



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

Pilgrim

Volume 23 Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2023



2023 Motto

“A new command I give you: Love one another as I have loved you”

നിങ്ങൾ തമ്മിൽ തമ്മിൽ സ്നേഹിക്കണം എന്നു പുതിയൊരു കല്പന ഞാൻ നിങ്ങൾക്ക് തരുന്നു

John 13:34

**Annual General Body Meeting
- February 26, 2023**

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Pilgrim

FEBRUARY 2023

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Editorial

Just believe!

February is usually the month that Lent begins in the Church calendar. It is well placed that way as we typically have fewer distractions here at this time of the year; being in the deep of winter, with Christmas behind us and Spring still weeks away. However, what we often see as Lent approaches is deliberation on what to give up; whether it be some types of food, or other things. As we approach Lent this year let's consider what motivates us to do this. Are we doing it for our own satisfaction, or is it an act of obedience and discipline to foster spiritual growth?

If we look at the example of Christ, He was isolated and went without food for forty days in the wilderness, and at the end of that time He used the Word of God to face temptation. This example suggests to us that true value in self denial is only where the outcome is focussed on growing closer to the Lord. Interestingly though, as human beings we like to feel that our efforts contribute in some way to the spiritual and material blessings we receive. Sometimes we have a hard time even accepting that salvation is God's free gift requiring nothing from us except to believe. This is too simplistic for some of us to accept, and we would rather be asked to embark on an arduous pilgrimage or such, so we can justify our worthiness to be saved. I would contend that if we're honest with ourselves we will recognize that this type of thinking is nothing but our pride at work.

The fact is that our greatest efforts can never compare with or add to Christ's sacrifice of Himself on the cross. So this Lent season let's learn to practice the simple faith of believing in Christ and learning His Word. And as it is said let us also remind ourselves that Salvation is free to us, but it is not cheap; it cost Jesus His life!

Reshma George
Editor

Achen's Message



Greetings to all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

We are entering into another season of Lent, the most important season in the church calendar. In our tradition, Lent is a season of forty days; seven weeks excluding Sundays; beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on the Saturday before Easter. The Sundays in this season represent a “mini Easter”, and so Sundays are for the celebration of the life of Christ. The forty days of Lent represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin His ministry. So the Lenten season reminds us again to fast and pray as our Savior Jesus did. Practicing this will greatly help each one of us to have victory over trials and temptations.

The word Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word ‘lencten’ which means ‘spring’. Spring is a life rejuvenating season, and in the same way Lent is also intended to be a time of self reflection, repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of the Lord. It is also a time of examining our relationships; the three aspects of our relationship with self, with God and with our surroundings.

In early church, Lent was a time of devoted study as they prepared new converts for Baptism. Lent was a time of giving up something or volunteering to give of oneself for the benefit of others. Lent is a time to open our hearts a little wider and to understand our Lord a little deeper; it’s an opportunity to receive the overflowing grace of our Lord. It’s also an opportunity to contemplate what our Lord really did for us on the Cross. Lent does not stop at sadness and despair with the death of Jesus; instead it points us to the hope of resurrection and the day when tears will be wiped away.

So let us come together and examine ourselves; assess how we were in the past in our relationship with God and our fellow beings. Let us be open to understand our short comings, let us abstain from actions that hurt our brethren, and let us come together and pray for His grace. Let us deny our ‘SELF’ and commit ourselves to the establishment of His kingdom. May this season of Lent be a great time of the Lord’s abundant blessings upon us.

Yours In His Service

Binu Achen

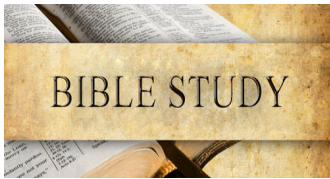


Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship

The Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship will take place on every Thursday from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon in the Church Sanctuary. Please join the fellowship through **Virtual Worship**.

Bible Study – “Book of Hebrews”

The Bible study will take place on every Thursday from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The Bible Study provides an in-depth learning on the book of Hebrews. It also provides an opportunity for members to connect with and understand each other while continuing to build personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. Binu Achen will be leading the Bible study. Please plan to attend the Bible study through **Zoom**.



Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be on Tuesday, February 07, 2023, at 8:30 pm.

Sunday School Anniversary & Talent Show – February 12, 2023

Sunday School Anniversary & Talent Show will be held on February 12, 2023 immediately after the divine worship service. For more information, please contact Rejini Gajraj, Director of Sunday School.

Men’s Fellowship Sunday – February 19, 2023

Sunday, February 19, 2023 will be observed as Men’s Fellowship Sunday. Please contact Hans Thomas, Men’s Fellowship Director for more information.

Annual General Body Meeting – February 26, 2023

Annual General Body Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 26, 2023, immediately after the divine worship service. Please plan to attend this very important meeting of our church.

Cottage Prayer Meetings

- **Shalom** area prayer will be held on **Friday**, February 03, 2023 at 7:30 pm. The prayer meeting is hosted by Abraham and Elzy George Please join the **virtual** fellowship.
- **Jordan** area prayer will be held on **Saturday**, February 04, 2023 at 7:00 pm. This **in-person** prayer meeting will take place at the residence of Varghese and Liji John.
- **Gilead** area prayer will be held on **Friday**, February 18, 2023 at 6:30 pm. This **in-person** prayer meeting will take place at the residence of Christy and Elizabeth (Shirley) Abraham.

If you wish to be included in the parish e-mail list to receive special notices, please send your e-mail ID to the Secretary at secretary@csichurchtoronto.org

February 05 9th Sunday before Easter	Sabbath as the culmination of Creation		
	Old Testament	Isa 65: 17- 25	English Service
	Psalm	8	Read by
	Epistle	Hebrews 4: 2-13	Kevin & Nancy
	Gospel	Mark 2:23 - 28	
February 12 8th Sunday before Easter	Fall as the violation of the purpose of Creation		
	Old Testament	Genesis 6:1-13	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	32	Read by
	Epistle	Romans 7: 4-25	Sajan Itty & Family
	Gospel	Mathew 7:15 - 23	
February 19 7th Sunday before Easter	Lent: A time of transformation		
	Old Testament	Isa 44: 21-28	English Service
	Psalm	6	Read by
	Epistle	Romans 11: 13-24	Men's Fellowship
	Gospel	John 2: 1-11	
February 22 Ash Wednesday	Cross: A call to repentance		
	Old Testament	Isa 1: 16- 20	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	51	Read by
	Epistle	2 Cor 7: 8 - 16	Daniel Thomas & Family
	Gospel	Mark 1: 12- 15	

The Cleansing Christ			
February 26 First Sunday in Lent	Old Testament	Zechariah 13: 1-9	English Service
	Psalm	130	
	Epistle	1 John 1: 5 -10	Jacob Cherian & Family
	Gospel	Mark 1: 40 - 45	



BIRTHDAYS

01	Aldrin Pramod	16	Binu Sajan
02	Shaji Levison Moothedom	16	Thomas. C Joseph
02	Rex P.R	18	Rohan Raj
02	Shino Somasundar Abraham	18	Thomas Mathai
02	Elixir Eva Abraham	19	Mariamamma Cherian
03	Santhosh Cherian	19	Mariamamma Thomas
03	P. J. Skariah	20	Philip Z. Mathai
05	Suvin Oommen Alexander	20	Rishvi Narayan
05	Anil Raj Daniel	20	Ajo Jose Joseph
05	Samuel James	22	Ajeo Mathew Cherukathara Mathew
06	Pranoy Narayan	22	Sherin George Johnson
06	Nathan Rijo Cherian	23	Savannah Thomas
07	Sudeep Oommen	23	Jiby Jacob
08	Syama Prasad	23	Rejoys John
08	Jaden Thomas Geogy	24	Rinu John Mathew
09	Reuben David Johns	25	Joy Chemmanoor
10	Ryan John Varghese	25	Jinu Mary Jacob
10	Allena Minu Jithin	26	Asha Abraham
12	Aaron Fredrick Simon B	26	Christine Elma Joseph
15	Rahul Oommen	28	Anjali Ann Dominic
15	Rohit Thomas Koshy		



ANNIVERSARIES

- 02 Sajan Itty & Binu Sajan
- 06 Kevin Varghese Mathew & Nancy Grace Daniel
- 09 Simi K. Sunny & Vinu Jacob
- 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

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