

THE LORD WILL  
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ON YOUR  
BARN AND ON  
EVERYTHING  
YOU PUT YOUR  
HAND TO.

THE LORD  
YOUR GOD WILL  
BLESS YOU IN  
THE LAND HE IS  
GIVING YOU.

Deuteronomy 28:8-12



# Blessings

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SGSA Newsletter - November 2020



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- ▶ Family health & well-being
- ▶ Growth in the ministry
- ▶ Liturgical youth nights
- ▶ Strength in Community
- ▶ Progress on New Church



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2020 has been an usually challenging year for all of us, young and old. No matter where you live, your profession, or what school you attend, the events of this year have touched and impacted everyone in some way or form.

With many of us trying adjust to a new 'normal' and a changing environment all around, it's easy for us to lose sight of the many blessings that the Lord has bestowed upon us and our families amidst all of this.

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand ”

Isaiah 41:10

As we come to the end of what is arguably the strangest year in recent history, we invite you all take a moment to reflect on the many blessings that God has granted to you, your family, and His bride, the Church. And what better opportunity to do so with our inaugural edition of the SGSA Newsletter – **Blessings!**

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The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

Deuteronomy 28:8-12

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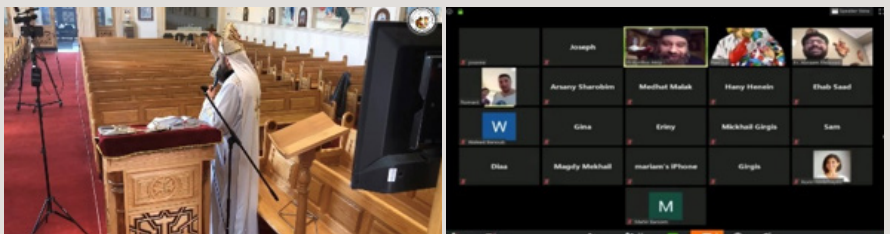
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## Family health & well-being

The 2020 pandemic year has brought families closer, allowing an opportunity to find ways to share and create new memories, invest more time in our children's learning, share meals and activities, and above all, pray with one another. In fact, when the churches were shut down across the country, the Lord granted us the opportunity to establish the "family altar" in our homes, bringing families closer together in prayer, praises and reflection on the Word of God. And, all along, the Good Lord kept us all safe and in good health. We thank Him for this blessing!



*Utilizing technology to keep us connected and praying together from our homes.*

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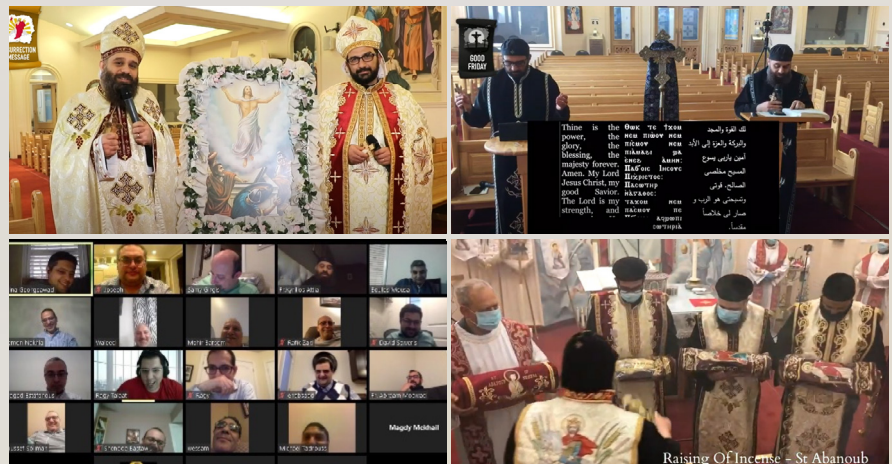


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## Growth in the ministry

Despite the social distancing restrictions that are were put in place to combat and reduce the spread of COVID-19, we are thankful that the Lord allowed His Word and work of the ministry to reach every household through the use of technology, online meeting forums, and where possible, general meeting settings. One remarkable example was Holy Week. Despite the lockdowns, we were blessed to have well over 100 deacons and members of the congregation, young and old, participate in the readings of the week! In another memorable occasion, and despite not celebrating the annual Abanoub Festival, we were blessed on his feast by the arrival of the relics of St. Moses the Strong, St. Marina the Martyr, and St. Bashnouna El Makari, the Martyr.

All of this was only possible with the grace of God, and the love and dedication of all the ministry servants who labor with love.



*Holy Week, ZOOM conference calls & Arrival of Saints Relics at SGSA*

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## Liturgical youth nights!

With the start of the school year, our youth have enjoyed the blessings of their weekly liturgical nights, taking on an active and effective role in leading the prayers and worship sessions. We commend them for their great love and zeal for the church!



*Liturgical Youth Nights*



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## Strength in Community

One of the greatest blessings of our church is the strong sense of community, and coming together to help. Early on in the pandemic, many individuals from the congregation reached out to offer help to those who were in need, whether through grocery shopping, donation of hand sanitizers and masks, or picking up medication for those unable to leave their homes. More recently, we've witnessed the love and zeal of many helping with the emerging needs of the church, whether it be in the screening and ushering of parishioners, assisting in the administration of communion, supporting the infrastructure to support online streaming, or helping in completing a number of renovation projects in church.



Pews at SGSA Steeles, new signage, renovations at SGSA Nipissing & youth working on the new Bible Study App.

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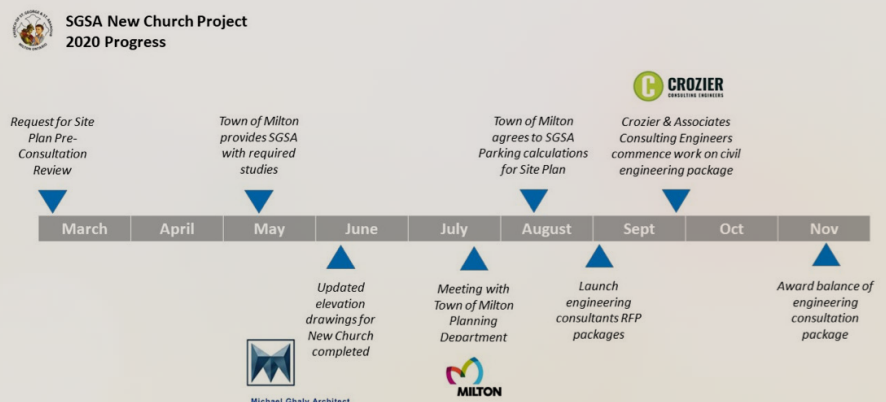


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## Progress on New Church

Despite the impacts of the pandemic and general slowdown of activities, through the grace of God, we have been able to make great progress on the new church project. The overall site plan has matured significantly following consultation from the Region of Halton on the future expansion of Steeles Avenue. Additionally, in July, we completed a preliminary review with the Town of Milton for the overall concept, providing internal layout schematics, and showcasing a design that balances between Coptic tradition and a modern look that is fit for a growing and flourishing community in Milton. Furthermore, we have commenced work with a number of engineering consulting firms to complete the balance of studies required by the Town.

We hope to share more details of the project at the next edition of Blessings, and remain confident in God's love towards His church, through the supplications of the saints and the prayers of the faithful.



“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ “

Ephesians 1:3



May our Good Lord continue to keep the gates of the Church open, strengthen and enrich the ministry, and grant that we complete 2020 in peace, love, and good health.



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