



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - OCTOBER 29, 2021

Dearly beloved,

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

Sunday, November 01, Koodosh Eetho (Sunday of Sanctification)

Epistle Readings: 1 Peter 2:1-12, 1 Corinthians 3:16,17, 6:15-20

Holy Evangelion: St Matthew 16:13-23

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do men say that the Son of man is?” 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” 20 Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” 23 But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me; for you are not on the side of God, but of men.”

Reflections:

Convictions lead human life. What one believes, that will lead to actions. The trust we have in anyone or anything, we plan life accordingly. Peter did find Jesus as the Christ, the Anointed and the Messiah, for whom the world was longing to see. Messianic expectation kept the community together united in hope. The foundation of their unity was the central hope about the Saviour. If they were able to understand Jesus as the Messiah, the future of the world would have been different. Taking the oath is important in stepping into a system. It is confessing of faith as well as the announcement about the life one would live in future. Simon was a man of ‘to be’ or ‘not to be’ like the reed in the wind. When he realised the exact personality of Christ, Simon the wavered man turned to be like a rock. Jesus was referring to his faith as the rock on which the church had to be built. Without a strong foundation, no structure can stand. When a person gets cleared of doubts, that person can turn to be stronger than anything. Church begins there! Church in us begins there! Pronouncing of faith led Mary to bear and deliver the Saviour. Feast of Nativity becomes a reality to those who receive the true revelation about Christ as the Son of God.

Feasts:

November 01, Koodos Eetho (Sanctification of Church)

According to the church calendar, the year is brought into liturgical seasons. Year replicates life too. It begins with God and completes with God. The opening season is of Nativity starting with the Feast of Sanctification which is called ‘Koodos Eetho’, koodos means to sanctify and ‘eetho’ means church. We move houses at times. Every move gives a new start to life, we clean up, sort things, pack, leave or dispose of what is of no use, buy new things, take stock, arrange the new space and organise everything



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for a new start. The first day at the new home will have a new smell which we remember even after years. The Church is giving us an opportunity to start life anew. Renew the spirit, plan ahead, count the blessings, evaluate the past, set new goals, work afresh from the new environment! Sanctification of the church also means that of the members too. Let us start new. Let us be ready for the coming of the Lord in the tender way as an infant. God is with us!

Parumala Perunnal

Our parish will be celebrating the Feast of St Gregorios, our patron saint on Saturday and Sunday, November 06 & 07. On Saturday, evening prayer will start at 06:30pm followed by devotional talk by Fr Sam Thankachen, procession and 'Nerchavilampu'. Perunnal Qurbana will be on Sunday November 07 starting with Morning Prayer at 09:00 followed by holy Liturgy, Benediction and Nerchavilampu. For intercession, please send names on or before Friday November 05th. May the intercession of Parumala Thirumeni be a fortress for us.

Halloween, be scared to be purged!

Hello, it is Halloween! All scary things have a purging effect. All nightmares bring fresh dawns. Fear of anything can cause adrenaline hype which alerts and sharpens our faculties. Dracula, vampires, omens, magnified scary figures all are our friends due to this cathartic effect. Halloween originally is a religion-culture observance. In a commercially set up world, every ancient practice can give way to senseless euphoria. Halloween originally is the day of 'All Saints' who have created an aura through their life. It is the remembrance of all departed who are expected to be in a more illumined world. If we could observe this day with due reverence, it would be a day of divine light.

Condolence

We share the shock and deep grief on the passing away of Ray Kurian, member of St Mary's Syriac Orthodox Church Toronto. The funeral service shall be conducted on Saturday November 06 at Glen Oaks Funeral Home. He leaves behind his beloved wife Julie, children Rhea and Rheebea. At this great loss, we all together pray for the departed soul and for the family in grief. May the ever loving presence of the Lord give strength and hope to all.

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 we are to take Holy Communion. Please do not wave if we are not taking Holy Communion. Thanks to everyone for your cooperation.

Choir & Acolytes joint practice- Saturdays 4:30-6:00 pm

This is a reminder to all our choir members and Acolytes to attend the weekly choir practice currently conducted virtually on Saturdays 04:30 – 06:00 pm. We would wish our choir members and acolytes who will be taking turns on the upcoming Sunday or feast days to join the practice session for better coordination and harmonious chanting. The link shall be sent before the meeting.

Meetings ahead, In-Person & Virtual

October 30, Saturday, SGOCT Choir & Acolytes weekly practice – 05:00 – 07:00 pm In-person & virtual

October 30, Saturday, Evening Prayer at Church, 07:00 – 08:00 pm, live-streamed



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Liturgical Text for this Sunday

This Sunday, we will be using the Taksa of St Isaac of Antioch

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,

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