



ASCENSION MAR THOMA CHURCH

10197 Northeast Ave, Philadelphia, PA19116

Phone: 215-677-7322 • Website: <http://ascensionmtc.org>

JAN - MAR NEWS LETTER

2025

VICAR : Rev. JOJI M GEORGE

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

HAPPY



NEW YEAR

From **Jijomon Joseph**

Secretary, Ascension MTC,

10197 Northeast Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19116

secretary.amc@gmail.com

TO



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2025



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. P.A. Mathew
267-401-5429



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
TBD



Nazareth
Mr. Mathew Philip
267-423-2358



Sharon
Mr. Johnson Simon
215-934-6169



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
Mrs. Ashley Joseph
267-988-5214



Yuvajana Sakhyam
Mrs. Biji Varghese
215-464-0316



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. Sumesh John
267-266-8810



Senior Fellowship
Mrs. Marykutty Thomas
215-913-5718

Auditors



Auditor
Mr. Abraham Thomas
610-351-1255



Auditor
Mrs. Roby Sam
267-760-6921

- **Mrs. Sosamma Cheriyan** (Omana, 82), sister-in-law of our dear member Mrs. Susan John (AC#109) of the Sharon Prayer
- **Mr. P.A.Simon**, (Aged 82, the beloved father of our members Mr. Asok P. Simon (AC#100-Sharon Prayer Group) and Mrs. Leena Kishore(AC#0308-Sharon Prayer Group
- **Mrs. Anneyamma Geevarghese** Sister-in-law of our member Mr. V.L. Georgekutty and the aunt of Mr. Anaj Mathew George (Nazareth Prayer Group AC # 160)

Prayer Meetings

Yuvajana Sakhyam: Every fourth Sunday

Young Family Fellowship: Prayer meetings to be announced

Youth Fellowship: Every second Friday

Bethlehem: Every first Saturday

Jerusalem: TBD

Nazareth: Every fourth Saturday

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:

January 11 th 5 pm at the residence of Mrs & Mrs. Joby John A/C 136

Address: 8108 Pennhill RdElkins Park, PA 19027

February 08 th 5 pm at the residence of Mrs.& Mr Saji Varghese A/C # 113

March 08 th 5pm At the residence of Mr. & Mrs K.V George A/C #335

Address:2724 Willits RdPhiladelphia, PA 19152

MARCH - 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30 Holy Communion Mal@9.30am	31					1 Prayer-Beth Edava. Mis
2 Holy Communion Mal@9.30am SS after Ser. Prayer-Sharon	3	4	5 Sev. San. 10am	6	7 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church Youth Fellowship 6pm @ Church	8 Prayer-Zion @ 6 pm
9 HC Eng9.30a SS after Ser. Prayer-Salem	10	11	12 Sev. San. 10am	13	14 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	15
16 HC Mal 9.30am SS after Ser.	17	18	19 Sev. San. 10am	20	21 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	22 Prayer-Naz @ 6 pm
23 HC Eng 9.30am SS after Ser.	24	25	26 Sev. San. 10am	27	28 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	29



From Vicar's Desk

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever." Psalms 118: 1

As we bid farewell to the past year and welcome the dawn of a new one, we are filled with a sense of hope and renewal. The start of a new year is a time for reflection, gratitude, and setting new intentions. It is an opportunity to look back on our achievements, learn from our challenges and embrace the possibilities that lie ahead.

As we step into the new year, we are filled with a sense of hope, renewal, and anticipation for the blessings that lie ahead. The past year has been a journey of faith, growth, and as a community we are grateful for the love and support that has brought us to this moment. May we continue to support and uplift one another, fostering a sense of community and togetherness. Let us approach the new year with open hearts and minds, ready to embrace new opportunities and create meaningful moments.

Reflecting on the past year, we have seen God's faithfulness in our lives and in our church community. Through challenges and triumphs, we have experienced His grace, guidance, and provision. As we embark on this new chapter, let us carry forward the lessons we have learned and the strength we have gained.

This new year is an opportunity to deepen our relationship with God, to serve others with renewed passion and to be a light in our community. Let us embrace this season with hearts full of hope and trust in the God who leads us. As Paul reminds us in Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

May this new year be filled with joy, peace, and abundant blessings for you and your loved ones. Let us continue to support and uplift one another, walking together in faith and love. We look forward to all that God has in store for us and our church community in the coming year.

I am very happy to inform you that, by the grace of God, our church roofing project is completed. On behalf of Ascension Mar Thoma Church, I take this opportunity to thank all those who worked behind the successful completion of the work, especially Mr. Anaj Mathew, the convener of the project, Mr. Philip Biju Daniel and Mr. Saju Kurien, our trustees, for their earnest efforts. Your

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. Y.G. John (Aniyan)**, aged 82, beloved brother of our member **Mr. K.G. Mathai (Account #291 - Salem Prayer Group)**.
- **Mrs. Aleyamma Oomen and Mr. P.G. Alexander**, beloved sister and brother of our member, **Mr. Kurian George (Account 177, Zion Prayer Group)**.
- **Mr. M.K. Varughese (Thankachan)**, brother-in-law of our member **Mr. N.L. Varughese (Account 169, Zion Prayer Group)**.
- **Mrs. Reshmi Pramod**, sister-in-law of our member **Mrs. Praisy Varghese (Account #15, Zion Prayer Group)**
- **Mr. Chacko Varkey**, brother of our member **Mrs. Annamma Thomas (Account #81, Zion Prayer Group)**.
- **Mr. K.M. Varkey (Johny)**, aged 86, the beloved father of our member, **Mr. John Varkey (Bobby), Account #199, Jerusalem Prayer Group**.

dedication and hard work have made this achievement possible, and we are deeply grateful for your contributions. We are also grateful to all those who have made their contributions to this project.

As we begin a new financial year, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the office bearers of the church and its organizations. Your leadership has been a great blessing to our church activities. I praise God for each of you and for your selfless contributions to various activities. May our good God bless you all abundantly. I also pray for the new office bearers of the church and organizations, that you may perform your duties perfectly in the days to come. Now we are entering into yet another winter season. Let's give thanks for the various seasons, each of which has its own importance. Winter is a magical time of the year. As the days grow shorter and the air becomes crisp, nature transitions into a state of rest and quiet. Snow blankets the ground in a pristine white cover, transforming the landscape into a winter wonderland.

Despite the cold, winter has a way of bringing warmth to our hearts, reminding us of the beauty in each season and the importance of rest and renewal. It's a time to slow down, reflect, and appreciate the simple pleasures that come with this special time of the year.

We are grateful for the support and love that we have shared over the past year. Your contributions and dedication have made a significant impact, and we look forward to continuing this journey together. May this new year bring you joy, peace, and prosperity.

Yours in His Ministry,
Joji Achen

New Born

Our members, Mr. Anu George and Mrs. Manju Mathew, are blessed with a baby boy named **JOSHUA MATT GEORGE** on November 24, 2024. Congratulations to the proud parents!

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

JAN - 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 NEW YEAR DAY Sev. San. 10am	2	3 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	4 Prayer-Beth
5 Holy Communion Mal@9.30am SS after Ser. Prayer-Sharon	6	7	8 Sev. San. 10am	9	10 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church Youth Fellowship 6pm @ Church	11 Prayer-Zion @ 6 pm
12 HC Eng 9.30am SS after Ser. 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.	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	

FEB - 2025

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

Worship Schedule and Lectionary - MARCH 2025

Sunday, 02 MAR 2025 Beginning of the Great Lent

09.30 am Malayalam Holy Communion	Deut 30:1-10 Rev 21:1-8	Rom 12:1-3 St. John 2:1-11
--------------------------------------	----------------------------	-------------------------------

Sunday, 09 MAR 2025

09.30 am English Holy Communion	Jer 33:6-11 Phile 8-21	James 4:7-10 St. Mark 1:40-45
------------------------------------	---------------------------	----------------------------------

Sunday, 16 MAR 2025

09.30 am Malayalam Holy Communion	2Kgs 5:1-14 Acts 16:16-18	Rom 5:6-11 St. Mark 2:1-12
--------------------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------

Sunday, 23 MAR 2025

09.30 am English Holy Communion	Hos 2:14-23 Acts 5:12-16	1Cor 1:18-25 St. Matt 15:21-28
------------------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------------

Sunday, 30 MAR 2025

09.30 am Malayalam Holy Communion	Isa 66:12-15 Rom 3:23-31	1Pet 1:18-25 St. Luke 13:10-17
--------------------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------------



From Youth Chaplain's Desk

My Dear Ascension Mar Thoma Church Family,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!!!

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, let us embrace 2025 as an opportunity for growth, balance, and renewed commitment to our spiritual and worldly callings. In our fast-paced lives, we often find ourselves pulled in multiple directions, struggling to balance our responsibilities in studies, careers, relationships, and faith. Yet, God calls us to live a life that integrates the spiritual and the temporal, where neither is neglected but both are brought into harmony.

True growth begins with placing God at the center of our lives. When we “seek first His kingdom and His righteousness” (Matthew 6:33), we learn to prioritize what truly matters. Spiritual maturity and worldly diligence are not opposites but complements. The discipline and focus required for work and study mirror the perseverance and dedication needed in our walk with God.

Saint Benedict wisely advised, “Ora et labora” (Pray and work). This simple yet profound principle teaches us to anchor our efforts in prayer and to let our work be an extension of our faith. Whether we are striving for academic excellence, advancing in our professions, or serving through our church related activities, our efforts are meaningful when they are offered to God.

This year, let us commit to a life of balance and purpose through:

- 1. Intentional Growth: Set goals that foster both spiritual and personal development. Dedicate time for prayer, Scripture reading, and participation in parish life while also striving for excellence in your studies and career.*
- 2. Consistent Involvement: Stay actively engaged in the parish community. Serving in ministries or volunteering creates opportunities to grow in faith and contribute to the body of Christ.*
- 3. Focus and Balance: Prioritize wisely. Avoid overcommitment and learn to say no when necessary. Give space for rest, reflection, and quality time with loved ones.*

As Saint Teresa of Ávila said, “Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.” This reminds us that we are called to be His



instruments in both our spiritual and worldly endeavors. By growing in faith and diligently fulfilling our responsibilities, we not only enrich our lives but also become blessings to others.

May this New Year be a time of abundant grace, fruitful labor, and deepened faith. Together, let us journey with focus and balance, keeping our eyes fixed on Christ, the source of all wisdom and strength.

I look forward to keep the present momentum in relation to our Youth Fellowship and Young Family Fellowships. I request and pray for more participation from all youths and young family members in our meetings. I am happy to have built up the campus ministry through visits in and around universities in Philadelphia (namely Temple, Drexel and Penn State). I thank the youths who have helped me in building these ministries and I look forward for more such gatherings. I humbly request you to keep the youth ministry in your prayers and also kindly use the service of the youth chaplain in ways that are beneficial for you.

May His grace be on us all.

Blessings for a prosperous and grace-filled New Year!

Rev. Jeff Jack Philips

Youth Chaplain (SE Region, Philadelphia)

516-661-7844

jeffachenmtc@gmail.com

Obituary

Mr. Mathew K. Mathai
Nazareth Prayer Group,
Account #51



The Ascension family remembers with gratitude the life and service of

Mrs. MATHEW K. MATHAI
and expresses heartfelt condolence.

Mrs. Chinnamm Mathew
Account #162
Salem Prayer Group).



The Ascension family remembers with gratitude the life and service of

MRS. CHINNAMM MATHEW
and expresses heartfelt condolence.

Worship Schedule and Lectionary - JANUARY 2025

	Lessons	Epistle/Gospel
Sunday, 05 JAN 2025 Mission outside Kerala		
09.30 am Malayalam Holy Communion	Exod 3:1-17 Acts 16:6-15	Rom 10:9-17 St. Luke 10:1-11
Sunday, 12 JAN 2025		
09.30 am English Holy Communion	Mic 4:1-7 Rom 5:1-11	Eph 2:11-19 St. Matt 5:1-9
Sunday, 19 JAN 2025 Ecumenical Sunday		
09.30 am Malayalam Holy Communion	Zech 8:18-23 1Cor 1:10-18	Col 3:9-17 St. John 17:13-23
Sunday, 26 JAN 2025		
09.30 am English Holy Communion	Amos 5:18-27 1Pet 3:14-18	Col 4:2-6 St. Luke 3:7-14

Worship Schedule and Lectionary - FEBRUARY 2025

Sunday, 02 FEB 2025 Medical Mission Sunday		
09.30 am Malayalam Holy Communion	2Kgs 20:1-11 Heb 9:11-14	Jas 5:13-18 St. Mark 5:25-34
Sunday, 09 FEB 2025 Beginning of Maramon Convention		
09.30 am English Holy Communion	Isa 40:12-26 Rom 8:19-25	Col 1:15-20 St. Matt 6:26-30
Sunday, 16 FEB 2025		
09.30 am Malayalam Holy Communion	Isa 11:1-9 Eph 3:16-21	1Cor 1:4-9 St. John 4:4-15
Sunday, 23 FEB 2025 End of Maramon Convention		
09.30 am English Holy Communion	Ezek 36:24-31 Eph 4:17-24	1Pet 2:1-10 St. Luke 19:1-10