

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR  
AND BREAD OF HOLY OBLATION**

	<b>Bread of Holy Oblation</b>	<b>Fellowship Hour</b>
<b>30 Dec</b>	Mary Misleh (HB)	Rose Debbas/IMO Edward Debbas
<b>06 Jan</b>	Alganesh Piechocinski Workie Semere	Alganesh Piechocinski Workie Semere
<b>13 Jan</b>	Open	Open
<b>20 Jan</b>	Open	Open
<b>27</b>	Open	Open

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](http://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  
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**DEACON**  
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DnChristian@peterpaulpotomac.org

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Mitody Tilev

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**CHOIR DIRECTOR**  
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choir@peterpaulpotomac.org

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**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 30, 2018**

**tone 6 / EOTHINON 9**

**AFTER-FAST OF & SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST**

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

**RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (Tone 6)**

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

**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.

*On earth God has established birth and death; and in heaven, providence and necessity. All things were made for the sake of man and his salvation. Since God is not Himself in need of any good thing, it was for man that He created heaven, earth, and the four elements, freely granting to him the enjoyment of every blessing.*

*St. Anthony the Great*

## Sacred Music in the Holy Orthodox Tradition

If we examine the origins of sacred music, we must look beyond Holy Scripture and the testimony of the holy fathers. Sacred music has been continually offered at the throne of the Almighty in the singing of the angelic choir, those first-created beings who have been chanting fitting praises to God since before the beginning of the visible creation. By virtue of Christ's incarnation, the heavenly choir of angels is united with the voice of the holy Orthodox Church on earth.

According to Benedict Sheehan, Choir Director and Music Instructor at St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary and Monastery, there are three essential characteristics of Orthodox sacred music. First, such angelic music is vocal. That it is sung in some manner, usually with discernible words, and that it is thus a direct musical offering of the angels' bodily and rational nature (according to the angelic sense of a 'body'). The popular Western concept of angels accompanying their singing with harps and other instruments is unknown in Scripture and Orthodox tradition. This is important because, in exclusively singing the praises of God, the angels offer Him something essential to themselves rather than making an offering by way of a medium extrinsic to their nature. This is one key reason why Orthodox Christian liturgical tradition (including that of the West, until the Middle Ages) does not permit the use of musical instruments in the divine services.

Secondly, Orthodox sacred music is devotional in nature. It is composed to lift one to love of God and desire for Him in repentance and thanksgiving. This is why Orthodox choirs should strive imbue their singing with zeal, reverence, divine ardor, and love. If our songs are to be truly sacred, we must struggle against any kind of spiritual inertia — both in the style of music we sing and the manner in which we sing it — offering to God instead the first-fruits of our energies with eagerness and warmth of heart.

The third element of Orthodox sacred music is a direct corollary of the character of our life as Orthodox Christians, and that is watchfulness. Choirs and parishioners for that matter do not sit during services but stand attentively, guarding against any inattention or sloth. Likewise, the watchfulness that characterizes sacred music is a guard against vainglory, pride or anything that smacks of a performance. This is one of the reasons why we don't applaud during any Orthodox service.

I will conclude my remarks to you this evening by offering you Benedict Sheehan's thoughts on the importance and character of sacred music:  
“Aside from conforming to Orthodox Tradition in an external canonical sense (that is, for example, a hymn uses a canonical liturgical text), I assert that if any liturgical music is to be considered ‘sacred’ in the full spiritual sense — that is, God-pleasing and God-befitting, as well as possessing the power to ‘fan the spark’ of divine grace within the heart — it must possess all three of these qualities without exception, both in the style of its composition and in the manner of its execution. Any liturgical singing that purports to be sacred music and yet lacks or distorts one of these three essential qualities necessarily falls short of the archetypal primordial song of the angels. Such music, though it may possess many admirable qualities, must be considered a ‘song of men’, and not in harmony with the true Orthodox tradition of angelic sacred music that has been resounding before the throne of God since the foundation of the world.”

In the words of Blessed Augustine, “Singing belongs to one who loves.” Those of us entrusted with this sacred duty must approach it with love of God and as an offering to the Almighty for His glory and our sanctification.

# 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/GQ6uQSnltimwgJWZ>, include your email as most Church school announcements go out to the entire parish. Please list all/allergies.

**Check out our new online Church School Newsletter**  
<https://tinyurl.com/PeterPaulCSOctober>

**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](mailto: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](mailto:frisaac@peterpaulpotomac.org), Fr. Luke at [frluke@peterpaulpotomac.org](mailto:frluke@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 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 ([alexcoxells@gmail.com](mailto:alexcoxells@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.

## 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](mailto: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 gifts. It's open every Sunday following Liturgy. For more information contact Alma Jean Zaki at (703) 283-9338 or [ajmzaki@gmail.com](mailto: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 30	*Baptism/Elijah T. Mitchell/1:30p *No Church School/New Year's Holiday
Jan 05	*Baptism/Angelica Kania/12p
Jan 08	*Parish Council Mtg/7p/Serge Malooley Conf Rm
Jan 10	*Adult Religious Education Forum/'Exploring our Faith'/7:00p/ Library & Media Center
Jan 24	*Adult Religious Education Forum/'Exploring our Faith' 7:00p/ Library & Media Center
Jan 26	*Retreat/Envisioning the Kingdom: the Why & How of Beauty in the Orthodox Church/10a-3p. (including lunch)/Kogok Hall
Feb 07	*Adult Religious Education Forum/'Exploring our Faith'/7:00p/ Library & Media Center
Feb 24	*Baptism/Leo Khalaf/1:30p

## 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."

## SS. PETER AND PAUL PARISH COUNCIL 2019

Prayers and congratulations on the election of the new 2019 officers of the Parish Council:

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Carol Laham	<b>Vice Chairperson:</b>	Jumana Misleh
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Ken Bailey	<b>Secretary:</b>	Abe Fannoney

May God Bless them together with all the new and serving members in their ministry to the Holy Church.

## **CHURCH SCHOOL**

### **Directors**

Samia Zolnerowich

Jennifer Buchko

### **Teachers**

Jumana Misleh

Susan Kozlov

Danielle Bellone

Michelle Zook

Ritamarie 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](http://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

## Parishioners who remain in our prayers continually

Rt. Rev. Fr. Elias Bitar	Margaret Ashley	Mary Smith
Isabel Threddeh	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	Tammy Alvarez
Gigi Hanna	George & Joanna Khoury	Ibtisam Toubaji
Thomas Zook	Mahan & Harris Families	Forest Hamlin
Wafa Atiyeh	Michele Forzley & Family	Terry, Michelle, & Elijah Mitchell
Dn Christian & family	Mayya	Naim & family
Maria & family	Rose Debbas	Sherif, Rena, Zara & Zaya Abdalla
Fuad Sahouri, Rosa Honarpisheh, & Aryana Sahouri		

**DEPARTED**  
Fr. George Rados  
Marguerite (Ann) Mahan  
Edward J Debbas  
Charles & Frances Cox  
Alex, Sadie, Thomas, Harry, & Evelyn Hier  
Ann Kalill  
Janie & Grady Cox  
Helen Sheahin  
Joe Charley  
May Fillah  
Najiyah  
Mounif  
Rosalyn  
Naim  
Lamiya  
Abdallah  
George

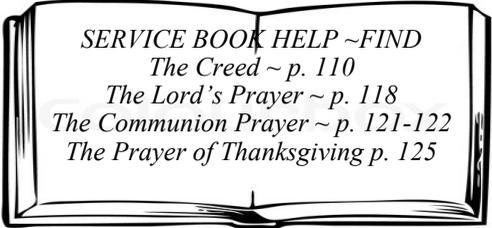
**Orthodox Christians**  
Faithful Orthodox fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when they receive Holy Communion in fulfillment of Christ's command to eat His Body and drink His Blood. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, communicants should not be conscious of grave 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:  
Mary Misleh/In Memory of her Father

FELLOWSHIP OFFERED BY:  
Rose Debbas/In Memory of Edward J. Debbas

**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 [peterpaulpoto-mac.elxiocms.com](http://peterpaulpoto-mac.elxiocms.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!

**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/>