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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 11, 2007

Middle Sunday

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 63:18-64:12 (Pg. 739) Titus 1:1-11 (Pg. 194)

John 7:37-52 (Pg. 91)

This coming Tuesday the Armenian Church will celebrate the feast of the Holy Leontine (Ghevontian) Priests. The following account is from "Domar."

Catholicos Hovsep of Hoghotsim; Bishops Sahag and Tatig; Priests Levontius (Ghevont), Mousheh, Arshen, Manuel, Abraham, Khoren; Deacons Kachach and Abraham (454 AD). After the battle of Vartanantz (Avarayr) (451), the above saints were abducted by the Persian king. During a later battle the Persians suffered a greater loss and under the evil influence of the pagan priests, their losses were attributed to the fact that the Armenian priests had not been punished. Some were taken separately and others in groups, tortured mercilessly and then martyred. Historians have recorded the martyrdom of each of the saints.

Ghevont the priest serves as a particular inspiration as he was an advisor to St. Hovsep and St. Vartan and delivered an inspiring homily to the troops prior to the Battle of Avarayr. He was born in the last part of the fourth century in the village of Ichevan, was highly educated and assisted Sts. Sahag and Mesrob in the translation of the Bible into Armenian. After the battle of Avarayr, Father Ghevont was taken to Persia and exiled with Catholicos Hovsep to the land of Vergan (south of the Caspian Sea), where he was tortured and martyred.

St. Hovsep the Catholicos was born in 396 AD and was educated by Mesrob Mashdots. He was an excellent administrator and was known as a gentle servant of Christ. He became Catholicos in 444 AD and served for eight years until he was exiled and martyred. He died in 454 AD at the age of 58.

These saints are especially loved and honored by the Armenian people because they were martyred for their strength of faith and love of Jesus Christ.

There are two other important commemorations, which fall during the up-coming week: Wednesday, February 14 is the feast of the Presentation of our Lord to the Temple (see Luke 2:22-40) and Thursday, February 15 is the feast of Saints Vartan our Commander and his 1036 Martyrs who died in the Great Battle of Avarayr.

Through the intercession and prayers of the Holy Leontine Priests and the Vartanantz Martyrs, may the Lord receive our supplications and save us. Amen.

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Response when Kissing the Cross (during the procession):

The **faithful** says:

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

The **priest** says:

Յիշեալ լիցիր առաջի անմահ գառիկն 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:

Յիշեսցէ 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:

- **ROSE DUNNE** (CT) (40 Day Memorial - Karasoonk) - requested by Julia Martin and Cheryl Der Hagopian.

- **ELIZABETH SARKISIAN** (2 Year Memorial) - requested by Melvin Sarkisian; Myron & Rosemary Kuzirian; Bill & Karen Brannon; Michael & Denise Navoian; Stephanie & Michael Cogliandro; Lt. Stephen C. Kuzirian, NOAA; Matthew Brannon; Zachary & Jenna Navoian; Rosa Marashian and Family; George Navoian; Lucy Kuzirian; Helen Bogoian; Kathy & Barry Robinson; George & Shirley Bogoian.

- **MICHAEL AYRASSIAN** (4 Year Memorial) - requested by Sons, Kenneth Ayrassian and Michael Ayrassian Jr. and Family; Daughters Cindy Amer and Family and Sandra Garzone and Family; Mrs. Sue Ayrassian and Ann; Mr. & Mrs. Gary Ayrassian and Family.

- **JACOB BAGDASIAN** (4 Year Memorial) - requested by Florence Bagdasian, Pamela Bagdasian; Dr. Bryan Bagdasian and Family.

- **YEPREM MOURACHIAN** (18 Year Memorial); **ARTHUR SPIRITO** (16 Year Memorial) - requested by Beatrice M. Sprito and Mrs. Anna Mae Mourachian and Family.

- **MARION H. NAJARIAN** (11 Year Memorial) - requested by Sylvia Anjoorian; Patricia & Mark Bartlett 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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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

Christ the liberator, free me from the bitter winter winds of sin. Brighten and warm my darkened and frigid soul and sprinkle the warm dew of your grace upon the thoughts of my heart. Amen.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

Altar Candles are given today in celebration of Hayr Soorp Simeon Odabashian's birthday by Raffie Najarian.

St. Vartanantz Day Dinner sponsored by the Knights of Vartan following the Divine Liturgy. Tickets will be available at the door.

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 - As a reminder, the *Parish Assembly* will be held on February 25. All are encouraged to attend. A list of eligible voters and eligible candidates will be posted on the bulletin board outside the Sunday School classrooms. Please see a

member of the nominating committee with any questions. A light lunch will be offered before the meeting.

MARCH 4, 2007

Commemoration of Sumgait and Baku Massacres – 40th Day Requiem for Assassinated Journalist Hrant Dink - On Sunday, March 4 we will commemorate the massacres against Armenians 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. 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 8, 2007

Women's Guild - Thursday, March 8, 7:30 p.m. *King Arthur Flour Baking class/demonstration*. Recipes, tips and technique tricks that home bakers can use. Paula Gray, a representative of the King Arthur Flour Company, will be our instructor. Free admission. Contact the Church Office at 272-7712 or Nathalie Yaghoobian 353-2488 for reservations.

MARCH 9-11, 2007

"If being a Christian was a crime, would you be convicted?" an ACYOA Juniors retreat for New England Armenian youth (ages 13-18). Friday evening - Sunday afternoon at the Metropolis of Boston Camp & Retreat Center, 329 Camp Merrimack Rd, Contoocook, NH. \$100 includes accommodations, meals and materials. Register by February 26. For more info. call Steve Megrdichian (464-9004).

MARCH 10, 2007

Saintly Women's Day - This year the Women's Guilds of the New England Region will honor Queen Gadramide. Event to take place Saturday, March 10 at Holy Cross Armenian Church, 54 East Haverhill St., Lawrence, MA. Registration & coffee at 10:00 a.m., Service at 11:00 a.m. followed by a luncheon and program. Menu: baked haddock and price: \$30 per person. A bus will be departing at 8:30 a.m. Please make your reservation by calling the church office (272-7712) or Zita Butler (728-8015).

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!

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.

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

- Today** St. Vartanantz Day Dinner (Knights of Vartan)
ACYOA Juniors meeting, 5-8 p.m.
- 12 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
Senior Citizens Valentine Lunch, 12:30 p.m.
- 13 Ladies Aid Board Meeting, 1 p.m.
Prefestal of the Feast of the Lord's Presentation to the
Temple, 6-6:45 p.m.
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.
- 16 Nazeli & Ballroom Dance Groups, 6:30 p.m.
Jr. Choir 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Arts Education, 10;30 a.m.
- 18 Poon Parengentan Celebration after Church
- 19 First Day of Great Lent
- 21 Sunrise Service at 11:30 a.m.
Ladies Aid Vospov Kheyma 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"*