



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - SEPTEMBER 24, 2021

Dearly beloved,

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

Sunday, September 26, Second Sunday after the Feast of the Cross

Epistle Readings: Acts 5:17-32, 1 Corinthians 2:14-16, 3:1-9

Holy Evangelion: St Matthew 16:5-12

16. 5 When the disciples reached the other side, they had forgotten to bring any bread. 6 Jesus said to them, "Watch out, and beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." 7 They said to one another, "It is because we have brought no bread." 8 And becoming aware of it, Jesus said, "You of little faith, why are you talking about having no bread? 9 Do you still not perceive? Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? 10 Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? 11 How could you fail to perceive that I was not speaking about bread? Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees!" 12 Then they understood that he had not told them to beware of the yeast of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Reflections:

Teachers, either by profession or by virtue, educate people and the society. World has seen great teachers like Jesus Christ, Prophet Mohammed, Sri Buddha, Lord Krishna, Socrates, Emperor Marcus Aurelius and many more. They addressed social problems and tried to rectify and reform the established corrupt system. People listened to them and followed their ideas because these teachers had integrity and honesty kept throughout their life. What they taught, they practiced. None of them were hypocrites. Jesus had to criticise Pharisees and Sadducees for their disparity in their teaching and practice. They had their selfish intentions and political motifs in whatever they said and did. They always executed power and were able to influence the social psyche; people tend to follow their actions than words. What they taught was from the Holy Scripture which intended the good of everyone. The confusing part was, when leaders preach something and do something else, people get into dilemma about what to follow. An absence of the sense and monitoring of what right and what wrong always brought chaos in the social life. There was inequality and injustice even among the followers of the same religion. It happens at times, that when there are less resources, people have no choices, but when they start earning money and acquire positions, they tend to do injustice to their fellow-beings. It was not the absence of good teachings or guidance, but the misuse and manipulation of power made the lives of less privileged people more miserable and hard. As the followers of the greatest teacher, we have the responsibility to integrate our words and deeds to make this world a heaven of social equality and justice.

Feasts:

September 23, HG Alvares Mar Yulios Metropolitan 98th anniversary, entombed at St Mary's Church Goa

H G Alvares Mar Julius was a priest in Roman Catholic Church and a member from a Catholic family in Goa who joined Orthodox faith and became a bishop. He raised his voice against corruption in the government and questioned certain practices of the church for which he had to get excommunicated and was forced to leave the place due to persecutions. He came to Travancore, got attracted to Orthodoxy and embraced the Malankara Orthodox Church. He was ordained as Ramban by Parumala Thirumeni



and was consecrated as Episcopa by Pulikottil Joseph Mar Dionysius II. He was appointed as Metropolitan of Goa and Ceylon (outside Kerala diocese). He worked in the Canara region of Karnataka and initiated Brahmavar Mission. About 5000 families joined orthodox faith influenced by his ministry. He was a philanthropist, social reformer, activist, educationist, orator and writer who enthusiastically witnessed Christ till his last. He is considered a saint by his flock.

September 25, HH Ignatius Peter III Patriarch

HH Ignatius Peter III, the Patriarch of Antioch, came to India in response to request from Pulikottil Mar Dionysius Metropolitan during the time of challenges raised by reformists. He visited England and through his audience with Queen Victoria and his interactions with the Anglican bishops, he could convince the British government to assure support to Malankara Church against Mar Athanasius and his reform attempts and corresponding interventions of protestant missionaries. HH convened the Synod of Mulanthuruthy and made certain administrative initiatives like formation of Malankara Syrian Christian Association Committee and dividing the church into six dioceses with appointing bishops for each. Mulanthuruthy Padiyola was issued by the Synod affirming that the Malankara flock shall never deviate from the ancient Christian faith and shall adhere to the St Thomas tradition.

Loony-A-Day, please contribute towards Thanksgiving

Please contribute towards Thanksgiving charity collection (loony a day). 50% of total collection shall be used for charity and the rest will be for church maintenance. We request all our beloved members to support this project. There are many lives out there desperately looking for helping hands. We are fortunate and blessed to be here in this country and let us express our gratitude to God through supporting the needy which Jesus said as supporting Him. Can't we?

Communicants Counting Machine, Wave your hand 'ONCE' please

We have a new electronic counting machine installed within the church at the inner northern entrance near the console. It is meant for taking the count of communicants and not for all participants. All participants are requested to register their names at the entrance welcome desk in the given form. As you enter the church interior, please wave your hand once between the sensor poles of the counting machine, if you are prepared to take Holy Communion. There is no need to wave if not taking Holy Communion. Thank you for your cooperation.

Choir & Acolytes joint practice- Saturdays 04:30-06:00 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.

MGOCSM Canada Region Annual Kanesh Retreat- Saturday, September 18

MGOCSM Toronto Region 4th Annual Kanesh Retreat was excellently conducted on Saturday September 18th with participation of members from all regional parish units in Toronto. Talk by Rev Dn Immanuel Punnoose on the theme '*Orthodoxy in the Modern World*', was brainstorming and informative. About 16 members participated from our parish unit which is commendable and appreciable.

KCEF Quiz Competition- Congrats to winners!

Congratulations to our quiz team - Beena Mathew, Santy Koshy & Siju Abraham- for winning the 3rd



place in Ecumenical Bible Quiz competition. There were 12 teams. The competition was held at our church. Special thanks to Binu Abraham and Varghese Daniel for their technical assistance. Thanks to Jeebo Mathews, Omana John, Sonny Thomas, and all student volunteers for their help.

We would also wish the best to our parish MMVS team for the upcoming Diocesan Quiz Competition scheduled to be conducted on Oct 2, 2021.

MMVS Diocesan Programs

Bible Quiz: Saturday, October 02

Annual Conference: Saturday, October 09

Bible Study: Every Thursday 8.30 - 9.30 pm. The study is based on the books Amos – Malachi led by Rev Fr VM Shibu (Vicar, St Gregorios Orthodox Church Bensalem)

Virtual Meetings ahead

September 24, Friday, Divyabodhanam, 07:30 – 09:00 pm (see link below)

September 25, Saturday, SGOCT Choir & Acolytes weekly practice – 04:30 – 06:00 pm

September 25, Saturday, SGOCT Prayer Meeting, 07:00 – 08:30 pm

September 26, Sunday, SS Common Session, 04:00 – 05:30 pm

September 26, Sunday, MGOCSM Meeting, 07:00 – 08:30

Divyabodhanam

Please find the link for the Divyabodhanam session. It will be referring to Book 1: In the Fullness of Time.

<https://stgregoriosorthodoxchurchoftoronto.my.webex.com/stgregoriosorthodoxchurchoftoronto.my/j.php?MTID=mf34dd2ab1c67a860bc95a1a27539be33>

Meeting number: 2630 709 8025

Password: jZCpEv2wP24 (59273829 from phones and video systems)

Join by phone

+1-416-216-5643 Canada Toll (Toronto)

Access code: 263 070 98025

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

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

Yours in Christ,

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