St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church

a parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
His Eminence Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York &
Metropolitan of all North America
His Grace Bishop THOMAS, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Oakland & MidAtlantic
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Tone 3 **June 28, 2026** Eothinon 4

The Holy, Glorious Apostles Peter and Paul

Today's Reader: Alexander Cadmus

Next Sunday – June 28, 2026

Reader for July 5, 2026: **Christopher Clay**

Commemorations and Bread Offering: **George Lowen Family**

Luncheon for Next Sunday is POT-LUCK! Bring a dish to share!

Today's Bread for the Holy Oblation is offered for the Health and Salvation of Ron, Kristen, Ron, Jan, Logan, Kimmy, Cassie, Josee, Nick, and Laney.

It is also Given In Loving Memory of Donna, and the departed members of the Davis family.

"the Disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11:26)

Please note that Holy Communion is reserved for members of the Holy Orthodox Church who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and confession. However, all are welcome to partake of the blessed bread at the dismissal.

Please join us during our fellowship at the Coffee Hour immediately after the Divine Liturgy.

Important Announcements . . .

We now are entering into the Summer months and a time of vacations. Just remember, this is not a time to take a vacation from Church! If you are travelling and would like to attend church while you are away, see Fr Samuel and he will help you find a church that is near your destination if you are uncertain what Church is nearby to the place you are visiting.

The Parish Council will meet TODAY at 1:30 pm in the Conference Room.

NEXT SUNDAY: The Luncheon is POT LUCK!
Bring a dish to share.

Announcement To All Parents & Parishioners:

1) For the safety of our children, all minor children must be accompanied to the restroom if they need to go during the Divine Services by a parent and immediately back again to the Church.

2) Also, while the Divine Services are in being served no one is to be elsewhere in the facility (Church Hall, etc.) and not in Church except to go to the restroom, and return immediately to the Church when you are finished.

~ Fr Samuel

"Blessings Box" Collection Update

Beloved in Christ,
This year, we are collecting non-perishable food for our new BLESSING BOX! PLEASE KEEP BRINGING FOOD so that we may continue to stock our shelves and have food to stock adequately. We need to continue our efforts in providing food for those who are truly Hungry. God bless everyone for your holy efforts!

Tone 3 Eothinon 4

The Holy, Glorious Apostles Peter and Paul

Troparion for the Resurrection, *in the Third Tone*

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 became the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

Troparion of Ss. Peter and Paul, *in the Fourth Tone*

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.

Troparion of St. Nicholas, *in the Fourth Tone*

Thy righteous acts have manifested thee to thy flock as a model of faith, a reflection of humility, and a teacher of abstinence, O Father Bishop Nicholas. Therefore, through humility thou hast achieved exaltation, and through poverty riches. Intercede thou with Christ to save our souls.

Kontakion for Ordinary Sundays, *in the Fourth Tone*

O Undisputed intercessor of Christians, the mediatrix who is unrejected by the Creator, turn not away from the voice of our petitions, though we be sinners. Come to us in time with aid, as we cry unto thee in faith; for thou art good. Hasten to us with intercessions O Theotokos, who dost ever intercede for those who honor thee.

Epistle

II Corinthians 11:21-12:9

Prokeimenon: Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth.
Verse: The heavens show forth the glory of God.

Brethren, whatever any one dares to boast of—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast of that. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I have received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I have been beaten with rods; once I was stoned. Three times I have been shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brethren; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure upon me of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He Who is blessed for ever, knows that I do not lie. At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands. I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.” I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Gospel

Matthew 6:22-33

The Lord said, “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the

Gospel *con’t on following insert*

Gospel *Cont.*

other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink; nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not the soul more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of heaven: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his stature? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon himself in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

Saints Peter and Paul, the Apostles (June 29)

The divinely-blessed Peter was from Bethsaida of Galilee. He was the son of Jonas and the brother of Andrew the First-called. He was a fisherman by trade, unlearned and poor, and was called Simon; later he was renamed Peter by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, Who looked at him and said, "Thou art Simon the son of Jonas; thou shalt be called Cephas (which is by interpretation, Peter)" (John 1:42). On being raised by the Lord to the dignity of an Apostle and becoming inseparable from Him as His zealous disciple, he followed Him from the beginning of His preaching of salvation up until the very Passion, when, in the court of Caiaphas the high priest, he denied Him thrice because of his fear of the Jews and of the danger at hand. But again, after many bitter tears, he received complete forgiveness of his transgression. After the Resurrection of Christ and the descent of the Holy Spirit, he preached in Judea, Antioch, and certain parts of Asia, and finally came to Rome, where he was crucified upside down by Nero, and thus he ascended to the eternal habitations about the year 66 or 68, leaving two Catholic (General) Epistles to the Church of Christ.

Paul, the chosen vessel of Christ, the glory of the Church, the Apostle of the Nations and teacher of the whole world, was a Jew by race, of the tribe of Benjamin, having Tarsus as his homeland. He was a Roman citizen, fluent in the Greek language, an expert in knowledge of the Law, a Pharisee, born of a Pharisee, and a disciple of Gamaliel, a Pharisee and notable teacher of the Law in Jerusalem. For this cause, from the beginning, Paul was a most fervent zealot for the traditions of the Jews and a great persecutor of the Church of Christ; at that time, his name was Saul (Acts 22:3-4). In his great passion of rage and fury against the disciples of the Lord, he went to Damascus bearing letters of introduction from the high priest. His intention was to bring the disciples of Christ back to Jerusalem in bonds. As he was approaching Damascus, about midday there suddenly shone upon him a light from Heaven. Falling on the earth, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" And he asked, "Who art Thou, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I am Jesus Whom thou persecutest; it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." And that heavenly voice and brilliance made him tremble, and he was blinded for a time. He was led by the hand into the city, and on account of a divine revelation to the Apostle Ananias (see Oct. 1), he was baptized by him, and both his bodily and spiritual eyes were opened to the knowledge of the Sun of Righteousness. And straightway- O wondrous transformation! - beyond all expectation, he spoke with boldness in the synagogues, proclaiming that "Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 9:1-21). As for his zeal in preaching the Gospel after these things had come to pass, as for his unabating labors and afflictions of diverse kinds, the wounds, the prisons, the bonds, the beatings, the stonings, the shipwrecks, the journeys, the perils on land, on sea, in cities, in wildernesses, the continual vigils, the daily fasting, the hunger, the thirst, the nakedness, and all those other things that he endured for the Name of Christ, and which he underwent before nations and kings and the Israelites, and above all, his care for all the churches, his fiery longing for the salvation of all, whereby he became all things to all men, that he might save them all if possible, and because of which, with his heart aflame, he continuously traveled throughout all parts, visiting them all, and like a bird of heaven flying from Asia and Europe, the West and East, neither staying nor abiding in any one place - all these things are related incident by incident in the Book of the Acts, and as he himself tells them in his Epistles. His Epistles, being fourteen in number, are explained in 250 homilies by the divine Chrysostom and make manifest the loftiness of his thoughts, the abundance of the revelations made to him, the wisdom given to him from God, wherewith he brings together in a wondrous manner the Old with the New Testaments, and expounds the mysteries thereof which had been concealed under types; he confirms the doctrines of the Faith, expounds the ethical teaching of the Gospel, and demonstrates with exactness the duties incumbent upon every rank, age, and order of man. In all these things his teaching proved to be a spiritual trumpet, and his speech was seen to be more radiant than the sun, and by these means he clearly sounded forth the word of truth and illumined the ends of the world. Having completed the work of his ministry, he likewise ended his life in martyrdom when he was beheaded in Rome during the reign of Nero, at the same time, some say, when Peter was crucified.

First in prominence among the Apostles, and teachers to the Universe,
Intercede to the Master of all for peace in the world and for our souls great mercy.

Calendar: June-August 2026

The Apostle's Fast 6/8/2026 - 6/28/2026		
6/29/2026		Feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul
6/30/2026 (Tue)		Synaxis of the 12 Apostles
Diocese Parish Life Conference - 7/1/2026 - 7/5/2026		
7/20/2026		Elias the Prophet
7/25/2026		Dormition of the Righteous Anna
Dormition Fast 8/1/2026 - 8/14/2026		
8/5/2026 (Wed)	6:30 pm	Eve Divine Liturgy—Transfiguration of Our Lord
8/6/2026 (Thu)		Transfiguration of Our Lord
8/15/2026 (Sat)	10:00 am	Divine Liturgy—Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos
8/20/2026		The Prophet Samuel
8/29/2026		The Beheading of John the Baptist

Calendar for the Week of June 28, 2026	Saints of the Day
Sunday—June 28, 2026 9:20 am Orthros 10:30 am Divine Liturgy 1:30 pm Parish Council Meeting	Translation of the Relics of Saints Cyrus and John the Unmercenary
Monday— June 29, 2026	**Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul**
Tuesday—June 30, 2026	A Plenary Feast for the Twelve Apostles
Wednesday—July 1, 2026 Fast **No Daily Vespers Today**	The Unmercenary Sts Cosmas and Damian
Thursday—July 2, 2026	Placing of the Robe of the Theotokos at Blachornas
Friday—July 3, 2026 Fast	Hycinthus the Martyr; Anatolius the Archbishop of Constantinople
Saturday—July 4, 2026 5:00 pm Great Vespers Confessions afterward	Andrew the Jerusalemite, Bishop of Crete and Composer of the Great Canon
Sunday—July 5, 2026 9:20 am Orthros 10:30 am Divine Liturgy	Sisoes the Righteous

Please note that Confessions are heard at the time noted above in the coming week's schedule, or by appointment by calling Fr. Samuel at: (304) 254-0470, (304) 562-9129, or (304) 541-8550.