



# 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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**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 2024**  
**TONE 4 / EOTHINON 4; SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER**  
**PENTECOST & SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

**LEO THE GREAT, POPE OF ROME;**  
**AGAPITOS THE CONFESSOR, BISHOP OF SYNNAIDA IN**  
**PHRYGIA, AND HIS COMPANIONS**

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

The passion of pride arises from two kinds of ignorance, and when these two kinds of ignorance unite together, they form a single confused state of mind. For a man is proud only if he is ignorant both of divine help and of human weakness. Therefore, pride is a lack of knowledge both in the divine and human spheres. For the denial of two true premises results in a single false affirmation.

*- St. Maximos the Confessor*

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

**CHOIR DIRECTOR**  
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Jerry Audi  
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**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**  
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**ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN**  
Donna Gavin  
Svitlana Sweat

**TEEN SOYO  
& YOUNG ADULTS**  
Sbdn. Chris Abdelahad  
**President:** Samuel Griffin  
**Vice President:** Kiernan El-Hage  
**Secretary:** George Manasseh  
**Treasurer:** Alexander Nassif  
**Social Media:** George Boyle

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**CHARITIES  
COORDINATOR**  
Stephen Zolnerowich  
Paula Massouh

**ST. IGNATIUS ORDER**  
Jumana Mislch

**GIFT SHOP**  
Gail Bailey

• 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 18 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our father among the saints, Leo the Great, pope of Rome.

### *Verses*

*Pouring forth his soul, divine and godly Leo  
Poureth dread and terror into hordes of demons.  
On the eighteenth Leo poured forth his soul.*

Leo was born in Italy in 400 of devout parents, becoming Pope of Rome in 440. When Attila, with his Huns, drew near to burn Rome, Leo came out before him in his episcopal vestments. Leo subdued the wrath of Attila and averted the destruction of Rome. Attila allowed himself to be counseled by this holy man, but was also frightened by a vision of the Apostles Peter and Paul, who stood alongside Leo and threatened him with flaming swords. Leo also saved Orthodoxy from the heresy of Eutyches and Dioscorus. They erroneously taught the merger of the divine and human natures of Christ into one and, consequently, the denial of the two wills in the person of the Son. Because of this, the Fourth Ecumenical Council was convened in Chalcedon in 451, at which time the tome of Leo the Great was read and the Council condemned this heresy. This saint peacefully reposed in the Lord in 461.

On this day, we also commemorate Agapitos the Confessor, bishop of Synnada in Phrygia, and his companions. 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 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.

### ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO

TO 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.

**For the Health of these Parishioners**

John & Lily Bitar	Showke George	Christo & Mary Christakis
Suad Shammas	Edward & Rima Rizkallah	Hanneh Daoud
Mike & Dorothy Marge	Ibrahim Saah	Vilma Bellone
Michael Shihadi	Joanna Khoury	Sherrie Zachariah & family
Nadim Zarour	Michael Amouri	Ziad, Leila Deeb & family
Qustandi & Nahida Kaibni	Tagreed Tawil & Family	Nour & Anastasia & Sonny
Nuha & family	Yousef & Ghada	Asma Ayoub
Isabel Threded	Ghassan & Zakieh Jweied	Elias, Taylor & Rami
Shakeh Kerjilian & family		Margo, Sam & family
Steve, Jenn & family	Fred & Grace Saah	Barbara Zamer & family
Brian, Caroline & family	Fadia, Rich & family	Edward & Eleanor Husson

**DEPARTED**

Yeorgos N. Lampathakis  
 Mariana K. Sourì  
 Helen White  
 Suha Tannous  
 Lara Tannous  
 Bob Neri

**MEMORIAL**

Joseph Robert Neri (40 Days)

**Special Prayer this Week for**

Victor & Linda Joubran & Family	Wyne-Hareg	Hind, Habib Debs & family
Ruby Maggard	Maha, Flavio & family	Jeannine & family
Gino Michaels & family	Olivia Azat	Lynn & family
Gibran, Larry	Jean Yousef & family	Shirley, Renee, Pamela & families
Timothy Dowse	Nada Ishak	Christian and Hannah Hadeed
Fawaz & Mary Ishak	Ibrahim Bastaurus	

**Shirley Neri & Family** are offering a 40-day Memorial for **Joseph Robert (Bob) Neri**.  
**Holy Bread**, prepared by **Chris Malaska**, and **Memorial Wheat**, prepared by **Donna Gavin**, are offered in loving memory of **Bob Neri**.  
**Coffee Hour** is offered by **Nada Ishak** for the health of her family.

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

**Coffee Hour Available Dates**

March 10      April 7  
 March 24      April 28  
 March 31      May 12

Host Coffee Hour



Offer Holy Bread



## Coming Up @ Ss. Peter & Paul

Saturday, February 24th, **Young Adults & Teen SOYO A Day of Service, Prayer & Meditation at the Monastery of St. Nina.**

Saturday, March 9th, **Antiochian Women Retreat & Tea with Kh. Janet Shadid.** Sign up & Details on the side.

Saturday, March 9th, **Young Adults Wine & Cheese.**

## Book Club

Thursday 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm

February 29  
March 14, 28



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



## Antiochian Orthodox Women's Retreat & Tea

March 9, 2023



### Forever Young!

**First Thursday of the Month:** March 7th, April 4th, May 2nd, June 6th

Please sign up to attend as many of these meetings as you can.

In **March meeting**, a **physical therapist** will teach us exercises to improve our balance and avoid falls.

Stay tuned for a Zumba meeting in the future!



### PROJECT MEXICO HOMEBUILDING

May 24th through August 14th

Week-long or multiple week construction teams

Great for teens and tweens, adult team leaders!

Contact Svitlana Sweat, Ss P&P missions committee



### February Charity Drive

#### Will You Give The Water of Life?

#### Digging Wells for Orthodox Missions in Cameroon

Our goal as a parish is to dig two wells for two communities in Cameroon. This will cost \$15,000. **A generous parishioner has offered a matching gift of \$3,500 (\$1 for \$1).** Can you chip in a few bucks to make a difference in the lives of hundreds?

To donate online, kindly choose "Charity Drive" from the drop-down list or leave a check with "Charity Drive/Wells" on the memo.



There is a box at the candle stand to donate coins or small bills to the **Orthodox Christian Mission Center**

We are grateful for your generosity!

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



## THE EPISTLE

*O Lord, how magnified are Thy works. In wisdom hast Thou made them all.*

**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

**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.

**28th Annual Nicholas Tsakalos Memorial  
Lenten Retreat**  
*March 16th, 2024*

Guest Speaker **Fr. Panteleimon  
Papadopoulos**



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

Parish Life Conference, June  
27-30,  
@ Antiochian Village  
**Registration is now  
open**



## **Metropolitan Boulos (Bandali): A Fruitful Seed in Antioch**

***By Metropolitan Saba (Isper)***

Metropolitan Boulos (1929-2008) served as metropolitan of the Archdiocese of Akkar and Dependencies across Lebanon and Syria.

If you love your neighbor less than you love yourself, then it would be difficult for you to write about a person like Metropolitan Boulos (Bandali), who lived Christ's second great commandment, "Love your neighbor as yourself," in its absolute evangelical sense, which is rarely duplicated throughout history. He embodied the phrase of the Bible that says, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

What is remarkable about Metropolitan Boulos is his complete and constant self-forgetfulness for the sake of his fellow man. Requests made to this merciful metropolitan did not stop for a single moment throughout his life on earth. This means that he never once cared for himself because he was constantly preoccupied with the souls of others. Those who lived closely with him described his home, his room, his clothes, his food, and his poverty in a way that reminds us of the stories of unmercenary saints.

For those who claim that this kind of love is impossible in our self-centered age, Metropolitan Boulos, with his holy life, stands as living proof of the error of their claim, and as a witness to the extent of the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of God's pure ones.

I was a high school freshman when I first heard of "Father" Boulos Bandali. Young people from Koura, North Lebanon, who were displaced with their families due to the war in Lebanon (1975-77), told us about a priest in Bishmizine, where people rush from their villages to participate in his liturgy. They described him as the angels are described. My friends and I thought that they were exaggerating. But when we met him for the first time in Latakia, Syria, while he was on a spiritual visit to encourage us to practice confession, we were amazed at what we saw. How does a person live with all this meekness? From where does he get all this tenderness? How does he possess this amount of kindness and a constant smile? In our young minds, we could only imagine him coming from the icons of our glorious Church.

We learned from him the art of listening, and when we grew up, we understood how much humility and self-denial listening requires. He would listen with sensitivity to the confessions of the youth and would try with all delicacy to direct us to the point that we sometimes felt like he was the one confessing, not us. I remember that, through his gentleness, he once made me ashamed of my sin and cause me to despise it very much, without reprimanding me with a single harsh word, although I deserved more than one harsh word at the time.

These encounters came within the framework of the Orthodox Youth Movement and its activities. I remember the way we used to rush to him when he arrived to receive his blessing!

On the day we heard that he became Metropolitan of Akkar, we, the youth of Latakia, decided to go and congratulate him after his enthronement. At that time, most of us had experienced confession at least once with him. We met him in a very small village in Wadi al-Nasara, called Bhazina. He had been in the archdiocese for less than a month. He came to celebrate the Divine Liturgy in that village. We were shocked by how small and poor the church was, from the liturgical items to the chanting. We found him celebrating the Liturgy as if he were in heaven, not aware of the poverty around him. It took me years and great toil to learn how to serve in such poverty in my former archdiocese (Bosra, Houran and Jabal Al-Arab, Syria). I could not see beyond the material beauty to reach the sight of the “Beloved Son,” Who transcends all beauty.

He shook our hands, one by one, after the Liturgy. Our presence brought him indescribable joy. He made us feel that we were his consolation, and some of us believed it!

We were later startled by something we learned about him. He stayed up at night writing letters to his spiritual children after his pastoral status as a bishop no longer permitted him to meet them in person as before. We learned that his bed was in a car, not in a bedroom. He spent most of his time sleeping being driven in a car from one region to another in his vast archdiocese (102 parishes) which extended across Lebanon and Syria.

Metropolitan Boulos planted in the Church a seed, without which the Church could not grow spiritually and physically. He gave great care to institutions, such as the Akkar Diocesan School, which he established and expanded. It is now one of the most successful schools in North Lebanon. But his focus on human beings was the

most important. Everything he had was for his fellow man. For him, there was nothing—no institution, no money, no endowment—unless it was for the sake of the neighbor, a service to the neighbor, and a way for the salvation of the neighbor.

The love he implanted, the kindness he distributed, the tenderness he gave—all are images of the compassionate face of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. The God whom Metropolitan Boulos (Bandali) worshiped is the God of love, to Whom all should bow in reverence and veneration. May God help us through his intercessions.

## Gospel

A reading from one or more of the four Christian Gospels follows the reading of the epistle at the Divine Liturgy. In between these two proclamations of the Word of God, Alleluia is solemnly chanted, once more interspersed by verses from the Psalms. At this time incense is also offered, with the incensing of the Gospel Book, the icons, the reader and all of the people. The Alleluia and the incensing at this moment in the Divine Liturgy signify the very presence of God with his People, teaching them himself through Christ the Word and the Holy Spirit (Jn 6.45). God is with men in the Church, revealing himself and his Holy Will to the world. The Gospel is God's glad tidings of salvation, his official good news to mankind. It contains and proclaims his presence and his power among men.

The proclamation of the Gospel in the Church is a sacramental act. It is a form of man's communion with God. It is an element of the liturgical mystery in and through which God is united with his People, and his People with him.

Just as for the epistle readings, there are prescribed readings from the Gospels for each liturgical day of the year, as well as special readings for particular Church celebrations. Thus, once more, there may be several different readings from the Gospels at any given Divine Liturgy.

Following the proclamation of the Word of God through the words of the Holy Gospel, a liturgical sermon or homily is preached. The sermon normally proclaims, and not seldom explains, the significance of the Divine Word received at the particular liturgy for the life of the People of God and the destiny of the world. In Orthodox Tradition, the sermon is an essential part of the eucharistic liturgy and participates in its general sacramental character.

### *Lent & Holy Week Schedule*



*Young Adults Connect >>*



### **Young Adults Upcoming events - Save the Dates**

**Saturday, February 24th:** YA/Teens visit to St. Nina Monastery,

**Saturday, March 9:** Wine and Cheese

**Sunday, March 10:** Grounded in Faith - Post liturgy Fellowship at Church Library

**Saturday, March 23:** Vespers followed by discussion with Fr. Luke, hosted by a parishioner

**Saturday, April 13:** Vespers and Dinner - Talk with Fr. Anastasios from Cameron

**Sunday, April 14:** Grounded in Faith -Post liturgy Fellowship at Church Library

**Friday & Saturday, April 19-20:** Mini Lenten Retreat: SOYO + YAM with Fr. James and Kh. Gigi Shadid

**April 28-May 5** Holy Week & Pascha

**Sunday, May 12:** Grounded in Faith-Post liturgy Fellowship at Church Library

**Sunday, June 9:** Grounded in Faith -Post liturgy Fellowship

**Saturday, June 22:** Young Adults/Professionals Gala