

## **Dearly Beloved,**

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

**June 14, 2026, Third Sunday after the Feast of Pentecost**

### **Scriptural Readings:**

- OT: Genesis 42:18-25, Judges 1:8-11, Jeremiah 2:35-3:5, Daniel 3:21-23
- NT: Acts 13:26-29, Galatians 6:10-16, Holy Gospel St John 6:35-46

### **Holy Gospel: St John 6:35-46**

<sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst. <sup>36</sup> But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup> All that the Father gives me will come to me; and him who comes to me I will not cast out. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me; <sup>39</sup> and this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up at the last day. <sup>40</sup> For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

<sup>41</sup> The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, "I am the bread which came down from heaven." <sup>42</sup> They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" <sup>43</sup> Jesus answered them, "Do not murmur among yourselves. <sup>44</sup> No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. <sup>45</sup> It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. <sup>46</sup> Not that any one has seen the Father except him who is from God; he has seen the Father.

### **Reflections:**

Jesus referred to himself as the bread. Not just regular bread, but the bread of life. We often refer to our work or our livelihood as our bread and butter. If this analogy is used for our general survival, then why can't Jesus be the bread of our life?! We can assume that people were ok with Christ being the bread. But the religious leaders could not accept Jesus as the bread from heaven. According to their ideals, anyone who used the name of God was committing blasphemy and sin. They harbored a fear about God, but this fear served no purpose. It may have helped people to keep away sin, with an equal distance from God as well. Other than that, this fear did not make any qualitative change in their behavior or life. They remained as they were - senseless about the struggles and needs of others, especially their own people. They only added burden to the people by enforcing laws in their daily life. Their faith was characterized by strong puritan approaches, rigid resolutions, lack of compassion, absence of care and making a show of righteousness.

Genesis' account of creation clearly teaches that God made human in his image and likeness. The religious leaders believed this concept as it was mentioned in the first book of the Holy Scripture – that God's image and likeness are from heaven, and not from the world. So, generally, all men and women are from heaven, created by works of love through the hands of the Father in Heaven. Even in that sense, what Jesus said had not to become a stumbling block for them to accept. The real problem was in the fact that they were ignorant or negligent about their origin in heaven. For this reason, the Father had to send His Only Begotten Son to the world to reveal to all – as to who they were and the purpose of each one's life. For them, true faith and blasphemy were separated by a thin line that was easily dissolvable. The leaders used this to target people who they found uncomfortable or threat to deal with. They also used this as a weapon against prophets. Jesus had mentioned this in his lamentation over the Holy City.

When power transforms into the bread of life, God and Love are either neglected or silenced. When religion is used for politics, all values may get abolished. Courtesy and modesty perish. Equality will no longer be practiced. There will be a distaste for virtues. If power play dominates within a family, a mother's hard work, sacrifices, dedication, care and availability for her family will never be counted. She will have to claim visibility, yet no one may notice her presence.

When power blinds people, relationships are weighed in terms of profits. Treason can be a daily thing in such a system. Anybody can be blamed for treason for annihilation. This is seen as happening in kingdoms, dynasties, and power establishments. Jesus' arrival with his mission of love and redemption was unlike any other leader's arrival. His power was expressed through His love, compassion, acts of healing and miracles. He offered Himself as the bread that gives life to everyone.

In a world where there was no life in things, Christ breathed life into everything. He resurrected all the souls who were dead in themselves, through His love. **Love is the bread of life.** Without love, no bread can give life. We receive the Holy Communion by acknowledging this mystery of love. We receive it not by law, but by love. We consume the love that He offered as a sacrifice for us, knowing that He called us to become that love. It should be for us to tell the world that we too can become the bread of life given to us by the Lord.

#### **FEASTS AND REMEMBRANCES:**

- **June 11, St Bartholomew the Apostle**
- **June 11, HG Simeon Mar Athanasius Metropolitan, 137<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at Puthenpally, Kottayam**

#### **Condolence:**

We express our deepest condolences on the passing away of Mr K J Thomas, beloved father of Rose Chacko and maternal grandfather of Sanjeev Abraham Chacko (Directory- S 22) on Tuesday June 09 in India. The funeral service will be conducted on Sunday June 14. Sanjeev and parents have managed to travel to attend the service. We keep the departed soul and the family in prayer. May the lord comfort everyone. We remain in the hope of resurrection and the new life to come.

#### **Welcome Newborn:**

We are delighted to share the glad news that Boby George and Jiby Boban (Directory B 24) have been blessed with a baby girl, Liana Sara George, on Tuesday June 09<sup>th</sup> at 07:00 pm. Both baby and mom are doing fine. We thank God for His wonderful gift. Congrats to the blessed parents and grand parents Boban Eapen & Sisily Boban! Welcome Liana to our community!

#### **OCYM Sports Tournament: It was Wonderful! Sincere thanks to all!**

The sports day organised by OCYM Toronto on June 07, Sunday was highly energising, fun filled, sporty, exciting and well engaging. Children got enough space and time to play and to make new friends. The event began with a table tennis match at the parish hall followed by volleyball, badminton and cricket at the Malton Park. Soft drinks and snacks were served to all. Everybody felt that such sports events must be organized more often. We appreciate OCYM for organising the tournament. Sincere thanks to the generous sponsors. Many thanks to all the volunteers. Thanks to all our members for their participation.

### **MGOCSM Canada 5K Walk: Saturday, June 13**

Please join the Fund Raiser Race / Walk scheduled to be on June 13, Saturday, at 11:00 am. Venue: Lake Aquitaine Park, 6655 Glen Erin Dr, Mississauga

### **Food & Clothe Donation Drive**

This year our church joined hands with the Coptic Orthodox Church to reach out to the needy. Our members supported this initiative by donating gently used clothes in good condition along with nonperishable food items.

The drive was conducted throughout the month of May. We may be able to visit our brethren in Toronto on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> June. All are welcome to join us when we distribute the donated items. Details shall be announced soon. Please keep the drive in prayer.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Diocesan Family & Youth Conference of Canada: Thursday, July 02-Saturday, July 04**

Preparations for the first Diocesan Family & Youth Conference of Canada, scheduled to be held at Georgian College, Barrie from July 02-04, 2026, are progressing well. The organizing team including the clergy, diocesan council members, spiritual organizations' leaders are working hard to make the event fruitful, beneficial and memorable.

Registration has crossed 170 before closing!

HG Zachariah Mar Nicholovos Metropolitan, Rev Fr Dr Timothy (Tenny) Thomas and Rev Fr Dr Abraham (Abey) George will be the main resource persons. Our families are encouraged to please assure full-time participation in the event. A registration campaign was held in our church. We keep the event in prayer.

For any enquiry, kindly reach out to Diocesan Council Members Manu Abraham and Vivin Thomas Vettiyil.

### **Pray for Peace in the Middle East and Gulf**

Situation in the Middle East seems to be getting more crucial. There is still high hope for peace. We continue praying for re-establishing peace and concord in the war affected lands and regions. 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.

### **UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS: Please note in your calendar**

- June 13 Saturday, MGOCSM Canada 5K Walk
- June 14 Sunday, OCYM Thattukada
- June 16-29, Feast of the Apostles
- June 19, MMVS Regional Prayer at 08:00 pm hosted by SGOCT. Please join online.
- July 02-04 (Thu -Sat), First Diocesan Family & Youth Conference of Canada
- Church Picnic: Saturday July 11.
- KCEF St. Thomas Day Celebration & Bible Quiz Competition, Saturday, July 18 from 4:30 PM-6:00 PM @CSI Church Toronto, 1315 Kipling Avenue, Etobicoke.

**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.**

**A few concerns:**

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 to 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 our parents to attend to our 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:****June 14, Sunday – in-person meetings/Events**

- Sunday School
- OCYM Thattukada
- MMVS Monthly Meeting

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

**Holy Liturgical Text for this Sunday**

We will be using the Taksa of St John the Evangelist this Sunday.

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

**Next Week****June 21, Fourth Sunday after the Feast of Pentecost****Scriptural Readings:**

- OT: Deuteronomy 33:23-29, Joshua 6:14-18, Hosea 5:11-6:1, Daniel the Younger 3:24-45, Isaiah 65:8-12

• **NT: Acts 6:1-7, 1 Corinthians 10:14-18, Holy Gospel St Matthew 14:14-23**

Yours in Christ

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Sent from my iPhone