



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - FEBRUARY 28, 2020

Dearly Beloved,

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

Garbo (Leper) - Second Sunday of Great Lent

Luke 5:12-16, 4:40-41

Sundays of Great Lent have been made more significant with Gospel Meditations on Jesus bringing transformation and healing to lives of people who had nowhere else to go, nobody else to approach. They were mostly from either economically lower strata or from socially marginalised categories. Great Lent points to the exact goal of it - transformation in every respect! Towards the end of Lent, there would be resurrection. Human condition of sinfulness could be a closed case according to the general religious view, which means, there would be no escape possible. Whoever in such situations might not be able come back or go forward. The reason for this could be human incapability in quitting their trails and inclinations towards wrongdoings (eating of the forbidden) or incapacity to use their will power to carry out necessary actions. 'If you sin, you die' is the general rule. Jesus the Messiah brings hope to every sinner and sick. He proves God's Grace and Mercy overpower to change situations and lives for assuring new life which is the Salvation meant for all. In human life there could be various conditions or situations which needs to be transformed. We have a variety of examples given on Lenten Sundays for our own evaluation. We could find which aspect of our behaviour, life style, activities, choices, thoughts, physical/mental/spiritual areas need healing and transformation.

The Gospel narrative points to the severity of sickness (Lk 5:12 - he was covered with leprosy), the deep desire of the sick to get healed, the unparalleled compassion and empathy of Jesus when He touches the untouchable (it was the least expected in the society) and the power of the Lord in bringing perfect healing to the sick. Luke 4:40-41 tells about the overflowing of miraculous healings within a short time-in the evening- performed by Jesus. Here the powerful coming of Heavenly Kingdom is proclaimed. Most inviting part of the text could be this: Luke 5:16 After having all these miracles done, Jesus withdrew to lonely places and prayed. This is the challenging part. Humans can perform miracles. But there would be a tendency to take benefit out of it and to remain in the crowd to be recognised, praised and rewarded. For Jesus, healing and other ministries are not meant for marketing and profit making but for the Salvation of all. Charismatic Movements and Healing Ministries in the current world have moved away from the Kingdom principle of Jesus and fetching huge profits out of it. We see this happening in the world. Somebody starts reading the Bible, finds public space to preach, convene big gatherings using marketing technology, include and publicise healing programs, the person replaces Christ, eventually that movement becomes another church! Such evangelical business easily gain world's appreciation! It has become almost impossible to live Christ! Real Christ would be driven out for the fool He makes of Himself!



Lenten House Prayer

There would be Lenten House Prayers organised by OCYM hosted by our members. This years' second Lenten prayer will be held at the residence of Mr Anish Mathew & Mrs Suna Cherian. Address: 26 Sunnybrook Cres, Brampton ON L7A 1Y2. Contact: (647) 818 6125. Date & Time: Sunday 01 March 2020, 05:00 pm.

Friday Retreat

There would be prayer, meditation and chanting of hymns held at Church on Lenten Fridays morning starting at 10:00am finishing with noon prayer and 40 Kneeling Down (Kumpidal) at 12:00. First retreat would be on Friday 28 February 2020. Whoever find it convenient, please join. For those who wish to attend noon prayer, they can come straight from work taking lunch break and join the 40 kneeling down at 12:00 midday.

Holy Confession

Please don't wait till Holy week for administering Holy Confession. Whoever wish to do it, please feel free to fix a time convenient with the Vicar calling (416) 570 5610. Every Saturday after evening prayer, 07:45 pm onwards, there would be time for Confession. Whoever wish to do it, please make a call and get it confirmed.

Gregorian Seniors Forum

Next meeting and get-together of Gregorian Seniors Forum would be held on Saturday 29 February 2020 at 01:00 pm at Church Basement. There will be self introduction, exchange of life experiences and discussion on a more meaningful presence in the community.

OCYM Meeting this Sunday

OCYM meeting for the month of March 2020 will be held on Sunday, 1st March after Holy Qurbana. Kindly request the presence of all OCYM members for the meeting.

MGOCSM conducts Evening Prayer in English on Saturday

MGOCSM will be having evening prayer followed by song practice session this Saturday, February 29 at 7:00pm at Church. Participants are requested to bring Qurbana text, 'Service Book of the Holy Qurbano' if they have personal copy.



ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

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Email

Weekly updates have been sent out from Parish Office. We have only a few members in the mailing list. We are updating the list with including of contacts of all our members. May I request you to kindly prepare the list of Email contacts of family members and sent it to

Parish Office sgoctoronto@sgoctoronto.org

Lenten Calendar

A Lenten Calendar has been made available. Please find attached the same. This would help us to plan this Lent with a chart. It would be highly appreciable if you could take a print out and keep by your side to see how it goes.

See you on Sunday

Keeping you all in prayer

Yours in Christ

Thomas John Achen