



ASCENSION MAR THOMA CHURCH



OCT - DEC NEWS LETTER 2025

VICAR : Rev. JOJI M GEORGE

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Mr. Jijomon Joseph
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Trustee (Finance)
Mr. Philip Biju Daniel
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Mr. Saju Kurien
267-414-4550

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2025



Vicar
Rev. Joji M George
267-312-9755



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



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Lay Leader (Malayalam)
Mr. P. A. Mathews
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
Mr. Rojish Sam Samuel
267-808-1064



Nazareth
Mr. Mathew Philip
267-423-2358



Sharon
Mr. Johnson Simon
215-934-6169



Salem
Mr. K. G. 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
Ms. Ashley Joseph
267-988-5214



Yuvajana Sakhyam
Mrs. Biji Varghese
215-464-0316



Young Family Fellowship
Mr. Bobby Cherian



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. Marykutti Thomas
215-913-5718

Auditors



Auditor
Mr. Abraham Thomas
610-351-1255



Auditor
Mrs. Roby Sam
267-760-6921

From Vicar's Desk

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,



As we step into the final quarter of the year, our hearts are drawn to reflection, gratitude, and anticipation. The rhythm of God's creation gently reminds us to slow down, take stock of our blessings, and prepare our hearts for the sacred celebration of Christ's birth. From October through December, we are invited into a spiritual journey—one that mirrors the changing seasons and the transformation they inspire.

October ushers in autumn, a season that speaks powerfully of transformation. The falling leaves and crisp air echo the truth that God is always renewing us. Nature shows us that change is not a loss, but a preparation. Trees shed their leaves, not because they are dying, but because they are making room for new life. To survive the winter and thrive in spring, they must release what no longer serves them.

In our own lives, transformation often begins with letting go of old habits, toxic relationships, fear, or pride. It's not easy, but just like the tree, we trust that shedding the unnecessary makes room for new growth. Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us: "To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven."

Let us embrace this season with open hearts, seeking God's guidance in areas where we need renewal. Whether it's a quiet surrender or a bold step forward, October calls us to trust the process of change.

Transformation isn't a one-time event; it's a lifelong journey. Each season of life has its purpose, and none is wasted. The stillness of winter, the rebirth of spring, the abundance of summer, and the shedding of autumn all play a role in shaping us into the image of Christ.

When we align our hearts with God's timing, we begin to see that every change, every challenge, and every quiet moment is part of His divine plan. Just as nature follows a rhythm, so too does our spiritual growth. And in every season, God is faithful.

As we move toward the celebration of Christ's birth, may this final quarter be a time of deep reflection, sincere gratitude, and joyful anticipation. Let us walk together in faith, trusting that the God who renews the earth is also renewing us.

November brings us to the table—both literally and spiritually. It's a time to pause, count our blessings, and reflect on the faithfulness of God throughout the year. Whether this year has brought joy or challenge, we

are called to respond with gratitude.

Scripture reminds us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Gratitude is more than a feeling—it's a posture of the heart. It's expressed not just in words, but in action. Let us open our homes and hearts, share meals with those in need, and offer prayers of thanksgiving for the grace that sustains us daily. In doing so, we reflect the love of Christ and become vessels of His generosity.

December ushers in Advent—a sacred time of waiting, hope, and holy anticipation. Amid the holiday hustle, we are invited to slow down and prepare room in our hearts for Emmanuel, "God with us."

As we light candles, sing carols, and gather in worship, may we be reminded that the true gift of Christmas is not wrapped in paper or placed under a tree. It is found in the manger—in the humble arrival of Jesus, who brings light to our darkness and peace to our souls.

Let this season be marked by wonder, worship, and a renewed sense of purpose. May we carry the message of Christ's birth into our homes, our communities, and our hearts, remembering that His presence is the greatest gift of all.

From September onwards we started celebrating special Sundays. We celebrated Sevika Sangham Day & Senior Citizens Day in September which is to be followed by Parish Mission, Youth Fellowship, Yuvajana Sakhyam and Young Family Fellowship in October and the World Sunday School Day and finally the Family Sunday in November. The special Sundays are occasions which enable each organization to rededicate themselves and strengthen their fellowship together in worship. Family Sunday is a special occasion for the dedication of our families. I request all to come together and join in worship on November 9th.

I express our heartfelt gratitude and love to all who have led the activities of the parish. I praise God for everyone's co-operation in gathering in the Harvest Festival. Special thanks to the officials who led the activities, and especially to the conveners, Mr. P.A. Mathews and Mr. George P. Mathai for their great leadership.

Throughout these months, let us continue to be a church that reflects Christ's love. Let us serve with compassion, worship with joy, and grow in faith together. As we approach the end of the year, may we look back with gratitude and forward with hope, trusting that the God who began a good work in us will be faithful to complete it.

*Yours in His Ministry,
Joji Achen*

From Youth Chaplain's Desk



Dear Ascension Family—Grace and peace in the name of Jesus Christ! As we journey into the final quarter of this year, we find ourselves surrounded by seasons that invite reflection and renewal. October reminds us of harvest and gratitude, November leads us into Thanksgiving, and December brings us into the wonder of Advent and Christmas—the celebration of Emmanuel, God with us. Each of these seasons invites us to live more deeply into the hope that Christ brings to our world. In a time when society is marked by divisions, uncertainty, and rapid change, the Church is called to stand as a community of faith, hope, and love. The words of Micah 6:8 remind us clearly: “What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” This is both a challenge and a calling—especially for our youth. Our younger generation is gifted with creativity, courage, and vision. The question before us is whether we will choose to use those gifts only for ourselves, or whether we will let Christ use them for His Kingdom. On a personal note, I want to thank you sincerely for your prayers following my accident. As many of you know, I had a torn labrum and a dislocated bicep muscle, both of which required surgery and repair. The recovery has been a slow, long, and often painful process, yet I continue to experience God’s sustaining grace each day. My family and I are deeply grateful for the love, encouragement, and prayers we have received from this parish community throughout this journey. I also want to express my heartfelt thanks to our Vicar Joji Achen, for his constant support, and prayers throughout this difficult season. His encouragement has been a source of strength to me and my family. Looking ahead, we are entrusted with significant opportunities:

- On November 15, 2025, the Center B Youth Fellowship Meeting will be held at Bethel Mar Thoma Church. I encourage your participation and prayers for this gathering.
- In January 2026, the Philadelphia Center B Youth Fellowship will host its first-ever all Marthoma Basketball Tournament. This initiative is not just about sports but about building fellowship, discipline, and unity. Please support this effort with your prayers and encouragement so that it may glorify God and strengthen our bonds as a community.

In July 2026, Ascension Mar Thoma Church Youths have received the honor of hosting the Diocesan Youth Fellowship Conference (DYFC) Nationals. This will be a historic moment for our parish. I encourage all of you to uphold our youth in prayer as they take leadership in planning and executing this

conference. To our young people—I urge you to see this not just as an event but as a calling: to rise up, to take ownership of your faith, and to be leaders who will shape the future of our Church. As my family and I prepare to return to India in April 2026, after completing my three-year assignment as Youth Chaplain, I am filled with deep gratitude. Serving among you has been a privilege and a blessing. Together, we have experienced God's grace in worship, fellowship, and ministry, and I will always cherish the love and support you have extended to me and my family. I request your prayers as we prepare for our next transition. As we close this year, may we enter Thanksgiving with hearts of gratitude, Advent with expectation, and Christmas with the joy of Emmanuel. Let us be a church that does not settle for comfort or indifference but dares to live courageously for Christ in every season.

With gratitude and blessings,
Jeff Achen
Youth Chaplain

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS RETREAT 2025



Worship Schedule and Lectionary - OCTOBER 2025

	Lessons	Epistle/Gospel
Sunday, 05 OCT 2025 Voluntary Evangelist's Association Day		
09.00 am Malayalam Holy Communion	Jer. 1:1-10 2 Cor.4:1-6	1 John 4:7-12 St. Luke 10:25-37
Sunday, 12 OCT 2025		
09.30 am English Holy Communion	Exo. 4:1-7 Acts 9:32-35	Acts 3:1-10 St. John 5: 2-9
Sunday, 19 OCT 2025 Youth Sunday		
09.00 am Malayalam Holy Communion	Dan. 6:1-10 Acts 6:1-6	1Tim. 4:7-16 St. Matt. 19:16-22
Sunday, 26 OCT 2025 Family Sunday		
09.30 am English Holy Communion	Job. 1:1-5 Acts 10:1-8	1 John 2:7-11 St. Mark 3:31-35
Worship Schedule and Lectionary - NOVEMBER 2025		
Sunday, 02 NOV 2025		
09.30 am English Holy Communion	Pro. 3:1-8 1John 3:1-12	3John 1-12 St. John 6: 1-14
Sunday, 09 NOV 2025		
09.30 am Malayalam Holy Communion	Jos. 22:21-29 Eph. 4:1-7	1Cor.12:12-27 St. John 10:11-18
Sunday, 16 NOV 2024		
09.30 am Malayalam Holy Communion	Judg. 13:2-14 Rom. 10:9-15	Heb. 6:9-12 St. Luke 1:5-23
Sunday, 23 NOV 2025		
09.30 am English Holy Communion	1 Sam2:1-11 1Cor. 1:26-31	Gal. 4:1-7 St. Luke 1:26-38
Sunday, 30 NOV 2025		
09.30 am English Holy Communion	1Sam 1:9-20 2Cor. 1:3-10	Heb. 11:1-12 St. Luke 1:31-45

Worship Schedule and Lectionary - DECEMBER 2025

Sunday, 07 DEC 2025

09.30 am
Malayalam Holy Communion

Jer. 15:15-21
Acts. 13:17-26

Heb. 4:12-14
St. Luke 1:57-66

Sunday, 14 DEC 2025

09.30 am
English Holy Communion

Isa. 7:10-17
Rom. 8:31-39

Eph. 1:15-23
St. Matt. 1:18-25

Sunday, 21 DEC 2025

09.30 am
Malayalam Holy Communion

Jos. 24:1-14
Heb. 13:7-16

Eph. 2:19-22
St. John 14: 1-7

Thursday, 25 DEC 2025 Xmas Day

09.00 am
English Holy Communion

Mic. 5:1-4
2 Tim: 2:8-13

Col.1:15-20
St. Luke 2:1-7

Sunday, 28 DEC 2025

09.30 am
English Holy Communion

Isa. 40: 25-31
Phil. 2:12-18

1 Thes. 5:14-28
St. Matt. 5:13-16

Wednesday, 31 DEC 2025 Watch Night service

10.00 pm
Malayalam Holy Communion

Isa. 40: 25-31
Phil. 2:12-18

1 Thes. 5:14-28
St. Matt. 5:13-16

Join Us For A Praise & Worship Series:

Echoes of
MERCY

OCTOBER 12, 2025 | 6.30 PM

Ascension Mar Thoma Church - Annex Hall
10197 Northeast Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19116

"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!

His mercy endures forever."

Psalms 136:1



**Overall 2nd for
Yuvajanasakhyam
KALAMELA**

OCTOBER							2025
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
			1 Sev. San. 10am	2	3 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	4 Prayer-Beth	
5 HC Mal@9.00am SS after Ser. Prayer-Sharon Edv. Mis. Day	6 Sr. Fellowship 5.00 pm	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. YF Sunday Prayer-Salem	13	14	15 Sev. San. 10am	16	17 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	18 Prayer-Jeru @ 6 pm	YS - Cooking Class
19 HC Mal 9.00am SS after Ser. YS Sunday Prayer - EM	20	21	22 Sev. San. 10am	23	24 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	25 Prayer-Naz @ 6 pm	SS -Reg. Talent \ Fest
26 HC Eng 9.30am SS after Ser. Prayer -YS Camp Fir/Movie Night_SS YFF DAY	27	28	29 Sev. San. 10am	30	31 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church		
NOVEMBER							2025
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
30 HC Mal@9.30am SS after Ser.						1 Prayer-Beth	
2 HC Eng@9.30am World SS Day Prayer-Sharon	3 Sr. Fellowship 5.00 pm	4	5 Sev. San. 10am	6	7 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church Youth Fellowship 6pm @ Church	8 Prayer-Zion @ 6 pm	
9 HC Mal9.30am SS after Ser. Family Sunday Income Offertory Prayer-Salem	10	11	12 Sev. San. 10am	13	14 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	15 Prayer-Jeru @ 6 pm	
16 HC Mal 9.30am General Body - Election 2026 Prayer-EM	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. Prayer -YS	24	25	26 Sev. San. 10am Thanks Giving Dinner-YF,YFF, YS	27 HC Eng 9.00am Thanks Giving Day	28 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	29 Heavenly Trumpet RAC SE Reg. YF Fall Conf.	

DECEMBER

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Sr. Fellowship 5.00 pm	2	3 Sev. San. 10am	4	5 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	6 Ecu. X Mas
7 HC Mal 9.30am Christmas carol house visit - 1	8	9	10 Sev. San. 10am	11	12 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church Youth Fellowship 6pm @ Church	13 Christmas carol house visit - 2
14 HC Eng 9.30am SS after Ser. Christmas carol house visit - 3	15	16	17 Sev. San. 10am	18	19 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	20 Christmas carol service
21 HCMal 9.30am SS after Ser.	22	23	24	25 X MAS DAY HC Eng 9.00am	26 Fasting Prayer 9.30 am @Church	27
28 HC Eng 9.30am SS after Ser.	29	30 Christmas Dinner 5:30PM - Y Fel.	31 HC Mal 10.00 PM WATCH NIGHT SERVICE			

Ascension Annual Gospel convention 2025



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

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: Every Third Saturday at 6pm

Nazareth: Every fourth Saturday at 5pm

October 26th Sunday 5pm at the residence of Mrs & Mr. SUMODH T. NELLIKALA
(A/c No.104)Address: 2708 River House Rd,Philadelphia, PA 19114.

Salem: Every second Sunday

Sharon: First Sunday of every month

Edavaka Mission: Every Third Sunday

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

18th Oct 2025 @5.00 pm at the residence of **BOBBY CHERIAN** 13430, Trevose
Road, Philadelphia, PA 19116 Ph: 267-671-2248

15th Nov 2025 @ 5.00 pm at the residence of **N.L. VARGHESE**, 8941, Fairfield St.
Philadephia, PA 19152 Ph: 215-833-6319

DEATH IN OUR FAMILIES

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

- * **MRS. SHINY PAUL** (age 55), of Arikupurathu House, Keezhillam. She was the beloved sister of Mr. Shanto Mathew (Jerusalem Prayer Group, Account No. 0312).
- * **MR. SUNNY ABRAHAM** (age 73), cherished Uppappen of Dr. Ancy Skariah (Zion Prayer Group, Account No. 231) and dear uncle of Mrs. Betty Satheesh (Zion Prayer Group, Account No. 112).



*Christmas
Greetings*