes to the Bema in procession, accompanied by two bearers of candles and incense).*

**SONG**

ഹല്ലേലൂയ്യ പാടിടുന്നേൻ  
ഹല്ലേലൂയ്യ ഹല്ലേലൂയ്യ  
നല്ലോരാശയമെൻ മനതാരിൽ  
വന്നു നിറഞ്ഞു തുളുമ്പിടുന്നു  
രാജാവിൻ തിരുമുമ്പിൽ കീർത്തന  
മധുവായ് ഞാനതൊഴുകീടട്ടെ  
ഏറ്റമനുഗ്രഹ പൂരിതനാകവിതൻ  
തുലികപോലെൻ നാവിപ്പോൾ  
താതനമതുപോൽ സുതനം  
പരിശുദ്ധാനാവിനം സ്മൃതിയുരടെ  
ആദിമുതൽക്കേയിനം നിത്യവു  
മായി ഭവിച്ചീടട്ടെ ആമ്മേൻ.  
ഹല്ലേലൂയ്യ പാടിടുന്നേൻ  
ഹല്ലേലൂയ്യ ഹല്ലേലൂയ്യ

**SER:** Let us stand and listen attentively to the Holy Gospel.

**CEL:** *(Blesses using the Gospel).* Peace (+) be with you.

**ALL:** And with you and with your spirit.

**CEL:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, proclaimed by St. ... *(John 2:1-11 / Mathew 19:3-*

*6 / Mark 10:2-9).*

**ALL:** Glory to You Christ, Our Lord.  
*(At the end of the reading)*

**ALL:** Glory to You, Christ, our Lord.

**HOMILY  
KARUZUTHA**

*(Bread and wine may be prepared at this time).*

**SER:** In reverence and exultation, let us pray for this bride and groom, to be united in holy matrimony, saying: "Lord, have mercy on them."

**ALL:** Lord, have mercy on them.

**SER:** O heavenly Bridegroom, who offered His life for His bride, the Church, bless this couple to live a life of sacrifices in mutual love and unity, we pray.

**ALL:** Lord, have mercy on them.

**SER:** O Christ, who invites all to the spiritual banquet of the word of God, bless this couple to be partakers of the heavenly Banquet, having lived an exemplary family life according to Your precepts, we pray.

**ALL:** Lord, have mercy on them.

**SER:** O Christ, who taught the indissolubility of marriage, bless this couple to live a happy married life of chastity and fidelity, we pray.

**ALL:** Lord, have mercy on them.

**SER:** O Christ, who favored the bride and the groom / in the marriage feast / at Cana with Your presence, bless this couple / to live a life of prayer, trusting in Your help / and relishing Your graceful presence, we pray.

**ALL:** Lord, have mercy on them.

**SER:** Let us commend one another and ourselves / to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we beseech You.

**ALL:** Lord God, we commend ourselves to You.

**CEL:** Lord God, bless this bride and groom / to lead with success the married life / they begin in joy and hope. Fill them with Your peace / and make them worthy / to obtain the everlasting crown / You have promised Your servants. Be gracious to the parents and the dear ones / who raised this couple in

Your love, and bless all who participate in this sacred ceremony. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, / Lord of all, forever.

**ALL:** Amen.

**SER:** Dear brothers and sisters, the bride and the groom / are going to be united / in the sacrament of holy matrimony. The celebrant prays for himself / that he may administer this sacrament worthily. In reverence and attentiveness, let us now pray in silence.

**CEL:** O God, who, in the beginning, / blessed man with a life partner, we praise Your eternal providence. Strengthen me, Your servant, to administer worthily this sacrament / that binds this bride and groom in love. Shower upon me Your abundant graces. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Lord of all, forever.

**ALL:** Amen.

### THE NUPTIAL COVENANT

**CEL:** (*Name of the bridegroom* ) In compliance with the Law of Christ / and in accord with the teachings of the Church, with free will and full consent, / do you take (*Name of the bride*), as your wife?

**Bridegroom:** Yes, I do.

**CEL:** (*Name of the bride*) In compliance with the Law of Christ / and in accord with the teachings of the Church, / with free will and full consent, do you take (*Name of the bridegroom*) as your husband?

**Bride:** Yes, I do.

**CEL:** (*To the witnesses*) Are you witnesses to this?

**Witnesses:** Yes, we are.

**CEL:** (*To the couple*) As a symbol of this nuptial covenant, you may now join your right hands.

**CEL:** May the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob be with you. May our Lord, Jesus Christ, / bind you in holy matrimony / to a family life of love / and oneness of minds. In the name of the Father, and of the Son (+) (*blesses the couple and sprinkles holy water on the hands joined*) and of the Holy Spirit, forever.

**ALL:** Amen.

### BLESSING OF THALI

**CEL:** O Lord, You, by Your death on the cross,

have earned the Church as Your bride, bless + this thali that unites the bride and the groom / in mutual trust and love. May this thali, the very symbol of unity. bind them to indivisible love / and fullness of fidelity. May the cross, embossed on it, give them strength to bear cheerfully the sorrows of life, and to lead a life pleasing to You. May this also be a symbol of their fidelity (*sprinkles holy water upon the thali*).

**ALL:** Amen.

### BLESSING THE RINGS

**CEL:** O Lord God, bless these rings the bride / and the groom exchange / as symbol of their mutual love and fidelity. In the name of the Father and of the Son+ and of the Holy Spirit (*sprinkles holy water upon the rings*).

**ALL:** Amen.

### BLESSING THE MANTHRAKODI

**CEL:** O, merciful Lord, who adorns the human soul / with the enduring mantle of grace, bless + this manthrakodi. Help this bride and groom / put You on through their mutual love and self-giving. O Lord, who clothed the holy Church, Your bride, in the mantle of glory, make this couple worthy to put on the robe of glory in heaven after a life of sanctity on earth (*sprinkles holy water on the Manthrakodi*).

**ALL:** Amen.

*(The celebrant hands in the thali to the groom who ties it around the bride's neck. If rings are there, the bride and groom exchange them on each other's fingers. If rosaries are there, the celebrant gives them to the bride and the groom. Garlanding may be done at this time. The celebrant gives the manthrakodi to the groom who either spreads it on the bride's head, or hands in the same to the bride. As the groom ties the Thali, the choir sings the following hymn).*

ഗാനം

പുതിയ കുടുംബത്തിൻ, കതിരുകളായരന്നു.  
തിരുസഭ വിജയത്തിൽ, തൊടുക്കറിയണിയന്നു.

പുതിയ കുടുംബ ...

അവനിയിലുന്നതമാം, അംബര വീധികളും  
ഏദേൻ വനികയിലെ, ആദിമ ദമ്പതിമാർ

പുതിയ കുടുംബ ...

നവദമ്പതിമാരേ, ഭാവുകമരുളുന്നു  
മഞ്ജുളവാണികളാൽ, മംഗളമണിയുന്നു.

പുതിയ കുടുംബ ...

**The Matrimonial Pledge**

*The bride and the groom, place their right hands on the Gospel, and as the celebrant prompts the pledge, the couple repeats the words after him.*

**BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM:** We pledge, / by the holy Gospel. / to live in love and fidelity, / and with oneness of mind, / in joy and sorrow, / in wealth and want, / in health and sickness, / from this day, / till the hour of our death. May the almighty God, / help us to live, / in accord with this promise.

**SER:** *(To the couple)* Brethren, bow your heads and receive the blessing.

*The bride and the groom bow their heads. The celebrant extends his right hand over them, prays:*

**CEL:** May Almighty God bless you. May He enrich you / with internal beauty / and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. May Christ, the Head of the Church, be always your sovereign and protector. May He be your friend in all your doings, and tone up your life with all mental, physical and temporal well-being. May He help you receive gladly the children God may deign to bless you with and lead them in the path of holiness. And may He make you worthy to offer Him praise, worship and thanksgiving forever.

**ALL:** Amen.

*If the Holy Quabans is to follow, then it is resumed, beginning with Mnitha d'Raze.*

**Concluding Prayers**

**CEL:** Lord God, stretch out Your right hand of mercy upon this couple. Keep them in the shade of Your protection. O, God, Who blessed Abraham and Sarah, we thank You for the providence / that bound them in indivisible unity. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Lord of all, forever.

**ALL:** Amen. Lord bless us.

**CEL:** Lord Christ, look favorably upon this couple. May the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. our mother, and St Joseph, the head of the Holy Family, help them prosper in their family life. May the prayers of all the saints support them all the way. Lord of all, forever.

**ALL:** Amen. Lord bless us.

**CEL:** Blessed be God. the merciful One. Who, out of His immense love, created humankind as male and female, and made them participate in the work of creation. May He, through the sacrament of holy matrimony, keep you in pure love and perfect dedication. May this sacrament empower you to offer your bodies / that are members of the body of Christ / and temples of the Holy Spirit, as a pleasing and living sacrifice to God. May God bless you / with the gift of children. May your home prosper in a communion of prayers. May He fill your life with graces, and help your hopes and aspirations bloom. May He grant you / lots of sincere friends to help you in need. May He make you worthy to offer Him praise, honor and thanksgiving / in the heavenly bridal chamber. May God bless you, the newly wed, and all who have partaken in this sacred service. Now, always (+) *(blesses all)* and forever.

*(Presentation of the Bouquet to the Blessed Virgin Mary).*

**(ശാന്തം)**

നിത്യസഹായമാതേ,  
പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കാ ഞങ്ങൾക്കായ് നീ  
നിൻ മക്കൾ ഞങ്ങൾക്കായ് നീ,  
പ്രാർത്ഥിക്ക സ്നേഹനാഥേ.

നീറുന്ന മാനസങ്ങൾ,  
ആയിര-മായിരങ്ങൾ  
കണ്ണീരിൻ താഴ്വരയിൽ,  
നിന്നിതാ കേഴുന്നമ്മേ.

കേൾക്കണേ രോദനങ്ങൾ,  
നല്ലണേ നൽവരങ്ങൾ  
നിൻ ദിവ്യ സുന്ദരികൾ,  
ചേർക്കണേ മക്കളേ നീ.

നിത്യസഹായമാതേ ...

*(After the return of couples)*

ബറുമറിയം ബറുമറിയം  
ബന് ആലാഹാ ദ്വൈൽദസ് മറിയം

ഹറവീ കറവ്കേ ബറുമറിയം  
അക്ലീ വിയൂസാ ബറുമറിയം

കന്തെസ് മയ്യാ ബറുമറിയം  
ബ് മാമ്മോദീസേ ബറുമറിയം

ഏകൽ പെസഹാ ബറുമറിയം  
അംതൽ മീദാവ് ബറുമറിയം

ശന്തർ റൂഹാ ബറുമറിയം  
പാരേക്ക് ലേത്താ ബറുമറിയം

ശൂഹാ ലശ്ശാക് ബറുമറിയം  
മിൻകോൽ പൂമീൻ ബറുമറിയം

ല്ലാലം ആൽമീൻ ബറുമറിയം  
ആമ്മേനവാമ്മേൻ ബറുമാറിയം

*(The celebrant blesses the couple and sprinkles them with holy water).*

## MEANING OF SOME WEDDING RITUALS

Marriage is a sacrament that involves an invitation for two people to a new stage in life. It involves mutual and self-giving love that reflects Christ's love for his bride, the Church. Married life is a vocation requiring special grace that is conferred through the sacrament of Holy Matrimony. This grace is intended to perfect the couple's love and to strengthen their indissoluble unity. The marriage bond has been established by God himself in such a way that marriage consummated can never be dissolved.

In the tradition of the Syro-Malabar Church and the Knanaya Community, the marriage service has some special components:

### 1. *Tying of the Thaali (Minnu)*

Knanaya thaali is in the shape of a banyan leaf which in its turn resembles heart which is the eternal and universal symbol of love. The cross on the thaali is made with 21 small balls. This 21 is the result of the multiplication of three with seven, i.e., three persons of the trinity and seven sacraments. The threads for thaali are taken from the "Mantrakodi." Seven pieces of threads are taken and they are folded into three. These three and seven have the above said significance. The bridegroom tie the thaali on the neck of the bride. This kind of knot is known as male knot (Aankettu) symbolizing the stability of marriage. *Every woman considers the Thaali to be the most prestigious token of love offered to her by her husband during the ceremony.*

### 2. **Blessing of the Manthrakodi**

The groom covers the head of the bride with the Manthrakodi, a garment of prayers, which is given to the bride by the groom's family. The gift symbolizes the Lord giving glory to His Church. It also acts as a special symbol of protection and acceptance of the bride into the new family.

### 3. **Barumariam Song**

Barumariyam is a Syriac song sung by the priests just after the wedding and Holy Mass. The priests pray for the new couples to Jesus, the son of Mary and bless them in the name of Jesus. Barumariyam in Syriac means son of Mary, i.e., Jesus. The same song is sung by the Chaldeans on the important feasts like Easter and Christmas.