



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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GIFT SHOP
Antiochian Women

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH, 2025 SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST

MARTYR TATIANA OF ROME AND THOSE WITH HER; MARTYR PETER ABSALOM OF PALESTINE

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

According to the Gospel, it should be said that undoubtedly each person is given his own saving cross. This cross has grown on the soil of our heart, and it is only through this cross that we can be saved. From this it follows that if we refuse to carry our cross of obedience for no legitimate reason, we refuse to go by the way of Christ, by the saving way, and we want to invent for ourselves another way, free of labor, for attaining the kingdom of heaven. But this cannot be.

- St. Anatoly of Optina

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

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& YOUNG ADULTS**
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•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 January 12 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we continue to celebrate the Theophany (Epiphany) of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we commemorate the holy Martyr Tatiana of Rome, the Deaconess, and those with her.

Verses

*For Tatiana, who was in all things resplendent,
The bright sword gave her head a resplendent laurel.
On the twelfth, they trimmed Tatiana's neck.*

Tatiana lived during the reign of Emperor Alexander Severus, whose chief assistants persecuted Christians without the emperor's orders. When they brought out the virgin Tatiana for torture, she prayed to God for her torturers. And behold, their eyes were opened and they saw four angels around the martyr. Seeing this, eight of them believed in Christ for which they also were tortured and slain. The tormentors continued to disfigure Tatiana, but God sent His angels to the dungeon to encourage her and to heal her wounds. Each morning, Tatiana appeared before the torturers completely healed. Finally, Tatiana and her father were both beheaded in about the year 225. Thus, this heroic woman and those with her were crowned with immortal wreaths of glory.

On this day, we also commemorate Martyr Peter Absalom of Palestine. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

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.

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 OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR

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.

Commemorations

For the Health of these Parishioners

Samantha Carter	Joyce & Terri	Christo & Mary Christakis
Suad Shammass	Victor, Linda & Family	Hanneh Daoud
Mike & Dorothy Marge	Ibrahim Saah	Vilma Bellone
Michael Shihadi	Joanna Khoury	Sherrie Zachariah & family
Nadim Zarour	Michael Amouri	Nour & Anastasia
Qustandi & Nahida Kaibni	Mary Sahouri & Family	Asma Ayoub
Juliana, Metody & family	Yousef & Ghada	Elias, Taylor & Rami
Isabel Threded	Ghassan & Zakieh Jweied	Margo, Sam & Family
Shakeh Kerjilian & Family	Sylvia & Selma Habib	Barbara Zamer & Family
Frank & Barbara Ellis	Grace Saah & Family	Edward & Eleanor Husson
Brian, Caroline & Family	Fadia, Rich & family	Elizabeth Albinger & family
Steve, Jennifer & Family		

DEPARTED

Julian John El-Hage
 Shawky El-Hage
 Adma Shakhashiri
 Sue Shahade
 Eli Habib
 * Ellen Ayoub
 *Charles "Sonny" McGraw
 *Nazih Moufarrij

Special Prayer this Week for

Elizabeth Carroll	Lilly Cook	Diane & Nader
Milena Paskaleva & Family	Paul Misleh	Gino Michaels & Family
Antoinette Najmeh	Renee Shallah	Denise Bolus
Michael, Nadia & Alexis El-Hage		Maha Shakhashiri
Omar, Giselle & Xelene El-Hage		Hind & Habib Debs
John, Michael Bolus & Families		Paul, Elizabeth & Gabriel Debs

CHURCHING

Gabriel Debs (Paul & Elizabeth)

Coffee Hour Available Dates

- February 2 March 9
- February 9 March 16
- March 2 March 23

Host Coffee Hour



Offer Holy Bread



If you want to offer Holy Bread or host Coffee Hour please use the QR Codes on the side to do so.

Coming Up @ Ss. Peter & Paul

Saturday, January 18th, Community Night, 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Sunday, February 2nd, Scout Sunday, following the Divine Liturgy

1st & 3rd Tuesday

Bible Study
(8:30 pm/Zoom)



REGISTER HERE

SAVE THE DATE
DC-area Orthodox Christian Mission Center
Missions Awareness Dinner
Saturday, February 22, 2025
Hosted by Our Parish

Featuring Fr Chris Rowe of OCMC; Project Mexico youth construction short-term missions; a video connection with multi-country Missionary Dana Bates from Africa, who works with youth education; and Fr Thomas Manuel, recent Orthodox Christian Mission Center missionary to Guatemala.

Cost: \$45 for older adults; \$25 for those under 25.

Forever Young!

First Friday of the Month

REGISTER HERE



If you are interested in joining the **Order of St Ignatius**, this will be a great opportunity to be inducted while His Eminence is with us.

www.OrderOfStIgnatius.org

Submit your interest in the Order here



Stay Up-to-date By Joining Ss. Peter & Paul WhatsApp Community

An Opportunity to

Stay Connected
Join a Variety of Chat Groups
And Receive Parish
Announcements

Scan
QR Code to Join



St. Raphael's Table

The First Saturday of the Month

Preparing and distributing meals and toiletries to our neighbors in need.

To join in preparation/
distribution
use this QR code



Amazon Wishlist
for Toiletry Bags is
available here.

Dance Through the Decades

Join us for a groovy disco party
celebrating the best music and
dance moves from the 60s-80s!



All are welcome!
Bring a friend or two!

2025 Church Calendars Are Now Available

Pick up from the literature display stands or ask one of the ushers

January Charity Drive

This month's charity drive will raise money for **United Palestinian Appeal (UPA)**, an organization dedicated to empowering Palestinians to improve their health, education, and economic development.

UPA delivers food, water, clothing, medical supplies and services, hygiene kits, and other support, as well as nurturing the means for Palestinian self-development.

For Online Donations, choose "Charity Drive".



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



THE EPISTLE

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:7-13)

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

THE GOSPEL

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (4:12-17)

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulon and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

Baptizing the World, Part One

By His Eminence Metropolitan Saba (Isper)

Until the fourth century, the Christian Church continued to celebrate one feast, for the birth of Christ and his baptism together. The feast marked one occasion to celebrate two divine events. However, after the Byzantine emperor, Constantine the Great, converted to Christianity followed by many others, starting in the fourth century, their new religious practices started to become mixed with the pagan customs and ceremonies previously ingrained in their conscience, which conflicted with their new faith. This forced the Church to confront and overcome the new challenge by Christianizing it.

The feast of the sun god was a great feast in the Roman Empire, especially in the East. Feasts are always, unfortunately, occasions to escape morality for many. When new believers continued to celebrate this feast alongside the Christian feasts, the Church, the pillar of truth, decided to separate Christmas from Theophany and assign a special feast for it – independent feasts for the Lord’s birth and baptism. The feast of baptism remained on January 6, and Christmas was moved to December 25, the date of the feast of the sun.

Therefore, those who attend the prayers and liturgical services will notice an almost complete similarity in the structure of the two festal services.

The Christmas apolytikion uses the title "Sun of Justice" for Christ: "For they that worshipped the stars learned through a star (the light of the knowledge of Christ) to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice." Thus, in time, the pagan festival became Christianized, and Christians began to celebrate in a manner befitting their faith.

This is what we call the Christianization, or baptism, of the world. It consists of adopting an existing practice and giving it a Christian meaning. Let us take baptism as a second example. Water in ancient civilization was a source of fear and danger. Ancient man did not have the ability to confront floods, torrents, heavy rains and their aftermath, let alone seas and rivers. Water was considered a source of uncontrollable chaos, and was called, in the Old Testament, “chaos.” The god of water was a fearsome god. However, water was also considered a sign of purification and cleanliness, and a tangible proof of the inner purity towards which the repentant person turns. Therefore, it was used in most religions as a symbol of purification and inner cleanliness.

St. John the Baptist called for the baptism of repentance, which was a sign of a change in the baptized person’s behavior and taking a new path, well pleasing to God and in

accordance with the divine commandments. Would the Baptist have called for this water baptism if this practice was unknown and unfamiliar to his contemporaries? Christ came and accepted John's baptism, to teach us "to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). He also asked his disciples to baptize those to whom they preached in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

Baptism by water was no longer a mere sign, but became, in Christ, a spiritual rebirth, divine sonship for the baptized, forgiveness of sins, a garment of incorruption, etc. It was no longer a symbol or image of a deeper meaning, but a real act bearing divine grace. In other words, Christianity adopted a familiar practice, gave it a completely new meaning, and arranged a special ritual for its completion, commensurate with the faith.

The same is true for many other things.

Some people try to ridicule Christianity on the grounds that it adopted rituals and practices that existed long before it, and therefore are not of its own invention. Their argument is that the rituals were taken from what came before Christianity – as if the authenticity of a subject lies only in its invention!

Community Night

A Fun Evening for Everyone

Saturday, January 18th, 5-9 PM

Vespers, Potluck Dinner,
& Fun Activities for Everyone

Scan QR Code
To RSVP



**Winter Banquet
Ramallah Club of D.C.**

Saturday, January 25th (6-11 PM)

Ss. Peter & Paul Antiochian Church

Arabic Mezza	Adults \$60
Buffet Style Dinner	Kids Ages 6-13: \$25
Live Band, DJ	Kids 5 & Under: Free
Raffle Prizes & More	Reserved Table of 10: \$550



Fr. Paul Abernathy's Talk

Confronting A Slaughter:

The Church As a Prophetic Voice in Ending
Genocide and Apartheid in Palestine

Saturday, January 25th (5:45 PM)

Ss. Peter & Paul Antiochian Church

Scan QR Code
To Register



Church History - Fourth Century

Saint Athanasius and his defence of Nicea

The doctrinal definition of the Nicene Council was not universally accepted throughout the Church for a long time. The Arian controversy raged for over five more decades, and because several Christian emperors in this period gave their support to the Arianizers, the defenders of the Nicene Faith were greatly persecuted. With imperial support, Church councils were held in Milan, Sirmium, Rimini, Seleucia, and elsewhere, to try to articulate the mystery of Christ's divinity and humanity, but all with varying degrees of Arian influence.

Saint Athanasius (c. 298–373) attended the Nicene Council as a deacon of the Church in Alexandria. Though only 27 years old, he was a leader at that council in promoting the crucial word *homoousios* as most fitting to affirm the truth that the Son of God has the same uncreated divine nature as God the Father.

Athanasius became Bishop of Alexandria in 328, upon the death of Saint Alexander. As the anti-Nicene party, led by Bishop Eusebius of Nicomedia, gained strength, Bishop Athanasius was one of the first to be attacked through slander and intrigue. This group managed to get him exiled from his see in 335. Altogether, this fearless champion of Nicene Orthodoxy suffered exile five times for his valiant and eloquent defense of the Christian Faith. Near the end of his life, his pastoral, forgiving outreach to his former enemies greatly helped to bring Arianism to an end. For all this and more, he is revered in Church Tradition as Saint Athanasius the Great.

