



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - OCTOBER 09, 2020

Dearly Beloved,

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

October 11, 4th Sunday after the Feast of the Cross

Gospel Reading, St Luke 16:9-18

⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous mammon, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal habitations. ¹⁰ “He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? 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

We as humans recycle things. Instead of having items thrown away, they are reshaped to fit a new purpose. Everything has this possibility except for the non-recyclable items. Sometimes, what we perceive to be non-recyclable can even still serve a purpose with innovation. In India, after the ban for cigarettes in public places got implemented, a company who was making huge profit out of cigarettes changed to new productions. Now they have food and stationary of superior quality into their supply, fetching larger profit gains than ever before. The shift from cigarettes to food is analogous to the shift from death to life. Cigarettes cause harm to consumers, while supplies benefit from sales. Meanwhile, food sustains life as a necessity which benefits both parties involved. Everything can be used for better if we realise the possibilities. One would also need to have the humility to accept reality and to admit any wrong in the past.

Our beloved Angel Bava used to say, “The right use of any disuse is not a misuse but a right use.” He also used to say, “It will be better to wear away than to rust away.” Jesus taught the world how to bring out the best out of anyone by making them realise who they are and what they ought to be. By following his teachings, many could understand the futility of their actions and the possibility of a meaningful living. They willingly yielded to it by changing their thoughts and actions. Church is the community of transformed people. We have resources once used for wrong purposes. It could be money, time, talent, space, relationships etc. It serves no good in asking how much or how many. Jesus said if one could be honest with one pence, and what the person does with that single pence will have an eternal and everlasting meaning. Honesty cannot be divided. Evil and good cannot go



ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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



together or side by side. We tend to think that evil is part of life. According to the Lord, this is not true. Evil can exist only when we allow it to exist. Evil is not a power in itself. That is why Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." According to him, light and dark cannot coexist. If we choose only light, there will be no more darkness.

Feasts

October 07, Commemoration of St Sergius and St Bacchus: They were fourth century martyrs and military saints always revered as paired saints. They were serving the army while keeping their faith in Christ undisclosed. When they were summoned by the king to offer worship to idols, they didn't obey. For them love of Christ was everything. They counted Christ than their life. May their memory be a blessing and inspiration for us.

Virtual Meetings

Friday October 09, NE American Diocese MMVS Retreat, 12:00 -01:00 pm

Friday 09 October, SGOCT OCYM meeting, 07:30 – 09:30pm

Saturday October 10, NE American diocese MMVS Annual Conference, 09:00 am – 01:00pm

Saturday October 10, SGOCT Prayer Meeting, 07:00-08:30 pm

Sunday October 11, SGOCT MMVS, 06:00-07:30pm

Friday October 16, SGOCT Sunday School Liturgical Session for Seniors, 06:00 pm

Parish Directory

The Parish Directory is expected to be printed out soon. We have made a provision for commercial advertisements. Our members could also choose space for memorial tribute or compliments. Whoever wishes to include photos of beloved departed ones, or of couples on their wedding anniversary, or to wish someone on their achievements, please contact the parish office (Treasurer or Secretary). Tariff: Full page \$300, half page \$200 for non-commercial and \$400 for full page for commercial. Please make use of this opportunity and support our parish.

Thanksgiving

October is the month of thanksgiving. We used to raise funds for both our parish needs and for charity. We had the concept that every member family keep aside one dollar each day and contribute the sum towards thanksgiving. Out of the total collection half will be for the parish and half for charity spending. Due to the pandemic, we are affected badly regarding finance and community building up programs. We are approaching the end of the financial year. There are payment dues pending. Please participate and make it a grand success.

We have enough and more reasons to thank the Lord. He has been keeping us safe in the midst of dreadful infection possibilities. St Paul has advised us: 'Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." (2 Corinthians 9:6-9).



ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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



Plaque of Contributors

As planned, the names of contributors towards the Church Renovation Project shall be exhibited on plaques in the church, in the basement area. We have different categories based on the total amount given, starting with \$5000 contribution. Those who wish to upgrade, they could make rest of payment corresponding to the category they wish to be in. For those who haven't made a contribution yet, there is still time to contribute and have their names inscribed on the plaque. 2020 November 30 will be the deadline for finishing the payment. It will be a great support to our parish especially at this prolonged Pandemic period. Each dollar will be carefully used for the best of purposes. Please make use of this opportunity to declare our love, dedication and solidarity towards our Parish.

Articles required for the church

Our church requires a few articles for its use. Baptismal Fond, Silver Paten and Chalice (Church doesn't encourage using plated grail and paten for health reasons), Candle Stands, Candle Wick Holder, Crystal Containers for keeping Holy oils -Holy Myron, Saith and Olive Oil, Wooden Box for keeping the crystal jars, Taksa Stand, Reliqueries - 'Arulikka' with space for keeping icons or relics which we carry during Perunnal Processions, Candle table with offertory box, etc. There will be options available. Prices can vary depending on our selection. Those who wish to donate, please inform the parish office or send me a text or call on (416) 570 5610.

Altar Servers

May I request our Altar Servers to please be aware that we would need five members in the Sanctuary for each service of Liturgy. There is no way to know your availability other than you notifying it. Please look into your future availability and you can book your turn even six months in advance. A reminder has already been posted in the Altar Servers group. Please follow up. Please call or text Santhosh Varghese on (416) 258 2062 or post it in the group.

Condolence

The funeral service of Mr K S Samuel (Sunny Panvelil), 78 years, beloved father of Mini Kurian and father-in-law of Kurian Baby (Dir Ref K 02) was conducted on Thursday at Santhome Marthoma Church, Idayarammula at 03:00pm. Please keep the departed soul and family members in prayer.

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

We will be using the Taksa of Ksosthos this Sunday. It is short, but beautiful. Please listen carefully.

Please find the Link of Live Streaming

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

Covid Guidelines

As the cases are rising in high pace worldwide, we too need to take precautions. We have been practicing social distancing and other protocol in the church, it would be our responsibility to take all safety measures possible to rule out any further spread. Please look for guidelines sending out from the parish office tomorrow. Please make sure, we read it carefully and respond accordingly.



ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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



Holding you in prayer

May the Gracious Lord keep us safe and heal the whole world

Yours in Christ

Thomas John Achen

Fr Thomas P John

fr.thomaspjohn@gmail.com

+1 (416) 570 5610