



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - NOVEMBER 19, 2021

Dearly beloved,

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

Sunday, November 21, Angel's Visitation to Mary

Epistle Readings: 1 John 3:2-17, Galatians 4:1-7, Hebrews 2:14-18

Holy Evangelion: St Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" ³⁵ And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

³⁶ And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Reflections:

It is really wonderful to see God Almighty taking effort to send His messenger to individuals. The beautiful prayer after the kiss of peace in the liturgy of St James goes like this- 'O Lord who dwells on most high and looks into the humblest things on earth, send blessings to those who have bowed their heads before You...' He is the mightiest God of all and keen on each and every creation. It is so thrilling to realise that we can have personal encounter and interaction with the Lord or with His envoy anywhere and anytime. Can we imagine an Angel getting into our room, closing his wings and meeting us when we are alone and at a never expected or the most necessary moment?! It is not the strangeness that should invoke awe in us but the personal care He has for us! His words can bring the Holy Spirit into our person, being and situation. We may have certain questions out of ignorance like Mary did, but the empowering presence of the Lord in our close vicinity can take away all fears and worries. Divine presence can strengthen and equip us to face any challenging situations with boldness, brevity, courage, confidence and presence of mind. During this season of Nativity, why can't we pray for this guiding presence in a more personal dimension in our day to day life?! He will be very much willing to be with us, because he is Immanuel, God with us!

Feasts:

November 18, Rev Fr Dr V C Samuel

Fr Dr V C Samuel was a scholar, researcher, historian and teacher par excellence. His deep knowledge and understanding in Christology made him a guide to many. His book 'Council of Chalcedon Re-examined' remains a work unbeaten by any researchers.



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November 20, HG Job Mar Philoxenos Metropolitan, 9th anniversary, entombed at Mount Tabore Dayara Chapel Pathanapuram

HG Job Mar Philoxenos was the Metropolitan of Delhi who initiated Indian Orthodox Diaspora, brought young women to read Old Testament prior to Holy Liturgy, opened online platforms for catechetical purposes and offered spiritual assistance using internet facilities.

General Body Meeting on Sunday November 21, 2021

The Parish Assembly (General Body meeting GBM) will be held this Sunday at church immediately after the Holy Liturgy. Agenda of GBM:

- Minutes of previous general body meeting
- Election of 2022 managing committee members and auditors
- Renovation of the altar, shrine area, etc.
- Parsonage purchase
- Matters of relevance with approval of the Chair.

Please keep the meeting in prayer, please pray for Holy Spirit to reveal the Divine Will to which we can submit.

Gregorian Seniors Forum donation towards Mental Health Wellness Program & Luncheon Meeting on November 18

Gregorian Seniors Forum Luncheon Meeting on Nov 18, 12:00 – 03:00 pm in the basement went really well. Andrea Pec from Ever Minds Mental Health Wellness, Peel Region joined the meeting and received the donation cheque for \$ 2,000/- collected by us. Sincere thanks to our members for generously contributing towards this fund. What we have gathered from Andrea regarding the youth mental health wellness program prompts us to look for more ways to support such projects and invites our focus to complement towards maintaining mental health among us and in the wider society. Thanks to all the respected senior members in the forum for their participation in person.

Welcome New Born Marcus & River

Justin Samuel & Lydia (Dir Ref: J 25), have been blessed with their second child Marcus Justin Samuel, born on November 14th

Suja John (D/O John Mathen, Dir Ref J 11) & Alfred Lee have been blessed with their second child River Lee born on November 18th

Hearty congrats to both parent couples and grandparents. May the infants be filled with the Holy Spirit and receive all the blessings from the Lord.

KCEF Christmas Carol tomorrow at 06:00 pm

KCEF Christmas Carol 2021 will be conducted virtually tomorrow at 06:00 pm. Our parish choir will have a presentation of two carol songs. During the program, trophies shall be handed over to winners of KCEF Bible Quiz Competition 2021. Our parish team will receive the third prize. Congrats to Sacred Heart Kerala Roman Catholic Community, CSI Christ Church Toronto and SGOC Toronto for First, Second and the Third places respectively.

Please find the KCEF Ecumenical YouTube link: https://youtu.be/scfy_dvIxjo

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



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take Holy Communion. Please do not wave if you are not taking Holy Communion. Thanks to everyone for your cooperation.

Choir & Acolytes joint practice- Saturdays 4:30-6:00 pm

This is a reminder to all our choir members and Acolytes to attend the weekly choir practice currently conducted virtually on Saturdays 04:30 – 06:00 pm. We would wish our choir members and acolytes who will be taking turns on the upcoming Sunday or feast days to join the practice session for better coordination and harmonious chanting. The link shall be sent before the meeting.

Meetings ahead, In-Person & Virtual

November 20, Saturday, SGOCT Choir & Acolytes weekly practice – 05:00 – 06:00 pm In-person & virtual

November 20, Saturday, 06:00 pm, Ecumenical Forum Christmas Carol, will be shown on church screen and live-streamed.

November 20, Saturday, Evening Prayer at Church, 07:00 – 07:45 pm

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

fr.thomaspjohn@gmail.com

Mobile: (416) 570 5610