

| | Bread of Holy Oblation | Fellowship Hour |
|---------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 09 Dec | Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Honor & Appreciation of our Choir and Chanters | Teen SOYO Zaatar Fundraiser |
| 16 Dec | Lorna Malooley | The Order of St. Ignatius Luncheon |
| 23 Dec | Tawil Family/IMO Naim Tawil (HB & MW) | Tawil Family/IMO Naim Tawil (HB & MW) |
| 30 Dec | Mary Misleh George Eways/40-Day Memorial Ann Mahan/40-Day Memorial | OPEN |
| 06 Jan | 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
(401) 300-8238 cell
(240) 489-3494 home

Reverend

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

DEACON

Dn. Christian Manasseh
DnChristian@peterpaulpotomac.org

COUNCIL**Chairperson**

Alex Cox

Vice Chairman

John Abraham

Treasurer

George Zaki

Secretary

Abe Fannoney

Members

Roy Abdo

Philip Allen

Jerry Audi

Nabil Emad

Michele Forzley

Salim Habayeb

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Wayne Parr

Mitody Tilev

CHURCH SECRETARY

office@peterpaulpotomac.org

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Marie Hyder

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CHANTERS

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Abraham Fannoney

Sam Khalil

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Peter Aburdeineh

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Andrew Erickson

Rashid Haddad

Thomas Zook

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 9, 2018****tone 3 / EOTHINON 6****CONCEPTION OF THE THEOTOKOS BY RIGHTEOUS ANNA
& TENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE**CONSECRATION OF THE CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION
IN JERUSALEM**RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (Tone 3)**

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy

**APOLYTIKION OF CONCEPTION OF THE THEOTOKOS BY
ST. ANNA (Tone 4)**

Today have the bonds of barrenness been loosened; God, having heard the prayers of Joachim and Anna, promised them openly that they should give birth, beyond hope, to the Maiden of God, from whom He, the infinite One was to be born, becoming man, commanding the angel to shout to her: Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

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 CONCEPTION OF THE THEOTOKOS BY
ST. ANNA (Tone 4)***(**On this day Thou hast appeared**)*

All the world doth celebrate * Anna's conception * on this day with festive joy, * because it came to pass through God; * for by divine grace she hath conceived * her that beyond words conceiveth the Word of God.

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

The Great Feast of the Nativity our our Lord falls on Tuesday, December 25. Ss. Peter and Paul Church will celebrate the Feast on Monday, December 24, 2018 starting with Matins at 6:00p and Divine Liturgy at 7:00p.

“Christ is Born Glorify Him, Christ is come from Heaven Receive Him.”

Divine Wisdom

“Happy is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding” (Proverbs 3:13). The wisdom here is not philosophical wisdom; it is divine wisdom. It is not only intellectual understanding, but rather it is also an understanding that comes from God. It comes from the nearness of the breath of the Spirit who is from God: “the Spirit of understanding, the Spirit of wisdom.”

What is the spiritual life, other than that which is according to the Spirit of God and not according to the spirit of the world? The Apostle and Evangelist John says, “Do not love the world or the things in the world... For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life... the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:15-17).

The Evangelist John himself says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son so that whosoever believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). And so divine wisdom came into the world to reconcile love for the sinful world with lack of love for its sin. It came to set this balance, this condescension between the world of God and the world of man.

Divine wisdom, the Wisdom of Solomon the Wise, says, “All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; Nothing crooked or perverse is in them. They are all plain to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge. I will teach you what is true so that you may rely upon the Lord and be filled with spirit.”

As for the divine wisdom of Solomon regarding the righteous one who departs this earthly life suddenly, “The righteous man, though he die early, will be at rest. There was one who pleased God and was loved by him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. He was caught up lest evil change his understanding or guile deceive his soul... Being perfected in a short time, he fulfilled long years... the peoples saw and did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, that God's grace and mercy are with his elect, and he watches over his holy ones.”

Finally, he says in the Book of Wisdom of Solomon the Wise, “Against wisdom evil does not prevail and so I loved her and sought her from my youth, and I desired to take her for my bride, and I became enamored of her beauty... her labors are virtues; for she teaches self-control and prudence, justice and courage... so I appealed to the Lord and besought him, and with my whole heart I said: ‘Give me the wisdom that sits on Your throne... that I may learn what is pleasing to You. For she knows and understands all things, and she will guide me wisely in my actions and guard me with her glory...’”

Here wisdom is nothing other than the living word of God found in the Gospel: the Good News is a rational, verbal icon.

The Apostle Paul says in his Epistle to the Romans, “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16). With it, God's power becomes my power; His wisdom, my wisdom; His word, my word; and His love, my love.

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

Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News and Events

CHURCH SCHOOL 2018-2019

Registration for Church School is ongoing using this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/GQ6uQSnltimwJW2>, include your email as most Church school announcements go out to the entire parish. Please list all/any allergies.

Check out our new online Church School Newsletter
<https://tinypurl.com/PeterPaulCSoctober>

- Dec 09** St. Nicholas Workshop & Toy Drive
Dec 16 Church School Christmas Program/St. Ignatius Lunch w/special visitor from the North Pole
Dec 23 No Church School/Christmas Holiday
Dec 30 No Church School/New Year's Holiday

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.

Lay Advisors:

- Zaid Sharafudin/Zaid.sharafudin@gmail.com (412) 708-6726 and Marian Azar/azaremarian@gmail.com (703) 297-9638
 Dec 09 *Fellowship Hour/Zataar Sale!
 Dec 15 *Teen SOYO/visit shut-ins for Christmas Caroling /11a-6p

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

The Ss. Peter & Paul YAF welcomes all young people over 20 years of age to join in its social, educational, and outreach activities. Please contact Wayne Parr at wayneparr@gmail.com or 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. Checks can be given to Janet Metz.
- *Please provide your email address to Carol Laham @ claham@wileyrein.com for future notices.
- *If you have a child in college, please provide their name and college address to Carol Laham at the above email address. The ladies are planning a new outreach to college students.
- *PLEASE volunteer to help!

THE SS. PETER & PAUL PARISH LIBRARY & MEDIA CENTER

The new Parish Library and Media Center is up and running. The Center houses the Parish Library, audio visual materials, and Christian educational resources. The Center is located in the lower level inside room accessible from the Serge Malooley Conference Center room. 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 by following its user guidelines. Contact Fr. Isaac, Fr. Luke, or Dn. Christian for access and information.

CREDIT CARD GIVING TO Ss. PETER AND PAUL CHURCH

Today, the new Credit Card Giving Kiosk for donations or payments to Ss. Peter and Paul Church is operational. The Kiosk and 'swipe' screen are located in the Narthex (entrance) of the Church. Please contact Wayne Parr or Ken Bailey for more information.

OCMC (Orthodox Christian Mission Charities)

- **Please see a framed sign on a table in our narthex listing upcoming short-term missions for 2019, or go to ocmc.org for more information. The listing at our church gives short-term opportunities through International Orthodox Christian Charities as well.
- **Remember the OCMC box at the candle stand for your spare change or donations. Your support helps underwrite self-sustainability projects, medical outreach, construction of homes and schools, and much-needed relief.



"EXPLORING OUR FAITH" THE SS. PETER AND PAUL ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORUM

"Exploring Our Faith" meets every other Thursday evening 7:00p to 8:30p in the Library & Media Center. The next meeting is **Thursday, December 20, 2018**. Fr. Isaac facilitates the Forums using brief presentations as a springboard to open discussion on a variety of topics concerning our faith. ALL ARE WELCOME. Contact Fr. Isaac at frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org, Fr. Luke at frluke@peterpaulpotomac.org or Kate Niewen-hous at handmaidens20854@gmail.com.

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 coordinators of the group: George & Alma Jean Zaki at (georgezaki@gmail.com or ajmzaki@gmail.com), Alex Cox at (alexcoxells@gmail.com) or Fr. Isaac at (frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org). Our Parish is grateful for this ministry remembering that when we visit the sick and the infirm we visit Christ himself.

PARISH PHOTO DIRECTORY REMINDER

Please remember to sign up to take your family/individual picture over the coming few Sundays. The pictures are taken right after the liturgy inside the church. Please check in with the bookstore across from the elevators. Please use the following link to signup: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080945A4A823ABFF2-parish2>
Questions? email: FrLuke@peterpaulpotomac.org OR call: 301-765-3400 ext. 2.

THE PARISH GIFT SHOP

Don't forget to stop by the Parish gift shop for your special Christmas gifts. It's open every Sunday following Liturgy. For more information contact Alma Jean Zaki at (703) 283-9338 or ajmzaki@gmail.com

CHURCH CALENDAR

- Dec 09 *Church School St. Nicholas Workshop
 *Teen SOYO Fellowship/Zataar sale
 Dec 11 *Parish Council Mtg./7p/Serge Malooley Conf. Rm.
 Dec 15 *Teen SOYO/visit shut-ins for Christmas Caroling/11a—6p
 Dec 16 *Church School Christmas Play
 *The Order of St. Ignatius Dinner (see box on page 2 for more details)
 Dec 22 *Baptism/Aryana Sahouri/1:30p
 Dec 23 *Choir Christmas Concert/following Liturgy
 *No Church School/Christmas Holiday
 Dec 24 *Feast of the Nativity/6:00p Matins & 7:00p Divine Liturgy
 Dec 25 *Offices Closed for Christmas
 Dec 26 *Baptism/Zaya & Zara Abdallah/12:00p
 Dec 30 *Baptism/Elijah T. Mitchell/1:30p
 *No Church School/New Year's Holiday

THE EPISTLE

(For the Conception of the Theotokos by Righteous Anna)
God is wondrous in His saints. Bless God in the congregations.
The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (4:22-27)

Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married."

THE GOSPEL

(For the Tenth Sunday of Luke)
The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (13:10-17)

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As Jesus said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

There are no coincidences in the work of God.

+Elder George Peichev of Bulgaria

St. Ignatius Christmas Luncheon

****On Sunday, December 16, 2018**, following the Church School Nativity play in the Church, the Order of St. Ignatius will host their annual Christmas luncheon. All the faithful of the Parish are invited and there is no charge.

Men's Fellowship Christmas Raffle

****The Men's Fellowship** are sponsoring a 50/50 raffle from now until December 16 when the drawing will be made. Tickets are 5 for \$20.00 and proceeds to benefit the Church. See Sam Khalil and the ushers for tickets.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Directors

Samia Zolnerowich
 Jennifer Buchko

Teachers

Jumana Misleh
 Susan Kozlov
 Danielle Bellone
 Michelle Zook
 Ritamaria Saa
 Jennifer Montgomery
 Andrew Salem
 Dara Potter
 Layla Najjar
 Caroline Jarboe
 Stephen Zolnerowich
 Nathaniel Guinn
 Elizabeth El-Hage
 Anees Mokhiber
 AJ Wood
 Philip Allen

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Sam Khalil

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

Carol Laham

TEEN SOYO

Lay Advisors

Zaid Sharafudin
 Marian Azar
Officers
 Joud Al-Kallas
 Tia Saah
 Jacob Azar
 Julia Azar

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Wayne Parr
 Amal Michael

ADORNMENT

Shams Akkawi
 Jamil Hermes

FACILITY MANAGEMENT

Sam Berberian
 Bob Simon

RENTAL COORDINATOR

Barbara Abraham

CHARITIES

Sam Sahouri Ghanem

FINANCE

Salim Habayeb

STEWARDSHIP

Zeina Manasseh

GIFT SHOP

Alma Jean Zaki
 Gail Bailey

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

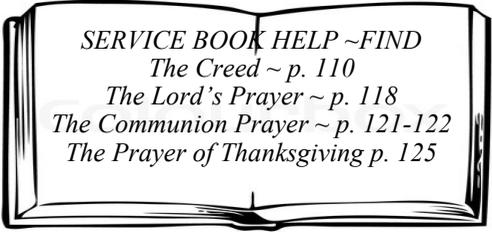
Orthodox Christians
Faithful Orthodox fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when they receive Holy Communion in fulfillment of Christ's command to eat His Body and drink His Blood. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, communicants should not be conscious of grave sin, 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.



Parishioners who remain in our prayers continually

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Rt. Rev. Fr. Elias Bitar | Margaret Ashley | Mary Smith |
| Isabel Thredeh | George Brown | Nabeeha Ayoub |
| Holly Dubois | Nadim Zarour | Robert & Thelma Badwey |
| Sophie Neam | Miriam Yazge | Barbara Abraham |
| George & Joan Abraham | Lula Brown | Douglas Kalesh |
| Michael Buchko, Sr. | Edward Rizkallah | Dorothy Marge |
| Leila Khoury | Shoke George | Suad Shammas |
| Assad & Patricia Khoury | Bob & Shirley Neri | |

DEPARTED
Fr. George Rados
Melinda Aumaitre
George Eways
Marguerite (Ann) Mahan

LIVING

| | | |
|--|---------------|-------------------------|
| V. Rev. Michael Kaiser | David Saa | Margo Sahouri-Ghanem |
| Rene Saah | John Abraham | Marcella Aumaitre |
| Ramzi Imad | Tammy Alvarez | George & Joanna Khoury |
| Gigi Hanna | Thomas Zook | Mahan & Harris Families |
| Ibtisam Toubaji | | Sanford Family |
| Christopher, Sarah, Leanna Ayoub & Family | | Forest Hamlin |
| Michael, Kate, Josephine Elizabeth Procelli & Family | | |
| Eways Family | | |

CHURCHING
Leanna Celine Ayoub
Josephine Elizabeth Procelli

Just a reminder that Fr Luke will be taking organizational photos for the directory after Church this coming Sunday. We would like to have current council members and new members join us for the Parish Council photo on Sunday. Thanks so much! Alex Cox

CHRISTMAS DECORATING COMMITTEE

On-Going *Donations for the Poinsettias and Shut-In & Homeless Projects. The Antiochian Women will be collecting for these 3 projects. See flyer and sign-up sheet in the Narthex on the glass table for more information. For questions, please see Thomaseena Cox, Leila Ayoub, Barbara Bosworth or any Ladies Auxiliary Member following Liturgy.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Saturday, Jan 12, 2019 *9:00am take down Christmas decorations. Volunteers are welcome!

2018/2019 STEWARDSHIP DRIVE
The Stewardship Committee is launching our 2019 stewardship drive. Please support your church with your time, talents and treasure and fill out a stewardship form in paper (located in the Narthex) or online at peterpaulpotomac.elixiochms.com. Please make the commitment to support the Church through your generous free-will donation. If you have any questions or need more information, please see a member of the Stewardship committee member or in the fellowship hall for more information. Thank you for your support!

HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION OFFERED BY:
Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Honor and Appreciation of our Choir & Chanters

MEMORIAL WHEAT OFFERED BY:
Sam & Margo Sahouri Ghanem (St. Barbara Day, December 4)
for the good health of Barbara Abraham

FELLOWSHIP OFFERED BY:
Teen SOYO/Zaatar Fundraiser