



St. Thomas SyroMalabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago

372 S. Prairie Avenue
Elmhurst, Illinois 60126 - 4020
Ph: 630 279 1383, 630 279 1386 Fax: 630 279 1479
www.stthomasdiocese.org

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Dear and Rev. Fathers,

Glory to God in the highest. Amen

The whole world is under the threat of Corona Virus. Countries and Cities are announcing drastic measures to control the rapid spread of this deadly virus. Let us be prayerful and watchful.

We are bound to co-operate with the Federal, State and City directives regarding this COVID-19 Virus. Since our Diocese is spread out through the whole country, uniform guidelines will be difficult to be implemented. So, I would suggest that each Pastor/ Mission-Director may decide the guidelines with the consultation of the parish/mission council.

Retreats, Ward prayer meetings and faith formation Classes (CCD) can be cancelled. We do not cancel the Holy Qurbana on Sundays and weekdays since "the Liturgy is the Source and Summit of all Graces", but the aspect of obligation is removed for Sundays and Holy days during this period of emergency. Those who stay home can watch the Holy Mass in EWTN or Shalom TV. Those who have any sign of flu or cough, please refrain from coming to the church or any formal gathering. Healthcare employees are advised not to come to the church from their work- place directly.

Please instruct our faithful to pray fervently for the victims of Corona Virus and healthcare workers. Let us remember those who are in the field of research, that they may discover a proper remedy for this deadly Virus at the earliest. May the Lord strengthen all our people and let us be united in prayer to overcome this threat of Corona Virus.

"And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" Mt. 28:20

With love and prayers,

Mar Jacob Angadiath
Bishop

