



## WEEKLY THOUGHTS - DECEMBER 17, 2021

Dearly beloved,

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

**Sunday, December 19, Sunday prior to the Feast of Nativity**

**Epistle Readings: Acts 3:16-26, Romans 4:13-25, Galatians 4:18-20**

**Holy Evangelion, St Luke 3:23-38**

23 Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli, 24 the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jan'na-i, the son of Joseph, 25 the son of Mattathi'as, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Nag'ga-i, 26 the son of Ma'ath, the son of Mattathi'as, the son of Sem'e-in, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, 27 the son of Jo-an'an, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerub'babel, the son of She-al'ti-el,[a] the son of Neri, 28 the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elma'dam, the son of Er, 29 the son of Joshua, the son of Elie'zer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, 30 the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eli'akim, 31 the son of Me'le-a, the son of Menna, the son of Mat'tatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, 32 the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Bo'az, the son of Sala, the son of Nahshon, 33 the son of Ammin'adab, the son of Admin, the son of Arni, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, 34 the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, 35 the son of Serug, the son of Re'u, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, 36 the son of Ca-i'nan, the son of Arphax'ad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, 37 the son of Methu'selah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Maha'lale-el, the son of Ca-i'nan, 38 the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

### Reflections:

The Genealogy of Christ is simply a list of names of people representing their corresponding generations. It has been sorted and included by the gospel authors following a pattern posed by the early Christian community to present a family tree of the Saviour. When certain names are included, it doesn't rule out the relevance of others who lived in the same era. There were millions of people throughout the generations who joined the long trail of salvation. Various examples or variants of the same legacy can be found in the genealogy.

Every individual has a representational role in the world. Any name can be found included in the short list. Regarding the wider family tree, every faithful shall be included as every believer is born to His family through faith. We have a huge responsibility to live the life of those who are in the family tree of Christ the Lord.

### Feasts:

**December 13, HG Daniel Mar Philoxenos Metropolitan, 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at Basil Dayara Chapel, Pathanamthitta**

H G Daniel Mar Philoxenos was the Metropolitan of Thumpamon Diocese who was formerly the first Principal of Catholicate College Pathanamthitta. He encouraged higher education. He had also served as the first General Secretary of OCYM. HG represented the Malankara Orthodox Church in various international meetings and assemblies including WCC.



**December 14, Paulose Mar Coorilos Metropolitan, 103rd anniversary, entombed at Panampady**  
HG Paulose Mar Coorilos, also known as Kochuparambil Thirumeni was a true defender of the Malankara Orthodox faith and tradition during a period of turbulence. He lived a saintly life which inspired people around.

**December 17, HH Baselios Geevarghese I, 92<sup>nd</sup> anniversary, entombed at Vallikkattu Dayara Chapel, Vakathanam, Kottayam**

HH Baselios Geevarghese I was respectfully called 'Vallikkattu Bava' because of his stay and the progress it brought to the place. He was a man of simplicity and modesty. Thirumeni always focussed on motivating the youth and encouraging them to live a fruitful life through dedicating their life in service to God and the society.

**December 18-21, Feast Days of stabbing and Martyrdom of St Thomas, the Apostle to India**

Indian Christianity owes everything to St Thomas the Apostle to India. Available records and tradition says that St Thomas came to India in AD 52, evangelised the coastal areas, then moved to interiors in search of his own people and then reached out to the local society. He is believed to have taken the help of Jewish settlers to preach the gospel. India had the practice of religious tolerance and a welcoming environment for other faiths and ideologies. Because of the Jewish settlers, there was suitable soil for the Gospel to be accepted and spread. Indian kings were generous to offer lands and other assistance for the community. St. Thomas revealed the love of Christ through his ministry among the poor and the needy. It could be assumed that people lived in the coastal lines were neither rich nor educated. The new faith which came from the Middle East must had given them a new elevated and more dignified life in the society. Irrespective of growing hostility from the elite class, St Thomas continued his ministry and invited a lance from a fanatic which ended his life. It is believed that he got stabbed on December 18<sup>th</sup>, and walked three days to reach the hill top of Mylapore. He was buried there and hence the place is called St Thomas Mount.

Feast Day of St Thomas is the feast day for every Indian Christian for the salvation one enjoys in Christ the Lord. As the apostle declared, every believer touches and feels the wounds of the Lord that meant for the believer in particular and for the whole creation in a broader sense.

**Area Carol** Sincere thanks to families and members of St George Prayer Group for joining the carol last Sunday. Thanks to the family for providing refreshment.

**Christmas Eve – 2021, Let us all together celebrate!**

Tomorrow evening will be our parish celebration of Christmas, jointly by all the organisations. We welcome all our members to come to church in person if possible. If not, please join virtually. Let us be in prayer and make it a memorable event. Please assure involvement and participation of our children along with all our family members.

Evening prayer will begin at 05:15pm. Christmas programs will begin at 06:00pm to finish by 09:00pm. Sunday School, MMVS, Gregorian Senior Forum, OCYM, MGOCSM and Parish Choir will delight us with presentations. Please join to perform, watch and to support. Let us rejoice!

**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.



# ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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## **Choir & Acolytes joint practice- Saturdays 05:00-07:00 pm**

Due to Christmas celebrations, we will not have the usual practice this Saturday. We will resume on Saturday December 25 onwards.

## **Meetings ahead, In-Person & Virtual**

December 18, Saturday, Evening Prayer at Church, 05:15- 06:00 pm, Live Streamed.

December 19, Sunday, MGOCSM Monthly Meeting, 07:00 – 08:30 pm.

## **Liturgical Text for this Sunday**

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

## **Link to Sunday Holy Liturgy**

Please see below the Link for Live Streaming

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