



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - JUNE 18, 2021

Dearly beloved,

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

Sunday June 20th, Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle Readings: Acts 6:1-7, 1 Corinthians 16:14-22

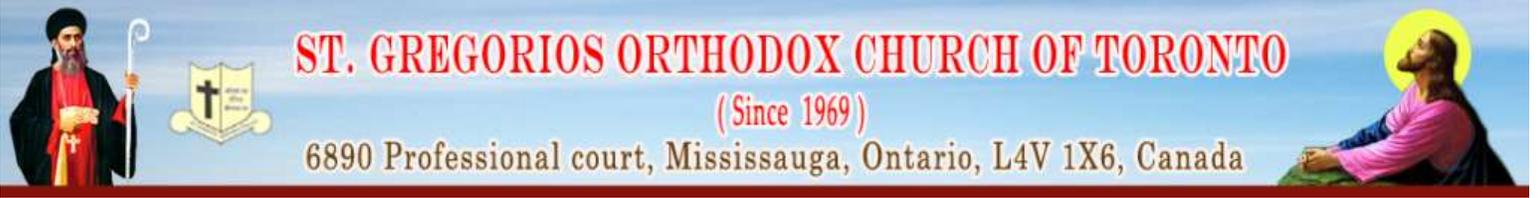
Holy Gospel: St Luke 10:1-16

10.1 After this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to come. 2 And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. 3 Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. 4 Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and salute no one on the road. 5 Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' 6 And if a son of peace is there, your peace shall rest upon him; but if not, it shall return to you. 7 And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages; do not go from house to house. 8 Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you; 9 heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' 10 But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, 11 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off against you; nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' 12 I tell you, it shall be more tolerable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

13 "Woe to you, Chora'zin! Woe to you, Beth-sa'ida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. 14 But it shall be more tolerable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. 15 And you, Caper'na-um, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades. 16 "He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

Reflection:

When the Lord assigns someone with a task, he makes sure that it will be accomplished. Here He added 70 preachers to the apostolic ministry and sent them out with the same command given to the Twelve. Though they were new to this mission, they came back joyful after accomplishing the first phase. Their ministry included house evangelisation (when you enter a house Lk 10:5) and public preaching (when you enter a town Lk 10:8) and they were successful in both. If the Apostles represent the twelve tribes of Israel (Lk 22:30, Mt 19:28, Rev 21:12-14), the seventy represent the seventy elders Moses appointed in the wilderness. The high Sanhedrin which had the judging role was numbered seventy for this reason. The twelve apostles and the seventy preachers were leading the kingdom preaching and they were honoured with the promise that they will judge the world. When we invest our time and talents for the Kingdom of God, it will return to us the highest reward the Lord can give. When Jesus appointed the preachers, He warned them of society's hostility and it did not hold them back from going for it. We could see how successful they were as Jesus told them that He had seen Satan falling. They were also assured of protection from harm (Lk 10:19). The mission of Christ started with the twelve, they were soon joined by seventy and in due course there were hundreds and thousands more who followed them. Now it is our turn to accomplish the mission and as Christ promised, our names shall be written in heaven (Lk 10:20). May the Holy Spirit



empower us to carry out our duties and responsibilities as true disciples through our behaviour, attitude and approach to others.

Feasts:

June 19, St James the Apostle

St. James, son of Zebedee, one of the Twelve Apostles, was in the innermost circle and the only apostle whose martyrdom is recorded in the New Testament (Acts 12:2). James and his younger brother, St. John the Apostle, were called Boanerges means “Sons of Thunder” (Mk 3:17), perhaps because of their zeal (Mk 9:38, Lk 9:54). Saints Peter and Andrew, James and John were the first four disciples whom Jesus called (Mk 1:16–19). Though the liturgical text ‘Taksa of St James’ has its authorship attributed to him, the later liturgical scholars do not agree to it. James was beheaded by order of King Herod Agrippa I of Judaea; his body is believed to be entombed at Santiago de Compostela, Spain where his shrine attracts Christian pilgrims from all over the world. May his intercession be a fortress for us.

Lent of the Apostles - ‘Sleehanompu’ - June 16-30

Please find an intercessory prayer:

O holy Apostles, intercede with the merciful God, that He may grant unto our souls forgiveness of offences, healing to our sickness, spiritual light to our path and moral strength to our minds. As you have preached and reflected Christ our Lord in the world, help us to be firm in faith and the humility to reveal the love of Christ to everyone we meet or talk. You have accomplished the good labour and kept faith, plead for us that we may follow your footsteps with courage and hope. May your intercession be a shelter for us. Praises be to Him, our Saviour and Lord, Amen.

Holy Liturgy shall be conducted on Tuesday, June 29th evening with Evening Prayer starting at 06:30pm followed by Holy Qurbana. Please remember to send names for intercession at the earliest.

NEAD Diocesan Annual General Assembly – Saturday June 19

The Annual Diocesan General Assembly will be held on Saturday, June 19 starting at 09:00 am at St Thomas Orthodox Church Long Island. The Annual report, accounts, budget and other matters of relevance shall be presented for approval. Parish Vicars and elected Diocesan Assembly delegates are expected to attend the meeting. Let us keep the meeting in our prayer.

Reminder to the MMVS Diocesan Annual Retreat on Saturday, June 26th

Please find the flyer and registration link attached for all who are interested and not yet registered.

Our Vicar Fr Thomas P John will lead the retreat. Last date of registration is 20th June. Kindly register at the earliest (under our church name St Gregorios Orthodox Church, Mississauga, Ontario) and continue to keep the meeting in your prayer.

- Registration link: <https://forms.gle/W9BMMRm4Y1oPn1jY8>
- Flyer: https://mcusercontent.com/4b0245a10b23c3826466d9a97/files/e95b7347-1ca1-b980-1bb9-5ef76fdbe462/MMVS_Retreat_2021_Flyer.pdf

Sad Parting

With profound sadness, may we announce the passing away of Baby Antony, aged 76, beloved father of Santhini John, father-in-law of John Michael (Babu, Dir Ref J13), grandfather of Priya and Alex on Tuesday June 15th in Kerala. Funeral was held on Thursday 17th June at St Mary Magdalene



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church, Pala. Santhini is in India now. May the Lord comfort the departed soul and give strength and hope to family members at loss. Please keep the departed and his family members in our daily prayer.

Virtual Meetings ahead

Friday, June 18 - Sunday School Liturgical Session, 06:00 – 07:00 pm

Saturday, June 19 - SGOCT Choir Practice, 04:30 – 06:30 pm

Saturday, June 19 - SGOCT Prayer Meeting, 07:00 – 08:30 pm

Sunday, June 20 - Sunday School Common Session: Farewell to students of Grade XII 05:30 – 06:30 pm, Teachers Meeting 06:30 – 07:30 pm

Friday June 25 - Divyabodhanam, 07:30- 09:00 pm

Divyabodhanam Class

Please find the link for the Divyabodhanam Class - Friday, 25 Jun, 2021 @ 7:30 pm

<https://stgregoriosorthodoxchurchoftoronto.my.webex.com/stgregoriosorthodoxchurchoftoronto.my/j.php?MTID=mfc79d157dcd5f8920973cdec5c42ccc9>

Friday, 25 Jun, 2021 7:30 pm | 2 hours | (UTC-04:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Meeting number: 132 761 9240

Password: wJZ3pagSq33 (95937247 from phones and video systems)

Join by phone

+1-416-216-5643 Canada Toll (Toronto)

Access code: 132 761 9240

Class will be based on Book 1: In the Fullness of Time.

MMVS Diocesan Programs

Fr Eby Paulose, the Vice President of NEAD MMVS has updated on upcoming programs. Please note the dates in your calendar and assure your participation.

Annual Retreat:

Saturday, June 26- 09:00 -01:00 pm Speaker: Fr Thomas P John, Vicar St Gregorios Orthodox Church of Toronto, Canada

Bible Quiz: Saturday, October 02

Annual Conference: Saturday, October 09

Bible Study:

A Bible study series has been initiated and scheduled on every Thursday at 8.30 - 9.30 pm. The study is based on Amos - Malachi. Rev Fr VM Shibu (Vicar, St Gregorios Orthodox Church Bensalem) will be leading the sessions. Kindly join.

Covid Charity

Diocesan MMVS is collecting charity donation from everyone for helping Covid-19 affected patients who can't afford ventilator fee or hospital bills. Our prayerful presence and wholehearted support for our MMVS ministry is expected.

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

This Sunday, we will be using the Taksa of Abraham Nahasirthono.

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.



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Yours in Christ,

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