

**Dearly Beloved,**

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

**December 28, 2025, Sunday – Fleeing to Egypt, Yaldo Season**

**Scriptural Readings:**

- **OT: Genesis 21:8-13, 24:2-7, Judges 13:24-14:4, Zachariah 8:3-8**
- **NT: 1 Peter 5:5-11, Hebrews 3:1-6, Holy Gospel St Matthew 2:9-18**

**Holy Gospel: St Matthew 2:9-18**

**2** <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; <sup>11</sup>and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

<sup>13</sup>Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup>And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt have I called my son.”

<sup>16</sup>Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup>“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more.”

**Reflections:**

The Lord came to the world through many impossibilities. Nothing was in favor of His arrival other than the need for redemption of the whole creation. While everyone was in a state of fall, nobody was aware of it except the Creator. The world was a mess with greed, ambition, injustice, absence of values and virtues, lack of love and care. Such a distortion to the world was brought while there were kings and governments, religions and temples, laws and norms, leaders of power and abilities existed. Power and potentiality never really ensure a harmonious healthy living environment if they are not guided by Spirit and Love of God the Creator. When everybody wants to be assured of their own profits alone, a healthy coexistence is nearly impossible. People of power would use their potential only for their own sake. Such politics anywhere, in a country or in a religious setting, would lead to corruption, violation, injustice and absence of values. Every act of corruption could be vindicated by marking it as the reason for the security and well-being of state. Although a state may be secure, its citizens could be under threat and exploitation. Hence there have been various ideologies of a perfect state or kingship like Plato's Republic, Maveli Nadu', Utopia, meant to carry forward some hope through generations. One would wonder whether the Kingdom of God also falls in this category. One could think it was an idea of a community or of a specific 'people of belief'. Hence Jesus could have been viewed as a Messiah for His community

exclusively. He could be another deity among many.

The Holy Bible affirms that God created everything. He is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He reveals Himself to the entire creation. Throughout history, He has guided and saved His children. The angelic announcement, 'Joy to the world' was about a universal Messiah who would bring redemption to the whole creation. The Feast of Pentecost, through the revelation of the Holy Spirit, confirmed that anyone of any language and culture was eligible for salvation. The Holy Spirit, working through many tongues was proof to this universal salvation. Nobody was restricted from receiving the Spirit of God. Because God created everything, He had to incarnate to save everything. His identification was with all kinds and categories of life. At His birth, all strata of life were well-represented. Angels of Heaven, stars of galaxies, livestock, shepherds of low profile, wise men of elite-rich-powerful, Mary and Joseph who came together for a divine purpose! Each of their own seemed as if lacking somewhere but in coming together at His nativity, the landscape was now complete.

Christ is Cosmic and the Lord of the Universe. All revelations in any culture revealed one God of All. He is Love. He is Empathy. He is Holy. The same sin seen in Eden has played as a reason of rejection of God in history everywhere. It was the human will's desire to become God. Wherever they wanted to rule, they were unable to submit to the Creator God though they used the name of God for their actions that killed innocents. So much was the human greed, that they could justify in reaching out for any forbidden fruit to replace God and to instate themselves in His place. In the name of God, the worst massacres have been executed. The current world is witnessing it and is staying inactive without doing anything to address such evil schemes and actions. There are louder cries than what was heard in Ramah. Bombings, wars, rapes, exploitations, assaults in public or in domestic spaces, exclusivism, wrong policy decisions, the cruel allowing millions to perish in poverty while the powerful minority enjoy all the luxuries.

God is the God of Love. Every human has been created in His Image - Love.

Love is the basis of everything. His love caused him to suffer to become human. It was the greatest, biggest, challenging and most risky decision ever taken - for God to become human. He did it to save us. To save anyone, this is the only way- to be or to become more human and to be ready to take risks that come with it. As the Messiah proved it successful, anybody who is ready to take the risk of becoming human would also win. Let us be His Image and Likeness! Glory to God!

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

- December 26, Feast of the Exultation of Theotokos
- December 27, Holy Innocents (Massacred Children by Herod)

From our previous update:

Carol Evening was Amazing! Thanks To All

The Carol evening was amazing! It started and finished on time. All organizations had their presentations brilliantly and beautifully done. Participation of our members was more this time than before. We thank Mrudula Mary Thakadiyel for coordinating, Philip Philips for organising, Diya Shibu and Angel Mary Boban for emceeing, all organisational leaders for

coordinating, parish MC for supporting, all our members for participating- we all together made it memorable and delightful.

**MMVS Charity:** Khadija Ali (Kathy) from Earnestine Women Shelter visited us last Sunday to receive the MMVS donation.

Our parish has been supporting Earnestine Women Shelter through our contributions initiated by MMVS. Khadija Ali was pleased to join us and to reflect on how our support has encouraged them these years. She also briefed on the various charity works they offer to the society. We thank MMVS and our members for their valuable contributions towards charity projects.

Sunday School Yaldo Winter Camp held on last Sunday was a success! Thanks!

The event included hymns training, baking, dump charades, study on Yaldo Liturgy, Christmas Tree decoration, ornaments, learning on symbolism. It was a great initiative. Our children enjoyed it. They want more events like this. Thanks to all Teachers, Students, Parents for making the event fruitful.

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

1. New Year 2026: Dec 31-Wed, Evening Prayer at 06:30 pm followed by Holy Liturgy
2. Jan 01, *Feast of Circumcision of Infant Jesus*
3. Jan 01, Feast of Mar Baselios, Mar Gregorios and All Teachers of Faith
4. Feast of Epiphany-Jan 06: Holy Liturgy on Jan 05-Mon with Evening Prayer at 06:00 pm followed by Liturgy of Danaha and Holy Qurbana
5. Nineveh Lent: Jan 26-Monday to Jan 28-Wednesday: Holy Liturgy on Wed 28<sup>th</sup> with Evening Prayer at 06:30 pm followed by Holy Qurbana
6. Great Lent: Feb 16- April 04
7. Easter: April 05-Sunday

#### **Urava Volume 7- Nicaea 325 AD**

URAVA Volume 7, based on the theme 'the Council of Nicaea', was formally released on October 25, 2025. Updated version with additional articles, pictures from the Council of Nicaea event and drawings submitted for contest shall be made available from Sunday Dec 28 onwards. Sincere thanks to all the writers and artists for sending articles and drawings.

**Attention Please:**

**Parking:** Please be considerate while parking our vehicles, only park at designated space.

Leave reserved lots for the intended and please park within lines and markings leaving enough space for others to open their doors without scratching or hitting nearby parked vehicles.

**Children at Parking Space:** Please attend to children as it has been noticed that at times they play and run around within the parking lots, which may cause accidents and incidents. Please take care.

**AREA PRAYER MEETINGS:** Please bring your Holy Bible and song books.

**Saturday Jan 03, Brampton Area, Sen Mathew & Loozy's Res, starting at 04:00 pm to finish by 06:00 pm.**

**Saturday Jan 10, Mississauga Area, Manu P Abraham & Geetha's Res, starting at 04:00 pm to finish by 06:00 pm.**

**Saturday Jan 17, Scarborough Area, (Venue shall be updated soon), starting at 04:00 pm to finish by 06:00 pm.**

**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.**

- **Due to safety concerns and for assuring an 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 would be a bit difficult for our volunteers to suggest moving to the front during the service as it would cause distraction and noise. We need to avoid crowding at the entrance and stair areas as this has raised 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 our children not to pull the alarm lever at the back wall.**

**Hand Waving Machine & Common Absolution Prayer for all communicants**

**The hand waving machine has been installed at the church entrance for taking count of the communicants. Whoever wishes to take Holy Communion, upon entering the temple, please wave your hand once at the machine. Please be aware that after the Nicene Creed, the machine shall be disabled. Absolution shall be done during the morning prayer.**

**WEEKLY IN-PERSON MEETINGS:**

**December 28, Sunday – in-person meetings**

- **St Dionysius Fellowship monthly meeting after refreshment**
- **MGOCSM Monthly Meeting after refreshment.**
- **Cleaning of SS room, side rooms after refreshment. Whoever wish to volunteer, please join**

**LIVE streaming has been reactivated: All services' Live Streaming is now available.**

**Holy Liturgical Text for this Sunday**

**We will be using the English Taksa of Holy Fathers this Sunday.**

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

**Next Week**

**January 04, Sunday: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas, Yaldo Season**

**Scriptural Readings:**

- **OT: Genesis 37:1-4, 1 Samuel 2:18-21, Psalms 45:1-7**
- **NT: 1 John 3:21-24, Hebrews 11:23-31, Holy Gospel St Matthew 2:19-23**

**Yours in Christ**

**Thomas John Achen**

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