



## IMMANUEL MAR THOMA CHURCH, HOUSTON

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Vicar

Rev. Abraham Varghese

Asst. Vicar

Rev. Saji Albi

**Dear Immanuel Family,**

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic. In this alarming situation, this is to let you know about the precautionary actions that we as the church need to take to prevent any possible spread of COVID-19, variant of the coronavirus.

Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan and Diocesan Episcopa Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Tirumeni has given clear instructions about the conduct of the worship services and Receiving of the Holy Communion through Kalpanas. In the light of that Kalpanas, let me inform the following things keeping the common good of the parish in mind.

- On March 15, 2020, we will only be having English Ordinary Divine Service (Matins Service) at 10.00AM instead of Holy Qurbana Service.
- Sunday School classes on March 15 & 22, 2020 is cancelled. We are cancelling the "kids day out" scheduled on March 21, 2020.
- We are cancelling the lent prayers, YFF and Yuvajanasakhyam Cottage Prayer meetings of this month.
- People who do international travel and cruise are requested to remain home, if you find yourself developing fever-like symptoms.
- Every one irrespective of age are vulnerable to coronavirus. But, older adults, people who have serious chronic medical conditions, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic kidney disease and cancer etc. are in higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. Stay home if you feel unwell.
- Please carry a pocket-size hand sanitizer with you if possible, when you come to church. The best way to protect yourself against COVID-19 is by frequently cleaning your hands.
- The passing of the kiss of peace can be done by showing a "NAMASTE" rather than making physical contacts.
- Let us together cryout for God's continuing mercies on our human race. I request all the church members to **set apart a time for prayer from 6.00 Am -6.15 Am and 8.00 Pm - 8.15 Pm every day.**

This is not a time to get panic, but to do everything reasonably and maturely to tide over this crisis in our time. Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:"  
Isaiah:59:1

"Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand"(Isaiah 41:10). "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear..." (Psalm 46:1-3)

Kindly do not spread any kind of fake news or the news which we are not sure about its authenticity.

Appreciate your patience and understanding.

May the healing power of God be with you all.

Yours in His Mission,

Rev. Abraham Varghese, Vicar.

Houston

March 12, 2020

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**"GRACE UNLIMITED"**