



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - MARCH 04, 2022

Dearly beloved,

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

Sunday, March 06 Sunday, Garbo (Healing of the Leper)

Epistle Readings: Acts 5:12-16, 19:8-12, 9:22-31, Romans 3:27-31, 4:1-5

Holy Evangelion: St Luke 5:12-16, 4:40-41

5. 12 While he was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy; and when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and besought him, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." **13** And he stretched out his hand, and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him. **14** And he charged him to tell no one; but "go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as Moses commanded, for a proof to the people." **15** But so much the more the report went abroad concerning him; and great multitudes gathered to hear and to be healed of their infirmities. **16** But he withdrew to the wilderness and prayed.

40 As the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various kinds of diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on each of them and cured them. **41** Demons also came out of many, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Messiah.

Reflections:

The Lord's hand has a healing touch. A touch can transform if it is done by Him. He is the Lord of compassion. The Great Lent is a time to experience the healing touch of God. All that is required is to completely surrender and to pray wholeheartedly. God's touch can solve all the problems of insensitivity. The healed leper got reaccepted to society. Likewise, a God-touched person can regain all connectivity and get back to healthy relationships. The Holy Spirit can reorganize, reinstate, and reconfigure us in our lives. As we observe the Great Lent, it is expected of us that our hearts be transformed into that of the Lord, then the same healing can be brought by our touch too.

Feasts:

March 01, Mar Anthreyos Bava (Kallada Appooppan), entombed at St Mary's OC, Kallada

Mar Anthreyos Bava was a Syrian bishop who came to India and served the Malankara church. He lived a saintly life. His prayers and intercession were of great help and guidance to many in distress. His tomb has become a pilgrim centre frequented by seekers of blessings from all strata of life.

March 02, Konattu Abraham Malpan, entombed at Pambakkuda

Konattu Abraham Malpan was a great educationist, efficient teacher, and a good human. He was compassionate and caring. He was a scholar in the Syriac language, taught many clergies, and translated



liturgical texts to Malayalam. He was respected by all because of his holy life.

March 05, St Ephraem and St Theodoros

Mar Aprem (St Ephrem the Syrian) is venerated as a theologian, teacher of faith, and hymnographer. All his hymns are theological in content and examples of excellent poetry. If he was not a theological hymnographer, he would have become the greatest romantic poet! The Lenten beautiful bovoothos, Karthaave kripa cheyyanamae..., Aadratha thonnamae naadhaa..., Njangal than Karthaavae Nee..., how can we imagine a Lenten prayer without Karthave Kripa Cheyyanamae..? While enjoying the lyrical beauty, let us delve deep into the theological meaning too.

St Theodoros was a martyr, similar to St George. All these martyrs prove that faith and devotion to God can be held above all. Living for the right cause is greater than life.

Abune Merkorios is Mourned

The Co Patriarch and Catholicos of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tevahedo Church HH Abune Merkorios Bava has entered eternal rest. The Ethiopian Church has been led by two Patriarchs and the major administration has been carried out by Abune Mathias. Ethiopian Church is the largest church after the Russian Orthodox Church and the largest among the Oriental Orthodox churches. The Malankara Orthodox Church and Ethiopian Orthodox Church have close contacts and connections. Let us join our sister church in mourning and give thanks to God for all the blessings the world has received through the ministry of this Holy Father.

Shane Warne passes away

Australian legendary cricketer, former captain, one of the great leg-spinners has passed away leaving a shock to millions of cricket lovers. When he was playing, the whole world was enjoying pure cricket no matter which side. Such was the mesmerizing spell he had with the ball !

Great Lent, Evening Prayer, Devotional Talks

We have progressed one week in the Great Lent. The passing week has given us the feel of it and also a chance to evaluate how far we could do with it. If we haven't started yet, let us begin now, no matter if a week is gone, we still have 6 weeks. If you have found a way to fasting according to our capacity to endure, please continue. If you can't adjust properly, keep trying. We can do it. If it is a challenge, then take that challenge. You should set a goal for Lent. We will achieve it, say to ourselves every morning. Noon Prayer at 12:00 – 12:30. The link has already been sent. Please join if possible. 40 kneeling down is an experience. Let us taste it.

The devotional talks at church every evening after Lenten prayer is going well. Imagine a 50 days convention organized by a parish in Kerala, the gatherings every evening, colour lighting, public sound system, various convention preachers of fame delivering talks each day, and many associated programs. Without any of these external colours, we are doing it. Our willing spirits are the colour we can have here. Let us come together in gratitude for God's divine providence. Lent is a call to action to reflect God and to open the windows to heaven. Fasting and prayer can do wonders in our life. Why can't we try?



Please join the evening prayer at 07:00 pm followed by a devotional talk. If possible, come to church. Together we will celebrate the season of abundant grace!

Holy Confession every evening

Lent is a time for deep cleansing of hearts. Let us take this opportunity to do Holy Confession. It gives way to a new start with new insights and goals. We can find time either before evening prayer or after the devotional talk. Please feel free to call on (416) 570 5610 to fix the time.

Parish GBM for Annual Reports, Accounts, and Budget 2022 on Sunday, February 27

Our Parish General Body meeting for Reports, Accounts, and Budget 2022 was conducted on Sunday, February 27th, 2022 after the Holy Liturgy. We do thank all members for their participation, sharing of thoughts, and all support.

SGOCT Parish Library and Book Club

SGOCT parish OCYM has planned to launch a Parish Library & Book Club project with the support of other organizations and our members. We will be starting the project by 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 them.

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 them 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

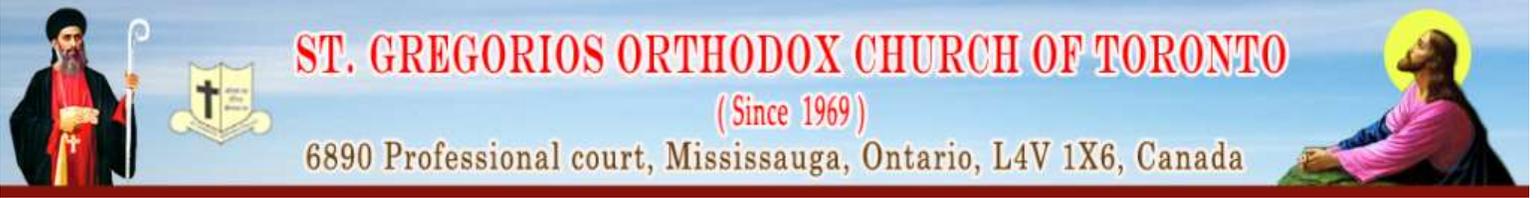
We used to have a parish Newsletter which was discontinued during the pandemic. OCYM will be initiating a parish journal expected to be published on the day of Easter. We wish our members to contribute articles, poems, cartoons, stories, or studies on the theme for each issue. The Easter issue will be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

Journal - Name it!

We are inviting name suggestions for the journal. You can send the name to OCYM. The last date will be March 25. The name will continue for future issues too.

Journal - Draw Icon

We are looking for Resurrection Icons drawn by Sunday School students to use on the Journal Cover.



Students can send the icons on or before March 25th. The icon should be an orthodox presentation. It can be copied or newly drawn.

Spiritual Organisations 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, Santhosh Varughese: (416) 258 2062

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.sgoct@gmail.com copying to the vicar at fr.thomasjohn@gmail.com or send a message/call to (416) 570 5610.

MGOCSM Toronto Lenten Retreat: March 12 Saturday at SGOCT

MGOCSM Toronto will be hosting their annual Lenten Retreat as an in-person event on Saturday, March 12th at 9 AM, at St. Gregorios Orthodox Church of Toronto. Rev. Fr. Givargis Koshy will be the main speaker for this year's event. The theme for this year's retreat will be based on St. Luke 18:9-15. The event poster and registration link are attached to this email. Hoping to finally see you all in person.

40th Anniversary of the Diocesan MMVS in North America

The Diocese has planned the following events to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the MMVS in North America:

1. 40th-anniversary ceremony will be held on October 1, 2022, at St Thomas Indian Orthodox Church in Unruh, Philadelphia.
2. Women who were a part of the MMVS prior to 1982 are being honoured.
3. Provide educational assistance to 40 children for a year. A raffle voucher sale will be held for this purpose. Each family can purchase a raffle ticket for \$40 USD. Please save a dollar every day during Great Lent and participate in the raffle coupon sale. There's also the option of sponsoring a child for a year. The expense for this is \$1500 US dollars.

The raffle coupon draw will take place on October 1st, 2022 during the anniversary ceremony.

1st Prize: iPhone 13

2nd Prize: iWatch



ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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



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

March 05, Saturday, Choir/Acolytes joint practice, 05:30 – 07:00 pm

March 05, Saturday, Evening Prayer, 07:00 – 08:00 pm

March 06, Sunday, Sunday School Staff Meeting, at church after the Holy Qurbana

Monthly Meeting of Parish Choir has been postponed to Sunday March 13 at church after the Holy Qurbana.

Pray for Ukraine

The situation in Ukraine is worrying and horrifying. The evacuation of Indian students has been organized by the government. There are many more stranded and at heavy risk. They are our family, children of God the Father. Various aids are flowing to the spot, but they cannot stay there to make use of them. People are running away for life. This should remind us of the fleeing of Joseph, Mary, and infant Jesus to Egypt. While we observe the great lent, when we kneel in prayer, let us keep the faces of all victims and plead for God’s Mercy. May the Spirit of God intervene and re-establish peace in the area.

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

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

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

fr.thomaspjohn@gmail.com

Mobile: (416) 570 5610