

	Bread of Holy Oblation	Fellowship Hour
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	St. Ignatious Luncheon
18 Dec	Grace Malouf & Family	Grace Malouf & Family
24 Dec	Open (need 9-10 loaves)	No fellowship

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 27, 2016

tone 6/EOTHINON 1

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

& THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

GREAT-MARTYR JAMES THE PERSIAN

VENERABLE PALLADIOS OF THESSALONICA; VENERABLE NATHANAEL OF NITRIA IN EGYPT;

JAMES THE WONDERWORKER, BISHOP OF ROSTOV

APOLYTIKION OF THE RESURRECTION (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 ST. JAMES THE PERSIAN (Tone 4)

Thy Martyr, O Lord, in his courageous contest for Thee * received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. * For, since he possessed Thy strength, he cast down the tyrants * and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. * O Christ God, by his prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

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 PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY (Tone 3)

Today the Virgin cometh to the cave where she will give birth in an ineffable manner to the Word Who is before all the ages. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hearest it heralded: Glorify Him, with the angels and the shepherds, Who chose to be seen as a new-born babe, the God Who is before all the ages.

The primary lesson for life must be implanted in the soul from the earliest age. The primary lesson for children is to know the eternal God, the One Who gives everlasting life.

St. Clement of Rome

POINTSETTA FLOWER DONATIONS

The Antiochian Women are 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 Antiochian Women 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 every Sunday through the end of December during Fellowship Hour or you can mail your donation to the Church, Attn. Jamilee Bellone/Teen SOYO.

The Immaculate Conception

The Orthodox Church especially honors the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God and chants to her at every Divine Liturgy, "More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, who without corruption gave birth to God the Word, true Theotokos we magnify thee." Our Church also teaches that the First Woman, Eve, formed disobedience for the human race, while the New Eve, the Virgin Mary, formed salvation -- that is, our God and Savior Christ -- for the human race. Thus she became a mother for every Christian, who is a brother to our Lord and Savior Jesus.

The Virgin Mary received divinity into her body without losing her human nature, which was united to the divine nature. She is the one who "without corruption gave birth to God the Word." She became the first woman who embodied the words of the Apostle Peter, "that through these you may become partakers of the divine nature" (1 Peter 1:4). And so humanity's divinization was achieved in the person of the Virgin Mary.

It is said that a young monk was praying before an icon of the Theotokos on the Holy Mountain and an angel appeared to him and started teaching him how best to magnify the Virgin Mother of God, telling him as follows: "It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos, ever-blessed and most pure and the mother of our God..." This icon that is known as "It is Meet (Axion Estin)" is kept until today in the chief church on the Holy Mountain.

This exceedingly great honor for the Theotokos did not prevent us Orthodox Christians from rejecting the decision issued by the Vatican in 1854 known as the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. This decision claims that at the moment of her conception in the womb of her mother Anne, she was exempt from any stain of ancestral sin, as a gift from God Almighty.

The decision declares that it is a dogma announced by God and that all the faithful most hold to it.

It is our duty as right-believing Orthodox Christians to declare in turn that this dogma does not honor the Virgin Mary, but rather, to the contrary, it degrades her honor by making her into a sort of superwoman, has though she had magically become a demigod. This decision distorts the personality of the Virgin, the magnitude of her love for God, and her freedom to not accept any sin in her human struggle. Like every human, she inherited the results of original sin, especially the experience of pain and death, as Christ Himself tasted them. Like her Son and Creator, she bore the fullness of human nature without attachment to sin.

All this does not mean that we Orthodox do not confess Mary's virginity, which was declared at the Fifth Ecumenical Council in 553, which declared that she is a virgin before begetting, in the act of begetting, and after begetting. The sign of this appears on her icon in the form of three stars: one on her brow and one on each of her shoulders.

In the Orthodox Church, we never diminish the holiness of the Virgin Mary, but at the same time we do not make exaggerated claims that she is exempt from ancestral sin and its consequences, which strips her of the virtue of her human struggle that made her immune to falling into sin, so that she may remain ever pure. We refuse to regard her as a total partner in salvation in the manner of the Holy Trinity, which alone is Creator and is completely distinct from creation, which includes the nature of Mary, our mother and first intercessor and the holiest of all the saints.

+Ephrem
Metropolitan of Tripoli, al-Koura and their Dependencies

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

COUNCIL

Chairperson

Suzanne Hermes

Vice Chairman

Gary Farha

Secretary

Steve Simon

Treasurer

Richard Mahan

Members

Alex Cox

Abdallah Daoud

Paul Debs

Lina Eid

Anita El-Araj

Samer Korkor

Justin Misleh

Tony Moussa

Wayne Parr

Metody Tilev

George Zaki

Church Secretary

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Choir Director

John Slanta

choir@peterpaulpotomac.org

Chanters

Wayne Parr

George Tannous

Zeina Manasseh

Ushers

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 and meet following Communion. 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. **We are looking for one more teacher for this school year. Please contact peterpaulsundaysschool@gmail.com.**

Sun. Dec. 4—Annual St. Nicholas workshop. LL/pizza provided. Link <http://signup.com/go/FS9wPH> to sign up to bring other lunch foods/drinks and to help with the workshop crafts. We will provide all you need for the crafts.

Sun. Dec. 11 — The Christmas Sunday school play followed by St. Ignatius Luncheon and a special visitor.

Sun Dec. 18, 25, Jan 1 — No Sunday school

TEEN SOYO

Now thru - 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, Lizzy Cassar or Dn. Christian Manasseh at dchristian@peterpaulpotomac.org.

Dec. 15

*Orthodoxy on Tap at 7:30pm. Barrel & Bushe, 7901 Tysons One Pl, Tysons Corner, VA/Jad Ibrahim will lead the discussion

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 Antiochian 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 handmaid-ens20854@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 27 *Baptism/John Augustus Mele/1:30p
- Dec 03 *Antiochian Women Wreath Making/Kogok Hall
- Dec 04 *Decorate Church for Christmas
- *St. Nicholas Workshop/Sunday School/LL Hall
- *Parish Service Event/packing backpacks & baskets for homeless & shut-ins following Liturgy
- *Teen SOYO mtg. to follow Liturgy
- Dec 10 *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
- Dec 15 *Young Adult Fellowship/Orthodoxy on Tap (see above under Young Adult Fellowship)
- Dec 18 *Ss. Peter & Paul Choir Concert directly following the Liturgy.

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)
- Jun 14 *Ss. Peter & Paul Golf Tournament (more details to follow)
- Jun 25 *St. Peter & Paul Parish Picnic/Bretton Woods Rec Center (more details to follow)

THE EPISTLE

(For the Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost)
*O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.
 To Thee, O Lord, have I cried, O my God.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (2:4-10)

Brethren, God, Who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and made us sit with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God—not because of works, lest any man should boast. For, we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Thirteenth Sunday of Luke)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18:18-27)

At that time, a man came testing Jesus and asking, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery. Do not kill. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother.'" And the man said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the man heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus, seeing him sad, said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

NEW ALTAR BOY ROBES

Ss. Peter & Paul Church offers sincere thanks and gratitude to Mrs. Carol Laham for her generous donation of a set of twelve new Altar Boy robes to the Church. The robes are in red brocade, worn for the Nativity season, Feasts of the Cross, and for Feasts of the Martyrs. May they be a blessing to the Church and may the Glory belong to God.

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 ANNUAL Ss PETER AND PAUL ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON is fast approaching. It will be held on December 10, from 11:30 to 2:00 at Maggiano's Restaurant at Tyson's Galleria. Delicious and generously served foods will be prepared for us. Let me know if you have special needs (GF, etc). The cost is \$42.00 per person and we are limited to 60 guests. Call or email Lorna or see me at church on Sunday. This will be another fun luncheon and you can shop afterwards!
 Lorna Malooley
 Cell: 703-503-3344 or email: LornaAM@aol.com

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
 Stephen Zolnerowich

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.
 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

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

Archpriest George Rados
Margaret Ashley
Helen White
Holly Dubois
Edmond & Sophie Neam
George & Joan Abraham
Barbara Abraham
Everett Alvarez

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

DEPARTED

May Fillah
Irfan Shahid
Hanna Saba
Jiries Elaraj
Farha Elaraj
Sulciman Elaraj
Gerics & Hanna Jaber
Amin & Cyrus Fekrat
Nasrin Kafai
Zia & Ezat Kafai

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:

Michael & Laila Elaraj and Family
Bruce & Reema Fekrat

In celebration of Bruce and Reema's one-year wedding anniversary

FELLOWSHIP OFFERED BY:

Michael & Laila Elaraj and Family
Bruce & Reema Fekrat

In celebration of Bruce and Reema's one-year wedding anniversary

LIVING

Leena Haddad
Dr. Eyad Hamameh
Janice
Russell & Dina Kreutter
The Family of May Fillah
Susan Borst
KaremeH, Hala & Sam Jaber
Bruce, Reema, Homa, & Brian Fekrat

Debbie Brown
Nick Nahas
Mary Shahid
John, Michelle, & John Augustus Mele
Zeina Ayvaz
Leila Zarour
Michael & Laila, Dina, Anita & Jiries Elaraj

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 48 – November 27, 2016

Ephesians 4:1-4 ... I, therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the spirit, in the bond of peace. There is one body and one hope, that belongs to your call."

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>