

Dearly Beloved,

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

October 04, 2026, Third Sunday after the Feast of the Cross

Scriptural Readings:

- OT: Genesis 42:18-21, Proverbs 1:2-9, Jeremiah 31:7-9, Isaiah 54:1-4
- NT: Acts 7:2-5, Romans 8:9-17, Holy Gospel St Luke 16:1-13

Holy Gospel: St Luke 16:1-13

16 He also said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a steward, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. ² And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.’ ³ And the steward said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the stewardship away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do, so that people may receive me into their houses when I am put out of the stewardship.’ ⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ And he said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ ⁷ Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ ⁸ The master commended the dishonest steward for his shrewdness; for the sons of this world ^[a] are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous mammon, ^[b] so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal habitations.

¹⁰ “He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, ^[c] who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³ No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” ^[d]

Reflections:

‘We give thanks to you O God that you have made us, who are but despicable dust of the earth, worthy of entering the place where dwells the Glorious Shekinah of your divine mysteries’. This is the prayer in the Sedro in the pre anaphora of the Holy Liturgy. This is how the church has taught believers to look at themselves to see for themselves as to who they are.

Jesus told the parable of two people praying, a Pharisee who speaks high of himself and a tax collector who humbles himself to the least. Each one’s prayer was different. One was filled with pride and the other flowed with humility. The humble confession was accepted over the haughty admission. Both took place at the same place and the same time; however, the difference in their attitude determined the Lord’s response to them

King David was the most glorious in Biblical history. He had everything one could ever dream of. But he had to plead with God, to not take away the Holy Spirit from him. He knew how as a young lad, almost the least expected candidate for kingship, through the sheer Spirit of God, he had become the most powerful king. He was aware about his littleness and the greatness that God added to him. He was honest and accountable to his Lord and Master when he was a child. The young David

had tasted God's power in the ordeal with a lion; God's power enabled him to win over the beast. He was anointed by the prophet when he was too young and when no one expected him to become king. Even the prophet was startled on seeing him. But God asked him not to look at his age, but to see his spirit. The act of anointing didn't fail. David made a kingdom for a 'no-people's.

After achieving great honor and power, David committed a grave sin. He plotted against his own soldier and had him killed to own his wife. Prophet Nathan was sent to him by the Lord to give him a story for him to judge on what he had committed. On realizing his unforgivable sin, David submitted to God in repentance. His words of surrender turned out to be the most earnest prayer of penitence, Psalm 51! Without this Davidic psalm, the church has no prayer, sacrament or feast conducted - baptism, wedding, house blessing, ordination, consecration, funeral, anointing, and the crown of all sacraments, the Holy Qurbana! It is to acknowledge the littleness of being human in front of God and the rest of His creation, before getting into sacramental administration. Each sacrament is about accessing the place where the Glorious Shekinah of God dwells and is kept open. Here, there is nothing to boast about and no claims are possible. Everything is out of His Grace only. When entering the temple, the faithful enters the Holy Space where Isaiah saw the flaming throne surrounded by heavenly hosts of various ranks, the whole place covered with the cloak and hem of the Most High. With that vision, a man of nothingness with sinful lips became Isaiah the Glorious Prophet. The glory attributed to him is the glory of God he had seen. If that vision is not there, everyone remains ugly.

Jesus was telling his hearers the parable of the dishonest servant who lavishly wasted his master's treasure and failed in looking after what was assigned to him. Maybe he was given only a part of the total wealth of the master, and the rest was looked after by other servants in their given space. If he could not look after a small portion, how could he be given more responsibilities? When he was caught, he used his wisdom to rectify his failures. He could have used divine wisdom before being tempted to live pompously and irresponsibly. It would have saved him from sinning. Christ teaches the clear distinction between children of this world (age) and children of light.

We are in the world but not of the world, is what the Lord said. We are just nothingness compared to the vastness of the universe and the magnanimity of God Almighty. However, God has given to our littleness His glorious Image and Likeness. Like David, we are elevated to high dignity and value through His Holy Spirit. He has earned us through his precious blood and his salvific suffering. We have been given a small portion of eternity in us for us to carry, to live, to experience and to look after.

Our accountability is to God. Whatever we have been given – our job, position, responsibilities and so on, all these are little things that God has entrusted us with from his vast treasures. He expects us to serve with truthfulness, honesty and accountability. We have been given His most precious Body and Blood. It is our duty to serve the Kingdom. As David feared, His Spirit may leave us if we forget our responsibilities and act cruelly toward our fellow beings.

The Anaphora begins with the kiss of peace when the celebrant ascends to the Durga, the Holy Step at the Altar for the liturgical offering. It is to remind us of our littleness and how graciously God has given us the right to become His children by reconciling with us, forgiving our follies and thus restoring our dignity. Each day with new grace God is giving us one more chance to rectify our wrongs, resume our duties and responsibilities, and to live as the children of light.

FEASTS AND REMEMBRANCES:

- September 28, HG Dr Philipose Mar Theophilos Metropolitan, 29th anniversary, entombed at Thrikkunnath Seminary Chapel, Alwaye
- October 01, Mar Adai, Mar Abhai, Mar Malke
- October 2, HG Simon Mar Dionysius Metropolitan of Karottuveetil, 138th anniversary, entombed at Kadumangalam Pally
- October 02, Gandhijayanti
- October 03, St Yaldo Mar Baselios Bava, 341st anniversary, entombed at Kothamangalam Cheriypally
- October 04, Vaidika Seminary Day

The Harvest Festival went well, sincerely thanking all!

Harvest Festival 2026 went well despite having less attendance on Sunday. We thought that without all our members joining in person, the auction would go low. To our surprise, those who attended the auction made every effort to support the parish's biggest annual charity fund raising. We managed to collect nearly the amount we raised in the previous year. Among those who were unable to attend in person, a few have e-transferred their contribution. We had everything arranged well to get to auction. Snacks were served before the start. The auction tables were well set with silk sarees and dhotis, branded sunglasses, veg and flowering plants, beautiful icons, gift and hand craft items, vegetables and fruits, cutlets, fish curry, a wide variety of pickles, perfume, shawls and clothing.

It has been our tradition to bring the first fruits as we had farming and cultivation as an inevitable part of our life for generations. By bringing the fruits of our labor, we acknowledge the grace and blessings of our Lord throughout our life and especially the current year. We pray that the Lord guides us to progress spiritually and to prosper in all aspects of our life in Canada. God bless this country and all its people. God bless our community, all our families, children and grandchildren.

With grateful hearts, we thank all our members, families, volunteers, committee members, and friends who came together to make our Harvest Festival such a special occasion.

Whether through generous donations, preparing food, assisting with arrangements, setting up and cleaning up, participating in the auction, making purchases, volunteering time, or offering quiet support behind the scenes, every contribution mattered. Each act of kindness, generosity, and service helped bring the festival to life.

The success of the Harvest Festival was truly a shared community effort, made possible by the time, dedication, teamwork, and goodwill of so many people. We are deeply grateful to everyone who played a part.

Thank you all for helping to create such a joyful and memorable celebration. May God bless you and your families abundantly.

Time Change: Sunday Morning Prayer starts at 08:30 am.

According to the Semi Annual GBM decision, morning prayer will start at 08:30 am on Sundays until a new decision is made.

UPCOMING FEASTS & EVENTS:

- October 11, Sunday, Parish Night. All organizations are requested to continue practicing for their presentations.
- October 24, Saturday, OCYM Fest -Thaalam 2026. Please look for updates.
- November 07 Saturday & 08 Sunday, Feast of St Gregorios

Pray for Peace in the Middle East and Gulf

The recent developments have caused more worries and fears about the long-lasting impact on life in the West Asia region. It has already affected thousands of people working there. Many have lost jobs, cost of living is going high with the oil price hike, companies are issuing termination letters, the situation is becoming scarier. We fervently pray for peace and cessation of attacks. Our prayers may work miracles through the Holy Spirit. May the Holy Spirit intervene and transform the minds of people in power.

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 MEETING:

If any family is willing to host prayer meetings, please reach out to the area coordinators or the parish office.

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.

October 04, Sunday – in-person meetings/Events

- Sunday School
- Parish Choir
- All Spiritual Organizations must meet after refreshments to practice for 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 Taksa of Mar Julius this Sunday.

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

Next Week

October 11, Fourth Sunday after the Feast of the Cross

Scriptural Readings:

- **OT: Numbers 29:35-30:1, 1 Kings 8:27-30, Zachariah 8:1-4, Isaiah 54:5-8**
- **NT: Acts 18:24-28, Colossians 1:21-26, Holy Gospel St Luke 12:13-21**

Yours in Christ

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