



# The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

## Knanaya Catholic Region

St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago

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### 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 തുണയുണ്ടായ്.

ആദിയിലഖിലേശൻ ...

വാനവർ സാക്ഷികളും, പാവന മംഗല്യം  
ആദേൻ വനികയിലേ, ആദിമ ദമ്പതിമാർ

ആദിയിലഖിലേശൻ ...

ഇരുമെയ്യല്ലവരീ, ധരമേലൊരുനാളും  
ഏകശരീരം പോൽ, വാഴണമെന്നാളും.

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:** അന്നാപെസഹാത്തിരുന്നാളിൽ  
കർത്താവരുളിയ കല്പനപോൽ  
തിരുന്നാമത്തിൽ ചേർന്നീടാം  
ഒരുമയോടി ബലിയർപ്പിക്കാം.

**സമൂഹം:** അനുരഞ്ജിതരായ് തീർന്നീടാം  
നവമൊരു പിറമൊരുക്കീടാം  
ഗുരുവിൻ സ്നേഹമൊടീയാഗം  
തിരുമുവാകെയണച്ചീടാം.

**കാർമ്മി:** അത്യുന്നതമാം സ്വർലോകത്തിൽ  
സർവ്വേശന സ്തുതിഗീതം.

**സമൂഹം:** ഭൂമിയിലെങ്ങും മർത്യന 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 of-  
fended us. Do not let us fall into temptation, but de-  
liver 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.

മർത്യന നിത്യമഹോന്നതമാ  
മുത്താനം നീയരുളുന്നു  
അക്ഷയമവനുടെ ആത്മാവി  
നത്തമരക്ഷയുമേകുന്നു.

**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 അമർത്യനെ  
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,



*(After the return of couples)*

ബറുമറിയം ബറുമറിയം  
ബന് ആലാഹാ ദയെൽദസ് മറിയം

ഹാവീ കൗവ്കേബ് ബറുമറിയം  
അക്ലീ വിയൂസാ ബറുമറിയം

കന്തെശ് മയ്യാ ബറുമറിയം  
ബ് മാമ്മോദീസേ ബറുമറിയം

ഏകൽ പെസഹാ ബറുമറിയം  
അംതൽ മീദാവ് ബറുമറിയം

ശന്തർ റൂഹാ ബറുമറിയം  
പാരേക്ക് ലേത്താ ബറുമറിയം

ശൂഹാ ലശ്ശാക് ബറുമറിയം  
മിൻകോൽ പൂമിൻ ബറുമറിയം

ല്ലാലം ആൽമീൻ ബറുമറിയം  
ആമ്മേനവാമ്മേൻ ബറുമറിയം

*(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.





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