

|               | <b>Bread of Holy Oblation</b>  | <b>Fellowship Hour</b>                        |
|---------------|--|---|
| <b>24 Dec</b> | Kheirbek Family  | Ss. Peter & Paul Church                       |
| <b>31 Dec</b> | Kheirbek Family<br>Mary Misleh<br>Bailey Family-IMO Sami Jabbour                             | Bailey Family<br>IMO Sami Jabbour             |
| <b>07 Jan</b> | Gabro Family/1-yr Memorial<br>for Selwa Gabro  | Gabro Family/1-yr Memorial for<br>Selwa Gabro |
| <b>14 Jan</b> | Janet Metz/40 Day Memorial for<br>Marie Kennedy<br>Tamari Family/40-Day for Ludwig<br>Tamari | Tilev Family                                  |
| <b>21 Jan</b> | Hakim Family   | Hakim Family                                  |

**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**  
10620 River Road Potomac Maryland 20854 • 301-765-3400 • [www.peterpaulpotomac.org](http://www.peterpaulpotomac.org)

**Kindly keep all cell phones turned off or muted while in Church. Thank you.**

# CHRIST IS BORN; GLORIFY HIM

## PRIEST

Very Reverend  
Fr. Isaac Crow  
frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org  
(401) 300-8238 cell  
(240) 489-3494 home

## DEACON

Dn. Christian Manasseh  
DnChris-  
tian@peterpaulpotomac.org

## COUNCIL

### Chairperson

Suzanne Hermes

### Vice Chairman

Metody Tilev

### Treasurer

Richard Mahan

### Secretary

Abe Fannoney

### Members

Roy Abdo

John Abraham

Philip Allen

Alex Cox

Paul Debs

Lina Eid

Salim Habayeb

Bassem Haddad

Samer Kokor

Tony Moussa

George Zaki

## CHURCH SECRETARY

office@peterpaulpotomac.org

## CHOIR DIRECTOR

John Slanta

choir@peterpaulpotomac.org

## CHANTERS

Wayne Parr

Zeina Manasseh

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

## DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017

**TONE 4 / EOTHINON 7**

**SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY OF CHRIST**

**(SUNDAY OF THE GENEALOGY),**

**WHICH FALLS ON PARAMON (EVE) OF NATIVITY OF CHRIST**

VENERABLE MARTYR EUGENIA OF ROME AND THOSE WITH HER; MARTYR ACHAIKOS;

VENERABLE ANTIOCHUS OF MAR SABBAS MONASTERY; NEW-MARTYR AHMED OF  
CONSTANTINOPLE

### 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 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 FOR THE PARAMON (EVE) OF THE NATIVITY (Tone 4)

*(\*\*Joseph was amazed\*\*)*

As the fruit of David's seed, Mary was registered of old \* with the Elder Joseph in the little town of Bethlehem, \* when she conceived with a seedless and pure conception. \* Behold, the time was come that she should bear her Child, \* but no place was found within the inn for them; \* yet the cave proved a delightful palace \* for the pure Lady and Queen of all. \* For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforesome.

### 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.

**B**lessed be that Child, Who gladdened Bethlehem today! Blessed be the Babe, Who made manhood young again today! Blessed be the Fruit, Who Lowered Himself to our famished state! Blessed be the Good One, Who suddenly enriched our necessities and supplied our needs! Blessed is He, Whose tender mercies made Him condescend to visit our infirmities!

*St. Ephraim the Syrian*

# CHRIST IS BORN; GLORIFY HIM

## A Community of Hope and Joy

The spiritual life is not just for a select few. It is for everyone. The life in Christ needs to be more than a two-hour segment on Sunday morning. It must permeate our entire being. The only thing that satisfies our true longing, gives us real joy, is communion with the living God.

One of the challenges we face is that the language of religious experience used today has been shaped by many different voices. Many of the virtues and spiritual practices that we know from our own experience lead to God are not valued today. Emotionalism is confused with spirituality. Thus, we are somewhat reluctant to even speak of the joy which God gives us, for fear of being misunderstood.

Listen to this spiritual advice from St. Diadochos: "Initiatory joy is one thing, the joy of perfection is another. The first is not exempt from fantasy, while the second has the strength of humility. Between the two joys comes a 'godly sorrow' (2 Corinthians 7:10) and tears unaccompanied by grief; 'For in much wisdom is much knowledge; and he that increases knowledge increases sorrow'" (Ecclesiastes 1:18).

As a society we have forgotten that wisdom comes only by the grace of God and as a spiritual gift that should be cherished. Joy is a gift that God gives us to encourage us in the spiritual life. The world is full of joy and our Lord has given us these signs as a means to comfort and hearten us on the road of life. Some mistake this foretaste as the whole, or see any pleasure as good.

In the hymn, "Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ," there is a verse: "for through the Cross, joy has come into the world." Here we come face to face with the heart of the Christian paradox, the one thing that the "world" will always reject: true joy, true happiness, true community, true fulfillment comes only through the giving of ourselves out of love for our brother and sister. This is what the Lord means when He says: "Whoever seeks to gain his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will preserve it" (Luke 17:33). We find true joy in our love for the other, the same love our Lord showed us on the Cross.

St. Paul declares: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us" (Romans 8:35-37). As Christians we not only choose the path of Christ, we choose it with joy, because it fills us with hope.

And so, beloved brothers and sisters, "may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope" (Romans 15:13). "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). As we stand at the dawn of this Third Millennium of our Salvation, let our faith be a witness to the entire world of God's love, even as the faith of the countless holy men and women who preceded us has been an inspiration for us.

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God the Father, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with each and every one of you.

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

# CHRIST IS BORN; GLORIFY HIM

## 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/GQ6uQSnltimwgvJW2>. 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).

**Mar 18** \*2018 Pascha Prep Workshop

### TEEN SOYO

Events and outreach projects:

**Jan 05** \*Overnight Retreat

### The Lay Advisors are:

Zaid Sharafudin/zaid343@yahoo.com  
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 Niewenhaus.

### LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOPPING THE PARISH GIFT SHOP

The Ss. Peter and Paul Parish Gift Shop is located 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 11, 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](mailto:frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org) or Kate Niewenhaus at [handmaidens20854@gmail.com](mailto: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 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](mailto:georgezaki@gmail.com) or [ajmzaki@gmail.com](mailto:ajmzaki@gmail.com)), Alex Cox at ([alexcxsells@gmail.com](mailto:alexcxsells@gmail.com)) or Fr. Isaac at ([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 \*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/Matins 6:00p/Divine Liturgy 7p  
\*Teen SOYO/Overnight Retreat  
Jan 06 \*Take down Christmas Decorations/9a  
Jan 07 \*Selwa Gabro Memorial Service  
Jan 09 \*Parish Council Meeting/7p/LL Conf. Rm.  
Jan 11 \*Adult Education Forum "Exploring our Faith"/7p-8:30p/LL Conf. Rm.  
Jan 13 \*Antiochian Women's Luncheon hosted by Kate Niewenhaus  
Jan 14 \*Ludwig Tumari Memorial Service  
Jan 21 \*Georges Hakim Memorial Service

# CHRIST IS BORN; GLORIFY HIM

### 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 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  
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

Ziad 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

# 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.

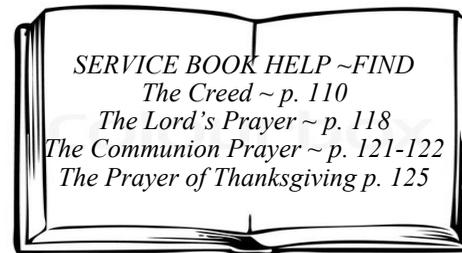
### PLEASE DO NOT ENTER OR EXIT THE SANCTUARY AS

- 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:

Kheirbek Family

FELLOWSHIP OFFERED BY:

Ss. Peter and Paul Church

# 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

|                       |                 |                        |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| 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 Shammas          | Mary Bazargan   | Michael Buchko, Sr.    |

## LIVING

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Leila Khoury                   | Bob Petrossian                           |
| Louise Magelli                 | Julia Fayad                              |
| Mark Buchko                    | Sherrie Zacharia                         |
| Danielle Bellone               | Anastasia Lampathakis                    |
| Edward Rizkallah               | Youstina Mikharel                        |
| Myr Tamari & Family            | John Dalelio                             |
| Forest Hinkle                  | Joyce Kogok                              |
| Betty Adams                    | Ziad Deeb                                |
| Mona Ayoub & Family            | Janet Metz & Family                      |
| Debbie Brown                   | Judy & Frank Zuccarello                  |
| Nabil Barbari                  | Nabeela Barbari                          |
| Fayeruz Barbari Regan & Family | Nadia Barbari Pietri & Family            |
| The Barbari Family             | Brian Hebert                             |
| Missie & Ray Hebert            | Rima Rizkallah & Family                  |
| Carol AlKari & Family          | Mahmoud & Raya Kheirbek                  |
| Linda Dora Elkanich            | Maryam, Raymond, Lena & Abraham Kheirbek |
| William Dora Jr.               | Siham Ayoub                              |

## DEPARTED

Archpriest George Rados  
 Marie Kennedy  
 Ludwig Tamari  
 Betty Stripling  
 Scott Buckman  
 Nicholas Mourad  
 Mufrid K. Ayoub  
 Victoria (Ayoub) Audi  
 Nahida Barbari  
 Saliba & Akileh Barbari  
 Adeeb, Yasmeen, & JoAnne Ibrahim  
 Raymond James Hebert, II  
 Rabih AlKari  
 William Dora, Sr.  
 Olga & Zore David  
 Richard Z. David

### FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

The Great Feast of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ falls this year on Monday December 25.

According to the Local Liturgical Tradition of our Antiochian Archdiocese, we will celebrate the Feast on this evening, December 24, starting with the Festive Matins at 9:00pm and the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great at 10:00pm.

Please plan on attending this service to celebrate as a Parish Family the coming Glory of the Birth our Savior Jesus Christ.

### 2018 CALENDARS

The Church Calendars for the New Year 2018 have arrived and are available on the tables in the Narthex (entrance lobby). Please kindly take only one (1) per family or household and hang them in your homes to use during the year ahead.