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Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church
THE LIGHTHOUSE

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Parish Council Members on duty today:
Len Arzoomanian - Joyce Avedisian
The Rev. Fr. Shnork Souin, Pastor

Schedule of Lenten Sunday Services

Morning Service (<i>Kesherayeen & Aravodyan Jham</i>)	9:00 a.m.
Sunrise Service	9:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy (<i>Soorp Badarak</i>)	10:00 a.m.

Sunday, February 22, 2015

Sunday of the Expulsion - *Ardaksman Giragi*

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 33:2-22 (Page 709) Romans 12:1-13:10 (Pg. 147)

Matthew 5:17-48 (Pg. 4)

The Legacy of our Martyrs 1915 - 2015

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!

Ծաշակեցէք եւ տեսէք զի քանզի է Տէր:

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

Sunday of the Expulsion

The second Sunday of Lent is named **The Sunday of the Expulsion**—a reference to the exile of Adam and Eve from Paradise. This day reminds us of the loss of man’s happiness due to his disobedience. During this day’s service the hymn of St. Nerses the Graceful, Vor Zorenes Serpoutian, describes man’s Fall: how Adam and Eve experienced the bitterness of sin and death, how they first felt “fear” in their hearts, and “hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees in the garden.”

Thereafter, the re-establishment of the friendship between God and man had to await God’s entry into our lives. Through this act of grace, man is able to search his heart, perceive his condition as an exile of “Paradise lost,” and see that God has given human beings the opportunity to regain their former status.

Reprinted from the website of the Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern)

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Note also that there will be weekly Lenten Services at the church throughout Lent. Won't you join me at 7:00pm on Wednesdays?

Dear faithful,

I want to tell you about a few very important and exciting events coming up in our parish over the next couple of months. I hope and pray that you will not only support and participate in these events but encourage others to as well.

1. The Sunday School has invited recording artist, Nvair Beylerian and Andrea Carden from New Jersey on Sunday March 1st to make a presentation of the newly recorded "We Sing Armenian Church Songs". They will present their music and lesson to the school at assembly and also make a presentation during the fellowship hour. This can and will hopefully become an integral part of our resources and tools in teaching the Badarak and inspiring faith in our children.

2. I am arranging a Trip to Armenia this summer for the Commemoration of the Centennial of the Genocide! It is part of **Project Graduation but open to the parish**. Dates are July 12-24, 2015 at the cost is \$2950 including airfare, hotel accommodations, 2 meals a day and excursions. Visit Holy Etchmiadzin, Geghart Monastery, Tsitsernagapert, Holy Etchmiadzin (an audience with His Holiness KAREKIN II), Lake Sevan and much more. Call me at 201-306-4304.

3. BADARAK 201 classes have been suspended until further notice.

4. Thursday April 23 at 7:00am - Live viewing of the Canonization of the Martyrs in the Hanoian Hall.

Friday April 24th at 12:00pm. Divine liturgy at the North Burial Ground Memorial Monument.

Sunday April 26th Bus trip to NYC St. Vartan Cathedral for Badarak and Times Square for Genocide Commemorations.

5. Washington DC-National Commemoration of Genocide Centennial

May 7 at 7:00PM: Ecumenical Service at the National Cathedral

May 8 at 8:00PM: Concert at the Music Center at Strathmore

May 9 10:00AM: Divine Liturgy-Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

May 9 6:00PM: Reception and Banquet at the Marriott Marquis Hotel

May 7-9: Exhibitions and Cultural Events at the Marriott Hotel

**Please visit for hotel info and reservations - resweb.passkey.com/go/441f5d02; More info: <http://armeniangenocidecentennial.org/>; www.genocide100.org

6. May 31 - Divine Liturgy, Ordinations and Banquet in honor of Fr. Shnork Souin's 20th Anniversary of ordination and the presentation of the St. Vartan Award to Steven Zaroogian and Ed Eranosian under the auspices of His Eminence, Abp. Khajag Barsamian.

Prayerfully, Fr. Shnork Souin, Pastor

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The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Matthew (5:17-48)

"Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes

and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. "You have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother shall be liable to the council, and whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Make friends quickly with your accuser, while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison; truly, I say to you, you will never get out till you have paid the last penny. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that every one who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, makes her an adulteress; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. "Again you have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil. "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist one who is evil. But if any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also; and if any one would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well; and if any one forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to him who begs from you, and do not refuse him who would borrow from you.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Glory to You, O Lord our God!

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Wednesday Evenings of Lent

With the launch of Great Lent, Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church will invite the faithful to gather for prayer on Wednesdays, at 7:00 p.m. to participate in the Peace and Rest Hour Services, which feature many eloquent penitential prayers and hymns.

We encourage all the faithful to use these evenings of Lent as a way to unwind from the often stressful hustle and bustle of everyday life. By making that special effort to recharge our faith, we provide the soul an opportunity to grow in the faith of Christ.

Lenten Services

The Peace Service, (Khaghaghagan) performed late in the evening, contains prayers for peace, praises to God, thanks for passing this day without tribulation, and reminds us that God is always with us in the face of trial and temptation.

The Rest Service, (Hankusdyan) offered before retiring for the night, requests God to watch over us throughout the night. This service contains the eloquent prayer of St. Nerses the Graceful.

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Special Request

During this blessed season of giving, I would like to ask you to kindly search your hearts and consider making a donation towards the pastors' discretionary fund. This ministry helps to provide assistance to people or families in times of need when there is no other place to turn. Recipients will receive assistance from the pastor directly and remain anonymous. Checks can be made out to SSMAC NOTE:Pastors Discretionary Fund

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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: There is no Communion offered during Lent. Those wishing to make their Confession can do so at 6:00pm on Wednesdays by appointment. Please contact Der Hayr.

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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

Christ, guardian of all creatures, let your right hand be a shadow over me day and night, tarrying at home and traveling, sleeping and rising, that I may never fail. Have mercy upon your creatures, and upon me, a great sinner. 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, William Aznavourian, Joan Parnagian, and
Victoria Jamgochian**
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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*): Please see insert.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

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

The *Parish Assembly* has been rescheduled for March 1.

At the direction of the Diocese there will be a special *plate collection* today for the families of the 21 Coptic Martyrs; all proceeds will be disbursed by the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of New York and New England. Please consider donating with notation: "Families of Coptic Christian Martyrs." Donations can also be made through the Diocese's website at <http://www.armenianchurch-ed.net>

FEBRUARY 23

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."

FEBRUARY 23

Badarak 201 - Classes have been suspended until further notice.

FEBRUARY 24

Deacon Training with Der Shnork, 5:30 p.m.

Armenian School classes meet on Tuesdays, 6 pm to 8 pm.

For more information contact Nvard Danayan tel: 401-943-4001, or e-mail: nvarddanayan@yahoo.com Note there WILL be class this week.

Armenian Chorale of RI rehearses at 7 p.m.

FEBRUARY 25

Lenten Services take place Wednesdays during Lent at 7 p.m.

FEBRUARY 27

Jr. Choir (6 p.m.) and Nazeli Dance Group (no charge/Nazeli Dance) (6:30 p.m.) have resumed classes on Fridays through February on the 20th and 27th.

FEBRUARY 28

Saturday Arts Education classes - 2015 Semester - 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..

MARCH 1

Parish Assembly - Sunday March 1, 2015. (Please note the change in date) The invitation, agenda and slate of candidates have been mailed to dues paying members of the Parish. All members are encouraged to attend, a light lunch will be offered prior to the assembly (members only). Copies of the Parish Assembly Book (Annual Reports) will be available, please see a Parish Council Member.

MARCH 15

The Women's Guild will have a **Soup & Salad Luncheon** on Sunday, March 15 after church. All you can eat soup and salad dinner with a variety of soups, etc., coffee & dessert. Mac & cheese for the kids. Apple crisp for dessert. Donation, Hoodsie's for the kids. \$10 adults, children 12 and under \$5. Donations of bread, salad ingredients, and dressing would be appreciated. Please join us.

NOTICES

TEN BUSES for the **100TH Armenian Genocide Commemoration in Times Square** - Depart Warwick Mall Parking to Manhattan, New York City, Sunday, April 26, 2015. Organized as to provide for a large waiting list of supporters from the general Rhode Island community. Deadline for your **FREE RESERVATION** is March 15, 2015. Call the church office for your reservation/confirmation. Keep up with ALL planned 2015 community events as they develop by visiting the website of the Armenian Martyrs Monument Committee of RI, ammri.org. **PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE ON ONE OF THE BUSES BY MARCH 15.** Everyone is invited free of charge from the elderly to the very youngest. Make sure that you do not miss this once in a lifetime 100th Anniversary Commemoration at Times Square.

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 2015 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, 2015.

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) johnt@blissproperties.net. The deadline must arrive by April 4, 2015 to be considered. Please contact Sylvia Long at (401) 884-4343 with any questions concerning the application process.

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, 2015;** (new members must be received by June 30 to vote at Parish Assembly in February 2016.) 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.

Project Graduation Armenia Trip - With Fr. Shnork Souin - July 12-24, 2015 - Registration Deadline February 25, 2015 - Cost: \$2,950
Includes 4 Star Accommodations, Airfare, Excursions*, 2 Meals/day
Info: Call Fr. Shnork 201-306-4304

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. Please contact Margaret Chevian at margo1915@gmail.com or 401-331-3985.

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.

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 personal care 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.

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 Christmas. 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

FEBRUARY

- 22 Annual Parish Assembly date changed to March 1 at 12:30 pm
- 23 Sr. Citizens, 10 a.m.
Badarak 201, suspended until further notice.
- 24 Deacon Training, 5:30 p.m.
Armenian Language School 6 p.m.
Armenian Chorale of RI Rehearsal, 7-9 p.m.
- 25 Lenten Service, 7 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.
- 27 Jr. Choir 6 p.m., Nazeli Dance Group 6:30 p.m.
- 28 Arts Education, 10 a.m.

MARCH

- 1 Sunday School presentation, assembly & workshop
presenting Nvair Beylerian and Andrea Carden
Annual Parish Assembly 12:30 p.m. (see notice inside bulletin)
- 2 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
- 3 Deacon Training 5:30 p.m.
Armenian Language School 6 p.m.
Parish Council 7 p.m.
Armenian Chorale of RI 7-9 p.m.
- 4 Lenten Service 7 p.m.
- 6 Jr. Choir 6 p.m., Nazeli Dance Group 6:30 p.m.
- 7 Arts Education 10 a.m.
- 9 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
- 10 Deacon Training 5:30 p.m.
Armenian Language School 6 p.m.
Armenian Chorale of RI 7 p.m.
- 11 Lenten Service 7 p.m.
- 13 Jr. Choir 6 p.m., Nazeli Dance Group 6:30 p.m.
- 14 Arts Education 10 a.m.
- 15 Women's Guild Soup & Salad Luncheon after church
Easter Services to be announced.