

Dearly Beloved,

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

October 12, 2025, Fourth Sunday after the Feast of the Cross, Season 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

¹³One of the multitude said to him, “Teacher, bid my brother divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or divider over you?” ¹⁵And he said to them, “Take heed, and beware of all covetousness; for a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” ¹⁶And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; ¹⁷and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ ¹⁸And he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

Reflections:

It was once believed that Earth is the center of the universe. It could have been because human race inhabited Earth and thus they felt that they were kings and queens, warriors and victors who engaged in invading and colonizing lands. They thought everything was made for them, even the sun, moon and stars. They looked at the sea and said, “the vastness is for them to catch fish and fortunes, and to sail to other lands in search for more wealth.” They thought, once they enter a new land, everything in it should be theirs. They did not even consider the human inhabitants of the lands they were invading. They fought, enslaved the local inhabitants, plundered cities, looted everything and established their own empires in the visiting countries. They looked at all resources with the view that they were made for them to utilize. They divided peoples and lands for their own establishment. They saw themselves as owners of the world and misinterpreted the scriptures, misusing their knowledge and inventions to support their view. The invaders exploited everything and accumulated power and wealth. They defined success as material possessions and power. This mindset was eventually accepted by both the powerful and powerless. Those who were in power wanted to remain in power for ever. Those who were downtrodden dreamed of fighting and acquiring power. Either dictatorship or democracy, they all yielded to this thought that those who once fought against power and corruption, who once got into power, could allow themselves to become corrupt. This evil eventually crept into all systems, politics, science, art, religion and almost everything. Such mindsets divided families, tribes, communities, nations.

The world has suffered the most due to the unending craving for power and wealth. It began in the Garden of Eden-the limitless want for more. Even after science proved that Earth is just a planet in the solar system and there are galaxies and the universe has been ever expanding, what the Holy Scripture says about the universe is that everything created by God, and Earth in its perfection with sun, moon and stars are reflecting the glory of the Creator. This is an affirmation of centrality to God the Creator. Everything has its dignity and value in connection with God and with each other. Everything has its innate value and significance. One's relevance lies in the fact and beauty of coexistence. Power, wealth and resources are either earned or vested, and it should be with a sense of responsibility of stewardship. God is the author and owner of everything. Whether little or big that one has, it should be approached and handled with respect and gratitude. Money and wealth alone cannot make a life.

Life comprises of duties and responsibilities, accountability, fellowship, relationships, virtues, earnings and sacrifices, selflessness and right goals. Here the mindset of the one who approached Christ asking for a negotiation with his brother about dividing property, was of the selfish, self-centered old human who once lived in the dark. Christ came to reveal the purpose of life and to reinstate the divine nature of creation through love and sacrifice. While seeing this greed for money and senselessness towards losing brotherhood and sisterhood for disputes over wealth, He brought the example of the rich man who only thought of accumulating more wealth without thinking of the purpose of life. Those who only think of money and wealth without care for others are as good as dead. They have no soul, no sense of the Divine. One would wonder, why selfish people are enjoying while innocents are suffering. According to the Lord, they are dead. They are dead by their choices and actions. Richness is not material wealth and power but the readiness to care for the needy. By this everybody would be judged too.

We have a blessed physical existence in the world by God's love and grace. Everything given to us, small or big, is to be taken care of with a sense of stewardship. In doing our duties well, we would be glorifying the Creator. We earn hearts and souls through our care and love. We cannot lose our brothers and sisters for money, power or greed. When it comes to life, money and power would be powerless and meaningless. Only God and fellowship matter in real life situations. Forgetting God and fellow beings would make us dead. Acknowledging them would be the true life and richness. We are rich with God and His love in us, and it cannot be destroyed or taken away.

FEASTS AND REMEMBRANCES:

- October 07, Holy Martyrs Sargis & Bakos
- October 12, HG Philipose Mar Dionysius IV Metropolitan, 170th anniversary, entombed at St George Orthodox Church, Cheppad

- October 12, HG Yuhanon Mar Athanasius Episcopa, 45th anniversary, entombed at Bethany Asram, Ranny Perunadu

Clergy Demise:

Rev Fr Dr P C Cherian, one of the former General Secretaries of MGOCSM, passed away in Minnesota on Sept 28th. Achen's home parish is St George Orthodox Church Chengarur in the Diocese of Niranom. Achen was instrumental in many of the MGOCSM initiatives: Students Centre Trivandrum & Aluva, reconstruction of Students Centre Kottayam, publishing of liturgical books including the Holy Week Prayers. Achen was a mentor and guide to many. Achen has served in many parishes in the US.

Rev Fr Thomas Gheevarghese (Subin Achen), a young priest (45 years) of the Diocese of Madras passed away on Oct 08. Achen was the manager of Mehtanagar Aramana was the serving Chaplain of Karunya Chapel. He was a celibate. His home parish is Paliyekkara St George Orthodox Church where the funeral service was conducted on Friday, Oct 10.

We thank the Lord for the exemplary life of faith and witness the two priests had lived and the many contributions they offered to the church and society. May the Lord receive their souls into His lovely mansions where they enjoy eternity and continue interceding for the whole creation.

From our previous updates:

- New Parish Directory was launched on Sun, Oct 05. Please grab your copies at the earliest.
- Poster of the Commemoration of Council of Nicaea was released on Sunday, Oct 05
- Diocese of Canada Clergy & Baskyomo Meeting was held at St Gregorios Indian Orthodox Church (Norval Parish) on Friday, Oct 10.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS: Please note in your calendar

1. **October 11, Saturday:** The Diocese of Canada, The First Diocesan General Assembly, Venue: St Gregorios Indian Orthodox Church (Norval Parish), Time: 10:00 am
2. **October 12, Sunday: Parish Nite 2025.** *Everything is ready and set for the cultural extravaganza! The event will start sharp at 05:30 pm. We request all our members to arrive at the venue by 04:30 pm to be seated and settled. The welcome drink and snacks will be ready by 05:00 pm. By assuring our presence on time, it would help in time management without fail. It is going to be an electrifying, energizing, fun-filled event. Enjoy it with a delicious dinner. Please keep the event in prayer.*

3. **October 13, Thanksgiving Day.** We have requested for fundraising for two families. Please support them as our expression of gratitude towards the Lord.
4. **October 18, Mar Gregorios Memorial Quiz Competition organised by St George OCYM, Kitchener**
5. **October 19, Sunday: Harvest Festival – 2025**
6. **October 25, Saturday: Celebrating 1700th year of the Council of Nicaea:** Our parish will be organising an event including elocution competition connected to the theme and choir presentations involving the Malankara Orthodox Church parishes in Toronto Region. **Venue: SGOCT Parish, Date: October 25 Saturday, 2025, Time: 02:00 pm-07:00 pm.**
7. **November 08, MMVS Canada First Annual Conference & Quiz Competition @ St Gregorios Orthodox Church of Toronto, Time: 09:00 am – 04:30 pm**
8. **Urava Volume 7**
 As we prepare for URAVA Volume 7, we are dedicating this special edition to this milestone. The theme is based on the anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, and the release is planned for October 25, 2025.
 As part of the preparations, OCYM has initiated 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

Submission details:

- **Last date: October 15, 2025**
- Send drawings to: ocymtoronto@yahoo.com
- Email subject line:
 - o URAVA Volume 7 Journal – Cover Page Icon Contest – [Name of participant]
 - o URAVA Volume 7 Journal – Inner Page Contest – [Name of participant]

Article Sub-Themes (by organization):

1. **What Christ said about Himself?** / ക്രിസ്തു തന്നെ കുറിച്ച് നൽകിയ ദൈവശാസ്ത്രപരമായ വെളിപ്പെടുത്തലുകൾ എന്തൊക്കെ (SS Juniors)
2. **What the people of other faiths said about Jesus?** / ഇതര മതവിശ്വാസികൾ ക്രിസ്തുവിനെക്കുറിച്ചു പറഞ്ഞത് എന്തൊക്കെ (SS Seniors)

3. / What the 4 Gospels say about the Son of God / ദൈവപുത്രനെക്കുറിച്ച് നാല് സുവിശേഷങ്ങൾ എന്താണ് പറയുന്നത് (MGOCSM)

4. . Pauline View of Christ / ക്രിസ്തുവിനെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള പൗലോസിന്റെ വീക്ഷണം (MMVS)

5. Anti-Nicene Teachers about Christ / ക്രിസ്തുവിനെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള പൂർവ്വനിഖ്യാ പിതാക്കന്മാരുടെ പരിഷ്കാരികൾ (Acolytes)

6. Issues that led to the Council of Nicaea / നിഖ്യാ കൗൺസിലിലേക്ക് നയിച്ച വാദങ്ങൾ (OCYM)

7. Affirmations of the Council of Nicaea / നിഖ്യാ സുന്നഹദോസിന്റെ നിശ്ചയങ്ങൾ (Choir)

8. Pronouncing Faith in the Current World / നിഖ്യാ സുന്നഹദോസിന്റെ നിശ്ചയങ്ങൾക്ക് സമകാലികലോകത്തുള്ള സാംഗത്യവും പ്രായോഗികതയും (SJEF)

Articles submission:

- **Last date: October 15, 2025 Send to: ocymtoronto@yahoo.com**

Email subject line: URAVA Vol 7 article – [Organization name]

AREA PRAYER MEETINGS:

Details of upcoming meetings shall be announced later.

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:

October 12, Sunday –Parish Nite 2025 @ 05:00 pm onwards

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

Holy Liturgical Text for this Sunday

We will be using the Taksa of Mar Dionysius Barsleebi this Sunday.

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

Next Week

Oct 19, Fifth Sunday after the Feast of the Cross

Scriptural Readings:

OT: Leviticus 2:1-3, Job 6:1-10, 2 Samuel 3:17-21, Isaiah 40:27-31

NT: Acts 22:22-29, 1 Timothy 6:13-21, Holy Gospel St Matthew 23:1-12

Yours in Christ

Thomas John Achen

Email ID: fr.thomaspjohn@gmail.com

Mobile: (416) 570 5610

<https://www.sgoctoronto.org>