

	Bread of Holy Oblation	Fellowship Hour
01 Dec	Mahmoud Kheirbek & Family Tony & Leah Makhoul/ Good Health of Zain Makhoul	Men's Fellowship/Spaghetti Lunch
08 Dec	Lorna Malooley	Open
15 Dec	Dolly Browning/IMO Fouad Azkoul	St. Ignatius Luncheon
22 Dec	Open	Open
27 Dec	Open	Open

**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 Kogok Hall.

SS. PETER AND PAUL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

10620 River Road Potomac Maryland 20854 • 301-765-3400 • www.peterpaulpotomac.org

Kindly keep all cell phones turned off or muted while in Church. Thank you.

PRIESTS

Very Reverend
Fr. Isaac Crow
frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org
(301) 765-3400 #1 office
(401) 300-8238 cell
(240) 489-3494 home

Reverend
Fr. Luke Toumi
frluke@peterpaulpotomac.org
(301) 765-3400 #2 office
(610) 844-2583 cell

DEACON

Dn. Christian Manasseh
DnChris-
tian@peterpaulpotomac.org

COUNCIL**Chairperson**

Carol Laham

Vice Chairperson

Jumana Misleh

Treasurer

Ken Bailey

Secretary

Abe Fannoney

Members

Roy Abdo

Philip Allen

Jerry Audi

Nabil Emad

Michele Forzley

Salim Habayeb

Bassem Haddad

Janet Metz

Alganesh Piechocinski

A.J. Wood

CHURCH SECRETARY

office@peterpaulpotomac.org

CHOIR DIRECTOR

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choir@peterpaulpotomac.org

ASSISTANT CHOIR**DIRECTORS**

Marie Hyder

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George Tannous

USHERS

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Michael El Araj

Abraham Fannoney

Sam Khalil

ALTAR**Manager**

Peter Aburdeineh

SERVERS

Captains -

Andrew Erickson

Rashid Haddad

SS. PETER AND PAUL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

H.E. Metropolitan JOSEPH

Archbishop Primate

All Things Are Possible to Him Who Believes

Matins: Sundays 9:30am

Divine Liturgy: Sundays 10:30am

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 01, 2019

tone 7/ EOTHINON 2

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST &
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE**

THE HOLY PROPHET NAHUM;

VENERABLE PHILARET THE ALMSGIVER OF AMNIA;

MARTYR ANANIAS THE PERSIAN;

THEOKLITOS, ARCHBISHOP OF LAKEDAEMONIA

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (Tone 7)

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 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)

*(**The original melody**)*

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.

The more goods people acquire today, the more problems they have. They neither thank God for His benefactions, nor do they take notice of the misfortunes suffered by their fellow men to offer their charity.

*St. Paisios of Mount Athos
Spiritual Councils IV: Family Life p. 161*

Christmas Eve Services

6:00 pm Matins

7:00 pm Divine Liturgy

**MAKING GOD REAL
In the Orthodox Christian Home
Discovering Our God-given Talents**

It is important that we teach our children that all that we have, i.e., our body, our life, our possessions, our talents, etc., do not belong to us; they are loaned to us by God. He expects us to use them for His glory and for the betterment of each other.

To each one of us God has given at least one talent or special ability which He expects us to develop and use. Read the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) and discuss it with your family. Some good discussion questions are: What is a talent? How do I know what my talent is? How can I develop it? Here it may be pointed out that each person has at least one talent. Some may have more, others less, but God has not overlooked anyone. Those who develop their talent find that it increases. Those who do not develop it, lose it.

Since children are curious they will want to know what talent or talents God has given them. It can be explained that God will show them slowly, as they grow, what special talent He has given them. He will use parents, teachers and others to help point out to them what they are best suited to do. It is good to teach them to include in their daily prayers a petition to God that He help them discover and develop the special talent He has given them.

There is great danger here with parents who make unreasonable demands on their children, expecting them to achieve five-talent brilliance in life when God has endowed them with one talent. Or the parents who compare one child to the other, forgetting that no two children have the same number of talents or the same kind. The result is that the one-talent child develops the idea that it is not worthwhile to develop the talent that he does have. "Why try? I can never hope to do as well in school as my sister or make the football team like my brother." Thus the talent that the child has is oftentimes lost, and a sense of inferiority is permitted to ruin his life. The greatest of all fairytale writers-Hans Christian Anderson got his start from a publisher who one day saw some of his writings and said, "Not bad. Keep trying. I'll help you." Here lies one of the greatest contributions of the parent to the child: to discover what talent God has given each child and to encourage the child to develop it. A beautiful poem was written about children by Miriam Dale,

*I am a little child/I paint fearlessly/I hammer loudly/I build recklessly/I read imaginatively/I write originally/
I sing rapturously/May men never quell my creativity/Just refine it!*

God has given each one of us some unique talent or capacity which no one else in this world possesses. Each one of us has a certain way of being helpful to others, and an ability to do certain things as no other person can do them. This gives every man, woman, and child the value of uniqueness. The world would be less if we had not been born. We have added something that was not here before we came. That something is from God, and it is precious beyond all price.

Let us help our children realize that they matter greatly to God. He has entrusted them with something He gave to no other person, and the way they use it is just as important to Him as the way the most gifted men and women use the talents they possess. As Edwin Markham said, "There is waiting a work where only your hands can avail: And so, if you falter, a chord in the music will fail."

Sometimes we look at a great person and we say, "Isn't he a gifted individual?" Yet are we not all gifted? Even the one talent is not ours but a gift from God. These gifts are God's investment in our life. The point of the parable is that God expects a return on His investment. One day He will ask us to account for what we did with the gifts He entrusted to US.

"You have small talents," someone said to a Christian. And the Christian replied, "Yes, but I have a great God." "He who abides in me," said Jesus, "and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit."

Part 1 of 2

Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News and Events

CHURCH SCHOOL 2019-2020

We encourage all of our students to attend liturgy on Sundays. Please use the following link to register your children for the 2019-2020 Church School Year : <http://tinyurl.com/registerSunSchool>. For Newsletter <https://tinyurl.com/y48hecx>

- Dec 01** *No Church School (Thanksgiving)
Dec 08 *St. Nicholas workshop/pre-school — 5th grade
 Pizza lunch pre-school — 12th grade
Dec 15 *Christmas Program, Christmas Lunch, Special Visitor (more info to follow)
Dec 29 *No Church School for Christmas & New Year's Holidays (Church school resumes January 5, 2020)

TEEN SOYO

Ss. Peter & Paul Teen Youth Ministry Group (Teen SOYO) is open to all teens of the Parish (13— 19 years). The teens meet regularly for social, spiritual, and community outreach events.

- Dec 01** *Antiochian Camp Liturgy
Dec 06 *Community Evening of Prayer served by Teen SOYO (more details to follow)
Dec 07 *Volunteer @Charlie's Place, DC/7a-10a
Jan 11, 2020*Hosting Christmas Hafli/invites have gone out to St. George, St. Mary, Holy Cross

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

The Ss. Peter & Paul YAF welcomes all young people over 21 years of age to join in its social, educational, and outreach activities. Please contact Amal Michael at amal17m@yahoo.com for more information.

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

*Please pay your annual dues of \$25 to help support our outreach and charitable projects. **All women are members and are welcome.** Checks can be given to Janet Metz.

*For future notices and any questions, please provide your email address to Donna Gavin at crazygavins@verizon.net

- Dec 07-08** *Put together baskets for shut-ins & shoe boxes/backpacks — temporary plan for 100 backpacks (more details to follow)
Dec 14 *Invitation to Christmas Gathering with the Ladies of St. George 4p. RSVP to Rose Fakhoury fakhouryr@aol.com
Dec 15 *Cookie Sale during St. Ignatius luncheon (see Flyer in Narthex)

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Men's Fellowship ministry of Ss. Peter and Paul is to serve the church through charitable outreach, educational and service projects which strengthen and deepen the faith of its members and develop a fellowship of Orthodox Christian servants. Contact Sam Khalil at sk1943@aol.com or Fred Zacharia at fredzach@verizon.net for more information.

- Dec 01** *Spaghetti Luncheon/\$8.00 per person, \$32.00 family of 5.
Dec 07 *Decorate Church for Christmas/10a. Volunteers welcome!

"EXPLORING OUR FAITH": ON WHEELS

Will be back on the road again soon. If you are interested in hosting one of these every-other-week week-night meetings, please send Fr Luke an email (frluke@peterpaulpotomac.org). He will check in with you on the dates the work best for you.

We are looking forward to moving these bi-weekly meetings around so its closer to your home at some point. Our goal is to drive no more than 15 minutes to get there.

If you are willing to host one of these meetings in the future, here is the deal: Number of attendees can be limited to fit in your space. You can host as few as 5 people if that is all you can seat (on-floor seats are premium). Only hot drinks are served. No food involved. Meeting time can be: 7:00-8:30 or 7:30-9:00 pm.

THE SS. PETER & PAUL PARISH LIBRARY & MEDIA CENTER

houses the Parish Library, audio visual materials, and Christian educational resources. Donations of books or materials related to the history, tradition and teaching of the Church and the Orthodox Faith are welcome. All are welcome to use the center. Please contact the Church office for more details.

SS. PETER & PAUL OUTREACH VISITATION MINISTRY

The outreach ministry seeks 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 to visit, and to reach out to our elderly brethren. All those willing to help please contact the Church office.

CHURCH CALENDAR

- Dec 01** *Antiochian Camp Liturgy (see AW box this page for more information)
 *Spaghetti Luncheon/provided by Men's Fellowship (see box below)
 *No Church School (Thanksgiving)
Dec 06 *Evening Liturgy celebrating St. Nicholas/6:30p
Dec 07 *Teen SOYO to volunteer at Charlie's Place/7a-10a
 *decorate Church for Christmas/10a. Volunteers welcome!
 *Put together baskets for shut-ins & shoe boxes/backpacks/temporary plan for 100 backpacks/10a
Dec 08 *St. Nicholas Workshop/Pre-school thru 5th grade
 Pizza lunch for pre-school thru 12th grade
 *Continue putting together baskets for shut-ins & shoe boxes/backpacks/temporary plan for 100 backpacks/following services
Dec 14 *Invitation to Christmas Gathering from Ladies of St. George/4p. (see AW box on this page for more information)
Dec 15 *Church School Christmas Program, Christmas Lunch, Special Visitor (more info to follow)
 *St. Ignatius Lunch (see box below)
 *Antiochian Women/Cookie Sale during St. Ignatius luncheon
Dec 24 *Christmas Eve Services/6p Matins/7p Divine Liturgy
Dec 29 *No Church School for Christmas & New Year's Holidays
Jan 05, 2020*Church School resumes.

2020 BUDGET INFORMATION SERIES

Installment 2: Maintenance & repairs
 At our last general assembly, several questions were asked about our maintenance & repairs budget, and rightfully so. It's not cheap to maintain a facility such as our church. The fixed contracts portion of our annual maintenance & repairs expenses includes:
 -Elevator maintenance: \$4,283.66 -Fire suppression: \$7,115.45
 -HVAC: \$16,449.00 -Janitorial: \$33,000.00
 -Lawn and Grounds: \$14,470.00 -Alarm System: \$1,275.19
 -Pest Control: \$1,063.23
 We also budget \$40,000 for general maintenance and repairs, and \$8,000 in maintenance & repair supplies.
 Please do your part in helping us maintain our beautiful church and contribute regularly and faithfully.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost)

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

(For the Fourteenth Sunday of Luke)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18:35-43)

At that time, when Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

OCMC News:

- In Albania, your support of OCMC is in part to help college students in the capital of Tirana participate in campus ministry that reaches out to young men and women who grew up without any knowledge of, or belief in, God.
- On this Sunday of the **Men's Club Spaghetti Dinner**, you could support our **Men's Club President Sam Khalil** for his upcoming medical mission to Guatemala. As you know, Sam (and Mike Bosworth) will be going together in March, and they'd be grateful for your prayers and stewardship in any amount. Ss Peter and Paul donors can write checks to HOLY CROSS MISSION FUND, and be sure to write "Medical Mission: Khalil and Bosworth" in a note or the subject line of the check. Checks can be simply put in the OCMC Box at the candle stand to be forwarded, or mailed directly to Holy Cross Orthodox Church, 123 Gilkeson Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15228. Father Chakos, retired priest and active OCMC missionary at Holy Cross will send donors a receipt and thank you letter for tax-deductible donations. Remember also that Sam needs used **eyeglasses for the optical clinic which he will administer!** Thank you!

CHURCH SCHOOL

Directors

Samia Zolnerowich
 Jennifer Buchko

Teachers

Jumana Misleh
 Susan Kozlov
 Sara Ayoub
 Michelle Zook
 Beth Davis
 Alma Jean Zaki
 Jennifer Montgomery
 Kinda Callas
 Dara Potter
 Stephen Zolnerowich
 Caroline Jarboe
 Elizabeth El-Hage
 Jaren Sams
 Philip Allen
 Nathaniel Guinn

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Sam Khalil

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

Donna Gavin

TEEN SOYO

Lay Advisors

Stephen Zolnerowich
 Riham Saah
 Ken Bailey
 Juliana Natour
 Maya Saah
 Kinda Callas
 Sanaa Natour
Officers
 Tia Saah
 Nick Shahin
 Tala Natour
 Rylee Isaac

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Amal Michael

FACILITY MANAGEMENT

Sam Berberian
 Alex Cox

RENTAL COORDINATOR

Barbara Abraham
 George Rados

CHARITIES & ST. IGNATIUS

Sam Khalil

FINANCE

Salim Habayeb

STEWARDSHIP

Zeina Manasseh

GIFT SHOP

Alma Jean Zaki
 Gail Bailey
 Meghan Zoto
 George Zoto

Commemorations

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 censures 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 Service starts on p. 91
The Creed ~ p. 110
The Lord's Prayer ~ p. 118
The Communion Prayer ~ p. 121-122
The Prayer of Thanksgiving p. 125

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.

Parishioners who remain in our prayers continually

Rt. Rev. Fr. Elias Bitar	Rt. Rev. Daniel Griffith
Kh. Rebecca Alford	Kh. Ann Anderson
Ann Marie Moses	Kevin Pinkstaff
Isabel Thredch	Nabecha Ayoub
Joyce Hamaty	Barbara Mullin
Holly Dubois	Suad Shammas
Sophie Neam	Miriam Yazge
George & Joan Abraham	Lulu Brown
Michael Buchko, Sr.	Edward Rizkallah
Leila Khoury	Shoke George
Bob & Shirley Neri	Douglas Kalesh
	Nijmeh Zayed
	Allison Ayoub Egge
	George & Chris Brown
	Robert & Thelma Badwey
	Barbara Abraham
	Ibtisam Toubaji
	Dorothy Marge
	Assad & Patricia Khoury

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.

DEPARTED

Fr. George Rados
Nader Makhoul
Zakeyeh Makhoul
Ibrahim & Haloun Georges

LIVING

Archpriest Isaac & Kh. Dolly	Anastacia Lampathakis	Ramona Dora
Yeorgos Lampathakis	Brian Briggs	Fred & Sherrie Zacharia
Ibrahim Mazen Saah	Ted Milkovich	Joe Malooley
Sami Korban	Paula Massouh	Mitody Tilev
Ceffen Franus	Vilma Bellone	Halim & Hayat Barakat
Audree Yacoub	George Ellis	Cindy Hyder
Ricky M. Ayoub	Mahmoud, Raya, Raymond, Lena & Abraham Kheirbek	Tony, Leah, & Zain Makhoul & their Families
Siham Ayoub & Family	Lidia, Ghassan, Adecb, Farah & Hiba & their families	Pablo & Maryam Rincon
		Edward, Ritamarie, Emilia & Viviana Saa

CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATING

On Dec 7th at 10:00am, we will be decorating the Church for the Christmas Season. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to participate. Please contact Abe Fannoney or Alex Cox with any questions or suggestions.

2019 COOKIE WALK/December 15, 2019

The Antiochian Women will be selling their homemade cookies during the St. Ignatius Fellowship Luncheon on December 15. Proceeds will benefit The Children's Relief Fund. So grab a box, grab a glove, walk the walk, and select your cookies. Then weigh your box, pay the cashier, wrap it up & ENJOY!

BLANKET & COAT DRIVE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Through December 15 Fairfax County, VA is participating in a coat and blanket drive. For more information see Janet Metz or their website <http://novareliecenter.org>.

DONATIONS FOR THE POINSETTIAS

The Ladies Auxiliary will again be collecting donations this Christmas season for the Poinsettias Project offered for the health of or in memory of your family and/or friends. Please see Thomaseena Cox or Leila Ayoub or any Ladies Auxiliary Member in the Church Hall with your donation. All donations must be received by Sunday, December 15th.

HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION OFFERED BY:

Mahmoud Kheirbek & Family
Tony & Leah Makhoul for the good health of Zain Makhoul

FELLOWSHIP OFFERED BY:

Men's Club/Spaghetti Luncheon