

Dearly Beloved,

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

August 09, 2026, First Sunday after the Feast of Transfiguration

Scriptural Readings:

- OT: Deuteronomy 25:13-16, 1 Samuel 2:31-36, Ezekiel 7:1-4
- NT: St James 4:7-5:6, Philippians 4:8-20, Holy Gospel St Matthew 21:28-32

Holy Gospel: St Mathew 21:28-32

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; and he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ And he answered, ‘I will not’; but afterward he repented and went. ³⁰ And he went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the harlots believed him; and even when you saw it, you did not afterward repent and believe him.

Reflections:

Sons were the inheritors of their father’s property and belongings in the social setting of this parable. They were expected to look after everything in their father’s business. It is not by law or command, but by virtue of being children, they work for the family. It is by default they continue the legacy of their ancestors. The awareness of being the sharers of ownership and authority, they get to know the mind of their father and focus on their duties and responsibilities to sustain, develop and multiply their treasures. Here in this parable, father had to ask his sons to go and work in his vineyard. He might have noticed that his sons were not caring for their property. Hence, he had to ask them. Was it on the morning he went to ask them or was it time he was sharing his vision about his children when they matured? It could have been either a one-time seeking or he was mentoring them. In either case, he found his sons irresponsible and careless. Their responses made him upset and may have given him a feeling of futility about his life and the hard work he invested in his family, business and for his children. In such a situation, the disobedience of the children could be felt as a rebellion against their father.

Jesus on his post resurrection appearance, asked the disciples whether they love him than everything they had. Peter confessed his love above everything. May be because he was feeling so guilty and was realizing his big failure by denouncing his master. They always had a life with everything provided by their Rabbi. They were happy to enjoy it. But when time came to prove their honesty and commitment, they failed and were like cowards, leaving him and feeling away to secure themselves. The question, do you love me’ is not just a query about some gestures of love, but about they truly want the person. Whether they would be with him even if he is in trouble and danger, or they truly care for him if he is in a situation he can’t be of any help or use to them. Being parents, they all go through such startling questions. Whether their children really want them once their needs are met and they become independent. Is it that children enjoy everything provided by their parents except their presence and guidance? They only need the material supply and are unwilling to bear the responsibilities towards their parents? We hear a lot of stories about abandoning parents in their times of need. Who wants an ailing parent? What is love? What is the actual inheritance? Only money and materials count? Relationships have no sustainability? If that

was the case, why the Lord had to heal the one who was in bed due to stroke for thirty-eight years, the crippled woman, lepers, born blind, demon possessed, and even the dead and decayed? Who wanted them? They were all almost disowned and unwanted. The Creator wanted them, he loved them, he voluntarily healed and redeemed them. He took the responsibility of bringing them back to social life. His love is free and voluntary. He wants the same practiced by his children. It is not by commands or laws, one should serve the Lord and Master, the Heavenly Father. It is not to be under pressure; one should be dutiful and responsible. The whole universe is the father's vineyard. Everything we do should be our true expression of our genuine, unpolluted, non-hypocritic love towards our Father in Heaven. It could be space science, state governing, family caring, IT or AI, art or culture, faith or charity, whatever be our role and job, it should be our work in His Vineyard. The heavenly Father expects dedication and commitment in everything his children do. What we hear as his command to 'Love Lord God with full heart and full spirit and love each other' is not to be understood as law or command but as the longing of the heart of our loving father. What we do out of love would be enjoyable and exciting always. Our work and faith practices are to be thrilling and refreshing by making them out of true love towards the Lord. We never feel fed up in life. We never give up. We never leave. It is what is called Eternity, that lasts forever!!!

FEASTS AND REMEMBRANCES:

- August 06, HG Alexios Mar Theodocius Metropolitan, 61st anniversary, entombed at Bethany Asram Perunad, Ranny
- August 07, St Demetrios of Thessaloniki
- August 07, Rev Fr Yaunan (Anchalachan)

Obituary:

Sasha A Pajic

With deepest grief and sorrow, we express our heartfelt condolences on the unexpected passing away of Miss Sasha L Pajic, aged 21 years, beloved daughter of Dinisija L Pajic (Dan) & Betty M Pajic (Dir Ref D 04), beloved sister of Thomas M Pajic, and granddaughter of Mathai V Kurian & Annamma Kurian (M 05) on Sunday Aug 02 at 01:00 am.

We invite all family members, relatives, friends, and faithful to join us in prayer as we commend the soul of Miss Sasha A. Pajic into the loving hands of our Lord.

Funeral Service Schedule:

Funeral Home Address:

Pine Hills Cemetery and Funeral Centre
625 Birchmount Rd,
Scarborough, ON
M1K 1R1

Sunday, August 9

2:00 p.m. – Private Viewing

- Hymns and Holy Scripture Readings

3:00 p.m. – Second Order of Service

3:30 p.m. – Eulogies, Tributes, Hymns, and Musical Selections

5:00 p.m. – Third Order of Service

6:00 p.m. – Dispersal

Monday, August 10

10:00 a.m. – Opening Prayer

- Hymns
- Holy Scripture Readings
- Eulogies and Messages

11:30 a.m. – Fourth Order of Service

12:00 p.m. – Tributes by Immediate Family Members

12:30 p.m. – Final Rites

- Veiling
- Anointing with Holy Oil
- Offering of Frankincense and Soil
- Completion of the Funeral Service
- Vote of Thanks

1:00 p.m. – Procession to the Cemetery

- Offering of Incense
- Floral Tributes
- Final Prayer
- Interment
- Benediction
- Dispersal

“Memory Eternal!”

May the Lord grant rest to the soul of His departed servant, Sasha, in the place where the righteous dwell, and may He comfort her family and loved ones with His peace and unfailing love.

Aleyamma Mathew (Gracy)

We express our deepest condolence on the passing away of Aleyamma Mathew (Gracy), aged 67 years, the beloved elder sister of Mariamma Thomas (Sally), sister-in-law of Thomas Kandathil Mani (Dir Ref T 05) on Monday Aug 03 at 09:00 am IST. The funeral service was conducted on Thursday Aug 06. Thomas Mani & Mariamma have managed to travel to India to attend the service. We keep the departed souls and family members in prayer. May the compassionate Lord comfort the departed soul and strengthen the family members.

Upcoming Feasts & Events:

- August 01-15, Lent of Theotokos and Feast of Dormition
- August 07, Friday, 06:30 pm Evening Prayer, 07:15 pm Hymns, 07:30 pm Meditation, 08:00 pm Intercessory Prayers of Mother Mary (Organized by SDOF)

- August 14, Friday, 06:30 pm Evening Prayer, 07:30 pm Devotional Address, 07:45 Benediction & Nerchavilampu
- August 15, Saturday, 09:00 am Morning Prayer followed by Holy Qurbana, Intercessory Prayer, Holy Procession, Benediction and Nerchavilampu
- August 15, India Independence
- August 30, Sunday, Onam Celebrations, Onasadya
- September 13, Sunday, Parish Semi Annual GBM
- September 14, Feast of the Cross (Sleebe Perunnal)
- September 27, Sunday, Harvest Festival & Auction
- October 11, Sunday, Parish Night
- October 24, Saturday, OCYM Fest -Thaalam 2026
- November 07 Saturday & 08 Sunday, Feast of St Gregorios

Pray for Peace in the Middle East and Gulf

We are glad to hear about the peace agreement. We hope for peace and continue praying for peace and concord. Our prayers may work miracles through the Holy Spirit. May the governments and leaders join hands to reconcile and to bring an end to the war.

Attention Please:

Parking: Please be considerate while parking our vehicles, only park at designated space. Leave reserved lots for the intended and kindly park within lines and markings leaving enough space for others to open their doors without scratching or hitting nearby parked vehicles.

AREA PRAYER MEETINGS: Upcoming Prayer meeting schedules shall be updated soon.

FOR OUR ATTENTION & TO NOTE:

Children, please occupy front benches during our Liturgical Services.

Kindly avoid crowding at the back of the church.

For assuring safety and undistracted worship space, we request all our members to proceed to the front rows except those that are reserved for children when we enter the temple. It could be uneasy for our volunteers to guide them to the front during the service as it might cause distraction and noise. We avoid crowding at the entrance and stair areas due to safety concerns.

Please be considerate of our senior members to help them find seats or while they try to access the washroom. A slip or a hit should be avoided in any circumstance.

Please be watchful at the shoe rack area, which is also the entrance to both washrooms.

We request parents to attend to their children not to pull the alarm lever at the back wall.

Hand Waving Machine & Common Absolution Prayer for all communicants

A hand-waving machine has been installed at the church entrance to record the number of communicants. Those who wish to receive the Holy Communion are requested to wave their hand once at the machine upon entering the church.

Please note that the machine will be deactivated after the recitation of the Nicene Creed.

Absolution will be administered during the morning prayer.

WEEKLY IN-PERSON MEETINGS:

August 09, Sunday – in-person meetings/Events

. Meeting of all the spiritual organizational leaders and members after the refreshment, to discuss on the Parish Night 2026

LIVE streaming: All services are Live Streamed and are available.

Holy Liturgical Text for this Sunday

We will be using the Taksá of St Julius this Sunday.

May the Gracious Lord keep us from all evil and heal the entire world.

Next Week

August 16, Second Sunday after the Feast of Transfiguration

Scriptural Readings:

- OT: Exodus 23:20-27, Joshua 1:16-18, Hosea 11:1-5
- NT: 1 Peter 5:1-9, 1 Corinthians 10:8-13, Holy Gospel St Mark 12:38-44

Yours in Christ

Thomas John Achen

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