



Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan

MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA



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Blessings to our Cor-Episcopoi, Priests, Deacons, Office bearers and all the faithful of our Diocese!

Dearly beloved,

The days of preparation for the great feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ have once again drawn near. For the next 25 days, we are called to observe the Nativity Lent through increased prayer and fasting from worldly pleasures in order to receive the Heavenly King. For many, this has become increasingly difficult as the month of December in our country is filled with numerous celebrations, gatherings, holiday parties, gift exchanges, food, and so on, but seldom do we realize the role of Christians in maintaining the spiritual disciplines of the Church.

When we consider what is happening around us in the world today, we see immense persecutions of Christians, terrorism, and the disregard for basic morals and values. This in turn has resulted in the secularization of major Christian feast days like the Feast of Nativity that has resulted in much gain for business and corporations but a huge loss for the Holy Church. We remind all our faithful that we must restore the reason for the season and use this as an opportunity to share the love, peace, and joy that came upon the world over 2000 years ago through the birth of our Savior. We have to intensify our commitment to the Church and its practices and prepare and equip ourselves for spiritual warfare that we encounter daily.

We urge all our faithful to whole-heartedly participate in the Nativity Fast and resist the temptations of the world. We must be shining examples of what it means to be a follower of Christ and model the spiritual disciplines that have been taught to us by Christ Himself.

We take this opportunity to extend our love, prayers and blessings for the upcoming Nativity fast and hope that everyone will have a blessed celebration of the birth of our Lord. Along with the angelic hosts, let us cry aloud and proclaim: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward all mankind!"

Your shepherd in Christ,

Metropolitan Alexios Mar Eusebius