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

Sunday, October 28, 2007

Feast of the Discovery of the Holy Cross

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 33:22-34:1 (Pg. 709) I Corinthians 1:18-24 (Pg. 151)

Matthew 24:27-32 (Pg. 25)

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Today we celebrate the feast of the Discovery of the Cross, referred to in Armenian as "*Kyood Khach*." Every feast dedicated to the Holy Cross is an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of this central symbol of our Christian faith.

It's truly amazing how our blessed Lord Jesus Christ transforms all things! Even the cross, which was historically the cruellest means of punishment and execution, was transformed into the greatest source of forgiveness and life! Although our most important commemoration of the crucifixion of our Lord takes place during Holy Week, we are fortunate that our Church Fathers appointed other days such as today to celebrate this central symbol of the Church.

It's often been said that there can be no Easter celebration without experiencing the deep sadness and pain of Good Friday. Thus the cross reminds us of the value of sacrifice in all aspects of our life. Indeed the very best things come about through some form of struggle and sacrifice. Thanks be to God for the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, which conveys forgiveness and promise of eternal life.

To better understand this gift of forgiveness, remember the two criminals who were crucified on either side of Jesus: one derided Jesus and made fun of him by saying, "If you are divine, save yourself and us!" Meanwhile the other rebuked him and said, "Do you not fear God? We indeed deserve this punishment, but this man (Jesus) has done no wrong." And turning to Jesus he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus knew that the latter repented in his heart and said to

him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

We do well to internalize the criminal's humble and contrite petition and make it our constant prayer: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

With prayers,
Hayr Simeon

Feast of the Discovery of the Holy Cross – *Kyood Khach*

Roman law required that the bodies of those who were executed as well as the means of their execution were to remain in their places. This was to serve as a powerful visual reminder to the people of the authority of Rome. Although Pilate allowed for the body of Jesus to be removed and buried, the cross, along with the other two crosses, were left at Golgotha, the place where Jesus was crucified. As an added insult to the Christians, the site became a refuse dump and remained that way for 300 years

In 326, Queen Helena, mother of the Emperor Constantine, visited Jerusalem for the purpose of discovering the true Cross of Christ. According to ecclesiastical chronicles, an informed Jew named Judas aided her in ascertaining the true location of Golgotha. Tradition informs us that sweet smelling basil abounded in that spot.

Excavations began, and at a depth of about twenty feet, three crosses were revealed. In order to authenticate the true Cross of Christ, the body of a youth who had recently died was placed upon each. When he was placed on the third cross, he returned to life thus revealing the true Cross of Our Lord.

Bishop Cyril, Patriarch of Jerusalem, elevated the Holy Cross before the faithful who came to venerate it. The commemoration of this historical event is celebrated on the seventh Sunday of the cycle of the Feast of the Cross (Exaltation) within the interval of October 23 to 29, and is called the Discovery of the Holy Cross. In Armenian, it is called *Kiud Khach*.

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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 լիցիր 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 քոյմ:
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, forebearing 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:

- **ARCHDEACON KACHADOOR "CROSBY" KAZARIAN,** (6 Year Memorial) - requested by Araxie, Gregory and Ara Kazarian; Sara Kazarian, Diane, Ross, Audrey and Jack, Harry Kazarian Jr.; Vivian Yeretsian and Peter Yeretsian; Martin Mahdesyan.

- **BARGESHD "BEBE" DERDERIAN** (9 Year Memorial) - requested by Araxie, Gregory and Ara Kazarian; Sara Kazarian, Diane, Ross, Audrey and Jack; Harry Kazarian Jr.; Vivian Yeretsian and Peter Yeretsian.

- **ZAROUHY MAHDESYAN** (29 Year Memorial) - requested by Martin Mahdesyan; Larry & Karen Miller; Linda & Lindsay Grant; Jonathan Williams and Eden & Ethan Williams; Sadie and Lucy Barran; Joseph & Debra Tramonti and Sons; Mr. & Mrs. Leo Surmeian; Rosanne & John Hamblin, James & Christopher; John & Irene Surmeian; James & Jennifer Surmeian, Nathan & Cameron; Tom & Lisa Ohanian and Eliz.

- **STEPAN SARIBEKYAN** (10 Year Memorial) - requested by Zarik Babayan; Robert Saroyan; Mr. & Mrs. Albert Saribekyan and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Gagik Saribekyan and Family; Alvard Vartanian & Roza Karapetyan.

...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

Today following church services there will be a *Bake Sale* sponsored by the Junior Choir and Nazeli Dance Group. This is a fundraising effort for their upcoming concert tour to St. David Armenian Church in Boca Raton, Florida in January, 2008. Thank you for your support.

NOVEMBER 3 & 4, 2007

ANNUAL ARMENIAN FESTIVAL Food Fair & 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. Your support of our Raffle and Sponsor Booklet will be appreciated. Anyone interested in volunteering for the Bazaar or baking a dessert can contact the Church Office. Please join us for authentic Armenian Food, Armenian Store, Gourmet Pastry Shop, Farmer's Market, Kid's Room, Raffles, and more. We look forward to seeing you at the Bazaar!

NOVEMBER 11, 2007

Veteran's Day Divine Liturgy - We will pay tribute to veterans (living and deceased) during the Holy Badarak on Veterans'

Day, Sunday, November 11. We wish to compile an accurate list for the Sunday bulletin. Please help us by contacting the church office if you or a deceased loved one has served in the armed forces. Kindly inform Fran no later than Thursday, November 8 if you would like to make a donation toward altar candles, flowers, or a special Hokehankist.

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.

NOVEMBER 18, 2007

The Women's Guild will hold their *Thanksgiving Luncheon* (Turkey with all the trimmings) Sunday, November 18, 2007 following church services. Adults \$12, Children under 12, \$8. Seating by paid reservation, tables of 8 may be reserved with full payment. RSVP by Monday, November 12. Carol Bjartmarz (333-3623), Nathalie Yaghoobian (353-2488) or the Church Office (272-7712)

DECEMBER 1, 2007

ACYOA Seniors presents *34th Annual Christmas Dance*, Saturday, December 1, 2007 from 8 p.m. - ??? in the Egavian Cultural Center featuring the Aravod Ensemble. Tickets \$25, Raffle, Cash Bar. Call Ara Janigian (486-8495) or Gevork Vartanian (419-1052)

MAY 12, 2008

Save the Date! May 12, 2008 - *First Annual Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Golf Tournament*. To be held at Pawtucket Country Club. More details to follow.

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STUDENTS LEARNING BADARAK - We are pleased to announce that our Sunday School students are actively learning the principle hymns of the Divine Liturgy. Each Sunday Maestro Konstantin Petrossian is providing this instruction to our students. In the near future we look forward to hearing the children's voices resounding in the sanctuary.

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.

The **JUNIOR CHOIR** and **NAZELI DANCE GROUP** have an upcoming concert tour to St. David Armenian Church in Boca Raton, Florida

in January, 2008. If you were unable to attend the Benefit Concert on October 19, please consider supporting the Junior Choir and Nazeli Dance Group by kindly mailing a donation to the church office. Thank you for your support.

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 _____

Donation Amount \$ _____

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 2007

- Today Junior Choir and Nazeli Dance Group Bake Sale
29 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
30 Ballroom Dance Class 6:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER

- 3&4 **Annual Church Bazaar**
5 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
Diocesan Assembly Meeting 7:00 p.m.
8 Ballroom Dance Class 6:30 p.m.
9 Junior Choir & Nazeli Dance Group, 6:30 p.m.
10 Arts Education, 10 a.m.
11 Veteran's Day Divine Liturgy
12 Veterans Day Memorial Service 10 a.m. Veterans Cemetery
Exeter, RI
Church Office will be open.
13 Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.
14 Parish Council 7:30 p.m. (Changed from the 13th)
15 Ballroom Dance Class 6:30 p.m.
16 Junior Choir and Nazeli Dance Group, 6:30 p.m.
17 Arts Education 10 a.m.
18 Women's Guild Thanksgiving Dinner after Church
19 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
20 Ladies Aid Board Meeting, 1 p.m.
Ballroom Dance Class 6:30 p.m.
Parish Council, 7:30 p.m.
22 Thanksgiving Day, Office Closed Thursday and Friday.
26 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
Women's Guild Meeting, 7:15 p.m.
27 Parish Council, 7:30 p.m.
29 Ballroom Dance Class
30 Junior Choir and Nazeli Dance Group, 6:30 p.m.

DECEMBER

- 1 ACYOA Aravod Dance
2 Ladies Aid Christmas Dinner after Church
5 Senior Citizens Christmas party at Spumoni's
8 Family Night
9 Knights of Vartan Children's Christmas Party 1 p.m.
11 Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.
Parish Council 7:30 p.m.
18 Ladies Aid Board Meeting 1 p.m.
24 Christmas Eve Service, time to be announced.
25 Christmas Day, Office Closed
27 Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.
28 Christmas Concert, 7 p.m.

JANUARY 2008

- 2 Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.
6 Ladies Aid Armenian Christmas Luncheon after Church