With his searching right hand, Thomas did probe Thy life-giving side, O Christ God . . .

Ss. Peter and Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church

All Things Are Possible to Him Who Believes

Matins: Sundays 9:30am
Divine Liturgy: Sundays 10:30am
Confessions: call to schedule

Sunday, **April 27, 2014**

New Sunday of Thomas the Apostle, Called "The Twin" **Eothinon 1**

Today we commemorate: Hieromartyr Simeon, Bishop of Jerusalem and the kinsman of the Lord; John the Confessor, Abbot of the Monastery of the Chaste; Eulogios the Hospitable of Egypt; Stephen, Abbot of the Kiev Caves and Bishop of Vladimir

TROPARION of Easter (Tone 5)
Christ is risen from the dead trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

APOLYTIKION for Thomas Sunday (Tone 7)
While the tomb was sealed, Thou didst shine forth from it, O Life. While the doors were closed, Thou didst come in to Thy Disciples, O Christ God, Resurrection of all, renewing in us through them an upright spirit, according to the greatness of Thy mercy.

KONTAKION of Pascha (Tone 8)
O Immortal One, when Thou didst descend into the tomb, Thou didst destroy the power of Hades; and Thou didst rise victorious, O Christ God. Thou hast said to the ointment bearing women: Rejoice! And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those Who had fallen.

Priests
Very Reverend
Fr. George Rados
frgeorge@peterpaulpotomac.org
Very Reverend
Fr. Isaac Crow
frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org

Deacon
Dn. Christian Manasseh
DnChristian@peterpaulpotomac.org

COUNCIL
Chairman
David Jackson
Vice Chairman
George Salem
Secretary
Caroline Emad
Treasurer
Abdullah Daoud
Members
Frank Abdow
Jerry Audi
Rida Boulos
Anita El-Araj
Gary Farha
Dr. Bassem Haddad
Maha Jweied
Lorna Malooley
Wayne Parr
Steve Simon
Metody Tilev

Church Secretary
Janet Tate
office@peterpaulpotomac.org

Choir Director
John Slanta
slanta@verizon.net

Chanters
Wayne Parr
George Tannous

Ushers
Jerry Audi
Michael El Araj
Abraham Fannoney
Sam Khalil

ALTAR
Manager
Peter Aburdeineh
Servers
Captains -
Robert Bridenhagen
Nicholas Zolnerowich

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY, HE IS RISEN!

THE EPISTLE

Great is the Lord, and great is His power. Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.

The Reading from the Acts of the Saintly and Pure Apostles. (5:12-20)

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the Apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the Apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (20:19-31)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the Disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the Disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other Disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His Disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the Disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His Name.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Directors
Samia Zolnerowich
Jennifer Buchko

Teachers
Nicole Kyriakos
Susan Kozlov
Michelle Zook
Razan Abdallah
Ranya Eid
Leila Taweel
Hala Paskaleva
Saleem Mokhiber
Caroline Jarboe
Anthony Eid
Stephen Zolnerowich
Anees Mokhiber

Men's Club
Bill Zook

Ladies Auxiliary
Ann Marie Moses

Teen SOYO
Robert Bridenhagen
Layla Najjar
Nick Zolnerowich
Sarah Salem
Phillip Allen
Reema Guegel

Fellowship of St. John
Christine & Samer Korkor
Christian & Zeina Manasseh

Adornment
Shams Akkawi

Facility Management
Bob Simon
Nick Nahas

Rental Coordinator
Barbara Abraham

Charities
Sam Sahouri Ghanem

Finance
Gary Farha

Stewardship
Lorna Malooley

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

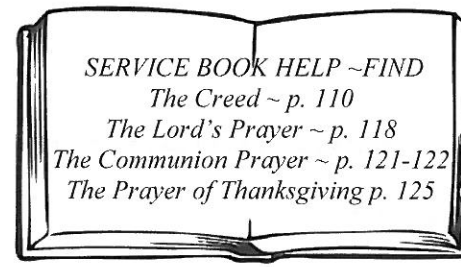
To encourage our worship in a proper spirit of prayer and devotion, we respectfully ask you enter the sanctuary quietly during the Divine Liturgy.

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: is offered by Nabi & Nahida Barbari & family and by the Fellowship of St. John the Divine
40-Day Memorial for Metropolitan PHILIP & JoAnne Ibrahim
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: is offered by the Fellowship of St. John the Divine and Nabil & Nahia Barbari & family in memory of JoAnne Ibrahim

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY, HE IS RISEN!

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

Parishioners who remain in our prayers continually

Margaret Ashley
Lulu & George Brown
Issa & Suad Shammas
Edmond Neam
Richie Kogok
Khalil Haddad

LIVING

Nawal Musleh
Bassem Haddad
Bassem El-Hage

Nabi & Nahida Barbari & family
Fayeruz & Robert Regan
Nadia & Gilberto Pietri
Nabeela Barbari

Susan Fannoney

Nabil & Nahida Barbari & family
Barbari, Ibrahim and Saleh families

Carol Laham, Paul & Robert Bridenhagen
Bob & Gladys Laham
Bob, Eileen, Kyle & Trevor Laham
Ken, Tricia, Eddie & Michael Laham
Ruth and John Bridenhagen

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

HE Metropolitan PHILIP Mar 19

Ivanka Tileva Apr 17
Isam Naim Ibrahim Apr 6
Evelyn Hier Apr 2
Farida Khalil Mansur Mar 31
Abraham Brown Mar 27

JoAnne A. Ibrahim Mar 9
Saliba & Akileh Barbari
Adeeb & Yasmeen Ibrahim
Isam N. Saleh
Basim A. Saleh
Nehad J. Kassis

Amahl Smaili

David Newkirk

Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

We are looking for you! All of our graduating seniors will be recognized May 18th immediately following Divine Liturgy. Fill out a short form so we can include you in this recognition. **Deadline is TODAY, April 27th.** Access the form at http://tinyurl.com/peterpaul-seniors.

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN *Today!*

The Antiochian Women/Ladies Auxiliary of Ss. Peter & Paul meet today immediately after Liturgy in the lower level hall for fellowship, encouragement and lunch. All ladies are welcome.

VISIT OF MET. SILOUAN TO SS. PETER&PAUL

His Eminence Metropolitan SILOUAN of Argentina, the Patriarchal Vicar – Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America — will be visiting our parish on Sunday, May 4th. All the faithful are encouraged to attend Divine Liturgy at 10:30am followed by a luncheon in Met. SILOUAN's honor. He has been given the task of overseeing the election of our new Metropolitan of the Archdiocese of North America. It is a great blessing and honor that Met. SILOUAN has chosen to celebrate the 40-Day Memorial of our beloved Met. PHILIP [of thrice blessed memory] at Ss. Peter & Paul Church here in Potomac, MD. Please plan on attending these important events in the life of our church on May 4th.

*Please note: the **Arabic Liturgy** scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd at 5pm has been **cancelled** in order to allow the clergy to attend the Great Vespers service with Met. SILOUAN at St. George Church in Washington, DC at 5pm. All the faithful are invited to attend.*

*Please note: the **Byzantine Music Workshop** scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd from 1:00 to 4:00pm will be **rescheduled**, date TBD, because of this special program for Met. SILOUAN's visit.*

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN FASHION SHOW

Our 11th Annual show and luncheon is Saturday, May 10th at 11:30am at the Congressional Country Club. Tickets are $50; proceeds to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. For more information contact Rida Boulos at frita18@aol.com.

FSJD

Attention Young Adults: The Fellowship of St. John the Divine is sponsoring *Fellowship Hour* today following Divine Liturgy and would like to expand and revitalize the group. Please stop by and introduce yourself or contact FSJD@peterpaulpotomac.org to get involved!

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM

Exploring Our Faith, Adult Education Forum [and ministry of the Fellowship of St. John the Divine] will resume meeting every other week on Tuesday May 6th from 7:15—8:15pm in the Lower Level Conference Room. This group meets in an effort to better understand and discover the rich spiritual, historical, doctrinal and scriptural tradition of our holy orthodox faith. Fr. Isaac facilitates our meetings in an informal setting using brief presentations as a springboard to open discussion evoking questions and reflections on a wide range of topics of our faith. All are welcome, with a special invitation to young adults. For more information contact Fr. Isaac at frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org.

SS PETER & PAUL MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 15th Golf Tournament is held at the Bretton Woods Golf Course, 15700 River Rd, Germantown, MD on Wednesday, June 25th, to celebrate the life of Abe Brown. Registration deadline is June 23rd. Contact Bob Simon at 202-253-0490 or bobsimonjr@mail.com.

HOW TO RESURRECT WITH CHRIST

Met. SILOUAN • Pastoral Letter • Pascha 2014

"If then you were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God" (Colossians 3:1)

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

Christ defeated death! We are no longer subject to it; rather we are Christ's, who gave us "the right to be God's children" (John 1:12) and to be His "friends" (John 15:15)! What great news! What a great gift! What a great reality! An eternal bond is granted to whoever believes in Christ as Savior from death -- divine adoption in Christ's name!

From now on, the Lord commissioned us to be victorious not only over death "from outside," but also over death "from within," that is, over our own selfishness. He also commanded us to be messengers of the Good News and heralds of His victory - and

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY, HE IS RISEN!

Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News

ours, too - over any kind of death. He asked us, as Christians, to abide by love rather than by hate, by hope rather than by despair, by faith rather than by logic, by justice rather than by injustice, by forgiveness rather than by resentment, by humility rather than by vanity and arrogance, and by sacrifice rather than by self-interest.

Christ defeated death in our lives! He set us free from fear: from fearing death, from fearing evil, from fearing illness and calamities, from fearing each other, from fearing the uncertainty of the future, from fearing insecurity and unemployment, from fearing violence and terrorism, and from fearing persecution and sufferings for His sake. Instead, He gave us the power and the means to seek the true freedom. The freedom to love each other even though we differ in character, education and profession. The freedom to forgive each other even though we have suffered. The freedom to ask forgiveness from each other even though we have badly hurt each other. The freedom to serve each other even though we differ in origin, background and culture. The freedom to work together even though we differ in thinking, worldview, ability and capacity. The freedom to abide by the truth and raise our children to seek Him. The freedom to defend the unjust and the needy and restore them their rights. The freedom to be at the Lord's hand, obedient, prayerful and faithful.

Christ defeated death in our reality! He gave us the gift to start anew, to renew our heart, to purify our mind, and to reaffirm our commitment of faith at His service. He restored in us the dignity of our person, the beauty of our nature, and the bounty in our personality.

Christ defeated death in our relationships! Christ is the only mediator between God and man. However, He made us "bridges" of salvation to reach others. As Antiochian Orthodox Christians in North America, we are bequeathed an apostolic "lineage:" tradition, inheritance and mission. In this regard, the image of the "bridge" summarizes the Antiochian witness that emerges out of the past, prompts the present and prepares the future of the Antiochian Orthodox Church on the eve of the election of a new Metropolitan to succeed to His Eminence, Metropolitan Philip of eternal memory.

Christ's victory over death is a responsibility when it is handed over to us. "I am the Way," (John 14:6) the Lord said. "We are the bridge," we would respond to Him. Indeed, the Lord means for us to be His co-workers in this most unprecedented cooperation between heaven and earth. Antiochian Orthodox, among others, are leading the work of building a bridge between East and West, between our Patriarchate and the Archdiocese, among their brothers and sisters of other Orthodox Churches in North America, among their brethren whom they invited to share this apostolic faith, toward those are in need. If Christ is the "bridge" from heaven to earth and from earth to the netherworld, saving in this way the entire creation, then you understand that being a "bridge" means to follow Christ in His openness to humanity, in bringing humanity to unity, in serving your brethren to the extent of your ability and capacity.

I am glad for your witness — a bridge that unites both ends and that is open for people to come across in both directions, and for Christ to work the salvation of each one. I am sure that, as we are celebrating our Lord's resurrection from the dead, you will treasure this divine gift of being a bridge. Indeed, I am certain that you will not spare any means to serve the Divine Providence toward humanity.

May our Lord guide all of us by His eternal light shown forth from the empty tomb!

†Silouan
Metropolitan of Buenos Aires and all Argentina
&
Patriarchal Vicar of New York and all North America

LOOKING AHEAD
Upcoming events...

Apr 27 - Antiochian Women lunch meeting @ 12p
Apr 27 - Baptism Shereen & Nicole Hani @ 1pm
Apr 29 - Men's Club Meeting @ 7:30pm
May 4 - 40-Day Memorial Metropolitan PHILIP
40-Day Memorial Abraham Brown
Visit & Luncheon w/Met. SILOUAN
May 6 - Adult Education Forum @ 7:15pm
May 10 - Women's Fashion Show @ 11:30am
May 13 - Parish Council Meeting @ 7pm
May 20 - Adult Education Forum @ 7:15pm
May 27 - Men's Club Meeting @ 7:30pm

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY, HE IS RISEN!

OBSERVATIONS ON ST. THOMAS SUNDAY

On this Sunday after Pascha, our Church observes the memory of that event involving doubting Thomas. Jesus took this occasion to teach us several profound truths that transcend the ages. Here are three observations we can glean from it:

1) First we learn that absenting ourselves from church and from the fellowship of Christians can lead to trouble. Thomas missed out on the joy of the first Pascha because he was absent from the gathering of those who loved the Lord. His absence led to further difficulties. All this could have been avoided if he had come to church that day.

2) Secondly, we learn something about "doubt." It is not a sin to have an honest doubt about a tenet in our Faith. But this does impose an obligation on our part to find out and resolve the doubt. That is what Thomas did. He doubted the Resurrection of our Lord. So he came to the place where the apostles gathered to find out for himself. He received a gracious reception from Christ. The Lord knew of the aching in his heart and replaced it with an ardent belief in Christ.

This has been the experience of many who have sought for the answers to their doubts. Thomas is merely the first in a long line of people who have searched for the answers to life's greatest questions, and have found them at the foot of Christ.

3) Thirdly, we realize that ours is a living faith. Surely the person who has such a belief in Christ as God is blessed. He does not limit his belief to the testimony of his senses -- for he has not seen the resurrected Lord. Yet, he holds in his heart the truth of God's Word.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin . . . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey . . . . . Litho in U.S.A.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR AND BREAD OF HOLY OBLATION

	BREAD OF HOLY OBLATION	FELLOWSHIP HOUR
May 4	Brown family/Lorna Malooley/Madelyn Nader	Luncheon in honor of Met. Silouan
11	Jamileh Taweel	Jamileh Taweel
18	Sunday School & Hier extended family	Alex & Thomaseena Cox
25		
Jun 1		
8		
15	Debbie Brown & family	Debbie Brown & family
22		

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 • 301-765-9188 • www.peterpaulpotomac.org