



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - OCTOBER 08, 2021

Dearly beloved,

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

Sunday, October 10, Fourth Sunday after the Feast of the Cross

Epistle Readings: Acts 21:17-26, Colossians 1:21-29

Holy Evangelion: St Luke 16:13-18

^{16. 13} No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”¹⁴ The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all this, and they scoffed at him. ¹⁵ But he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts; for what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God. ¹⁶ “The law and the prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and every one enters it violently. ¹⁷ But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away, than for one dot of the law to become void. ¹⁸ “Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.

Reflections:

God commanded His people to love Him with full heart, full soul and full strength (Deuteronomy 6:5). This command was retold by Jesus when he was tempted by Satan (Mt 4:10). When Jesus was asked by a religious leader what could be the greatest commandment, his reply was, ‘love God fully and love the neighbour as the self’. Here in the Gospel text, Jesus telling the hearers on the impossibility of serving and loving God and Satan together was heard by the leaders with repulsion and sarcasm. The reason for their indifference has also been notified by the gospel writer as their greed for money (Vs 14). Those who are ambitious with money and power will have to please people, and for it, they will go to any extent. If we look at events or projects initiated by individuals or organisations, many of them will be intended to appeal to the world and not to serve God’s purpose. Those who have no faith in God also get engaged in charity activities initiated by religious communities for the sake of public appeal. They may have their business interests. World has seen many frauds getting unmasked after their legend like stories shared and praised by people, awarded or rewarded by governmental or non-governmental agencies and they get into stardom. Loving and serving God may not bring any fame or appreciation on the spot, however honesty shall be acknowledged and rewarded in the long run.

Feasts:

October 07, St Sergius and St Bacchus

St Sergius and St Bacchus were officers of high rank in the Roman military service of Emperor Maximian. They had to displease the emperor for their faith in Christ. They dared to witness Christ as “The true God of true God, and in accord with an unknowable plan He died for the salvation of the human race, but He plundered hell and rose on the third day in the power of his divinity, and He established incorruptibility and the resurrection of the dead to Eternal Life.” They were sent to severe tortures by the emperor to which they never succumbed and stood strong in pronouncing their faith further in front of unwelcoming rulers. They were enthusiastic about their call for ministering the Lord and they had won in winning many hearts for Christ.



ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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



MMVS Diocesan Annual Conference, Saturday, October 9th

MMVS Diocesan Annual Conference will be on Saturday, October 09 convened virtually. The link has been sent to members. Please join the event and pray for its success.

OCYM Get-together today at church starting at 06:00 pm

All our OCYM members and families are expected to join the get-together starting at 06:00 pm. It will be an occasion to meet new people as well as to reunite with old friends. There will be some entertainment and fun and some spiritual rejuvenation too. Let us have some memorable time together.

Loony-A-Day, please contribute towards Thanksgiving

Please contribute towards the Thanksgiving charity collection (loonie a day). 50% of the total collection shall be used for charity and the rest will be for church maintenance. We request all our beloved members to support this project. There are many lives out there desperately looking for helping hands. We are fortunate and blessed to be here in this country and let us express our gratitude to God through supporting the needy which Jesus said as supporting Him.

Harvest Festival & Auction moved to next Sunday, October 17

Please be informed that the Harvest Festival and Auction previously scheduled to conduct this Sunday (October 10, 2021) has been moved to the next Sunday October 17. We have found it too hectic for our members with their long weekend travel plans, OCYM get-together and MMVS Diocesan Annual Conference. Please look for the next weekend which will be more feasible for us to celebrate the harvest of blessings received from the Lord of harvests. Please cooperate and support the maximum by giving items for auction, participating in bidding. As planned, delicious Kappa and Beef curry shall be ready, tempting our taste buds, inviting our olfactory sense! Let us be thankful to God, celebrate while caring for the less privileged. Let us transform lives!

Communicants Counting Machine, Wave your hand 'ONCE' please

We have a new electronic counting machine installed within the church at the inner northern entrance near the console. It is meant for taking the count of communicants and not for all participants. All participants are requested to register their names at the entrance welcome desk in the given form. As you enter the church interior, please wave your hand once between the sensor poles of the counting machine if you are prepared to take Holy Communion. There is no need to wave if you are not taking Holy Communion. Thank you 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.

MMVS Diocesan Programs

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)



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Virtual Meetings ahead

October 09, Saturday, SGOCT Choir & Acolytes weekly practice – 04:30 – 06:00 pm

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

October 10, Sunday, SGOCT MMVS, 06:00 – 07:30 pm

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

This Sunday, we will be using the Taksa of Holy Fathers ‘Mkanastha’

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,

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