

## **Dearly Beloved,**

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

**November 09, 2025, 'Hudos Eetho' Sunday (Dedication of Church), Yaldo Season, Sunday School Day**

### **Scriptural Readings:**

- OT: Exodus 31:18-32:6, 1 Kings 6:1-8, Jeremiah 31:10-14, 31:22-26, Ezekiel 9:11, 10:1-5, 18-22, 1 Maccabees 4:52-59
- NT: Acts 7:44-53, Hebrews 9:1-14, **Holy Gospel St John 10:22-42**

### **Holy Gospel: St John 10:22-42**

<sup>22</sup>It was the feast of the Dedication at Jerusalem; <sup>23</sup>it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup>So the Jews gathered round him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." <sup>25</sup>Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness to me; <sup>26</sup>but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; <sup>28</sup>and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>My Father, who has given them to me,<sup>[a]</sup> is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup>I and the father are one."

<sup>31</sup>The Jews took up stones again to stone him. <sup>32</sup>Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of these do you stone me?" <sup>33</sup>The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we stone you but for blasphemy; because you, being a man, make yourself God." <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, you are gods'? <sup>35</sup>If he called them gods to whom the word of God came (and scripture cannot be broken), <sup>36</sup>do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? <sup>37</sup>If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; <sup>38</sup>but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." <sup>39</sup>Again they tried to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands. <sup>40</sup>He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John at first baptized, and there he remained. <sup>41</sup>And many came to him; and they said, "John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true." <sup>42</sup>And many believed in him there.

### **Reflections:**

The church's Sunday of dedication comes after the Sunday of sanctification. Our sanctification happens with the knowledge of 'Who is Christ?' All vaccines are taken by beneficiaries only because of the knowledge of what it is for and its benefits, despite knowing its side effects. Every facility made available- whether for life saving, or for other benefits- could be used only by knowing the purpose and benefit of it. Hence the government or agencies conduct various awareness programs for the people. Such awareness helps develop a better understanding.

Many illnesses have been eradicated with such orientation programs given to people after becoming aware of the consequences of lack of precaution and care. Faith is also to be practiced with proper awareness of the reality of situations, need of applying it to situations with the consequences of neglect and benefits of embracing it. Since the beginning of human origin, faith in the Divine was acknowledged and practiced. It was the first knowledge too. Over the years, faith has been practiced by each society or community in a distinct and unique manner. Ancient literature had faith practices narrated at length. In mythological writings, it would go hand in hand

with the deities in the usual life settings of humans as often viewed by them. Cultures evolved over centuries by practicing of faith in God, either polytheistic or monotheistic. Religions without the concept of God exist too.

When Jesus came, it was an era of political invasions, cultural exchanges, multicultural adaptations and violations of human rights. Many violations, invasions and atrocities against minorities were carried out in the setting of religious beliefs – regardless of the truth behind them or not. Deities were conceptualized as entities who were almost like humans with – erred and fallible. They were projected as able to do anything - fights, deception, power plays, invasions, acting weird to humans whom they expect to protect and save. Royalty was almost like deities and vice versa. Within many flaws thus, truth, conscience and basic ideas were either ignored or neglected.

At Jesus' trial, Pilate asked, 'What is truth?' He knew that this was no ordinary trial. Despite other innocent people he may have judged until then, Pilate knew that the purest among us, was standing for an irrational trial before him. Truth stood before Pilate. Yet, to save himself, Pilate looked at Truth and asked – What are you? His question made him churn within so much, that his family was unable to sleep those days.

Jesus came to reveal the truth of life which was either forgotten or manipulated. He brought a counterculture to all the then concepts of royalty, human life, basic duties and responsibilities of religion, kingship and of citizens. Christ's arrival itself was a revelation about the Messiah. All questions and suspicions about his life and person were because of this purposeful forgetting of truth.

As written in the Holy Scripture, either it was misinterpreted or overlooked by both - authorities and ordinary people. They had the book of Genesis in parchments, beginning with saying, 'In the beginning God created heaven and Earth.' In the prophetic books, it was clearly said about the need of a virtuous life, repentance, reconciliation, acknowledging God as the author and supreme of everything, and to abide with the law. Wicked minds used their authority to misinterpret and manipulate the law and commandments for their own sake. They kept themselves non sensical towards the core and essence of it. As Jesus said, they even killed prophets to keep their place safe. Into such a messy and chaotic environment, the Lord of Hosts came as a human. While walking with them as one among them, He in essence and reality, was the awesome Co Creator and God the Eternal Word. While feeling his tender and compassionate presence, we should never overlook His authority and might as the Son of God. With this realisation and understanding only, we can dedicate our whole life, all things we have, and everything we do to Him. He is our Messiah, Saviour, Redeemer, Sustainer, Perfector and our Source of life – keen for us to recognize His voice, call and care in every situation. Let us rededicate ourselves on this day of dedication of the church, as we become the church and Body of Christ our Lord. He is with us!

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

- November 05, HG Stephanos Mar Theodocius Metropolitan, 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at St Thomas Asram, Bhilai.
- November 06, HG Geevarghese Mar Gregorios Metropolitan Valyaliparampil, 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at Thrikkunnathu Seminary, Alwaye.
- November 08, HH Baselios Marthoma Mathews I Catholicose, 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at Devalokam Aramana Chapel.

- November 09, Canada Diocese, Sunday School Day

Canada Diocesan Sunday School has decided to celebrate Sunday school day on **Hudosh 'Idto** day (Dedication of the Church) which falls on November 9<sup>th</sup> in 2025. The entire SS team has been instructed to observe and celebrate this day in the most appropriate manner, highlighting the importance and relevance of SS in the current life setting. All our parents, teachers and students are requested to support this day of observance through participation and prayers to organize this day in the most fitting manner.

**From our previous update:**

**Celebration of the Feast of St Gregorios of Parumala**

Thanks to all for wholehearted participation and support in the observance of the feast of Parumala Thirumeni. Thanks to Rev. Fr. P. P. Jacob and Rev. Fr. Geevarghese Thampan, MC members, organisations, food/Nercha providers, those who gave decorated vehicles, friends, members from other parishes, all volunteers and to all our members for their leadership, participation and assistance. May his prayers always be a fortress for us.

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

1. **November 08, Saturday:** MMVS Canada First Annual Conference & Quiz Competition @ St Gregorios Orthodox Church of Toronto, Time: 09:00 am – 04:30 pm
2. **November 11, Remembrance Day (Poppy Day).**

In solidarity with the soldiers who offered their lives for the country and people, may we all have poppies worn these days. Poppies are available to be picked up from our basement. Our generous contributions will go to the Veterans Fund. Please support. There will be special prayers on this Sunday in connection with Remembrance Day.

3. **November 16, Sunday:** Parish Annual General Body Meeting, after refreshment
4. **Christmas House Caroling & Church Carol Evening**

<p><b>George's Prayer:</b> Brampton Area  <b>Prayer:</b> Scarborough, Durham, New Market, Markham Area</p>	<p><b>A. Sunday Nov 30- St Paul's</b>  <b>B. Sunday Dec 07- St Paul's</b>  <b>C. Sunday Dec 14- St Mary's Prayer:</b> Mississauga, Hamilton, Stony-creek Area</p>
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**Saturday Dec 20- Carol Evening at Church starting with evening prayer at 06:00 pm followed by Carol singing, skits and presentations by organisations.**

5. **Urava Volume 7**

URAVA Volume 7, based on the theme 'the Council of Nicaea', was released on October 25, 2025. Updated version with cover design chosen from the contest, additional articles, pictures from the Council of Nicaea event and drawings submitted for contest shall be made available soon.

Two contests for the journal with the title: "Nicaea 325 AD":

1. Cover Page Icon Contest – open to all parish members ages 18+
2. Inner Page Drawing Contest – open to children

## **6. Attention Please:**

**Parking:** Please be considerate while parking our vehicles, only park at designated space, leave reserved lots for the intended, please park within the lines and markings allowing space for others to open their doors without scratching or hitting next parked vehicles.

**Children at Parking Space:** Please attend to children, 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:**

**Prayer Meetings:** The general body decided and agreed to have the meeting started in New Year 2026

**Saturday, January 3, 2026:** Prayer meeting at the residence of Sen and Loozy Mathew

**Saturday, January 10, 2026:** Prayer meeting at the residence of Manu and Elizabeth Abraham

**Saturday, January 17, 2026:** Prayer meeting at the residence of Alex George and Sosamma Alex.

## **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:**

### **November 09, Sunday – in-person meetings**

- MMVS monthly meeting
- OCYM meeting
- Practice of Choir for upcoming events

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

## **Holy Liturgical Text for this Sunday**

We will be using the Taksas of St John Chrysostom this Sunday.

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

**Next Week**

**Nov 16, Sunday:** Revelation to Zachariah, Yaldo Season

**Scriptural Readings:**

- OT: Genesis 17:15-22, Numbers 8:1-20, 1 Kings 8:13-20, Isaiah 41:8-16
- NT: 2 Peter 1:1-15, Romans 4:13-25, Holy Gospel St Luke 1:1-25
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Yours in Christ

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