



## WEEKLY THOUGHTS - JANUARY 21, 2022

Dearly beloved,

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

**Sunday, January 23, Third Sunday after Danaha Perunnal**

**Epistle Readings: Acts 17:16-34, 1 Corinthians 3:16-23, 4:1-5**

**Holy Evangelion, St John 3:1-12**

1 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

### Reflections:

A Rabbi/Guru unused is no rabbi at all. Nicodemus addressed Jesus as Rabbi representing the whole community. There can be various titular positions for the sake of honouring or keeping a tradition. When Nicodemus calls Jesus as Rabbi, the lord responds by saying, “Being a teacher or member of the community, why don’t you understand and make use of your knowledge?” reveal that Jesus never wished to be a titular presence. He had to reveal practical suggestions regarding the Kingdom of Heaven. For Him, Kingdom was not just ideal, but truly an experiential reality. Eating the fruit of knowledge was the forbidden sin in the Garden of Eden. Knowledge unused and knowledge misused are two disasters. Bombs, biological weapons, scandals, bribes, spying, plotting and terrorising using technologies are misuse of knowledge. Purposeful silence, passivism, absence of timely intervention, unwillingness for right actions, manipulation, wrong interpretation of situations are knowledge unused. If we look into the past, we can trace many harms and destructions which had lasting impacts on future generations. Auschwitz, Hiroshima, slavery, apartheid, environmental threats, racism, gender injustice, various exploitations, violations of rights have happened when there were all possibilities of heaven on earth. What is required for bringing and experiencing heaven is to be born anew which means die a bit to what we are or what we hold. It can be like washing and soaking in water and spirit. A little sacrifice can open a heaven to ourselves and to others. Serving Christ or preaching Gospel is nothing but giving up self-interest and giving way to common good. Being the image of God, as simple humans, we carry the possibility of heaven. Can we give way?



# ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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



## Feasts:

### **January 18, HG Michael Mar Dionysius, 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at Panampady**

HG Michael Mar Dionysius was born to a zealous Christian family in Kayamkulam. He was actively involved in gospel ministry through which many people in the society were attracted to faith in Christ. He was ordained a deacon by Parumala Thirumeni and priest by Vattasseril Thirumeni. In later years he joined the Jacobite faction.

### **January 21, HG Philipose Mar Eusebius Metropolitan, 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at Basil Dayara, Pathanamthitta**

HG Philipose Mar Eusebius remains a perfect example of discipleship who left his job and joined the ministry of Christ through ordained service as priest and bishop. He was one of the former presidents of MGOCSM who gave much strength to the movement. Thirumeni was a strong advocate of truth, discipline, value based policies and piety for church and any institutions. He was bold and committed. He represented the church in various international and national forums. He did bring in various philanthropic projects in the Diocese of Thumpamon which remain as good examples of his prophetic vision.

## Welcome Nika!

We joyfully announce that Binu Mathai and Donia (Dir Ref: B 220) have been blessed with a baby girl Nika Elizabeth Mony Mathai on January 09, 2022. Hearty congrats to the blessed parents and grandparents. God bless Nika! Welcome to this beautiful world!

## MGOCSM Alumni

Our parish MGOCSM would like to reach all members whoever had any association with MGOCSM in India or elsewhere. Please inform whoever worked with MGOCSM. You can either send an email to [mgocsm.sgoc@gmail.com](mailto:mgocsm.sgoc@gmail.com) copying to the vicar at [fr.thomasjohn@gmail.com](mailto: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

January 22, Saturday, SGOCT Acolytes & Choir Practice, 05:00 – 06:30 pm

January 22, Saturday, Evening Prayer at Church, 06:30 – 07:30 pm

January 23, Sunday, MGOCSM monthly meeting, 07:00 pm- 08:30 pm

January 27, Thursday, Gregorian seniors Forum, 07:00 – 08:30 pm

January 28, Friday, Divyabodhanam, 07:30 - 09:00 pm

## Liturgical Text for this Sunday

This Sunday, we will be using the English Taksa of St James

## Link to Sunday Holy Liturgy

Please see below the Link for Live Streaming

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQw1yZ1\\_yCG9AWStA](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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