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

Sunday, December 2, 2007

Second Sunday of Advent

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 36:22-37:11 (Pg. 712) I Thessalonians 4:1-11 (Pg. 185)

Luke 13:1-9 (Pg. 69)

Dear Friends,

During this Advent season I have been studying the gospel of Luke, prompted by the fact that this gospel provides us with the most information regarding the early events of the births of St. John the Baptist and our Lord Jesus Christ.

From our Christian perspective we know that John was sent as the forerunner of Jesus, fulfilling the prophecy of Malachi, "*Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee.*" (Malachi 3:1)

In Luke, Jesus makes some significant comments regarding his cousin John:

"What did you go out into the wilderness to behold?

A reed shaken by the wind?

What then did you go out to see?

A man clothed in soft clothing?

Behold, those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings' courts.

What then did you go out to see?

A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet...

I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John..."

(Luke 7:24-28)

Luke tells us that the people were divided regarding Jesus' words. The tax-collectors and sinners were pleased because they were baptized by John and received forgiveness. The Pharisees on the other hand rejected John's baptism, taking comfort in their own righteousness. Thus they harbored anger and resentment not only against John, but even more so Jesus.

We all know that this resentment would ultimately to the instigation of the people and consequently lead to the arrest and death of our Lord. From our understanding the actions and words of both John and Jesus were for our salvation – indeed words calling for repentance and offering true life. Yet many rejected these words of truth and chose to be angry and opposed to the Truth.

If only those challenged with anger and resentment towards others could hear the following practical words of our Lord Jesus: “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” (Luke 6:37.38)

With prayers,

Hayr Simeon

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Response when Kissing the Cross (during the procession):

The faithful says:

Յիշեալիք 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:

Յիշեալէ 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.*

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:

- **GEORGE MASOIAN** (3 Year Memorial) - Mrs. Rose Masoian; Michael Masoian and Son; Robert & Diane, Kate & Chelsea Masoian; Georgiann & Melody Glenn; Edward Masoian and Family; Carol Beaudry; Paul, Kris, Rebecca and Sarah Masoian; Melissa & James Blais; Lillian Papazian; Stephen & Dorothy Masoian; Stephanie Masoian.

- **ANTHONY Z. AVEDISIAN** (3 Year Memorial); **MARY AVEDISIAN** (21 Year Memorial); **SUSAN AVEDISIAN** (2 Year Memorial); **SIRANOOSH AVEDISIAN** (15 Year Memorial); **ISRAEL AVEDISIAN** (65 Year Memorial); **HARRY AVEDISIAN** (Brother); **KAZAR ALAMIAN** (19 Year Memorial) - requested by Anthony Israel Avedisian, Christine, Jeffrey, Julie & Sarah; Karen & Arthur Maranian; Brian and Julie; Lisa & James Tillis; Kenneth Avedisian, Jackie, Kenny & Crystal; Ann Avedisian; the Dionisopoulos 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

DECEMBER 5, 2007

Wednesday, December 5, the *Senior Citizens* will sponsor a *Christmas Party* at Spumoni's Restaurant, Newport Ave., Pawtucket, RI with a side trip to Christmas Tree Shop (weather permitting). Price \$17.00 per person. Menu includes veal parmigiana, ziti, salad, dessert and beverage. Bus leaves the church at 11:30 a.m. Please call Susan Mouradjian at 354-5252 for reservations.

DECEMBER 8, 2007

Family Night: Come enjoy the Christmas Spirit! December 8th, 2007 - Chicken & Pilaf Dinner, dessert and cash bar! **Reservations only!** Buffet style dinner, 6-8 p.m. This event is free of charge. Musical program to follow. For reservations and information call Hermond Ghazarian (821-2549) or Fran, at the Church Office (272-7712).

DECEMBER 28, 2007

Cultural Committee presents *Annual Christmas Concert* on Friday, December 28 at 7 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary featuring the Cumberland-Lincoln Community Chorus, the Armenian Chorale of RI, Junior Choir of Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church, and Soloists. Refreshments. Free Admission.

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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HOLIDAY OUTREACH - This year's Holiday Outreach, sponsored by the ACYOA Juniors, will benefit needy children and their families during the holiday season. Please bring in a donated item(s) that can be placed under our Christmas Tree between December 2nd and December 17. Gifts will be delivered to the charity during the Christmas holiday season. Items may be wrapped (please mark for boy/girl, and age) or unwrapped but remember to bring to the church no later than Monday, December 17, 2007. ALSO, on Sunday, December 16 after Church services, the ACYOA Juniors will be hosting a Bake Sale to raise funds to purchase items for the selected area shelters. For information contact Sevan Janigian (353-0351).

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS – Donations towards the purchase of poinsettia plants for our altar during the Christmas season will be gratefully received. Individuals who wish to make such donations are asked to contact the church office. Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.

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. Last Sunday we heard 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. Please support the upcoming bake sales on December 30

and

January 13 after Church Services. 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.

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

DECEMBER

- 3 Senior Citizens 10 a.m.
Women's Guild Meeting, 7:15 p.m.
Armenian Chorale of RI 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Senior Citizens Christmas Party at Spumoni's
6 Ballroom Dance Class 6:30 p.m.
7 Junior Choir and Nazeli Dance Group, 6:30 p.m.
8 Arts Education 10 a.m.
Family Night Christmas Party, 6 p.m.
- 9 Knights of Vartan Children's Christmas Party 1 p.m.
10 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
Armenian Chorale of RI 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.
Parish Council 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Ballroom Dance Class 6:30 p.m.
14 Junior Choir and Nazeli Dance Group, 6:30 p.m.
15 Arts Education 10 a.m. (Last meeting this semester)
16 ACYOA Bake Sale after Church Services
17 Senior Citizens 10 a.m.
Armenian Chorale of RI 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Ladies Aid Board Meeting 1 p.m.
20 Ballroom Dance Class 6:30 p.m.
Armenian Chorale of RI 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Junior Choir & Nazeli Dance Group, 6:30 p.m.
24 Christmas Eve Service, 6:30 p.m.
25 Christmas Day, Office Closed
27 Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.
Armenian Chorale of RI 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- 28 Christmas Concert, 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary
30 Junior Choir Bake Sale after Church Services

JANUARY 2008

- 2 Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.
6 Ladies Aid Armenian Christmas Luncheon after Church
7 Diocesan Assembly Meeting 7 p.m.
13 Junior Choir Bake Sale after Church Services