



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

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Blessings to our beloved Vicars, Cor-Episcopoi, Rambans, Priests of the locality, Kaisthanees, and faithful members of the Diocese of South-West America

**Dearlly beloved,**

As we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we gather in awe and gratitude for the great mystery of His incarnation. The eternal Word has become flesh and dwelt among us, bringing salvation, peace, and joy to all creation. In this season of hope, let us open our hearts to the message of the angels and the humility of the manger. Let us remember the words of the Holy Gospel: *"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."* (Luke 2:11)

In the stillness of the night, the heavens proclaimed the birth of the Messiah, the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem His people. Born in poverty yet heralded by the angels, Christ the Lord comes to us humbly, teaching us the path of love, selflessness, and service. The radiant star of Bethlehem calls us to follow the light of truth and to bring His peace to a troubled world. As St. Ephrem the Syrian reminds us in his hymns: *"Blessed is He Who became small without limit to make us great without limit!"* Let us carry this profound truth in our hearts as we seek to emulate our Savior's humility and boundless love.

As we rejoice in this holy feast, may we emulate the obedience of the Theotokos, who bore the world's Light. Let us extend this light to our neighbors through acts of kindness, forgiveness, and compassion. In doing so, we honor the true meaning of Christmas and the gift of Christ's love.

To walk the path of love and humility, we offer the following advice to the faithful:

1. **Embrace Humility:** Reflect on the humility of Christ's birth in a lowly manger. Seek to serve others selflessly, placing their needs above your own.
2. **Practice Forgiveness:** Let go of grudges and offer forgiveness to those who have wronged you. In forgiving, we reflect the boundless mercy of our Savior.
3. **Show Compassion:** Extend kindness and care to the less fortunate, the lonely, and the suffering. Remember that acts of love, however small, bring light to the world.



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4. **Pursue Peace:** Strive for peace in your relationships and community. Be a peacemaker, following the example of Christ, the Prince of Peace.
5. **Pray with Sincerity:** Make prayer a cornerstone of your daily life. Through prayer, seek guidance, strength, and the grace to embody Christ's love.
6. **Give Generously:** Share your blessings with those in need, remembering that true wealth is found in giving.

May the peace of the newborn King fill your hearts and homes this Christmas season and in the new year ahead. May His blessings sustain you on the road of the year 2025. With many good desires and dreams, may it all be fulfilled through the grace of Christ Jesus. And may His light guide you always. Walk in the way of the Lord and God will give his abundant blessings in the new year. Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyous Nativity and a Happy New Year!

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

Urshlem Aramana, Beasley  
December 25, 2024

Metropolitan Dr. Thomas Mar Ivanios