

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR  
AND BREAD OF HOLY OBLATION**

	<b>Bread of Holy Oblation</b>	<b>Fellowship Hour</b>
<b>06 Jan</b>	Alganesh Piechocinski Workie Semere	Alganesh Piechocinski Workie Semere
<b>13 Jan</b>	Open	Mltody Tilev & Family
<b>20 Jan</b>	Open	Open
<b>27</b>	Open	Open

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 Kogok Hall.

**SS. PETER AND PAUL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
10620 River Road Potomac Maryland 20854 • 301-765-3400 • [www.peterpaulpotomac.org](http://www.peterpaulpotomac.org)

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

**PRIESTS**

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

## Reverend

Fr. Luke Toumi  
friluke@peterpaulpotomac.org  
(610) 844-2583 cell  
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**DEACON**

Dn. Christian Manasseh  
DnChristian@peterpaulpotomac.org

**COUNCIL****Chairperson**

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**Vice Chairman**

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Peter Aburdeineh

**SERVERS**

Captains -

Andrew Erickson

Rashid Haddad

Thomas Zook

**SS. PETER AND PAUL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

*Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America*

*H.E. Metropolitan JOSEPH*

*Archbishop Primate*

*All Things Are Possible to Him Who Believes*

**Matins:** Sundays 9:30am

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

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2019**

**THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD,  
GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

**APOLYTIKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST (Tone 1)**

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

**KONTAKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST (Tone 4)**

*(\*\*The original melody\*\*)*

On this day Thou hast appeared \* unto the whole world, \* and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, \* is signed on us who sing Thy praise \* and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, \* Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

*The voice of the Lord upon the waters crieth aloud, saying: Come ye all, and receive the Spirit of wisdom, the Spirit of understanding, the Spirit of the fear of God, from Christ who is made manifest.*

*Idiomela, for the Sanctification of Water*

**The Day the Lord has Made: A Reflection for 2019**

*Bishop JOHN Abdalah*

The coming of the New Year is often a time of reflection, and, this year, folks seem more reflective than ever. This year, I think that reflective may even mean anxious. Perhaps this anxiety is related to economic uncertainty, to our being bombarded with so much information from everywhere, to hostilities and frustrations around the world, to America's realization that the world is not receptive to all of our ideals and standards, to our inability to assuage all of the suffering we see around us and around the globe, and to bad news reported from everywhere.

Then again, perhaps our anxiety is more about our search for meaning in a world that doesn't seek God any longer. Not only does our society not seek God, but Christians are ridiculed as silly, old fashioned, non-thinkers! It seems that almost overnight, our ideals as a culture have changed and, outside of shopping and Santas, there isn't much space for Christian faith and truth. Eastern mysticisms are the place of choice for "feel-goods," and truth is an old-fashioned concept that has all but been abandoned by modern humanity.

In the Orthodox Church, Truth is not a *what*, but a *Who*. The Word of God took on flesh so that we could come to share His life. The message of Christ cannot be reduced to doing nice things and getting along with each other. Christ hung on the cross so that He could share in our lives and in our deaths, and in so sharing, join us to Himself. The Christian message of who we are and Who Truth is cannot be reduced to our feelings. The Word of God took on flesh for us to share His Life with us, and for us really to be His people. Meaning in life comes not from a feeling; rather, it comes from our relationship with God, and the relationship that gives us access to God is in the person of Jesus Christ, the God-man. We know God and God knows us, by our being in relationship with Him. Like all other relationships, a relationship with God requires time and effort.

To be honest, I am not very anxious about the New Year. I know what God has accomplished for us and I have confidence in His mercy and love. He will do what is best for me, in spite of me. Here I am not talking about salvation – I will leave that up to God. I am not assured that I won't suffer – that is dependent on those around me, my own poor decisions, and the unfolding of my genes. I am not anxious, because I have come to understand that God is good and that sufferings and pains do come to an end sometime. But the things that count, that give meaning to life and are eternal, are all accomplished by Christ, and He brings them to us.

I write this to comfort those who are reflective and anxious at this time of year. This year like every year, and this day like every day, is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

# Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News and Events

## CHURCH SCHOOL 2018-2019

Registration for Church School is ongoing using this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/GQ6uQSnltimwJW2>, include your email as most Church school announcements go out to the entire parish. Please list all/allergies.

**Check out our new online Church School Newsletter**  
<https://tinyurl.com/PeterPaulCSOctober>

## TEEN SOYO

Ss. Peter & Paul Teen Youth Ministry Group (Teen SOYO) is open to all teens of the Parish (13— 19 years). The teens meet regularly for social, spiritual, and community outreach events.

### Lay Advisors:

Zaid Sharafudin/Zaid.sharafudin@gmail.com (412) 708-6726 and Marian Azar/azaremarian@gmail.com (703) 297-9638

## YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

The Ss. Peter & Paul YAF welcomes all young people over 20 years of age to join in its social, educational, and outreach activities. Please contact Wayne Parr at wayneparr@gmail.com or Amal Michael at amal17m@yahoo.com for more information.

## ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

\*Please pay your annual dues of \$25 to help support our outreach and charitable projects. Checks can be given to Janet Metz.

\*Please provide your email address to Carol Laham at [claham@wileyrein.com](mailto:claham@wileyrein.com) for future notices.

\*If you have a child in college, please provide their name and college address to Carol Laham at the above email address. The ladies are planning a new outreach to college students.

\*PLEASE volunteer to help!

## THE SS. PETER & PAUL PARISH LIBRARY & MEDIA CENTER

The new Parish Library and Media Center is up and running. The Center houses the Parish Library, audio visual materials, and Christian educational resources. The Center is located in the lower level inside room accessible from the Serge Malooley Conference Center room. Donations of books or materials related to the history, tradition and teaching of the Church and the Orthodox Faith are welcome. All are welcome to use the center by following its user guidelines. Contact Fr. Isaac, Fr. Luke, or Dn. Christian for access and information.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Saturday, Jan 12, 2019\*9:00am** take down Christmas decorations. Volunteers are welcome!

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

"Exploring Our Faith" meets every other Thursday evening 7:00p to 8:30p in the Library & Media Center. The next meeting is **Thursday, January 10, 2019**. Fr. Isaac facilitates the Forums using brief presentations as a springboard to open discussion on a variety of topics concerning our faith. ALL ARE WELCOME. Contact Fr. Isaac at [frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org](mailto:frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org). Fr. Luke at [frluke@peterpaulpotomac.org](mailto:frluke@peterpaulpotomac.org) or Kate Niewenhous at [handmaidens20854@gmail.com](mailto:handmaidens20854@gmail.com).

## 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 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 ([alexcocxsells@gmail.com](mailto:alexcocxsells@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.

## LAST SUNDAY— PARISH PHOTO DIRECTORY REMINDER

This is the last Sunday to sign up to take your family/individual picture. The pictures are taken right after the liturgy inside the church. Please check in with the bookstore across from the elevators. Please use the following link to signup: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080945A4A823ABFF2-parish2>  
**Questions?** email: [FrLuke@peterpaulpotomac.org](mailto:FrLuke@peterpaulpotomac.org) OR call: 301-765-3400 ext. 2.

## THE PARISH GIFT SHOP

Don't forget to stop by the Parish gift shop for your special gifts. It's open every Sunday following Liturgy. For more information contact Alma Jean Zaki at (703) 283-9338 or [ajmzaki@gmail.com](mailto:ajmzaki@gmail.com)

## CREDIT CARD GIVING TO Ss. PETER AND PAUL CHURCH

The new Credit Card Giving Kiosk for donations or payments to Ss. Peter and Paul Church is operational. The Kiosk and 'swipe' screen are located in the Narthex (entrance) of the Church. Please contact Wayne Parr or Ken Bailey for more information.

## CHURCH CALENDAR

Jan 06	*Baptism/Peter Antony Sabbouh/2p
Jan 08	*Parish Council Mtg/7p/Serge Malooley Conf Rm
Jan 10	*Adult Religious Education Forum/'Exploring our Faith'/7:00p/ Library & Media Center
Jan 24	*Adult Religious Education Forum/'Exploring our Faith'/7:00p/ Library & Media Center
Jan 26	*Retreat/Envisioning the Kingdom: the Why & How of Beauty in the Orthodox Church/10a-3p. (including lunch)/Kogok Hall
Feb 07	*Adult Religious Education Forum/'Exploring our Faith'/7:00p/ Library & Media Center
Feb 12	*Parish Council Mtg/7p/Serge Malooley Conf Rm
Feb 21	*Adult Religious Education Forum/'Exploring our Faith'/7:00p/ Library & Media Center
Feb 24	*Baptism/Leo Khalaf/1:30p

## OCMC (Orthodox Christian Mission Charities)

\*\*Please see a framed sign on a table in our narthex listing upcoming short-term missions for 2019, or go to [ocmc.org](http://ocmc.org) for more information. The listing at our church gives short-term opportunities through International Orthodox Christian Charities as well.

\*\*Remember the OCMC box at the candle stand for your spare change or donations. Your support helps underwrite self-sustainability projects, medical outreach, construction of homes and schools, and much-needed relief.



## THE EPISTLE

*Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.*

*O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good;*

*for His mercy endureth forever.*

## The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to Titus. (2:11-15; 3:4-7)

My son Titus, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world; awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for Himself a people of His own who are zealous for good deeds. Declare these things; exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you. When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

## THE GOSPEL

## The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (3:13-17)

At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by Thee, and Thou dost come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on Him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased."

## CHURCH SCHOOL

### Directors

Samia Zolnerowich  
Jennifer Buchko

### Teachers

Jumana Misleh  
Susan Kozlov  
Danielle Bellone  
Michelle Zook  
Ritamarie Saa  
Jennifer Montgomery  
Andrew Salem  
Dara Potter  
Layla Najjar  
Caroline Jarboe  
Stephen Zolnerowich  
Nathaniel Guinn  
Elizabeth El-Hage  
Anees Mokhiber  
AJ Wood  
Philip Allen

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Sam Khalil

## ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

Carol Laham

## TEEN SOYO

Lay Advisors  
Zaid Sharafudin  
Marian Azar  
Officers  
Joud Al-Kallas  
Tia Saah  
Jacob Azar  
Julia Azar

## YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Wayne Parr  
Amal Michael

## ADORNMENT

Shams Akkawi  
Jamil Hermes

## FACILITY MANAGEMENT

Sam Berberian  
Alex Cox

## RENTAL

## COORDINATOR

Barbara Abraham  
George Rados

## CHARITIES

Sam Sahouri Ghanem

## FINANCE

Salim Habayeb

## STEWARDSHIP

Zeina Manasseh

## GIFT SHOP

Alma Jean Zaki  
Gail Bailey

# 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

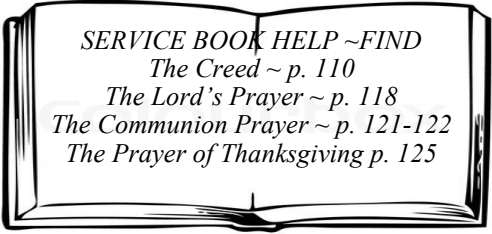
**Orthodox Christians**  
Faithful Orthodox fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when they receive Holy Communion in fulfillment of Christ's command to eat His Body and drink His Blood. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, communicants should not be conscious of grave 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.



**Parishioners who remain in our prayers continually**

Rt. Rev. Fr. Elias Bitar	Margaret Ashley	Mary Smith
Isabel Threddeh	George Brown	Nabeeha Ayoub
Holly Dubois	Suad Shammas	Robert & Thelma Badwey
Sophie Neam	Miriam Yazge	Barbara Abraham
George & Joan Abraham	Lula Brown	Douglas Kalesh
Michael Buchko, Sr.	Edward Rizkallah	Dorothy Marge
Leila Khoury	Shoke George	Assad & Patricia Khoury
Bob & Shirley Neri	Barbara Mullin	

**LIVING**

Rene Saah	David Saa	Margo Sahouri-Ghanem	Michael & Hanneh Sahouri-Ghanem
Ramzi Imad	John Abraham	Tammy Alvarez	Yousef & Affi Masarweh
Gigi Hanna	George & Joanna Khoury	Ibtisam Toubaji	Nimer Masarweh
Thomas Zook	Forest Hamlin	Jamie Simon	Baby Michelle
Wafa Atiyeh	Denise Bolus & Family	Haifa Habib & Family	Naif Hanna Khleif
Michael & Nadia El-Hage & Family		Tagreed Masarweh & Family	
Sam, Margo & Family	Hanneh, Elliot & Family	Radi, Hala & Family	
Kathy Ghanem	Joe, Olivet & Family	Fahed Masarweh & Family	
Helen Khalil	Nijmeh Zayed	Amir & Sara P. Abu-El-Hawa	
Piechocinski Family	Nyla Louh	Judith Khleif & family of Naif Hanna Khleif	
Antony, Joseanne, & Peter Antony Sabbouh			

**HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION OFFERED BY:**  
Alganesh Piechocinski & Workie K. Semere/In Memory of Fr. George Rados

**ZALABIA OFFERED BY:**  
Ghanem Family

**FELLOWSHIP OFFERED BY:**  
Alganesh Piechocinski & Workie K. Semere/In Memory of Fr. George Rados

**2019 STEWARDSHIP DRIVE**  
The Stewardship Committee is launching our 2019 stewardship drive. Please support your church with your time, talents and treasure and fill out a stewardship form in paper (located in the Narthex) or online at [peterpaulpotomac.alexiochms.com](http://peterpaulpotomac.alexiochms.com). Please make the commitment to support the Church through your generous free-will donation. If you have any questions or need more information, please see a member of the Stewardship committee member or in the fellowship hall for more information. Thank you for your support!

**ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE SUMMER CAMP 2019**  
**Attention Parents:** Online registration for the Antiochian Village summer camp has started. The program is open to children ages 9-17 years. The sessions run from June 16 through August 9, 2019. Parents are encouraged to send their children to session 4 (July 28 thru August 9) in order to share bus transportation. Please register your children soon as places fill up quickly. See <https://avcamp.org/>