



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

Dearly Beloved,

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

September 20, First Sunday after the Feast of the Cross

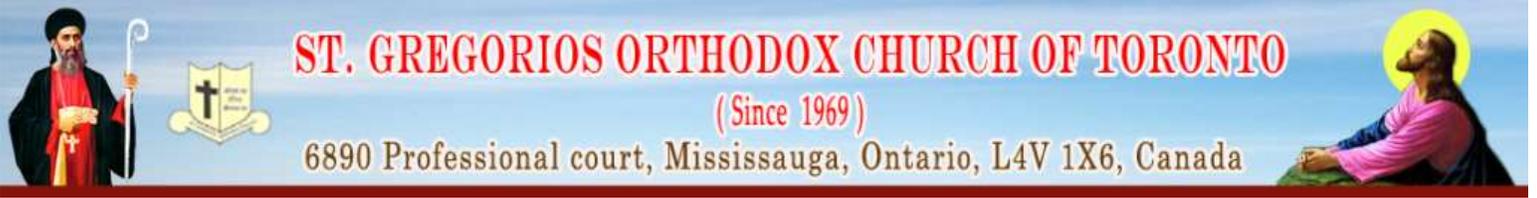
Gospel Reading, St Mark 13:28-37 RSV

28 “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away before all these things take place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 32 “But of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Take heed, watch; for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Watch therefore—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning— 36 lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Watch.”

Reflections

Salvation has two dimensions or two aspects. One is its earthly experience and the other in eternity. God is Spirit. To experience God is more to happen in spirit. Humans have the physical existence on earth with spiritual faculty as inevitable part of it whereas the everlasting existence begins when we leave our material body and become pure spirit. Many more things occur in the celestial realm than in the physical. Celestial doesn't imply a particular location, rather another level and form of existence. Like every season has its fall, human life also has its fall and span. It has to start and to finish passing through various stages of progress. Christ the Saviour has come to this world to reveal the life in its fullness. He had cared for both physical and spiritual aspects. He healed the sick, emotionally supported the needy, elevated their minds through his wisdom words, intervened to occasions where justice and equality had to be maintained, commanded forces of nature to reveal Divine authority on everything and accepted death to rise up victorious spiritually over human physical limitations.

Life is to be more envisioned and planned based on signs. We could educate children more efficiently based on signs of their talents and skills. Signs mean, something is there but not fully revealed or actualised. Cough can be sign of infection or presence of some irritants. Whatever could be the reason, after seeing a sign, it would need further following up. Here Jesus is indicating the signs of end of days or fullness of time. As humans, being the children of God, we cannot neglect signs, rather we follow them. Human life is not just a physical growth but it has a divine purpose to be fulfilled. Before we end, we need to attain full bloom which would be possible only through three dimensional growing, physical, mental and spiritual. Our ultimate existence will be spiritual. Culmination of life happens when we receive God into its fullness of human capacity. Salvation transcend time and space. That is why it is called end of age. We grow beyond all kinds of material influences including earthly fame, victory, sorrows, illness, natural calamities and even death. All the bad signs in the



world are to be used by the children of God to transcend them and to reach the spiritual realm. It is given for us as a gift to recognise the Lord's immediate presence with us. There will end the old age of miseries and sorrows and will dawn the new age of complete acceptance of God in everyone's life. Christ advises that we may be vigilant to recognise this great shift.

108th Anniversary of establishing of Catholicate in Malankara

On September 15, Malankara Church has observed the 108th anniversary of establishment of Catholicate. With this, the Malankara church in India had started enjoying all the rights and privileges of an autocephalous community. Till then, our church had to seek assistance from other orthodox churches especially from the Antiochene church for consecrating bishops. The Indian church, though founded in the first century, had no patriarchs. We had only arch deacons and Malankara Metropolitans. Since the inception in 1912, Malankara church always had Catholicate in position like the Pope of Rome or Patriarchs of other churches. Establishment of Catholicate remain the strongest symbol of autocephalous character of the church.

RSVP/confirmation stopped

We have stopped the RSVP for confirming participation in the Holy Qurbana until further notice. Our members can come straight without sending RSVP. Please fill in the data sheet kept in front at the left entrance with the name of only one family member and mention the number of total attendees including small kids from that family. Live-streaming will continue.

Ecumenical

Kerala Christian Ecumenical Fellowship (KCEF) Annual Convention will be held on Saturday 19 Sept at 7:30pm via Zoom. Theme for the meeting would be "Keeping the spiritual and emotional fabric of the family during COVID". The main speaker will be Rev. Fr. Joseph Puthenpurackal (meeting ID: 83733864077). Flyer attached.

<https://mcusercontent.com/4b0245a10b23c3826466d9a97/images/75377fdf-225a-4f09-ab1d-98b7425f4c81.jpg>

SGOCT Saturday's prayer meeting has been cancelled to assure the participation of our members in the Ecumenical Annual Convention.

MOSC: Catholicate Day collection

The Catholicate Day collection has to be sent by Sept 30 to the MOSC church office. If anyone wishes to contribute, please do so as soon as possible. Our subscription includes Catholicate Day share.

NEAM Diocese's MMVS virtual retreat:

Northeast American Diocese MMVS has scheduled virtual retreats on Fridays between 12:00 and 01:00pm. Our parish unit conducted the retreat on previous Friday. It is done by rota involving all parishes in the diocese. It will be a good platform for us to meet other MMVS members spread out all



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over the US and Canada. Those who are working could also conveniently join because the meetings happen at lunch-break.

Virtual (remote) meetings

Thursday September 17, 07:00 pm, Gregorian Seniors Forum.

Friday Sept 18, Sunday school Liturgical Session for seniors, 06:00pm.

Saturday Sept 19, KCEF Annual Convention. “Keeping the spiritual and emotional fabric of the family during COVID” by Rev. Fr. Joseph Puthenpurackal. 7:30pm via Zoom.

Sunday September 20, SGOCT MMVS meeting, 05:30 - 07:00pm.

Sunday Sept 20, SGOCT Acolytes Meeting, 07:30 pm.

Friday Sept 25, SGOCT Divyabodhanam, 07:30 pm.

Saturday Sept 26, SGOCT prayer meeting 07:00 - 08:30pm.

SGOCT Sunday School

Our parish Sunday School has reopened for the new academic year. If there are any more kids yet to join or yet to register, please find this as the right opportunity to start. Please feel free to contact Elizabeth Vaidhyan on (647) 984 3258 for admission proceedings.

Gregorian Seniors Forum Get-Together:

The Gregorian Seniors Forum get-together was done virtually on Thursday, September 17th at 07:00pm (instead of at the Peace Garden as announced earlier). Thanking all the members for their active participation.

SGOCT OCYM Charity

SGOCT OCYM is organising the Annual charity drive for the year 2020. This has been an ongoing practice for the past few years. We request each and every member of our parish to support this initiative generously.

SGOCT Choir

SGOCT Choir welcomes more singers, male and female, including previous members and high school students to be part of the church choir. We look for members who would dedicate their time for participating training sessions and church services including Sunday liturgy.

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

This Sunday we will be using the Taksa of Twelve Apostles.

Please find the Link of Live Streaming

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQw1yZ1_yCG9AWStA



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Sad Parting

With deep grief may it be informed that Omana Korah, aged 82, beloved wife of late Korah Thomas Vettiyl and beloved mother of Saji Vettiyl (Directory Ref: S 02) passed away today in Kerala. She is the member of Vakathanam St John's Valiya Pally. Funeral has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday Sep 19th at Vakathanam Valiya Pally. May we keep the family in prayer. May the Lord comfort the departed soul.

Holding you all in prayer
Yours in Christ

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