



Ս. Սահակ եւ Ս. Մեսրոպ Հայր. Եկեղեցի  
**Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church**

**The Rev. Fr. Shnork Souin, Pastor**

70 Jefferson Street Providence, Rhode Island 02908

TEL 4 01.272.7712 | FAX 4 01.272.2832

<http://www.stsahmes.org>

e-mail: [office@stsahmes.org](mailto:office@stsahmes.org) - [dershnork@gmail.com](mailto:dershnork@gmail.com)

---

Schedule of Sunday Services

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

**Sunday, February 5, 2012**

Առաջադրաց Կիրակի

**Sunday of the Catechumens**

**Scripture Readings**

**Isaiah 63:7-18 (Pg. 738) II Timothy 3:1-12 (Pg. 193)**

**John 6:22-38 (Pg. 89)**

---

**The Fasting of Holy Catechumens (or First Lent)**

The fasting of Catechumens is specific only to the Armenian Church. It begins three weeks before the Great Lent. In ancient times people could eat only bread and salt during the fast of Catechumens. On those days it was not allowed to celebrate Divine Liturgy either.

The meaning of the fasting of Catechumens is the purification of the five human senses from pagan impurity. In the ancient Church there was a custom to fast for five days before baptism. St. Gregory the Illuminator ordered King Trdat and others to fast for five days before baptism in order to be freed of evil. That is also the reason for the fasting of Catechumens to be called "fast of salvation" from the evil.

According to the tradition, the fasting of Catechumens was initiated by St. Gregory the Illuminator in memory of the above-mentioned practice. There are two explanations regarding the name of this fast. It is called the fast of Catechumens:

1. As the precursor of the Great Lent, and it is the first fast of the Liturgical Calendar year, and
2. As the first Armenian fast

On the fifth day of the fasting of the Catechumens, on Friday, the remembrance day of Prophet Jonah is celebrated, but it is celebrated not as the feast of the Prophet Jonah, but as the memory of an example of great repentance and abstinence which Jonah urged. At times, the fasting of the Catechumens was incorrectly called the fast of St. Sarkis, because the Armenian Church celebrates the feast of St. Sarkis on Saturday following the fast. According to the testimonies of Armenian medieval writers, Greek and Latin Churches also practiced the fasting of the Catechumens in ancient times.

*Reprinted from the website of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin*

## The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John (6:22-38)

On the next day the people who remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. However, the boats from Tiberias came near the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks. So when the people saw that Jesus was not there, not his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of man will give to you; for on him has God the Father set his seal."

Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "this is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see, and believe you? What work do you perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven, and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Lord, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me; and him who comes to me I will not cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me."

*Glory to You, O Lord our God!*

+ + + + +

***Pray for the Safe Return from Military Service: SPC. Conner Souin (US Army-OEF)*** Note: Please call the office if you would like to include the name of your family member or friend who is presently on active duty in the prayers being offered.

+ + + + +

**We encourage you to offer prayers for healing of His Beatitude  
Torkom Manoogian, Patriarch of Jerusalem.**

+ + + + +

### **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.

+ + + + +

**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:

**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.

+ + + + +

**Prayer of the Week**

Lord our God, accept the supplications of us your servants, made with open arms, and be merciful to us according to your great mercy. Send down your compassion on us and upon all your people, that await the abundant mercy which comes from you. For you, being God, are merciful and you love mankind; and to you is befitting glory, dominion, and honor, now and always. Amen.

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

+ + + + +

## **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.

+ + + + +

## **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:*

- **ALBERT J. URCIUOLI** (40 Day Memorial - Karasoonk) - requested by Julia Tashjian Martin.

- **LUSAPER HAROUTUNIAN** (France) (40 Year Memorial); **LAJIAN, AVAKIAN, AMROYAN** Deceased Family Members; requested by Youshaper Lafjian.

- **GEGANOUSH SIMAVONIAN** (7 Year Memorial) - requested by Varvara Gasparyan and Family.

- **JIRAYR AVEDISIAN** (18 Year Memorial) - requested by Araxy and Joyce Avedisian.

- **MELKON** and **TAKOUHY SAGHERIAN** - requested by Araxy and Joyce Avedisian.

- **BEDROS PETER YEKHTIKIAN** (34 Year Memorial); **CARLENE DENNISON** (34 Year Memorial); **MANOOSHAG YEKHTIKIAN** (34 Year Memorial); **AVEDIS YEKHTIKIAN** (32 Year Memorial) - requested by Mrs. Marian Goshgarian and Steven (CA); Gregory, Malcolm and Paul Yekhtikian.

- **SATENIK, KONSTANTIN, and MARIA GUEGAMIAN** - requested by Mr. & Mrs. Konstantin & Janna (Guegamian) Petrossian.

*...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

### FEBRUARY 8

*Evening Vespers Services* - every week there will be Wednesday evening *Vespers Services* at Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church in the Sanctuary at 6 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 (Note: Lenten Services will begin on February 22, 6:30 p.m followed by Bible Study at 7:30 p.m. )

### FEBRUARY 10

*Bible Studies* under the leadership and direction of Fr. Shnork meet on Friday afternoons from 2:00pm -3:00pm. The theme of the studies will be the Gospel of St. Luke. Please join us when we meet again on February 3.

### FEBRUARY 11

*Arts Education Programs* meet on Saturdays at 10 a.m. For information or questions about the programs, please contact program Chairperson Janna Guegamian (861-3573) or see <http://stsahmes.org/NewWebsite/culturalcommittee.shtm>.

### FEBRUARY 16

The *Knights & Daughters of Vartan* wish to invite you to a Vartanantz Day Commemoration at Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church on Thursday, February 16, at 7 p.m. Church Service followed by collation. All are invited. Call Ken Nahigian at 401-952-3388.

### FEBRUARY 20

*Outreach - Mary House Meal Kitchen* - Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church will be the sponsor for the *Mary House Meal Kitchen* on Monday, February 20. Volunteers new and old are invited to help serve the meal. Meet at St. Patrick Church on Smith Street at 4 p.m. Questions? Please call Joyce Avedisian (724-3978) or Bertha Murgudchian (351-9276).

## **FEBRUARY 22**

*Lenten Services* begin, Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. on February 22 followed by Bible Study with Father Shnork at 7:30 p.m. During February, the 22nd and 29th. In March, they will be held on the 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th.

## **FEBRUARY 26**

*Sunday of the Expulsion* - Day of Parish Assembly - St. Nersess Seminary Visit - Guest Celebrant, Rev. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian - Preachers, St. Nersess Seminarians.

## **JUNE 29 - JULY 8**

*Armenia Trip*- discover this ancient land through your eyes! Der Hayr wants you to join him this summer in Armenia from June 29 through July 8, 2012. Cost includes the complete tour package at \$2,750. (Does not include optional insurance, soft & alcoholic beverages, tips, additional tours or transfers). Complete details and registration forms are available in the office - copies are placed in the wall pockets outside the church office for your use. Deposit of \$300 per person required (non-refundable), due by February 15. Balance due by March 25, 2012.

## **NOTICES**

*Special Request:* It has been brought to our attention that there is a need for a wheelchair for the church, to be available for any parishioner or visitor who may need to use one while attending services or activities. If you or anyone you know has one available to donate, please consider Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church. Call the church office (272-7712). Thank you.

*Armenian Historical Association of RI (AHARI)* - Armenian Artifacts collection drive on Saturday, February 18, 2012 from 12 noon to 2 p.m. at the former Euphrates Armenian Church, 13 Franklin St., Providence, RI Call Ramon Zorabedian (401-884-6626).

*Parish Resource Book* - For those parishioners who have not yet received a book and would like to have one, please see Shake' during coffee hour or visit the church office during the week, to obtain a copy from Fran. The book is filled with useful information that we hope you will find helpful throughout the year. Thanks to all who have so generously supported the project in conjunction with our successful Church bazaar!

*The Scholarship Committee of Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church*, is pleased to announce that applications are now available for the Charles Yaghoobian, Jr. Scholarship Grants for 2012. Scholarship Grants will be awarded to qualified members of all three Armenian Churches in RI. Applicants must be dues paying members of their church. Scholarships are limited for up to 3 years only. We are currently seeking qualified candidates for consideration. For an application and a list of eligibility requirements you may contact: Nathalie Yaghoobian, 353-2488. The deadline to submit completed application and all documentation is April 2, 2012.

**SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY** - The *Vaughn Avedisian Memorial Fund* is offering scholarships this year by the RI Community Founda-

tion to benefit students from RI to attend a non-profit post-secondary institution that offers either a two year associate or a four year college degree. Information and applications are available by contacting the Church Office, or John Takian (641-5851) johnt@blissproperties.net.

**THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE** is seeking nominees for church officers to be elected at our Annual Parish Assembly on Sunday, February 26. If you are a dues-paying member of Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church and would like to be considered for election to the Parish Council, Nominating or Auditing Committees, please call the church office at 401-272-7712 or speak with any member of the nominating committee: Gary Nahabedian (401-871-8331), Paul Surabian (401-301-5516) or Laurie Onanian (787-0493).

The DVD of the "*Salute to Armenia*" event, dedicated to 20th Anniversary of Armenia's Independence, is now for sale. This professional edition includes the full concert, welcoming remarks, and all the names of our sponsors. To order, please make checks for \$20 payable to: Armenian Chorale of RI, Inc. P.O. Box 6232, Providence, RI 02940. You may also purchase this DVD from the church office. All profits will go to support the Armenian Chorale of RI, and will make a perfect gift for you and your friends. This is a limited edition.

**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@stshmes.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, 2012; (new members must have been received by June 30) to vote at Parish Assembly in February 2013. 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** - The Library is open after church services. Please see Hosanna Derderian for assistance, or call her at 942-3103.

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

**ARMENIAN RADIO HOUR** - Sundays 9-10 a.m. WARL 1320 AM  
**ARDZAGANG** - Armenian Television Program-Statewide Cable Interconnect Channel 13 (A):broadcast Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 a.m

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### FEBRUARY

- 6 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
- 7 Armenian Language School, 6 p.m.
- 8 Vespers Service, 6 p.m.
- 10 Bible Study 2-3 p.m.  
Jr. Choir & Nazeli Dance Group, 6 p.m.
- 11 Arts Education, 10 a.m.
- 13 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
- 14 Armenian Language School, 6 p.m.
- 15 Vespers Service 6 p.m.
- 16 Vartanantz Day Service, 7 p.m. followed by collation.
- 17 Bible Study, 2-3 p.m.  
Nazeli Dance Group & Jr. Choir 6 p.m.
- 18 Arts Education, 10 a.m.
- 20 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.  
Mary House Meal Kitchen (Note: New Date)
- 21 Armenian Language School, 6 .m.  
Parish Council 7 p.m.
- 22 Lenten Service - 6:30 p.m. followed by Bible Study with  
Fr. Shnork at 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Bible Study, 2-3 p.m.  
Nazeli Dance Group & Jr. Choir 6 p.m.
- 25 Arts Education 10 a.m.
- 26 St. Nersess Seminary Visit, Guest Celebrant Rev. Fr. Yeprem  
Kelegian, Preachers - St. nersess Seminarians  
Annual Parish Assembly following services.
- 27 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
- 28 Armenian Language School, 6 p.m.
- 29 Lenten Service 6:30 p.m. Followed by Bible Study with  
Fr. Shnork at 7:30 p.m.  
Choir Rehearsal following service.