

	Bread of Holy Oblation	Fellowship Hour
29 Dec	Hikmat & Julia Nasr	Hikmat & Julia Nasr
05 Jan	Gail Bailey/IMO Sami Khalil Jabbour Hier Family	Heir Family
12 Jan	Mitody Tilev/IMO Atanas & Ivanka	Mitody Tilev/IMO Atanas & Ivanka
19 Jan	George & Grace Malouf	Michael & Nadia El-Hage & Denise Bolus
26 Jan	Everett & Tammy Alvarez	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 Kogok Hall.

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
(301) 765-3400 #1 office
(401) 300-8238 cell
(240) 489-3494 home

Reverend
Fr. Luke Toumi
frluke@peterpaulpotomac.org
(301) 765-3400 #2 office
(610) 844-2583 cell

DEACON

Dn. Christian Manasseh
DnChris-
tian@peterpaulpotomac.org

COUNCIL

Chairperson
Carol Laham
Vice Chairperson
Jumana Mistleh
Treasurer
Ken Bailey
Secretary
Abe Fannoney
Members
Roy Abdo
Philip Allen
Jerry Audi
Nabil Emad
Michele Forzley
Salim Habayeb
Bassem Haddad
Janet Metz
Alganesh Piechocinski
A.J. Wood

CHURCH SECRETARY

office@peterpaulpotomac.org

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Kristopher Reese
choir@peterpaulpotomac.org

ASSISTANT CHOIR DIRECTORS

Marie Hyder
Mark Buchko

CHANTERS

Amjad Khalil
Zeina Manasseh
Rezanne Toumi
George Tannous

USHERS

Jerry Audi
Michael El Araj
Abraham Fannoney
Sam Khalil

ALTAR

Manager
Peter Aburdeineh

SERVERS

Captains -
Andrew Erickson
Rashid Haddad

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 29, 2019

tone 3/ EOTHINON 6

AFTER-FEAST OF & SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

COMMEMORATION OF JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, DAVID THE
PROPHET AND KING, AND JAMES THE BROTHER OF GOD

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 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 there from 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.

APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY (Tone 2)

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to 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 THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (Tone 3)

*(**The original melody**)*

On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; * to the Unapproachable, * the earth doth offer a small cave; * Angels join in choir with shepherds * in giving glory; * with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; * for our sakes is born a young Child, * He Who existed * before the ages as God.

Only those who have interior prayer and watch over their souls receive the gifts of grace.

St. Seraphim of Sarov, On the Prayer of Jesus 53

***MAKING GOD REAL
In the Orthodox Christian Home***

By Anthony M. Coniaris

“It Takes A Village to Raise a Child” – Which Village?

It is often said that “it takes a village to raise a child.” The village is indeed important, but we must never abdicate the responsibility of raising a child solely to the “village.” Christian parents are personally responsible for nurturing their child’s body, mind and spirit. If they are not doing so, it is the responsibility of the “village” i.e., the church, to remind them and assist them of this moral and spiritual obligation. St. Paul tells us in Eph. 4:15-16 about the peculiar Christian “village” which is the Church. What do we mean by the word “village”? Do we mean schools where prayer is not allowed and God’s name may not be mentioned? Is this the “village” that you think should raise your child? Do we mean degrading TV shows and movies, that introduce the gutter experiences of life into the minds and hearts of our children? Is this the “village” that you would want to raise your children? It seems that today we need to protect our children from that kind of “village”! It takes a Christian mother and father who know the Lord and truly love their children and are willing to spend time with them sharing God’s values. The true “village” for the Orthodox Christian is not the secular world but the family and the church!

OCMC News

The Spring 2020 Mission Teams are available for viewing online at: https://www.ocmc.org/about/open_teams.aspx. Prayerfully consider joining a team in the new year!

Today, Jesse Brandow, missionary to Guatemala who visited Ss Peter and Paul during our festival is marrying Juanita, the Doctor (in training), who is from the Mayan part of Guatemala. Many blessings to Jesse and Juanita, as they begin their life together now both serving the much needful job as missionaries in that region where 40,000 have become Orthodox.

SS. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church News and Events

CHURCH SCHOOL 2019-2020

We encourage all of our students to attend liturgy on Sundays. Please use the following link to register your children for the 2019-2020 Church School Year : <http://tinyurl.com/registerSunSchool>. For Newsletter <https://tinyurl.com/y48hecxe>

Dec 29 *No Church School for Christmas & New Year's Holidays (Church school resumes January 5, 2020)

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.

Jan 11, 2020*Hosting Christmas Hafli/invites have gone out to St. George, St. Mary, Holy Cross

Lay Advisors: see list on page 2

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

The Ss. Peter & Paul YAF welcomes all young people over 21 years of age to join in its social, educational, and outreach activities. Please contact 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. **All women are members and are welcome.** Checks can be given to Janet Metz.

*For future notices and any questions, please provide your email address to Donna Gavin at crazygavins@verizon.net

2020

- Jan 12** *Christmas Luncheon/1:00p/Wildfire @Tysons Corner (see Lorna Malooley for more information)
Jan 19 *Book Club Meeting/following Liturgy (*Our Thoughts Determine our Lives: The Life & Teachings of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica*)
March *Antiochian Women's Month
Mar 07 *Tea with Ladies of St. George (more info to follow)
Spring *Bakeless Bake Sale/AOCWNA/Helen Khalil

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Men's Fellowship ministry of Ss. Peter and Paul is to serve the church through charitable outreach, educational and service projects which strengthen and deepen the faith of its members and develop a fellowship of Orthodox Christian servants. Contact Sam Khalil at sk1943@aol.com or Fred Zacharia at fredzach@verizon.net for more information.

"EXPLORING OUR FAITH": ON WHEELS

Will be back on the road again soon. If you are interested in hosting one of these every-other-week week-night meetings, please send Fr Luke an email (frluke@peterpaulpotomac.org). He will check in with you on the dates the work best for you.

We are looking forward to moving these bi-weekly meetings around so its closer to your home at some point. Our goal is to drive no more than 15 minutes to get there.

If you are willing to host one of these meetings in the future, here is the deal: Number of attendees can be limited to fit in your space. You can host as few as 5 people if that is all you can seat (on-floor seats are premium). Only hot drinks are served. No food involved. Meeting time can be: 7:00-8:30 or 7:30-9:00 pm.

THE SS. PETER & PAUL PARISH LIBRARY & MEDIA CENTER

houses the Parish Library, audio visual materials, and Christian educational resources. 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. Please contact the Church office for more details.

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 Church office.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Dec 29 *No Church School for Christmas & New Year's Holidays

2020

- Jan 05** *Epiphany of Our Lord and the Blessing of the Waters
 *Teen SOYO Antiochian Village-Style Liturgy.
 *Church School resumes.
Jan 11-12 *Pastoral Visit by His Eminence Metropolitan +JOSEPH
 *Teen SOYO hosting Christmas Hafli
Jan 12 *Antiochian Women/Christmas Luncheon/1:00p/Wildfire @Tysons Corner
Jan 19 *Book Club Meeting/following Liturgy (*Our Thoughts Determine our Lives: The Life & Teachings of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica*)
March *Antiochian Women's Month
Mar 07 *Tea with Ladies of St. George (more info to follow)
Mar 08 *Sunday of Orthodoxy

2020 BUDGET INFORMATION SERIES

Installment 2: Maintenance & repairs

At our last general assembly, several questions were asked about our maintenance & repairs budget, and rightfully so. It's not cheap to maintain a facility such as our church. The fixed contracts portion of our annual maintenance & repairs expenses includes:

- Elevator maintenance: \$4,283.66
- Fire suppression: \$7,115.45
- HVAC: \$16,449.00
- Janitorial: \$33,000.00
- Lawn and Grounds: \$14,470.00
- Alarm System: \$1,275.19
- Pest Control: \$1,063.23

We also budget \$40,000 for general maintenance and repairs, and \$8,000 in maintenance & repair supplies.

Please do your part in helping us maintain our beautiful church and contribute regularly and faithfully.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Sunday after Nativity of Christ)

God is wondrous in His saints. Bless God in the congregations.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (1:11-19)

Brethren, I would have you know that the Gospel, which was preached by me, is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday after Nativity of Christ)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (2:13-23)

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region, who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead." And he rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

CHURCH SCHOOL

Directors

Samia Zolnerowich
Jennifer Buchko

Teachers

Jumana Misleh
Susan Kozlov
SaraAyoub
Michelle Zook
Beth Davis
Alma Jean Zaki
Jennifer Montgomery
Kinda Callas
Dara Potter
Stephen Zolnerowich
Caroline Jarboe
Elizabeth El-Hage
Jaren Sams
Philip Allen
Nathaniel Guinn

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Sam Khalil

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

Donna Gavin

TEEN SOYO

Lay Advisors

Stephen Zolnerowich
Riham Saah
Ken Bailey
Juliana Natour
Maya Saah
Kinda Callas
Sanaa Natour

Officers

Tia Saah
Nick Shahin
Tala Natour
Rylee Isaac

YOUNG ADULT

FELLOWSHIP

Amal Michael

FACILITY

MANAGEMENT

Sam Berberian
Alex Cox

RENTAL

COORDINATOR

Barbara Abraham
George Rados

CHARITIES &

ST. IGNATIUS

Sam Khalil

FINANCE

Salim Habayeb

STEWARDSHIP

Zeina Manasseh

GIFT SHOP

Alma Jean Zaki
Gail Bailey
Meghan Zoto
George Zoto

Commemorations

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 Service starts on p. 91
 The Creed ~ p. 110
 The Lord's Prayer ~ p. 118
 The Communion Prayer ~ p. 121-122
 The Prayer of Thanksgiving p. 125

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.

Parishioners who remain in our prayers continually

Rt. Rev. Fr. Elias Bitar	Rt. Rev. Daniel Griffith
Kh. Rebecca Alford	Kh. Ann Anderson
Ann Marie Moses	Kevin Pinkstaff
Isabel Thredch	Nabecha Ayoub
Joyce Hamaty	Barbara Mullin
Holly Dubois	Suad Shammas
Sophie Neam	Miriam Yazge
George & Joan Abraham	Lulu Brown
Michael Buchko, Sr.	Edward Rizkallah
Leila Khoury	Shoke George
Bob & Shirley Neri	Douglas Kalesh
Brian Briggs	
	Nijmeh Zayed
	Allison Ayoub Egge
	George & Chris Brown
	Robert & Thelma Badwey
	Barbara Abraham
	Ibtisam Toubaji
	Dorothy Marge
	Assad & Patricia Khoury
	Ted Milkovich

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.

DEPARTED

Fr. George Rados
 Michel, Marie, Sami & George Saad
 George & Kafa Nasr
 Bill & Burgess Thomas
 Nabecha & Lulu Nasr

LIVING

Archpriest Isaac & Kh. Dolly	Fred & Sherric Zacharia	George Ellis
Ramona Dora	Anastacia Lampathakis	Joe Malooley
Yeorgos Lampathakis	Sami Korban	Mitody Tilev
Ibrahim Mazen Saah	Paula Massouh	Halim & Hayat Barakat
Geffen Franus	Vilma Bellone	Ricky M. Ayoub
Audree Yacoub	Tabitha Zolnerowich	Michael Piechocinski
Paul Misleh	Lorna Malooley & Family	Amir & Sarah Abu-El-Hawa
Mary Hammer	Patricia, Mathieu & Michael Viala	Tina, Perry, Tommy & Julia Williams
Hikmat and Julia Nasr		Edward, Ritamaric, Emilia & Viviana Saa
Samia Saad, Suhcila Kafrouni		Taso, Michele & Timothy Markatos
Lidia, Ghassan, Adeeb, Farah & Hiba & families		

HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION OFFERED BY:
 Hikmat & Julia Nasr

FELLOWSHIP OFFERED BY:
 Hikmat & Julia Nasr

Thank You 2019 Stewards!

Dear Brothers & Sisters,
 Ss Peter & Paul would like to thank the members of our parish who donated their many talents and long hours of hard work to the various ministries and activities of our parish this year, including our annual festival. We would also like to thank those who have financially supported the church through their 2019 donations.

If you haven't had the opportunity to support the church financially this year, it's not too late to do so. You can donate online at peterpaulpotomac.org, at the credit card kiosk located in the Narthex at the entrance of the church, or via check or cash.

It's not too early to start thinking about your plans for 2020. Stewardship forms for 2020 are available in the narthex. Please fill out and return one, even if you've filled one in previous years.

We wish you and your loved ones a blessed Nativity and a healthy and peaceful new year.

In Christ,
 The Stewardship Committee.