

	Bread of Holy Oblation	Fellowship Hour
04 Feb	El Kari Family/40 Day Memorial Service for Rabieh Al Kari	El Kari Family/40 Day Memorial Service for Rabieh Al Kari
11 Feb	Leila Ayoub	Leila Ayoub
18 Feb	Fr. Isaac and Kh. Dolly/1-yr Memorial for Fouad Shwayri	Fr. Isaac and Kh. Dolly/1-yr Memorial for Fouad Shwayri
25 Feb	Tawil Family	Nadir Tawil
04 Mar	open	open

**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

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

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

DEACON
Dn. Christian Manasseh
DnChris-
tian@peterpaulpotomac.org

COUNCIL
Chairperson
Alex Cox
Vice Chairman
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Members
Roy Abdo
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Michelle Forzley
Salim Habayeb
Bassem Haddad
Samer Kokor
Anees Mokhiber
Wayne Parr
Mitody Tilev

CHURCH SECRETARY
office@peterpaulpotomac.org

CHOIR DIRECTOR
John Slanta
choir@peterpaulpotomac.org

CHANTERS
Wayne Parr
Zeina Manasseh
George Tannous

USHERS
Jerry Audi
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Abraham Fannoney
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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

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2018
tone 2 / EOTHINON 2
SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON &
AFTER-FAST OF PRESENTATION (MEETING) OF CHRIST

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (Tone 2)

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST (Tone 1)

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.

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 PRESENTATION OF CHRIST (Tone 1)

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.

He prays unceasingly who combines prayer with necessary duties and duties with prayer. Only in this way can we find it practicable to fulfil the commandment to pray always. It consists in regarding the whole of Christian existence as a single great prayer. What we are accustomed to call prayer is only a part of it.

Origen

FINDING GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE: PRINCIPLES FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Father Calinic Berger

It has been said that at the end of your life the only things that really matter are the people you loved, the people who loved you, and what you did for God. Our other accomplishments, however great, do not have the same importance. These tend to fade into oblivion and be forgotten. How then do we discern what is truly important in our lives? How do we make our major decisions (what career to pursue, whom to marry, etc.)? Obviously, the way to a meaningful life is to follow God's will for our lives. But to know God's will for ourselves implies that we are attuned to Him through a spiritual life of prayer that allows us to listen to Him. Here are several principles to help young adults develop and maintain such a spiritual life.

(1) Pray the prayer "Thy will be done." God's will is always for our benefit and always out of love for us, even though we may not understand it at first and it may be difficult to accept. We see that things turned out for the best only later. God sees what we do not see in our own hearts and in the hearts of others. As we grow, we see that He is watching us very closely and is always in control. We hereby learn to trust Him and always be at peace.

St. John Chrysostom said, "I always pray, 'Lod, not what I will, nor what any other creature wills, but may Thy will be done.'" Christ Himself prayed the same prayer in the garden of Gethsemane during His most difficult hour. We also should always finish our personal requests to God with the same prayer, "Not my will, but Thy will be done." This prayer will give us clarity of vision, free us from excessive disappointment, protect us from trying to bring the wrong people into our lives, and delivery us from man-pleasing and flattery. It does not mean that we won't make mistakes. Yet even in our mistakes God will not abandon us if we are striving to realign ourselves with Him

(2) Develop a world of interiority. Everyday we should strive to do something for God which is known only to Him and not to any other human being. In this way, no one on earth can take it away from us.. This is what Christ meant when He said, "Let not your right hand know what your left hand is doing" (Mt 6:3). This was a source of strength to Christians of the past in times of persecution. It will also protect us when the conditions of our life change and we do not find ourselves near a church that is providing for our needs, or near a church at all.

(3) Stay inspired, or you'll expire. The daily patient reading of the Holy Scripture is the best means to keep our heart warm towards God. At first it may seem difficult, but as we read more we realize how deeply it speaks to our lives. St. John Chrysostom even stated, "Without the daily sweetening of the soul with the words of Holy Scripture, it is impossible to be saved."

Also important is to choose inspiring friends and to associate ourselves with quality people. Our habits, speech, interests, etc., are influenced by those with whom we spend time. Choose your friends carefully. Spend time with those who lift you up, help you achieve your goals and make you want to be a better person.

Finally, absorb and pursue the truly beautiful things in life. St. Paul said, "Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely...meditate on these things" (Phil 4:8). The modern media seeks to choke us with materialism and the baser things in life. Rebel against this by seeking a higher culture. Listen to Mozart, Bach, Handel, Vivaldi, etc. You will not be disappointed.

(4) Be persistent and consistent. The spiritual life is not always easy. We will still make mistakes in life. But when we fall, we must get up. We must always move forward and never quit. Christ said, "He who endures to the end shall be saved" (Mt 10:22). If we have down days or times of loneliness, we must fill them with stronger prayer to God. A Christian is not a person who never fails — a Christian is a person who has the courage to return to God, to get back up and strive to improve.

(Part I of II; to be continued February 11, 2018)

Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News and Events

CHURCH SCHOOL 2017-2018

Registration for Church School is ongoing using this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/GQ6uQSnltimwgvJW2>. Also, please make sure to register with the church, including your email as most Church school announcements go out to the entire parish. School calendars are now available. We are also in need of snacks/drinks for the children--small and reg. juice boxes, juice pouches, small waters, individually wrapped snacks (PEANUT & TREE NUT FREE).

Mar 18 *2018 Pascha Prep Workshop and Art Projects due

Creative Arts Festival

Flyers with information about this year's theme were handed out last Sunday. Please stop by the Church School office bulletin board to pick up a copy. All entries must be turned in by **March 18th**.

Food For Hungry

Food for Hungry boxes will be passed out around **February 18th**. Boxes will be due back to the Church School office by **April 29th**.

TEEN SOYO

The Lay Advisors are:

Zaid Sharafudin/zaid343@yahoo.com
Anees Mokhiber / aneesmokhiber@gmail.com

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

- Mar 17** *Tea Party w/St. George ladies/2p-4p/@Ss. Peter & Paul
May 12 *Antiochian Women Fashion Show/ Congressional Country Club/11:30a

OCMC MISSION TEAMS

What are you doing for your vacation this year? Consider an Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) Mission Team in 2018! Empower the Church by working, witnessing, worshipping and making disciples. Minister to needs of Orthodox communities by sharing your love, unity and support; share your God-given talents to strengthen communities; see the world while sharing your faith; teach the Orthodox Faith and provide labor to communities worldwide. Current OCMC Mission Team opportunities are available to Albania (outreach, teaching and youth work), Ghana (Youth Work), Guatemala (Youth work and Healthcare Education), Indonesia (Teaching), Kenya (Teaching and Youth Work), Mexico (Construction and Teaching) and Alaska (annual wilderness Youth Camp). To apply for a mission team, go to https://www.ocmc.org/about/open_teams.aspx or call 1-877-463-6784.

"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 lower level conference room. The next meeting is **Thursday, February 8, 2018**. Fr. Isaac facilitates the meetings using brief presentations as a springboard to open discussion on a variety of topics concerning our faith. ALL ARE WELCOME. Please contact Fr. Isaac at frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org or Kate Niewenhaus at 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 and 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 or ajmzaki@gmail.com), Alex Cox at (alexcoxells@gmail.com) or Fr. Isaac at (frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org). Our Parish is grateful for this ministry remembering that when we visit the sick and the infirm we visit Christ himself.

THE PARISH GIFT SHOP

The Ss. Peter and Paul Parish Gift Shop is newly stocked with books, bibles, icons, CDs and all kinds of hand-made religious items with many items for children. The Gift Shop will open every Sunday following Liturgy. For information contact Alma Jean Zaki at (703) 283-9338 or ajmzaki@gmail.com

CHURCH CALENDAR

- Feb 04 *Rabieh Al-Kari/40-day Memorial
Feb 08 *Adult Education Forum/"Exploring our Faith"/ 7p-8:30p/LL Conf. Rm.
Feb 10 *Parish Council Annual Retreat/ 11:30a-4p/LL Hall
Feb 11 *Meat Fare
Feb 16-18 *Winter Camp at Antiochian Village
Feb 18 *Cheese Fare
*Fr. Isaac & Kh. Dolly/1-yr Memorial for Fouad Shwayri
*Luna James/Baptism/1:30p
Feb 19 *Start of Lent
*7pm Great Compline Service
*Presidents' Day/Offices Closed
Feb 24 *Baptism/Elias Peter Horany
Mar 10 *Baptism/Baby Hines
Mar 11 *Daylight Savings Time (spring forward)
Mar 18 *Church School Pascha Prep Workshop
Apr 01 *Palm Sunday—No Church School
Apr 08 *Pascha

THE EPISTLE

(For Sunday of the Prodigal Son)

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

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:12-20)

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food; but God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

THE GOSPEL

(For Sunday of the Prodigal Son)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (15:11-32)

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

2017 Stewardship Pledges

With the coming of the new year, the Ss. Peter and Paul Parish Council kindly reminds all the faithful of the Parish that stewardship pledges for 2017 are still due. Please make sure to mail in all donations and payments as soon as possible.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Directors

Samia Zolnerowich
Jennifer Buchko

Teachers

Jumana Misleh
Susan Kozlov
Rose Ansara
Christy Mackoul
Michelle Zook
Dina Saah
Dara Potter
Claudia Rabie
Christine Morin
Jennifer Montgomery
Caroline Jarboe
Stephen Zolnerowich
Anees Mokhiber
AJ Wood
Philip Allen

MENS CLUB

Sam Khalil

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

Carol Laham

TEEN SOYO

Lay Advisors

Ziad Sharafudin
Anees Mokhiber

Officers

Kinda Callas
Julia Allen
Joud Al-Kallas
Josian Azar
Tia Saah

YOUNG ADULT

FELLOWSHIP

Wayne Parr

ADORNMENT

Shams Akkawi
Jamil Hermes

FACILITY

MANAGEMENT

Sam Berberian
Nick Nahas
Bob Simon

RENTAL

COORDINATOR

Barbara Abraham

CHARITIES

Sam Sahouri Ghanem

FINANCE

Salim Habayeb

STEWARDSHIP

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

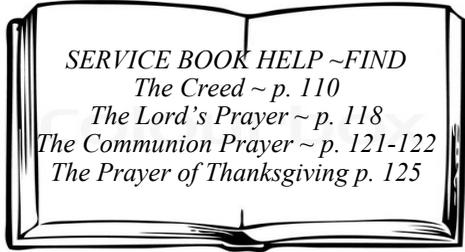
Orthodox Christians
Faithful Orthodox fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when they receive Holy Communion in fulfillment of Christ's command to eat His Body and drink His Blood. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, communicants should not be conscious of grave sin,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

Margaret Ashley	Brian Briggs	Mary Smith
Helen White	Isabel Threddeh	George Brown
Everett Alvarez	Holly Dubois	Robert & Thelma Badwey
Edmond & Sophie Neam	Miriam Yazge	Barbara Abraham
George & Joan Abraham	Lulu Brown	Martin Pinkstaff
Suad Shammass	Mary Bazargan	Michael Buchko, Sr.
Edward Rizkallah	Dorothy Marge	

DEPARTED
Rabieh Elkari
Susan Shahade
Evelyn Zacharia
Eliane Capdeville
Gilbert Precivale
Riad Elkari

LIVING

Leila Khoury	Bob Petrossian
Louise Magelli	Julia Fayad
Mark Buchko	Debbie Brown
Joyce Kogok	Robert & Joyce Najjar
Betty Adam	Andrew Gavin
Ziad Deeb	Rima Rizkallah & Family
Carol Elkari & Family	Ann Marie Moses
George & Joanne Khoury	Rana ElSabbagh & Family
Vilma Bellone d'd'Altaville	Rouba Al Akkari * & Family
Charlotte Elkari	Toufia Elkari & Family

MEMORIAL SERVICE
Rabieh Elkari/40-Day Memorial
Eliane Capdeville/9-day Memorial
Gilbert Precivale/6-month Memorial

HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION OFFERED BY:

Carol Elkari and Family
40 Day Memorial Service for Rabieh Elkari

MEMRIAL WHEAT
Carol Elkari and Family

FELLOWSHIP OFFERED BY:
Carol Elkari and Family

Call for Needs – Antiochian Women’s Parish Outreach

Please let us know if you, or a Ss. Peter and Paul parishioner friend or relative has a need where prayers, a meal, phone calls, visit or a card could be of some help. The Antiochian Women have a designated outreach to prepare meals for members of our Ss Peter and Paul parish family in need, for example. (Please call or e-mail Caroline Jarboe, who coordinates a team to prepare meals at caroline_jarboe@yahoo.com; 301.322.4241.) We also have an outreach to offer prayers, cards and phone calls to keep in touch. (Please call or e-mail Barbara Bosworth for this parish family outreach at bybosworth@fcps.edu; or text at 703-278-3161). We want to be proactive, but can only lend our support when we know of the needs, so please let Father Isaac, or Antiochian Women’s group coordinators know when we could be a support, as we have a team for these times. (“For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”)
In addition to this support through Antiochian Women, Ss Peter and Paul parish also has an *Angel Fund* (initiated by the Antiochian Women) coordinated by Father Isaac, and an *Outreach Visitation Ministry*. Many of us have read the compelling story in this month’s *Word Magazine* (pages 22 and 23) how prayers and grace through anointing heal. Know that you are part of our parish family, God’s family, and together we seek to support one another through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.