



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - JANUARY 14, 2022

Dearly beloved,

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

Sunday, January 16, Second Sunday after Dhanaha Perunnal

Epistle Readings: 1 Peter 3:7-15, Hebrews 1:1-14, 2:1-4

Holy Evangelion, St John 1:43-51

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." 44 Now Philip was from Beth-sa'ida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathan'a-el, and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." 46 Nathan'a-el said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47 Jesus saw Nathan'a-el coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" 48 Nathan'a-el said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." 49 Nathan'a-el answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" 50 Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." 51 And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

Reflections:

Meeting certain people can be life changing. For a few, it can be their first date with their would-be partner, for some it can be someone who will become a lifetime friend, for some it can be their teacher at school or college, for a rare few, it can be a real Guru, Master, Leader. Such encounters will never go without influence. All changes, transformations, revolutions, protests, movements were made possible through such meetings of two or more people in their ordinary life setting. There were people who could touch the lives of whoever they passed by. The magnitude of change would be depending on the influencer's capacity. The change will happen only when the counterpart is receptive. Personal resistance can let any potential encounter go to waste. In the time of such legendary people, there was considerable resistance too. The story of church is the story of meeting a few with a young gentleman in his thirties and the development that followed. Ever touched by an encounter with 'Him' means never ending changes one could bring to themselves and into the world. Who knows if millions can be influenced by it? The question becomes if there will be one.

Feasts:

January 15, Feast of St Mary for Seeds

All religious festivals and feasts are connected to nature and the environment. The Orthodox worship involves nature at its best in all liturgies. Elevating the cross and blessing the four corners meant for blessing the whole creation. Blessing of tender leaves and floral offerings on Palm Sunday, water on Epiphany, bread and wine during Holy Eucharist, consecration of Holy Myron and Saith, and processions in connections with major feasts are perfect examples for ecological connection. January 15 is to observe a liturgical day for all seeds. Why does Mother Mary become the focus for this feast? This is because she bore the best of seeds, Christ. Christ the Seed precedes all other seeds. He is the first fruit. When Tooyobo is done, the prayer for placing the bread on the paten is: 'O You, the First Born of the Heavenly Father, accept this first born.' The bread will turn to be the body of the First Born! Let us



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ponder over this beautiful liturgical idea and pray for all fruits of the earth including us! We are the first fruits too!

MGOCSM Alumni

Our parish MGOCSM would like to reach all members whoever had any association with MGOCSM in India or elsewhere. Please inform whoever worked with MGOCSM. You can either send an email to mgoicsm.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

January 14, Friday, OCYM Monthly Meeting 07:30- 09:00 pm.

January 15, Saturday, SGOCT Acolytes & Choir Practice, 05:00 – 06:30 pm

January 15, Saturday, Evening Prayer at Church, 06:30 – 07:30 pm

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

This Sunday, we will be using the Taksa of Mar Osthatheos

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,

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