



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - AUGUST 14, 2020

Dearly Beloved,

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

Gospel Reading, St Luke 6:39-45 RSV

39 He also told them a parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit?
40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully taught will be like his teacher.
41 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?
42 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.
43 "For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; 44 for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.
45 The good man out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil man out of his evil treasure produces evil; for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Reflections:

St Paul has said, *"I strictly discipline my body and make it under control, so that, after I have preached the gospel to others, I myself will not somehow be disqualified as unfit for service"* (Corinthians 9:27). He was well aware of his own shortcomings and the seriousness of his ministry of teaching. Teachers generally do a lot of homework and extra reading before each session to make sure they will never fail in front of their pupils. After each lesson, there will be questions expected from the students. If failed to supply them with proper answers, the teacher will be looked upon as unfit and students will begin to withdraw their attention from them, eventually, the teacher will lose the students. Paul, after becoming a minister of Christ, could easily find the distance he had travelled from Saul, the old man to become Paul, a new human transformed drastically. He had to unlearn and relearn, though he had his high esteem of being a pupil of the great Rabbi, Gamaliel. He had realised this while saying, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). He has also advised us to *"Put off your old nature which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful lusts and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new nature, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness"* (Ephesians 4:22). He has made it more clear in Colossians 3:9,10, *"Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator."* One may wonder how to put on a new human. Paul has the answer to that as well. *"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience"* (Colossians 3:12). Here we get the clarity of Christ's teaching on leading or teaching others. The garment is the pack in which we present ourselves. Putting on compassion means we present ourselves in the pack of compassion wherein the content is also the same. Teaching should be done only with humility and compassion. It is better to say, those who wish or attempt to teach or correct others, should undergo a transformation into Christ's personality first and *then* look at others for any mistakes or failures.



ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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



Feasts:

- **Vaangippu/Soonoyo Perunnal- Dormition of Mother Mary**

Dormition of Mother Mary is the next feast in importance of church after Moranaya (Feasts of our Lord) Perunnal. Mary stands there as a pillar of true faith and dedication towards her commitment to God. She has gone through all kinds of hardships, hence she can understand what our struggles are. She intercedes for us and she is expected to be beside us until we take our last breath as we pray: *'O Virgin Saint Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, at the hour of our death, Amen!'* What a wonderful prayer it is?! We will never know how we will meet our last. Wherever it happens to be taking place, even if nobody else is there or allowed to be there, she would be there with us praying for us! Let us have no fear of being alone anywhere. Hers shall be an assured presence!

Perunnal Program:

- Friday 14th August: Evening Prayer at 06:00pm followed by Devotional Talk.
- Saturday 15th August: Morning Prayer at 09:00am followed by Holy Qurbana.

There will be intercessory prayer, Raza (Procession) to St Mary's Stone Cross and incense prayer there, after the Qurbana. Sending of RSVP will not be necessary for attending Perunnal services. Service shall be live-streamed.

Donations:

As usual, it is requested to send donations (usually we collect \$50/-towards St Mary's feast from members) either online or personally.

Other Feasts:

- 15th August: Patriarch Mar Ignatius Abded Meshiha, 105th anniversary, entombed at Kurkuma Dayara, Syria

He was the Patriarch of Antioch born in Mardin, Turkey. He had to lead the church under the Ottoman rule which was oppressing the Christian faithful. Many were put to death for their faith. In 1912, Abded Mshiho was invited to India by the Malankara Metropolitan Geevarghese Mar Dionysius of Vattasseril to discuss with the Malankara Synod, regarding who would be appointed Catholicos, a request which he had been denied previously. The Synod unanimously voted for Mar Evanios to become Catholicos, and on 15 September 1912 Abded Mshiho consecrated Evanios as Baselios Paulose I at St. Mary's Church, Niranam as well as Geevarghese Mar Gregorios, Geevarghese Mar Philoxenos and Yuyakkim Mar Ivanios. He also granted the Episcopal Synod, headed by the Malankara Metropolitan, the authority to consecrate a new Catholicos when the See became vacant.(Courtesy: Wikipedia)

- 16th August, Mar Ivanios Hidayathullah, 326th anniversary, entombed at Mulamthuruthy Church



August 15- Independence Day:

Greetings to our beloved members on India's Independence Day! The neighbouring country Pakistan is also celebrating Independence. Let us greet them too! May we hold both nations and peoples in prayer.

2020 OVBS on Thursday 20, Friday 21 and Valedictory Meeting on Sunday 23:

OVBS will be conducted virtually through Zoom on Thursday 20th and Friday 21st as planned. All the students are requested to attend. There will be two sessions each day at 10:00am-12:00pm and 02:00pm-04:00pm. The valedictory meeting will be held on Sunday 22nd afternoon at 03:00pm conducted virtually through WebEx. This year's theme will be '*We are one in Christ*' (Galatians 3:28). For any questions or enquiries, please contact the coordinators: Mridula Philip on (647) 525 8841 or Siju Abraham on (416) 697 6811.

MGOCSM Annual Kanesh 2020 on Saturday 29th August:

MGOCSM Toronto will be hosting its annual Kanesh regional event as a virtual one-day retreat on August 29th, 2020. This year's theme will be "Eternal Hope" with a focus on mental health and depression. Guest speakers will be Fr. Daniel Dennis Mathai, Seminarian Toby John and Ms. Sangeetha Thomas, an LPC Intern. We request prayers and support from all the faithful, for this event to be conducted successfully. Further details will be shared to all in the upcoming weeks, and attendees will have to register for free to participate. All youth over the age of 13 are requested to join in! Please contact the Kanesh 2020 committee member for any questions.

Please find the registration Link: <http://bit.ly/Kanesh2020>

SGOCT Virtual Song Video:

We are going to have the second virtual song video made by the SGOCT Choir to be released on Sunday 16th August after service. The first one was well received by all. The new hymn is "Vismayasahitham kabarpolinju..." which is a liturgical hymn on Resurrection of the Lord. I would like to congratulate all participants, technical support team and coordinators for coming together virtually for an expression of unity, oneness, and fellowship. MGOCSM has also started producing a virtual song video. Other organisations can also work on creative produce which will be beneficial for all and cater to our fellowship.

Parish Directory:

Parish Directory will be out soon for our use. If there are any more updates yet to send, we have only a few days to compile and align everything. If any members haven't got time to look into it, please do so now.



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Virtual Meetings:

- Saturday 15th August, SGOCT Prayer Meeting, 07:00- 08:30pm
- SGOCT Gregorian Senior Forum, Thursday 20 August, 07:00pm
- SGOCT OCYM, Friday 21 August, 07:00pm

*No class on Holy Liturgy for Sunday School for the two upcoming weekends due to St Mary's Feast and MGOCSM Kanesh. The next dates shall be announced soon.

Link of Live Streaming:

Please find the link of live-streaming of Holy Liturgy and Perunnal programs on Friday evening, Saturday morning and on Sunday morning:

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

Liturgical Text for this Saturday & Sunday

Liturgical Text for this Saturday will be of John Chrysostom and for Sunday will be of St John the Evangelist. St John's Anaphora is a bit more extensive with longer prayers but really moving. Please be attentive.

Holding you in prayer

Yours in Christ

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