

	Bread of Holy Oblation	Fellowship Hour
23 Jul	Dolly & David Browning	Dara & Theo Potter
30 Jul	Siham Ayoub	
06 Aug	Kr. Dolly Crow/IMO Julia Nabti	
13 Aug	Chris Malaska for the 40-day Memorial for Met. PAUL Saliba	Chris Malaska for the 40-day Memorial for Met. PAUL Saliba
20 Aug		

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.

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, JULY 23, 2017

tone 6 / EOTHINON 7

**SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
& SEVENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

HIEROMARTYR PHOCAS, BISHOP OF SINOPE; HIEROMARTYRS APOLLINARIS AND VITALIS, BISHOPS OF RAVENNA; MARTYR APOLLONIUS OF ROME; HOLY PROPHET EZEKIEL

APOLYTIKION OF THE RESURRECTION (Tone 6)

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL (Tone 4)

O foremost in the ranks of Apostles, and teachers of the world, Peter and Paul, intercede with the Master of all to grant safety to the world and to our souls the great mercy.

KONTAKION FOR ORDINARY SUNDAYS (Tone 2) (CHANT) (CHORAL)

O 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.

Nothing ever happens either in the world or in the universe without the will of God or His permission. All that is good and noble is God's will, and all that is negative and bad happens because he allows it. He knows why He allows these things to happen and for how long. If the incorporeal angelic powers or we men were allowed to do as we please, there would be total chaos in the world and in the entire universe. But God is present everywhere and He is Light, a Light that penetrates all.

+Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

In Honor of Fr. George Rados

On Sunday, September 10, 2017, the Ss. Peter and Paul Parish Council is hosting a luncheon in honor and appreciation of our Pastor Emeritus The V. Rev. Fr. George. Also on that day, a special plaque will be dedicated in the Narthex (entrance hall) of the Church in honor and in gratitude of Fr. George's service and dedication to our Parish. Please plan on attending this event and coming to the luncheon in the Church Hall.

THE SIN THAT SEPARATES US FROM GOD

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John.1:8-9)

Just before the Lord was crucified, there was an incident that occurred between Christ and the Pharisees that illustrates how one can distort spiritual priorities. While teaching in the Temple, Jesus was questioned and provoked by the Pharisees as they tried to trap Him, in His own words. Finally, He began to point out in very powerful language the discrepancy between what they considered to be righteous behavior, and what God had intended when He revealed His truth to them. At one point, Jesus turns to them and says: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, and dill and cummin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law, justice and mercy and faith; these you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a comet" (Matthew 23:23-24)

If we look at ourselves carefully and honestly, this is what most of us do as well. We strain out 'gnats,' considering ourselves righteous, and swallow whole 'camels' without even blinking an eye. The Lord is making the same point when He refers to the speck in our brother's eye and the log in our own (cf. Matthew 7:1-6). This is why the great spiritual teachers of the Church have always taught that we should focus on our own sin, leaving other people's sin to God's judgment. The temptation to judge others, about which the Lord warns us, is as great today as it was when He walked the earth. It will be as real tomorrow as it was when Adam blamed Eve for giving him the forbidden fruit (cf. Genesis 3:12). It is always easier to see another's fault than one's own.

Perhaps one of the more curious aspects of contemporary American society is its understanding of sin. The action of sin is not new, but American society's understanding of it may be. Most people do not believe that they are actually sinning. Notice how the word sin itself has almost disappeared from our vocabulary. Even in church many people are uncomfortable when the word sin appears in a sermon or a hymn. Moreover, when the word is actually used, as we can see in the national debates on "declining morality," it is used in an accusatory manner. This is a very serious problem, because it is very difficult to talk about the spiritual life without also talking about sin.

The best place in which to begin this discussion is with a solid definition. The Greek word for sin is "amartia." It literally means "missing the mark," as in archery or darts. You shoot the arrow and you miss the bull's eye, sometimes by more and sometimes by less. The more experienced and skilled you become, the more often you hit the mark. While this metaphor may not be perfect, it is still a useful image to keep in mind.

Our first question should be: "What is the mark?" What exactly are we aiming for? The short answer is that we are to strive to be everything that God expects us to be, to truly reflect the image and likeness of God. Striving for holiness is not becoming something other than ourselves. It is precisely becoming ourselves, becoming authentic. Sin takes us further away from the "mark" and as a consequence we become something less than ourselves.

Throughout this letter we will speak about the salvation that God has offered us in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ. But "salvation" can be an abstract concept and difficult to grasp. It can become very real and personal if we see how in moving toward holiness our lives can be rescued. While salvation truly is cosmic in its scope, we actually see and realize its possibilities in us as we turn toward God.

St. Macarius
Part 1 of 4

Priest

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frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org
(401) 300-8238 cell
(240) 489-3494 home

Deacon

Dn. Christian Manasseh
DnChris-
tian@peterpaulpotomac.org

Priest Emeritus

Very Reverend
Fr. George Rados
frgeorge@peterpaulpotomac.org

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Peter Aburdeineh

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Rashid Haddad

Thomas Zook

Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News and Events

Summer Update

As July draws to a close, the Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Council continues to work on several important maintenance and renovation projects.

*The new sound system is installed and operational.

*Work will begin soon on fixing and repairing the Church parking lot.

*Work will begin soon on the final phase of the roof repair work.

*A large new grill is being purchased for the Bazaar.

SS. PETER & PAUL CHURCH LEARNING & MEDIA CENTER

Donations are welcomed in support of the establishment of the new Church Learning and Media Center. Please send all donations to Ss. Peter and Paul Church earmarked "Library Fund". In addition, donation of books on topics related to the Orthodox Faith, Doctrine, Church History, Liturgy, and Scripture will be gratefully accepted. Please contact Fr. Isaac, Dn. Christian, or Kate Niewenhaus for more information.

JULY 30, 2017 BULLETIN

Please have all updates—prayers, events, Bazaar news—to the office no later than **Monday, July 24 at noon**. The Bulletin will go to print on Tuesday, July 25 in the early AM. Thanks, so much.
Church Office.

SS. PETER & PAUL OUTREACH VISITATION MINISTRY

The outreach ministry seeks to visit and to assist the elderly, the sick, and those who are house-bound, shut-in, or living in nursing homes. Volunteers are needed who are willing to call and to visit and to reach out to our elderly brethren. All those willing to help please contact the coordinators of the group: George & Alma Jean Zaki at (georgezaki@gmail.com) or (ajmzaki@gmail.com), Alex Cox at (alexcxsells@gmail.com) or Fr. Isaac at (frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org). Our Parish is grateful for this ministry remembering that when we visit the sick and the infirm we visit Christ himself.

CHURCH CALENDAR

- Jul 23 *Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese Convention/Miami, FL (7/23—7/30)
Fr. Isaac & Dn. Christian will be out of town attending the Convention
- Jul 28 *Office Closed
- Jul 30 *Dylan Hakim Baptism/1:30p
- Jul 31 *Tia Michael Salman
- Aug 01-15*Fast of the Dormition
- Aug 01 *Paraklesis Service/7p
- Aug 04 *Paraklesis Service/7p
- Aug 06 *Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord and Blessing of the Grapes
- Aug 07 *Paraklesis Service/7p
- Aug 08 *Parish Council Mtg/7p
- Aug 09 *Paraklesis Service/7p
- Aug 11 *Paraklesis Service/7p
- Aug 13 *Rami Wallace Baptism/1:30p
- Aug 14 *Evening Divine Liturgy/Feast of the Dormition/7p
- Aug 27 *Saroufim & Sevin Wedding
- Sep 04 *Church office closed for Labor Day**
- Sep 12 *Parish Council Mtg./7p
- Sep 22-24*Ss. Peter & Paul Church Bazaar

THE EPISTLE

(For the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost)

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance.

Until Thee will I cry, O Lord my God.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (15:1-7)

Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures, we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

GOSPEL

(For the Seventh Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (9:27-35)

At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud: "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When He entered the house, the blind men came to Him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread His fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to Him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity.

The Fast of the Dormition (August 1 -15)

During the first fifteen days of August each year the Church observes the Fast of the Dormition. This season which leads up to the Feast of the Repose (Dormition) is a special time of prayer and Supplication to the Theotokos, the Mother of our God.

Ss. Peter and Paul Church will offer the Paraklesis (service of the small Supplicatory Canon) to the Theotokos at 7:00pm on the following days: August 1, August 4, August 7, August 9, and August 11.

"Her hands steadied the first steps of Him who steadied the earth to walk upon. Her lips helped the word of God to form his first human words."

St. John of Damascus

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Directors

Samia Zolnerowich
Jennifer Buchko

Teachers

Jumana Misleh
Susan Kozlov
Michelle Zook
Christine Morin
Lizzy Cassar
Caroline Jarboe
Chrissy Mackoul
Anees Mokhiber
Philip Allen
AJ Wood
Jennifer Montgomery
Dina Saah
Stephen Zolnerowich

Men's Club

Sam Khalil

Antiochian Women

Carol Laham

Teen SOYO

Advisor

Jamilee Bellone

Officers

Danielle Bellone
Kinda Callas
Maya Saah
Joud Al-Kallas
Juliana Natour

Young Adult Fellowship

Jad Ibrahim, Jr.

Adornment

Shams Akkawi
Jamil Hermes

Facility Management

Sam Berberian
Nick Nahas
Bob Simon

Rental Coordinator

Barbara Abraham

Charities

Sam Sahouri Ghanem

Finance

Salim Habayeb

Stewardship

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

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

Parishioners who remain in our prayers continually

Archpriest George Rados	Brian Briggs	Mary Smith
Margaret Ashley	Isabel Thredeth	George Brown
Helen White	Thelma Badwey	Everett Alvarez
Holly Dubois	Tesia Yonkers	Barbara Abraham
Edmond & Sophie Neam	Lulu Brown	Tania Mufarrij
George & Joan Abraham		
Grace Malouf		

DEPARTED
 Met. ANTONIOS Shidrawi
 Met. PAUL Saliba
 Kh. Stefanie Yazge
 Charles Baxley
 Gilbert Precivale
 Salwa & Fouad Azkoul
 Wayne & Ophelia Browning
 Gary Potter
 MK Potter
 Berlee Potter

LIVING

Leena Haddad	Yasmin Courtright
Elaine Buchko	Mariam Yazge
Leila Khoury	Deborah Brown
Mary Bazargan	Richard Ayoub
Bob Petrossian	Julia Fayad
Alya Cjavis	Melinda Fannoney
Charles Cox	Derek Gilliam
Alexa Malooley	Mark Alvarez
Andrew Gavin	Carol Laham
Sue Petro	Joyce Tokos
Betty Petro	The Browning & the Azkoul Families
Sevie Panayotopoulos	Alice Harris
Siham Ayoub	Dara Potter
Theo Potter	Steve McLaughlin
Anees Mokhiber	

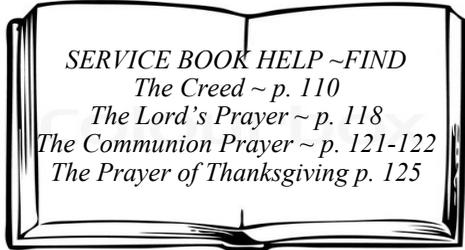
Orthodox Christians
 Faithful Orthodox fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when they receive Holy Communion in fulfillment of Christ's command to eat His Body and drink His Blood. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, communicants should not be conscious of grave sin, 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 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 col-



HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION OFFERED BY:
 Dolly & David Browning
 FELLOWSHIP OFFERED BY:
 Dara & Theo Potter

Stewardship Corner/Theology of Giving Series – Week 25
Colossians 1: 13 ... "He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transformed us to the kingdom of his beloved Son."
 "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>