

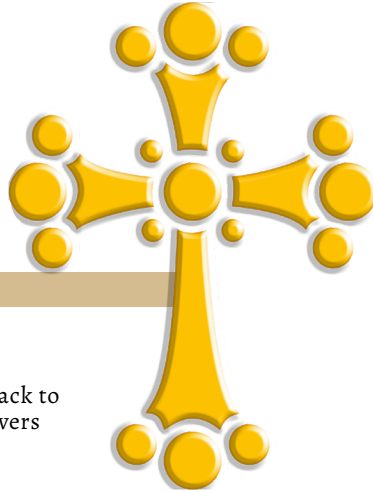
# The Chaldeans



1750 BC Hammurabi introduces his Code of Laws

## HISTORY

- Chaldeans are indigenous to Iraq
- History spanning 5,500 years dating back to Mesopotamia, the land between two rivers
- Predate the Arabs, Turks, and Kurds
- From the Arab world but are not Arabs
- The Chaldean King, Nebuchadnezzar created the Hanging Gardens of Babylon (one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World)
- Abraham, the Father of three Faiths, was from Ur of Chaldeans
- The King of Ur created Hammurabi's Stele, one of the first known codes of law, currently on display at the Louvre



Mar Louis Sako

## RELIGION

- Chaldeans are Eastern-rite Catholic, converted by the Apostle St. Thomas in 45 A.D.
- The Chaldean Church is led by the Patriarch of Babylon for the Chaldeans, currently Mar Louis Sako
- The Chaldean Catholic Church is in full Union with the Roman Catholic Church and the Pope is the highest authority
- Two Chaldean Catholic Dioceses in the U.S. led by Bishop Francis Kalabat in Michigan and Bishop Emanuel Shaleta in California

## DEMOGRAPHICS

- Estimated 2,000,000 Chaldean Assyrian/Syriac people in the world
- Estimated 500,000 Chaldeans in the U.S.
- There are 187,000 Chaldeans living in Southeast Michigan, mostly in Macomb and Oakland Counties
- Since 2007, more than 50,000 Iraqi refugees have migrated to Michigan
- Nearly 60% of Chaldean households own one business
- Chaldean businesses contribute nearly \$18 billion to the Michigan economy



Chaldean Pioneers from 1910s in Michigan before Iraq was a country or named as such. (Putrus Shamen and Yousif Shamen)

## LANGUAGE



- The Chaldean language—called Syriac—is the oldest continuously spoken language in the world and a dialect of Aramaic
- Aramaic, Arabic, and Hebrew all share the same alphabet and are all Semitic languages
- Aramaic is the oldest continuously spoken language and the language spoken by Jesus Christ

## PERSECUTION



- Since the United States invasion of Iraq in 2003, more than three fourths (1,000,000+) of Iraq's Christian population have fled due to religious persecution and remain displaced as refugees throughout the world
- Iraq's Christian population has declined from 1.5 million to less than 250,000 today
- 300,000 Chaldeans & Assyrians killed during the Armenian genocide
- Christians were subjected to deportation, abduction, torture, massacre, and starvation
- The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) captured the city of Mosul, Iraq on June 10, 2014. Christians were given 24 hours to leave the city or convert, pay a tax, or be killed
- The Arabic letter "n", signifying "Nasrani" (Christian), was placed on Christian homes and businesses



**CHALDEAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**