



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - FEBRUARY 25, 2022

Dearly beloved,

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

Sunday, February 27 Sunday, Kothine (Wedding at Cana)

Epistle Readings: Acts 11:19-26 or Revelations 2:1-7, Colossians 3:1-17

Holy Evangelion: St John 2:1-11

2.1 On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; ² Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with his disciples. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶ Now six stone jars were standing there, for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the steward of the feast." So they took it. ⁹ When the steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first; and when men have drunk freely, then the poor wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹ This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Reflections:

"They have no wine" can be a report, blame, comment, complaint or plea. For Jesus, it was a call to action. For Mother Mary, it was a guidance given to her son. Any situation can have different views depending on perception. Occasions of needs can give way to attempts. Such attempts can change the course of history. Here the family of the bride had to face a scenario highly challenging and almost impossible to solve. Mary, being an invitee, found it as something handy for her son. It was her faith which made her think so, putting trust in her son, through whom God could intervene. Her mediation turned out to be a prayer and God's mercy flew in. There can be similar situations in life. We can decide what view we should hold. Should it be that of a mere spectator or a true helper? A simple act of prayer can do wonders. Wedding at Cana could be a pointer to the Great Lent and also a guiding principle to the whole life. God's transforming presence can change despair to joy and sobs to rapture. Human mediation and actions can make heaven out of hell and vice versa. It is for us to decide where we should stand.

Feasts:

February 23, St Polycarp of Smyrna

St Polycarp was born in Ephesus and was made the bishop of Smyrna. He is counted among the 'Apostolic Fathers', who had heard or directly witnessed the Apostles of Christ. His words when he was summoned by the Emperor and was asked to renounce God reflects his love and devotion: "I have served God for 86 years and He never wronged me. How can I deny the One who saved me?"

February 23, St Dionysius Vattasseril, 88th anniversary, entombed at Pazhaya Seminary Chapel, Kottayam

Saint Dionysius of Vattasseril was the Malankara Metropolitan, later canonised as saint by the church after Parumala Thirumeni. He is revered for his administrative and pastoral contributions. He codified



the Church Constitution (Malankara Sabha Bharanaghatana) which remains a strong fort for the Malankara Church during any challenging times. He was a strong administrator, pious leader, devout clergy, man of prayer, fighter for freedom and a true shepherd who cared for his flock.

February 23, HG Dr Thomas Mar Makarios Metropolitan, 14th anniversary, entombed at Devalokam Aramana Chapel

HG Dr Thomas Mar Makarios was the metropolitan of the UK, US and Canada. Thirumeni was a man of excellent humour and a well acclaimed orator. He was ready wit and sound in theology. Thirumeni's leadership helped in organising all the parishes in the widely spread diocese of the UK, US and Canada. He personally visited all the parishes and watched the growth and administrative progress of the diaspora.

Malankara Suriyani Christiani Association- New Bishops Elected

Malankara Association, considered to be the biggest parliament in the world, the biggest democratic administrative forum, has been convened on Friday February 25, at Kolenchery to elect 7 bishops for Malankara Orthodox Church. The meeting was presided over by HH Baselios Marthoma Mathews III, the Catholicos and Malankara Metropolitan. Due to Covid cautions, the association was conducted virtually. Association members from all over the world participated online to cast their votes.

New elects to Bishopric: 1) Rev Fr Abraham Thomas 2) Very Rev Gevarghese Kochuparampil Ramban 3) Rev Fr Reji Gevarghese 4) Rev Fr P C Thomas 5) Rev Fr Varghese K Joshua 6) Rev Fr Vinod George 7) Rev Fr Zachariah Ninan Chirathilattu

It was God's guidance and the whole church's prayer to have elected 7 candidates according to the requirement. Let us greet the newly elected in the name of Christ the Good Shepherd and pray that God's Spirit guide them.

Great Lent, Evening Prayer, Devotional Talks

Great Lent will start on Monday, February 28th. As we did last year, there will be devotional talks at church every evening after Lenten prayer. OCYM has initiated a google signup sheet for devotional talks. Members can liaise with secretaries of respective organizations for confirming their participation. Please look for the google sheet and sign up at the earliest. We expect our members to participate enthusiastically as we did in the last year.

Parish GBM for Annual Reports, Accounts and Budget 2022 on Sunday February 27

The Parish General Body meeting for Reports, Accounts, and Budget 2022 shall be convened at church on Sunday, February 27th, 2022 after the Holy Liturgy.

Accounts and Annual reports has been sent to our members. If you have any queries, clarifications required, please send your questions to the parish office on or before Saturday. It will help the parish office to address all questions properly.

SGOCT Parish Library and Book Club

SGOCT parish OCYM has planned to launch a Parish Library & Book Club project with the support of other organizations and our members. We will be starting the project by tracking current stock and receiving books from donors. Reference books and other required books shall be purchased in due course. There will be a google sheet open soon with a list of required books. Whoever finds it convenient can choose which books they could donate. If we don't have copies in hand, we can buy and give them.

We request our members who are fond of reading to support in setting up a useful library. We request



ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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



our members who may be interested in donating books to look for the right books to donate, instead of using them to get rid of any books. Please feel free to contact the vicar on (416) 570 5610) for any clarifications or for expressing your willingness to support. We do believe that the library shall motivate our kids and youngsters to get equipped for their future through intense and voracious reading and it also helps our senior generation to get engaged in fruitful sharing time through the book club.

Parish Journal

We used to have a parish Newsletter which was discontinued during the pandemic. OCYM will be initiating a parish journal expected to be published on the day of Easter. We wish our members to contribute articles, poems, cartoons, stories, or studies on the theme for each issue. The Easter issue will be based on 'Hope Resurrection and Victory'. Organizations will be coordinating the work. Please look for details. You can reach out to organization secretaries to discuss in what way you can be part of it.

Journal - Name it!

We are inviting name suggestions for the journal. You can send the name to OCYM. The last date will be March 25. The name will continue for future issues too.

Journal - Draw Icon

We are looking for Resurrection Icons drawn by Sunday School students to use on the Journal Cover. Students can send the icons on or before March 25th. Icon should be orthodox presentation. It can be copied or newly drawn.

Prayer Meeting – February 26 Saturday 06:30 – 08:00 pm

Weekend prayer meeting will be conducted on February 26 Saturday at 06:30 pm at church followed by fellowship gathering through Webex. It will be open for all our members. The link shall be sent early beforehand. We request all our families to assure their participation. Please assure involvement and volunteering of kids too.

Spiritual Organisations 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, Santhosh Varughese: (416) 258 2062

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 mgocsm.sgoc@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



ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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



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

February 26, Saturday, Choir/Acolytes joint practice, 05:30 – 06:30 pm

February 26, Saturday, Evening Prayer, 06:30 – 07:15 pm

February 26, Saturday, Prayer Meeting, 07:15 – 08:15 pm

Pray for Ukraine

Situation in Ukraine is worrying and horrifying. The Indian Embassy has given an alert to all Indian citizens regarding their evacuation. Mostly they are students. Wherever political unrest or wars occur, mostly civilians and innocents will be the victims. Let us hold the country and people in prayer. May the Spirit of God intervene and re-establish peace in the area.

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

This Sunday, we will be using the English Taksa of 'Mkanashtha' (Holy Fathers).

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