



Alexios Mar Eusebius  
Metropolitan

# MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

## DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA



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Blessings to our Cor-Episcopoi, Priests, Deacons, and all the faithful of our Diocese,  
Dearly beloved,

We are entering the period of one of the five canonical Fasts in our Church observed annually from August 1-15, culminating with the blessed Feast of Dormition of the Holy Theotokos. St. Mary continues to stand as a role model for all people. From her humility and obedience at the Annunciation, her gift of hospitality as seen at the Wedding of Cana, and her patience and willingness to suffer along with Christ, she is exemplified as a Christian model for every family and continues to be great intercessor for the Holy Church and its members.

The Morth Mariam Samajam of our diocese has grown to be a significant ministry that is contributing highly to the building up of the family and the church as a whole. The diocesan activities and events of this ministry have increased over the years and there has been growth at the spiritual level along with large amounts of charitable contributions. This year, \$10,000 is being designated for charity projects. A new educational assistance program is being launched this year intended to support the education of students from low-income families within our diocese. The application will be made available on our diocesan website and through the unit secretaries of each parish.

As it is in practice by the Holy Church, we exhort all parishes to observe Sunday, August 16th as Morth Mariam Samajam Day. A special prayer should be offered for the leaders of the spiritual organization, its members, and all its activities. We urge all the Morth Mariam Samajam members to promote and participate in the special cover collection that should be taken on this day.

My Dear Children, we hope and pray that the observance of the upcoming lent will allow us to put into practice the spiritual discipline of abstinence and be a time for personal transformation through the renewal of our souls and bodies.

May the intercessions of St. Mary and all the holy saints be a stronghold for us all.

Your Shepherd in Christ,

Metropolitan Alexios Mar Eusebius