



Ս. Սահակ եւ Ս. Մեսրոպ Հայր. Եկեղեցի

Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church

The Rev. Fr. Shnork Souin, Pastor

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Schedule of Sunday Services

Morning Service (Keesherayeen & Aravodyan Jham) 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy (Soorp Badarak) 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 11, 2011

Երրորդ Կիրակի Յիսուսակաց

Third Sunday of Advent

Բարեկենդան Ս. Յակոբի Պատրիկն

Barekendan of the Fast of St. James

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 37:14-38 (Pg. 713), II Thessalonians 1:1-12 (Pg. 187), Luke 14:12-24 (Pg. 70)

Pastor's Points of Light

You are invited to a Banquet

Sunday December 11, 2011 - 10 a.m.

Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church

Your Host: Our Lord Jesus Christ

To what can we compare the Kingdom of God? We know about the "mustard seed" (Matthew 13) but did you ever think of it as a Banquet? This is the exact analogy that Jesus uses in the story from today's Gospel. Banquets are a big part of our Christmas and holiday celebrations so it is no great effort to imagine, family, friends, abundance, good times, leisure and generous outpourings of hospitality and good cheer. As great as these images of loved ones gathered around a table might seem, how much more unimaginable glory might we find around the Lord's Table and in His kingdom?

The Kingdom of God is precisely the place of eternal abundance and the fullness of God's "hospitality." Who is the one invited to this "Heavenly Table"? You!

Are we ready to respond to His invitation? Will we be making time or making excuses? Do we believe that we will respond and be satisfied or will we fill our bellies with the concerns of this world? Our Lord says blessed are the hungry for they shall be filled. Just as we wouldn't eat before a great banquet, spoiling our appetite, so should we hunger for the riches of our Lord.

God wants to share the pleroma of His immeasurable love with us. If not us, He has plenty of room for others. Please make time for His hospitality articulated in His love for you.

Faithfully in Christ,
Der Shnork

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APPEAL BY THE PASTOR

Dear Faithful,

Annual Dues: If you have not already paid your annual dues, your prompt payment will be greatly appreciated. The fiscal year ends December 31st.

Prayerfully, *Fr. Shnork Souin*

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The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Luke (14:12-24)

He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your kinsmen or rich neighbors lest they also invite you in return, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

When one of those who sat at table with him heard this, he said to him, "Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the Kingdom of God!" But he said to him, "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have brought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'"

Glory to You, O Lord our God!

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Welcome Cards and Sunday Fellowship

Informational cards are found in the pew racks. Visitors, please complete a card and join us for our after services coffee fellowship in the Egavian Hall. Your presence is greatly valued. Please worship with us regularly.

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Response when Kissing the Cross (during the procession):

The faithful says:

Յիշեցիր եւ զիս առաջի անմահ գառիճն 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 գառիճն 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:

Յիշեցրէ 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 in the 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 preparing 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.

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Prayer of the Week

Let us hold the holy Mother-of-God and all the saints as intercessors with the Father in Heaven, that He may be pleased to have mercy and compassion on us, His creatures, and save us. Almighty Lord, our God, save us and have mercy on us. Amen.

Reprinted from the E-Newsletter of the Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern)

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Church Etiquette - ON ENTERING THE CHURCH

Please let both your entrance into and exit from the church be reverent and gentle.

Please turn off any electronic devices. Do not chew gum.

Enter with reverence and be at peace in the presence of God and His your fellow worshippers.

While entering, if you find that the Bible or Gospel is being read, Havadamk (the Nicene Creed) is in progress, or the sermon is being delivered, please remain at the back of the church until the conclusion of the readings or creed.

Lighting Candles-One of the devotional practices of the Armenian Church (as of all Eastern Churches) is the beautiful custom of burning candles in front of the holy pictures. While making the sign of the cross, you say a short prayer for you and your dear ones, then take your place. Ideally, please try to arrive early so that this can be done before the Badarak begins. If you arrive later please do this as non-obtrusively as possible and never during the bible readings, creed or sermon.

When you take your place in the pews, prepare for your participation by saying a prayer. I suggest that you reverence the space you are in, bow your head slightly, make the sign of the cross, and inaudibly say "The Our Father," and the prayer for entering the church. You are now ready to participate in the service.

Other times to wait before entering the church are:

If the choir is singing the "Sanctus" (holy holy - soorp, soorp),

If the choir is singing "One is Holy, One is Lord", (Miayn Soorp),

If the choir is singing Der Voghormia, (Lord, have Mercy).

If the Priest is saying the words of institution, "Take, eat; this is my body" (Arek, gerek, ays eh marmin eem.)

At all indicated times, please wait until the particular hymn, prayer, is completed before entering the church.

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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:

- **NVARD MATINIAN** (40 Day Memorial - Karasoonk) - requested by Mr. & Mrs. Apet Vartanian, their Children and Grandchildren.

- **HELEN SEPLOCHA** (4 Year Memorial); **JOHN SEPLOCHA** (12 year memorial); **ARCHDEACON HACHADOR** and **ZARTAR MADENIGIAN** (39 & 27 Year Memorials) - given in loving memory by Dr. Holly Seplocha & Robert Audette; Joy, Patrick, Alexa, Jordan, Casie and Brooke Ramsier; Joni Chochrane; Margo Torigiants.

- **ISABELLA NAJARIAN** (9 Year Memorial); **SAMUEL NAJARIAN** (5 Year Memorial); **GLADYS KOLLIGIAN** (12 Year Memorial) - requested by Peter & Victoria Jamgochian; Gary R. Kolligian; Peter S. Jamgochian.

- **OLGA MAHDESYAN** (16 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; Mrs. Leo Surmeian; John & Rosanne Hamblin, James & Christopher; John & Irene Surmeian; James & Jennifer Surmeian, Nathan and Cameron; Mr. & Mrs. Tom Ohanian and Eliz; Mr. & Mrs. Steve Menatian; Araxie Kazarian.

- **HERMINE (HELEN) MENATIAN** (16 Year Memorial) - requested by Mr. & Mrs. Steve Menatian; 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.

- **JACOB BARRAN** (47 Year Memorial); **HAIGANOOSH BARRAN** (29 Year Memorial) - requested by Sadie and Lucy Barran; Martin Mahdesyan and Family; Tom & Lisa Ohanian and Eliz.

- **MOUSHEGH MAZGERDIAN; HAIGANOUSH MAZGERDIAN; LEVON MAZGERDIAN; HARRY MAZGERDIAN** - requested by Rose Sherestanian; George R. & Emily Gilbert; Eric Gilbert; Janice & Gus Rainho; Taylor Rainho.

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

- **SEROON EGAVIAN** - requested by Florence Wolohojian.

...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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

Christmas Holiday Concert, Erevan Chorale & Orchestra, composer Konstantin Petrossian, music director & conductor. Featured soloists Yeghishe Manucharian (tenor), Victoria Avetisyan (mezzo- soprano), Nouné Karapetian (soprano). Fr. Oshagan Minassian Erevan Choral Society Founder & Music Director (1965-2008). Fr. Vasken A. Kouzoulian, Pastor. Today, 3 p.m. Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, MA, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge MA. Public is cordially invited to this complimentary concert.

DECEMBER 12

The Women's Guild will have their *Holiday Cookie Sale and Food Demonstration* on Monday, December 12, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. Donation \$10.00. Cynthia Samoorian will demonstrate how to make cream and nut kadayif. Take the cookie stroll past tables of holiday cookies and leave with an assortment of your favorites. Just \$8 per dozen. End the evening with kadayif, coffee, and conversation. All welcome.

DECEMBER 14

Evening Vespers Services - every week there will be Wednesday evening *Vespers Services* at Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church in the Sanctuary from 7-8 p.m. Deacon Gevork Gevorkian will be leading the weekly Vespers. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend this hour of prayer. "Let my prayer be set forth as incense before You, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice." Psalm 141:2

DECEMBER 16

Bible Studies: Bible Studies under the leadership and direction of Fr. Shnork have begun and meet on Friday afternoons from 2:00pm -3:00pm. The theme of the Fall Studies will be the Gospel of St. Luke. If you are interested in attending these "Table Talks with Der Hayr" please inform the office of your attendance. Please join us when we meet again on December 16.

DECEMBER 17

Arts Education Programs. For information or questions about the programs, please contact program Chairperson Janna Guegamian (861-3573) or see <http://stsahmes.org/NewWebsite/culturalcommittee.shtm> Last session for 1st semester December 17, 2nd semester begins on January 28.

DECEMBER 20

Der Hayr has begun an *Acolyte Training* program for boys ages 10-17 which meets on alternating Tuesdays. Please contact him at <dershnork@gmail.com> or call him at the church office. Please meet Der Hayr in the Sunday School area under the church sanctuary.

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Service, Saturday, December 24 - Service of Carols and Candles at 6 p.m. (English). Sunday School Pageant, Carols and Gospel readings for the Family. Parishioners are kindly asked to plan on bringing items to be shared at the fellowship, i.e. choreg, cheese, cookies, or pastries, etc. Thanks !

DECEMBER 28

Annual Christmas Concert "Silent Night, Holy Night" in our Church Sanctuary, presented by the Cultural Committee, Wednesday, December 28 at 7 p.m. The special program will include performances by the Chorale of St. Ephraim's Syriac Orthodox Church, the Armenian Chorale of RI, and the Junior Choir of Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church and Soloists. Free-will donations will be gratefully accepted. Refreshments. Please join us.

JANUARY 5

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

JANUARY 6

Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Morning Service 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10 a.m., Blessing of Water, 11:30 a.m.

JANUARY 8

Armenian Christmas Luncheon, Sunday, January 8 2012 hosted by the Women's Guild. complete Chicken and Pilaf Dinner; Donation \$15 per person (children up to age 12 - \$10) Reservation deadline January 3. Call Ann Ayrassian (272-4743) or the church office (272-7712). Table reservations for 8 will be accepted upon payment in advance.

FEBRUARY 4

Yerevan State Puppet Theatre of Armenia, for the first time during its existence, is to perform on the East Coast of the United States in the Egavian Cultural Center, at 7 p.m., Saturday, February 4, 2012, 70 Jefferson Street, Providence, RI. Save the date for this exciting event !!

NOTICES

BOOKS make the best Christmas present !! We have many titles of books for sale. See Deacon Hagop if interested.

HOLIDAY OUTREACH -

It's time to think about our Holiday Outreach! To brighten the lives of our neighbors, the ACYOA Jrs. will be conducting an **OUTREACH PROGRAM** to benefit needy children and their families during the Christmas season. Simply bring in donated item(s) to be placed under our Egavian Hall Christmas tree. They will be delivered to a local charity before Christmas. Wrapped or unwrapped gifts will be accepted. Donated items for children: toys, books, games, etc.; for men & women: small gifts of toiletries, clothing, socks, tights, stationary, trinkets, etc. Please note that our ACYOA helps both children in Armenia as well as the less fortunate here in Rhode Island. Thank you and have a very blessed Christmas. Please contact: Adam Parnagian 401-942-7334 or Michael Papazian 401-545-0866, providenceacyoa@gmail.com. Thank you !!

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 or send in a check (notation: Christmas Flowers). Forms for your use will be available in the hallway by the church office. Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.

Der Hayr's Prayer List: Please inform the office if you have friends or family who are suffering any physical or spiritual distress and are in need of prayer, and Der Hayr will add them to his prayer list where they will be remembered before the Holy and Immortal Lamb of God during the Eucharist. You may also use the prayer request cards and place them in the Gold Box available for your use.

HOME BLESSINGS - Parishioners are encouraged to have their homes blessed. Please invite Der Hayr to bless your home. Have a piece of bread, dish of salt and glass of water available for the blessing.

E-mail Addresses: In order to help us communicate with the members of the community in a more efficient and timely manner, we kindly request that you submit your e-mail addresses to the church office at your convenience or e-mail us at <office@stsahmes.org> or just go to the website and subscribe yourself.

PARISH MEMBER DUES - Following the decision of the Feb. 28, 2010 Parish Assembly, membership dues are \$175 (\$125 for seniors & full-time students). Those unable to give full dues may confidentially approach the Parish Council

Chairman, Armen Janigian, to explain their situation. Parishioners are kindly asked to contribute beyond dues as part of the *"Stewardship Program."* Existing members' dues must be received by Dec. 31, 2011; (new members must have been received by June 30) to vote at Parish Assembly in February 2012. Forms available in church office.

POOR BOX – Did you know we have poor boxes for donations to help the needy at entrances to the Sanctuary? Contributions appreciated.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR REMINDER- Remember your non-perishable food donations for Mary House food pantry. For info., contact Joyce Avedisian (724-3978) or Bertha Mugurdichian (351-9276).

** Der hayr is also seeking a few faithful and loving people to help out in an outreach mission of love and charitable works. If you have any interest and some time to give, please speak to him privately or call him at 201-306-4304*

CHURCH LIBRARY - Several paperback and hard-cover books (English) are being offered "free" to parishioners due to the abundance of books donated to the library. Please see Hosanna when the library is open, or you may call her at 942-3103.

SENIOR CITIZENS - Come join us every Monday (weather permitting, excluding holidays). Have fun with your friends and neighbors.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 12 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
Women's Guild Holiday Demonstration & Cookie Stroll 6:30
- 13 Armenian Language School 6 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.
Parish Council 7 p.m.
- 14 Evening Vespers Service 7-8 p.m.
Armenian Chorale of RI 7 p.m.
- 16 Bible Study, 2-3 p.m.
Nazeli Dance Group 6 p.m., Jr. Choir 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Arts Education, 10 a.m.
- 19 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
- 20 Armenian Language School 6 p.m.
- 21 Evening Vespers Service 7-8 p.m.
Armenian Chorale of RI 7 p.m.
- 24 Christmas Eve Service (English) 6 p.m.
- 25 Christmas Day (Sunday) Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.
- 26 Office Closed
- 27 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.
- 28 Cultural Committee's Annual Christmas Concert, 7 p.m.

JANUARY - 2012

- 5 Armenian Christmas Eve, Evening Service 6 p.m. Divine Liturgy 6:30 p.m.
- 6 Armenian Christmas Feast of the Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ
Morning Service 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.,
Blessing of Water 11:30 a.m.
- 8 Armenian Christmas Luncheon by Women's Guild after Service