



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

Prot. No.83/2021

August 20, 2021

Circular

Dear Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters and Parishioners,

Glory to God in the highest. Amen

Still we are in the waves of Covid-19 epidemic. Here in the USA and in Kerala, India, it is not yet fully controlled. Though most of us have been vaccinated, still precautionary measures, like wearing masks in public places, are helpful to protect from Covid-19. Let us continue to pray earnestly that this epidemic be brought under control everywhere.

I would invite your attention to the following events:

1. Selection of New Parish Council, Kaikarans and Pastoral Council Members:

Due to covid-19, we had extended last year the term of the existing parish council, Kaikarans and pastoral council members, one more year. Now the time has come to select new parish council members, Kaikarans and pastoral council members. For the year 2022-2023 please follow the guidelines given in our Procedure Rules of the diocese. Please complete the selection process at every parish and mission before December 10, 2021. And send the list of new parish council members, Kaikarans and pastoral council members to the Diocesan Curia for approval before Dec. 20, 2021. Please see that the installation of new office-bearers will take place on or before January 31, 2022.

2. Catechism Classes:

Last academic year, we could not do 'in person' Catechism classes but only 'online' classes, except a few parishes. I take this occasion to appreciate our diocesan catechism director, all faith formation directors, all teachers of catechism, and all parents and children for accommodating to the new device introduced as 'online' classes.



St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago

This academic year, 2021-2022, let us try our level best to have 'in person' faith formation classes. To keep safe distance among the students in their class-rooms we may not have enough spaces in our parish/missions. Shift-system may be an option in some places. Always, follow the guidelines given by the local govt. officials regarding Covid-19 prevention. The use of masks is highly recommended in our churches and faith formation classes,

3. Catechetical Sunday:

Every year we observe third Sunday of September as the Catechetical Sunday. This year it falls on September 19, 2021 In spite of Covid-19, let us have some special events to make this day special.

4. Life Sunday:

The first Sunday of October is always held as Life Sunday. This year, it comes on October 3, 2021. Life is the greatest gift of God and hence let us protect and respect life from conception to natural death. Sexuality is a sacred responsibility entrusted to humanity to continue on the face of the earth.

5. Priests Retreat and Presbyterium

As it was announced we will have our annual retreat and Presbyterium of our priests on September 19-24, Sunday to Thursday, 2021. Our retreat Master will be Rev. Fr. Jose Panthaplamthottiyil CMI. All our priests please register for this event prior to September 10, 2021. We have to give exact number to the Retreat center. Let us remember all our priests and our diocese in our prayers.

May the Lord bless you all

+ *Mar Jacob Angadiath*

Mar Jacob Angadiath

Bishop, St. Thomas Syro Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago



(Please read this circular on next Sunday, 22 August, during all the Holy Qurbana in our parishes and missions.)