

## **St. Paul's Malankara Orthodox Church History**

*Thomas Rajan*

(Sabha Managing Committee Member)

*What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a Hymn, a Lesson, a Revelation a Tongue, or an Interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.*

*1 Corinthians 14:26*

St. Paul's Orthodox Church was formally established on May 6<sup>th</sup> 2006 with the unanimous approval of the diocesan council of North America, H.G. Mathews Mar Barnabas (Senior Metropolitan) and H.G. Zacharias Mar Nicholovos (Assistant Metropolitan). Their joint approval to establish St. Paul's Orthodox Church was made clear in Kalpana # K 51/2006.

The inception of the parish was initiated under the spiritual guidance of Rev. Fr. Rege Mathews, in association with a few devoted members. In spite of the complexity and immense scale of the undertaking, the parishioners diligently supported the proposal, committing themselves financially and spiritually to help bring it to fruition.

Even though Rev. Fr. John Vaidyan was appointed as the first vicar of the Church, Rev. Fr. Geevarghese John (subsequently vicar) was instrumental in giving encouragement and inspiration to the parish throughout the her infancy. Due to the devotion of the parish's priests and members, the church was blessed with the ability to conduct liturgical services every Sunday since its inception.

Although the church first commenced in Dallas, the need for an Orthodox Church in the Plano area was recognized (to encourage non church-going believers, and to facilitate fellowship with new members.) Contemplation to relocate to the Plano area was developing in the minds of the parishioners, who continued to look into a variety of different venues. This impending desire became a reality on Thanksgiving Day 2009. St. Paul's was blessed to acquire a rental building under the (former) name of 'St. Sava Orthodox Church' in Plano.

In July 2009, St. Paul's Church became a part of the Diocese of South-West America under the leadership of H.G. Alexios Mar Eusebius. Thereafter, Rev. Fr. K.Y. Wilson was appointed as the new vicar of the parish. A devoted priest and talented speaker, he presented the congregation with a renewed opportunity to further strengthen its spiritual relationship.

In 2010, Rev. Fr. Rege Mathews was appointed as Vicar and Rev. Binu Mathews as Assistant Vicar. In 2013, H.G. Alexios Mar Eusebius appointed Rev. Fr. Binu Mathews as Vicar and Rev. Fr. Mathews George as Assistant Vicar. In 2014, Rev. Fr. Mathukutty Varghese was appointed as Assistant Vicar after Rev. Fr. Mathews George was transferred to Chicago.

Beginning from its foundation to present day, spiritual organizations such as Sunday school, MGOCSM, Martha Mariam Samajam, prayer fellowship, etc. have been instituted and continue to grow in strength. Additionally, the church has steadily grown in both membership and recognition. Currently, St. Paul's has twenty-eight families as active members with a few non-members. New members continue to join.

By the grace of Almighty God we are moving forward as a strong growing parish under the devout leadership of Rev. Fr. Binu Mathews. The parish has a vision to build and/or purchase a church in the near future and is currently seeking your support and prayers towards this endeavor.

If you find it in your heart to donate and/or support our new building project, please send checks to: (made payable to: St. Paul's Orthodox Church)

St. Paul's Orthodox Church Building Fund  
12638 Trolley Drive  
Frisco, TX 75035



