



BELIEVERS EASTERN CHURCH WORLD HEADQUARTERS

Office of the Metropolitan, St. Thomas Community, Kuttapuzha P. O., Thiruvalla - 689103 Kerala, India.

SHEPHERD'S LETTER

October/November 2024

Blessings and greetings to all the Archbishops and Bishops, Priests and Deacons, Evangelists and Order of Sisters, and all the Faithful of the Believers Eastern Church worldwide, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen! ✠

My beloved in Christ,

As nature has seasons, so does the Church. Our spiritual year, marked by fasts, feasts, and disciplines like prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, is designed to strengthen us into Christlikeness. As we read in Genesis 8:22: "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease." These seasons and practices are not burdens but blessings, helping us grow stronger and deeper in our faith and witness.

November marks the beginning of a new liturgical year, ushering in the holy seasons of Annunciation and Advent. This is an ideal time to reflect on the past year and set new spiritual commitments. Perhaps you've neglected Scripture reading, missed participating church, or fallen into spiritual laziness. Let's resolve to regularly attend Divine Liturgy, partake in the Holy Eucharist, and take family prayer seriously. Commit to engaging more actively in church ministries, using the gifts God has given you to build up His Church and share God's love with others.

Parents, I urge you to teach your children to follow the Church calendar. Their spiritual formation begins at home -- its their foundation; and it's crucial they learn to pray, fast, give alms, and live the faith from an early age. To the youth, I echo the words of St. Paul the Apostle: "Let no one look down on your youth," but instead be an example through your actions (1 Timothy 4:12).

As we enter this New Year of the holy church and in Christ, let's approach it not as a 'marker of time', but as an opportunity to rededicate ourselves. Our resolutions, unlike worldly ones, are rooted in God's grace and strength, not human willpower alone. Together, let's journey through the seasons, celebrating feasts with joy and observing fasts in humility and repentance, growing together as one body in Christ.

I join St. Paul in praying that you “...grasp how wide, long, high, and deep is the love of Christ... that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:17-19). May the immeasurable power of the Triune God that work in us, bring forth glory and honour in the Church and in the world through the intercessions of all the saints and the Holy Theotokos in and through our lives, now forever and ever. Amen ✠.

In Christ, your Father,



Moran Mor Samuel Theophilus
Metropolitan

Date : 25 October 2024

Place : World Church Headquarters

P.S: Please make sure this is translated into all regional languages and read in all parishes for the encouragement of the faithful.