

	<b>Bread of Holy Oblation</b>	<b>Fellowship Hour</b>
<b>24 Dec</b>	Nabil Barbari, Katie & Daniel Nassif, Zeina Manasseh	No Fellowship
<b>01 Jan</b>	Mary Misleh	open
<b>08 Jan</b>	Daoud Family	Daoud Family
<b>15 Jan</b>	Tony & Emelie Sayegh	open
<b>22 Jan</b>		Asma Trey

**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.

# CHRIST IS BORN; GLORIFY HIM.

## SS. PETER AND PAUL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

*All Things Are Possible to Him Who Believes*

**Matins:** Sundays 9:30am

**Divine Liturgy:** Sundays 10:30am

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2016**

### FESTAL DIVINE LITURGY

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

\*\* DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT \*\*

### APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (Tone 4)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn therefrom to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

### KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY (Tone 3)

*(\*\*The original melody\*\*)*

Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Transcendent in essence; the earth offereth the cave to the unapproachable One; the angels with the shepherds glorify Him; and the Magi with the star travel on their way; for a new child hath been born for our sakes, God before the ages.

*How then, was He manifested to the world? A star shone forth in heaven above all the other stars. The light from this star was inexpressible, and its uniqueness struck men with astonishment.*

*St. Ignatius of Antioch*

### STEWARDSHIP CORNER

*Theology of Giving Series – Week 52 – December 25, 2016*

*For the past fifty-two weeks, our parish has looked at the issue of how we give of our time, talents, and resources to the church. We hope you are now more aware than perhaps you were before that giving is an act of faith, driven by our belief in the teachings and the traditions of the Holy Orthodox Church. We hope the faithful members of this parish are coming to the realization that what we offer to the church is a reflection of our faith and not a reflection of how much the church budget is or how big our parish expenses are. Is there one of the passages, many from the Bible, that you have read over the past year that has been particularly meaningful to you and to your family in this quest to expand our knowledge and to deepen the level of our faith? If so we hope you hold it dear in your heart today as we wish you a very MERRY CHRISTMAS!*

# CHRIST IS BORN; GLORIFY HIM.

## GOD'S LOVE FOR US

The birth of Jesus Christ was an extraordinary event. We look back on it and, from the benefit of our historical perspective, are able to appreciate its significance. For those who participated in and witnessed His birth, its true importance was not immediately understood. Nevertheless, the Gospel records that each person who encountered this event knew that something unique and different was occurring in this birth.

The account of Jesus' birth begins with the appearance of the Archangel Gabriel to a young virgin, Mary (cf. Luke 1:24-34). The angel tells her that she has found favor with God, and that she will conceive and bear a son. Mary is perplexed and awed by this news. She asks how this will happen. The angel tells her that it will be by the power of the Holy Spirit. As proof of his word, the angel tells Mary that her relative, Elizabeth, who had been unable to conceive, is now pregnant. Mary's immediate response is, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word."

A similar test of faith confronts Joseph, Mary's betrothed husband. When he discovers that she is with child, he is upset and resolves to "divorce her quietly" (cf. Matthew 1:18-25). However, an angel appears to him in a dream and tells him that "the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit," and that this son "will save his people from their sins." When he wakes from sleep, Joseph has a change of heart and "does as the angel of the Lord commanded him."

We are told of shepherds informed of the birth by angels (Luke 2:8-20) who go to see what has happened; of wise men who had seen a star in the sky announcing the birth of a king (Matthew 2:1-12); of an old man, Simeon, (Luke 2:25-38) who had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah; and a prophetess, Anna, who was living in the Temple in her old age also waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. Each of these people encountered this divine child and was forever changed by what they saw as God's presence among us, a dramatic sign of His loving concern for us. For her part, Mary "treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart" (Luke 2:19).

In one sense, starting to speak of God's love for us by recounting the birth of Jesus Christ is like beginning a story in the middle. The real beginning is in the creation of the world itself. Christians do not believe that the world's existence is an "accident" of cosmic forces. We believe with our whole being that God created the world and everything in it out of His love. He had no need to create. But He desired to create beings who were free, and capable of sharing in His own glory. For us, the world and those in it are here according to His plan and for a purpose.

The birth of Jesus Christ and His life here on earth is the most dramatic example of God's love for us. God, in Jesus, reached out to us, even when we were still distant and separated from Him as a result of our own actions (cf. Romans 5:8). He came and preached peace to those who were far off as well as to those who were near (cf. Ephesians 2:17). In the words of St. Athanasius, "He has united peace in those who hated each other ... and by His own love endured all things for our salvation." All that God asks in return is that we love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind, and that we love our neighbor as we would love ourselves (c.f. Matthew 22:37-40).

# CHRIST IS BORN; GLORIFY HIM.

## 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 [peterpaulsundayschool@gmail.com](mailto:peterpaulsundayschool@gmail.com).**

**Sun Dec. 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: Jamille 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](mailto:jad.ibrahim.jr@gmail.com), Lizzy Cassar or Dn. Christian Manasseh at [dchristian@peterpaulpotomac.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://avcamp.org). Feel free to contact the website or Samia Zolnerowich at [samiacz25@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org) or Kate Niewenhou at [handmaidens20854@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:georgezaki@gmail.com) or [ajmzaki@gmail.com](mailto:ajmzaki@gmail.com)), Alex Cox ([alexcoxsells@gmail.com](mailto:alexcoxsells@gmail.com)) or Fr. Isaac ([frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org](mailto: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 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

# CHRIST IS BORN; GLORIFY HIM.

### THE EPISTLE

*Let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Shout with joy to God, all the earth.*

### The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (4:4-7)

Brethren, when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

### THE GOSPEL

### The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (2:1-12)

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, are by no means least among the rulers of Judea; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern My people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

### 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 Niewenhou for more information.

### 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

# CHRIST IS BORN; GLORIFY HIM.

## 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.

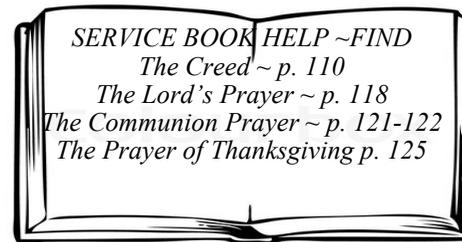
### PLEASE DO NOT ENTER OR EXIT THE SANCTUARY AS

- 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:

Nabil Barbari  
Zeina Manassah  
Katie & Daniel Nassif

(Please note: No Fellowship Hour tonight)  
Merry Christmas & a Blessed New Year

# CHRIST IS BORN; GLORIFY HIM.

## 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 Threddeh  
Thelma Badwey  
Tesia Yonkers  
Lulu Brown  
Mary Smith

## LIVING

Leena Haddad  
Dr. Eyad Hamarneh  
Mary Shahid  
Bill Efdimas  
Tony Moussa  
Yasmine Wakim  
Daniel & Elaine Elias & Family  
Fayeruz, Robert & Hamilton Regan  
Nadia, Gilberto, Gilberto IV, & Laila Pietri  
All the Barbari Families  
Christopher, Alexander, Katia & Daniel Nassif  
Dn. Christian, Zeina, George & Tamara Manassah  
George, Rita, Grace & Mazen Manassah  
Mayya & Naim Maalouf  
Maria, Daniel, Olivia, & Thomas Neuwirth

Debbie Brown  
Janice  
Joyce Kogok  
Mazen Saah  
Nabil & Nabeela Barbari  
Corinne Mahshie & Family  
Siham Ayoub

## DEPARTED

Very Rev. Fr. Louis Mahshie  
Rt. Rev. Paul Doyle  
Hanna Saba  
William Dora, Sr.  
Joseph Ferguson  
Madelyn Nader  
Gabriel Kerjolarian  
Nahida Nabil Barbari  
Saliba & Akileh Barbari  
Adeeb, Yasmeen & JoAnne Ibrahim  
Maurice Wakim  
Badih Wakim  
Mariam Wakim  
Youssef & Hannah  
Soumaya Nassif  
Najib Nassif  
Najiyah Manasseh  
Mounif, Rosalyn, & Naim Maalouf  
Lamiya & Abdallah Fehdeh