



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - DECEMBER 04, 2020

Dearly Beloved,

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

Sunday, December 06, Birth of John (Children's Day)

Epistle Readings: 1 John 3:1-3, Ephesians 6:1-4, Colossians 3:20-21

Gospel Reading, St Luke 1:57-80 RSV

57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to be delivered, and she gave birth to a son. 58 And her neighbours and kinsfolk heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. 59 And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they would have named him Zechariah after his father, 60 but his mother said, "Not so; he shall be called John." 61 And they said to her, "None of your kindred is called by this name." 62 And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he would have him called. 63 And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, "His name is John." And they all marvelled. 64 And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. 65 And fear came on all their neighbours. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea; 66 and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

67 And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying, 68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people, 69 and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, 70 as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, 71 that we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all who hate us; 72 to perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant, 73 the oath which he swore to our father Abraham, 74 to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life. 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, 77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, 78 through the tender mercy of our God, when the day shall dawn upon[a] us from on high 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." 80 And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness till the day of his manifestation to Israel.

Reflections

Every newborn would raise the question of awe in others, 'What this child would become?!' The book of Genesis tells us about the mystery of being human: So God created humankind in his own image; in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27). Here it has been written, 'for the hand of God was with him' (Luke 1:66). The hand represents creativity. Every infant has the creative energy of the Creator, which would eventually be developed to its full depending on how it is dealt by each person. Human creativity would always be supported and enhanced by the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Father creates, Son saves and Holy Spirit leads to perfection or to full bloom. When the child was born, the Holy Spirit freed the tied tongue of his father Zachariah and made him prophesy on the future of the child, "You child, will be called a prophet of God, you will go before the Lord to prepare his way." (Luke 1:76) The prophecy was



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fulfilled in the life of John. How, for what purpose and for whom someone dedicates life decides on the growth of that person. When we were born, our parents thought highly of us, later our teachers too. How far could we develop ourselves, especially the spiritual potential we all had? We have children and grandchildren. How we take it as a mission to equip them in growing to fullness as God wants? Let us be thoughtful on what St Paul has said 'I can do all things in him who strengthens me.' (Philippians 4:13). We are powerful enough through Christ to carry out anything. One should never mourn, 'I can't', but always should tell the self, 'I Can'!

Feasts

November 30, St Andrew the Apostle. According to St John's gospel, Andrew was the disciple of John the Baptist who followed Christ after hearing John's witness, "Behold, the lamb of God" (John 1:35-43). He was the first disciple. It was through him, Simon Peter followed Jesus. He died a martyr like his master on the cross.

December 03, HG Thoma Mar Dionysius Metropolitan, 49th anniversary, entombed at Mount Tabore Dayara Chapel Pathanapuram. He was the disciple of Parumala Thirumeni. He was an excellent teacher and orator. He was the founder and the first superior of Mount Tabore Dayara, Pathanapuram.

December 04, St Barbara and St Juliana. They were two women martyrs of 04th century church who suffered the persecution of Diocletian and Maximian. They were together in witnessing Christ.

December 06, St Nicholas of Myra. He was also a 4th century saint who suffered persecution under Diocletian.

Christmas Lent

May it be reminded that we all observe the Nativity Lent in whichever way possible for us. One person's prayer and submission will have its reflection universally. This is what we learn from the sin of Adam and the redemptive work of Christ. We do our part. Rest is God's. May the whole world enjoy the good fruit of it.

Christmas Area Carol Service & Celebration

We had the first Area Carol Singing last Sunday. We all have wonderful memories of Area Carols done in the past. Virtual carol can't bring that same excitement, we agree. However we are not willing to skip the feel. Thanks to all participants in the last carol. The next carol will be dedicated to St Mary's Area. We request the area members to remain online to ensure their participation virtually. Donations are welcome and highly appreciated.

Christmas celebration will be conducted on Saturday, December 19th. We will be starting with the evening prayer at 6:00 pm. Our organizations have begun preparing for their presentations. Let us join our hearts and be in divine unity to rejoice in the coming of the Lord. Hallelujah!!!

Virtual Meetings

Friday December 04, NE American Diocese MMVS Retreat, 12:00- 01:00 pm

Friday December 04, Sunday School Liturgical Session for Seniors, 06:00 – 07:00 pm

Friday December 04, MMVS Canada Region Prayer Meeting, 08:15 – 09:30 pm

Saturday December 05, SGOCT Prayer Meeting, 07:00- 08:30 pm

Sunday December 06, SGOCT Choir Meeting, 06:00 – 08:00 pm



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MMVS Canada Region Virtual Annual Conference: Saturday December 12, 2020

The North East American Diocese Canada region MMVS is conducting a Virtual Annual Regional Conference and Bible Study through Google Meet on Saturday, December 12th 2020 starting at 09:15am to finish by 12:30pm. Please make sure our participation.

Parish Directory

The Parish Directory is in the process of distribution. Please contact the parish office to collect your copy.

Plaque of Contributors

The deadline for contributing towards the plaque has been closed. We are in the process of installing the plaque. Sincere thanks to all our beloved members for their positive response towards this project.

Articles required for the church

We do hope that the articles would be made available for use before Christmas. Sincere thanks to all the contributors.

Names of beloved departed members

We request our members to send the names and dates of the parting of their beloved family members. We would like to keep the list of the departed for remembrance on respective Sundays as we do for Birthdays and Wedding Anniversary Days. Please respond.

Election of new office bearers

We request all the spiritual organizations to elect new office bearers and send their list to the parish office. Please include the election of office-bearers in the next meeting agenda and do the needful.

Support HTRC

Holy Trinity Transfiguration Retreat Centre is a prestigious meeting place of the Diocese of North East America. It requires our support, especially at this time of pandemic. Our holy father Bava Thirumeni has asked all the members of the Malankara Orthodox church to support this spiritual renewal centre. Please find the link to offer our support.

Join us, #GivingTuesday, December 1, 2020, in donating to Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center, a ministry of the Northeast American Diocese. 10% of the funds raised will go to support the seminarians studying for the #NEDiocese. Give now: <https://bit.ly/Give2HTRC>
#Give2HTRC #SupportOurSeminarians #SupportThisMinistry

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

We will be using the Taksa of Abraham Nahashirthono, which has heart-melting prayers for God's compassion and tender care. Please listen and respond to it carefully.

Please find the Link for Live Streaming

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

COVID-19 Guidelines

We continue Holy Liturgy with limited participation of 10 members. We hope that the current restrictions would help in bringing down the spread of infection to zero. News about the vaccine



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starting to be administered by the end of December gives us more peace at heart. Let us keep on praying for the whole world. God shall protect us, His children everywhere.

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

Yours in Christ

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