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

**Sunday, December 16, 2007**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Scripture Readings**

**Isaiah 37:14-38 (Pg. 713) Hebrews 1:1-14 (Pg. 194)**

**Luke 14:12-24 (Pg. 73)**

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### Guest Preacher

**The Very Reverend Father Daniel Findikyan**

**Dean of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, New Rochelle, NY**

Dear Friends,

Yesterday was the feast of **St. James the Patriarch of Nisibis**. His feast is given much prominence in the Armenian Church. For your spiritual edification I share with you his brief biography found in "*Domar*."

St. James of Nisibis (Soorp Hagop Mdzpuna Hayrabad) – A beloved and prominent saint not only in the Syriac Church, but also for the Armenians. He was born, raised, worked and died in the city of Nisibis, which is today known as Nusbiyeen, a city in southeastern Turkey. He passed his early years in study and spiritual upbringing. In his early adulthood he withdrew to the desert to live and pray as an ascetic.

When the bishop of Nisibis died two candidates emerged from two conflicting groups of the population. However, with the advice of the hermit Maroukeh everyone focused on James the hermit and summoning him from the desert ordained him bishop in 320 AD in Amida.

The life of St. James is filled with incidents of miracles, which simply witnesses the fact of the broad popularity of this spiritual leader. He had been a disciple of the hermit Maroukeh and he in turn had been a teacher of Ephraem the Syrian priest, a great patristic and spiritual writer. He was present in 325 AD at the council of Nicaea where according to tradition he enjoyed great respect from the Em-

peror Constantine and the attendees of the council. He became one of the great champions of the orthodoxy of the Christian Church against Arius and Arianism, which were condemned at the Council of Nicaea.

Two or three times he saved his city from Persian invasion with his prayers. Although subjected to persecutions and tortures prior to becoming a cleric during the persecution of Maximianus, nevertheless he died peacefully at an old age in 338 AD. His relics of which there are many, were taken to Constantinople in 970 AD and were the object of great honor in the imperial city.

*Through the prayers of St. James the Patriarch of Nisibis, may the Lord receive our supplications and save us. Amen.*

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:

**Յիշեալք 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:

**Տաղէ 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:*

- **KERKOR KASSABIAN; VARTOUHIE KASSABIAN; BARCARD KASSABIAN; CHRISTY HENDERSON; RALPH HENDERSON** - requested by Elizabeth Kassabian; Mr. & Mrs. Greg Kassabian; Mr. & Mrs. Paul Kassabian and Family.

- **FELIX GEVORKIAN** - requested by the Gevorkian Family.

- **HAGOP HANOIAN** (60 Year Memorial); **SURPOUHI HANOIAN; OJEN OHANESSIAN; ARSHAG DERDERIAN** - requested by Penny & Richard Hanoian.

- **NOURITZA JAMGOCHIAN** (3 Year Memorial) - requested by Martha and Daniel Jamgochian.

- **JACOB BARRAN** (43 Year Memorial) - requested by Sadie & Lucy Barran; Martin Mahdesyan and Family; Tom & Lisa Ohanian and Eliz; Mr. & Mrs. Leo Surmeian; John & Irene Surmeian; James & Jennifer Surmeian..

- **OLGA MAHDESYAN** (12 Year Memorial) - requested by Martin Mahdesyan; Larry & Karen Miller; Linda & Lindsay Grant; Jonathan, Eden Olga and Ethan David Williams; Sadie & Lucy Barran; Debbie & Joe Tramonti and Sons; Mr. & Mrs. Tom Ohanian and Eliz; Mr. & Mrs. Leo Surmeian; John & Rosanne Hamblin, James & Christopher; John & Irene Surmeian; James & Jennifer Surmeian, Nathan and Cameron; Mrs. Mary Boghigian Legros; Shirley Derderian; Sadie &

Lucy Barran; Mrs. Araxie Kazarian.

- **HERMINE MENATIAN** (12 Year Memorial) - requested by Mr. & Mrs. Leo Surmeian; Rosanne & John Hamblin, James and Christopher; John & Irene Surmeian; James & Jen Surmeian, Nathan and Cameron; Tom & Lisa Ohanian and Eliz; Sadie & Lucy Barran; Martin Mahdesyan and Family; Shirley Derderian; Mrs. Mary Boghigian Legros.

- **LEON DANIELIAN** - requested by Mrs. Margaret Danielian; Mr. & Mrs. Arshag Markarian and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Danielian and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Danielian and Family.

- **ARAM ABRAHAM** (15 Year Memorial); **IDA ABRAHAM** (29 Year Memorial) - requested by Mrs. Aram Abraham.

- **B. HARRY TATEOSIAN** (18 Year Memorial); **CELIA TATEOSIAN** (43 Year Memorial); **HARRY T. TATEOSIAN** (35 Year Memorial) - requested by Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Danielian and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Gary Tateosian and Family; Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Tateosian 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

Today after Church services, the ACYOA Juniors will be hosting a *Bake Sale* to raise funds to purchase items for the selected area shelters. Your support of this important holiday outreach is appreciated.

### DECEMBER 24, 2007

*Christmas Eve Service* (English), 6:00 p.m. Parishioners are kindly asked to bring items to be shared at the fellowship, i.e. choreg, cheese, cookies, etc.

### 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).

**FEBRUARY 2, 2007**

Registration & programs begin for Arts Education Program's second semester, 10 a.m. Please see notice (next page).

**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.

**"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.

**ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM BEGINS SECOND SEMESTER** - The Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church Cultural Committee offers art and cultural instruction in the following areas for a very modest fee. In which classes would your child (children) be interested? **Ages 7-16** Classes: Drawing and Sculpture, Piano, Violin, Flute, Ballroom Dancing (ages 8 - 16), Nazeli Dance Group (ages 9-16), Voice training, Clarinet, Saxophone, Guitar, Kemancha. **Ages 16 and up:** Classes: Piano, Guitar, Kemancha, Voice training, Ballroom Dancing. Registration for 2006 - 2007 Second Semester is on Saturday, February 2, 2007 from 10 am to 11 am. Programs begin on Saturday, February 2, 2007. Please send application to: Cultural Committee Arts Education Program, Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, 70 Jefferson St., Providence, RI 02908. For more information or questions about the Arts Education Program please contact program Chairperson Janna Guegamian 401 861-3573, or see "[www.stsahmes.org/Education/arts/artsIndex.html](http://www.stsahmes.org/Education/arts/artsIndex.html)"

**ARMENIA SERVICE PROGRAM** - Open to young adults ages 19 to 28. Cost \$2,200.(includes round trip airfare from NYC, ground transportation in Armenia, all tours, lodging and two meals a day. Volunteer at a children's summer camp in Vanadzor, Camp Tzizternak, sponsored by the Gougark Diocese. For info. and application go to [www.acyoa.org](http://www.acyoa.org) or call Nancy Basmajian at 212-686-0710 (X-143) Deadline for application is February 22.

**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 occa-

sion 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 won-

derful 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

- Today* 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.  
5 Armenian Christmas Eve, Evening Service 6 p.m.  
Divine Liturgy 6:30 p.m.  
6 Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord  
Morning Service, 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.  
Blessing of Water 11:30 a.m.  
Ladies Aid Armenian Christmas Luncheon after Church  
7 Diocesan Assembly Meeting 7 p.m.