

THE SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS **(SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH 2006)**

This coming Sunday, December 24th, is Sunday before Christmas, the day we remember our ancestors. It is therefore the Sunday of remembering the generations and genealogy of Jesus Christ. St. Luke (3: 23-38) starts from Joseph and ends with Adam, thus 56 persons in 77 generations from Jesus back to Adam. St. Mathew (1: 1-18) starts with Abraham, the father of the chosen people and ends with Joseph. Joseph as Adam's son and Adam as God's son. From Abraham to David 14, from David to Babylonian exile 14, and from Babylonian exile to Christ 14 generations, 42 persons representing 42 generations from Abraham to Jesus, are being remembered. This genealogy proves that Jesus is a Jew and the promised Messiah, thus fulfilling the Old Testament prophecy (Isaiah 11: 1-2). Therefore, Christ rules over David's throne forever.

Genealogies are very important. They give us our roots and help us to understand our heritage. Jesus came not just to save the chosen people but all humankind as well. Jesus is the fulfillment of all God's promises. He is the Saviour of the world. The generations began with God and ended in God. Christ stands in the center of generations: A.D. and B.C. Let us think our life and role in the achievement of the goal, as we get ready to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

“Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Messiah & Saviour of the world and the King of all ages. Be the Lord and ruler of our heart and home. May there be nothing in our life that is not under your kingship”.

Please read the following Bible verses, in preparation for this Sunday's commemoration.

Bible readings for Sunday

(The Sunday Before Christmas)

Before Holy Qurbana

Genesis - **46: 8-27**
I Kings - **9: 3-7**
Isaiah - **7: 14-15; 11: 1-9**

Holy Qurbana

General Epistles: **Acts** - **3: 16-26**
Epistles of St. Paul: **Romans** - **4: 13-25**
Holy Gospel: **St. Luke** - **3: 23-38**

With prayers,
Thomas Alex