

WEEKLY THOUGHTS - MAY 28, 2021

Dearly beloved,

Sunday May 30th, First Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle Readings: Acts 17:10-15, 2 Corinthians 5:14-21, 6:1-10

Holy Gospel: St John 6:26-35

6. 26 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. 27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of man will give to you; for on him has God the Father set his seal." 28 Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." 30 So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see, and believe you? What work do you perform? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" 32 Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven, and gives life to the world." 34 They said to him, "Lord, give us this bread always."

35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst."

Reflection:

It is of human nature to often look for material benefits, no matter from where it comes. Justice or truth may not be a hindrance when one stands at the receiving end. Bribery, corruption and favoritism become a necessity or social acceptable in achieving material gains. Many communities of great ideologies failed in the world because of such craving. Jesus came to the world to liberate creation from the clutches of sin. Selfishness and greed played a big role in man falling prey to sin as we see in the Garden of Eden.

Christ revealed His power through miracles. St John interprets them as signs of His authority and the presence of the Kingdom of Heaven in the world (Jn 2:11). These signs were not for catering to human craving for material things, but for leading them to higher perception of life. World is where material cravings are satisfied and the temptation of Jesus reveals the working of Satan. Here the tempter had only to offer worldly things, satisfying carnal needs, all vanities and splendor of the world, and anticipating divine protection while enjoying life in that way (Mt 4:1-11). There is the example of young rich man came to Jesus enquiring on the possibility of living a long life with keeping all the possible pleasures (Mt 19:16). It points to the human tendency of getting anxious and keep worrying about death when there is everything made available and nobody wish to end it. In this Gospel text Jesus rebukes the seekers with a flavour of sarcasm by saying that they were looking for more bread and not for signs. He warned them about the temporality of what they were seeking for and advised them to look for the imperishable, everlasting aspects. If they were to ask where they find that imperishable food, Jesus told them clearly that it was Him. The personal statement "I Am the bread of life" raises challenges to human perception. One might wonder how man could become eatable bread. Jesus' response to Satan "Man lives not by bread alone" reveals the need of sustainable spiritual food. Bread was the basic nourishment for the people whom Jesus was addressing. When their ancestors were wandering in the wilderness, their desperate question was how to survive in the desert without food. God gave them Manna and Quail which kept them alive. Bread

refers to that basic nourishment which keeps someone when life is at stake. Even when we have every material thing, it cannot quench our deeper thirst and hunger. There is a spiritual longing in every human which may remain unattended. That unfilled vacuum prompts humans to look for things which they think as the right filling. People opt for drinking, smoking, drugs, carnal pleasures or other activities in order to fill this vacuum. But in reality, nothing of such can solve the hunger or thirst if the spiritual need is not fulfilled. “I am the bread of life” means that it is none other than Him, the Christ, whom human race always crave for unknowingly or unconsciously. Let us feed on Him and live eternally!

Feasts:

May 26, HH Baselios Marthoma Didymios I, former Catholicos and Malankara Metropolitan, 7th anniversary, entombed at Pathanapuram Dayara Chapel

He was the 7th Catholicos of the East, the 20th Malankara Metropolitan (Primate) and 117th in the Indian lineage on the Apostolic throne of St. Thomas. He lived a strict monastic life and led the church to progress with certain reforms and new policies. He was a good teacher, person of prayer, hard working farmer, dedicated shepherd and a strong leader. He had a beautiful voice which attracted the flock to his liturgical service. He also introduced progressive reforms in the administration of parishes, including the right for women to participate in the parish assemblies (pallipothuyogam). He abdicated his position, consecrated his successor Baselios Marthoma Paulose II, the current Primate and spent the rest of his life in prayer till his parting. May his memory be eternal!

May 28, Golden Friday

The first Friday following the Feast of Pentecost is observed as Golden Friday ‘Swarna Velliyazhcha’ (Acts 3:1-10). Peter and John healed a crippled man saying “Neither gold nor silver we have, what we have we give you. In the name of Christ you walk.” This witness of the apostles reveal what real treasure church has.

OCYM New Immigrant Helpline

OCYM New Immigrant Helpline is active now. We request our members to pass this info to relevant groups. We hope that this project will be helpful to many. They can send email to newimmigrants@sgoctoronto.org.

OCYM Webinar on ‘Art of Parenting’

Our parish OCYM will be conducting a webinar on ‘Art of Parenting’ on Friday June 11th 2021 at 07:00 – 08:30 pm. Mr Prasad Nair, MSW RSW, Director at Children’s Aid Society of Toronto will lead the session. We believe that this seminar will be of great help to our young parents. The meeting will be open to all. Please assure your participation.

Please find the flyer here: https://mcusercontent.com/4b0245a10b23c3826466d9a97/files/fdcc01f5-261a-e927-9f7c-a90e133c2ca0/OCYM_Webinar_Flyer.pdf

MMVS Regional Prayer Meeting

Our Diocesan Metropolitan His Grace Zachariah Mar Nicholovas will lead the MMVS Regional Prayer Meeting session for June. Please join the meeting.

Meeting Date : Friday, 4th, June, 8:30 PM

Speaker : His Grace Zachariah Mar Nicholovas

Google Meet Details : meet.google.com/wys-qupu-ztw



Meeting ID : meet.google.com/wys-qupu-ztw

MMVS Charity

Our parish MMVS is starting a charity fundraiser for the year 2021. Part of the collection will go to GTA charity organizations focussing on the welfare of women & children and the rest will be to a charity organization in Kerala. We expect everyone's support. Those who wish to support, they can send donations to treasurer@sgoctoronto.org

MGOCSM Spring Fellowship on June 04th

Please find update from MGOCSM Toronto Council:

"MGOCSM Toronto will be hosting a Spring Fellowship event on Friday, June 4th at 6:30 PM. Mrs Ceena Varghese will be the main speaker for this year's event. The theme for this year's retreat will be "The Role of an Individual in the Church". There is an online registration open now. The event poster and registration link is attached below. Hope to see you all attend the event. Please find the registration link: <http://bit.ly/SpringTO2021>

Sister Elizabeth SIC passes away

We sadly announce the passing away of Sister Elizebeth, aged 86years, former superior of Bethany Convent Perunad in Kerala. The funeral has been conducted today (Friday May 28) at Perunad Convent Cemetery. She was always serving the needy and taking care of a senior shelter in her later years. She was a true servant of the Lord. May her soul rejoice in the heavenly court.

Virtual Meetings ahead

Friday May 28, NEAD MMVS Retreat, 12:00 – 01:00 pm

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

Saturday May 29, SGOCT Choir, 04:30 – 06:30 pm

Saturday May 29, SGOCT Prayer, 07:00 – 08:30 pm

Sunday May 30, MGOCSM, 07:00 – 08:30 pm

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

This Sunday, we will be using the English Taksa of St James the Apostle. It is the prime text for all the ancient churches. Please listen to it carefully. The grandeur of liturgical language is awesome.

Please see below the Link for Live Streaming

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQwlyZl_yCG9AWStA

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

Yours in Christ,

Thomas John Achen

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