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

**Sunday, June 10, 2007**

**Feast of the Catholic Church of Holy Etchmiadzin**

**Scripture Readings**

**Zechariah 3:7-4:9 (Pg. 923) Hebrews 9:1-10 (Pg. 200)**

**John 10:22-30 (Pg. 95)**

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### Pontifical Prayer Celebrated on the Feast of Holy Etchmiadzin

**Deacon:** Again in peace let us beseech the Lord, receive, save and have mercy.

**Priest:** Blessing and glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

**Hymn:** *Hrashapar* – Marvelous and glorious God, who are always benevolent and provident, who did originate by your foreknowledge the salvation of the people of Armenia. You have granted us an enlightener from the sinful Parthian race; therefore, O Savior, through his (St. Gregory's) intercession save us now and at the time of your awesome second coming.

Alleluia, alleluia, You shall arise and have mercy upon Zion; for the time to favor her is now at hand. (Psalm 102:13)

### A Reading from the Letter of the Apostle Paul to the Hebrews (13:17, 20:21)

Obeys your leaders and submit to them for they are keeping watch over your souls as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, the Lord has vowed, and will not repent. You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedech. And the Lord is at your

right hand. (Psalm 104:4)

**The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John (10:11-16)**

Our Lord Jesus Christ says: I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd.

**Priest:** Through the prayers and intercession of our Holy Father Gregory the Enlightener and of all the saints grant, Lord, peace to all the world.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Priest:** To the God-established and indestructible great See (of Holy Etchmiadzin) grant, Lord, unshaken stability.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Priest:** And to Orthodox Churches grant, Lord, stability.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Priest:** To our great Patriarch, Lord KAREKIN, Catholicos of All Armenians, grant, Lord, peace and safety at all times.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Priest:** And to us, who are assembled here, to each one according to his rank and order, grant, Lord, love and unity.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Thanksgiving Prayer for Holy Etchmiadzin**

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, through the prayers and intercession of your witness who has suffered much, our father Saint Gregory the Enlightener, you have descended from heaven to the plain of Ararat together with myriads of luminous hosts, to visit your little flock, the Armenian people, and to show your loving kindness and great mercy. You struck the depths of Hades and chased the infernal legions whereupon the illustrious and marvelous edifice of our Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin was built, and you made her the inexhaustible storehouse of your divine graces, to be the mother, instructor and perfecter of all Armenian churches; and now, keep her immaculate, firm and brilliant, for the splendor of our churches and their children until the end of the world; by whom always your all-Holy name is glorified, Amen.

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**The Hymn of Holy Etchmiadzin**

*Etchmiadzinn ee Horeh yev looys parratz unt numa,  
Tsaynk hunchetzeen santaramedk antuntotz.  
Desyal uzlooys medz Hayrabedeen Kreekoree,  
Badmer tzundzootyamp havadatzyal arkayeen.  
Yegayk sheenestsook soorp uzkhoranun loosoh,*

*Kanzee ee suma dzakyats mez looys ee Hayastan ashkharhee.*

The Only-Begotten descended from the Father, and the light of  
glory was with him;  
Voices resounded in the depths of Hades.  
The patriarch Gregory saw the great light,  
And joyfully told of it to the believing king.  
Come let us build the sanctuary of light,  
For therein shone forth light unto us in the land of Armenia.

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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 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 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 քոյմ:**  
*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.

**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.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### TODAY – *Feast of Holy Etchmiadzin*

On the occasion of the Feast of Holy Etchmiadzin we will offer the Pontifical Prayer – *Hayrabadagan Maghtank* following the Divine Liturgy. There will be no Requiem – *Hokehankist* prayers today.

On the occasion of today's feast, Mr. Boghos Guleserrian has gifted *two candles from Holy Etchmiadzin*, which burn on the altar during the Holy Badarak. This donation is made in loving memory of his brother, Hampartsoom Guleserrian, on the 71st anniversary of his death. May God enlighten his soul.

The *Altar Flowers* are given today in loving memory of George Kay Ayrassian by Mrs. Sue Ayrassian and Ann Ayrassian; and Mr. & Mrs. Gary Ayrassian and Family.

A *Candle Donation* has been given today in celebration of Aram "Ace" Ohanian's 90th birthday by his niece, Margaret Chevian.

Today our *Church School* proudly presents six graduates of Religious Education. The graduates are escorted by someone who has supported them during their years of studying the faith and teachings of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

**Emily Hanoian** escorted by her father, Mr. George Hanoian

**Tatevik Martirosyan** escorted by her sister,

Miss Tamara Martirosyan

**Melissa Megrdochian** escorted by her father,

Mr. John Megrdochian

**Stephanie Surabian** escorted by her father, Mr. Paul Surabian

**James Hamblin** escorted by his mother, Mrs. Rosanne Hamblin

**Jeffrey Boghossian** escorted by his mother,

Mrs. Dianne Boghossian

Prior to the Gradation Service, each graduate will read their essay titled – "What Sunday School Means To Me." Congratulations to our graduates! May God bless you in your continued active participation in the life of our church.

*Today's Fellowship* is sponsored by the Church School Committee. The Church School Hantess and Closing Exercises will take place during the fellowship. Please support the Church School with your presence.

**JUNE 13, 2007**

*Annual Ladies Aid Dine Out*, Wednesday, June 13, at the Madeira Restaurant, Warren Ave., East Providence. Seating 12:00 sharp. Donation \$25 per person. Bus departure from church at 11 a.m. Limited seating to 35 passengers, please make your reservation as soon as possible. Dinner choice: Roast Beef or Baked NE Scrod. Make checks payable to Ladies Aid and bring to the church office with your reservation form. (Also indicate if you will be traveling by bus or car.)

**JUNE 17, 2007**

*Summer Worship Hours:* Beginning June 17, hours for services will be as follows: Morning Service, 9:00 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. through Labor Day.

**JUNE 24, 2007**

*Save the date!* June 24, 2007 for our *Annual Church Picnic* following church services. Come join the fun for *great food* (Losh Kebab, Shish Kebab, Chicken Kebab, and Kheyma); *great music* featuring Roger Krikorian and his Ensemble, -- and *great fun!* Your support of our Leg of Lamb Drive and Raffle, and also donations of baked goods items will be greatly appreciated! If you would like to help or if you need further information, contact Gregory Ayrasian (401-943-7642), Marc Janigian (942-3477), or Gary Nahabedian (580-8123) or the Church Office (272-7712). Please join us.

**JUNE 27, 2007**

The *Senior Citizens* will sponsor a trip to Connecticut on Wednesday, June 27th. For reservations, please call Zabel at 861-8925.

**JUNE 29, 2007**

The Cultural Committee presents "*Cafe Night*," back by popular demand, featuring the famous singing group "YY Sisters" from NJ (1st performance in RI); "Garni" Ballroom Dance Group (new program), Rene de la Garza, singer, and Gayane Ovanesyan & Todor Stavrev, Dancers - Friday, June 29, 2007 at 7 p.m., Egavian Cultural Center. Appetizers, Wine, Pastry & Coffee will be served. Tickets: Church Office (272-7712) and Delicacies (461-4774), \$25 in advance, \$30 after June 24 - \$10 Students (Student ID required at door). SEATING IS VERY LIMITED. Reservations for table of 8 upon receipt of payment. Reservations - call Delicacies or the Church Office.

**SEPTEMBER 8 & 15, 2007**

*Cultural Committee Arts Education Program's* registration for 2007 - 2008 First Semester is on Saturday, September 8, 2007 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Egavian Cultural Center. Programs begin on Saturday, September 15, 2007. Please send application to: Cultural Committee Arts Education Program, Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, 70 Jefferson St., Providence, RI 02908. For further information or questions please contact program Chairperson Janna Guegamian: 861-3573

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2007**

*Blood Drive* - Save the Date !!!! Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church will be sponsoring a blood drive on Sunday, September 30 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Hanoian Hall. The entire church and community is invited to participate. You can help save up to three lives by donating blood on this day. Please join your fellow parishioners and friends at the blood drive and help give the gift of life. *Give Hope ... Give Life ... Give Blood*

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*The ARMENIAN SAINTS Men's Softball Team* is looking for a statistician to score all home and away games in the Christian Softball League. Anyone who has experience in scoring games is welcome, please contact Steve Megrđichian @ 464-9004. The Saints Softball team has won its first 2 games of the season and plays each Monday night in different parks across Rhode Island. You may visit the web site at <[www.christiansoftballassociation.org](http://www.christiansoftballassociation.org)> for further details about the league.

**LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR** - 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.*" Special bins have been placed at all church entrances in order to collect non-perishable food items. This will be an ongoing project. Parishioners are encouraged to bring one or more items each Sunday or at other times of the week. This is 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.*

**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.

### **SUMMER YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES**

**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 are available on the St. Nersess Seminary website (<http://www.stnersess.edu/index.php>)

**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). Please call the church office or visit the Diocesan website for more information or an application: <http://www.armenianchurch.net/families/programs/vartancamp.html>. For local contact regarding camp information, you may call Armen Janigian at 578-5816 or e-mail at [asjhye@hotmail.com](mailto:asjhye@hotmail.com)

**Scholarships:** Our Church School is offering scholarships to youth attending St. Vartan Camp, St. Nersess Seminary programs or Hye Camp during the summer of 2007. Applicants must be active in parish youth programs and at least one parent must be a dues-paying member of Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church. For an application, please speak to Debbie Onanian or Hayr Simeon. Applications must be submitted prior to program.

**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.

**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).

## The Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin

The Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin lies among the vast fertile valley of River Arax, near historic Mount Ararat, where, according to Biblical legend Noah landed after the Flood.

The Mother Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin is one of the most ancient and most beautiful examples of Christian architecture. It was founded to commemorate the proclamation of Christianity as the national religion of Armenia. The original building was completed in 303 AD.



Since its distant beginnings, Etchmiadzin has remained the spiritual center of the Armenian people.

Etchmiadzin was built on the site of settlement called Vardkesavan after Prince Vardkes. The renowned Armenian historian Movses Khorenatzi (Moses of Khorene) writes that under King Vagarshak this rapidly growing and thriving settlement was fortified by a wall and a large rampart and renamed Vagarshapat or Nor-Kakhak (New Town).

In the middle of the 2nd century A.D., the Romans, having destroyed Armenia's capital of Artashet, established themselves in Vagarshapat, which they renamed Cainepolis, and proclaimed it the new capital. For more than two centuries Vagarshapat remained the capital of Armenia and the seat of the Armenian kings.

It acquired growing significance as Christianity became the official religion. The Mother Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin, built from 301 to 303, became the seat of the Armenian Church. However, 60 years later the invasion of the Persian army reduced Vagarshapat to ruins. But the Persians did not touch the cathedral. Today's city of Etchmiadzin sits on the ruins of the ancient city of Vagarshapat -- the city getting its name from the cathedral.

Etchmiadzin is Armenian for “the descent (echnel) of the only begotten (miatsin).” It is so named because of its origins in the miraculous vision of St. Gregory the Illuminator. St. Gregory saw Christ’s hand descend from heaven, then strike the land with a gold hammer. The image of a church soon appeared on that location. On that spot, St. Gregory built the cathedral, which he called Etchmiadzin.

The name of the feast day is officially “Feast of the Catholic Church of Holy Etchmiadzin” (canonically known as Don Sourp Edjmiadzni Gatoghiguh Yegeghetzin, found in the book of days liturgical calendar). It is not Catholic in the Roman Catholic sense, but in the older meaning of the word: Universal.

The use of the word “Catholic” to mean universal can also be found in the word *Catholicos*, which means universal bishop. It reflects the idea that there was one church, founded by Jesus Christ and spread by the Apostles. Using the term “Catholic” was a way of noting that fact despite the difference in language and local hierarchy that developed as the church grew. It is as a “Catholic” church that the various bishops and leaders gathered for the various ecumenical councils, trying to hammer out issues as one universal church.

The use of “Catholic” can also be found in the creed:  
We believe also in only one Catholic and Apostolic holy Church

**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

#### JUNE 2007

- Today **Feast of Holy Etchmiadzin**  
Church School Closing Ceremonies
- 11 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
- 12 Parish Council, 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Ladies Aid Dine Out  
Church School Dinner, 6 p.m.
- 14 Ballroom Dance Class 6:30 p.m.
- 17 Summer Worship Hours will begin
- 18 Senior Citizens, 10:00 a.m.
- 19 Ballroom Dance Class 6:30 p.m.
- 21 Ballroom Dance Class 6:00 p.m.
- 24 Annual Church Picnic after services
- 25 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
- 26 Parish Council, 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Senior Citizens Trip to Connecticut
- 29 Cultural Committee - Cafe Night 7 p.m.

#### JULY 2007

- 2, 9, 17, 23, 30 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
- 10 Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.
- 17 Parish Council, 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Diocesan Assembly Meeting, 7 p.m.

#### AUGUST 2007

- 6, 13, 20, 27 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
- 7 Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.
- 14 Parish Council, 7:30 p.m.
- 20-22 Vacation Bible School

#### SEPTEMBER 2007

- 3 Labor Day Holiday, Office Closed
- 8 Cultural Committee Gala Concert
- 11 Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.  
Parish Council, 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Women's Guild Fashion Show
- 25 Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.  
Parish Council, 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Blood Drive, 11a.m. - 2 p.m.

#### OCTOBER 2007

- 6-8 Visit of His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and  
Catholicos of All Armenians to New England
- 9 Parish Council, 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Church Name Day
- 23 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.  
Parish Council, 7 p.m.
- 27 & 28 Annual Church Bazaar