



The Northeast American Diocese of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

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

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

Dearly beloved,

It is with great joy that we celebrate the glorious Feast of Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. This Feast reminds us of the abundant mercy of God, Who descended to become man to share His life with us. The prayers and hymns of this glorious Feast offers us a beautiful image of persons who were transformed by witnessing and worshipping the new born King. The good news of the Savior's birth brought the wise men, worshippers of the stars, to experience the glorious Sun of Righteousness.

As the wise men offered their gifts to the Lord, we must ask ourselves, what gift are we offering to Christ on this Feast Day? Once we begin to reflect on this question, we come to the realization that we really have *nothing* to offer Him other than ourselves. This realization should convince us not to take our spiritual lives for granted. Our response to the incarnate Christ should be a continuous return to God in repentance. When we cultivate a life of repentance and transformation through the grace of God, we are able to make room in our hearts for Christ to be born in the manger of our hearts.

In the midst of brokenness, political upheaval, persecution, terrorism, gossip, distrust, and lack of love, the incarnation of Christ provides us with great hope. The Christ Who is born in our hearts, offers us the light where darkness seems to be prevailing. May the experience of the new born King on this Feast Day, enable us to share the peace and love of Christ to those who are in despair, and darkness.

May Christ the King, and Redeemer of our souls, sustain you and your loved ones on this Holy Day and throughout the New Year!

Yours in our Lord,

Zachariah Nicholovos, Metropolitan