



ASCENSION MAR THOMA CHURCH

10197 Northeast Ave, Philadelphia, PA19116
Phone: 215-677-7322 • Website: <http://ascensionmtc.org>



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

From **Jijomon Joseph**
Secretary, Ascension MTC,
10197 Northeast Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19116
secretary.amtc@gmail.com

TO



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2023



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
267-702-9498



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
267-265-2428



Jerusalem
Mr. Rojish Sam Samuel
267-808-1064



Nazareth
Mr. V.L. Georgekutty



Sharon
Mr. Johnson Varghese
267-253-1208



Salem
Mr. KG Mathai
267-345-5373



Zion
Mr. Rajeew George
215-342-0908

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
Mrs. Marykutty Thomas
215-913-5718

Auditors



Auditor
Mr. Lijo P George
215-776-7940



Auditor
Mrs. Viney Jobin
267-574-2023

Death in the families of our members

- **Mr. Alwyn Abraham**, S/o Mrs. And Mr. Rajan Abraham(Former members of Ascension MTC) in Texas. He is the nephew of Mr. Thankachan M. Abraham (Acc.no.10) Mrs. Kunjamma Abraham (Acc.no.140) and Mrs. Omana John (Acc.no.3) and cousin of Mrs. Sindhu George(Acc. no. 160).
- **Mrs. Rosamma Philipose**, (Chennithala Kerala) sister of our member Mr. Kurien George (Zion prayer group A/C # 177)

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

April 2024 - No prayer meeting.

May 2024 - No prayer meeting.

June 2024 - **June 1st, Saturday @ 6 PM** Venue - Residence of **Mr. Mathew Alex** A/C # 262486 Depue Place, Philadelphia PA 19116.

Jerusalem: TBD

Nazareth: Every fourth Saturday at 6pm

Salem: Every second Sunday

Sharon: First Sunday of every month

April 7th Sunday, at 6.00 pm Venue - Residence of **Mr. George Jacob**, 806, Cates Way Philadelphia, PA19115 Ac#0028

Edavaka Mission: TBD

Sevika Sangam: Every Wednesday 10 am at Church

Senior Fellowship: Every first Monday 5pm at Church

Fasting Prayer: Every Friday 9.30 AM at Church

Zion: Every Second Saturday at 6pm

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|-----|-----|----------------------|-----|---|--|
| 30 HC Mal 9.30am SS after Ser. | | | | | | 1 Prayer-Beth @ 6 pm |
| 2 HC Mal 9.30am SS after Ser. BAKE SALE-Choir Prayer-Sharon | 3 | 4 | 5 Sev. San. 10am | 6 | 7 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church | 8 Prayer-Zion Youth Fellowship 6pm @ Church |
| 9 HC Eng 9.30am SS after Ser. Prayer-Salem | 10 | 11 | 12 Sev. San. 10am | 13 | 14 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church | 15 Church Picnic - Tamanend Park |
| 16 HC Mal 9.30am SS after Ser. Fathers Day - YF | 17 | 18 | 19 Sev. San. 10am | 20 | 21 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church | 22 Prayer-Naz |
| 23 HC Eng 9.30am SS after Ser. Prayer-YS | 24 | 25 | 26 Sev. San. 10am | 27 | 28 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church | 29 |

Death in the families of our members

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

- **Mrs. Soby Fennel**, niece of our members, Mrs. Alice Thomas A/C 126, and Mr. Anil Mathew A/C 57.
- **Mr. Iype K Mathew**, Father of our member Mr. Soju Ipe A/C 300
- **Mr. Mathew Chandanasseril Jacob**, brother in Law of our members Mrs. Elsy K George A/C 31 and Mrs. Valassamma George A/C 191
- **Mr. Thomas C Nellikala**, First cousin of our member MR. Sumodh Nellikala A/C 104
- **Mr. Jerry Thomas Cherian**, nephew of our members Mrs. Omana Varghese A/C 169 and Mrs. Soosamma Mathew A/C 227
- **Mrs. Mariamma Abraham**, mother of Mrs. Lizy Baby, A/C 76 and grandmother of Mrs. Mekha Denny, A/C 96
- **Mr. John Joseph**, Uncle of our member Mrs. Dyna Sam, A/C 329
- **Mr. Thomas K. Mathew** (Baby), Father of our member Shiny John, A/C 171
- **Mrs. Sosamma Koshy**, grandmother of our member Mrs. Aiswarya Samuel (w/o Rev Jeswin Simon John AC #109)
- **Mrs. Rene Varghese** cousin sister of our member Mr. George Jacob Act#28



From Vicar's Desk

My beloved Ascension family members, As we have just celebrated the joyous occasion of Easter, and meditated upon the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour and the promise of eternal life that comes with it, I hope and pray that the peace and hope of Easter shall remain with you all throughout this year. Easter reminds us of the profound depth of God's love for us, demonstrated through the ultimate sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. Let us rejoice in this divine gift and strive to live lives worthy of His grace.

The episcopal visit is scheduled for April 7th. We are greatly honoured and privileged to welcome our Diocesan Episcopa, Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Thirumeni to our parish. 34 of our children are prayerfully preparing to receive their first Holy Communion. As a parish let us uphold our children taking this significant step in their faith journey and their families. Let it be a blessed occasion and may the presence of God be with us throughout the service.

As instructed by the Episcopal Synod, I am appointed to St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church, Karakkal, Thiruvalla with effect from 1 May 2024. God willing, we hope to leave on 24th April after the completion of a blessed tenure of our ministry at Ascension Mar Thoma Church. We reached Philadelphia on September 27, 2021, with the Covid and its ill effects lingering around us. Though for a few months more it was difficult for us all, with the grace of God, together we managed to overcome the difficulties and return to our normal lives gradually. Looking back, I am filled with gratitude for the abundant mercy and amazing grace that has enabled me to serve in this parish. Grace and grace alone has brought us this far and clinging on to the cross, we hope to journey forward. I request your earnest prayers for our ministry in the coming years. My last Sunday service as Vicar in this parish will be on April 21st, 2024.

I want to take this opportunity to express my deepest thanks to God for His unwavering presence and guidance in our parish for the past three years. It is through His grace that we have found strength in times of adversity, comfort in moments of sorrow, and joy in times of celebration. Let us offer our prayers of thanksgiving for the countless blessings bestowed upon us on all the days of our lives.

I thank the Episcopal Synod for this opportunity to serve in this parish. I gratefully remember the guidance and support of the Diocesan Bishops and Diocesan Secretaries. Let me express my sincere love and appreciation to Rev. Thomas K. Mathew and family, Rev. Jeff Jack Philips and family for their fellowship and love that made our ministry all the more delightful. I also thank our former vicar, Rev. Jinson K. Mathew and family for their support and help.

I sincerely thank the office bearers (2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24) for their brotherly love, affection, and constant support. I appreciate the unwavering support and cooperation of all the executive committee members during my tenure in this parish. I praise God for enabling our organizations to flourish and function efficiently for the glory of His Kingdom.

Let me also extend my heartfelt appreciation to each of you for your dedication, support, and love over the past three years. I will forever be indebted for the love you showered upon me and my family. Your prayers kept me going. You were gracious to let us share with you your joys and sorrows. Each one of you made us feel like family. Your unwavering commitment to our parish has been the driving force behind the achievements and successes of the parish. Whether through your participation in worship, your involvement in ministries, or your acts of kindness and generosity, you have enriched the fabric of our community and strengthened the bonds of fellowship that unite us. Once again, thank you so much for making me, Teena, Nivedh and Nevin feel loved and appreciated.

As we await the arrival of Rev. Joji M. George, Neena Kochamma, Jonah, and Joash on May 2nd, 2024, let us uphold them in our prayers and pray for God's travel mercies to be with them. I believe that under achen's able guidance and leadership, the parish will grow spiritually and progress essentially. I wish Joji achen and family our best wishes and prayers.

As we look ahead to the future, I am filled with hope and optimism for what lies ahead for our Ascension family. I hope and pray that you may be able to continue to nurture and cultivate a spirit of love, compassion, and service within your midst. May we remain steadfast in our faith, ever mindful of the teachings of Christ, and committed to living out His message of love and reconciliation in our daily lives. May the Ascension Mar Thoma Church remain forever as a beacon of light and pillar of strength for the community. In closing, I wish to convey my sincerest prayers and blessings for each of you and your families.

"Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you." 2 Corinthians 13: 11
May God Almighty bless us all and keep us covered under the shadow of His cross forever more.

Yours in His Mission,
Bibi Achen

New Born

- Our members **Mr. Aswin Mathew and Dr. Anitha** A/C # 07 are blessed with a baby boy named **Ezekiel**.
Congratulation to the family .

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

APRIL

2024

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|-----|-----|----------------------|-----|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 Sev. San. 10am | 4 | 5 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church | 6 Prayer-Beth |
| 7 HC Mal@9.30a Episcopal Visit/ First Communion Prayer-Sharon | 8 | 9 | 10 Sev. San. 10am | 11 | 12 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church | 13 Prayer-Zion @ 6 pm Youth Fellowship 6pm @ Church |
| 14 HC Eng 9.30am SS after Ser. Prayer-Salem BAKE SALE-YS | 15 | 16 | 17 Sev. San. 10am | 18 | 19 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church | 20 |
| 21 HC Mal 9.30am SS after Ser. Vicar Sendoff Mtg. | 22 | 23 | 24 Sev. San. 10am | 25 | 26 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church | 27 Prayer-Naz @ 6 pm |
| 28 HC Eng 9.30am SS after Ser Prayer -YS | 29 | 30 | | | | |

MAY

2024

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|-----|-----|----------------------|-----|---|---|
| | | | 1 Sev. San. 10am | 2 | 3 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church | 4 Prayer-Beth |
| 5 H C Mal@9.30am New Vicar Welcome YS BAKE SALE Prayer-Sharon | 6 | 7 | 8 Sev. San. 10am | 9 | 10 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church | 11 Prayer-Zion @ 6 pm Youth Fellowship 6pm @ Church |
| 12 HC Eng 9.30am SS after Ser. Mother's Day-SS Prayer-Salem | 13 | 14 | 15 Sev. San. 10am | 16 | 17 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church | 18 |
| 19 HC Mal 9.30am SS after Ser. SS BAKE SALE | 20 | 21 | 22 Sev. San. 10am | 23 | 24 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church | 25 Prayer-Naz @ 6 pm |
| 26 HC Eng 9.30am SS after Ser. Prayer -YS | 27 | 28 | 29 Sev. San. 10am | 30 | 31 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church | |

Worship Schedule and Lectionary -June 2024

Sunday, 02 June 2024

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 09.30 am Malayalam Holy Communion | 1 Kings 3:3-14 James. 3:13-18 | Eph. 5:9-17 St. Matt 7:21-27 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|

Sunday, 9 June 2024

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 09.30 am English Holy Communion | Isa. 65:17-25 Rev. 21:1-8 | Rom 8:18-25 St. John 3:16-21 |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|

Sunday, 16 June 2024

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 09.30 am Malayalam Holy Communion | Jer. 1:1-12 2 Cor. 4:1-6 | Acts. 9:10-17 St. Matt 4:17-22 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|

Sunday, 23 June 2024

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 09.30 am English Holy Communion | Dan. 6:10-23 2 Cor. 6:1-10 | Col. 1:24-29 St. Luke 9:23-27 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|

Sunday, 30 June 2024

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 09.30 am Malayalam Holy Communion | Mal. 3:13-4:2 Acts. 1:6-11 | 1 Tess. 4:13-18 St. Matt 24: 42-51 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

Obituary

Mrs. LEELAMMA JOYKUTTY

84 years old



The Ascension family remembers with gratitude the life and service of **Mrs. LEELAMMA JOYKUTTY** and expresses heartfelt condolence.

Mr. PHILIP KUNNEL PHILIP (Johnykutty)



The Ascension family remembers with gratitude the life and service of **Mr. PHILIP KUNNEL PHILIP** and expresses heartfelt condolence.

Mr. SOJI SKARIAH



The Ascension family remembers with gratitude the life and service of **Mr. SOJI SKARIAH** and expresses heartfelt condolence.



From Youth Chaplain's Desk

Greetings in the name of our Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ!!!

As we enter into the months following Easter, let's remember the verses from St. Luke 24:34- "The Lord has risen indeed!" In these simple yet profound words, we find a beacon of hope that illuminates our hearts and minds, guiding us through the challenges of life with unwavering faith and courage. The disciples' declaration of Christ's resurrection is a testament to the certainty of this miraculous event. Despite their doubts and fears that may have clouded their minds, the empty tomb and the appearance of the risen Lord confirmed the reality of resurrection. In a world plagued by uncertainty and turmoil, the resurrection serves as an anchor of hope, reminding us that God's promises are true and steadfast. When the disciples encountered the risen Lord that was one of the most transformative moments of their lives. In the same way, we too are invited to experience the transformative power of resurrection in our lives. It is a call to leave behind the burdens of sin and shame and embrace the freedom and joy found in Christ. Through the grace of resurrection, our brokenness is healed, our wounds are mended, and our lives are renewed with purpose and meaning. May this season be a time of deep spiritual renewal, transformation, and revival in our individual lives, our families and in the life of our faith community. Together, let us walk in the footsteps of our risen Saviour, bearing witness to the power of his love and the hope of his resurrection. At this moment, let us express our sincere thanks to our outgoing parish vicar Rev. Bibi Mathew Chacko and family for their steadfast leadership, compassionate care, and unwavering commitment to serving our congregation that has left an indelible mark on our hearts. At this time I would also extend the gratitude of our family to Bibi achen, Teena Kochamma, Nivedhmon and Nevinmon for the fellowship that we have experienced through them in our life and ministry in Philadelphia. Let us continue to uphold their ministry as they are moving back to India. At the same time, I extend my warm welcome to our new incoming parish vicar Rev. Joji M. George, Dr. Neena Anna Kurien Kochamma, Jonah George Joji and Joash Kurien Joji. Together with you all, I am also excited to welcome

them into our church family and eagerly anticipate the unique blessings and insights they will bring to our community. May their ministry be guided by the Holy Spirit, and may they find joy and fulfilment in shepherding our parish towards greater spiritual growth and unity.

I thankfully remember the cooperation that I received from the 33 children and their families for whom I was able to take the five extensive classes for preparing them for their first Holy Communion service. I pray that they may have a blessed experience as they enter in communion in the Lord's Table.

Let me take this opportunity to urge the parents to encourage and find time to bring your children for the youth fellowship meetings that are held on 2nd and 4th Fridays of every month and also for the English Holy Communion service which is arranged for their sake. I believe that these are life shaping moments of their spiritual journey in their prime youth.

I once again wish you all to live with hope and confidence, trusting in the promise of the resurrected Lord. May the Lord Almighty guide us and empower us through these words.

Jeff Achen, Youth Chaplain

PARISH SUNDAY 2024



DIOCESAN SUNDAY



Lent Prayer Book Publishing



Worship Schedule and Lectionary -April 2024

| | Lessons | Epistle/Gospel |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sunday, 07 Apr 2024 | | |
| 09.30 am Malayalam Holy Communion | Gen. 32:22-32 Acts. 9:1-18 | Col. 3:12-17 St. John. 20:24-29 |
| Sunday, 14 Apr 2024 | | |
| 09.30 am English Holy Communion | Hos. 14:1-9 Heb.6:9-12 | Gal.6:1-5 St. Joh. 21:1-14 |
| Sunday, 21 Apr 2024 | | |
| 09.30 am Malayalam Holy Communion | Isa. 41:8-20 Acts. 27:27-37 | 2 Cor. 4:7-15 St. Luke. 24:13-35 |
| Sunday, 28 Apr 2024 | | |
| 09.30 am English Holy Communion | Gen. 2:18-25 Eph. 5:21-33 | 1 Cor. 13 St. Matt. 19:1-12 |

Worship Schedule and Lectionary - May 2024

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sunday, 05 May 2024 | | |
| 09.30 am Malayalam Holy Communion | Lev. 19:9-16 Gal. 2:1-10 | 2 Cor. 8:1-9 St. Matt. 25:31-40 |
| Sunday, 12 May 2024 | | |
| 09.30 am English Holy Communion | Eze 37:1-14 Acts. 1:6-11 | Gal 5:16-26 St. John 14:14-21 |
| Sunday, 19 May 2024 | | |
| 09.30 am Malayalam Holy Communion | Joel. 2:28-32 Acts. 2:1-13 | 1 Cor. 12:1-11 St. John 16:1-15 |
| Sunday, 26 May 2024 | | |
| 09.30 am English Holy Communion | Exod. 19:17-25 Gal. 4:1-7 | 2 Cor. 13:11-14 St. Matt. 28:16-20 |