



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - JANUARY 29, 2021

Dearly Beloved,

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

January 31, Kohene – Day of all the Departed Clergies

Epistle Readings: Acts 20:25-38, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 5:1-11

Gospel Reading, St Matthew 24:42-51 RSV

42 Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43 But know this, that if the householder had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

45 “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? 46 Blessed is that servant whom his master when he comes will find so doing. 47 Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. 48 But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ 49 and begins to beat his fellow servants, and eats and drinks with the drunken, 50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, 51 and will punish[d] him, and put him with the hypocrites; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.

Reflections

The coming of Christ (Christos means the Anointed One, referred to the Old Testament concept of the Messiah) was a theme of Jesus’ teaching. It was also called the Day of the Lord. It was expected that there will be days of struggle before the coming of the Messiah. The 24th chapter in the Gospel of Matthew has a scary view of it. What are the signs of the day of the Lord? There will be many fake appearances of the Messiah through which people might get deceived. Love shall be found impractical or non-profitable and hence it could be less practiced. Even the most holy places shall be taken and controlled by people of no faith and polluted by their presence. Possibly this was a prophetic reference to the seizure of the Temple of Jerusalem by the invaders. There will be hatred, enmity, fight and persecution. Everybody would find those days hard to stand. Is there anything comforting and encouraging? While giving a dark picture of the end of days, Jesus has also assured the positive aspects of which could be more encouraging and lovable. The general tolerance of the faithful shall be increased and they would be able to endure any hardship. There will be many temptations that challenge even the believers; however those who use the divine wisdom shall get through and survive. Many dominating powers that causing oppression shall be brought down. God’s select shall be gathered from all corners which points to the possibility of survival of the faithful and the freedom they enjoy in coming together. In the early days of the church, it was almost impossible for them to gather because Christianity was an illegitimate religion. In the end, there will be a never ending banquet of overwhelming joy. So, for the true faithful, coming of the Lord will be a matter of joy. It will be more for them a comforting event because they will be recognised, acknowledged and rewarded.

Feasts

January 26, Paulose Mar Athanasios Metropolitan, 67th anniversary, entombed at

Thrikkunnath Seminary Alwaye. He was ordained a priest by Parumala Thirumeni. He proposed to



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name the students organisation after Parumala Thirumeni, his mentor. It was named as Mar Gregorios Syrian Students Association. We could assume that the current MGOCSM had its preliminary concept in his thoughtful mind.

January 26, HH Baselios Marthoma Mathews II, 15th anniversary, entombed at Mount Horeb Asram Chapel. He could be considered as one comes to light in a century! He was such an elevated person with high standing, excellent rhetoric, charismatic presence, charming interactive leader, ecumenical promoter, befriended with leaders from all faith and denominations, travelled worldwide, initiated and founded colleges, schools, hospitals and monasteries, was instrumental in establishing religious harmony in Kerala and was a mentor to thousands of his flock. He had a wide range of friends and disciples. His smiling face had almost become like an icon of Christianity in India. He delighted everyone with his heart melting celebration of sacraments. He is called by everyone, 'Angel Bava' because he always looked like a celestial being on earth! May his memory be eternal, and his intercession be a shelter for us.

January 28, Patriarch Mar Severios of Antioch. He was a 6th century monk who became the Patriarch of Antioch. As he lived in the post Chalcedonian era, he had to flee to various places due to threats from leaders for his strong orthodox position regarding the person and work of Christ. We remember him more for the maneetho prayer By Thy Mother's earnest prayers... (Nin Maathaavu Visudhanmaar...) which is very popular. He has written in defence of Orthodox faith, which remain as a treasure of Orthodox theology.

Virtual Meetings

Friday January 29, NEAD MMVS Retreat, 12:00 – 01:00 pm

Friday January 29, Divyabodhanam, 07:00 – 09:00 pm

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

Monday February 01, Acolytes Meeting, 07:30 – 09:00 pm

Friday February 05, Sunday School Liturgical Session for Seniors, 06:00 – 07:00 pm

Sunday February 07, SGOCT Choir Meeting, 07:00 - 8:30 pm

Support our Parish

It is high time for all our members to support our parish by making monthly paying of \$100 (\$50 towards subscription + \$50 towards offertory). I kindly request beloved members to set up a direct debit with the bank to parish account. We require a good credit score for our bank account too. We had collected about 60,000/- from offertory in 2019 whereas we could collect only below \$25,000/- in 2020. See the difference. How could we cover it without any other income provision? Please think about it seriously and respond at the earliest.

Nineveh Fast

The Three Days Lent (Nineveh Lent, 'Moonnu Nomp'u') has been observed by our parish community. We had evening prayers, devotional talk and Holy Liturgy live-streamed. Sincere thanks to Fr Abraham Thomas for his edifying message. We do express sincere thanks to the Altar Servers, Choir members, technical assistance team, MC members and all the members for their participation. I would also thank beloved Sam Thankachen Achen for joining us and offering the Holy Liturgy. Let us feel blessed and look forward to the Great Lent starting on February 15th.



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Articles required for the church

Most of the articles required for the church have arrived. We are waiting for one more item in the list to be delivered. Items and donors shall be announced soon. Sincere thanks to all the contributors.

Names of the beloved departed members, a gentle reminder

We have started receiving emails from members with details of their beloved departed. We have also started adding them to the list. Please respond. We would like to keep the list for remembrance on respective Sundays as we do for Birthdays and Wedding Anniversary Days.

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

We will be using the Taksa of Isaac of Antioch, it is more elaborate, more updated and well modified. It has the prayer for those who travel by air. Please be attentive.

Please find the Link for Live Streaming

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQw1yZ1_yCG9AWStA

COVID-19 Guidelines

The government has announced a Provincial state of emergency effective from 14th Jan. Community and Worship centers can go ahead with 10-member participation. We hope that the current restrictions would help in bringing down the spread of infection to zero. Many of our members who are working with the Dept of Health have received the vaccine which gives us some relief. Let us keep on praying for the whole world. God shall protect all his children everywhere.

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

Yours in Christ

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