



**By the Grace of God**  
METROPOLITAN ZACHARIAH MAR NICHOLOVOS

CK No. 3/2024

February 9, 2024

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

Dearly beloved,

First, we wish each of you a blessed and fruitful Great Lenten season. May this Lenten spring be an opportunity for us to draw closer to our Lord Jesus Christ, through the sacred tools of our Holy Church.

Last year, we had the immense joy and blessing to observe and celebrate the Holy Week services at our *Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center*. It was a unique opportunity for both young and old to live together at our center, and to observe all the hours of prayer together in our beautiful Chapel. It was an opportunity that was life changing for our youth to immerse themselves completely in the sacred prayers of the Church.

This year, once again we will be celebrating Holy Week at *Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center*. All services will be held under the leadership of our weak self, along with Very Reverend Dr. M. P. George Chor Episcopos, all of our Deacons and Seminarians of our Diocese. We will be observing all the hourly prayers, at the appropriate hours, and listen to the devotional messages throughout the week. Our beloved M. P. George Achen, Professor Emeritus at the Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kottayam, will lead meditations on the rich hymnography of the West Syriac Tradition throughout the week.

Our faithful are encouraged to participate in these sacred services for either a day, or multiple services throughout the week. Since lodging and meals will be provided, faithful are requested to sign up using the link provided.

We pray and hope this unique opportunity can be offered for true retreat, reflection and transformation of our faithful.

Yours in our Lord,

Metropolitan Zachariah Mar Nicholovos