

	BREAD OF HOLY OBLATION	FELLOWSHIP HOUR
08 May	John & Dina Saah	John & Dina Saah (special Arabic Pastries in honor of Mother's Day)
15 May	Thomaseena & Alex Cox	Thomaseena & Alex Cox
22 May	*Alganesh Piechocinski *Suad Shammam 6-mos Memorial for Issa Shammam *Mona Ayoub 40-day Memorial for Mufid Ayoub	*Suad Shammam 6-mos Memorial for Issa Shammam *Mona Ayoub & Family-40-day Memorial for Mufid Ayoub
28 May	Donna Gavin	Donna Gavin
05 Jun	Open	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.

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

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, MAY 8, 2016

NEW SUNDAY OR ANTI-PASCHA

SUNDAY OF THOMAS THE APOSTLE, CALLED "THE TWIN"
SYNAXIS OF THE APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN
VENERABLE ARSENIOS THE GREAT

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.

APOLYTIKION OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST (TONE 2)

O Apostle John, speaker of divinity, the beloved of Christ God, hasten and deliver thy people powerless in argument; for He on Whose bosom thou didst lean accepteth thee as an intercessor. Beseech Him, therefore, to disperse the cloud of the stubborn nations, asking for us safety and the Great 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.

May God bless all the mothers, godmothers, and mothers-to-be of our Parish family on this Mother's Day. May God keep them and grant them every bounty and joy and strengthen them in their vocation as the foundation of the Christian family.

THE METROPOLITAN DC ORTHODOX MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

is again sponsoring a Mission dinner, at SS Peter & Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church 10620 River Road Potomac, MD, on Sunday, May 15, 2016, beginning with Pan-Orthodox Vespers at 4:30 pm, hors d'oeuvres and a Silent Auction at 5:15 pm, dinner and presentation at 6:00 pm. All proceeds benefit the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC). The speaker is Very Rev. John Chakos, speaking on "GUATEMALA MISSION FACES EAST: THE NEXT STEP IN CONVERSION". Tickets: \$55.00 for adults; under 22, \$30, and children under 6, FREE; table for 10 is \$500; reservation deadline: May 12, 2016. For information: Dr. John Demakis, email: demakis9931@gmail.com or Betty Slanta, email: slanta@verizon.net. Enclose check and mail to SS Peter & Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church 10620 River Road Potomac, MD 20854, ATTN: Mission Banquet (B. Slanta). Make the check payable to OCMC, note: "Mission Banquet". (flyers located in Kogok Hall)

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

Christ, the First Fruits

The Lord's Resurrection – And Ours

By Fr. Theodore Pulcini

Without the resurrection, there is no Christianity. It is as simple as that. St. Paul himself taught as much when he declared that "if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith is in vain" (1 Cor. 15:14) and "if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" (1 Cor. 15:17). It is the Resurrection that constitutes the foundation of our faith and the centerpiece of our theology.

Few Orthodox Christians would deny such assertions, and yet we tend to minimize the significance of Christ's Resurrection. We tend to see it primarily as a vindication of the Lord who was unjustly condemned, as a manifestation of his divine power, and as a validation of his teaching. We describe it as an event long ago and far away -important, to be sure, but not having any parallel in our own lives. This is a distortion which needs to be corrected, and the means of correction is again found in the teaching of St. Paul.

ONLY THE BEGINNING

In depicting Christ as risen from the dead, St. Paul does not see him only as a vindicated Messiah or a powerful Lord or a validated Rabbi. He uses a phrase that vividly indicates another crucial aspect of the Resurrection: "But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Cor. 15:20). St. Paul here uses harvest language. The first crops to be harvested are the "first fruits," but no good harvest ends there; many other fruits are to follow. And so it is with Christ's Resurrection. In the plan of God, it is not to be seen as an isolated, "one-shot" event; it is only the beginning. In rising from the dead, Christ began a process which has yet to come to full fruition. The full harvest will take place on the Last Day, and St. Paul gives the order in which it will occur. "Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ" (1 Cor. 15:23). In other words, Christ has risen first, but we will rise in a resurrection like his as well (cf. Rom. 6:5). The Resurrection of the Lord is a foreshadowing of what will happen to us. When we celebrate the Christ's Resurrection, we are actually anticipating our own. Resurrection is our destiny as well. On the Last Day we will rise from the dead, just as Christ already has, "each in his own order" (1 Cor. 15:20). He who has already conquered death will give us a full share in that victory. Every Christian should yearn for that Last Day. The Creed gives clear expression to this anticipation: "I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come."

YEARNING FOR THE LAST DAY

But do we really yearn for that Day? Do we see it as the culmination of the divine plan for the human race – and indeed for all creation? Do we understand eternal life through the lens of the Last Day? Most of us, unfortunately, do not. We see our eternity as being fixed at our own death. We die; we are judged; we enjoy the blessedness of the just in heaven or the lot of the condemned in hell. End of story.

As popular as such a perspective might be, it is not the teaching of the Church. The Church's teaching on eschatology – i.e., its doctrine of the "last things" – focuses not on the death of the individual, but on the Last Day, when the "age to come" will dawn.

So how are we properly to understand death and the afterlife from an Orthodox perspective?

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

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
Samer Korkor
Justin Misleh
Tony Moussa
Wayne Parr
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 Araj
Abraham Fannoney
Sam Khalil

ALTAR

Manager

Peter Aburdeineh

Servers

Captains -
Rashid Haddad
Christopher Zolnerowich

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News and Events

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- May 08** Sunday School
May 15 Sunday School
May 22 Recognition of High School Seniors
May 29 No Sunday School
June 05 Children's Sermon
June 12 Ice Cream Celebration-Last day of Sunday School

TEEN SOYO

- May 21** Semper Fi Walk-a-thon for Wounded Veterans
May 22 Final Teen SOYO Meeting of the year

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

May 18, 2016
 The next meeting for the Young Adult Fellowship Study Group is **Wednesday, May 18, 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 (frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org), Dn. Christian Manasseh (dncchristian@peterpaulpotomac.org) or Amber Bennett (bennett.amberrose@gmail.com)

"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 springboard to open discussion on a wide range of topics concerning our Faith. The next meeting is **Thursday, May 12, 2016**. ALL ARE WELCOME.

TRADITIONS COOKBOOK

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!!

We are planning the next publication of our recipe book revised to reflect our Feast Days and the different traditions within our parish. This edition focuses on traditional recipes representative of all our backgrounds and culinary traditions. Please submit a recipe (and photo if you have one) for consideration by emailing it to Michele Forzley at mforzley@comcast.net please. Our goal is to have the book ready for the Festival. The deadline for submissions is **mid-night June 30, 2016**. We also plan to prepare a companion video on the techniques to make some of the foods – if you would be willing to be in a video let me know too.

2016 BAZAAR UPDATE

*NEXT-TO-NEW YARD SALE

Ss. Peter & Paul is having a Yard Sale on **Saturday, May 14, 2016, 9a-3p**. We are looking for volunteers to help organize before and during the sale. Clean out your attics, garages, and closets and donate your gently used or new items. See flyer on the round table in the Narthex.

*Ss. PETER & PAUL BAZAAR — SAVE THE DATE

Ss. Peter & Paul 33rd Annual Bazaar **September 23-25, 2016**. Please contact us with your thoughts and interest in volunteering! Contact wayne.parr@gmail.com 571-294-0197 or Barbara Abraham bmwabraham@gmail.com 301-949-1056

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

*Save the Date

The Antiochian Women are having their end-of-the-year luncheon to honor the officers and welcome the new. The date is **Sunday, June 12 at 1:00pm** at Normandie Farm Restaurant (www.popovers.com for full Sunday brunch menu) located at 10710 Falls Road, Potomac, MD. The cost for the brunch is \$42.00 for adults (checks should be made to Ss. Peter & Paul Church Antiochian Women's Auxiliary). Please contact Donna Gavin at crazygavins@verizon.net (703-463-1074) or Barbara Bosworth at byboswoth@fcps.edu (703-278-3161). See the round table in Narthex for more information.

Upcoming events...

- May 08 Mother's Day
 May 10 Parish Council Mtg/LL Conf. Rm. 7:00p
 May 12 Adult Ed Forum/LL Conf. Rm./7:15p
 May 14 *Ss. Peter & Paul Yard Sale/9a-3p
 *Joseph Audi Baptism/5:30p
 May 15 *OCMC Pan-Orthodox Vespers/4:30p
 *OCMC Silent Auction and hors d'oeuvres/5:15p
 *OCMC Dinner/6:00p w/Very Rev. John Chakos
 May 18 Young Adult Fellowship Study Group/8a/off-site & on-line (See above for more details)
 May 21 Teen SOYO-Semper Fi Walk-a-thon for Wounded Veterans
 May 22 *Recognition of High School Seniors
 *Teen SOYO Final Meeting of the year
 May 26 Adult Ed Forum/LL Conf. Rm./7:15p
 May 29 *Men's Club Mtg./following Liturgy/12:30p
 Jun 01 Young Adult Fellowship Study Group/8a/off-site & on-line (See above for more details)
 Jun 04 *Arabic Language Class/10a-12:30p/LL Hall
 *Arabic Liturgy/Sanctuary/5:00p
 Jun 05 Ibrahim Saah Baptism/1:00p
 Jun 08 Divine Liturgy Feast of the Ascension 7p
 Jun 09 Adult Ed Forum/LL Conf. Rm./7:15p
 Jun 12 *Antiochian Women EOY Luncheon (see insert and Flyer in the Narthex)
 *Last day of Sunday Schl w/ice cream celebration
 Jun 14 Parish Council Mtg/LL Conf. Rm. 7:00p
 Jun 19 Emerson Naccache West/Baptism/1:00p
 Jun 25 Noor Marie Atallah/Baptism/11a
 Jun 26 Ss. P&P Parish Picnic following Liturgy Bretton Woods (more info to follow)
 Jun 29 Men's Golf Tournament/Bretton Woods/8a-4p

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

EPISTLE

(For St. John the Theologian)

His sound hath gone forth into all the earth. The heavens declare the glory of God.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. John. (1:1-7)

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life – the life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us – that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing this that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

THE GOSPEL

(For Thomas Sunday)

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.

Before the Resurrection of the God-Man, death was the second nature of man: life first, death second. But by His Resurrection, the Lord has changed everything: immortality has become the second nature of man, it has become natural for man; and death—unnatural. As before the Resurrection of Christ, it was natural for men to be mortal, so after the Resurrection of Christ, it was natural for men to be immortal.

St. Justin Popovich

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
 Chrissy Mackoul
 Anees Mokhiber
 Philip Allen

Men's Club

Sam Khalil

Antiochian Women

Kate Niewenhous

Teen SOYO

Advisor

Jamilee Bellone

Officers

Rashid Haddad
 Julia Allen
 Danielle Bellone
 Kinda Callas
 Nick Guegel

Fellowship of St. John

Christine & Samer Korkor
 Dn. 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

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

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.

SERVICE BOOK HELP ~FIND

The Creed ~ p. 110
 The Lord's Prayer ~ p. 118
 The Communion Prayer ~ p. 121-122
 The Prayer of Thanksgiving p. 125

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
 Richie Kogok
 Isabel Thredeh
 Bertha Aed

May Fillah
 Brian Briggs
 Holly Dubois
 Edmond & Sophie Neam

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

Fuad Akel
 Mufid Ayoub
 Dr. Suleiman Mikhail Madanat
 John Wizeman
 Gretchen Miller
 Frances Cox
 Sadie Hier
 Ann Kalill
 Evelyn Hier
 Janie Cox
 Hanna Hosen
 Ruhmeh Hosen
 Sabbah Wadeh Hosen
 Hadla Dabaghi

LIVING

Archpriest George & Family
 Josephine Lofgren
 Adib Hanna Saah
 Elias Bitar
 Nicholas & Helen White
 Jeanette Haller
 Nabecha Ayoub
 Alexandra, Andrew, Matthew Gavin, & Leslie Courtright
 Lyla Hosen & Family Miriam, Issa, Sandra
 Janette Family, Elaine Raed, Kristy & William
 Amjud, Nasri, Nick, Nadia Family
 Albert, Jamal, Norma Family
 John & Dina Saah & Family

Fr. Joe Shaheen
 Richie Ayoub
 Tony Moussa
 Everett Alvarez
 Caroline Jarboe
 James Bennett

Stewardship Corner

Theology of Giving Series – Week 19 – May 8, 2016

Ephesians 2: 19-20 ... "So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being in cornerstone."

"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?" Select the link to read the entire *Theology of Giving* series on our website blog: <https://www.peterpaulpotomac.org/stewardship-corner>

HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION OFFERED BY:

John & Dina Saah

FELLOWSHIP HOUR OFFERED BY:

John & Dina Saah
 special Arabic Pastries in honor of Mother's Day