



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - JUNE 03, 2022

Dearly beloved,

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

June 05, Sunday, Feast of Pentecost

Epistle Readings: Acts 2:1-13, 1 Cor 12:1-11, 2 Cor 13:11-13 Galatians 5:15-26

Holy Evangelion: St John 15:1-14, 16:5-15

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch of mine that bears no fruit, he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already made clean by the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you.

Reflections:

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. (Jn 16:13)

Holy Spirit brings unity and harmony. Without unity, nothing can become perfect. Disunity within our body mechanism would lead only to death and decay. What hinders our attempts for unity? Partial truth. All divisions and demolitions happen due to part or partial hearing. No relationship will stay if there is no way to mutual understanding. Jesus promised to send His Spirit who can guide in and to truth. We are knowledgeable and learned. But if we fail to grasp truth without prejudice, or do not keep ourselves receptive to truth, we will be living in a misconceived world. It cannot be intact or enduring. A world can cease to exist in no time if it is not made of truth. In addition to this, self-talks can destroy or distort it further. Holy Spirit never speaks of his own. He speaks only what God speaks.

The Feast of Pentecost brings in an opportunity for us to be open to truth and also raises a challenge to keep ourselves from speaking of our own. Pentecost calls us to start or restart 'God Talks'. Can we dare to take it?

Feasts:

Feast of Pentecost on Sunday June 05. The 'Waiting' is almost over!

The Holy Liturgy of Pentecost shall begin with Morning Prayer at 08:30, Holy Qurbana at 09:30, followed by the Pentecost Liturgy. The order of the feast would be of kneeling down.

Which is for complete submission and surrender to God's will. Whoever knelt down in prayer and submission received its fruits; miraculous fruits indeed. They had transforming experiences. Whatever



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situation we are in now, kneel down to surrender. We all will rise up changed, with changed lives! We won't miss this time.

This Sunday, the Holy Liturgy will be celebrated by Rev Fr Paul T Varghese from Vancouver. Please take time to meet and greet Achen.

Let us be in prayer and plead for the hovering of the Holy Spirit on us and on the whole creation.

Thrikkakkara Election Result

In Kerala, by election in Thrikkakkara constituency took place on May 31. The result has come out. A woman leader has emerged with this election. Her victory turns historical. Woman empowerment is not impossible.

I would like to raise a few questions. Election is of choices. There are choices in life which decide destiny of people, situations or events. If given to choose only two evils, what would we choose? Lesser evil or none? If given two goods, what would we choose and how? It would be better to look for the common good, consider what would be more required and look for God's interest too. If there is only freedom to choose and no bad or good is available, what should we do? We can't miss the chance. Better create a good first and then choose it!

New Rambans ordained

For the new bishops, the elected candidates got ordained to Rambans yesterday at Parumala St Peter's and St Paul's Church. They are Very Rev Abraham (Fr Abraham Thomas), Thomas (Fr P C Thomas), Geevarghese (Fr. Dr. Varghese K Joshua), Geevarghese (Fr Vinod George), Geevarghese (Fr. Dr. Reji Geevarghese) and Zachariah (Fr Zachariah Ninan). It was for the first time the Ramban ordination was live-streamed. It gave an opportunity for all, to see the meaning and relevance of Ramban ordination and the significance of their ministry. It included calling into the Sanctuary, giving instructions, kneeling down, cutting of hair, stripping the old and putting on new vestments, ordination, giving of the Cross, washing of feet and Holy Communion. Each and every step of ordination service demands pondering and meditating on it. Can we reflect on each and bring a write up? These steps can define our life too.

Church Picnic

Church Picnic will be conducted on Saturday 9th July, 2022 at Heart Lake Conservation Park, Brampton.

MMVS Bake Sale – Sunday, June 12

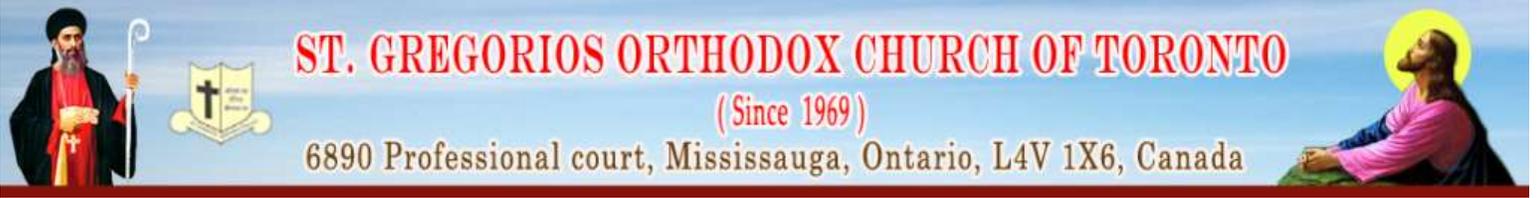
MMVS Bake sale will be on Sunday, June 12. We request participation of all members.

Please find update from the Sunday School Principal

OVBS 2022 is planned for August 10, 11, and 12th. Requesting the participation of all students. Sunday school will be conducting **competitions** such as **Solo Singing, Story Telling, Elocution, and Bible Quiz on Saturday, June 04.**

Vicar's travel to India, May 30 – June 30

The parish vicar will be away on holidays in India - May 30 to June 30. Arrangements have been made to cover Sundays and other days. For any pastoral needs, please contact the parish office, Thomas Joshua, Treasurer on (647) 887 4010 and Gijo Peter, Secretary on (647) 778 2119. The vicar can be reached through WhatsApp or Email: fr.thomasjohn@gmail.com. Local Indian contact shall be shared soon. Requesting prayers from all our beloved members.



Ordination of Acolytes

We may have members, adults or kids, willing to join the Altar Assistance Service. Whoever wishes to join the Acolytes, please feel free to reach out to the Vicar at (416) 570 5610. We will conduct the training sessions and fix a date for ordination.

SGOCT Parish Library and Book Club

We expect books or contributions from voluntary supporters.

‘Urava’- OCYM Journal Vol 2 release on August

The second volume of Urava will be released on Sunday, August 14 connecting to the Soonoyo Feast. We are inviting all organizations of our Parish to contribute articles to be featured in the Journal. The articles are expected to reflect the theme selected for this issue “Theotokos – The Second Eve”. The last date for submission of articles will be 30th June 2022.

Please find below - the subthemes selected for each organisation:

1. Sunday School i) Life of Saint Mary ii) “Behold, Thy Mother.”
 2. MGOCSM i) “Here I am” ii) Intercession of Mother Mary
 3. OCYM i) ‘Joseph’, a Male Model for Women Empowerment ii) ‘Mary’, More than a shell
 4. MMVS i) Women Leadership towards Salvation ii) Sword through the Heart
 5. Senior Forum i) “Hail Mary, Full of Grace” ii) Mary – An Initiator of Miracles
 6. Choir i) Magnificat – A Revolutionary Anthem ii) St. Mary in the Orthodox Liturgical Hymns
 7. Acolytes i) Various Symbols of St Mary in the Temple ii) Model for Diakonia – from Altar to Street
- Please send the articles to below email id with the subject line “Urava Volume 2 - Article - Organization Name”.

Email id: ocymtoronto@yahoo.com

Spiritual Organizations and WhatsApp Groups

All the spiritual organizations of our parish have created WhatsApp groups for regular communications and updates. We request all our members to join corresponding groups. If you are not already in, please reach out to organizational secretaries.

Gregorian Seniors Forum, G George: (416) 738 7765

MMVS, Beena Mathew: (647) 835 1521

OCYM, Suna Cherian: (647) 818 9376

Choir, Anand Joseph: (416) 276 5021

Acolytes, Cleemis Vaidhyan: (647) 308 2135, Anish Mathew: (647) 818 6125

MGOCSM, Emil Mathew: (647) 877 9272, Sandra Shaji: (647) 551 6563

Sunday School, Santosh Varughese: (416) 937 8595

MGOCSM Alumni

Our parish MGOCSM would like to reach all members who had any association with MGOCSM in India or elsewhere. Please inform whoever worked with MGOCSM. You can either send an email to mgoesm.sgoc@gmail.com copying to the vicar at fr.thomasjohn@gmail.com or send a message/call to (416) 570 5610.

Communicants Counting Machine, Wave your hand ‘ONCE’ please

All Sunday participants are requested to register their names at the entrance and as we enter the church interior. Please wave your hand once between the sensor poles of the counting machine if you are to take



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Holy Communion. Please do not wave if you are not taking Holy Communion. Thanks to everyone for your cooperation.

Meetings ahead, In-Person & Virtual

June 04, Saturday, SGOCT Choir & Acolytes joint practice, 05:00 – 07:00 pm

June 05, Sunday, Holy Liturgy of Pentecost

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

This Sunday, we will be using the Taksa of Mar Abraham Nahasirthono

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,

Thomas John Achen

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