



COPTIC ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE
CHURCHES OF CHICAGO AND AFFILIATED MIDWEST REGIONS

Πατριάρχης ἱεραρχία ἰεροσόλων
Μετὰ ἀποστολὴν ἐκ τῆς ἑλλάδος καὶ τῆς ἀνατολῆς
ἐκ τῆς ἑλλάδος καὶ τῆς ἀνατολῆς ἐκ τῆς ἑλλάδος

*"Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father... "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him."
(Joh 4:21-23 NKJV)*

Saturday, March 21st, 2020

To our Beloved in Christ in the Region of Chicago and the Affiliated Midwest Regions,

Grace, peace, and love to be multiplied to you all.

Today, H. H. issued a decree specified that: "...our churches abroad should follow the regulations by the responsible authorities...", also few minutes ago Mr. President Donald Trump in the news conference he expressed his appreciation for the religious leaders who suspended the services, and have it online only, as an effort to help in our fight against the spread of Corona virus.

Based on the directions of H. H. and the recommendations of the president, and his health professional team, we found our duty to comply and thus suspend all services (liturgical or otherwise) up to Tuesday April 7th 2020 for the churches of Chicago and Affiliated Midwest Regions. In doing so, we are doing our part to help the country combat this pandemic.

For our congregation in Illinois please follow Governor Pritzker's Executive Order No. 8, which was issued on Friday, March 20th, 2020 regarding the shelter-in-place order, and refrain from all social gatherings to limit the spread of the virus.

We encourage all our congregations to "submit to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake" (I Peter 2: 13) as befits Christians who are good citizens and responsible members of their communities.

During these difficult times, the church shall continue to serve you all through whatever remote means possible. Most importantly, it is critical for all families to provide spiritual nourishment for their households as they gather around their family altar in the home.

Let us all pray to the Lord that, in His great mercy and compassion to lift His wrath from the world, may He remove all sickness and suffering, and teach us to value life and health as gifts from Him. May He grant us His peace and fill our hearts with unflinching faith in His protection, hope and help and love for Him and our neighbor. To Him be all glory honor and majesty forever and ever. Amen.

Love

Fr. Samuel Thabet Samuel

Vicar of the Churches of Chicago and Affiliated Midwest Regions

