



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - NOVEMBER 05, 2021

Dearly beloved,

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

Sunday, November 07, Hudos Eetho (Sunday of Dedication)

Epistle Readings: Acts 7:44-53, Revelation 3:14-22, Hebrews 9:1-14

Holy Evangelion: St John 10:22-38

10. 22 It was the feast of the Dedication at Jerusalem; 23 it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. 24 So the Jews gathered round him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." 25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness to me; 26 but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; 28 and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."

31 The Jews took up stones again to stone him. 32 Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of these do you stone me?" 33 The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we stone you but for blasphemy; because you, being a man, make yourself God." 34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, you are gods'? 35 If he called them gods to whom the word of God came (and scripture cannot be broken), 36 do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? 37 If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; 38 but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." 39 Again they tried to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.

Reflections:

Disbelief is not a problem of the present. It has been there since the beginning of human origin. The absence of mutual trust had led the early tribes to fight and kill each other and such fights continue even now. Nations, communities, cultures, generations, and individuals suspect each other and try to justify force, weaponry, and bloodshed. Terrorism and religiopolitical fights have never ceased in history till now. When Jesus was physically in front of their eyes, many of the leaders and community members couldn't believe it. While seeing him talking about scriptural fulfilment about himself, and performing many miracles, the religious authorities were showing indifference to him. They wanted to disqualify him and tried their best to convince people against accepting him as the Messiah. It was their prejudice and premonition that kept them from approving his authority. Ironically, they were the ones well versed in the Holy Scripture and aware of prophecies concerning the Messiah. They were the people expected to present the Saviour in the world. Their knowledge about the Messiah didn't help them to acknowledge him in public. It is not knowledge or authority that saves the world but humility to accept reality and willingness to submit to God's will.

Feasts:

November 07, Hudos Eetho (Dedication of Church)

The Church has arranged the liturgical year for the faithful to walk with the Lord from his birth till his second coming. In this, we pass through all the major events in the life of Christ. It has been set with a



sense of correlation and aesthetic beauty which transcends time and space to taste eternity in this temporal world. The Feast of Dedication of the Temple comes after the Feast of Sanctification. It will be followed by Sundays with a remembrance of events taken place prior to the nativity. Hudos Eetho is the ecclesial adaptation of the Festival of 'Hanukkah' which means dedication. It is the annual observance for the cleansing of the temple. It is also of the historical rededication narrated in the book of Maccabees - 1 Macc 4 and 2 Macc 1. With spirit and joy our ancestors had observed this festival, with the same intensity of faith and dedication we rededicate our lives to continue to be the temples of God. As St Paul reminds us, we are His temples; "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" (1 Cor 3:6).

November 06, 07 Saturday and Sunday – SGOCT Feast of Parumala Thirumeni

Our parish will be celebrating the Feast of St Gregorios, our patron saint on Saturday and Sunday, November 06 & 07. On Saturday, evening prayer will start at 06:30 pm, followed by a devotional hymn by the choir. The hymn will be followed by a commemorative message by Rev Fr Sam Thankachen, along with 'Perunnal Raza' and 'Nerchavilampu'. Perunnal Qurbana will be on Sunday, November 07 starting with Morning Prayer at 09:00 am followed by Holy Liturgy, Benediction, and Nerchavilampu. Please follow the program flyer and assure our participation for both Sandhya Namaskaram and Perunnal Qurbana. May the intercession of Parumala Thirumeni be a fortress for us.

Significance of celebrating the life of a Saint

"I am the way and the truth and the life." (St John 14:6)

The Christian life is walking the way of Christ the Lord. Who could tell us the benefit of following Christ? We have Saints who have gone before us. Parumala Thirumeni is our local saint who walked in front of us. Our grandparents had seen him, met him, and received the touch of healing from him. For us, Parumala Thirumeni is someone very close to us. He is the most recent historical person who proved the tremendous blessings one could gather and dispense through choosing to be a true disciple of Christ. We acknowledge his life by celebrating it. We make an announcement in the world about what life we prefer to live. If Jesus is the way, Parumala Thirumeni is the guide who could lead us to the Lord. He goes with us as a dependable navigator. As we live in a world of too many choices and roads, saints help us from getting lost.

Who gave us teachers and mentors?

"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors, and teachers the ability to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-13). We need teachers of the faith to lead us till we attain the fullness of Christ. Can anybody claim that it has been achieved? We are still infants who look for trustworthy hands to hold on our journey of holy ascent.

Bo'utho from the intercessory prayer of the Feast of Mar Gregorios

May your prayer be with us, O Mar Gregorios; may your prayer be with us. May the Lord hear your prayers and absolve us.

You were occupied with pure and most exalted life. You were diligent in long fasting and in prayers. With pure soul, mind filled with love, body purified from defilements and evil passions, with teaching and manners of righteousness and firm combat you completed your whole life.

Glory to Father who chose you even in the childhood; worship to the Son who had appointed you as a pillar in His Church; thanksgiving to the Spirit, by whom you were strengthened and you won a victory over errors of all detestable thoughts and innovations, and who sang through you the sweet hymns of praises. Behold, He dwells in your bones, even after your death. May your prayer be with us

By your prayers, may the Lord remove the rods of wrath from everyone who takes refuge in you with



faith. Amen.

November 02, Kadavil Paulose Mar Athanasios Metropolitan, 113rd anniversary, entombed at Aluva Thrikkunnath Seminary

Kadavil Thirumeni was a scholar and an efficient leader who was very close to Parumala Thirumeni. Both of them visited Ceylon along with Alvarez Mar Julius and led the ordination of Fr Rene Villatte to bishop Mar Timotheos.

November 05, HG Stephanos Mar Theodosios Metropolitan, 13th anniversary, entombed at St Thomas Ashram Bhilai

HG Stephanos Mar Theodosios Metropolitan will be remembered for the successful North Indian mission, where he initiated many educational institutions for uplifting the less privileged. He is also known for building up healthy intercultural relationships in the northern region, and for the love and care for the needy. Nagpur theological Seminary was his dream and vision.

November 06, Gevarghese Mar Coorilos Valiyaparampil, 54th anniversary, entombed at Aluva Thrikkunnath Seminary

Happy Diwali

Diwali is one of the major Indian festivals, now observed all over the world as there is no place on earth without an Indian presence. Diwali is the festival of lights, similar to 'Hanukkah' and 'Hudos Eetho.' Diwali highlights the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. Happy Diwali to all our Hindu friends all over the world!

COP 26

The UN Climate Change Conference, which is being held in Glasgow UK, has brought world leaders to pledge an end to deforestation by 2030. It has been assumed that 6 billion hectares of forest were destroyed worldwide which is one-third of the total and an area almost twice the size of the United States. Forests keep biodiversity, support sustainable livelihood, and play a crucial role in climate change adaptation efforts. Canada has 9% of the world's forests, with less than 0.5% deforested since 1960. Living in Canada also means being committed to its environment and natural life.

Condolence

Our deepest condolence to Mathai Mathulla Neeruvilayil (Raju), Lovely Mathulla Neeruvilayil, and family (Directory Ref: M03) on the passing away of his beloved mother Mrs. Annamma Paulose (85 yrs), who was the wife of late Mathai Paulose. She is survived by sons and daughters Mathai Mathulla, Susy, Kochumon, Babu, Sofy, Lilly, Somi, and Sojan. The funeral service was conducted on Thursday, November 05. Please keep the departed soul and family members in prayer. May God Almighty console the departed soul and comfort the grieving family members.

Time Change- Sunday November 07, Clocks will turn backward 1 hour

On Sunday, November 7, 2021, 2:00:00 am clocks are turned backward 1 hour to 1:00:00 am local standard time. Also called Fall Back and Winter Time.

Please be aware about the time change, enjoy an extra hour sleep, and come to church in a new glow!

GBM 2021 on Sunday November 21, 2021

We are planning to conduct a Parish Assembly (General Body meeting GBM) on Nov 21, 2021. Please fulfil both confession and payments requirements to attend the GBM. The time for holy confession can be arranged with the vicar by reaching out to Mob: (416) 570 5610.



ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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



Preliminary list for GBM will be posted on the notice board in the church basement on Sunday November 07, 2021. Please check your names to confirm your eligibility to attend the GBM. Agenda shall be announced at church

Holy Confession Arrangement

When you wait for your scheduled time for confession, please wait at the basement. You can come forward only after the confessing person leaves the church main hall.

How to come for Holy Communion

For receiving HQ, please come in an orderly manner (bench by bench) to avoid crowd and to keep physical distance. If you need to leave church early, please come to the front through the side aisles (not middle aisle) to receive HQ.

Gregorian Seniors Forum initiating charity fund towards Mental Health Wellness Program

Please contribute towards Mental Health Wellness Program initiated by our Seniors, Contributions shall be accepted till 08 Nov

Luncheon Meeting on November 18

Gregorian Seniors Forum arranging Luncheon Meeting on Nov 18, 12:00 – 03:00 pm in the church basement. Welcome all 60+ members. Contact Ben Varghese and James Vaidhyan or G George by Wed Nov 10 for confirming participation. Food shall be ordered.

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.

Choir & Acolytes joint practice- Saturdays 4:30-6:00 pm

This is a reminder to all our choir members and Acolytes to attend the weekly choir practice currently conducted virtually on Saturdays 04:30 – 06:00 pm. We would wish our choir members and acolytes who will be taking turns on the upcoming Sunday or feast days to join the practice session for better coordination and harmonious chanting. The link shall be sent before the meeting.

Meetings ahead, In-Person & Virtual

November 06, Saturday, SGOCT Choir & Acolytes weekly practice – 05:00 – 06:30 pm In-person & virtual

November 06, Saturday, Evening Prayer at Church, 06:30 – 07:15 pm, live-streamed

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

This Sunday, we will be using the Taksa of Mar Osthathios

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