

	BREAD OF HOLY OBLATION	FELLOWSHIP HOUR
27 Dec	Suad Shammass 40-Day Memorial for Issa Shammass	Suad Shammass 40-Day Memorial for Issa Shammass
03 Jan	Mary Misleh	OPEN
10 Jan	Metody Tilev	Metody Tilev
17 Jan	OPEN	OPEN
24 Jan	Bassam Eways 6-Month Memorial for Mudallah Eways	Teen SOYO

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

Priests
Very Reverend
Fr. George Rados
frgeorge@peterpaulpotomac.org
Very Reverend
Fr. Isaac Crow
frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org
Deacon
Dn. Christian Manasseh
DnChris-
tian@peterpaulpotomac.org

COUNCIL
Chairman
Suzanne Hermes
Vice Chairman
Gary Farha
Secretary
Steve Simon
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Justin Misleh
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Wayne Parr
George Tannous

Ushers
Jerry Audi
Michael El Araj
Abraham Fannoney
Sam Khalil

ALTAR
Manager
Peter Aburdeineh

Servers
Captains -
Rashid Haddad
Christopher Zolnerowich

SS. PETER AND PAUL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

All Things Are Possible to Him Who Believes

Matins: Sundays 9:30am
Divine Liturgy: Sundays 10:30am

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2015

TONE 5/EOTHINON 8

FIRST DAY OF THE FOREFEAST OF & PROTO-MARTYR STEPHEN THE ARCHDEACON & SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

COMMEMORATION OF JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, DAVID THE PROPHET AND KING, AND JAMES THE BROTHER OF THE LORD

APOLYTIKION OF THE RESURRECTION (Tone 5)

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 THE NATIVITY (Tone 4)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn therefrom to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY (TONE 2)

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. STEPHEN (TONE 4)

The crown of the Kingdom hath adorned the brow of thy head * because of the contests that thou hast endured for Christ God, thou first of the martyred Saints; * for when thou hadst censured the Jews' madness, thou sawest * Christ thy Savior standing at the right hand of the Father. * O Stephen, ever pray Him for us, that He would save 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 OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (TONE 3)

Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Transcendent in essence; the earth offereth the cave to the unapproachable One; the angels with the shepherds glorify Him; and the Magi with the star travel on their way; for a new child hath been born for our sakes, God before the ages.

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

THE ADORATION OF THE MAGI: MELCHIOR, CASPAR, AND BAL-

THASAR. The word "magi" is the plural of "magus," the name given to one who was a philosopher and astronomer. They were also called kings. In Scripture, "magus" was a customary name given to one who ruled a single city. Melchior is depicted as an old man, with a beard and long gray hair. He brought gold to the King and Master Jesus. Caspar was young and beardless, with a ruddy complexion. His gift was frankincense to God Incarnate. Balthazar, who was bearded and very dark, presented myrrh to the Son of Man, Who would undergo death. The three Magi came from the east, from the neighboring countries of Arabia, Persia, and Ethiopia. They traveled independently with their entourages, then providentially met and joined company. It was not an ordinary star that led them, but a divine and angelic power that appeared in the form of a star. Consensus is that the star appeared in the sky at the Annunciation. Stars move from east to west, but this star moved from the east southward to Jerusalem. It shone like the sun during the day, guiding the Magi to Bethlehem. They arrived in Jerusalem on the day of the Nativity, but the star hid itself so others would not go to Bethlehem. When they departed the city, the star reappeared and descended near the earth, showing the exact location of the cave. It is said that the Holy Family remained in the cave for forty days, until just before the Presentation in the Temple.

The Magi indicate something important to us by their returning to their own country by another way. By doing what they were advised to do (*Matthew 2:12*), they suggest to us what we should do. Paradise is our country. We, indeed, left our country by being proud, by being disobedient, by pursuing visible things, by tasting forbidden food; we must return to it by weeping, by being obedient, by rejecting visible things and by curbing our bodily appetites. And so, we return to our country by another way: pleasures led us away from the joys of Paradise, sorrows summon us to return.

St. Gregory the Dialogist

"EXPLORING OUR FAITH"

THE SS. PETER AND PAUL ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORUM

In an effort to better understand and discover the rich spiritual, historical, doctrinal and scriptural tradition of our Holy Orthodox Faith, the Adult Religious Education Forum "Exploring Our Faith" meets every other Thursday evening from 7:15pm to 8:30pm in the lower level conference room. Fr. Isaac facilitates the meetings in an informal setting using brief presentations as a springboard to open discussion on a wide range of topics concerning our Faith. The next meeting is Thursday, January 7, 2016 ALL ARE WELCOME.

Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News and Events

SUNDAY SCHOOL

WINTER CAMP - You can now sign up for Winter Camp at the Antiochian Village. Winter camp is for 7th – 12th grade students February 12-15. Registration information can be found on the Camp website: <https://avcamp.org/other-programs/winter-camp/>
SUMMER CAMP – at the Antiochian Village. Registration opens up December 10, 2015. Please go to www.avcamp.org for dates and early-bird discounts.

TEEN SOYO

Jan. 10 Teen SOYO Meeting following Sunday School at 12:30 p.m.
Jan. 24 Teens to host the Coffee Hour.
Jan. 30 Snow tubing event

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

January 9, 2016
 Fellow FSJDers!
 The Mokhiber family will be hosting a potluck lunch on Saturday, January 9 from 1-4pm at our home in Great Falls, and you're invited. Please bring a dish or drink to share!
 Our address is: 1108 Utterback Store Road, Great Falls, VA 22066

January 13, 2016

The next meeting for the Young Adult Fellowship Study Group is Wednesday, January 13, 2016 @8:00pm. The bi-weekly Wednesday evening meetings will be moderated by Amber Bennett and will start with the reading and discussion of the book "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis. The meetings will be held at two locations: 716 Monroe Street, NE, Apt. 228, WDC (Amber's apartment) and 2030 Freedom Lane, Falls Church, VA 22043 (Dn. Christian's home). There will also be an on-line conference link. For more information contact Fr. Isaac Crow (frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org), Dn. Christian Manasseh (dnchristian@peterpaulpotomac.org) or Amber Bennett (bennett.amberrose@gmail.com)

CHURCH CALENDARS

The new 2016 Church Calendars have arrived and are available in the Church Narthex (Entrance Hall). Please take one and sign the sheet (one calendar per family or individual member). Please hang the calendar in your home and use it as it includes the commemorations of the Saints and the daily scripture readings. May God Bless all our Parish in the New Year

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Calling all Church members...
 Stop by our Membership table, which will be up every second Sunday of each month after Church in the Fellowship hour hall to:
 Drop off your business card
 Smile for our cameras
 Fill out your membership form
 Fill out your annual pledge form
 Sign up to work with us!
 The Stewardship Committee's mission is to inspire our Parish members to give of their time, talent and resources. "Give and it will be given to you" Luke 6:38

CALLING ALL CHURCH PHOTOGRAPHERS

Do you have a digital camera and an interest in capturing the beautiful smiles of our Parish Members?
 If so let us know because we need you. The photos you take will be uploaded to our new Elexio database and allow us all to see and recognize each other in the Church Directory. The first session is scheduled for December 20th at the Christmas event.
 Sign up by sending an email to Lina Eid at Lina033@verizon.net, who will provide you with more details.
 Have a blessed holiday season!

SS. PETER AND PAUL VALENTINE DINNER

Save the date and mark your calendar
 SSP&P Valentine Dinner and Dance Night, Kogok Hall, February 13, 2016. Organized jointly by the Church Antiochian Women (AW) and the Men's Club (MC). Come and enjoy a night of international music, dancing, dinner and wine. Contact members of the AW or MC for details or to purchase tickets which go on sale this week.

Upcoming events...

Dec 27	Fareed El-Hage Baptism @1:30pm
Dec 29	Men's Club Mtg/7:30pm/LL Conf. Rm.
Jan 01	Church Office Closed
Jan 01	Divine Liturgy-Feast of the Circumcision of Christ & Basil the Great @10:00am
Jan 02	*No Arabic classes due to Christmas Holiday *Arabic Liturgy @ 5:00pm
Jan 07	Adult Ed Forum/Exploring our Faith/LL Conf. Rm. 7:15p
Jan 09	*Arabic Language Class/10a-12:30p/LL Conf. Rm *Take down Christmas Decorations/8a-noon
Jan 10	Teen SOYO meeting (following Sunday School)
Jan 12	Parish Council Mtg. @7:00pm, LL Conf. Rm
Jan 16	Arabic Language Class/10a-12:30p/LL Conf. Rm
Jan 21	Adult Ed Forum/Exploring our Faith/LL Conf. Rm. 7:15p
Jan 23	Arabic Language Class/10a-12:30p/LL Conf. Rm
Jan 26	Men's Club Mtg/7:30pm/LL Conf. Rm.
Jan 30	Arabic Language Class/10a-12:30p/LL Conf. Rm

EPISTLE

His voice has gone out into all the earth. The heavens declare the glory of God.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (6:8-7:5, 47-60)

In those days, Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated men, who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, and set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us." And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel. The high priest said, "Is this so?" And Stephen said: "Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'Depart from your land and from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you.' Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living; yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him in possession and to his posterity after him, though he had no child. But it was Solomon who built a house for Him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, 'Heaven is My throne, and earth My footstool. What house will you build for Me', says the Lord, 'or what is the place of My rest? Did not My hand make all these things?' You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, Whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it." Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday after Nativity of Christ)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (2:13-23)

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region, who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead." And he rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Directors

Samia Zolnerowich
 Jennifer Buchko

Teachers

Jumana Misleh
 Susan Kozlov
 Michelle Zook
 Christine Morin
 Layla Najjar
 Lizzy Cassar
 Lara Ballone
 Andrew Salem
 Caroline Jarboe
 Amber Bennett
 Stephen Zolnerowich
 Anees Mokhiber

Men's Club

Sam Khalil

Antiochian Women

Kate Niewenhaus

Teen SOYO

Advisor

Jamilee Bellone

Officers

Rashid Haddad
 Julia Allen
 Danielle Bellone

Christopher Zolnerowich

Fellowship of St. John

Christine & Samer Korkor
 Dn. Christian & Zeina Manasseh

Adornment

Shams Akkawi
 Jamil Hermes

Facility Management

Nick Nahas
 Bob Simon

Rental Coordinator

Barbara Abraham

Charities

Sam Sahouri Ghanem

Finance

Gary Farha

Stewardship

Lina Eid

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 al-
 ways: now and ever, and unto ages
 of ages

LIVING

Parishioners who remain in our prayers continually

Margaret Ashley	May Fillah
Richie Kogok	Brian Briggs
Suad Shammass	Robert Simon
Lulu & George Brown	Bertha Aed
Isabel Threddeh	Holly Dubois
Thelma & Bob Badwey	Edmond & Sophie Neam

Josephine Lofgren	Salwa Gabro
Sally Ruffin	Robert Dubois
Nouha Aramouni	Joan Lanciani
Bill Dora, Jr.	Linda Dora Elkanich
Richie Ayoub	Patrick Emad
Jamil Al-Kallas	Susan
Rana Callas	Issa Boullata & Family
Brian Hebert	Therese Bullata
Missie & Ray Hebert	Yacob Shammass & Family
Jamil Bullata & Family	Kamal Boullata & Family
Judy Zuccarello	Yolanda Shammass Moghanam
The Family of Eva Catherine Malouf	

DEPARTED

Issa Shammass
 Christopher Barr
 Fawzi Maher Zabaneh
 Yacoub & Asine Shammass
 George Shammass
 Nicola Shammass
 Yousef & Barbara Boullata
 Renee Boullata
 Andre Bullata
 Eva Catherine Malouf
 Raymond James Hebert II
 William Dora, Sr.
 Lancelot Atiyeh

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

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

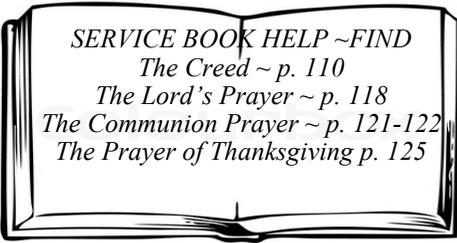
- the clergy censes the sanctuary
- the congregation is standing, or
- during the Little Entrance with the Gospel
- during the Reading of the Epistle and the Gospel

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:
 Suad Shammass for the 40-Day Memorial for Issa Shammass

MEMORIAL WHEAT OFFERED BY:
 Suad Shammass for the 40-Day Memorial for Issa Shammass

FELLOWSHIP HOUR OFFERED BY:
 Suad Shammass for the 40-Day Memorial of Issa Shammass

ON THE OCCASION OF THE FALLING ASLEEP OF EVA CATHERINE MALOUF
 The Malouf Family will be receiving visitors at the home of Dr. George Malouf, Sr. located at 7000 Southwark Terrace, College Heights Estates, Hyattsville, Maryland. 20782 today, Sunday, December 27, 2015 from 2:00pm—5:00pm.

FROM THE CHARITY COMMITTEE
 Please start thinking about charities you would like to propose for 2016. The Charities Committee is seeking your input as to the charities to be supported in 2016 with our monthly collections. We are planning to support International, Orthodox, National, and Local organizations as we have for the last several years. Please provide the name of the organization you wish considered for the monthly collection to the any of the following committee members: Ann Marie Moses, Carol Laham, and Sam Sahouri Ghanem.