



The Stream

A monthly publication of the Diocese of South-West America

March - April
2013
Vol. 2 Issue 3

SPECIAL COMBINED MARCH/APRIL EDITION

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!



മശിഹാ ജീവിച്ചെഴുന്നേറ്റു: കാവൽക്കാർ ലജജപ്പെട്ടു.
തൻ പ്രിയയാം സഭ സന്തോഷത്താലാത്മപ്രിയനേ വാഴ്ത്തും.



Annual Clergy
Conference &
Diocesan
Assembly
May 16 -
May 18,
2013
in Detroit



"...Thou was
crucified for us
Christ who art
our Lord and
God
Thou didst
trample death
by death
Ending this our
death..."



What's News this Month

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GO IN PEACE, O GOOD SHEPHERD!!



H.G. Geevarghese Mar Ivanios
(1941-2013)

See p. 4 for more details



CHRIST IS RISEN!
INDEED HE IS RISEN!



Ecumenical Corner

Election of Pope Francis as the Pope of Rome

On March 13, 2013, Cardinal Jorge Bergolio, Archbishop of Buenos Aires was elected as the 266th Pope of Rome. Pope Francis was a member of the religion order, Society of Jesus (Jesuits), and is well known as a defender of the poor and downtrodden, and working for social justice. At his first public appearance after being elected Pope of Rome, his humble nature was seen through his simple white cassock and cross, and asking the people to bless him before he gave the customary blessing of the people. Pope Francis also has a reputation of being deeply rooted in the traditions of the church, and upholding the teachings of the Church. He is also has good relationship with the leaders of other denominations and faith, including the Orthodox Churches. We pray for his ministry as Arch pastor of the Roman Catholic Church, and his witness of the Christian faith as a world leader.



Marthoma Church Suffragan Metropolitan visits our Diocesan Center in Houston



The Rt. Rev. Zacharias Mar Theophilus, the Suffragan Metropolitan of the Marthoma Church and Diocesan bishop of Chengannur-Mavelikkara, visited the Diocesan Center in Houston. Mar Theophilus was accompanied by Rev. Zacharia John, vicar at the Trinity Marthoma Church Houston, and Rev. Roy A. Thomas, Marthoma Church Youth Chaplain Houston Area. Mar Theophilus was warmly welcomed by our Diocesan Metropolitan Alexios Mar Eusebius, along with Rev. Fr. Anthony Creech, and Rev. Fr. Shaun T. Mathew.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL SHEPHERDS



On April 22, 2013, Metropolitan Paul (Yazigi), Metropolitan of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese Of Aleppo as well as Mar Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim of the Syriac Archdiocese of Aleppo, were both abducted in a suburb of Aleppo as they were returning from Antioch (Antakya, Turkey) to Aleppo after accomplishing a humanitarian mission. We are requesting all of our clergy and laity to remember in daily prayers and during the public celebration of the Holy Qurbana, especially for their health and liberation. In this painful situation, let us also fervently pray for an end to the Syrian crisis so that it may again become a place of mutual love, peace and coexistence.

Sooboro
Wednesday Prayer

Let us unite to pray for others!

Tele-Prayer Meeting in Malayalam

From 10:20am to 11:30am (CST) every Wednesday.

Bible reading, hymns, devotional message,
intercessory prayer for the needy & the sick.

Please send prayer requests to: sooboro@ds-wa.org

Phone #: (218) 632-0187

Access code: 3703#

Metropolitan's Column

Metropolitan's Column

Beloved in Christ,

The Annual Clergy Conference & Diocesan Assembly will be held from Thursday, May 16 – Saturday, May 18, 2013 in Detroit. The three parishes in Detroit are jointly hosting this event and the meetings will be held at St. Thomas Orthodox Church, Detroit. It is certainly a difficult task to organize such an event considering our diocese is wide-spread across 38 states and 4 provinces of Canada. This annual meeting is really the only face-to-face gathering on a diocesan level where we can come together to discuss the administrative and pastoral concerns of our diocese, although regional and area meetings and teleconferences take place throughout the year.

The Diocesan Assembly is the general body of the diocese constitutionally formed and is required to meet at least once a year. Every parish is to be represented by their Vicar and delegated assembly member, especially when taking decisions regarding the policies and projects of the diocese. Every year, the previous financial statements are passed along with the budget for the coming year. Since the formation of our diocese, this is now the fourth assembly to take place.

In conjunction with the meeting this year, on Friday, May 17th, we will be celebrating Diocesan Day which will be observed this year in all parishes on the Sunday of Pentecost, May 19th. Within a short span of time, our diocese has grown to 51 parishes and 5 congregations. We have worked to revitalize many of our spiritual organizations while at the same the prayer teleconference ministries in both English and Malayalam continue to grow.

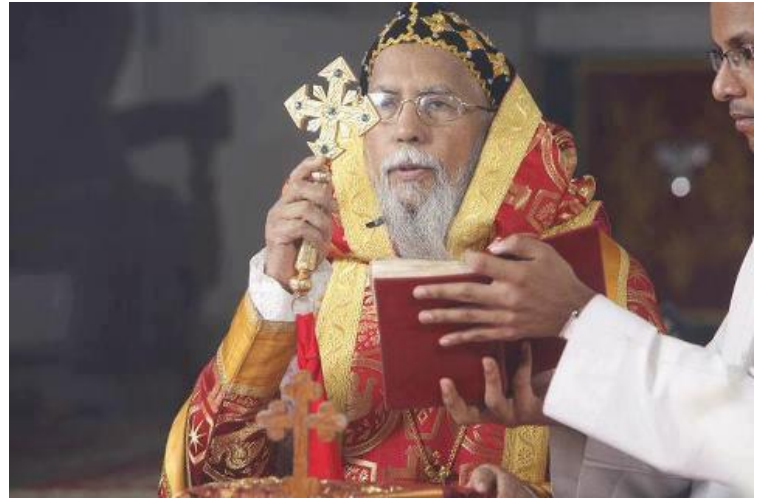
We have many plans and thoughts regarding the future of our diocese including plans for a comprehensive Diocesan Center with enough land for us to expand and grow. We hope this will enable us to grow and increasingly focus on strengthening and catering to the spiritual needs of our faithful. We seek everyone's prayers and cooperation as we march forward. May we, together, grow to greater spiritual heights, ever mindful of the challenges and great responsibilities we will face, as we try to implement goals in order to secure the future of our growing generation and the communities we live in.

*Your Shepherd in Christ,
Alexios Mar Eusebius*

MEMORY ETERNAL +

Remembering A Spiritual Giant - Memory Eternal Mar Ivanios +

His Grace Geevarghese Mar Ivanios, the Metropolitan of the Kottayam Diocese, one of the senior Bishops of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church entered into eternal rest at the age of 72 on April 12, 2013 at 7.30 am. His Grace was a spiritual father and teacher for many of the clergy of our church. Thirumeni was a true spiritual giant, known as a man of prayer, faith, tradition and spirituality, His Grace had a true understanding of the Orthodox Monastic Order and had a desire to bring it to the forefront of the Orthodox Church. It is in this endeavor, Thirumeni founded Mar Baselios at Njاليyakuzhi, Kottayam, where he chose as his final resting place. Thirumeni presence will truly be missed by our church but let find solace in that we have gained an intercessor on our behalf in the presence of God.



HOLY WEEK WITH OUR THIRUMENI

Our Diocesan Metropolitan celebrated Holy Week at St. Thomas Cathedral, Houston



From Around the Diocese



Shinto David ordained to Sub-diaconate

Rev. Dn. Shinto David was Ordained as Sub-Deacon on Saturday, April 20, 2013 at his home parish St. Gregorios Malankara Orthodox Church, Rochester Hills, Michigan by the South-west American Diocese Metropolitan H.G Alexios Mar Eusebius. Semmassan will be completing his Masters of Divinity from St. Tikhons Orthodox Theological Seminary, Pennsylvania. He is the younger son of Thandasseril Mr. Daniel David & Mrs. Alice David members of St. George Malankara Orthodox Church, Elimulluplakkal Konni.

Dallas OCYM Annual Conference 2013



Dallas Area Orthodox Christian Youth Movement organized their annual conference of 2013 on April 6th at St. Thomas Orthodox Church, Dallas. The theme was "Challenges of Christian Family in a Modern Society". The main speaker was H. G.. Dr. Gabriel Mar Gregorios, Diocesan Metropolitan of Trivandrum Diocese and Professor of New Testament at Orthodox Theological Seminary. Attorney Chris Harding Esq. gave a presentation on Rights, Responsibilities and Protection of parents and children in the American Legal system. Jinu Mathew conducted workshop on Challenges of Christian parenting. The conference was very informative based on today's modern practical life. Area coordinator Shibu Mathew delivered the welcome note and Area Secretary Johnson Jacob gave the vote of thanks..

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PLEASE FORWARD ARTICLES AND ANY NEWS ABOUT REGIONAL, AREA, PARISH EVENTS AND SPIRITUAL ORGANIZATION PROGRAMS TO

thestreamdswa@gmail.com

MGOC SM DEVOTIONALS

<http://www.mgocsmamerica.com/devotionals>

MGOC SM North America releases weekly devotionals based on the Gospel readings for each week. These devotionals are written by the leaders of the Church - both clergy and lay leaders. This is a great way to revamp your week with self-reflection and in the word. Please subscribe and spread the word in your areas as well!

Slootho

Tuesday Prayer

Let us come together for fellowship and intercession!

Tele-Prayer Meeting in English

From 9:05 pm to 9:35 pm (CST) every Tuesday.

Soothoro prayer, Devotional message,

Intercessory prayer for the needy & the sick.

Please send prayer requests to: slootho@ds-wa.org

Phone # (218) 632-0187

Access code: 3703#

From Around the Diocese



ഡാലസ് സെന്റ് മേരീസ് വലിയ പള്ളി സബ്ബേ സ്കൂൾ ഓവറോൾ് ചാമ്പ്യൻഷിപ്പ് നേടി

ഡാലസ്: സൗത്ത് വെസ്റ്റ് ഭദ്രാസനത്തിന്റെ സതേൺ റീജിയൻ സബ്ബേ സ്കൂൾ് മത്സരത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ പോയിന്റ് നേടിയ ഡാലസ് സെന്റ് മേരീസ് വലിയ പള്ളി സബ്ബേ സ്കൂൾ് ഓവറോൾ് ചാമ്പ്യൻഷിപ്പ് കരസ്ഥമാക്കി. മാർച്ച് 16-ന് ഡാലസ് സെന്റ് മേരീസ് വലിയ പള്ളിയിൽ നടന്ന മത്സരത്തിൽ സതേൺ റീജിയനിലെ ഏഴ് പള്ളികളുടെ സബ്ബേ സ്കൂളുകൾ മത്സരത്തിൽ പങ്കെടുത്തു. വലിയ പള്ളി വികാരി

ഫാ. രാജു ദാനിയേൽ, സബ്ബേ സ്കൂൾ് പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ ജിജി ഏബ്രഹാം, സബ്ബേ സ്കൂൾ് സെക്രട്ടറി സംഗീത തോമസ് എന്നിവരുടെ നേതൃത്വത്തിലുള്ള സബ്ബേ സ്കൂൾ് ഇത് തുടർച്ചയായ നാലാം തവണയാണ് ചാമ്പ്യൻഷിപ്പ് കരസ്ഥമാക്കുന്നത്. സമാപന ചടങ്ങിൽ റവ. ഫാ. ബിനു മാത്യു, സബ്ബേ സ്കൂൾ് പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ ജിജി ഏബ്രഹാമിന് ഓവറോൾ് ചാമ്പ്യൻഷിപ്പ് സമ്മാനിച്ചു.

Memorial Service Held in Dallas

Memorial Service for Late H.G Geevarughese Mar Ivanios was held on Dallas St Gregorios Orthodox Church on April 12th 2013. Holy Synod Secretary & Diocese of Kandanad Metropolitan, H.G Mathews Mar Severios led the memorial prayers. Vicars and members of all orthodox churches in

Dallas area participated in the Memorial Service.



ST. THOMAS MALANKARA ORTHODOX CHURCH 620 N. Rockwell Ave. Oklahoma City, OK 73127

പെരുന്നാളും കൺവെൻഷനും

സൗത്ത് വെസ്റ്റ് അമേരിക്കൻ ഭദ്രാസന മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്ത അഭി. അലക്സിയോസ് മാർ യൗസേബിയോസിന്റെ പ്രധാന കാർമ്മികത്വത്തിൽ 2013 ഏപ്രിൽ 5, 6, 7 തീയതികളിൽ നടത്തപ്പെടുന്നു ഏവർക്കും സ്വാഗതം

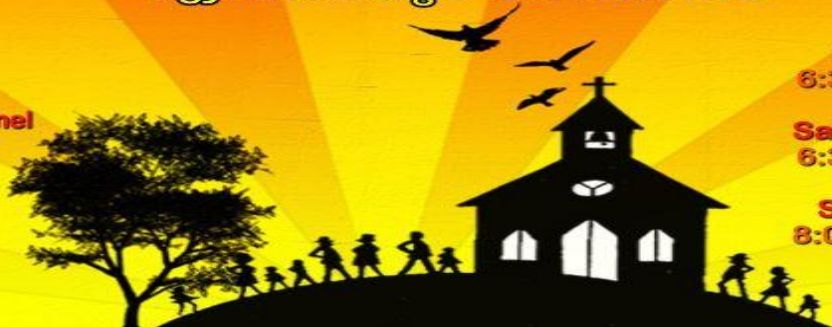


Rev. Fr. Cherian M. Kunnell
Vicar

Thomas Peter
Secretary

Joy Thomas
Trustee

PROGRAM
Friday, April 5th 2013
6:30 PM Evening Prayer
7:00 PM Convention
Saturday, April 6th 2013
6:30 PM Evening Prayer
7:00 PM Convention
Sunday, April 7th 2013
8:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:00 AM Holy Liturgy
11:00 AM Procession
11:30 AM Lunch



Annual Lenten Retreat at St Gregorios Houston



The MGOCSM unit of St Gregorios Orthodox Church hosted their annual Lenten Retreat from Thursday, March 14 to Sunday, March 17 2013 drawing participants from the four other Orthodox parishes in the Houston metro. The theme of the retreat was "Carrying the Cross" based on St Luke 9:23. The retreat was led by Rev. Dn. Saju Varghese and HG Alexios Mar Eusebius. The retreat provided opportunities for counseling, vigil and confession. A portion of the registration funds collected were used for backpacks that were donated to refugees from Nepal.

The program started with Evening Prayer on Thursday. Eusebius Thirumeni gave the inaugural address followed by a song session from the St Gregorios Youth Choir and a message from Saju Semassen. Dinner was in the monastic style with

everyone eating in silence and ending when Thirumeni rang a bell. This was a new experience for most of the participants. Bible verses were read during the dinner. Rev Fr Mammen Mathew, Rev Fr Joel Mathew, Rev Fr Jake Kurian and Rev Fr P M Cheriyan were available for Holy Confession with Rev Dn Saju Varghese helping with counseling every evening. The sessions for Friday and Saturday started with Morning Prayer at 8:30am. The programs for the day included workshops and group sessions. Lunch was preceded by Noon prayer and followed by a group session and music ministry. Throughout the day participants could write down their questions on notecards and drop them into a box. Towards the end of the day, Saju Semassen would draw cards at random and answer the questions.

Additional activities on Friday included a presentation on the Philadelphia Leadership Camp by Bibin Mammen and a letter activity. For the letter activity, participants wrote a confession letter to God. A cross on the paper marked where one could write their sins. On Saturday, Alex Mathew visited with some refugees from different nationalities who shared their life experiences and faith journey. Later participants packed backpacks for refugees from Nepal. A photo session and a candle vigil followed. The retreat concluded with Holy Qurbana on Sunday. This was a great opportunity for the participants to experience a spiritual recharge and renewal.



The Diocese of South-West America of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

MIDWEST REGIONAL FAMILY AND YOUTH CONFERENCE

CHICAGO - DETROIT - ST. LOUIS - CLEVELAND - KANSAS CITY - IOWA

JULY 10 - JULY 13, 2013

SHIPSHEWANA TOWN CENTER
760 S. VAN BUREN STREET, SHIPSHEWANA, IN 46565

THEME: **"FOR JUST AS THE BODY IS ONE AND HAS MANY MEMBERS, AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE BODY, THOUGH MANY, ARE ONE BODY, SO IT IS WITH CHRIST" 1 COR. 12:12**

CONFERENCE LEADERS



H.G. Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan,
Diocese of South-West America



H.G. Dr. Yuhanon Mar Demetrios
Metropolitan,
Diocese of Delhi



H.G. Dr. Abraham Mar Seraphim
Metropolitan,
Diocese of Bangalore

PLEASE VISIT US ON THE WEB AT:
<http://www.ds-wa.org/mid-west-regional-conference.html>
 E-MAIL US AT MIDWESTFYC@GMAIL.COM

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Conference Director Rev. Fr. Daniel George 773-478-0374 frdg@malankara.org	Conference Secretary Paul Jacob 248-786-9945 PJacob300@gmail.com	Conference Convenor Rev. Fr. Abi Chacko 516-655-0117 Fr.AbiChacko@gmail.com	Conference Coordinator Sibyl Chacko 847-530-7941 sibyl.chacko@gmail.com
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Program and Curriculum Committee

Rev. Fr. Zachariah Skariah 847-361-1496 dskskariah23@gmail.com Sabha Managing Committee Rev. Dn. George Poovathoor	Curriculum Committee Rev. Fr. Christopher Mathew Rev. Fr. James Cheriyan Arun Varghese - Shinto David Diocesan Council Member Jason Varughese	St. Thomas, Quad Cities Rev. Fr. Philip Jacob Sean Kuruvilla - Rajan Panicker K.M. Raju - markose@dwdsd.org Dr. Mathew Varghese - mvrajan53@hotmail.com	St. Thomas, Chicago, IL Rev. Fr. Ham Joseph Kashy George - Shajan Varghese Mathai V. Thomas - thampisusan@yahoo.com Rajeew & Beena Korah - brkorah@gmail.com Jojo Kakkulanji
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St. Mary's, Oak Lawn, IL
 Rev. Fr. Abi Chacko
 Omman Sakhariah - Sunny Skariah
 Sheeba Mathew - sheebamathew@gmail.com
 Sinil Philip - sannp24@yahoo.com

PER PERSON RATES:

1 PERSON OCCUPANCY	\$405
2 PERSON OCCUPANCY	\$240
3 PERSON OCCUPANCY	\$205
4 PERSON OCCUPANCY	\$180
5 PERSON OCCUPANCY	\$165
CHILD UNDER 3	FREE

*** NOTES* IT WILL BE COST EFFECTIVE IF FAMILIES STAY TOGETHER CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 4-11 WILL RECEIVE REDUCTION OF \$15 PER CHILD**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE MAY 19, 2013
SEE REGISTRATION FORM FOR FURTHER DETAILS

St. Thomas, Detroit, MI Rev. Fr. Philip Jacob Rev. Fr. Abi Chacko Abraham Chirackal - ChirackalAbrahamv@johndeere.com	St. Mary's, St. Louis, MO Rev. Fr. Chacko V. Isaac John Panicker Renu George - renumt@yahoo.com Bijoy George - bijoygeorge@charter.net
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 Thomas Yohannan
 Jaji Alex - jaji1alex@gmail.com

St. Mary's, Detroit, MI
 Rev. Fr. Phillips Sankarathil
 Rev. Dn. John Sankarathil
 Dinu Daniel
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 Subin George - subin.george@gmail.com
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St. Gregorios, Kansas City
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 Sanjay Jacob - sanjaym.jacob@yahoo.com
 Tony Panicker - tonypanicker@gmail.com

From Around the Diocese

Lenten Retreat at St. Mary's Valiyapally

The MGOCSM of St. Mary's Valiyapally in Framers Branch, Texas hosted their annual Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 2nd, from 9am to 5pm. We were blessed with the presence of Seminarian Ceena Varghese from St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary as our guest speaker. Along with her we also had Rev. Fr. Binu Mathews, Bijoy Thomas, Jithin Zachariah, Sangeetha Thomas, and Chris Thomas as our group leaders. Youth from all over the Dallas Area were in attendance. The topic of the Retreat was, "Fight the Good Fight", and the main bible verse was taken



from 1 Timothy 6:12, which reads, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many." Seminarian Ceena Varghese had an engaging message about fighting the right way and that is fighting with honesty, righteousness, and faith. Through readings from Ephesians 6: 13-18, James 2:26, Matthew 5:16, she engaged all of us by using videos, active group activities, art, words to let us better understand the good fight. She explained to us in a way so it related to us and our personal lives simple things such as, when we take a shower we should recite Psalms 51, "Cleanse me with hyssop and I will be whiter than snow". Or when we take out the trash, it should be like taking out our filthiness in our spirits. She also talked about the specialty of every week of the Great Lent, explaining in detail about the miracles of Jesus Christ. Our next session was with the whole group, and Bijoy Thomas led an icon workshop. He taught us each and every icon and he went into detail about why everything was drawn the way it was and its history. In summary the retreat was a success in that the kids still to this day remember the things that they have learned. Special thanks to our guest speaker Ceena Varghese, our group leaders for all their help, and the youth of St. Mary's Valiyapally for putting the entire retreat together.

Gregorian Award Presented in Dallas

St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Dallas once again presented the Gregorian Awards to the winners of the Gregorian Exam held in March, 2013. St. Gregorios Church instituted this award in 2005 for the Sunday School students of 6th to 12th graders of the parish. The one hour exam consists of 100 questions are about St. Gregorios, St. Dynasious, Holy Bible, Sacraments, Church history, Church traditions and administration. 99% of the eligible candidates participate in this event every year for the last seven years and the students are very excited to be a part of this program. The 1st place winner gets \$100.00 cash, Name on the Plaque which is kept at the church and an ever rolling trophy to keep for one year. The second and third place winners get \$75.00



and \$50.00 cash and an ever rolling trophy to keep for one year. This year, Johncy George, Jess Johnson and Steve George won 1st, 2nd and 3rd place respectively. Alex Alexander who is in charge of this event prepares the questions and evaluate the exam in a very professional and confidential way every year under the banner of the parish Sunday School. On behalf of the church, we would like to congratulate all the participants and winners of this event. With the guidance and cooperation of the vicar Rev. Fr. C.G. Thomas, and the Sunday School Principal Mr. Sony Alexander, this year's program was a great success.

PATRISTIC POTPOURRI

The Paschal homily of St John Chrysostom (Mar Ivanios) - circa 400 AD

If any be a devout lover of God, let him partake with gladness from this fair and radiant feast.
 If any be a faithful servant, let him enter rejoicing into the joy of his Lord.
 If any have wearied himself with fasting, let him now enjoy his reward.
 If any have laboured from the first hour, let him receive today his rightful due.
 If any have come after the third, let him celebrate the feast with thankfulness.
 If any have come after the sixth, let him not be in doubt, for he will suffer no loss.
 If any have delayed until the ninth, let him not hesitate but draw near.
 If any have arrived only at the eleventh, let him not be afraid because he comes so late.

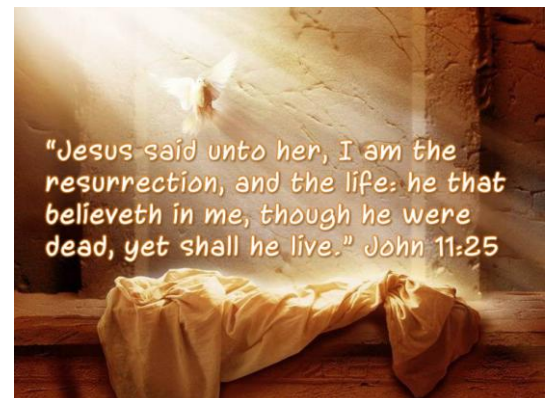
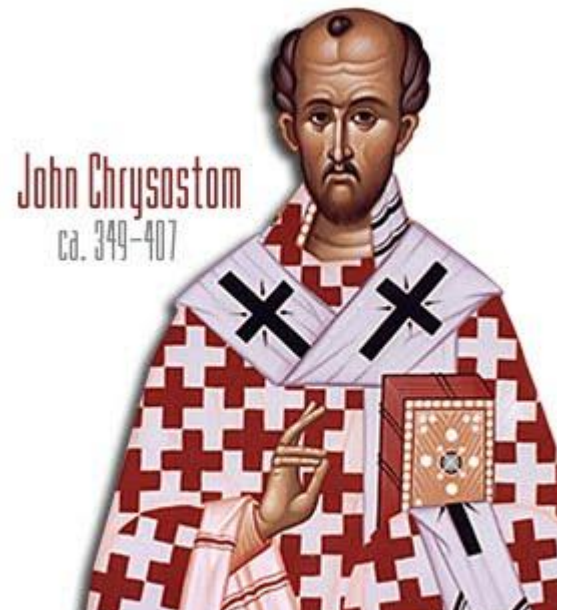
For the Master is generous and accepts the last even as the first. He gives rest to him who comes at the eleventh hour in the same way as him who has laboured from the first. He accepts the deed, and commends the intention. Enter then, all of you, into the joy of our Lord. First and last, receive alike your reward. Rich and poor, dance together. You who fasted and you who have not fasted, rejoice together.

The table is fully laden: let all enjoy it. The calf is fatted: let none go away hungry.
 Let none lament his poverty; for the universal Kingdom is revealed.
 Let none bewail his transgressions; for the light of forgiveness has risen from the tomb.
 Let none fear death; for death of the Saviour has set us free.
 He has destroyed death by undergoing death.
 He has despoiled hell by descending into hell.
 He vexed it even as it tasted of His flesh. Isaiah foretold this when he cried:
 Hell was filled with bitterness when it met Thee face to face below;
 filled with bitterness, for it was brought to nothing;
 filled with bitterness, for it was mocked;
 filled with bitterness, for it was overthrown;
 filled with bitterness, for it was put in chains.
 Hell received a body, and encountered God.
 It received earth, and confronted heaven.

O death, where is your sting?
 O hell, where is your victory?

Christ is risen! And you, o death, are annihilated!
Christ is risen! And the evil ones are cast down!
Christ is risen! And the angels rejoice!
Christ is risen! And life is liberated!
Christ is risen! And the tomb is emptied of its dead;
 for Christ having risen from the dead,
 is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

To Him be Glory and Power, now and forever, and from all ages to all ages.
 Amen!



Know our Parish

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Alexios Mar Eusebius,
Metropolitan

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KNOW OUR PARISH

This Section of our Diocesan Newsletter is designed to allow our readers to explore our geographically vast diocese at a glance. Every month different parishes of the Diocese of South-West America diocese will be featured and given the opportunity to introduce itself to the Diocese and Church at large.

We ask that our parishes take this as an opportunity to showcase the best aspects of the parish, including but not limited to Spiritual Organizations, Parish activities, Programs and Church Facilities. This is our opportunity to thank God for His faithfulness to our Diocese especially each of our Parishes.

The write up submitted should be about 1-2 typed pages and sent with 1-2 pictures that best represent the parish.

All materials should be sent to 'The Stream' email address thestreamdswa@gmail.com

