



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

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Blessings to the Vicars, Managing Committee and all the faithful of our Diocese, especially the office-bearers, teachers and students of the Sunday School,

Dearly Beloved,

By the grace of God, the activities of our Sunday School are growing, and we appreciate the dedicated efforts of our beloved clergy, teachers, parents, and children for their contribution in this area. The Orthodox Vacation Bible School (OVBS) is an opportunity for our children to gather during the summer and spend time together in fellowship and study of God's word. The theme for this year is taken from Galatians 3:28, "We are one in Christ." This is certainly an applicable theme as unity in the body of Christ is central to our faith as Orthodox Christians. We are all united through the waters of baptism and by partaking of the precious Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. We hope this theme of unity and oneness will be taught to and understood by our children and result in much fruit for generations to come.

We express our gratitude to the several individuals who have worked in various capacities over the past years to produce the materials and coordinate all efforts with the Northeast American Diocese, especially our Diocesan OVBS Director, Rev. Fr. Joshua George and Rev. Fr. Christopher Mathew, the co-director. All the OVBS resources are now available online at our Diocesan website (www.ds-wa.org). All the churches has to take initiative to conduct OVBS in their parish or in the area level if more than one parishes are in the area.

We take this opportunity to extend our prayers and blessings for the success of this year's OVBS. We hope and pray that the OVBS will be conducted all throughout our Diocese and will provide an environment for fellowship and learning amongst our children.

Your Shepherd in Christ,

Alexios Mar Eusebius,
Metropolitan