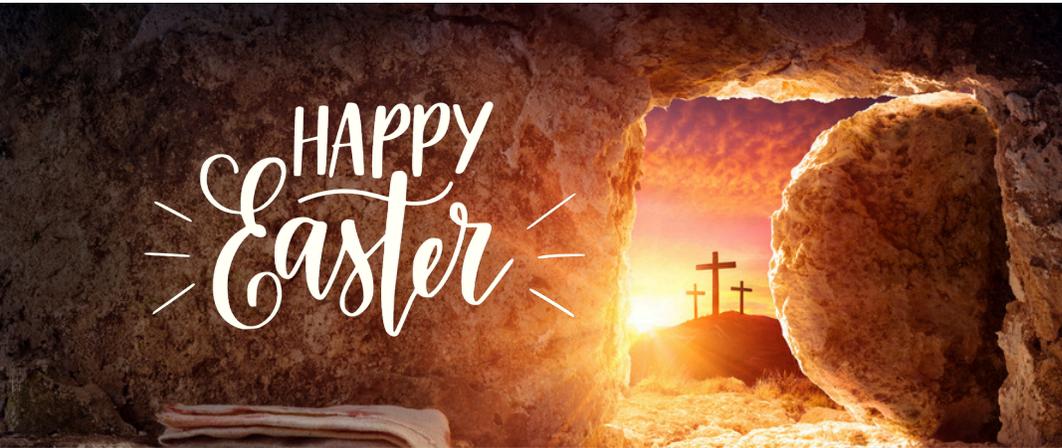


# CSI CHRIST CHURCH OF CHICAGO Parish Messenger



## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

*Malayalam service: 1st and 3rd Sundays. English service: 2nd Sunday*

*Youth and Young Adults (YAYA) Worship 4th Sunday*

*Sunday services can be attended in-person or online.*

Connect to video conferences at

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7577192513?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7577192513?pwd=VjZoSHVvSnhmceElwSmJlYm0xL0paQT09)

[pwd=VjZoSHVvSnhmceElwSmJlYm0xL0paQT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7577192513?pwd=VjZoSHVvSnhmceElwSmJlYm0xL0paQT09) Or audio only at 1 312 626 6799, Meeting ID: 757 719 2513 # #, password 5857 #

**Sun 9:15 - 9:50 AM : Sunday School**

**Sun 9:30 - 9:50 AM : Bible Study**

**Sun 10 AM - 12 NOON : Worship Service**

**Fri : 9:00 AM : Fasting Prayer**

**Sat Evenings : Cottage Prayer**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 5 - Lenten Cottage Prayer at 6pm**  
[Shaji Kurian & Sachu]

**April 12 - Lenten Cottage Prayer at 6pm**  
[Joji Philip & Deepa]

**April 13 - Palm Sunday**

**April 14 - Vesper at 6pm**  
[S Christudas & Deri]

**April 15 - Vesper at 6pm**  
[Thomas Koshy & Omana]

**April 16 - Vesper at 6pm**  
[Joe Lukose & Soma]

**April 17 - Maundy Thursday 8-9:30pm**

**April 18 - Good Friday Service at 6-9:30pm**

**April 19 - Holy Saturday Chain Prayer : 6am to 6pm**

**April 19 - Prayer At Church 6:30-7:30pm**

**April 20 - Easter Service at 10am**

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28.*

1095 E Thacker St, Des Plaines, IL-60016. PHONE : 773-234-1034





*-Rev. Joe Varghese Malayil*

### **Easter: A Celebration of Recovery and Hope**

"We had to celebrate and be glad, because... he was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

Luke 15:32

Easter is a time of immense joy, a time to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. But beyond the celebration, Easter also invites us to reflect deeply on something personal: the recovery of Jesus when we feel we have lost Him.

We live in a time when many feel disconnected from God, a time where the presence and love of Jesus seem distant. The world, in many ways, is losing its connection with God. On the first Easter morning, Mary Magdalene's words, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him" (John 20:2), reflect a deep sorrow that many of us also experience. Her words, spoken at the empty tomb, echo a question that lingers in our hearts: "Where is my Lord? How did I lose Him?"

There are times in our lives when we feel that absence, when we long for His presence but feel lost or disconnected. In these moments, Easter speaks to us not just about resurrection but also about recovery—the recovery of Jesus in our hearts, even when we feel we have lost Him.

The world today seems to be in a similar state of loss. There is a growing sense of distance from God. Yet, the message of Easter is not only about loss—it is about retrieval. The resurrection reminds us that even when we think we've lost Jesus, He is always there, waiting to be found again. Even Jesus' closest followers experienced moments of loss. We see this in many examples in the Bible. Judas betrayed Him for thirty pieces of silver and a kiss of deception. Peter, despite his deep love for Jesus, denied Him three times. The Jewish leaders handed Jesus over to be crucified, and Pilate, knowing the truth, washed his hands of responsibility. Even Mary, the mother of Jesus, experienced a moment of loss.

When Jesus was 12 years old, she and Joseph searched for Him, only to find Him after three days in the temple. Mary Magdalene also realized about the loss of Jesus's body on the third day of his crucifixion. The names and days were same, what a coincidence.

The story of these losses is not just a part of history; it reflects the human experience. Whether through betrayal, fear, or misunderstanding, all of us have moments where we feel that we have lost Jesus. But what we learn from Easter is that Jesus is not lost forever. Just as Mary Magdalene found Him alive, so too can we find Him again.

Easter is a celebration of recovery. It reminds us that no matter how far we have drifted, Jesus is always waiting to be found. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples in their despair, in their locked rooms, and even on the road to Emmaus. He came to them in their hopelessness and gave them hope. He showed them that no matter how far we fall, we can always find Him again.

The resurrection of Jesus offers us the ultimate promise: "I will be with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). This promise transformed the lives of the disciples. They went from fear and despair to courage and hope. They became bold witnesses of the resurrection, willing to face any hardship because they knew they would never lose Jesus again. This transformation is the essence of Easter. It is the hope that no matter how far we fall, we can always rise again in Christ. Easter calls us to embrace the joy of finding Jesus once again in our lives.

This Easter, let us take a moment to reflect on our own hearts. Have we lost Jesus in the busyness of life, in our struggles, or in our doubts? Let us allow the light of the resurrection to shine into the darkness of our hearts and bring us back to Him. Like the father of the prodigal son, God waits with open arms to welcome us back, no matter how far we have strayed.

Let us celebrate Easter not just as a historical event but as a living reality in our lives. As we recover Jesus in our hearts, we too can experience the transformation that comes with His resurrection. This Easter, may we all find Jesus anew, and may it become a blessed and joyful celebration of His love and grace.

## Special Announcements

As we celebrate Easter, we also want to take a moment to acknowledge and congratulate the newly joined members of our Choir: Elijah Chacko, Elisha Chacko, Nathan Chacko, Sarah Philip, and Shawn Philip. May God bless each of you, and may your voices continue to bring praise and glory to God in this blessed season!

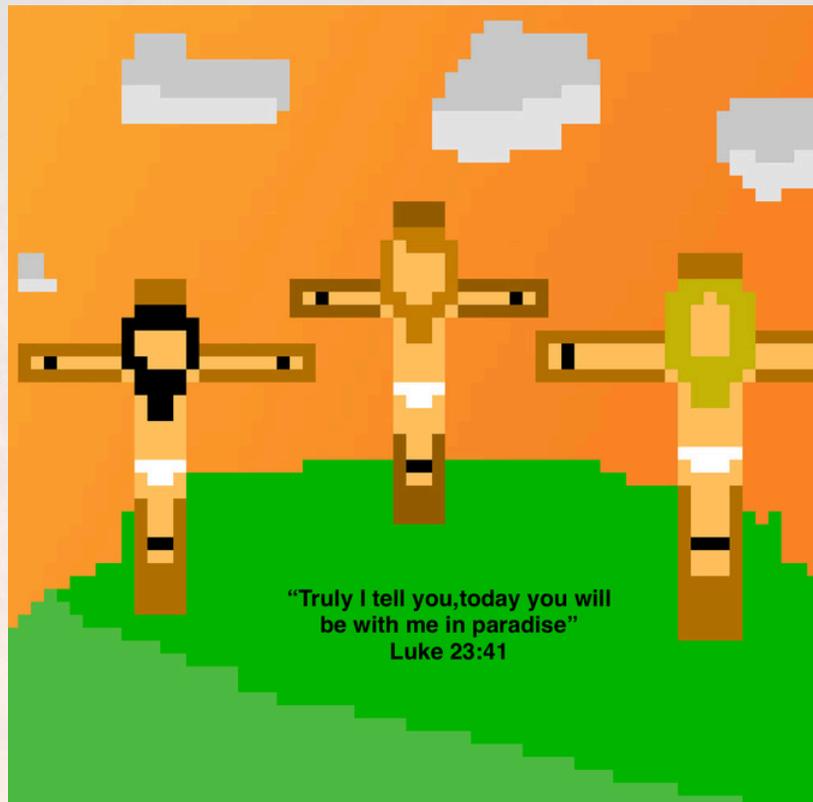
Additionally, our Lenten season was rich and meaningful. On March 1, we were blessed with a special Lenten meditation led by Rev. Praveen Achen. We also had the opportunity to join St. Martin's Church for a combined worship service on Ash Wednesday. The message delivered by Aby Mathew Thomas Tharakan Achen was a source of inspiration and reflection. On March 9, we joyfully observed International Women's Sunday. Our Women Fellowship members participated wholeheartedly, and Dr. Shiji Alex delivered a powerful message that reminded us of the strength and grace of women in our faith community.

May this Easter season fill each of us with renewed hope, joy, and faith as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and the recovery of His presence in our lives. Happy Easter to all!

Joe Achen  
Vicar, CSI Christ Church, Chicago



## *Path to Heaven (By Nathan Chacko)*



In the Bible, it says that Jesus was crucified on the cross with two criminals, one on each side. One of the criminals next to Him insulted Him and questioned Jesus and His ways. But the other criminal tried to stop him. He asked the first criminal if he was afraid of God or if he just thought of Him as a random guy with superpowers.

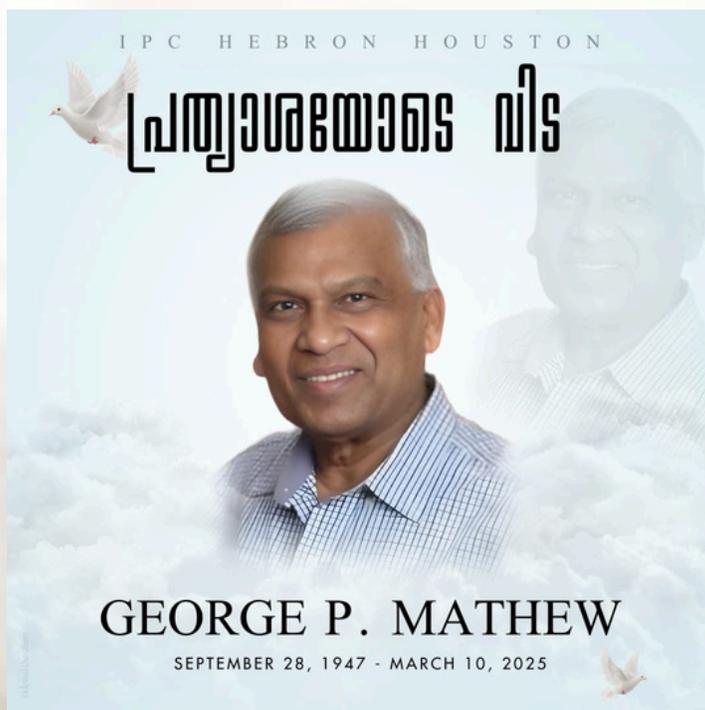
Because of this, Jesus saw the kindness and love in his heart and said, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." This means that if you fear God and ask for His forgiveness, you will go to heaven. You have to truly believe in God to find a path to heaven.



## Obituary

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*

*Deepest Condolences to the bereaved families, Kindly uphold them in your prayers.*



George P Mathew, brother of Marykutty Thomas and uncle of Manoj Thomas and Benjamin Mathew was taken into His heavenly abode on March 10,2025 in Houston, Texas.

# LECTIONARY & DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

**April 6, 2025, Sunday (Holy Eucharist -Malayalam)**

**2nd Sunday before Easter 5th Sunday in Lent -Passion Sunday**

**Theme: Cross and a New Paradigm to Discipleship**

OT Gen.26:12-33 Sahaja Koshy

Psalm 92 - Hannah Philip

Epistle 2 Cor.11:21-31 - -Ben Mathew

Gospel Mark 10:46-52 Presbyter

Kiss of Peace & Elements - Richard David & Anney George

Offertory Mathew Varghese & Jasmine George

**April 13, 2025, Sunday (Holy Eucharist -English)**

**Palm Sunday**

**Hosanna: Lord Save Us**

OT Zech. 9:1-12 Philip Chacko (Roy)

Psalm 118:19-29 Ethan Karottu

Epistle 1 Tim. 4:6-16 Rakesh Jacob

Gospel Luke 19:29-40 Presbyter

Kiss of Peace & Elements Jerin Koshy & Harmony Koshy

Offertory Jasmine George & Mariamma Koshy

**April 17, 2025, Thursday (Holy Eucharist -Malayalam)**

**Maundy Thursday**

**Eucharist: Communion of Suffering Humanity**

OT Ex. 12:1-7 Ommana Koshy

Psalm 116 Meljo Varghese

Epistle 1 Cor. 11:23-34 Mariamma Karottu

Gospel Mark 14:17-25 Presbyter

Kiss of Peace & Elements Sujith Kurian & Jincy Kurian

Offertory Sam C James & Sabreena James

**April 18, 2025, Friday (Malayalam)**

**Good Friday Cross: Accomplishment of Salvation**

OT Ex. 14:15-22 Ben Kurien

Psalm 22 Nathan Chacko

Epistle Heb. 13: 8-17 Mathew Karottu

Gospel John 19:23-30 Presbyter

Kiss of Peace & Elements- Soma Lukose & Joe Lukose

Offertory- Jeena Jacob & George Jacob

# **LECTIONARY & DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS**

**April 19, 2025, Saturday Holy Saturday**

**Hope for the New Life**

OT Daniel 12:1-4

Psalm 4

Epistle 1 Peter 4:12-19

Gospel John 19:38-42 Presbyter

Kiss of Peace & Elements

Offertory

**April 20, 2025, Sunday (Holy Eucharist -Malayalam)**

**Easter**

**Resurrection: Celebrating Boundless Transformation**

OT 2 Sam 22:1-20 Shaji Kurian

Psalm 16 Shiloh Philip

Epistle 1 Cor. 15:20-28 Sheela Thomas

Gospel Mark 16:1-11 Presbyter

Kiss of Peace & Elements -Vinod Winston & Premjit William

Offertory- Annie George & George David

**April 27, 2025, Sunday (Holy Eucharist -English)- YAYA Sunday**

**1st Sunday after Easter**

**Empowered by the Risen Lord**

OT Gen. 28:10-22 Ben Lukose

Psalm 29 Shiloh Philip

Epistle Acts 20:7-12 Alex Karottu

Gospel John 20:11-18 Presbyter

Kiss of Peace & Elements- Rintu and Nikki Philip

Offertory- Bino and Betsy Oommen



## APRIL CELEBRATIONS



- 2 Benjamin Mathew (Ben)
- 8 Philip Chacko (Roy)
- 9 Jasmine George
- 11 Mariamma Koshy
- 11 Shaji Kurian
- 13 Sheela Thomas
- 14 Shiloh Philips
- 16 Premjit William (Eby)
- 16 Marina Winston
- 18 Anney George
- 19 Nithin Winston
- 20 Vinod Winston
- 24 Abigail Rachel Pati
- 25 Vinod Isaac
- 27 Boban Babu
- 28 Rajan Mathew
- 29 George Jacob (Sajan)
- 29 Edwin Meresh

"I've depended on you from birth—you cut the cord when I came from my mother's womb. My praise is always about you. I've become an example to many people because you are my strong refuge. My mouth is filled with your praise, glorifying you all day long."

PSALM 71:6-8

*May God's blessing be on each and everyone of you !!!*

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Mathew Varghese & Jasmine George
- 3 Richard David & Anney George
- 12 Jerin Mathew Koshy & Harmony Koshy
- 18 Joy T. C. & Teena Livingstone
- 20 Rajan Mathew & Elizabeth Mathew
- 23 Thomas Philip & Aleyamma Philip
- 24 Thomas Koshy & Omana Thomas
- 25 Dennis Chacko & Susan Chacko
- 26 Sunil John & Sayona John

*Those who remain in Love,  
remain in God and God remains  
in them.*

John4:16

*Happy Anniversary*



# **CSI CHRIST CHURCH OF CHICAGO**

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 2025**

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*CSI Christ Church of Chicago*  
Schedule Of Events Of The Year 2025

<b>DATES</b>	<b>EVENTS</b>
Jan. 19	Annual General Body meeting/Installation of the Office Bearers for 2025
Feb 9	Healing Ministry Sunday
Feb 23	Dedication of new choir members
Mar 1	Lenten Retreat 10 am-12 pm
Mar 5	Ash Wednesday – Service at 6:30 PM
Mar 8	Ecumenical Council World Day of Prayer
Mar 9	International Women’s Sunday
April 13	Palm Sunday
April 14-16	Vespers
April 17	Maundy Thursday - Holy Communion Service at 8:00PM-9:30 PM
April 18	Good Friday - Service 6:00PM-9:30 PM
April 19	Women’s Fellowship Chain Prayer & Evening Prayer at Church 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM
April 20	Easter Sunday
May 11	Mother’s Day
May 17	Choir retreat- 10 am to 1pm
June 7	Chicago Ecumenical Council Family Night
June 7/14	Youth Gathering at Parsonage
June 20-22	Weekend Family Retreat
June 15	Father’s Day
July 4,5,6	CSI North American Youth Conference
July 19	Church picnic
July 25,26,27	VBS
Aug 3,10	Back to school Prayer
Aug 24	Harvest Festival
Sept 7	Women’s Sunday
Sept 28	CSI Day
Oct 19	Choir Sunday
Oct 24-25	Annual convention 6pm-9pm
	Ecumenical Council Convention
Nov 2	World Sunday School Day
Nov 23	GB for the Election of Executive Committee members for 2025
Nov 28, 29, 30	Christmas Carol Rounds
Dec 6, 7,13,21	Christmas Carol Rounds
Dec 6	Ecumenical Council Christmas Celebration
Dec 14/20	Choir Lessons & Carols
Dec 14/20	CSI Unity Carol Service -5:30pm
Dec 21	Carol rounding after service
Dec 25	Christmas / Sunday School Christmas Program
Dec 31	Watch night service
Jan 18, 2026	Annual General Body meeting

# MARCH MEMORIES

## Lenten Retreat



## Ash Wednesday Service



# MARCH MEMORIES

## International Womens Day



## Golden Age Fellowship Movie Day



# MARCH MEMORIES

## YAYA Gathering



## 1st Praise and Worship



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Lenten Meditations

**CSI CHRIST CHURCH**

March 5 - Ash Wednesday 6.30pm( Combined Service)

March 15- Lenten Cottage Prayer 6.pm [ Vinod Skariah& Thushara]

March 22- Lenten Cottage Prayer 6.pm [ Ben Kurian & Sudha]

March 29- Lenten Cottage Prayer 6.pm [ Abraham Joseph( Abuji)&Sheela]

April 5- Lenten Cottage Prayer 6.pm [ Shaji Kurian & Sachu]

April 12- Lenten Cottage Prayer 6.pm [Joji Ph ilip& Deepa]

April - 13 - Palm Sunday

April - 14 - Vesper 6.pm [ S Christudas & Deri]

April - 15 - Vesper 6.pm [ Thomas Koshy & Omana]

April - 16 - Vesper 6.pm [ Joe Lukose & Soma]

April -17- Maundy Thursday.

April - 18- Good Friday 6.30.pm

April -19- Holy Saturday Chain Prayer: 6.am to 6.pm

April -19- 'PrayerAtChurch- 6.30.pm- 7.30

April 20- Easter 10.am



**Let's Learn Malayalam**

**Starts April 29, 2025**  
**Tuesdays Alternate weeks**  
**7:00 PM to 8:00 PM**  
**@ St Martin's Episcopal Church**  
**Des plaines , IL**  
**Register with Ben Kurien or**  
**Sheela Thomas**

Produced by Language of Coconut Groves

Announcing the Launch of...  
a 2025 Combined Youth and Sunday  
School Project!



Sponsor a Child  
Small Changes Make a Big Difference - Donate a Dollar a  
Week!



## TITHE SUNDAY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH (APRIL 6TH)

**2 Corinthians 9:7** Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.



## Summer WeekEnd Family Retreat

June 20-22

- ❖ There are still four more rooms available. If still interested in joining the retreat, please contact the secretary Sudha Kurien.



## Eastertide Movie Time! Sunday School Field Trip

A father tells his son the greatest story ever told and a vivid imagination of this boy walking alongside Jesus...

Bring family and friends

When: Saturday April 12th at 1:30pm  
Where: Woodfield Mall

Details and Sign up sheet posted in  
Whatsapp





<b>February</b>			
<b>Monthly Accounts</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Feb</b>	
Subscription	\$8,150.00		
Offertory	\$1,045.00		
Thanks Offering	\$856.00		
Tithe	\$350.00		
Special Donation	\$93.43		
St. Martin's rent		\$2,201.00	
Church Supplies/Communion Elements		\$281.00	
Car Insurance		\$353.25	
Church Car Maintenance		\$20.00	
Church Maintenance/Emergency Repair			
Church Cleaning, Land scape, Snow removal		\$170.00	
CUilities:ComEd		\$65.62	
CUilities :Peoples Energy		\$228.00	
CUilities :Church/Parsonage Insurance		\$1,522.04	
CUilities :Church Water			
CUilities :Church garbage			
Parsonage-Mortgage+Principal Pay			
PUilities :ComEd		\$119.84	
PUilities :Nicor		\$148.00	
PUilities :Clean/Maint			
PUilities :Internet		\$65.48	
PUilities :Phone, cell		\$153.63	
PUilities :Water			
Presbyter's Honorarium		\$2,200.00	
Presbyter healthcare			
Hospitality/Refreshments/ Food for sp.events	\$175.00		
Mission/Charity	\$725.00	\$1,500.00	
Women's Fellowship	\$125.00		
Mens Fellowship	\$75.00	\$190.00	
Sunday School	\$275.00	\$32.98	
Choir			
Visiting Pastor			
Presbyter /Visiting Pastors Christmas gift(5)			
Visa Processing-W2/W3		\$6.29	
Miscellaneous		\$86.09	
Carol Rounds			
Family Retreat	\$1,200.00		
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$13,069.43</b>	<b>\$9,343.22</b>	
<b>Ledger Summary</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>Reserve</b>	<b>Building Fund</b>
Opening balance at the beginning of the month	\$10,489.94	\$6,068.00	\$798.56
Add Income "in month"	\$13,069.43		
Move building fund donations to building fund			
Less (Expenses) "in month"	\$9,343.22		
Closing Ledger balance end of the month	<b>\$14,216.15</b>	<b>\$6,068.00</b>	<b>\$798.56</b>