
THE STREAM

AN ONLINE PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA

God did not give us a spirit of timidity
but a spirit of **Power,**
of **love**
and of **self discipline.**

2 Timothy 1:7



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Brief



We were all able to participate well in the feast of the Holy Pentecost. Filled with the Spirit of God, the Holy Church prepares Herself to enter into the fast of the Holy Apostles of Christ our Lord. Only when one is filled

with the Spirit of God, can one become an instrument of evangelization of the Gospel of Christ.

The word ‘Gospel’ means ‘Good News!’ Most of the times we roll on a completely different drum beat, we move as per the rhythm of this world, a world which has almost forgotten God or is in the process of eliminating Him. A world devoid of God becomes and surely is becoming a place of real bad news. The more our goals and aspirations are ‘this worldly’; we fail to see, and hence fail to aspire for the beauty of the world which is to come and shall never pass away. Since we are so engrossed in the business of this world, our inner lives have lost the glory for which we were created. Negativity, anxiety, hopelessness, lack of meaning, a deep form of emptiness that grips the soul is so rampant amongst almost everyone who has devoted themselves to the so called gospel of this world. It is in the midst of this that we celebrate the feast of the descent of the Holy Spirit - the comforter, the giver of life, the one who consoles and completes. Thus having received life filled with an inner peace and conviction of who Christ is for us, let us embark on imitating the lives of the holy apostles with fasting and prayer.

For those of you who are on vacation or will be soon on summer breaks, I encourage you to deal with this God-given time with prudence. In addition to taking a break from school you should also be actively engaged in using this time for laying a solid foundation for your spiritual lives, through an active life of prayer and service to those around us. Vacations should be an avenue of moulding our inner life to look on to the beauty of the world beyond this temporal existence. May the reading of the lives of the holy fathers and mothers of the Church, in addition to a daily routine of reading scriptures and saying the prayers of the

“*Holy Spirit - the Comforter, the Giver of Life, the One who Consoles and Completes.*”

Church be our intensified targets for this summer. This should also be a good time to bring about good changes to our lifestyles as well. Eating healthy and a life of disciplined exercise are some other things that we can focus on this summer. For those of you who are looking for an excuse to loose some extra pounds, the fasting of the Holy Apostles should be good venue. A life of fasting and prayers also helps us loose some extra pounds of sins that sticks on to our lives as well. May God bless you and guide you.

As we celebrate our 8th year anniversary of our Diocese since its formation, I ask of you to please keep all of our ministries and ministers in your prayers to the Lord. Please enjoy this edition of Stream!

Metropolitan Alexios Mar Eusebius

8TH ANNUAL
DIOCESAN DAY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2017

Family
Conferences



At a Glance
2017

JUNE
17

Hosted @ St. Thomas Orthodox Church, **Detroit**.
Keynote Speakers : Rev Fr. P C George, Rev Fr Jerry M

JUNE
30

Hosted @ St. Thomas Orthodox Cathedral, **Houston**
Keynote Speakers : His Grace Dr. Mathews Mar Severios,
Dn. Pradeep Hatcher, Rev. Fr. Prakash Issac

JULY
6-9

Hosted @ St. Thomas Orthodox Church, **Los Angeles**
Keynote Speakers : His Grace Dr. Mathews Mar Severios,
His Grace Dr. Yuhanon Mar Meletius

JULY
6-9

Hosted @ St. Thomas Orthodox Church, **Seattle**
Keynote Speakers : Rev Fr. James Cherian, Dn. Pradeep
Hatcher

JULY
15

Hosted @ St. Mary's Valiyapally, **Dallas**.
Keynote Speakers : His Grace Dr. Mathews Mar Severios,
Local Area Clergy

JULY
21

Hosted @ St. Mary's Orthodox Church , **Atlanta** until 23rd.
Keynote Speakers : Rev Fr Thomas Paul Rambachen, Local
Area Clergy.



JUL
21

Church Consecration of
St. Mary's, Houston
(9915 Belknap Rd, Sugar Land, TX
77498)

JUL
22

**Catholicate Day Fund
Collection** with H.H. Bava
Thirumeni @ 1.30pm at
St. Mary's, Houston

JUL
22

Foundation Stone Laying of
the Chapel at Diocesan Center
(*Ursblem*) by H.H Bava
Thirumeni.

AUG
29

2017 Deadline for Application
for **Mar Barnabas
Educational Award**



**George Ninan Manampuram ordained as
Sub-Deacon (Apodyaqno)**

His Grace Alexios Mar Eusebius, Metropolitan of the South-West American Diocese of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, has ordained George Ninan Manampuram to the Holy Order of Sub-Deacon (Apodyaqno).

The Holy ordination took place at St. Gregorios Malankara Orthodox Church, PA on Saturday, May 27, 2017. Dn. George Ninan is the son of Ninan Mathews & Jessie Ninan and their Home Parish is St. George Malankara Orthodox Church, Vancouver, BC, Canada.



Do you have articles or news you would like to share in 'The Stream' newsletter? Would you like to share 'The Stream' with -your family and friends? Please e-mail us at thestreamdswa@gmail.com

Church Honors High School Graduates

GRADUATION



Every Summer, our Diocesan Metropolitan, H G Alexios Mar Eusebius makes time to meet with the High School Graduates, of the cities he happens to visit. Some time is set aside, to celebrate an important milestone of the High School Seniors as they move onto another season in their lives. This Summer, Graduations were celebrated in Chicago and Dallas. More upcoming this week are in Houston, Detroit and Atlanta.

His Grace believes it is the church's responsibility to nurture and encourage graduating seniors for their next steps in life with inspiring words and prayers for them. Keeping in mind that these graduates will be traveling far and away from their family, Thirumeni offers some advice on 'How to not Lose their Faith' and how to keep their 'Walk with the Lord' a priority even in the midst of all future endeavors. To always take care of their relationship, responsibility and love towards parents. Thirumeni also shares a few personality development tips with the students. Another tradition is the individual honoring of each Graduate where-in Thirumeni greets each student and presents each one with a personal gift in a mark of love, concern and support. Following the service is a fellowship meal and time for some light hearted talk with Thirumeni.

PERUNNAL SERVICE

St James Orthodox Mission Church, Dallas



CONNECTIONS!

Rev. Fr. James Cheriyan, Cleveland

No man is an island! We are all products of our families, our society our relationships, our culture and so much more. To what, who and how we are connected will have a deep impact on our moulding viz., our very existence, our very being. Hence if we are not attentive to our connections it would jeopardize the beauty of our mould, which precisely is the beauty of God's image in us.

We live in an illusion if we are subscribers of the thought that we are earthy beings on a spiritual journey. On the very contrary we are spiritual beings on an earthly journey. Once we are aware of this great truth, we will pay great attention to what and who we get connected with. The more one is connected to the earth and its vanity, the more one drifts away from the reality of Divine Light and soon falls into the pit of darkness. The further one drifts from the light of God, the clarity of the mind and heart is lost. The less we become concerned of our inner light and about making it bright, the more we become blind to the beauty of the purpose of our existence (cf. Mat. 6:23).

The purpose of human existence, in the Orthodox life, is to be sanctified and to sanctify. The realization of this calling makes us aware of our eternal pilgrimage of sanctification and illumination. People who live with this sort of an



awareness, become instruments of great revolution. A revolution that sanctifies everything and everyone that comes across their way. How great is our calling, to which we seldom give heed. For we are called to be connected to Christ the Life and Light and thereby become sanctifying instruments of His hands - bringing the entire created order back to the glory of God.

Where, to what and how we are connected is the most precise reflection of the state of our world. If we dare to bring light, hope and true beauty back to this broken world, we need to check whether we connected to Christ the true vine by whom we bear much fruit (Cf. St. John 15:5).

**Ecumenical Council of Kerala Churches
Family Night, June 10, Bellwood, IL**



**Kerala
Christians
Ecumenical
Meetings**

**ICECH 4th yr Bible Convention
June 16, Houston, TX**



**SF Bay Area Ecumenical Fellowship
June 4, San Jose, CA**



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?



Marianne Abraham
St. Thomas Church, Atlanta

The Holy Trinity consists of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The phrase “One in three, and three in one” represents the Orthodox Christian faith stating that the Trinity is equal. The Spirit of God hovered over the water at the first creation. The Holy Spirit came in the form of a dove to anoint Jesus Christ at His baptism. The Father announces that “this is My Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17). Notice how the baptism of Jesus reveals the great mystery of the Trinity.

Before Jesus ascended into Heaven, he reassured his followers that they would not be left alone to care for themselves. John 16:7 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you”.

When looking at the verse St. John 14:26, the word “Helper” is used interchangeably with Counselor, Comforter, and Advocate. We can look at these translations as characteristics of the Helper:

1. The Holy Spirit is a LOVING Helper

God the Father sends the Son to redeem us. The Son sends the Spirit to help us. All of this is done because God loves us.

2. The Holy Spirit is a FAITHFUL Helper

"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" Hebrews 13:6. This verse states that God will never leave His children.

3. The Holy Spirit is an ACTIVE Helper

The Bible says, “Holy Spirit will actively guide and direct us. He will give us strength and courage. The Holy Spirit gives us understanding; he gives us promises, grace and comfort. He helps us build a relationship with the Father.

Old Testament prophets Joel, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel all speak about the promise of the Holy Spirit to all God’s people. The Ezekiel passage ties together the water and spirit in a prophetic vision of baptism and Chrismation.

In baptism, we are anointed with Holy Oil known as Holy Chrism or Holy Mooron. With the sacrament of Chrismation, we receive the Holy Spirit, becoming partakers of the fullness of Christ. It symbolizes the bestowing of Holy

“ *The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?*

- Hebrews 13:6

Spirit upon us and the consequent new birth. It is the Holy Spirit who acts inwardly to make us newly born and enter the kingdom of God through the Holy Church.

The characteristic mark of the Christian baptism is the act of receiving the Holy Spirit to guide us and enrich us with our Lord’s gifts. The Holy Spirit continues to guide and lead us until the Lord’s Second Coming.



Diocese of South-West America
2017 Urshlem Men's Summer Camp

"Teach me to do your WILL, for you are my GOD."
Psalms 142:10

Sunday Sunday
9-16
JULY Pursuing God's Heart
Speakers: Rev. Fr. James Chariyan
& Rev. Dr. Alexander (Pradeep) Hatcher

Contact:
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Diocese of South-West America
2017 Urshlem Women's
Summer Camp

Pursuing God's Heart

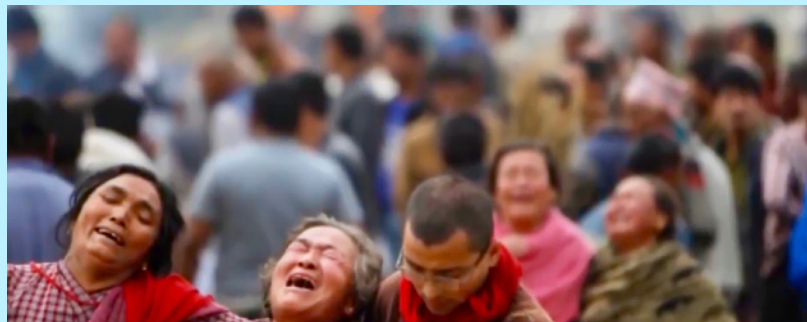
"Teach me to do your WILL, for you are my GOD."
Psalms 142:10

July
Sun. 16 - Speaker: Mrs. Ceena Varghese
Weds. 19 - Who: 11th Grade - College Undergrads
Where: Urshlem Diocesan Center - Beasley, TX

<https://goo.gl/forms/S18Kk1Ct18jxEth432>



Nepal Earthquake Relief Project completed



Nepal Earthquake Project under the leadership of MOSC Mission Board and ICON Charities according to the Blessed Kalpana of HH.Bava Thirumeni has been completed. 18 earthquake resistant houses, 1 school building with associated facilities and a water supply system with six public taps have been completed in Pattitar Village, Jiri Municipality of Dolaka district and was handed over in a very simple ceremony by H.G. Dr. Yuhanon Mar Chrisostomos Thirumeni.

This work was accomplished primarily due to the genuine generosity and dedicated leadership of many lay persons. We have to thank not only the contributors to this project but also to our brothers and sisters in Nepal who were kind enough to accept this gift/benefit.

Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago Falls Asleep in the Lord

His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Greek Orthodox Church of Chicago, 89, passed away on the evening of June 2, 2017, at Chicago's Weiss Memorial Hospital following a short illness.

On behalf of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church Diocese of South-West America, H.G Alexios Mar Eusebius has extended heartfelt condolences to His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, to the Metropolitan, Bishops, clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.



SEPTEMBER
29-30




*You're
Invited*

2017 ANNUAL MMVS CONFERENCE @SFO

Theme:
"Call for the Endurance and Faith
of the Saints" (Rev 13:10)
With Rev. Fr. Issac B. Prakash & Our Metropolitan

Attractions:
Sightseeing Tour of SFO on September 28th
Songs & Worship
Symposium
A Wonderful Time with the MMVS members of SW Diocese

REGISTRATION STARTS IN JULY. PLEASE PLAN AHEAD AND BOOK YOUR TICKETS.
CONTACT SANTHAMMA THOMAS @ (714)-882-9814 OR FR. THOMAS MATHAI
@ (510)-429-8705 WITH ANY QUESTIONS.



Regional Conferences



8th Annual Diocesan Day



The 8th Annual Day celebrations of the Diocese were held in all parishes of the Diocese on Sunday, June 11, 2017. Our Metropolitan, H.G. Alexios Mar Eusebius celebrated the Diocesan Day on the same date at St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Cathedral, Houston with 1000+ faithful members in attendance.

Growth of our Diocese - Looking into the Past and to a Promising Future

Eight years ago, scattered parishes and believers of the Malankara Orthodox Church in south and west of America came together in the hopes of establishing a central base of worship and fellowship for their church. From Vancouver to the Florida Keys, the Gulf Coast of Texas to Chicago, representatives from each region joined in prayer and determination. Under the leadership of His Grace Alexios Mar Eusebius, and guidance from the Church, a new era had begun.

Through hard work, collaboration, and the endless grace and mercy of God, the diocese has grown and expanded in its ministry. Fifteen churches have been consecrated, thirteen priests have been ordained, and six deacons have answered their calling since the start of this ministry. The diocese has broken down societal stigma and has introduced workshops and seminars focused on mental health and resources. Sunday School students are now receiving the fruits of a revised curriculum. Teachers are well-prepared and equipped with better understanding through improved training and certification processes. As these students prepare for college and face the trials that await, the diocese has encouraged the continued collegiate ministry through annual leadership camps, campus ministries, MGOCSM conferences and retreats. Post college life is equally ministered through the renewal of FOCUS Youth and OCYM. The effects of these spiritual ministries can be attributed to the work of American-born priests and are exemplified by a new batch of seminarians who are leading the Church here in America.

Martha Mariam Vanitha Samajam have unified their members through area, regional, and national level meetings and charity. To aid, family conferences have also adopted an area, regional, and national cycle, allowing for more open channels between parishes, cities, and regions. To maintain relevance in times of technological advancements, a tele-conference prayer occurs regularly.

Although these parishes span a large distance, unified worship and growth are underway through bilingual liturgical development and resources.

Sacraments, feast days, and common prayers have been translated into English and a unified Holy Qurbana service book has been published. These resources not only aid in the spiritual growth of current youth in the diocese but establish a foundation for evangelism and outreach in the years to come, seen in the consecration of new mission churches in the last eight years.

With all these achievements that God has brought forth for the diocese, there is still more work to be done. The 100 acre property for the diocesan center is underway in constructing a chapel. This chapel would stand as the first to many expansion projects for the Diocesan Center, allowing the property to grow into an administrative and spiritual hub for members near and far. Mission integration and streamlining of spiritual organizations will continue the effort to not only organize the vast set of parishes within the diocese, but also establish a unified identity within South-west America through mission churches and mission projects. The leaders and teachers of the diocese will be duly acknowledged for their sacrifice through an improved clergy welfare and empowerment, encouraging not only the continued ministry of men and women who serve, but also hoping to inspire future students of service and education in the Church. The welfare system would stand as part of a larger push for finance resource development. As projects continue, the diocese hopes to relieve the financial burden and stress through an organized and clear financial system.

A diocese is a union of parishes that aim to fulfill Christ's mission: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (St Matthew 28: 19-20). As God continues to work His mercy and grace through this diocese, we wait and pray to see the growth and purification of our believers and those around us. May we all be inspired to continue as ambassadors for Christ in this world.

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