

Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

(Catholicate of the East)

Diocese of South-West America

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Alexios Mar Eusebius

Metropolitan



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Blessings to our dearly beloved Chor-Episcopoi, Priests, Deacons, Parish Managing Committee members, and all the faithful.

Dearly Beloved,

As you know, we are going to celebrate the feast of Pentecost on coming Sunday. Just before the ascension, our Lord told the apostles to be empowered by the Holy Spirit and to be His witnesses throughout the world. According to this last instruction of Christ, the early Christian community waited prayerfully and was filled with the Holy Spirit. The church celebrates the feast of Pentecost to commemorate this unique event which took place during a Jewish Pentecost in Jerusalem and thus to renew the baptismal grace of all today.

Identifying with the early Christians, the Orthodox Christians have a tradition of setting apart the days between the feast of Ascension and that of Pentecost as days of prayerful waiting for being filled with the Holy Spirit. "...how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke; 11:13). We are praying for many things and fail to ask for this wonderful gift according to the great assurance of our Lord. In spite of all other achievements, our life will remain as empty and poor if we do not focus on the nourishment of our inner life. The Holy Spirit purifies, guides in divine wisdom, helps to follow Christ, unites and leads us to perfection. In short, the Holy Spirit helps us to grow in forgiveness, humility and love and thus to fulfill our human potential. We have received the Holy Spirit as a unique gift from God. But it is our responsibility to grow in spiritual life by having more abundant experience of the Holy Spirit. So let us seek divine help to rekindle the fire of the indwelling Holy Spirit so that we could grow like Christ.

Hope that you will meditate on passages like St. John Ch.16, Galatians Ch.5, Acts of the Apostles Ch. 2 etc as part of your preparation for the feast of Pentecost. We wish you all a blessed Pentecost in advance and pray that you could have a beneficial prayerful preparation these days.

As we equip ourselves for the great feast of Pentecost I urge you also to present our diocese and myself to the Almighty God in your prayers especially regarding the success of the forthcoming Diocesan assembly and Enthronement service. We expect maximum participation from all the churches on May 22nd Saturday for the enthronement service which will be a historic event of our Diocese.

May the Triune God bless you and grant you a peaceful and a prosperous life.

Your Shepherd in Christ,

Alexios Mar Eusebius

Metropolitan