



The Northeast American Diocese of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

2158 ROUTE 106 • MUTTONTOWN • NEW YORK 11791



**By the Grace of God,
Zachariah Mar Nicholovos,
Diocesan Metropolitan**

CK No. 17/2021

December 21, 2021

Blessings to our Very Reverend Chor Episcopoi, Reverend Fathers, Reverend Deacons, and faithful of the Northeast American Diocese!

Dearly beloved,

We celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, with a sense of newfound hope and vigor. Although we have experienced grief, and sadness in the midst of these two years, we also see how God has been present with us attesting to the very truth of His name – *Emmanuel* – God with us.

2021 was a transformative year for the Holy Church. In July, our father in Christ, His Holiness Moran Mar Baselios Marthoma Paulose II reposed in the Lord. Then in October, the Holy Church elected a new Primate of the Church and enthroned him as *His Holiness Moran Mar Baselios Marthoma Mathews III*. Yes, there is grief, however, we are given hope by the peaceful transition to our new shepherd in Christ. This is surely a sign of God's faithfulness to His Church.

As we approach the new year, we are filled with hope in the 'return to normalcy' that many of our faithful have begun to experience in their lives in 2021. Most have returned back to work, gathered with friends and family, begun learning in classrooms, and our parishes are on the road to functioning fully once again.

It is with this great hope, that we wish you all the blessings of our Lord on the Feast of His Nativity. We pray that Christ's challenge to love the least among us (Mt. 25:40) is one that we all take up in the upcoming year. We pray each of us will feel the warmth of His love and protection during this sacred season, and throughout the new year.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, sustain you, strengthen you, and be ever so close to you and your loved ones on this glorious Feast Day, and throughout the new year!

Yours in our Lord,



Zachariah Nicholovos, Metropolitan