



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - MAY 06, 2022

Dearly beloved,

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

May 08 Sunday, Third Sunday after Easter

Epistle Readings: Acts 4:8-21, Hebrews 3:1-13

Holy Evangelion: St John 21:15-19

^{21.15} When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.” ¹⁸ Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you girded yourself and walked where you would; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish to go.” ¹⁹ (This he said to show by what death he was to glorify God.) And after this he said to him, “Follow me.”

Reflections:

The Lord's Table always leads the faithful to witness God's love in the world. Peter is asked by the Lord to take care of His flock. Serving others expresses one's love for the Lord. What is the role of any member of the church? It is the service one could offer to fellow beings, to each other. No one is entitled other than the needy and weak to be served. There is neither superior nor inferior in this matter. All are equal and deserve to be cared for. It is worth noticing that the Risen Lord asks His disciples to love each other. The church is the place to practice love. Love is the connecting thread. Christ had promised that whenever and wherever two or three come together in His name, He will be there in the midst. What else could Christ be than the love and care of the faithful experience when they come together! It is also worth pondering that God is love, God is with us and He is Immanuel. Love never withers away, hence God can't be missed! The faithful can never fail in loving each other and loving the whole creation! We are on a mission. Together we go to witness the Kingdom of eternal love!

Feasts:

May 03, HH Baselios Paulose I, 109th anniversary, entombed at Pampakuda Cheriapally

May 08, St John the Evangelist

May 08, Marthoma V, 257th anniversary, entombed at Niranom Valiyapally

May 07, 08, Feast of St George

We will be celebrating the feast day of St George this weekend. To meditate: If we have an icon of St George at home or it could be downloaded online, look at it for a few minutes. Read from Ephesians 6:10-17 and try to connect the list of the armour to the picture of the saint. Then go into the front of a mirror to see how we could put on the armour on us!

Mothers, you are too good to be loved and thanked! You are the best!

It's going to be the second Sunday of May. This is a special day for our mothers! There is nothing we could do to thank you because nothing can match what you do for us. We can only admit that because of



you, we are. Your neglect even for a second would have taken away our lives. Your ever-readiness kept us growing. We have been dependent upon your care and unconditional love. When the holy scripture says, "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you"(Is 66:13), it says about you to reveal how God loves!

Please join the Holy Liturgy this Sunday and afterward be kind to accept our gesture of gratitude. Moms, we love you!

Parish General Body Meeting on Sunday, May 01, 2022

The Parish General Body Meeting scheduled to be conducted on Sunday May 01 has been cancelled because we couldn't meet due to insufficient quorum. The next GBM date shall be announced later.

Condolence

1. We share the deep sorrow of Santosh Varughese and family (Dir Ref: S 05) on the passing away of his beloved father V V Varughese, 81 years, (Vattamathekethil, Kottoor P.O., Kaviyoor, Thiruvalla) on May 3rd Tuesday at 03:57 am Indian time.
He is the beloved husband of the late Mariamma Varghese. He is survived by Santosh Varughese Sheeba Varghese Karen and Anya, Satish Varghese, Nezrin Varghese, David and Daniel, Suresh Varghese, Manna Varghese and Nathaniya.
Funeral service was conducted on Friday May 06 at 01:00 pm at St Mary's Orthodox Church, Kottoor, Thiruvalla. The service was led by H G Dr Yuhanon Mar Chrisostomos Metropolitan, cousin of the departed.
2. Our deepest condolences to Mr Ben Varughese Nellithara and family (Dir ref: B 04) on the passing away of his elder sister Susan Varghese, 84 years, on May 05 Thursday in Rochester, New York, USA at 3:00 pm. She is survived by her husband Dr. Husayn Rashid, her children Rola, Hani and Sami, Son-in-law Christopher, Daughters-in-law, Megan and Christina and grandchildren, Devon, Lea, Noura and Vigo.
3. We prayfully join Lissa Mariam Jose and Leeba Susan Jose to share their deep grief on the passing away of their beloved grandfather A O Isaac, 89 years, Ammippillimalil House, Keezhillam, Ekm. He is survived by his wife Mary Isaac, children and their families Rev Fr A Jose Isaac, Susan Jose, Lissa, Leeba, Babu Isaac, Beena Babu, Sharon,, Aibel, Suja Isaac, Jiji Saju, Martin and Maria. The funeral service was conducted on May 06 Friday at 12:00 pm at St George Orthodox Cathedral, Kunnakurudy. Lissa and Leeba have come to Canada recently and attend service at our church.

We request everyone to keep the departed souls and sorrowing family members in prayer. May the Lord comfort their souls and strengthen the family members.

Please find the update from the Sunday School Principal

Sunday school will be conducting **competitions** such as **Solo Singing, Story Telling, Elocution, and Bible Quiz on June 04 Saturday**. The details on the competitions with the registration link shall be sent by next week.

Sunday school BBQ is scheduled for **May 15th** after Holy Qurbana.

OVBS 2022 is planned for **August 10, 11, and 12th**. Requesting the participation of all students.



ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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



Feast of St George: May 07, 08, Saturday & Sunday

The feast of St George shall be celebrated at our church on Saturday May 07 and Sunday May 08.

Program: Saturday 07- Evening prayer at 07:00 pm

‘Raza’ (Procession) from church to the Cross Station and recession. Benediction, Refreshment.

Sunday May 08- Morning Prayer at 08:30 followed by Holy Qurbana and Intercessory Prayer

Feast of Ascension: May 26 Thursday, Will be celebrated on May 25 Wednesday.

06:30 pm Evening Prayer followed by Holy Liturgy

Feast of Pentecost: June 05 Sunday, Ascension on Thursday May 26th.

May 26-June 05, 10 days waiting for the Holy Spirit (Kaathiruppu).

Ordination of Acolytes

We may have members, adults or kids, willing to join the Altar Assistance Service. Whoever wishes to join the Acolytes, please feel free to reach out to the Vicar at (416) 570 5610. We will conduct the training sessions and fix a date for ordination.

Newcomers WhatsApp Groups initiated by OCYM

New members are added up in the group as we get connected. Mostly they will be looking for guidance regarding accommodation, info about job opportunities, ride to church, and other possible support. We are trying our best. Parish members can help us by updating us about their availability for giving rides and sending info of contacts or advice from various fields of work which might be helpful for life in Canada.

SGOCT Parish Library and Book Club

We expect books or contributions from voluntary supporters.

‘Urava’- OCYM initiated Parish Journal is ready out for reading

Please pick up your copies from Liju Thomas Thakadiyel.

Spiritual Organizations 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, Santosh Varughese: (416) 937 8595

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.



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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

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

May 07, Saturday, Feast of St George, Evening Prayer, 07:00 pm followed by Raza (Holy Procession), 'Nercha Vilampu - Appavum Kozhikkariyum'

May 08, Feast of St George, Holy Liturgy, Intercession, 'Nercha Vilampu'

May 08, Sunday, Sunday School In-Person at Church after the Holy Qurbana

May 08, Sunday, MMVS Monthly Meeting, 06:00 pm

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

This Sunday, we will be using the Taksa of St Peter

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

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