



## WEEKLY THOUGHTS - FEBRUARY 04, 2022

Dearly beloved,

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

**Sunday, February 06, Fifth Sunday after Danaha Perunnal**

**Epistle Readings: Acts 9:10-21, 2 Corinthinas 4:1-6**

**Holy Evangelion, St Mark 1:12-20**

<sup>1,12</sup> The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup> And he was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to him. <sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel." <sup>16</sup> And passing along by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you become fishers of men." <sup>18</sup> And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup> And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup> And immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and followed him.

### Reflections:

Not all sources of temptation are bad. Temptations can be challenges and if taken, can help the person to build up life further. A warrior should never fear war. A student should never fear exams. A sailor should never fear the waters and winds. If a test helps in self-building up, it can better be viewed as driven by the Spirit of God as it has been written here in the Gospel text. The Holy Spirit guided Jesus and Satan tested him. What could it mean? God is good. He cannot act evil. He guides to situations where a person can weigh his or her credentials, probabilities and possibilities. Satan is none other than inclinations of the human mind which tends to yield to certain longings or preferences. They can vary depending upon each individual's internal tastes, desires and dreams. Kids cry for chocolates because they crave them. Nowadays chocolates have given way to mobile phones and tablets! Inclinations can become real hazards in life. They can block progress by diverting attention to unwanted or unnecessary things. One should have a strong will to remain on track. When life's goal and focus give way to temptations, one can end up an addict, anti-social, bankrupt, broken, unwanted or destructive. Winning over temptations can make one a saviour and successful. The Church is aware how it helps one overcome situations and hence lent is advocated. Let there be more victors than the defeated. God is with us!

### Feasts:

**February 02, Maeltho, Entrance of the Lord into the Temple (St Luke 1:22-39)**

All first entries anywhere have their own meanings. Here it was the Lord's first entry into the Temple. It became revelatory through the words of two senior citizens Simon and Hannah who were in the Temple. Their words came true in the life of the child. Entering a sacred space, meeting someone there, interactions we may have, messages we receive there, the way we find the place and the place finds us, altogether can play a pivotal role in our life.

We will have a Sunday School program in connection with 'Maeltho' this Sunday after the Holy Liturgy. Please listen to a senior member and two kids reflecting upon their church experience. Let us not miss it. Please remain connected after the Qurbana.



## **February 02, HG Pathrose Mar Osthathios Metropolitan, 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at Carmel Dayara, Kandanad**

HG Pathrose Mar Osthathios was like St Paul to gentiles. He preached Gospel to the poor, served the needy in the society and specially cared for the outcaste or untouchables. His mission among the less privileged became an eye opener to many who belonged to the higher class. Thirumeni's gospel work turned to be the church's mission in later years. People from other faith communities who were treated as lower caste accepted faith in Christ and got accepted to the Christian community. New churches were built for them. Thirumeni used to carry food stuff and other house necessities on shoulders or overhead while visiting their houses. Through his words of care and supply of necessities, the needy could enjoy their daily bread as it is said in the Lord's Prayer!

## **February 03, Mar Bar Sauma**

Fifth Diptych calls Bar Sauma the 'Chief of the Mourners'. The term might not be pleasing to the present era. We find more heroism in violence and use of force. In the early church, disciples were exceptions in the society. They lived differently to prove the wrongs of the popular culture and lifestyle. Many got attracted to their exceptional living. Mourners were a community who chose to live a life of penitence and lamenting over the lost values and unkind luxuries. They spoke less. Their silence and sobs transformed many lives. In what way can we live exceptionally in a greedy and selfish world?!

## **Nineveh Lent - Talk by Fr. Dr. Jacob Mathew, OTS Kottayam on Tuesday at 07:30 pm**

Nineveh Lent shall begin on Monday February 7th, to finish on Wednesday February 9th. There will be a Lenten evening prayer on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at church starting at 6:30 pm. Tuesday, February 08 evening prayer will be followed by Lenten devotional talk. Fr Dr Jacob Mathew, Old Testament professor at Theological Seminary Kottayam, will be delivering the devotional talk.

## **Holy Qurbana on Wednesday, Evening Prayer at 06:30, Holy Qurbana at 07:15 pm**

Wednesday February 09 evening prayer will start at 06:30 followed by Holy Qurbana. Let us look forward to observing the shortest but strongest lent.

## **Great Lent, Evening Prayer, Devotional Talks**

Great Lent will start on Monday, February 28th. As we did last year, there will be devotional talks at church every evening after Lenten prayer. OCYM has initiated a google signup sheet for devotional talks. Members can liaise with secretaries of respective organisations for confirming their participation. Please look for the google sheet and sign up at the earliest. We expect our members to participate enthusiastically as we did in the last year.

## **SGOCT Parish Library and Book Club**

SGOCT parish OCYM has planned to launch a Parish Library & Book Club project with the support of other organisations and our members. We will be starting the project with tracking current stock and receiving books from donors. Reference books and other required books shall be purchased in due-course. There will be a google sheet open soon with a list of required books. Whoever finds it convenient can choose which books they could donate. If we don't have copies in hand, we can buy and give.

We request our members who are fond of reading to support in setting up a useful library. We request our members who may be interested in donating books to look for the right books to donate, instead of using it to get rid of any books. Please feel free to contact the vicar on (416) 570 5610 for any clarifications or for expressing your willingness to support. We do believe that the library shall motivate our kids and youngsters to get equipped for their future through intense and voracious reading and it



also helps our senior generation to get engaged in fruitful sharing time through the book club.

## **Parish Journal**

We used to have a parish Newsletter which was discontinued during the pandemic. OCYM will be initiating a parish journal expected to be published on the day of Easter. We wish our members to contribute articles, poems, cartoons, stories or studies on the theme for each issue. The Easter issue will be based on 'Resurrection and New Beginning'. Organisations will be coordinating the work. Please look for details. You can reach out to organisation secretaries to discuss in what way you can be part of it.

## **Prayer Meetings are to resume – February 05 Saturday 06:30 – 08:00 pm**

Weekend prayer meeting shall resume on February 05 Saturday at 06:30 pm at church followed by fellowship gathering through Webex and shall be hosted by St Paul's Prayer Group. It will be open for all our members. The link shall be sent early beforehand. We request all our families to assure their participation. Please assure involvement and volunteering of kids too.

## **Spiritual Organisations and WhatsApp Groups**

All the spiritual organisations 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 organisational 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, Santhosh Varughese: (416) 258 2062

## **MGOCSM Alumni**

Our parish MGOCSM would like to reach all members whoever had any association with MGOCSM in India or elsewhere. Please inform whoever worked with MGOCSM. You can either send an email to [mgocsm.sgoc@gmail.com](mailto:mgocsm.sgoc@gmail.com) copying to the vicar at [fr.thomasjohn@gmail.com](mailto: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 Holy Communion. Please do not wave if you are not taking Holy Communion. Thanks to everyone for your cooperation.

## **Meetings ahead, In-Person & Virtual**

February 04, Friday, MMVS Canada Regional Prayer, 08:15 - 09:30 pm

February 05, Saturday, Choir/Acolytes joint practice, 05:00 – 06:00 pm

February 05, Saturday, Evening Prayer, 06:30 – 07:15 pm

February 05, Saturday, Prayer Meeting, 07:15 – 08:15 pm

February 06, Sunday, SGOCT Choir Monthly Meeting at church after the Holy Liturgy



# ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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February 06, Sunday, 'Pethurtha' of Nineveh Lent, Evening Prayer, 06:30 – 07:30 pm

February 07, Monday, Nineveh Lent Evening Prayer at church, 06:30 – 07:30 pm

February 08, Tuesday, Nineveh Lent Evening Prayer, 06:30- 07:30 pm, Devotional Talk by Rev. Fr. Dr. Jacob Mathew Karichal (OTS Kottayam), 07:15 - 08:00 pm, live streamed through webex.

February 09, Wednesday, Nineveh Lent Evening Prayer, 06:30 pm, Holy Qurbana, 07:15 pm

February 11, Friday, OCYM Monthly Meeting, 07:30 – 09:00 pm

## **Liturgical Text for this Sunday**

This Sunday, we will be using the Taksa of Mar Mathai Royo.

## **Link to Sunday Holy Liturgy**

Please see below the Link for Live Streaming

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