



## WEEKLY THOUGHTS - FEBRUARY 12, 2021

Dearly Beloved,

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

### **February 14, Wedding at Cana (Kothine – Pethurtha Sunday)**

**Epistle Readings: Acts 11:19-26, Revelation 2:1-7, Colossians 3:1-17**

**Gospel Reading, St John 2:1-11 RSV**

2.1 On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; 2 Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with his disciples. 3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." 4 And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." 6 Now six stone jars were standing there, for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the steward of the feast." So they took it. 9 When the steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first; and when men have drunk freely, then the poor wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." 11 This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

### **Reflections**

Any wedding ceremony would require a lot of planning and organizing. It is jointly done by two families, two communities and also by two individuals. Anything that affects the ceremony may have its impact on their future living. Hence every marriage would bring in worries and anxieties too. The wedding house at Cana was not any exception. They had made all arrangements. But the house had to encounter a serious issue with completing the essential serving, wine. So there was a problem with no logical solution anticipated. The first miracle of Jesus was taken place there. This gospel text has been set up to be read before the beginning of the Great Lent. Lent is meant for God's Will to be done in the life of the observer. Human problems may have Divine solutions. At Cana, we could see the acknowledging of the Divine by humans initiated by Mother Mary. We could also see obedience from the servants. We might also wonder why the host didn't panic over the absence of wine. It has not been written anyway. Was it because the presence of Christ kept them calm?

As we are entering the Great Lent, let us bear this in mind. Feeling the presence of someone reliable can keep us calm. For the faithful, it is none other than God Himself. Whatever problems we encounter, God may have His solution. Let us be in trust and faith and be obedient to His Will. God's Will might not be pleasing to everyone. But yielding to it shall lead life to success. It can avoid worries and anxieties. God can transform. Let us believe and give way.

### **Feasts**

**February 09, HG Mathews Mar Epiphanius Metropolitan, 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at Kollam St Thomas Cathedral.** He was a renowned retreat father and a well-acclaimed orator. He succeeded HG Mathews Mar Coorilos Metropolitan after he got enthroned as the Catholicos.

Epiphanius Thirumeni was basically a teacher by profession whose teaching skill helped his ministry and won the hearts of people.



# ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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



**February 13, Patriarch Mar Ignatius Elias III, 89<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at Manjanikkara Dayara.** He is known as 'Manjanikkara Bava' whose tomb attracts pilgrims and devotees from all corners.

## Virtual Meetings

Friday, February 12, NEAD MMVS Retreat, 12:00 – 01:00 pm

Friday, February 12, OCYM Meeting, 07:30 – 09:00 pm

Saturday, February 13, SGOCT Prayer Meeting, 07:00 – 08:30 pm

Friday, February 19, Sunday School Liturgical Session for Seniors, 06:00 – 07:00 pm

## Great Lent – Evening Prayer, Lenten Devotional Talk Series

1. Shubkono service- the service of Reconciliation (of Monday Feb 15) will be conducted at church along with the evening prayer on Sunday Feb 14 starting at 07:00 pm. It will be live-streamed.
2. There will be evening prayer Sunday-Friday every week conducted at church. We would require the assistance of Acolytes, Choir members and Parish members. For assuring participation, we have opened a Google sheet for our members to access and to sign up depending on their availability. Our spiritual organizations (SS, MGOCSM, OCYM, MMVS, Seniors) have shared the sign-up sheet among the members. Please access the link and enter your availability.
3. We are organizing a **Lenten Devotional Talk Series** every evening delivered at church by our parish members. We are overwhelmed with joy seeing the response of our members. There are only a few days to be filled in. A detailed chart of guidelines has also been sent with the Google sign-up sheet. Those who are willing to deliver Devotional Talks can look for the guidelines and fill in the empty lots. On the day of their turn, they can bring their family too. Whoever wishes to attend the evening prayer at church or give the devotional talk, please contact the respective spiritual organization or the Vicar or the parish office. The talks will also be live-streamed.
4. On Saturdays, except the Holy Week, evening prayer shall be continued through Webex as currently being done.
5. As we will be observing Fasting, the money saved from the food expense shall be collected and used for charity. We request our members to look for this opportunity to help the needy and to change their lives for the best. We will have a charity fund-raising towards the end of the Great Lent. The proceeds would be donated to a local charity.
6. Details of Great Lent / Passion Week services will be announced later.

## Support our Parish

It is high time for all our members to support our parish by making a monthly paying of \$100. We request our beloved members to set up a direct debit with the bank to parish account. We require a good credit score for our bank account too. We had collected about 60,000/- from offertory in 2019 whereas we could collect only below \$25,000/- in 2020. See the difference. How could we cover it without any other income provision? Please think about it seriously and respond at the earliest.

## Articles required for the church

Most of the articles required for the church have arrived. We are waiting for one more item on the list to be delivered. Items and donors shall be announced soon. Sincere thanks to all the contributors.



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## **Names of the beloved departed members, a gentle reminder**

We have started receiving emails from members with details of their beloved departed. We have also started adding them to the list. Please respond. We would like to keep the list for remembrance on respective Sundays as we do for Birthdays and Wedding Anniversary Days.

## **Liturgical Text for this Sunday**

We will be using the Taksa of Mar Osthatheos this Sunday. Please look for the prayers and its literary beauty.

## **Please find the Link for Live Streaming**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQw1yZ1\\_yCG9AWStA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQw1yZ1_yCG9AWStA)

## **COVID-19 Guidelines**

The government has announced a Provincial state of emergency effective from 14th Jan. Community and Worship centers can go ahead with 10-member participation. We hope that the current restrictions would help in bringing down the spread of infection to zero. Many of our members who are working with the Dept of Health have received the vaccine which gives us some relief. Let us keep on praying for the whole world. God shall protect all his children everywhere. May the Gracious Lord keep us from harm and heal the whole world.

## **Happy Valentines!**

This Sunday would be Valentine's Day too. We don't have too many couples who got married on Valentine's Day. Don't worry. Married life is the life of love. Couples can be in love always. Love is the binding element in all relationships. Love is what the Lord commanded us to practice. Not only in families, but also in our community, let love prevail. It is the unconditional love that St Paul explained to us which believes, understands, accepts, forgives, reconciles, never fails and endures forever (1 Cor 13). Let us all be Valentines for Christ!!

Yours in Christ

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