Slam Dunks and Community Spirit: Mar Makil Basketball Tournament a Grand Success

The tournament drew a large crowd in Brandon, Florida on March 7th, 2026.

College Division

Brandon, Florida Mar 9, 2026 (Issuewire.com) - The **12th Mar Makil Basketball Tournament**, held at Sacred Heart Knanaya Catholic Forane Church in Tampa, turned into a vibrant and exciting community event filled with energy, sportsmanship, and fellowship. The tournament began at 9 AM on Saturday and concluded at **8:30 PM** the same evening. A total of **15 teams from churches across Florida** participated in the middle school, high school, and college divisions.

Churches represented in the tournament included **Sacred Heart Knanaya Catholic Forane Church, Tampa; Zion Assembly of God, Hollywood; St. Jude Knanaya Catholic Forane Church, Fort Lauderdale; St. Mary Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, Orlando; Our Lady of Health Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, Coral Springs; and St. Joseph Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, Tampa**. The event brought together youth, families, and supporters from across the state, creating a festive atmosphere of competition and community spirit.

In the **middle school division**, **Sacred Heart Knanaya Catholic Forane Church, Tampa** secured **first place**, while **St. Mary Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, Orlando** finished in **second place** after an exciting series of games.

In the **high school division**, **Zion Assembly of God, Hollywood** captured **first place**, with **Sacred Heart Knanaya Catholic Forane Church, Tampa** finishing in **second place**.

In the **college division**, **Sacred Heart Knanaya Catholic Forane Church, Tampa Team B** claimed **first place**, while **Sacred Heart Knanaya Catholic Forane Church, Tampa Team A** secured **second place** in a competitive final matchup.

The winners were presented with **trophies and cash prizes** by **Father Jose Adoppillil**, Vicar of Sacred Heart Knanaya Catholic Forane Church, along with the support and presence of **many generous sponsors** who contributed to making the tournament possible. They congratulated the players and organizers for their dedication and for making the tournament a grand success.

This year's Mar Makil Basketball Tournament was organized by a dedicated committee including **Justin Mattathiparambil, Jeffry Cheruthaniyil, Dustin Thomas Mudeekunnel, Shawn Makil, Tino & Ashley Puthupallimyalil, Simon Poozhikunnel, Sabin Poovanthingal, Joyson Pazhempallil, Jimmy Kalapurayil, Baby Makil, Renimon Pachilamakkil, Kishore Vattaparambil, Josemon Thathamkulam, Sanitta Poovanthingal, Christy Valechira, Aleena Tharayil, and Jeeva Pralel**, along with the support of many volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the event.

Adding to the lively atmosphere, the parish **Men's Ministry and Women's Ministry** arranged a variety of food stalls, offering delicious homemade dishes and refreshments for players and spectators throughout the day.

The Mar Makil Basketball Tournament has been organized annually in memory of **Bishop Mar Mathew Makil**, the first bishop of the Kottayam Knanaya Catholic Archdiocese in India, who has been honored with the title **Servant of God** in the Catholic Church. The tournament continues to serve as a meaningful tribute to his legacy while promoting unity, faith, and sportsmanship among youth and families in the community.

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