

	BREAD OF HOLY OBLATION	FELLOWSHIP HOUR
11 Sep	The Azar Family in Memory of Samia Tannous	The Azar Family in Memory of Samia Tannous
18 Sep	Open	Open
25 Sep	1-year Memorial for Renee Moorad	Ss. Peter & Paul Bazaar
02 Oct	Fannoney Family	Fannoney Family
09 Oct	Bolus Family/1-yr Memorial for Catherine Bolus	Bolus Family/1-yr Memorial for Catherine Bolus

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 11, 2016

TONE 3 / EOTHINON 1

SUNDAY BEFORE THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

AFTER-FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

VENERABLE THEODORA OF ALEXANDRIA; RIGHTEOUS EUPHROSYNOS THE COOK;
MARTYRS DEMETRIOS, EVANTHIA AND DEMETRIANOS; TRANSLATION OF RELICS OF
VENERABLE SERGIOS AND HERMAN OF VALAAM

APOLYTIKION OF THE RESURECTION (Tone 3)

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS (Tone 4)

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

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)

Joachim and Anna were freed from the reproach of childlessness, and Adam and Eve from the corruption of death, O immaculate one, by thy holy Nativity, which thy people, redeemed from the guilt of offenses, celebrate by crying to thee: The barren woman giveth birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our life.

The Divine Liturgy is more than texts, words, songs, and ritual acts. It is the meeting ground of heaven and earth. It is the place where people meet the self-giving of God and where, through this encounter, they meet their own human lives in unexpected form. The Divine Liturgy communicates to people the meaning and purpose of life—through Word and Sacrament. It helps us to see, understand, interpret, and internalize both the tragedy of human sin that blights our relationships but also the limitless expanse and potential of the new life in Christ

+Father Aikiviadis Calivas

The Organization of the Divine Liturgy *The Three Basic Parts of the Liturgy*

V. Rev. Patrick B. O'Grady

THE PROSKOMIDI

THE FIRST OF THE THREE PARTS of the Divine Liturgy is called the *Proskomidi*, or Preparation. The Proskomidi is completed by the priest in the altar, either before the start of the preceding service (Orthros or the Hours) or during it. This is the only portion of the Divine Liturgy that is served by the clergy without the vocal participation of the laity.

After the priest says some introductory prayers (having said earlier, on his own, the pre-Communion prayers) he enters the Holy Altar and dons his vestments with the specific vesting prayers (mostly citations of select psalm verses) for each article. He then washes his hands. The act of washing the hands is not merely for cleanliness. There is an inscription above the entrance of the ancient Church of Holy Wisdom in Constantinople, a Greek-language palindrome, that means, "Wash your sins, not just your face." By this act of ceremonial washing, the priest demonstrates his rejection of all sin, any grudges, and all impurity. Let each of us faithful draw near to church with the same spirit.

Once vested, the priest does nothing in his own name, but rather all "in the Name of the One who sent him." No bishop or priest possesses the ministry on his own merit; he provides the hands and voice for Christ Himself. The vestments are indicative of the divine, changeless, and life-bestowing grace of the one priesthood of Jesus Christ, who is "He who offereth and He who is offered."

Now the vested clergy (priest along with deacon) are ready to begin the Proskomidi. This preparatory service takes place on a table located to one side in the holiest part of the church building, called the altar or sanctuary. This side table is called the *prothesis*.

The offering that makes this Proskomidi possible, called *prosphora*, consists of a few loaves of specially prepared bread for each Liturgy that will be celebrated. Ideally, the laity provide the *prosphora*. It is a great honor and a holy work to bake bread and provide wine for the Divine Liturgy. The bread must have no other ingredients than what the Church prescribes: water, flour, salt, and yeast. No oil or other additive may be used, not even on the baking pans. The *prosphora* must be well baked after careful preparation. Yeasted bread is always used, since the bread rises and "lives." We never use unleavened bread.

The *prosphora* loaves are presented beforehand to the clergy in the church and prepared for the Liturgy in this service of Proskomidi. Each of the *prosphora* loaves provides one element of cut bread to be placed on the special liturgical plate called the *diskos*. Each portion is cut out with exacting detail, all accompanied by specific prayers and exclamations.

From one loaf is cut the "Lamb" marked with the monogram of Christ (IC XC), along with another Greek word (NI KA), in a fourfold pattern, each quarter of which has two letters. The four letters together mean "Jesus Christ conquers." The Lamb itself will become the Body of Christ for Holy Communion.

A second loaf yields a triangular portion symbolizing the Mother of God: "At Thy right hand stood the queen" (Ps. 44:10). Then from a third loaf are cut nine small particles symbolizing the ranks of saints and/or angels. The *names* of *many* great saints are read as these are cut and placed on the *diskos*.

After these cuttings have been taken from these first three loaves (or the portions from the one composite loaf), the chalice is prepared. Wine and a small amount of water are now poured together into the chalice, the liturgical cup. The wine must be pure red grape wine (not blush, but dark), naturally sweet, and not fortified. This will become the very Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. The mingling of the wine and the water in the chalice shows that Our Lord on the Cross shed both blood and water to accomplish our salvation, as the Gospel reports: "One of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out" (John 19:34). Now that the chalice has been prepared, a small temporary cover is placed over it while the commemorations are taken from the last two loaves.

Priest

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Fr. Isaac Crow
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(401) 300-8238 cell
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Deacon

Dn. Christian Manasseh
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Priest Emeritus

Very Reverend
Fr. George Rados
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COUNCIL

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Gary Farha

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George Tannous
Zeina Manesseh

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Jerry Audi
Michael El Araj
Abraham Fannoney
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Manager

Peter Aburdeineh

Servers

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Rashid Haddad

Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News and Events

SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS TODAY

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.**

TEEN SOYO

All teenagers of the Parish are invited to join Ss. Peter & Paul Teen SOYO which will begin its new year on Sunday, September 18 with a meeting in the Serge Malooley Conference Room at 12:30p. Please contact Jamilee Khoury-Bellone, Teen SOYO Lay Advisor for more information at jamilieb@ yahoo.com

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 Saturday, October 22 at the Monastery of St. Nina in Union Bridge, MD. For more information contact Jad Ibrahim Jr. at jad.ibrahim.jr@gmail.com, Amber Bennett at ben-nett.amberrose@gmail.com, Lizzy Cassar or Dn. Christian Manasseh at dchristian@peterpaulpotomac.org.

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

Ladies Society Kick Off Luncheon September 18, 2016 (new date)

Please join the new Ladies Society Officers for our 2016-2017 Kickoff Luncheon on Sunday, September 18 after church in the Lower Level Hall. The new officers, Carol Laham, President, Donna Gavin, Vice President, Janet Metz, Treasurer, Artemis (Sharon) 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 18 after church. Put it on your calendar now!

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.

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.

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 11 *Blessing of the Children for the start of Sunday School classes
- Sep 13 *Parish Council Mtg/LL Conf. Rm/7:00p
- Sep 14 *Feast of the Elevation of the Cross
*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
*Teen SOYO Meeting 12:30p
*Baking Session @noon (see Bazaar insert)
*Ladies Auxiliary Luncheon to follow Liturgy (this is a new date)
- 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 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."

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.

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:

The Azar Family in Memory of Samia Tannous

FELLOWSHIP HOUR OFFERED BY:

The Azar Family in Memory of Samia Tannous

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
 Richie Kogok
 Isabel Threddeh
 Edmond & Sophie Neam

May Fillah
 Brian Briggs
 Holly Dubois
 Nicholas & Helen White

LIVING

Archpriest George & Family
 Nabeeha Ayoub
 Everett Alvarez
 Tesia Yonkers
 Greg, Maria, Zeid, Rami Wallace
 Adib Saah
 Jackie Bottash
 Fahed & Nawal Tannous
 Essa & Tagreed Azar

Raymond Ayoub
 Susan Ibrahim Ayoub
 Victor Joubran
 Melinda Fannoney
 Thelma Badwey
 George & Joanna Khoury
 Kera Tomlin

DEPARTED

Archpriest Boniface Black
 Frances Huenemann
 Marita Boulatta
 Lina Khoury
 Annette Lusby
 Yvonne Hyder
 Nahida Barbari
 Arkaid Azar
 Andrei Azar
 Maher Azar
 Samia Tannous
 Hillery Harvey

MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Did you know...the cost to repair the church's leaky roof over the past two years has amounted to approximately \$70,000? Without the emergency money allocated and the hard work and diligence of certain church members who attended to these repairs, we would not be able to attend Divine Liturgy every Sunday in a dry sanctuary.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Stewardship Corner

Theology of Giving Series – Week 37 – September 11, 2016

Luke 6: 38 ... "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

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>