



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - AUGUST 21, 2020

Dearly Beloved,

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

23 August 2020, Second Sunday after Assumption of St Mary

Gospel Reading, St Luke 11:9-20 RSV

9 And I tell you, Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; 12 or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! 14 Now he was casting out a demon that was dumb; when the demon had gone out, the dumb man spoke, and the people marvelled. 15 But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Be-el'zebul, the prince of demons"; 16 while others, to test him, sought from him a sign from heaven. 17 But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. 18 And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Be-el'zebul. 19 And if I cast out demons by Be-el'zebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. 20 But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Reflections:

For every invention or creation that has happened in history, there was unceasing research and efforts behind them. Similarly, in the gospel Jesus teaches about the need for consistency and repeating the efforts tirelessly to get answers for our prayers. When we listen to spiritual advice, we may think it wouldn't be applicable in a secular aspect. But by believing and repeating our efforts, even after suffering from many failures, we can make many great achievements.

It is about having a passion developed towards achieving dreams and also towards life itself. Humans tend to give up after a few trials if they have not got the intended results. Scientific inventions, technological advancements, new researches, cultural or art creations, however we name it, only people who relentlessly continued researching for years had made great accomplishments.

Our faith will only grow through being consistent with our repeated attempts. According to the Indian Vedic or Mythological (Puranic) tradition, sages used to perform acts of penance stretching for many years through which they could gain miraculous and spiritual powers. Though they have experienced many setbacks, they still kept on attempting. Here, Jesus is ruling out the general notion about spiritual living implying that it is something easy and cost free. Actually it is not so. Prayer is not something anybody can do without having any personal input. To succeed in a spiritual life, one would need to be consistent, forever trying, and never giving up. Though He Himself was the Son of God, He kept Himself constantly in contact with God the Father. He was ready to undergo spiritual disciplining through intense penance and fasting in the wilderness. Every night He used to spend time



in prayer. He had to sacrifice all personal comfort for the sake of achieving spiritual strength. Here the assurance is, whoever makes frequent attempts will be rewarded and will receive.

Feasts:

19 August, Feast Day of St Labi (variously called Lebbaeus, Judas Thaddaeus), Apostle of Christ

‘Why do you mourn, O Labi?’ (‘Labee nee enthinu karayunnu?’) is a cry of the church we hear on Great Friday during sixth hour sedro. He along with other Apostles witnessed the life of Christ and walked with Him unto Calvary. They all had to see the sufferings of their Guru, getting flogged, beaten, ridiculed, nailed and then hung on the cross. They all shared the same anguish and despair seeing their Lord dying, who himself said those who believe in Him shall never die! He is distinguished from Judas Iscariot the betrayer and sometimes identified as the brother of Jesus and also as the author of the epistle of Jude.

19 August, 29th anniversary of HG Joseph Mar Pachomios Metropolitan, entombed at Mulakulam church.

Thirumeni was the Manager of Corporate Schools and Colleges for many years. During his leadership, many developments in the church’s academic institutions took place. He was jovial, witty, thoughtful and an excellent teacher too.

OVBS 2020, Theme- ‘We are one in Christ’ (Galatians 3:28)

2020 Virtual OVBS is scheduled for this week August 20 & 21 (Thursday & Friday) with valedictory function on August 23 (Sunday). We request everyone to specially pray for the Virtual OVBS. The theme for this year is "We are one in Christ" Galatians 3:28.

Here is the link to the theme song and the lyrics:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xGD_BFSf90c

Please encourage your child/children to learn the theme song. You will be receiving a Zoom invite on Wednesday from Anne Alex to join the OVBS sessions for Thursday & Friday with all the instructions on how to join the sessions. Please note there is a change in the morning start time for both days (Thursday & Friday), we are starting at 9:30 AM. Please join in time to help ensure the program runs smoothly. Parents of students in grades 1 to 5 will receive an e-mail from the respective teachers for craft supplies required for the OVBS arts & crafts sessions. The Virtual OVBS Program Schedule is as follows:

Day 1: Thursday, August 20, 2020, via Zoom

Morning Session - 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

9:30 am – 10:20 am - Prayer & Inauguration (Common Session)

10:20 am – 11:20 am - Classes (Breakout Rooms)

11:20 am – 11:45 am - Art & Craft

11:45 am – 12:00 pm - Noon Prayer (Common Session)



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Afternoon Session - 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

02:00 pm – 03:05 pm - Song Session (Common Session)

03:10 pm – 03:25 pm - Closing Prayer (Common Session)

03:25 pm - 04:00 pm - Working on Presentation (Breakout Rooms)

Day 2: Friday, August 21, 2020, via Zoom

Morning Session - 10:00 am to 12:00pm

9:30 am – 10:10 am - Prayer (Common Session)

10:10 am – 11:20 am - Classes (Breakout Rooms)

11:20 am – 11:45 am - Art & Craft

11:45 am – 12:00 pm Noon Prayer (Common Session)

Afternoon Session - 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

02:00 pm – 03:05 pm - Song Session (Common Session)

03:10 pm – 03:25 pm - Closing Prayer (Common Session)

03:25 pm - 04:00 pm - Working on Presentation (Breakout Rooms)

Day 3: Sunday, August 23, 2020, via Webex

Valedictory Function - Common Session

04:00 pm – 04:30 pm Salutation, Theme Song. Opening Prayer

04:30 pm - 05:45 pm Class Presentations

05:45 pm - 06:00 pm Closing Prayer

For the valedictory function, you will receive the invite on Saturday from our Church Webex.

SGOCT Virtual Song Video

By God’s abundant graces, the second song video created by SGOCT Choir has been released. Like the first one, we do believe this will also be received and enjoyed by all. The song is about the glorious resurrection of our Lord. The whole world needs a rising up from the Covid grip. I would like to congratulate all the participants who have sung beautifully. Congrats to the coordinators and technical support team for their hard work. I would like to request our members to watch it, appreciate it and please share it in groups online. Watch the song video

here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAszvGfoQ70>

MGOCSM also has started making a virtual song video. All organisations can plan for virtual projects. Once again congrats to SGOCT Choir for the wonderful song video !

MGOCSM Annual (Virtual) Kanesh 2020

MGOCSM Toronto will be hosting its annual Kanesh regional event as an online, virtual one-day retreat! It will be held on August 29th, 2020. This year’s theme was chosen after careful consideration and feedback from the youth, and will be “Eternal Hope” with a focus on mental health and depression. Our guest speakers will be Fr. Daniel Dennis Mathai, Seminarian Toby John and Ms. Sangeetha Thomas, an LPC Intern. We request prayers and support from all the faithful, for this event to be conducted successfully. Further details will be shared to all in the upcoming weeks, and



attendees will have to register for free to participate. All youth over the age of 13 are requested to join in! Please contact your Kanesh 2020 committee member for any questions.

Registration Link: bit.ly/Kanesh2020

Virtual Meetings

Thursday 20 August, 09:30am-12:00, 02:00-04:00pm, OVBS Day 1 (Zoom)
Thursday 20 August, 07:00 pm, SGOCT Gregorian Seniors Forum
Friday 21 August, 09:30am-12:00, 02:00-04:00pm, OVBS Day 2 (Zoom)
Friday 21 August, 07:00 pm, SGOCT OCYM Meeting, Discussion on Timothy
Saturday 22 August, 10:30 am, Sunday School Liturgical Session for Juniors, Theme- Holy Qurbana
Saturday 22 August, 11:00 am, Sunday School Liturgical Session for Seniors, Theme- Anaphora
Saturday 22 August, 07:00-08:30pm, SGOCT Prayer Meeting
Sunday 23 August, 04:00pm, OVBS Valedictory Meeting (Webex)

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

This Sunday we will use the Liturgical text of St Dionysius Bar Slibbi in English. This could be the most modified or edited version compared to other liturgical texts. This is short but beautiful.

Please find the link of live-streaming here:

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

Holding you in prayer,

Yours in Christ,

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