



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 our students approach the start of a new academic year, we wanted to remind you of a few things that you ought to always bear in mind as children of God. First and foremost, the life of a student should always reflect the model of Jesus Christ. Our Lord, even at an early age, would often go to the temple to learn from the teachers and attain wisdom. In the world today, the model for learning and training is often influenced by many other factors including personal fame and competition. The role of every student is always to discern what is good and hold onto it, while constantly working to improve and better the God given talents they have received.

For students who will be entering high school and college for the first time, you will experience much change in your environment and responsibility. The Diocese has initiated an orientation program for these students, and we hope this will be extended to all the areas by at least next year, although most areas have already planned for it to be done this year. A nominated committee from the Sunday School of our Diocese is working to prepare the curriculum for this program.

Dedication to your studies, enthusiasm to build up character, and commitment to spiritual life are just a few of the keys to success for a student, and this is the time to mold it in a positive way. 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 unto your teachers, your elders, and your 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,

Alexios Mar Eusebius,
Metropolitan



Prayer For The Start of a New Academic Year

Our 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 all 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 and always, and forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father who art in Heaven...

Hail Mary full of grace...