



## WEEKLY THOUGHTS - AUGUST 06, 2021

Dearly beloved,

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

### **Sunday, August 08th, First Sunday after the Feast of Transfiguration**

**Epistle Readings: James 4:7-5:6, Philippians 4:8-20,**

**Holy Gospel: St Matthew 21:28-32**

21. 28 “What do you think? A man had two sons; and he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ 29 And he answered, ‘I will not’; but afterward he repented and went. 30 And he went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. 31 Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the harlots believed him; and even when you saw it, you did not afterward repent and believe him.

### **Reflection:**

Jesus was a great storyteller who told beautiful parables to convey the message of the Kingdom of God. He also used these parables to explain how to live a beautiful life on earth. Here he brings the story of two sons which gives way to a serious thought process in the minds of hearers. It is not only the story of sons but also of daughters who are thought to be successors. The parable shares the idea of required dutifulness and about carrying out responsibilities. In this parable, both sons hurt their father by failing to obey him. Every human, somewhere in the world, is expected to be responsible and responsive towards their duties. Some may repent after disobedience. However, the harm they bring will remain. We might think this story highlights the relevance of repentance which is the only solution if any violation occurs. In contrast, perfect obedience is the intended message. Jesus was trying to give an idea of the Kingdom of God where the Heavenly Father expects all His children to do His Will. Saddening God through disobedience is in no way anticipated. Disobedience, either major or minor, is viewed as sin deadlier than corruption and promiscuity.

### **Feasts:**

**Feast of Transfiguration- H Qurbana conducted on Thursday August 05, at 06:30 pm**

Holy Liturgy on the feast of Transfiguration was conducted on Thursday August 05 in the evening.

**August 06, HG Alexios Mar Theodosios OIC, 56th anniversary, entombed at Bethany Asram Perunad.**

Thirumeni founded the highly vibrant spiritual center of the church, Bethany Asram Perunad. This is now well established with a large community of monks, nuns, various institutions, along with many bishops and clergy as its members. The community includes HG Yuhanon Mar Athanasios Metropolitan and HG Paulose Mar Pachomios Metropolitan of blessed memory. Thirumeni had a well-disciplined ascetic life and his excellent leadership was a real source of strength for the church during difficult times. HG had represented the Malankara church in international and interchurch councils and other forums including the World Council of Churches as the central committee member.

**August 07, St Demetrios of Thessaloniki**

St Demetrios is considered a great military saint like St George or St Artemis and was martyred in



Thessaloniki, Greece around 306 AD. The city dwellers relied on his intercession, mostly for protection from foreign invaders. While serving under pagan rule and putting his life at risk, he spread the light of the Gospel. His life remains as an inspiration to all the followers of Christ in ages to come.

### **August 07, Fr Yaunan ‘Anchalachen’**

Fr Yaunan, who is respectfully called ‘Anchalachen,’ lived and served in Anchal town. He is revered as a saint by believers, especially in the southern part of Kerala. Achen lived an ascetic life and guided many in their spiritual life. He was a man of prayer who always spent time for the needy. Many have witnessed miraculous results of his intercession in their hard times.

### **30th Day Memorial Observance of beloved Bava Thirumeni organized by Canada Region – Monday, August 09, 05:30 pm**

Malankara Orthodox parishes in the Canadian region will be organizing the 30th Day memorial observance of the most beloved HH Baselios Marthoma Paulose II Bava Thirumeni on Monday, August 09, 2021, with evening prayer starting at 05:30. This is followed by Holy Qurbana and a virtual commemoration meeting. Holy Liturgy shall be conducted at St Thomas Orthodox Church which will be live-streamed along with the following memorial meeting. Dignitaries from other churches and government offices would be expected to participate. The detailed program and link to the meeting shall be sent soon. All our beloved members are requested to join the service and meet virtually. Please keep the event in our daily prayers.

### **Saturdays in August - Evening Prayer conducted at Church at 06:30 pm**

We have been on a virtual platform with our Saturday evening prayers since the Covid lockdown began. In August, we will be conducting the Saturday evening prayers at church starting at 06:30 pm. Our members, whoever finds it convenient, please come to church. The evening prayer might not be live-streamed.

### **MMVS Diocesan Programs**

**Bible Quiz:** Saturday, October 02

**Annual Conference:** Saturday, October 09

**Bible Study:** Every Thursday 8.30 - 9.30 pm. The study is based on the books Amos – Malachi led by Rev Fr VM Shibu (Vicar, St Gregorios Orthodox Church Bensalem)

### **Virtual Meetings ahead**

**Choir meetings will be on Wednesdays 08:00-09:00 pm.**

**No other meetings of organizations are scheduled for August except the parish virtual ‘Soonoyo’ retreat on Saturday, August 14, 2021, 09:30- 12:00 noon**

### **15 Days Lent of Theotokos**

Soonoyo Fast starts on August 01. Let us observe the fast and prayer during the Lent of Mother Mary with dedication. Intercession of St Mary is powerful and fruitful.

### **Soonoyo Retreat organized by SGOCT MMVS– Saturday August 14**

Our parish MMVS has organized a retreat for all our members during Soonoyo lent on Saturday, August 14, 09:30 am – 12:00 noon. Mrs. Merlin T Mathew will be leading the retreat. Merlin Kochamma is a well-known speaker and a spiritual guide highly in demand. Let us keep the retreat in



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prayer. We wish that the retreat will be a great blessing and an occasion for our spiritual renewal. Please remember the date and join.

## **OVBS 2021 –August 18-22**

This year's OVBS will begin on August 18 with its valedictory function on Sunday, August 22. Details shall be sent soon. All our children are expected to join. We request all parents and teachers to assure the participation of all children.

## **Condolence**

We do earnestly share the deep grief of the families of Samuel Geevarughese (Dir Ref S-15) and Idiculla Varughese (Dir Ref I-01) on the passing away of their beloved mother Mrs. Chinnamma Samuel at the age of 94 years. She was unwell. The funeral has been conducted on Thursday, August 05, 2021.

May the ever-loving presence of our Lord console the family members and friends during this time of grief. May the departed soul find a joyful place and comfort in the heavenly court.

## **Liturgical Text for this Sunday**

This Sunday, we will be using the Taksa of Mar Abraham Nahasirthono.

## **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,

Thomas John Achen

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