



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

Pilgrim

Volume 18 Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2018



2018 Motto

...for it is written, 'you shall be holy, for I am holy.'

1 Peter 1:16

'ഞാൻ വിശുദ്ധൻ ആകയാൽ നിങ്ങളും വിശുദ്ധരായിരിപ്പിൻ' എന്നു എഴുതിയിരിക്കുന്നുവല്ലോ.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Achen's message 3
- Celebrations 4
- Bible Portions 5
- Bishop's Visit 6
- Church News 7
- Ecumenical 8

Sunday School Anniversary- February 11

Ash Wednesday- February 14

Annual General Body- February 18

Pilgrim

FEBRUARY 2018

EDITORIAL BOARD

Chief Editor

Rev. George Jacob

Editor

Samuel Anselm Samuel

Publication Team

Shini Samuel
Suja Sarah Koshy
Akshay Koshy
Chris George

Address

CSI Parsonage
1311 Kipling Avenue
Etobicoke M9B 3N7 ON
(416) 231- 1717

Articles/ Feedback

May be sent to
pilgrimcsi.to@gmail.com

Editorial

His truth is marching on...

Do you think you're a macho? Can you move the mountains? Do you think you've the power to exercise faith in your lives? Or does it seem like a mirage? These are pertinent questions that can haunt you during your pilgrimage. If these don't trouble you, then the verse found in Luke 18:8 must. *"Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?"*

I recently chanced on some people who were discussing the idea of the books in the Holy Bible being inspired and written by some business fools as opposed to the fact of being the Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit. Why do people think like that? What has come to the truth of the amazing love of God, the reality of the unique saving grace of God? Many people want to belittle the importance of the Word of God, and their numbers are alarmingly increasing. It's quite appalling that these opportunists were once strong believers or advocates of Christianity! Strong, mundane currents have eroded the faith in them. Such people try to compare different religions and come up with the conclusion that they all work toward financial benefits and not toward the edification of humanity.

Even in casual talk, I've seen friends who ardently follow other religious faiths, giving thanks and credit to God whenever possible. But, we on the other hand, are often shy in our day to day conversations to give our God, the Lord of Hosts, His due credit. It is disheartening to note that knowledge explosion has blindfolded the faith life of many followers of Christ.

Faith, we know, is the assurance of things hoped for, and the conviction of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1) It is not just a belief, but an exercise. Just as people are successful in planting the seed of doubt, we must look forward to planting the seed of faith. The fact, that we're not ashamed to give thanks to our God for what He's done in our lives, will increase our faith and become an incentive for others to exercise faith in their lives. As we march towards our goal of being holy and pass through the season of Lent, let's not forget to exercise faith in our lives. Yeah! We shall not be ashamed as we behold the Lamb upon the throne.

Samuel Anselm Samuel
Editor

Achen's Message



Dearly beloved in Christ,

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

In February, we are entering the lent season starting on “Ash Wednesday”. This observance of the western tradition marks the beginning of the lent. “Ash Wednesday” is the time to remind ourselves of the nature of our beings before God. Despite all the “greatness” and contentment that we think we have, our physical beings and all associated with it are perishable.

The season of lent brings to our mind confinements and the gloom of an array of restraints. It is like suddenly taking a narrow path when we are on a broader way. The Biblical notion of fasting and lent depicts the picture of consciously and willingly curtailing the freedom that we exercise daily in our lives for the betterment of our stature before God. Sometimes the decision to fast may suffocate us. But all persons or communities that have undergone the discipline of fasting have become better in their relationship with God. The purpose of fasting should never be procuring or gaining material gifts but shaping our lives in conformity with God’s purpose for us. “Chisel”, “prune” or “carve” – these words reverberate the thought of shaping ourselves according to the image that God intends for each one of us. Let us subdue all passions, cravings, habits and characters that drift us away from the presence of God. The forty days (starting from Ash Wednesday till Easter, excluding all Sundays) of great lent is an invitation given to us by the Church founded upon the Word of God to grow in our stature in Christ as a community. Let us carve ourselves and get back to the “image of God” by waving a permanent good bye to all that enslave and restrict our growth in Christ. Let us sincerely examine ourselves whether we are “found” or “lost” from our Creator’s presence. It is the earnest desire of the Church that the sons, daughters and all generations be found confident and right at the “coming again” of Christ and before the “throne of judgment”. May the power of Holy Spirit strengthen us to shape ourselves this lent season.

Mrs. Aniamma Varkey, mother of Mr. Aji V Mathews, was called to eternity. Our heartfelt condolences to the family mourning the passing away of the dear mother. May the God of all peace and comfort grant grace to pass through this time of bereavement.

Let us continue our journey to holiness through discipleship this year. May God almighty bless us and keep us in our journey of life.

Prayerful regards,

Siby Achen.



BIRTHDAYS

02	Shaji Levison Moothedom	18	Rohan Raj
02	Rex P. R	19	Mariamamma Cherian
03	Santhosh Cherian	19	Mariamamma Thomas
03	P.J.Skariah	20	Abraham P. John
05	Suvin Oommen Alexander	20	Rishvi Narayan
06	Pranoy Narayan	20	Philip Z. Mathai
07	Sudeep Oommen	23	Jiby Jacob
10	Ryan John Varghese	23	Savannah Thomas
12	Aaron Fredrick Simon	24	Rinu John Mathew
15	Rahul John Oommen	25	Jinu Mary Jacob
16	Thomas C. Joseph	25	Joy Chemmanoor
16	Binu Sajan	26	Christine E. Joseph
18	Thomas Mathai	26	Asha Abraham

ANNIVERSARIES

- 02 Sajan Itty & Binu Sajan
- 09 Vinu Jacob & Simi K. Sunny
- 14 Benjamin Ninan & Sneha John

February 4 8 th Sunday before Easter	The Fallen State of Creation		
	Old Testament	Genesis 3:1-10	English Service
	Psalm	53	Read by
	Epistle	Romans 3:21-26	Abraham P. George & Family
	Gospel	Matthew 18:23-35	
February 11 7 th Sunday before Easter	Lent: A Time of Reconciliation		
	Old Testament	Genesis 45:1-15	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	85	Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians 2:11-22	Ajoy Lional & Family
	Gospel	John 2:1-11	
February 14 Ash Wednesday	Cross: A Call to Self-Denial		
	Old Testament	Joel 2:12-20	English Service
	Psalm	32	Read by
	Epistle	Galatians 2:15-21	Executive Committee
	Gospel	Luke 9:23-27	
February 18 1 st Sunday in Lent	Touching The <i>Untouchable</i>		
	Old Testament	II Kings 5:1-10	English Service
	Psalm	10:1-12	Read by
	Epistle	Hebrews 13:8-17	Daniel Thomas & Family
	Gospel	Matthew 8:1-4	
February 25 2 nd Sunday in Lent	Life Saving Faith		
	Old Testament	II Kings 4:1-7	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	72	Read by
	Epistle	Acts 5:12-16	Varghese V. John & Family
	Gospel	Luke 5:17-26	

EPISCOPAL VISIT





Ash Wednesday

There will be a special Holy Communion Service at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, February 14. All are invited.

Lenten Prayer

We will have our weekly Lenten prayer at 7.30 pm on the following Wednesdays: February 21, 28, March 7, 14, and 21. All are invited

Cottage Prayer

Cottage Prayer for Shalom Group will be held at 6.30 pm on Saturday, February 3 at Mr & Mrs. Sajan Itty's residence. All area members are invited

Cottage prayer for Jordan group will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday, February 9 at Mr & Mrs. Aaron Frederick Simon's residence. All area members are invited

Cottage prayer for Gilead group will be held at 6.30 pm on Saturday, February 17 at Mr & Mrs. Christy Abraham's residence. All area members are invited.

Sunday School Anniversary

The Sunday School anniversary will be held on February 11, 2018. All are welcome.

Annual General Body meeting and Elections

Our Church Annual General Body meeting will be held on February 18, 2018 after the worship service. All our members are requested to attend the meeting.

Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship

The weekly Intercessory Prayer will be held every Wednesday at the Sanctuary from 10 AM to 12 PM. All are welcome

Bible Study Series

There will be Bible study every Friday at the Parsonage from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM. All are welcome.

Condolences

The members of the CSI Church, Toronto express their deepest condolences to Mr. Aji Mathews and family in the passing away of his mother Mrs. Aniamma Varkey on January 25, 2018 in Kerala. May the Almighty God comfort Aji, Sophy, Aghil and Aezekiel and all the bereaved family members at this difficult time.



The Executive Committee Members of the CSI Church, Toronto

President	Rev. George Jacob		
Vice-President / Rector's Warden	Mr. Abraham P. George	Women's Fellowship Director	Mrs. Susan Joseph
Secretary / People's Warden	Mr. Christy Abraham	Men's Fellowship Director	Mr. Santhosh Cherian
Joint Secretary / Trustee	Mr. Rennie Philips Joseph	Sunday School Director	Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel
Treasurer	Mrs. Sheeba L. Ghosh	Youth Fellowship Director	Mr. Hans Thomas Varghese
Joint Treasurer / Trustee	Mr. Abhilash Raj	Mission Director	Mr. Sanju Cherian
Choir Director	Mr. Daniel Thomas	Social & Entertainment Director	Mrs. Susan Kurian



KERALA CHRISTIAN ECUMENICAL FELLOWSHIP

Lenten RETREAT

FEBRUARY

<p>9 FRIDAY 7pm to 9 pm</p> <p>Venue: St.Mathew's Marthoma Church 9238 Regional Rd 25, Milton, ON L9T 2X7</p> <p>Mnsgr.Sebastian Areekkattu Vicar General, St. Alphonsa Cathedral</p> <p>Choir: St.Mathew's Marthoma Church</p>	<p>10 SATURDAY 6.30 pm to 9 pm</p> <p>Venue: CSI Church, Toronto 1315 Kipling Ave, Etobicoke, ON M9B</p> <p>Rev.Abey Mathew Vicar, St.Mary's Syriac Orthodox Church</p> <p>Choir: St.Mary's Syriac Orthodox Church</p>
---	--

For more info, contact:
 Rev.Blessen Varughese (President): 647.606.8761, Thomas K Thomas (Secretary): 416.845.8225
 Joseph Punnassery (Treasurer): 647.262.4810, Core Committee: Santhosh Zac Koshy: 647.262.9293
 Rev.Money Varghese: 647.627.8466, Rev.Jacob Antony: 647.472.4102, Simon Plathottam: 416.843.2340

keralachristianecumenicalfellowship.com

For Private Circulation Only

Published by CSI Church, Toronto, 1315 Kipling Avenue M9B 3N7, ON. All rights reserved