



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

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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ST. IGNATIUS ORDER
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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND, 2025 PRESENTATION (MEETING) OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

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

Leave your house unswept,
uncleaned, and unventilated for one
year! Will it not turn into a pigsty?
Now think about what the soul of a
man is like when he has not cleaned it
through Confession, not only for a
year, but for twenty, forty, sixty, or
seventy years.

*Archimandrite Seraphim Aleksiev
of Bulgaria*

• 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 February 2 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Meeting (Presentation) of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple, wherein the righteous Simeon received Him into his arms.

Verses

*The hands of righteous Simeon, as they bear Thee, depict, O my Christ, the bosom of Thy Father.
On the second, Simeon received Christ in the Temple.*

The Greek word for the feast is “Hypapante” [ee-pah-pan-DEE] which means “Encounter” or “Meeting.” However, this was not just some chance encounter. This feast, which closes the cycle of the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, reminds us that on the fortieth day after the birth of her first-born Son, Mary carried Him to the Temple in accordance with the Mosaic Law to offer Him to the Lord, and to ransom Him by the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons (Luke 2:22-37). In one of many acts of extreme humility, the divine Word thus lowers Himself and submits to the law in order to fulfill it. This lowering is also Jesus’ first official encounter with His people in the person of Simeon. It is not only an encounter, but also a manifestation. Simeon bears in his arms the One he knows to be the Salvation of the world, “a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.” His endearing prayer, as found in the Gospel of Luke, endures in the Orthodox Church to this day. The Church considers this celebration as a Feast of the Theotokos in praise of her role in this Presentation, and her connection in the work of her Son. “Adorn thy chamber, O Zion, and receive Christ the King. Welcome Mary the heavenly gate; for she hath appeared as a cherubic throne; she carrieth the King of glory” (Aposticha of Great Vespers). The Virgin today accompanies the Child in His first offering to the Father; she will also accompany Him even to the realization of His sacrifice for humanity.

Unto the very God be glory and dominion unto the ages. Amen.

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN)

The Lord hath made known His salvation; He hath revealed His justice in the sight of the Gentiles. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

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 THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

KONTAKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin’s womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon’s arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

Commemorations

For the Health of these Parishioners

Samantha Carter	Joyce & Terri	Christo & Mary Christakis
Suad Shammass	Victor & 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

Kamil Mesays
 Nora Bader
 Abdallah Bader
 Jamila Taweel
 * Linda Joubran

Special Prayer this Week for

Elizabeth Carroll	Lilly Cook	Thomaseena Cox
Milena Paskaleva & Family	Paul Misleh	Gino Michaels & Family
Antoinette Najmeh	Renee Shallah	Pamela Karam
Maria Zachariah	Richard & Jamie	Lina Eid & family
Fred Taweel & family	Rick Taweel & family	Camille, Lana & family

Coffee Hour is offered by **Camille & Lana Kods** in loving memory of Lana's parents, **Nora & Abdallah Bader**.

Holy Bread is offered by the **Family of Jamila Taweel** in her loving memory.

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

Coffee Hour Available Dates

- March 23 April 27
- March 30 May 4
- April 13 May 11

Host Coffee Hour



Offer Holy Bread



Coming Up @ Ss. Peter & Paul

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

Sunday, February 9th, *Blessing of Medical Professionals* of the Fellowship of St Julian after the Divine Liturgy

1st & 3rd Tuesday Bible Study (8:30 pm/Zoom)

REGISTER HERE



Agents of Change for the Kingdom of God OCMC 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.

\$45 for older adults

\$25 for those under 25

Need help registering for the Missions Dinner?

See Michael Bosworth *during the coffee hour* on **Feb 2nd**



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



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 Saturday, February 8, 5-9 PM Ss. Peter & Paul Social Hall

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



All Adults are welcome!
Bring a friend or two! **ACT NOW!**

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".



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



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



THE EPISTLE

*My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For He hath regarded the humility of His servant.*

The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (7:7-17)

Brethren, it is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. Here tithes are received by mortal men; there, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him. Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not according to a legal requirement concerning bodily descent but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, "Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

THE GOSPEL

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (2:22-40)

In those days, the parents of Jesus brought Him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Thy people Israel." And His father and his mother marveled at what was said about Him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed." And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of Him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him.

Man of Resurrection

By His Eminence Metropolitan Saba (Isper)

Anastasios Yannoulatos, Archbishop of Tirana and All Albania, stands as a unique and extraordinary contemporary witness of the Orthodox faith. His approach to life was always grounded in the principles of faith, which shaped his every decision. A man of knowledge and action, prayer and evangelism, tradition and openness, he exemplified a rare combination of humility and courage. He preserved the treasure of faith while loving God's creation.

Despite facing immense challenges, he remained steadfast in bearing and transmitting the Christian witness until his last breath. He preserved this witness with a joyful demeanor and genuine smile radiating from the peace of his soul which was indwelled by the Holy Spirit.

I was fortunate to accompany him for five days during his visit to the Patriarchate of Antioch in 2000. Though I did not know him previously, his humility, joy, and profound connection with people left a lasting impression. My admiration for him grew as I learned more about his remarkable service, including stories shared by his bishop, John, who accompanied him on that visit.

Archbishop Anastasios believed that Christ is the Head of the Church and regarded himself as merely the servant of the Lord and His Church. This profound humility allowed him to utilize the abundant gifts God had granted him to achieve extraordinary miracles. In Albania, he literally resurrected a church from near extinction, building it from the ground up and transforming it into a vibrant and organized church.

During his earlier missionary work in Africa, he ordained 62 readers and catechists from eight African tribes, translated the Divine Liturgy into four local languages, organized 150 Orthodox parishes and missions, and built several churches, school, and health centers.

In Albania, where the government had issued a decree declaring Albania a religion-free state as of 1967, Archbishop Anastasios revived a church that had virtually ceased to exist. There were no churches, no monasteries, no heritage, and not even bishops. Only eighteen elderly priests had remained. Over the 33 years of his service as Archbishop, from 1992 to 2025, he built 150 new churches, reconstructed 160 others, restored 60 monasteries and churches, and established 70 ecclesiastical facilities, including schools, youth and medical centers, guesthouses, workshops, dormitories, soup kitchens, a theological academy, a seminary, a school for ecclesiastical music, and more. He also educated and ordained 168 priests. May his remarkable footsteps touch and inspire our blessed Archdiocese. This is a call from me to all capable and faithful members of our Archdiocese.

Through his extensive initiatives, Archbishop Anastasios brought the Albanian Church to financial self-sufficiency after starting with nothing. The Orthodox faithful of North America were blessed to contribute to many of his ecclesiastical and social projects through organizations such as IOCC and OCMC.

His efforts extended beyond ecclesiastical matters, as he worked to establish the Church's presence in society and the state. He contributed to the development of Albania's infrastructure, including three hydroelectric power projects, the construction of roads and bridges, and the

renovation of public schools, among other initiatives that are too numerous to list in a single article.

He launched publications in Albania, including Resurrection for adults, Joy for children, and Bells for youth, in addition to a radio station. He established projects that included a publishing house, a candle factory, carpentry and iconography workshops, and restoration facilities. He also fought tirelessly for the restitution of Church properties.

Archbishop Anastasios combined theological knowledge and research in the history of religions with missionary and pastoral service, all while remaining acutely aware of social needs. He authored 24 books and delivered hundreds of lectures. His work presented a radiant and courageous face to non-Orthodox Christians, as he contributed to modern Christian witness, inter-Christian understanding, interfaith dialogue, and peaceful coexistence among peoples and religions. His presence at the World Council of Churches was as influential as that of great Orthodox leaders of the past, such as St. Nicholai Velimirovich and Fr. Georges Florovsky.

He departed this life on the morning of the feast of St. Gregory the Theologian, a saint who similarly labored to strengthen and revive the faith. When St. Gregory became Patriarch of Constantinople, nearly all the city's churches were in Arian hands, except for one small chapel. After a few years of his leadership, nearly all the churches had returned to Orthodoxy. Known for his love of hesychasm and poetic spirit, St. Gregory eventually retired to a hermitage after completing his mission. In contrast, righteous Archbishop Anastasios continued his labors, enduring all kinds of hardships until the Lord called him home.

In his later years, Archbishop Anastasios was deeply grieved by the lack of unity in the Orthodox world. He was profoundly pained by the divisions that affected the Church and issued a prophetic call reminiscent of the Old Testament prophets. In his message, he emphasized the need for Orthodox consensus and warned against unilateral decisions, earning him the well-deserved title of "The Wise Man of Contemporary Orthodoxy." For him, Christ was always the priority—above all things, no matter how great—in service to Christ, not the other way around. He left us bearing the sorrow of a fractured Orthodox reality, but he also left behind a pure theology and a vision of the Church untainted by worldly passions.

His uniqueness was based on living his theology and embodying it both in his personal life and in his diverse ministry. He was a blessed man, freed by Christ from the various bonds of this world, soaring ever toward the divine realm and making the earth a reflection of that heavenly reality. He sought to fulfill the Lord's Prayer: "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." He was not a mere theorist or sophist but a living example of his faith and teachings. He was a light on this earth, living the Resurrection and naming all his new projects after it, including the magnificent Cathedral of the Resurrection in Tirana. His faith in and experience of the Resurrection fill us with hope as we bid him farewell, confident that he will intercede from above for the Church and the world he loved so fervently. May God hear his voice in eternity and have mercy on us through his prayers.

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

NEW DATE

Saturday, April 27th at 5:30 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



**29th ANNUAL NICHOLAS TSAKALOS
MEMORIAL RETREAT**

Fr Michael Marcantoni

Saturday, March 8, 2025

Orthros 8:00 AM - Divine Liturgy 8:45 AM

Retreat begins at 10:30 AM

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation
24 W. Preston St., Baltimore, Maryland 21201

\$30 per person
includes continental breakfast and luncheon
Registration deadline Feb 24th
After Feb 24, registration will be \$35



Special youth gathering with Fr. Michael

"How to live with confidence-to live in the light and not to fear"
Friday, March 7 @ 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. w/ Light Lenten Meal

**ORTHODOX SCOUTING RELIGIOUS AWARDS PROGRAM
ORTHODOX SCOUT SUNDAY**

Today, February 2, 2025

Calling all Orthodox Scouts (boys, girls & leaders)!

Scouts will be

- Greeting parishioners
- Reading the Epistle
- Chanting and serving on the Alter

You do not have to be working on an Orthodox Religious Award to participate.

All Scouts are welcome and will receive the 2025 Scout Sunday Patch.

If you are a **Scout alumnus**, wear your neckerchief/ medals/sash and show the children of our Parish that you were a Scout too.

After the Liturgy: Blessing of the Scouts and bestowing medals on those who earned them.

- The St. George (1-3 Grade)
- The Chi-Rho (4 & 5 Grade)
- The Alpha Omega (6-12 Grade)

To participate in our Orthodox Scouting Religious Awards Program, please get in touch with:

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