

	BREAD OF HOLY OBLATION	FELLOWSHIP HOUR
03 Jan	Mary Misleh In Memory of her father Essa Rafeedie	Helen Aziz Ayoub for the Health and Well Being of her daughters Christine Saah Nazer, Jennifer Saah Baca- Asher, Nadia Saah
10 Jan	Metody Tilev	Metody Tilev
17 Jan	John & Jumana Misleh	OPEN
24 Jan	Bassam Eways 6-Month Memorial for Mudallah Eways	Teen SOYO
31 Jan	OPEN	Mokhiber's

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.

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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Richard Mahan
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Alex Cox
Abdallah Daoud
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Rich Mahan
Justin Misleh
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Wayne Parr
Steve Simon
Metody Tilev
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Chanters
Wayne Parr
George Tannous

Ushers
Jerry Audi
Michael El Araj
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Sam Khalil

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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, JANUARY 03, 2016

TONE 6/EOTHINON 9

FOREFEAST OF &

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST

HOLY PROPHET MALACHI; MARTYR GORDIOS OF CAPPADOCIA;
VENERABLE THOMAS THE WONDERWORKER OF LESBOS; VENERABLE GENEVIEVE OF PARIS

APOLYTIKION OF THE RESURRECTION (Tone 6)

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY (Tone 4)

Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. * River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive * the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. * O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; * hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. * Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now * to clothe you in the first robe again. * Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

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 FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY (Tone 4)

Today hath the Lord appeared in the courses of the Jordan, crying to John and saying, Be not dismayed at my Baptism; for I have verily come to save Adam, the first to be created.

By the mercy of God **Patriarch John X** The Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch and all the East
To My brother pastors of the Antiochian Holy Church
And my children throughout the Holy See

"I behold a strange, most glorious mystery: heaven- the cave, the cherubic throne-the Virgin, the manger-the place where Christ lay. The uncontained God whom we magnify in song".

In a manger of love our Jesus was born, and in a cave he chose to visit our humanity.

By his descending, the Lord experienced all our weaknesses except for the sin. He did not chose the scepters or the sofas of the rich in order to preach the salvation, but the womb of a Virgin. He put us on so that we could put Him on. He dwelt in a cave so we may become citizens of Heavens. Jesus came looking for the humanity that was wounded with Adam and strayed with Eve. His incarnation reminds us of dispensation. It is the stamp of the divine love that looks for censed souls, like Mary's, that spread Creator's scent worldwide. This is the case of Virgin Mary, the censor that spread the light of God for the mankind.

Let us put ourselves, just once, and see how this girl fulfilled the will of God, and how She became an example for us in all our troubles, even 2000 years after the coming of our Lord.

Mary was not one of those earthly "mighties". But She was a mighty in Her prayer. She was not of a high class, but a girl of a humble love Who obeyed God's order. She did not complain thinking about Her reputation, and She was not ashamed of getting pregnant of the Holy Spirit. Mary, the Galilean, did not complain of the distress that happened in those days, which looks like the distress that takes place nowadays. On the Contrary, She was armored with God. She was not ashamed of Her Son's Cross, but She accompanied Him to the Golgotha, and She cried, just like us, over the tyranny of the falsehood.

Mary is one of many, who see the nails of falsehood being beaten in truth's body just like those nails which were beaten in Jesus's hands. But Mary did not deny Her God the way how some of us do today seeing how darkness overwhelming the light. She did not ask: where is God? Cannot He watch the sorrow of my heart? But, She said: God is the strength of my heart. Surely, Mary is a human, just like us. And surely, we may cry just like Her. But the strength and the uniqueness of this Virgin is the fact that She did not let the sorrow to overcome the hope. She was not afraid of putting her hope in God. And we are called upon to behave the same way in these difficult days in which we pass as humans, community, country and the whole East.

We are called upon nowadays to be united, and to follow the example of Virgin Mary and all the disciples. Their unity was mixed with an undoubted hope in God Who had victory over death. They buried fear because of their unity and love. And we are called upon, as much as possible, to bury our afflictions by keeping the unity of souls and hearts regardless of the geographical distances. Antioch is those hearts that are tied to Jesus. Before these bounds egoism, races, cracks and disputed melt out in order to make Jesus shine on the front.

We, as the Christians of the East, are called upon to contemplate in Jesus Who did not incarnate in days better than ours. Because of His love we put on His name first in Antioch, and with the power of His Cross our ancestors lived on this land. We are on it and we come from it. We were born from its womb and we will be buried in it. We are staying here, and we will carry our cross following the example of our Lord. And to those who abduct our people and bishops we say: We are a part of this East. In it we live together with our brothers from all religions. We won't spare an effort to remain in this land defending our history and existence.

We pray today for the peace in Syria, and for stability in Lebanon. We pray for the suffering East, for the bleeding Palestine. We pray for the homeless, for the displaced, for the lost, for the abducted and for the martyr. We pray to Virgin Mary to send peace to the souls, because it is the seed of peace on earth. We pray to protect all Her abducted children, amongst them the two bishops of Aleppo Youhanna Ibraheem and Boulos Yazigi. We pray to Her to be with our people everywhere bestowing humanity the mercy of the Child of peace and the father of mercies.

Oh Jesus, Who descended to us as a Child. Come and fill us with the abundance of your mercy, keep our children and parents. Come and stay in the cave of our souls and trim our thoughts with Your holy light. Oh Jesus, whose presence filled us with peace, bless our life. Calm with the power of Your silence every disorder, fear and turbulence. Teach us to chant together: *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men"*.

Issued from the Patriarchal Headquarters - Damascus
December 20, 2015

Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News and Events

SUNDAY SCHOOL

January 10, 2016

Church school will resume.

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 pm.

Jan 24 Teens to host the Coffee Hour.

Jan 30 Snow tubing event

Feb 07 Teen SOYO Meeting following Sunday School at 12:30 pm.

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 (dchristian@peterpaulpotomac.org) or Amber Bennett (bennett.amberrose@gmail.com)

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

The next meeting of the Antiochian Women will be held Saturday, January 23 at 11:30am at the home of Suzanne Hermes. It's a potluck so start thinking about your favorite dish to bring and share. Directions will be provided via your RSVP to Kate handmaidens20854@gmail.com.

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.

"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. The topic will be Part 2 of "The After Life in Western Christianity, Eastern Religion, and Orthodox Tradition" presented by Alfred Turnipseed. ALL ARE WELCOME.

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

Upcoming events...

Jan 05	Divine Liturgy Feast of the Holy Theophany 7:00p
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 *Young Fellowship potluck lunch (see above for more details)
Jan 10	*Church school resumes *Teen SOYO meeting (following Sunday School)
Jan 12	Parish Council Mtg. @7:00pm, LL Conf. Rm
Jan 13	Young Adult Fellowship Study Group (see above for more details)
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 *Antiochian Women Meeting 11:30a (see above for more details)
Jan 24	Teens host Fellowship Hour
Jan 26	Men's Club Mtg/7:30pm/LL Conf. Rm.
Jan 30	Arabic Language Class/10a-12:30p/LL Conf. Rm

EPISTLE

(For the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Unto Thee will I cry, O Lord my God.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (4:5-8)

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ)

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (1:1-8)

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Enter into the Church and wash away your sins. For here there is a hospital and not a court of law.

St. John Chrysostom

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
Sally Ruffin
Nouha Aramouni
Bill Dora, Jr.
Richie Ayoub
Jamil Al-Kallas
Rana Callas
Mary & Family
Lillian & Mike & Family
Helen Aziz Ayoub
Nadia Saah

Salwa Gabro
Robert Dubois
Joan Lanciani
Linda Dora Elkanich
Patrick Emad
Susan
The Family of Eva Catherine Malouf
Mike & Samar & Family
Judy & Gene & Family
Christine Saah Nazer
Jennifer Saah Baca-Asher

DEPARTED
Christopher Barr
Fawzi Maher Zabaneh
Eva Catherine Malouf
William Dora, Sr.
Lancelot Atiyeh
Essa & Ellen Rafeedie

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.

SERVICE BOOK HELP ~FIND
The Creed ~ p. 110
The Lord's Prayer ~ p. 118
The Communion Prayer ~ p. 121-122
The Prayer of Thanksgiving p. 125

HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION OFFERED BY:
Mary Misleh in Memory of her Father Essa Rafeedie

FELLOWSHIP HOUR OFFERED BY:

Helen Aziz Ayoub for the Health and Well-being of her daughters
Christine Saah Nazer, Jennifer Saah Baca-Asher, Nadia Saah

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.