



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 23RD, 2025

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & NINTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

AFTER-FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS

**AMPHILOKIOS, BISHOP OF ICONIUM; GREGORY,
BISHOP OF AGRIGENTUM**

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

Metropolitan SABA
Primate of the Antiochian
Archdiocese

PRIEST

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Be careful with your mouth, but primarily with your mind; do not let evil thoughts start talking to you. Do not let your mouth say words that could perhaps wound your brother. Let your mouth put forth words which are fragrant: words of consolation, courage and hope. It is a person's mouth that reveals his interior, inner man.

Elder Ephraim of Arizona †

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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TEEN SOYO & YOUNG ADULTS

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Jumana Misleh

GIFT SHOP

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 23 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we continue to celebrate the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Holy of Holies, and we commemorate our father among the saints Amphilokios, bishop of Iconium.

Verses

*Sent forth in dead man's dress, O Amphilokios,
Though dead, thou dost scatter spiritual ambushes.
On the twenty-third, death took Amphilokios.*

Amphilokios was a friend of St. Basil the Great and other great saints of the fourth century. He lived in a cave in asceticism for forty years. After that, he was consecrated Bishop of Iconium. He took part in the Second Ecumenical Council in 381. He zealously fought the impious Macedonius and the Arians. He personally begged Emperor Theodosius the Great to expel all the Arians from every city in the empire, but the emperor did not heed him. Days later, Amphilokios came before the emperor again, but ignored his son, Arcadius, sitting next to him. The saint said to the enraged emperor: "Do you see, O Emperor, how you do not tolerate disrespect to your son? So too, God the Father does not tolerate disrespect to His Son, and is disgusted with the corruptness of those who blaspheme Him." Amphilokios died in great old age in 395.

On this day, we also commemorate our father among the saints Gregory, bishop of Agrigentum. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

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.

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.

KONTAKION OF ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

The sacred treasury of God's holy glory, * the greatly precious bridal chamber and Virgin, * the Savior's most pure temple, free of stain and undefiled, * into the House of the Lord * on this day is brought forward * and bringeth with herself the grace * of the Most Divine Spirit; * her do God's Angels hymn with songs of praise, * for she is truly the heavenly tabernacle.

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 Thredeth	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
 Shihady Khoury
 Samuel Tedla
 Nabil Saad
 Malek, Amale, Steve, Rateb,
 Bahjat, Nicole, Euginy, &
 Saad

MEMORIAL

Bassem Khoury (40 days)
 Samuel Tedla (21 years)

Special Prayer this Week for

Stacey Franetzki	Tedla Family & Piechocinski Family
Rima, Chancey & family	Scott, Martha George & Family
Franka, Sarah, Najat & family	Najo, Habib Hayek & Family

CROWNING ANNIVERSARY

Scott & Martha George
 (30th Anniversary)

Coffee Hour, Holy Bread & Memorial Wheat are offered by the **Tedla Family, the Piechocinski Family, and the Abu El-Hawa Family** in loving memory of their brother **Samuel Tedla-Zewoldi** for his 20th Memorial.

Holy Bread is offered by **Rima & Chancey Reynolds** in loving memory of **Nabil Saad**.

Holy Bread & Memorial Wheat are offered by the **Khoury Family** in loving memory of **Bassem Khoury** for his 40-day memorial.

Holy Bread is offered by **Ashley, Kelly, Scott, Jr. and Melanie George** in celebration of their parents', **Scott & Martha**, 30th Wedding Anniversary.

Holy Bread is offered by **Najo & Habib Hayek** for the health of **their Family**, and in loving memory of **their departed Family Members**.

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

Coffee Hour Available Dates

January 4	January 25
January 11	February 1
January 18	February 22

Host Coffee Hour

Offer Holy Bread



Coming Up @ Ss. Peter & Paul

Tuesday, Nov 25, **Feast of St. Katherine** @ 6:30 PM

Wednesday, Nov 26, **Akathist of Thanksgiving** @ 7:00 PM

Thursday, Dec 4, **Feast of Ss. Barbara and John of Damascus** @ 6:30 PM

Saturday, Dec 6, **Feast of St. Nicholas** @ 9:30 AM

Saturday, Dec 6, **Christmas Market**, 11 AM - 5 PM, in the Social Hall

Sunday, Dec 7, **St. Nicholas Workshop**, after Divine Liturgy, in the Social Hall

Saturday, Dec 13, **The Relationship Project, Part Three**, (2-6pm)

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

Wednesday, Dec 24, **Royal Hours for the Nativity** @ 10 AM
Matins and divine liturgy @ 6 PM

Wednesday, Dec 31, **Circumcision, St. Basil, and New Year** Matins and Liturgy @ 6 PM

The 2026 Church Calendars Are Now Available

Pick Up Your Copy at the Narthex

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)

Scan the QR Code To Participate

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.

LITURGICAL TEXTS

Scan the 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

Scan the QR Code To Submit your
interest in the Order

Ss. Peter & Paul WhatsApp Community

Join a Variety of Chat Groups
And Receive Parish Announcements

Scan the QR Code To Join

St. Raphael's Table First Saturday of the Month

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

Scan the QR Code To Participate

Forever Young!

First Friday of the Month

Scan the QR Code To Register

Prayer Request

For Living and/or Departed

Scan the QR Code To Request a Prayer

Pursuing Christ as a Community

Bible Study

(8:30 PM/ZOOM)

Dec 2, 16
Jan 20
Feb 3, 17
Mar 3, 17

April 21
May 5, 19
June 2, 16

MULTILINK QR CODE

For your online donations, registration for events,
and participation in activities

1- Use **your phone's camera** to scan the QR code

2- Click on the Appropriate Link

3- RSVP and/or Donate



THE EPISTLE

The Lord will give strength to His people.

Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God, ascribe to the Lord honor and glory.

The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (2:14-22)

Brethren, Christ is our peace, Who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the Cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And He came and preached peace to you, who were far off, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in Whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in Whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

THE GOSPEL

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (12:16-21)

The Lord spoke this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As He said this, Jesus called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

On Self-Criticism

By Metropolitan Saba (Isper)

Father Arseny (1893-1973) was a man of prayer and a high-caliber spiritual father. He spent eighteen years in a hard labor camp in Siberia during communist rule (1940-1958). Once, during a heated argument between two ideologically opposed groups of political prisoners, one of the leaders forcefully brought Father Arseny into the argument. The leader asked Father in front of everyone about his and the Church's position on the atheist government that arrests and kills priests, demolishes churches and monasteries, and relentlessly fights the faith. This leader thought he would have fun embarrassing a "stupid" priest.

Father Arseny hesitated to answer. He did not want to engage in the debate, especially since he had not engaged in such debates before. But, under pressure, he made the sign of the cross and began a detailed explanation, the conclusion of which was that the roots of atheism and hostility toward the Church were planted by the Russians' own hands because of "the bad examples demonstrated by the intellectuals, the nobility, merchants and government employees. Yet we, the clergy, were the worst of all." He concluded by saying: "I cannot point the finger at our authorities because the seeds of disbelief have fallen into the soil that we ourselves have prepared. We ourselves are guilty, too. We are only reaping what we sow."

In prison, Father Arseny suffered a great deal of persecution and paid a high price for his disposition. He presented an honest example of non-violence in the face of the terrible suffering he and his people were experiencing. Moreover, he offered a deep analysis of the reasons that led to their suffering.

Our Orthodox spiritual teaching speaks of "self-blame," which is based on discovering one's personal role in transgressions or mistakes, rather than blaming others. We can also call this "self-criticism," which we rarely find in our circles. We tend to blame and criticize others while considering ourselves "innocent of the blood of this just man."

A person does not mature at any level, nor do institutions advance and develop, unless they continuously follow the principle of frequent self-criticism or self-evaluation.

On a personal level, if we're not convinced that we have our share of flaws, and if we don't examine and monitor them closely, then how can we get rid of them? Why do we have the right to see other peoples' faults and slam them when we are full of the same faults? How applicable is the following gospel verse to our reality: "Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye and do not care about the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, take the plank out of your own eye first, so that you can see clearly and remove the speck from your brother's eye" (Matthew 7:3, 5).

The true believer criticizes himself first, then denounces the wrong actions of other people rather than criticizing the people. In fact, we have too much experience criticizing rather than critiquing. The difference between the two aspects is huge. Criticism can be based on emotions, anger and complaints. It can be stained with subjectivity and irrationality, so the dialogue becomes insulting and destructive to the other. It can also be based on a superficial knowledge of the matter. Criticism can lack any effort to recognize the reasons that might lead to consequences. Thus, the discussion leads to termination of the dialogue, causing participants to depart carrying nothing but feelings of anger, hatred and dissatisfaction. Criticism can be a negative act because situations remain unchanged. It can be mainly "venting" that is followed by more intense and turbulent emotional surges.

Critique, however, is based on calmness and a deep analysis which investigates the inner core of matters to understand their flaws and the reasons behind them. Critique focuses not on the person but reaching an understanding of the mistakes he committed in order to correct them. Critique has its own components and standards that require strict adherence. It must be constructive and positive to lay out the foundations for evaluation and reform.

Criticism deceives people into thinking that, by directing their anger at mistakes and blaming others for them, they absolve themselves of responsibility. Whereas in critique, the critic can help to improve the state of decline, regression, or corruption.

If our homes were filled with piety and the fear of God, and built on Gospel values and virtues, would they produce opportunists, self-seekers, and the weak? If we raised our children on truth, objectivity, and the meaning of true life, would there be any place for triviality, superficiality, and selfishness? "Do they pick grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles?" (Matthew 7:16).

We frequently encounter criticism of a variety of issues and people, many of which might be true. Yet the important task is inquiring and searching for causes that lead to these issues and reaching solutions to reduce errors and rectify their consequences. Most important of all is claiming personal responsibility for deficiencies and seeking ways to correct them. If we place blame on others, we will remain hostage to what we despise and complain about.

Above all, ask questions and demand answers from yourself. Do not underestimate your role, no matter how minor and insignificant you might believe it is. You do have a part in spreading the culture of constructiveness but start without focusing too much on cultivating results. What matters is that you do your best.

A simple and virtuous mother is incomparably better than an educated mother who lacks virtue. Dedicated schoolteachers who love their students produce a generation of positive students of integrity: a devout priest who is an apostle to others and changes their lives; a polite and ethical worker who contributes to building trust among members of society; a humble and patient intellectual who opens closed minds.

God has given you one or more talents to advance and increase rather than wasting your time gossiping about others while remaining empty and trivial.

IOCC Sunday, November 23, 2025

Celebrating IOCC's Work

Each year, the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America sets aside the Sunday before Thanksgiving to highlight humanitarian relief. Through IOCC's ministry, Orthodox faithful across the US are serving people in need.

This is your chance to share IOCC's work—a ministry that represents every Orthodox priest and every Orthodox Christian in the United States today. We thank you!

There are many ways to get involved!

- Get Youth Involved
- Host an IOCC Fundraiser
- Use IOCC's Prayer Journal
- Set Up an Information Table

Scan the QR Code
For More Information
And to Make a Donation



ANTIOCHAIN WOMEN DONATION DRIVE FOR THE NEEDY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BETHESDA CARES

**We Will Be Collecting Items
For Twenty Households**

- Please collect all items on the list and place them in a large bag
(Reusable Grocery Bags will be supplied)
- Bring the items to church and place them in the Narthex

Monetary Donations Are Also Appreciated

Scan QR Code to Donate or
Bring a Check (*Memo: Bethesda Cares*)



List of Items

1. Small Pots and Pans
2. Coffee Filters
3. Kitchen Size Trash Bags
4. Dawn or Any Liquid Dishwashing Detergent
5. Sponges
6. Shower Curtain (only)
7. Paper Towels
8. Package of Toilet Paper
9. Small Laundry Detergent



For More Information, Contact Rida Boulos
C: (703) 887-4975 E: frita18@aol.com

DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 14

Ramallah Club Annual Christmas Party

December 13 at 6:00 PM

Ss. Peter & Paul Church
10620 River Rd, Potomac, MD 20854



Teen SOYO 2025 Christmas Cards

**Only the names of people who donate towards the Christmas Cards
will appear on the Christmas Card**

Deadline to submit names **Monday, December 1st**

Scan the QR Code to Participate

DONATIONS FOR THE POINSETTIAS

The **Ladies Ministry** will be collecting
donations
for the Poinsettias Project

*Donations are offered for the health of
or in memory of your family and/or friends.*

Scan the QR Code to fill out the form
and make your donation.

For More Information
Please see Thomaseena Cox or Beth Davis

Volunteering At the Christmas Market

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

**Scan the QR Code
to Volunteer**

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