



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - FEBRUARY 11, 2022

Dearly beloved,

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

Sunday, February 13, Kohene Sunday (All Departed Bishops, Priests, Deacons)

Epistle Readings: Acts 20:25-38, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 5:1-11

Holy Evangelion, St Matthew 24:42-51

42 Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. **43** But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. **44** Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour. **45** “Who then is the faithful and wise slave, whom his master has put in charge of his household, to give the other slaves their allowance of food at the proper time? **46** Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. **47** Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions. **48** But if that wicked slave says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ **49** and he begins to beat his fellow slaves, and eats and drinks with drunkards, **50** the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know. **51** He will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Reflections:

Before the Great Lent, the church sets apart a day for remembering all the departed clergy. The book of Hebrews gives a clear idea of Jesus as the high priest, ‘Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need (Hebrews 4:14-16). Exodus has it as God’s command to His people to live as a community of priests. ‘And unto Me, you shall be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ (Exodus 19:6). St Peter follows up by advising the faithful of the same priesthood shared by all, ‘But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). We have bishops, priests, and deacons taken from among us as we all carry the priesthood of Christ. We must question how we carry out our responsibilities.

Feasts:

February 08, Mar Abo, entombed at Marthmariyam Church, Thevalakara

Mar Abo was a bishop from Persia who came to India in the 8th century. He was a man of prayer who earned fame for his spiritual presence that helped many. His tomb at Thevalakara remains a place for spiritual revival for the faithful.



February 08, HG Mathews Mar Epiphanius Metropolitan, 13th anniversary, entombed at St Thomas Cathedral Kollam

HG Mathews Mar Epiphanius Metropolitan was the successor to HG Mathews Mar Coorilos Metropolitan after he was consecrated as the Catholicose. Epiphanius Thirumeni was a teacher by profession and he was an excellent teacher of faith too. HG was a wonderful orator and a proven retreat father. Thirumeni had led the Diocese of Kollam before the formation of the new Dioceses of Kottarakkara and Adoor.

February 13, Patriarch Mar Elias III of Antioch, 90th anniversary, entombed at Manjanikkara Dayara

Mar Elias III was the Patriarch of Antioch who came to India on request. He did lead the church during a challenging time. The church of Antioch canonized him as Saint.

Nineveh Lent- Talk by Fr. Dr. Jacob Mathew, OTS Kottayam on Tuesday at 07:30 pm

We observed the Nineveh Lent with fasting and prayer, evening prayer at church, devotional talk, and Holy Qurbana. Sincere thanks to Fr Dr. Jacob Mathew for the illuminating talk. Sincere thanks to all members, MC, Acolytes, and Choir for all support given.

Great Lent, Evening Prayer, Devotional Talks

Great Lent will start on Monday, February 28th. As we did last year, there will be devotional talks at church every evening after Lenten prayer. OCYM has initiated a google signup sheet for devotional talks. Members can liaise with secretaries of respective organizations for confirming their participation. Please look for the google sheet and sign up at the earliest. We expect our members to participate enthusiastically as we did in the last year.

Parish General Body Meeting for Annual Reports, Accounts and Budget 2022

The Parish General Body meeting for Reports, Accounts, and Budget 2022 shall be convened at church on Sunday, February 27th 2022 after the Holy Liturgy. The preliminary eligibility list will be posted on 13th February 2022 and the final list will be posted on 20th February 2022.

Criteria: Subscription paid till 31st December 2020 and The Holy Confession between 20th February 2021 and 19th February 2022. Our members who are yet to have their Holy Confession done, please reach out to the Vicar on (416) 570 5610 to find a convenient time.

SGOCT Parish Library and Book Club

SGOCT parish OCYM has planned to launch a Parish Library & Book Club project with the support of other organizations and our members. We will be starting the project by tracking current stock and receiving books from donors. Reference books and other required books shall be purchased in due course. There will be a google sheet open soon with a list of required books. Whoever finds it convenient can choose which books they could donate. If we don't have copies in hand, we can buy and give them. We request our members who are fond of reading to support in setting up a useful library. We request our members who may be interested in donating books to look for the right books to donate, instead of using them to get rid of any books. Please feel free to contact the vicar on (416) 570 5610 for any clarifications or for expressing your willingness to support. We do believe that the library shall motivate our kids and youngsters to get equipped for their future through intense and voracious reading and it also helps our senior generation to get engaged in fruitful sharing time through the book club.



ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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



Parish Journal

We used to have a parish Newsletter which was discontinued during the pandemic. OCYM will be initiating a parish journal expected to be published on the day of Easter. We wish our members to contribute articles, poems, cartoons, stories, or studies on the theme for each issue. The Easter issue will be based on 'Resurrection and New Beginning'. Organizations will be coordinating the work. Please look for details. You can reach out to organization secretaries to discuss in what way you can be part of it.

Prayer Meetings are to resume – February 12 Saturday 06:30 – 08:00 pm

Weekend prayer meeting shall resume on February 12 Saturday at 06:30 pm at church followed by fellowship gathering through Webex and shall be hosted by St. Mary's Area Prayer Group. It will be open for all our members. The link shall be sent early beforehand. We request all our families to assure their participation. Please assure involvement and volunteering of kids too.

Spiritual Organisations 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, Santhosh Varughese: (416) 258 2062

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.sgoc@gmail.com copying to the vicar at fr.thomasjohn@gmail.com or send a message/call to (416) 570 5610.

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

February 11, Friday, OCYM Monthly Meeting, 07:30 – 09:00 pm

February 12, Saturday, Choir/Acolytes joint practice, 05:00 – 06:00 pm

February 12, Saturday, Evening Prayer, 06:30 – 07:15 pm

February 12, Saturday, Prayer Meeting, 07:15 – 08:15 pm

February 13, Sunday, SGOCT MMVS Monthly Meeting, 06:00 – 07:30 pm



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Liturgical Text for this Sunday

This Sunday, we will be using the Taksa of Mar Abraham Nahasirthono

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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