



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

# Pilgrim

Volume 26 Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2026



## 2026 Motto

"Thus far the Lord has helped us" - I Samuel 7:12(b)

“ഇത്രത്തോളം യഹോവ നമ്മെ സഹായിച്ചു” I ശമുവേൽ 7: 12 (b)

**February 11: Mizpah Fellowship**

**February 15: Women's Fellowship Quiz**

**February 28: Men's Fellowship Retreat**

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# Pilgrim

**FEBRUARY 2026**

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## Editorial

### Overcoming Temptation

The Biblical story of the fall of man (Genesis 3) is the second story of creation and one that has been a foundational and recurring theme in several literary writings of the Renaissance period. While there are several takes on what the right interpretation of the story is, there are two key elements of focus: role of the serpent as the deceiver and the willful disobedience of mankind. We see a similar scene played out during Jesus' temptation by Satan but with a totally different outcome (Matthew 4: 1-11 and Luke 4: 1-13). There is a lot we can we learn from this especially as we enter another season of Lent.

The fact that Jesus was approached by the devil and tempted attests to his humanity as an ordinary man. Jesus, like Eve, was alone when approached by the devil, and in fact Jesus would have been especially vulnerable after having been alone in the wilderness fasting for 40 days. Interestingly, in both incidents of temptation, the devil first approached Eve and Jesus with an offer that they eat something, thereby appealing to a basic human need. It is when that did not succeed that the devil appealed to their intellect and ambition presenting an opportunity for greatness and to be like God. This is where Eve fell and Jesus overcame, because Jesus firmly recognized his identity as God's son by which God had already given him everything he needs.

As we approach a time of Lent and may be contemplating more prayer, fasting, charity and self-denial, we should remember that we will be tested more when we take a stand for God. The challenge and the temptation can come from the most common things and when we least expect it. What we are truly at war with is the right use of our God given free will to make moral choices in a world with shifting values.

Therefore, let us live mindfully and be able to recognize when we are being tempted for our need or greed. The only way to overcome is to be grounded in scripture and secure in our identity as God's children. We must hold on to His promises for our needs, of which salvation is the greatest and we have already been given that.

Wishing you a meaningful season of Lent!

Reshma George  
Editor

## Achen's Message



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As we step into the month of February, we are gently led into one of the most meaningful seasons of the Christian calendar—the season of Lent. On Wednesday, February 18, we observe Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of this sacred forty-day journey of prayer, reflection, repentance, and renewal. Ash Wednesday confronts us with a powerful and honest reminder of our human reality: *“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”* These words are not meant to frighten us, but to awaken us—to call us back to God, to humility, and to a deeper dependence on divine grace. The ashes placed on our foreheads are not marks of shame, but signs of hope—symbols that God is still at work, shaping us, renewing us, and calling us closer.

Lent invites us to pause in a hurried world, to examine our lives, and to realign our hearts with God's purposes. It is a season that asks important questions:

What needs to change in my life? What is God calling me to let go of?

How can I grow in love for God and for my neighbor?

Traditionally, Lent encourages us to focus on three spiritual disciplines—prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. These are not mere rituals, but pathways that draw us closer to Christ. As individuals and as a church community, this is a time to deepen our spiritual roots, to listen attentively to God's voice, and to walk more intentionally in the footsteps of Jesus.

I encourage everyone in our congregation to embrace this Lenten journey by participating in worship, engaging in personal and family prayer, reflecting on Scripture, and reaching out in compassion to those in need. Small acts of faithfulness during Lent often lead to profound transformation. Let us walk this Lenten path with honesty, hope, and expectation, trusting that God, who began a good work in us, will bring it to completion. Wishing you a prayerful and meaningful Lenten season.

With prayers and blessings,

Binuachen

# Pilgrim



**Church News**

## **Bible Study**

The weekly Bible study will be held every Wednesday from **8:00pm** onwards. Please plan to attend the Bible study through the church Zoom line.

## **Mizpah: Fellowship with Former Vicars. Guest: Rev. Anish George Padickamannil and Family**

This fellowship will be held on Wednesday, **February 11, 2026 at 8:00pm** through the church Zoom line.

## **Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship**

The Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship will take place every Thursday from 10:00am to 12:00 noon in the church sanctuary. Please join the fellowship through the church Zoom line.

## **Monthly Board Meeting**

The monthly board meeting will be held (in-person) on February 8, 2026, at 2:00pm, immediately after social hour.

## **Women's Fellowship Bible Quiz**

Women's Fellowship will be conducting a Bible Quiz on Sunday, February 15, 2026 at CSI Church Toronto. The quiz will be from the books of Joshua and Acts. For more information please contact Women's Fellowship Director, Asha Susan Joy.

## **Men's Fellowship Retreat**

The men's fellowship one-day retreat will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2026 at CSI Church Toronto. For more information please contact Men's Fellowship Director, Febin Varkey Mathews.

## **Cottage Prayer**

No prayer has been scheduled.

**Pilgrim**



**Church News**

 **CSI CHURCH  
TORONTO**

# **Men's Fellowship Retreat**

**28<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

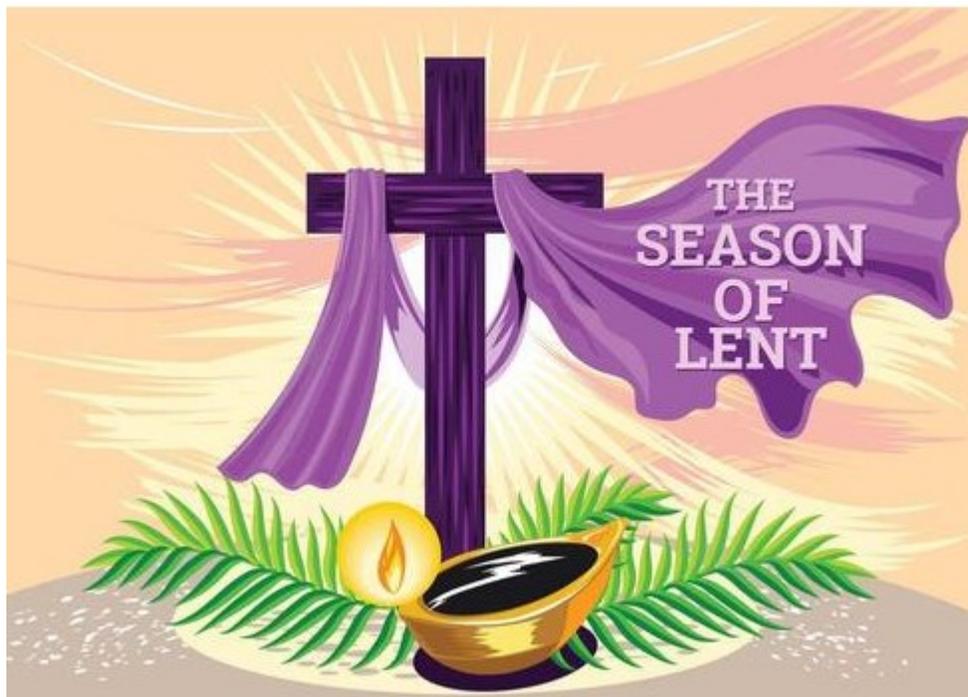
 **CSI CHURCH TORONTO**  
**9:30AM - 4:00PM**



**WWW.CSICHURCHTORONTO.ORG**

<b>February 1, 2026</b> <b>9<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Easter</b>	<b>Sabbath Leads to the Fullness of Creation</b>		
	Old Testament	Genesis 1:31–2:3	<b>English Service</b>
	Psalm	24	Read by
	Epistle	Hebrews 4:2–11	Vinod Maliyekal & Family
	Gospel	Mark 3:1–6	
<b>February 8, 2026</b> <b>8<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Easter</b>	<b>Fall: Moving Away From God’s Purpose</b>		
	Old Testament	Judges 2:7–22	<b>Malayalam Service</b>
	Psalm	14	Read by
	Epistle	1 Timothy 4:1–10	Cijo Sunny, Sneha Sunny, Merlin Mathew
	Gospel	Luke 18:18–27	
<b>February 15, 2026</b> <b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Easter</b>	<b>Christ Redeems All: Divine Love Embraces Everyone</b>		
	Old Testament	Jonah 4:1–11	<b>English Service</b>
	Psalm	107:1–20	Read by
	Epistle	1 Timothy 2:1–7	Pramod Punnoose & Family
	Gospel	Mark 2:13–17	
<b>February 18, 2026</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b>	<b>Lent: A Call to Renewal</b>		
	Old Testament	Ezekiel 36:24–36	<b>Malayalam Service</b>
	Psalm	51	Read by
	Epistle	Romans 11:33–12:2	Board Members
	Gospel	Matthew 6:5–18	

		<b>Call to Be Compassionate</b>	
<b>February 22, 2026</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>	Old Testament	Ruth 2:4–20	<b>Malayalam Service</b>
	Psalm	145	
	Epistle	Ephesians 4:25–32	Varghese John & Family
	Gospel	Mark 1:40–45	





**BIRTHDAYS**

1	Aldrin Pramod	15	Rahul John Oommen
2	Shaji Levison Moothedom	15	Aleena M Jithin Kanaath
2	Shino Somasundar Abraham	15	Rohit Thomas Koshy
2	Nibu Mavila Issac	15	Enya Mini Alexander
3	Santhosh Cherian	16	Binu Sajan
3	P. J. Skariah	16	Thomas C Joseph
5	Suvin Oommen Alexander	17	Sharon John
5	Anil Raj Daniel	18	Rohan Raj
6	Pranoy Narayan	18	Braedon Robin Roy
6	Nathan Rijo Cherian	19	Mariamamma Cherian
7	Sudeep Oommen	19	Mariamamma Thomas
8	Jaden Thomas Geogy	20	Philip Z. Mathai
9	Noah Bobby Cherian	20	Rishvi Narayan
9	Reuben David Johns	20	Ajo Jose Joseph
10	Ryan John Varghese	22	Ajeo Mathew Cherukathara Mathew
10	Ann Alexander Philip	22	Sherin George Johnson
12	Aaron Fredrick Simon B	23	Jiby Jacob
13	Annu sara Paul	23	Rejoys John
13	Chinnu Sara Paul	24	Rinu John Mathew
14	Roby Jose	24	Anjitha Jayakumari



**BIRTHDAYS**

- |    |                       |    |                       |
|----|-----------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 25 | Joy Chemmanoor        | 28 | Shekin Modayil Eapen  |
| 25 | Jinu Mary Jacob       | 28 | Suruksak Senen Onteru |
| 25 | Barath Roy Michel     | 28 | Anjali Ann Dominic    |
| 26 | Christine Elma Joseph |    |                       |

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 2  | Sajan Itty & Binu Sajan                    |
| 5  | Ajil Thayyil Mathew & Ashwini Ann Regi     |
| 6  | Kevin Varghese Mathew & Nancy Grace Daniel |
| 9  | Vinu Jacob & Simi K. Sunny                 |
| 12 | Bino Oommen Samuel & Sherin Leya Oommen    |
| 14 | Benjamin Ninan & Sneha John                |
| 15 | Tojan Joseph Abraham & Justy Joise         |

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

<b>President</b>	Rev. Binu Philip		
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<b>Social &amp; Recreational Director</b>	Mr. Ashley Jeji George	<b>Malayala Lokam Director</b>	Mrs. Stephamol S.S

If you wish to be included in the parish e-mail list to receive special notices, please e-mail the Secretary at [secretary@csichurchtoronto.org](mailto:secretary@csichurchtoronto.org)

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