

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.

	Bread of Holy Oblation	Fellowship Hour
17 Dec	Dolly Browning	St. Ignatius Christmas Luncheon
24 Dec	Kheirbek Family	Open
31 Dec	Kheirbek Family Mary Misseh Bailey Family-IMO Sami Gabbour	Bailey Family IMO Sami Gabbour
07 Jan	Open	Open
14 Jan	Open	Tilev Family

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.

SS. PETER AND PAUL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

All Things Are Possible to Him Who Believes

Matins: Sundays 9:30am

Divine Liturgy: Sundays 10:30am

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

TONE 3 / EOTHINON 6

SUNDAY OF FOREFATHERS (ANCESTORS) OF CHRIST

PROPHET DANIEL AND THE THREE HOLY YOUTHS ANANIAS, AZARIAS AND MISHAEL;
DIONYSIOS OF ZAKYNTHOS, THE WONDERWORKER;
NEW MARTYRS PAISIOS THE HIEROMONK AND
HIS DISCIPLE HABAKKUK THE DEACON OF BELGRADE

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 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**)*

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.

We were created for eternal life by our Creator, we are called to it by the word of God, and we are renowned by holy Baptism. And Christ the Son of God came into the world for this—that He should call us and take us there, and He is the one thing needful. For this reason your very first endeavor and care should be to receive it. Without it everything is as nothing, though you have the whole world under you.

St. Tikhon of Zadonsk

A Community of Hope and Joy

In fact, we live by hope. This is true for everyone, believer and unbeliever alike. We could not continue from one day to the next without hope. We hope that the sun will rise in the morning. We hope that our nation will be at peace. We hope that we will have a job. We hope that our family and loved ones will be well. We may long for certainty, but we live by hope. St. Paul makes an obvious, but important point when he says: “Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?” (Romans 8:24) Our question is: on what do we hope?

For Christians our hope rests on Christ, on His resurrection. “For if Christ has not been raised ... [our] faith is in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:17). His resurrection gives us an assurance that suffering and death - all too common in this present existence — do not have the final word. St. Paul, speaking from his own experience of pain and trial, reminds us that “the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Romans 8:18). And so, we live by hope which is that place between sadness and joy.

St. Symeon the New Theologian, in a remarkable explanation of the hymn, “Having beheld the resurrection of Christ,” differentiates between those who *believe* in Christ’s resurrection and those who have *beheld* His resurrection. He says that a great many people believe in His resurrection, but there are not so many who see His resurrection. And, leading us deeper into the meaning of that phrase, he asks: why do we say ‘beheld’ when we now live hundreds of years from that event? Moreover, even of those who were present, the soldiers guarding the tomb, the women bringing myrrh, the Disciples hiding out of fear, not one of them was an “eyewitness” to the event. He tells us what we should already know, “that the resurrection of Christ takes place in each of us who believes, not just once, but every hour of every day, when Christ the Master arises in us, resplendent and flashing with the lightening brightness of His Divinity.” When that happens we know the power of Christ’s resurrection because we ourselves see Him risen. His resurrection will be our experience as it was the experience of the very first Christians. Then we will have that joy that no one will take away.

In the spiritual tradition of the Church, great guides like the Desert Fathers advise us that we should always be thinking about our death. Not in a morbid fashion, but in order to put all of our life into immediate relief, to help us prioritize. This question of death has dominated human thought from the moment we were able to engage in any act of self-reflection. Everything in our being screams out that we do not want to, that we should not, pass into nonexistence. Even for those of us who try to avoid thinking about it, it preoccupies us in ways that we hardly notice. It has the power to shape and influence our behavior. If we might say out loud that “we can’t take it with us,” we, nevertheless, consume and accumulate goods as though we hope that we can. Long before modern psychology proposed its own theories surrounding it, we have known in our hearts that the fear of death is the foundation of all fear.

Throughout this letter we have used the words "Good News" when referring to the Gospel. Good News is a direct translation of the original Greek word "Evangelion." The Good News that the first witnesses of the Lord's resurrection proclaimed to the world was His victory over death. It was Good News then, and it remains Good News for us today. It is Good News because it addresses this primary human question.

*From a Pastoral Letter for the Third Millennium
Part 2 of 3*

PRIEST

Very Reverend

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DEACON

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DnChristian@peterpaulpotomac.org

COUNCIL

Chairperson

Suzanne Hermes

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ALTAR

Manager

Peter Aburdeineh

SERVERS

Captains -

Andrew Erickson

Rashid Haddad

Thomas Zook

Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News and Events

CHURCH SCHOOL 2017-2018

Registration for Church School is ongoing using this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/GQ6uQSnftimwgwJW2>. Also, please make sure to register with the church, including your email as most Church school announcements go out to the entire parish. School calendars are now available. We are also in need of snacks/drinks for the children--small and reg. juice boxes, juice pouches, small waters, individually wrapped snacks (PEANUT & TREE NUT FREE).

Dec 17 *Church School Christmas Play
Mar 18 *2018 Pascha Prep Workshop

CHURCH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PLAY

The Church School Christmas Play and St. Ignatius luncheon will be held after Church today, December 17. Once again, Carol Pappas provided her beautiful costumes for our children.

TEEN SOYO

Events and outreach projects:
Jan 05 *Overnight Retreat

The Lay Advisors are:
Zaid Sharafudin/zaid343@yahoo.com and
Anees Mokhiber / aneesmokhiber@gmail.com

THE ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

The Antiochian Woman will continue collecting funds and will be available in the Hall to accept your donations for the Poinsettias to decorate the church for Christmas.

Please note that we are accepting dues payments from those ladies willing to help underwrite our costs during the year.

Save the Date: Saturday, January 13 for a Luncheon Meeting hosted by Kate Niewenhous.

THE PARISH GIFT SHOP

The Ss. Peter and Paul Parish Gift Shop (formally the Parish Bookstore) is now open in its new location on the right side of the Narthex (entrance hall) opposite the elevator. The Gift Shop is newly stocked with books, bibles, Icons, CDs and all kinds of hand-made religious items with many items for children. The Gift Shop will open every Sunday following Liturgy. For information contact Alma Jean Zaki at (703) 283-9338 or ajmzaki@gmail.com

MEN'S CLUB

Jan 06, 2018 Take down Christmas decorations/9:00a

"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 lower level conference room. The next meeting is **Thursday, January 4, 2018**. Fr. Isaac facilitates the meetings using brief presentations as a springboard to open discussion on a variety of topics concerning our faith. ALL ARE WELCOME. Please contact Fr. Isaac at frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org or Kate Niewenhous at hand-maidens20854@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 and 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 (alexcoxsells@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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Dec 17 * Church School Christmas Play to follow the Liturgy
*St. Ignatius Luncheon to follow Church School Christmas Play
Dec 24 *10:30a/Liturgy for Sunday before Nativity
*9:00p/Matins for the Feast of the Nativity
*10:00p/Liturgy for the Nativity
Dec 25 *Office Closed
Dec 27 *Aron Nabil Choueiry Baptism/12p
Dec 29 *Malooley/Partridge Wedding/
Dec 31 *Petro/Azar Wedding/4p
Jan 01 *Offices Closed
Jan 05 *Feast of the Theophany/Great Blessing of the Waters/Vespers 6:00p/Divine Liturgy 7p
*Teen SOYO/Overnight Retreat

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."

Antiochian Village News

There are only a few spots left for Winter Camp 2018! It is during Presidents' Week--February 16-19. If your child is in 7th-12th grade and you would like them to attend, go to avcamp.org and register them as soon as possible. Also, registration for Summer Camp 2018 has begun. If you are planning to send your child (from age 9-17) to camp next summer please register right away. These sessions fill up amazingly quickly--more than 200 campers were registered the first day! If you have questions, please contact the Village or Samia Zolnerowich at samiacz25@gmail.com

CHURCH SCHOOL

Directors

Samia Zolnerowich
Jennifer Buchko

Teachers

Jumana Misleh
Susan Kozlov
Rose Ansara
Chrissy Mackoul
Michelle Zook
Dina Saah
Dara Potter
Claudia Rabie
Christine Morin
Jennifer Montgomery
Caroline Jarboe
Stephen Zolnerowich
Anees Mokhiber
AJ Wood
Philip Allen

MENS CLUB

Sam Khalil

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

Carol Laham

TEEN SOYO

Lay Advisors

Zaid Sharafudin
Anees Mokhiber

Officers

Kinda Callas
Julia Allen
Joud Al-Kallas
Josian Azar
Tia Saah

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Wayne Parr

ADORNMENT

Shams Akkawi
Jamil Hermes

FACILITY MANAGEMENT

Sam Berberian
Nick Nahas
Bob Simon

RENTAL COORDINATOR

Barbara Abraham

CHARITIES

Sam Sahouri Ghanem

FINANCE

Salim Habayeb

STEWARDSHIP

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.

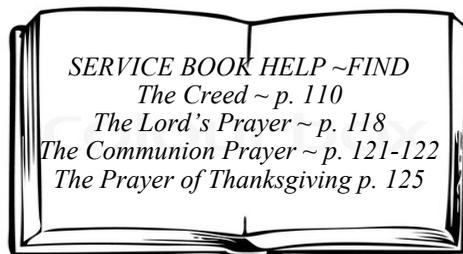
PLEASE DO NOT ENTER OR EXIT THE SANCTUARY AS

- 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.



HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION OFFERED BY:

The Browning Family

The Nader Family/One Year Memorial for Madelyn Nader

MEMORIAL WHEAT

The Browning Family

The Nader Family/One Year Memorial for Madelyn Nader

Guegel Family/40-Day Memorial for Bill Mooney

FELLOWSHIP OFFERED BY:

St. Ignatius Luncheon

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

Parishioners who remain in our prayers continually

Margaret Ashley	Brian Briggs	Mary Smith
Helen White	Isabel Threddeh	George Brown
Everett Alvarez	Holly Dubois	Robert & Thelma Badwey
Edmond & Sophie Neam	Miriam Yazge	Barbara Abraham
George & Joan Abraham	Lulu Brown	Martin Pinkstaff
Suad Shammass	Mary Bazargan	Michael Buchko, Sr.

LIVING

Leila Khoury
 Louise Magelli
 Mark Buchko
 Danielle Bellone
 Edward Rizkallah
 Myr Tamari & Family
 Bob Cohen
 Forest Hinkle
 Azkoul Family
 Siham Ayoub
 Joyce Kogok
 Ziad Deeb
 The Nader Family
 The Haddad Family
 Dorothy & Michael Marge & Family
 Ferguson Family
 Mike Family
 Roland & Reema Guegel & Family
 Debbie Brown
 West Family

Bob Petrossian
 Julia Fayad
 Sherie Zacharia
 Anastasia Lampathakis
 Youstina Mikharel
 Susan Fannoney
 John Dalelio
 Browning Family
 Nader Family
 Dorothy & Michael Marge
 Betty Adams
 Mitch, Andrea & Kate Nader
 The Moses Family
 Sam & Margo Ghanem
 DeCandia Family
 Arwady Family
 Mona Ayoub & Family
 Janet Metz & Family
 Maurice & Foutni Naccache
 Sakai Family

DEPARTED

Archpriest George Rados
 Marie Kennedy
 Ludwig Tamari
 Betty Strippling
 Scott Buckman
 Nicholas Mourad
 Salwa & Fouad Azkoul
 Madelyn Nader
 Harry Hier
 Madelyn & Mitch Nader
 Jack & Mary Moses
 Eugene Moses
 Albert & Elizabeth Nader
 Sam & Kay Haddad
 Dolly Nader
 Gloria Nader
 Hladke Family
 Kunsevich Family
 Arwady Family
 Marge Family
 Mike Family
 Thomas Family
 Mufrid K. Ayoub
 Victoria (Ayoub) Audi
 William Money

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Fouad & Salwa Azkoul
 Madelyn Nader
 William Money