



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - OCTOBER 15, 2021

Dearly beloved,

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

Sunday, October 17, Fifth Sunday after the Feast of the Cross

Epistle Readings: Acts 22:22-29, 1 Timothy 6:13-21

Holy Evangelion: St Matthew 23:1-12

23. 1 Then said Jesus to the crowds and to his disciples, **2** “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; **3** so practice and observe whatever they tell you, but not what they do; for they preach, but do not practice. **4** They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with their finger. **5** They do all their deeds to be seen by men; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, **6** and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues, **7** and salutations in the market places, and being called rabbi by men. **8** But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brethren. **9** And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. **10** Neither be called masters, for you have one master, the Christ. **11** He who is greatest among you shall be your servant; **12** whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Reflections:

The Son of God is the one who has power and authority, who is equally worshipped and glorified by the heavenly hosts. He came down to dwell physically among humans and other created beings leaving behind the glory. Jesus Christ the Redeemer, walked on earth like a weary and needy one. He lived as a refugee who had no money to pay tax and kept his heavenly personality hidden. He spent time with sinners and the poor, while caring for the sick and needy and identified himself as a human in all respects except sinning. He could relate to all people of all strata without any clash. His scriptural knowledge, philosophical ideas, concern for everyone irrespective of differences has made him a true leader and teacher. He used the parables to convey the important heavenly principles to the common folk.

When such a person says that one should never dedicate life to impress others and never do anything for the sake of buying a good name, it conveys the message convincingly. Living to impress means one never truly lives at all. The whole life would become a lie. It is mere hypocrisy, which Jesus always spoke against. He states that such people who live in hypocrisy cannot be trusted or relied on. Wherever they are, whichever position they are responsible for, their untrustworthiness always makes life a chaotic mess. Those who cannot practice what they say or promise will be in misery. Heaven or hell is what we make through our words and practice. When Jesus told Peter that he has the key to heaven, was this not intended?

Feasts:

October 12, Philipose Mar Dionysius of Cheppad, 166th anniversary, entombed at St George Orthodox Church Cheppad

Cheppad Philipose Mar Dionysius was the Malankara Metropolitan who stood firm against reformation and led the church to keep its faith and tradition unaffected. He had to face challenges from the advocates of reforms initiated by the western missionaries. They wanted to change or modify the liturgy and sacraments using protestant thoughts which would have affected the Orthodox liturgical practice of



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the Malankara church. He convened the Holy Synod at Mavelikara in 1836 which issued the 'Mavelikara Padiyola' which ruled out any possibility of protestant reforms in the church.

October 12, HG Yuhanon Mar Athanasios OIC, 41st anniversary, entombed at Bethany Asram Perinad

HG Yuhanon Mar Athanasios was called Abo Yuhanon who was well known for his spiritual retreats. HG lived a life of piety and faith which inspired the flock to grow in spirit.

October 14, St Athanasios of Alexandria

St Athanasios of Alexandria was a 4th-century theologian and monk who refuted Arian teachings which would have damaged the theology of the ancient church. He was instrumental in writing the Christological part of the Nicene Creed which affirmed the divinity of Christ the Son of God. He was threatened and banished many times for his ardent faith and theological stand. He was called the 'Pillar of the church' whose theological suggestions helped the ancient church to formulate doctrinal positions.

October 15, St Osio the Ascetic

St Osio was a fourth-century monk whose spiritual powers of healing saved many lives and his teachings guided many people to spiritual life. There is one church in Malankara named after this saint, St Osios Orthodox Church, Naranganam, Pathanamthitta

HG Dr Mathews Mar Severios consecrated as HH Baselios Marthoma Mathews III, 9th Catholicos and 22nd Malankara Metropolitan. Axios....Axios...Axios....

Malankara Syrian Christian Association held at Parumala Seminary on Thursday, October 14 has unanimously elected HG Dr Mathews Mar Severios Metropolitan as the 9th Catholicos of the East and 22nd Malankara Metropolitan who has been consecrated on Friday, October 15 at Parumala. It has been the prayer and wish of the whole flock of the Malankara church to have the 'Jaatiykku Karthavyan' chosen without confusion. The Spirit of God has guided the church to elect the person to the position. Speeches by Rev Fr Dr T J Joshua, HG Kuriakose Mar Cleemis Metropolitan, the Metropolitan Council President, and by the newly consecrated Malankara Metropolitan have conveyed the message that the Malankara church will have to focus on spiritual renewal, care for churches outside India, plan more projects for addressing environmental issues, catering further towards ecumenical relations, keeping healthy relationship with various communities of faith and to open hands more for reaching out to the needy. We do pray and hope that the new leadership shall bring harmony and peace within and outside the church and also bring an end to all the court disputes and cases. May the Spirit of God and the ever-loving presence of Christ lead the church to further spiritual progress and the flock shall be enjoying the salvation of God through the church. Let us be proud of our faith in the Triune God, the St Thomas tradition, and the antiquity of our practices. God is with us!

Sunday October 17 onwards, Morning Prayer starts at 09:00 am

As winter is nearing, we are moving the starting time of Morning Prayer on Sundays to 09:00 am. Please keep the time change in mind and reach church before the prayer starts.

Harvest Festival & Auction this Sunday, October 17

The Harvest Festival and Auction shall be conducted this Sunday, October 17, 2021. Please join to celebrate the harvest of blessings received from the Lord of harvests. Please cooperate and support the maximum by giving items for auction and participating in the bidding. As planned, delicious Kappa and Beef curry shall be ready for take-out. We do expect more items for auction. Please access the link and register what we will be donating. Half of the total collection shall be used for helping the needy. Let us be thankful to God, celebrate while caring for the less privileged. Let us transform lives!



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We look for voluntary assistance for preparing kappa and beef, arranging the space for auction, and packing. We request our members, whoever finds it convenient, please come to church on Saturday at 05:00 pm to help.

Evening prayer shall be conducted at church starting at 07:00 pm and shall be live-streamed.

Farewell to versatile actor Nedumudi Venu

One of the best actors in the whole world, the pride of the Malayalam movie industry, the highly revered and adored actor Sri Nedumudi Venu has passed away. He will be remembered for hundreds of various memorable roles in South Indian, especially in Malayalam movies and plays. He was a genius artist with tremendous potential. Most recently he was found singing in a video for raising awareness to eradicate Covid 19. Thakara, Achuvettante Veedu, Minnaminunginte Nurunguvettom, Guru, Vaisali, His Highness Abdullah, Vida Parayum Mumpe, and Indian are only a few to list from hundreds of movies he has acted in. The limitation of reach of the Malayalam language kept him from reaching universal popularity. Let us be proud of being Indian, especially as a Malayalee!

Condolence on Bessie's Passing Away

Bessie Abraham Mathew, 41 years, member of St Luke Orthodox Mission PA has passed away. She has been so involved, active, contributing, and illuminating our community in Philadelphia. She has been a lead singer in the choir which assisted all the sacraments including marriages and her sweet voice has been of delight to the congregants. The funeral service shall be conducted on Saturday, October 16. Please uphold Bessie's husband Jiji, children Rebekah & Ezra, parents, siblings, grieving extended family, friends, and her parish, the St Luke Orthodox Mission, within your valuable prayers.

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 we are to take Holy Communion. Please do not wave if we are not taking Holy Communion. Thanks to everyone for your cooperation.

Choir & Acolytes joint practice- Saturdays 4:30-6:00 pm

This is a reminder to all our choir members and Acolytes to attend the weekly choir practice currently conducted virtually on Saturdays 04:30 – 06:00 pm. We would wish our choir members and acolytes who will be taking turns on the upcoming Sunday or feast days to join the practice session for better coordination and harmonious chanting. The link shall be sent before the meeting.

MMVS Diocesan Programs

Bible Study: Every Thursday 8.30 - 9.30 pm. The study is based on the books Amos – Malachi led by Rev Fr VM Shibu (Vicar, St Gregorios Orthodox Church Bensalem).

Virtual Meetings ahead

October 16, Saturday, SGOCT Choir & Acolytes weekly practice – 04:30 – 06:00 pm

October 16, Saturday, SGOCT Prayer Meeting, 07:00 – 08:00 pm, at church, live-streamed

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

This Sunday, we will be using the Taksa of the Twelve Apostles



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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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