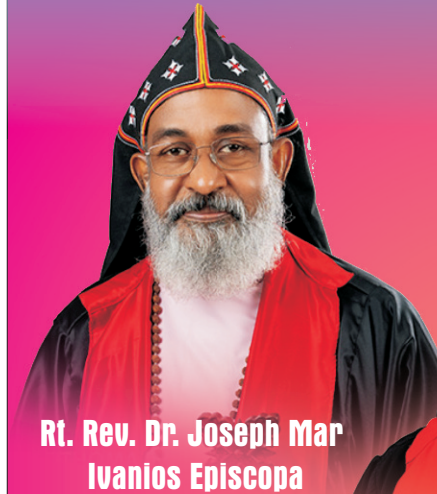




## ASCENSION MAR THOMA CHURCH

10197 Northeast Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19116  
Phone: 215-677-7322 • Website: <http://ascensionmtc.org>



**Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar  
Ivanios Episcopa**



**Rt. Rev. Mathews Mar  
Seraphim Episcopa**



**Rt. Rev. Zacharias Mar  
Aprem Episcopa**

## NEWSLETTER JAN<sup>to</sup>MAR 2024

**VICAR : Rev. BIBI MATHEW CHACKO**

3892 Byron Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006  
Ph: 215-947-4274 Cell: 267-312-9755

Vice President  
**Mr. John Mathew**  
1-732-500-8753

Secretary  
**Mr. Jijomon Joseph**  
215-906-9181

Trustee (Finance)  
**Mr. Philip Biju Daniel**  
215-520-7491

Trustee (Accounts)  
**Mr. Saju Kurien**  
267-414- 4550



Scan me for the News Letter

From **Jijomon Joseph**  
Secretary, Ascension MTC,  
10197 Northeast Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19116  
[secretary.amc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.amc@gmail.com)

TO

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2024



Vicar  
**Rev. Bibi Mathew Chacko**  
267-312-9755



Youth Chaplain  
**Rev. Jeff Jack Philips**  
1-516-661-7844



Vice President  
**Mr. John Mathew**  
1-732-500-8753



Secretary  
**Mr. Jijomon Joseph**  
215-906-9181



Trustee (Finance)  
**Mr. Philip Biju Daniel**  
215-520-7491



Trustee (Accounts)  
**Mr. Saju Kurien**  
267-414-4550



Lay Leader (Malayalam)  
**Mr. M.A Mathew**  
215-384-3571



Lay Leader (English)  
**Mr. Alwin Cherian**  
267-207-5159

## Sabha Prathinidhi Mandalam / Assembly Members



Sabha Mandalam Member  
**Mr. Binu C. Thomas**  
215-252-6643



Dio. Assembly Member  
**Mr. C. G. George**  
267-357-9109



Dio. Assembly Member  
**Mr. Anu Skariah**  
267-496-2423

## Prayer Group Representatives



Bethlehem  
**Mr. Varghese Varghese**



Jerusalem  
TBD



Nazareth  
TBD



Sharon  
**Mr. Johnson Varghese**  
267-253-1208



Salem  
**Mr. KG Mathai**  
267-345-5373



Zion  
TBD

## Members Representing Organizations



Sunday School Superintendent  
**Mrs. Shinzy Mathew**  
267-266-8810



Youth Fellowship  
**Mr. Noah John**  
267-702-9498



Yuvajana Sakhyam  
**Mrs. Lenu Mathew**  
121-591-77057



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



Sevika Sangam  
**Mrs. Sally Mathew**  
267-243-7626



Edavaka Mission  
**Mr. George P Mathai**  
267-231-1724



Choir  
**Mr. Eype John**  
267-888-1025



Senior Fellowship  
TBD

## Auditors



Auditor  
**Mr. Lijo P George**  
215-776-7940



Auditor  
**Mrs. Viney Jobin**  
267-574-2023

## Prayer Meetings

**Edavaka Mission:** TBD

**Sevika Sangam:** Every Wednesday 10 am at Church

**Senior Fellowship:** Every first Monday 5pm at Church  
January 1st Monday, 4PM at Church  
February 5th Monday, 5PM at Church  
March 4th Monday, 5PM at Church

**Fasting Prayer:** Every Friday 9.30 AM at Church

**Zion:** Every Second Saturday at 6pm

*Farewell*



**Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac**  
**Mar Philoxenos Episcopa**  
Diocesan Bishop

*Welcome*



**Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham**  
**Mar Paulos Episcopa**

# MARCH

# 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31 HC Mal 9.30am					1 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	2 Prayer - Beth
3 HC Mal 9.30am Prayer - Sharon	4 Sr. Fellowship @ 5 pm Church	5	6 Sev. San. 10am	7	8 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church Youth Fellowship 6pm @ Church	9 Prayer - Zion
10 HC Eng 9.30am Prayer - Salem	11	12	13 Sev. San. 10am	14	15 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	16
17 HC Mal 9.30am	18	19	20 Sev. San. 10am	21	22 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	23 Prayer - Naz
24 HC Eng 9.30am Prayer -YS	25 HC Mal 9.00am	26	27 Sev. San. 10am	28	29 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	30

## Prayer Meetings

**Yuvajana Sakhyam:** Every fourth Sunday at 6pm

**Young Family Fellowship:** Prayer meetings to be announced

**Youth Fellowship:** Every second Friday at 6pm

**Bethlehem:** Every first Saturday at 5pm

**Jerusalem:** TBD

**Nazareth:** Every fourth Saturday at 6pm

**Salem:** Every second Sunday

**Sharon:** First Sunday of every month:

Sunday, January 7th, 5PM

at the residence of Mrs. Rachel Varghese A/C 70

Address: 645 High pointe Circle, Langhorne PA 19047



## From Vicar's Desk

*Dearly beloved in Christ,*

*Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! As we stand at the threshold of a new year, I extend heartfelt greetings to each member of our Ascension family. May the abundant blessings of the Lord surround you and your loved ones, bringing joy, peace, and prosperity in the coming year. I write to you with a heart filled with gratitude for the journey we have shared in the past year and with hopeful anticipation for the year that lies ahead. Our faith community has been a source of strength, love, and support, and I am continually inspired by your unwavering commitment to our shared journey of faith.*

*I take this opportunity to congratulate the new office bearers of the parish and the organizations assuming their responsibilities for the year 2024. We are extremely grateful for their willingness to serve and lead, and I kindly ask for your prayers and support as they undertake their responsibilities.*

*I would also like to express my deepest thanks to the outgoing office bearers for their dedicated service and tireless efforts in enriching our parish. Their commitment has left an indelible mark, and we are truly blessed to have had their guidance. I pray and hope that Almighty God will bestow his blessings upon them for the relentless and selfless service rendered for the welfare of the Ascension Mar Thoma Church. I also thank the executive committee members and the office bearers of all the organizations for their dedication and hard work.*

*I am delighted to inform you that Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Episcopawill take the helm of our diocese beginning the first week of the new year and will spiritually guide and lead our diocese in the coming years. We extend a warm welcome to Thirumeni and we eagerly anticipate the guidance and spiritual leadership that he will render to the diocese. At the same time, we express our utmost appreciation and gratitude to Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Thirumeni for his years of service and dedication to our diocese. It was a privilege to us, as a parish to have had the opportunity to host the Holy Communion service and farewell meeting of our beloved Philoxenos Thirumeni arranged by the Diocese of North America and Europe. On behalf of the Ascension Mar Thoma Church I would like to extend our wholehearted gratitude to His Lordship for being our spiritual father and for all the guidance and blessings throughout all these years. We wish Thirumeni the best in all future endeavors. I request all your earnest prayers for the Thirumenis' safe journey to and from the diocese.*

*I would also like to acknowledge the dedication of our Sunday School students as they approach their exams. Your commitment to learning and growing in your faith is truly commendable, and I wish you success in your examinations. I request all parents to ensure that your kids learn the Sunday*



School lessons. Our Sunday School teachers deserve special thanks for their efforts in ensuring the spiritual development of our young ones. I hope that the efforts we put in to teach and learn the Word of God bear fruit and help us to find our refuge in God alone when life gets difficult.

As we enter the season of Great Lent, let us use this sacred time for introspection, repentance, and drawing closer to God. May our collective journey through Lent be one of spiritual growth, and may we emerge from this season with renewed faith and commitment to our savior. This season invites believers to engage in practices of self-examination and increased devotion. It is a time marked by prayer, fasting, and acts of charity, encouraging individuals to detach from the distractions of daily life and turn inward to reflect on their relationship with God. The emphasis on self-discipline and self-denial during Great Lent is not merely a ritualistic exercise but a conscious effort to purify the soul, fostering a deeper connection with our savior. I hope that this season shall help us all to emerge with a renewed sense of purpose and a strengthened commitment to living a life aligned with the will of God. We will be having Sandhyanamaskaaram during the last 25 days of the Great Lent. Your prayerful participation is solicited.

The preparations for the 129th Maramon Convention are underway. Kindly pray for the blessed conduct of the convention. Let this year's convention be a blessing to many people.

There is a profound sense of anticipation and hope that accompanies the turning of the calendar. During the past year, we might have had myriad experiences, some good, some bad, some truly depressing, and others really heartwarming. Whatever our experiences were, God's grace kept us going forward and brought us to witness the new year. Let us approach the new year with hope and faith, trusting in God's guidance and provision. May our church continue to be a beacon of love and support for one another, reflecting the light of Christ in all that we do. The dawn of a new year brings with it the promise of fresh beginnings, renewed purpose, and the opportunity for positive change. As Christians, our hope is not rooted in mere optimism but is anchored in the unchanging faith we place in Christ. With each passing year, we are reminded that our journey is guided by a loving Savior who offers us redemption, grace, and the strength to face the challenges that lie ahead. In Christ, we find the source of our hope, and with faith as our compass, we step into the new year with the assurance that, no matter what the future holds, we are held securely in His hands. May the coming year be a time of spiritual growth, deeper connection with God, and a manifestation of the hope that only Christ can provide.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead," 1 Peter 1:3

Wishing you a blessed and joyous New Year!

Yours in His service,  
Bibi Achen

JANUARY 2024						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Sr. Fellowship @ 4 pm	2	3 Sev. San. 10am	4	5 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	6 Prayer-Beth
7 Holy Communion Mal@9.30am Prayer-Sharon	8	9	10 Sev. San. 10am	11	12 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church Youth Fellowship 6pm @ Church	13 Prayer-Zion @ 6 pm
14 HC Eng 9.30am Prayer-Salem	15	16	17 Sev. San. 10am	18	19 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	20
21 HC Mal 9.30am	22	23	24 Sev. San. 10am	25	26 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	27 Prayer-Naz @ 6 pm
28 HC Eng 9.30am Prayer -YS	29	30	31 Sev. San. 10am			

FEBRUARY 2024						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	3 Prayer-Beth @ 6 pm
4 HC Mal 9.30am Prayer-Sharon @ 5 pm	5 Sr. Fellowship @ 5 pm	6	7 Sev. San. 10am	8	9 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church Youth Fellowship 6pm @ Church	10 Prayer-Zion
11 HC Eng 9.30am Prayer-Salem	12	13	14 Sev. San. 10am	15	16 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	17
18 HC Mal 9.30am	19	20	21 Sev. San. 10am	22	23 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	24 Prayer-Naz
25 HC Eng 9.30am Prayer-YS	26	27	28 Sev. San. 10am	29		

## Worship Schedule and Lectionary - March 2024

### Sunday, 03 Mar 2024

09.30 am Malayalam Holy Communion	Gen. 12:1-9 Acts. 8:26-40	Rom. 15:14-21 Mark 7:24-30
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### Sunday, 10 Mar 2024

09.30 am English Holy Communion	Exo. 3:1-15 Acts 27:9-25	Phil. 1:12-20 Luke 13:10-17
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### Sunday, 17 Mar 2024

09.30 am Malayalam Holy Communion	Gen. 21:9-19 Acts 12:5-16	Rom. 8:26-30 Mark 10:46-52
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### Sunday, 24 Mar 2024 Hosanna

09.30 am English Holy Communion	Zech. 9:9-17 Eph. 2:11-22	Phil. 4:4-9 Luke 19:29-40
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### Sunday, 31 Mar 2024 Easter

09.30 am Malayalam Holy Communion	Isa. 60:12-21 1 Cor. 15:42-58	Cor. 15:20-28 John 20:1-18
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## Obituary

### Mr. George K Oommen

84 years old  
A/C # 23



The Ascension family remembers with gratitude the life and service of

**Mr. George K Oommen**  
and expresses heartfelt condolence.

## 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

*My dear Ascension Mar Thoma Church Family,*

*Greeting in the mighty name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!!!*

*As we stand at the threshold of a New Year, it's a time filled with hope, new beginnings, filled with many resolutions. New Year's resolutions often revolve around our personal growth, health, career goals, habits, spiritual warfare, or any other area which we feel needs improvement in our lives. As generally seen, a few weeks into January, we have started to struggle with the resolutions that we took. In the end, very few people stick to their resolutions. Procrastination is a common stumbling block that often hinders our progress. Procrastination seeks to rob us of productivity, hinder our growth, and delay the fulfilment of our goals and dreams. It disguises itself as a temporary refuge, but its consequences can be far-reaching. We often find ourselves trapped in the cycle of "I'll do it later" or "I'll start tomorrow," allowing valuable time to slip away.*

*Proverbs 6:6 says, "Go to the ant, you lazybones; consider its ways, and be wise". We are called to observe the ways of the ant and learn from its diligence. The ant is a small creature, but it possesses remarkable qualities that can inspire and instruct us to overcome procrastination. A few lessons that we can take from the ant are as follows:-*

*1. Vision and Preparedness: The ant exemplifies foresight, preparing for the future by diligently gathering food during the summer months. Similarly, we must cultivate a vision for our lives, setting goals and creating a plan of action. By embracing a proactive mindset and preparing ahead, we position ourselves for success and minimize the allure of procrastination.*

*2. Discipline and Consistency: The ant demonstrates unwavering discipline and consistency in its work. It doesn't waver or succumb to distractions. Likewise, as followers of Christ, we are called to persevere, embracing discipline and consistency in our actions. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can overcome the temptation to put things off and instead commit ourselves to diligent and consistent work.*

3. *Collaboration and Community: Ants work in harmony, collaborating with each other in their tasks. As a community of believers, we are called to support and hold each other accountable. By surrounding ourselves with fellow believers who encourage and challenge us, we can find strength in unity and overcome the isolation that often leads to procrastination.*

*May this New Year help us to stick to the resolutions and decisions with which we began and that we be able to become the person that we intend to be. May our Lord Almighty help us with these*

*Wishing you all a Blessed and Prosperous New Year 2024!!!*

*Jeff Achen,  
Youth Chaplain*

### Death in the families of our members

The Ascension family expresses heartfelt condolences on the demise of the following persons related to our members.

- **Mr. Abraham T Varghese**, brother of our former vicar Rev. Antony T Varghese.
- **Mr. KO. Abraham** 94 years old, father of our member Mrs. Lissy Baby A/C 76 and grandfather of our member Mrs. Mekha Denny A/C 96
- **Mrs. Mariamma George**, 90 years old, mother of our member Mr. Skaria George A/C 182, grandmother of our members, Mr. Soji Skaria, Mrs. Mary Abraham A/C 250, Mrs. Siji Shanto A/C 312
- **Mrs. Saramma Philip**, 88 years old, mother of our member Mr. Mathew Philip, A/C 319,
- **Mr. T.A Paulose**, 86 years old, father of our member Mrs. Sherly Mathews A/C 284
- **Mrs. Annamma Gheeverughese**, 75 years old, aunt of our member Mrs. Betty Mathew A/C 112
- **Mrs. Aleyamma Philip**, 105 years old, grandmother of our member Mrs. Biji Sabin A/C 180
- **Mrs. Thankamma Baby**, 75 years old, mother of our member Mrs. Sheeba Benson A/C 285
- **Mr. Kochumman Kampiyil**, 75 years old, brother-in-law of our members Late Mr. Cherian Philip A/C #63, Mr. Daniel Philipose A/C #67, Late Mr. Varghese Philipose A/C #70, and Mr. John Philipose A/C #68,

### Worship Schedule and Lectionary - January 2024

	Lessons	Epistle/Gospel
<b>Sunday, 07 Jan 2024 Evangelism : Church's primary commission.</b>		
<b>09.30 am</b> <b>Malayalam Holy Communion</b>	<b>Isa. 61:1-11</b> <b>Acts. 20:17-24</b>	<b>Col. 1:24-29</b> <b>Matt. 9:35-38</b>
<b>Sunday, 14 Jan 2024 Temperance Day</b>		
<b>09.30 am</b> <b>English Holy Communion</b>	<b>Pro. 23:19-35</b> <b>1 Thess. 5:1-11</b>	<b>Eph. 5:15-20</b> <b>Matt. 5:13-16</b>
<b>Sunday, 21 Jan 2024 Ecumenical Sunday</b>		
<b>09.30 am</b> <b>Malayalam Holy Communion</b>	<b>Num.11:23-30</b> <b>1 Cor. 3:1-9</b>	<b>Eph. 4:1-17</b> <b>John 15:8-16</b>
<b>Sunday, 28 Jan 2024</b>		
<b>09.30 am</b> <b>English Holy Communion</b>	<b>Neh. 2:11-18</b> <b>1 Pet. 2:1-12</b>	<b>Rom. 12:9-21</b> <b>Matt. 13:31-34</b>

### Worship Schedule and Lectionary - February 2024

<b>Sunday, 04 Feb 2024 Medical Mission Sunday</b>		
<b>09.30 am</b> <b>Malayalam Holy Communion</b>	<b>2 King 20:1-11</b> <b>Acts 14:8-15</b>	<b>James 5:13-18</b> <b>John 9:1-11</b>
<b>Sunday, 11 Feb 2024 The great lent begins/ Maramon Con.-Opening Day</b>		
<b>09.30 am</b> <b>English Holy Communion</b>	<b>Eze. 18:21-32</b> <b>2 Cor. 5:17-21</b>	<b>Rom. 13:11-14</b> <b>John. 2:1-11</b>
<b>Sunday, 18 Feb 2024 Maramon Convention - Closing Day</b>		
<b>09.30 am</b> <b>Malayalam Holy Communion</b>	<b>2 Kings. 5:1-14</b> <b>Acts 10:34-43</b>	<b>1 John 1:5-10</b> <b>Matt. 8:1-4</b>
<b>Sunday, 25 Feb 2024</b>		
<b>09.30 am</b> <b>English Holy Communion</b>	<b>2 Kings 4:16-37</b> <b>Acts 5:12-16</b>	<b>Eph. 2:1-8</b> <b>Luke 5:17-26</b>