

Holy Transfiguration Mission - "Come and See."

You may find a visit to Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Mission is different from any church service you have experienced.

The sight of candles and the altar, the smell of incense burning, the sound of chanting, the touch of the Sign of the Cross and the taste of the Eucharist are some of the ways Orthodox celebrate their faith. Using one of the earliest Christian liturgies known, Holy Transfiguration services are meditative and spiritually nourishing. There is deep peace in knowing that one is worshipping as the earliest Christians worshipped.

Our mission is part of the Mission Society of St. Gregorios of India, a mission of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church. The Malankara Church was founded in India in AD 52 by the Apostle Thomas. It existed for centuries in South India, and only recently became known in the United States.

While most of the millions of Malankara Christians are Indian, people of all nationalities, including Americans, are beginning to appreciate the beauty and richness of this apostolic church.

"When we work for the unity of humanity, we stand on our own convictions and traditions while sharing a great vision of God at the center of an all-embracing love for humanity."

- Paulos Mar Gregorios
1922-1996

*Bishop of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church
President of World Council of Churches*

Services at 10 a.m. Sundays
6205 University Avenue
Madison

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Malankara Orthodox Syrian Mission
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**If you still haven't found
the place you're looking
for, maybe it's time to try
a different path.**



Welcome to a
different
Christianity.

Icons shown are works by the famous Coptic Painter and Artist Isaac Fanous, were made available to Copt-Net through the Coptic Orthodox Church of the Holy Virgin Mary, 4900 Cleland Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90042.

A different path on your spiritual journey.

Like a lot of people today, you may be seeking a new spiritual direction.

Demographics show that in the United States, "mainline" churches are losing membership while newer Christian movements seem to be thriving. At the same time, converts to these churches often report feeling disenchanted after a period of time; others feel uncomfortable with exclusivistic or Fundamentalist approaches to the Bible and to Christianity.

Some turn to New Age practices, looking for options that seem mystical and affirming. Sacred Earth traditions are attractive to those for whom nature is very important; others turn to Eastern traditions like Buddhism for their meditative and introspective qualities.

Still others drop out of "organized" religion altogether, because from what they've experienced, it does not seem to hold a place for them. No one is perfect, but some religious people are very judgemental of others. For too many, religion has seemed to be a source of confusion and pain. For people who feel they have been hurt in the name of religion, it may seem as if God has abandoned them, and "church" no longer seems like a safe place to be.



An ancient church for modern society.

What many American Christians don't recognize is that there is a church that can meet their spiritual needs, and that it's been there all along.

The Orthodox Christian church is, simply put, the most ancient expression of Christianity - kept alive to the present. Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Mission, a new mission in Madison, is a unique and intimate church with true spiritual depth and ties to early Christianity.

Orthodoxy is not some antiquated belief system that is no longer relevant today; nor is it a fly-by-night organization based on someone's new interpretation of Scripture. It is neither Catholic nor Protestant; neither "liberal" nor "conservative." Orthodoxy doesn't seek to force God into a narrow theological box; neither does it claim that there is no absolute truth. Instead, Orthodoxy recognizes the limitations of humankind's understanding of the divine, but provides a path to the Grace of God.

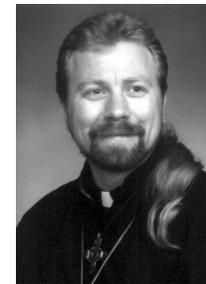
We have a place for you.

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Mission may offer just the path you have been seeking.

For the Orthodox, salvation is not just a one-time event but a lifetime process of developing one's faith and becoming closer to God. We do this in an environment of historical continuity to the Early Church, ever mindful of the deeper truths of Scripture set forth by the Church Fathers.

Because Orthodoxy affirms not only the imperfection but also the essential goodness of humankind and of all of Creation, Holy Transfiguration is a place where we celebrate the love of God for all people, and we recognize God in all things that are good. We do not turn away from the world; rather, we seek to "bring light into the dark places." We hope you will join us.

About Rev. Fr. John-Brian Paprock



Very Rev. Fr. John-Brian Paprock is the third American priest in the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church. He is finishing a Master of Theology degree in Comparative Religion after studying in Madison and in New York City. Fr. Paprock has provided much service to the Greater Madison area through the years, as a chaplain at area hospitals; a founder of the Madison Area Interfaith Network; president of Madison Urban Ministry; and founder of Inroads, a program for spiritual recovery and renewal. He is also a certified pastoral counselor. He has a wife, Teresa, and a son, Christopher.