



Dearest Family and Friends of St. Sharbel Church,

You are now all fully aware of the worldwide epidemic we currently face. Churches, schools, and establishments throughout the State of New Jersey are developing contingency plans to ensure peoples' continued safety. The health and welfare of our parishioners continues to be our first priority in the wake of the evolving situation around the coronavirus (COVID-19). In order to best prepare for all outcomes regarding the potential impact of the coronavirus on our community, we are in the process of making revisions to our church's calendar of events. **As of today, all MCF and Arabic classes will be canceled for the month of March.** We will continue to monitor the situation as time progresses and will determine if additional precautionary measures should be made.

In the meantime, we encourage all to do your part in preventing the spread of the virus:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and help young children do the same. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Wash your hands especially after coughing and sneezing, before and after caring for an ill person, and before preparing foods and before eating.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact (such as kissing, sharing cups, or sharing eating utensils) with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as cell phones, remotes, toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick
- Stay home when you are sick, except when you need to get medical care.

Let us remain vigilant, let us stay safe and healthy, and most of all, let us continue to pray for a swift end to this emerging virus.

"Saint Sharbel, through your intercession, we beseech you to assist those all over the world who are suffering from the spread of the coronavirus, that they may find comfort through their difficulty and imminently obtain reestablishment of their health, Amen"

I remain your servant in Christ,

Fr. Simon El-Hajj