



**ST. MARY QUEEN OF PEACE
SYRO-MALANKARA CATHOLIC EPARCHY
IN THE USA & CANADA**

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Office of the Bishop

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Circular 2/2022

**Dear Rt. Rev. Corepiscopoi, Rev. Fathers and Sisters, and Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Cordial Greetings to you!**

The Season of Great Lent has begun. All the Scriptural readings of this Season are invitations for our personal conversion and revival in Christ. The event of the miracle of Cana which we listen at the beginning of the Great Lent reminds us that the Grace of Lord Jesus Christ must constantly refill our Christian life. The healing miracles of Our Lord are presented to us on the Sundays of this Season. They tell us of our weak and sinful spiritual and moral situations. The healing intervention of Jesus speak volumes also about the contemporary human physio-psycho-spiritual related crisis and challenges. The whole humanity needs healing and liberation. Jesus is inviting us to be converted to Him and be healed, sanctified, and redeemed. He offers us new energy and vitality. Therefore, let us resolve to renew and follow Jesus during this Season of Lent.

The Church and spiritual teachers offer various methods, effects and fruits of the observance of Great Lent. In our journey of life in Christ, special Lenten prayers, fasting, common and personalized abstinences, special spiritual exercises and practice of virtues and acts of charity, will ennoble our Christian character and enhance our spiritual investment and happiness. May this Season of Lent lead us to new dimensions in our relationship with God, one another, and the world, in our pursuit for holiness and perfection.

The world is in severe crisis now. The current pandemic, global poverty, international conflicts, and war are matters of grave concerns. Holy Father Pope Francis has invited the entire church to express our sincere and prayerful solidarity with the suffering humanity, especially to pray for the suffering people in Ukraine. Let us join the Universal Church in praying for the immediate ceasefire and permanent peace in Ukraine. May spirit of reconciliation and peace prevail in our families, churches and among nations.

I wish to express my hearty congratulations and prayerful best wishes to the newly elected Parish Council members and Eparchial Pastoral Council members. The inaugural meeting of the newly formed Eparchial Pastoral Council will be held **online** on **Saturday, April 2nd, 2022**. Details of the meeting will be communicated to the members soon.

The annual retreat of the priests of our Eparchy is planned to be held between **September 26-30, 2022**, at the Salesian Retreat Centre, New York. All priests serving in our Eparchy are obliged to attend this important retreat and meeting. Parishes/missions are requested to pay for the expenses of retreat registration and travel.

With prayerful best wishes and blessings,
In Jesus Christ,

Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos

Dated: March 1, 2022

NB. This circular is to be communicated to all the members of our parishes/missions.

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