

Ս. Սահակ եւ Ս. Մեսրոպ Հայր. Եկեղեցի
Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church
THE LIGHTHOUSE



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Parish Council Members on duty today:
Nicholas Durgarian - John Kazarian
The Rev. Fr. Shnork Souin, Pastor

Schedule of Lenten Sunday Services

Morning Service (*Keesheraheen & Aravodyan Jham*) 9:00 a.m.
Sunrise Service 9:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy (*Soorp Badarak*) 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, March 1, 2015

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Anaragi Giragi - Անառակի Կիրակի

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 54:11-55:13 (Page 731) II Corinthians 6:1-7:1 (Pg. 165)

Luke 15:1-32 (Pg. 71)

Creed: In English (Pg. 18)

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!

ճաշակեցէք եւ տեսէք զի քաղցր է Տէր:

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

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From Van to the Vatican: A Saint's Journey

On Saturday, February 21, a 10th-century Armenian monk was acknowledged as a Doctor of the Universal Church, in a special—and according to some, unprecedented—announcement from the Vatican.

His Holiness Pope Francis approved the designation for St. Gregory of Narek during a meeting with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes.

The Roman Catholic Church confers the designation “doctor” on saints whose writings are considered to offer key theological insights for the faith. Throughout its history, the Roman Catholic Church has recognized only 35 doctors of the church, including Augustine of Hippo, John Chrysostom, and Thomas Aquinas. Narek will be the 36th.

For Armenians, St. Gregory of Narek is among our greatest thinkers and artists, author of the most mystical prayers in the Divine Liturgy. Born around A.D. 950 in Andzevatsik, he lived at the monastery at Narek his whole priestly life, and taught at the monastic school. It was there that he composed his masterpiece of spiritual poetry, known as the “Book of Lamentations” or “Narek.” He died at the monastery around 1005.

He will be remembered in the Roman Catholic Church on February 27; in the Armenian Church calendar, St. Gregory of Narek

is remembered on several occasions each year, and is reckoned among the Holy Translators.

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The third Sunday of Lent is known as **The Sunday of the Prodigal Son**. The parable told by Jesus (Luke 15:11-32) is a familiar example of a child rebelling against its parent; but in Jesus' telling, the parent is accepting and understanding, regardless of the child's previous actions or mistakes. The two key words in this parable are "lost" and "found," and in a way, the entire Lenten period might be thought of as a search for our own lost selves. The prodigal son stands as a symbol for lost and demoralized humanity; the father figure helps us grasp the depth of God's love for mankind.

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. 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.

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

3. 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.

4. 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

5. 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 Luke (15:1-32)

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes murmured, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable:

"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost.'

Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

And he said, "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father.

But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!'

And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

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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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 be 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

Let the Lord Jesus Christ preserve and have mercy on us through the intercession of the Holy Mother-of-God, from whom the fruit of life and immortality was given to us. 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

Parish Assembly - 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 2

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."

MARCH 3

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.

MARCH 4

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

MARCH 6

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.

MARCH 7

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 9

The *Women's Guild* will have a meeting on March 9, 7:15 pm

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, Hoodie's for the kids. \$10 adults, children 12 and under \$5. Donations of bread, salad ingredients, and dressing would be appreciated. Please join us.

MARCH 15 & 22

There will be a second plate collection to benefit the Sunday School Lenten Drive on March 15 and a Bake Sale on March 22. (see insert)

MARCH 29

Annual ACYOA Palm Sunday Luncheon, please watch for future announcement with details. Save the date and plan to 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. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Be at the Warwick mall parking lot by the Firestone Store by 7:00 a.m. sharp. This is critical. 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.

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 an 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.

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

MARCH

- 1 *Annual Parish Assembly 12:30 p.m.*
Luncheon for dues paying members followed by Annual Meeting.
Sunday School presentation by Nvair Beylerian & Andrea
Carden has been postponed to a future date.
- 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.
Women's Guild Meeting, 7:15 p.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
- 16 Sr. Citizens, 10 a.m.
- 17 Deacon Training 5:30 p.m.
Armenian Language School, 6 p.m.
Armenian Chorale of RI 7 p.m.
- 18 Lenten Service 7 p.m.
- 20 Jr. Choir, 6 p.m., Nazeli Dance Group 6:30 p.m.
- 21 Arts Education, 10 a.m.
- 22 Bake Sale to benefit the Sunday School Lenten Drive
- 23 Sr. Citizens, 10 a.m.
- 24 Deacon Training Class 5:30 p.m.
NO Armenian School
Parish Council, 7 p.m.
Armenian Chorale of RI 7 p.m.
- 25 Lenten Service, 7 p.m.
- 27 Jr. Choir, 6 p.m., Nazeli Dance Group, 6:30 p.m.
- 28 Arts Education 10 a.m.
- 29 ACYOA Palm Sunday Dinner after services

APRIL

- 2 Holy & Great Thursday
- 3 Holy & Great Friday
- 4 Holy and Great Saturday
- 5 Easter Sunday

Services & Times to be announced