

	BREAD OF HOLY OBLATION	FELLOWSHIP HOUR
13 Dec	Marie Khalil Sami Najjar –One-Year Memorial for her mother Angéle Najjar	The Order of St. Ignatius Christmas Luncheon
20 Dec	The Emad Family	Falafal Sale
24-Dec	Lorna Malooley	Evening Service
27 Jan	Suad Shammas 40-Day Memorial for Issa	Suad Shammas 40-Day Memorial for Issa
03 Jan	Mary Mislehf	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 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, DECEMBER 13, 2015 TONE 3/EOTHINON 6 SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS (ANCESTORS) OF CHRIST

HERMAN OF ALASKA, ENLIGHTENER OF THE ALEUTS; MARTYRS EUSTRATIUS, AUXENTIOS, EUGENE, MARDARIOS, AND ORESTES AT SEBASTIA; VIRGIN-MARTYR LUCIA OF SYRACUSE; HIEROMARTYR GABRIEL, PATRIARCH OF SERBIA

APOLYTIKION OF THE RESURRECTION (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 THE FOREFATHERS (Tone 2)

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and she it was who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

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.

Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Council 2016

Congratulations and prayers of blessing are offered to the newly elected officers of the Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Council for 2016:

Chair	Suzanne Hermes
Vice Chair	Gary Farha
Treasurer	Rich Mahan
Secretary	Steve Simon

May God bless them together with all the Council members as they undertake their service to the Church in the New Year.

Met Ephrem (Kyriakos) on Individualism

"By brother is my life," go the famous words of Saint Silouan the Athonite, meaning that the other, my neighbor, my colleague at work, and all the people that I meet are my life. Let us contemplate these words. Despite the fact that our society is moving in the direction of individualism, our Orthodox faith is an effort in the opposite direction. We Christians believe that humans are closely bound to each other. This is clear in the teaching of our Lord and God Jesus Christ, who said, "I was hungry, I was thirsty, I was naked, I was sick and in prison-- everything you have done to these My brothers, you have done to Me."

Likewise, there are many parables in the Holy Bible through which Christ wanted to indicate this important fact-- that my brother's comfort and happiness are an essential part of my own comfort and happiness. Indeed, my brother's comfort and happiness at the expense of my own comfort and happiness is the guarantee of my eternal comfort and happiness. The parable of the rich man and Lazarus is very clear with regard to this fundamental matter for the success of our spiritual life. The rich man did not notice the existence of Lazarus, the poor sick man at his door, ignoring him completely. Christ condemned the rich man and blessed Lazarus, but why? To be sure, Jesus did not condemn the rich man because of his riches, and the Church does not consider wealth and the acquisition of property to be a sin. Nevertheless, the Author of the Bible warns us of the danger of being rich. Why? Because wealth tries to make us its slaves so that we will rely on it and not on God. Wealth can blind our hearts and make us callous before the sobs of the needy and their need for help. Brothers, comfort and security for ourselves makes us feel that we are invincible and this causes vanity and pride to take root in us. We start by thinking that we have obtained this wealth and this empire by our own personal intellectual abilities and competencies, forgetting that "every perfect gift comes down from God." Thus, we often deceive ourselves when we think that happiness and security come through wealth. Wealth and money are a dangerous temptation because they try to take the place of God and His commandment in our life. From the very beginning, Cain asked God, "Am I my brother's keeper?" God responded with total frankness, "Yes, each one of us is his brother's keeper." This is a practical responsibility that is urgent and necessary in our spiritual life, which is perfected through good works, according to the words of the Apostle James in his Catholic Epistle, and which make perfect everything beneficial for our souls.

Let us always remember that our brothers are our life because they are the image of our God who gave us life and who continues to give us life. Let us share every good thing with others, who are the image of our Creator, so that the Lord may permit us to share in His heavenly kingdom because in all simplicity, if we love His children, then we have loved Him in them. Without loving what is seen, it is not possible to love what is not seen, according to the words of the Holy Evangelist John.

Ephrem
Metropolitan of Tripoli, al-Koura, and Their Dependencies

Priests
Very Reverend
Fr. George Rados
frgeorge@peterpaulpotomac.org
Very Reverend
Fr. Isaac Crow
frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org

Deacon
Dn. Christian Manasseh
DnChristian@peterpaulpotomac.org

**COUNCIL
Chairman**
Gary Farha
Vice Chairman

George Salem
Secretary
Suzanne Hermes

Treasurer
Richard Mahan

Members
Rida Boulos
Abdallah Daoud
Paul Debs
Lina Eid
Anita El-Araj
Bassem Haddad
David Jackson
Maha Jweied
Wayne Parr
Steve Simon
Tony Moussa

Church Secretary
office@peterpaulpotomac.org

Choir Director
John Slanta
choir@peterpaulpotomac.org

Chanters
Wayne Parr
George Tannous

Ushers
Jerry Audi
Michael El Araj
Abraham Fannoney
Sam Khalil

**ALTAR
Manager**
Peter Aburdeineh

Servers
Captains -
Rashid Haddad
Christopher Zolnerowich

Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News and Events

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN'S UPDATE

The Ladies Auxiliary will again be collecting toiletries and small clothing items for the *needy* through BETHESDA CARES. Please see the flyer on the round table in the Narthex for more information and a list of items needed. The final due date is December 13. Please be generous for this worthy cause.

2015 Poinsettia Flower Donation

The Ladies Auxiliary is 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. Please return your completed form to the Ladies Auxiliary to the attention of Leila Ayoub or Thomaseena Cox no later than Sunday, December 20th.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Sunday, December 20, 2015 following Liturgy Ss. Peter and Paul will have its Christmas Concert in the Church. The La CAMERTA CHOIR directed by Maestro Dr. Francisco DeAraujo will present a short Christmas Concert. The 30-member choir with harp accompanist will present beautiful Christmas music ushering us into the final days of the celebration of Christ's birth. Parishioners and families and any friends are welcome to enjoy this special presentation. There is no cost to enjoy the concert. This will be followed by a Falafal luncheon in the Kogok Hall prepared and sold by Jerry Audi and the Men's Club of Ss. Peter and Paul.

CALLING ALL CHURCH PHOTOGRAPHERS

Do you have a digital camera and an interest in capturing the beautiful smiles of our Parish Members? If so let us know because we need you.

The photos you take will be uploaded to our new Elexio database and allow us all to see and recognize each other in the Church Directory.

The first session is scheduled for December 20th at the Christmas event.

Sign up by sending an email to Lina Eid at

Lina033@verizon.net, who will provide you with more details. Have a blessed holiday season!

FROM THE CHARITY COMMITTEE

Please start thinking about charities you would like to propose for 2016. The Charities Committee is seeking your input as to the charities to be supported in 2016 with our monthly collections. We are planning to support International, Orthodox, National, and Local organizations as we have for the last several years. Please provide the name of the organization you wish considered for the monthly collection to the any of the following committee members: Ann Marie Moses, Carol Laham, and Sam Sahouri Ghanem.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Calling all Church members...

Stop by our Membership table, which will be up every second Sunday of each month after Church in the Fellowship hour hall to:

Drop off your business card

Smile for our cameras

Fill out your membership form

Fill out your annual pledge form

Sign up to work with us!

The Stewardship Committee's mission is to inspire our Parish members to give of their time, talent and resources.

"Give and it will be given to you" Luke 6:38

"EXPLORING OUR FAITH"

THE SS. PETER AND PAUL ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORUM

In an effort to better understand and discover the rich spiritual, historical, doctrinal and scriptural tradition of our Holy Orthodox Faith, the Adult Religious Education Forum "Exploring Our Faith" meets every other Thursday evening from 7:15pm to 8:30pm in the lower level conference room. Fr. Isaac facilitates the meetings in an informal setting using brief presentations as a springboard to open discussion on a wide range of topics concerning our Faith. The next meeting is Thursday, December 17, 2015. The topic will be "The After Life in Western Christianity, Eastern Religion, and Orthodox Tradition presented by Alfred Turnipseed. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Upcoming events...

Dec 13	*Christmas Play Performance *The Order of St. Ignatius hosting annual luncheon to follow Church School Play
Dec 17	Adult Ed Forum/Exploring our Faith/LL Conf. Rm/7:15pm
Dec 19	*Teen SOYO Christmas Party hosted by the Taweel Family *No Arabic classes due to Christmas Holiday
Dec 20	Christmas Concert following Liturgy w/Falafal Luncheon following concert
Dec 24	6:00p Matins/Feast of the Nativity 7:00p Divine Liturgy Feast of the Nativity
Dec 25	Church office closed
Dec 26	*Johannes Tesfahun Merilatt Baptism @noon *No Arabic classes due to Christmas Holiday
Dec 27	Fareed El-Hage Baptism @1:30pm
Dec 29	Men's Club Mtg/7:30pm/LL Conf. Rm.
Jan 01	Church Office Closed
Jan 01	Divine Liturgy-Feast of the Circumcision of Christ & Basil the Great @10:00am
Jan 02	*No Arabic classes due to Christmas Holiday *Arabic Liturgy @ 5:00pm
Jan 09	Arabic Language Class/10a-12:30p/LL Conf. Rm
Jan 10	Teen SOYO meeting (following Sunday School)
Jan 12	Parish Council Mtg. @7:00pm, LL Conf. Rm

EPISTLE

(For the Holy Forefathers)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians. (3:4-11)

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Holy Forefathers)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (14:16-24)

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

How will humanity escape from the birth that is subject to death, if it is not by means of a new birth, given in a wonderful and unexpected manner by God—that very regeneration that flows from the Virgin through faith?

St. Irenaeus of Lyons

Church Calendars

The new 2016 Church Calendars have arrived and are available in the Church Narthex (Entrance Hall). Please take one and sign the sheet (one calendar per family or individual member). Please hang the calendar in your home and use it as it includes the commemorations of the Saints and the daily scripture readings.

May God Bless all our Parish in the New Year

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Directors

Samia Zolnerowich
Jennifer Buchko

Teachers

Jumana Misleh
Susan Kozlov
Michelle Zook
Christine Morin
Layla Najjar
Lizzy Cassar
Lara Ballone
Andrew Salem
Caroline Jarboe
Amber Bennett
Stephen Zolnerowich
Anees Mokhiber

Men's Club

Sam Khalil

Antiochian Women

Kate Niewenhaus

Teen SOYO

Advisor

Jamilee Bellone

Officers

Rashid Haddad

Julia Allen

Danielle Bellone

Christopher Zolnerowich

Fellowship of St. John

Christine & Samer Korkor

Dr. Christian & Zeina

Manasseh

Adornment

Shams Akkawi

Jamil Hermes

Facility Management

Nick Nahas

Bob Simon

Rental Coordinator

Barbara Abraham

Charities

Sam Sahouri Ghanem

Finance

David Jackson

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 al-
 ways: now and ever, and unto ages
 of ages

LIVING

Parishioners who remain in our prayers continually

Margaret Ashley	May Fillah
Richie Kogok	Brian Briggs
Suad Shammass	Robert Simon
Lulu & George Brown	Bertha Aed
Isabel Threddeh	Holly Dubois
Thelma & Bob Badwey	Edmond & Sophie Neam

Josephine Lofgren
 Sally Ruffin
 Nouha Aramouni
 Bill Dora, Jr.
 Richie Ayoub
 Jamil Al-Kallas
 Sam & Marie Khalil
 Kera & Chris Tomlin
 John Wizeman

Salwa Gabro
 Robert Dubois
 Joan Lanciani
 Linda Dora Elkanich
 Patrick Emad
 Joyce Kupferman
 Shawn Khalil & Family
 Deena, Dean, Simeon, Adrian, Ephrem Gakos
 Amin & Amal Barakat & Family

DEPARTED

Very Rev. Fr. Elias Eid Sweiss
 Issa Shammass
 William Dora, Sr.
 Olga & Zore David
 Josephine & George Dora
 Christopher Barr
 Harry Hier
 Fawzi Maher Zabaneh
 Selwa & Tawfik Khalil
 Thelma & Raymond Walker
 Jimmy Lowry
 Yousef, Mabel, Shakir,
 Samira Barakat

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

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

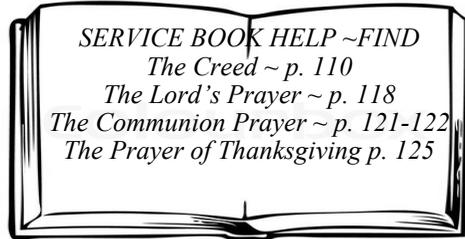
- the clergy censes the sanctuary
- the congregation is standing, or
- during the Little Entrance with the Gospel
- during the Reading of the Epistle and the Gospel

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.



HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION OFFERED BY:
 Marie Khalil
 Sami Najjar - One-Year Memorial for her mother Angèle Najjar

FELLOWSHIP HOUR OFFERED BY:
 The Oder of St. Ignatius (Christmas Luncheon)

The Order of St. Ignatius Luncheon is today Sunday, December 13
 Today, following the Christmas Play after Liturgy, The Order of St. Ignatius will be offering the Fellowship Hour with a luncheon. The lunch is free of charge and all parishioners and guests are welcome!