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Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church
THE LIGHTHOUSE

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Parish Council Members on duty today:

Jason Martesian - John Megrđichian

The Rev. Fr. Shnork Souin, Pastor

Schedule of Sunday Services

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

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

Sunday, December 21, 2014

Հինգերորդ Կիրակի Յիսմակաց

Fifth Sunday of Advent

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 40:18-31 (Pg. 716) Hebrews 4:16-5:10 (Pg. 198)

Luke 18:9-14 (Pg. 74)

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!

Գաշակեցէք եւ տեսք զի քաղցր 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

Dear Faithful,

I am so pleased to greet you this morning on the eve of the celebrations of our Savior's birth in the holy town of Bethlehem. I would like to invite you all to please join us on the eve of December 24 at 6 p.m. for our annual carols and candles service dedicated to the feast of St. Stephen. Our children will be presenting a silent nativity pageant throughout this wonderful service.

My prayer for all of you is that the New Year bring not only joy, but peace to your lives and to people of good will throughout the world. My prayers are especially offered up to the Holy Child of Bethlehem for our suffering Christian brothers and sisters in the lands of Syria and Iraq.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year !

Prayerfully,
Fr. Shnork Souin

Talking During Church

Isn't it great to come to church and see friends and family members? But wait until coffee hour to say "Hi" to them. It just isn't appropriate to greet people and have a conversation with them during the services in line for Communion or even at the conclusion. Besides being disrespectful before God and the Holy Signs, it is disruptive to the priest, deacons and discourteous to your fellow worshippers who are seeking refuge and communion in God's presence and with His people.

Talk to God while in church through your prayers, offer your hymns and thanksgiving through your participation in worship. At the conclusion of the Badarak please come forward to receive the final blessing as you come and kiss the Gospel, and to your friends in the Egavian hall during fellowship hour.

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Advent Reflection

On the Fifth Sunday of Advent, we read about the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. The Pharisee goes to the temple, and in the course of his prayer, he thanks God that he is not like other people (sinners), including the Tax Collector. He boasts to God about how he gives money, fasts, and keeps the Law. In contrast, the Tax Collector, not even lifting His face toward God, pounds his chest and says, "God, be merciful to me a sinner." Jesus tells us that the Tax Collector is the one who went home made right before God.

Why was the Tax Collector justified, while the Pharisee was not? The character flaw in the Pharisee is quite clear, and Jesus explains that "every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will exalted." Everything we do depends on the state of our heart. The Pharisee, with pride, measured his spiritual stature before God by what he fulfilled and accomplished. The Tax Collector measured his spiritual stature before God with a humble and contrite heart (Psalm 51:17).

Let's place ourselves in this story. How are we like the Pharisee? How are we like the Tax Collector? Let's face it. We pray and live like the Pharisee more often than we would like to admit. We are proud of our accomplishments, spiritual or otherwise. We are also uncomfortable with the feeling of self-reproach. The repentant spirit of our faith is that we are not what God is by nature – perfect and sinless. There exists a tension in that we are created by a perfect God, but tend toward sin. But through Jesus Christ, we are saved from this deficient status as we live and honestly pray, *Lord, have mercy. Der voghormya.*

During this Advent, ask yourself how you measure your spiritual stature. Read Ephesians 4:13. If our measuring-stick is anything other than the "stature of the fullness of Christ", then we are in danger of praying like the Pharisee. The Pharisee stood before others comparing himself to them. The Tax Collector stood before God acknowledging his deficiency before Him. The stature of Christ's fullness is only found on the path of unceasing repentance; the turning of our heart toward God. Whenever you leave your place of prayer (in Church, your room, your car, on the train) your heart will determine whether or not you "go home" like the Tax Collector.

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

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The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Luke (18:9-14)

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner; I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.'"

Glory to You, O Lord our God!

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KISS OF PEACE - IT'S IN THE BIBLE!

II Cor. 13:12 & Rom. 16:16 ~ Greet one another with a holy kiss.

Response when Kissing the Cross (during the procession):

The faithful says:

Յիշեսցիր 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:

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.

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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 a regular worshipper. **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

Dear Lord, you parted the Red Sea and the Jordan River as your people journeyed to the Promised Land. Lift away those things that keep us from you today as we continue the journey. We ask this in your name, and with the Father and 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, Egypt and Iraq 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

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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>

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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:

- All past Primates of the Armenian Church of America- Eastern Diocese

1898 - 1906 **Bishop Hovsep Sarajian**

1908 **Archbishop Yeznik Abahouni**

1913 - 1917 **Very Rev. Fr. Arsen Vehouni**

1921 - 1928 **Archbishop Tirayr Hovhannesian**

1931 - 1933 **Archbishop Ghevont Tourian**

December 22nd, 2014 - 81st Anniversary of Assassination

1939 - 1944 **Archbishop Karekin Hovsepien**
1944 - 1953 **Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan**
1954 - 1958 **Archbishop Mampre Calfayan**
1958 - 1966 **Archbishop Sion Manoogian**
1966 - 1990 **His Beatitude, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian** (Former Patriarch of Jerusalem)

- **NAZIK KOCHARIAN** - requested by Robert Kocharian.

- **ARDIS GARABIAN; HAZEL (GARABIAN) MORROW** - requested by George Garabian, Galina Serobyan; David, Joshua and John Morrow.

- **NISHAN MOORACHIAN** (38 Year Memorial); **SARAH MOORACHIAN MOROUKIAN** (2 Year Memorial) - requested by George & Margaret Moorachian.

- **NOURITZA (ADISHIAN) JAMGOCHIAN** (10 Year Memorial) - requested by Martha and Daniel Jamgochian.

- **ARAKSI TORIGIAN** (26 Year Memorial) - requested by Markrid Torigians.

- **OHAN MEGERDICHIAN** (16 Year Memorial); **MARGARET MEGERDICHIAN** (14 Year Memorial); **JOHN KOJOIAN** (Montreal, Canada) (45 Year Memorial); **MISSAH M. SABOUNJIAN** (Watertown, MA) (11 Year Memorial); **JULIAN MEGRDICHIAN** (Colo.) (3 Year Memorial) - requested by Mr. & Mrs. Peter Megrdochian; Michael & Janice Megrdochian & Family (Denver); Liz & Jack Sabounjian; John, Debby, Melissa & Petey Megrdochian; Stephen & Rena Megrdochian and Family; James & Erica Megrdochian and Family (Denver); Michael M. & Barbara Megrdochian.

...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's *Coffee Fellowship* is given in loving memory of Nazik Kocharian by Robert Kocharian.

DECEMBER 22

Senior Citizens- come join us every Monday (at 10 a.m. weather permitting, excluding holidays). Have fun with your friends and neighbors and enjoy with us "coffee and", cards, tavloo, pinochle, etc."

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve - Thursday, December 24, Service of Carols and Candles at 6 p.m. English language Service and Nativity Pageant, Carols and Gospel readings for the Family.

JANUARY 5

Monday, January 5, *Armenian Christmas Eve*, Evening Service, 4:30 p.m., Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Family Christmas Fellowship following at 6:30 p.m., "Cookie Mookie Table", Caring & Sharing.

JANUARY 6

Tuesday, January 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 a.m. Traditional Armenian Home Blessing, 11:30 a.m.

JANUARY 11

Armenian Christmas Dinner, Sunday, January 11 after Badarak - complete dinner of stuffed chicken, pilaf, vegetable, salad and dessert, hosted by Women's Guild. Chicken tenders/fingers for children. Donation \$15, and \$5 for children 12 and under. Please call the church office with reservations.

JANUARY 13

Armenian School classes meet on Tuesdays, 6 pm to 8 pm. will resume after the holidays on January 13. For more information contact Nvard Danayan tel: 401-943-4001, or e-mail: nvarddanayan@yahoo.com

FEBRUARY 7

Saturday Arts Education classes will resume February 7, 2015 *Arts Education* 2015 Semester - Programs - For application: <http://stsahmes.org/NewWebsite/culturalcommittee.shtml>. Please send application to: Cultural Committee Arts Education Program, Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church, 70 Jefferson St., Providence, RI 02908. For more information please contact Chairperson Janna Guegamian 401 861-3573, < Petroskon@aol.com>

Saturdays: Arts Education 10 a.m.-3 p.m.,

Nazeli Dance & Jr. Choir (Children and Youth) Dates and Times to be announced.

NOTICES

Holiday Outreach - To brighten the lives of our neighbors, the Saint Sahag & Mesrob ACYOA Juniors is supporting its annual *Outreach Program* that will directly benefit needy children and their families during this festive time of year. Gift items should be under the Christmas tree for delivery today. We hope you can participate!

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. It's not too late to contribute to the beautiful poinsettias that are on our altar. Any donations for poinsettias received after today will be acknowledged in the bulletin on Sunday, January 4. A complete and updated list of flower donations will be listed in the bulletin on that date. Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.

The Armenian Historical Association of RI (AHARI) is forming a sub-committee for genealogy research. Its purpose is to assist members in tracing their ancestors and discovering the daily events that shaped their and, eventually, our lives. We hope to help people find information about their ancestors and possibly make connections with relatives living on both sides of the Atlantic.

We plan to upload databases to a website for research. We will need help with website design, database maintenance and research techniques. We would like to start meeting in January. Please contact Margaret Chevian by January 15 at margo1915@gmail.com or 401-331-3985.

WISH LIST - The church is in need of a replacement refrigerator for the kitchen in Hanoian Hall. A monetary donation or a donation of a refrigerator either new or one in good condition and working order would be greatly appreciated. Please let us know if you would be able to help. Thanks.

Centennial Fund - Thanks so very much to all who have so generously donated to the fund thus far. Please know that we are still accepting donations throughout the remainder of this year and early January. We wish to give everyone the opportunity to be included in this important effort before we create a permanent plaque recognizing all our donors. Der Hayr and the Parish Council will be advising us as to both selection and placement of this plaque. We thank everyone for their support!!

Banquet Books and The Stained Glas Windows Books - are available in our church office for anyone who wishes to obtain one. Please see Fran.

PARISH MEMBER DUES Following the decision of the 2/26/2014 Parish Assembly, membership dues are \$175 (\$125 for seniors). Based on a new Diocesan by-law and as this is the centennial year, dues for members age 18-24 are only \$100. 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 be received by Dec. 31, 2014;** (new members must be received by June 30 to vote at Parish Assembly in February 2015.) Don't forget to take advantage of the many payment options which can be made on line, by check, credit card, in full, or in part weekly, monthly or quarterly.

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. They also need toiletries such as tooth paste, tooth brushes, shampoo & conditioner, deodorant etc. As always thanks so much for supporting Mary House. For info., contact Joyce Avedisian (724-3978) or Bertha Mugurdichian (351-9276). ***Future dates for helping at the Mary House meal kitchen:*** 3/30/15, and 6/22/15. Thanks to everyone who participated on Monday, 11/24.

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 401-871-8331. 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 after Easter. Please invite Der Hayr to bless your home. Have a piece of bread, dish of salt, 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.*

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: Gevork Gevorkian (ggevorkian@verizon.net)

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

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

DECEMBER

- 22 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
- 24 Christmas Eve Service, 6 p.m.
- 25 Christmas Day, Office Closed
- 29 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.

JANUARY 2015

- 1 New Years Day, Office Closed
- 5 Armenian Christmas Eve
Evening Service, 4:30 p.m., Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.
Family Christmas Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Caring & Sharing
- 6 Armenian Christmas - Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord
Divine Liturgy 10 a.m., Blessing of Water, 11:30 a.m.
- 11 Traditional Armenian Home Blessing 11:30 a.m.
Armenian Christmas Luncheon after Divine Liturgy, by the
Women's Guild
- 13 Armenian School resumes, 6 p.m.
Parish Council 7 p.m.
- 18 40 Day Memorial for Yn. Mariani Donikian
- 27 Parish Council 7 p.m.

FEBRUARY

- 2 Badarak 201 Classes resume 7 p.m.
- 3 Deacon Training Class 5:30 p.m.
- 22 Annual parish Assembly 12:30 p.m.