



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - OCTOBER 01, 2021

Dearly beloved,

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

Sunday, October 03, Third Sunday after the Feast of the Cross

Epistle Readings: Acts 7:2-5, Romans 8:1-11

Holy Evangelion: St Mark 2:23-28

2. 23 One sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. 24 And the Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?" 25 And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: 26 how he entered the house of God, when Abi'athar was high priest and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?" 27 And he said to them, "The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath; 28 so the Son of man is lord even of the sabbath."

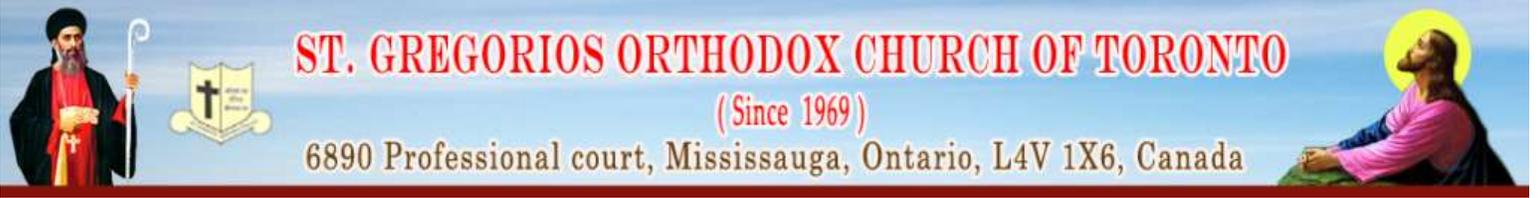
Reflections:

"The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath..." could have been an informative statement by Jesus to point out the flaw in blindly following religious rules. They were strictly observing the Law for the sake of it and never understood the intention of the Law. Obeying the law and not doing any good to your neighbours defeats the purpose. An immoral person is not above others if he follows specific practices. God is the Creator, Sustainer and Perfecter who commanded humans to till and keep the Garden of Eden. By this command, it was intended to participate in God's creative activities to lead everything to perfection. Religious people of Jesus' time went to the temple on the expected days and joined offices of prayer. These same people had the feeling that they were the most privileged people on earth, yet they never bothered to help the needy. They found the Law as reason for not helping anyone on a Sabbath and were able to overlook the needs of people to please God. Humans try to read God from their limited perception and not from God's perception of Himself which has been revealed in the Holy Scripture. Prophets have spoken against this human view of God. It becomes the grave sin of idolatry if God is thought of in human terms. A donkey can think of its deity only as a more mighty donkey. Humans are blessed creatures with divine wisdom with which we need to think beyond our limited perception and to understand what God reveals.

Feasts:

September 28, HG Dr. Philipose Mar Theophilos Metropolitan, 24th anniversary, entombed at Thrikkunnathu Seminary Aluva

HG Dr. Philipose Mar Theophilos Metropolitan loved God and served humans in various capacities to illuminate, uplift, and unite. He was there as a person of influence when WCC came to form. He served as Secretary to the Faith and Order department and also served as a member of the Central Committee. HG led MGOCSM to progress, encouraged youth to live and grow in faith and to reach high destinations through their hard work. He was an ambassador of the church to various national and international forums and conferences through which he could involve various international organizations in church projects and charity activities. He took initiative to move the mortal remains of HG Alvares Mar Julius Metropolitan from a cemetery to the church in Goa which later became a pilgrim center. When he was the Principal of the Orthodox Theological Seminary, his leadership took the



institution to another height of excellence and fame. He was a great visionary, theologian, ecumenical leader, and a true philanthropist.

October 01, Mar Adai, Mar Malke

St Adai is believed to be the evangelist sent by Christ and preached in Edessa, who healed King Abgar from his terminal illness. He was the first bishop of Edessa and associated with St Thomas in ministering to the Lord.

Mar Malke was an Egyptian monk who performed many miracles including the healing of Emperor Constantine. He had taught me to always be merciful, dedicated to fasting and prayer, let truth, love, and peace be the merits throughout life, fight against evil with good.

October 2rd, Shemavon Mar Dionysius, 135th anniversary, entombed at Kadungamangalam Church.

HG Shemavon Mar Dionysius was a strong leader of the church who stood firm against the heavy winds of protestant influence and empowered the flock in the northern part of Kerala.

October 3rd, St Yaldo Mar Baselios, 336th anniversary, entombed at Kothamangalam Cheriapally

St. Yaldo Mar Baselios was a Maphrian of the Antiochene Church who came to India and served the Malankara Church and suffered at the hands of the Portuguese power who wanted to subdue the Malankara church under the Roman Papacy. He was declared a saint by HH Baselios Marthoma Gevarghese II in 1947 and his name is remembered in the 5th diptych along with the names of Parumala Thirumeni and Vattasseril Thirumeni.

Gandhi Jayanti, October 2nd

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, called ‘Mahatma’ and ‘Father of the Nation’, leader of Indian Independence was born on this day in Porbandar, Gujarat. In 2007, the UN declared Oct 02 as the International Day of Nonviolence in recognition of Gandhiji’s message of nonviolence successfully conveyed through the liberation movement. One can easily relate Gandhiji to Jesus Christ for the message of nonviolence and the way a liberation movement took place without shedding blood or using weapons of harm. They taught tolerance and revealed how to show the right cheek when the left is beaten.

MMVS Diocesan Quiz tomorrow

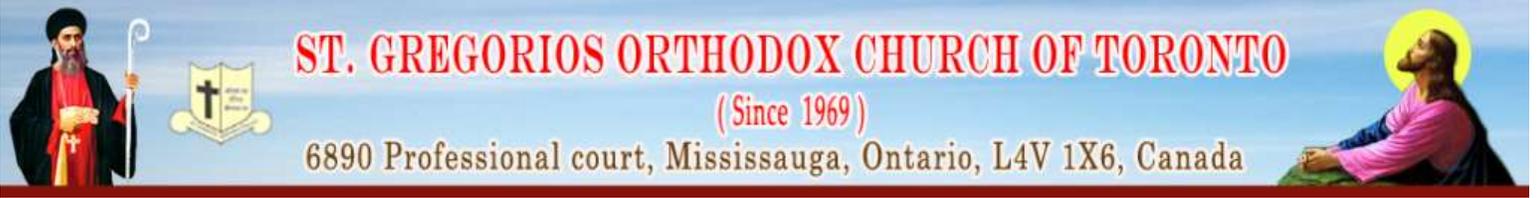
The Diocesan MMVS Quiz will be tomorrow. Our parish team has been preparing for the contest. May we all wish them the best!

MMVS Diocesan Annual Conference, Saturday, October 9th

MMVS Diocesan Annual Conference will be on Saturday, October 09 convened virtually. The link has been sent to members. Please join the event and pray for its success.

OCYM Get-together on Friday, October 8th, 06:30 – 09:00 pm at Church

St Gregorios OCYM is organizing a get-together of youth members and families at church on Saturday, October 08, 06:30- 09:00 pm. The meeting details and link shall be sent soon. All our OCYM members are requested to join this memorable moment in person. It will be an occasion to meet new people as well as reunite with old friends. There will be some entertainment and fun and some spiritual rejuvenation too. A registration sheet has been opened to register for the meeting and for committing any presentation we would like to do on stage, singing, dancing, skit, mime, talk, or anything we like to offer. Registration fees shall be \$20 for each family and \$10 for singles. Please cooperate and through



our participation make it fruitful.

Backpacks Dispersed

As decided by the Managing Committee to provide 50 backpacks with school items each bag costs \$25.00. The amount was taken from the Thanksgiving collection. G.George took the initiative and delivered to 3 schools two weeks ago and the remaining distribution spot was the Welcome Centre where the team visited and handed over the last set of bags, accompanied by the Vicar, Secretary Manu P. Abraham, senior member Ben Varghese Nellithara along with Susan Benjamin (Peel Region School Board Trustee) and Thomas Thomas (Peel Region Catholic School Board Trustee). Ben Varghese arranged for the School Board Trustees to be present for this event.

Loony-A-Day, please contribute towards Thanksgiving

Please contribute towards the Thanksgiving charity collection (loony a day). 50% of the total collection shall be used for charity and the rest will be for church maintenance. We request all our beloved members to support this project. There are many lives out there desperately looking for helping hands. We are fortunate and blessed to be here in this country and let us express our gratitude to God through supporting the needy which Jesus said as supporting Him.

Communicants Counting Machine, Wave your hand 'ONCE' please

We have a new electronic counting machine installed within the church at the inner northern entrance near the console. It is meant for taking the count of communicants and not for all participants. All participants are requested to register their names at the entrance welcome desk in the given form. As you enter the church interior, please wave your hand once between the sensor poles of the counting machine if you are prepared to take Holy Communion. There is no need to wave if you are not taking Holy Communion. Thank you for your cooperation.

Choir & Acolytes joint practice- Saturdays 4:30-6:00 pm

This is a reminder to all our choir members and Acolytes to attend the weekly choir practice currently conducted virtually on Saturdays 04:30 – 06:00 pm. We would wish our choir members and acolytes who will be taking turns on the upcoming Sunday or feast days to join the practice session for better coordination and harmonious chanting. The link shall be sent before the meeting.

MMVS Diocesan Programs

Bible Quiz: Saturday, October 2nd

Annual Conference: Saturday, October 09

Bible Study: Every Thursday 8.30 - 9.30 pm. The study is based on the books Amos – Malachi led by Rev Fr VM Shibu (Vicar, St Gregorios Orthodox Church Bensalem)

Virtual Meetings ahead

October 02, Saturday, SGOCT Choir & Acolytes weekly practice – 04:30 – 06:00 pm

October 02, Saturday, SGOCT Prayer Meeting, 07:00 – 08:30 pm

October 03, Sunday, Choir Monthly Meeting, after H Qurbana, 11:30 – 12:30 pm

October 04, Monday, Acolytes Monthly Meeting, 07:30 – 09:00 pm

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

This Sunday, we will be using the Taksa of St John the Evangelist



ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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Link to Sunday Holy Liturgy

Please see below the Link for Live Streaming

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQw1yZ1_yCG9AWStA

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

Yours in Christ,

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