

	Bread of Holy Oblation	Fellowship Hour
20 Nov	The Kheirbek Family	Nadir & Silvia Tawil
27 Nov	Michael & Laila Elaraj & Family Bruce & Reema Fekrat	Michael & Laila Elaraj & Family Bruce & Reema Fekrat
04 Dec	Slanta & Bosworth Families In honor of Alexandra's 3rd. Birthday & IMO St. Nicholas	Slanta & Bosworth Families In honor of Alexandra's 3rd. Birthday & IMO St. Nicholas
11 Dec	David & Dolly Browning Daoud Family	St. Ignatious Luncheon
18 Dec	Grace Malouf & Family	Grace Malouf & Family

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

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2016

TONE 5/EOTHINON 11

TRANSFER OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS

APOLYTIKION OF THE RESURECTION (Tone 5)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS (Tone 4)

Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. Thou hast appeared in the Temple of God openly and hast gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying: Rejoice, O thou who art the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

KONTAKION OF ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS (Tone 4)

The all-pure temple of the Savior, the most precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the treasure-house of the glory of God, today enters the Temple of the Lord, bringing with her the grace which is in the divine Spirit: whom also the angels of God do celebrate in song; for she is the heavenly tabernacle.

*To bear a grudge and pray, means to sow seed on the sea and expect a harvest.
Saint Isaac Syrian*

POINTSETTA FLOWER DONATIONS

The Ladies Auxiliary is collecting donations for the Poinsettias displayed in our Church during the Christmas Holiday. If you would like to make a donation for the health of or in memory of your loved ones, please complete the form available in the vestibule. Completed forms can be returned to the Ladies Auxiliary attention of Thomaseena Cox or Leila Ayoub, Thomaseena Cox – cox1903@aol.com or Leila Ayoub – layoub@finmarc.com or fax 301-497-9472. Completed forms need to be returned no later than **Sunday, December 18th**.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD

Each year Teen SOYO produces the parish Christmas card on behalf of the families our parish. Donations to this project provide much needed financial support to a variety of charities that the teens work with and allows them to put special programs and activities together. The suggested donation is \$30.00. The teens will be collecting donations during Fellowship Hour and will have a list of how the names appeared last year. Please take time to review and provide edits on how you wish your name to appear. You can also email your edits to christmascard@peterpaulpotomac.org. The deadline for edits is Wednesday, November 23.

Attaining the Kingdom Of Heaven (con't)

By Metropolitan Joseph

This article is adapted from a speech given by His Eminence to a Northern California Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of North America retreat in November, 2002.

To not discredit the worthiness that Christ has shared with us, we must behave in a worthy manner. We must, as the Liturgy teaches us, "lay aside all earthly cares, that we may receive the King of all." If we are bound by earthly cares, we cannot escape sin and temptation. Slander, gossip, anger, infidelity, theft, and all other sins stem from a heart filled with the world, not with Christ. A child of the Kingdom, who walks daily with Christ in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, has no time for sins. Once you truly taste the Kingdom of Heaven, then worldly cares have no appeal.

The Apostles themselves struggled with this. As they walked with Christ, He taught them of the coming Kingdom. He gradually led them to understand that the Cross and the Resurrection were His way of sharing with them His divinity and renewed humanity. Yet they still struggled. The Gospel of Mark says:

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared." (Mark 113:35-40)

As we hear in the Scripture, to be exalted and glorified is not ours to seek out. Indeed, we will share in the trials of this life as Christ did, but we ought not to ask for glory and earthly honors. The Apostles assumed that our Lord had come to establish an earthly kingdom. They pictured a great castle and a fancy court. They fantasized about riches and grandeur, but they missed the point. The point is that the glory is not so important as the partaking.

"Many are called, but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14). If we can squeeze through the narrow gate, we ought to be satisfied. Those who seek the chief seats will be disappointed, which is why our Lord tells us to take the lowest. Do not think for a moment that seeking honors in the Church is somehow more spiritual than seeking honors in business or the social realm.

If we seek honor, then we are nursing our pride. This child will grow up to be our captor, for pride tells us we are perfect and have no need for God.

Pride tells us how inferior others are, and how they do not deserve our love or mercy. Pride will keep us outside the gates of repentance, telling us that we have no sins to confess and that we have the right to judge others.

Let us lay aside pride and arrogance, so that we can be saved by Christ and partake of His Kingdom. Let us grow in our love for Him, each day living out our baptism by drinking from the cup of co-suffering love for others. Let us take up our crosses and follow Christ in this world, being in the world, but not of it.

Beloved in Christ, we have been given so very much. It is now up to us whether we will grow more like Christ, or lose the Kingdom by conforming ourselves to worldly expectations. To grow in Christ, to grow in the Kingdom, means to be more loving, more forgiving, more generous, more supportive of others, more positive, more encouraging, more prayerful.

If we desire the Kingdom, then we desire the will of the King. Our Lord's desire is that His Kingdom be full, and so it is up to us to bring others in and keep those we have. Let us be good hosts and hostesses in the Kingdom. Let us serve the tables of the Lord, that the wedding banquet may be full of joy. There is a whole nation outside waiting to see the Kingdom. Let us all show them what it is like to grow in Christ.

Priest

Very Reverend
Fr. Isaac Crow
frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org
(401) 300-8238 cell
(240) 489-3494 home

Deacon

Dn. Christian Manasseh
DnChristian@peterpaulpotomac.org

Priest Emeritus

Very Reverend
Fr. George Rados
frgeorge@peterpaulpotomac.org

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Wayne Parr

George Tannous

Zeina Manasseh

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Jerry Audi

Michael El Araj

Abraham Fannoney

Sam Khalil

ALTAR

Manager

Peter Aburdeineh

Servers

Captains -

Rashid Haddad

Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News and Events

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have classes for children 3 years old through 12th grade. Classes meet following Communion. All registrations are handled online at <http://tinyurl.com/registerSunSchool>. We are in need of snacks & drinks for the kids. Individually wrapped snacks, juice pouches, flavored water pouches in the 4oz-6oz & small 8oz bottles for water. We ask each family to contribute throughout the year.

Sun. Dec. 11

The Christmas Sunday school play & St. Ignatius Luncheon. Carol Pappas will provide her beautiful costumes for our children.

TEEN SOYO

Nov. 20-Dec. 31

Teens collecting donations for the parish Christmas card.

Dec. 4

Teen SOYO monthly meeting at 12:30 p.m. LL Conf. Cntr.

Dec 10

Christmas caroling for the elderly in the Church. More details to follow.

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, potluck dinners, and Orthodoxy-on-Tap get togethers. For more information contact Jad Ibrahim Jr. at jad.ibrahim.jr@gmail.com, Amber Bennett at netnet.amberrose@gmail.com, Lizzy Cassar or Dn. Christian Manasseh at dchristian@peterpaulpotomac.org.

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

Antiochian Women Christmas Charity Outreach

Donations are being sought for the homeless and shut-ins and for gift baskets and backpacks as an outreach ministry program. Please give generously to this good cause and come and join the Antiochian women in assembling the baskets and backpacks on Sunday, December 4 during coffee hour.

Dec 03

*Wreath Making (see flyer on round table in Narthex)

Dec 04

*Backpacks & baskets for the homeless & Shut-ins. Parish Service Event (see insert & flyer on round table in Narthex)

Dec 10

*The Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Luncheon (see text box on p 2)

MEN'S CLUB

Dec 3, 2017

Decorate Church for Christmas

Jan 7, 2017

Take down Church decorations

Jan 29, 2017

Falafal Lunch

Feb 11, 2017

Valentine Dinner Dance (more details to follow)

Jun 14, 2017

Golf Tournament

Jun 25, 2017

Ss. Peter & Paul Picnic/Bretton Woods Rec Ctr (more details to follow)

"EXPLORING OUR FAITH"

THE SS. PETER AND PAUL ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORUM

"Exploring Our Faith" will meet every other Thursday evening from 7:15pm to 8:30pm in the lower level conference room. The next meeting is **Thursday, December 1, 2016**. Fr. Isaac facilitates the meetings using brief presentations as a springboard to open discussion on a wide range of topics concerning our Faith. Please contact Fr. Isaac at frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org or Kate Niewenhaus at handmaidens20854@gmail.com for more information. ALL ARE WELCOME..

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 (alexcoxsells@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.

ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE NEWS

Antiochian Village News: Winter Camp registration is now open! Winter Camp will be February 17-20, 2017. Please go to www.avcamp.org for more information. The session will likely fill up quickly so please don't delay if you would like to send your child!

Upcoming events...

Nov 20	*Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple (observed) *Teen SOYO collection for Parish Christmas Card (thru December 31, 2016)
Nov 22	*Interfaith Thanksgiving Svc/@Har Shalom/7p-9p (see flyer on round table in Narthex)
Nov 24	*Offices closed/Thanksgiving
Nov 26	*Kreutter/Jackson Wedding
Nov 27	*Baptism/John Augustus Mele/1:30p
Dec 03	*Ladies Aux Wreath Making/Kogok Hall *Decorate Church for Christmas
Dec 04	*St. Nicholas Workshop/Sunday School/LL Hall *Parish Service Event/packing backpacks & baskets for homeless & shut-ins following Liturgy
Dec 10	*Teen SOYO mtg. to follow Liturgy *Ladies Christmas Luncheon (see text box p2) *Teen SOYO Christmas Caroling
Dec 11	*Christmas Sunday School Play *St. Ignatius Luncheon to follow Sunday School Play
2017	
Jan 07	*take down Church decorations
Jan 29	*Falafal Lunch (in lieu of Coffee hour)
Feb 11	*Valentine Dinner Dance (more details to follow)

THE EPISTLE

*My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
He hath regarded the lowliness of His servant.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (9:1-7)

Brethren, even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lamp stand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (10:38-42; 11:27-28)

At that time, Jesus entered a certain village; and a woman named Martha received Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to His teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to Him and said, "Lord, dost Thou not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." As He said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore Thee, and the breasts that Thou didst suck!" But He said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Ss. Peter & Paul Church Library & Learning Center

Work has begun on setting up the new Parish Library and Learning Center in the lower level of the Church. Donations are still needed to support this important educational and informational resource center for the Parish. Please send all donations to St. Peter & Paul Church earmarked "Library Fund." In addition, donation of books on topics related to the Orthodox Faith, Doctrine, Church History, Liturgy, and Scripture will be gratefully accepted. Please contact Fr. Isaac, Dn. Christian, or Kate Niewenhaus for more information.

ATTENTION LADIES OF THE PARISH:

The Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Luncheon is fast approaching. December 10, at 11:30 has been reserved for 60 guests at Maggiano's at Tysons Galleria. No whining now. I know everyone loves Wildfire but I thought a change from our usual would be fun. The menu is being developed but the cost will not exceed \$42.00 per person. Of course, there will be a cash bar. And I am working on the Christmas questionnaire. I know last years' quiz wasuh,.....challenging.

More to come but please mark your calendars.

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
Stephen Zolnerowich
Rula Nassar

Men's Club

Sam Khalil

Antiochian Women

Carol Laham

Teen SOYO

Advisor

Jamilee Bellone

Officers

Danielle Bellone
Kinda Callas
Maya Saah
Joud Al-Kallas
Juliana Natour

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.

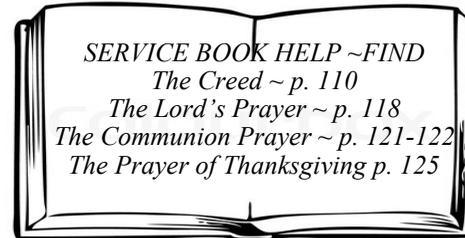
PLEASE DO NOT ENTER OR EXIT THE SANCTUARY AS

- 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.



HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION OFFERED BY:

The Kheirbek Family

FELLOWSHIP OFFERED BY:

Nadir & Silvia Tawil

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
 Helen White
 Holly Dubois
 Edmond & Sophie Neam
 George & Joan Abraham
 Barbara Abraham
 Everett Alvarez

Brian Briggs
 Isabel Threddeh
 Thelma Badwey
 Tesia Yonkers
 Lulu Brown
 Mary Smith

DEPARTED

May Fillah
 Irfan Shahid
 Frances Cox
 Helweh Tawil
 Farag Naim Tawil
 Fadel Taweel
 Alice Haje

LIVING

Archpriest George & Family

Victor Joubran

Leena Haddad

Dr. Eyad Hamameh

Lucy Sokol

George & Sam Brown

The Tawil Family

The Audi Family

Issa Zanayed

Jackie Bottash

Siham Ayoub

The Family of May Fillah

Mahmoud, Raya, Maryam, Raymond, Lena & Abraham Kheirbek Family

Marie Hyder

Debbie Brown

Nick Nahas

Janice

Irene Decker

Ghada Taweel

The Zanayed Family

Sherrie Zacharia

Patricia Bottash

Mary Shahid

November Collection

The collection for the November charity is the IOCC International Orthodox Christian Charities. We will take up the collection on Sunday, November 27.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Theology of Giving Series – Week 47 – November 20, 2016

2 Corinthians 8: 8-9 ... "I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich."

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>