



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - OCTOBER 30, 2020

Dearly Beloved,

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

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

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

Gospel Reading, St Mathew 16:13-23 RSV

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesare'a 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 Eli'jah, 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, [b] and on this rock [c] I will build my church, and the powers of death [d] 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 [e] to me; for you are not on the side of God, but of men."

Reflections

Epistle readings on Koodosh Eetho Sunday bring the guidance for the day of sanctification (consecration) of the Church. " *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light*" (1 Peter 2:9). " *Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honour God with your bodies*" (1 Corinthians 6:19,20). One may ask, 'why must the Church which is already holy have to be sanctified again?' Here we have the clearance with the apostolic teachings of Peter and Paul. It is the believers together who constitute the body of Christ, which is the Church or temple. A community of the faithful together make the visible body of the invisible Lord. Sanctification of the temple is the sanctification of each and every member of the Church. According to the Holy Scriptures, sanctification happens through dedication to God. It would also require the ever-continuing process of sanctification through repeated spiritual actions. God is Holy and He is the Sanctifier. What keeps one united to God is that which sanctifies. It could be prayer, spiritual practices, ceremonies, or personal thought of dedication. The Church is entering the new liturgical year with Koodosh Eetho Sunday. The church is the community of faithful that receive revelations. God reveals His salvation plan to His people as He revealed it to Noah. Noah was



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(Since 1969)

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blameless in the sight of God. Here we see the importance of sanctity in life. It was God's command: 'For I am the Lord your God; consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy (Leviticus 11:44). To receive God's revelations, we need to sanctify ourselves. There could be angelic visitations possible in this current life setting. Would we expect it?!

Feasts

Parumala Perunnal

The feast of Parumala Thirumeni will be celebrated by our parish on Saturday, October 31 and Sunday, November 01. There will be evening prayer, singing of hymns by the Choir, devotional talk, Raza, and Benediction on Saturday evening, as well as Perunnal Liturgy, Intercession and Benediction on Sunday. Please assure your availability for the Perunnal observance. We will use RSVP for Perunnal Sunday participation. Please look for detailed mail sent from the parish office soon.

A Saint's life is made of individual dedication, prayer, penitence, tears, and care for others. Our parish church has a history of 50 years of Parumala Thirumeni's intercession. We recollect our memories of the intercession of the Saint or our visits to the tomb of Thirumeni at Parumala. It can be our childhood memories too. This is the season of the Parumala pilgrimage. This time, due to Covid restrictions, Padayathra has been kept on hold. Can we make our next drive to our Church a pilgrimage?!

Please send names for intercession before it gets too late. Those who wish to attend Saturday evening prayer and Sunday Liturgy, please send RSVP without delay. Sending perunnal donations and offerings would be highly appreciable. May the intercession of Saint Gregorios be a stronghold to us.

Virtual Meetings

Friday, October 30, NE American Diocese MMVS Retreat, 12:00-01:00 pm

Friday, October 30, SGOCT MGOCSM meeting, 07:00 pm

Saturday, October 31, Perunnal Evening, 06:30 pm, Evening Prayer, SGOCT Choir, Devotional Talk, Raza, Benediction

Sunday, November 01, Perunnal Liturgy, 09:00 am, Morning Prayer, Holy Qurbana, Sermon, Intercession & Benediction

Sunday, November 01, SGOCT Choir, 07:00-08:30pm

Monday, November 02, SGOCT Acolytes Meeting, 07:30-09:00pm

Parish Directory

The new Parish Directory is ready to be given out to our members, it will be released this Sunday after the Perunnal Liturgy. In a few days, we will be able to hand out copies to our members. We would like to express our sincere thanks to all members for sending their updates. We also express our sincere gratitude to all who have supported this project by sending their contributions towards commercial or non-commercial complements. We had a team laboured hard behind this. We thank them for their hard work. We do believe and hope that this Directory will assist us in bridging healthy relations and fellowship among our community.



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Thanksgiving

I do hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day at home. May it be reminded that you could, if not yet, contribute towards Thanksgiving and support our parish at this time of need and constraint. Our Lord has given us a beautiful life here on earth. Let it be for His glory and the benefit of the needy.

Plaque of Contributors

As we have planned earlier, the names of those who have contributed towards the Church Renovation Project shall be exhibited on plaques in the church basement area. We have different categories based on the total amount given, starting with a \$5000 contribution. It may be feasible for those who have already contributed below \$5,000/- to pay the rest and get into the list. Those who wish to upgrade could make the rest of the payment corresponding to the category they wish to be in. For those who haven't contributed yet, there is still time to contribute and have their names inscribed on the plaque. November 30, 2020 will be the deadline for finishing the payment. It will be a great support to our parish especially during this prolonged Pandemic period. Each dollar will be carefully used for the best of purposes. Please make use of this opportunity to declare our love, dedication, and solidarity towards our Parish.

The list of eligible members whose names will be inscribed on the plaque has been posted on the parish notice board in the basement. For any clarification, please check and contact the Treasurer at (647) 887 4010.

Articles required for the church

I am really glad about the enquiries made by a few of our members after sending the request for buying church articles. We have purchased a Baptismal Font, Crystal Containers, Candle Wick Holder and Taksa Stand. We are searching for buying options for Silver Paten and Chalice (The Church doesn't encourage using plated grail and paten for health reasons), Candle Stands, Wooden Box for keeping the crystal jars, Reliquaries -'Arulikka' with space for keeping icons or relics which we carry during Perunnal Processions, Candle table with offertory box, etc. There will be options available. Prices can vary depending on our selection. Those who wish to donate, please call to choose which way you could contribute. Please text or call at (416) 570 5610.

Time Change 2020

For the daylight-saving time, Canada will go one hour back on Sunday, November 01. Let us be glad about one more hour of sleep! Please set your watches and clocks accordingly.

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

We will be using the Taksa of Abraham Nahasirthono this Sunday. The prayers are really moving. Please attend to it.

Please find the Link for Live Streaming

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

Covid-19 Guidelines

As the cases are rising at a high pace worldwide, we need to take precautions. We have been practicing social distancing and other protocols in the Church, it is our responsibility to take all safety measures possible to rule out any further spread. Please keep the Covid away.



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Holding you in prayer

May the Gracious Lord keep us safe and heal the whole World

Yours in Christ

Thomas John Achen

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