

	Bread of Holy Oblation	Fellowship Hour
05 Aug	Siham Ayoub/9-Day Memorial for Richard (Richie) John Ayoub	Siham Ayoub/9-Day Memorial for Richard (Richie) John Ayoub
12 Aug	Chris Malaska for John Slanta	Parish Council
19 Aug	Open	Open
26 Aug	Hanneh Doud/IMO Issa Doud	Hanneh Doud/IMO Issa Doud
02 Sep	Alex & Thomaseena Cox/40-Day Memorial for Charles Cox	Alex & Thomaseena Cox/40-Day Memorial for Charles Cox

**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 Kogok Hall.

Ss. PETER AND PAUL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
10620 River Road Potomac Maryland 20854 • 301-765-3400 • www.peterpaulpotomac.org

Kindly keep all cell phones turned off or muted while in Church. Thank you.

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SS. PETER AND PAUL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
H.E. Metropolitan JOSEPH
Archbishop Primate

All Things Are Possible to Him Who Believes

Matins: Sundays 9:30am
Divine Liturgy: Sundays 10:30am

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2018
THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

APOLYTIKION OF THE TRANSFIGURATION (Tone 7)

When, O Christ our God, Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, Thou didst reveal Thy glory to Thy Disciples in proportion as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting light also enlighten us sinners, through the intercessions of the Theotokos. O Thou Bestower of light, glory to Thee.

KONTAKION OF THE TRANSFIGURATION (Tone 7)

Thou wast transfigured on the mount, and Thy Disciples, in so far as they were able, beheld Thy glory, O Christ our God; so that, when they should see Thee crucified, they would remember that all Thy suffering was voluntary, and could declare to all the world that Thou art truly the effulgent Splendor of the Father.

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, 3, 6, 8, and 10.

“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

Gifts Differing

Hieromonk Calinic (Berger)

St. Paul writes in Romans that though we are all one Body in Christ, each one of us has different gifts (Rom 12:5-6). God has given each one of us gifts. These gifts were given to us in order to help others. God does not give us gifts for ourselves. However, by using our gifts for others we develop our own gifts — we sharpen the talents, intuitions and abilities God has given us — and thereby we develop ourselves as persons. We respond to God's deeds with our own deeds, and we respond to God's gifts by using these gifts.

Not all have the same gifts. St. Paul says we have been given “gifts differing according to the grace given us,” but does not imply that some gifts are better than others. Diversity of gifts, just as diversity of persons, gives dynamism to human life and makes it interesting. We fit together like a mosaic; we make music as in an orchestra. Without proper balance in gifts, there can be no art and no music. Each must play the role God has given him without thinking it insignificant or, on the other hand, all-important. After all, God is the artist and the conductor.

Our society today teaches us the complete opposite. In the first sense, it teaches that gifts are given for one's own glory and distinction, rather than that of God and others. It does this because it sees a self-centered goal of life. Society is designed to make us think about ourselves constantly: our own success, security, fulfillment, in short, happiness. It teaches us that our own happiness is the goal of life. If we are not perfectly happy in everything, as to our jobs, our relationships, whatever - then we panic that somehow our life is not going the way it should, that something is wrong and must be immediately changed, no matter what or whom this will affect. The great anxiety of Western life is that we are not going to be perfectly happy in every instant.

St. Paul liberates us from all this false anxiety. First, he tells us not to worry about the fact that another person has a gift that we might not have. You have your own gift, he says, and it is equally important. In fact, it's much more important for you and your spiritual development and fulfillment, as for the fulfillment of God's plan in your life. In fact, your self-fulfillment is to fulfill God's plan in your life. God has uniquely equipped each person with the gifts needed to do this. When God's plan is our plan then we are truly happy, peaceful and productive, because we have a purpose beyond ourselves. This is the case regardless of the sorrows or disappointments which may come our way. Therefore, St. Paul also liberates us from this anxiety by telling us our gifts are to be used for others, most especially for God and the Church, and not for ourselves.

If we follow our society and the lifestyle today which teaches us a spiritual orientation that is egotistical, we can never be happy. Society teaches that our goals should be all about ourselves, all about what we want, to be happy and fulfilled. Man cannot be fulfilled in this manner because that is simply not how God created our nature. He created us for Himself and for each other. Only other persons give our life meaning, warmth and love. That is why only by using the gifts He gave us for others do we find happiness and thereby glorify Him. But let us be clear: the goal is not our fellow man but the goal is to please God. Our neighbor is like a window to this goal.

THE EPISTLE

*O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; in wisdom hast Thou made them all.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Peter. (1:10-19)

Brethren, be the more zealous to confirm your call and election, for if you do this you will never fall; so there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore, I intend always to remind you of these things, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to arouse you by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. And I will see to it that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things. For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father and the voice was borne to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased," we heard this voice borne from heaven, for we were with Him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word made surer. You will do well to pay attention to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Transfiguration)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (17:1-9)

At that time, Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with Him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if Thou wilt, I will make three booths here, one for Thee and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased; hear Him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of man is risen from the dead."

Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News and Events

CHURCH SCHOOL 2017-2018

Registration for Church School is ongoing using this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/GQ6uQSnltimwgwJW2>. Please make sure to register with the church, including your email as most Church school announcements go out to the entire parish.

Check out our new online Church School Newsletter <https://www.smore.com/t1rhu>

TEEN SOYO

Aug 10-19* Special Olympics at the Antiochian Village. Please consider volunteering (must be 16 yrs). Sign up at <https://teensoyo.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2018-SO-Application.pdf>

Contact the Lav Advisors for more details:

Zaid Sharafudin / Zaid.sharafudin@gmail.com
Anees Mokhiber / anees_mokhiber@hotmail.com

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

The Ss. Peter & Paul YAF welcomes all young people over 20 years of age to join in its social, educational, and outreach activities. Please contact Wayne Parr at wayneparr@gmail.com or Amal Michael at amal17m@yahoo.com for more information.

Sep 14-17* Antiochian Village Adult (over 21) Camp. register at: <https://avcamp.org/other-programs/adult-camp/>

Aug 1-15 *Fast of the Dormition (See church Calendar for dates & times of services) ➔

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

Jul — Sept. *Many of our Antiochian Women will be actively participating in the cooking and baking for the Bazaar. (see Bulletin insert for more information.)

Sep 15 *Antiochian Women Club Kickoff Luncheon (more details to follow)

SS. PETER & PAUL OUTREACH VISITATION MINISTRY

The outreach ministry seeks to visit and to assist the elderly, the sick, and those who are housebound, 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 (alecoxells@gmail.com) or Fr. Isaac at (friisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org). Our Parish is grateful for this ministry remembering that when we visit the sick and the infirm we visit Christ himself.

THE PARISH GIFT SHOP

The Gift Shop is open every Sunday following Liturgy. For information contact Alma Jean Zaki at (703) 283-9338 or ajmzaki@gmail.com

CHURCH CALENDAR

- Aug 05 *Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord (observed/Blessing of the First Fruits & Grapes)
- Aug 06 *Service of the Small Paraklesis/7p
- Aug 07 *Baking Ghrabee & Yansoon/10a/kitchen & Kogok Hall
- Aug 08 *Service of the Small Paraklesis/7p
- Aug 09 *Baking Birds' Nests/10a/kitchen & Kogok Hall
- Aug 10 *Service of the Small Paraklesis/7p
- Aug 10-19*Special Olympics at the Antiochian Village (see Teen SOYO box for more details)
- Aug 11 *Baptism Eric Holl/12p
- Aug 12 *Fellowship offered by the Parish Council in honor of John Slanta
- Aug 14 *Baking Custard Triangles/10a/kitchen & Kogok Hall
- *Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Dormition/6p Matins, 7p Divine Liturgy
- Aug 16 *Baking Knafee/10a/kitchen & Kogok Hall
- Aug 18 *Prepare Gilling Food
- *Baptism/Jerry Khalaf/12p
- Aug 25 *Prepare Grilling Food
- Sep 03 *Church Office Closed/Labor Day
- Sep 21-23*Ss. Peter & Paul Mediterranean Festival (Bazaar)

2018 OCMC ORTHODOX MISSION TEAMS

OCMC Teams Build Up the Church so please consider joining an OCMC Orthodox Mission Team in 2018. Help build up the Church around the world: **Alaska** (Jul 10-19, Jul 20-31); **Albania** (Jun 12-30, Sep 17-24); **Ghana** (Aug 6-21); **Guatemala** (Jun 18-30, Aug 1-8); **Kenya** (Aug 8-20, Nov 28-Dec 8); **Indonesia** (Jun 26-Jul 9, Jul 3-16); **Jamaica** (Aug 2-11); **Mexico** (Aug 11-18). If you desire to serve in His vineyard, contact the OCMC at www.ocmc.org or call the OCMC at 1.877.463.6787 (ext 142) for more information.

A great mystery had been performed through Mary, a mystery that exceeds all understanding and knowledge. The Mother of God has received tremendous powers, in virtue of which she is greater than all the saints we honor.

St. Basil of Seleucia

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.

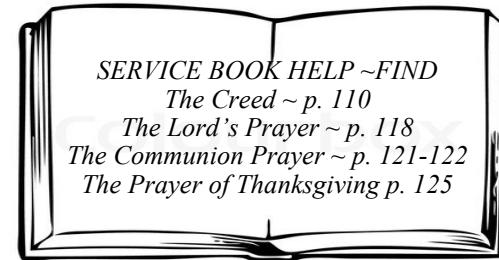
PLEASE DO NOT ENTER OR EXIT THE SANCTUARY AS

- 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



HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION OFFERED BY:

Siham Ayoub/9-Day Memorial for Richard (Richie) John Ayoub

MEMORIAL WHEAT:

Siham Ayoub/9-Day Memorial for Richard (Richie) John Ayoub

FELLOWSHIP OFFERED BY:

Siham Ayoub/9-Day Memorial for Richard (Richie) John Ayoub

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
Isabel Thredeh
Everett Alvarez
Edmond & Sophie Neam
George & Joan Abraham
Michael Buchko, Sr.
Leila Khoury

Mary Smith
George Brown
Holly Dubois
Miriam Yazge
Lula Brown
Edward Rizkallah
Isa Salch

Nabeeha Ayoub
Robert & Helma Badwey
Barbara Abraham
Douglas Kalesh
Dorothy Marge
Shoke George

LIVING

Rt. Rev. Fr. Elias Bitar	Brian Briggs	Saleh Family
Rene Saa	Robert & Joyce Najjar	Rima Rizkallah & Family
Assad & Patricia Khoury	Vilma Bellone	Suad Shammash
Nadim Zarour	Denise Bolus	Lorna Malooley
Ann Marie Moses	Antonius & Leila Barakat	Sam Sahouri
Fred Zacharia	Nabil Barbari	George Rorke
Mazen & Ruba Saah	Siham, Adrianna, Richard, & Jamie Ayoub	
James Ayoub	Ray & Teri Ayoub & Family	
Nadia, Mary & Rima Deeb		

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES 2018

The Stewardship Committee and the Parish Council kindly wishes to remind all of the faithful for both individuals and families to submit their annual stewardship pledge to the Church. Membership and financial forms are readily available in the Narthex and online. PLEASE make the commitment to SUPPORT the Church through your generous free-will pledges. Any questions concerning stewardship pledges may be addressed to Alex Cox Parish Council Chair, Fr. Isaac, Fr. Luke, or Zeina Manasseh/Stewardship Chair.

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

Fr. George Rados
Charles Tom Cox
Richard (Richie) John Ayoub
Hanna & Antoinette Ayoub
John Ayoub, Sr.
Ibrahim & Azizeh Sharkawi
Victoria Curtin
George & Rabab Sayegh