

FELLOWSHIP HOUR AND BREAD OF HOLY OBLATION

	BREAD OF HOLY OBLATION	COFFEE HOUR
Dec 22		
24		NO COFFEE HOUR
29	Mary Misleh	
Jan 5	Jarboe/Rados	Jarboe/Rados
12	Saah family	Saah family
19		
26	The Emads	The Emads
Feb 2		

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

www.peterpaulpotomac.org

All Things Are Possible to Him Who Believes

Matins: Sundays 9:30am

Divine Liturgy: Sundays 10:30am

Confessions: call to schedule



Sunday

December 15, 2013

29th Sunday after Pentecost

On this day, we commemorate: Hieromartyr Eleutherios, bishop of Illyria and his mother, Martyr Anthia; Venerable Paul of Latra; Stephen, bishop-confessor of Surozh; Venerable Tryphon of Pechenga

TROPARION (Tone 8)

From the heights thou didst descend O Compassionate One, and thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our Life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to thee.

TROPARION 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.

TROPARION of Ss. Peter & 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 Preparatory for the Nativity (Tone 2)

Today the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth in an ineffable manner to the Word before the ages. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hearest, and glorify with the angels and shepherds him who shall appear by his own will as a new babe, being God before the ages.

Priests

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

COUNCIL

Chairman

George Salem

Vice Chairman

David Jackson

Secretary

Caroline Emad

Treasurer

Norma Najjar

Members

Frank Abdow

Shams Akkawi

Jerry Audi

Leila Ayoub

Rida Boulos

Ziad Deeb

Dr. Bassem Haddad

Maha Jweied

Lorna Malooley

John Misleh

Metody Tilev

Church Secretary

Janet Tate

office@peterpaulpotomac.org

Choir Director

John Slanta

slanta@verizon.net

Chanters

Wayne Parr

George Tannous

Ushers

Jerry Audi

Michael El Araj

Abraham Fannoney

Sam Khalil

ALTAR

Manager

Peter Aburdeineh

Servers

Captains -

Robert Bridenhagen

Nicholas Zolnerowich

Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News

PROJECT ROOTS

Project Roots is a Christian endeavor to help all Americans of Lebanese descent to register their Births and Marriages in Lebanon to obtain status in Lebanon. This process of Lebanese registration is free of charge and is an important part of preserving the Christian presence and heritage in Lebanon and the Middle East. For information contact Janet Doumit Barakat at 240-463-2421 or janodoumit@yahoo.com and go to www.projectroots.net.

CATECHISM

from Fr. Isaac

STEWARDSHIP AS CREATION CARE

By Dr. John Chryssavgis

PART I: THE CHURCH FATHERS

If we turn to the Church Fathers, we see that they attribute the highest importance to oikonomia (stewardship or economy), which in their eyes implied a broader and more inclusive concept of revelation and salvation, identified with God's vision and desire to save the whole world. For our great theological teachers and spiritual masters, economy in fact refers to our very salvation by the all-embracing love of God for all humankind and to the universal compassion of the Creator for all creation. Somewhere along the line, we unfortunately shrunk the theme of "stewardship" to purely monetary terms that primarily include making contributions to philanthropic organizations—probably as a result of a narrow interpretation of scripture, and possibly as a result of the rigid focus of modern society.

All of this invariably affects not just our understanding of the moral obligation that we have toward one another as human beings, but also inevitably distorts the worldview that shapes our moral responsibility toward creation. By limiting our attention to divine commandments for human compassion, we have invariably excised from scripture the clear mandate to creation care. Yet, these two dimensions of Christian life are integrally interrelated; one cannot envisage human progress without ecological preservation. The way we treat God's creation in nature essentially reflects the way we respect human beings created "in the image and likeness of God." The reality is that we should respond to nature with the same tenderness that we are called to respond to people. All of our spiritual activities are ultimately measured by their impact on the natural creation; just as all of our ecological choices are finally evaluated by their effect on the poor.

LOOKING AHEAD Upcoming events...

Dec 17 - Adult Education Forum @ 7:15pm
Dec 22 - Baptism of Amar Choueiri @ 12:15pm
Dec 22 - Christmas Concert @ 1pm
Dec 24 - Christmas Liturgy @ 7:30pm
Dec 26 - Baptism of Kaia McFadden @ 1pm
Dec 28 - Baptism of Alexa Asfaw @ 1pm
Dec 29 - Baptism of Noura El-Hage at 1pm
Dec 30 - Baptism of Mireille Leong at 12pm
Jan 4 - Arabic Liturgy @ 5pm
Jan 7 - Adult Education Forum @ 7:15pm
Jan 11 - Un-decorate the church @ 7am
Jan 14 - Parish Council Meeting @ 7pm
Jan 18 - Baptism of Grace Sanchez @ 11am

Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News

CHOIR AND CHANTER APPRECIATION SUNDAY

Today we honor our choir members and chanters in appreciation for their dedication and commitment to the beauty of our church services. Whether at the Divine Liturgy, vespers, orthros, sacraments or various other services of the Church, they give of their time and talents to offer up glory to God. Can we imagine one of our beautiful services without our choirs or chanters? Let us therefore honor them by praying for their good health and thanking them on this day for their special offering as part of the body of Christ.

COLLECTION FOR THE NEEDY

Today is the last day the ladies auxiliary is collecting toiletries and small clothing items for the needy. Partnering with *Bethesda Cares*, who have supplied the backpacks to hold the supplies, many families have purchased toiletries. If you brought a bag today, please label them Male/Female (in a plastic bag) and deliver them to the large box Labeled "Collection for the Needy." See Rida Boulous for more information. Thank you for your support of this ministry!

SUNDAY LUNCH DEC 15

Today, after Liturgy the St. Ignatius Christmas Luncheon is held and followed by the Sunday School Children's Christmas Play. The luncheon is \$8.00 a person and \$25.00 for a family of four.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Honor or remember a loved one and beautify the sanctuary for Christmas at the same time. Today is the last day to make a donation to designate a poinsettia for the health of or in memory of your loved one(s). Find a form in the vestibule and turn it in today to either Leila Ayoub or Thomaseena Cox at Cox1903@aol.com.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR WREATHS

See the variety of beautiful Christmas Wreaths in Kogok Hall for sale today. Made by members of the Ladies Auxiliary, the wreaths are fresh this year. The cost of the wreaths are the same as last year--\$35. Additionally the Ladies are selling hand made trays of Baklawa.

EXPLORING OUR FAITH

Adult Ed class meets this Tuesday, December 17th at 7:15pm in the lower level conference room. All are welcome, with a special invitation to young adults. For more information, contact Fr. Isaac at frisaac@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Next Sunday, December 22nd from 1:00 to 1:45pm in the sanctuary, *La Camerata Nuove*, a choral group led by our former choir director, Francisco De Araujo, perform a Christmas concert of holiday cheer and Christian love. Admission is FREE. Have a snack at Fellowship Hour and come enjoy this musical treat!

Epistle

Colossians 3:4-11 (29th Sunday after Pentecost)

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: O Lord, how magnificent are your works. You have made all things in wisdom. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Reader: The Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians

Deacon: Let us attend.

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.

Gospel

Luke 14:16-24 (11th Sunday of Luke)

Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.'"

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Directors

Samia Zolnerowich
Jennifer Buchko

Teachers

Nicole Kyriakos
Susan Kozlov
Michelle Zook

Jennifer Montgomery
Ranya Eid

Leila Taweel

Hala Paskaleva

Razan Abdallah

Caroline Jarboe

Anthony Eid

Stephen Zolnerowich

Anees Mokhiber

Men's Club

Bill Zook

Ladies Auxiliary

Ann Marie Moses

Teen SOYO

Robert Bridenhagen

Layla Najjar

Nick Zolnerowich

Sarah Salem

Phillip Allen

Reema Guegel

Fellowship of St. John

Christine & Samer Korkor

Christian & Zeina Manasseh

Adornment

Shams Akkawi

Facility Management

Bob Simon,

George Rados Jr

Nick Nahas

Rental Coordinator

Barbara Abraham

Charities

Sam Sahouri Ghanem

Cultural

Sami Najjar

Educational

Gabriel Habib

Finance

David Jackson

Stewardship

Lorna Malooley

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 enter the sanctuary quietly during the Divine Liturgy.

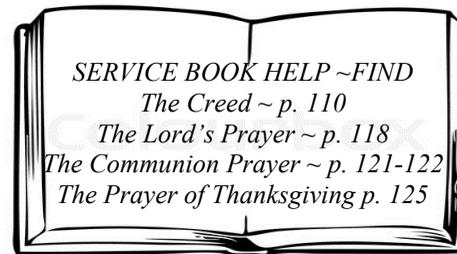
PLEASE DO NOT ENTER OR EXIT THE SANCTUARY AS

- 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 IS OFFERED BY: V. Rev. Fr. Elias Bitar

in memory of his wife Joann Bitar with Sherrie Zacharia preparing

1 year Memorial for Joann Bitar

JELLOWSHIP HOUR IS: St. Ignatius Christmas Dinner

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

Parishioners who remain in our prayers continually

George Brown

Asma Ayoub

Kathy Habib

Abe & Lulu Brown

Issa Shammass

LIVING

Naimeh Ghanayem

Kera & Chris Tomlin

Madelyn Nader

Dee Garvin

Jessica, Justin & newborn Alexandra Clara Hawkins

Katherine Slanta

V. Rev. Fr. Elias Bitar & family

Fred & Sherrie Zacharia & family

Sam Khalil & family

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

Joann Bitar

Evelyn T. Coury

Jeane Athena Saah ^{Dec 3}

Fadel Elias Taweel ^{Nov 16}