

| | Bread of Holy Oblation | Fellowship Hour |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 18 Dec | Dr George Malouf SR | Dr George Malouf SR |
| 24 Dec | Bill Barbari, Katie & Daniel Nassif, Zeina Manasseh | No Fellowship |
| 01 Jan | Mary Misleh | open |
| 08 Jan | Daoud Family | Daoud Family |
| 15 Jan | Tony & Emelie Sayegh | 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

All Things Are Possible to Him Who Believes

Matins: Sundays 9:30am

Divine Liturgy: Sundays 10:30am

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016

TONE 1/EOTHINON 4

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (THE GENEALOGY)

MARTYRS SEBASTIAN AND ZOE OF ROME, AND THOSE WITH THEM

APOLYTIKION OF THE RESURECTION (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 SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY (Tone 2)

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their prayers, 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.

Look to Heaven and measure every step of your life so that it is a step towards it.

St. Theophan the Recluse

POINTSETTA FLOWER DONATIONS

The Antiochian Women are 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. Completed forms can be returned to the Antiochian Women attention of Thomaseena Cox or Leila Ayoub, Thomaseena Cox – cox1903@aol.com or Leila Ayoub – layoub@finmarc.com or fax 301-497-9472. Completed forms need to be returned no later than **Sunday, December 18th**.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD

The Teens will continue to collection donations for the Parish Christmas card every Sunday through the end of December during the Fellowship Hour. Donations provide much needed financial support to a variety of charities and allows them to put special programs and activities together. The suggested donation is \$30.00. You can also mail your donation to the Church, Attn. Jamilee Bellone/Teen SOYO.

THE HOLY CHURCH includes many people, men, women and children without number. They are all quite different from one another, in birth, in size, in nationality and language, in style of living and age, in trades and opinions, in clothes and customs, in knowledge and rank, in welfare and in appearance. They are nonetheless all of them in the selfsame Church. Thanks to her, they are all reborn, newly created in the Spirit. The Church grants to all of them without distinction the grace of belonging in Christ and of taking his name by calling themselves Christians.

Faith, moreover, puts us in a position which is extremely simple, and incapable of separation, in such a way that the differences between us seem not to exist, because everything is gathered together into the Church and reconciled in her.

No one lives alone any more, no one is separated from the others, but all are mutually joined together as brothers and sisters in the simple and indivisible power of faith.

Of the first Church, Scripture says: “The company of those who believed were of one heart and soul” Acts 1:32 in such a way that all the many members looked like a single body, truly worthy of Christ himself, our true Head. And speaking of the action of Christ in the Church, the Apostle asserts: “There is neither male nor female, neither Jew nor Greek, neither circumcised nor uncircumcised, neither barbarian nor Scythian, neither slave nor freeman, but Christ is all and in all.” (cf. Gal. 3:28; Colossians. 3:11) Christ with the unique power of goodness and with infinite wisdom reunites everything in himself, as the center from which the rays go out.

MAXIMUS THE CONFESSOR

Charity Collection — Extra Tray

This month, the Charity Collection, our monthly extra tray will be in support of a very important Antiochian Orthodox Institution: St George Hospital in Beirut, Lebanon. The American Foundation for St. George Hospital is dedicated to the mission of providing essential support for the hospital and its infrastructure and services. Please be generous in assisting the Foundation and the Hospital.

Ss. Peter & Paul Church Choir Concert

Today, as part of our preparation for the Feast of the Nativity, our church choir will offer a short concert of Nativity Hymns and Christmas Carols. The concert will take place following Liturgy and will be followed by the Fellowship Hour. Please plan on being in attendance.

Ss. Peter & Paul Church Library & Learning Center

Work has begun on setting up the new Parish Library and Learning Center in the lower level of the Church. Donations are still needed to support this important educational and informational resource center for the Parish. Please send all donations to St. Peter & Paul Church earmarked “Library Fund.” In addition, donation of books on topics related to the Orthodox Faith, Doctrine, Church History, Liturgy, and Scripture will be gratefully accepted. Please contact Fr. Isaac, Dn. Christian, or Kate Niewenhaus for more information.

2017 Church Calendars

The Church Calendars for the New Year 2017 have arrived and are available in the Narthex (Church Entrance). Please take only **ONE** per family or household. May the coming New Year be a blessing to all our Parish Family.

Priest

Very Reverend

Fr. Isaac Crow

frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org

(401) 300-8238 cell

(240) 489-3494 home

Deacon

Dn. Christian Manasseh

DnChristian@peterpaulpotomac.org

Priest Emeritus

Very Reverend

Fr. George Rados

frgeorge@peterpaulpotomac.org

COUNCIL

Chairperson

Suzanne Hermes

Vice Chairman

Gary Farha

Secretary

Steve Simon

Treasurer

Richard Mahan

Members

Alex Cox

Abdallah Daoud

Paul Debs

Lina Eid

Anita El-Araj

Samer Korkor

Justin Misleh

Tony Moussa

Wayne Parr

Metody Tilev

George Zaki

Church Secretary

office@peterpaulpotomac.org

Choir Director

John Slanta

choir@peterpaulpotomac.org

Chanters

Wayne Parr

George Tannous

Zeina Manasseh

Ushers

Jerry Audi

Michael El Araj

Abraham Fannoney

Sam Khalil

ALTAR

Manager

Peter Aburdeineh

Servers

Captains -

Rashid Haddad

Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News and Events

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have classes for children 3 years old through 12th grade and meet following Communion. Registrations are handled online at <http://tinyurl.com/registerSunSchool>. We are in need of snacks & drinks for the kids. Individually wrapped snacks, juice pouches, flavored water pouches in the 4oz-6oz & small 8oz bottles for water. We ask each family to contribute throughout the year. **We are looking for one more teacher for this school year. Please contact peterpaulsundaysschool@gmail.com.**

Sun Dec . 18, 25, Jan 1 — No Sunday school

TEEN SOYO

Now thru - Dec. 31

Teens collecting donations for the parish Christmas card during Fellowship. After Dec. 18 please mail to the Church Attn: Jamilee Bellone/Teen SOYO

Jan 8

*Teen SOYO monthly mtg./12:30p LL Conf. Rm.

Jan TBD

*Annual Snow Tubing event. Exact date TBD. Stay tuned.

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

All young adults in the parish (20-40 years of age) are encouraged to participate in this important ministry of the church. The fellowship is planning a number of activities for the new year including resumption of its study group meetings, potluck dinners, and Orthodoxy-on-Tap get togethers. For more information contact Jad Ibrahim Jr. at jad.ibrahim.jr@gmail.com, Lizzy Cassar or Dn. Christian Manasseh at dchristian@peterpaulpotomac.org.

MEN'S CLUB

Jan 7, 2017

Take down Church decorations

Jan 29, 2017

Falafal Lunch

Feb 11, 2017

Dinner Dance (see flyer in Narthex)

Jun 07, 2017

Golf Tournament

Jun 25, 2017

Ss. Peter & Paul Picnic/Bretton Woods Rec Ctr (more details to follow)

ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE NEWS

Winter Camp: Winter Camp will be February 17-20, 2017.

Please go to www.avcamp.org for more information and to sign up.

Summer Camp: It may be cold outside but registration is now open for Summer Camp 2017! These sessions fill up fast every year so please do not wait to register your children! The website is avcamp.org. Feel free to contact the website or Samia Zolnerowich at samiacz25@gmail.com if you have any questions about the Village.

(Please note: if your family is in financial hardship, please see Father Isaac about assistance to pay for camp.)

"EXPLORING OUR FAITH" THE SS. PETER AND PAUL ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORUM

"Exploring Our Faith" will meet every other Thursday evening from **7:15pm to 8:30pm** in the lower level conference room. The next meeting is **Thursday, December 29, 2016**. Fr. Isaac facilitates the meetings using brief presentations as a springboard to open discussion on a wide range of topics concerning our Faith. Please contact Fr. Isaac at frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org or Kate Niewenhouse at handmaidens20854@gmail.com for more information. ALL ARE WELCOME..

SS. PETER & PAUL OUTREACH VISITATION MINISTRY

Our Parish is starting a new outreach ministry 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 (georgezaki@gmail.com or ajmzaki@gmail.com), Alex Cox (alexcoxsells@gmail.com) or Fr. Isaac (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 18 | *Ss. Peter & Paul Choir Concert directly following the Liturgy. |
| Dec 23 | *9:00a/Royal Hours of the Nativity |
| Dec 24 | * Feast of the Nativity |
| * | 6:00p/Matins |
| | 7:00p/Divine Liturgy |
| | (Please note: there are no services on Sunday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day) |
| Dec 29 | *Adult Education Forum LL Conf. Rm. @7:15p (see above for more details) |
| 2017 | |
| Jan 01 | *Feast of the Circumcision of Christ & St. Basil the Great |
| Jan 05 | Thursday |
| | *9:00a/Royal Hours of Theophany |
| | *6:00p/Orthros |
| | *7:00p/Divine Liturgy for The Feast of Theophany |
| Jan 07 | *take down Church decorations |
| Jan 08 | *The Sunday after Theophany/Great Blessing Of the Waters |
| Jan 10 | *Parish Council Mtg./7p |
| Jan 12 | *Adult Education Forum LL Conf. Rm. @7:15p (see above for more details) |
| Jan 15 | *Issa Saleh Baptism/1:30p |
| Jan 29 | *Falafal Lunch (in lieu of Coffee hour) |
| Feb 11 | *Dinner Dance |
| Feb 14 | *Parish Council Mtg./7p |

THE EPISTLE

(For the Sunday before the Nativity)

Blessed are Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers.

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

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (11:9-10, 32-40)

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday before the Nativity: "The Genealogy")

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (1:1-25)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Joseph, and Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ were fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Directors

Samia Zolnerowich

Jennifer Buchko

Teachers

Jumana Misleh

Susan Kozlov

Michelle Zook

Christine Morin

Lizzy Cassar

Caroline Jarboe

Chrissy Mackoul

Anees Mokhiber

Philip Allen

AJ Wood

Jennifer Montgomery

Dina Saah

Stephen Zolnerowich

Men's Club

Sam Khalil

Antiochian Women

Carol Laham

Teen SOYO

Advisor

Jamilee Bellone

Officers

Danielle Bellone

Kinda Callas

Maya Saah

Joud Al-Kallas

Juliana Natour

Young Adult Fellowship

Jad Ibrahim, Jr.

Lizzy Cassar

Adornment

Shams Akkawi

Jamil Hermes

Facility Management

Sam Berberian

Nick Nahas

Bob Simon

Rental Coordinator

Barbara Abraham

Charities

Sam Sahouri Ghanem

Finance

Gary Farha

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 always: now and ever, and unto ages of ages

Parishioners who remain in our prayers continually

Archpriest George Rados
Margaret Ashley
Helen White
Holly Dubois
Edmond & Sophie Neam
George & Joan Abraham
Barbara Abraham
Everett Alvarez

Brian Briggs
Isabel Thredch
Thelma Badwey
Tesia Yonkers
Lulu Brown
Mary Smith

LIVING

Leena Haddad
Dr. Eyad Hamameh
Mary Shahid
Bill Efdimas
Donna Gavin
John Bitar & Family
Mufarrj Family
The Family of May Fillah

Debbie Brown
Janice
Joyce Kogok
Mona Ayoub & Family
Oscar Gebran
Malouf Family
Zalzal Family

DEPARTED

May Fillah
Irfan Shahid
Hanna Saba
William Dora, Sr.
Mufid Ayoub
Joseph Ferguson
Madelyn Nader
Abe Fillah
Larry Jackson
Erin Gebran Fillah
Harry Hier
Eva Malouf

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 Creed ~ p. 110
The Lord's Prayer ~ p. 118
The Communion Prayer ~ p. 121-122
The Prayer of Thanksgiving p. 125

HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION OFFERED BY:

George and Grace Malouf – 1-Year Memorial for Eva Malouf

The Family of May Fillah 40-day Memorial for May Fillah and prepared by Donna Gavin

MEMORIAL WHEAT:

The Family of May Fillah 40-day Memorial for May Fillah and prepared by Donna Gavin

FELLOWSHIP OFFERED BY: Dr.

Dr. George Malouf, Sr.—1-Year Memorial for Eva Malouf

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Stewardship Corner

Theology of Giving Series – Week 51 – December 18, 2016

Mark 12: 41-44 ... "Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. So He called His disciples to Himself, and said to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.'"

What does this message from God require from me, His loyal and obedient servant?
What must I change in my life to be able to follow this teaching in both word and in deed?
Select the link to read the entire *Theology of Giving* series on our website blog: <https://www.peterpaulpotomac.org/>