

	<b>Bread of Holy Oblation</b>	<b>Fellowship Hour</b>
<b>24 Sept</b>	Abraham & Susan Fannoney	BAZAAR
<b>01 Oct</b>	Rana Callas	The Alvarez and Badwey Families
<b>08 Oct</b>	Jerry Audi & Family	Jerry Audi & Family
<b>15 Oct</b>	OPEN	OPEN
<b>22 Oct</b>	OPEN	OPEN

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR AND BREAD OF HOLY OBLATION**

Baking or ordering the Holy Bread of Oblation or providing and serving the refreshments for Fellowship Hour following the Liturgy on Sundays is a great way to practice Christian fellowship among our fellow parishioners. Notice the openings to the left and consider contributing to this vital ministry. Sign-up in the vestibule.

**SS. PETER AND PAUL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
10620 River Road Potomac Maryland 20854 • 301-765-3400 • www.peterpaulpotomac.org

**Kindly keep all cell phones turned off or muted while in Church. Thank you.**

## SS. PETER AND PAUL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

*All Things Are Possible to Him Who Believes*

**Matins:** Sundays 9:30am

**Divine Liturgy:** Sundays 10:30am

### **DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017**

**tone 7 / EOTHINON 5**

**PROTO-MARTYR THEKLA, EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES &**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LUKE**

**VENERABLE SILOUAN OF ATHOS**

COMMEMORATION OF THE WONDER-WORKING ICON OF THE THEOTOKOS OF THE MYRTLE TREE; NEW-MARTYR AHMED; VENERABLE NICANDER OF PSKOV; THE SYNAXIS OF ALL SAINTS OF ALASKA

### **RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (Tone 7)**

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

### **APOLYTIKION OF ST. THEKLA THE PROTO-MARTYR (Tone 3)**

(By Cyril, Patriarch of Constantinople, 1813)

O glorious Thekla, companion of Paul the divine, thou wast enflamed with the love of thy Creator, by the teaching of the divine preacher. Thou didst despise the passing earthly pleasures, and offered thyself to God as an acceptable and pleasing sacrifice, disregarding all suffering. Intercede with Christ thy Groom to grant us His Great Mercy.

### **APOLYTIKION OF ST. SILOUAN THE ATHONITE (Tone 4)**

By prayer thou didst receive Christ for thy teacher in the way of humility, and the Spirit bore witness to salvation in thy heart. Wherefore, all peoples called unto hope rejoice in this day of thy memorial, O sacred Father Silouan. Pray unto Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.

### **APOLYTIKION OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL (Tone 4)**

O foremost in the ranks of Apostles, and teachers of the world, Peter and Paul, intercede with the Master of all to grant safety to the world and to our souls the great mercy.

### **KONTAKION FOR ORDINARY SUNDAYS (Tone 2)**

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

*A* Christian is gracious. We should prefer to be wronged. If love enters us we forget the wrongs we have been done. This is where the secret lies. When the evil comes from afar, you cannot avoid it. The great art, however, is to show disdain for it. With the grace of God, even though you see it, will not affect you, because you will be full of grace.

*St. Porphyrios the Kapsokalyvite*

## PREACHING THE GOSPEL IN A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY

The problem for the Apostles and those first Christians was not simply preaching monotheism to a polytheistic world. It was to make a Gospel, that presupposed very different categories, relevant to a culture that was in many ways hostile to the Christian worldview. The debates surrounding the Ecumenical Councils and other local councils of the Patristic period testify to the fact that the process of “inculturating” the Gospel — that is, showing how the Gospel speaks to the issues relevant to a particular people, time, and culture — was not an easy task.

For example, the ancient world placed a high degree of importance on unity or even uniformity. Individuality was to be subordinated to the good of the whole or the group. This is the perennial tension between the “one” and the “many”; in the language of our day, unity and diversity. In contrast, the Gospel placed a unique importance on each person. The Church found the evidence for this in the Incarnation of the Word who desired to save both the world, and most importantly, each individual soul.

A related difficulty that the Church encountered was the way in which many in the ancient world conceived of history. Many saw history as a series of repeating cycles. Consequently, much Greek philosophical thinking was consumed with discussing the beginning of things. For them, the result of any action was simply the consequence of the initial “seed.” Nothing could alter it. The Gospel saw the world very differently. History was of supreme consequence. We were not subject to the inevitability of our destiny. The world had a beginning, but more importantly it would have an end. God had entered history to alter its direction decisively. The modern world has become absorbed with history — look at the importance we give to “facts” as “impartial” arbiters of the truth — without giving much thought to the direction and purpose of our history.

The Christian experience of the Godhead as a tri-personal reality sharing a singular essence turned this argument on its head. The Christian belief that God took on human nature to transform history and creation directly challenged preconceived assumptions about history, human beings, God, and the integrity and inviolability of a particular essence (i.e., if you are a human being you cannot be God; if you are God, you cannot be a human being). At every point and in almost every way, the Christian message began to change the way the Greek and Roman world thought. These questions were more than simply relevant or valid to people of the time. They saw them as vital. Everyone — the Church Fathers, the intellectuals, the pagans, the workers on the street — saw these questions as central to their existence.

We should also remember that the persons who were raising these questions on behalf of the Church were themselves a part of the intellectual life of their time. St. Basil the Great was trained in philosophy in Athens. St. John Chrysostom studied under the greatest pagan rhetorician of his time. St. Gregory of Nyssa had an extensive knowledge of human anatomy and biology; some think he might have studied to be a medical doctor. St. John of Damascus was well acquainted with the science of his time; for example, he knew, as did most knowledgeable people in the East, that the earth was a sphere, that it traveled around the sun and that the moon was a “reflecting” light.

When the Gospel entered a new cultural situation, it engaged that culture on its own terms. The people who were responsible for preaching and teaching did not hide from this responsibility. They did not try to make the Greek and Roman world into a Semitic one. They were themselves full participants in that world. But they gave Christian answers to the religious and philosophical questions that were being asked. They began with their faith experience and from that faith experience began to reinterpret all they had learned and understood. They treated those who disagreed with them with respect, while insisting upon the truth revealed in Christ. The debate was lively because a great deal was at stake.

**From a Pastoral Letter for the Third Millennium  
Part 2 of 6**

### **PRIEST**

Very Reverend  
Fr. Isaac Crow  
frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org  
(401) 300-8238 cell  
(240) 489-3494 home

### **DEACON**

Dn. Christian Manasseh  
DnChris-  
tian@peterpaulpotomac.org

### **PRIEST EMERITUS**

Very Reverend  
Fr. George Rados  
frgeorge@peterpaulpotomac.org

### **COUNCIL**

#### **Chairperson**

Suzanne Hermes

#### **Vice Chairman**

Metody Tilev

#### **Treasurer**

Richard Mahan

#### **Secretary**

Abe Fannoney

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Lina Eid  
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Bassem Haddad  
Samer Kokor  
Tony Moussa  
George Zaki

### **CHURCH SECRETARY**

office@peterpaulpotomac.org

### **CHOIR DIRECTOR**

John Slanta  
choir@peterpaulpotomac.org

### **CHANTERS**

Wayne Parr  
Zeina Manasseh  
George Tannous

### **USHERS**

Jerry Audi  
Michael El Araj  
Abraham Fannoney  
Sam Khalil

### **ALTAR**

#### **Manager**

Peter Aburdeineh

### **SERVERS**

Captains -  
Rashid Haddad  
Thomas Zook

## Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News and Events

### CHURCH SCHOOL 2017-2018

We had a great 1st day of Church school last week with 73 children! Registration is ongoing using this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/GQ6uQSnltimwgvJW2> Also, please make sure to register with the church, including your email as most Church school announcements go out to the entire parish. School calendars are now available. **Of note: Today we will have class for pre-school-5th grade. Middle and high school students will be helping out at the bazaar.** We are also in need of snacks/drinks for the children--small and reg. juice boxes, juice pouches, small waters, individually wrapped snacks (PEANUT & TREE NUT FREE).

### ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN 2017-2018

All women are invited to the new year's Antiochian Women's Club **kick off meeting on Sunday, October 1 in the downstairs hall after church.** There are many exciting events planned for the Saint's Peter and Paul community. Please contact Carol Laham or Donna Gavin at [crazygavins@verizon.net](mailto:crazygavins@verizon.net) with any questions. See flyer located in the Narthex.

### THE ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN "ANGEL FUND"

The Ss. Peter & Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church "Angel Fund", an outreach of the Antiochian Women, provides support to parishioners in need. Our Pastor designates recipients who would benefit from the Angel Fund, which provides grocery gift cards to parishioners in need to help them with some of their food needs. Financial contributions to this fund are welcomed, and checks should be made out to: Ss. Peter & Paul Antiochian Women and earmarked "Angel Fund." For more information contact Fr. Isaac at: [frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org](mailto:frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org).

### "EXPLORING OUR FAITH" THE SS. PETER AND PAUL ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORUM

"Exploring Our Faith" will meet every other Thursday evening from **7:15pm to 8:30pm** in the lower level conference room. **The next meeting is Thursday, September 28, 2017.** Fr. Isaac facilitates the meetings using brief presentations as a springboard to open discussion on a wide range of topics concerning our Faith. Please contact Fr. Isaac at [frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org](mailto:frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org) or Kate Niewenhous at [handmaidens20854@gmail.com](mailto:handmaidens20854@gmail.com) for more information. ALL ARE WELCOME..

### SS. PETER & PAUL CHURCH LEARNING & MEDIA CENTER

Donations are welcomed in support of the establishment of the new Church Learning and Media Center. Please send all donations to Ss. Peter and Paul Church earmarked "Library Fund". In addition, donation of books on topics related to the Orthodox Faith, Doctrine, Church History, Liturgy, and Scripture will be gratefully accepted. Please contact Fr. Isaac, Dn. Christian, or Kate Niewenhous for more information.

### SS. PETER & PAUL OUTREACH VISITATION MINISTRY

The outreach ministry seeks to visit and to assist the elderly, the sick, and those who are housebound, shut-in, or living in nursing homes. Volunteers are needed who are willing to call and to visit and to reach out to our elderly brethren. All those willing to help please contact the coordinators of the group: George & Alma Jean Zaki at ([georgezaki@gmail.com](mailto:georgezaki@gmail.com) or [ajmzaki@gmail.com](mailto:ajmzaki@gmail.com)), Alex Cox at ([alexcoxsells@gmail.com](mailto:alexcoxsells@gmail.com)) or Fr. Isaac at ([frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org](mailto:frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org)). Our Parish is grateful for this ministry remembering that when we visit the sick and the infirm we visit Christ himself.

### CHURCH CALENDAR

Sep 22-24 \*Ss. Peter & Paul Church Bazaar  
Sep 28 \*Exploring our Faith/7:15p/LL Conf. Rm.  
Sep 30 \*Summer Tomlin/Baptism/11:00a  
\*Rafeedie/Erazo Wedding/4p  
Oct 01 \*Ladies Auxillary Meeting/LL Hall/noon-3p  
\*Teen SOYO Mtg. 12:30p  
\*Andrew Hinton Hartman Baptism/1:30  
Oct 08 \*Jaydin Saa Baptism/2:00p  
Oct 09 \*Office Closed  
Oct 10 \*Parish Council Mtg/7p  
Oct 14 \*Bahou/Alhabib Wedding/3p  
Oct 21 \*Nicholas/Mufarrrij Wedding/2p  
Nov 04 \*Nessim/Garadah Wedding/2p  
Nov 05 \*Leo Robles/Baptism/1:30p  
Nov 10 \*office closed

### THE EPISTLE

(For St. Thekla)

*God is wondrous among His saints. Bless ye God in the congregations.*  
**The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (3:10-15)**

Timothy, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet from them all, the Lord rescued me. Indeed, all, who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

### THE GOSPEL

(For the First Sunday of Luke)

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (5:1-11)**

At that time, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And He saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, Jesus asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when Jesus had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at Thy word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish, which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

### Ss. Peter and Paul Teen SOYO 2017-2018

Congratulations on the election of the new 2017-2018 Teen SOYO officers:

President - Kinda Callas                      Vice President: - Julia Allen  
Treasurer - Joud Al-Kallas                Recording Secretary: - Josian Azar  
Corresponding Secretary: - Tia Saah

Teen SOYO will meet on Sunday, October 1 at 12:30pm.

God Bless our teens this year and their Lay Advisors;  
Zaid Sharafudin / [zaid343@yahoo.com](mailto:zaid343@yahoo.com)  
and

Anees Mokhiber / [aneesmokhiber@gmail.com](mailto:aneesmokhiber@gmail.com)

### **CHURCH SCHOOL**

#### **Directors**

Samia Zolnerowich  
Jennifer Buchko

#### **Teachers**

Jumana Misleh  
Susan Kozlov  
Chrissy Mackoul  
Michelle Zook  
Dina Saah  
Dara Potter  
Claudia Rabie  
Christine Morin  
Jennifer Montgomery  
Caroline Jarboe  
Stephen Zolnerowich  
Anees Mokhiber  
AJ Wood  
Philip Allen

#### **MENS CLUB**

Sam Khalil

#### **ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN**

Carol Laham

#### **TEEN SOYO**

##### **Lay Advisors**

Zaid Sharafudin  
Anees Mokhiber

##### **Officers**

Kinda Callas  
Julia Allen  
Joud Al-Kallas  
Josian Azar  
Tia Saah

#### **YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP**

Wayne Parr

#### **ADORNMENT**

Shams Akkawi  
Jamil Hermes

#### **FACILITY MANAGEMENT**

Sam Berberian  
Nick Nahas  
Bob Simon

#### **RENTAL COORDINATOR**

Barbara Abraham

#### **CHARITIES**

Sam Sahouri Ghanem

#### **FINANCE**

Salim Habayeb

#### **STEWARDSHIP**

# Commemorations

For the servants of God that they may have mercy, peace, health, salvation and visitation, pardon and remission of sin; the Lord God remember them in his Kingdom always: now and ever, and unto ages of ages

For the Servants of God departed this life: the Lord God remember them in his kingdom always: now and ever, and unto ages of ages

## Parishioners who remain in our prayers continually

Archpriest George Rados	Brian Briggs	Mary Smith
Margaret Ashley	Isabel Threddeh	George Brown
Helen White	Holly Dubois	Robert & Thelma Badwey
Everett Alvarez	Grace Malouf	Barbara Abraham
Edmond & Sophie Neam	Lulu Brown	Tania Mufarrrij
George & Joan Abraham	Mary Bazargan	
Suad Shammass		

## DEPARTED

V. Rev. Joseph Sakkab  
 Kh. Mary Sue Walker  
 Sammy Audi  
 Elaine Buchko  
 Saleem Audi  
 Nicholas White  
 Renee Moorad  
 Robert Joseph Curtin  
 Albert (Butch) Moses  
 Michael Moses  
 Salloum Amine Matar

## LIVING

Leena Haddad	Yasmin Courtright
Mariam Yazge	Leila Khoury
Deborah Brown	Bob Petrossian
Richard Ayoub	Louise Magelli
Julia Fayad	Derek Gilliam
Andrew Gavin	Sharen Zacharia
George Tannous	The Badwey Family
Sophia Courtright	Doreen Moses
Janet Metz	James Nimey, Jr.
Abraham & Susan Fannoney	Michael Buchko, Sr.
Danamarie Younes & Baby Emilia Diane	

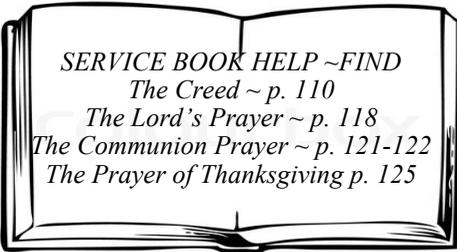
**Orthodox Christians**  
 Faithful Orthodox fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when they receive Holy Communion in fulfillment of Christ's command to eat His Body and drink His Blood. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, communicants should not be conscious of grave sin, have fasted from the night before taking communion, and seek to live in charity and love with their neighbors. Persons conscious of grave sin must first be reconciled with God and the Church through the Sacrament of Penance (Confession and Absolution). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

**Non-Orthodox**  
 We welcome to this celebration of the Eucharist those Christians who are not fully united with us. It is a consequence of the sad divisions in Christianity that we cannot extend to them a general invitation to receive Communion. Orthodox believe that the Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community signifying a oneness in faith, life, and worship of the community. Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist, and for which we must all pray.

**Not Receiving Communion**  
 Those not receiving sacramental communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another by receiving a piece of blessed bread following the dismissal prayers.

**Welcome to Ss. Peter and Paul**  
 To encourage our worship in a proper spirit of prayer and devotion, we respectfully ask you to enter the sanctuary quietly during the Divine Liturgy.  
**PLEASE DO NOT ENTER OR EXIT THE SANCTUARY AS**  
 - the clergy censes the sanctuary  
 - the congregation is standing, or  
 - during the Little Entrance with the Gospel  
 - during the Reading of the Epistle and the Gospel  
 - Please enter the sanctuary upon the completion of  
 - the sermon  
 - the Great Entrance with the Holy Gifts  
 - the Prayers of Consecration p. 112-113  
 - the Hymn to the Theotokos "It is Truly Meet"  
 Please follow the directions of the ushers during Communion and dismissal; refrain from using cell phones in the narthex; and be considerate of those praying and converse in the hall, outside or downstairs.

**Visitors**  
 If you are visiting our parish, please let us get to know you. Complete a visitor card you will find in your pew, and drop it in the ushers tray or the collection box.



HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION OFFERED BY:  
 Abraham & Susan Fannoney  
 FELLOWSHIP OFFERED BY:  
 Ss. Peter & Paul Festival

**THE PARISH GIFT SHOP**  
 The Ss. Peter and Paul Parish Gift Shop (formally the Parish Bookstore) is now open in its new location on the right side of the Narthex Draft(entrance hall) opposite the elevator. The Gift Shop is newly stocked with books, bibles, Icons, CDs and all kinds of hand-made religious items with many items for children. The Gift Shop will open every Sunday following Liturgy. For information contact Alma Jean Zaki at (703) 283-9338 or ajmzaki@gmail.com