



MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA

Urshlem, 3101 Hopkins Road, Beasley, TX 77417, USA
Office: (281) 403 0670 Fax: (281) 459 0814
Email: 2010aprem@gmail.com Website: www.ds-wa.org



Dr. Zacharias Mar Aprem
Assistant Metropolitan

Email: 2010aprem@gmail.com
Website: www.ds-wa.org

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Blessings to the Vicars, Priests of the locality, Deacons, Office bearers and all the faithful, especially the members of the Sunday School Association.

Dearly Beloved,

The Sunday School of our Church is intended to create opportunities for learning that should enhance a child's experience and their life within the Holy Church. In the book of Proverbs 22:6 we read, "*Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*" The early years of life is a critical time period for the formation of our children as they develop a foundation for their relationship with God and the Church. Sunday School is just one avenue by which we instruct our children. Children primarily learn from what they see and hear, and for this reason special attention must be given to what we as parents and elders model for them not just within the Church but also at home. Great effort must be taken by all including clergy, parents, elders and teachers to instruct, mold, and spiritually uplift our children in an ever-changing world so that they may grow in their love for God and the Church and never depart from it.

As it has been in practice, Sunday School Day will be celebrated this year in all the parishes of the Overseas Region on Sunday, December 9th, the day in which the Holy Church commemorates the nativity of St. John the Baptist. On this day, all parishes of our diocese shall offer a special prayer for the Sunday School of our Church. The Vicars, principals and teachers should take leadership to organize the celebrations within each parish in a suitable manner. It would be appropriate to have one of the students of the Sunday School give a short message for the day.

We exhort all parishes to take a special monetary collection on Sunday School Day and encourage all students to also participate. The total collected amount from each parish shall be sent to the diocesan center by December 31st.

We appreciate the leadership of our respected clergy, the dedicated service of our teachers, and the continuous support of all parents. Let us continue to pray for the growth of our Sunday School so that it may grow and serve its purpose in providing for the spiritual needs of our children.

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
Urshlem Indian Orthodox Center
Beasley, Texas On December 6, 2018


Metr. Dr. Zacharias Mar Aprem