



St. Thomas SyroMalabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago

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Circular No. 66/2020

March 6, 2020

Dear Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters and beloved Parishioners,

Glory to God in the highest, Amen.

We are in the liturgical season of Lent or Great Fast: a time of intense prayer, penance and reconciliation. Our humble prayers, small acts of penance and the good will to get along with everyone are great means to prepare for a blessed and a Holy Easter. Lenten retreats, special adoration of the Bl. Sacrament, and frequent reception of sacraments of confession and communion will strengthen us in our spiritual journey.

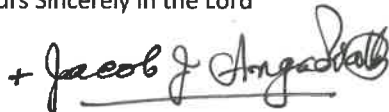
Now I would invite your attention to a serious threat to our lives, namely, Corona Virus (COVID 19), a deadly virus spread in more than 76 countries in the world. No immediate remedy is available now, So, Prevention is the only way to encounter this deadly virus.

First and foremost, let us lift our hearts and minds to God Almighty for his intervention to control the spread of this virus. May the Lord help our Scientists to discover proper remedy to this killer virus. During our Holy Qurbana and Family prayer, let us intensify our request before the Lord to wipe out this virus from the face of the earth. Timely care is needed to prevent the spread of this virus; so, the following guidelines are to be implemented immediately:

1. Pray earnestly everyday for the prevention of this corona virus.
2. Please devote next Friday, March 13, 2020 as a special day of prayer. If possible, fasting will make our prayers better heard by the Lord.
3. Try to minimize the physical contacts, since this is spread through bodily contact. Even at Holy Qurbana, for sharing peace, let us use our "Namaste" greeting style (greet each other with folded hands), avoiding handshake.
4. For Holy Communion, though double species sharing is ideal, for the time being, please distribute only the sacred Host and let it be received in the hand and consumed by the recipient. The communion ministers are reminded to wash their hands before and after the distribution of the Holy Communion.
5. Please keep our holy water fonts dry in the church at this particular time.
6. Those who have any symptoms of illness, please refrain from attending Holy Qurbana at the Church; let them stay home and attend the Holy Qurbana in the Shalom TV or EWTN.

These are certain precautions we need to take to protect ourselves from the viral attack of corona (COVID 19). Let us pray for all humanity everywhere to be safe from this viral infection. May the Lord bless you through the special intercession of Mary, Mother of God and St. Thomas our Father in Faith.

Yours Sincerely in the Lord



Mar Jacob Angadiath

Bishop

(Please read this circular at all Holy Qurbana in our parishes and missions on March 08, 2020)

