



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - APRIL 29, 2022

Dearly beloved,

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

May 01 Sunday, Second Sunday after Easter

Epistle Readings: Acts 13:26-39, Ephesians 6:10-20

Holy Evangelion: St John 21:1-14

21. ¹ After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tibe'ri-as; and he revealed himself in this way. ² Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathan'a-el of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zeb'edee, and two others of his disciples were together. ³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat; but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any fish?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, for the quantity of fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his clothes, for he was stripped for work, and sprang into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Reflections:

Where could we expect to meet God? The apostles were too weak to make any move after the physical disappearance of their Lord. They had found shelter with Him, who was capable of doing any miracle. He always strengthened them with his presence. They had even witnessed the forces of nature obeying His command. Though they were warned about his miserable death, they had never thought that it would ever happen to Him. He was the one who raised people from death. For them, they felt safe with him in their midst. Now, the situation changed drastically when he left. All their hopes and expectations were in vain. They could sense their impending death too following the fate their master had. They have lost all hope. They had to face public humiliation for joining the apparent blasphemers. In modern society, we could easily expect them to denounce their allegiance with Him and beg for pardon to resume their community status. Instead, they went fishing! They didn't want to give up. They regained their confidence in their fishing and sailing. This kind of willpower makes people meet God or achieve the ultimate. Their survival instinct was their Christ! Can we draw lessons from them that we never give up on life in any situation? He will come to us as He came to them. Our futile efforts will turn out to be fruitful with miraculous results. He has Risen!



ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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



Feasts:

April 25, St Mark the Evangelist

April 25, Marthoma I, 352nd anniversary, entombed at Angamaly Cheriapally

April 27, Mar Gregorios Abdul Jaleel Bava, 351st anniversary, entombed at Vadakkan Paravoor Pally

April 29, Mar Saphor and Mar Aphroth

May 01, St James the Apostle, son of Zebedee

Parish General Body Meeting on Sunday, May 01, 2022

Our parish General Body Meeting will be conducted in person at Church on Sunday, May 01, 2022, after the Holy Liturgy. The final list of eligible members was posted on the parish notice board. We request all the eligible members to ensure your prayerful participation.

Agenda:

Election of Malankara Syrian Christian Association Members

Election of Diocesan Representatives

Catholicate Day and Diocesan Day Share: due and upcoming payments

Altar and Shrine Renovation: Updates

AOB approved by the Chair

Please find the update from the Sunday School Principal

There will be Sunday School this Sunday, immediately after the Holy Qurbana and before the Pothuyogam starts. It will be a half an hour session. To complete the syllabus, we will either avoid or put on hold the common sessions to avail of maximum class duration.

We request our respected parents to please send their children to attend the Holy Qurbana and Sunday School on time. It will be in-person learning.

Sunday school will also be conducting **competitions** such as **Solo Singing, Story Telling, Elocution, and Bible Quiz on June 04 Saturday**. The details on the competitions with the registration link shall be sent by next week. **Sunday school BBQ** is scheduled for **May 15th** after Holy Qurbana. **OVBS 2022** is planned for **August 10, 11, and 12th**. Requesting the participation of all students.

Feast of St George: May 07, 08, Saturday & Sunday

The feast of St George shall be celebrated at our church on Saturday May 07 and Sunday May 08.

Program: Saturday May 07- Evening prayer at 07:00 pm

'Raza' (Procession) from church to the Cross Station and recession. Benediction, Refreshment.

Sunday May 08- Morning Prayer at 08:30 followed by Holy Qurbana and Intercessory Prayer

Feast of Ascension: May 26 Thursday, Will be celebrated on May 25 Wednesday.

06:30 pm Evening Prayer followed by Holy Liturgy

Feast of Pentecost: June 05 Sunday, Ascension on Thursday May 26th. May 26-June 05, 10 days waiting for Holy Spirit (Kaathiruppu).



Kerala Christian Ecumenical Fellowship (KCEF)

The new Executive Board has been elected on 26 April, 2022. The following members are elected from our Church.

President: Rev. Fr. Thomas John - St. Gregorios Orthodox Church of Toronto.

Technical Coordinator: Gijo Peter - St. Gregorios Orthodox Church of Toronto.

Web Master: Sonny Thomas - St. Gregorios Orthodox Church of Toronto.

Welcome New Born: Rinju and Jane have been blessed by a baby boy, first born on 22.04.22 at 11:30 pm. Hearty Congrats to the blessed parents! God bless the new born!

Newly Weds: Hearty Congrats to Ashwin Sam Varghese and Pramitha on their Holy Matrimony solemnised on Sunday April 24th at Kattanam St Stephen's Orthodox Church.

Ordination of Acolytes

We may have members, adults or kids, willing to join the Altar Assistance Service. Whoever wishes to join the Acolytes, please feel free to reach out to the Vicar at (416) 570 5610. We will conduct the training sessions and fix a date for ordination.

Newcomers WhatsApp Groups initiated by OCYM

New members are added up in the group as we get connected. Mostly they will be looking for guidance regarding accommodation, info about job opportunities, ride to church, and other possible support. We are trying our best. Parish members can help us by updating us about their availability for giving rides and sending info of contacts or advice from various fields of work which might be helpful for life in Canada.

SGOCT Parish Library and Book Club

We expect books or contributions from voluntary supporters.

'Urava'- OCYM initiated Parish Journal is ready out for reading

Please pick up your copies from Liju Thomas Thakadiyel.

Spiritual Organizations 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, Santosh Varughese: (416) 937 8595



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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.sgoct@gmail.com copying to the vicar at fr.thomaspjohn@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

April 30, Saturday, Evening Prayer, 05:30 pm

April 30, Saturday, SGOCT Choir Family Get-Together In-Person 06:00 – 09:00 pm

May 01, Sunday, Sunday School In-Person at Church after the Holy Qurbana

May 01, Sunday, Parish General Body Meeting In-Person at Church after Refreshment

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

This Sunday, we will be using the Taksa of St Dionysius Bar Sleeti.

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

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