



# SS. PETER AND PAUL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

"All Things Are Possible to Him Who Believes" (Mark 9:23)

Metropolitan SABA  
Primate of the Antiochian  
Archdiocese

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**SUNDAY, MARCH 31ST, 2024**  
**TONE 2 / EOTHINON 10**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT**

**COMMEMORATION OF GREGORY PALAMAS,**  
**ARCHBISHOP OF THESSALONICA**  
**HYPATIOS THE WONDERWORKER, BISHOP OF GANGRA;**  
**PROPHET JOE**

**\*\*Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great\*\***

In this time of fasting and prayer, brethren, let us with all our hearts forgive anything real or imaginary we have against anyone. May we all devote ourselves to love and let us consider one another as an incentive to love and good works, speaking in defense of one another, having good thoughts and dispositions within us before God and men. In this way our fasting will be laudable and blameless, and our requests to God while we fast will be readily received.

- St. Gregory Palamas

**Great Vespers:** Saturday 6:00 pm  
*Check the Calendar  
for possible cancellation*  
**Matins:** Sundays 9:20am  
**Divine Liturgy:** Sundays 10:30am  
**Confessions:** By appointment

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Paula Massouh

**ST. IGNATIUS ORDER**  
Jumana Misleh

**GIFT SHOP**  
Gail Bailey

We welcome all our guests and visitors worshipping with us at the Divine Liturgy.  
Please let our ushers know that you are visiting with us today. We would love to stay in touch!  
Please know that Holy Communion is offered to Orthodox Christians, after preparing themselves through prayers, fasting, & confession.  
Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to receive blessed bread at the end of the Divine Liturgy & share food with us at coffee hour.

## THE SYNAXARION

On March 31 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Hypatios the wonderworker, bishop of Gangra; and the Prophet Joel.

On this same day, the Second Sunday of the Fast, we make remembrance of our father among the saints, Gregory Palamas, archbishop of Thessalonica.

### *Verses*

*The Spring of Light now leadeth to light unwaning  
The Light's own truly great and resplendent herald.*

This divine father was born in Asia and was brought up from infancy in the royal palace of Constantinople. When he was of age, Gregory left the palace and gave himself to asceticism on Mount Athos. He eventually moved to Thessalonica to seek cure for the diseases he contracted because of his asceticism and piety. In 1349, he was elevated to the episcopacy, tending to his people in an Apostolic fashion for 13 years. He is glorified as an ascetic, a theologian, a hierarch and a miracle-worker, who forsook a prominent, secular lifestyle to take up his cross and follow Christ. The Most-Holy Theotokos, St. John the Theologian, St. Demetrius, St. Anthony the Great, St. John Chrysostom and angels of God appeared to him at different times.

Through his intercessions, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

### RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE TWO

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

### APOLYTIKION FOR ST. GREGORY PALAMAS IN TONE EIGHT

O Star of Orthodoxy, support of the Church and its teacher, O comeliness of ascetics, and incontestable champion of those who speak in theology, Gregory the wonder-worker, the pride of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, implore thou constantly for the salvation of our souls.

### APOLYTIKION OF SS. PETER AND PAUL IN TONE FOUR

O foremost in the ranks of Apostles, and teachers of the world, Peter and Paul, intercede with the Master of all to grant peace unto the world, and to our souls the Great Mercy.

### KONTAKION FOR SUNDAYS IN GREAT LENT (AND AKATHIST SATURDAY) IN TONE EIGHT

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

Commemorations

**For the Health of these Parishioners**

John & Lily Bitar	Showke George	Christo & Mary Christakis
Suad Shammass	Victor, Linda & Family	Hanneh Daoud
Mike & Dorothy Marge	Ibrahim Saah	Vilma Bellone
Michael Shihadi	Joanna Khoury	Sherrie Zachariah & family
Nadim Zarour	Michael Amouri	Nour & Anastasia & Sonny
Qustandi & Nahida Kaibni	Tagreed Tawil & Family	Asma Ayoub
Nuha & family	Yousef & Ghada	Elias, Taylor & Rami
Isabel Threded	Ghassan & Zakieh Jweied	Margo, Sam & family
Shakeh Kerjilian & family	Hind, Habib Debs & family	Barbara Zamer & family
Christopher Zolnerowich	Fred & Grace Saah	Edward & Eleanor Husson
Brian, Caroline & family	Fadia, Rich & family	Mary Sahouri
Steve, Jennifer & family	Antoine Hanna & family	Elizabeth Albinger & family

**DEPARTED**

Ellen Dahlan  
 Naseeb & Mariam  
 Joseph Charile

**Special Prayer this Week for**

Timothy Dowse	Wyne-Hareg	Elizabeth Carroll
Ruby Maggard	Maha, Flavio & family	Gino Michaels & family
Jeannine & family	Nabeel Mufarreh & family	Gibran, Larry
Paul Bridenhagen	Robert Bridenhagen	Svitlana, Alexandra, Isabel
Fuad Dahlan	Rola, Adnan, & Zain	Caroline & Nabil
Issam	Juana, Tim, & Noelle	

**Coffee Hour Available Dates**

April 28	June 9
May 12	June 16
May 26	June 23

Host Coffee Hour



Offer Holy Bread



Our Young Adults and Professionals are hosting coffee hour to bring awareness to our upcoming charitable outreach.

If you want to offer Holy Bread or host Coffee Hour please use the codes on the side to do so.

## Coming Up @ Ss. Peter & Paul

**Tuesday**, April 2nd, Pursuing Christ as a Community Bible Study, 8:30 pm (zoom).

**Thursday**, April 4th, **Forever Young**, 11-2 pm (Zomba Moves).

Friday, April 19th, **Cocktail Reception to Support Noursat TV Channel**. Details on the church website & flyers in the Narthex.

Saturday, April 20th, **Lenten Retreat With Fr. James & Kh Gigi Shadid**. Everyone is welcome. Sign up to attend.

### ***This Week's Services @ 7PM:***

**Monday:** Great Compline

**Wednesday:** Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy

**Friday:** Third Akathist (madayeh)

### **Calling all Medical Professionals**

**First Inaugural Lecture, April 7th @ 7 PM (zoom)**

With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Saba, the newly formed **North American Antiochian Orthodox Medical Professionals Fellowship** will host its inaugural lecture.

The Medical Professionals Fellowship seeks to assist His Eminence and the Archdiocesan clergy to serve parishioners who are ill, form a network for the spiritual encouragement and edification of its members, help new graduates spiritually and professionally, and organize medical mission trips as needed.



### **St. Raphael's Table**

On April 6th, we will make 100 individually packaged meals and toiletry kits for the clients at the Downtown Day Services Center (DDSC), a daytime-only homeless shelter in DC.

**All ages are welcome to help with meal prep and toiletry kit packing**

from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm in the church kitchen and hall **Volunteers 18+** are invited to assist in transporting and distributing the meals and kits to our neighbors at the DDSC from 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm.

Volunteers can either carpool or drive themselves to the DDSC.

Volunteers may help in either prep or distribution or both.

**To join in preparation/distribution use this QR code**



**Amazon Wishlist** for Toiletry Bags is available here.

Thank you for your support!



### **1st & 3rd Tuesday**

**Bible Study**  
**(8:30 pm/Zoom)**  
**REGISTER HERE**



### **Forever Young!**

**First Thursday of the Month**  
**April 4th, May 2nd, June 6th**  
**Fitness & Fun in April Meeting!**  
**11-2pm**



**Naach (Bier) Decoration & Loved Ones Commemoration**

### **Naach Preparation**

**Friday, May 3rd, at 10:30 AM**

Bring your best garden pruners and maybe a Lenten dish to share!



Parish Life Conference  
June 27-30  
@ Antiochian Village  
**Registration is now open**



### **Lenten Retreat Sign Up**

*Everyone has a place  
You do NOT want to miss it*



For online donations, use **your phone's camera** to scan this code and follow the link to our secure donation portal.



## THE EPISTLE

*The Lord is my strength and my song. The Lord has chastened me severely.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (1:10-2:3)**

Thou, "O Lord, in the beginning didst lay the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Thy hands; they will perish; but Thou remainest; and they will all grow old like a garment, and like a mantle Thou wilt roll them up, and they shall be changed; but Thou art the same, and Thy years will not fail." But to which of the angels did He say at any time, "Sit on My right hand, until I make thine enemies a footstool for thy feet?" Are they not all spirits for liturgical ministry, sent forth to minister for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things that were heard, lest at any time we drift away from them. For if the word spoken through angels was confirmed, and every transgression and disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation, which having at first been spoken through the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard?

## THE GOSPEL

### **The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (2:1-12)**

At that time, when Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that He was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and He was preaching the Word to them. And they came, bringing to Jesus a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now, some of the scribes were sitting there, reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in His spirit that they thus reasoned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you reason thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" - He said to the paralytic - "I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all. So that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

### ***Bakeless Bake Sale to Support Widowed Clergy Wives THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE!***

In lieu of baking an item to donate and sell at a bake sale, we ask that you simply make a donation in the amount of what a baked item would cost to make. Donations for this project can be received **online under Antiochian Women and then under the subfund - Bakeless Bake Sale**. Checks can also be made payable to **Ss. Peter & Paul Ladies Society** earmarked **Bakeless Bake Sale** on the outside envelope as well as on the memo line of your check.

***Thank you once again for your annual support of our Antiochian Women project!***

# ***The One Pascha***

## ***His Eminence Metropolitan Saba (Isper)***

March 27, 2024

Christians celebrate one Pascha even if they disagree on the date of the feast. Pascha is the Lord Jesus Christ's Pascha and His resurrection. What accompanies this feast of rituals and traditions, which differ among Christian groups, highlights one thing: namely, the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. Thus, saying that Christ is “risen” in one church while being “lamented” in another is silly. The schedule of the services such as the Lamentations Orthros, the Paschal Vigil or others may be different within the churches of the same archdiocese. While the Australians are celebrating the Paschal liturgy, North Americans would still be celebrating the liturgy of Great Saturday (Saturday of the Light) because of the time difference between their countries. Liturgical services commemorate the events of crucifixion and resurrection so that the faithful may live their effect in their own lives, rather than to reenact the crucifixion and resurrection! In societies with several Christian denominations, many talk about the unification of the date of Pascha. No doubt, the faithful’s strong desire for this could enhance their external witness, which is important in their pluralistic societies.

Many don't know that the same rule is applied in deciding the date of Pascha in both Eastern and Western churches. All Christians follow the rule set by the First Ecumenical Council (325 A.D.). The Holy Fathers of this Council decided to celebrate Pascha on the Sunday which follows the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, the first day of spring. How did the difference in the dates arise? It is a difference in the type of calendar, not in the rule. In the first fifteen centuries, Christians followed what we know as the old or Eastern or Julian calendar. In the sixteenth century, Pope Gregory XIII of Rome commissioned an astronomical correction of that calendar, which became known as the corrected or Western or Gregorian calendar.

The difference between the two calendars is thirteen days, six hours and a number of minutes and seconds. Thus, the start of spring, according to the current civil calendar, occurs on or about March 21, which is March 8 according to the Eastern calendar. According to the Western calendar, when the full moon occurs between March 21 and April 3, Pascha will be the following Sunday after the full moon. However, in this case, the full moon would have taken place before the start of spring according to the Eastern calendar (which occurs on or about April 3 on the Western calendar). So, followers of the Eastern calendar would have to wait for the following full moon, which could be a month or even later sometimes, to celebrate Pascha. This is the reason behind the long gap between the two dates this year.

What makes this issue even more complicated is that the Christian Pascha (according to the Western calendar) may fall at the same time, or even before, the Jewish Pascha (Passover), while the Christian Pascha, according to our faith, should fall after the date of the Jewish Pascha, not at the same date nor before it.

In 1923, some Orthodox Churches (Constantinople, Antioch, Cyprus and Greece) agreed to follow the Western calendar in celebrating all the fixed feast days (such as the Nativity and the Annunciation). Some say there was a mutual agreement that these Orthodox churches would celebrate the fixed-date feasts according to the Western calendar while the Roman Catholic churches would celebrate Pascha and related feasts (Ascension and Pentecost) according to the Eastern calendar. I am not sure about that agreement. However, in 1944, the above-mentioned Orthodox churches switched to the Western calendar which caused a massive internal division when many of their faithful refused to follow the revised calendar. They considered the change a breach of Tradition and a betrayal of Orthodoxy.

Many of the faithful of the Greek and Cypriot churches separated themselves from their mother churches and broke communion because of this change.

At that time, the Orthodox churches in Eastern Europe could not make any external agreement (being under communist regimes). After the collapse of communism, these churches remained resolute about their traditions, including adherence to the Eastern calendar. Thus, very stringent groups flourished in these churches, and in the churches of the East and West, to resist two things: the proselytizing and evangelism by Western Christian groups among their faithful; and the spread of a liberalism that contradicts Christian values which has altered societies and denominations.

Every now and then, media outlets spread the news that the Pope of Rome and some patriarchs have agreed on celebrating Pascha on the second Sunday of April or on another fixed Sunday that is inconsistent with the rule of the first Ecumenical Council. If this ever became true, such an agreement could cause new schisms within Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches, because it contradicts the principle behind Ecumenical Councils. According to our faith, decisions of an Ecumenical Council cannot be revised except in another Ecumenical Council.

Such a decision would bring about more confusion and disruption because it contradicts a decision by an Ecumenical Council that has deep roots in Christian doctrine. And rather than sparring about two dates, the sparring would be more intense because of three dates.

What remains for us now is to genuinely pray that the Holy Spirit would move our hearts so that we may collaborate in a synchronous Paschal witness.

## The Divine Liturgy

### Offertory: Great Entrance *(part one)*

It is now time for the sacrificial offering to God. There is only one true and acceptable offering with which God is pleased. It is the offering of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God Who offers Himself eternally to the Father for the sins of the world. In Christ men can offer themselves and each other and all men and the entire world to God. Christ has united all things in Himself, and has taken all things upon Himself. Thus, in and through Him, men can offer all that they are, and all that they have, to God the Father. They can do this because they are in Christ, and have received the Holy Spirit from Him.

At this moment in the Divine Liturgy the celebrant prays for himself, confessing his personal unworthiness and affirming that the only Priest of the Church is Jesus:

For Thou art the One who offers and the One who is offered, the One who receives and the One who is given, O Christ our God . . .

The altar table, the icons and all of the people are incensed once again as the Cherubic Hymn is sung:

Let us who mystically represent the cherubim and sing the Thrice-holy Hymn to the life-creating Trinity, now lay aside all earthly cares.

The Gifts of bread and wine which stand for Christ, and in him, for all men and the entire world of God's creation—for Life itself—are now offered to God. They are carried in solemn procession from the table of oblation, into the middle of the church, and through the royal doors of the iconostasis to the altar table.

This procession is called the Great Entrance as distinct from the Small Entrance that was made earlier with the Book of the Gospels. In some Orthodox Churches the offertory procession of the Great Entrance is made around the entire nave of the church building, and so it is actually of greater length and solemnity than the small procession with the Gospel Book.

## 2024 Saints Peter and Paul Lenten Community Service Project

### Packing Meals for Area Families in Need

Please join us on Sunday, April 14, for our annual Lenten community service project.

This year, we aim to pack 25,000 meals for area families in need. This will cost \$8,750.00. And we know that with everyone working together, we can meet this ambitious target!



**How can I contribute?** Please go to "make a donation" from the stewardship page on the Church's website and select "Charity Drive" in the drop-down menu.

Or you may see/contact Sarah Shames (sarahshames@yahoo.com), Serene Jweied (sjweied@gmail.com), or Steve Zolnerowich (stephenz2@verizon.net).

**Should I bring anything?** Hair nets, aprons, and gloves will be provided. Just bring your enthusiasm and be sure to wear a pair of sensible shoes!

### Young Adults Upcoming events - Save the Dates

**Saturday April 6:** St. Raphael's Table Humanitarian Project : 10:30 am -12:30 pm

**Saturday, April 13:** Vespers and Dinner - Talk with Fr. Anastasios from Cameron

**Sunday, April 14:** Grounded in Faith -Post liturgy Fellowship at Church Library

**Friday & Saturday, April 19-20:** Mini Lenten Retreat: SOYO + YAM with Fr. James and Kh. Gigi Shadid

**April 28-May 5** Holy Week & Pascha

**Saturday May 4** St. Raphael's Table Humanitarian Project : 10:30 am -12:30 pm

**Sunday, May 12:** Grounded in Faith- Post liturgy Fellowship at Church Library

**Saturday June 1:** St. Raphael's Table Humanitarian Project : 10:30 am -12:30 pm



**Saturday June 1:** Orthodoxy on Tap - Starr Hill Biergarten Tysons 7:30-9:30 pm

**Sunday, June 9:** Grounded in Faith -Post liturgy Fellowship

**June 26-30:** Parish Life Conference at the Antiochian Village

**Saturday, October 19:** Young Adults/Professionals Gala