

# Syro Malabar National Convention

Houston, TX

August 1 - 4, 2019

**Theme:** Marthoma Margam

**Verse:** Isaiah 60: 1 "Arise, Shine out, Your Light has Come..."

**Coordinators:** Julia Adimathra, Daniel Chakkramakkil, Fr Joseph Palackal, Kavitha Joseph



**Good afternoon!**

It's been a long 7 years since our last Diocesan Convention in Atlanta, GA in 2012, and we are so excited that in less than 2 months, we will be getting together as one Diocese in Houston, TX to celebrate our heritage as St Thomas Christians!

Some of you may be thinking: "Man, finally!" or "Oh, this again..", but most definitely you're thinking "About time we're getting an email about this!". So I'm here to say to you.... I'm sorry. lol

For this upcoming convention, the Convention committee has put an emphasis on 'One Convention, One Family". As we look back to the past 10 years, our Diocese have actively tried to engage and respond to the issues and concerns of the 2nd generation and current youth and young adults of our Diocesan community, however we continue to see consistent disengagement of this population. One major set back mostly experienced diocese-wide is the disregard and disinterest for English Holy Qurbana in our parishes/ missions. We understand the importance of authentic participation in our liturgy from ALL its members, so in response, we will be celebrating Holy Qurbana on Friday AND Saturday (2 major days of Convention) fully in ENGLISH for all Convention attendees.

Not only we will be having an English Qurbana these two days, but we ALSO will be incorporating up to **4 Syriac songs** in our liturgical celebrations. These include: **Sagdinan Mar** (Entrance - Saturday);

**Laku Mara** (Resurrection Hymn); **Qaddisa Alaha** (Syriac Trisagion);  
and **Bar Maryam** (Recessional - Saturday)

This is an exciting, yet **big** responsibility for us, as we have the opportunity to show the Diocese the beauty of the liturgy in English and also our liturgy's original language/ music! I hope that each and every one of you knows the value you bring to this choir, and hope you agree to being a part of this cause!

If you have not already done so, please email me separately to confirm your agreement to being part of the Convention English Choir **by Wednesday, June 12, 2019.**

### **ENGLISH CHOIR (*tentative*)**

#### **Women**

Julia Adimathra, Christy Thomas, Kelsey Kurian, Angel John, Manisha, Tiffany Anthony, Jocelyn George, Jesinta George, Anjali Abraham, Amala Abraham, Jibie Mathew, Kavitha Joseph

#### **Men**

Joseph Abraham, Delix Alex, Joel Adimathra; Mithul K., Alex Sabu, Jevin, Kelvin Kurian, Geo Roncy, Amaris Abraham, Jeswin Gloria, Cyril Simon

#### **Instrumentalists**

Joseph Abraham (*Acoustic Guitar*); Joe George (*Acoustic Drums*); Delix (*Synth/ Piano*); Joel Adimathra (*Piano - Friday*); Naveen Sunny (*Piano - Saturday*); Daniel Chakkramakkil (*Electric Guitar*); Jevin (*Acoustic Guitar*); Alex (*Bass Guitar - possible*); Sebastian Sebastian (*Violin*); Amala (*Violin*); Gisele (*Harp*); Jocelyn Joseph (*Flute*); Joshua Palakapilly (*Trumpet*); Kelvin Kurian (*French Horn - Friday*)

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**Friday Theme:** Shine out on a Lamp Stand

**Saturday Theme:** Your Light has come

The set list will be posted later -- we are giving you the opportunity to voice your suggestions for songs for Entrance, Communion, and Recessional. We would ideally like it to follow the theme that are written above. Please post your suggestions **by Wednesday, June 12, 2019.**

**Practices:**

**Full Choir:** Tuesday, July 30, 2019 (FULL DAY)  
@ St Joseph Church, Houston, TX

**Full Choir w/ Palackal Achan (Mandatory):** Wednesday, July 31,  
2019 (FULL DAY) @ St Joseph Church, Houston, TX

**Dallas (tentative):** Sunday, June 23, 2019 (AFTERNOON) @ St  
Thomas the Apostle Church, Garland, TX

**Houston:** Monday, June 10, 2019 @ 6:30PM @ Kavitha's House,  
Houston, TX

*We will notify you with add'l practice times.*

I am requesting each of you to come to Houston by Tuesday, July 30 (if possible), and mandatory practice on **Wednesday, July 31** for a 2 day practice retreat for Convention. We will be covering our vocal roles (alto, soprano, etc.) for Qurbana, Syriac music (4), and the rest of our set list (Entrance, Communion X 3, and Recessional).

Thank you for taking the time to read this email, and I do hope to hear your confirmation/denial of this invitation & your set list song suggestions by Wednesday, June 12, 2019!

***(Attached are some references/ links to the Syriac Music we will be covering)***

[Laku Mara \(Resurrection Hymn\)](#)

[Qaddisa Alaha \(Syriac Trisagion\)](#)

[Bar Maryam](#)

[Sagdinan Mar](#)

[Add'l Reference Video](#) (time: 34:46 - 36:35 (Qaddisa); time: 29:10 - 29:59 (Maran Iso- Post Communion); 41:04 - 41:44 (Laku Mara)

***God bless y'all!***

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