



## WEEKLY THOUGHTS - APRIL 02, 2021

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

### Sunday April 04 , Easter

**Epistle Readings: 1 Peter 5:5-14, Romans 16:1-16, Acts 2:22-36, 1 Corinthians 15:1-19**

**Holy Gospel: St John 15:11-15, 17:11-26, St Matthew 28:1-20**

28.1 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Mag'dalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulchre. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. Lo, I have told you." 8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Hail!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

11 While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. 12 And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sum of money to the soldiers 13 and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' 14 And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." 15 So they took the money and did as they were directed; and this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

### Reflection:

Resurrection marks human history with its unending hope in the ability to survive, even death. Humanity survived where dinosaurs failed. Before the rising up, everywhere in history, survivors had to pass through severe challenges and threats, sufferings and endurance. Resurrection of Jesus was the resurrection for the believing community too. They were at the verge of extinction, as a handful people of faith in the new philosophy of LOVE and COMPASSION. They had left their past, normal, secure, comfortable life by joining him. They raised expectation in the thoughts of people around who were deprived of even basic human rights. By losing their master, adherents were losing their existence as a community.

Theologically, resurrection has answered, solved and rectified the problem of sin and death. Psychologically it has addressed the basic fear of death. Spiritually it has elevated the faith and morale of the faithful. Physically it has justified all the bodily sufferings- sickness, oppression, persecution- for its futuristic aspect. As St Paul said, 'we boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.'



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(Romans 5:3,4). There will be gain for every pain. All crosses will bring glory sooner or later. Every human life will have to find their cross, to bear it with confidence, walk the way of justice and truth, endure without running away from situations, and to see the fruit it brings. No cross is without God's knowledge and God will help us to rise up. Let us all shout that He is Risen and we have also been risen with Him! Hallelujah!

## **SGOCT Parish Lenten Retreat- Saturday March 27**

Our parish Lenten Retreat went well with a spiritually edifying message by Fr Thomas Raju. We sincerely thank Achen for uplifting us in Spirit. We do highly appreciate the prayerful participation of our beloved members. Thanks to Binu Abraham and Varghese Daniel, the technical support team for arranging the virtual connectivity merging with the live-stream. They are doing a highly commendable service for our community.

## **Holy Week: Please find the service schedule**

1. Friday April 02, Great Friday, Morning Prayer at 09:00 am followed by 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> hour and Veneration of the Cross, Evening Prayer at 05:30 pm, Vigil starts at 07:00 pm
2. Saturday April 03, Gospel Saturday, Morning Prayer at 09:00, 10:00 am Holy Qurbana
3. Sunday April 04, Easter, Night Prayer at 06:00 am, Morning Prayer at 07:00 am, Easter Liturgy at 08:00 am, Holy Qurbana at 09:00 am

## **Great Lent – Evening Prayer, Lenten Devotional Talk Series**

1. We had the Lenten evening prayer with all its spiritual blessings. It was a highly elevating experience. We sincerely appreciate the way our Acolytes, Choir members, Technical Support team, Devotional speakers and our beloved parish members participated in this Lenten journey.
2. The **Lenten Devotional Talk Series** has come to a close with guest speaker Mr Sam Kurian from St John's Orthodox Church Hamilton enlightening us with his message.
3. **Charity:** As we are observing our fast, the money saved from the food expenses shall be collected and used for charity. We request our members to take this opportunity to help the needy and change their lives in whatever way we can. We will have a charity fund-raising towards the end of the Great Lent and the proceeds will be donated to a local charity.
4. **Holy Week Noon Prayer through WebEx, Monday – Friday 12:00 -12:30 pm.** We had the noon prayer since the second half of Lent, attended by about twenty families. It continued in the Holy Week too. The virtual platform has helped us a lot in connecting to church and to each other too.

## **Support our Parish**

Please support our parish by contributing financially. Please remember to pay the Catholicate Day share along with monthly subscription. We have the practice of collecting Holy Week donations too and any contribution will be highly appreciated.

## **'Share Your Blessings'- A charity initiative of Gregorian Forum**

Gregorian Seniors Forum is initiating a charity drive 'Share Your Blessings'. God has blessed us abundantly. The Bible constantly teaches us to share what we have with those who are less fortunate than us. Also, sharing gives us an elevated sense of responsibility towards our society. Share what you have to show how much you care and please remember, when you care for others the Almighty



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Lord cares for you more. The fund collected shall be donated towards Mental Health Wellness in Peel Region. Our share can be transferred to [treasurer@sgoctoronto.org](mailto:treasurer@sgoctoronto.org).

*"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."  
Hebrews. 13:16*

## **Names of the beloved departed members, a gentle reminder**

We have started receiving emails from members with details of their beloved departed ones and have started adding them to our list. Please continue to let us know as we would like to keep this list going forward for remembrance prayers on the respective Sundays just like we do for Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries.

## **Liturgical Text for upcoming services:**

Pesaha - Taksa of St James.

Gospel Saturday - Taksa of the Fathers (Mkanastha)

Easter – Taksa of Abraham Nahasirthono

## **Please see below the Link for Live Streaming**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQw1yZ1\\_yCG9AWStA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQw1yZ1_yCG9AWStA)

## **COVID-19 Guidelines**

Let us maintain the safety measures and look for a hassle free future soon with the finishing of vaccination program.

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

Yours in Christ,

Thomas John Achen

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