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Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church
THE LIGHTHOUSE BULLETIN

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Parish Council Members on duty today:

Zita Butler and John Kazarian

The Rev. Fr. Shnork Souin, Pastor

Schedule of Sunday Services

Morning Service (*Kesheraheen & Aravodyan Jham*)
Divine Liturgy (*Soorp Badarak*)

9:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m.

Sunday, February 16, 2014

Առաջատարաց 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)

Don't just attend the Badarak. See it, feel it, sing it, pray it, hear it, smell it, touch it, and taste it and see how sweet is the Lord!

Դաշակեցէք եւ տեսէք զի բարցր է Տէր:

"Taste ye, and see, for the Lord is sweet." (Adapted from Psalm 34:8)

Der Shnork

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Pastor's Points of Light

Please join me at the conclusion of Badarak at curbside outside the church, for a special visit and presentation by our Mayor, Angel Taveras for the unveiling and official re-naming of Jefferson Street on the occasion of our Centennial Anniversary. You are all cordially invited to join the Mayor in the Egavian Hall for fellowship, following the presentation.

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For the bread of God is he who 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; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

~John 6:33-35

This is the Sunday of the Catechumens, meaning that we are exactly 2 weeks from the beginning of Great Lent, the period marked by a magnification of the spiritual disciplines of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. The church has not laid down these disciplines meaninglessly, but has the salvation of our souls in mind. The disciplines are

part of the overall process that leads us toward an inclination toward the holy life and the life in Christ. The church understands that this is not our natural inclination nor our will, but urges us through the mortification of the flesh to flee from our bondage of the worldly and cling to the spiritual, replacing natural desires with super essential ones. Jesus infers as much when He reminds His hearers that while the Jews ate the manna in the wilderness still died, those who eat the True Bread which comes down from Heaven, His True Body will live for eternal life, "For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." (John 6:33)

The catechumen are/were those who are novices in the faith, and are preparing for baptism. Historically, they were placed under a severe rule of discipline in order to become spiritually prepared for Baptism at Pascha or Easter. To this day, the church subjugates the faithful everywhere to the same austerity in order to subdue us and deprive us of our addiction to worldly appetites and distractions, in order to cleanse the soul and body in preparation of the illumination of Christ's Resurrection.

A great example, and one of many from the church's history, who achieved the life in Christ and holiness was an eminent father of the church, who was martyred for his faith.

St. Ignatius of Antioch, who himself was catechized at the feet of the Apostle John, wrote in his letter to the church of Rome, before his martyrdom, "I no longer take pleasure in perishable food nor in the delights of this world. I want only God's bread, which is the flesh of Jesus Christ, formed of the seed of David, and for drink I crave his blood, which is love that cannot perish."

My question that I ask myself today and to you my dear faithful, is, Where does one find such faith and such complete dependence on Christ and on His precious Body today? Our Lord who came down from heaven and lives among us, invites us into a living communion with Him. Will I crave His Body over the bread of this world? Will I be quenched by His Blood instead of the worldly drink?

Prayerfully,
Fr. Shnork Souin

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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!

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Response when Kissing the Cross (during the procession):

The faithful says:

Ֆիշեսչիր էր 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:

Ֆիշեալ լիշիր 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:

Ֆիշեսցէ 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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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 become be a regular worshipper.

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Note: Please call the office if you would like to include the name of your family member or friend who is presently in the military in our prayers.

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Prayer of the Week

Our Lord and savior Jesus Christ, great in mercy and abounding in the gifts of your beneficence, you, who of your own will did endure the sufferings of the cross and of death on account of our sins, and did abundantly bestow the gifts of your Holy Spirit on the blessed apostles; make us also, Lord, we beseech you, sharers in your divine gifts, in the forgiveness of sins, and in the reception of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

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Please keep our Christian brothers and sisters in Syria, Iraq, and Egypt in your prayers that God Almighty will watch over them and protect them in these uncertain and dangerous times.

PRAYER FOR HEALING - Armenian Book Of Hours (Sixth Hour)

Remove the pains and heal the wounds of your people, O Lord our God, and grant perfect health to us all through your all-conquering cross, through which you eliminated the weakness of the human race and condemned the enemy of our life and salvation.

You are our life and redemption, beneficent and all-merciful God, and you alone can forgive our sins, remove diseases and sicknesses from us. You know our needs, O giver of gifts; grant your abundant mercy to all your creatures, each one according to his needs. And through your gifts may we always praise the all-holy Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen

Prayers of Healing have been requested for:

His Beatitude Archbishop Mesrob Mutafyan, Patriarch of Constantinople, Ani Anjel Ayanyan , Very Rev. Fr. Shnork Kasparian

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Prayer Card Ministry

Information about the *Prayer Card Ministry* of Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church is available through the church office. If you would like to request a Healing Prayer Card or a Memorial Prayer Card for a loved one, please call the office (272-7712). Details for this are available on line at <http://www.stsahmes.org/prayercard.shtml>

A Memorial Prayer Card for Repose of the Soul of Jean Berberian has been requested by the Papazian Family.

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TODAY'S REQUIEMS - please see insert

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

Today the *Mayor of Providence, Angel Taveras*, will join us following the Divine Liturgy at 12 p.m. to issue a proclamation to Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church, in honor of our Centennial Anniversary. A special reception will take place following the Mayor's proclamation and announcement. All faithful of the community are cordially invited to attend.

A donation for today's *Coffee Fellowship/Reception* has been given in loving memory of Grace Simonian by Peter Simonian.

A donation for today's *Coffee Fellowship/Reception* has been given in loving memory of Grace Simonian by Ronda S. Amar.

FEBRUARY 17

Deacon's Training classes will begin on February 17, Mondays from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. and every other week thereafter. Watch the calendar for future dates.

FEBRUARY 18

Acolyte Training classes meet on Tuesdays from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. Next class February 18 and every other week thereafter. New students? Please contact Der Hayr, 272-771

FEBRUARY 18

Armenian School - Classes meet from 6 pm to 8 pm. on Tuesdays. For more information please contact Deacon Hagop Ghajanian tel: 401-862-6815 or e-mail: h.ghajanian@verizon.net

FEBRUARY 19

Centennial Banquet Committee meeting: 7 p.m. on February 19. Please contact Nathalie Yaghoobian (353-2488)

FEBRUARY 21

Bible Study - Cancelled this week.

Nazeli Dance group at 6 p.m., Jr. Choir at 7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 22

Arts Education Program - Second Semester meeting on Saturdays 10 a.m. in Egavian Cultural Center. Please speak with Janna Guegamian (861-3573) for information and registration.

FEBRUARY 27

The Knights and Daughters of Vartan wish to invite you to a *Vartanantz Day Commemoration* at St. Vartanantz Church, Thursday, February 27 at 7 p.m. Church service followed by a collation. Call Commander Ken Nahigian for info. (401-952-3388)

MARCH 3

New!! Badarak 101 - Come learn about the history, meaning, and spirituality of the Divine Liturgy of the Armenian church. Instructor, Fr. Shnork Souin. Every Monday evening from 7-8:30 p.m. Begins on March 3 (*please note the change in date*) through April 7th. Please RSVP to let us know of your participation at dershnork@gmail.com (No Class on March 24)

MARCH 5

Lenten Services "Lent Through the Experience of the Church Fathers" will begin on March 5 from 7-8 p.m. and continue through Lent on March 12, 19, 26, and April 2, 9 and 16.

MARCH 24

The Armenian Chorale of RI will begin rehearsing on Monday, March 24 from 7 to 9 p.m. in Egavian Hall, and every Monday thereafter. in preparation for our memorial concert in June. Please speak with Maestro Konstantin Petrossian (861-3573).

NOTICES

Special Note: You may now order the new *2014 Project Graduation Calendars* in support of Project Graduation. Order on line at <http://www.stsahmes.org> & follow the links for the Project Graduation Calendar.

Scholarship Opportunities:

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 2014. 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 1, 2014.

The *Vaughn Avedisian Memorial Fund* is offering scholarships this year by the RI Community Foundation 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 (401-641-5851) john@blissproperties.net. The deadline must arrive by April 5, 2014 to be considered. Please contact Sylvia Long at (401) 884-4343 with any questions concerning the application process.

DIOCESAN SUMMER CAMP 2014- information for the Diocesan Summer Camp sessions is now available, so you can start planning now (St. Vartan Camp and Hye Camp). For information, contact: The Dept. of Youth & Young Adult Ministries, Jennifer E. Morris, Director, JenniferM@armenian-diocese.org or 248-648-0702 or Lorie Odabashian, Coordinator, LorieO@armenian-diocese.org or 212-686-0710 ext. 143 You may also visit the Diocesan website at <http://www.armenianchurch-ed.net>. Scholarships will be available for St. Nersess & St. Vartan camp for children whose parents are dues paying members of Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church. Please notify the office for applications.

PARISH MEMBER DUES Following the decision of the 2/28/10 Parish Assembly, membership dues are \$175 (\$125 for seniors & full-time students). Those unable to give full dues may confidentially approach the Pastor to explain their situation. Parishioners are kindly asked to contribute beyond dues as part of the "*Stewardship Program.*" **Existing members' dues must have been received by Dec. 31, 2013;** (new members must be received by June 30 to vote at Parish Assembly in February 2014).

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR REMINDER- Remember your non-perishable food donations for Mary House food pantry. Items that move very quickly and are needed the most - **tuna, peanut butter, jelly, soups and rice.** Donations of these food items will be greatly appreciated. As always thanks so much for supporting Mary House. For info., contact Joyce Avedisian (724-3978) or Bertha Mugurdichian (351-9276).

VETERANS LIST: We are continuing to update our Veteran's list and will do so on a ongoing basis. Please send an email to Gary Nahabedian at GaryNahabedian@hotmail.com. If email is unavailable please call him at 401-580-8123. Please make sure to leave the veteran's name, branch of service and living, deceased or killed in action. (Rank is optional).

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.

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.*

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

CHURCH LIBRARY - Anyone needing assistance to donate or take out books from the Church Library should call the church office at 272-7712. There are Armenian books for sale which are shown in the bookcase outside of the library including books by Dn. Gevork Gevorkian -- Contact information for his books: Deacon Gevork Gevorkian (ggevorkian@verizon.net or 401-714-9842 and 401-823-9050).

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

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ANNOUNCEMENT: NEW PARISH DIRECTORY

Dear Parishioners,

We are excited to announce that, in celebration of our Centennial, we are going to create a new pictorial directory of our church family. The directory will help us to connect names with faces. It will be an ideal outreach tool and will capture the history of our church congregation.

Please participate!

All we ask is that you have your picture taken by the professional photographer at the church. For the next several weeks we will be making appointments after church services in the Egavian Hall. Please sign up as soon as possible to get the best appointment to fit your schedule. Appointments can also be made very easily on-line.

Look for information and link on our web site coming soon - TBA! Every participating family/household that selects a pose for the directory will receive a FREE directory and a complimentary 8x10 portrait. You will come to the church only once for photography and for portrait viewing. The program is available at no cost to the church.

Along with the FREE 8x10 Portrait, you will have the opportunity to order additional portraits during your scheduled appointment time. Whether you decide to dress formal or casual, you will want to make the most of this opportunity.

The scheduled dates for photography and portrait viewing are:

ATTENTION: COLLEGE STUDENTS? SNOW BIRDS?

Friday, March 14 and Saturday, March 15, 2014

Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26, 2014.

*Friday times are from 2:30 - 9:00

*Saturday times are from 10:00 - 5:00

If you have questions, please contact Yn. Julie Souin at 973-865-9925 or Linda Salas at 401-300-6779. Again, if you have college students or are heading South after Armenian Christmas, **please sign up for session 2 sittings-March 14 or March 15, 2014.**

We look forward to seeing everyone in the directory. Start making your appointments **TODAY** after church.

Our new pictorial directory won't be complete without you!

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Calendar - Please see insert.