



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - JUNE 11, 2021

Dearly beloved,

Sunday June 13th, Third Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle Readings: Acts 13:26-39, Galatians 6:10-18

Holy Gospel: St John 6:35-46

6. 35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me; and him who comes to me I will not cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me; 39 and this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up at the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that every one who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

41 The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, "I am the bread which came down from heaven." 42 They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" 43 Jesus answered them, "Do not murmur among yourselves. 44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. 45 It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. 46 Not that anyone has seen the Father except him who is from God; he has seen the Father.

Reflection:

Jesus Christ is the only bread of life who can quench the thirst and hunger of the human soul which cannot be done with worldly things alone. Neither all the rich live peacefully nor do all the poor live in despair which means having everything cannot assure a life of contentment. Christ is the one who is accessible to the needy who promises eternal life and resurrection. Eternal life starts on earth to continue in heaven which means we can live a heavenly life on earth. It is more a life of higher quality in thoughts, views, aspirations, ambitions and goal. Eternal life is that always looks beyond the local and temporal pleasures and it is a life dedicated for the well being of others than the self. Christ is not just a person but a world of revolutionary ideas that can transform the whole world by liberating human mind from destructive thoughts and actions. Christ the bread of life -not of death- has never approved deadly actions like wars, selfish actions, intrusions, neglecting the needy, slavery, bondage, killing, refusal or violation of rights, social injustice, exploitation, discrimination, oppression and invasion. It is the self giving love Christ has taught which only can be the resurrecting element for the whole creation. He has revealed it on the cross and promised it beforehand by saying, "eat my body and drink my blood". Jesus the bread of life is the unselfish love that every Christian should practice and follow which is not confined within the walls of church but should be given out to the whole creation.

Feasts:

June 11, Apostle St Batholomew. He was one among the twelve mentioned in all the three synoptic gospels (Mk 3:16-19, Mt 10:2-4, Lk 6:14-16). There is an assumption that Bartholomew and Nathanael (Jn 1:45-51) are the same person; however modern Biblical scholars do not agree to it.

June 11, Metropolitan Shemavon Mar Athanasius, 132nd anniversary, entombed at Puthenpally Kottayam



ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

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He was a saintly person who came to India after the historic Mulanthuruty Synod (1876) from Turabdin in Turkey and belonged to the Antiochene Church. He stood for orthodoxy when it was challenged by protestant missionaries who interfered in the internal affairs of the church. His ascetic and prayerful life made him known in the wider society and his intercession is sought by many in their needs and struggles.

June 11, Metropolitan Gevarghese Mar Severios, 94th anniversary, entombed at Valiyapally Kottayam

He was the first bishop of Knanaya Diocese who stood against protestant reforms. He was a philanthropist and a promoter of secular education.

Lent of the Apostles - 'Sleehanompu' - June 16-30

The 'Fifteen Days Lent' of the Apostles called 'Sleehanompu' will begin on Wednesday 16. Apostles are the most powerful intercessors. May we all observe this lent in fasting and prayer. Our primary prayer could be for the healing of the whole world. Holy Liturgy shall be conducted on Tuesday, June 29th evening with Evening Prayer starting at 06:30pm followed by Holy Qurbana. Please remember to send names for intercession at the earliest. May the prayers of the Holy Apostles heal, empower and protect all of us and the rest of the world.

OCYM Webinar on 'Art of Parenting'

Our parish OCYM conducted a webinar on 'Art of Parenting' on Friday, June 11th. Mr Prasad Nair, MSW RSW, Director at Children's Aid Society of Toronto led the session. We believe that this seminar was informative and of great help to our parents. Thank you all for your participation.

MMVS Monthly meeting, Sunday June 13 @ 06:00 pm

Khadija Kathy Ali, Coordinator Engagement and Volunteers at Earnestine's Women Shelter has agreed to give us a talk regarding the women care and their projects. We request all our women members to join the meeting. The link shall be made accessible to our members.

MMVS Diocesan Annual Retreat on Saturday June 26th

Please find the flyer and registration link attached. Please register at the earliest and keep the meeting in prayer.

- Flyer: https://mcusercontent.com/4b0245a10b23c3826466d9a97/files/e95b7347-1ca1-b980-1bb9-5ef76fdbbe462/MMVS_Retreat_2021_Flyer.pdf
- Registration link: <https://forms.gle/W9BMMRm4Y1oPn1jY8>

MMVS Diocesan Programs

Fr Eby Paulose, the Vice President of NEAD MMVS has updated on upcoming programs. Please note the dates in your calendar and assure your participation.

- **Annual Retreat:** June 26 Saturday 9 -1 PM Speaker: Fr Thomas P John, Vicar St Gregorios Orthodox Church of Toronto, Canada.
- **Bible Quiz:** Saturday, October 02
- **Annual Conference:** October 09
- **Bible Study:** A Bible study series has been scheduled on every Thursday from 8.30 to 9.30 pm, started from Thursday June 10, 2021 based on Amos - Malachi. Rev Fr VM Shibu (Vicar, St Gregorios Orthodox Church Bensalem) will be leading the sessions. All these meetings will be held virtually.



- **Covid Charity:** Diocesan MMVS is collecting charity donation from everyone for helping Covid-19 affected patients those who can't afford ventilator fee or hospital bills. Please do support from each parishes for this noble cause. Our prayerful presence and wholehearted support for our MMVS ministry is expected.

Sad Parting

With profound sadness, may we announce the passing away of Sunny Zachariah, aged 74, beloved brother of Babu Zachariah & Renjini (Dir Ref B 03) this morning (Friday June 11th) in Dallas, Texas. His death ensued after a prolonged illness. He is survived by his wife Leelamma, son Shaun and his wife Babita, their children Neyda and Zane, his daughter Nisha and her husband Chris. May the Lord comfort the departed soul and give strength and hope to family members at loss. The funeral timing shall be updated soon. Please keep the departed and his family members in our daily prayer.

Sunday Service Timing changes to Morning Prayer at 08:00 am

As we switch to summer, we move to summer timing for the Holy Liturgy too. From this Sunday June 13th onwards, Morning Prayer will begin at 08:00 am followed by the Holy Liturgy. We will continue this until any further notification on a new schedule. Please be aware of the time change and join the service accordingly.

Virtual Meetings ahead

Sunday June 13, MMVS Monthly Meeting, 06:00 – 07:30 pm
Saturday June 19, SGOCT Prayer Meeting, 07:00 – 08:30 pm

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

This Sunday, we will be using the Taksa of St John Chrysostom, highly poetic.

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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