



MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA



Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan

3703 Chesterdale Drive
Missouri City, Texas, 77459
Office: (281) 403-0670
Fax: (281) 459-0814
dswadiocesanoffice@ds-wa.org
www.ds-wa.org

DSWA/C/03/2015

February 11, 2015

Blessings to all our Cor-Episcopoi, Priests, Deacons, Office Bearers & all the Faithful of our diocese.

Dearly beloved,

We have once again come upon the period of the Great Lent. Jesus Christ begins his public ministry preceded by a fast that follows the fast of the great prophets Moses and Elijah who also fasted in the wilderness for forty days. The fast prepared Christ for His victory over Satan, ultimately allowing Him to overcome the temptations of Satan and defeat death by His own death. In addition to the forty days set apart for fasting, the Holy Church adds an additional ten days to focus on the passion of Christ that leads us to the ultimate victory seen in the power of the Holy Resurrection.

It is clear that we live in a world today where satanic forces are increasingly dominating and the Christian life and its basic values are in great danger. The basic spiritual disciplines that Christ taught us such as silence, prayer, abstinence, meditation and fasting must be seriously considered and implemented in our lives in order to obtain control over our passions and victory over the evil one. If we accustom ourselves simply to advancement in technology and the pleasures of modern life, it will certainly be challenging to master ourselves from the sins of the world.

Just like Eve, the mother of humanity, was tempted to eat of the forbidden fruit which she found to be good for food, delightful to the eyes and making one wise (Gen 3:6), we in our daily lives repeatedly commit the same sin and make ourselves unworthy of Paradise. It is our hope that this spiritual journey for the next 50 days will lead us on the path to Calvary, the Cross, and the empty tomb. May this spiritual journey through the Great Lent period lead us to a real transformation that is marked by a real confession and cleansing from our Lord.

May the prayers of St. Mary the Theotokos, St. Thomas the patron saint of our church, St. Gregorios and St. Dionysius be a fortress and blessing in this spiritual journey.

Your shepherd in Christ,

Alexios Mar Eusebius,
Metropolitan