



St. Thomas SyroMalabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago

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Dear and Rev. Fathers and Parishioners

Glory to God in the highest. Amen

Your co-operation in implementing the health-care directives is very much appreciated. During this period of Lent, we are seriously challenged by the Corona Virus- COVID19- to engage in ardent prayer and fasting. Since there is no medicine to this Virus, at this point of time, the only solution is to keep ourselves away from any chance of contact with any possible agent of this Virus, people or objects. Please follow the instructions given by the health authorities. Be watchful and prayerful.

The President, Mr. Donald Trump, has declared an emergency of health- concern, regarding this Corona Virus and ordered not to have any gathering more than ten people. So, it seems impossible to celebrate Holy Qurbana in public. Dispensation from Sunday or Holy day obligation is already announced. Our priests will celebrate Holy Qurbana strictly in private in our own Churches. In our Missions, where Latin Rite Churches or other facilities are used, there will not be Holy Qurbana, until further announcement. Wherever Holy Qurbana is celebrated in private, it can be made available to our faithful through live stream.

Traditional practices held by our forefathers in such times of plague or epidemic can be introduced at this global threat of Corona Virus. Let the Lord help us. Eucharistic processions through the boundaries of our parishes can be arranged in the spirit of adoration, seeking God's blessing. Special prayers to St. Sebastian will help us to overcome the disasters of Famine, war and pestilence (പണ്ടത്തം, പട, വസന്തം). During this time of emergency alert, since more time is at home, it will be a great blessing for us and others, to recite whole Rosary (20 decades) or to read the Bible for an hour as a family event every day.

“The LORD is just in all his ways, merciful in all his works.

The LORD is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth.

He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.”

Psalm 145: 17-19

With love and prayers,

+ *Jacob Angadiath*

Mar Jacob Angadiath

Bishop

