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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 (<i>Keesherajeen & Aravodyan Jham</i>)	9:00 a.m.
Sunrise Service (<i>Arevakal</i>)	10:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy (<i>Soorp Badarak</i>)	10:30 a.m.

Sunday, March 18, 2007

Sunday of the Judge

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 65:8-25 (Pg. 738) Philippians 3:1-4:9 (Pg. 180)

Luke 17:20-18:14 (Pg. 73)

Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebastia (celebrated yesterday)

The Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebastia were martyred in approximately 320 AD. They were Christians from various towns and cities of Lesser Armenia who served as soldiers in the royal regiment of Sebastia.

Upon the decree of Roman Emperor Likianos, Lucias, Duke of Caesarea, organized interrogations to identify Christian soldiers among the regiment. Forty of the soldiers remained steadfast in their faith, defying the judges by their brave answers, and were imprisoned. One cold winter night the soldiers were thrown into a lake near Sebastia, to freeze to death.

One of the 40 soldiers, unable to endure the torments, came out of the water to find salvation in a bathhouse built on the bank. The lone soldier died, deprived of both earthly and heavenly life.

At dawn, halos are seen encircling the heads of the remaining soldiers. One of the guards charged with the execution of the 40, witnessing the holy phenomenon, accepted Jesus Christ as his savior and threw himself into the lake to be martyred along with the others. In the morning, it became apparent that through a divine miracle, the 40 soldiers have been saved from freezing. This infuriated their captors and subsequently executed all them.

The martyrs' remains are buried in Sebastia, where subsequently a 40-domed Cathedral was built. The Cathedral of Sebastia stood for nearly 1,000 years, until the invasion of Tamerlane and the Mongols at the end of the 14th century. However, the "Forty Martyrs Cathedral" name has survived to this day.

Sunday of the Judge

"O Christ, You have given to Your Church a true commandment: to pray to God continually and at all times with spirit and understanding. You established the truth of Your commandment when You gave us an example bypassing the night in prayer to God, having willingly become man. O Christ, let us stand always before You with pure prayers, as the angels in heaven do." (Sharagan for the Fifth Sunday.)

The Sunday of the Judge gives us another parable about a "child of this world," a judge so jaded that he will not even help a poor widow (Luke 17:20-18: 14.) That widow is much like us, feeling helpless and worn down in this world in which the evil people seem to have all the success. Finally the judge is so tired of her pestering that he takes action on her behalf. Now, the parable asks us, if even such a godless man as the judge can finally be moved by the pleas of the weak, can we doubt that God in His infinite love for us will help us?

He will -- but He will also decide when. Our Creator knows our needs, and we must have faith that He will answer them at the proper time. This is the question for us: Do we trust God, even in our suffering, and believe His promise of justice for the oppressed? Do we pray and continue to pray, even when His answer does not come at the moment we would like? "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?"

The other readings (Isaiah 65:8-25, Philippians 3:1-4:9) exhort us to pray and remind us that present sorrows will fade to nothing in the light of the glory to come.

(from the website of the Diocese of the Armenian Church: www.armenian-church.net)

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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.

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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:*

- **SIRANOUSH KHOJANIAN** (8 Year Memorial) - requested by the Ghajanian Family; the Dakessian Family (CA); the Sevag Family (NY); the Arikian Family (CA); the Minelian Family (CA); Rose Yarumian and Sandra; Arthur Yarumian and Sons.

- **MARIAM JOUHOURIAN; KHACHIG JOUHOURIAN; HAGOP JOUHOURIAN; BOGHOS GHAJANIAN; KOHAR GHAJANIAN; ARAKEL GHAJANIAN; deceased members of the JOUHOURIAN and GHAJANIAN FAMILIES** - requested by Mrs. Satenig Jouhourian; Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Jouhourian and Family; Boghos Jouhourian and Family; the Ghajanian Family.

- **AGOP AYVAZYAN** (10 Year Memorial) - requested by Varujan & Candace Ayvazyan and Family; Dr. Herman & Silva Ayvazyan and Family.

- **VAHRAM AZNAVOURIAN** (45 Year Memorial) - requested by William Aznavourian.

- **SARKIS KLANIAN** (50 Year Memorial) - requested by Susan Mouradjian 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

O Lord, quench the thirst of my soul with your abundantly flowing grace and do not ignore the burning of my heart. I thirst from the scorching heat of my evils. Cool and wash my polluted and tainted lips with the water of your mercy.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARCH 19, 2007

The *Senior Citizens* will hold a *Peanut Butter Kufta* luncheon on Monday, March 19, 2007 at 12:30 p.m. Donation: \$5.

MARCH 24, 2007

The Cultural Committee 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!

MARCH 30, 2007

The ACYOA's will have a "*Night with the Providence Bruins*" on Friday, March 30 at the Dunkin' Donuts Center, 7:05 p.m. (Providence Bruins vs. Springfield Falcons). Free post-game concert with Tommy Fava & Anthony following the game. First 3,000 fans receive free P-Bruins Bandanas. Tickets are only \$10. For more information please contact Steve Megrdichian at 401-464-9004, 401-419-4392 or <spmeg77@cox.net>. **Only a few tickets remain.**

APRIL 24, 2007

Martyrs Day – On Tuesday, April 24 we will conduct a special Requiem – Hokehankist Service for the repose of the souls of the 1.5 million victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915. This will take place in the sanctuary from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and will be followed by a Commemorative Program with the participation of the ACYOA Juniors from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. This will take place in the Egavian Hall. All are strongly encouraged to take part in this solemn remembrance.

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SUNDAYS of GREAT LENT 2007

The Rhode Island Orthodox Clergy Fellowship is sponsoring a series of Lenten Services with Sermons on each of the Sundays of Great Lent.

Services begin at 5 pm and are followed by lenten refreshments.
Sunday, March 18 - St. John Romanian Orthodox Church, 501 E.

School St., Woonsocket
Sunday, March 25 - Sts. Mary & Mena Coptic Orthodox Church,
8 Pendelton St., Cranston

HOLY WEEK FLOWER SALE - We are pleased to announce that the Women's Guild will be selling flowers during Holy Week. Please plan to fulfill all your Easter floral needs by purchasing flowers here and thus help the Guild in its fundraising efforts.

MEMBERSHIP/ STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE - The Parish Council is seeking individuals interested in serving on this vital committee. Please inform Hayr Simeon or Hagop Ghajanian of your interest. Please help us as we strive to bring new growth to our church community. A meeting of the Membership/Stewardship Committee will take place on Wednesday, March 21 at 8:00 p.m. and is open to all.

MILITARY OUTREACH - The Diocese of the Armenian Church wishes to reach out to Armenians serving in the military, particularly those who are in unstable areas such as Iraq and Afghanistan; also to those who have recently completed their active duty. Please forward the name, military addresses and e-mail address of any Armenian military whom you are aware of to: <office@stsahmes.org> or forward the information to the church office.

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. Call 272-7712 to schedule a visit.

A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND - The Diocesan Department of Youth and Education and the ACYOA invite College Students (completed 2 yrs. of college), Young Adults, and Church School Teachers on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem - August 5 - 14. Cost

is \$1,998 per person (double occupancy). Deadline is May 8. For information call: 212-686-0710. The pilgrimage will be led by Father Mardiros Chevian.

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** 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.

SUMMER YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Conferences at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary: 2007 Summer Conference Dates - Post High School A: June 11-16; Deacons' Training and Liturgical Music: June 25 - July 3; High School A: July 6-14; High School B: July 17-25; High School C: July 28 - August 5; Junior High School: August 7-11; Post High School B: August 13-19. Applications will be available on the St. Nersess Seminary website in the near future. (<http://www.stnersess.edu/index.php>)

At the Ararat Center: St. Vartan Camp - Session A (June 24- July 7), Session A1 (June 24-30); Session B (July 8-21), Session B1 (July 8-14); Session C (July 22-Aug 4), Session C1 (July 22-28), Session C2 (July 29-August 4). For more information, please call the Church Office. Scholarships are available. There are a number of paid camp staff positions available at this time. Please call the church office or visit their website for more information or an application: <http://www.armenianchurch.net/families/programs/vartancamp.html>

SCHOLARSHIPS - Partial Scholarships are available for youth desiring to attend St. Vartan Camp, Hye Camp and St. Nersess Summer Programs. Scholarships will be based on need and level of community involvement. Applications are available from Debbie Onanian and Hayr Simeon. Applications must be returned by June 17 to the Church Office.

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, Kamancha. 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 - Library Hours: Sundays following church services until 1:30 p.m., and by appointment only by calling the church secretary at 272-7712, who will get you in touch with a member of the Library Committee. **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.

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.