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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 (*Keasherayeen & Aravodyan Jham*) 9:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy (*Soorp Badarak*) 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, August 12, 2007

Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother of God

Blessing of Grapes

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 7:10-16 (Pg. 687) Galatians 3:29-4:7 (Pg. 172)

Luke 1:26-38 (Pg. 51f)

Who Was Mary?

In the 5th century, at the holy Ecumenical Council of Ephesus, the Holy Mother's position as "Mother of God" and "Bearer of God" (*Asdvadzamayr-Asdvadzadzin*) was doctrinally established. Only those aspects of St. Mary's life which are directly related to Christ are mentioned in the Holy Gospels. The remainder of her biography is attributed to tradition, which is found in much of the most ancient of ecclesiastical literature.

St. Mary was the daughter of Joachim and Anna of Nazareth (originally Bethlehem). Anna, being barren, prayed and made special vows for a child. She then had her only child, a daughter named Mariam (or Mary). Although Mary was born naturally (having both a father and mother) she is considered morally pure and immaculate. It is for this reason that the church not only celebrates her birth but also her conception, which the Armenian and the Greek Orthodox churches celebrate on December 9th and the Roman Catholic church celebrates on the 8th.

The concept of her being morally immaculate later developed into the question of her Immaculate Conception (from Anna), a doctrine adopted by the Roman Catholic Church in 1854. The Armenian Church, on the other hand, does not accept this, as it attributes to Mary that which belongs only to Christ; only Christ was immaculately conceived. Yet, her purity is unquestioned. According to the teaching of the Armenian Church, at the time of the Annunciation when the Holy Spirit entered her she was cleansed of

all sin (original sin) as she was to be the vessel in which God manifest was to be incarnated.

After the Ascension of her divine son, the remainder of Mary's life comes to us through tradition. It states she lived out the rest of her days in Jerusalem, cared for by St. John the Evangelist. She died in Jerusalem some 15 years after Christ's Ascension and was buried in her family tomb in Gethsemane.

After she passed away, all the apostles -- save Bartholomew who was absent at that time -- conducted her funeral with great ceremony at a cave-like tomb in the Garden of Gethsemane. Later, St. Bartholomew returned and wished to see Mary one last time. He convinced the Apostles to open the tomb.

Upon opening the tomb, they could not find her body. Angels' voices were heard for three days and nights. They interpreted the angels' singing as a sign that our Lord had assumed (taken up) His Mother into heaven as He had promised her. They found the empty tomb a confirmation of that promise for she had not been dead but had fallen asleep. For this reason, the church refers to the end of her earthly life as "the dormition" rather than "death."

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Response when Kissing the Cross (during the procession):

The faithful says:

Յիշեաջիր 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:

Յիշեացէ 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 քոմ:

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 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 toward 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.*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

Today's *Altar Flowers* are given by John and Terry Derderian (NY) in commemoration of the anniversary of a special event.

Today's *Altar Candles* are given by Hagop, Ara, Ani, and Tamar Ghajanian in honor of Marie Ghajanian on her Name Day.

Donations of Grapes for the Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother of God and the Blessing of Grapes have been given:

- in memory of Kaspar & Ehsig Topalian by the Griego-Marottolo (CT) Families
- in memory of George Zartarian by Irene Zartarian
- by Peter Papazian
- in memory of Mary Varadian by Julia & Marcel Donabedian and Family.
- in memory of Arthur J. Hanoian by Mary J. Hanoian
- by Raffie Najarian

Grape Donations (continued)

- in memory of Asadoor & Aghavni Hovnanian by Margaret Hovnanian
- in memory of Andre Martiesian by Marjorie Martiesian
- in memory of Bogos & Sirvart Bogosian by Mr. & Mrs. Hagop Boghosian
- in memory of Dr. Mark S. Cardozo by Hosanna Derderian
- by Kachadour Avedisian
- in memory of James H. Woloohojian by Marilyn J. Woloohojian
- in memory of her parents by Seta Hanoian
- in memory of Margaret Jizmagian by William Aznavourian
- in memory of Melkon & Takouhie Sagherian by Joyce Avedisian
- in memory of Grace & Charles Yaghoogian by Zita Butler
- by Ghajanian Family
- in memory of Richard & Mary Kazarian by John R. Kazarian

THANK YOU to Joyce Avedisian and Zita Butler for preparing the grapes for distribution.

AUGUST 13, 2007

Professor Ara Dostourian's Church History Class WILL NOT MEET on Monday, August 13. Classes will resume on August 20 at 7 p.m. in the Church Hall. Please join us.

AUGUST 20- 22, 2007

Vacation Bible School - Monday, August 20, Tuesday, August 21 and Wednesday August 22 from 9 a.m. - 12 noon for children ages 4-12. (Ages 13 and up are welcome to come and give a helping hand.) Register by calling the church office at 272-7712 or online at <www.stsahmes.org/education/churchschool>.

AUGUST 29, 2007

The Senior Citizens will sponsor a trip to Connecticut on Wednesday, August 29th. For reservations, please call Zabel at 861-8925.

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 8, 2007

The Cultural Committee presents - *Autumn Concert "Armenian and Classical Music"* featuring Mari Panosian, piano, Saturday, September 8, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., Egavian Cultural Center. Donation - \$10.00.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2007

The Cultural Committee presents *Meet With The Professionals* -- Questions & Answers - Ernest Shaghalian, Jr, CPCU, AAI The topic will be Personal Insurance, Home, Auto & Umbrella - What you need to know. Ara Boghigian, Moderator Thursday, September 13, 2007 at 7:00pm, Egavian Cultural Center, 70 Jefferson Street Providence, RI. Admission FREE.

SEPTEMBER 14-16, 2007

The Second Annual Father & Son Weekend, co-sponsored by St. Nersess Armenian Seminary and the Ararat Center, will be held September 14-16, 2007, at the Ararat Center in Greenville, NY. This is a unique weekend for fathers of all ages to spend with their sons, ages 12 and older. One- or two-night package plans are available. For further information, visit www.araratcenter.org.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2007 - WOMEN'S GUILD FASHION SHOW

"Fall into Fashion with Coldwater Creek" on Thursday, September 20 at 7 p.m. at the Egavian Cultural Center. Donation: \$10. For reservations, call Ann Ayrassian (272-4743) or Fran at the Church Office (272-7712).

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*

OCTOBER 7, 2007

Pontifical Divine Liturgy to be celebrated by His Holiness KAREKIN II, Catholicos of All Armenians, at the Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA. The Divine Liturgy will begin at 10:00 am. A bus is being reserved to depart from Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church at 8:00 am. Please call the church office to reserve a seat on the bus.

OCTOBER 19, 2007

The Cultural Committee and Junior Choir presents Benefit

Concert - "Junior Choir and Nazeli Dance Group" - Friday, October 19, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Egavian Cultural Center.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR is 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.

BLESSING OF HOLY MURON PILGRIMAGE TO ARMENIA

- His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, will bless the Holy Muron (Chrism) in September 2008. On this blessed occasion we would like to organize a pilgrimage to Holy Etchmiadzin, Armenia. Exact dates and costs will be forthcoming. Record numbers of pilgrims are anticipated, thus plans need to be made well in advance. Parishioners interested in being part of this pilgrimage, please notify 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.

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. Donations of new or used paperback or hardcover books (English or Armenian) will be greatly appreciated.

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 "coffee and...." with us.

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 am. (Please note the corrected time)

IMPORTANT NOTE ON CHARITABLE GIVING - In order to comply with the new 2007 federal income tax code, parishioners who contribute in cash and itemize their deduction **MUST HAVE RECEIPTS** to substantiate their donation. Upon request, receipts will be issued at the Parish Council desk on the Sunday a cash donation is made. Cancelled checks, bank statements, and/or credit card statements are still acceptable by the Internal Revenue Service for documentation. Parishioners may place a check instead of cash in the collection plate on Sundays. Please note that charitable contributions to the Church may now be made via VISA/MasterCard at the office during the week.

For more information, kindly contact the Parish Council Treasurer, Steven Zaroogian at 885-2253.

Requiem – Hokehankist – Request

Offering prayers for deceased loved ones is a beloved tradition in the Armenian Church. Requiem prayers are requested on the fortieth day (karasoonk) and subsequent anniversaries (dareleetz).

(Note: Requiems may not be requested on the five major feasts.)

Please use this form to make your request to the Church Office (272-7712) or to a Parish Council Member by the Thursday prior to the requested Sunday. May the Lord illumine the soul of your loved one. Thank you for your generous donation.

Name(s) of Deceased _____

Anniversary _____

Requested by _____

Sunday Requested _____

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Today **Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother of God & Blessing of Grapes**
- 13 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
NO Church History Class this week
- 14 Parish Council, 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
Church History Class 7 p.m.
- 20-22 Vacation Bible School
- 21 Ladies Aid Board Meeting, 1 p.m.
- 25 RI Heritage Festival, State House Lawn, 12 noon to 5 p.m.
(rain date 8/26). Visit the Armenian Historical Assn. tent
- 27 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
Church History Class 7 p.m.
- 29 Senior Citizens' Trip to Connecticut

SEPTEMBER 2007

- 3 Labor Day Holiday, Office Closed
- 4 Women's Guild Meeting, 7:15 p.m.
- 8 Cultural Committee Autumn Concert, 7 p.m.
- 11 Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.
Parish Council, 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Meet the Armenian Professionals with Ernest Shaghalian, Jr.
CPCU, AAI, 7:00 p.m.
- 14-16 Second Annual Father & Son Weekend at Ararat Center,
Greenville, NY
- 16 **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**
- 20 Women's Guild Fashion Show
- 25 Ladies Aid Board Meeting, 1 p.m.
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
Catholics of All Armenians to New England
- 8 Church Office Closed, Columbus Day Holiday
- 9 Parish Council, 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Church Name Day
- 17 Ladies Aid Luncheon, 12:30 p.m.
- 19 Benefit Concert, Junior Choir & Nazeli Dance Group, 7:00 pm
- 23 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
Parish Council, 7 p.m.
- 27 ACYOA Wine Tasting

NOVEMBER

- 3&4 Annual Church Bazaar (Please note this is a change in date)