



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - JULY 02, 2021

Dearly beloved,

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

Sunday July 04th, Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle Readings: Acts 1:15-20, 1 Corinthians 8:1-6

Holy Gospel: St Matthew 15:32-39

32 Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days, and have nothing to eat; and I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way.” 33 And the disciples said to him, “Where are we to get bread enough in the desert to feed so great a crowd?” 34 And Jesus said to them, “How many loaves have you?” They said, “Seven, and a few small fish.” 35 And commanding the crowd to sit down on the ground, 36 he took the seven loaves and the fish, and having given thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 37 And they all ate and were satisfied; and they took up seven baskets full of the broken pieces left over. 38 Those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children. 39 And sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Mag’adan.

Reflection:

Jesus Christ the Messiah was always busy with His ministry. He always enthused over His work and loved being there for those who enjoyed His presence. People of authority were always skeptical and bombarded with questions. They were people of letters and not of spirit as St Paul said ‘The letter kills but Spirit gives life.’ (2 Cor 3:6). Being the leaders, it was unfortunate for them to complain about Jesus and disciples not washing their hands before eating and missing the joyful feast served by Him with feeding the multitude. Too many rules can destroy the beauty of living. Here Jesus was performing another miracle of the bread and the beneficiaries were ordinary listeners. Those who were supposed to initiate and support the ministry of the Messiah could not even appreciate the wonderful works He was doing. In the 15th chapter of Matthew, it begins with a dispute on ceremonial cleansing of hands, not even as a matter of general hygiene. For the leaders of the community, they took everything religiously and brought more and more issues into the lives of people who were mostly living in lower economical level and were underprivileged. Such religious fundamental attitudes have caused a lot of social tension and unrest in history. When too much stress is given to canonical aspects, life in general will lose its natural beauty and abundance. Becoming religious and becoming spiritual are two different ways though it might sound similar. Jesus taught how to be spiritual and not just be religious. Shortly after the dispute, Jesus departed the place and went to Tyre and Sidon area which was more a multicultural and multi-faith society where a Canaanite woman who was from another faith community experienced Christ’s miraculous power. The next spot of His mission was Galilee where a multitude who were either poor or sick and were not showing up their religion enjoyed a grand feast while the religious people missed it. Is God religious or spiritual? Are we religious or spiritual? Do we miss the real Christ experience while finding ourselves busy with disputing and criticising? Let us be reminded of the ‘beatitude’ advice of the Lord that those who are poor in spirit shall see God (Mt 5:3-12).



ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

6890 Professional court, Mississauga, Ontario, L4V 1X6, Canada



Feasts:

Saturday, July 03rd, St Thomas Day, Morning Prayer at 08:00, H Qurbana at 09:00 am

St Thomas is the Apostle who evangelised India in the first century even before Christian faith reached many lands. It is a blessed realisation that India had the Church established in the same decade when the cities of Jerusalem, Antioch and Rome were evangelised. While sending the Apostles to preach the word into the world, Jesus cared for our land India too! St Thomas was dedicated enough to leave his own country and people and travelled to India to accomplish his mission and finally he was martyred there. The people in India are among the first Christians in the world. May we remember our Patron and Apostle St Thomas by whom we were reborn in Holy Spirit. May His life inspire us and his intercession shelter us.

Condolence

We join the sorrow of the family of George Mathew Panicker (G 05) on the passing away of Annamma Mathai aged 79 years, the beloved sister of Kunjamma M Panicker on Monday June 28th 2021. The funeral service was conducted at their home parish at Iritty Vayanad. Please keep the departed soul and the family members in our prayers. May the Lord comfort everyone.

MMVS Diocesan Programs

Bible Quiz: Saturday, October 02

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)

Covid Charity : Diocesan MMVS is collecting charity donations from everyone for helping Covid-19 affected patients who can't afford ventilator fees or hospital bills. Our prayerful presence and wholehearted support for our MMVS ministry is expected

Virtual Meetings ahead

Friday, July 02 – NEAD MMVS Friday Retreat, 12:00 – 01:00 pm

Friday, July 02 – Canada Region MMVS Prayer, 08:30 – 09:45 pm

Saturday, July 03 - SGOCT Choir Practice, 04:30 – 06:30 pm

Saturday, July 03 - SGOCT Prayer Meeting, 07:00 – 08:30 pm

Sunday, July 04 - Choir Monthly Meeting 06:00 – 07:30 pm

Monday, July 05 – Acolytes Meeting 07:30 – 09:00 pm

Friday, July 09 – OCYM Meeting 07:30 – 09:00 pm

Choir Practice on Saturdays

We have scheduled choir practice on Saturdays from 04:30 to 06:30 pm. We request choir members and Acolytes, especially those who are scheduled to take part in Holy Liturgy on respective Sundays, ensure their participation. Please join.

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

This Sunday, we will be using the Taksa of St Peter.

Please see below the Link for Live Streaming

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



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

Yours in Christ,

Thomas John Achen

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