



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - JANUARY 08, 2021

Dearly Beloved,

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

January 10, First Sunday after Epiphany

Epistle Readings: Acts 2:37-47, Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel Reading, St Matthew 4:12-22 RSV 12 Now when Jesus[a] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. 13 He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 15 “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles 16 the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” 17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” [b] 18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Reflections

Jesus started his preaching by asking for a change of mind as the requirement for experiencing the Kingdom. In our ordinary life situation, even a slight change in our view can bring qualitative progress in everything. If we look at sages and saints in history, we could see some turning points in their lives with some change of views they allowed. A slight change of perception can be the beginning of a big movement. Jesus was the Son of Almighty God who was potential enough to do anything. But the people around were so adamant and hesitant to change their views. Their hardness of heart even made him disarmed from attempting for great miracles. We can experience heaven while walking on earth. Miracles could happen if we become ready to get transformed. The kingdom of heaven requires openness and humility to accept new thoughts and ideas. Humans were always reluctant to change. But now we know that threats like Covid can make us change our established lifestyle, choices, life schedule and even the most followed habits. A lot of technological changes have been brought to life in the course of history whether people initially accepted them or not. Eventually, humans could find material benefits. Spiritual shifts or transformations can bring more good. But many tend not to believe or practice it. Some changes in our thinking, behaviour and planning would be sufficient for transforming family/community/society into real heaven where everybody could be joyful. Accepting changes can solve many issues like enmity, war, clashes and disputes. Even for the individual level, the world would be a better one. In the post-Covid era, let us pray and hope that the human race recognizes the need for transformation and tries to make the earth heaven of no gloom, no tears, no hard feelings.

Feasts

January 07, Martyrdom (Glorification) of St John the Baptist. St John was the forerunner who was on a mission to prepare the way for the Messiah. Through the baptism of Jesus, God revealed to John that Jesus was the Beloved Son the world was expecting. John was a severe critic of immorality



and injustice which made him talking in public against the wickedness of King Herod. John was beheaded by the enraged king which was a sign of the Messiah's impending death too. John was bold and his ascetic living could raise a challenge to everyone who wishes to choose the way of the cross.

January 08, Martyrdom of St Stephen. He was the first deacon whose preaching attracted people to the discipleship of Christ. At the same time, it provoked the leaders who made it a point to stone him to death. It has been written that the execution of Stephen was of consent by Saul who eventually became the most successful evangelist, St Paul. Stephen's facing of death with a divine glow while making prayer for forgiveness for the executioners remain the most beautiful example of Christian witness

Virtual Meetings

Friday, January 08, OCYM Meeting, 07:30 – 09:00 pm

Saturday, January 09, SGOCT Prayer Meeting, 07:00 – 08:30 pm

Sunday, January 10, MMVS Meeting, 06:00- 07:30 pm

MGOCSM launches Custom Made Masks

MGOCSM is bringing branded face masks as part of a charity. The reusable/washable mask is black with the MGOCSM logo printed in three different colours: white, yellow and red. Each cost \$ 10/- Please support this charity drive.

Articles required for the church

Most of the articles required for the church have arrived. Items and donors shall be announced soon. Sincere thanks to all the contributors.

Names of the beloved departed members, a gentle reminder

We have started receiving Emails from members with details of their beloved departed. We have also started adding them to the list. Please respond. We would like to keep the list for remembrance on respective Sundays as we do for Birthdays and Wedding Anniversary Days.

Election of new office bearers

Spiritual Organisations of the Parish have elected new office bearers for the year 2021. We highly appreciate them for holding the meetings regularly and taking decisions on the choice of office bearers. Please find the list:

Gregorian Seniors Forum: new office bearers for 2021

Vice President: Ben Varughese Nellithara, Treasurer: James Vaidhyan

Secretary: George M George Event Coordinator: George Varughese

Refreshments Coordinator: Saramma Thomas Public Relations: Mariamma Varghese

Charity: Babu John Membership Drive: Geevarghese Mathai.

MMVS: new office bearers for 2021

Vice President: Susan Benjamin Secretary: Jaya Mary Sony Treasurer: Anni Varughese

Joint Secretary: Beena Mathew Joint Treasurer: Aleyamma Skariah

Area representatives: Aleyamma George (Scarborough), Mary Vaidhyan (Mississauga), Mini Thomas (Brampton).

Thanks to the 2020 Joint Treasurer Annamma Kurian for her leadership and guidance.



ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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



MGOCSM: new office bearers for 2021.

Vice President: Sandra Shaji Treasurer: Sam Abraham Secretary: Emil Mathew

Committee Members: Lian Gijo, Eva Mathew Spiritual Advisor: Amy Anand

There will be more committee members elected in due course.

Thanks to the 2020 office bearers:

Vice President: Reuben Mathew Treasurer: Nathan Mathew Secretary: Jonathan Mathew

Committee Members: Manu Mathew, Emil Mathew, Sam Abraham, Ashna Samson, Sandra Shaji & Riya Panicker Spiritual Advisor: Alisha Varghese

OCYM: new office bearers for 2021

Vice President: Binu Joshua Treasurer: Liju Thomas Secretary: Suna Cherian

Joint Secretary: Jemy Anna Jose

Thanks to the 2020 office bearers:

Vice President: Titus Vaidhyan Treasurer: Liju Thomas Secretary: Philip Philips

Joint Secretary: Suna Cherian

Choir: Leaders

Choir Leader - Anand Joseph T

Choir Assistants - Liza Thomas and Jemy Praveen

Acolytes:

Sacristans: Cleemis Vaidhyan & Santhosh Varughese

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

We will be using the Taksa of Mar Ksosthos, well-edited, short and beautiful prayers. Let us be elevated.

Please find the Link for Live Streaming

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQw1yZ1_yCG9AWStA

COVID-19 Guidelines

We continue Holy Liturgy with limited participation of 10 members. We hope that the current restrictions would help in bringing down the spread of infection to zero. News about the vaccine that is starting to be administered by the end of December gives us more peace at heart. Let us keep on praying for the whole world. God shall protect us, his children everywhere.

May the Gracious Lord keep us from harm and heal the whole world.

Yours in Christ

Thomas John Achen

fr.thomaspjohn@gmail.com

Mobile: (416) 570 5610