



# ASCENSION MAR THOMA CHURCH

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



## OCT - DEC NEWS LETTER 2024

**VICAR : Rev. JOJI M GEORGE**

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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

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2024



Vicar  
**Rev. Joji M George**  
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. Alvin 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**  
267-777-3955



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



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



Zion  
**Mr. Rajeev 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

## From Vicar's Desk



*"It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter."*

*Psalms 74:17*

*As we step into the last trimester of 2024, let us praise God for his abundant mercy that He has showered upon us. Let us embrace the love of God and celebrate the beauty of creation. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all for your unwavering support and dedication to our church. As we enter the new season, let us uphold each other in our prayers. It will help to strengthen our fellowship. As we are the members of a faith community, we should be helpful to others and thereby witness Christ.*

*Our life is a gift of God. There may be people who haven't thought about the meaning of life. It is necessary for each of us to think about how we can make life meaningful. It is essential to realize the truth that God has complete authority over life. Life is a short period from birth to death. To make life meaningful, we must strive to live with intention and purpose. This involves nurturing our relationships, serving others, and growing in faith. By embracing the truth of God's sovereignty and living according to His principles, we can lead lives that are not only meaningful but also pleasing to Him.*

*He who cannot see the good in others cannot do any good. We all are going through many experiences in life, each one is a lesson. There are different types of people around us, some lead us to good and some lead us to evil. Man, created by God in His own image, lost the glory of God due to sin and fell away from God. Remembering the man who had gone through suffering and difficulty, God repented and made many attempts to recover him. As its culmination, we celebrate the beautiful moment of sending His own Son into the world as Christmas. Every Christmas reminds us that God loves the world throughout history. We are obliged to spread God's love to others. We must wonder if we often end up neglecting the mission God has entrusted to us. Christmas gives us a flowering season of hope. Every day and night, we should remember God's grace.*

*Godliness is also obedience to God. We are in the last days of a year. These are the days of rethinking. We should think about how we were able to utilize the opportunities and experiences that God has given us. We should analyze whether we have wasted even what we have by worrying about what we don't have. It is essential to recognize that God holds complete authority over life. He is the creator and sustainer of all things,*

*and his divine plan encompasses every aspect of our existence. By seeking His guidance and aligning our lives with His will, we can find true fulfillment and purpose.*

*I express our heartfelt gratitude and love to all who have led the activities of the parish. I praise God for everyone's cooperation in gathering in the Harvest Festival Special thanks to the officials who led the activities, and especially to the convener, Mr. M.A. Mathew. As the roofing work continues, I kindly ask everyone for their financial support.*

*May the good God help us to be the partakers of the kingdom of God. Let us take time to reflect on our lives and seek God's wisdom in all that we do. May we find peace and purpose in knowing that our lives are in His hands, and may we live each day with gratitude and a heart full of love. May the joy and peace of Christmas fill our hearts and homes. As we enter a new year, may we be filled with hope and gratitude.*

*Yours in His Ministry,  
Joji Achen*

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## ASCENSION ONAM



## From Youth Chaplain's Desk



*Dear Ascension Mar Thoma Church Family,*

*Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...*

*Joni Eareckson Tada was a vibrant 17-year-old in 1967 when her life changed forever. An avid athlete, Joni loved to swim and ride horses. But one summer day, while diving into the Chesapeake Bay, she misjudged the water's depth and suffered a severe spinal cord injury, leaving her paralyzed from the shoulders down. In an instant, her entire life was turned upside down.*

*During her early days of rehabilitation, Joni struggled with deep depression, anger, and doubts about God. She could not imagine living the rest of her life as a quadriplegic, reliant on others for even the simplest tasks. But in the midst of her despair, she clung to her faith. Over time, she came to a powerful realization—that although she had lost her physical abilities, her life still had incredible purpose through God's grace. Despite her paralysis, Joni found new strength in the Lord. She began to use her artistic talents, painting by holding a brush between her teeth, and went on to write books, record music, and become an advocate for people with disabilities. Today, Joni is a renowned author and speaker, sharing the message of God's love and the hope that sustains her.*

*Joni's story of faith and perseverance echoes the words of Isaiah 40:31: "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." As we journey through the months of October to December, we witness the change of seasons around us—the colorful transformation of autumn, the warmth of Thanksgiving gatherings, and the joyful anticipation of Christmas. Each season holds a special significance, inviting us to reflect on God's work in our lives.*

*As we step into the fall season, Joni's story reminds us that even in times of loss or struggle, God is still at work in our lives. The falling leaves remind us that some things may need to be released in order for God to bring new life. Like Joni, we may face seasons of difficulty, but through faith, we can trust that God is renewing our strength and shaping our future in ways we may not fully understand.*

*The month of November pulls our focus on gratitude, Joni's life teaches us that thankfulness is not dependent on our circumstances. Despite her physical limitations, Joni chose to live a life of gratitude, knowing that God's purpose for her was far greater than her challenges. As we gather with our families and loved ones, let us take time to reflect on the ways God has been faithful, even in the most difficult seasons of our lives. Thanksgiving is not just about the blessings we receive, but about acknowledging the strength God gives us to endure and grow.*

*As we enter December and the Advent season, we need to prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Christ. Just as Joni found hope in God's promises during her darkest moments, we too are reminded that Christ's coming brings light to the darkness. The arrival of Jesus is the ultimate symbol of hope—He is the reason we can have faith that God will work all things for our good.*

*As we move forward, I invite you to continue supporting the youth ministry. Our youth are not just the future of the Church; they are its present. Let us walk alongside them, lifting them up in prayer, sharing our wisdom, and showing them the joy of a life rooted in Christ.*

*A humble servant in the Lord's Ministry,*

**Jeff Achen,**

*Youth Chaplain (Philadelphia SE Region)*

*516-661-7844*

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## Death in our families

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

- **V. Kurien Paul** father of Mrs. Mary Kurien from the Jerusalem prayer group, A/c # 122
- **Marykutty Mathew**, mother of our member Mr. John Mathew from the Jerusalem prayer group, A/c # 0321
- **Mr. V.M. Mathew** brother of our member Mr. Samuel Mathai (Valsan) from the Sharon Prayer Group, A/c #101.
- **Mrs. Gracy Thomas**, sister of our member Mr. Chacko Cherial from the Sharon Prayer Group (Account Number #014), who passed away in India.
- **Mr. Abraham P Kocitty** , uncle of our member Mrs. Asha Mathew, Bethlehem prayer group A/C 262 ,

## Worship Schedule and Lectionary - OCTOBER 2024

	Lessons	Epistle/Gospel
<b>Sunday, 06 OCT 2024</b>		
09.00 am Malayalam Holy Communion	2Kgs 7:3-11 1Thess 2:1-12	2Tim 2:1-13 Luke 9:1-6
<b>Sunday, 13 OCT 2024</b>		
09.00 am English Holy Communion	Gen 1:24-31 2Cor 12:1-10	Phil 2:25-30 Mark 3:1-5
<b>Sunday, 20 OCT 2024</b>		
09.00 am Malayalam Holy Communion	Dan 1:1-21 Eph 6:10-18	Phil 3:7-14 Luke 19:1-10
<b>Sunday, 27 OCT 2024</b>		
09.00 am English Holy Communion	Gen 45:1-15 Acts 16:19-34	Col 3:18-25 Luke 2:41-52

## Worship Schedule and Lectionary -NOVEMBER 2024

<b>Sunday, 03 NOV 2024</b>		
09.00 am Malayalam Holy Communion	Gen 17:1-8 1John 2:7-14	Eph 6:1-4 Mark 10:13-16
<b>Sunday, 10 NOV 2024</b>		
09.00 am English Holy Communion	Josh 4:1-8 1Cor 12:12-27	Eph 4:1-7 John 17:20-23
<b>Sunday, 17 NOV 2024</b>		
09.00 am Malayalam Holy Communion	1Chr 24:1-19 Heb 6:9-12	Rom 10:9-15 Luke 1:5-23
<b>Sunday, 24 NOV 2024</b>		
09.00 am English Holy Communion	1Sam 2:1-11 Gal 4:1-7	Rom 12:1-2 Luke 1:26-38

## Worship Schedule and Lectionary - DECEMBER 2024

### Sunday, 01 DEC 2024

09.00 am  
Malayalam Holy Communion

Exod 7:1-7  
Acts 9:26-31

Rom 15:5-9  
Luke 1:39-45

### Sunday, 08 DEC 2024

09.00 am  
English Holy Communion

Mal 3:1-4  
Acts 16:1-5

2Tim 1:3-10  
Luke 1:57-66

### Sunday, 15 DEC 2024

09.00 am  
Malayalam Holy Communion

Isa 7:10-17  
1Thess 5:12-22

2Pet 1:5-11  
Matt 1:18-23

### Sunday, 22 DEC 2024

09.00 am  
English Holy Communion

Isa 11:1-10  
Acts 3:19-26

Heb 1:1-12  
John 1:9-18

### Sunday, 29 DEC 2024

09.00 am  
Malayalam Holy Communion

1Sam 7:1-12  
Rom 8:31-39

2Thess 2:13-15  
Matt 11:25-30

## Obituary



**Our member Mrs. Rachelamma John,** (Jerusalem prayer group A/C#46), wife of our Vice President **Mr. John Mathew,** 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.

### 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



# OCTOBER

# 2024

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

# NOVEMBER

# 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	2 Prayer-Beth <b>FALL FESTIVAL</b>
3 <b>FAMILY SUN</b> Holy Communion Mal@9.00am Income Offertory-D-1 Prayer-Sharon	4	5	6 Sev. San. 10am	7	8 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church Youth Fellowship 6pm @ Church	9 Prayer-Zion @ 6 pm
10 HC Eng 9.00am SS after Ser. Prayer-Salem	11	12	13 Sev. San. 10am	14	15 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	16 <b>Christmas carol house visit - 1</b>
17 HC Mal 9.00a <b>General Body - Election 2025</b> <b>Christmas carol house visit - 2</b>	18	19	20 Sev. San. 10am	21	22 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	23 Prayer-Naz @ 6 pm
24 HC Eng 9.00a SS after Ser. Prayer-YS <b>Christmas carol house visit - 4</b>	25	26	27 Sev. San. 10am <b>Thanks Giving Dinner-YF, Yg, F,YS</b>	28 HC Eng 9.00a <b>Thanks Giving Day</b>	29 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	30

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> Holy Communion Mal@9.00am Christmas carol house visit - 5	2	3	<b>4</b> Sev. San. 10am	5	<b>6</b> Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	<b>7</b> Prayer-Beth
<b>8</b> HC Eng 9.00am SS after Ser. Prayer-Salem	9	10	<b>11</b> Sev. San. 10am	12	<b>13</b> Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church Youth Fellowship 6pm @ Church	<b>14</b> Prayer-Zion @ 6 pm Christmas carol SERVICE
<b>15</b> HC Mal 9.00am SS after Ser. Christmas carol house visit - 7	16	17	<b>18</b> Sev. San. 10am	19	<b>20</b> Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	<b>21</b> Sabha Day
<b>22</b> HC Eng 9.00am SS after Ser. Prayer-YS	23	24	<b>25</b> X MAS DAY HC Eng 9.30am	26	<b>27</b> Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church Christmas Dinner 5:30PM - Y Fel.	<b>28</b> Prayer-Naz @ 6 pm
<b>29</b> HC Mal 9.00am SS after Ser.	30	<b>31</b> HC Mal 9.30 PM Watch Night Service				



## ANNUAL GOSPEL CONVENTION



### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S RETREAT

### VBS 2024 CAMP FIRE LIGHT



## 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 6pm

**Jerusalem:** TBD

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

**Salem:** Every second Sunday

**Sharon:** First Sunday of every month

**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:**

**November 9th (Saturday)** at 5:30pm at the residence of Mr. Abey Cherian (A/C # 167). Address: 9105 Revere St. Philadelphia, PA 19152 Phone #: (home) 215-856-9477 & (mobile) +1 (267) 239-3178

**Saturday (October 12th)** at 5:30pm at the residence of Mr. Anu Skariah (A/C # 231). Address: 1946 Goodnaw St 1st Flr Philadelphia, Pa 19115 Phone #: +1 (267) 496-2423

## New Born

Our members Mr. Robin Samuel and Mrs. Ansu Dan Anna A/C # 208 are blessed with a baby boy named **RYLAN DAN SAMUEL**. Congratulations to the family .

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

TO

