



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, MARCH 17TH, 2024
TONE 8 / EOTHINON 8 SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS
(CHEESE FARE)

VENERABLE ALEXIOS THE 'MAN OF GOD,' PATRICK,
BISHOP OF ARMAGH AND ENLIGHTENER OF IRELAND

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

Christ compares the kingdom of heaven to a treasure hidden in a field. Someone finds this treasure and hides it, and in the joy of discovery, goes and sells everything he or she possesses and buys the field. We should not that the treasure, once discovered, is hidden for protection's sake. It is not enough for us to stake our claim to the joy of heaven, guarding it from the forces of evil, if we do not also hide it from human praise. In this present life, we are traveling on the road which will lead us to our homeland. Evil lies in wait along our route like a highway robber. Those who carry their treasure openly on the road are asking to be robbed.

- St. Gregory the Great

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

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& YOUNG ADULTS**
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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 March 17 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Venerable Alexios the 'Man of God;' and Patrick, bishop of Armagh and enlightener of Ireland.

On this day, we make remembrance of the exile of the first-fashioned, Adam, from the Paradise of delight.

Verses

Let the world mourn bitterly along with ages past;

As, by sweet eating, it hath fallen along with those who had fallen.

It is the Sunday of Forgiveness, known also as Cheese Fare Sunday. Today's lesson from the Holy Gospel teaches us about forgiveness and fasting, and how both are crucial to our own return to Paradise. The divine Fathers also set the anniversary of the exile of Adam from the Paradise of bliss on this day, at the entrance of Great Lent, to show us by deed as well as word how great is the benefit that accrues to man from fasting and repenting; and, on the contrary, how great the harm that comes from destructive gluttony and from disobedience to the divine commandments. The sin of gluttony resulted in Adam and Eve's banishment from Paradise, because they disobeyed God by eating from the tree which He had forbidden them. The Church reminds us of this event to encourage us to return to that ancient glory and primeval happiness by means of fasting and obedience to God and His commandments.

By Thine ineffable compassion, O Christ our God, make us worthy of the delight of Paradise and have mercy on us, as Thou art alone the Lover of mankind. Amen.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, 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 FOR FORGIVENESS SUNDAY IN TONE SIX

O Thou Who guidest to wisdom, and givest understanding and intelligence, the Instructor of the ignorant, and Helper of the poor, strengthen my heart and grant it understanding, O Master. Give me word, O Word of the Father; for behold, I shall not refrain my lips from crying to Thee, O merciful One, have mercy upon me who am fallen.

For the Health of these Parishioners

John & Lily Bitar	Showke George	Christo & Mary Christakis
Suad Shammas	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	Hind, Habib Debs & family	Margo, Sam & family
Christopher Zolnerowich	Fred & Grace Saah	Barbara Zamer & family
Brian, Caroline & family	Fadia, Rich & family	Edward & Eleanor Husson
Steve, Jennifer & family	Antoine Hanna & family	Mary Sahouri

DEPARTED

Met. Philip Saliba
 Rev. Maximus Moses
 Albert Moses
 Bertha Aed
 Samir Michael Kaibni
 * Issam Kronfol

Special Prayer this Week for

Timothy Dowse	Wyne-Hareg	Victor & Linda Joubran & Family
Ruby Maggard	Maha, Flavio & family	Gino Michaels & family
Jeannine & family	Michael Bosworth	Gibran, Larry, Olivia, Issam
Paula Massouh	Joe, Sarah, Gabriel	Svitlana, Alexandra, Isabel
Alexandra Gavin	Thomaseena Cox	Paul Bridenhagen
Caroline & Nabil	Robert Bridenhagen	Ryan, Maysoon & family

MEMORIAL

Met. Philip Saliba
 Samir Michael Kaibni

Coffee Hour Available Dates

April 28 May 26
 May 12 June 9
 May 19 June 16

Host Coffee Hour



Offer Holy Bread



Holy Bread, Memorial Wheat & Coffee Hour are offered by Ryan & Maysoon (Kaibni) Sprowls and Kaibni family in loving memory of Samir Michael Kaibni.

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

Coming Up @ Ss. Peter & Paul

TODAY Forgiveness Sunday, March 17th, **Forgiveness Vespers** to follow the Divine Liturgy. PLAN ON ATTENDING (prayer available on website to follow along).

Monday, March 18th, **Great Lent Starts**. Weekday Services on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Schedule included below.

Friday, April 19th, **Cocktail Reception to Support Noursat TV Channel**. Details on the church website .

Saturday, April 20th, **Lenten Retreat With Fr. James & Kh Gigi Shadid**. Everyone is welcome.

This Week's Services @ 7PM:

Monday: Great Compline

Wednesday: Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy

Thursday: Great Compline

Friday: First Akathist (madayeh)

Book Club

Thursday 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm

March 28



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

REGISTER HERE



Forever Young!

First Thursday of the Month

April 4th, May 2nd, June 6th

**Fitness & Fun in
April Meeting!**

11-2pm



**Naach (Bier) Decoration &
Loved Ones Commemoration**



The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of North America

Is awarding **grants to help women**

with the cost of education or training in the minimum amount of \$500.00 each!

The deadline to receive the application and material is

June 1, 2024

Scan the QR Code for More Information and to Apply

(Scroll down the page and click on the link for "2024 Application for Antiochian Women Scholarship")



Washington Wizards Teen Outing

Saturday, March 23 (Game is at 8:00 PM)

Join us at Capital One Arena for a fun Teen SOYO outing to watch the Washington Wizards!

Capital One Arena: 601 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20004
For parking: <https://spothero.com/>



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

Make your vows unto the Lord and perform them.

God is known in Judah; His name is great in Israel.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (13:11-14:4)

Brethren, now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk becomingly, as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in chambering and licentiousness, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts. But as for the one who is weak in faith, receive him, but not for disputes over opinions. For one believes he may eat anything; but the weak person eats herbs. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to be the judge over the servant of a stranger? To his own master he either stands or falls; but he will be made to stand; for God is able to make him stand.

THE GOSPEL

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (6:14-21)

The Lord said to His Disciples: If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father Who is in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Bakeless Bake Sale to Support Widowed Clergy Wives

In lieu of baking an item to donate and sell at a bake sale, we ask that you simply make a donation in the amount of what a baked item would cost to make. Donations for this project can be received **online under Antiochian Women and then under the subfund - Bakeless Bake Sale**. Checks can also be made payable to **Ss. Peter & Paul Ladies Society** earmarked **Bakeless Bake Sale** on the outside envelope as well as on the memo line of your check.

Thank you once again for your annual support of our Antiochian Women project!

Navigating the Storm

By Metropolitan Saba (Isper)

Our Holy Fathers have often compared the Church to a ship sailing on the salty sea of this world. By the “salty sea,” they indicate the storms, waves, and winds that hit and attack this ship. The Church of Christ constantly faces all kinds of wars waged by demons because Satan does not want to see it strong and growing—destroying his power in this world and saving the souls of many whom he wants to destroy. As for the Lord of the Church, He often allows turmoil and persecution in order to discipline His faithful children and purify His Church.

Loud is the voice of those who view and consider the Church as an institution of this age rather than the living Body of Christ, composed of believers seeking to sanctify their lives. We may find some who sow doubts and spread unreliable opinions and teachings with their unsubstantiated words, which strengthen the spirit of division and attack and stir the soul with anger and hatred. In this way, the fires of doubt are fueled, and the spirit of discord and division is sown.

In times of distress and turmoil, devout believers resort to prayer for divine mercy, enlightened minds, and calm hearts, so that their actions will lead to solutions that please the true God and save the Church—its people and institutions—from what the sins of believers themselves (first and foremost) are causing. Indeed, the Apostle Paul described the dangers of the Church as “wars without and fears within” (2 Cor 7:5).

Don’t let the stumbling blocks trip you up; they have always been there. The Church is a community of “repentant people,” and repentant people are sinners, not angels. Stumbling blocks have always been the result of the sins of Church members before anyone else. Look up to Christ and imitate Him; pray for your spiritual fathers, that God will inspire them to do what is good for His Church and, therefore, for you; and help them to do so.

I encourage you to pray, turning to God and asking for His light and inspiration. Rest assured that inasmuch as you purify yourselves, the Church will be purified. Do not separate yourselves from it—the Church is you, and you are the Church. St. John of Kronstadt teaches us that “prayer is an expression of the unity of the Church. By praying for each other, we participate in each other’s lives and share in each other’s burdens.”

My beloved, the Church can only be built with a spirit of prayer, peace, wisdom, and patience. Whoever seeks to make the Church a bride of Christ, without blemish or wrinkle, must be patient, peaceful, humble, and wise, knowing how to think and plan, and willing to be nailed to the cross. My hope is that you will have these qualifications whenever you discuss ecclesiastical and spiritual issues. This is how you will invoke the Lord’s grace and blessings on you and the Church.

I encourage you to love, to pray, and to dialogue constructively, and I ask for your prayers.

St. Raphael's Table

Starting in April, on the first Saturday of every month, **St Raphael's Table** is a new ministry *initiated by our young adults* to serve our homeless neighbors in DC through preparing meals and toiletry bags to be delivered in person.

On April 6th, we will make 100 individually packaged meals and toiletry kits for the clients at the Downtown Day Services Center (DDSC), a daytime-only homeless shelter in DC.

All ages are welcome to help with meal prep and toiletry kit packing

from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm in the church kitchen and hall

Volunteers 18+ are invited to assist in transporting and distributing the meals and kits to our neighbors at the DDSC from 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm.

Volunteers can either carpool or drive themselves to the DDSC.

Volunteers may help in either prep or distribution or both.



To join in preparation/distribution use this QR code

Amazon Wishlist for Toiletry Bags is available here.

Thank you for your support!



Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch Induction Prayers

Please pray with us as we induct three new members into the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch today:

Ms. Paula Massouh, Dame

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Sarah Shamesh, Life Members

The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch is a ministry of our Archdiocese that supports many critical programs such as the Retired Clergy Fund, Camp Scholarship Program, SOYO Leadership Training, Married Seminarians Assistance, the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) and many others. The Cross and the Ribbon that Order supporters wear symbolize quiet and unconditional support with Christ in our minds and hearts. The Order is not a club or even a charitable organization. It is a responsibility. It is a dedication to our faith and to those in need. Please hold in your heart the words of St. Ignatius:

Let no man's place, or dignity, or riches, puff him up; and let no man's low condition or poverty abase him. For the chief points are faith towards God, hope towards Christ, the enjoyment of those good things for which we look, and love towards God and our neighbor. - Saint Ignatius of Antioch

You are all invited to be a part of this beautiful Ministry. If you are interested in making a commitment to the Order of St. Ignatius or would like more information, please see Jumana Misleh or scan this QR code to express your interest.



2024 Saints Peter and Paul Lenten Community Service Project Packing Meals for Area Families in Need

Please join us on Sunday, April 14, for our annual Lenten community service project. This year, we aim to pack 25,000 meals for area families in need. This will cost \$8,750.00. And we know that with everyone working together, we can meet this ambitious target!

The meal packs will be distributed equally among food pantries in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia so we can help as many of our neighbors as possible. We hope you'll take part in this fulfilling and fun way to connect as a Church family and give back to our greater D.C.-area community.

***A Lenten lunch will be provided for all volunteers.
We look forward to seeing you on the 14th!***

Additional details:

Where? Kogok Hall, following Liturgy.

How can I contribute? Please go to "make a donation" from the stewardship page on the Church's website and select "Charity Drive" in the drop-down menu.

Or you may see/contact Sarah Shames (sarahshames@yahoo.com), Serene Jweied (sjweied@gmail.com), or Steve Zolnerowich (stephenz2@verizon.net).

Should I bring anything? Hair nets, aprons, and gloves will be provided. Just bring your enthusiasm and be sure to wear a pair of sensible shoes!



Parish Life Conference
June 27-30

@ Antiochian Village

Registration is now open



Lent & Holy Week Schedule



Young Adults Connect >>



Young Adults Upcoming events - Save the Dates

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

Saturday April 6: St. Raphael's Table Humanitarian Project : 10:30 am -12:30 pm

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

Saturday May 4 St. Raphael's Table Humanitarian Project : 10:30 am -12:30 pm

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

Saturday June 1: St. Raphael's Table Humanitarian Project : 10:30 am -12:30 pm

Saturday June 1: Orthodoxy on Tap - Starr Hill Biergarten Tysons 7:30-9:30 pm

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

June 26-30: Parish Life Conference at the Antiochian Village

Saturday, October 19: Young Adults/Professionals Gala