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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, September 16, 2007**

**Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

**Scripture Readings**

**Isaiah 49:13-23 (Pg. 726) Galatians 6:14-18 (Pg. 178)**

**John 3:13-21 (Pg. 86)**

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### Celebrant and Preacher

**Very Reverend Father Shnork Dzayrakoyan Vartabed Kasparian**

Dear Friends,

Today we celebrate the great feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The feast originated as a celebration of the victory of the Christian troops, who won back the relic of the true Cross of our Savior, which had been captured from Jerusalem by the Persians in the seventh century. As the Christians joyfully carried the Cross back from Persia they passed through the land of Armenia. Along the journey multitudes of believers were inspired with increased faith, and countless miracles were witnessed as the Cross was elevated and venerated.

Beyond the historical details of the feast, it is more importantly an occasion to celebrate the cross as the most significant symbol of our Christian faith and to meditate on the meaning of the cross as the instrument of our salvation. Today as we celebrate the feast of the holy cross we are reminded that the cross is not simply a decoration, but is a reminder of the great gift of our blessed Lord Jesus' sacrificial death on the Cross of Golgotha. It has been said that he was born in order to die.

The following is taken from the writings of the Apostle Paul regarding the Cross:

*For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart." Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the*

*wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*  
(I Corinthians 1:18-24)

And on account of Your precious Cross, O Lord, receive our prayers and save us. Amen.

With prayers,  
*Hayr Simeon*

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Sharagan Hymn – **Որ Զսնարսաւ Բազմիկս Քն** - for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

*You stretched out your spotless arms on the Cross, O Christ our God,  
Which you gave us as the sign of victory.  
By it preserve our life.*

*The world-saving outstretched wings of Your cross, O Christ our God,  
You gave us as a staff of power.  
By it preserve our life.*

*You gave life again to him who had died by eating of the forbidden tree  
By the tree of life.  
By it preserve our life.*

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At the conclusion of today's holy Badarak we will conduct the *Antasdan* – Blessing of the Four Corners of the World. During this service the holy cross will be carried in solemn procession as we pray that the Lord our God impart a special blessing upon the world.

The following are English translations of the blessings:  
(toward the East)

*Blessed, guarded and by God's providence be protected the Eastern part of the world, and the Patriarchal Mother See of the Armenians, all orthodox bishops and priests, together with deacons and clerics and all our people, men and women, old and young, and all who are assembled in faith in this holy church, and our community and country and all who dwell there in the true faith; by the sign of this Holy Cross and this Holy Gospel, and the grace of this day, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto the ages of ages.*

*Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

(toward the West)

*Blessed, guarded and by God's providence be protected the Western part of the world, and all Christian peoples; by the sign of this Holy Cross and this Holy Gospel, and the grace of this day, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto the ages of ages.*

*Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

(towards the South)

*Blessed, guarded and by God's providence be protected the Southern part of the world, this land, the farms, the vineyards and all their fruitfulness, that they may be free of all harmful incidences, and that their harvests be bounteous; by the sign of this Holy Cross and this Holy Gospel, and the grace of this day, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto the ages of ages.*

*Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia  
(towards the North)*

*Blessed, guarded and by God's providence be protected the Northern part of the world, monasteries, convents and all our churches, together with their clergy and people, that they may be in growth, prosperity and peace; by the sign of this Holy Cross and this Holy Gospel, and the grace of this day, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto the ages of ages.*

*Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

The *Antasdan* concludes with the censuring and veneration of the holy cross after which the faithful receive a sprig of basil in remembrance of today's sacred commemoration.

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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:

**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 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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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### TODAY

*Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross* - Dinner in honor of Fr. Shnork Kasparian today after services in the Egavian Hall. Please see committee members at the door for your seating assignments before entering.

*Special Prayers* have been requested for Michael Church, who was deployed to Iraq on September 11, 2007.

#### **Donations of Sweet Basil have been given by:**

- **Dr. & Mrs. Edward & Sonja (Avedisian) Pollard**
- **Mr. & Mrs. Charles Zaroogian** in loving memory of the Elby Family and the Zaroogian Family.
- **Rose Bezigian** in loving memory of Narthouie Topalian.
- **Cynthia Jizmagian**
- **Irene Zartarian** in loving memory of George Zartarian.

#### 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 24, 2007

The *Senior Citizens* will be having a Hot Dog & Bean Luncheon on Monday, September 24 at 12:30 p.m. Donation \$5. For reservations call Susan Mouradjian at 354-5252.

SEPTEMBER 26, 2007

The *Senior Citizens* will sponsor a trip to Connecticut on Wednesday, September 26. For reservations, please call Zabel at 861-8925.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

**SAVE THE DATE!!!** *Family Night* - Friday, September 28 - "Mer Doon" Restaurant night in Egavian Hall. Enjoy tasty appetizers, Losh kebab and pilaf dinner, and dessert. Also available, cash bar. DJ and Bingo. Dinner will be served from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Baby sitting services are available on a limited basis from 6-8 p.m. For reservations for party of 8 or more for 6 p.m. seating call Hermond Ghazarian (821-2549); Gary Taraian (508-761-4600); or 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 Pentiu 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. **The Church Library will be closed today, September 16.**

**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** \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation Amount \$** \_\_\_\_\_

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER 2007

- Today **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Luncheon in Honor of Very Rev. Fr. Shnork Kasparian**  
Opening Day for Church School - Registrations 10 a.m.
- 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.  
Hot Dog & Bean Luncheon at 12:30 p.m.
- 25 Ladies Aid Board Meeting, 1 p.m.  
Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.  
Parish Council, 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Senior Citizens Trip to Connecticut
- 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
- 15 Diocesan Assembly Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 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, 7:30 p.m.
- 27 ACYOA Wine Tasting

### NOVEMBER

- 3&4 Annual Church Bazaar
- 12 Veterans Day Memorial Service 10 a.m. Veterans Cemetery  
Exeter, RI
- 13 Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.  
Parish Council, 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Women's Guild Thanksgiving Dinner after Church
- 22 Thanksgiving Day
- 27 Parish Council, 7:30 p.m.

### DECEMBER

- 1 ACYOA Dance
- 8 Family Night
- 12 Ladies Aid Luncheon