



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

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**Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos Thottathil**  
**Bishop of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchy of the USA and Canada**

Circular 3/2020

*"Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name" – Psalms 91:14*

Dear Rt. Rev. Corepiscopoi, Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters, and Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

At present, the whole world is in agony and crisis emerging from the virus Covid-19. On this occasion, it is our sublime duty to take extreme caution and to extend the best cooperation to the government and health care departments in containing this pandemic. Hence, I bring to your kind attention, the following instructions:

1. Please encourage our faithful to engage in personal prayers for God's gracious intervention for the safety and protection of the entire creation, and humankind.
2. This grave situation leads us to reaffirm our faith in the power of God and not in human powers and capacities.
3. Please do not make any compromise in following the instructions of the civil authorities regarding the control and prevention of the virus and the disease.
4. Considering the gravity of the situation, all the common worship, Sunday Holy Qurbano, Sunday School, and gatherings in our churches are suspended until further notice. However, funeral services may be conducted with limited participants. Dispensation of Sunday Obligation is also granted.
5. The priests shall celebrate the Holy Qurbano privately for the intentions of the people.
6. The faithful are invited to receive Spiritual Holy Communion, reciting the prayer given at the end of this circular.
7. The Holy Qurbano will be live streamed from the Eparchial Cathedral in New York, on Sundays and the Holy Week services as well on the Eparchial Face Book Channael [@syromalankaracatholicna](https://www.facebook.com/syromalankaracatholicna).
8. Kindly join and promote the prayer chain of MCCL and Sunday School. You can join either by phone or by zoom 646-558-8656, PIN NO: 914-593-543#
9. As informed earlier, the Pastoral Council to be held on Saturday, March 21 will be conducted online and the Marriage Preparation course (Pre-Cana) to be held on March 21-22 will also be conducted online.
10. Once again, I remind you to follow the instructions of the local civil authorities and guidelines of the local Latin Bishops wherever we use the Latin Facilities.

Invoking God's blessings,

+ Philipos Mar Stephanos

Dated March 18, 2020.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

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