



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - MAY 20, 2022

Dearly beloved,

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

May 22 Sunday, Fifth Sunday after Easter

Epistle Readings: 1 Peter 3:17-22, Hebrews 11:32-40

Holy Evangelion: St Luke 9:51-62

51 When the days drew near for him to be received up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. 52 And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him; 53 but the people would not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. 54 And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to bid fire come down from heaven and consume them?" 55 But he turned and rebuked them. 56 And they went on to another village. 57 As they were going along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." 58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head." 59 To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 60 But he said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." 61 Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." 62 Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Reflections:

Faith requires unwavering commitment. The Samaritans showed indifference to Christ because He was going to their rival city. They had once welcomed him and confessed their faith in him. If faith gives way to certain emotions of possessiveness, there can be disagreements and clashes. He was mercilessly rejected by them. The attitude of the disciples also changed. They were asking for fire to come down and destroy the whole community. This is no different from today's extremism and terrorism. They wanted to kill those who once welcomed and served them. Anger, or any emotion, if not controlled, can go disastrous. It can go to the extreme, where hate is left to grow without pause. The Armenian genocide, systematic execution of the first nations as excavated recently, Auschwitz are some typical examples. If love turns to hatred, nothing can hope to match it.

The intention behind following Christ (or any ideology) is important. Pledging of allegiance will never do any good if it wavers according to situations.

Feasts:

May 16, HG Yuhanon Mar Severios Metropolitan, 32nd anniversary, entombed at Zion Seminary, Koratty, EKM.

May 19, Mar Dionysius Metropolitan of Punnathra, 197th anniversary, entombed at Cheriyaipally, Kottayam

May 20, Emperor Constantine and Queen Helene

May 20, Commemoration of the four Evangelists and Fathers of the three Synods



CCC Annual Governing Board 2022 at St Paul University Ottawa- May 18-20

The Annual Governing Board Meeting of CCC- Canadian Council of Churches has been held at St Paul University, Ottawa. The Malankara Orthodox Church is a member of the Governing Board with voting rights. The three day meeting covered a variety of matters including approving Annual Report & Accounts, resolutions on a few matters, and declarations. upcoming programs, appeals to stop the attack on Ukraine and to stop the Korean war, disarmament, racism, sharing of faith etc. A presentation was made on Friday about the Malankara Orthodox Church, its history, life, scope and challenges. It was well received by all. They have expressed high appreciation for our history which traces back to the first century. Many of the council members have expressed their wish to join us to have a direct feel of music and liturgical beauty. There was an audience with the opposition MP at St Andrews Church. It was hopeful and promising. The visit to St Peter and St Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, joining the evening vespers, and hearing updates from Ukraine by community members was really a moving experience. While facing attacks, living in heavily damaged sites, they hold on to faith. There is no comparison with the faith we profess while living in secured areas and the practice they do while facing pointed guns. The meeting has brought together various expressions of the same faith and concluded with a ray of hope for a better world.

We can think about organising various faith promotional programs for our youngsters and kids by involving other churches around.

Altar and Shrine renovation

There will be a presentation on the proposed plan and diagram of Altar & Shrine renovation on Sunday, 22nd May, 2022 after the Holy Liturgy.

SS BBQ

We sincerely thank all our members who have participated in the BBQ organised by our parish Sunday school. Sincere thanks to the Sunday School Teachers, Students and parents for their volunteering and hard work. Thanks to all who volunteered. Sincere gratitude to our members who supported the event by contributing towards this. The food was rich and tasty. We have collected \$ 2108.00. Thanks again.

MMVS Bake Sale – Sunday June 12

MMVS Bake sale will be on Sunday, June 12. We request participation of all members. Shall announce details soon.

Please find update from the Sunday School Principal

OVBS 2022 is planned for August 10, 11, and 12th. Requesting the participation of all students.

Sunday school will be conducting **competitions** such as **Solo Singing, Story Telling, Elocution, and Bible Quiz on June 04 Saturday**. The details on the competitions with the registration link shall be sent by next week.

Feast of Ascension: May 26 Thursday, Will be celebrated on May 25 Wednesday.
06:30 pm Evening Prayer followed by Holy Liturgy

Feast of Pentecost: June 05 Sunday, Ascension on Thursday May 26th.
May 26-June 05, 10 days waiting for the Holy Spirit (Kaathiruppu).



ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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



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 at (416) 570 5610. We will conduct the training sessions and fix a date for ordination.

SGOCT Parish Library and Book Club

We expect books or contributions from voluntary supporters.

‘Urava’- OCYM initiated Parish Journal is ready out for reading

Please pick up your copies from Liju Thomas Thakadiyel.

Spiritual Organizations 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, Santosh Varughese: (416) 937 8595

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.

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

May 21, Saturday, SGOCT Choir & Acolytes joint practice, 05:00 – 07:00 pm

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

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

Link to Sunday Holy Liturgy

Please see below the Link for Live Streaming

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



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May the Gracious Lord keep us from all harm and heal the entire world.

Yours in Christ,

Thomas John Achen

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