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

Sunday, September 23, 2007

Barekendan of the Fast of the Holy Cross of Varak

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 14:3-17 (Pg. 693) II Corinthians 10:18-11:10 (Pg. 168)

Mark 10:1-12 (Pg. 42)

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Recently I heard the following short story, which I believe can be readily applied to our Christian faith.

An Indian trader goes to Africa and discovers 1,000's of talking, colorful parrots. He captured one, brought him back to India, kept him in a cage and treated him well.

Two years later he decided to travel back to Africa. He asked his parrot what he should tell his friend in Africa. The parrot said, "Tell him that I'm very happy here living in a cage."

When the trader arrived in Africa, he delivered the message. Tears welled up in the bird's eyes. He keeled over and died. The trader assumed that they had been very close and that the bird died because he missed his friend so much.

The trader returned to India and told his parrot how his friend in Africa had died. Immediately tears welled up the bird's eyes, and he keeled over and died.

The trader assumed that his bird was emotionally taken by the death of his friend. So he took the dead bird out of his cage and threw him out onto a trash heap. Suddenly, almost miraculously the bird came back to life and flew up to a tree branch.

*The trader asked him what happened. The bird responded that his friend in Africa sent him a important message, "**If you want to escape from your cage, you must die while you are alive.**"*

So how do we apply this story to our daily Christian life?

First of all, in order to live for Christ, we must die to this world.

In other words, we need to reject the allurements of the material

world. Name the object: cars, computers, boats, home entertainment centers, our homes, the list goes on (even that little high tech gadget whose value dropped from \$800 to \$300 in just two weeks) - they will all eventually lose value, break, rust, fall apart and be reduced to dust. Real freedom involves being freed from the love of and attachment to material objects. True happiness comes when Christ is the true focus and love of our lives.

To carry this teaching a bit further, true freedom comes not from doing as we please, but rather by living to please God. This freedom has to do with killing our sinful tendencies, particularly pride and as it's more commonly referred to these days, our egos. It does not take a degree in rocket science to see that each of us, in varying degrees, is imprisoned by our egos. Imagine what great works could be accomplished in the spreading of the good news of salvation throughout the world, including works of love, compassion and forgiveness!

Take a stand today and work on conquering the ego. Let's be a Christ centered people rather than egocentric. Our Holy Church provides the tools for this: the sacraments of reconciliation with fasting and Holy Communion. We need to constantly recognize our sins and strive to conquer them and see Christ in every individual whom we encounter in our daily lives; and to act and speak accordingly.

Finally this teaching on true freedom is found in the gospel that we read at each funeral as well as during the Rest Office prayed before going to bed: *Whoever loves his own life will lose it and whoever hates his own life in this world will keep it for eternal life.*

With prayers,
Hayr Simeon

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Pontifical Visit of His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch & Catholicos of All Armenians

With great joy and spiritual excitement we encourage the faithful to participate in the festivities surrounding the pastoral visit of the Catholicos of All Armenians. Take part in this historical visit, which will bring His Holiness to the New England region. The details of the events are found elsewhere in this Sunday's bulletin. Per the directive of His Eminence the Primate, in an effort to encourage the faithful of the region to attend the Pontifical Divine Liturgy on Sunday, October 6, there will be no Divine Liturgy celebrated in our church. The sanctuary will be open for prayer for faithful unable to travel to Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Cambridge, MA. Please make your reservation for the bus as soon as possible as seats are limited.

Response when Kissing the Cross (during the procession):

The faithful says:

Յիշեցիր 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 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 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:

- **SOUREN ALTINIAN** (40 Day Memorial - Karasoonk) - requested by Polyxeni Altinian; Mr. & Mrs. Christakis Altinian; Mr. & Mrs. John Gill; Mr. & Mrs. William Daly; Mr. & Mrs. Vasken Yaghmourian and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Sevag Sarkissian; Rev. Vazken & Yn. Bekiarian.

- **ROGER KRIKORIAN** (40 Day Memorial - Karasoonk) - requested by wife Diane Krikorian and Family; Charles Krikorian and Family.

- **ALAN MESSERLIAN** (40 Day Memorial - Karasoonk) - requested by Jo-Ann Messerlian; Amy Messerlian; Paula & Richard Schartner and Family; Heather & Jason Longo and Family; Carole & Suren Semonian; Paul & Selena Semonian and Family; Nancy & John Day and Family; Ennis & Terry Bisbano.

- **DONALD SHAGHALIAN** (6-25-07); Sister **MARTHA SHAGHALIAN BALDINI** (8-19-07, 40 Day Memorial - Karasoonk) - requested by Johanna Shaghalian; Mr. & Mrs. John Vlahakis; Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Vranka; Mr. & Mrs. John Larkin; Mr. & Mrs. John Gould.

- **ROSE ASADORIAN** (Two Year Memorial) - requested by Bill & Donna Asadorian; Mark & Tina Asadorian; Gayle Asadorian; Eric & Jamie Asadorian; Scott & Chris Asadorian.

- **VICTORIA KAZARIAN** (Three Year Memorial) - requested by Leo, Deborah and Bradford Kazarian; Richard Kazarian and Kristen Kupres; Mark, Stephanie, Rachael and Dana Kazarian; Peter, Patricia, Alexandra and Nicholas Kazarian; Mr. & Mrs. Paul Shamirian and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Charles & Anna Boghigian (NH); Harry Jeranian and Family; Beatrice M. Spirito.

- **AZNIV KASAIAN** (Four year Memorial) - requested by her family, Martha Carter and Family; Marion Kasaian and Agnes Summerly and Family.

- **MELINA BABORIAN** - requested by Mike & Gloria Church and Family; Jim and Nancy Derderian; Melanie Krikorian and Family; Robert & Rosemary Baborian and Family.

- **JAMES and ROSE DERDERIAN** - requested by Mike & Gloria

Church and Family; Jim and Nancy Derderian and Family.
- **HAGOP SHAMSHOIAN; ZAREH SHAMSHOIAN** - requested by Arsen and Joan Shamsheoian; John and Aaron Shamsheoian.

- **SOUREN TORIGIAN** (24 Year Memorial) - requested by Markrid Torigians.

- **HARRY ARAM ZARTARIAN** (12 Year Memorial) - requested by Mrs. Helen Zartarian; Mr. & Mrs. Mark Zartarian and Family; Mr. Neil Zartarian; Mr. & Mrs. David Zartarian and Family; Harold Melkonian and Son.

- **MR. & MRS. ARAKEL & MARY ZARTARIAN; GEORGE ZARTARIAN** - requested by Mrs. Helen Zartarian and Family.

...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

Today's *Altar Flowers* are given in celebration of the happy occasion of Devin John DeAngelis's Baptism by Dino and Jean Ricci.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2007

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

SEPTEMBER 26, 2007

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

There will be a meeting of the *Bazaar Committee* on Wednesday, September 26 at 7 p.m. All those interested in helping with this year's Bazaar are invited and encouraged to attend.

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.

NOVEMBER 3 & 4, 2007

ANNUAL CHURCH BAZAAR -- Save the Dates! The *Bazaar Committee* is looking for donations for the daily raffle. If you would like to donate appropriate items or the money necessary to purchase them, please contact the Church Office at 272-7712. Also, you will be receiving a mailing about our Bazaar Sponsor Booklet in the near future. Your support of our Raffle and Sponsor Booklet will be appreciated. We look forward to seeing you at the Bazaar!

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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. **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

- 24 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
Hot Dog & Bean Luncheon at 12:30 p.m.
Church History Class, 7 p.m.
- 25 Ladies Aid Board Meeting, 1 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal, (CANCELLED)
Parish Council, 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Senior Citizens Trip to Connecticut
Bazaar Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 27 Ballroom Dance Class 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- 28 Family Night, 6 p.m.
Nazeli Dance, 6-7 p.m.(Church School Area)
- 29 Arts Education, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 30 Blood Drive, 11a.m. - 2 p.m.

OCTOBER 2007

- 1 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
Church History Class, 7 p.m.
- 4 Ballroom Dance Class 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- 5 Nazeli Dance Group & Jr. Choir, 6:30 p.m.
- 6 Arts Education, 10 a.m.
- 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..
- 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, Office Closed Thursday and Friday.
- 27 Parish Council, 7:30 p.m.

DECEMBER

- 1 ACYOA Dance
- 8 Family Night
- 12 Ladies Aid Luncheon
- 28 Christmas Concert, 7 p.m.