

JANUARY 11, 2015

The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of All
North America

**The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
OF NORTH AMERICA**

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January 5, 2015

To: The Very Rev. George Rados, The Very Rev. Isaac Crow, Chairs of the Organizing Committee, and Faithful of Ss. Peter and Paul Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church of Potomac, Maryland:

Greetings and Blessings to you and your loved ones as we begin this New Year!

We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of you who worked so diligently to organize the historic visit of His Beatitude Patriarch John X to the parish of Ss. Peter and Paul during the weekend of December 11 through 14, 2014. We acknowledge that such a visit brings with it significant challenges, and that it requires much hard work and attention to details in order to insure success. The visit was indeed very successful, and it was evident that the work that you all did was a labor of love.

We especially wish to thank Fr. George Rados, Fr. Isaac Crow, the members of the organizing committee, and all of the faithful parishioners who labored to bring this historic weekend to fruition.

Praying that the Almighty God will continue to crown all of your efforts with success, I remain,

Paternally Yours,

+Joseph

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

"...the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch." ACTS 11:26

FELLOWSHIP HOUR AND BREAD OF HOLY OBLATION

| | BREAD OF HOLY OBLATION | FELLOWSHIP HOUR |
|--------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Jan 11 | El-Hage, Bolus, Tilev & Najjar | El-Hage, Bolus & Tilev |
| 18 | Emad family | Emad family |
| 25 | | Mokhiber family |
| Feb 1 | Abe & Susan Fannoney | Abe & Susan Fannoney |
| Feb 8 | | |
| 15 | Sam & Margo Sahouri-Ghanem | Sam & Margo Sahouri-Ghanem |
| 22 | | |
| Mar 1 | | |

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

10620 River Road Potomac Maryland 20854 • 301-765-3400 • www.peterpaulpotomac.org

SS. PETER AND PAUL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

All Things Are Possible to Him Who Believes

Matins: Sundays 9:30am

Divine Liturgy: Sundays 10:30am

Confessions: call to schedule

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

Gary Farha

Vice Chairman

George Salem

Secretary

Suzanne Hermes

Treasurer

Richard Mahan

Members

Abdallah Daoud

Rida Boulos

Paul Dibs

Lina Eid

Anita El-Araj

Dr. Bassam Haddad

David Jackson

Maha Jweied

Wayne Parr

Steve Simon

Tony Moussa

Church Secretary

office@peterpaulpotomac.org

Choir Director

John Slanta
choir@peterpaulpotomac.org

Chanters

Majd Akkawi
Wayne Parr
George Tannous

Ushers

Jerry Audi
Michael El Araj
Abraham Fannonny
Sam Khalil

ALTAR

Manager

Peter Aburdeineh

Servers

Captains -
Robert Bridenhagen
Nicholas Zolnerowich

TONE 6 SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2015 EOTHINON 9

St. Theodosios the Great & The Sunday after Epiphany

Today we Commemorate: Venerable Theodosios of Philotheou monastery on Athos; Venerable Agapios of Apamea in Syria; Venerable Michael of Klops, fool-for-Christ.

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 CHRIST (Tone 1)

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hath appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. THEODOSIOS (Tone 8)

The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father Theodosios, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

TROPARION 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 THEOPHANY OF CHRIST (Tone 4)

*(**On this day Thou hast appeared**)*

Today Thou hast appeared to the universe, O Lord, and Thy light hath been shed upon us, who praise Thee with knowledge, saying, Thou hast come and appeared, O unapproachable Light.

Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News

Theodosius the Great (Cenobiarch)

Saint Theodosius was born in the province of Cappadocia in the village of Mogarissus. His parents Proheresius and Eulogia were very devout. Endowed with a splendid voice, he zealously toiled at church reading and singing. St Theodosius prayed fervently that the Lord would guide him on the way to salvation. In his early years he visited the Holy Land and met with St Symeon the Stylite (September 1), who blessed him and predicted future pastoral service for him. Yearning for the solitary life, Saint Theodosius settled in Palestine into a desolate cave, in which, according to Tradition, the three Magi had spent the night, having come to worship the Savior after His Nativity. He lived there for thirty years in great abstinence and unceasing prayer. People flocked to the ascetic, wishing to live under his guidance. When the cave could no longer hold all the monks, St Theodosius prayed that the Lord Himself would indicate a place for the monks to live. Taking a censer with cold charcoal and incense, the monk started walking into the desert. At a certain spot the charcoal ignited by itself and the incense smoke began to rise. Here the monk established the first cenobitic monastery, or Lavra (meaning "broad" or "populous"). It was around this time that Theodosius' friend and countryman Sabbas the Sanctified was appointed Archimandrite of all the isolated monks in Palestine, by Patriarch Sallustius of Jerusalem (486-493). Therefore Theodosius was made the leader of all those monks who lived in community, and this was the origin of his being called "the Cenobiarch", which translates as chief of those living a life in common.

Soon the Lavra of St Theodosius became renowned, and up to 700 monks gathered at it. According to the final testament of St Theodosius, the Lavra rendered service to neighbor, gave aid to the poor and provided shelter for wanderers. There was a

communal table for all, communal property, communal penance, communal labor, communal patience and, not too rare, communal hunger. Theodosius was an exalted model of life to all the monks; an example in labor, prayer, fasting, watchfulness and in all Christian virtues.

St Theodosius was extremely compassionate. Once, when there was a famine in Palestine and a multitude of people gathered at the monastery, he gave orders to allow everyone into the monastery enclosure. His disciples were annoyed, knowing that the monastery did not have the means to feed all those who had come. But when they went into the bakery, they saw that through the prayers of the abba, it was filled with bread. This miracle was repeated every time St Theodosius wanted to help the destitute. At the monastery, St Theodosius built a home for taking in strangers, separate infirmaries for monks and laymen, and also a shelter for the dying. Seeing that people from various lands gathered at the Lavra, the saint arranged for services and hymns to be offered to God in the various languages: Greek, Georgian and Armenian. However when all were gathered to receive the Holy Mysteries in the large church, the divine services were chanted in Greek.

He died peacefully at the age of 105, in 529 AD.

Upcoming events...

Jan 13—Parish Council Meeting @ 7 pm
Jan 14—FSJD Evening with the Fathers @ 8pm
Jan 15—Adult Ed Forum "Exploring Our Faith" @ 7:15pm
Jan 18—Antiochian Women's Luncheon Meeting @ 12pm
Jan 20—Iconography Installation in Sanctuary begins
Jan 22—Adult Ed Forum @ 7:15pm
Jan 27—Men's Club Meeting

Feb 28—Baptism of Aurora Farmand 12:00pm

Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News

THE EPISTLE

(For St. Theodosios the Cenobiarch)

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saint.

What shall we render to the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto us?

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (13:7-16)

Brethren, remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the Word of God; consider the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings; for it is well that the heart be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited their adherents. We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through His own blood. Therefore, let us go forth to Him outside the camp and bear the abuse He endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city, which is to come. Through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His Name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday after Theophany)

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (4:12-17)

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulon and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

STEWARDSHIP MONTH

Our Parish Council is designating January as "Stewardship Month," during which we will make special efforts to bring to parishioners' attention the need to contribute to the financial support of our church and our Archdiocese. Our priests will help us understand what our faith has to say about stewardship. Upon the solid foundation built by those before us, we strive to continue the tradition of Ss Peter and Paul for those who come after us – our children and our children's children. The effort to sustain Ss Peter and Paul spiritually and financially never ends. It is OUR church. All are welcome to become involved, we need you! The doors are always open, thanks to all those who give of their treasure and time and labor here at the church. If you have not already done so, please complete and submit a green pledge form. During Stewardship Month, green pledge forms will be available in the vestibule for your convenience. Yellow envelopes are available for your Archdiocese dues. Each church is assessed based on their annual operating budget, so if you do not pay your share of the Archdiocese Assessment, it must come out of the church's general fund that could be used for other purposes. You may drop your envelope at the candle stand or in the collection basket.

DONATION ENVELOPES

There are 100 sets of donation envelopes available on a first come first served basis for parishioners who prefer using them. Envelopes are on the right counter as you enter Kogok Hall. Each box contains 100 envelopes and are undated and unnumbered. If you prefer including your member number with your donation, feel free to write it on the address line on the front of the envelope.

TEEN SOYO

2015 ICON LITURGICAL CALENDARS

Beautiful iconography made by Kh. Erin Kimmitt, who has handwritten the icons herself. The 2015 liturgical calendars are available at the Teen SOYO in Kogok Hall after Liturgy. Buy one today and support Teen SOYO. Cost is \$15 each, or \$20 for two.

NOT TOO SOON FOR SUMMER CAMP

Time to think summer...summer camp that is! Registration is open at the Village. There are 4 sessions including chant camp (during session 1) and iconography camp (during session 3). This is a wonderful experience for the kids to learn about and strengthen their faith, make friends, and enjoy the outdoors. As sessions fill quickly, go to avcamp.org and register today. Scholarship help is available; speak with Fr. George or Fr. Isaac. Additionally there is a wonderful family camp Memorial Day weekend for the whole family.

Several Ss. Peter and Paul families have participated in family camp and can answer any questions you may have. Email us for more info at SundaySchool@peterpaulpotomac.org.

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

The Antiochian Women of Ss. Peter & Paul will meet next on Sunday, January 18 immediately following Liturgy in the lower level hall. We meet for fellowship, encouragement and lunch—bring a dish to share! All ladies are welcome.

ICONOGRAPHY PROJECT 2015

At long last, the project to complete the Iconography (The Adornment project) in our Church will begin on January 19. The project will take approximately four weeks and it will therefore be necessary to hold Divine Liturgy in the main hall (Kogok Hall) on Sundays January 25, February 1, 8 and 15. The faithful are asked to be patient during this period as the Sanctuary will be a "work zone." Please remember that donations for the Iconography are still needed. Each donated Icon will be dedicated in a special "Journal Book of Consecration" upon completion of the Ss. Peter and Paul Adornment project.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Directors

Samia Zolnerowich
Jennifer Buchko

Teachers

Jumana Misleh
Susan Kozlov
Michelle Zook
Razan Abdallah
Christine Morin
Roxanne Bennett
Lara Bellone
Amber Bennett
Caroline Jarboe
Saleem Mokhiber
Stephen Zolnerowich
Anees Mokhiber

Men's Club

Sam Khalil

Antiochian Women

Kate Niewenhous

Teen SOYO

Adviser:
Majd Akkawi
Facilitators:
Phillip Allen
Reema Guegel
Stephen Zolnerowich
Samia 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

David Jackson

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.

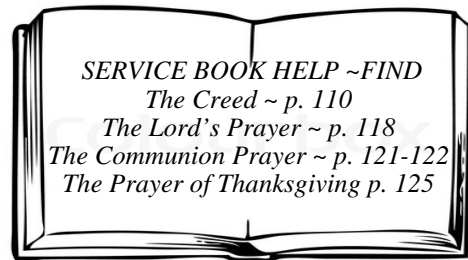
PLEASE DO NOT ENTER OR EXIT THE SANCTUARY AS

- 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.



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 & FELLOWSHIP HOUR:

Offered by Michael and Nadia El-Hage & Family; Catherine and Denise Bolus & Family; Metody Tilev & 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

LIVING

Parishioners who remain in our prayers continually

Margaret Ashley
 Lulu & George Brown
 Issa & Suad Shammass
 Edmond Neam
 Richie Kogok
 Renee Mourad

Barbara Abraham
 Metody, Juliana, Toni Matthew Tilev
 Sami & Norma Najjar & Family
 Layla & Philip Najjar
 Karim & Denise Najjar
 Michael & Nadia El-Hage & Family
 Catherine & Denise Boulos & Family
 Robert Neri

DEPARTED

Angel Mikhail Najjar (40 day)
 Philip Salim Najjar
 Daad Farid Karam
 Atanas & Ivanka Tilev
 Julian John El-Hage
 Shawky El-Hage
 John Bolus
 Amahl E-Hage Smaili

40-Day Memorial Service

A 40-Day Memorial Service for the repose of the soul of Angele Mikhail Najjar at will be offered by Sami & Norma Najjar and Family at 12:30 p.m. A luncheon in memory of Angele Najjar will be offered by Sami & Norma Najjar in the lower level hall following the Memorial Service