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QUEEN OF PEACE

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE EPARCHY

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VOLUME 6: ISSUE 1

THE SYRO-MALANKARA CATHOLIC EPARCHY IN THE USA AND CANADA

# BLESSED HALF LENT



**“TO THIS YOU WERE CALLED, BECAUSE CHRIST SUFFERED FOR YOU, LEAVING YOU AN EXAMPLE, THAT YOU SHOULD FOLLOW IN HIS STEPS.”**

**1 PETER 2:21**



# QUEEN OF PEACE

## OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE EPARCHY

Vol. 6

February 2018

No. 1



St. Mary, Queen of Peace  
Syro-Malankara Catholic  
Eparchy in USA and Canada  
[www.malankaracatholicna.church](http://www.malankaracatholicna.church)

## MALANKARA NEWS

### Bishop Geevarghese Mar Divannasios called to eternal rest



His Excellency Most Rev. Geevarghese Mar Divannasios Ottathengil (67) Bishop Emeritus of Puthoor Diocese of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church was called to eternal rest on Tuesday, 16 January, 2018 at 2.30pm at Pushpagiri Medical College Hospital, Thiruvalla, Kerala. His Excellency went to the Lord peacefully a few hours ago after battling various health complications for some time.

The funeral was held at 2pm on Thursday, 18 January, 2018 St. John's Cathedral, Thiruvalla, Kerala.

Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Divannasios, the first bishop of the Eparchy of Puttur, was born on 1 November 1950 in the ancient Syrian Christian family of Ottathengil to N.S Varghese and Mariamma Varghese at Thalavady near Thiruvalla in Central Travancore. In 1956, his family migrated to South Canara in

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Karnataka. They stayed at several places in the district of South Canara and finally settled at Ichilampady, a small beautiful village in the district. In 1962 his family embraced the Catholic faith. He started his seminary formation after his school years in 1966 at Infant Mary Minor Seminary in the Eparchy of Tiruvalla. In 1970 he was sent to St. Paul's Seminary at Trichy for Philosophical and Theological studies, where he learned Karnatic music. He was ordained a priest on 20 April 1978 by Benedict Mar Gregorios.

After his ordination, Fr. Varghese Ottathengil served various parishes as assistant vicar and vicar. In 1980 he was sent to Rome for higher studies, where he completed his doctorate in Spiritual Theology. He returned to Bathery in 1987 when he was appointed as the Rector of the minor seminary in the Eparchy of Bathery, and also served as the vicar of the Cathedral parish. He was appointed the Rector of the Major Seminary of the Malankara Catholic Church at its infancy in May 1990. The seminary developed further during his seven-year tenure as rector.

On 18 December 1996, Pope John Paul II appointed Varghese Ottathengil as the Bishop of Bathery, after Cyril Mar Baselios. He was consecrated a bishop on 5 February 1996 at Bathery by Cyril Mar Baselios and received the name Geevarghese Mar Divannasios. His sacerdotal Silver Jubilee was celebrated in 2003. He was the Administrator of the Malankara Catholic Church during the short period after the demise of Moran Mor Cyril Baselios Catholicos. On 25 January 2010, as per the decision of the Holy Episcopal Synod of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, and having consulted the Apostolic See of Rome, His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Divan-



nasios was appointed as the first Bishop of the newly erected Eparchy of Puttur.

On January 24, 2017, His Grace submitted his resignation from office due to health. The Holy Synod accepted his resignation and appointed Rev Fr. George Kalayil, the vicar general, as interim administrator of the Eparchy. The bishop was in ill health for two weeks before being called to his eternal home.

The Queen of Peace Eparchy joins the Ottathengil family and the Malankara church in mourning and prayer for the departed prelate of venerable memory. .

## EPARCHY NEWS

### Feast of Bishop Stephanos celebrated



The feast of our bishop Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos was celebrated on January 13, 2018. The celebration included Holy Qurbano followed by a brief felicitation meeting. The Holy Qurbano began at 8:30 am with Bishop Philipos Mar Stephanos as the celebrant. Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter Kochery, Rev. Fr. Augustine Mangalath, Rev. Fr. Mathai Mannoovradakkethil, Rev. Fr. John Puthenvila, Rev. Fr. Noby Ayyaneth, Rev. Fr. Michael Edathil, and Rev. Fr. Jerry Mathew were the concelebrants. The homily was given by Bishop Stephanos regarding the life in the early church and the lessons we can take away

from their example.

Following the Holy Qurbano, a brief meeting was held in which Msgr. Peter Kochery, the Vicar General of the Eparchy, felicitated the Bishop and talked about the importance of the name "Stephanos." The meeting concluded with a word of gratitude from Bishop Stephanos in which he emphasized the importance of giving sufficient time for divine matters despite our hectic daily schedules. After the Sleebamuthu, a cake was cut by Bishop Stephanos surrounded by his flock. Around 70 people from various parishes attended the celebrations. Ad Multos Annos, dear Shepherd!

## **10th Malankara Catholic Convention registration kickoff conducted**



The 10th Malankara Catholic Convention registration kickoff was conducted at the conclusion of the Pastoral Council Meeting, held at the newly blessed and inaugurated St. Peter Syro-Malankara Catholic Church in Blauvelt, New York on Sunday, February 18, 2018.

His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos and General Conver, Very Rev. Augustine Mangalath presented the first convention registration form to the Pastoral Council Secretary, Mr. John P. Varghese at the conclusion the meeting.

The Eparchy Pastoral Council has been extremely busy since mid-January with planning and logistics for the upcoming Convention. Conveners and Secretaries of Program, Accommodation, Registration, Finance and Publicity committees presented to the Bishop and Pastoral Council members present draft or near-complete plans, forms, designs, budget, etc. His Excellency and Vicar General, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter Kochery thanked the team for the excellent, arduous voluntary work completed to date.

**Information and Registration link - <http://malankaracatholicna.church/convention-2018-main>**

## **Memorial Holy Qurbono for Most Rev. Mar Divannasios of Happy Memory**



A Memorial Holy Qurbono was celebrated for the beloved and late Most Rev. Geevarghese Mar Divannasios thirumeni on



January 17th Wednesday at 6:30 P.M. at Elmont Cathedral. Our Bishop, Bishop Stephanos Mar Philipos was the main celebrant and the homilist. In his homily, Bishop Stephanos recalled the life and virtues of the late bishop. His Excellency emphasized the sagacious life, the humble dealings, profound intellect, and musical affinity of Bishop Divannasios. The Holy Qurbono was concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Augustine Mangalath, Fr. Noby Ayyaneth, Fr. Aloysius OIC, and Fr. Jerry Mathew. About 50 faithful came to the Memorial Mass to pray for the departed prelate.

## **Rockland Parish celebrates Inaugural Qurbono at the new location**



St. Peter's Syro -Malankara Parish of Rockland, NY was blessed with the realization of their long-term dream of owning a facility for worship and community fellowship. The facility, consisting of a church building and a separate building housing an auditorium and classrooms, was purchased on January 5, 2018. The inaugural Holy Qurbono was offered on February 18th by His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos.

Vicar Fr. Augustine Mangalath, and Fr. George Oonnoony were co-celebrants. At the conclusion of the ceremony, His Excellency congratulated the Parishioners for this achievement and thanked them for the significant sacrifices they made in labor, resources, and prayers. His Excellency also thanked Fr. Augustine Mangalath for his outstanding leadership and tireless efforts in executing the purchase transaction.



Fr. Augustine Mangalath, the vicar, and Mr. Mathai P. John, the Joint Secretary of the parish, offered words of gratitude to Bishop Philipos Mar Stephanos, Fr. Oonnoony, Rev. Sisters, and other guests who joined the community in this celebration. Fr. Augustine thanked Mr. Geevarghese Thankachen, who is a lawyer and fellow Malankarite from the Yonkers Parish, for his outstanding and voluntary legal service representing the church in the purchase transaction. He was presented with a plaque as a token of gratitude. They thanked the community members for their hard work in preparing the facility for conducting services. The outstanding leadership and services provided by the DM Sisters of our Parish in these efforts were acknowledged by both speakers.

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St. Peter's parish was established in Rockland County, NY on June 22, 2002, by the then Apostolic Visitor, Bishop Isaac Mar Cleemis our present Catholicos. The Parish held services initially at the Knanaya Catholic Center NY, and later on at the St. Joseph's Church in Spring Valley, NY. Both facilities were used on lease basis which limited the community's ability to conduct services and other activities outside of the lease agreements. Since the early days of the church, the community maintained a dream of owning a facility to overcome this limitation. This community, while relatively small in membership, demonstrated their strength in faith and fellowship in overcoming a significant financial hurdle for the acquisition of this facility. Their joy and sense of accomplishment were visible during the inauguration and, in the words of their Joint Secretary, they were proud to point to this facility and call it their own.

The Eparchy congratulates the Rockland parishioners and their eminent vicar, Rev. Fr. Augustine Mangalath, for their prayer-filled hard work and dedication that went into acquiring the new church and property.

## **Pastoral Council Meeting held**



The Pastoral Council was convened on January 13, 2018 to dis-

cuss matters related to the upcoming Syro-Malankara Catholic Convention in Stamford, Connecticut. This was the first Pastoral Council under the leadership of Bishop Philipos Mar Stephanos after becoming the bishop of the Eparchy. The Pastoral Council discussed the details of the venue and elected Chairperson and Secretary for each of the committees necessary for the planning and preparation of the Convention. 31 people including both clergy and laymen from various parishes across the United States and Canada attended this fruitful meeting. The bishop expressed his heartfelt gratitude to those who attended the meeting despite difficulties.

## New Eparchy Website Launched



In order to better reflect the elevated status of St. Mary, Queen of Peace Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchy, comprising of the territories of United States of America and Canada, the organization's official web domain name ("URL") has been changed from [www.syromalankarausa.org](http://www.syromalankarausa.org) to [www.malankaracatholicna.church](http://www.malankaracatholicna.church).

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With the approval of the Eparchy Bishop, His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos the Web Team acquired the new URL and immediately started the project plan.

Under the direction of Rev. Fr. Jerry Mathew, the Web Team comprising of Mr. Binu Abraham (Chicago), Mr. John Z. Thomas (NJ) and Messrs. John Ettikkalayil, Gijo George and Sunil Chacko (Cathedral) have built and transferred the relevant content to the new website. The website will be extensively used as a communication tool for the upcoming 10th Malankara Catholic Convention.

The Eparchy thanks the Web Team and Mr. John P. Varghese, Pastoral Council Secretary who was a consultant during the planning phase, and Mrs. Jenny Eapen, the graphic designer, for their dedication and hard work.

**Visit the new website - [www.malankaracatholicna.church](http://www.malankaracatholicna.church)**

# PARISH NEWS

## The Cathedral Parish

### Feast Day Wishes by Cathedral Parish



On January 8, 2018, a special Holy Mass was celebrated by His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos at the Cathedral as a part of Thirumeni's feast day celebration. Prayerful feast day wishes were extended to Bishop Stephanos by Cathedral Parish. On behalf of Parish, a token of love and appreciation was presented to beloved Stephanos Thirumeni after the Holy Mass.

### Feast Day Wishes by Eparchy

Feast Day celebration of Bishop Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos was also held by Eparchy level at the Cathedral on January 13, 2018. On behalf of Syro- Malankara Catholic Eparchy in USA and Canada, Msgr. Peter Kochery extended



prayerful and blessed feast day wishes to Stephanos Thirumeni.

### **Memorial Mass for Bishop Divannasios.**



A special Holy Mass was held at the Cathedral on January 17, 2018 in remembrance of His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Divannasios, the former Bishop of the diocese of Puthur and Bathery, who was called to eternal bliss on January 15, 2018.

The Holy Mass was celebrated by His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos. Priests and Sisters from neighbor parishes were also joined in the Holy Mass to remember the blessed life of Divannasios Thirumeni and to pray for the departed soul.

### **Parish Council for 2018**

The annual General Body meeting for the past year was held on January 28, 2018. The annual report and the financial statement for the year 2017 were presented by the Secretary and Treasurer respectively. New parish council members for 2018

took charge by taking the oath during the general body meeting.

### **Obituary**

Cathedral parish members Mrs. Mariamma Mathew and Mrs. Thankamma Mathai entered in to Heavenly abode on February 7 and February 11 respectively. Both of them were long time parish members who participated in parish activities. Let us pray for the departed souls and for the families in grief.

## **Calgary**

### **Parish Day Celebration**



We celebrated the Parish Day on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Fr. Yaroslav Dziuba, SDS, senior pastor of St. Joseph's Parish, Calgary was the chief guest of the event. To mark the occasion, the parish community staged various cultural programmes. The chief guest inaugurated the meeting and delivered a Christmas new year message. Delicious dinner was served to all the participants.

## **2018 Parish Council Calgary**

Mr. Philip Thuruthy (Secretary)  
Mr. Alex Kadakampally (Treasurer)  
Mr. Joykutty Mathew ( member)  
Mrs. Sherin ( member)  
Mr. Rupesh Mulackal ( member)  
Mr. Jon Thomas (Sunday school Principal)  
Mrs. Jithy Tony (MCYM )

## **Chicago**

### **Visit of Bishop Philipos Mar Stephanos**



In the month of January, St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church in Chicago was blessed with the first visit of H.E. Most Rev. Dr Philipose Mar Stephanos. His Excellency spent a week with the faithful. During this time, he visited many

families.



His Excellency was able to meet with Cardinal Cupich of the Archdiocese of Chicago. The meeting was to thank His Eminence for all his support and to show appreciation for his assistance in transferring the property title to the church. During his stay, Pithave also spent an evening with the youth, hearing their concerns, hopes and dreams for the church. The youth were extremely grateful for this time together.

The faithful also remembered H.E. Most Rev. GeeVarghese Mar Divannasios, who passed away in January during Holy Qurbono.

The Sunday School conducted their midterms in January.

February 4th, the church celebrated Catholicos Day and the new parish council members for 2018 took their oath before the church. The previous council presented the accounts and reports to close out the previous calendar year.

As with the beginning of the Lenten Season, each Friday the

faithful meet to do Stations of the Cross, and celebrate Holy Qurbono.

Praying that we all prepare our hearts for a wonderful Lenten journey this year!

## **New Jersey**

### **2018 Parish Council Assumes Office**



The newly elected Parish Council members and other ministries members, listed below, were sworn in during the Holy Qurbono on February 11, 2018.

Secretary - Mr. Philip John

Treasurer - Mr. Thomas K. Thomas

Principal - Mr. Sunny Thomas

Pastoral Council Representatives - Messrs. Jacob Punnoose & John P. Varghese

MCA President - Mr. Ansel Vijayan

Mothers Forum President - Ms. Rosy Mathew

MCYM President - Mr. Deepak G. Thomas

Members - Mr. Binu George

Mr. Geevarughese Mathew

Mr. Antony Jacob

Mr. Simon George  
Ms. Rency John  
MCCL & MCYM Animator - Mr. Rens George  
Auditor - Ms. Betsy Mathews

The parish wholeheartedly thank the previous parish council members and other committees for a superb job for the completion of the church property acquisition and completion of the renovation of the *madhaba*, *azhikakam* and *hykala* last year.

### **Lenten Retreat Scheduled**

The annual parish Lenten Retreat this year will be conducted on Sunday, March 18 after the Morning Prayers & Holy Qurbano which starts 9:00 AM. The retreat talks will be given by Rev. Dr. Saji George Mukkoott, Pastor of St. Jude Syro-Malankara Catholic Parish of Philadelphia. Concurrent sessions are planned for youth and children. All are welcomed to join the solemn services and retreat talks.

### **New Members**

The parish family prayerfully and joyfully welcomes the newest members:

Feb. 7 - Micah Thomas Varkey, son of Mr. Jerry and Mrs. Gini Elizabeth Varkey

Feb. 8 - Sebastian Jeevan Thomas, son of Mr. Filbert and Mrs. Bonnie Thomas

### **Called to Eternal Rest**

Sri Rajan Varghese (66) father of Ms. Rency John (Mr. Philip John (husband), Rohan & Reuben (grandsons)) was called to



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the Lord on January 17.

## Rockland



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## San Jose

### **Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos Visits San Francisco Bay Area**

It was a grand occasion of abundant blessing and joy for St. Jude Malankara Catholic Mission, San Jose as Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos made his pastoral visit from January 22 – 28. Many families came up to the airport to welcome His Ex-



cellency. The humble shepherd was kind enough to visit many of the families and bless them. Needless to say, everyone was eager to welcome him and listen to him.

The highlight of His Excellency's pastoral visit was a solemn celebration of the Most Holy Eucharist with the people of God on January 27. The celebration began with a solemn liturgical reception at the main vestibule of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception church in Los Gatos. The secretary, Dr. Moni Mathew and The treasurer, Liji Mathew of the St. Jude Malankara Catholic Mission welcomed him with flower garland.

In his pastoral exhortation, His Excellency spoke about origin and uniqueness of the Malankara Catholic Liturgy, which traces back its heritage even to St. James the Apostle, the first bishop of Jerusalem. The celebration of the Holy Qurbano was a unique experience of the ancient Liturgy even to the parishioners of the St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church. The choir merits a big appreciation for making the Eucharistic Celebration a heavenly experience. During the Holy Qurbano two children received their 'first Holy Communion', which

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visibly witnessed the growth of St. Jude Mission in her faith-life.

The Bishop Mar Stephanos was in awe with appreciation for the fellowship he witnessed among the people and with their pastor Fr. Biju Varghese Daniel. Dr. Moni Mathew thanked everyone for the sacrifice, teamwork and enthusiasm, which enabled the successful completion of a week of parish life with the Bishop. His Excellency Philipos Mas Stephanos was welcomed by the parish of St. Mary Immaculate Church where he celebrated a Holy Mass in Latin Rite on 28 January at 7.30 am. In a special way he thanked Fr. Rick Rodoni the Pastor of the St. Mary of the Immaculate Church and its parishioners for the gracious support they provide to the Malankara Catholic Mission.

### **Volunteering at Sacred Heart Community Service**



On Saturday January 6th many parishioners along with the youth team and Fr. Biju Daniel Varghese, volunteered at the Sacred Heart Community Service Center. Sacred Heart Community Service is a local charity organization which provides



food and clothing to help and support the urgent needs of low income and homeless people in the San Jose area.

### **Prayer Meeting**

January prayer meeting was held at Saji & Anila's house and February prayer meeting was held at Philip & Sini's house.

## **Washington**

### **Parish Council Members 2018:**



The New committee members for the year 2018 were sworn in on February 11<sup>th</sup> 2018. The following are the committee members for Malankara Catholic Church of Greater Washington for the year 2018.

Secretary:	Mrs. Soji Papachen
Treasurer:	Mr. Lijo Philip
Pastoral council members	Mr. Jacob Thomas



Sunday School Principal:  
Elected Members:

Mr. Shaan Rajan  
Mrs. Tresa Daniel  
Ms. Jeena Devasia  
Mr. T.C Geevarghese  
Mr. Varghese. T. George  
Mrs. Anita Thomas  
Ms. Sarah Daniel

MCA President:  
Mothers Forum President:  
MCYM President:

### **MCCL Day :**



MCCL Day was celebrated with great joy on February 11, 2018 after the Holy Mass. We were honored by the presence of Rev. Mother Rose Francis on this occasion. The children of MCCL & Jesus kids showed their talents through group songs & Skit and other activities. They also presented their yearly reports.

### **Charity work :**

Under the leadership of Ms. Ashley George ,Jesus Kids made Valentine's Day cards for the children at the Children's National



Medical Center in DC. It was a great service done to the little ones during their recovery time.

## Yonkers

### New Committee sworn in



On February 4, 2018, the new parish committee members took the oath and assumed the Office. The new parish committee members are:

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Thomas Mathai - Secretary  
Jose Mathew - Treasurer  
Bryant Gheevarghese  
Jacob Mammen  
John Thomas  
Siby Kuriakose  
Michael Thomas  
Susan Mathew (MCYM President)  
Annamma Thomas (Mothers' Forum)  
George Kurian (MCA)  
Joseph Jacob (Sunday School)  
Philip Mathai (Pastoral Council Member)  
Thomas John (Pastoral Council Member)  
Philip John (Nominated Pastoral Council Member)


Saji Abraham and Antony Thomas were elected as the auditors. The parish wholeheartedly thank the previous parish council members and other committees for a superb job for the completion of the property acquisition, completion of the replacement of the roof, church painting, and progress made in the realization of having a parish hall.

### **Zoning Board meeting**

On January 16th, the Zoning Board hearing was conducted, the result of which was positive toward the parish in their effort to build a parish hall to accommodate a gathering space after the Holy Qurbano and for other communal activities.

### **Sunday School and MCYM**

The Sunday school midterm exam was conducted on January 14, 2018.



The MCYM elections were conducted on January 21, 2018 and the following youth were elected.

President- Susan Mathew  
Vice President – Rakesh Thomas  
Secretary – Basil Oommen  
Joint Secretary – Justin John  
Treasurer – Sonia Pappachan  
Web Coordinator – Joseph Jacob

### **Cleaning routine**

The parish started a cleaning routine in which the pious organizations and parish groups led the cleaning each week. The cleaning on the first Sunday of the month is done by the Sunday School children, the second by the MCYM, the third by Mothers' Forum, and the fourth by the MCA.

### **Prayer meetings**

There was a prayer meeting conducted on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at the house of Mr. John Joseph Koickel and family and on February 24, at the house of Mr. John Thomas and family

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# **10<sup>TH</sup> MALANKARA CATHOLIC CONVENTION**

**Information and Registration link -**

**<http://malankaracatholicna.church/convention-2018-main>**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS AND OCCASIONS**

**40th Friday - March 23, 2018**

**Feast of Annunciation/Palm Sunday - March 25**

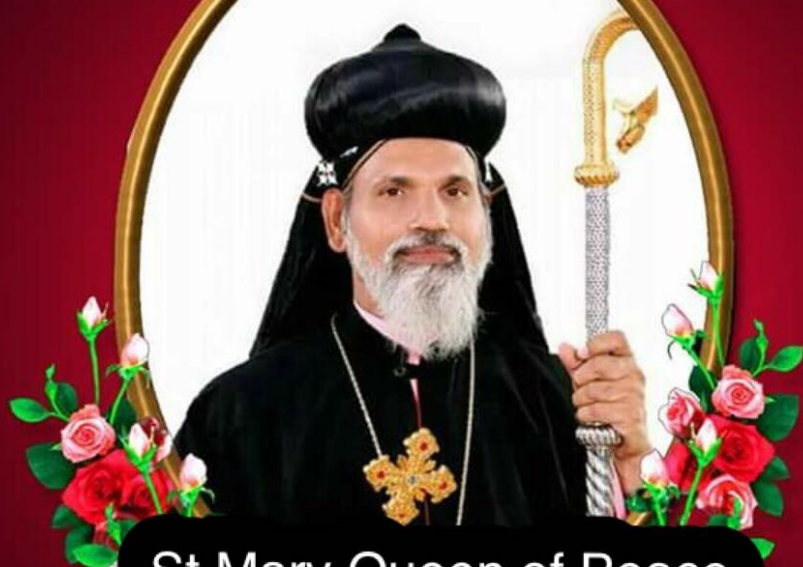
**Good Friday - March 30, 2018**

**Holy Saturday - March 31, 2018**

**Easter - April 1, 2018**

**Seminary Day - April 8, 2018**

**In loving memory of  
Geevarghese Mar Divannasios**



**St. Mary Queen of Peace  
Syro Malankara Catholic Eparchy  
In the USA and Canada**



