



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - MARCH 18, 2022

Dearly beloved,

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

Sunday, March 20 Sunday, Caananite Woman

Epistle Readings: Acts 4:1-12, Romans 7:14-25

Holy Evangelion: St Matthew 15:21-31

^{15,21} Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

²⁹ After Jesus had left that place, he passed along the Sea of Galilee, and he went up the mountain, where he sat down. ³⁰ Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the mute, and many others. They put them at his feet, and he cured them, ³¹ so that the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.

Reflections:

There are no barriers to approaching God. It requires only faith and submission as the Canaanite woman revealed. She took courage to shout for help which is more relevant in the current world. Wherever a rescue is required, never wait in anticipation but start shouting for help. It can be spiritual or physical. There are many situations where victims fear to raise their voice gets neglected or abandoned. When we say Kurielaison, it is a cry for help. Sometimes, we might feel that we are not listened to by God or those who could help. Never give up. Never stop shouting. It will be answered. All the rescues and liberations were made possible only through raising of voice for their rights. Are we really aware that, being humans, we are entitled to make use of certain rights? Christ has commanded us to ask, seek and knock for our needs. He has promised to help. Are we using our spiritual rights as we use our civil rights? We are in the Great Lent. It is a door for us to knock. Are we really attempting to open with the right keys of prayer, fasting and reconciliation? Like the Canaanite woman, our faith might be put to the test. She teaches us never to be disappointed but keep on trying till we see results. Prayers for others, whether they are our family members or anyone in the world can do wonders in life. We have a friend in Christ who is ready to help. Let's go to him for the needs of ours as well as others.

Feasts:

March 17, St Patrick

St Patrick is revered as the Apostle of Ireland. He lived in the fourth century and preached the Gospel in Ireland and England. He was taken captive from Britain and sold as a slave to Ireland. He was a man of prayer. He lived a pure monastic life and became a bishop, founded monasteries and churches in Ireland. He had to face severe hostility from communities of other faiths.



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March 18, HG Paulose Mar Severios Metropolitan, 60th anniversary, entombed at Arthat Puthen Pally Kunnamkulam

H G Paulose Mar Severios was the bishop of Cochin & Malabar who had brought initial developments to the Diocese.

March 19, HG Sleeba Mar Osthathios Metropolitan, 92nd anniversary, entombed at Arthat Puthen Pally Kunnamkulam

H G Sleeba Mar Osthathios was born in Turkey. He came to Malankara and served the church. He was a true spiritual leader who is venerated by the flock as a saint and intercessor.

Sunday Service Timing Change, Morning Prayer at 08:30 am from Sunday March 20, 2022. Sunday School will be going in-person

Please note that the Sunday Morning Prayer will start at 08:30 am from March 20 onwards. This is to help the Sunday School to be conducted at church in-person after the Holy Liturgy.

We have more morning light now. The new timing will also help us to start the Sunday School at 12:00 to finish by 01:00. We request everyone's cooperation.

Sunday School: Please send snack box on all Sundays to avoid any allergic hazards

RSVP to Cease

We are stopping the RSVP for Sunday participation. Please don't look for RSVP mail from the parish office from Sunday March 20, 2022 onwards. There will not be data collection at the entrance too. Members can come to church on all Sundays without taking pain to inform the parish office. Let us feel free!

Mid Lent and the Feast of Annunciation March 23rd and March 25th

Please note the dates Holy Liturgy of Mid Lent and Feast of Annunciation:

Mid Lent Service- Tuesday March 22, 2022, starting with evening prayer at 06:30 pm followed by Holy Liturgy and Mid Lent service. Golgotha and the Holy Cross shall be installed in the Aisle.

Feast of Annunciation- Thursday March 24th, Evening Prayer at 06:30 followed by Holy Qurbana.

Great Lent, Evening Prayer, Devotional Talks

We are entering the fourth week of Great Lent. We conduct Noon Prayer at 12:00 – 12:30. The link has already been sent. Please join if possible. 40 kneeling down is an experience. Let us taste it.

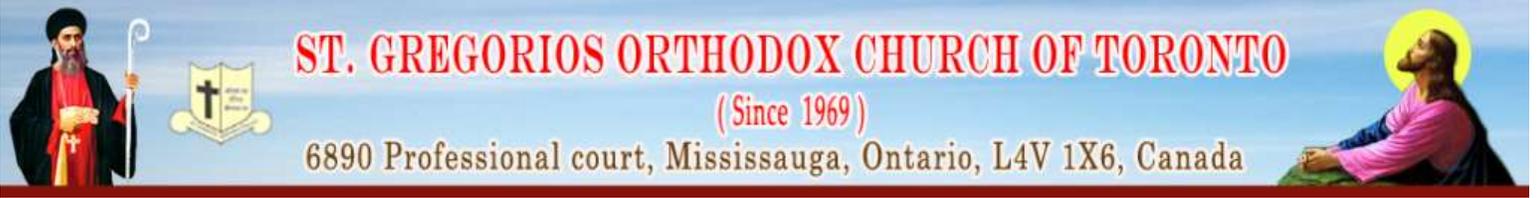
Evening prayer starts at 07:00 followed by devotional talks by our members. It is live streamed. We can join in person or virtually. Let us be together in prayer and fasting these days of Lent which was observed by our Lord. Prayer and fasting can bring abundant grace and miraculous results. Let us seek the showering of the Holy Spirit upon us all.

Holy Confession every evening

Lent is a time for deep cleansing of hearts. Let us take this opportunity to do Holy Confession. It gives way to a new start with new insights and goals. We can find time either before evening prayer or after the devotional talk. Please feel free to call on (416) 570 5610 to fix the time.

Parish GBM on Sunday, March 27

Our Parish General Body meeting will be held on Sunday March 27th, 2022 after the Holy Liturgy. Details shall



be announced on Sunday. Please keep the date in your calendar.

Ordination of Acolytes

We may have members, adults or kids, willing to join the Altar Assistance Service. Whoever wishes to join the Acolytes, please feel free to reach out to the Vicar on (416) 570 5610. We will conduct the training sessions and fix a date for ordination.

New Comers WhatsApp Groups initiated by OCYM supported by volunteers from parish spiritual organisations

Canada finds new immigrants and students from India. We receive new comers every week. To coordinate and organise them, our parish OCYM has started two WhatsApp Groups. We have volunteers representing various organisations to support. Newcomers are joining the group every day. We request our members to connect newcomers to both students and young couples we come across and we will be glad to offer them guidance and support. We will be organising various online and in-person meetings for them including spiritual sessions.

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 at (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 'Hope Resurrection and Victory'. 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.

Journal - Name it!

We are inviting name suggestions for the journal. You can send the name to OCYM. The last date will be March 25. The name will continue for future issues too.

Journal - Draw Icon

We are looking for Resurrection Icons drawn by Sunday School students to use on the Journal Cover. Students can send the icons on or before March 25th. The icon should be an orthodox presentation. It can be copied or newly drawn.



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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 mgocsm.sgoct@gmail.com copying to the vicar at fr.thomasjohn@gmail.com or send a message/call to (416) 570 5610.

MGOCSM Toronto Lenten Retreat: March 12 Saturday at SGOCT

MGOCSM Toronto Annual Lenten Retreat went well with both in person and virtual participation of members from parishes in Canada. Rev Fr Givargis Koshy enlightened us with his main session and Q&A. The Team MGOCSM Toronto deserves high appreciation for the excellent organising of the event. Sincere thanks to respected Achens and delegates for their participation.

40th Anniversary of the Diocesan MMVS in North America

The Diocese has planned the following events to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the MMVS in North America:

1. 40th-anniversary ceremony will be held on October 1, 2022, at St Thomas Indian Orthodox Church in Unruh, Philadelphia.

2. Women who were a part of the MMVS prior to 1982 are being honored.

3. Provide educational assistance to 40 children for a year. A raffle voucher sale will be held for this purpose.

Each family can purchase a raffle ticket for \$40. Please save a dollar every day during Great Lent and participate in the raffle coupon sale. There's also the option of sponsoring a child for a year. The expense for this is \$1500 US dollars.

The raffle coupon draw will take place on October 1st, 2022 during the anniversary ceremony.

1st Prize: iPhone 13 2nd Prize: iWatch

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.



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Happy Holi

We wish Happy Holi to all our friends from India on the Festival of Holi. Holi is the festival of spring, love & colours. It has the underlying story of victory of good over evil which we as God's children pronounce and declare always. Let there be more light, love and colours of Divine Presence in our lives.

Meetings ahead, In-Person & Virtual

March 19, Saturday, Choir/Acolytes joint practice, 05:00 – 07:00 pm

March 19, Saturday, Evening Prayer, 07:00 – 08:00 pm

March 20, Sunday, Sunday School in-person at church after the Holy Qurbana

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

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

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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