

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



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Parish Council Members on duty today:
Gary Taraian and Jason Martiesian

**FEAST OF THE DORMITION AND ASSUMPTION OF THE
HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

Schedule of Sunday Services

Morning Service (*Keesheraheen & Aravodyan Jham*) 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy (*Soorp Badarak*) 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, August 16 2015

Վերափոխում

Scripture Readings

Hebrews 6:18-7:7; John 15:1-8

Creed: Armenian

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 քաղցր է Տէր:

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

Note from the pastor:

I am very pleased and proud to announce that our own Samuel DeBlois, son of Chuck and Araxie DeBlois, has been accepted as a student of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary. Sam will begin his theological and armenological studies at St. Nersess and St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary toward a Master of Divinity in September. We ask the Lord of the Church to bless him and his family as he devotes his love, and his talent toward his service in the Armenian Church. Please pray for Sam and for his family and remember him as a child of this church wherever and however God chooses to call him to serve. My love and blessings to our hard working Picnic Committee and all the volunteers who made this wonderful weekend possible. Thank you to all for supporting our church and for your efforts. Please have a wonderful time and Pari Akhorjhay. On a personal note, I want to thank the very many faithful and wonderful parishioners for their gifts, cards and good wishes during my recent illness. Your love and prayers were indeed invaluable in my convalescence. May God bless you. In Christ
Der Shnork Souin

The Blessing of Grapes | Khaghogh Orhnek

On the day of the Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God, the blessing of grapes takes place immediately after the Divine

Liturgy. The ceremony is rich in symbolism and emphasizes the important role the Virgin Mary assumed in the revelation of God. The custom of blessing grapes, the first fruits of the harvest, can be traced back to Old Testament times, when farming was a common vocation. Of the vast variety of produce, grapes had a special place of honor and were considered the "first fruits" because they were the first produce of harvest. Among the Israelites, as among many neighboring cultures, grapes were regarded as belonging in a special way to God since they were the first fruits. It was He who gave the gift of the whole harvest and to offer Him the first fruits was to acknowledge complete dependence on Him. Special services of thanksgiving were conducted by priests in the temple, a tradition that prevailed to the time of Christ. With the birth of Jesus, these dedications took on a new meaning. Jesus Christ was the first born—or the first fruit—of Mary and, as such, was offered to God in the temple. (Luke 2:25-30) Armenian Church doctrine teaches that Mary has a primary place of honor because it was of her and by the Holy Spirit that God became incarnate (took human flesh). She is seen as the image of humanity fully obedient to God and ultimately sanctified by doing God's will. Therefore, on the feast remembering her dormition (falling asleep in Christ) and Assumption (ascending to heaven), we celebrate the blessing of grapes. Christ gave His blood to us for eternal life, and in remembrance we bless the grapes, the fruits of the earth. It is traditional to use seedless grapes to emphasize that this fruit came into being without seed, just as Christ became man without any human agent. Asdvadzadzin, the "Mother of God" and the "Bearer of God"—a position doctrinally established at the Ecumenical Council of Ephesus in the 5th century. Her life of holiness and purity, and her graceful acceptance of the role to which God called her, as the mother of Jesus Christ, all make Mary one of the pre-eminent exemplars of the Christian faith, whose birth and very conception are occasions for celebration in the church.

Only those aspects of St. Mary's life which are directly related to Christ are recorded in the Gospel. The remainder of her biography is attributed to tradition, which is found in ancient ecclesiastical literature. In all likelihood, Mary was born in Bethlehem or Nazareth, some 20 years before Christ's nativity. Her parents, Joachim and Anna, were a devout couple whose earnest prayers for a child were answered with the birth of a daughter.

Although Mary was born naturally, she is considered morally pure and immaculate. It is for this reason that the church celebrates not only her birth, but also her conception, which the Armenian and the Greek Orthodox churches observe on December 9, and the Roman Catholic Church celebrates on December 8.

The concept of Mary's moral purity later developed into the question of her Immaculate Conception (from Anna), a doctrine adopted by the Roman Catholic Church in 1854. The Armenian Church, however, does

not accept this, as only Christ was immaculately conceived.

However, Mary's purity is unquestioned. According to the teachings of the Armenian Church, at the time of the Annunciation, when the Holy Spirit entered Mary, she was cleansed of all original sin, as she was to be the vessel in which God manifest was to be incarnated.

According to tradition, following the Ascension of Christ, Mary lived out the rest of her days in Jerusalem, cared for by St. John the Evangelist. She died in Jerusalem some 15 years after Christ's Ascension and was buried in her family tomb in Gethsemane.

After she passed away, all the apostles – save Bartholomew who was absent at that time – conducted her funeral with great ceremony at a cave-like tomb in the Garden of Gethsemane. Later, St. Bartholomew returned and wished to see Mary one last time.

He convinced the apostles to open the tomb, but they could not find her body inside. Angels' voices were heard for three days and nights. The apostles interpreted the angels' singing as a sign that our Lord had assumed, or taken up, his mother into heaven as he had promised her.

They found the empty tomb a confirmation of that promise for she had not been dead, but had fallen asleep. For this reason, the church refers to the end of Mary's earthly life as "the dormition" rather than "death."

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



Response when Kissing the Cross (during the procession):

The faithful says:

Յիշեալիք եւ զիս առաջի անմահ գառիկն 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 գառիկն 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 լայտնեցաւ:

Krees-dos ee mech mer hayd-ne-tsav.

(Christ is revealed in our midst.)

The receiver says:

Օրհնեալ է լայտնութիւնն 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:

Յիշեցէ՛ 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:

Տացէ՛ 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.

CHRIST OUR GOD

You crown your saints with triumph and you do the will of all who fear you, looking after your creatures with love and kindness. Hear us from your holy and heavenly realm by the intercession of the Holy Mother of God and by the prayers of all your saints, especially the holy martyrs who gave their lives during the Armenian Genocide for faith and for the homeland, whom we commemorate today. Hear us Lord, and show us your mercy. Forgive, redeem and pardon our sins. Make us worthy thankfully to glorify you with the Father and with the Holy Spirit. Now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

DONATIONS OF GRAPES

Anonymous
Agnes Killabian
Rose Masoian
Steven and Dorothy Masoian

In memory of:

Boghos and Sivart Boghosian
Antranig Gurdjian
Andre and Sadie Martiesian
& Andrea

Dirahayr Aram Mouradjian
Elizabeth and Saahag Katcherian
Mary Bezigian Zamanigian

In honor of:

The Holy Trinity
Hratchia and Siranoush Nersessian
Mary Serabian

Special thanks to Whole Foods - University Heights



Donated by:

Mr. & Mrs. Hagop Boghosian
Adrienne Annette & Ardemis
Margie, Terrie, Dorothy, Philip

Diramayr Irene Mouradjian
Lucy Muradian
Mary Ann Zamanigian

Boghos Guleserrian
Ilda Nersessian
Dr. Beverly Serabian



Welcome and Sunday Fellowship

Welcome Visitors! Please join us for our annual Picnic today in our church courtyard. We have delicious homemade Armenian Foods, Live Music, Vendors, Pastries and fun activities!

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 Abp Mesrob Mutafyan, Patriarch of Constantinople

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>

Today's altar flowers are donated by Susan Kingsley and Anne Mooradian giving thanks to our Benevolent Lord for the safe keeping of His beloved & devoted servant, Der Shnork, and for his continued good health.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prof. Ara Dostourian's *Church History Class* 7-8:30 p.m. in the Church Hall and will meet Mondays on the following dates: Next class meeting on Aug. 10, 17, 24 and 31. Dates in the Fall will be announced. Please join us. Call the church office for further details.

AUGUST 22

This summer - *Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church Community Saturday Worship*. You are invited to join us for Saturday afternoon worship services, 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. (sharp) Note: No fellowship hour, go enjoy your summer evening! Services will be conducted entirely in the English language. Great for families to pray together. Come join us: Saturday, August 22.

SEPTEMBER 5 & 19

The Cultural Committee's *Arts Educational Program*: Registration for 2015-2016 first semester is Saturday, September 5, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Programs begin on Saturday, September 19, 2015 at 10 a.m. First rehearsal of the Nazeli Dance group will be announced. For information, contact Chairperson,

Janna Guegamian (401-861-3573.) Registration forms available through the office.

SEPTEMBER 25

The Cultural Committee presents a special evening with Mr. Ruben Pashinyan - Journalist, playwright and producer from Armenia on Friday, September 25th at 7:00pm in Hanoian Hall. Film *Armenian Kingdom in Cilicia* followed by a Q&A session. Admission is \$10. Light refreshments will follow.

NOTICES

WISH LIST - The church is in desperate need of three new wireless microphones for the Egavian Hall. They are valued at \$500 each. Any contributions (in whole or in part) will be greatly appreciated. Please call the office or speak to any member of the Parish Council if you have any questions or would like to make a donation.

PRAYER BOX - There is now a new *prayer box* which replaces the "Gold Box" in the chancel. The new box is located on the table at the entrance of the Sanctuary on the elevator side. The prayer box is donated by Michele Kazarian in loving memory of her father, Michael Halberian.

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, glass of water available for the blessing.

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.

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). **Next date for helping at the Mary House meal kitchen:** to be announced.

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).

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.

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

CHURCH LIBRARY - Anyone needing assistance to donate or take out books from the Church Library should call the church office at 272-7712.

Note: A parishioner has a recommended book of historical fiction by author, Aline Ohanesian, entitled "Orhan's Inheritance". It entails events from the 20th century amongst the Armenians, Kurds and Turks and an unforgettable love story that will surely inspire you. It has been acclaimed by Chris Bohjalian, author of the "Sandcastle Girls," and is available at local libraries or book stores.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

- 17 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
Church History Class, 7 p.m.
- 19 CEAB Sunday School Meeting, 6-9:30 Hanoian Hall
- 22 Saturday Evening ENGLISH Language Service 5-6 p.m.
- 24 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
Church History Class, 7 p.m.
- 31 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
Church History Class, 7 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Arts Education Registrations 10-11 a.m. (Egavian)
- 13 **Exaltation of the Holy Cross & Blessing of Basil**
Sunday School Opening Day - Registration -
Welcome Back BBQ Picnic
- 19 Arts Education Classes begin, 10 a.m. (1st semester)
- 25 Cultural Committee Film, "Armenian Kingdom in Cilicia"
7pm, Hanoian Hall
- 27 Let's Learn Armenian Songs! Nvair Beylerian
and Andrea Carden - Nvair and Andrea will spend the morning with the Sunday School teaching music and then follow up with a short presentation in the Egavian Hall! Do not miss this!!!!!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Registration and First Day is
Sunday September 13th
Feast of the Holy Cross
Followed by a Welcome Back Family Picnic for
the Whole Parish





Pilgrimage to **JERUSALEM**

Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church

Armenian Christmas in the Holy Land

Our 1st Parish Pilgrimage to Jerusalem

Led by Fr. Shnork Souin, Pastor

January 13-23, 2016

Includes visits to:

Armenian Patriarchate/ St. James' Monastery, Old City/ Tomb of Christ,
Bethlehem, Sea of Galilee, Jordan River, Dead Sea

Trip Includes:

Round-trip airfare from Boston; Full transportation and transfers in Israel as specified in itinerary; Breakfast and Dinner daily; 4* Hotel accommodation (Double occupancy); Entrance fee to all sightseeing destinations; Tour Guide (English).

Cost per person (based on double occupancy): \$2,800

Space is limited. A minimum of 20 participants is required.

For more information, contact:

SIMATOURS@gmail.com

(610)359-7521

SIMA Armenia
Revealed
tours

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