

Brief History of St. John Paul II Knanaya Catholic Mission, Sacramento

2009- The members of Sacramento Knanaya Community started to gather for Koodarayogam intermittently from January 2009. On January 25, 2009, a letter was sent to Chicago St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Diocese Bishop Mar. Jacob Angadiath requesting the permission to begin Holy Mass for Knanaya people living in Sacramento area.

2010- In February 2010, the members made the historic decision to have Holy Mass every two months for Sacramento Knanaya Community. St. Mary's Catholic Church, 1333 58th St., Sacramento, CA- 95819 was available for Holy Mass. **The First Holy Mass** of Sacramento Knanaya Community was celebrated on April 17, 2010, by Msgr. Rev. Dr. Jacob Vellian. In September 2010, community decided to have Koodarayogam every month. The monthly Holy Mass was moved to the Peace Presbyterian Church (9145 Franklin Blvd., Elk Grove, CA). The first Holy Mass at this new location was celebrated by Fr. Stany Edathiparambil on Dec. 04, 2010. The first Christmas Carol of the community took place in December 2010.

2011- Establishment of the Mission: On August 06, 2011, the community members unanimously made the historic decision to start a Knanaya Mission in Sacramento and agreed upon the suggestion of Fr. Stany to give the name of Blessed John Paul II to the Sacramento Knanaya Mission. The members who were present in the Koodarayogam signed the letter and it was sent to His Excellency Mar Jacob Angadiath, the Bishop of St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago. On September 26, 2011, His Excellency Mar Jacob Angadiath erected the Blessed John Paul II Knanaya Catholic Mission, Sacramento, and appointed Fr. Stany Edathiparambil as the first Director of the Mission through a Decree (Decree Prot. No. 665/2011) with effective date October 01, 2011. The first Holy Mass of the Mission was celebrated on October 01, 2011, at Peace Presbyterian Church by Fr. Stany Edathiparambil. The Mission was officially inaugurated on November 12, 2011, by Vicar General Fr. Abraham Mutholathu at St. John the Evangelist Church, Carmichael, CA.

2012- Legal Procedures: On May 18, 2012, the final version of the 'ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION' was endorsed with the California Secretary of State which was signed by Cyril John as the Incorporator. On June 09, 2012, California Secretary of State approved the Mission as a 'Domestic Non-profit Religious Corporation'. On June 13, 2012, the first 'Statement of Information' was filed with Secretary of State. On June 15, 2012, an EIN number was granted for the Mission by IRS. In August 2012, based on St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Diocese Procedure Rules, a 15-page Bylaws of Blessed John Paul II Knanaya Catholic Mission, Sacramento was originated and it was signed by Fr. Stany Edathiparambil on September 03, 2012. On October 18, 2012, the Franchise Tax Board granted Mission tax exempt status. On August 04, 2012, bank account was opened for Mission with Wells Fargo Bank.

The community established a Youth Ministry, later expanded as Youth/Kids Ministry in 2013.

2013- On October 05, 2013, Mission Director Fr. Jose Illikunnumpurath inaugurated the Monthly Newsletter.

2014- Our patron John Paul II entered sainthood on April 27, 2014. A Certificate of Amendment of Articles of Incorporation was filed with California Secretary of State on March 10, 2014, to reflect the change of the Mission from Blessed John Paul II Knanaya Catholic Mission, Sacramento to St. John Paul II Knanaya Catholic Mission, Sacramento. In May 2014, the name of the account with Wells Fargo Bank was changed to reflect Mission's new name.

2018- Holy Mass began on the first and third Sundays at St. Paul Catholic Church, Sacramento, from November 04, 2018, after getting approval from Sacramento Catholic Diocese.

2019- On April 07, 2019, the community decided to form three Koodarayogams.

St. Antony's Koodarayogam- (Ward 1- Sacramento, Natomas, Elk Grove, Lathrop, Lodi, Ripon, Galt, & Stockton). **St. Mary's Koodarayogam-** (Ward 2- West Sacramento, Woodland, Davis, Dixon, Vacaville, & Fairfield). **St. Joseph's Koodarayogam** (Ward 3- Folsom, Citrus Heights, Roseville, Rocklin, Antelope, & Yuba City).

CCD (Faith Formation) started in Mission on August 04, 2019.

2026- On August 02, 2026, the Mission Council meeting decided to form a website for our Mission. New website creation was completed at the end of August 2026.

Former Directors of San Jose Mission who served Sacramento Knanaya Community:

- Fr. John (Jaimon) Chennakuzhy (January 2009 - October 2009)
- Msgr. Dr. Jacob Vellian (October 2009 - May 2010)

- **Mission Directors:**
- Fr. Stany Edathiparambil (07.01.2010 – 4.9.2013)
- Fr. Jose Illikunnumpurath (4.10.2013 – 10.17.2014)
- Fr. Pathrose Champakara (10.18.2014 – 6.30.2016)
- Fr. Mathew Meledath (07.01.2016 – 07.06.2018)
- Fr. Abraham Kalarickal (07.07.2018 – 01.31.2022)
- Fr. Regi Thandassery (02.01.2022 – 08.10.2026)