

	Bread of Holy Oblation	Fellowship Hour
15 Dec	Dolly Browning/IMO Fouad Azkoul	St. Ignatius Luncheon
22 Dec	Open	Open
29 Dec	Open	Open
05 Jan	Open	Open
12 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
(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 Mistleh

Treasurer
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Secretary

Abe Fannoney

Members
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Nabil Emad
Michele Forzley
Salim Habayeb
Bassem Haddad
Janet Metz
Alganesh Piechocinski
A.J. Wood

CHURCH SECRETARY
office@peterpaulpotomac.org

CHOIR DIRECTOR
Kristopher Reese
choir@peterpaulpotomac.org

ASSISTANT CHOIR DIRECTORS
Marie Hyder
Mark Buchko

CHANTERS
Amjad Khalil
Zeina Manasseh
Rezanne Toumi
George Tannous

USHERS
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Peter Aburdeineh

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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 15, 2019
tone 1/ EOTHINON 4

HIEROMARTYR ELEUTHERIOS, BISHOP OF ILLYRIA & SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS (ANCESTORS) OF CHRIST

MARTYR ANTHIA, MOTHER OF ELEUTHERIOS;

VENERABLE PAUL OF LATRA;

STEPHEN, BISHOP-CONFESSOR OF SUROZH;

VENERABLE TRYPHON OF PECHENGA

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (Tone 1)

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

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 it was she who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. ELEUTHERIOS OF ILLYRIA (Tone 5)

*(**Let us worship the Word**)*

Being comely adorned in thy sacred priestly robes * and newly drenched with the streams of thy pure and sanctified blood, * thou didst soar aloft to stand before thy Master, Christ; * hence never cease to intercede * for those honoring with faith thy mighty and blessed contest, * thou overthrower of Satan, O wise and blessed Eleutherios.

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.

In short, let every action be a cause of your remembering and praising God, and lo!
you will be praying without ceasing and therein your soul will always rejoice.

-Peter of Damascus

MAKING GOD REAL
In the Orthodox Christian Home

By Anthony M. Coniaris

Family Thank-you Notes to God and Others

Pass out a piece of blank white or colored paper to the members of your family. Encourage each child to use his or her imagination in folding it and designing a THANK YOU note from it. This can be repeated for several family sessions.

For one session, encourage your children to write a THANK YOU note to the Lord Jesus listing the blessings for which each one is thankful. After this is complete, let each child share with the other family members what he/she has written. In fact, the sharing may easily be turned into a prayer of "I AM THANKFUL TO YOU FOR ..." Such a thank-you-note-writing session can take advantage of the Orthodox Church calendar. Children can be encouraged to write: "Lord Jesus, I thank You for what You did for me at Christmas by ...; on Good Friday by ...; on Easter by ...; on Ascension Day by ...; on Pentecost by ...; etc.

Parents can read to the children the story of the healing of the ten lepers by Jesus. This story shows how much Jesus appreciated the one leper who returned to thank Him for the healing (St. Luke 17:12-18).

In another family session we can encourage our children to write thank-you notes to friends and relatives. These can later be mailed.

Usually the last persons we remember to send thank-you notes to are the members of our own family. Use other family sessions for the writing of thank-you notes to mom and dad, to brothers and sisters, to your priest or bishop.

Such writing sessions will encourage our children to express their feelings of gratitude to God and others. Few things build up love in life more than the expression of praise and appreciation.

Thank You 2019 Stewards!

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Ss Peter & Paul would like to thank the members of our parish who donated their many talents and long hours of hard work to the various ministries and activities of our parish this year, including our annual festival. We would also like to thank those who have financially supported the church through their 2019 donations.

If you haven't had the opportunity to support the church financially this year, it's not too late to do so. You can donate online at peterpaulpotomac.org, at the credit card kiosk located in the Narthex at the entrance of the church, or via check or cash.

It's not too early to start thinking about your plans for 2020. Stewardship forms for 2020 are available in the narthex. Please fill out and return one, even if you've filled one in previous years.

We wish you and your loved ones a blessed Nativity and a healthy and peaceful new year.

In Christ,

The Stewardship Committee.

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/y48hecx6>

- 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.

Jan 11, 2020*Hosting Christmas Hafti/invites have gone out to St. George, St. Mary, Holy Cross

Lay Advisors: see list on page 2

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 15 *Cookie Sale during St. Ignatius luncheon (see Flyer in Narthex)

2020

Jan 04 *Christmas Luncheon/11:30a-2p/Wildfire @Tysons Corner

March *Antiochian Women's Month

Mar 07 *Tea with Ladies of St. George (more info to follow)

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.

"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 15 *Church School Christmas Program, Christmas Lunch, Special Visitor (more info to follow)

***St. Ignatius Lunch**

*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.

OCCM News

- Missions are both distant and local. One **local mission** is the human trafficking work of Father John Anderson of the College Heights (near Anacostia) mission parish of St John the Merciful. (*Father John was the priest who substituted for Father Isaac at Holy Week and Pascha the year before last.*)
- The **St. Nicholas Freedom** group works as a leader in a pan-Orthodox Christian and allied effort to functionally ameliorate the scourge of human slavery of any kind, as well as the other most brutal types of oppressions that afflict the most vulnerable of God's people, women and children.
- You can learn more about this local mission at <https://saintnicholasfreedom.org>. It is a nonprofit organization in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and accepts tax deductible donations. The website is comprehensive.
- Human Trafficking is modern day slavery, and it is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world where people profit from the control and exploitation of others. Ultimately, it deprives people of their human rights and freedoms by controlling them through force, fraud or coercion to exploit them through forced labor, sexual exploitation, or both.
- Counseling professionals or others wishing to know more, and possibly volunteer can contact Father John Anderson via Mike Bosworth or Father Luke.

THE EPISTLE

(For St. Eleutherios)

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saint.

What shall we render unto the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto us?
The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (1:8-18)

Timothy, my son, do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel in the power of God, Who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, and now has manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, Who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, and therefore I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know Whom I have believed, and I am sure that He is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit Who dwells within us. You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, and among them Phygelos and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphoros, for he often refreshed me; he was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me eagerly and found me. May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

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."

Special Events for today!

Today the Church School will present their special Christmas Program. We expect a very special visitor after the program. Be on the lookout; I think he'll be dressed in red from head to toe!

Members of St. Ignatius are serving their annual Christmas Luncheon during Fellowship in Kogok Hall. All are welcome! Please don't miss this very special luncheon.

The Antiochian Women will be selling their delicious Christmas cookies during the St. Ignatius luncheon. The proceeds will benefit the Children's Relief Fund. (flyer located in Narthex).

CHURCH SCHOOL

Directors

Samia Zolnerowich
Jennifer Buchko

Teachers

Jumana Misleh
Susan Kozlov
SaraAyoub
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 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 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
 Fouad Azkoul
 Salwa Azkoul
 Wayne Browning
 Ophelia Browning
 Ghazi Aad
 Harry Hier
 Mitchell & Madelyn Nader

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	Amir & Sarah Abu-El-Hawa	Edward, Ritamarie, Emilia & Viviana Saa
Michael Piechocinski	Justin & Gaëlle	Siham Ayoub & Family
David & Dolly	Marcelle Rebeiz	Reba & Glen
Nagib Azkoul and family	Lidia, Ghassan, Adeeb, Farah & Hiba & their families	Andrea, Mitch, & Kate Nader
Taso, Michele & Timothy Markatos		

MEMORIAL SERVICE
 Fouad Azkoul

HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION OFFERED BY:
 Dolly Browning/IMO Fouad Azkoul

FELLOWSHIP OFFERED BY:
 St. Ignatius Luncheon

Christmas Eve Services
 6:00 pm Matins
 7:00 pm Divine Liturgy

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://novarelieffcenter.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**.