



# 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 30TH, 2025

## THE HOLY APOSTLE ANDREW THE FIRST-CALLED

### FRUMENTIOS, ARCHBISHOP AND ENLIGHTENER OF ETHIOPIA; ALEXANDER, BISHOP OF METHYMNA

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

Before joining a monastery every monk takes vows which he will keep in God's and the brethren's presence. "A life of fasting" is one of the most desired lifestyles for monks. The mission of monks, not least the monks of Mt. Athos, is the following: We feel this obligation entrusted to us by the Church, that prayer and propitiation to the Lord should not stop in the world for a single moment. If this happens, the end will come. It is through monastic prayer that the world still exists.

*St. Silouan the Athonite*

**Metropolitan SABA**  
Primate of the Antiochian  
Archdiocese

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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*

**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

**CHOIR DIRECTOR**  
Kristopher Reese  
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**ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN**  
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**TEEN SOYO  
& YOUNG ADULTS**  
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**GIFT SHOP**  
Antiochian Women

Please note that we livestream our services on the Church's YouTube channel  
[@SaintsPeterPaulAntiochian](#)

## THE SYNAXARION

On November 30 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy, glorious, and allaudable Apostle Andrew the First-Called.

### *Verses*

*Andrew endureth an inverted crucifixion, appearing feet upward in truth and not in shadow.  
On the thirtieth Andrew braved a cross head downward.*

He was the son of Jonah and brother of Peter, born in Bethsaida and a fisherman by trade. At first he was a disciple of John the Baptist, but when the Forerunner pointed to the Lord Jesus, saying, "Behold the Lamb of God!" (John 1:36), Andrew left his first teacher and became the first apostle to follow Christ. Then, Andrew brought his brother Peter to the Lord. Following the descent of the Holy Spirit, it fell by lot to Andrew to preach the Gospel in Byzantium and Thrace, then in the lands along the Danube and in Russia around the Black Sea, and finally in Epirus, Greece and the Peloponnesos. In Patras, he performed many miracles in the name of Christ, and won many over to the Lord. Among the new faithful were the brother and wife of the Proconsul Aegeates. Angered at this, Aegeates subjected Andrew to torture and then crucified him. Then the apostle prayed to God and an extraordinary light encompassed him, which lasted for half an hour. When it disappeared, the apostle gave up his holy soul to God in 62.

On this day, we also commemorate Frumentios, archbishop and enlightener of Ethiopia; and Alexander, bishop of Methymna. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

### RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the threeday burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

### APOLYTIKION OF ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE IN TONE FOUR

As the first called of the Apostles, and brother of their leader, O Andrew, entreat the Master of all that peace be granted unto the world and great mercy to 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.

### KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE THREE

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to \* God the Word ineffably, \* Who was before all the ages. \* Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing \* the gladsome tidings; \* with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him \* Who is willing to be gazed on \* as a young Child Who \* before the ages is God.

**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
Ann Marie Moses	Asma Ayoub	Nour & Anastasia
Mary Ishak	Yousef & Ghada	Abdallah, Christiane & Family
Isabel Threddeh	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

**DEPARTED**

Shihady Khoury  
 Mikail Kaouk  
 Stephen Brown  
 David Hanna Saah  
 Renee Saah  
 Ralph Saah

**MEMORIAL**

Mikail Kaouk  
 Stephen Brown (40 days)  
 David Hanna Saah (7 years)  
 Renee Saah (6 years)  
 Ralph Saah (5 years)

**Special Prayer this Week for**

Souha, Zaki Horany and Family	Ilham Kaouk
Suzanne Kozlov and Family	Raya, Tony Toubaji & family

**Coffee Hour & Holy Bread** are offered by **Zaki & Suha Horany** in loving memory of Suha's father **Mikail Kaouk**.

**Holy Bread & Memorial Wheat** are offered by **Jennifer Brown and Family** in loving memory of **Stephen Brown** for his 40-memorial.

**Holy Bread** is offered by **Suzanne Kozlov and Family** in loving memory of her father **David Hanna Saah** for his 7-year memorial, her mother **Renee Saah** for her 6-year memorial, and her brother **Ralph Saah** for his 5-year memorial.

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

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

## 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

## 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.

## 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**

*His voice has gone out into all the earth. The heavens declare the glory of God.*

### **The reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (4:9-16)**

Brethren, God has exhibited us Apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

## **THE GOSPEL**

### **The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (1:35-51)**

At that time John was standing with two of his disciples; and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned, and saw them following, and said to them, "What do you seek?" And they said to Him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where art Thou staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him, and said, "So you are Simon the son of Jonah? You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter). The next day, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathaniel, and said to him, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathaniel said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathaniel said to Him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathaniel answered Him, "Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God! Thou art the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

## ***Let Us Give Thanks and Rejoice***

### ***By Metropolitan Saba (Isper)***

Gratitude, my dear friends, is a quintessential Christian virtue. A person who appreciates God's grace and understands the importance of His blessings in their life is always grateful. The Holy Scriptures repeatedly urge us to always give thanks without ever growing weary of it. Grateful persons rejoice in what they have, whether much or little. They are content with what they have, whether great or small. They are satisfied with what they possess and calmly seek better things, without fuss, without agitation, without inner turmoil. They are filled with their Lord and look to Him first and foremost, and from Him they draw every other gift. As long as God, the source of life, is with them, they never feel lacking.

When we grumble, when we complain, when we are not satisfied with what we have, and when we are troubled because we want more, we are expressing, indirectly, that we have not yet had enough of our Lord, and that we have not yet grasped, as we should, the purpose of the Christian life.

Our era, my dear friends, is a consumerist era par excellence. As you know, it compels us to work harder to earn more money so that we can spend more. The cycle continues in a closed loop, and we remain in a frantic pursuit of more work, more earnings, more spending, and so on. But the real tragedy lies in the fact that the further we progress on this economic journey, the more possessions we feel we need, and so we remain dissatisfied, constantly demanding, forgetting even to appreciate what we have and what we possess.

Joy has become rare in these troubled times. Moments of delight may be available from time to time, but true joy is far away. Why? Because the desire for what we need – or what we think we need – is stronger than the joy of enjoying what we have.

In one of his letters, the Evangelist John warns us that everything in this world is driven by the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16). The Apostle Paul urges believers to beware of and avoid these desires (Gal. 5:19-21). Why? Because the desires of this world are endless, never truly satisfying, and consequently, they drive us to constantly seek them. Experience teaches us that the disappointment that follows is immeasurably greater than the pleasure of indulging in them. The pursuit of desires leads from one disappointment to another.

The fountain of life is within us, yet we go, as the prophet Jeremiah says, to dig broken cisterns that cannot hold water (2:13). We have "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6), yet we neglect it and pursue a glittering allure that captivates our hearts and deceives us with the illusion of attaining fulfillment. We forget what He has given us and forget this ever-flowing, inexhaustible fountain, and instead seek polluted waters in different places.

The tragedy of our modern world is that it makes us forget gratitude, and consequently, all the blessings we enjoy. Our world constantly tries to open our eyes to new, deceptive, and illusory things, making us believe they are essential and indispensable. This is why the wise, guided by the Gospel, rejoice in what they have and thank God for it. We enjoy good health, but we only appreciate it when we fall ill! We can see. Isn't sight a blessing? We only truly appreciate it when we see a blind person! We can walk. Well, that too is a blessing. But we don't give thanks for it, nor do we recognize its value, until we see a disabled

person! There are countless things in our lives that should make us give thanks joyfully and gratefully, and we must truly see them.

One of our contemporary spiritual fathers said, "If we were to give thanks for everything, we would have no time to complain." Complaining means not being thankful, not being grateful, and not being content with the good things the Lord has given us. It also means that we are not satisfied with our Lord and that we are not content with our situation.

Someone might ask: Should we be content with what we have and not strive for better? Doesn't a Christian have the right to be ambitious? Don't we, as Christians, have the right to ask for the best? Yes, certainly. We have all these rights, but with a spirit of gratitude, a spirit of contentment and joy, a spirit of thankfulness for what we have. We ask for the best quietly, not noisily. We ask for the best knowing that the very best is to be in the Lord's presence, and from there, by the Lord's grace, we improve not only ourselves but the whole world around us. This is not only a right, but also our duty. It is our duty to make our world a reflection of the Kingdom of Heaven. But if we are always angry, always complaining, always resentful, always sad, always restless, always agitated, how can we improve ourselves and improve our world?

Once there was a priest thrown into solitary confinement during the days of communist religious persecution in Russia. He spent many years in his solitary cell. There was only a small window at the top of the room through which light entered. Every day, he would recite a prayer of thanksgiving, which he had written on the walls of his cell. It was a prayer overflowing with gratitude to God, thanking Him that there were people who could see the light of heaven and rejoice, that there were people who could hear the birds chirping and rejoice, that there were people who could eat and drink whatever they wanted and rejoice. He, deprived of everything, thought of others who had been given what they needed, and he rejoiced for them and thanked God for giving it to them. Where are we in relation to such a contemporary example?

This example encourages us to rise to the required Christian spiritual level, and teaches us to give thanks at all times, not just with our lips, but with our hearts.

Let us learn well and remember today that true joy is found in Christ. "I bring you good news of great joy: to you a Savior has been born" (Luke 2:10-11). Does not the Gospel begin with this good news? Let us not forget, beloved, that the greatest joy is within us; we only need to open our eyes and see it. May God perpetuate joy in your lives, in your hearts, and in your homes, always. Amen.

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  
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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**

**The 2026 Church Calendars Are Now Available**

**Pick Up Your Copy at the Narthex**