



# 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



*Dr. Zacharias Mar Aprem*  
Assistant Metropolitan

Email: [metropolitan.dswa@gmail.com](mailto:metropolitan.dswa@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.ds-wa.org](http://www.ds-wa.org)

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Blessings to all our dearly beloved Vicars, Assistant Vicars, Priests of the locality, Parish Managing Committee members, and all the faithful of our parishes in the Diocese of South-West America!

Dearly Beloved,

As per the order of His Holiness Baselios Marthoma Mathews III, the Catholicos & Malankara Metropolitan, we, the Assistant Metropolitan of the Diocese of South -West America, are directed to convene and preside a meeting of the Diocesan Assembly of the said diocese on Saturday, July 9th, 2022 at St. Mary's Malankara Orthodox Church, Houston. The new assembly to be constituted on that day for the 2022-2027 term will primarily elect 1 priest as the diocesan secretary, 2 priests and 4 laymen for the diocesan council, and 1 layman as the diocesan internal auditor.

Concurrently, a meeting of the newly elected Malankara Association members of our diocese for the 2022-2027 term is planned to be held the prior evening on Friday, July 8th, 2022 to elect 1 priest and 2 laymen as nominees for the Sabha Managing Committee subject to the official notice Kalpana of His Holiness the Catholicos & Malankara Metropolitan. Only thereafter will the nomination forms and election procedures be published on our diocesan website and sent via email by the diocesan office to the Malankara Association members.

The following is the venue and schedule of events:

**Venue:** St. Mary's Malankara Orthodox Church, Houston (9915 Belknap Rd, Sugar Land, TX 77498)

### Friday, July 8th, 2022

10:30 AM to 3:30 PM	Diocesan Clergy Conference
5:00 PM to 6:00 PM	Evening Prayers & Memorial Service for Late Lamented His Holiness Moran Mar Baselios Paulose II
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Diocesan Malankara Association Members Meeting *Elect 1 priest & 2 laymen as nominees for the Sabha Managing Committee)

### Saturday, July 9th, 2022

8:30 AM to 1:00 PM	Diocesan Assembly Meeting *Elect Diocesan Secretary (1 priest), Diocesan Council (2 priests & 4 laymen), and a Diocesan Auditor (1 layman)
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We direct all Diocesan Clergy, Assembly Members and Association Members to make the necessary travel arrangements and take every effort to participate in these important meetings of our Diocese. The travel and related expenses are to be met by each respective parish.

The provisional Diocesan Assembly members list will be published on our Diocesan website ([www.ds-wa.org](http://www.ds-wa.org)) on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 with the final members list to be published on June 10th, 2022. Nomination forms and the election

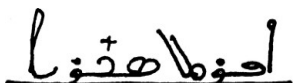
procedures for the positions of the Diocesan Secretary, Diocesan Council & Diocesan Auditor will be posted on the Diocesan website on June 1st, 2022. The copy of any nomination submissions should be received by the Diocesan Office via email ([2022assemblydswa@gmail.com](mailto:2022assemblydswa@gmail.com)) with the original nomination form to be sent via postal mail (Diocese of South-West America, 3101 Hopkins Rd, Beasley, TX 77417) and received by the Diocesan Office on or before June 15th, 2022. The last date for withdrawal of any nominations is June 18th, 2022. The final list of the eligible candidates will be published on the diocesan website on June 22nd, 2022. We hereby appoint Mr. Varughese Jacob (1105 Hickory Terrace, Friendswood, TX 77546), member of St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Cathedral, Stafford, as the Returning Officer for the election process.

The Diocesan Secretary and members of the Diocesan Council will work with the host parish Vicar & Managing Committee along with the parish priests, secretaries, and trustees of the Houston area to form further committees as needed for the smooth functioning of the meetings. There will be three separate online registration forms for Clergy, Diocesan Assembly members and Malankara Association members which will be sent via email from the Diocesan office to the respective individuals directly once the provisional list is published.

It is our humble request to take steps to ensure that people who are selfless, humble, committed to the vision of our Diocese, and maintain a spiritual life in accordance with the life of the Holy Church are the ones elected to the above-mentioned positions of the Church. Those who wish to come forward and serve the Church in these positions should be progressive and be willing to share innovative ideas for the growth of our Diocese and the mission of our Church in the North American continent. Diocesan Council members should be able to spare enough time for fulfilling the responsibilities entrusted to them and willing to attend the necessary meetings.

We seek the continuous prayers of all our clergy and faithful for the success and smooth functioning of the 2022 Diocesan level meetings. 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.

From Sreyas Aramana  
Adoor, Pathanamthitta Dt., Kerala, India  
on May 25, 2022

  
Metr. Dr. Zacharias Mar Aprem