



SS. PETER AND PAUL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

All Things Are Possible to Him Who Believes

Priests

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

Deacon

Dn. Christian Manasseh
DnChristian@peterpaulpotomac.org

Pastoral Assistant &

Youth Director

Majd Akkawi
majd@peterpaulpotomac.org

COUNCIL

Chairman

David Jackson

Vice Chairman

George Salem

Secretary

Caroline Emad

Treasurer

Abdallah 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
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Choir Director

John Slanta
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Chanters

Majd Akkawi

Wayne Parr

George Tannous

Ushers

Jerry Audi

Michael El Araj

Abraham Fannoney

Sam Khalil

ALTAR

Manager

Peter Aburdeineh

Servers

Captains -

Robert Bridenhagen

Nicholas Zolnerowich

Matins: Sundays 9:30am

Divine Liturgy: Sundays 10:30am

Confessions: call to schedule

TONE 4

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2014

EOTHINON 2

SUNDAY BEFORE THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS & TRANSFER OF THE FEAST OF NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (Tone 4)

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION of the Nativity of the Theotokos (Tone 4)

Thy nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe; for from thee did shine forth the Sun of justice, Christ our God, annulling the curse, and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.

TROPARION of Ss. Peter & 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.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross)

*My O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.
To Thee, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (6:11-18)

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the Law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For, neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all, who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (3:13-17)

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For, God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

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

Sam Khalil

Antiochian Women

Ann Marie Moses

Kate Niewenhou

Teen SOYO

Adviser:

Majd Akkawi

Facilitators:

Phillip Allen

Reema Guegel

Stephen Zolnerowich

Anees Mokhiber

Fellowship of St. John

Majd Akkawi

Christine & Samer Korkor

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

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.

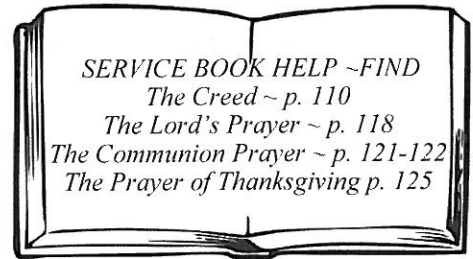
PLEASE DO NOT ENTER OR EXIT THE SANCTUARY AS

- 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: offered by the family of Victoria Curtin

40-DAY MEMORIAL: Victoria Curtin

FELLOWSHIP HOUR: offered by the family of Victoria Curtin

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

LIVING

Parishioners who remain
in our prayers continually

Margaret Ashley
Lulu & George Brown
Issa & Suad Shammas
Edmond Neam
Richie Kogok
Rick Badwey

Sister Gavriella
Brian Briggs
Bertha Aed
Katherine Slanta
Nicholas Yanowsky
Siham Ayoub
Gavin family
Courtright family
Curtin families
Bottash family
Nagle families
Ann Marie Moses
Mary & Frances Corry

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

Victoria & Robert Curtin
Carol & Robert Curtin
Helen Bottash
Albert & Marie Moses
David Newkirk
William Gavin
Adel Nagle
Evelyn Baxley
Jeane Saah
Nimer Massarweh Aug 17
Helen Hawa Aug 17
Walter Coury Aug 8

Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News

31ST ANNUAL Middle Eastern Cultural Festival September 26, 27 & 28

Join us during Fellowship Hour today for a Pre-Festival Congregational Update to include last minute ad book ads, pre-ordering of our delicious food, staffing assignment sign-up and tips for Festival social media.

FESTIVAL AD BOOK

Sure to be one of the best ad books ever hosted by Ss Peter and Paul, complete with Social Media coverage and website Patron Page, don't miss the opportunity to be a part of it! Submit your ad to adbook@peterpaulpotomac.org today. Find sponsor sheets on the table in the vestibule.

Confirm your ad with Tony Moussa at tonymoussa@aol.com or 301-379-0350.

PRE ORDERS OF OUR DELICIOUS FOOD

Kibbie Balls • \$2 each • Units of 6
Kibbie Trays (9 x 13) • \$45 Each
Spinach Pies • \$2 each • Units of 6
See form in vestibule

ADULT BEVERAGE SALES

(Over 21 only) ring up sales; fill take-out orders

KITCHEN STAFF

Warming and prep

OUTDOOR FOOD LINE SALES

Take orders and serve

FESTIVAL CASHIERS

Cash and credit card processing

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND TEEN SOYO

Activity Coordinators

Sign up for your shifts

Friday, September 26 (3-10pm)

Saturday, September 27 (11am-10pm)

or Sunday, September 28 (12-4pm)

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Get updates for Festival news, cooking class, baking sessions, and other preparations at www.facebook.com and paste into the search bar *Ss. Peter & Paul Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church.*

CHURCH SCHOOL

Welcome back! Today Ss. Peter & Paul Church School will begin their new year. All the children and staff are asked to be present following the gospel in order to receive the prayer of blessing and to hear the children's homily.

FOR THOSE 9 TO 18 YEARS OF AGE

Plan to attend the Antiochian Village "Program at Home" Retreat October 3, 4 and 5 at Ss. Peter & Paul Church. Come see what camp is like without having to travel to Bolivar, PA! Join us for skits, activities and more.

Teen SOYO

Is back!!! Join us next Sunday, September 14 at 12:30pm in the lower level conference room to learn more about the exciting new fall program.

FSJD DINNER

Come join us for some great fellowship, delicious food and a preview of events to come at the Potluck Dinner Saturday, September 20 at 5pm at the home of Christian and Zeina Manasseh, 2030 Freedom Lane, Falls Church, VA 22043. Bring a dish to share and an instrument to play. See fsjd@peterpaulpotomac.org for more information.

EXPLORING OUR FAITH

Adult Religious Education Forum [A Ministry of the Fellowship of St. John the Divine]

A new season of the Adult Religious Education Forum at Ss. Peter & Paul begins September 18th from 7:15-8:30pm in the lower level Conference Room. Our first session of the new year will be a reflection on the "descent of Christ into Hades." presented by James Bennett. Contact Fr. Isaac for more information.

WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION

Plan to attend the reception Wednesday, October 8, from 7-9pm in Kogok Hall in support of the Orthodox Christian Network. More information to come.

Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN KICK-OFF MEETING Sunday, September 14th

New officers Kate Niewenhous (President), Mary Misleh (Vice President), Roxanne Reid-Bennett (Treasurer), Donna Gavin (Recording Secretary), and Barbara Bosworth (Corresponding Secretary) invite all women of the church to opening Sunday—*Next Week!*—September 14th— at 12:30pm in the Lower Hall. Contact us at AntiochianWomen@peterpaulpotomac.org. We look forward to seeing you then!

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On Sunday, October 19th, the Annual Parish General Assembly will be held in the sanctuary immediately following Liturgy. Do not miss this important meeting to include reports, election, budget presentation and more.

THE CREATION AND FALL OF MAN

First in a series...

The book of Genesis in the Old Testament recounts the story of the creation of the world and of man in particular. Our quest to understand the reason for our existence begins, therefore, with the first book of the Bible.

The first verse states, *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth* (Genesis 1:1). The writer of Genesis goes on to tell us that God created the sun and moon and stars and all of the wonderful things that fill up the earth. In short, God created everything that exists, including man. But Genesis tells us something else about man, something that is not said of any other creature; man was created in the image of God. *Then God said, "Let us make man in Our image, after Our Likeness." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them* (Genesis 1:26-27).

What does it mean to be created in the image of God? Throughout the centuries people have given different answers to this question. Some have thought that it is in man's ability to reason or to communicate that the image of God is to be found. Others have suggested that God's image is revealed in man's ability to create or to govern. All of these answers are correct to a certain extent, for the image of God in us is the totality of our human existence, that is, everything that makes us *persons*.

The term, *person*, is difficult to define because people by nature defy definition. We can classify

people according to age or height or race or sex, but these things cannot begin to explain the mystery of personhood. If you have ever loved another person, then you know that it is impossible to completely understand and classify a human being, no matter how hard we may try. Although we cannot fully define what a person is, we can say at least three things about personhood that will help us understand what it means for us to be created in the image of God: a person is free, unique, and relational.

According to the Bible, there was no necessity for God to create anything. He created the world out of freedom. As persons created in the image of God, we too are free. God did not create us as robots; rather, He endowed us with freedom. God created us with the potential to grow, to become ever more like Him through the use of our free will. This freedom to grow, however, also entails the freedom to reject God. God will not force Himself on anyone. Whether we fulfill our human vocation and live according to the image of God or whether we reject God is up to each of us. Because you are created in the image of God, your eternal destiny is in your hands. *I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life that both thou and thy descendants may live* (Deuteronomy 30:19).

Upcoming events...

Sep 9-11 - IDC Summit Conference
Sep 9 - Parish Council Meeting @ 7pm
Sep 13 - Wedding Constantine/Donoho @ 2pm
Sep 14 - Feast of the Elevation of the Cross
Sep 14 - Teen SOYO First Gathering @ 12:30pm
Sep 14 - Antiochian Women Luncheon @ 12:30pm
Sep 18 - Adult Education Forum @ 7:15pm
Sep 20 - Wedding Rita Morad/Jack Zegeer @ 3pm
Sep 20 - FSJD Potluck @ 5pm
Sep 21 - Baptism of Nader Tawil @ 1pm
Sep 22-26 - Festival Cooking & Preparation
Sep 26-28 - Festival 3-10pm-11am-10pm-12-4pm
Sep 30 - Men's Club Meeting @ 7:30pm
Oct 2 - Adult Ed Forum @ 7:15pm
Oct 4 - Arabic Liturgy @ 5pm
Oct 5 - Baptism of Reid Hartman @ 1pm
Oct 8 - Wine & Cheese Reception OCN @ 7pm
Oct 19 - General Assembly @ 12pm
Nov 15 - Nativity Fast begins
Nov 20 - Entrance Theotokos to the Temple @ 7pm

THE MIRACLE OF ARCHANGEL MICHAEL

Mention angels and most people will think of the Feastday of St. Michael and All Angels. But there are other days in the Church Calendar dedicated to the Archangel Michael. One of these involves a miracle that occurred centuries ago in the ancient country of Phygria, Asia Minor, now part of Turkey. The intervention of the Archangel took place in the city of Colossae. It was to this area that the Apostle John and St. Phillip came to preach the word of God in the first century.

Pagans worshipped a serpent in the area, and the preaching of the missionaries brought hostility. This resulted in the death of St. Phillip. A sudden earthquake followed, frightening the people, but Apostle John continued to preach and converted many. He soon left the area, telling the faithful that a miraculous well would be found there.

It was this well that was named for St. Michael and it attracted throngs of people. A Church was built, again named for the Archangel. But the non-believers did not give up their struggle against Christ. They conceived a plan to divert a nearby river and engulf the well of St. Michael. At this point, a pious Christian prayed in the Church for divine intervention. St. Michael appeared with sword in hand, struck the river, diverting it into two streams around the well. It was thus saved from destruction. It is this event that is commemorated by the Church.



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
Sep 7	Donna Gavin	Family of Victoria Curtin
14	Ed & Eleanor Husson	
21	JJ Coury & family	JJ Coury & family
28	31st Annual Middle Eastern	Cultural Festival
Oct 5	Sam & Margo Sahouri-Ghanem	Sam & Margo Sahouri-Ghanem
12		
19		
26	Ayoub family	Ayoub family

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.