



Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan

MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA



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Blessings to all our Chor-Episcopoi, Priests, Deacons, and all the faithful, especially our dear students.

As the start of a new academic year approaches, we take this opportunity to remind all our children of our commitment and responsibilities as children of God. The prophet Isaiah prophesied about Jesus saying, "The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and strength, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And He will delight in the fear of the Lord." (Isaiah 11:2-6). In the world that we live in today, it is very difficult to distinguish between the sacred and the profane, and it is very easy to be misguided by evil. As students and disciples of Jesus Christ, the Great Teacher, we have to delight in the fear of the Lord and practice a life of discipline that is guided by the Holy Spirit, with all wisdom and understanding.

We urge all our children to dedicate yourselves whole-heartedly to your studies, carry enthusiasm that builds up character, and commit yourself to a spiritual life that is the foundation for all learning. We remind all our students that family, personal prayer and reading of the Scriptures should not be missed on any given day. We pray that all our students will be able to make the right choices by surrounding themselves with people who will bring them up and not distract them from fellowship with Christ. By developing a sense of maturity, you can keep away from evil behavior and seek to live a life that is pleasing and acceptable to God. In order to do this, you must seek to find role models and mentors who will have a positive influence in your life. Parents must take the initiative to be models for their children, especially within the home. In addition to this, we remind our students of the respect that is due to your teachers, elders, and parents.

We take this opportunity to extend our love and blessings to all our beloved students for the new academic year, and we assure you of our continuous prayers.

May the intercessions of St. Mary, the Mother of God, St. Thomas, the Apostle to India, the saints of Malankara, Mar Gregorios and Mar Dionysius, and all the holy saints, be a fortress for us all.

Your shepherd in Christ,

Metropolitan Alexios Mar Eusebius



Prayer For The Start of a New Academic Year

O loving and gracious heavenly Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we come before You this day and entreat Your children into Your holy hands. Bless them with the abundance of Your grace as they prepare for the start of a new school year. Endow them with wisdom and strength. Send forth Your Heavenly knowledge upon them. O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges and universities, that they may be centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom. Send forth Your blessings upon all the teachers and professors, that they may find You to be the source of all truth through Jesus Christ, our Lord. O Lord, teach these Your children to seek first Your glory and honor. Guide them to perceive what is right, grant them the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it. May the blessings of God the Father Almighty, the grace of the Only-begotten Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and the communion and indwelling of the Holy Spirit be upon us all, especially Your children who are preparing to start a new school year, both now, always and forever. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in Heaven...

Hail Mary, full of grace...