

	Bread of Holy Oblation	Fellowship Hour
16 Dec	Gabro Family/IMO Salwa Gabro (HB & MW)	The Order of St. Ignatius Luncheon
23 Dec	Tawil Family/IMO Naim Tawil (HB) George Eways/40-Day Memorial Stephen & Samia Zolnerowich (MW/IMOMelinda Aumaitre)	Tawil Family/IMO Naim Tawil (HB & MW)
30 Dec	Mary Misleh (HB) Ann Mahan/40-Day Memorial	Rose Debbas/IMO Edward Debbas
06 Jan	OPEN	OPEN
13 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
Bassem Haddad
Samer Kokor
Anees Mokhiber
Wayne Parr
Mitody Tilev

CHURCH SECRETARY
office@peterpaulpotomac.org

CHOIR DIRECTOR
Kristopher Reese
choir@peterpaulpotomac.org

ASSISTANT CHOIR DIRECTORS
Marie Hyder
Mark Buchko

CHANTERS
Amjad Khalil
Wayne Parr
Zeina Manasseh
Rezanne Toumi
George Tannous

USHERS
Jerry Audi
Michael El Araj
Abraham Fannoney
Sam Khalil

ALTAR Manager
Peter Aburdeineh

SERVERS
Captains -
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 16, 2018

tone 4 / EOTHINON 7

SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS (ANCESTORS) OF CHRIST

PROPHET HAGGAI; THEOPHANIA THE EMPRESS;

MODESTOS, ARCHBISHOP OF JERUSALEM

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (Tone 4)

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world 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 it was she 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)

*(**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.

Do not do anything without signing yourself with the sign of the Cross! When you depart on a journey, when you begin your work, when you go to study, when you are alone, and when you are with other people, seal yourself with the Holy Cross on your forehead, your body, your chest, your heart, your lips, your eyes, your ears. All of you should be sealed with the sign of Christ's victory over hell. Then you will no longer be afraid of charms, evil spirits, or sorcery, because these are dissolved by the power of the Cross like wax before fire and like dust before the wind.

+Elder Cleopa of Romania

SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM

The possibilities of human intelligence, in which the image of God is, in a certain way, concentrated, or rather reflected, are limitless. They are limitless in both a "horizontal" sense and in the sense that they will not end. For the image of God, which is a call, can be rejected. The Orthodox, together with all other Christians, can engage in scientific research with the Name of Christ inscribed in their hearts and can enter into dialogue and collaboration with men of science. They have the duty to witness to the irreducible and inexhaustible character of humanity, as well as to the prodigious intelligence which fills the universe—*another* intelligence, which inscribes numbers and symbols of transcendence on all of creation. The presence of this inexhaustible dimension and of this Wisdom makes the scientific quest possible and can correct its mistakes. Against a science closed in on itself, spiritual men call for a science that remains open, capable of refining and directing its aims, capable also of self-limitation out of respect for humanity and the earth. For the first time in history, employing the forces of creation without any sense of limits, we have achieved the capacity to destroy human life on the planet. The earth itself is menaced by the threat of nuclear destruction and environmental pollution. In this context, scientists and religious believers should recognize that they need each other. The former can explain what is happening to our earth. The latter can inspire a love of God's creation, for which humanity is increasingly responsible. The "contemplation of the glory of God hidden in creatures and things," about which our ascetics speak, must move beyond monastic cells and hermitages to inspire the efforts of science and culture. It must teach scientific research and technology not to disintegrate matter and destroy nature, but to reintegrate all in Wisdom.

Patriarch Bartholomew I

SS. PETER AND PAUL PARISH COUNCIL 2019

Prayers and congratulations on the election of the new 2019 officers of the Parish Council:

Chairperson:	Carol Laham	Vice Chairperson:	Jumana Misleh
Treasurer:	Ken Bailey	Secretary:	Abe Fannoney

May God Bless them together with all the new and serving members in their ministry to the Holy Church.

ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE SUMMER CAMP 2019

Attention Parents: Online registration for the Antiochian Village summer camp has started. The program is open to children ages 9-17 years. The sessions run from June 16 through August 9, 2019. Parents are encouraged to send their children to session 4 (July 28 thru August 9) in order to share bus transportation. Please register your children soon as places fill up quickly. See <https://avcamp.org/>

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 16 Church School Christmas Program/St. Ignatius Lunch w/a 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 22 *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

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 16 *Church School Christmas Play with a special visitor from the North Pole.
Dec 22 *The Order of St. Ignatius Dinner (see box on page 2 for more details)
Dec 22 *Baptism/Aryana Sahouri/1:30p
Dec 22 *Teen SOYO/visit shut-ins for Christmas Caroling/11a-6p
Dec 23 *Choir Christmas Concert/following Liturgy
Dec 23 *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 26 *Baptism/Elijah T. Mitchell/1:30p
Dec 30 *No Church School/New Year's Holiday

THE 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."

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."

St. Ignatius Christmas Luncheon

Today, 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

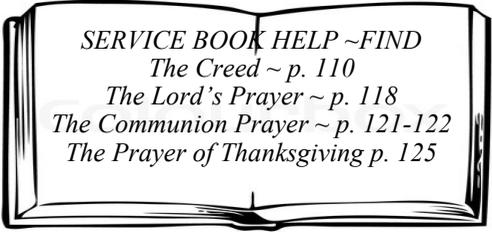
Orthodox Christians
Faithful Orthodox fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when they receive Holy Communion in fulfillment of Christ's command to eat His Body and drink His Blood. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, communicants should not be conscious of grave sin, 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 Threddeh	George Brown	Nabeeha Ayoub
Holly Dubois	Suad Shammas	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	Assad & Patricia Khoury
Bob & Shirley Neri		

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	Eways Family	Nils Lofgren
Forest Hamlin	David Browning	Dolly Browning
Michele Forzley & Family	Tony Gabro & Family	
Wafa Atiyeh		

DEPARTED
Fr. George Rados
Melinda Aumaitre
George Eways
Marguerite (Ann) Mahan
Salwa Gabro
Mitchell & Madelyn Nader
Fouad Najib Azkoul
Salwa Fouad Azkoul
Wayne Browning
Ophelia Browning
Harry Hier

MEMORIAL SERVICE
Salwa Gabro/2yr Memorial

HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION OFFERED BY:
Tony Gabro & Family in Memory of Salwa Gabro

MEMORIAL WHEAT OFFERED BY:
Tony Gabro & Family in Memory of Salwa Gabro

FELLOWSHIP OFFERED BY:
The Order of St. Ignatius Luncheon

CHRISTMAS DECORATING COMMITTEE

On-Going *Donations for the Poinsettias are ongoing. 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.elexiochms.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!