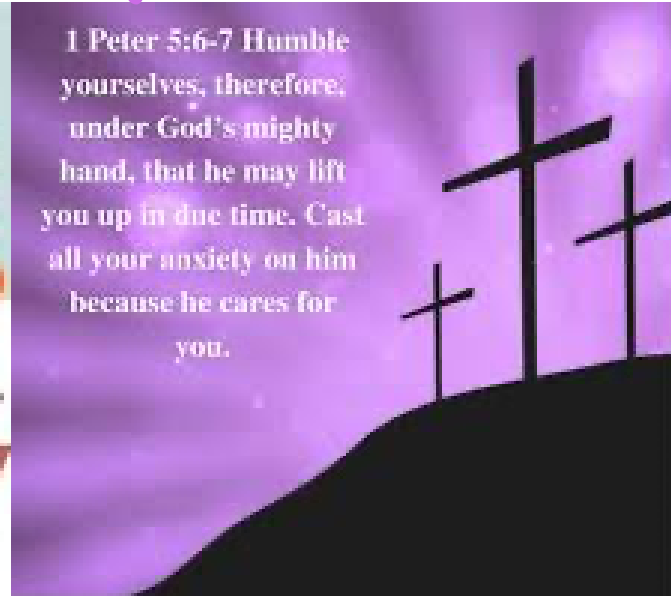


CSI CHRIST CHURCH OF CHICAGO

Parish Messenger



INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY



1 Peter 5:6-7 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

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.

[Zoom Link](#)

pwd=VjZoSHVvSnhmcElwSmJIYm0xL0paQT09 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

Be still, and know that I am God. Psalms 46:10a.

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





-Rev. Joe Varghese Malayil

Cross and Suffering **Luke 22:39-44**

Lent is often called a spiritual springtime (Lenten-Lencten- Spring time)- a season when what is hidden beneath the soil begins to stir, break, and rise toward new life. Yet every spring begins in the dark earth. So it was for our Lord on the night He entered Gethsemane.

St. Luke tells us that Jesus went, as was His routine, to the Gethsemane at Mount of Olives.

Gethsemane means "oil press." There, olives were crushed so that oil might flow. In that garden, the true Anointed One was pressed. Not yet on Golgotha, not yet upon the Cross, but here-on His knees-our Savior entered the deepest anguish of His Passion.

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me;..."

At Calvary we see His wounds on his body; in Gethsemane we see the wounds on His heart. On the Cross we hear His cries; in the garden we witness His surrender. Luke even tells us that "His sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground." The crushing had begun.

Jesus knew what awaited Him: betrayal, humiliation, nakedness, abandonment. The crowd that once cried "Hosanna" had thinned. From many followers to twelve, from twelve to three, and soon-even those three would sleep. The Son of God stood at the threshold of utter loneliness. The first Adam hid behind leaves; the New Adam would be stripped of even that comfort. He would bear the sin and curse of the world, drinking the bitter cup for our salvation.

!And yet, Gethsemane is not only a place of agony-it is the birthplace of courage.

After that prayer, something changes. The trembling gives way to resolve. The sorrow becomes strength. When soldiers arrive, Jesus steps forward. The One who knelt now stands. The One who wept now walks with royal freedom. What happened? He entrusted His will to the Father.

Lent invites us into our own Gethsemane. We too know seasons of crushing--illness, loss, betrayal, financial strain, family burdens, hidden temptations. We may feel the crowd growing smaller around us. There are pains we cannot fully share, tears no one else sees.

But the garden teaches us this: suffering surrendered becomes strength. When we dare to pray, "...yet not my will, but yours be done" heaven meets us in our anguish. God may not remove the cup-but He will send His angel. He may not spare us the cross-but He will fill us with courage to carry it.

The oil that flows from crushed olives gives light and healing. So too, the soul pressed in prayer begins to shine with Christ's own life.

This Lenten season, do not run from your Gethsemane. Kneel in it. Pray through it. Trust in it. For beyond the crushing lies resurrection, and beyond every faithful "Yes" waits the dawn of Easter.

Wishing you a blessed Spiritual Spring Season(Lencten).

Joe Achen

FEBRUARY MEMORIES

Healing Sunday



Ash Wednesday Service





LECTIONARY & DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

March 1, 2026, 5th Sunday before Easter/2nd Sunday in Lent (Holy Eucharist- Malayalam) Theme: Call to Shoulder Each Other's Burdens

Old Testament	2 Samuel 9:1–13	Ben Kurien
Psalm	Psalm 41	Rían Varghese
New Testament/Epistle	Galatians 6:1–10	Shaji Kurian
Gospel	Mark 2:1–12	Presbyter
Kiss of Peace/Elements		Bino & Betsy Oommen
Offertory		Aiden Kurian & Ethan Chacko

March 8, 2026, 4th Sunday before Easter/3rd Sunday in Lent (Holy Eucharist- English) Theme: "Give to Gain" (International Women's Sunday)

Old Testament	Genesis 29: 16-35	Women's Fellowship
Psalm	Psalm 116	Women's Fellowship
New Testament/Epistle	Acts 5: 7-11	Women's Fellowship
Gospel	John 15:1-6	Presbyter
Kiss of Peace/Elements		Women's Fellowship
Offertory		Women's Fellowship



LECTIONARY & DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

**March 15, 2026, 3rd Sunday before Easter/4th Sunday in Lent
(Holy Eucharist-Malayalam)**

Theme: Call to be Liberative

Old Testament	Isaiah 1:12–17	Shiny Joy
Psalm	Psalm 107: 1-20	Glen Joy
New Testament/Epistle	1 Tim. 2: 1-7	Deri Christudas
Gospel	Mark 2: 13-17	Presbyter
Kiss of Peace/Elements		Eipe & Achamma Lee
Offertory		Joshua & Jonathan Kurien

**March 22, 2026, 2nd Sunday before Easter/(5th Sunday in Lent)/Passion Sunday
(Holy Eucharist in English)**

Theme: Cross: Manifestation of Grace

Old Testament	Micah 7:15–20	Sachu Kurian
Psalm	Psalm: 31	Allen Thomas
New Testament/Epistle	1 Peter 2:17–24	Nibu Philips
Gospel	Mark 10:46–52	Presbyter
Kiss of Peace/Elements		Sudha Kurien & Jain George
Offertory		Babu K. George & S. Christudas

March 29, 2026, Palm Sunday (Holy Eucharist in English)

Theme: Let the King of Peace Enter (YAYA Sunday)

Old Testament	2 Kings 7:3–20	Shawn Mathew
Psalm	Psalm 24	Elisha Chacko
New Testament/Epistle	Philippians 4:4–13	Shane Joy
Gospel	Mark 11:1–11	Presbyter
Kiss of Peace/Elements		Mathew & Thankamma Karottu
Offertory		Elijah Chacko & Ethan Chacko

MARCH CELEBRATIONS



Birthdays



- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Rian Varghese | 18 Nibu Philips |
| 2 Ann Maria | 19 Avery M .Koshy |
| 4 Bibi P. John | 19 Babu K. George |
| 5 Betsy Thampi | 19 Sachu Kurian |
| 9 Manohar Sigamony | 19 Neethu Cherian |
| 9 Shiny Saramma Joy | 20 Isabel Kripa Pati |
| 10 Deri Christudhas | 20 Jasmin Mathew |
| 10 Ethan Vinod Chacko | 22 Anita Suresh |
| 11 Rojy Philip | 26 Ashish Suresh |
| 13 Latha Kurian | 26 Aby David |
| 13 Nathaniel Thomas | 26 Nathan Mathew |
| 14 S Christudhas | 31 Mathew Varghese (Ebby) |
| 15 Savitha Hunt | |
| 17 Jain George | |
| 17 Sudha Kurien | |

"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



- 11 Eipe Lee & Achamma Lee
15 S Christudhas & Deri Christudhas

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

John4:16

Happy Anniversary





Monthly Accounts 2026		Jan 2026	
CSI Christ Church of Chicago January Accounts 2026		INCOME	EXPENSE
Category	Jan	Jan	Jan
Subscription	\$3,625.00		\$0.00
Offertory	\$855.00		\$0.00
Thanks Offering	\$1,047.00		\$0.00
Tithe	\$625.00		\$0.00
Special Donation	\$200.00		\$0.00
St. Martin's rent	\$0.00		\$2,200.00
Church Supplies/Communion Elements	\$0.00		\$371.29
Car Insurance	\$0.00		\$0.00
Church Car Maintenance	\$0.00		\$0.00
Church Maintenance/Emergency Repair	\$0.00		\$0.00
Church Cleaning, Land scape, Snow removal	\$0.00		\$0.00
Ch: ComEd	\$0.00		\$0.00
Ch: Peoples Energy	\$0.00		\$0.00
Ch&Pang Insurance	\$0.00		\$0.00
Ch: Water	\$0.00		\$0.00
Ch: Garbage	\$0.00		\$0.00
Pang: ComEd	\$0.00		\$125.52
Pang: Nicor	\$0.00		\$0.00
Pang: Clean/Maint	\$0.00		\$5,209.73
Pang: Internet	\$0.00		\$80.63
Pang: Phone, cell	\$0.00		\$72.48
Pang: Water	\$0.00		\$186.36
Presbyter's Honorarium	\$0.00		\$2,200.00
Presbyter healthcare	\$0.00		\$458.00
Hospitality/Refreshments	\$0.00		\$424.73
Mission/Charity	\$25.00		\$745.00
Women's Fellowship	\$0.00		\$0.00
Mens Fellowship	\$0.00		\$0.00
Sunday School	\$0.00		\$0.00
Youth	\$25.00		\$0.00
Choir	\$0.00		\$0.00
Visiting Pastor	\$0.00		\$0.00
Presbyter gift/Visiting Pastors	\$0.00		\$1,000.00
Legal/Tax/Visa Processing-W2/W3	\$0.00		\$2,195.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00		\$0.00
Carol Rounds	\$0.00		\$0.00
Family Retreat	\$0.00		\$0.00
Building Fund	\$0.00		\$0.00
Kerala Fest Fundraising	\$0.00		\$0.00
CSI Council Membership / Conf	\$0.00		\$0.00
Ecumenical Council	\$0.00		\$0.00
Family Sunday/Harvest	\$0.00		\$0.00
Confirmation	\$0.00		\$0.00
Cottage Prayer	\$0.00		\$0.00
Parsonage Maintenance special Fund	\$0.00		\$0.00
Presbyter's PF in India	\$0.00		\$0.00
Presbyter-Visa Amendment/Processing	\$0.00		\$0.00
Sub Total	\$6,402.00		\$15,268.74
Ledger Summary	General	Reserve	Building Fund
Opening balance at the beginning of the month	\$18,089.93	\$16,915.65	\$738,634.58
Add Income "in month"	\$6,402.00		
Move building fund donations to building fund	\$0.00		\$0.00
Less (Expenses) "in month"	\$15,268.74		
Interest credited and moved to building fund			\$2,765.94
Move Tithe to Building Fund	\$625.00		\$625.00
Move Harvest Fund to Building Fund			
Move Kerala Fest to Building Fund			
Move Caroling contributions to Reserve Fund			
Closing Ledger balance end of the month	\$9,598.19	\$16,915.65	\$742,025.52

CSI Christ Church of Chicago
Calendar Of Events Of The Year 2026

DATES	EVENTS
Jan 18	Annual General Body
Jan 25	Council Sunday
Feb 1	Installation of the Executive Committee for 2026
Feb 8	Healing Ministry Sunday
Feb 14/21	Lenten Retreat 10 am-12 pm
Feb 18	Ash Wednesday – Service at 6:30 PM
Mar 7	Ecumenical Council World Day of Prayer
Mar 8	International Women’s Sunday
Mar 29	Palm Sunday
Mar 30-Apr 1	Vespers
April 2	Maundy Thursday - Holy Communion Service
April 3	Good Friday - Service 6:00 PM-9:30 PM
April 4	Women’s Fellowship Chain Prayer & Evening Prayer at Church 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM
April 5	Easter Sunday
May 10	Mother’s Day
TBD	Chicago Ecumenical Council Family Night
TBD	Youth Gathering at Parsonage
TBD	Regional Youth Retreat
June 7	Education Sunday/Celebrating Graduates
June 21	Father’s Day
June 19-21	Weekend Family Retreat
July 12	Theological Sunday
July 17-18	Unity VBS
July 23-26	35th CSI North American Family Conference (Dallas, TX)
Aug 1	Church Picnic
Aug 2/9	Back to School Prayer
Aug 9	Student Sunday
Aug 30	Harvest Sunday/Family Sunday
Sept 12	Women’s Retreat
Sept 13	Women’s Sunday
TBD	Choir Retreat

Sept 20	Senior Citizen Sunday
Sept 27	CSI Formation Day
Oct 16-17	Annual Convention 6pm-9pm
Oct 18	Choir Sunday/Parish Day
TBD	Ecumenical Council Convention
Nov 1	World Sunday School Day (Daylight Savings Day)
Nov 22	General Body Meeting for the Election of Executive Committee members for 2025
Nov 27,28, 29	Christmas Carol Rounds
Dec 5,6, 12, 13	Christmas Carol Rounds
Dec 5	Ecumenical Council Christmas Celebration 5pm
Dec 12/19	Carols and Lessons Service -5:30pm
Dec 12/19	CSI Unity Carol Service -5:00pm
Dec 25	Christmas / Sunday School Christmas Program 10 am
Dec 31	Watch night service -10:30 pm
Jan 17	Annual General Body meeting
Jan 31	Installation of New Church Executive Committee/Joint Committee Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let's pray together for an own
place of worship!
Join our prayer programs until we
buy the church. 🙏🏠

JOIN ZOOM TONIGHT: 7. PM
WEDNESDAY PRAYER

Many Spl.
Prayer Events

Full Bible Reading
Plan by Church

Wednesday Prayer
Through Zoom - 7 pm

CSI CHRIST CHURCH OF CHICAGO

Royal Caribbean Cruise

Six Night Western Caribbean



October 10, 2026 to
October 16, 2026

Departing
from Port Canaveral
(Orlando)



Contact Persons:
Praveena Thomas : +1 847 903 2590
Thomas Koshy : +1 847 269 1600

**Book your space
before Feb-28**

Nassau, Bahamas
Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic
Grand Turk Island, Tuks & Caicos

Coordinated by:
CSI Congregation, Chicago & CSI Christ Church of Chicago