



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.

HYMN

Melodious moments
Of Cherubian Symphony
Delicious moments
As portals of heaven
Wide open in joy.

Sanctified moments
As Heavenly Father
Blesses the couple
At Home of Eden
Paradise of Peace.

"Covenant in the beginning
Made Israel, my Beloved".
Sanctify O! Lord
Render grace to remain
Faithful to the end.

New family in Church
Through Covenant with Christ
By Sacrament of Love
Blossom O! Lord
Each of our bough.

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.

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).

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.

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

Psalm 45

Let us sing in unison
Let us sing in symphony
My heart leaps with good tidings
Halleluiah! Praise O! God!

Let my tongue be divine pen
Jotting down in honeyed word
Halleluiah, songs of praise
Novel songs in melody.

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 KARozUTHA

(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 THAALI

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).

HYMN

Shower of grace bestowed on you
Jesus our Lord, bridegroom of love

Merging the earth with heaven above
Proffering bliss on nuptial day.

Greetings to you
Greetings to lead
Sanctified life
As Mary and Joseph
Jesus, the child
Offered a life of penance and peace.

Greetings to you
Greetings to lead
Witnessing Life
As Sarah and Tobias
Virtuous couple
Offered a life of justice and love.

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).

(After the return of couples)

- ബറുമറിയം ബറുമറിയം
- ബസ് ആലാഹാ ദയെൽദസ് മറിയം
- ഹാവീ കുവ്ഷേ 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 ബറുമറിയം

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

MEANING OF SOME WEDDING RITUALS

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.