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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, December 9, 2007

Third Sunday of Advent

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 37:14-38 (Pg. 713) II Thessalonians 1:1-12 (Pg. 187)

Luke 14:12-24 (Pg. 70)

Feast of the Conception of the Holy Mother of God from Anna

On the ninth of December the Armenian Apostolic Church celebrates the feast of the conception of the Virgin Mary by her parents Joachim and Anna. On this major festival which finds its place in the Church's preparation for Christmas, the faithful rejoice in the event by which Mary is conceived in fulfillment of her parents' prayers and nurtured in holiness to become by God's grace the mother of His Son the Messiah.

While the Roman Church celebrates this event as the "*Immaculate Conception*," the Eastern Churches refer to it merely as the "*Conception*." Roman Catholic theology claims that Mary "from the moment of her conception...was by grace and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ...immune from all stain of original sin."

On the other hand, the Eastern Churches teach that "when Christ was conceived in her of the Holy Spirit, and not of human seed (at the Annunciation), she was cleansed of original sin and continued after His birth to live a sinless, stainless life."

- sources: *Domar and Frequently Asked Questions about the Armenian Church* by Very Rev. Fr, Krikor Maksoudian

Through the prayers of the Holy Mother of God, may the Lord accept our prayers and save us. Amen.

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Response when Kissing the Cross (during the procession):

The **faithful** says:

Յիշեսցիր եւ զիս առաջի անմահ գառինն 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 գառինն 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:

Յիշեսցէ 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:

- **ALL VICTIMS OF THE DECEMBER 7, 1988 EARTHQUAKE IN NORTHERN ARMENIA.**

- **ALL VICTIMS OF THE OMAHA, NEBRASKA SHOOTINGS.**

- **JAMES H. WOLOOHOOJIAN** (Birthday Remembrance - December 9, 1925) - requested by Mrs. Marilyn Woloohojian and Family; Barbara Hall and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Markarian; Rose Chacran and Robert Zartarian; Mr. & Mrs. George Sarkisian and Family.

- **ARMEN JERMAKIAN** (One Year Memorial - Dareleetz) - requested by Armen, Sonya, Ara & Sevan Janigian; Jermakian, Belezarian & Tesini Families; Mr. & Mrs. Philip Palouljian; Ms. Nvard Dedeian.

- **ARA LEFIAN** (5 Year Memorial) - requested by Mrs. Christine Lefian; Larry Lefian; Mr. & Mrs. Greg Mississian, Kristina and Diana; Mr. & Mrs. Apkar Lefian and Family; Kay Derderian and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Minas Khatchatrian; Mr. & Mrs. Philip Palouljian; Ms. Nvard Dedeian; Mr. & Mrs. Antranig Tovmasian.

- **ISABELLA NAJARIAN** (5 Year Memorial) - requested by Peter & Victoria Jamgochian; Gary R. Kolligian; Peter S. Jamgochian.

- **HARRY DER VARTANIAN** (9 Year Memorial) - requested by Marion Der Vartanian; H. Chris Der Vartanian; Anthony, Lisa and Alexandra Lombardo; Gerald & Lillian Norigian; Dolores Norigian; Zaven, Rose, Zaven and Gregory Norigian; Carol Norigian; Robert, Sharon D'Antuono, Michael, Matthew and Amara D'Antuono; Deacon Gary, Tania, Luke and David Alexander; Mr. & Mrs. Deron Hazian; Leon & Veronica Nahigian; Mr. & Mrs. Konstantin Petrossian.

- **MARY MALIAN KAZARIAN** (10 Year Memorial), **RICHARD KAZARIAN SR.** (21 Year Memorial), **ANNA MALIAN** (32 Year Memorial), **VARTKIS KINOIAN** (7 Year Memorial) - requested by John R. Kazarian, Richard Kazarian, Jr., Mrs. Helen Malian Kinoian

(NJ), Mrs. Marion Malian, John Fusco, Sr., Diane and Donald McWeeney, John & Sheryl Fusco, Mary Beth & John McIlmail, Robert Kinoian (NJ), Gregory Kinoian (NJ), George & Christine Malian, Michael Malian.

- **MOUSHAK MAZGERDIAN; HAIGANOUSH MAZGERDIAN; LEVON MAZGERDIAN** - requested by Rose Sherestanian; Emily, George and Eric Gilbert; Janice, Gus and Taylor Rainho; Harry Mazgerdian (FL).

- **MARTIN SHERESTANIAN; VARTAN BAJAKIAN; STEPHEN BOGLE** - requested by Rose Sherestanian.

- **ALEXAN NEMTZIAN and YEGHSA MOORADIAN NEMTZIAN** - requested by Mary Mooradian and Family.

- **DAVID MOORADIAN; AVEDIS MOORADIAN; HAIRABED MOORADIAN** - requested by Mary Mooradian 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

The *Altar Flowers* are given today in loving memory of Ara Lefian by Mr. & Mrs. Greg Mississian and Family.

The new *United States* and *Armenian Flags* are given in loving memory of Harry C. Der Vartanian by the Der Vartanian and Lombardo Families.

DECEMBER 24, 2007

Christmas Eve Service (English), 6:00 p.m.

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.

JANUARY 5, 2008

Armenian Christmas Eve, Evening Service 6:00 p.m., Divine Liturgy 6:30 p.m.

JANUARY 6, 2008

Armenian Christmas - Festival Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Water - Sunday, January 6, Morning Service 9:10 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m., Blessing of Water, 11:30 a.m.,

Armenian Christmas Luncheon sponsored by *Ladies Aid* following services, 12:30 p.m. Donation \$15 adults, \$8 children 12 and under. Dinner reservations requested on or before January 1, 2007. Please call the Church Office (272-7712).

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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CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - The Ararat Association under the direction of Mr. Alan Zartarian will be sponsoring the purchase of poinsettias for our altars and sanctuary this year. Please consider making a Christmas Youghakin donation in lieu of a flower contribution. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS NOTICE - please keep in mind the following Christmas observances: *Christmas Eve Service*, Monday, December 24 (6 p.m.) - *Armenian Christmas*, Festival Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Water, Sunday, January 6.

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).

"GLORIA IN EXCELSIS" CD - *The perfect Christmas gift!* Special price for Christmas - only \$10. Your spirit will soar as you listen to the beautiful music of our young musicians. Our Junior Choir & the

Narek Bell Choir of St. Mary Church, Washington, D.C. joined forces for this unforgettable recording of Armenian spiritual music. Songs on the CD are performed by the combined choir, as well as some unique features by the ringing sound of the Narek Bell Choir. This wonderful 21 track CD presents a wide collection of songs, including Divine Liturgy hymns and songs of Armenian Christmas. "Gloria In Excelsis" earned the Junior & Narek Choirs the "Gomidias Award" & "The Best Album of Spiritual Music Award of 2005" at the Annual Awards Competition in Los Angeles. You may purchase the CD during fellowship the next few Sundays or weekdays from the Church office, 272-7712. Please support our Junior Choir.

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 sale on December 30 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.*" **HAVE YOU REMEMBERED TO MAKE YOUR STEWARDSHIP AND ANNUAL DUES DONATIONS? YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT.** *Please remember that dues must be paid by December 31, 2007 to vote at the Annual Parish Assembly in 2008.*

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. **SPECIAL NOTICE FOR CHRISTMAS:** In the glass display case outside the library there is a selection of books, tapes, shirts, emblems, etc. for sale that will make perfect gifts for Christmas. 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 401-885-2253.

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

- Today 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, 6:00 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

- 1 New Year's Day, Office Closed
2 Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.
6 Ladies Aid Armenian Christmas Luncheon after Church
7 Diocesan Assembly Meeting 7 p.m.