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Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church

The Very Rev. Father Simeon Odabashian, Pastor

70 Jefferson Street Providence, Rhode Island 02908

TEL (401) 272-7712 J FAX (401) 272-2832

<http://www.stsahmes.org>

e-mail: office@stsahmes.org

Schedule of Sunday Services

Morning Service (<i>Keesherajeen & Aravodyan Jham</i>)	9:10 a.m.
Divine Liturgy (<i>Soorp Badarak</i>)	10:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 7, 2007

Second Day of the Octave of the Nativity

Scripture Readings

Acts 6:8-8:2 (Pg. 113) John 12:24-26 (Pg. 98)

Why do we Pray for the Deceased?

The most basic teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ is: *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another* (John 13:34). This love is best expressed when we as loving brothers and sisters and as the true followers of the Lord come together to experience His presence in our midst: *For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them* (Matthew 18:20). In such an atmosphere of binding love and Divine presence our prayers unite and come out as if from a single source. This is what the Lord had in mind when he taught us the Lord's Prayer and stressed the use of the collective first person plural throughout.

Praying in one voice as one person does not only indicate that we are all in agreement in our faith in God and in our expression of love towards each other, but also that we pray for each other. Prayer that is offered in unison will reach God: *Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven* (Matthew 18:19).

Common prayer is the very essence of the Church. And we must understand that while offering private prayers should be a part of our daily practice, they do not take the place of common prayer, since, according to the Holy Scriptures, we experience the presence of Christ in our midst as a group or a family, provided that we set aside our sinful ways and adhere to the divine command of love.

One may assume that all of this applies to those of us who are alive, since according to the general understanding, once a person passes away, he stops communicating with others and committing

sin, and the sins committed during his lifetime are now a part of the record so to speak. The deceased will be judged at the great tribunal of the Last Judgment for the life they have led on earth. Consequently, why offer prayers for the deceased? Similar questions have been asked over the centuries and some Christians reject the practice of praying for the dead. The Armenian Church is obviously not one of those Christian groups.

Prayers for the dead, which are well attested from the Old Testament, and requiem services “*hokehankist*” are based on an understanding derived from the Holy Scriptures and particularly from the New Testament. We believe that the faithful who are deceased are still the Lord’s: *If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living* (Romans 14:8-9). The faithful who are dead are merely asleep in Christ. This concept, which is in St. Paul’s epistles (1Corinthians 15; 1 Thessalonians 4,5) is one of the basic teachings of the Armenian Church, and the term ‘asleep’ in its past participle form “*nunchetsyal*” is used formally in reference to a deceased person.

Like the faithful who are alive, the faithful who are deceased are a part of the corporate body of Christ and therefore of the Church. Those who are asleep in Christ and have reached the end of their earthly lives in the faith are referred to as the ‘first born’ of the Victorious Church.

The Scriptural evidence also suggests that those who are asleep in Christ pray for themselves and for us. That the souls of the deceased are conscious and concerned about the living is best reflected in Christ’s story about poor Lazarus and the rich man. The latter begs the patriarch Abraham to send someone to his five brothers still alive to warn them of what is in store for sinners (Luke 16).

The indissoluble union of the living with the Victorious Church is also the basis for seeking the intercession of the saints before God. Asking a saint for his/her intercession merely means that we ask him/her to pray for us.

- from “Frequently Asked Questions about the Armenian Church” by the Very Rev. Fr. Krikor Maksoudian

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Response when Kissing the Cross (during the procession):

The faithful says:

Յիշեսցիր եւ զիս առաջի անմահ գառիճն Աստուծոյ:
Hee-shes-cheer yev zees a-rra-chee an-mah ka-rinn As-doo-dzo.
(Remember me before the immortal Lamb of God.)

The priest says:

Յիշեալ լիջիր առաջի անմահ գառիճն Աստուծոյ:
Hee-shyal lee-cheer a-rra-chee an-mah ka-rinn As-doo-dzo.
(You shall be remembered before the immortal Lamb of God.)

Response for the Kiss of Peace:

The giver says:

Քրիստոս ի մէջ մեր յայտնեցաւ:
Krees-dos ee mech mer hayd-ne-tsav.
(Christ is revealed in our midst.)

The receiver says:

Օրհնեալ է յայտնութիւնն Քրիստոսի:
Orh-nyal eh hayd-noo-tyoo-nun Krees-do-see.
(Blessed is the revelation of Christ.)

Response when Kissing the Gospel (after the Divine Liturgy):

The faithful says:

Յիշեցէ՛ Տէր զամենայն պատարագս քո:
Hee-shes-tseh Der za-me-nayn ba-da-ra-kus ko.
(May the Lord remember all your sacrifices.)

The priest says:

Տացէ՛ քեզ Տէր ըստ սրտի քում:
Da-tseh kez Der usd sur-dee koom.
(May the Lord grant to you according to your heart.)

Participating in the Divine Liturgy: Please follow the prayers and hymns in the Divine Liturgy pew books. The front section contains the Armenian Krapar text and modern Armenian translation, while the latter part gives the English transliteration and translation. Page numbers are illuminated at the upper left and right sides of the main altar. Please sing along with any of the hymns which the choir is singing.

Confession and Holy Communion: Those who are prepared to receive Holy Communion may kneel in the center aisle or remain standing at their pew for the group recitation of the confession (p. 48-49). After the absolution please proceed via the central aisle towards the altar in an orderly manner. Two Parish Council members will be present to assist. Please return to your pew via the side aisles.

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TODAY'S REQUIEMS (*Hokehankist*):

Requiem Prayer

*Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
O Christ, Son of God, forbearing and compassionate, have compassion, in your love as our creator, upon the souls of your servants who are at rest, especially upon the souls of your servants and maidservants:*

- **HARRY AZARIAN SR.** (40 Day Memorial - Karasoonk) - requested by John Azarian; Alice Azarian; the Azarian Family.

- **JOSEPH KENOSIAN** (One Year Memorial - Dareleetz) - requested by Richard Langley; Lee & Colleen Kenosian, Jackson & Madison; Steven & Kathy Kenosian, Joseph & Christopher; Polly Waugh; Eva

Robinson & Debra Altounian; Cindy, Ed, Jerilyn & Edward Ferry; Isabella & Zachary Ferry; Natalie Bedrosian.

- **ROSE JAMGOCHIAN** (5 Year Memorial) - requested by Ronald & Rosemary Sepe; Renee & Rich Toppi; Michele & Raymond Iasimone.

- **JAMES PAOLINO** (25 Year Memorial) - requested by his Mother, Dorothy Paolino, Sisters Linda and Debbie; Brother, Steven; Nieces and Nephews; the Paolino Family, the DiSanto Family; the Torkomian Family; the Caracciolo Family.

- **MARY PERETZIAN** (30 Year Memorial); **RICHARD PERETZIAN** (45 Year Memorial); **LOUISE PERETZIAN** (6 Year Memorial); **CHARLES PERETZIAN** (6 Year Memorial); **HARRY PERETZIAN** (6 Year Memorial) - requested by Mr. Marty Dark (CA).

- **DR. PAUL VARRUYAN MAGALIAN** ((3 Year Memorial) - requested by Berj (Ben) & Kim Majalian; Fred & Madeline Ramos.

- **LEVON DOSTOURIAN** (41 Year Memorial); **ZEPURE PANIKIAN DOSTOURIAN** (16 Year Memorial) - requested by Ara Dostourian.

- **HARRY TASHJIAN; JOHN TASHJIAN** - requested by Julia Tashjian Martin.

- **VERGEN KLANIAN** (26 Year Memorial) - requested by Margaret Cotoia; Mary Klanian; Lillian Maranjian; Silvia Forti.

- **SARKIS & ZARTAR SHAMIRIAN AND ALL DECEASED FAMILY MEMBERS; CHARLES & GRACE YAGHOBIAN and son CHARLES JR.; WILLIAM BUTLER; NISHON and MARYAM KUZIRIAN; BEDROS & OGDAR MANTAIAN and ALL DECEASED FAMILY MEMBERS; GLADYS HARRISON PETERSON** - requested by Elizabeth Shamirian (St. Petersburg, FL).

- **HAIGOUHI BOZIGIAN; HACHIG BOZIGIAN; PETER G. HANOIAN; JUNE MATRUMALO** - requested by Mrs. Sherry Hanoian; Mr. & Mrs. Donald Cimini; Mr. & Mrs. George Hanoian, Peter, Mark & Emily; Mr. & Mrs. Hyman Goodman and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Leon Boghossian and Family; the Matrumalo Family.

- **BEDROS CHAMELIAN; WARTOUHIE CHAMELIAN; SHAHE CHAMELIAN; SETA (GHAJANIAN) ARNOLD** - requested by Mr. & Mrs. Jean Chamelian and Bedros (Beirut, Lebanon); Ghajanian Family; Mr. & Mrs. Ara Chamelian.

...for whom we are offering these prayers. Be mindful of them in the great day of the coming of your kingdom. Make them worthy of mercy, of expiation and forgiveness of sins. Glorify them and reckon them with the company of your saints at your right hand. For you are Lord and creator of all, judge of the living and of the dead. And to you is befitting glory, dominion and honor, now and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

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CELL PHONES: *We kindly ask that all cell phones be turned off prior to entering the church. Please show your respect to our holy sanctuary and to your fellow worshippers.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

The *Altar Flowers* are given today in loving memory of Bedros Chamelian, Wartouhie Chamelian, Shahe Chamelian, and Seta (Ghajianian) Arnold by the Ghajianian Family.

JANUARY 12, 2007

Family Night - Save the Date! - *Mer Doon Restaurant* - January 12, 2007 - Fun, Food & Entertainment - Chicken & Pilaf Dinner, Adults \$8, Children \$6. Reservations available. Please call Gary Taraian (508-761-4600), Hermond Ghazarian (821-2549), or Gary Nahabedian (580-8123).

JANUARY 20, 2007

Cultural Committee's *Arts Education Program 2006-2007* Second Semester begins on Saturday, January 20. Program offers art & cultural instruction in the following areas for a very modest fee. *In which classes would your child (children) be interested?* Ages 7-16: Drawing & Sculpture, Piano, Violin, Ballroom Dancing (ages 8 – 16), Nazeli Dance Group (ages 9-16), Voice training, Clarinet, Saxophone, Guitar, Kanon, Kemancha. Ages 16 & up: Piano, Guitar, Kanon, Kamancha, Voice training, Ballroom Dancing. For registration form: <http://www.stsahmes.org/Education/artsartsReg.html>, or call to Church office 272 7712. For information or

questions please contact Program Chairperson Janna Guegamian:
Tel. 861-3573

JANUARY 21, 2007

Sunday, January 21 *"My Space Website" Program* sponsored by ACYOA Juniors. All teens of the parish are invited to discuss this very hot topic! Discussion will be led by educators from the Heritage of Rhode Island. Parents encourage your teens to attend. This program is for ages 12 - 18. There will be a segment for parents as well. Reserve January 21st - 5-8 p.m. in your calendar. Program will take place in the Hanoian Hall.

JANUARY 24, 2007

The *Senior Citizens* will sponsor a trip to Connecticut on Wednesday, January 24. For reservations, please call Zabel at 861-8925.

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THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE is seeking nominees for church officers to be elected at our Annual Parish Assembly, which will be held on Sunday, February 25, 2007. If you are a dues-paying member of Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church and would like to be considered for election to the Parish Council, Nominating or Auditing Committees, please call the church office at 401-272-7712 or speak with any member of the nominating committee: Greg Ayrassian (946-9000), Peter Tarian (245-1963) or Nathalie Yaghoobian (353-2488)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP DUES AND THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY.

Again this year, according to the new Diocesan bylaws, dues-paid members of a parish must pay their Annual Parish dues by December 31, 2006 of a given year in order to be able to vote at the Annual Parish Assembly. Please mark your calendars - this year's Parish Assembly will be held on Sunday, February 25, 2007

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Hagop Ghajanian is stepping down from his position as editor of our newsletter. He has done an exemplary job over the last few years. Please speak to Hayr Soorp if you (or someone you know) might be interested in serving as editor of this vital publication. The newsletter not only educates parishioners in the teachings of the Armenian Church and culture, but it also serves to promote the activities of our parish organizations.

“GLORIA IN EXCELSIS” CD - Special price - only \$10. Our Junior Choir & the Narek Bell Choir of St. Mary Church, Washington, D.C. joined forces for this unforgettable recording of Armenian spiritual music. Songs on the CD are performed by the combined choir, as well as some unique features by the ringing sound of the Narek Bell Choir. You may purchase the CD from the Church office, 272-7712. Please support our Junior Choir.

CHURCH LIBRARY - Parishioners are encouraged to visit and make use of our newly organized Library. Library Hours: Sundays 12:30-1:30 p.m., and Mondays 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. **BOOK SALE** -- **“Colors and Words From Armenia and Beyond”** by Haroutune Armenian is a unique publication of different horizons from the Armenian highlands and the Mediterranean to the many corners of the Western world. Cost is only \$10.00. The book can be purchased during library hours on Sundays and on Mondays through December.

CHILDREN’S & JUNIOR CHOIRS - We invite your children and grandchildren to learn how to read music, religious hymns, popular Armenian Songs, participate in Divine Liturgy first Sunday of each month. Open for all ages 6 through 16, rehearsals at the Egavian Cultural Center. Please call the Church Office (272-7712) or Maestro Petrossian at 861-3573 to sign up your child.

SENIOR CITIZENS - Come join us every Monday (weather permitting, excluding Holidays). Have fun with your friends and neighbors, and enjoy with us “coffee and....”

COFFEE HOUR - Please consider sponsoring a **Coffee Fellowship** on the occasion of a Hokehankist (in memory of a loved one), a happy occasion (birthday, anniversary, etc.) or to provide a wonderful service for our church. Contact Fran, the church secretary, to arrange a date (272-7712).

ARDZAGANG (Echo) - Armenian Television Program - Statewide Cable Interconnect Channel 13 (A): is broadcast on Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

ARMENIAN RADIO HOUR - Now heard on Sundays at 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. on WARL 1320 AM.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2007

- 8 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
- 9 Parish Council, 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Parish Council visit to Armenian Euphrates Evangelical Church
- 12 Family Night
- 15 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
- 20 Cultural Committee Arts Education - 2nd Semester begins, 10 a.m.
- 21 ACYOA Jr.'s "My Space" Website Program, 5-8 p.m.
- 22 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
- 24 Senior Citizens trip to Connecticut
- 27 ACYOA Seniors Wine/Cheese Fundraiser 8 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2007

- 4 ACYOA Superbowl Party
- 18 Poon Parengentan Celebration
- 19 First Day of Great Lent
- 21 Lenten Service
- 25 Annual Parish Assembly
- 28 Lenten Service