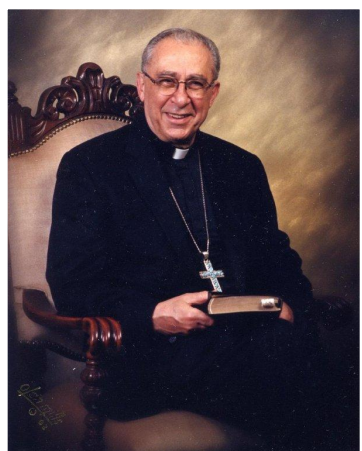


WINTER 2013

THE APOSTLE

Quarterly Newsletter of Ss. Peter and Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church

PASTOR'S PEN: STAND FIRM AGAINST THE THEOLOGICAL FADS OF THE DAY



C. S. Lewis's words are timely as some church goers, even in the evangelical church, are drifting away from historical, biblical, Orthodox Christian faith, and falling prey to the current heresies of our day. Lewis writes, "...there will be progress in Christian knowledge only as long as we accept the challenge of the difficult or repellent doctrines. A 'liberal' Christianity which considers itself free to alter the Faith whenever the Faith looks perplexing or repellent must be completely stagnant, Progress is made only into a resisting material...

Have I stood firm (super monstratas vias) amidst all these 'winds of doctrine'?... Our upbringing and the whole atmosphere of the world we live in make it certain that our main temptation will be that of yielding to winds of doctrine, not that of ignoring them. We are not at all likely to be hidebound: we are very likely to be the slaves of fashion. If one has to choose between reading the new books and reading the old, one must choose the old: not because they are necessarily better but because they contain precisely those truths of which our own age is neglectful. The standard of permanent Christianity must be kept clear in our minds and it is against that standard that we must test all contemporary thought. In fact, we must at all costs not move with the times. We serve One who said, 'Heaven and Earth shall move with the times, but my words shall not move with the times'...

Our business is to present that which is timeless (the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow) in the particular language of our own age. The bad preacher does exactly the opposite... The core of his thought is merely contemporary; only the superficial is traditional. But your teaching must be timeless at its heart and wear a modern dress."

cont'd on page 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 22 - Christmas Concert @ 1pm
- Dec 24 - Christmas Liturgy @ 7:30pm
- Jan 4 - Arabic Liturgy @ 5pm
- Jan 5 - Celebration of the Feast of Epiphany & Great Blessing of the Water
- Jan 5 - 6 Month Memorial for Kh. Jacqui Rados
- Jan. 7 - Adult Education Forum @ 7:15pm
- Jan. 11 - Un-decorate Church 7am
- Jan 14 - Parish Council Meeting @ 7pm
- Feb 1 - Arabic Liturgy @ 5pm
- Feb 2 - Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple
- Feb 4 - Adult Education Form @ 7:15pm
- Feb 15 - Hafle (Dance Party) sponsored by the Men's Club @ 7pm
- Feb 21 - Weekend with Bishop thru 23 Nicholas & Ordination of Incoming Deacon Christian Manasseh

NATIVITY MEDITATION

God can do everything....
Incarnation is real
Again darkness is past
Again Light is brought forth.

*Christ is born; glorify Him.
Christ comes from Heaven, revere Him.
Christ is on Earth, elevate Him.
Sing unto the Lord, all ye the earth
And ye nations praise Him with joy
For He has been glorified.*

Rejoice together all peoples
And believe when you see He is born to us
The Laws of Nature are shattered
Birth, Being, Becoming
Life dwelling and manifested in our midst
With God and in God all things are possible
God is come down to us and walks on earth
He takes on our flesh to give us His Life
He gives us His Son
Born, crucified, buried and raised in Glory
God is Living and God loves us so much
That He gives us what is most precious to Him

God is Freedom who gives Freedom
God is Freedom who makes place for Freedom
God can do everything
Except force us to love Him

- Fr. Isaac Crow



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PASTOR'S PEN: STAND FIRM AGAINST THE THEOLOGICAL FADS OF THE DAY, CON'T

As many in the church today become slaves to the latest in theological fashion, such as a rejection of the doctrine of hell, or an acceptance of universalism, Lewis reminds us that our faith is solid, timeless, and is not meant to change from what Jesus and the Apostles taught 2,000 years ago. We must guard the true faith that has been entrusted to us and handed down from generation to generation.

"This is what the Lord says:
'Stand at the crossroads and look;
ask for the ancient paths,
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,
and you will find rest for your souls.

But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'"

Jeremiah 6:16 (NIV)

1. C. S. Lewis, "Christian Apologetics" in *God in the Dock* (Grand Rapids Eerdmans 1908), 91-94

RECORD OF SACREMENTS**BAPTISMS**

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| 01-26-13 | Soliana Beyne |
| 02-17-13 | Natalie Claire Farhat |
| 02-23-13 | William Joseph Younes |
| 03-02-13 | Elie Estephan |
| 03-03-13 | David James Courtright |
| 03-09-13 | Juliana Carole Azzam |
| 04-13-13 | Farag Tallal Tawil |
| 05-04-13 | Benjamin Robles, Jr. |
| 05-11-13 | Elise Faris Atallah |
| 05-19-13 | Daniel Noah Yeates |
| 05-26-13 | Vivette Mikelle Hemaïdan |
| 05-26-13 | Ava Rose Dabaghi |
| 06-22-13 | Jad Feras Qumseya |
| 06-29-13 | Lillian Faith Breeding |
| 06-30-13 | Sammy Alexander Azar |
| 09-07-13 | Noah Michael Salameh |
| 09-29-13 | Jacob Kristopher Ayoub |
| 10-06-13 | Colton Ferris Eways |
| 10-26-13 | Enzo George Shamounki |
| 11-02-13 | Mariana Reem Ayoub |
| 11-09-13 | Zayla Lina Haddad |
| 11-23-13 | Ronny Ziyad Haddad |
| 12-14-13 | Chrisopher Montgomery Legge |
| 12-14-13 | Lyla Kaye Conlin |

| | |
|----------|------------------------|
| 12-22-13 | Amar Elia Choueiri |
| 12-26-13 | Kaia Bradley McFadden |
| 12-28-13 | Alexa Asfaw |
| 12-29-13 | Noura Elias El-Hage |
| 12-30-13 | Mireille Kaizhen Leong |

WEDDINGS

| | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| 05-25-13 | Radoslav Paskalev & Hala Ghanem |
| 06-22-13 | Christopher Oxenham & Nicole Mele |
| 06-30-13 | Darren West & Elizabeth Naccache |
| 07-13-13 | Samuel Brown & Donna Sines |
| 07-20-13 | Jonathan Farmand & Jihan Salem |
| 07-28-13 | James Iss & Rana Kabban |
| 09-14-13 | Jeffrey Braden & Kristen Massabni |
| 09-28-13 | Benjamin Robles, Jr. & Sally Bebawy |
| 10-19-13 | Christopher Hines & Kristin Mele |

SYMPATHY TO FAMILIES OF:

| | |
|----------|---------------------|
| 02-27-13 | Grace Breidy Salibi |
| 03-25-13 | George Neam |
| 05-11-13 | Nadia Maria Wallace |
| 07-10-13 | Jacqueline Rados |
| 10-31-13 | Fred Joseph Ayoub |
| 11-16-13 | Fadel Elias Taweel |
| 12-03-13 | Jeane Athena Saah |

THE LADIES AUXILIARY**CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP**

The ladies of our parish got together on Friday, December 6, 2013, to create 30 beautiful fresh boxwood wreaths. Led by Mary Misleh, the ladies created an array of wreaths with formal and whimsical themes while Christmas music played in the background. The workshop was followed by a wine and cheese party and fellowship. The wreaths sold for \$35 to parishioners.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AND GIFT EXCHANGE

On December 14th at 11:30am the ladies gathered at Wildfire Restaurant in Tyson's Galleria. Guests attending this year totaled 69. The food and wait staff were excellent. Lorna Malooley worked diligently with the Wildfire events people to make sure the luncheon was seamless. A good time was had by all.

COLLECTION FOR THE NEEDY

The Ladies Auxiliary partnered with *Bethesda Cares* to provide backpacks filled with toiletries and small clothing items for the needy. Rida Boulos, Chair, and the Ladies Auxiliary extend a heartfelt "thank you" to all of you who supported this ministry.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Honoring or remembering a loved one through donation of poinsettias is a long held tradition at Ss. Peter and Paul. This year Leila Ayoub and Thomaseena Cox collected donations and forms throughout the month of December for the plants that will adorn our church during the holiday season. Thanks to all who supported this effort.



LADIES ANNUAL FASHION SHOW LUNCHEON

The Ss. Peter and Paul Ladies hosted their 10th Annual Fashion Show Luncheon on Saturday, June 1, 2013, at Congressional Country Club. The fashions were provided by Joseph Ribkoff/Meena. Our very own gorgeous models graced the runway. Our committee worked very hard to ensure the success of the events. Thanks to Rida Boulos, Madelyn Nader, Barbara Abraham, Margo Ghanem, Mary Sahouri, Denise Bolus, Nadia El Hage, Lydia Jackson, Samia Aburdeineh, Leila Ayoub, Anita ElAraraj and Lamia Crowley.

We had over 260 guests with ages ranging from 9 to 90. We had several beautiful raffle baskets.

Thank you all very much for your continued support. Please mark your calendars to attend our 11th Annual Fashion Show Luncheon on Saturday, May 10th, the day before Mother's Day, at Congressional Country Club.

Caroline Emad
Committee Chair



MANY THANKS FOR AN OUTSTANDING FALL FESTIVAL



Above: Joe Charlie, Alberta Issaq, and Rosalie Nabas

Right: Jerry Audi, Bazaar Chairman

A very big thank you goes to everyone who helped make our bazaar such a huge success. All the team leaders should be commended for their outstanding performance in getting their particular functions organized, up and running. Our amazing kitchen crew was a blend of “senior masters” and “junior masters” with each bringing their expertise to food preparation. What a team!

Many thanks to everyone who helped out by serving on the food line, baking delicious pastries and goodies, helping with the pre-bazaar food preparation, hall setup and cleanup, organizing our visiting vendors, working the cash registers, helping with publicity or helping out in the various bazaar booths.

Last, but not least, our thanks go out to Jerry Audi, Bazaar Chairman, and Zakieh Jweied, Food Coordinator, for their tireless efforts. God bless everyone for their devotion to our parish.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT - DECEMBER 22, 2013

On Sunday, December 22nd, from 1:00pm to 1:45pm in the Sanctuary, *La Camerata Nuove*, a choral group led by our former choir director, Francisco De Araujo, will perform a Christmas concert of holiday cheer and Christian love. Admission is FREE. Have a snack at Fellowship Hour and come enjoy this musical treat!

LETTER: OLNEY HELP

Dear Members of Saint Peter and Paul Orthodox Church,

On behalf of Olney Help and our clients I would like to thank you and tell you how much we appreciate your continuing support of our pantry. Without your support we could not continue to provide food to those families in our community who are in need. As government cutbacks occur, the requests for assistance increases. As food in the pantry dwindles, we rely on the generosity of members of our community. Thank you!

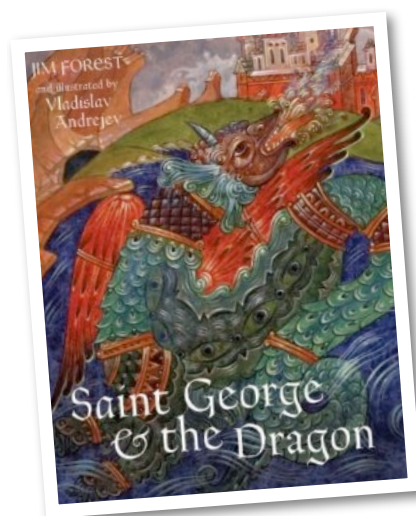
Sincerely,
Kathryn Murdock
Olney Help, Secretary

BOOK REVIEW: SAINT GEORGE AND THE DRAGON BY JIM FOREST

(The author visited s. Peter and Paul on October 20th and offered the homily... the book is now available at the Ss. Peter and Paul bookstore for \$20. It would be an outstanding gift for baptisms and god children).

The book is published by St. Vladimir's Seminary Press and was awarded the 2012 Gold Medal Moonbeam Spirit Award. The book is illustrated in iconographic style by Vladislav Andrejev. The Moonbeam Spirit Award is given "for dedication to children's books and literacy and for inspired writing, illustrating and publishing," according to Jenkins Group, Inc., which bestows the awards. Theodor Bazol, senior advisor at St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, said, "The 'wedding' of words by Jim Forest, incredible images by Vladislav Andrejev, and beautiful design represents an effort to communicate Judeo-Christian moral and ethical teaching to children and youth". The book ends with historical notes and examples of St. George icons. As an

Amazon review stated, "The book is a wonderful reminder that we can depend on Christ's strength, might and sovereignty over the dragons - those evils and troubles - in our lives." Look for it next time you pass the Ss. Peter and Paul Bookstore.



DID YOU KNOW?



PBS WHUT TV (Howard University Television) is running an Emmy Award-Winning, 13 part series entitled *Arab American Stories*. The series profiles Arab Americans making an impact in their community, their professions, their family or the

world. Albert Mokhiber and Lena Seikaly, two of our parishioners, were profiled on recent shows.

Also on WHUT is a cooking series focused on Lebanese and Middle Eastern cuisine, culture and customs, *Cooking with Julie Taboulie*. Check your local listing for channels and broadcast times for both shows or access WHUT TV's website at <http://www.whut.org>.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART is hosting the first-ever exhibition of Byzantine art entitled *Heaven and Earth: Art of Byzantium from Greek Collections* from October 6, 2013 through March 2, 2014 in the West Building Main Floor. The exhibition consists of 170 works of art on view, among them mosaics, icons, manuscripts, jewelry and ceramics.

EXPLORING OUR FAITH: ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORM

A Ministry of the Fellowship of St. John the Divine meets several times a month on Tuesday evenings at 7:15pm in the lower level conference room.

To better understand and discover the rich spiritual, historical, doctrinal and scriptural tradition of our holy orthodox faith, Fr. Isaac facilitates our meetings in an informal setting using brief presentations as a springboard to open discussion evoking questions and reflections on a wide range of topics of our faith.

All are welcome, with a special invitation to young adults. For more information and specific meeting dates please see the weekly church bulletin and/or contact Fr. Isaac at frisaac@gmail.com.

FROM THE CHOIR:

Troparion of Ss. Peter and Paul **8-C**

Byzantine Tone 4

Priest Antony Bassoline
(1944 - 1993)

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

O fore - most in the ranks of A - pos - tles,
and teach - ers of the world, Pet - er and Paul,
in - ter - cede with the Mas - ter of all
to grant safe - ty to the world and to our souls the great mer - cy.

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Rehearsals are held on
Sunday mornings at 9:45am.
Choir members are expected
to arrive for practice and for
the Liturgy on time.

| | BREAD OF HOLY OBLATION | COFFEE HOUR |
|--------|------------------------|---------------------|
| DEC 22 | | |
| 24 | ZEINA MANASSEH | NO COFFEE HOUR |
| 29 | MARY MISLEH | LAHAM & BRIDENHAGEN |
| JAN 5 | JARBOE/RADOS | JARBOE/RADOS |
| 12 | SAAH FAMILY | SAAH FAMILY |
| 19 | | |
| 26 | THE EMADS | THE EMADS |
| FEB 2 | | |

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.

Contact Us

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Antiochian Orthodox Church
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Potomac, Maryland 20854
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Fax (301) 765-9591
www.peterpaulpotomac.org

**For cancellation of church
and/or church related events
due to inclement weather,
please visit our website at
www.peterpaulpotomac.org.**

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Email: frisaac@gmail.com

**Church Administrative
Assistant**
Phone (301) 765-9188 ext. 0
Fax (301) 765-9591
Email:
office@peterpaulpotomac.org

Prayer Times

Sunday Matins 9:30am
Sunday Liturgy 10:30am
Feast Day Liturgies:
Eve of the Feast 7:30pm
Christmas Eve Liturgy
December 24th 7:30pm

Arabic Liturgy

On the first Sunday of the month.
We will celebrate Liturgy in Arabic
on Saturday, **January 4th** at
5:00pm in the main sanctuary.

Please remember to reserve the
date!

SS. PETER AND PAUL
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
10620 RIVER ROAD
POTOMAC, MD. 20854

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

"And it was in Antioch that the disciples were first
called 'Christians'" - Acts 11:26

Check Out Our Website!

www.peterpaulpotomac.org

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