



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - FEBRUARY 18, 2022

Dearly beloved,

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

Sunday, February 20 Sunday, Aaneede (All Departed)

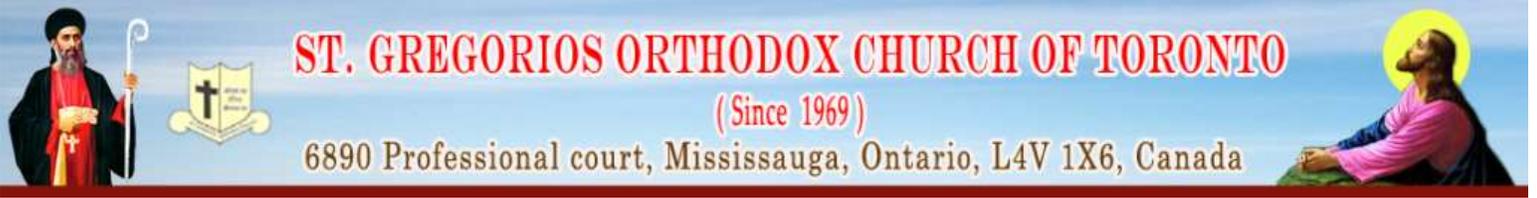
Epistle Readings: St James 3:1-12, 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Holy Evangelion, St Luke 12:32-48

32 “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. **33** Sell your possessions, and give alms; provide yourselves with purses that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. **34** For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. **35** “Let your loins be girded and your lamps burning, **36** and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the marriage feast, so that they may open to him at once when he comes and knocks. **37** Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes; truly, I say to you, he will gird himself and have them sit at table, and he will come and serve them. **38** If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them so, blessed are those servants! **39** But know this, that if the householder had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. **40** You also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an unexpected hour. **41** Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?” **42** And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and wise steward, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? **43** Blessed is that servant whom his master when he comes will find so doing. **44** Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. **45** But if that servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’ and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, **46** the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will punish him, and put him with the unfaithful. **47** And that servant who knew his master’s will, but did not make ready or act according to his will, shall receive a severe beating. **48** But he who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, shall receive a light beating. Every one to whom much is given, of him will much be required; and of him to whom men commit much they will demand the most.

Reflections:

No one desires poverty. Everyone lives their life trying to accumulate wealth. The absence of wealth is viewed as a misfortune. To save wealth is for the sake of securing our future. It is very hard to simply deny the desire. If a leader starts teaching that wealth is unnecessary, that person will become unpopular. Such an ideology will not acquire momentum. Here, Jesus preaches to leave belongings and to become poor. This ideology was difficult to practice since many people loved their wealth. Over time, the idea of becoming “poor” developed and that movement became the largest in the world. This is the result of the church's establishment. The reason that this ideology became popular should be understood properly. Material wealth is for physical existence. Once we die, it will be useless. People want to have an existence even after death. For that life, it would require something non-physical to support. Dropping everything for the sake of helping the needy will be counted as spiritual support in the nonphysical life to come. Even with this initially unpopular ideology, Jesus became the greatest leader and the church became the largest establishment in history. The Church became the most efficient medium or channel to offer help to the maximum number of people who are in need. Hospitals, educational institutions, hospices, orphanages, shelters, various care centers, and thousands of various



charity organizations are the good results of such servitude which Jesus had taught.

We have a cloud of departed witnesses who teach us the futility of selfishness and greed and the fruitfulness of selfless love. We are surrounded by them. We are not alone when we choose the best of our life. May their memory be eternal!

Feasts:

Feb 16, HG Dr Gevarghese Mar Osthathios Metropolitan, 10th anniversary, entombed at St Paul's Chapel, Mavelikara

HG Dr Gevarghese Mar Osthathios was the Metropolitan of the Diocese of Niranam. He was the most popular preacher of his time. He always stood with the less privileged and he voiced for their rights. Thirumeni was a severe critic against social injustice brought by the capitalist approach of corporate companies. He initiated many charity projects through the Church Mission Board. Many full-time missionaries were trained at St Paul's Centre and deployed in various mission projects in various states of India. Thirumeni taught at Pazhaya Seminary through which he could impart awareness and commitment in theological students and clergies about caring for the poor and marginalized. He authored many books on theology, mission and love revealed in Holy Trinity. Thirumeni continues to inspire the flock to serve and reflect Christ through serving the needy.

Aneede – Sunday of all Departed

Humans need each other, as we depend on affection. We appreciate others best when we are physically available. Holy Scripture says God is love (1 John 3:9), life is eternal (1 John 5:11-13) and love never withers away (1 Corinthians 13:8). The Church teaches us to continue practicing love even after we depart and are physically absent. Love is practiced through actions and approaches. The Church has the tradition of expressing love through sacraments, service, and prayer. Great Lent starts by paying respect to two groups who are physically absent, departed clergies and departed laities. Before a spiritual battle of prayer and penitence, the faithful seek inspiration and guidance from former warriors who had fought their life of faith and won. Let us remember all our beloved departed along with the whole since the time of Adam and Eve.

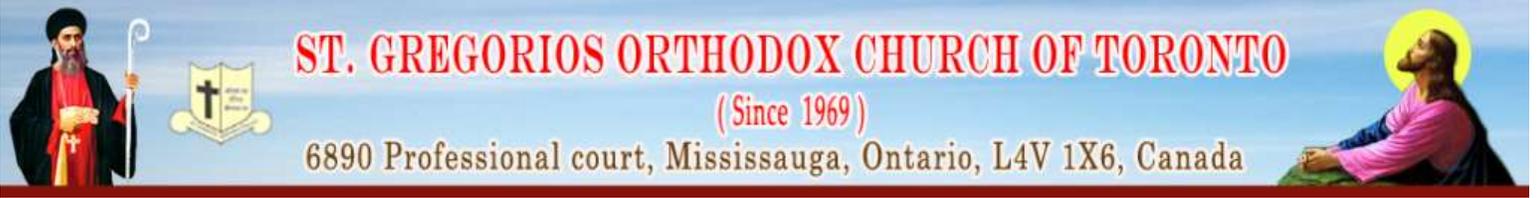
Great Lent, Evening Prayer, Devotional Talks

Great Lent will start on Monday, February 28th. As we did last year, there will be devotional talks at church every evening after Lenten prayer. OCYM has initiated a google signup sheet for devotional talks. Members can liaise with secretaries of respective organizations for confirming their participation. Please look for the google sheet and sign up at the earliest. We expect our members to participate enthusiastically as we did in the last year.

Parish General Body Meeting for Annual Reports, Accounts and Budget 2022

The Parish General Body meeting for Reports, Accounts, and Budget 2022 shall be convened at church on Sunday, February 27th, 2022 after the Holy Liturgy. The preliminary eligibility list will be posted on 13th February 2022 and the final list will be posted on 20th February 2022.

Criteria: Subscription paid till 31st December 2020 and The Holy Confession between 20th February 2021 and 19th February 2022. Our members who are yet to have their Holy Confession done, please reach out to the Vicar on (416) 570 5610 to find a convenient time.



SGOCT Parish Library and Book Club

SGOCT parish OCYM has planned to launch a Parish Library & Book Club project with the support of other organizations and our members. We will be starting the project by tracking current stock and receiving books from donors. Reference books and other required books shall be purchased in due course. There will be a google sheet open soon with a list of required books. Whoever finds it convenient can choose which books they could donate. If we don't have copies in hand, we can buy and give them.

We request our members who are fond of reading to support in setting up a useful library. We request our members who may be interested in donating books to look for the right books to donate, instead of using them to get rid of any books. Please feel free to contact the vicar on (416) 570 5610 for any clarifications or for expressing your willingness to support. We do believe that the library shall motivate our kids and youngsters to get equipped for their future through intense and voracious reading and it also helps our senior generation to get engaged in fruitful sharing time through the book club.

Parish Journal

We used to have a parish Newsletter which was discontinued during the pandemic. OCYM will be initiating a parish journal expected to be published on the day of Easter. We wish our members to contribute articles, poems, cartoons, stories, or studies on the theme for each issue. The Easter issue will be based on 'Resurrection and '. Organizations will be coordinating the work. Please look for details. You can reach out to organization secretaries to discuss in what way you can be part of it.

Prayer Meeting – February 19 Saturday 06:30 – 08:00 pm

Weekend prayer meeting on February 19 Saturday at 06:30 pm at church followed by fellowship gathering through Webex and shall be hosted by St. George's Area Prayer Group. It will be open for all our members. The link shall be sent early beforehand. We request all our families to assure their participation. Please assure involvement and volunteering of kids too.

Spiritual Organisations and WhatsApp Groups

All the spiritual organizations of our parish have created WhatsApp groups for regular communications and updates. We request all our members to join corresponding groups. If you are not already in, please reach out to organizational secretaries.

Gregorian Seniors Forum, G George: (416) 738 7765

MMVS, Beena Mathew: (647) 835 1521

OCYM, Suna Cherian: (647) 818 9376

Choir, Anand Joseph: (416) 276 5021

Acolytes, Cleemis Vaidhyan: (647) 308 2135, Anish Mathew: (647) 818 6125

MGOCSM, Emil Mathew: (647) 877 9272, Sandra Shaji: (647) 551 6563

Sunday School, Santhosh Varughese: (416) 258 2062

MGOCSM Alumni

Our parish MGOCSM would like to reach all members who had any association with MGOCSM in India or elsewhere. Please inform whoever worked with MGOCSM. You can either send an email to mgoesm.sgoct@gmail.com copying to the vicar at fr.thomasjohn@gmail.com or send a message/call to (416) 570 5610.



ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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



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

February 19, Saturday, Choir Practice of Yaldo Hymns, 04:30 – 05:30 pm

February 19, Saturday, Choir/Acolytes joint practice, 05:30 – 06:30 pm

February 19, Saturday, Evening Prayer, 06:30 – 07:15 pm

February 19, Saturday, Prayer Meeting, 07:15 – 08:15 pm

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

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

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,

Thomas John Achen

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