

	BREAD OF HOLY OBLATION	FELLOWSHIP HOUR
14 Feb	David & Dolly Browning	Open
21 Feb	John Hakim 40-Day Memorial for Acadius Hakim	John Hakim 40-Day Memorial for Acadius Hakim
28 Feb	Open	Open
06 March	The Family of Robert Simon, Sr. 40-Day Memorial for Robert Simon, Sr.	The Family of Robert Simon, Sr. 40-Day Memorial for Robert Simon, Sr.
15 Mar	Nadir Tawil	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.

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
Chairperson
Suzanne Hermes
Vice Chairman
Gary Farha
Secretary
Steve Simon
Treasurer
Richard Mahan

Members
Alex Cox
Abdallah Daoud
Paul Debs
Lina Eid
Anita El-Araj
Gary Farha
Suzanne Hermes
Samer Korkor
Rich Mahan
Justin Misleh
Tony Moussa
Wayne Parr
Steve Simon
Metody Tilev
George Zaki
Church Secretary
office@peterpaulpotomac.org

Choir Director
John Slanta
choir@peterpaulpotomac.org

Chanters
Wayne Parr
George Tannous

Ushers
Jerry Audi
Michael El Araij
Abraham Fannoney
Sam Khalil

ALTAR Manager
Peter Aburdeineh

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, FEBRUARY 14, 2016
TONE 4 / EOTHINON 4
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

&

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

VENERABLE AUXENTIOS THE PRIEST OF BITHYNIA; VENERABLE ABRAHAM AND MARON OF SYRIA; NEW-MARTYRS NICHOLAS OF CORINTH AND GEORGE THE TAILOR OF MITYLENE;

VENERABLE CYRIL, EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES AND ENLIGHTENER OF THE SLAVS

APOLYTIKION OF THE RESURRECTION (Tone 4)

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 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 FOR ORDINARY SUNDAYS (Tone 2)

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

Jesus Christ revered His Mother and submitted to lawful authority. Thus we also should revere our parents and educators; we too should respect those in positions of responsibility — provided their requests are not in conflict with God's commandments. Jesus Christ fervently and with love performed the task for which His Father sent Him. We should also conscientiously and zealously perform the duties which are laid upon us by God and civil authorities.

St. Innocent of Alaska

Is Church a Must For the Good Christian?

There is a theological aberration making the rounds, taking the proportion of a pop myth. It has reached my ears many times. Recently, I read some statistics that proved that the myth is growing in popularity, which shook me well enough to make me pray a lot and to write this article.

The pop cultural myth is this: **that one can be a good Christian and not go to church.** This myth is certainly not true. Don't fool yourself into believing it, because on this issue you are risking your salvation. You might be able to be a good person without going to church, but you will not be a good Christian.

St. Paul tells us that "*Christ is the Head of the Church, and the Church is the Body of Christ*" (Eph.4:12). How can anyone be a good Christian (which means to be a follower of Christ) and not be a part of His Body? "*To say we love Christ, who is Head of the Church, and at the same time reject His Body is to deny New Testament teaching*" (Orthodox Study Bible, p. 445).

Jesus Himself promised that He was going to "build His Church," which even the gates of Hell could not destroy: "*Upon this rock I will build my Church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it*" (Matthew 16:18). Therefore, Jesus established the Church on the Cross by His sacrifice. The faith is the rock on which the Church was built. My question is, then, "*How can anyone be a good man of faith and not be a part of the faith's stronghold — its establishment — which is the Church?*"

To further understand the importance of the church, one can read the *Acts of the Apostles*. When St. Peter and St. Paul went into the world to preach the Gospel, they did not only teach individual prayer. Their foremost mission was to establish churches. They later sent letters to these churches calling the members **saints** of that particular church. We, too, are called to be **saints**, but this can only be realized within the Church.

Jesus told the Samaritan woman that she could pray anywhere, not only on the Samaritan's holy mountain. What He established here was, of course, private prayer. But He certainly did not dismantle public prayer, which we practice in Church! Jesus Himself prayed to His Father in private, but our Lord also spent much time in the Temple, which is the prototype of the Church. In fact, Jesus began His public ministry and started His work of Salvation in the Temple during a religious service, where He publicly read and explained a passage from the Holy Scriptures (Luke 4:16 and following).

Just from these few examples, we can see that we cannot consider ourselves good Christians without going to Church. For the true believer, there is no doubt (to paraphrase a Holy Father of the Church) that "*He who doesn't have the Church as his Mother cannot have God as his Father.*"

I stated previously that you might be a good person (if not a good Christian) even if you don't go to Church. But I even have my doubts about this! Church is fellowship, which means being with other people and getting to know and love them.

Being a part of the church fellowship is being part of an extended family and participating in the joys and sorrows of each member of the family. St. Paul says that when a member of the body suffers, the whole body suffers.

The Lord Himself also says that where two or three are gathered together in His name, He would be in the midst of them (Matthew 18:20). It is even better when we "dwell" in the Church where our brothers and sisters are gathered with us in His name to bring Him glory and worship.

If you can't tolerate the community of the Church, which is admittedly imperfect, what better place is there to allow God to work on your intolerance? The Church has been called a "hospital for sinners." The Lord is present in Church through the Sacraments to restore us to holiness and bring us into a right relationship with Himself and our fellow man.

In matters of faith, it is not important what I think or what I wonder. What is important is what the Lord teaches us in His Holy Book to "*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding*" (Proverbs 3:5). "*Don't be conceited, sure of your own wisdom. Instead, trust and reverence the Lord, and turn your back on evil...*" (Proverbs 3:6, 7).

We shouldn't fool ourselves into thinking that everything is only between us and God. The truth is that just as no one was born alone nor lives alone, no one will be saved alone. We must return to the Holy Church. Only in it and through it can we save our souls and gain everlasting life.

Fr. Cornel Todeasa

Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News and Events

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

Feb 12-15 Many of our teens attending Winter Camp
Feb 20 Visit to a soup kitchen (S.O.M.E.)
Feb 21 Teen SOYO Meeting with Teen parents
Mar 6 Teen SOYO Meeting following Sunday School @12:30pm

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

February 17, 2016
The next meeting for the Young Adult Fellowship Study Group is Wednesday, February 17, 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 (friisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org), Dn. Christian Manasseh (dnchristian@peterpaulpotomac.org) or Amber Bennett (bennett.amberrose@gmail.com)

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

Antiochian Women’s Luncheon & Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 21, @1:30pm 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 at handmaidens20854@gmail.com

March is Antiochian Women’s Month

Please sign up with Donna Gavin to read the Epistle in English and Arabic, take the collection, and hand out Bulletins on Sundays during March.

EMAIL: CRAZYGAVINS@VERIZON.NET

“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 spring-board to open discussion on a wide range of topics concerning our Faith. The next meeting is Thursday, February 25, 2016. ALL ARE WELCOME.

BUILD A HOUSE IN MEXICO THIS SUMMER

In Mexico, there are many families without homes. You can change the life of a needy family by volunteering on a home building trip to Tijuana, Mexico. The Washington, DC Mission and Outreach Committee invites you to join us this summer from July 14th-20th, 2016 to build a home for an impoverished family. If you have a heart for working with your hands, please prayerfully consider joining this team. The team leader is Mrs. Elaine Porter, email: beporter1@verizon.net or (h) 703-913-9629 or (c) 703-470-9992. To learn more about Project Mexico, please visit their website at www.projectmexico.org.

Upcoming events...

- Feb 12-15 Antiochian Village Winter Camp
- Feb 17 Young Adult Fellowship Study Group
- Feb 20 *Teen SOYO to visit a soup kitchen (S.O.M.E.)
*Parish Council Retreat/12:30p/LL Conf. Rm.
*Arabic Language Class/10a-12:30p/LL Conf. Rm.
- Feb 21 *Antiochian Women's Luncheon 7 Meeting
*Teen SOYO Meeting w/teen parents
- Feb 23 Men's Club Mtg./7:30pm/LL Conf. Rm.
- Feb. 25 Adult Education Forum/7:15p/LL Conf. Rm.
- Feb 27 *Arabic Language Class/10a-12:30p/LL Conf. Rm.
*Baptism/Reese Eleanor Conlin/1:00pm
- Mar 05 *Arabic Language Class/10a-12:30p/LL Conf. Rm.
*Arabic Liturgy @5:00pm
- Mar 06 Teen SOYO Meeting following Sunday School
- Mar 08 Parish Council Meeting/7:00p/LL Conf. Rm.
- Mar 10 Adult Education Forum/7:15p/LL Conf. Rm.
- Mar 12 *Arabic Language Class/10a-12:30p/LL Conf. Rm.
- Mar 14 The start of Great Lent
- Mar 19 *Arabic Language Class/10a-12:30p/LL Conf. Rm.
*Baptism/Gideon Michael Shoaseged/1:00p
- Mar 24 Adult Education Forum/7:15p/LL Conf. Rm.
- Mar 26 No Arabic Language Classes
- Mar 29 Men's Club Mtg./7:30pm/LL Conf. Rm.

EPISTLE

(For the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost)

Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them. God is known in Judah; His Name is great in Israel.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:16-7:1)

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from them, and be separate from them,” says the Lord, “and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,” says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Seventeenth Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (15:21-28)

At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon.” But He did not answer her one word. And His disciples came and begged Him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before Him, saying, “Lord, help me.” And He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Directors

Samia Zolnerowich
Jennifer Buchko

Teachers

Jumana Misleh
Susan Kozlov
Michelle Zook
Christine Morin
Layla Najjar
Lizzy Cassar
Lara Bellone
Andrew Salem
Caroline Jarboe
Amber Bennett
Anees Mokhiber
Philip Allen

Men's Club

Sam Khalil

Antiochian Women

Kate Nierenhous

Teen SOYO Advisor

Jamilee Bellone

Officers

Rashid Haddad
Julia Allen
Danielle Bellone
Kinda Callas
Nick Guegel

Fellowship of St. John

Christine & Samer Korkor
Dr. 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

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.

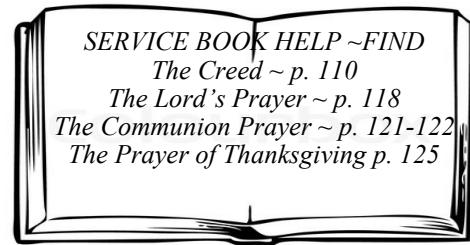
PLEASE DO NOT ENTER OR EXIT THE SANCTUARY AS

- 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.



HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION OFFERED BY:

David & Dolly Browning

FELLOWSHIP HOUR OFFERED BY:

Ss. Peter and Paul Church

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

LIVING

Parishioners who remain in our prayers continually

Margaret Ashley

May Fillah

Richie Kogok

Brian Briggs

Suad Shammas

Lulu & George Brown

Bertha Aed

Isabel Thredeh

Holly Dubois

Thelma & Bob Badwey

Edmond & Sophie Neam

Josephine Lofgren

Salwa Gabro

Sally Ruffin

Nouha Aramouni

Bill Dora, Jr.

Linda Dora Elkanich

John Wizeman

Richie Ayoub

The Family of Monir Neimat

The Family of Nawal Ayyash

Ibrahim Mazen Saah

Tony Moussa

Elias Bitar

The Family of Acadius Hanna Hakim

David Browning & Family

Najib Azkoul & Family

Glenn Spelis & Family

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

DEPARTED

Subdeacon Jerome Chiles
Nawal Ayyash
Monir Neimat
Acadius Hanna Hakim
Bill Dora Sr.
Lamia Choueiri Razook
Julia Salameh
Brenda Daughtry
Robert Elias Simon, Sr.
George Shahin
Norman Joseph
Salwa & Fouad Azkoul
Ophelia & Wayne Browning
Camille Chaoul
Miriam Arwady
Mary Lorraine Milham

Stewardship Corner

Theology of Giving Series – Week 7 – February 14, 2016

I Corinthians 16: 2 ... “On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that contributions need not be made when I come.”

“What does this message from God require from me, His loyal and obedient servant?” What must I change in my life to be able to follow this teaching in both word and in deed?”