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Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church

The Very Rev. Father Simeon Odabashian, Pastor

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Schedule of Sunday Services

Morning Service (*Keesherajeen & Aravodyan Jham*) 9:10 a.m.
Divine Liturgy (*Soorp Badarak*) 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, February 4, 2007

Sunday of the Catechumens

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 63:7-18 (Pg. 738) II Timothy 3:1-12 (Pg. 193)

John 6:22-38 (Pg. 89)

Saints Sarkis the Soldier (Captain), and his son Mardiros and his Fourteen Soldiers

Yesterday was the feast of Saint Sarkis, one of the more popular saints commemorated in the Armenian Church. The following short account regarding this beloved saint is taken from the "Domar."

St. Sarkis lived during the fourth century and was from Caesarea of Cappadocia in Asia Minor (Modern Turkey). He rose through the military ranks as a consequence of his valiant campaigns and even became a trustworthy and faithful general to Emperor Constantine the Great, the first Christian Roman and Byzantine emperor.

At the accession to power of Emperor Julian the Apostate in 361 A.D., Sarkis took refuge with his son Mardiros in Armenia. Later when the pagan emperor Julian fought against the Persians, Sarkis and his son went to Persia to join the Persian army in the service of Persian King Shapur II. Sarkis along with Mardiros fought with great bravery against Julian's defeated army. Sarkis was also able to convert many Persian soldiers to Christianity.

King Shapur II eventually discovered that Sarkis was a Christian and asked him to abandon his faith and embrace Zoroastrianism instead. Zoroastrianism was a dualistic faith believing in the existence of two gods: one that is all good and one that is all evil. The king gave him this option because he did not want to lose the faithful and courageous service of his top general.

Both Sarkis and his son steadfastly refused to abandon their faith. King Shapur's promises of higher positions and of wealth did not cause Sarkis and Mardiros to alter their firm stand. They would rather die than deny Christ. Finally, the king executed both Sarkis

and Mardiros. After the death of St. Sarkis, fourteen of the soldiers who had become Christians came to bury the Saint. These soldiers also met a martyr's death at the hands of the Persian king for simply burying their teacher in Christ. St. Sarkis is called St. Serge in English.

Through the intercession and prayers of St. Sarkis the soldier, his son Mardiros, and his fourteen soldiers, may the Lord accept our requests and save us.

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Response when Kissing the Cross (during the procession):

The **faithful** says:

Յիշեցիր եւ զիս առաջի անմահ գառինն 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 լիշիր առաջի անմահ գառինն 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:*

- **JOHN BRIAN** (2 Year Memorial) - requested by Melanie Krikorian and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Michael Church and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Egisa Mooradian.

- **BEDROS PETER YEKHTIKIAN; COLLEEN DENNISON; MANOOSHAG YEKHTIKIAN** (29 Year Memorial); **AVEDIS YEKHTIKIAN** (27 Year Memorial) - requested by Gregory, Malcolm, and Paul Yekhtikian; Mrs. Marian Goshgarian and Steven (CA).

- **JIRAYR AVEDISIAN** (13 Year Memorial) - requested Mrs. Araxy Avedisian and Family.

...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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Der Voghormya prayers have been requested for the health of Mr. Robert Hambardzumyan. *Dispel the pain and heal the sickness of your people and grant to all perfect health by the sign of your all-conquering Cross. 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.*

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Prayer of St. Ephraim

Jesus Christ, the Sun of righteousness, my savior and deliverer, I take refuge in your light. Illumine and warm my heart. Incinerate my evil thoughts and thaw the frost of my sins. Grant spring, O Lord, so that it may flower and produce the fruit of righteousness. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

Altar Flowers are given today in celebration of Roberta and Peter Taraian's 49th Wedding Anniversary.

A Candle Offering for Patee Nubadag has been given by a faithful parishioner.

FEBRURY 5, 2007

The *Women's Guild* will have a meeting at 7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 12, 2007

The Senior Citizens will sponsor a *Valentine Luncheon* at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, February 12. Donation \$4.00.

FEBRUARY 18, 2007

Poon Paregentan Celebration presented by the Women's Guild, Sunday, February 18 immediately following Church Services. Losh Kebab Dinner with fun, activities, and kid's parade. \$10 Adults, \$5 Children under 10. Please call the church office as soon as possible for reservations. (272-7712)

FEBRUARY 21, 2007

Following Church Services at 11:30 a.m., Ladies Aid will sponsor a *Vospov Kheyma Luncheon* at 12:30 p.m. Reservations are requested by February 19, please call Sandra Pomfret at 942-3913 or the Church Office, 272-7712.

FEBRUARY 25, 2007

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY - Important information regarding church membership dues: Again this year, according to the new Diocesan bylaws, dues-paid members of a parish must have paid their Annual Parish dues by December 31 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 following services.**

MARCH 4, 2007

Commemoration of Sumgait and Baku Massacres - 40th Day Requiem for Assassinated Journalist Hrant Dink - On Sunday, March 4 we will be commemorating the massacres that took place

in Sumgait and Baku, Azerbaijan as well as the Karasoonk for Hrant Dink. There will be a short program following services.

Hrant Dink Fund - The Diocese this week launched a fund to provide support for the wife and family of Hrant Dink, the brave Armenian-Turkish journalist who was slain in front of his newspaper offices in Istanbul earlier this month. A special collection will be taken up during the holy Badarak on Sunday, March 4. Checks may be made out either to Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church or the Diocese of the Armenian Church. All funds collected here will be forwarded to the Diocese.

MARCH 10, 2007

Saintly Women's Day - On Saturday, March 10 the Women's Guilds of the New England Region will honor Queen Gardramide. This year's event will be hosted by the Armenian Church of Hye Pointe, Ward Hill, Massachusetts.

MARCH 24, 2007

The Cultural Committee of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church proudly presents its annual ***Music Appreciation Series Concert "Sounds of Spring"*** Featuring: ***Haig Yaghoobian***, piano. Works range from classical to romantic periods and include works of Mozart and Chopin. Concert date is Saturday, March 24, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. at the Music Mansion, 88 Meeting Street, Providence, RI Reception following the concert. Seating is very limited. Tickets: \$25.00 For tickets call the church office (401)272-7712 or Delicacies (401) 461-4774. No tickets will be sold at the door!

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SPECIAL SERVICES

Prefestal of the Feast of the Lord's Presentation to the Temple (*Dyrnuntarach*) - Tuesday, February 13 (6-6:45 pm)

Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Presentation - Wednesday, February 14 (10-11 am)

Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Vartan the Warrior and his 1036 Companions Thursday, February 15 (6-7 pm)

PARISH MEMBER DUES - Following the decision of the February 19, 2006 Parish Assembly, membership dues for the year 2007 and moving forward is \$150 for general membership and \$100 for seniors and full-time students. Those unable to pay the full dues may confidentially approach Hayr Soorp to explain their situation. Parishioners are strongly encouraged to contribute beyond the minimum dues as part of the ***"Stewardship Program."***

HOME BLESSINGS - One of the major goals of this year's diocesan theme, "Church and Home: One in the Spirit" is to encourage the faithful to have their homes blessed. Please consider inviting Hayr Simeon to bless your home according to the tradition of the Armenian Church. There is no requirement to offer a meal nor present a gift to the priest. Please have a piece of bread, dish of salt and glass of water available for the blessing.

IMPORTANT REMINDER - ANNUAL REPORTS: All organizations and committee reports are due now. (Financial and Narratives) Please submit to the church office as soon as possible if you have not already done so. Thank you.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2007 - We have received scholarship applications from the Diocese of the Armenian Church. Scholarships are intended for needy Armenian American students attending accredited 4-year undergraduate university programs. Preference will be given to those who are active in the life of the Armenian Churches of the Eastern Diocese and are U.S. citizens. Please contact the church office for an application. Deadline for submission is June 15, 2007.

The **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE** of Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church is pleased to announce that applications are now available for the Charles Yaghoobian Jr. Scholarship Grants for 2007. Scholarship Grants will be awarded to qualified members of all three Armenian Churches in RI. We are currently seeking qualified candidates for consideration. For an application and a list of eligibility requirements you may contact Nathalie Yaghoobian at 353-2488. The deadline to submit application is Monday, April 2, 2007.

CULTURAL COMMITTEE'S Arts Education Program 2006-2007 Second Semester has begun. 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.

"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.

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

FEBRUARY 2007

- 5 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
Women's Guild Meeting, 7:30 p.m. (Hanoian Hall)
- 9 Nazeli & Ballroom Dance Classes, 6:30 p.m.
Junior Choir, 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Arts Education, 10:30 a.m.
- 11 St. Vartanantz Day Dinner (Knights of Vartan)
ACYOA Juniors meeting, 5-8 p.m.
- 12 Senior Citizens Valentine Lunch, 12:30 p.m.
- 13 Ladies Aid Board Meeting, 1 p.m.
Service- 6-6:45 p.m. Prefestal of the Feast of the Lord's
Presentation to the Temple
Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.
Parish Council, 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Presentation 10-11 am
- 15 Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Vartan 6-7 p.m.
- 18 Poon Parengentan Celebration after Church
- 19 First Day of Great Lent
- 21 Sunrise Service at 11:30 a.m.
Ladies Aid Vospov Kheyra Luncheon 12:30 a.m.
Lenten Service 7-8 p.m. - Theme: *"Our Father, who art
in Heaven"*
- 25 Annual Parish Assembly
- 28 Lenten Service 7-8 p.m. - Theme: *"Hallowed be Thy
Name"*

MARCH 2007

- 6 Ladies Aid Board Meeting, 1 p.m.
- 7 Lenten Service, 7-8 p.m. - Theme: *"Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven"*
- 8 Women's Guild "King Arthur Flour" Demonstration
- 10 ACYOA Jrs. Retreat in New Hampshire
Saintly Women's Day at Armenian Church at Hye Point
- 14 Sunrise Service, 11:30 a.m.
Ladies Aid Luncheon 12:30 p.m.
Lenten Service, 7-8 p.m. - Theme: *"Give us this day our
daily bread"*
- 18 ACYOA Jrs. Meeting 5-8 p.m.
- 21 Lenten Service, 7-8 p.m. - Theme: *"And forgive us our
trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us"*
- 24 Cultural Committee, Haig Yaghoobian at Music Mansion
- 28 Lenten Service, 7-8 p.m. - Theme: *"And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil"*