



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

Pilgrim

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FEBRUARY 2024



Happy Family Day!

2024 Motto

“Humble yourselves before the Lord and He will exalt you”

“കർത്താവിന്റെ സന്നിധിയിൽ താഴുവിൻ; എന്നാൽ അവൻ നിങ്ങളെ ഉയർത്തും”

James 4:10

February 14: Ash Wednesday service at 7.00pm

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Pilgrim

FEBRUARY 2024

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Editorial

What we do not see!

Many of us have heard about the great redwoods and sequoia trees, and some of us may have the opportunity to see them in our lifetime. I had that opportunity recently, but nothing I had read or seen in pictures before prepared me for the wonder of standing close to them! Particularly stunning was the General Sherman Tree which owns the title of being the largest living tree and also the largest living organism on the planet!

What is striking about these majestic trees is that their girth and longevity come from the part that we do not see; a web of strong roots spanning an acre in width, 12-14 feet deep into the ground firmly rooting the tree through its almost 3,000-year lifespan. As people we are the same, in that, it is the parts of us that no one sees which make us who we really are. The Bible tells us that once we know Jesus our life is "hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3), meaning that we have died with Christ to sin and are spiritually awakened to new life. But we live in a broken society ruled by money and plagued with many social evils, where we may feel forced to hide our roots of family values and spiritual convictions in order to be politically correct in different situations. Sadly, we do this to our own detriment as Christians.

We are called to live boldly, building our character on God's Word, and living in accordance with Christ's example; fundamentally His simplicity and being conscious of the needs of others. We cannot hide that truth and intentionally choose to live with mean motives, or pleasing the world, or in social isolation, or disharmony with our family. If we do that, I doubt that our lives will be fruitful, for if we truly have Christ's spirit hidden in us, then everything we do outwardly should reflect His character.

As we approach another season of Lent, I hope we will take some time to objectively introspect what our lives and actions truly reveal about ourselves. May we find that we are rooted and grounded in Christ and so can stand tall and flourish like the mighty redwoods regardless of the circumstances around us.

Wishing you all a Happy Family Day and a meaningful season of Lent!

Reshma George
Editor

Achen's Message



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Grace and peace be with you all as we enter the sacred season of Lent. The season of Lent holds significant spiritual importance as a time for self-examination, repentance and coming closer to God through prayer, self regulation, and acts of kindness. This is an opportunity for us to reflect on our lives, to deepen our relationship with God, and grow in our commitment to live according to His teachings.

Lent is often associated with the practice of abstaining from certain foods, but its significance extends beyond mere dietary restrictions. It is a spiritual journey marked by self-discipline and a deliberate distancing from anything that might hinder one's connection to God. The essence of Lent lies in surrendering aspects of our lives that hold a stronger sway over our hearts than our devotion to God. It calls individuals to identify and confront their personal vices; whether it be attachment to material possessions, certain habits, or even relationships, which may divert their focus from God. By observing this as a time of intentional detachment, Lent can become a transformative period, fostering self-awareness and humility, ultimately paving the way for spiritual renewal and growth.

As a community, we will also embark on a journey of compassion and service, being mindful of those in need, and extending our hands in generosity and love. Acts of kindness, both big and small, can make a significant impact on the lives of others and draw us closer to the heart of God. To further enrich our spiritual journey, we will be offering a Lenten study and reflection series on Wednesday evenings from February 21. This series will give us an opportunity to come together as a community, study Scripture, and explore the profound themes of repentance, forgiveness, and renewal. I encourage each of you to participate and make this Lenten season a time of deep spiritual growth.

In conclusion, let us approach this Lenten season with open hearts and minds, ready to receive the blessings and insights that God has in store for us. May our journey through Lent draw us nearer to the cross, where we find forgiveness, redemption, and the promise of new life. May we walk together, supporting and encouraging one another along the way.

In His service,
Binuachen



Bible Study – Book of Colossians: The Bible study will take place on every Wednesday from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The Bible Study provides an in-depth learning on the book of Colossians. Please plan to attend the Bible study through **Zoom**.

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 **Zoom**.

Board Meeting

There will be monthly board meeting on February 11th after the social hour.

Cottage Prayer

- **Jordan** area in-person prayer will be held on **Saturday**, February 3rd, 2024, at 7:00 PM. This prayer fellowship will be hosted at the residence of Mr. Varghese John and Mrs. Liji John.
- **Gilead** area in-person prayer will be held on **Saturday**, February 17th, 2024, at 6:30 PM. This in-person prayer fellowship will be held at the residence of Mr. Benjamin Chacko and Mrs. Ani Chacko.
- **Shalom** area prayer - No area prayer fellowship has been scheduled.

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

The Fall of creation			
February 04, 2024 8th Sunday before Easter	Old Testament	Genesis 3: 1-10	English Service
	Psalm	53	Read by
	Epistle	Romans 3: 21-26	Daniel Thomas & Family
	Gospel	Matthew 18: 23-35	
Lent: A time of reconciliation			
February 11, 2024 7th Sunday before Easter	Old Testament	Genesis 45 :1-15	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	85	Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians 2: 11-22	Sajan Itty & Family
	Gospel	John 2: 1-11	
Cross: A call to self denial			
February 14, 2024 Ash Wednesday	Old Testament	Joel 2: 12 – 20	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	32	Read by
	Epistle	Galatians 2:15-21	Board Members
	Gospel	Luke 9: 23-27	
Touching the untouchable			
February 18, 2024 1st Sunday in Lent	Old Testament	2 Kings 5: 1-10	English Service
	Psalm	10: 1-12	Read by
	Epistle	Hebrews 13: 8-17	Prem Narayan & Family
	Gospel	Matthew 8: 1-4	

February 25, 2024 2nd Sunday in Lent	Life saving Faith		
	Old Testament	2 Kings 4: 1- 7	Malayalam Service Read by Joseph P. David & Family
	Psalm	72	
	Epistle	Acts 5: 12-16	
	Gospel	Luke 5: 17-26	





BIRTHDAYS

01	Aldrin Pramod	12	Aaron Fredrick Simon B
02	Shaji Levison Moothedom	13	Annu Sara Paul
02	Rex P.R	13	Chinnu Sara Paul
02	Shino Somasundar Abraham	15	Rahul Oommen
02	Elixir Eva Abraham	15	Rohit Thomas Koshy
02	Nibu Mavila Issac	15	Enya Mini Alexander
03	Santhosh Cherian	16	Binu Sajan
03	P. J. Skariah	16	Thomas. C Joseph
05	Suvin Oommen Alexander	17	Sharon John
05	Anil Raj Daniel	18	Rohan Raj
05	Samuel James	18	Thomas Mathai
06	Pranoy Narayan	18	Braedon Robin Roy
06	Nathan Rijo Cherian	19	Mariamamma Cherian
07	Sudeep Oommen	19	Mariamamma Thomas
08	Syama Prasad	20	Philip Z. Mathai
08	Jaden Thomas Geogy	20	Rishvi Narayan
09	Noah Bobby Cherian	20	Ajo Jose Joseph
09	Reuben David Johns	22	Ajeo Mathew Cherukathara Mathew
10	Ryan John Varghese	22	Sherin George Johnson
10	Allena Minu Jithin	23	Savannah Thomas
10	Ann Alexander Philip	23	Jiby Jacob



BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 23 | Rejoys John | 26 | Asha Abraham |
| 24 | Rinu John Mathew | 26 | Christine Elma Joseph |
| 25 | Joy Chemmanoor | 28 | Anjali Ann Dominic |
| 25 | Jinu Mary Jacob | | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|----|--|
| 02 | Sajan Itty & Binu Sajan |
| 06 | Kevin Varghese Mathew & Nancy Grace Daniel |
| 09 | 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**

President	Rev. Binu Philip		
Vice-President / Rector's Warden	Mr. Zac Santhosh Koshy	Secretary / People's Warden	Mr. Abraham K Varghese
Joint Secretary / Trustee	Mr. Joby Mathew	Treasurer	Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel
Joint Treasurer / Trustee	Mr. Shijo Perumannoor John	Sunday School Director	Mrs. Beena Annet Hans Thomas
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Women's Fellowship Director	Mrs. Binssy Mathew	Youth Fellowship Director	Mr. John Cheriyan Mathew
Mission Director	Mr. Christopher Moothedom	Public Relations Director	Mr. Rijo George Cherian
Social & Recreational Director	Mr. Jacob P. John	Malayala Lokam Director	Mrs. Eva Bose