



# 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, FEBRUARY 25TH, 2024**  
**TOPE 5 / EOTHINON 5**  
**SUNDAY OF THE PHARISEE AND PUBLICAN**

**TARASIOS THE CONFESSOR, ARCHBISHOP OF  
CONSTANTINOPLE; HIEROMARTYR MARKELLOS, BISHOP  
OF APAMEA IN SYRIA**

**\*\*Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom\*\***

The perfect person does not only try to avoid evil. Nor does he do good for fear of punishment, still less in order to qualify for the hope of a promised reward. The perfect person does good through love. His actions are not motivated by desire for personal benefit, so he does not have personal advantage as his aim. But as soon as he has realized the beauty of doing good, he does it with all his energies and in all that he does. He is not interested in fame, or a good reputation, or a human or divine reward. The rule of life for a perfect person is to be the image and likeness of God.

*- Clement of Alexandria*

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

**CHOIR DIRECTOR**  
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Steve Simon

**CHURCH SCHOOL**  
**Directors**  
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**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**  
Sam Khalil

**ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN**  
Donna Gavin  
Svitlana Sweat

**TEEN SOYO  
& YOUNG ADULTS**  
Sbdn. Chris Abdelahad  
**President:** Samuel Griffin  
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COORDINATOR**  
Stephen Zolnerowich  
Paula Massouh

**ST. IGNATIUS ORDER**  
Jumana Mislch

**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 February 25 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Tarasios the confessor, archbishop of Constantinople; and Hieromartyr Markellos, bishop of Apamea in Syria. On this day, we make remembrance of the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican, which occurs in the Holy Gospel according to Luke the Evangelist.

### ***Verses***

*If you resemble the Pharisee, run far away from the Temple;  
For inside is Christ before Whom only the humble are acceptable.*

### ***Verses for the Triodion***

*O Creator of everything heavenly and earthly, receive Thou from the Angels a Trinitarian  
song,  
And from us men a noble and reverent Triodion.*

In our Savior's parable, Jesus uses a Pharisee, a leader of the synagogue, who was regarded in public opinion as virtuous; and a publican, a tax collector, who was regarded as oppressive, greedy and a sinner. In their prayers to God, we discover the real hearts of these two men. We thus learn of the harm that comes from pride and the good that comes from humility. The divine Church Fathers sought to alert and prepare the Christ-loving clergy and laity for the upcoming period of the Great Fast. Therefore, on this Sunday we are reminded that humility is the greatest weapon against pride, as we imitate the humility of the publican to ascend to the divine heights. Through the intercessions of the wonderworking Saints, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

## **RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE**

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

## **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 THE PHARISEE AND PUBLICAN IN TONE FOUR**

Let us flee the Pharisee's \* conceited vaunting; \* let us learn the Publican's \* humility, and cry with groans \* unto the Savior: Thou Who alone \* art swiftly reconciled, be gracious unto us.

**For the Health of these Parishioners**

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

**Special Prayer this Week for**

Timothy Dowse	Wyne-Hareg	Victor & Linda Joubran & Family
Ruby Maggard	Maha, Flavio & family	Jeannine & family
Gino Michaels & family	Deborah Brown	Gibran, Larry, Olivia
George, Christine, Anna, Georgi & Laila Brown	Steve, Jennifer, Helena, Catherine, Stephen & Giselle Brown	Sam, Sarah, Sammy, Amanda, & Lexi Brown
Keith, Jenna, Bryleigh, Kassidy & Kayden Cunningham	Vera & Charles Brown	Robert & Arlene Nassif

**DEPARTED**

- Abraham & Lula Brown
- Sam & Mary Brown
- John & Sadie Nassif
- Adieb Eddie Brown
- Ernest & Sadia Nassif
- Albert Nassif
- Helen & Albert Haje
- Ernestine & Sam McLoota
- John Nassif
- Mary & Terry Smith
- George Nassif
- Sabrina Edmiston
- Jackie Corry
- Christine Nassif
- Ernest Nassif, Jr.
- Carl Nerenberg
- \*Edward Rizkallah

**MEMORIAL**

- Abraham S. Brown (10 Y)
- Lula Mary Brown (2 Y)

**Holy Bread** prepared by **George Brown** and offered by the **Family of Abraham & Lula Brown** in their memory.

**Memorial Wheat** is prepared and offered by **Lorna Malooley**.

**Coffee Hour** is offered by **A. S. Brown Family** in memory of their parents, **Abraham & Lula Brown**.

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

**Coffee Hour Available Dates**

- April 7
- April 28
- May 19
- May 26
- June 9
- June 16

Host Coffee Hour



Offer Holy Bread



## Coming Up @ Ss. Peter & Paul

Saturday, March 9th, **Antiochian Women Retreat & Tea with Kh. Janet Shadid.** Sign up & Details on the side.

Saturday, March 9th, **Young Adults Wine & Cheese.**

## Book Club

Thursday 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm

February 29  
March 14, 28



**1st & 3rd Tuesday  
Bible Study  
(8:30 pm/Zoom)**

REGISTER HERE



**Antiochian Orthodox  
Women's Retreat  
& Tea**

March 9, 2023



### Washington Wizards Teen Outing

**Saturday, March 23** (Game is at 8:00 PM)

Join us at Capital One Arena for a fun Teen SOYO outing to watch the Washington Wizards!

Capital One Arena: 601 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20004  
For parking: <https://spothero.com/>



### Forever Young!

**First Thursday of the Month:** March 7th, April 4th, May 2nd, June 6th

Please sign up to attend as many of these meetings as you can.

In **March meeting**, a **physical therapist** will teach us exercises to improve our balance and avoid falls.

Stay tuned for a Zumba meeting in the future!



### PROJECT MEXICO HOMEBUILDING

May 24th through August 14th

Week-long or multiple week construction teams  
Great for teens and tweens, adult team leaders!

Contact Svitlana Sweat, Ss P&P missions committee



### February Charity Drive

**Digging Wells for Orthodox Missions in Cameroon**

**Dare to Take the Great Bucket Challenge?!**

Details will be provided on site

Just look for the **bucket and sign-up table** to enter

**The race's winner will receive a prize!**

**A generous parishioner has offered a matching gift of \$3,500 (\$1 for \$1).**

To donate online, kindly choose "Charity Drive" from the drop-down list or leave a check with "Charity Drive/Wells" on the memo.



There is a box at the candle stand to donate coins or small bills to the

**Orthodox Christian  
Mission Center**

We are grateful for your generosity!

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



## **THE EPISTLE**

*Thou, O Lord, shalt preserve us and keep us from this generation.  
Save me, O Lord, for the godly man hath disappeared.*

### **The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (3:10-15)**

My son Timothy, you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, patience, persecutions, sufferings, what things befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured! And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Indeed all who would live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But people who are wicked and deceivers will proceed from worse to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in the things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and how from infancy you have known the sacred temple writings which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

## **THE GOSPEL**

### **The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18:10-14)**

The Lord spoke this parable: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank Thee that I am not like other men, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

### **28th Annual Nicholas Tsakalos Memorial**

#### **Lenten Retreat**

*March 16th, 2024*

Guest Speaker ***Fr. Panteleimon  
Papadopoulos***



@ Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the  
Annunciation

24 W. Preston St., Baltimore, MD 21201

Parish Life Conference, June  
27-30,

@ Antiochian Village  
***Registration is now  
open***



## A New Pharisaism

*By Metropolitan Saba (Isper)*

There is a negative trend in the Church these days, with certain people criticizing everything. They adhere in an extreme way to what they believe is authentic, while attacking all that they consider innovative, calling it heresy that destroys the Faith and the Church of Christ. The adherents of this trend tend to be aggressive in their attacks and fundamentalist in their opinions, denouncing as heretics all those who disagree with their opinions, views, and citations.

They employ the interpretation of Scriptures as they see fit, for their purposes. They adhere to the letter and not to the spirit of the text, neglecting what St. Paul said: “For the letter kills, but the spirit gives life” (2 Cor 3:6).

The Church was not born yesterday; her earthly age is 21 centuries. She has experienced all kinds of systems, situations, cultures, and heresies. The Church, through the power of the Holy Spirit, has always expressed her faith and steadfastly witnessed to it—even unto martyrdom—through different circumstances and pressures, wars and persecutions, peace and freedom, on top of intellectual, cultural, and religious or atheistic trends. According to the word of the Lord, “The gates of Hades shall not prevail against it” (Matt 16:18).

The followers of this new trend forget all the good and the benefits that the Church provides. They fail to see God’s acts in history and blind themselves from seeing how history works. Therefore, their responses come as brutal, hostile attacks, lacking the love that marks disciples of Christ.

They remain on the surface and do not dive into the essence of things, failing to differentiate between the essential and the superficial. They do not assign any importance to the changing course of history or the turning points of science and the challenges these pose. In their rigid view, humans are subject to requirements of the Faith according to their historical formulations, without regard to human capabilities and advances across generations.

They claim, for example, that churches should be built of stone. They argue that the life of the brick does not exceed one hundred years, which necessitates the demolition of the church building after the expiration of the brick’s effectiveness. They ignore the number of stone churches that were destroyed by the passage of time and by wars and earthquakes. They also forget churches that were turned into places of worship for other religions, or even into animal pens, due to their desecration and the disappearance of Christians from these places, as in northern and southern Syria.

These people are armed with the malleable phrase “according to the holy fathers” to support their opinion. If you ask most of them about their references, they cannot provide an answer.

The phrase “holy fathers” has become a term used to defend and justify their positions, but often without knowledge or understanding. This happens with some Christian groups that cling to the letter of the Scripture while disregarding the living word of God that comes through the perpetual presence of the Holy Spirit in the Church of Christ.

According to these people, the Church must remain captive to expressions, systems, and traditions (and I do not mean “Holy Tradition”) formulated by the Spirit for a specific era, in order for the Church to express its faith among different languages and cultures. According to them, if the Church expresses something in some way at some time, then this expression must prevail at all times. The Holy Spirit, therefore, must stop working, according to these people, lest He invents something new, necessary, and beneficial for the salvation of man. Do you think that a person is saved through molds and forms, or through the Holy Spirit alive and effective in him?

In addition, you sense in them a fear for the upright faith, bordering on terror—to the point that it almost becomes a pathological obsession, seeing in everything a conspiracy against the Orthodox Church and the truth that it faithfully preserves. They believe that they are the only ones to preserve the truth, so they resort to strict adherence to the forms and calendars that the Church knew in the past, which were a successful expression of the upright faith in the cultures of that time. Writing the names of saints on icons in the local language becomes a heresy,

because the ancient Greek letters, in their view, alone are appropriate to the Orthodox art of the icon! They circulate a saying of Saint Nektarios, “Poor thing, Orthodoxy,” claiming themselves to be the defenders of Orthodoxy. Every effort in the Church, according to them, whether pastoral, institutional, or spiritual, is aimed at eliminating the faith and fragmenting the Church.

If these people poison the Church with a spirit of hatred, discord, blasphemy, and hostility toward every leader, guide, and spiritual father who does not say what they say, then they miss seeing themselves as a tool of Satan, who is targeting their Church. Truly, this is his murkiest trap. He abuses the naivete of some Church members to split it. They fall under the delusion that they are cleansing it.

Faithfulness is required of all believers. You may differ with your brethren regarding matters unrelated to doctrine. We prevent fracture with continual love, humility, and dialogue. However, to monopolize Christ, appoint yourself as His spokesman, and break from His true Church to establish what you want His Church to be means that you have sunk to a level of pride that makes you a tool in the hands of Satan.

Truly, this is the greatest sin.

## Fervent Supplication

Following the readings from the holy scriptures and the liturgical sermon, the Liturgy of the Word, also called the Liturgy of the Catechumens, comes to an end with the so-called Litany of Fervent Supplication. This litany is the one through which the people pray for their own particular needs, as well as those of the entire Church, their neighbors, their country and the entire world.

At this time the intercessions are not made generally, as in the Great Litany, but very specifically on behalf of all persons in need of God's blessings, strength and guidance. Thus prayers are made for the sick, the suffering, the needy, the afflicted and the departed by name; as well as for such specific things as national guidance, deliverance from some particular threat, etc. Also at this time special prayers of thanksgiving and praise may be offered in response to some particular blessing of God. Because the offertory will follow, prayers are also made at the end of the litany "for those who bring offerings and do good work" in the particular community.

After the completion of the Litany of Fervent Supplication, the catechumens are prayed for and dismissed from the Divine Liturgy since, as not yet baptized, they are not competent to offer and to receive the eucharistic gifts. In the early Church all those under penance for their sins, and all who for one reason or another were not receiving Holy Communion, also left the liturgical gathering at this time. At present the dismissal of the catechumens has become only theoretically significant since it is not the case that non-communicants, or even the non-baptized, leave the gathering for the eucharistic part of the service which, we have noted, is still officially called the Liturgy of the Faithful.

After the prayer that God would illumine the catechumens with the Gospel of Truth and unite them to his Holy Church, granting them "in due time the laver of regeneration, the remission of sins and the robe of incorruption" in baptism; and after their theoretical dismissal from the liturgy, two prayers are read for the faithful who are already members of the Church, that God would hear their prayers and would make them worthy to offer and to receive the gifts of Holy Communion:

And enable us also whom Thou hast placed in this Thy service by the power of the Holy Spirit, blamelessly and without offence, in the pure witness of our conscience to call upon Thee . . .  
... to worship Thee blamelessly with fear and with love, and to partake without condemnation of Thy Holy Mysteries, and to be accounted worthy of Thy Heavenly Kingdom. . . .

### *Lent & Holy Week Schedule*



*Young Adults Connect >>*



### **Young Adults Upcoming events - Save the Dates**

**Saturday, March 9:** Wine and Cheese

**Sunday, March 10:** Grounded in Faith - Post liturgy Fellowship at Church Library

**Saturday, March 23:** Vespers followed by discussion with Fr. Luke, hosted by a parishioner

**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

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

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

**Saturday, June 22:** Young Adults/Professionals