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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

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| 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 25, 2007

Sunday of the Advent

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 66:1-24 (Pg. 741) Colossians 2:8-3:17 (Pg. 182)

Matthew 22:34-23:39 (Pg. 23)

Dear Friends,

Today is the sixth and last Sunday of our Lenten Journey. The theme is the second coming of Christ, which is an extremely important part of our Christian doctrine. In the Nicene Creed (325 A.D.) we confess our belief: *He is to come with the same body and with the glory of the Father to judge the living and the dead; of His kingdom there is no end.*

Just as the Son of God, some 2,000 years ago became man in order to save us by His death and resurrection, likewise he will return at an unspecified moment in the future to judge mankind. Thus, this Sunday of the Advent is given to us as an opportunity to reflect on the great mystery of our Lord's return and to look within to see how well we are living the Gospel in our daily lives. After ascertaining our sins and shortcomings, we need to ask our heavenly Father to forgive us and empower us to more faithfully strive to live the saving Gospel, whose main message is love and forgiveness.

Today's gospel passage (Matthew 22:35-40) gets right to point and tells us exactly what we need to do in order to be prepared for our Lord's second coming:

And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, to test him, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord you God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets."

With prayers,
Hayr Simeon

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:*

- - **CHARLES GARABEDIAN** (One Year Memorial - Dareleetz) - requested by Mary Garabedian and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Robin Silvestri and Family; Rose Ampagoomian; Mrs. Agnes Ayrassian and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Ayrassian, Amanda & christina.

- **MARTHA FLEURY** (2 Year Memorial) - requested by Mrs. Gladys Thovmasian; Mr. & Mrs. Kachadour Kojoian; Naomi Thovmasian-Marsh and Family; Leona, Wayne, and Chris Bailey; Gaythorne Angell Jr.; Linda Angell.

- **ARTHUR HANOIAN** (3 Year Memorial) - requested by Mrs. Mary J. Hanoian, James and Martin and their Families; Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hanoian; Mr. & Mrs. Askanaz Najarian and Mark; Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Kavjian and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Samoorian and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Avedisian & Family.

- **BARSAM, HAIGANOUSH, BEDROS, BOGHOS and ES-GOUHE TARAIAN** - requested by Mary and Teresa Taraian; Mr. & Mrs. Peter and Roberta Taraian and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Gary and Sonya Taraian, Gary Jr. and Zachary Razmig.

- **DEACON CARL AYRASSIAN** (26 Year Memorial) - requested by Mrs. Agnes Ayrassian and Family; Rose Ampagoomian; Mary Garabedian; Mrs. Sue Ayrassian; Ann Ayrassian; Mr. & Mrs. Gary Ayrassian and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Ayrassian, Amanda & Christina.

- **MICHAEL AMPAGOOMIAN** - requested by Rose Ampagoomian; Mr. & Mrs. Harry Ampagoomian; Mary Garabedian; Agnes Ayrassian and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Ayrassian, Amanda and Christina.

...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, shed the illumination and peace of your graces in my heart. Expel the night, which is afflicted by sins of my imagination. Grant courageous conduct to my body, so that I may live virtuously according to your will. Remove from my heart the thorns of sins, for my soul is suffering and being wounded. In my heart sow the good, so that it may grow and produce the fruits of righteousness. Amen.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

This morning our *Church School* warmly welcomes the students, teachers, superintendents, and families from Sts. Vartanantz Church and the Armenian Euphrates Evangelical Church. We are gathering together for our annual visitation day where students will attend classes and worship together.

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 Megrđichian at 401-464-9004, 401-419-4392 or <spmeg77@cox.net>. **Only a few tickets remain.**

APRIL 1, 2007

ACYOA *Palm Sunday Dinner* sponsored by the ACYOA's, at 1 p.m. Chicken & Pilaf dinner, \$12 Adults, \$5 Kids under 10.

Reservations of tables of eight only please call Sevan Janigian (353-0351) or George Vartanian (419-1052) Special Guest Speaker, Miss Jennifer Morris, Diocesan Coordinator for Youth Outreach. Also presenting slide presentations of 2006 ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend.

APRIL 5, 2007

Ladies Aid Holy Thursday Lenten Buffet will take place on April 5, 2007 at 12:30 p.m. following the Divine Liturgy (10:30 a.m.). Reservations are requested, please call the church office (272-7712) or Sandra Pomfret (942-3913). Donation \$10.

APRIL 18, 2007

The *Senior Citizens* will sponsor a trip to Connecticut on Wednesday, April 18. For reservations, please call Zabel at 861-8925.

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.

APRIL 28, 2007

A World of Contribution - Celebrate a tribute to Corinne Heditsian (1939-2005), past chair of the Armenian Historical Association of Rhode Island, with a special performance by members of the Silk Road Ensemble, featuring the music of Gomidas and artist Kevork Mourad who has developed a technique of spontaneous painting in which he shares the stage with the musicians. Saturday evening, April 28th at the Egavian Cultural Center – 7:30 p.m. Donation \$20 Students \$12. Reservations - contact Ramon Zorabedian at 884-6626.

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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., begin at 5 pm and are followed by lenten refreshments.

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

HOLY WEEK & EASTER -- Donations of money towards the purchase of Palms for Palm Sunday, Butter for Holy Thursday's Washing of the Feet Ceremony, and Flowers for Holy Week and Easter, will be greatly appreciated. Please use the form enclosed to make your donations towards flowers for Holy Week and Easter, and send to the office by April 4, 2007. To contribute towards the Palms or Butter for Holy Thursday, please call the church office no later than Thursday, March 29 (272-7712). Thank you.

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.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2007

- 26 Senior Citizens, 10:30 a.m.
28 Lenten Service, 7-8 p.m. - Theme: *"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"*
Choir Rehearsal after church
30 Nazeli & Ballroom Dance, 6:30 p.m.
Junior Choir 7:30 p.m.
ACYOA "Night with the Providence Bruins" 7:05 p.m. at the Dunkin' Donuts Center
31 Arts Education, 10:30 a.m.

APRIL 2007

- 1 Palm Sunday - ACYOA Palm Sunday Dinner
2 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
3 Holy Tuesday - Vesper Service, 7:30 p.m.
5 Holy Thursday -Divine Liturgy, 10:30 a.m.
Ladies Aid Luncheon 12:30 p.m.
Washing of the Feet Service, 7:00 p.m.
Memorial of the Passion, 8:00 p.m.
6 Holy & Great Friday
Memorial of the Crucifixion 12:00 noon
Memorial of the Burial of Our Lord, 7:00 p.m.
7 Holy & Great Saturday
Children's Communion Breakfast & Service 11 a.m.
Reading of Sacred Prophecies 6:30 p.m.
Easter Eve Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.
8 Easter Sunday, Morning Service 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10am
Blessing of the Four Corners of the World, 11:45 a.m.
9 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
13 Nazeli & Ballroom Dance, 6:30 p.m.
Junior Choir 7:30 p.m.
14 Arts Education 10:30 a.m.
15 ACYOA Meeting, 5-8 p.m.
17 Annual Armenian Youth Day
20 Family Night
24 Martyrs Day Requiem Service & Program, 6:30 p.m.
29 Memorial Tribute to Corinne Heditsian, 7:30 p.m.

MAY 2007

- 8 Ladies Aid Board Meeting, 1 p.m.
11 Annual Sports Banquet
15 Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.
16 Ladies Aid Mother's Day Luncheon, 12:30 p.m.
20 ACYOA Jrs. Meeting, 5-8 p.m.