



## MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA

Urshlem, 3101 Hopkins Road, Beasley, TX 77417, USA  
Office: (281) 403 0670 Fax: (281) 459 0814  
Email: thomasmarivanios@gmail.com



Dr. Thomas Mar Ivanios  
Metropolitan



Email: metropolitan.dswa@gmail.com  
Website : [www.ds-wa.org](http://www.ds-wa.org)

No: 81-2023

Blessings to the respected Vicars of the Parishes, Priests of the locality, Cor-Episcopoi, Deacons, Kaisthanees, and beloved faithful in the Diocese of South-West America.

My dearest in Christ,

The Prophet Isaiah says, “*A voice cries: ‘In the wilderness prepares the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God’*” (Isaiah 40:3). Because of the busyness of our lives and the constant stream of noise throughout the day, it can be difficult to hear the voice of our Lord speaking to us; however, Scripture assures us that the Good Shepherd is always calling His sheep. It is our hope that we can assist our faithful in hearing the voice of the Good Shepherd by setting aside time away from the noise of the world and dedicating ourselves in a moment of retreat focused on Christ.

We are excited to announce the beginning of a new diocesan initiative that will help all our faithful set apart time for Christ and study the word of God together. We will conduct a new Bible Study series titled “The Voice Calling in the Wilderness” which will be held every Thursday at 8:00PM CST via Zoom. The sessions will be conducted in English and it is open to all of our faithful to join.

As we begin the ministry, the topics for this year will be taken from the new Sunday School curriculum which will serve as continuing education for adults but also serve an additional resource for students and teachers to learn more about these topics. The Zoom recordings for these class sessions will be made available on the Sunday School website ([talmido.org](http://talmido.org)) as well as the Diocesan website ([ds-wa.org](http://ds-wa.org)).

We have appointed Rev. Fr. Immanuel (Amal) Punnoose to coordinate this ministry. For more information regarding this ministry, please contact our beloved Immanuel Achen via email ([apunnoose@svots.edu](mailto:apunnoose@svots.edu)).

St Gregory the Theologian writes, “I wish you to walk along the royal path...to be led by the Spirit through the narrow door, then all your affairs would be set right on that day, in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Let us walk together on that path prepared before us by the prophets, the apostles, and our forefathers who have led us to Christ. We pray that this ministry will also give voice to our Lord so that we may turn towards Him every day of our lives.

May the love of God the Father, grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the fellowship and communion of the Holy Spirit be with us forever and ever.

Urshlem Aramana, Beasley  
July 19, 2023

Metropolitan Dr. Thomas Mar Ivanios