ASCENSION MAR THOMA CHURCH

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Phone: 215-677-7322
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NEWSLETTER

JAN-MAR 2022

VICAR : **Rev. BIBI MATHEW CHACKO**
3892 Byron Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
Ph: 215-947-4274 Cell : 267-312-9755

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Mr.Sathesh Mathew
267-235-2232

Secretary
Mr. Binu C.Thomas
215-252-6643

Trustee (Finance)
Mr. Subin V. Abraham
215-485-8512

Trustee (Accounts)
Mr. Anaj Mathew V. George
267-467-8009

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2022

(For Private Circulation Only)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2022

Vicar
Rev. Bibi Mathew Chacko
267-312-9755

Youth Chaplain
Rev. Thomas K. Mathew
516-661-7844

Vice President
Mr.Sathesh Mathew
267-235-2232

Secretary
Mr. Binu C. Thomas
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Trustee (Finance)
Mr. Subin V. Abraham
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Trustee (Accounts)
Mr.Anaj Mathew V. George
267-467-8009

Lay Leader (Malayalam)
Mr. M.A.Mathew
215-676-5046

Lay Leader (English)
Mr. Eype John
267-888-1025

Sabha Prathinidhi Mandalam / Assembly Members

Sabha Mandalam Member
Mr. Rojish Sam Samuel
267-808-1064

Dio. Assembly Member
Mrs. Annamma Varghese
215-779-7568

Dio. Assembly Member
Mr. Ebby Varghese
215-776-7122

Prayer Group Representatives

Bethlehem
Mr. George P. Mathai
215-677-1528

Jerusalem
To be elected

Nazareth
Mr. T. A. Varghese
215-856-3972

Sharon
Mr. Varghese Mathai
215-947-8118

Salem
Mr. M.A. Mathew
215-676-5046

Zion
Mr. Jijomon Joseph
215- 906-9181

Members Representing Organizations

Sunday School
Mrs. Viney Jobin
267-574-2023

Youth Fellowship
Mr. Joel Samuel
267-750-0046

Yuvajana Sakhyam
Mr. Sibi George
267-736-3185

Young Family Fellowship
Mr. Raji Thomas
215-262-0230

Sevika Sangam
Mrs.Rachel Mathew
267-455-1737

Edavaka Mission
Mr. K. Varghese
215-605-7535

Choir
Mr. Sumesh V. John
267-269-9810

Senior Fellowship
Mr. Kunjunjamma Ninan
856-669-7755

Auditors

Auditor
Mrs. Roby Sam
267-760-6916

Auditor
Mr. Jithin Varghese
215-915-4003

From Vicar's Desk

Greetings to you all in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

"Remember, I will be with you and protect you wherever you go. . . ." Gen.28:15.

Why do the most catastrophic vehicle accidents occur at highway intersections? Because it is a place where some key decisions are to be made. It's where you have a choice of slowing down, accelerating, changing lane, turning right or left, etc. Similarly, life is full of choices at every juncture. We often come to the crossroads in our life where crucial decisions must be made. If we make the wrong decision, then it will affect the rest of our lives. As humans, we never wish to be wrong and disappointed with our decisions. Abraham was bid by God to go to an unseen land. Abraham deterred from his own plan and submitted himself to God's plan. Likewise, let us commence this New Year with a focus on God and His ways. It's nothing but the mercy of Almighty God that has brought us safely to the threshold of 2022. Let us be thankful to our gracious Father, for having provided all His goodness in abundance upon our parish, families, and individuals on each day of 2021.As we receive another year of life from God, let us prepare ourselves to make the New Year more meaningful. Let us submit ourselves and all that he has given us into His Mighty hands.

It is a matter of great joy to the Ascension family that the New Year commences with our Diocesan Episcopa Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Thirumeni's visit to our parish. Thirteen of our children will be receiving their first Holy Communion on the 1st of January and will be confirming their belief that Jesus Christ is their savior and Lord. I request all of you to uphold them in your prayers. The parish is responsible to encourage our children for the faith journey that they are starting, and it is our duty to support them.

The preparations for the Maramon Convention that will be held in the second week of February are fast progressing. Earnest prayers are solicited from all of you for the blessed conduct of this year's convention that has always witnessed the

steadfast faith and has proclaimed the firm convictions of our forefathers. I hope and pray that the convention may be a blessing to the Mar Thoma Church and to the members all around the world.

The great Lent begins on 29th of February. The word 'lent' is derived from the Old English word that means 'spring season'. The fifty days of observance of lent is a time to meditate on the sacrifice and self-denial of Jesus Christ. More than just abstaining from certain food items, lent should be considered as a time for renewing our spirits and rejuvenating our minds by setting apart more time for reading and studying the Word of God. The Lenten season prepares us and spiritually equips us to lead a life pleasing to God. It is a good practice to fast or to refrain from consuming certain food items and use the money that we save for charity. By doing this, we spread the love of God to the ones in need. We propose to conduct "Sandhyanamskaaram" on the last 25 days of Lent. I request the prayerful participation of all those who can spare some time in the evening. The details shall be updated later.

Our Sunday School children and teachers are preparing for their Mid-term examination to be held on January 16th.I request all the parents to make sure that your children study their lessons well. Sunday school lessons are the foundations upon which their faith should be based on and learning the Word of God should be considered as a matter of utmost importance. Kindly make conscious efforts to make your children attend the Sunday school and worship services regularly.

By God's grace we have been able to visit 94 families till date. It is quite essential to know each member of the church for our ministry to be more effective. I hope that within the next few months we will be able to visit all of you and pray together. Kindly let me know when it is convenient so that we can visit you.

It is a time of the year when the organizations of the parish hold their annual general body meetings. Let this be a time to look back, re-evaluate and be open to changes wherever needed. As the new office bearers and committee members take up responsibilities, let the prayer be - Show me your ways O Lord, and Guide me your paths.
Wish you every blessing from above for a blessed New Year!

Yours in His Service.
Bibi Achen

CHURCH WEBSITE

Our Church website is being updated regularly. Please check the website for any announcements or changes

The website address is:

http://www.ascensionmtc.org

Please go online and register for user ID and password

From Youth Chaplain's Desk

Dearly beloved in Christ,

New year greetings to all of you. God has been gracious upon us and let us be grateful for the ways he has led us thus far.

Psalm 7:10 " My shield is God Most High." The storms of life can overwhelm us and it can make us fearful and doubtful of where God is . However ,God wants us to choose faith over fear and also trust over doubt. We see that Bible points out people who were normal humans like us, living in their everyday joys and challenges. The faith they experienced and expressed was by trusting in God even when the outcome was unknown and unseen.

Abraham did falter in his faith when he went by the suggestion of his wife to have a son through his slave Hagar, yet God was gracious and faithful to him by keeping His promise of having a son through his wife Sarah. The journey of faith continues stronger and the same Abraham is not doubting the command of God and abides completely by it when he lays his only son on the altar as a sacrifice and raises his hand to sacrifice him. He did not doubt the command of God nor did he fear of what will happen when he loses his son, that was counted upon his as faithfulness and righteousness before God.

Faith today has become more of gaining brownie points from God and encash it for "blessings in this world". The faith experience we witness in the Bible is of sacrificing and giving up oneself which should be our intention and motive too. As we step into this New Year, may we affirm before God our renewed commitment to become a living sacrifice in all that we do and thereby fulfil his purpose here in this world.

The Diocesan Youth Fellowship is organising the Leadership conference from Jan 6 - 9 hosted by the Redeemer MTC, New Jersey. This will be the 25th session of this Conference which has inspired a lot of our youths to become committed Leaders of

the church in various levels. Let us continue to keep this conference and all its participants in our prayers.

Our parish Youth Fellowship is meeting virtually and we hope to bring back our youths for in person meetings in the coming months when we have favourable situation. We praise God that we had our Young Family fellowship in person from December and we hope to continue that every second Sunday after service. Let me encourage all our young families to join us in this fellowship of sharing and growing in faith.

We have resumed our house visits and please do let us know your availability and we can spend sometime knowing you and also praying with you.

Wishing you all a blessed year ahead.
Yours in His service
Rev. Thomas K. Mathew
Youth Chaplain

Please feel free to reach out any time.
516-661-7844
thomasachen@gmail.com

New Born

- Mr. Ashish Biju Abraham & Mrs. Reshma Ann Johnson (Act#223-Salem) are blessed with a baby boy **Benjamin Panavelil Abraham**

- Mr.Renju R. Rajeev and Mrs. Ann Binu Joseph (Act#198-Zion) are blessed with a baby girl **Evelyn Rose Renju.**

- Mr. Sherin Mathew and Mrs. Neethu Mariam Mathew (Act#235-Bethlehem) are blessed with a baby girl **Norah Sherin**

On behalf of The Ascension Mar Thoma Church, we would like to Congratulate them.

Worship Schedule and Lectionary - January 2022

	Lessons	Epistle/Gospel
Sunday, 02 January 2022 Outside Kerala Mission		
	Exo. 3:1-17 Acts. 16:6-10	Acts. 26:19-23 St. Luke 10:1-11
Sunday, 09 January 2022 Temperence Sunday		
09.30 am Service via Zoom	Josh. 7:16-26 Eph. 5:8-21	1Cor. 6:9-11 St. Mark 18:6-11
Sunday, 16 January 2022 Victory through Fasting and Prayer		
09.30 am Service via Zoom	1Kings 18:21-39 Acts. 12:1-12	Eph. 6:10-20 St. Mat. 17:14-21
Sunday, 23 January 2022 Ecumenical Sunday		
09.30 AM English Holy Communion	1 Sam. 7:1-5 1 Cor. 12:12-20	Eph. 4:1-7 St. John 15:1-12
Sunday, 30 January 2022 The Pandemic: Which should lead us to firm Faith		
09.30 AM Malayalam Holy Communion	2 Sam. 24:15-25 Rom. 8:22-28	Acts. 11:27-30 St. Mark 6:53-56

Worship Schedule and Lectionary - February 2022

Sunday, 06 February 2022 Medical Mission Sunday		
09.00 AM Malayalam Holy Communion	Num. 12:1-16 Acts. 9:32-35	Jam. 5:13-20 St. Mark 5:25-34
Sunday, 13 February 2022 Maramon Convention Begins		
09.30 AM English Holy Communion	Job 39:1-21 1 Cor. 15:35-49	Col. 1:15-23 St. Mat. 6:26-34
Sunday, 20 February 2022 127th Maramon Convention Ends		
09.30 AM Malayalam Holy Communion	Gen. 3:1-21 Eph.2:11-18	Rom. 7:14-25 St. Mat. 7:13-21
Sunday, 27 February 2022 Beginning of Great Lent (Pethrutha)		
09.30 AM English Holy Communion	Ezek. 36:24-30 Rev. 21:1-7	2 Cor. 5:16-21 St. John 2:1-11

Worship Schedule and Lectionary - March 2022

	Lessons	Epistle/Gospel
Sunday, 06 March 2022 2nd Sunday in Lent		
09.30 AM Malayalam Holy Communion	2 King 5:1-14 Phile. 8-21	Phil. 2:21-30 St. Mark 1:40-45
Sunday, 13 March 2022 3rd Sunday in Lent		
09.30 AM English Holy Communion	2 Sam. 12:1-13 Acts. 8:9-17	1 Pet. 2:21-25 St. Mark 2:1-12
Sunday, 20 March 2022 4th Sunday in Lent		
09.30 AM Malayalam Holy Communion	Isa. 45:1-8 Acts. 10:34-43	1Cor. 1:18-25 St. Mat. 15:21-28
Sunday, 27 March 2022 5th Sunday in Lent		
09.30 AM English Holy Communion	Isa. 66:19-24 Acts. 2:22-36	Rom. 8:31-39 St. Luke 13:10-17

Death in the families of our members

The Ascension Family expresses heartfelt condolences on the demise of the following persons related to our members during the last quarter of 2021

- **Dr. Mary Thomas(Dr. Bini),** Sister in law of Mrs. Marykutty John (Laly) (Act# 204 - Salem)
- **Mrs. Kunjunjamma Cherian,** Sister-in-law of Mr. George Jacob (Act#28 - Sharon)
- **Mrs. Annamma Paulos,** Elder sister of Mr. Oommen V. Oommen, (Act# 174 - Salem)
- **Mrs. Laly John,** Sister-in-law of Mr. Simon Abraham (Act#72-Sharon) and Mrs. Aleyamma Sumodh (Act#104-Nazareth)
- **Mrs. Bessie Abraham Mathew,** Niece of Mr. Thomas Mathew (Act#56-Nazareth) cousin of Mr. Thomas P. George (Act#103 - Nazareth) & Mr. Perumal P. Samuel (Act#83-Nazareth
- **Mr. P.A. John,** Father of Mr. Roy P. John (Act#153-Zion)
- **Mr. M. I.George** (84), Brother in law of Mr. Kurien K.Thomas (Act# 80 Zion) uncle of Mr. Saju Kurien (Act# 44 Zion)

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JANUARY 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30 HC-Mal-9.30am	31					1
2	3	4	5	6 YF Dio Lead. Conf. @ Redeemer MTC	7 YF Dio Lead. Conf. @ Redeemer MTC	8 YF Dio Lead. Conf. @ Redeemer MTC
9 Service Via Zoom at 9.30am Prayer: Salem Via zoom	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Service Via Zoom at 9.30am Prayer: Edv. Mis.	17	18	19 Sevika Sangam 10 am	20	21	22 Prayer:Nazareth Sev. Sa. Anniversary
23 HC-Eng-9.30 am Prayer: YS	24	25	26 Sevika Sangam 10 am	27	28 YF 6-7 pm	29

FEBRUARY 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Sevika Sangam 10 am	3	4	5 Prayer: Bethlehem
6 HC-Mal 9.00 am Prayer: Sharon Parish Day	7 Senior fellowship	8	9 Sevika Sangam 10 am	10	11 YF 6-7 pm	12 Prayer: Zion
13 HC-Eng 9.30am Prayer: Salem Meeting-YFF	14	15	16 Sevika Sangam 10 am	17	18	19 Prayer: Jerusalem
20 HC-Mal-9.30am Prayer: Eda.Mis.	21	22	23 Sevika Sangam 10 am	24	25 YF 6-7 pm	26 Prayer: Nazareth
27 HC-Eng 9.30 am Prayer:YS Great Lent Begins	28					

MARCH 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Sevika Sangam 10 am	3	4	5 Prayer: Bethlehem
6 HC-Mal 9.00am Prayer:Sharon	7 Senior fellowship	8	9 Sevika Sangam 10 am	10	11 YF 6-7 pm	12 Prayer: Zion
13 HC: Eng 9.30am Prayer:Salem Meeting-YFF	14	15	16 Sevika Sangam 10 am	17	18	19 Prayer: Jerusalem
20 HC:Mal 9.30am Prayer:Edv. Mis.	21	22	23 Sand.Nama. (Zoom) 7-8 p Sevi. San.10am	24 Sand.Nama. (Zoom) 7-8 p	25 Sand.Nama. (Zoom) 7-8 p	26 Sand.Nama. (Zoom) 7-8 p
27 HC:Eng 9.30 am Prayer:Yuv. Sak.	28 Sand.Nama. (Zoom) 7-8 p	29 Sand.Nama. (Zoom) 7-8 p	30 Sand.Nama. (Zoom) 7-8 p Sevi. San.10am	31 Sand.Nama. (Zoom) 7-8 p	1 Sand.Nama. (Zoom) 7-8 p	2

Obituary

Our member **Mrs. Saramma Koshy,** (Act#290 Salem) was called to eternity. On behalf of The Ascension Mar Thoma church we express our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and pray that may God Almighty give them comfort and peace.

Our member **Mrs. Sally Abraham** (Act#124 Zion) was called to eternity. On behalf of The Ascension Mar Thoma church we express our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and pray that may God Almighty give them comfort and peace.

Prayer Meetings

- **Bethlehem**
  February 5th, Saturday 7 pm via zoom
  March 5th, Saturday, 7 pm via zoom

- **Sharon**
  February 6th, Sunday 7 pm at the Parish Hall
  March 6th, Sunday 7 pm at the Parish Hall

- **Jerusalem**

- **Salem**

  Sunday 9th, January 2022 at 6 pm Via zoom
  M. A. Mathew - A/c 52 ; Phone # 2153843571(cell)
  Sunday 13th, February 2022 at 6 pm Via zoom
  K.G.Mathai - A/c 291; Phone # 2673455673.
  Sunday, 13th, March 2022 at 6 pm Via zoom
  Georgekutty John - A/c 191; Ph.2154595198.

- **Nazareth**
  January 22nd, Saturday 7 pm via Zoom
  February 26th, Saturday 7 pm via Zoom

- **Zion**
  February 12th, Saturday 5 pm at the Parish Hall
  March 12th, Saturday 5 pm at the Parish Hall

From **Binu C.Thomas**
Secretary, Ascension MTC,
10197 Northeast Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19116
secretary.amc@gmail.com

TO

Scan me for the News letter