



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - JUNE 05, 2020

Dearly Beloved,

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

Sunday 07 June - First Sunday after Pentecost

Gospel Reading: St John 6:26-35 RSV

26 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. 27 Do not labour for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of man will give to you; for on him has God the Father set his seal." 28 Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." 30 So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see, and believe you? What work do you perform? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" 32 Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven, and gives life to the world." 34 They said to him, "Lord, give us this bread always." 35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst.

Reflections:

Post-Pentecost Sundays have more texts prone to Eucharistic experiencing Christ through Holy Communion. This doesn't limit the believer's role to attend the service and take Holy Communion. This is to affirm the organic relationship we maintain through worship and to live life accordingly. There is a challenging term used to define our weekly life, not only the weekend Church life. 'Liturgy after Liturgy' is the follow-up that believers should do on the remaining days of the week. Members of the Church will never have a chance to be offline/off-life (line and life of Christ the Lamb!). Imperishable bread is not only the Holy Body and Blood of Communion but also the everlasting good works one should do in life. Christ had already mentioned this imperishable food (John 4:34); "My food", said Jesus, "is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work." The feeling of the invisible presence of the Lord also serves as the eternal food. This eternal food is found through our thoughts, words, and deeds. It is everlasting and leads us to resurrection.

Friday 05 June: Golden Friday –

Acts 3:1-10 Revised Standard Version (RSV)

1 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. 2 And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at that gate of the temple which is called Beautiful to ask alms of those who entered the temple. 3 Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked for alms. 4 And Peter directed his gaze at him, with John, and said, "Look at us." 5 And he fixed his attention upon them, expecting to receive something from them. 6 But Peter said, "I



ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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



have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” 7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. 8 And leaping up he stood and walked and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 and recognized him as the one who sat for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

The church calls it Golden Friday not because the church has anything to do with gold. Rather, the church has nothing to do with it. Peter states “we have neither silver nor gold.” If asked, what treasure church has, the reply would be ‘nothing except Christ, and He is everything’. He had already said, without Him, Church cannot do anything (John 15:5). Now, especially in the time with COVID restrictions, we have realized this clearer than ever before. Buildings, properties, wealth, members-count, and anything with material worth - none of this matters. What we have now is only the spiritual presence of Christ. We have been witnessing what value humans have, while carried away by people assigned for burial. Not even family or friends have any meaning. In short, we have realized the worthlessness of human worries. It doesn’t mean that we should go into despair, but to realize the greatest treasure we have, Christ Jesus, our Saviour, and Lord. As St Paul said, we could also take pride in saying; “I will boast about Him” (2 Corinthians 12:5). “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world” (Galatians 6:14). Let us be bold and confident to say; “I can do everything through Him who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:13).

05 June: World Environment Day

The theme for World Environment Day 2020 is, 'Time for Nature', with a focus on its role in providing the essential infrastructure that supports life on Earth and human development. This focus is expected to provide an opportunity for driving the momentum and public awareness of nature as a key aspect in the lead up to the 15th meeting of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). COP 15 was expected to take place in October 2020, but will be rescheduled for 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For us, people of faith, Environment and everything pertaining to it has been created by God. Holy Bible allows us to go ahead only after yielding to the thought that God created everything and He had found it good (Genesis 1,2). The Genesis account of the ‘beginning of everything’ brings in a balanced and harmonious view of life on earth. Everything created on a single stretch (In Genesis, the scientific and evolutionary aspect is not intended to be dealt with.) concerning the relevance, significance, and interdependence. According to this, all creation goes ahead of humans. If it is a march, the human race only follows the end! The Garden of Eden has all the flora and fauna intermingle with rivers (Gen 2:10-25), minerals & metals, sun and moon, stars and sky, soil and water, dew, snow, and unto the last human is made with soil. What a wonderful depiction of cohabitation and eco-friendly living?! Here we find the role, responsibility, and duty of us- ‘to till and to keep’ and not to exploit. It is a divine commission given to us, to take care of everything. St Paul affirms the salvation of the whole creation that would happen through glorification (divinization/deification/theosis) of humans. (Romans 8:18-22) I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not



of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now. Christ's mission is not only limited among humans, but also the extending of service to the whole creation. Every child should realize this call and respond to it. We cannot skip responsibility and enjoy a free life. It will not work, as we see it now. If anything left unattended, it can grow bigger than the universe and destroy the whole. Our lifestyle should be a sacrament that affirms the dignity and freedom of every creature, every element. See how God the creator has taught us how to look after the mother Earth through a virus?! Psalmist confirms this holistic view of life; 'The earth and its fullness belong to God' (Psalm 24:1). Let us think universally and act locally. Let us make the whole creation feel that we are a blessing!

May I strongly recommend reading the tiny book 'No one is too small to make a difference' by Greta Thunberg, a schoolgirl who has become the voice of the Earth regarding solving climate change.

Church Garden

We have already started cleaning and clearing of garden area. A few plants have been brought. We have scheduled a voluntary garden work on Saturday 06 June starting at 08:00 in the morning. Whoever finds it convenient, please come with garden tools and safety put-ons. Those who are interested in donating trees, shrubs, plants, garden mix...please contact Parish Secretary on (416) 953 9686. You can also bring plants straight to church on Saturday morning. Let us dedicate this project to World Environment Day!

Parish Directory Updating

A Parish Directory Update Form shall be sent out to our members shortly. It can be done online by accessing the link connected to our Website. We have families moved to new places and their contacts yet to be updated. Please remember to update the email and phone contacts of family members too. If anybody needs any technical assistance, please contact our Treasurer on (647) 887 4010.

MMVS Diocesan Retreat: Saturday 20 June 2020, 09:30 – 12:00 am, via Zoom

The MMVS Diocesan Committee after meeting with the diocesan metropolitan H.G. Zachariah Mar Nicholovos Thirumeni has decided to cancel the 3 day Annual retreat which was scheduled for June 5-7, 2020 at HTRC. This decision was to stay in compliance with the state mandated social distancing rule due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, there will be a Virtual Retreat conducted on Saturday, June 20, 2020 from 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M through a Zoom meeting. The registration form and flyer has been with this email. The link on the flyer will bring you to the registration form. *Registration is free and will remain open until June 10th, 2020.*

Virtual Meetings scheduled for this weekend

Saturday 06 June, 10:00am – 12:00pm, Divyabodhanam



ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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



Saturday 06 June, 04:00-06:00 pm, OCYM Parish Unit

Saturday 06 June, 07:00-08:30 pm, SGOCT Prayer Meeting

Liturgical Text for this Sunday: Taksa of Isaac, this text has a prayer for those who are travelling via air, which means it has updated after Air Traffic started. This text has longer prayers. If we closely attend, we would be able to listen to the prayer for air travellers.

Please access the link for live-streaming https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQw1yZ1_yCG9AWStA

Grumpy Cat: A web page has started going viral with its posting of pics of Cats which go grumpy. It has a claim of about 53,000 followers in a short time. It is nice to see their expression. Just one thought- How many times we go grumpy every day?! If the pictures are taken and posted, how it would look like?!

Holding you all in prayer

Yours in Christ

Thomas John Achen

fr.thomaspjohn@gmail.com

+1 (416) 570 5610