



SS. PETER AND PAUL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

"All Things Are Possible to Him Who Believes" (Mark 9:23)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND, 2025

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & FIFTH SUNDAY OF LUKE MARTYRS AKINDINOS, PEGASIOS, APHTHONIOS, ELPIDOPHOROS AND ANEMPODISTOS OF PERSIA

****Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom****

Incomparably more remarkable is the Wisdom of the all-wise and all-powerful God seen in the countless reasoning creatures He created. Each human vessel carries a separate, unique, and distinct ability! Each human vessel is a container with its own unique, spiritual gifts. One is capable of service, performed by the body; another is capable of acts of mercy; a third is capable of prayer and silence; another is able to shepherd the souls with words of truth and Spirit; another has abilities to lead people and find a place for them; another has the gift of providing society what they need for temporary life here on earth; food, clothing, homes, and the like.

- St. Ignatius Brianchaninov

Metropolitan SABA
Primate of the Antiochian
Archdiocese

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Great Vespers: Saturday 6:00 pm
Check the Calendar

for possible cancellation or changes

Matins: Sundays 9:20am

Divine Liturgy: Sundays 10:30am

Confessions: By appointment

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Antiochian Women

Please note that we livestream our services on the Church's YouTube channel

@SaintsPeterPaulAntiochian

We welcome all our guests worshipping with us at the Divine Liturgy. Please let our ushers know that you are visiting with us today. We would love to stay in touch!

Please know that we take Holy Communion very seriously and is offered to Orthodox Christians, after preparing themselves through prayers, fasting, & confession. **Non-Orthodox** visitors are welcome to receive blessed bread at the end of the Divine Liturgy & share food with us at coffee hour. The reason is simple following the advice of Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 11: 27-31:

"Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many die."

THE SYNAXARION

On November 2 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the contest of the holy Martyrs Akindinos, Pegasios, Anempodistos, Aphthonios, Elpidophoros and their companions of Persia.

Verses

The fire slew Akindinos; as for the others: some were slain with fire, others by beheading.

On the second, to Aphthonios and the others come fire, sword and contest.

The first three men were servants at the court of King Sapor in 355, but secretly served Jesus Christ. The king gave them over to harsh torture which they endured courageously and prayerfully. Angels and Christ Himself appeared to them. When one of the torturers, Aphthonios, saw that boiling lead did no harm to the martyrs, he believed in Christ. He was then immediately beheaded. Then the king commanded that his three servants be sewn into goat-skins and thrown into the sea. Aphthonios appeared from the other world with three shining angels, took the martyrs to dry land and set them free. Elpidophoros was a courtier. When he revealed that he was a Christian and denounced the king, the king beheaded Elpidophoros along with about 7,000 other Christians. Then the three martyrs named earlier were thrown into a burning furnace, along with 28 soldiers and the king's mother, who had also come to faith in Christ.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR

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 FOR THE PERSIAN MARTYRS IN TONE TWO

Blessed is the earth that drank your blood, O prizewinners of the Lord, and holy are the tabernacles that received your spirits; for in the stadium ye triumphed over the enemy, and ye proclaimed Christ with boldness. Beseech Him, we pray, since He is good, to save our souls.

APOLYTIKION OF SS. PETER AND PAUL IN TONE FOUR

O foremost in the ranks of Apostles, and teachers of the world, Peter and Paul, intercede with the Master of all to grant peace unto the world, and to our souls the Great Mercy.

ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

Commemorations

For the Health of these Parishioners

Mike & Dorothy Marge	Victor & Family	Hanneh Daoud
Michael Shihadi	Ibrahim Saah	Vilma Bellone
Nadim Zarour	Michael Amouri	Jennifer Brown & Family
Nahida Kaibni	Asma Ayoub	Nour & Anastasia
Mary Ishak	Yousef & Ghada	Abdallah, Christiane & Family
Isabel Threded	Zakieh Jweied & family	Christo & Mary Christakis
Shakeh Kerjilian & Family	Hind, Habib & Family	Margo, Sam & Family
Frank & Barbara Ellis	Paul Misleh	Barbara Zamer & Family
Brian, Caroline & Family	Fadia, Rich & Family	Edward & Eleanor Husson
Mary Sahouri & Family	Allison Ayoub	Elizabeth Albinger & Family
Saydeh Shaheen	Michael & Leila	John & Bette Adam
Jesse Daumit	Heidi Saba & family	Antoinette Najmeh
Ann Marie Moses		

DEPARTED

Bassem Khoury
 Fauzy Ghareeb
 Maya Moufawad
 Sergei Malooley
 David, Zakia, Marlene,
 Farris, David, & Alex Sayer
 Richard (Dick) Kogok
 Richard (Richie) Kogok
 Susan Fannoney

MEMORIAL

Sergei Malooley (20 years)
 Fauzy Ghareeb (40 days)

Special Prayer this Week for

Nicholas Durham Shane Zolnerowich Alexis Karina Santiago & Marisel
 Lorna & Family Lorraine, Jacqueline, Alex & Family

Coffee Hour, Holy Bread, and Memorial Wheat are offered by **Lorna Malooley** in loving memory of her husband **Sergei Malooley** for his 20-year memorial.

Holy Bread and Memorial Wheat are offered by **Lorraine, Jacqueline, and Alex Ghareeb** in loving memory of **Fauzy Ghareeb** for his 40-day memorial, and in loving memory of the **Deported Members of the Sayer Family** (Lorraine's Family).

If you want to offer Holy Bread or host Coffee Hour please use the QR Codes on the side.

Coffee Hour Available Dates

November 16 January 4
 November 23 January 11
 December 28 January 18

Host Coffee Hour

Offer Holy Bread



Coming Up @ Ss. Peter & Paul

November 7, **Forever Young! @ 11.** "Ways not to run out of money during retirement" by Brian Suto, VP Sr Financial Consultant, Charles Schwab

November 8, 2025, **Young Adults & Professionals Gala**, in the Social Hall

November 15, 2025, **Lionheart Retreat for Men** (15+), 2-6 pm

December 6, 2025, **Christmas Market**, 11 AM - 5 PM, in the Social Hall

December 7, 2025, **St. Nicholas Workshop**, after Divine Liturgy, in the Social Hall

December 13, 2025, **The Relationship Project, Part Three**, (2-6pm)

December 14, 2025, **Order of St. Ignatius Lunch**, after Divine Liturgy, in the Social Hall

LITURGICAL TEXTS



Scan QR Code
To Follow
Along
the Service

Got a Question about
Orthodox Christianity
or Our Faith & Worship

Join Us every Sunday
in the social hall
after the Divine Liturgy
for a Catechism Class

Join the Order of St Ignatius



Submit your
interest in the
Order here

Volunteering Opportunities At the Christmas Market

- Church Tours
- Kids Corner
- Setup
- Welcome Table
- Teens Table
- Tear Down
- Santa
- Church Bookstore



Parenting Toward the Kingdom Project

Are you a parent seeking to connect the wisdom of the Orthodox Christian tradition to parenting so your children may grow in their faithfulness to the Lord?

If so, join us for a ten-part discussion/workshop titled Parenting Toward the Kingdom, based on a bestselling book by the same name. Next meeting, November 20th @ 8 PM (via ZOOM)



Young Adults & Professionals Gala Saturday, November 8, 2025

At the Kogok Hall

6:00 - 7:00 PM Cocktail Hour
7:00 - 10:00 PM Gala Dinner and Dance

RSVP by November 2nd



Forever Young!

First Friday of the Month

Scan QR Code
To Register



November Charity Drive Montgomery County Family Justice Center

Items to Donate:

- Large Size Diapers (Sizes 3,4,5)
- New Winter Coats (for children)
- New Stuffed Animals



Scan the QR Code
For Online Donations

The Center provides coordinated advocacy, government, civil legal services and social services for victims of domestic violence and their children in Montgomery County.

Pursuing Christ as a Community Bible Study (8:30 PM/ZOOM)

Nov 4, 18
Dec 2, 16
Jan 20
Feb 3, 17
Mar 3, 17
April 21
May 5, 19
June 2, 16



Prayer Request

For Living
and/or Departed



For online donations,
use **your phone's**
camera to scan this
code and follow the link
to our secure donation
portal.



Ss. Peter & Paul WhatsApp Community

Join a Variety of Chat Groups
And Receive Parish Announcements



Scan QR Code
To Join

St. Raphael's Table First Saturday of the Month

Preparing and distributing meals
and toiletries to our neighbors in
need.

To Participate
use this QR code



Amazon Wishlist
for Toiletry Bags
is available here.



THE EPISTLE

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. O God, hear my prayer.

The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (2:16-20)

Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the Law but through faith in Jesus Christ. Even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the Law, because by works of the Law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the Law died to the Law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.

THE GOSPEL

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (16:19-31)

The Lord said, "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

If you, or someone you know, are affected by the government shut-down, please reach out to Fr. Luke for confidential assistance.

On Artificial Living

By Metropolitan Saba (Isper)

A couple once came to see me. They were constantly quarreling and blaming each other. As we spoke, it became clear that their problem was financial. Their spending far exceeded their income, forcing them to borrow money even though their income was not small compared to the average in our society.

I suggested a very simple solution: each of them should keep a small notebook and write down, every day, all their expenses. At the end of the month, they should sit together and categorize their spending—food, healthcare, communication, and so on. “After several months, you’ll know how much you truly need for each area of your life,” I told them. “You’ll also be able to distinguish between what is necessary and what is extra. Then you can set a fixed amount for each category. And if one month you must exceed a limit in one area, compensate by spending less in another, so you never fall into debt.”

They left relieved—but after the first month, they stopped. “We were shocked,” they told me later, “by how much we were spending, and we became afraid to continue budgeting.”

There are many couples like them. The strange thing in our society is that people are rarely taught, as children, the virtues of prudence and moderation in spending—and they seldom learn them as adults. So they end up being led by others, by the culture, and by the consumerist climate around them. Few truly lead themselves—living in a way that suits them, not others; choosing what benefits their soul, not what impresses their peers; and shaping their life according to what they see as good, not what others dictate.

Economically speaking, as inflation continues to weigh on most people, we see that rising prices seldom push them to reorganize their lives wisely and peacefully. They do not begin with simple steps like conserving energy in their homes. Instead, they live under constant tension, striving to appear wealthier than they are—even if it means borrowing and weighing themselves down with more debt. The result is more anxiety, more complaints, and more exhaustion.

Because the spiritual dimension of their lives is shallow, they find no true relief from their worries. So they throw themselves deeper into the same whirlwind of endless activity—believing that entertainment and distraction will free them from their stress and emptiness. But once the diversion ends, they return to the same anxiety and fatigue. And so the cycle repeats, grinding them down until their life is spent.

Faced with the relentless grind of consumer society, which crushes people and drains their physical, spiritual, and material resources, we are in dire need, first and foremost, of courage and faith in God and in ourselves. Following that, we need to learn the art of moderation and managing our daily affairs in the best way possible, not merely the easy way.

Within every human being lies a desire to appear admirable before others. This desire may vary in intensity from one person to another, yet the need to exist in the eyes of others, rather than in our own, remains strong.

Do we notice how fashion constantly changes? Or how the images of celebrities shape our behavior? How much do these things push us toward a life of pretense—toward extravagant celebrations and “luxurious” weddings that exhaust us?

A wise woman once said to me, describing her family: “They don’t live for themselves—they live for others. They are enslaved by their desire to look good in others’ eyes, even falsely, and they pay for it with their happiness and health.”

Today’s world leaves no room for our carelessness. Life has become profoundly consumerist, built on the illusion that happiness comes from shopping and spending. In truth, happiness is born from contentment with what is essential. Luxuries have never been a source of lasting joy; they are only brief moments of pleasure that fade quickly.

True happiness wells up from within—from the peace that comes through God’s presence in our lives; from a soul that knows the meaning of its existence; from one who has learned to distinguish between what is necessary and what is superfluous;
from one who wishes to live according to what truly suits him and not what others expect.

Such a person has the courage to live by their spiritual convictions rather than by social trends. In short, happiness belongs to the one who is secure enough to seek what is right and pleasing to God and conscience, even when it contradicts the customs of society.

The wise seek approval in the eyes of God, and then in their own—not in the opinions of others. They do not care if others look down on them for living simply, because their sense of worth comes not from human praise but from the joy of God’s approval and the integrity of their soul.

We still resist the first step in the ladder of priorities—the call to simplicity—even though deep down everyone longs for it. The Gospel invites us again and again:

- “Give us this day our daily (essential) bread...” (Matt. 6:11)
- “Do not be anxious about what you will eat or drink...” (Matt. 6:25)
- “One thing is needful... Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her...” (Luke 10:42)
- “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you...” (Matt. 6:33)
- “Flee from the love of money, from the love of power, and from the pride of life...” (see 1 Tim. 6:10, 2 Tim. 2:22, 1 John 2:16)

Do we ever ask ourselves, when we act extravagantly or live beyond our means, whether we are contradicting the Gospel? Or are we simply unaware, misusing the popular saying, “Everything has its time,” as our excuse?

How much careful discernment we need to gain that blessed spiritual sensitivity that helps us tell what is necessary from what is not, what benefits from what harms, what is essential from what is excessive!

How much courage and confidence we need to show our true selves, to live according to our convictions without shame, and to despise what contradicts our principles instead of feeling ashamed by them!

How much trust in ourselves and in our beliefs we need, so that we do not rush to imitate others out of fear of seeming lesser than they!

When will we realize that we grow in stature when we resist the tide of consumerism and rejoice in simple living, content with God’s presence in our lives—and that we shrink when we chase after artificial living, which gives fleeting excitement but steals our lasting joy?

“Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; but one thing is needful” (Luke 10:41–42).

Thank You

FOR MAKING THE VACATION BIBLE CAMP A SUCCESS!

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All of Our Amazing Teens and Tweens

last but not least!