



## WEEKLY THOUGHTS - SEPTEMBER 04, 2020

Dearly Beloved,

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

**September 06, Fourth Sunday after Dormition of Mother Mary**

**Gospel Reading, St Mathew 5:38-48 RSV**

38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ 39 But I say to you, Do not resist one who is evil. But if any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also; 40 and if anyone would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well; 41 and if any one forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to him who begs from you, and do not refuse him who would borrow from you. 43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

### **Reflections:**

Christianity is a way of life. It is the way of love! Absence of love is death. God has sent His only Begotten Son to reveal His love towards His creation. That love was sacrificial in every aspect. An eye for an eye was the Mosaic correction of a more brutal existed practice of taking vengeance by whole destruction of the rival. For the ‘people of God’, it was a major reform or a revolutionary idea. With the coming of Jesus, the old law has given way to more emphases on love and humility. Jesus taught more on forgiving and reconciling. He wanted His disciples exceedingly loving and compassionate. He wanted them to be exactly like the Heavenly Father who is perfect. There was already an existing practice of readiness to help the needy. Jesus took them beyond the norm and convention by saying; “If anybody asks you to go with them one mile, go with them two miles. Love your enemy.” It was incredible a thought! The disciples were listening to something they had never heard or even imagined! He wanted His people to grow beyond the average religious person. Obeying the law was not enough. There was a qualitative difference anticipated of the ‘children of God’. This is why Christianity could raise real challenges in the world and was able to attract people from various cultural backgrounds. See where this ideology hasn’t reached in this wide world?! Whoever had taken it seriously, they all have brought some changes and differences in the world. This is the power of love! This is the power of being Christian! This is the way to perfection!

### **Feasts:**

August 31, HG Paretu Mar Ivanios Metropolitan, 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at Pampady Dayara. ‘Paretu Thirumeni’, lovingly called by all, was the successor of a real saint of the church, Pampady Thirumeni. He was the senior metropolitan who presided over the Synod which consecrated the fifth Catholicose of Malankara in 1975. He was a strong leader and always stood for autonomy and



# ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

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freedom of the church in India.

September 02, Yuyakim Mar Koorilos Metropolitan, 146<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at Mulanthuruthi Marthoman Pally.

## **‘Ettunompu’, Lent of St Mary**

### **Retreat on Friday, September 04**

SGOCT MMVS is organising ‘Ettunompu’ vigil, fasting, retreat and prayer on Friday, Sept 4th, starting at 09:30 AM to finish with noon prayer at 12:00 PM. It will be a virtual meeting through Webex. The link has been sent. Please assure your valid participation.

### **Feast Day Holy Liturgy on Monday, September 07**

Holy Liturgy on the Feast Day of St. Mary will be on Monday September 7<sup>th</sup> with evening prayer starting at 07:00 PM followed by Holy Qurbana.

## **Sunday School Reopening**

Please find the schedule for September to December 2020:

1. Sunday School Reopening - We will officially reopen on September 13 at 4:00 PM through Webex (invite will be sent closer to the date).
2. Class times - Each grade teacher will set the day and time for the class time and send the meeting invite to the parents/students.
3. Common time - Once a month we will conduct common time on Sunday afternoon at 4:00 PM; The dates are as follows:  
October 18<sup>th</sup>, November 22<sup>nd</sup> & December 20<sup>th</sup>
4. Text books and Work books - Each grade teacher will scan the text book/work book and e-mail it to you. Please print as required for your child/children. Information on classes and common time beginning in January 2021 will be provided in December. Thanks to those who have returned the textbooks. We are still waiting for many to return the textbooks. Please arrange to return the textbooks.

## **OCYM Charity Fund Raising:**

SGOCT OCYM is organising the Annual charity drive for the year 2020. Hope we all are aware that this has been an ongoing practice for the past few years. We request each and every member of our parish to support this initiative generously.

## **Gregorian Seniors Forum Get-Together:**

The Gregorian Seniors Forum get-together will be on Thursday, September 17th at 05:00 PM at the Peace Garden, near St. Mary’s Shrine (not on September 3rd as previously announced). Please bring chairs and foldable tables. We will follow the Covid protocol.



### **Virtual Meetings:**

Friday, September 04, SGOCT MMVS Retreat, 09:30 AM-12:30 PM, through Webex  
Friday, September 04, MMVS Canada Region Retreat, 08:30 PM-09:30 PM virtual, link shall be sent to MMVS members  
Saturday, September 05, Sunday School Liturgical Session for Juniors, 10:30 AM-11:00AM  
Saturday, September 05, Sunday School Liturgical Session for Seniors, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM  
Saturday, September 05, SGOCT Prayer Meeting, 07:00 PM-08:30pm through Webex  
Friday, September 11, NE American Diocese MMVS Retreat, conducted by our parish (SGOCT) virtually. The link shall be sent.

### **Please find the link of live-streaming the Holy Liturgy:**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQw1yZ1\\_yCG9AWStA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQw1yZ1_yCG9AWStA)

### **Hearty Congrats!**

Hearty Congratulations to Nikhila & Shano on their Holy Matrimony! The Sacrament has been solemnised at our parish church on Sunday August 30<sup>th</sup>. May we all keep them in prayer as they have started their family life. May the Spirit of God guide and keep them. May their life of witness be a blessing to the whole world. Congrats!

### **RSVP for participating in the Holy Liturgy has been stopped**

We are stopping the RSVP for confirming participation in the Holy Qurbana. Since the first use of RSVP, we have never received communicants exceeding the limit of Covid protocol. Next weekend onwards, our members can come straight without sending RSVP. Our members are advised to fill in the data sheet kept in front at the left entrance. We need the name of only one family member and mention the number of attendees from that family. Mask will be mandatory inside the church. Holy Communion shall be dispensed in the end. There will not be the conventional practice of kiss of peace, but only mutual bowing down, Communion shall be given with separate spoon for each communicant, no blessing with cross at the time of dispersal, no laying of hand for absolution and no touch on any elements or articles. We cannot encourage gatherings or serving of food or drinks after the service. Let us fervently pray for a proper vaccine to be made available soon.

Holding you in prayer

Yours in Christ

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