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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

Morning Service (*Kesheraheen & Aravodyan Jham*) 9:00 a.m.

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

Sunday, August 26, 2007

Third Sunday after Assumption

Feast of the Discovery of the Belt of the Holy Mother of God

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 9:8-19 (Pg. 689) II Corinthians 1:1-11 (Pg. 162)

Mark 4:35-40 (Pg.35)

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

In conversations the topic of fasting before receiving Holy Communion often comes up. Thus I am pleased to share with you an article on this topic by the Very Reverend Father Krikor Maksoudian, "*Frequently Asked Questions about the Armenian Church.*"

Must I Fast Before Taking Holy Communion?

The answer to this question is YES. St. Paul has the following to say about this matter in 1 Corinthians 11:27 and 29:

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. For any one who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself.

The pious Christian must approach the Holy Altar with a clean mind, body and heart. Confession, penance and fasting are the tools for cleansing one's insides.

In his *Winter Sermons* St. Gregory of Datev (14th century) urges all Christians to confess or admit the sins they have committed every Sunday, while they still remember what they have done or said during the week. Failing to confess or admit one's sins leaves one in his/her sinful state. Receiving Holy Communion is such a state indicates that the person treats the Holy Sacrament as a formality.

According to the fathers of our Church, such irresponsibility and lack of reverence turns the Communion that the person receives from being the life-giving body of Christ to a "judgment upon" oneself. This point is emphasized in their writings. In fact, verse 27 from 1 Corinthians is quoted in a homily attributed to the fifth century Armenian theologian Catholicos Hovhannes Mantagoonee.

If a person is required to eat breakfast for health reasons, he/she may do so before receiving Holy Communion. The dietary rule also does not apply to people who are bedridden or hospitalized.

Note: My recommendation for those who for health reasons must eat breakfast before coming to the holy *Badarak* is that they keep to the spirit of pre-communion preparation by observing a lenten vegan diet.

May we all continue to grow in our loving piety and holy reverence toward the great sacrament of the precious Body and Blood of Christ our God.

With prayers,
Hayr Simeon

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Response when Kissing the Cross (during the procession):

The **faithful** says:

Յիշեացիր 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:

Տագէ 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 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.

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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:

- **JOHN SEPLOCHA** (8 Year Memorial); **ARCHDEACON HACHADOOR MADENIGIAN**; **ZARTAR MADENIGIAN** and **GEORGE MADENIGIAN** - requested by Mrs. Helen Seplocha, Joy, Patrick, Alexa, Jordan, Casie and Brooke Ramsier; Dr. Holly Seplocha; Robert Audette; Joni Seplocha.

- **VARTER BEDROSIAN**; **ZAKAR BEDROSIAN**; **YERANIG BEDROSIAN**; **BEDROS BEDROSIAN**; **HAGOP BEDROSIAN**
- requested by Michael Bedrosian.

- **SARAH KOJOIAN** (19 Year Memorial) - requested by Arakel Kojoian; Mr. & Mrs. David Marandola and Family; Mr. & Mrs. George Moragemos.

...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

There will be a Church School parents' meeting at 11:30 a.m.

AUGUST 27, 2007

Prof. Ara Dostourian's *Church History Class* will be meeting tomorrow, August 27, and will meet on Mondays at 7 p.m. in the church hall through Fall. Please join us.

AUGUST 29, 2007

The *Senior Citizens* will sponsor a trip to Connecticut on Wednesday, August 29. For reservations 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 16, 2007

On the *Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross* the Very Reverend Father Shnork Kasparian will celebrate the holy Badarak. Following services a luncheon will take place in honor of Hayr Shnork, on the occasion of his move to Montreal. Tickets for this luncheon are \$15 (\$8 for children 12 and younger). Since tickets will not be sold at the door, they must be purchased from the Church Office no later than Wednesday, September 12.

Donations of sweet basil to decorate the Holy Cross (or donations of funds to purchase) would be appreciated. There will be no requiems (Hokehankist) on this feast day. Requiems will resume on September 23.

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" will be held 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 spot on the bus. There will be a nominal charge of \$5 per person for the bus trip, payable when you make your reservation.

OCTOBER 14, 2007

Church Name Day Celebration - Banquet to follow Church Services in the Egavian Cultural Auditorium. Parishioners of the year: Ara Boghigian and Sue Ayrassian. Special recognition of outgoing Parish Council Members and Diocesan Delegates for their dedicated service to the parish. Admission \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children under 12 years old. For tickets or table of 8 reservations contact church office at 272-7712 or Ann Ayrassian at 272-4743.

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.

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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.

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT SUNDAY - Sunday, September 30 at 5:00 pm at St. Gregory the Theologian Greek Orthodox Church, 1007 West Street, Mansfield, MA. Prayer service and lecture by Rev. Fr. Eugen Pentiuic on "Adam as Steward of Creation." Refreshments after the observance. Sponsored by the Rhode Island Orthodox Clergy Fellowship.

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. The Library will gladly accept any paperback or hard cover books that parishioners would like to donate.

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).

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

AUGUST 2007

- Today Church School Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
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 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
Women's Guild Meeting, 7:15 p.m.
7 Nazeli & Ballroom Dance Groups, 6:30 p.m.
8 Cultural Committee Arts Education Registration 11-12 noon
Cultural Committee Autumn Concert, 7 p.m.
9 Church Services - Regular Hours Resume, 9:10 am. & 10 am
10 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
Diocesan Assembly Meeting, 7:00 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
15 ACYOA Yard Sale 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Cultural Committee Arts Education Programs Begin 10am
16 **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**
Luncheon in Honor of Very Rev. Fr. Shnork Kasparian 12:30
17 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
20 Women's Guild Fashion Show 7 p.m.
21 Nazeli & Ballroom Dance Groups, 6:30 p.m.
22 Arts Education, 10 a.m.
24 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
25 Ladies Aid Board Meeting, 1 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.
Parish Council, 7:30 p.m.
28 Family Night, 6 p.m.
Nazeli & Ballroom Dance, 6:30 p.m.
29 Arts Education, 10 a.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
8 Church Office Closed, Columbus Day Holiday
9 Parish Council, 7:30 p.m.
14 Church Name Day Celebration
17 Ladies Aid Luncheon, 12:30 p.m.
19 Benefit Concert, Junior Choir & Nazeli Dance Group, 7:00 pm
21 Presentation of Maestro Konstantin Petrossian's CD
23 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
Parish Council, 7 p.m.
27 ACYOA Wine Tasting

NOVEMBER

- 3&4 Annual Church Bazaar