

Dearly Beloved,

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

June 28, 2026, Fifth Sunday after the Feast of Pentecost

Scriptural Readings:

- OT: Exodus 23:14-19, Zachariah 6:1-8, Hosea 14:6-9, Isaiah 40:27-31
- NT: Acts 9:1-15, 2 Corinthians 5:14-20, Holy Gospel St Mark 9:33-41

Holy Gospel: St Mark 9:33-41

³³ And they came to Caper'na-um; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" ³⁴ But they were silent; for on the way they had discussed with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵ And he sat down and called the twelve; and he said to them, "If any one would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶ And he took a child, and put him in the midst of them; and taking him in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

³⁸ John said to him, "Teacher, we saw a man casting out demons in your name,^[1] and we forbade him, because he was not following us." ³⁹ But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him; for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon after to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰ For he that is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ, will by no means lose his reward.

Reflections:

Jesus was a family man without a family of his own. He, being the Only Begotten Son, older to all humans, took care of all of God's children as His family. Here, in the gospel text, we could see how wonderfully and tenderly He leads the disciples to Capernaum home! It was His own town, primary home, and ministry headquarters after he moved from his childhood hometown Nazareth. Here he called the disciples from their work and made them his companions. At the Capernaum synagogue he used to attend worship and deliver messages, especially "I am the bread of life" message. Because of the major international trade connection between Egypt and Syria and due to the town's seating at the seashore, it was possible for His preaching to be spread rapidly across the ancient world. Merchant caravans were the best carriers of His messages. Peter had his home in this town. For Jesus and His disciples, it was their haven although the religious people were not in acceptance of His teachings.

On their way, Christ sensed some arguments that the disciples were making. However, He did not want to scold them in public. Like a loving parent or elder, He preferred asking them more on this after they got to a private space. When they reached home, Christ allowed them to settle. He then called them to Him and enquired about what they were disputing. In their calm mind it was possible to disclose what they had argued about. They were aware that it was not anything He would be pleased about. They were embarrassed and somehow, feared His response. Hence, they maintained silence. Despite knowing their mind, Christ didn't get angry with them. How beautifully He handled the issue! Without losing much time, He decided to address the topic straightaway. Being the best Guru and mentor, He brought a child into their midst. We know how the presence of a child can transform a gathering. He didn't take a stick, as He never wished to hurt them. Rather He wanted them to mature by understanding various situations.

A family is to be run by love and care. Neither by money, extra provisions, nor by harsh treatment, strictness or manipulative behaviors. Christ behaved as a caring elder to everyone. He taught them everything they needed for the ministry through love and affection. He always took them with Him while assuring that their daily basic needs would be met, either by people's generosity or through His miracles.

We hear a lot of tips on efficient parenting. Christ set the best model by spending time with grownups and children alike, walking with them as one among them while talking to them in their language, bringing examples from their local life environment without taking an extra privilege. He limited himself to making them comfortable. He never hurt or humiliated them so that they never feel inferior or lose their confidence. All humans can err. No one is perfect. Anyone can make mistakes. Conflicts can occur anywhere, anytime. How do we deal with them?

Christ is the perfect example for us to follow. Try to understand human limitations and frailty. Avoid havoc and angry confrontations. Talk about issues in a private space with calmness and humility. Try our best to amicably and peacefully settle things to make life easier for others and for us. Blame and prejudice can harm any relationship. Disputes and arguments can kill the beauty of companionship and fellowship. Disciplinary actions may not bring a good conclusion always. Rather it may cause people to lose from our life and from community.

Jesus was Lord. But He never claimed himself as a perfect or righteous leader for people to follow. He even asked them not to call him good. He kept a low profile and preferred to give glory to His Father in Heaven. He was free of ego and self-claim. He wanted to establish the Kingdom where no sorrows and tears exist. To confront their ego and greed, Christ taught them the high value of offering a cup of water to the little ones. Where they were planning to build mansions, Christ taught them to quench people's thirst through a cup of water. Small things can transform minds and do wonders in life. Simple living can be more glorious than luxury and pomp. How beautifully Christ has invited us to be like innocent children!!! Who would not give it a try?!!! Let Thy Kingdom come, O Lord!

FEASTS AND REMEMBRANCES:

June 24, Birth of St John the Baptist

H G Zachariah Mar Nicholovos Metropolitan's visit to our Parish on Sunday July 05th

Our Thirumeni will be visiting us on July 05, Sunday. His Grace will travel back from the Family Conference venue to visit us. Thirumeni will be celebrating the Holy Liturgy at SGOCT. Please be aware that the morning prayer will begin at 08:30 am followed by the Holy Qurbana. Please join to welcome Thirumeni at 08:15 am at the church entrance.

Food & Clothe Donation Drive at Moss Park went well, thank you all

It was a gracious visit to our brothers and sisters in need. A few of our members joined us carrying the boxes to Moss Park. There we met volunteers from the Coptic Orthodox Church Mississauga. They had brought wraps, sandwiches, burgers and home-cooked meals. We had clothing and canned/packed food stuff. Due to soccer matches in town we expected traffic blocks and delays. However, we all reached the venue earlier than expected. Our team and the Coptic volunteers

pulled the food carts onto the streets to distribute to the hungry. At the serving spot, people came to take clothing and food. We spoke to them; they asked us to pray for them while they blessed us with prayers and benedictions in return. There were no faith or cultural barriers. To our surprise, nobody asked us for money. We felt that we should continue visiting the needy at various spots. In future it may be more useful if we could prepare food at church and take it during the visits. The Lord said, "For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ, will by no means lose his reward." It's a ministry we will be doing with the Lord. All spiritual organisations are requested to discuss about this and find ways to take up this mission. We sincerely thank our parish MC, organisations and all our members for supporting the drive and donating food and clothing. Sincere thanks to all who did the packing. Thanks to all volunteers who took part in dispensing the items at Moss Park.

1st Diocesan Family & Youth Conference of Canada: Thursday, July 02-Saturday, July 04

The first Family & Youth Conference of the newly formed Diocese of Canada is almost here. Those who have registered, please prepare to enjoy the camp. Please keep in prayer. Hope we all have got the tentative schedule of sessions.

Please pray for the camp leaders H.G. Zachariah Mar Nicholovos Metropolitan, Very Rev. Johns Abraham Konatt Reesh Cor Episcopa, Rev. Fr. Dr. Timothy (Tenny) Thomas and Rev. Fr. Dr. Abraham (Abey) George. 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

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.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS: Please note in your calendar

- **June 16-29, Feast of the Apostles**
- **July 01, Canada Day:** Canada Day is a day to reflect on what it means to be Canadian, to share what makes us proud and to celebrate in our own way. This pride is reflected in as many ways as there are Canadians. Canada Day highlights the richness of our land, our diversity, our culture, our contributions, but above all, our people. Since 1868, July 1 is an opportunity for Canadians from all communities to come together.

The creation of Canada Day: **July 1, 1867:** The [British North America Act](#) (today known as the [Constitution Act, 1867](#)) creates Canada. **June 20, 1868:** Governor General [Lord Monck](#) signs a proclamation that requests all Her Majesty's subjects across Canada to celebrate July 1. **1879:** A federal law makes July 1 a statutory holiday as the "anniversary of Confederation," which is later called "[Dominion Day](#)."

October 27, 1982: July 1, "Dominion Day" officially becomes Canada Day.

(Courtesy- Canada Day Official Website)

- **July 02-04 (Thu -Sat), First Diocesan Family & Youth Conference of Canada**

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 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 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.

June 28, Sunday – in-person meetings/Events

- Sunday School Convocation before dispersal– Mrs. Dalia Henein, the founder of St George Christian Academy will be our guest.
- SS Teachers Meeting after refreshment
- MGOCSM Monthly Meeting
- SDOF Monthly Meeting

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

Holy Liturgical Text for this Sunday

We will be using the English Taksā of Mar Ksosthos this Sunday.

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

Next Week

July 05, Sixth Sunday after the Feast of Pentecost

Scriptural Readings:

- OT: Exodus 30:34-38, Joshua 10:33-37, 2 Samuel 3:17-21, Isaiah 14:22-27
- NT: Acts 1:15-18, 1 Corinthians 8:1-8, Holy Gospel St Luke 13:22-35

Yours in Christ

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Sent from my iPhone