



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - FEBRUARY 14, 2020

Dearly Beloved,

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

‘Aneede’ (Day of the Departed)

Revelation 14:13

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, “Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the LORD from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them”.

Church is entering the Great Lent after a week. Prior to this we acknowledge and remember departed Clergies and Laities on two consecutive weeks. Kohene (Day of Clergies) is over. This Sunday would be the day for Departed Laities.

Who are they? They could be our Parents, Siblings, Uncles & Aunts, Teachers, Guides, Friends and Neighbours. We always have a social life. Relationships keep us active and alive. They had been part of our life. They all had contributed or complimented to our lives in their own ways. We are grateful to them. It doesn't finish with their physical parting. We can't forget them just because they are invisible.

Remembrance is purely human an act. Even without thinking of philosophical aspects of death, we just remember them, because they were part of our existence. For even the least of things, we tend to say 'Thanks' not because they expect it but they deserve it. We say thanks not because they wait for it, but because of the culture and value we have developed in life.

Remembrance is definitely remembering, recollecting, ruminating of our time with them and revisiting the moments we had with them. Not every memory could be pleasant. There could be moments of sorrows, miseries, struggles, flipping out, quarrelling, fighting, disputing and denouncing. Even then, either them or us had managed to reinstate the ties, assuring the fact that we need each other and without each other we cannot live.

Remembrance involves forgetting too. It is the intentional forgetting of the dark, unpleasant and remorseful moments we had with them, if any. Think about paying tributes at funeral service. Everybody would reflect upon the best the departed had done. No bringing out of any bad could find space there. It is intentional and we keep on record only the good and pleasant side of it. Human has the special gift of forgiving and forgetting. It is the healing oil for our race. History has witnessed Holocaust and many other cruelties. Our race has grown big enough to forgive them. Our Lord has shown us how it could be done even we go through sufferings as intense as on a cross. The first Deacon has also taught us how to forgive while receiving all those stones of hatred and rivalry on his body and praying for the executors. Whenever we forgive, we born anew ! We enjoy rebirth and resurrection !



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Let us have a retrospection of our past and find those who were connected to us. Let us pray for them as Jesus did at the tomb of Lazarus. Prayer is what we could do. Rest would be done by the Merciful Creator.

May they be comforted in the Heavenly Court as promised:

Revelation 21:3-5 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with human, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, "Write: for these words are true and faithful".

Please send the names of beloved departed ones not later than 12:00 pm Saturday to fr.thomaspjoh@gmail.com or text to +1(416) 570 5610. There will be offering of incense and prayer in the church immediately after the Holy Qurbana. Usually when we offer 'Dhoopaparathana', family members would come forward to acknowledge it. This Sunday, all the departed would be remembered and hence no need to walk into the front.

Please find a praise: O, Lord, You rose from the tomb as God in Glory and raised the world up with You. Mortal nature sang Your praise as God, and death disappeared. Adam dances, Master, and Eve, now freed from her chains, rejoices as she cries: It is You, O Christ, who grants Resurrection to all. Amen

New Parish Office Bearers 2020

With great joy may we announce the newly elected Parish Office Bearers duly approved by the Diocesan Metropolitan.

Treasurer – Thomas Joshua Mob:+1 (647) 887-4010

Secretary – Manu Abraham Mob: (416) 953-9686

Committee Members – George M George, Lejin Chacko, Alex Chandy, Jeebo Mathews, Biju Mathew, Omana John, Ex Officio – Shibu Cherian

Auditors: Varughese Daniel & Binu Koshy

May we congratulate and wish them all the best ! Hope God would empower them to carry out their responsibilities fruitfully. May we thank the 2019 MC members for their excellent service in the past year.

GBM for Annual Report, Accounts and Budget

Parish General Assembly meeting would be held soon. Date shall be announced beforehand. May it be reminded that, please check with Treasurer or Secretary to see your eligibility confirmed. For those who wish to have Holy Confession, please contact the Vicar for appointment.

Area Prayer

St Mary's Area Prayer meeting would be held at the residence of Mr George Padinjarethalakkal and Mrs Sherly George on Saturday 15 February 2020 at 04:30 pm. Address: 5494 Smitty's Court, Mississauga, L5M 0X8. All the families and members in that area are requested to participate. We are progressing with more participation of members and finding ourselves edified with learning from the Bible, Liturgy and Spiritual tradition. Please join.

MMVS Leaders Meeting at St Thomas OSC

The first leaders meeting for the year 2020 would be held on Sunday 16th February 2020

St Thomas Orthodox Church (23 Brownlea Ave, Toronto, Ontario M9P 2R5)at 03:00 pm.
Agenda :1) The upcoming Regional Conference,2) other regional & diocese activities. Delegation from our Parish unit shall attend the meeting as decided in the unit meeting held last Sunday.

Sunday School is Singing !

On Sunday 16 February, our children would rock the Church with their wonderful singing during the competition held shortly after the Qurbana. Enthusiasts of music are welcome to enjoy and admire and encourage !

OVBS 2020

OVBS 2020 would be conducted during March Break from Wednesday 18th to Saturday 21st with valedictory function on Sunday 22nd. This year's theme would be "Choose what is good" (St Luke 10:42). May it be reminded that please do the registration by Sunday 16 February. T-Shirts would be arranged. Those who find it of interest, please sponsor it. It would be highly appreciable.

MGOCSM FUN FRIDAY

MGOCSM will be having their first event of the year, SGOCT FUN FRIDAY on Friday 21 February 2020. We believe, this is going to be a great team building activity. Attached below is a form with all the information about the event. Participants are required to fill out the form prior to attending.

LINK: <https://forms.gle/t5SwMhbvmTybnXcr5>



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MGOCSM Pre Lenten Retreat

MGOCSM Toronto will be organising Pre Lenten Retreat on Saturday 22 February 2020 at our Church. Rev Fr Dr Bijesh Philip (Professor at Theological Seminary Nagpur) would lead the retreat on the theme 'Fasting and Forgiveness'. Online registration is open. All MGOCSM members are requested to participate.

See you all on Sunday

Holding you in prayer

Yours in Christ

Thomas John Achen

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