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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 30, 2007

Feast of the Holy Cross of Varak

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 65:22-25 (Pg. 741) Galatians 6:14-18 (Pg. 174)

Matthew 24:30-36 (Pg. 25)

Holy Cross of Varak

Among the various feasts of the Holy Cross, today's feast is particular to the Armenian Church. It is our feast of the Holy Cross and is an exemplary reflection of our national Church.

In the 7th century (660 A.D.) a solitary monk by the name of Totig, who lived on Mount Varak, had a vision that upon the summit of that mountain was a cathedral with twelve pillars, in the midst of which was a brilliant cross. A little later the Cross in the apparition moved slowly down the mountain and rested upon the holy altar of the Monastery of Varak. Totig and his student Hovel rushed to the church and prostrated themselves before a Holy Relic there, which the vision revealed to be truly a piece of the Holy Cross.

St. Hripsimeh and her companions had brought with them a relic of the Holy Cross to Mount Varak when they sought refuge there during their persecution (4th century). They left it in the keeping of pious priests and the relic remained hidden in the secret place where it was buried. Many, like Totig and Hovel, because of their love for the Holy Relic, passed their lives as monks in seclusion in those mountains, praying for its revelation.

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

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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, at Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Cambridge, MA, there will be no Divine Liturgy celebrated in our church. The sanctuary will be open for prayer for faithful unable to travel to Cambridge, MA. The Very Rev. Fr. Shnork Kasparian will conduct the Midday Office from 11:00 AM to Noon. 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.

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:

- **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.

- **JOHN M. AHLJANIAN** (5 Year Memorial) - requested by David M. Ahlijanian; Mr. & Mrs. Martin Ahlijanian and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Harry Ahlijanian and Family; Mrs. Sylvia Varadian; Ms. Sylvia Varadian and Family. Mr. Sarkis Varadian; Mr. & Mrs. Michael Ahlijanian and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ahlijanian and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Stevenson and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Richard Varadian and Family.

- **ALVIN KARDASHIAN; PHILIP, AZNIVE, PHILIP, ENROY & FLORENCE KARDASHIAN; AGAVNE & HARRY HAROOTUNIAN** - requested by John & Doris Harootunian..

- **BOGHOS, SIRVART, and HARRY BOGOSIAN** - requested by Mr. & Mrs. Hagop Boghosian; Mr. & Mrs. Charles DeBlois; Dr. Thomas & Dr. Rosemary Miner and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Paul H. Boghosian and Family; Mrs. Elizabeth Kassabian; Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Kassabian; Mr. & Mrs. Paul Kassabian 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.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

Special Prayers are requested today for Evelyn Ryan for healing.

Blood Drive -- Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church will be sponsoring a blood drive this morning 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 1, 2007

Church History Class - there will be **no class** Monday, Oct. 1. Classes will be held on October 8, 15 & 22 in the Church Hall with Professor Ara Dostourian at 7 p.m. Please join us.

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

OCTOBER 21, 2007

There will be a special presentation of *Maestro Konstantin Petrossian's CD recording "Chimes of the Homeland"* on Sunday, October 21 during the fellowship. The CD will be available for sale with proceeds benefitting the Naregatsi Art Institute.

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!

NOVEMBER 12, 2007

Veteran's Day Commemoration, Monday, November 12 at 10:00 a.m. at the Veteran's Cemetery, Exeter, RI. Reading names of servicemen fallen in combat. Requiem Prayers. Anyone wishing to include names of relatives or friends to our list, please contact: Ramon Zorabedian at 884-6626.

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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 - Today 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 RI 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).

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 \$ _____

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.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2007

Today Blood Drive, 11a.m. - 2 p.m. (Hanoian Hall)

OCTOBER 2007

- 1 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
- Church History Class, **Cancelled**
- 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 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
- Parish Council, 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Ballroom Dance Class 6:30 p.m.
- 12 Nazeli Dance Group & Jr. Choir 6:30 p.m.
- 13 Arts Education 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 14 Church Name Day Celebration
- 15 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
- Diocesan Assembly Meeting, 7 p.m..
- 18 Ballroom Dance Class 6:30 p.m.
- 19 Benefit Concert, Junior Choir & Nazeli Dance Group, 7:00 pm
- 20 Arts Education 10 a.m-3 p.m.
- 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.