

**Dearly Beloved,**

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

**October 05, 2025, Third Sunday after the Feast of the Cross, Season 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

**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. <sup>2</sup>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.’ <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>I have decided what to do, so that people may receive me into their houses when I am put out of the stewardship.’ <sup>5</sup>So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup>He said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ And he said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ <sup>7</sup>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.’ <sup>8</sup>The master commended the dishonest steward for his shrewdness; for the sons of this world<sup>[a]</sup> are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. <sup>9</sup>And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous mammon,<sup>[b]</sup> so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal habitations.

<sup>10</sup> “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. <sup>11</sup>If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon,<sup>[c]</sup> who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? <sup>13</sup>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.”<sup>[d]</sup>

**Reflections:**

When God created Adam and Eve, they were given a blessed life to live with all fullness and joy and were assigned with responsibilities and duties. God blessed them by saying, “grow and multiply”. Gifts of Spirit were given to them to develop themselves to the maximum. Nothing should have stood as hindrance to their growth other than natural challenges. Disturbances and distractions remained at a minimal level as they were closely connected to God and the rest of creation which harmonized their life and rhythm. The seamless connection among everything meant that they were in union with nature, humans, animals, plants, birds - all of creation – in one beautiful accord. What human called became their names, which means, there was no barrier of language between them. The rainbow of harmony revealed on the firmament after the flood was here which already existed as life’s

reality. There was no exploitation or distrust until the sin and fall. Man and woman were assigned with the responsibility of tilling and keeping. It was the keeping of everything that God had created. They had to keep the inventory with proper updates. Nothing had to be lost or mismanaged. They were the stewards of the universe.

An act of greed and disobedience gave way to discord. They got disconnected from the rest of creation and alienated from God the Creator. For reinstating them to the lost stewardship, the Only Begotten Son had to incarnate and to identify with their fall, consequences, sufferings, death and to resurrect everything to a new life.

Here in the parable of the wicked steward, we see a servant who fooled his master by exploiting the master's resources and treasure for his greedy ambitions. He was into a life so unbecoming for a faithful servant. Why was he given the responsibility earlier? Probably because, he was honest and committed in his early years of work but eventually had fallen into selfishness. Satan might have crept into his thoughts to convince him to abuse the trust that the master had in him, to replace his master and to become the owner of everything. The servant now wanted only money and wealth for his pleasures. By drifting away from his duties, he was doing injustice to the ones given unto his care. They had no voice for their rights. Because he was in power and might, everyone was silenced with his cunningness. This parable mentions about the way he tricked the master's dealers. He met them to alter the debt account and receipts. The master commented about the servant's shrewdness in saving himself from termination and imprisonment. It was almost like the sin and fall of Adam and Eve. For saving this wicked steward, the Son of God had to shed His blood on the Cross, to suffer and to die.

Jesus took everyone's sin upon Him and died to resurrect for everyone. It is not mentioned whether the reinstated steward lived the rest of his life in honesty, or whether he was given more responsibilities. The moral of the story is - the love the Lord has for His creation and to what extent He would go to save them.

We may complain about what is given to us. Less or more, the mystery is that, if we are dutiful and committed to God and serve Him without drifting away, we will be given more, as blessing, graces, gifts, wealth, prosperity. The world may have different ideas about how to prosper and achieve more. In that sense, the world can be the tempter giving false or fancy ideas. If we yield to such, the divine protection plan may change or expire, not from God but from our deviation. We are the ones changing the provider, not Him. The Lord is loving and caring. We need to love Him and to reach out to Him. We are here to live harmoniously by being dedicated stewards, taking care of God's treasure and talents, continually reconciling with our fellow beings and with the rest of creation, tilling and keeping and enjoying the fruit of the Spirit. Our paradise cannot be lost. Because He has earned us through His blood, we should thankfully and joyfully live and win.

**FEASTS AND REMEMBRANCES:**

- **October 01, Mar Adai the Evangelist, Mar Abahai the Martyr & Mar Malke**
- **October 02, HG Shemavoon Mar Dionysius Karottuveetil, 137<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at Kadumangalam Church**
- **October 03, St Baselios Yeldho Catholicose, 340<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at Kothamangalam Cheriapally**
- **October 05, Seminary Day:** There will be special prayers for the theological seminaries on Sunday. Please support our seminaries in all possible ways.

**October 02, Gandhijayanthi:** Like Moses, Gandhiji led the country and people to liberation. He adhered to nonviolence and only lived as a seeker for truth. As Moses could not enter the promised land, Gandhi could not live in the post freedom years for long as his life was taken away by fanatics. He was a man of true spirituality and was unselfish. He never yearned for power, rather preferred to be with the poor and needy. He tried his best to uplift the downtrodden. He liked Christ and lived a life as mentioned in the Beatitudes. Let us remember this great leader and be inspired from his exemplary life. Satyameva Jayate!

**From our previous updates:**

- Flyer of MMVS Annual Conference scheduled to be on Saturday, Nov 08 at SGOCT was released on Sunday, Sep 28.
- **OCYM Team members** visited parishes in the Central Region for the Council of Nicaea commemoration event to be scheduled on Saturday Oct 25, 02:00 pm – 07:00 pm.

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

1. October 10, Friday: Diocese of Canada Clergy & Baskyomo Meeting, Venue: St Gregorios Indian Orthodox Church (Norval Parish), Time: 10:00 am
2. October 11, Saturday: The Diocese of Canada, The First Diocesan General Assembly, Venue: St Gregorios Indian Orthodox Church (Norval Parish), Time: 10:00 am
3. October 12, Sunday: Parish Nite 2025
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 1700<sup>th</sup> 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 drawingsto: [ocymtoronto@yahoo.com](mailto: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 ഏതൊക്കെ (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 പൂർവ നിഖ്യാ 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](mailto: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 05, Sunday –**

- Choir monthly meeting after refreshment
- Organisations: Practice and training for Parish Nite 2025 after GBM

**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 Ksothos this Sunday.

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

**Next Week**

Oct 12, 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 54:4-8

NT: Acts 18:24-28, Colossians 1:21-26, Holy Gospel St Luke 12:13-21

**Yours in Christ**

Thomas John Achen

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