

# ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

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NEWS BULLETIN

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DEC 2019

*Dearly Beloved,*

*Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ !*

*At the outset, let me express deep joy on joining the St Gregorios Orthodox Church of Toronto and to serve the vibrant community of faithful. May I thank Hg Dr Zachariah Mar Nicholas Metropolitan for His Paternal care and affection in putting trust on me. I do thank the Diocesan Office, Diocesan Secretary and all the Achen for their warm welcome to the fraternity. I would also wish to thank Honorable Treasurer, Secretary, MC Members, Spiritual Organisations and all the Members of the Parish for their wonderful gestures of welcome, hospitality and care. Above all, I do thank The Lord for giving this opportunity to serve at this beautiful place of worship. Salute all our Clergy and Laity predecessors for their unforgettable efforts in bringing in all the facilities and growth we have ! Our Church is of high Aesthetic beauty and Serenity. We are a real blessed community to have the unceasing intercession of our Patron Saint Mar Gregorios of Parumala.*

*The Feast of Nativity is approaching. We all say, 'it's the most wonderful time of the year'. We know why ? Because it's about 'Love' coming unto everyone, from the high to the low. It should always be like that. Love should be proven or revealed through acts of care. Every human in the world look for it desperately. Think, we have a perfect system for everything, and if Love flows through, how beautiful the life would be ??? In offices, admin rooms, work place, public space, platforms for interactions..... One would never lose job, never be treated bad, never feel excluded or isolated... Love includes everyone, everything... Nativity points to allowing Love and Care through which every decisions and actions be taken, viewed and executed.*

*It's God's tenderness touching every creation to transform and to revive. Let Love Prevail ....! May we all be blessed by the coming of Christ the saviour and be empowered by realising the fact that God Loves us unconditionally. How could then we be conditional in accepting and respecting our brothers and sisters ? !! When we pray "Our Father", it reminds us that all on earth are none other than 'Awesome Siblings' !!!*

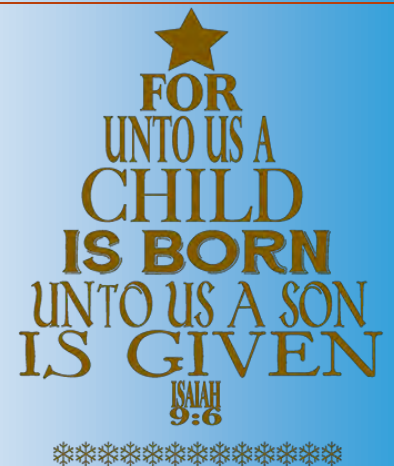
*Let us rejoice !!! Let us celebrate !!! Let us be there for each other !!!*

*Joyous Christmas & Graceful New Year !!!*

*O Come.....!!!*

*Thank You, God Bless !*

*Yours Thomas John Achen*



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## **From the Office of the Parish Managing Committee**

### **Announcements**

We sincerely thank our Diocese Metropolitan His Grace Zachariah Mar Nicholovos and the Diocesan Office for the support and guidance in ensuring the smooth functioning of our parish. Our new Vicar, Rev. Fr. Thomas John, celebrated his first Holy Qurbana at our parish on Sunday, 1st December. We also express our sincere thanks to Rev. Fr. Mathew Thomas for serving as our interim Vicar from 22nd August until 30th November, and all Achen's including Rev. Fr. Sam Thankachan for leading the congregation in offering Holy Qurbana worship services.

The 117th Memorial Feast of St. Gregorios of Parumala, the Patron Saint of our Church, was celebrated from November 1-3. Rev. Fr. Mathew Thomas and Rev. Fr. Sam Thankachan led the congregation in Perunnal worship services.

Contribution list and Cash Flow statement as of November has been published on the Notice Board. The Parish Managing Committee thanks everyone for their support. Please note that Titus Vaidhyan will be officiating as acting Trustee until parish trustee Shibu Cherian returns back on 6th January 2020.

### **Birth Announcements**

**Congratulations to Rev.Fr. Sam Thankachan and Jithika Sam on the birth of their daughter, Naomi Sara Sam born on Nov 7th .**

### **Sunday School**

1. Our Church was well represented at the North East Diocesan Talent Competition held on October 26, 2019 at New York. Lian Gijo won 3rd Place in Group 4 English Elocution and Tricia Vaidhyan won 1st place in Group 7 English Solo Song.
2. Centralized Exam Awards were given at the Talent Show for students who ranked 1 to 5. Grade V Catherine James ranked 3rd; Grade 8 Chris Daniel ranked 2nd and Alvina Samson ranked 5th; Grade 10 Linda Cherian ranked 3rd.
3. Sunday School Calendar for 2019-20 is attached for students and parents reference.
4. The Sunday School Church level competition registration form for 2019-20 will be available from December 1st with Ceeja Vaidhyan. All students are encouraged to register by December 31st.

### **OBITUARY**

- 1) Condolences to the family of Mr. Mathew Planthara and Mrs. Gracy Mathew on the demise of Gracy's mother, Mrs. Aleyamma Cherian (87) on November 23rd in Kerala. Funeral held on Nov 24th at Elandu Kunnipuram Mar Ignathios Elias Simhasana Pally. May God almighty comfort the departed soul and console the bereaving family.
- 2) Condolences to Mr. George.T. Varghese and family on the passing away of his Father Mr.Varkey Varghese (97) in Kerala on Nov 10. Funeral held at Pampakuda Valiyapalli. May the God comfort and console the bereaving family.



## PARISH CALENDAR - DEC 2019

Dec 01, 2019

St. Mary's visit to Elizabeth

Dec 08, 2019

Birth of John the Baptist

Dec 15, 2019

Revelation to St. Joseph

Dec 18, 2019

Feast of St Thomas the Apostle

Dec 22, 2019

Sunday before Christmas

Dec 25, 2019

Yeldho / Incarnation of our Lord (Christmas)

Dec 26, 2019

Feast of the Glory of St. Mary, Mother of God

Dec 27, 2019

Feast Commemorating the Slaughter of the Infants by King Herod

Dec 29, 2019

December-29: First Sunday after Christmas  
(The Holy Family flee to Egypt)



**Christmas Service**

**DEC 24<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM**

**New-Year Service**

**DEC 31<sup>st</sup> 6:00 PM**

## PARISH CALENDAR - Dec 2019

**Christmas Program 2019 starts at 6:30 pm on Saturday, Dec 21st.**

### Sundays

Sunday School 9:00 am

Morning Prayer 9.30 am

Holy Qurbana 10.15 am

### (After Holy Qurbana)

Dec 1 Sunday OCYM

Dec 15 Sunday Marth Mariyam Samajam

Dec 22 Sunday Children's League



**Your trusted travel partner**

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR AMAZING STUDENTS**



21-Dec-19	Church Christmas Program
Dec 22-29, 2019	Sunday School Christmas Break
5-Jan-20	Sunday School Resumes
2-Feb-20	Mid Term Exams – Grades 5 to 12
16-Feb-20	Singing Competition
March 18-21, 2020	OVBS (dependent on Regional OVBS)
5-Apr-20	No Sunday School – Palm Sunday
12-Apr-20	No Sunday School – Easter Sunday
26-Apr-20	Drawing Competition (Grades JK to 4)
26-Apr-20	Essay Competition (Grades 5 to 12)
10-May-20	Bible Story/Elocution Competition
24-May-20	Bible Quiz
31-May-20	No Sunday School – Pentecost Sunday

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 2019-20 CALENDAR**

June 1-28,2020	Sunday School Registration for 2020-21
7-Jun-20	Grade 12 Centralized Exam
14-Jun-20	Sunday School Barbeque
28-Jun-20	Grades 5, 8 & 10 Centralized Exams & All Internal Exams
28-Jun-20	Last Day of Sunday School
13-Sep-20	2020-21 Sunday School First Day
13-Sep-20	2019-20 Sunday School Annual Day



# SANTHOSH MATHEW

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