



## WEEKLY THOUGHTS - SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

Dearly beloved,

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

**Sunday, September 12, Fourth Sunday after Soonyo**

**Epistle Readings: 1 Peter 2:1-5, 1 Corinthians 3:16-23**

**Holy Evangelion: St Matthew 5:38-48**

5. 38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ 39 But I say to you, Do not resist one who is evil. But if any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also; 40 and if any one would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well; 41 and if any one forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to him who begs from you, and do not refuse him who would borrow from you.

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

### **Reflections:**

Jesus Christ came to this world for assuring salvation and redemption to the whole creation. He has taught us to live an exceptional life with all the qualities of the Kingdom of Heaven. As the name suggests, it is the quality of a greater ideal, heaven is above and it refers to a higher life, not in terms of economic or politics but of higher thinking and keeping the values of the heavenly Kingdom. The teachings of Jesus are corrective to all the failures and mistakes made by humans in the past and hence the life He showed cannot be in agreement with the popular practice. Taking an eye for an eye was an accepted rule even for the religious people, but Jesus wanted His disciples to go beyond the customary and traditionally accepted concepts. To practice heaven’s life on earth, one would need to have the mind of God revealed by His Son. God has spoken through prophet Isaiah regarding this: “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:7-9). When we approach the command of Christ, “Be perfect as your the heavenly Father is perfect”, we should take courage to exceed the norms and values of this world for practicing the heavenly virtues. Christ knew the human limitations in doing it and hence He went up to Calvary to prove and reveal that whoever finds themselves as heavenly citizens called for His mission, they will be able to attempt try and eventually succeed.

### **Feasts:**

**September 09, Feast of Yuyakim & Hanna, parents of St Mary**

Yuyakim and Hanna, the parents of Mary the mother of Christ, parents of the deliverer of the second person in the Holy Trinity, are among the most blessed parents in the world. Their daughter is revered



and called blessed by the whole world. Thousands of churches have been built in her name, most frequented pilgrim centres are in her name, litanies and prayers are offered for her intercession and she is approached as the most accessible mediator and intercessor after Christ the lord. As children, what fame do we bring to our parents? As parents what big contribution could we expect of our children for the redemption of the world?

### **September 14, Feast of the Cross, Holy Liturgy on Monday, September 13, evening**

Feast of the Cross will be on September 14. Holy liturgy shall be conducted on Monday September 13 with Evening Prayer starting at 06:30 pm followed by Holy Qurbana, procession and Elevation of the Cross. With the feast day of the cross, the church will be entering the season of the Cross and visibly we shift from the 'Kymtha Namaskaram' to 'Sleeba Namaskaram'.

### **New Academic Year**

The new academic year has started. We wish all the students a fruitful and gracious year ahead. We do pray that Christ be their companion, guide and friend and His Spirit be their inspiration. We also wish all teachers a productive and pleasant year. God is the source of all knowledge and wisdom. May we all be filled by it. A few of our children choose to attend in person and the rest opt, all be protected and be kept safe under God's mercy wings.

### **Sunday School Reopening after Summer Break- Saturday September 11**

Sunday School will reopen tomorrow (Saturday September 11) for the new academic year. Classes will be conducted on Saturdays and Sundays depending on convenience and availability of students, teachers and devices. Please keep our Sunday School training programs and activities in our daily prayer. Sunday School education shall be viewed and understood as the Ecclesial academic program with excellence involving biblical, sacramental, theological, environmental, ecological, cultural, religious art/music/ and literary exposure to students which will equip them for their bright future. We have all grades open and working with excellent and dedicated teachers. If we look at the life of the faithful, it would be easy to detect the role of Sunday School training behind their success. Every Sunday School class shall be the coming together of Christ and kids where they meet each other, get trained by the Lord, illuminated by the Divine wisdom through the Holy Spirit and enjoy lifelong friendship among themselves. Let us be there for all necessary and possible support.

### **Welcome Santhosh Varughese, Sunday School's new Principal**

As Elizabeth Vaidhyan completes her three year tenure and steps down as Principal, Santhosh Varughese assumes the office to be the new Principal. We would like to acknowledge the brilliance, efficiency, coordination, innovation, energy, zeal, enthusiasm and dedication revealed in the service rendered by Elizabeth Vaidhyan. We would also like to appreciate and acknowledge the progress and growth our parish Sunday School has achieved locally and within the Diocese of North East America under her leadership. We sincerely thank God for all the blessings we have received through her ministry.

We do welcome Santhosh Varughese and wish the best to his service as the new Principal. You can reach out to him over phone on (416) 258 2062 for any enquiry, assistance or administrative need. We wish the best also to all teachers, students, volunteers, technical support team and all parents and keep everyone in prayer.

### **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 not taking Holy Communion. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Choir & Acolytes joint practice**

This is a reminder and request to all our choir members and Acolytes to attend the weekly choir practice currently conducted virtually on Saturdays. We would wish our choir members and acolytes who will be taking turns on the upcoming Sunday or feast days make sure of their participation for better coordination and harmonious chanting. The link shall be sent prior to the meeting.

### **MGOCSM Canada Region Annual Kanesh Retreat- Saturday September 18**

MGOCSM Toronto will be hosting its 4th annual Kanesh retreat, as a one-day-online event. This event will be held on Saturday, September 18th, 2021 at 09:00 am. The theme this year will be *'Orthodoxy in the Modern World'*, and our guest speaker will be Rev Dn Immanuel Punnoose. The online registration link is now open. Please spread the word, and we hope to see all our MGOCSM members attending the event!

Please find the link: <https://bit.ly/Kanesh2021>

### **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**

September 10 Friday, OCYM Meeting, 07:30- 09:00 pm

September 11, Saturday, SGOCT Choir Weekly Practice – 04:30 – 06:00 pm

September 11, Saturday, SGOCT Prayer Meeting, 07:00 – 08:30 pm

September 12, Sunday, SGOCT MMVS Meeting, 06:00 – 07:30 pm

### **Liturgical Text for this Sunday**

This Sunday, we will be using the Taksa of Patriarch Mar Isaac of Antioch

### **Please see below the Link for Live Streaming**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQwlyZ1\\_yCG9AWStA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQwlyZ1_yCG9AWStA)

**May the Gracious Lord keep us from all harm and heal the entire world.**

Yours in Christ,

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