

**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.

	Bread of Holy Oblation	Fellowship Hour
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)	Rose Debbas/IMO Edward Debbas
06 Jan	Piechocinski Family	Piechocinski Family
13 Jan	OPEN	OPEN
20 Jan	OPEN	OPEN

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
friluke@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
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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
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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 23, 2018
tone 5 / EOTHINON 8
FOREFEAST OF & SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST
(THE GENEALOGY)

TEN MARTYRS OF CRETE; NEW-MARTYR NICHOLAS;
VENERABLE NAHUM OF OCHRID

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (Tone 5)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY (Tone 4)

*(**Joseph was amazed**)*

Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. * Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life * hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. * Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, * wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, * and as we eat thereof we shall all live, * and shall not die as did Adam. * For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforesaid.

APOLYTIKION OF 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**)*

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.

Grumbling is caused by misery and it can be put aside by doxology (giving praise). Grumbling begets grumbling and doxology begets doxology. When someone doesn't grumble over a problem troubling him, but rather praises God, then the devil gets frustrated and goes of to someone else who grumbles, in order to cause everything to go even worse for him. You see, the more one grumbles, the more one falls into ruin. Sometimes the devil deceives us and makes us unable to be pleased with anything; however, one can celebrate all things in a spiritual manner, with doxology, and secure God's constant blessing.

St. Paisios the Athonite

GIVING

Many are shocked by what they regard as the prosaic and inappropriate custom of collecting money in church.

Woe to us, if we consider this from a worldly, commonplace point of view. Generally speaking, there are no commonplace, no tiresome or non-religious matters: as long, as it is done in a Christian way, everything becomes deep and meaningful. It is not so much the thing itself that counts as our attitude towards it. Does it not often happen that a noble, holy subject is treated in a blasphemous or hypocritical way?

St. Paul, collecting alms for the Church, transporting gifts, writes about these things without the slightest doubt that he is accomplishing a holy work: those who give multiply thereby in their hearts the fruits of the Spirit; those who receive are moved by this very act to praise God and to be grateful, because their fellow Christians not only teach the Gospel with their tongues, but also fulfil its precepts in their hearts. If we are one body bound to one Head - to Christ - then how can we tolerate the presence amongst us of poor, hungry brothers? You must accept the collections in church as a test of your faith, your love, your patriotism.

When you give money in these collections, it is an expression, not so much of your financial resources, as of the richness of your heart. Look carefully and see what sort of feeling appeals for help arouse in your heart. With the hands of thousands of orphans and invalids Christ Himself knocks at your heart; and you open the door and let Him in, and you know that it is He because you feel within you the joy experienced by all merciful hearts, God is able to help through a 'miracle' that is His own, but this miracle is accomplished through men. Blessed are those who become the 'servants of the miracle'.

Fr. Alexander Elchaninov

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/>

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!

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/GQ6uQSnltimwglW2>, 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://tinyurl.com/PeterPaulCSOctober>

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

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Saturday, Jan 12, 2019*9:00am take down Christmas decorations. Volunteers are welcome!

"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, January 10, 2019**. 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 Niewenhous 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 sign up: <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

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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Dec 23 *Choir Christmas Concert/following Liturgy
 *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 30 *Baptism/Elijah T. Mitchell/1:30p
 *No Church School/New Year's Holiday
 Jan 10 *Adult Religious Education Forum/"Exploring our Faith"/7:00p/ Library & Media Center

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 Jacob, and Jacob the father of 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.

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

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.



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

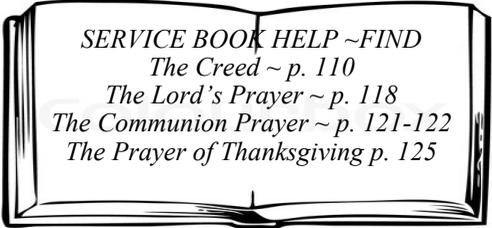
Orthodox Christians
Faithful Orthodox fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when they receive Holy Communion in fulfillment of Christ's command to eat His Body and drink His Blood. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, communicants should not be conscious of grave sin, 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 Thredeh	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

Rene Saah	David Saa	Margo Sahouri-Ghanem
Ramzi Imad	John Abraham	Marcella Aumaitre
Gigi Hanna	Tammy Alvarez	George & Joanna Khoury
Ibtisam Toubaji	Thomas Zook	Mahan & Harris Families
Forest Hamlin	Eways Family	Wafa Atiyeh
Michele Forzley & Family	Majida Eways	Fred Eways
Charles Eways	Bassam Eways	Mary Salem
Nawal Ayoub	Georgette Tawil	Lamia
Nijmeh Eways	Stephen, Samia, Nicholas, Christopher,	Tabitha Zolnerowich
Nadim, Leila Zarour	Zolnerowich Family;	Zarour Family
Elias and Gada	Nawal and Johnny	Bassam and Goergget
Nelly and Jerry	Nadir and Silvia	Jack and Beth
Tagreed and sons	Charlie and Reid	

DEPARTED

Fr. George Rados
Melinda Aumaitre
George Eways
Marguerite (Ann) Mahan
Mudalleh Eways
Farid Eways
Jad Eways
Ibrahim Hadawar
Adel Salem
Joan Steele
James Steele,
Peter Zolnerowich
Nasrah Zarour
Stephen Troyanos
Mary Troyanos
Foma Zolnerowich
Fekla Zolnerowich.
Naimtalla Tawil
Elias and Nijmeh Tawil
Faraj Tawil
Jimmy kazaleh
Christopher Taweel

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Melinda Aumaitre (40-Day)
George F. Eways (40-Day)

HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION OFFERED BY:
The Tawil Family

MEMORIAL WHEAT OFFERED BY:
Samia Zolnerowich in Memory of Melinda Aumaitre

FELLOWSHIP OFFERED BY:
The Tawil Family

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."