



## WEEKLY THOUGHTS - APRIL 16, 2021

Dearly beloved,

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

### **Sunday April 18, Sunday after New Sunday**

**Epistle Readings: Acts 13:26-39, Ephesians 6:10-20**

**Holy Gospel: St John 21:1-14**

21.1 After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tibe'ri-as; and he revealed himself in this way. 2 Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathan'a-el of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zeb'edee, and two others of his disciples were together. 3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat; but that night they caught nothing. 4 Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any fish?" They answered him, "No." 6 He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, for the quantity of fish. 7 That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his clothes, for he was stripped for work, and sprang into the sea. 8 But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off. 9 When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it, and bread. 10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." 11 So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and although there were so many, the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. 14 This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

### **Reflection:**

Christ can be experienced everywhere. He has no barriers or blocks. He walks with us on our daily struggles. We experience him at church, at gatherings, at work place, at home, while we are awake or in sleep. He had warned his disciples: "Without Me, you can do nothing" (John 15:5). He knows that we need Him and assures His presence everywhere, in whatever we are engaged. He brings fruits to our labour, keeps us calm when there is storm, clears doubts when we are weak and sceptical, feeds us when there is nothing, fills us with hope when we are in despair, calls us back to life when we lose grip, keeps us from evil through interceding for us to God the Father. "Simon, Simon, look out. Satan has asked to sift you like wheat. But I have prayed for you." (Luke 22:31). He is keen on enquiring how we are doing and what profit we have made in life. He guides us to cast our net on the right choices. When we obey, He fills our net with big blessings and graces. Though we labour for our survival, what we enjoy in life would be given out of Grace as He kept the uncaught fish and uncooked bread for them on the shore. Everything is His Grace. Let us rely on it and depend upon Him in everything. May His will be actualised in and through our life.

### **Feasts:**

**April 25, Feast of St George**

The Feast of St George shall be celebrated at our church on Sunday April 25. Due to the current



# ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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



restrictions, we will not be able to have gathering or procession. If we have names for intercession, please send them early. If anyone wishes to offer 'nercha', please contact the parish office for guidance.

**April 12, H G Gevarghese Mar Ivanios Metropolitan, 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at Mar Baselios Dayara Njaliyakuzhy, Kottayam.** He is revered a saint by the faithful. He was compassionate, caring, loving, benevolent and a perfect devout. He had almost met death at least twice with Cancer and some other condition and miraculously got healed and survived. He had a strict and disciplined life. He was also so open to people and their situations. He was a strong critic of unethical life style prevailing in the society and in the church. He never looked for fame or power. He lived a simple life. His monastery at Njaliyakuzhy has been a place for spiritual rejuvenation for both the faithful and for the clergy. He always taught to live a pure life and to grow into the fullness of our divine nature.

**April 14, Mar Thoma II, 325<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at Niranom Valiyapalli & Mar Thoma IV, 293<sup>rd</sup> anniversary, entombed at Kandanad Palli.** These holy fathers are remembered even after three centuries. They did lead the church when there was nothing of modern facilities or technologies available. They depended on God and reflected His virtues in the world. Their strong leadership sustained the faith in the southern state of India in the past. We, the current generation, owe much to them for our faith and tradition.

**April 17, HG Gevarghese Mar Philexinos Metropolitan, 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at St Mary's Cathedral Puthencavu.** He was given the title 'Catholicate Ratnadeepam' which means the radiant gem of Catholicate. He was a strong spiritual leader. His voice was so heavenly which elevated everyone during worship. He was also a wonderful orator.

## Great Lent

**Thanks to our Technical Support Team.** We do sincerely apologise for missing the Technical Support team from the thanks list in the previous weekend mail. Though we had acknowledged it on Easter Sunday, it was a mistake missing in the weekend mail. Binu Abraham and Varghese Daniel have been helping us with the live-streaming of Liturgical Services and Lenten Evening Prayers. With their dedicated work and support, our parish has now got an excellent facility for live-streaming with necessary devices and equipments. They were taking turns to come to church every evening and early in advance. We do sincerely thank and highly appreciate their hard work, dedication, sparing of their valid time and skill, consistency and selfless service.

## Acolytes Meeting and Training

We have monthly meetings of Acolytes, currently virtual, for fellowship and training. Every field of work/service would demand refresher training and practice with appraisal to check on efficiency. We need to practice and refresh to serve at the Altar better. We earnestly request all the acolytes to attend the scheduled meetings with commitment. Whoever wants to have training for taking the censor, preparing the Altar, dispensing of vestments, reading and chanting, we have provision to avail it on Sunday after the service. We can also have virtual training during monthly sessions or we can schedule special meetings too. Please find this as a reminder for the upcoming meetings. If we have any suggestions regarding the time and date, please feel free to share with Santosh Varughese or with the Vicar.

## Government Grant to our Parish

We had submitted request for Government grant intended for faith communities and charitable



# ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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



organisations. A sum of \$60,000/- (sixty thousand) has been made available of which we should repay \$40,000/- (forty thousand) and they will wave \$20,000/- (twenty thousand). Being one of the eligible faith communities, it is a matter of recognition as well as trust upon us. We do sincerely acknowledge and thank the Government for their various aids allocated for the people and communities.

## **Prince Philip is remembered**

Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh is remembered for his charming presence and globally appealing leadership. He lived his life in support to the Queen and the Royal reign by sacrificing his personal fortunes and possibilities. He was ready wit, an enthusiast and had high regard for all the progressive projects. He was the Colonel-in Chief of the Royal Canadian Regiment and acted as a bridge between Canada and England. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has reflected on him as a man of great purpose and conviction, who did great service to others, always sought out the best in people and challenged them to strive for greater heights. He was fortunate to live through almost a century and to be part of the most advanced era in history. St Gregorios Orthodox Church of Toronto offers tributes to this great man of honour and shares the sorrow of the whole world on such a great loss. There will be paying of tribute and prayers in remembrance after the Holy Liturgy on Sunday.

## **Sad Parting**

We express deep grief on the passing away of Arya Mary Kanneth, 5 years, beloved daughter of Basil and Philcy, granddaughter of George Philip Arangattu (Soman, Chimney Fresh Restaurant) and Molcy, and granddaughter of Rev Fr Thomas Kanneth Cor Episcopa of the Malankara Jacobite Church. She had left this world on Friday after suffering cardiac arrest. Funeral service was conducted on Tuesday. May we all pray for Arya and for her family who are at loss. May she rejoice in the Heavenly Court with angels, saints and all the departed ones. There will be offering of incense after the Qurbana.

## **Weekend Mail**

We send parish weekly journal on weekends, mostly on Fridays and RSVP mails on early week days. If any of our members are not finding it in the inbox folder of your e-mail, please check the promotional folder. We send it as group mail and hence the system might choose for promotional category and may not be dropped into main inbox. We can drag the mail to main inbox and it will be coming in to the general mail then onwards. If it is not found anywhere, please alert the parish office or the vicar. The contact shall be updated on the mailing list.

## **Support our Parish**

Please support our parish by contributing financially. Please remember to pay the Catholicate Day share along with monthly subscription. We are continuing to collect Holy Week donations and any contribution will be highly appreciated. Only a few have contributed so far. While we thank all those who have participated in this, we request the rest of the members to join in as well.

## **‘Share Your Blessings’- A charity initiative of Gregorian Forum**

Gregorian Seniors Forum is initiating a charity drive ‘Share Your Blessings’. God has blessed us abundantly. The Bible constantly teaches us to share what we have with those who are less fortunate than us. Also, sharing gives us an elevated sense of responsibility towards our society. Share what you have to show how much you care and please remember when you care for others the Almighty



# ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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



Lord cares for you more. The fund collected shall be donated towards Mental Health Wellness in Peel Region. Our share can be transferred to [treasurer@sgoctoronto.org](mailto:treasurer@sgoctoronto.org).

*"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."  
Hebrews. 13:16*

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

We have started receiving emails from members with details of their beloved departed ones and have started adding them to our list. Please continue to let us know as we would like to keep this list going forward for remembrance prayers on the respective Sundays just like we do for Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries.

## **Virtual Meetings ahead**

Friday April 16, NEAD MMVS Retreat, 12:00 – 01:00 pm

Friday April 16, Liturgical Session, Sunday School Seniors, 06:00 – 07:00 pm

Saturday April 17, SGOCT Choir, 04:30 – 06:30 pm

Saturday April 17, SGOCT Prayer, 07:00 – 08:30 pm

Thursday April 22, SGOCT Gregorian Seniors Forum, 07:00 – 09:00 pm

## **Liturgical Text for this Sunday**

This Sunday we will be using the Taksa of Patriarch Mar Osthathéos. Please be attentive to its beautiful prayers.

## **Please see below the Link for Live Streaming**

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

## **COVID-19 Guidelines**

There is again the provincial lockdown, for the time, church service not affected, but the attendance might be reduced. Let us keep in prayer. It is glad seeing the vaccination program reaching more people fast and quick. Let it be completed soon and all be immunised. The world needs to be free from this fear.

**May the Gracious Lord keep us from all harm and heal the entire world.**

Yours in Christ,

Thomas John Achen

Fr Thomas P John

[fr.thomasjohn@gmail.com](mailto:fr.thomasjohn@gmail.com)

+1 (416) 570 5610