



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

# Pilgrim

Volume 14 Issue 12

DECEMBER 2014



### 2014 Motto

'Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit,' ...

Zechariah 4:6

'സൈന്യത്താലല്ല ശക്തിയാലുമല്ല, എന്റെ ആത്മാവിനാലത്രേ,'...

*Christmas Carol Service*  
*December 13, 6 PM*

*Family Sunday & Sunday School Anniversary*  
*December 28, 11 AM*

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# Pilgrim

**DECEMBER 2014**

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*Editorial .....*

*Come and believe .....*

How often have we thought of eating something? How hard have we struggled to have the food of our desire? This struggle is a continuum. Yet, we're not satisfied or quenched. This is life's reality. We're always on the lookout for something special or spectacular. During this festive season, the star of Bethlehem beckons you to try a new recipe – *the Bread of Life*.

*Jesus said unto them. I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall not hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. (John 6: 35)*

We live and strive to have bread that sustains us in this pilgrimage. We're so concerned about eating healthy food as opposed to eating junk food, with the thought that it would keep us safe. The bread that we eat gives us energy to pull through, but it doesn't save us from the reality of death. But the Bread of Life, the unique dish at Bethlehem Manger (*the house of bread*), offers you eternal life. As you enter Bethlehem Manger, you can't miss the love and longing in the eyes of the baby, who came down from heaven to give life to everyone. There may be many distractions, but if we can keep our eyes focussed, we can be partakers of eternity. Eternal life in God's presence is the best offer any person can receive. In order to enjoy this free offer, there are two conditions set before us: come and believe. If we come, we'll never go hungry, and if we believe we'll never thirst. Even if we have taken this offer before, revisiting the manger can be rejuvenating.

Festivities become meaningful, when it leads us to the giver of life. As we take part in the celebration, let's be thankful to the one who took the human form, and came down to give us an abundant life. May this Christmas be a time to celebrate and rejoice in the Lord.

Wish you all a blessed Christmas and a Happy New year!

Samuel Anselm Samuel

Editor

## Achen's Message



Dearly beloved in Christ,

I am pleased to greet every one of you in the precious name of our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ.

According to the Almanac (the Church Calendar) we are in the Advent season in December. It is the starting of the Church Calendar. The theme for the Advent is the "coming again" of Christ in all His glory with the trumpet sound of the Angels and the Archangels. That will be a time of inescapable encounter with our Master for which all of us are accountable. So Advent should be a time to prepare ourselves as a Church for our eternity with God. All our decisions and actions in life should be in relation to our being with God throughout our life. May the Spirit of God strengthen all of us to live for His glory and the extension of His Kingdom.

It is a matter of joy that our Carol rounds in different areas are taking place well. It is indeed a time of fellowship between each family and the wider faith community. On behalf of the Church, I would like to appreciate and thank each one who has taken pain and leadership in this endeavor. It is also my joy to express sincere gratitude to every family who has nurtured the group with warm hospitality and flavorsome food.

Our Christmas Carol is on December 13. Remember to participate in this service prayerfully so that it would turn out to be a time of blessing for all who attend. Also pray for our Choir who is putting a lot of effort to make it happen meaningfully.

Our Harvest Festival turned out to be a blessing to the Church, as many of you have considerably contributed your offerings. May God, the Lord over all resources, bless all who have offered whole-heartedly, proportionately and even more. Sincere appreciation and gratitude to all who have put in their talents and efforts to make this observation a huge success.

42 Shoe-Boxes were presented to Pastor Edmund Lucido (one of the local collecting person-in-charge for Samaritan's Purse at 200 - 7755, Churchview Meadow Christian Church, Tenth Line W, Mississauga) as a mark of sharing our resources with the needy children. This year, our boxes will be gifted to the children in Costa Rica. Let me express sincere gratitude to all who have contributed generously to this project, with the concern for all who are deprived of the necessities. Thanks to everyone who has co-ordinated the project. God bless you all abundantly.

It is an alarming statistics that in Canada, we are wasting food that amounts to \$27 Million annually. Simultaneously, it is also disturbing that this nation contains people trusting food banks for their single time meal. As we plan and prepare our menu for Christmas this year, let us remember those who are stressed for their survival. It is a request that we donate some tinned food to St. Mary Food Bank, operated by a Coptic Church in Dundas Street East, a refuge to several people. At least one tin of any food item that may amount to \$5.00 from one family will be a blessing to a struggling family. Kindly do not take this request a compulsion at all. If you wish, make your donations on or before December 15.

Our Lord was faithful to keep each one of us safe and sound in our life experiences during the past one year. Time moves on and on, and experiences make memories, sweet or bitter. For each one of us, the experiences would have been various, but the assurance of the everlasting arms that carried us through has never changed (Deut. 33:27). "Immanuel" is a powerful and encouraging thought; almighty God present with us constantly in our day to day experiences. Jesus, who has walked in the moccasins of human experiences, can understand each one of us and is available to aid and comfort us in our times of need.

*(Continued on page 4)*





**Bible Portions**



*(Continued from page 3)*

Let us lift up our hearts and voices, and utter a profound Halleluiah this month as we draw near to the dusk of another year – 2014.

As we prepare to move on to another year, it is the right time to take a stock of our spirituality, and to make improvements in the study of the Word of God, prayer, worship, and Christian disciplines, in order to set our priorities right. May the Holy Spirit help us in understanding our failures and guide us in making decisions for the New Year.

Wish you all a very Blessed Christmas and a very Peaceful New Year.

Prayers and regards,  
Siby Achen.

	Word Of God - Light To Our Path		
<p><b>December 07</b> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Christmas</p>	Old Testament	Isaiah 55 : 6 - 13	English Service
	Psalm	119 : 105 - 112	Read by
	Epistle	Galatians 1 : 11 - 17	Samuel Anselm Samuel & family
	Gospel	Luke 1 : 67 - 80	
	Hope Of Salvation		
<p><b>December 14</b> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Christmas</p>	Old Testament	Zephaniah 3 : 8 - 13	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	43	Read by
	Epistle	2 Peter 3 : 8 - 13	Suby Mathews & family
	Gospel	Mark 1 : 18 - 23	

<b>December 21</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday before Christmas	Rejoice, The Lord Is Near		
	Old Testament	Zechariah 2 : 6 - 13	English Service
	Psalm	50 : 1 - 15	Read by
	Epistle	1 Thessalonians 5 : 12 - 24	Philip Z. Mathai & family
	Gospel	John 16 : 16 - 24	
<b>December 25</b> Christmas	Finding space for the Prince of Peace		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 9 : 2 - 7	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	85	Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians 1 : 3 - 14	Benjamin Chacko & family
	Gospel	Luke 2 : 1 - 14	
<b>December 28</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Family Sunday	Family As God's Gift		
	Old Testament	Joshua 24 : 14 - 22	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	128	Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians 3 : 14 - 21	Shaji Levison Moothedom & family
	Gospel	Mark 3 : 31 - 35	
<b>December 31 &amp;            January 1, 2015</b> Covenant Service	Accepting the Word becoming the temple of living God		
	Old Testament	Ecclesiastes 12 : 9 - 14	English Service
	Psalm	119: 33 - 48	Read by
	Epistle	2 Corinthians 6 : 14 - 18	P Mathew Verghis & family
	Gospel	Matthew 13 : 1 - 9	





**BIRTHDAYS**

- |    |                        |    |                           |
|----|------------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 01 | Rebecca Thomas         | 12 | Navin Abraham             |
| 01 | Sajin Mathew Alexander | 20 | Elizabeth Shirley Abraham |
| 01 | Ruby Mariam Mathew     | 21 | George Philip             |
| 02 | Sanju Cherian          | 24 | Rhea Grace Varguise       |
| 04 | Sheeba Levison Ghosh   | 28 | Daniel Koshy              |
| 05 | Maria Gajraj           | 29 | Rennie Philip Joseph      |
| 06 | Anaya Sara Cherian     | 30 | Sandhra Elizabeth Eapen   |
| 07 | Daniel Thomas          | 31 | P. Mathew Verghis         |
| 12 | Joana Grace Varguise   |    |                           |



**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 14 Jiby Jacob & Jain Daniel
- 17 Abhilash Raj & Smitha
- 18 Reji Johnson & Milly
- 29 Samuel Anselm Samuel & Shini Samuel
- 29 Balaji I. Kuruvila & Rebecca Thomas
- 30 Alex Oommen & Susan Alex



### **Fasting Prayer**

Our Monthly fasting prayer will be held on December 6, 2014 at 9.30 AM. All are invited.

### **House to House Carol Singing**

This year's House to House Carol singing is progressing well. On December 6 and 7, we will be visiting members of GILEAD prayer group in Mississauga, Toronto, Milton and Etobicoke area proclaiming the birth of Jesus Christ. We will be closing this year's carol singing ministry on December 7 at the parsonage.

### **Church Christmas Carol Service**

Our Church Carol Service will be held on Saturday, December 13, 2014 at 6.00 PM. The seating for the service will start at 5.30 PM. Please invite your friends and relatives for the musical event. Offertory will be taken during the service.

### **Christmas day service**

There will be special Christmas day service on Thursday, December 25 at 11.00 AM. All are invited.

### **Family Sunday / Sunday school Anniversary and Talent Show**

Sunday school anniversary and talent Show will be held on Family Sunday, December 28 after lunch. Your prayers and presence are requested. Talent show will be an opportunity for the children to present their God given talents. It is requested that all children should prepare at least one individual item to be presented at the talent show. Please contact the Sunday school director for more information.

### **Watch Night Service**

The Watch night service starts with the Praise and Worship service at 10.30 PM on December 31, 2014 followed by the New Year 2015, Holy Communion service at 12.00 AM. We have to thank the Almighty God for all the blessings He showered up on us in 2014, and pray for His continued blessings upon us. All are invited for this special service.

### **Church Dues**

Our Church financial year is ending on December 31, 2014. Those who haven't paid the membership fee and Harvest festival amount are requested to settle the account as early as possible.

### **Thanksgiving and Harvest Festival**

Our Thanksgiving service in October and Harvest festival celebrations in November 2014 were well attended. The Congregation thanks the Lord for all the blessing He has showered upon them. All the glory be to God. The Harvest festival was a huge success. All our members actively participated and worked as a team to make this year's festival a remarkable one.

On behalf of the Executive committee, I express our thanks to all the members and our Youth fellowship members for their whole hearted participation in these celebrations. May God bless you all.





Sunday School

Pilgrim

# World Sunday School Day, November 2, 2014







Carol

# Pilgrim



## ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Mary Alexander

Lights are sparkling everywhere  
I hear the carols in the air,  
All seem busy on their way  
I see no joy on Christmas day.

But in that stable long ago  
Though there were no fancy lights,  
Stood a star so bright in sky  
To shine on Jesus born that day.

People rushing everywhere,  
Buying gifts for those they care;  
And yet, I do not see the joy  
And love of God on Christmas day.

Shepherds came and kings from far  
To see baby Jesus, long foretold;  
To Him they gave their gifts and bowed,  
In joyful hearts they all returned.

If only all would see this day  
As their savior's birth once more!  
And make room for him in their hearts  
And bow to Him with all their gifts.

May you be blessed on this day  
Filled with love, peace, and joy  
Let us worship Christ on high  
And lift His name on Christmas day





**Committee**



**The Executive Committee Members of the CSI Church, Toronto**

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Vice-President / Rector's Warden	Mr. Daniel Thomas	Women's Fellowship Director	Mrs. Susan Joseph
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Joint Treasurer	Mr. Ajoy Lional	Trustees	Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel
Sunday School Director	Mrs. Elizabeth Verghis		Mrs. Annie Koshy



*A Christmas Service  
of Lessons and Carols*

*CSI Church, Toronto*

*December 13, 2014*

*at 6:00 PM*

*(Doors open at 5:30pm)*

*1315 Kipling Ave.*

*Toronto, M9B 3N7*

*416 231 1717*



[www.csichurchtoronto.org](http://www.csichurchtoronto.org)

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