



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)

SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH, 2026

SUNDAY OF GREAT AND ALL-HOLY PASCHA

****Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom****
**(Search for the text of the Liturgy in the
Service Book in the Pews)**

Water, being simple and accessible to all, becomes, through the invocation of the Holy Spirit, a bearer of grace and sanctification. When the Church blesses the waters, it does not merely perform a symbolic act; it calls down divine power to purify, to heal, and to drive away evil. This sanctified water enters our homes, our bodies, and our lives as a reminder that Christ came to redeem all of creation—not just souls, but the very elements of the world. Let no one neglect the power of holy water, for through it, we receive strength, protection, and the nearness of God Himself.

St. John of Kronstadt

Metropolitan SABA
Primate of the Antiochian
Archdiocese

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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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Antiochian Women

Please note that we livestream our services on the Church's YouTube channel
@SaintsPeterPaulAntiochian

We welcome all our guests 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 we take Holy Communion very seriously and 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 reason is simple following the advice of Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 11: 27-31:
"Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On the Holy and Great Sunday of the Passover (Pascha), we celebrate the life-giving Resurrection of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ; for Christ alone did descend with condescension to fight Hades; and he ascended, bringing the abundant spoils of victory which He had snatched.

Mary Magdalene and the rest of the women who were present at the Savior's burial on Friday evening returned that very day from Golgotha to the city to prepare ointment and spices, that they might come later and anoint the body of Jesus. They rested the next day, Saturday, in fulfillment of the commandment. And on the following day, which was Sunday and which the Evangelists call the first day of the week, which fell on the twenty-fifth of March, or thirty-six hours after the death of Life-giving Jesus, the women came to the sepulcher with their prepared ointments. And as they were pondering the difficulty of rolling the stone from the gate of the sepulcher, a great earthquake took place, an angel of the Lord came down, whose appearance was like lightning and his clothes like snow, and rolled away the stone and sat thereon. The guards trembled with fear, became like dead, and fled. But the women entered the sepulcher and found not Jesus. But they found two other angels in the form of men dressed in white raiment who proclaimed to them the Resurrection of the Savior, commanding them to hasten and give the good news to the disciples. In the meantime, Peter and John, who had received the report from Mary Magdalene, hastened and entered the tomb and found there only the linen clothes. They returned with great joy to the city, and began to preach the supernatural Resurrection of Christ, having seen Him alive in truth five times that very day.

For this joyous Resurrection, we therefore celebrate today, kissing one another in Christ with the brotherly kiss, illustrating thereby the dissolution of the enmity that was between us and God, and our reconciliation through Christ. This Feast was called Pascha from the Jewish name; for Christ by His Passion and Resurrection translated us from the curse of Adam and the bondage of Satan to the ancient liberty and bliss. As for the day of the week, which is called in Hebrew "the first day," being dedicated to our Lord for His glorification and magnification it is called in Greek, "Kyriake," or the Lord's Day. The disciples transferred it to the dignity of the Sabbath after the law of the Old Testament, and prescribed that it be a holiday and a day of rest.

To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE HYPAKOE OF PASCHA IN TONE FOUR

When they who were with Mary came, anticipating the dawn, and found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher, they heard from the Angel: Why seek ye among the dead, as though He were mortal man, Him Who abideth in everlasting light? Behold the grave-clothes. Go quickly and proclaim to the world that the Lord is risen, and hath put death to death. For He is the Son of God, Who saveth the race of man.

THE KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

Commemorations

For the Health of these Parishioners

Mike & Dorothy Marge	Victor & Family	Hanneh Daoud
Michael Shihadi	Ibrahim Saah	Vilma Bellone
Nadim Zarour	Michael Amouri	Jennifer Brown & Family
Ann Marie Moses	Asma Ayoub	Nour & Anastasia
Mary & Nada Ishak	Yousef & Ghada	Abdallah, Christiane & Family
Isabel Threded	Zakieh & family	Mary Christakis & Family
Shakeh Kerjilian & Family	Hind, Habib & Family	Margo, Sam & Family
Frank & Barbara Ellis	Paul Misleh	Barbara Zamer & Family
Brian, Caroline & Family	Fadia, Rich & Family	Edward & Eleanor Husson
Mary Sahouri & Family	Allison Ayoub	Elizabeth Albinger & Family
Saydeh Shaheen	Nico Michels	John & Bette Adam
Jesse Daumit	Heidi Saba & family	Antoinette Najmeh & Family
Nancy Dahir & Family	Michele Forzley	Leila Elaraj & Family

DEPARTED

Michael Elaraj
 Stacey Franetzki
 Naimeh Fawzi Rafidi
 Najat Kheiralla Kehdy
 Gershom Jeremiah
 Michael & Hanneh Ghanem
 Fahed, Nimer, and Affia
 Masarweh

Special Prayer this Week for

Tanya	Jennifer Buchko
Olivia Azat & Family	Sam & Margo Sahouri Ghanem and Family
Joe & Olivet Ghanem and Family	Luis Jaramillo
Intesar Elias Ghanem	Kathy Ghanem

Easter Breakfast is hosted by **Sam & Margo Sahouri Ghanem and Family, and by Joe & Olivet Ghanem and Family**, after the Midnight Service, for the health of **Their Families**.

*To offer Holy Bread or host Coffee Hour, please scan the **Multilink QR Code** on the next page.*

Coming Up @ Ss. Peter & Paul

Saturday, May 2nd, **OCMC Spring Gathering** @ St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church

Saturday, May 9th, **Antiochian Women's 17th Annual Luncheon & Fashion Show**

LITURGICAL TEXTS

Scan the QR Code To Follow Along the Service

Got a Question about **Orthodox Christianity** or Our Faith & Worship

Join Us every Sunday **in the social hall** after the Divine Liturgy for a Catechism Class

Join the Order of St Ignatius

Scan the QR Code To Submit your interest in the Order

St. Raphael's Table First Saturday of the Month

Preparing and distributing meals and toiletries to our neighbors in need.

Scan the QR Code To Participate

Forever Young!

First Friday of the Month

Scan the QR Code To Register

Prayer Request

For Living and/or Departed

Scan the QR Code To Request a Prayer

Pursuing Christ as a Community Bible Study (8:30 PM/ZOOM)

April 21

May 5, 19
June 2, 16

Men's Bible Study

In person and over Zoom

**EVERY FRIDAY
8:15-9:45 PM**

Scan the Multilink QR Code To RSVP

NOTICE

The Main Hall
Will Remain Closed Until After
the Divine Liturgy Has Ended

*Thank You in Advance
For Your Understanding!*

FOCUS North America Love Made Visible

Make a special Lenten gift today!

Scan the Multilink QR Code To Donate

17th Annual Luncheon & Fashion Show

May 9 (11:30 am - 2:30 pm)
Westwood Country Club

Scan the Multilink QR Code To RSVP

OCMC Missions Dinner

Saturday, May 2, 2026 (6-8:30 pm)

4:00 pm: Vespers
5:00 pm: Social

St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
3149 Glen Carlyn Rd, Falls Church, VA 22041

Scan the Multilink QR Code To RSVP (By April 18)

Parenting Toward the Kingdom Project

Thursdays at 8 PM Via Zoom

April 16

May 14

June 11

Scan the Multilink QR Code To Participate

April Charity Drive

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese - Lebanon Relief

Donations will be used to help the severe humanitarian crisis in the Archdioceses of Mount Lebanon and Zahle.

Archbishop Saba is asking every parish, mission, family, and individual to prayerfully consider making a financial offering to support these urgent relief efforts.

Scan the QR Code
For Online Donations

MULTILINK QR CODE

For your online donations, registration for events, and participation in activities

- 1- Use **your phone's camera** to scan the QR code
- 2- Click on the Appropriate Link



THE EPISTLE

This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein! O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endureth forever.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (1:1-8)

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the Apostles whom He had chosen. To them He presented Himself alive after His passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them He charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said, "You heard from Me; for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (1:1-17)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world knew Him not. He came to His own home, and His own people received Him not. But to all who received Him, who believed in His Name, He gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to Him, and cried, "This was He of Whom I said, 'He Who comes after me ranks before me, for He was before me.'") And from His fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Pascha Message 2026

By His Eminence Metropolitan Saba (Isper)

Great and Holy Pascha, 2026

My beloved brother bishops,

My spiritual sons, the beloved priests and deacons,

My beloved in Christ, sons and daughters of the God protected Archdiocese,

I greet you on this great feast, crying out with you: Christ is risen! Truly, He is risen!

Each year, Pascha returns as a season of light, renewing within us the strength of true life and the possibility of our transfiguration and that of the world. This is what I pray for you every day. May you remain always immersed in the joy of the Resurrection.

"The Resurrection and Me"

My meditation this year on Your Resurrection, O my Christ, carried me to its very end, so I asked myself why Pascha remains an annual commemoration and does not become a daily reality in my life. I found the answer in my forgetfulness of eternal life. I realized that when I live on the level of earthly things, I see the Resurrection as no more than a joyful event. But when eternal life becomes my destination and my desire, I live it already, here and now, by the power of the life Your Resurrection has brought me, O my Lord and God.

You told us once: "And this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 17:3). Knowing You is either on the personal level — at the level of one's very being, not merely of the mind — or it is not a knowledge that leads to eternal life. This knowledge calls for a longing for Your heavenly Kingdom, which, the more it is kindled within me, the more I taste it here on earth.

Abide with me, O Lord, that I may be strengthened by the power of Your Resurrection and fear death no longer; for life with You is life indeed, and Your absence is true death. Everything around me and within me seeks life, yet its joy quickly fades. And although I believe that the true life whose joy never fades is by You and in You, I still fear paying its price.

I want the joy of Your Resurrection without passing through the Cross; therefore, I still

stumble and limp between the two. Teach me how to direct my gaze toward Your Resurrection so that, in its light, I may see the Cross as the passage to the defeat of death and all that is bound to it.

Strengthen me to overcome whatever prevents me from setting out toward You and whatever binds me to the glitter and sweetness of this world, so that I may taste Your grace when You touch me and my spiritual senses may no longer remain dull.

Today I am like the two disciples of Emmaus — troubled, anxious, and afraid of what is happening in this world. I long to be with You, for that is far better, but I cannot do it alone. I need You, and like the two disciples I call upon You: "Abide with us, Lord" (Luke 24:29), for the evening of this world has grown dark and its day is fading.

Abide with me, O Lord, that my old self may be renewed and I may become a new person, trampling underfoot all that prevents You from remaining with me.

Abide with me, O Lord, that I may know the power of Your Resurrection, carry Your Cross with joy, and bear witness to the world that it is the passageway to the Resurrection.

Abide with me, O Jesus, that I may see the world in the light of Your eyes and be a witness of joy, peace, and consolation within it.

Abide with me, that by Your Resurrection I may overcome my sins, trample my deadness, and crush my shortcomings and vices.

Abide with me, break Your bread, and give it to me, that my eyes may be opened and my heart may burn with love for You, and that I may proclaim what Your presence works within me.

So, when I cry out that You are risen, risen forever, those who hear me will believe me and know that I am not merely repeating a song I love.

Restore me and Your people, O my Christ, to an everlasting feast, so that our daily greeting may become: O my joy, Christ is risen!

Your father in the risen Christ,

+SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

Church History - Fifth Century

The West

Saint John Cassian

In southern France, Saint John Cassian (c. 360–c. 435) established two monasteries based on the pattern of the Egyptian monasticism of the Desert Fathers and Mothers, with whom he had spent much time earlier in his life. In his most highly acclaimed works, *The Conferences* and *The Institutes*, he conveys the wisdom he learned from the monastics of Egypt, including their understanding of the mystery of synergism.

Saint John Cassian writing on synergism

And therefore it is laid down by all the catholic fathers who have taught perfection of heart not by empty disputes of words, but in deed and act, that the first stage in the Divine gift is for each man to be inflamed with the desire for everything that is good, but in such a way that the choice of free will is open to either side. The second stage in Divine grace is for the aforesaid practices of virtue to be able to be performed, but in such a way that the possibilities of the will are not destroyed. The third stage also belongs to the gifts of God, so that it may be held by the persistence of the goodness already acquired, and in such a way that the liberty may not be surrendered and experience bondage. For the God of all must be held to work in all, so as to incite, protect, and strengthen, but not to take away the freedom of the will which He Himself has once given.

If, however, any more subtle further human argumentation and reasoning seems opposed to this interpretation, it should be avoided, rather than brought forward to the destruction of the faith (for we do not gain faith from understanding, but understanding from faith, as it is written, “Except ye believe, ye will not understand” [Is 7.9]). For how God works all things in us and yet everything can be ascribed to free will, cannot be fully grasped by the mind and reason of man. (The Conferences, XIII.18)

Many monasteries, sketes, and hermitages based on the Egyptian model sprang up and flourished in the mountains and valleys of eastern and southern France in the 5th and 6th centuries. The lives of nearly thirty saints in this setting were compiled near the end of the 6th century by Saint Gregory of Tours.