

CSI CHRIST CHURCH OF CHICAGO

Parish Messenger

CELEBRATING MOTHERHOOD: A SACRIFICIAL LOVE



Honor her for all that
her hands have done,
and let her works
bring her praise at the
city gate.

PROVERBS 31:31

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=VjZoSHVvSnhmclwSmJIYm0xL0paQT09)

**[pwd=VjZoSHVvSnhmclwSmJIYm0xL0paQT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7577192513?pwd=VjZoSHVvSnhmclwSmJIYm0xL0paQT09) 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

May 10th, Sat
Men's Fellowship Retreat at
Church from 10 am - 1 pm

May 11th, Sun
Mothers Day

*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

Clouds, Crowns, and Care: The Ascended Christ and the Love of Mothers

As we continue to experience the joy of the Easter season, we are invited to reflect on one of the most significant yet often overlooked events in the life of Jesus Christ—His Ascension into heaven. Occurring forty days after His resurrection, the Ascension is not just a farewell—it is a divine milestone. It marks the completion of Jesus' earthly mission and the beginning of ours.

This year, the month of May brings us a beautiful convergence of two meaningful celebrations: the Ascension of our Lord and Mother's Day. Here at Christ Church of Chicago, we observe Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May—a moment to honor and uplift the women who have shaped our lives with love, strength, and sacrifice. As we reflect on the Ascension, we also give thanks for the faithful witness of mothers who, like Jesus, have journeyed through life giving of themselves for others.

1. The Fulfillment of God's Plan

In Acts 1:9, we read that Jesus "was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight." This moment signals that Christ's earthly mission was complete. From His birth to His resurrection, Jesus fulfilled the will of the Father. The Ascension is not a departure of absence but a declaration of victory—He has defeated sin and death, and our redemption is secure.

For our church, this season also marks a spiritual milestone. We were blessed to walk together through 40 days of Lent with meaningful cottage prayers and a moving Holy Week, culminating in the vespers and Easter joy. Thank you to all who participated so faithfully. Our shared prayers, songs, and reflections deepened our faith and unity as a community. The Ascension reminds us that such journeys are not the end, but preparation for the mission that lies ahead.

2. The Promise of His Return and the Power of Hope

As Jesus ascended, He didn't leave us with sorrow. He left us with a blessing and a promise. "This same Jesus... will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). His return is our living hope. As we face the uncertainties of life, we do so with the assurance that Christ will return to restore all things.

This hope is something many mothers embody every day. Whether in times of joy or struggle, their love remains steadfast, grounded in faith and patient hope for their children and families. Their resilience reflects the very nature of God's promises—constant, nurturing, and ever faithful.

3. Empowered for Mission: The Role of the Church and Mothers

The Ascension also signals a new chapter for the Church. Though Jesus ascended, He did not leave us powerless. He promised the gift of the Holy Spirit, which we joyfully anticipate on Pentecost. This Spirit empowers each of us to carry on Christ's mission—to bring healing, hope, and love into a world that desperately needs it.

In this calling, we see the sacred role of mothers and women of faith. Their everyday acts of love, wisdom, and strength are living testimonies of the Spirit's work. They are the first teachers of faith to many of us, often sowing the seeds of prayer and devotion into our hearts. On this Mother's Day, let us honor not only our biological mothers but also spiritual mothers—Sunday school teachers, mentors, and elders—who have shaped our walk with God.

Living Between the Cloud and the Promise

The Ascension reminds us that we live in the in-between: between Christ's departure and His promised return. Yet we are not alone. We are a people filled with the Holy Spirit, called to reflect Christ's love in our homes, workplaces, and community.

May this season restore in us a desire to live as witnesses—bold in faith, rooted in hope, and active in love. And may we especially give thanks for the mothers and women among us who mirror God's tender care through their faithful lives.

As we move forward, may the joy of Easter, the promise of the Ascension, and the love celebrated on Mother's Day guide us to be a church that lives the Gospel with courage and compassion. Christ has ascended—but His work continues through us. Let us rise with Him.

With Hope and Peace,
Joe Achen.

The Power of a Mother's Prayer

By Sudha Kurien



What prayer do you remember most from your mother? How did your mom's prayer impact your life?

Prayer is a powerful force for good. The strength of prayer brings comfort, hope, and healing. Mothers are praying warriors. They know there isn't a problem, issue or situation that God can't handle. Where would we be without our mothers' prayers? Mothers pray before their children are born, during their childhood years and continue praying until the Lord calls them home. I am convinced that no one knows more about the power of prayer than mothers.

My mom Mariakutty is a true prayer warrior. She prays for her family, friends, and anyone who needs prayer for healing and comfort. Her ministry is mostly through the phone where she calls and prays with them anywhere in the world. Her prayers have an indelible impact on people in their faith journey. My mother's prayers shaped me in more ways than I will ever know.

The lyrics to "A Mother's Prayer" sung by Celine Dion powerfully express the heart of a mother:

*I pray you'll be my eyes
And watch her where she goes
And help her to be wise
Help me to let go
Every mother's prayer*

Every child knows

Lead her to a place

*Guide her with your grace
To a place where she'll be safe*

*I pray she finds your light
And holds it in her heart
As darkness falls each night
Remind her where you are
Every mother's prayer*

Every child knows

Need to find a place

*Guide her with your grace
Give her faith so she'll be safe*

Lead her to a place

*Guide her with your grace
To a place where she'll be safe*

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!





Art by Nathan Chacko

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

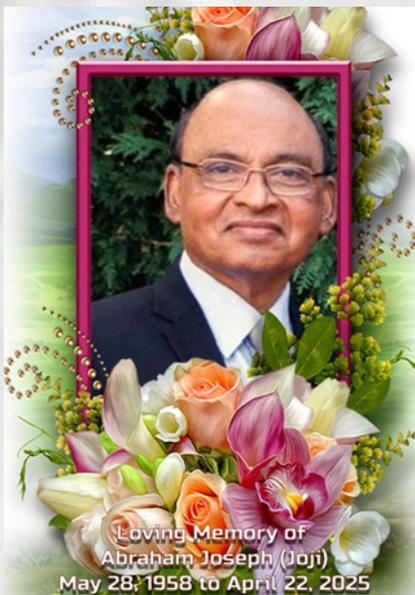
Deepest Condolences to the bereaved families, Kindly uphold them in your prayers.



Mrs. Annamma George (Gracy) 82 years old, elder sister of Thomas Koshy uncle went into his Heavenly abode Thursday, Apr 10th



Mr. Austin Nayagam, Father in law of Danny Thomas and father of Jane Thomas was taken into his Heavenly abode on Saturday, Apr 12th



Mr. Abraham Joseph (Joji), 66, was taken into Heavenly abode on Tuesday, Apr 22nd.

APRIL MEMORIES

Sunday School Movie Day



Palm Sunday



Maundy Thursday



Good Friday



APRIL MEMORIES

Easter Egg Hunt



Easter Day Service



APRIL MEMORIES

YAYA Praise and Worship





LECTIONARY & DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

May 4, 2025, Sunday (Holy Eucharist -Malayalam)

2nd Sunday after Easter

Theme: Re-reading the Scripture with the Risen Lord

OT 2 Chron. 34:29-33 Sisy P Joy

Psalm 19:7-14 Jason Joseph

Epistle Acts 8:26-40 Ushus Karottu

Gospel Luke 24:13-27 Presbyter

Kiss of Peace & Elements - Joseph Subra & Usha Joseph

Offertory-Jaden Karottu and Ethan Karottu

May 11, 2025, Sunday (Holy Eucharist -English)

Mother's Day

Theme: A Mother's Heart: Reflections on Humility and Sacrificial Love

Worship led by Women's Fellowship

OT Proverbs 31:25-28-Women's Fellowship

Psalm 113-Women's Fellowship

Epistle Ephesians 6:1-3-Women's Fellowship

Gospel Luke 1:46-55 Presbyter

Kiss of Peace & Elements-Women's Fellowship

Offertory-Women's Fellowship

May 18, 2025, Sunday (Holy Eucharist -Malayalam)

4th Sunday after Easter

Theme: Believing in Christ: The Truth

OT Ex. 34:1-9 Thushara Tharakan

Psalm 119:89-96 Rebecca Williams

Epistle Eph. 4:7-16 Sahaja Koshy

Gospel John 17:6-19 Presbyter

Kiss of Peace & Elements Babu K George & Molly Babu

Offertory-Biju Kurien and Bibi John

May 25, 2025, Sunday (Holy Eucharist -English)- YAYA Sunday

5th Sunday after Easter

Theme: Mission with Christ's Spirit

Worship led by Youth & Young Adults Fellowship

OT 2 King.2:9-16

Psalm 105:1-11

Epistle Acts 7:54-60

Gospel Matt. 28:16-20 Presbyter

Kiss of Peace & Elements

Offertory

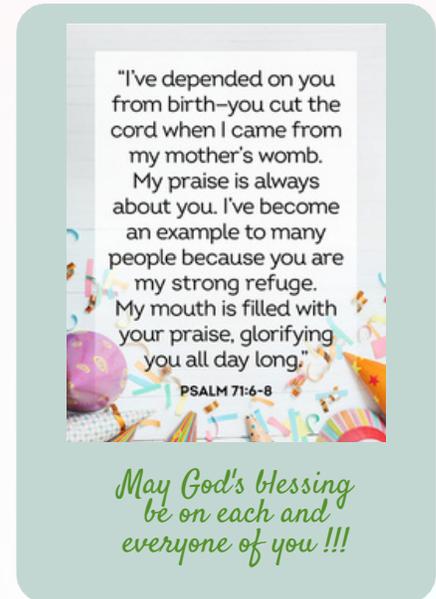
MAY CELEBRATIONS



Birthdays



- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Samuel George Pati | 16 Ethan Hunt |
| 1 Sisy P Joy | 16 Vinod David Thomas |
| 1 Ushas Karottu | 17 Sahaja Koshy |
| 2 Jason Joseph | 18 Rebecca Alexander |
| 3 Geoffrey Hunt | 19 Seena K Mathew |
| 5 Mathew Karottu | 20 Saramma John Karottu |
| 5 Han Joseph | 22 Jincy Kurian |
| 5 Rebecca Williams | 23 Nityan Joy (Binoy) |
| 5 Joseph O.S. (Sunny) | 23 Jijo Varghese |
| 7 Nikki Mathew | 25 Anitha Vinod |
| 8 Vinod Skariah | 26 Mammen K John |
| 8 Lilia Williams | 27 Leah George |
| 9 Nelly Kurian | 28 Bini William |
| 11 Nikki Philip | 28 Annamma Chacko |
| 12 Thushara Vinod | 30 Allen Manoj Thomas |
| 15 Molley Babu | 30 Bindu Meresh |
| 15 Aby Z Thomas | 30 Joy T.C. |
| 15 Joel Joseph | 30 Usha Joseph |
| | 31 Harmony Koshy |



Anniversaries

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

John4:16

Happy Anniversary

- 8 Suresh K & Anitha Suresh
- 11 Babu K George & Molley Babu
- 21 Sijoe Mathew & Jasmin Mathew
- 25 Manohar Sigamony & Usha Sigamony
- 30 Manoj V Thomas & Sisy P Joy



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***

DATES	EVENTS
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 6:00 PM-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
June 7	Chicago Ecumenical Council Family Night
June 7/14	Youth Gathering at Parsonage
June 15	Father's Day
June 20-22	Weekend Family Retreat
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



CSI Christ Church of Chicago March 2025 Accounts			
Category	INCOME	EXPENSE	
Subscription	\$5,630.80		
Offertory	\$1,580.00		
Thanks Offering	\$1,625.00		
Tithe	\$1,370.00		
Special Donation	\$516.75	\$577.20	
St. Martin's rent		\$2,200.00	
Church Supplies/Communion Elements			
Car Insurance			
Church Car Maintenance		\$20.00	
Church Maintenance/Emergency Repair			
Church Cleaning, Land scape, Snow removal		\$190.00	
Ch:ComEd		\$53.67	
Ch:Peoples Energy		\$279.00	
Ch:Psng Insurance			
Ch:Water		\$11.92	
Ch:garbage			
Psng:ComEd		\$102.97	
Psng:Nicor		\$176.18	
Psng:Clean/Maint		\$122.00	
Psng:Internet		\$65.48	
Psng:Phone,cell		\$153.63	
Psng:Water		\$157.80	
Presbyter's Honorarium		\$2,200.00	
Presbyter healthcare			
Hospitality/Refreshments		\$170.00	
Mission/Charity	\$1,295.00	\$1,475.00	
Women's Fellowship	\$200.00		
Mens Fellowship	\$125.00		
Sunday School	\$152.00	\$139.67	
Youth		\$142.00	
Choir			
Visiting Pastor		\$400.00	
Presbyter gift/Visiting Pastors			
Legal/Visa Processing-W2/W3		\$100.00	
Miscellaneous			
Carol Rounds			
Family Retreat	\$400.00	\$2,874.00	
Building Fund	\$200.00		
Sub Total	\$13,094.55	\$11,610.52	
Ledger Summary	General	Reserve	Building Fund
Opening balance at the beginning of the month	\$14,216.15	\$6,068.00	\$798.56
Add Income "in month"	\$13,094.55		
Move building fund donations to building fund	-\$200.00		\$200.00
Less (Expenses) "in month"	\$11,610.52		
Closing Ledger balance end of the month	\$15,500.18	\$6,068.00	\$998.56

ANNOUNCEMENTS



JULY 10-13TH | HOUSTON | SONESTA HOTEL IAH AIRPORT

ILLUMINATION IN A CHALLENGING ERA

-MATTHEW 5:14-16

CSI YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE
2025

Council of CSI Congregation of Northern America | 425 N Sam Houston Pkwy E, Houston, TX 77060

Register Now



2025 NORTH AMERICAN CSI YAYA REGISTRATION

Pricing/Deadlines

Early Registration: \$230
until March 21st, 2025

Regular Registration: \$255
until May 9th, 2025

Late Registration: \$275
after May 9th, 2025

Questions? Contact:

(Conveners)
Benji Mathew: 832-279-2209 & Sachin Jacob: 516-302-7869

(National Youth Secretary)
Abhi Davidson: 832-407-1015

CHECKS MAY BE SENT TO:
DANIEL CHERIAN
11413 LAKE LUCAYA DR, RIVERVIEW, FL 33579

MADE OUT TO:
THE COUNCIL OF CSI CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA
MEMO: YAYA CONF REGISTRATION

VENMO: @CSI-COUNCIL

ZELLE:
TREASURER@CSICOUNCIL.ORG

FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

TITHE SUNDAY

For God loves a Cheerful giver.
- 2 Corinthians 9:7



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



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP RETREAT

May -10
10.00 AM - 1.00 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Weekend Family Retreat
June 20-22 (Fri-Sat-Sun)
Cedar Lakes Retreat Center
Cedar Lakes, IN

Theme: Christ-Centered Homes in a Cyber World

Participants & Cost

Attendees: 57 adults (12 years & older); 8 children (4-11 years) & 5 children (3 years or below)- total 70!

Registration fee (all three days) : \$210 per adult & \$175 per child (4-11 years), FREE for children 3 years or below

Some of the families have paid the \$100.00 for securing their registration

Registration Payment

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- The registration fee is due by **Sunday May 18th**.
 - Please submit your payment to Treasurer Thushara Tharakan by cash or check OR directly send via Zelle to csichristchurchofchicago@gmail.com
 - We are looking at offering the option of attending the retreat without lodging-Saturday only and Sunday only options - details to follow

Rideshare & Communication

A 15 passenger van is arranged for rideshare at additional cost -Please contact Joe Achen or Soma Lukose if interested

The Retreat Coordinators are: Babu K George, Sujith Kurian, & Meljo Varghese

For any questions regarding the retreat -please contact the retreat coordinators or Sudha Kurien/Soma Lukose/Thushara Tharakan via call or text or through whatsapp

A Whatsapp group will be created closer to the event for communication and sharing information