



MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA

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Blessings to the beloved Vicars of the Parishes, Priests of the locality, Cor-episcopoi, Deacons, *Kaisthanees*, and faithful of all parishes in our Diocese of South-West America!

Dearly beloved,

We hope that you have enjoyed the heavenly pleasure of a merry Christmas and the beauty of the dawn of a blessed new year.

We are delighted to announce the winners of **Mar Barnabas Educational Award 2017**. As you all know **Mar Barnabas Educational Award** was instituted in 2011 to encourage our children to excel in their academic achievements with a commitment to their parish, diocese and the mission of the church. Each year, twelfth grade graduates who are entering their first year of post-secondary education have been invited to apply for the Award.

In the year 2017, the diocese received several applicants from 4 of the 5 regions within our diocese and there was no application from the west region. The award committee completed the review process according to the previously established evaluation guidelines. This year, the committee submitted the feedback that all applicants demonstrated a high level of academic achievement along with qualities of leadership and a level of involvement and commitment to their local parish and recommended awarding a third-place recipient in each of the four regions that participated. The diocesan council approved the recommendation since it meets the full allocated budget of \$5,000 for the year 2017 and proposed to consider increasing the annual budget for future years.

It is with great pleasure we announce the recipients of the 2017 Mar Barnabas Educational Award:

Midwest Region:

Rank	Award Recipient	Parish
First Place (\$600.00)	Kevin Varghese	St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Knas City
Second Place (\$400.00)	Thomas Simon	St. Thomas Orthodox Church, Chicago

Third Place (\$200.00)	Rebeca John	St. Thomas Orthodox Church of India, Warren (Det.)
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Northwest Region:

Rank	Award Recipient	Parish
First Place (\$600.00)	Rebeca George	St. Mary's Malankara Orthodox Church, Calgary, Canada
Second Place (\$400.00)	Cephen Binny Kuruvilla	St. Mary's Malankara Orthodox Church, Calgary, Canada
Third Place (\$200.00)		St.

South Region:

Rank	Award Recipient	Parish
First Place (\$600.00)	Joshua Johnson	St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Austin, TX
Second Place (\$400.00)	1. Mathews Geevarghese 2. Sherwin Sajjan Philip	St. Mary's Orthodox Valiyapally, Farmers Branch, TX St. Gregorios Malankara Orthodox Church, Houston, TX
Third Place (\$200.00)	1. Bethany Zachariah 2. Isaac John	St. James Orthodox Mission Church, Dallas St. Thomas Orthodox Cathedral, Houston

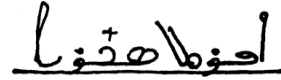
Southeast Region:

Rank	Award Recipient	Parish
First Place (\$600.00)	Steven Philip Joseph	St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, South Florida
Second Place (\$400.00)	Philip Varghese Ambattu	St. Thomas Malankara Orthodox Church, Pompano Beach, FL
Third Place	1. Shani Mary	St. Gregorios Malankara Orthodox Church,

(\$200.00)	Abraham 2. Sheba Ann Mathew	Tampa, FL St. Mary's Orthodox Church, Rosewell (Atlanta)
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We congratulate all our children who have received the education award in 2017 and pray that God may grant them wisdom and strength to continue in academic excellence while remaining committed to Christ and His Holy Church. May the prayers and intercessions of the late lamented Metropolitan H. G. Mathews Mar Barnabas in whose memory the educational award was established, continue to be with us all.

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



From Sreyas Aramana
Adoor, Pathanamthitta Dt., Kerala, India
On January 5, 2018

Metr. Dr. Zacharias Mar Aprem