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

**Sunday, April 22, 2007**

**Sunday of the World Church (Green Sunday)**

**Scripture Readings**

Acts 9:23-31 (Pg. 116) I Peter 2:1-10 (Pg. 209)

John 2:23-3:12 (Pg. 85)

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### Message from College Ministry - Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)

The shootings at Virginia Tech have resonated around the country and shocked the nation to its core. 32 senseless murders. One question. Why?

For the past 48 hours, we have been glued to our televisions, our computers, and any other source of mass media to find out more about the horrible murders that occurred at Virginia Tech Monday morning. What would motivate someone to do something so senseless and horrific? Reading the news articles, hearing all the accounts of students who survived, and seeing pictures of those who were killed made me cry out, "God!" And in that breath, in that word, is encapsulated the whole essence of this tragedy: it's just too big and too awful for us to handle it on our own.

An event like this not only affects the students at Virginia Tech, it affects all college students. You stand in solidarity with them as college students who live similar lives and now have the same fears and concerns: Could this happen at my campus? How can I see school, society, the world in the same way?

It is events like this that make us ask why bad things happen to good people. Not only that, but innocent people. And while some of us turn to prayer for comfort, there is still the lingering question in the back of our minds: how could this happen? The truth is, there is no good answer to that question. While we believe that God has a purpose, even if we don't understand it sometimes, there is no pur-

pose to this horrific act of violence. It's an awful thing that should never have happened. The God that we know and trust and love would never want this kind of pain for His children. Occurrences like these remind us that evil exists in our world. When people become victims of evil, though, God wraps you in His arms while you cry. God meets us in our suffering and suffers with us - because our God knows what it means to suffer. Jesus suffered, cried, and mourned in His lifetime. Our Lord isn't some distant figure whose purposes are detached from our being. Our God is intimately connected with us, and we can lean on God when things get too big and crazy and awful for us to handle.

Tragedies like this are the unfortunate result of the free will God has so lovingly given us. Human beings suffer at the hands of other human beings precisely because God allows us to choose how we will live our lives. In setbacks of human progress like this, the one thing we must do is learn from it. For example, Cho's professors were deeply concerned about his mental health - we must learn to take people's instincts more seriously. As we all mourn, we can learn how to support one another in our grief. As more is discovered about what led this lone young man to commit mass murder, we can learn about how to detect and prevent such deep psychological damage. And most of all, we can learn how to lean on God until we are able to stand on our own two feet again.

When you gather as Armenians on campus, care about and support each other. Be alert to any of your fellow students who may be troubled. If you sense that there is a problem, encourage that person to seek help from their Armenian Church pastor, the University chaplain, or University counseling services.

Please pray for the students at Virginia Tech, the families of those who were killed, and the safety of all college students at campuses around the country. You can also share & discuss everything on the College Ministry forum. (make sure you register first) If I can be of any help to you, I am only an email or a phone call away. God bless you and keep you safe.

**Julie Hoplamazian, College Ministry Facilitator**  
([www.college301.org](http://www.college301.org))

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**Response when Kissing the Cross (during the procession):**

The **faithful** says:

**Յիշեալիք եւ զիս առաջի անմահ գառիկն Աստուծոյ:**  
*Hee-shes-cheer yev zeez 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 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:

**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 of the Divine Liturgy in the books provided in the pews. 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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**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.*

**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:*

- 32 VICTIMS OF THE APRIL 16 SHOOTINGS AT VIRGINIA TECH - requested by the Parish Family of Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church; Martin Mahdesyan.

- **JOHN JUSKALIAN (PA)** - Requested by Jasper Ananian; Isabel Ananian.

- **ANDRANIK ZEYTOONIAN** - requested by Mr. & Mrs. Grigor Gevorkian; Haroutune Zeytoonian (CA); the Kozinian Family; Gevorkian Families; Mr. & Mrs. Haroutune Arslanian.

- **ROSALIE KOLLIGIAN AHLIJANIAN (5 Year Memorial)** - requested by Mr. David Ahlijanian; Mr. & Mrs. Martin Ahlijanian and Family; Mr. & Mrs. John Varadian; Mr. & Mrs. Harry Ahlijanian; Ms. Sylvia Varadian and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Michael Ahlijanian.

- **LUCY MARTIESIAN; MARY MARTIESIAN** - requested by Lazarus & Olympia Martiesian.

- **PETER G. HANOIAN (10 Year Memorial)** - requested by Mrs. Sherry Hanoian; Mr. & Mrs. Donald & Jane Cimini; Mr. & Mrs. George & Susan Hanoian; Peter, Mark and Emily Hanoian.

- **SHOOSHAN (COLOIAN) BOYAJIAN** - requested by her children - Anahid, Margaret, Avedis and Mariam Boyajian.

*...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.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### TODAY

*Altar Candles* are given in loving memory of Shooshan (Coloian) Boyajian by her children - Anahid, Margaret, Avedis and Mariam Boyajian.

#### 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 members at 7:00 p.m. This will take place in the Egavian Hall. All are strongly encouraged to take part in this solemn remembrance.

#### APRIL 25, 2007

The *Senior Citizens* will sponsor a trip to Connecticut on Wednesday, April 25. For reservations, call Zabel at 861-8925. **Please note the change in date.**

#### APRIL 28, 2007

*A World of Contribution* - Celebrate a tribute to Corinne Hedit-

sian (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, April 28th at the Egavian Cultural Center – 7:30 p.m. Donation \$20 Students \$12. Reservations - contact Ramon Zorabedian at 884-6626.

#### APRIL 29, 2007

The *Armenian Martyrs' Memorial Committee Services* will be held at the North Burial Ground at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, April 29.

#### MAY 6, 2007

*40th Day Requiem* for Fr. Haik Donikian, followed by a Memorial Fellowship sponsored by the Women's Guild. Donations will be received to purchase a liturgical item in Der Hayr's memory.

#### MAY 11, 2007

The *Sports Scholarship Committee's 38th Annual Sports Banquet* will take place on Friday evening, May 11, 2007. Social hour 6 p.m., dinner 7 p.m. Tickets \$20 per person. The Charles Yaghoobian Jr. Memorial Award and honoring RI's Armenian Athletes of the Year. For tickets, please call Rosemary Kuzirian 421-0480 (evenings 943-3158) or Ara Boghigian 944-2211 (evenings).

#### MAY 12, 2007

On Saturday, May 12, 2007 our *Junior Choir and Nazeli Dance Group* will have a concert in the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY.

#### MAY 13, 2007

*Guest Celebrant and Preacher* - On Sunday, May 13 we will be blessed with the presence of the Reverend Father Khoren Kirakosyan from the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. Der Khoren will be traveling to the United States to take part in the Annual Clergy Conference and Diocesan Assembly.

#### MAY 16, 2007

*Ladies Aid Society* will celebrate Mother's Day with a Dinner and Program on Wednesday, May 16 at 12:30 p.m. in the Egavian Cultural Center. We will be honoring Mary Serabian, "*Mother of the Year.*" Donation: \$12 per person (checks payable to Ladies Aid). Dinner reservations only by May 11. Please call Sandra Pomfret (942-3913) or Fran, Church Office (272-7712).

#### MAY 17, 2007

The *Cultural Committee* of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church presents *Meet With The Armenian Professionals - Questions & Answers* - JOHN M. HARPOOTIAN, Esquire. Topic: Estate Planning - Robert Janigian Sr., Moderator - Thursday, May 17, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Egavian Cultural Center, 70 Jefferson St., Providence, RI - Admission Free - All are welcome to attend!

### ***Love Your Neighbor***

Announcing the beginning of a new outreach project in response to our Lord's command (Matthew 22:39) and our commitment to the "***Year of Church and Home: One in the Spirit.***" Beginning Sunday, April 29 special bins will be placed at all church entrances in order to collect non-perishable food items. This will be an ongoing project. Parishioners will be encouraged to bring one or more items each Sunday or at other times of the week. This will be an excellent opportunity to put our faith into action. Food donations will be forwarded to Mary House Food Pantry, the outreach ministry of St. Patrick's Church. For more info. call Gary Nahabedian 580-8123 or Joyce Avedisian 724-3978. \* ***Fact - of all children in Providence under 18 years old, 43% fall below the poverty level.***

***IMMACULEE ILIBAGIZA TO SPEAK*** - We have received word that Rwandan Genocide Survivor, Immaculee Ilibagiza, will be speaking at Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge, MA today at 4 p.m.

***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.

***WISH LIST:*** We are seeking a donor to purchase a new safe for the church. Approximate cost is \$1500. Please call the church office 272-7712 if you are interested in contributing for this necessary item.

***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.

### **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>

**CULTURAL COMMITTEE'S Arts Education Program 2006-2007** Program offers art & cultural instruction for a very modest fee. 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. Registration form: <http://www.stsahmes.org/Education/artsartsReg.html>, or call office at 272 7712. For information, contact Program Chairperson Janna Guegamian at 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. In the glass display case outside the library there are several books, tapes, shirts, emblems, etc. for sale. Stop by and take a look. **Please note that the Library will be closed on April 29.**

**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).

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

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

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **APRIL 2007**

- 23 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
- 24 Martyrs Day Requiem Service & Program, 6:30 p.m.
- 25 Parish Council Executive Board 7:30 p.m.  
Senior Citizens Trip to Connecticut (note change in date)
- 27 Jr. Choir & Ballroom Dance Class 6:30 p.m.
- 28 Arts Education, 10:30 a.m.  
Memorial Tribute / Concert for Corinne Heditsian, 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Martyrs' Memorial Committee Services at North Burial  
Ground at 12:30 p.m.
- 30 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.

### **MAY 2007**

- 8 Ladies Aid Board Meeting, 1 p.m.  
Parish Council 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Jr. Choir & Nazeli Dance Group Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
- 11 Annual Sports Banquet
- 12 Jr. Choir & Nazeli Dance Group Trip to Bayside, NY
- 15 Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.
- 16 Ladies Aid Mother's Day Luncheon, 12:30 p.m.
- 17 Cultural Committee - Meet with Armenian Professionals -  
John M. Harpootian, Esq. - Topic: Estate Planning
- 20 ACYOA Jrs. Meeting, 5-8 p.m.

### **JUNE 2007**

- 2 Cultural Committee Talent Show
- 7 Cultural Committee - Meet with Armenian Professionals -  
Edward Hamanjian, 7 p.m.
- 9 Women's Guild Strawberry Festival 12 p.m.
- 10 Church School Closing Ceremonies
- 24 Annual Church Picnic
- 30 Cultural Committee - Cafe Night