

| | Bread of Holy Oblation | Fellowship Hour |
|---------|--|--|
| 09 Sept | Joyce Kogok/IMO Richard & Richie Kogok | Joyce Kogok/IMO Richard & Richie Kogok |
| 16 Sept | Jerry & Nelly Audi/IMO Issa Zayed | Silvia Tawil/IMO Issa Zayed |
| 23 Sept | open | 25th Annual Mediterranean Festival |
| 30 Sept | open | open |
| 07 Oct | Zurefa 'Fifi' Ellis/40-Day Memorial for Henry George David | Zurefa 'Fifi' Ellis/40-Day Memorial for Henry George David |

**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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Reverend
Fr. Luke Toumi
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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, SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

TONE 6 / EOTHINON 4

SUNDAY BEFORE THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
AFTER-FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS
SYNAXIS OF THE ANCESTORS OF GOD, JOACHIM AND ANNA
GREAT-MARTYR SEVERIAN OF SEBASTIA; HOLY FATHERS OF THE THIRD
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (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 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.

APOLYTIKION OF SS. JOACHIM AND ANNA (Tone 2)

As we celebrate the remembrance of Thy righteous Ancestors, O Lord our God, through them we beseech Thee 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.

Do not try to resolve a tangled situation with contentiousness, but rather with what the spiritual law calls for: patience and prayer and unwavering hope.

St. Mark The Ascetic

“ON THE WISDOM OF BEING ORTHODOX”

by DORIS BUTLER

But the person who loves wisdom—that is, the perfect will of God—will sacrifice knowledge for the sake of charity. He will readily “become a fool, that he may be wise” (I COR. 3:18). One who loves primarily knowledge still loves himself more than God; but one who loves wisdom loves God more than himself. For, “Assimilation to God, so that as far as possible a man becomes righteous and holy with wisdom, he (Our Lord) lays down as the aim of faith” (Clement of Alexandria, ANTE-NICENE FATHERS). One who has comparatively little knowledge but uses it obediently, therefore, can actually have more wisdom than one who has much knowledge but does not use it obediently. Thus a child can, in fact, be wiser than an adult, a student wiser than his teacher, a housewife wiser than a scholar. The psalmist proclaims:

I have more understanding than my teachers; for thy testimonies are my study
I am wiser than the aged; because I keep thy
commandments. (119:100,101)

The way to achieve wisdom is to reach for the whole extent of one’s knowledge and willfully bring it into use for God’s purpose. In Orthodoxy we have the knowledge, and we have the explicit instructions and examples of Our Lord and all the fathers from which to learn its right use.

Wisdom in relation to the disturbances of life is acceptance and the requesting of humility from God.

Wisdom in relation to those who justly chastize us is gratitude and attention.

Wisdom in relation to those who unjustly attack us is grief and prayer for the offender, who alone is the truly injured—and whom God loves with an abiding love.

Wisdom in relation to those we love is prayer, first, and then patience, that is, constancy.

Wisdom in relation to those in need is active helpfulness—practiced in the spirit of the Lord: “Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth” (MATT. 6:3).

Wisdom in relation to deprivations and disappointments suffered from others is joy, which comes from the knowledge that when God withdraws human comforts He supplies divine ones.

Wisdom in relation to oneself is the desire to fulfill God’s will for one’s own life, along with the abandonment of one’s personal opinions, preferences and other selfish concerns irrelevant to Christian activity.

Wisdom in relation to God is prayerful reaching for the Holy Spirit—and its primary fruits, faith, hope and charity.

There is a higher wisdom, the wisdom of the Saints. It is the great wisdom of Divine Charity, which God gives to whom He will—for it comes in the purity of the Spirit, which “bloweth where it listeth” (JOHN 3:8).

It is the wisdom which teaches a man, as if by the eye of God, to use the truth perfectly, according to the purpose of God and the capacity of man. It is the light in which “Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other” (PSALM 85:10). It is the Wisdom which is the heart of Orthodoxy and the abiding life of Orthodoxy—for it is God’s own, given through the hearts and tongues of the faithful through the ages.

Part 2 of 2

Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News and Events

CHURCH SCHOOL 2018-2019

Registration for Church School is ongoing using this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/GQ6uQSnltimwglW2>. 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/tl1rhu>

Sep 9 *Start of Church School
Sep 16 *Church School-Elevation of the Cross Staff meeting to follow classes.

Please help up by signing up for the Bazaar Children's Activities at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084ba9aa23a2fd0-2018>

(see flyer in Narthex for complete schedule of Church School classes and activities).

TEEN SOYO

Ss. Peter & Paul Teen SOYO youth group will hold its first meeting on Sunday, September 16 at 12:30p in the downstairs conference room. All the teens of the Parish are invited to attend. Please contact the Lay Advisors for more information.

Lay Advisors:

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

Sept 16 *Teen SOYO Welcome Meeting following Services. Explain elections and how we are Helping with the Bazaar

Sept 21-23 *Teens will volunteer at the Bazaar. Lots of helping hands needed.

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.

Orthodox Christian Mission Center Box at Candle Stand for Donations

We have a box by the candle stand if you wish to donate toward mission outreach for the Orthodox Church.

—Many thanks to our Ss Peter and Paul parishioners as \$22.00 was collected this past week. The money goes to work of missions, spreading the love of Christ to those in need.

—The missions box is a great place for spare change, as small amounts make a difference over time.

—Some of the collection funds were used by Project Mexico to build houses for families in need. Several teens from Ss Peter and Paul participated in the building this summer!

Together, in small ways we can make a difference to spread the love and joy of Christ in the world!

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

Sept. *Many of our Antiochian Women will be actively participating in the cooking and baking for the Bazaar.

Oct *Antiochian Women Club Kickoff Luncheon Will be held in October/date TBA

"EXPLORING OUR FAITH" THE SS. PETER AND PAUL ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORUM

"Exploring Our Faith" meets every other Thursday evening **7:00p to 8:30p** in the lower level conference room. The next meeting is **Thursday, September 27, 2018**. Fr. Isaac facilitates the Frums using brief presentations as a springboard to open discussion on a variety of topics concerning our faith. ALL ARE WELCOME. Contact Fr. Isaac at frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org, Fr. Luke at frluke@peterpaulpotomac.org or Kate Niewenhaus at handmaidens20854@gmail.com.

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 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 (alexcossells@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

Sep 09 *Start of Church School
Sep 11 *Parish Council Mtg./7p/Serge Malooley Conf. Rm.
Sep 13 *Feast of the Elevation of the Cross/6p Matins, 7p Divine Liturgy
Sep 15 *Complete Kibbeh/10a-2:30p
*Baptism/Ember Vasilescu/12p
Sep 16 *Church School Staff Mtg. to follow class
*Teen SOYO mtg. to follow services
Sep 21-23 *Ss. Peter & Paul Mediterranean Festival (Bazaar)
Sep 27 *Adult Religious Education Forum/Exploring our Faith 7:00p/Serge Malooley Conf. Rm.
Sep 30 *Baptism/Gibran Anthony Sahouri/1:30p
Oct 08 *Church Office Closed/Columbus Day
Oct 09 *Parish Council Mtg./7p/Serge Malooley Conf. Rm.
Oct 13 *Baptism/Samuel Christopher Saa/12p

THE EPISTLE

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

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."

FEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS

The Feast of the Elevation of the precious and life giving cross falls on September 14. Our Parish will celebrate the Feast on Thursday, September 13 starting with Matins at 6:00pm and followed by Divine Liturgy at 7:00pm

In order for the Faithful to be present the Procession of the Elevation of the Cross will take place at the end of the Liturgy on Sunday, September 16.

"O Lord save thy people and bless thine inheritance, granting victory to the believers over all evil. And by the power of the cross preserve all those who follow Thee."

Troparian of the Elevation of the Cross

The Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Learning & Media Center

At long last the new Parish Learning and Media Center is up and running. The Center houses the Parish Library, audio visual materials, and Christian educational resources.

The Center is located in the Lower Level inside room accessible from the Serge Malooley Conference Room. All are welcome to use the center by following its user guidelines. Please contact Fr. Isaac, Fr. Luke, or Dn. Christian for access and information.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Directors

Samia Zolnerowich
Jennifer Buchko

Teachers

Jumana Misleh
Susan Kozlov
Danielle Bellone
Michelle Zook
Jennifer Montgomery
Andrew Salem
Dara Potter
Layla Najjar
Caroline Jarboe
Stephen Zolnerowich
Nate Guinn
Anees Mokhiber
AJ Wood
Philip Allen

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Sam Khalil

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

Carol Laham

TEEN SOYO

Lay Advisors

Zaid Sharafudin
Anees Mokhiber

Officers

Kinda Callas
Julia Allen
Joud Al-Kallas
Josian Azar
Tia Saah

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Wayne Parr
Amal Michael

ADORNMENT

Shams Akkawi
Jamil Hermes

FACILITY MANAGEMENT

Sam Berberian
Bob Simon

RENTAL COORDINATOR

Barbara Abraham

CHARITIES

Sam Sahouri Ghanem

FINANCE

Salim Habayeb

STEWARDSHIP

Zeina Manasseh

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

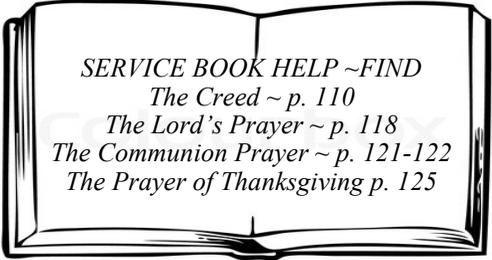
Orthodox Christians
Faithful Orthodox fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when they receive Holy Communion in fulfillment of Christ's command to eat His Body and drink His Blood. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, communicants should not be conscious of grave sin,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



Parishioners who remain in our prayers continually

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Rt. Rev. Fr. Elias Bitar | Margaret Ashley | Mary Smith |
| Isabel Threddeh | George Brown | Nabeeha Ayoub |
| Everett Alvarez | Holly Dubois | Robert & Thelma Badwey |
| Edmond & Sophie Neam | Miriam Yazge | Barbara Abraham |
| George & Joan Abraham | Lula Brown | Douglas Kalesh |
| Michael Buchko, Sr. | Edward Rizkallah | Dorothy Marge |
| Leila Khoury | Isa Saleh | Shoke George |
| Suad Shammas | | Assad & Patricia Khoury |

LIVING

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Brian Briggs | Saleh Family | Rene Saa |
| Robert & Joyce Najjar | Nadim Zarour | Antonius & Leila Barakat |
| Lorna Malooley | Ann Marie Moses | Nabil Barbari |
| Iris Zhu | Tammy Alvarez | Gevik Aharonian |
| Michelle Boyle | George Boyle | Peter & Carolyn Boyle & Family |
| Lloyd George Family | Mitchell G. David | Zurefa 'Fifi' (George) Ellis |
| Bob Neri | Joyce Kogok & Family | Sheryl & Joe Gangi |
| Marie Hyder | | Robert & Marge Kogok & Family |

DEPARTED
Fr. George Rados
Peter J. Boyle
Henry George David
Joseph Ayoub
Richard Kogok
Richie Kogok
Lillian & Walter Kogok
Evelyn & Jack Kogok

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Richard Kogok (7 yrs)
Richie Kogok (2 yrs)

HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION OFFERED BY:
Joyce Kogok/In Memory of Richard Kogok and Richie Kogok

FELLOWSHIP OFFERED BY:
Joyce Kogok/In Memory of Richard Kogok and Richie Kogok

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES 2018
The Stewardship Committee and the Parish Council 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 on-line. **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 Chairman, Fr. Isaac, Fr. Luke, or Zeina Manasseh, Stewardship Chairman.