



St. Mary, Queen of Peace Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchy in the USA and Canada

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Bishop of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchy of the USA and Canada

Circular 2/2020

Dear Rt. Rev. Corepiscopoi, Rev. Fathers and Sisters, and dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Cordial Greetings!

The whole world is in great fear of the outbreak of the Corona Virus (COVID 19) and its ramifications would be very severe and disastrous. In this critical situation, first of all, as true Christians let us turn to God in prayer and supplications. It is not the time to get panic but to behave with personal and social responsibility, scientific knowledge and wisdom. Let us place our trust in the Lord and follow the instructions of the civil authorities and health care experts in this matter. All curative and preventive norms are subject to local circumstances and conditions. Hence our Eparchy can only provide certain general instructions:

1. You are advised to conduct and promote prayers invoking God's mercy and love for his creation and humankind. Let us place our intentions in the Holy Qurbono, Eucharistic Adoration, Bible readings and meditations, rosary, way of the cross or in other personal devotions.
2. Since our communities are small, we shall celebrate Holy Qurbono in our churches, unless it is prohibited by the civil authority and local dioceses. The weak and old people shall not be encouraged to attend any common worship.
3. During Holy Qurbono avoid physical contact in giving the sign of peace.
4. The Holy Communion- the Precious Body of the Lord could be given in the hand.
5. Catechism Classes and Prayer Group gatherings stand cancelled until further notice. Date of Sunday School Examinations shall be fixed later.
6. All other gatherings of Pious Associations and Movements like MCCL, MCYM, MCA, Mothers Forum, etc., shall be cancelled.
7. The forthcoming Pastoral Council meeting to be held on 21st March and the planned Marriage Preparation Course shall be conducted online.
8. Further updates will be given later if there are any special instructions regarding the Holy Week Services.
9. You are exhorted to disseminate authentic information to our people regarding the epidemic and how to take care of personal and community health.

Wishing you all good health and the blessings of the Lord!

+ Philipos Mar Stephanos Thottathil

Dated March 12, 2020

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