

	BREAD OF HOLY OBLATION	FELLOWSHIP HOUR
04 Sep	Ss. Peter & Paul Church	The Alvarez & Badwey Family
11 Sep	Open	Open
18 Sep	Open	Open
25 Sep	1-year Memorial for Renee Moorad	Ss. Peter & Paul Bazaar
02 Oct	Fannoney Family	Fannoney Family

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, SEPTEMBER 4, 2016

TONE 2 / EOTHINON 11

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

&

ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

HIEROMARTYR BABYLAS OF ANTIOCH

PROPHET MOSES THE GOD-SEER; MARTYRS JERUSALEM, SEKENDIOS, SEKENDIOS, AND KEGOUROS IN ALEPPO; MARTYR HERMIONE, DAUGHTER OF THE APOSTLE PHILIP THE DEACON; VENERABLE ANTHIMOS THE NEW

APOLYTIKION OF THE RESURRECTION (Tone 2)

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. BABYLAS OF ANTIOCH (Tone 4)

By choosing the Apostles' way of life, thou hast succeeded to their throne. Inspired by God, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation through the practice of virtue. After teaching the Word of Truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith to the very shedding of thy blood, O Hieromartyr Babylas. Entreat the Lord our God to save our souls.

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 OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS (Tone 4)

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

There is no end to the love of the Lord Christ for man: because for us men to acquire the life eternal which is in Him, and to live by Him, nothing is required of us — not learning, nor glory, nor wealth, nor anything else that one of us does not have, but rather only that which each of us can have. An that is? Faith in the Lord Christ.

St. Justin Popovich

FAITH

Metropolitan GEORGES (KHODR)

The coming of the man who was born ill to the Lord was the starting-point of Christ's teaching about faith. The young man was mad, sometimes throwing himself into fire and sometimes into water. The disciples could not expel the evil spirit that was in him. Then Jesus said to them, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move."

My intent here is not to give you a teaching about faith. We cannot know faith by talking about it, by thinking about it, or by intellectual pondering. Sometimes a person thinks that he is faithful when he is the furthest person from faith. Some say, "I believe but I don't pray. I believe, but I don't fast. I don't abstain from anything. I don't refrain from committing sin. I do what I want. I defile myself, but I'm a believer." This is far from faith.

I think that one cannot really know faith, even though there are succinct words about it in holy scripture. The Apostle Paul *said*, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11). That is, we trust in things that are invisible as though they were visible and in things to come as though they were present. But how do we trust and how do we come to faith?

Then when His disciples asked Him why they were unable to expel the demon themselves, the Lord said of the evil spirit that possessed the youth, "This kind does not go out except with prayer and fasting." And really, not only that specific kind. The truth is that every demon, every evil in man is not eradicated except through prayer and fasting. It is as though Christ wants us to know that faith is the result of this.

Faith is that you are close to God, that you find solace in His face, and that you are at ease with His words. If you are able to become chaste in this world from the things that are in it, then you are faithful, because if you are faithful then your words are from scripture and what you say is what God says. If you say what displeases God, no matter how much what He says tears at you, then you are not faithful.

There are two kinds of people: the faithful who know themselves to be weak in faith and the unfaithful who think they are faithful. This is why the Lord said that if you pray and stand before God at all times, then you pray in humility and brokenness of heart and at that point faith sprouts up. From your prayer faith comes to you, from a heart that is being purified God receives it. If you pray today, then your faith is better than it was yesterday and if you pray tomorrow with brokenness of heart and poverty before God, then your faith tomorrow will be better than it was yesterday. The more you proceed along the ladder of prayer, the closer you are to God.

What is Faith? How do you move mountains? The Lord did not give an answer to this but He said go pray and fast so that you will become faithful. Man was not created faithful, but he becomes faithful through action, with the power to bring him closer to the Lord, not through his work, but in his prayer.

HOLY LAND CHRISTIAN ECUMENICAL FOUNDATION

The Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation (H.C.E.F.) is an Ecumenical Christian Foundation based in Washington D.C. which has worked for many years to support the Christian Communities of the Middle East. This year the H.C.E.F. will honor the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdioceses of North America with the "Living Stones Solidarity Award" at its 18th International Conference to be held at the Georgetown Washington Marriott hotel. His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH will be accepting the award on behalf of the Archdioceses on Friday, October 14 and will be the keynote speaker at the conference on Saturday, October 15. All those interested in attending the conference please speak to Fr. Isaac. For more information see hcef.org.

Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News and Events

SUNDAY SCHOOL

It is time to register for our Children's Sunday School Program. All Registration will be online this year. Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/registerSunSchool> to register your children. We have classes for children 3 years old (must be potty trained) through 12th grade. Classes meet following Communion until 12:30. We ask each family to contribute snacks and drinks for the students throughout the year. **Our first day of classes will be on September 11th.**

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

All young adults in the parish (20-40 years of age) are encouraged to participate in this important ministry of the church. The fellowship is planning a number of activities for the new year including resumption of its study group meetings, pot-luck dinners, and Orthodoxy-on-Tap get togethers. In addition, a spiritual retreat is being planned. For more information contact Samar Korkor at skorkor@gmail.com, Dn Christian at dchristian@peterpaulpotomac.org, or Fr. Isaac at frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org.

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

Ladies Society Kick Off Luncheon

Please join the new Ladies Society Officers for our 2016-2017 Kickoff Luncheon on Sunday, September 11 after church. The new officers, Carol Laham, President, Donna Gavin, Vice President, Janet Metz, Treasurer, Artemis Lampathakas, Recording Secretary, and Barbara Bosworth, Corresponding Secretary will be treating you to a nice luncheon and we will discuss what's on tap for the coming year. The meeting won't be long, but it will be packed full of information! Most importantly, all ladies of the parish are welcome and encouraged to participate. The Ladies Society is not age limited – come young, come old, come middle-aged. We want you all to be involved and excited to participate. If you have never come before, come now. We need you. Everyone has their own talents and can participate in many ways. Give what you can to the Lord! We hope to see you on September 11 after church. Put it on your calendar now!

SS. PETER & PAUL OUTREACH VISITATION MINISTRY

Our Parish is starting a new outreach ministry 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 (georgezaki@gmail.com or ajmzaki@gmail.com), Alex Cox (alexcoxells@gmail.com) or Fr. Isaac (frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org). Our Parish is grateful for this ministry remembering that when we visit the sick and the infirm we visit Christ himself.

PASTORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Effective June 1, 2016, the Faithful of the Ss. Peter and Paul Parish Community are kindly requested to direct all Pastoral communications to Fr. Isaac our new Pastor. These include all day-to-day parish visitations, sick calls, prayers and sacraments, Pastoral consultations, and Parish Ministries and ongoing parish events and projects. Fr. Isaac can be reached at the following: cell (401) 300-8238, office (301) 765-3400/prompt 1, or FrIsaac@peterpaulpotomac.org.

IOCC NEWS

(International Orthodox Christian Charities) **2016 Baltimore Running Festival** **RACE TO RESPOND**

Do you want to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable families around the world? Come join our IOCC Team at the Baltimore Running Festival on October 15, 2016 and help raise money for those in need in places like Syria, Greece, and Ethiopia! For the past four years at the Baltimore Running Festival, IOCC's team has included a wide range of participants, from kindergarteners to an Orthodox priest and retired grandmothers! All abilities of walkers and runners are welcome, as there is a range of participation options: Kids' Fun Run, 5K, Team Relay, Half Marathon, and Full Marathon. Signing up is easy at www.iocc.org/baltimore.

Upcoming events...

- Sep 05 *Offices closed for Labor Day Holiday
- Sep 06 *Baking Session 10a (see Bazaar insert)
- Sep 08 *Baking Session 10a (see Bazaar insert)
- Sep 10 *Baking Session 1p (see Bazaar insert)
- Sep 11 *Blessing of the Children for the start of Sunday School classes
- Sep 13 *Ladies Auxillary Luncheon to follow Liturgy
- Sep 13 *Parish Council Mtg/LL Conf. Rm/7:00p
- Sep 14 *Feast of the Elevation of the Cross
- Sep 14 *Baking Session @10a (see Bazaar insert)
- Sep 15 *Baking Session @10a (see Bazaar insert)
- Sep 16 *Baking Session @10a (see Bazaar insert)
- Sep 18 *Procession of the Cross to follow the Liturgy
- Sep 18 *Teen SOYO Meeting 12:30p
- Sep 18 *Baking Session @noon(see Bazaar insert)
- Sep19-22 *Bazaar Prep
- Sep 23-25*SS. Peter & Paul Middle Eastern Bazaar
- Sep 25 *1-year Memorial for Renee Moorad
- Sep 26 *Bazaar clean-up
- Oct 09 *Parish General Assembly (to follow the Liturgy)
- Oct 11 *Parish Council Meeting
- Nov 08 *Parish Council Meeting

THE EPISTLE

(For the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost)

The Lord is my strength and my song. The Lord has chastened me severely.
The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (9:2-12)

Brethren, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the Gospel of Christ.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Eleventh Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (18:23-35)

The Lord spoke this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also My heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

The Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos falls on September 8th. This year on Wednesday, September 7 we will celebrate the Feast with our sister parish St. Mary (Nativity of the Theotokos) Antiochian Orthodox Church, of Cockeysville, MD. The Feast will start with Great Vespers at 4:30pm followed by Orthros and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. St. Mary's Church is located at 909 Shawan Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030(just north of Baltimore). All are welcome.

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
Alexis Yazge

Men's Club

Sam Khalil

Antiochian Women

Carol Laham

Teen SOYO

Advisor

Jamilee Bellone

Officers

Rashid Haddad
Julia Allen
Danielle Bellone
Kinda Callas
Nick Guegel

Young Adult Fellowship

Jad Ibrahim, Jr.
Amber Bennett
Lizzy Cassar

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

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 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

HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION OFFERED BY:

Ss. Peter & Paul Church

FELLOWSHIP HOUR OFFERED BY:

The Alvarez & Badwey Family

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

Margaret Ashley	May Fillah
Richie Kogok	Brian Briggs
Isabel Threddeh	Holly Dubois
Edmond & Sophie Neam	Nicholas & Helen White

LIVING

Archpriest George & Family	Raymond Ayoub
Nabeeha Ayoub	Susan Ibrahim Ayoub
Everett Alvarez	Victor Joubran
Tesia Yonkers	Melinda Fannoney
Greg, Maria, Zeid, Rami Wallace	
Adib Saah	
Tammy & Everett Alvarez Jr. & Family	Thelma & Bob Badwey & Family

DEPARTED

Archpriest Boniface Black
 Frances Huenemann
 Marita Boulatta
 Lina Khoury
 Annette Lusby
 Yvonne Hyder
 Nahida Barbari
 Shakir T. Ilyas
 Roujina K. Ilyas
 Everett Alvarez, Sr.
 Sally Alvarez

MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Sept 4th

Did you know... that the church was built with the dedication and commitment of five families who agreed to donate \$5,000/year every year for five years?

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Theology of Giving Series – Week 36 – September 4, 2016

Again, Fall, 2005, "The Trial of the Tithe," Fr. Thomas Zell

A search of the patristic writings will uncover these and more quotes regarding the issue of tithing. The New Catholic Encyclopedia summarizes this by saying ... "The payment of tithes was adopted from the Old Law, and early writers speak of it as a divine ordinance and an obligation of conscience. The earliest positive legislation on the subject seems to be contained in the letter of the bishops assembled at Tours in 567 and the canons of the Council of Macon in 585."

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>