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Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church
The Lighthouse

The Rev. Fr. Shnork Souin, Pastor

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Parish Council Members on Duty Today:

Steve Megrđichian - Ara Boghigian

Schedule of Sunday Services

Matins	9:00 a.m.
Sunrise Service	9:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy (Soorp Badarak)	10:00 a.m.

February 26, 2017

Great Berekendan

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 58:1-14 (Pg. 733) Romans 13:11-14:25 (Pg. 148)

Matthew 6:1-21 (Pg. 4)

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!

Ճաշակեցէք եւ տեսէք զի քաղցր է Տէր:

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

Der Shnork

Living the Legacy of the Holy Martyrs

The Fruits of the Spirit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

Today's theme: ~ **GOODNESS** ~



Pastor's Points of Light

Goodness is virtue and holiness in action. It results in a life characterized by deeds motivated by righteousness and a desire to be a blessing. It's a moral characteristic of a Spirit-filled person. The Greek word translated "goodness," agathosune, is defined as "uprightness of heart and life." Agathosune is goodness for the benefit of others, not goodness simply for the sake of being virtuous.

Someone with agathosune will selflessly act on behalf of others. Confronting someone about a sin demonstrates goodness. So do giving to the poor, providing for one's children, visiting the sick, volunteer

ing to clean up after a storm, and praying for an enemy. Expressions of goodness are as varied as the Spirit is creative.

Goodness is not a quality we can manufacture on our own. James 1:17 says, "Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights." This certainly includes a life characterized by goodness. In letting the Holy Spirit control us, we are blessed with the fruit of goodness. As others see our good works, they will praise our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

Reprinted from gotquestions.org

Prayerfully,
Fr. Shnork Souin



Poon Paregentan is considered the first Sunday of Lent. Poon means 'real' or 'true.' Since every fasting period begins with a festival day or paregentan, this one is marked as the 'true' one, the most important. This 'day of good living' is often marked with festivities, dancing, and a carnival atmosphere to remind us all the joy and vitality of Paradise and life itself. In some parts of the world, Armenians would indeed wear masks and march in paregentan parades. It also was the day to feast on and finish up all non-Lenten foods such as meat, dairy products, and fish. The sharagan (hymn) of the day sings of our earthly nature made glorious in the 'garden of delight' but also reminds us that even Adam and Eve had to exercise control and, sadly, failed to do so. Great Lent begins in the Armenian Church on Monday, the day after Poon Paregentan.

Department of Christian Education - Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern)



The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Matthew (6:1-21)

"Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven."

"Thus, when you give alms, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

"And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this:

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

“And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Glory to You, O Lord our God!



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.



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:

- **VICTIMS OF THE AZERI AGRESSION IN SUMGAI, AZERBAIJAN.**

- **VARTAN VARTANIAN** (40 Day Memorial - Karasoonk) - requested by his Family.

- **EDWARD SEROPIAN** (One Year Memorial - Dareletz) - requested by Kathy Seropian; Robert & Cynthia Seropian; Rachel Seropian; Robert and Erika Silva; Bertha Scully; Sue and Ann Ayrassian; Gary and Courtney Ayrassian..

- **PAUL KAZARIAN** (Three Year Memorial) - requested in honor of our Ambassador Emeritus (In Memoriam) by the Charles and Agnes Kazarian Eternal Foundation, Washington, DC.

- **SETA (GHAJANIAN) ARNOLD** - requested by the Ghajanian Family.

- **ASHOT UZUNYAN** (Armenia) (4 Year Memorial) - requested by Hasmik Vardanyan and the Gevorkian Family.

...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.

Welcome and Sunday Fellowship

Welcome Visitors! Please 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.

Please keep our Christian brothers and sisters in Artsakh, 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
Daniel Ayriyan, Jr.

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>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

Annual Parish Assembly today following church services at 12:30 p.m. There will be a light lunch provided for all members. Parish Assembly books will be available today to members if you have not already obtained yours. Your attendance and participation in the Annual Assembly is valued and is a tangible sign of your love and stewardship of our Church.

FEBRUARY 27

Senior Citizens - Come join us on Mondays (at 10 a.m. weather permitting, **excluding holidays**). Have fun with your friends & neighbors & enjoy with us "coffee and," cards, tavloo, pinochle, etc.

FEBRUARY 28 & MARCH 4

Armenian School classes are being held on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. and on Saturdays at 10 a.m. Subjects to include language, history, music, religion (culture). Ages 4+ including adults. Contact Mariam Saribekyan (phone 401-714-6327).

MARCH 1

Wednesday evenings of Lent *Bible Studies* begin at 7 p.m. on March 1 - "The Early Church - Her Creeds and Councils" and continue through March on 3/8, 3/15, (NO Bible Study on 3/22* and 3/29), and meets again on April 5. (Note: No session in the event of inclement weather, snow, icy roads or extreme cold. Call the office if in doubt.) *On March 22, Fr. Shnork will be the guest speaker at the Sts. Vartanantz Church Lenten Vespers Service at 7 p.m.

MARCH 3 & 4

The Cultural Committee's *Arts Educational Program* meets on Saturdays at 10 a.m. *Jr. Choir* meets on Fridays at 6 p.m., and *Nazeli Dance Group* on Fridays at 6:30 p.m. Contact Chairperson, Janna Guegamian (401-861-3573.)

MARCH 3

Beginning March 3, *Friday Evenings of Great Lent*, Rest/Peace Services 6:30pm (with Guest Speakers) - Family Night Lenten Fellowship 7:30pm: March 3 (Guest-TBD); March 10 Speaker-Fr. George Economou-Greek Orth. Church (Fasting in the Tradition of the Orthodox Church in the season of Great Lent); March 17 Speaker-Fr. Kapriel Nazarian (Forgiveness); March 24 Speaker-Dn. Gary Alexander; March 31 (Speaker-Fr. Shnork Souin); April 7 (Speaker-Fr. Gomidas Baghsarian).

MARCH 4

"*Music Appreciation Series*" Concert, presented by the Cultural Committee of Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church, Saturday, March 4, 2017 at 7 p.m. Featuring RI's talented performers: Gohar Mangelikian (Mezzo-Soprano); Dalita Getzoyan (Flute); Bethany Rachdouni (Violin); and Raffi Rachdouni (Piano). Donation \$15. Refreshments.

MARCH 5

Join us for a full-course *Lenten Fish Dinner* following church services on Sunday, March 5 at 12:15 p.m. \$15 per person, \$7 kids (chicken tenders). Includes oven-roasted potatoes, glazed carrots; wine, appetizer, salad, dessert and coffee. Seating limited to 100 people. Call the church office to reserve a space (401-272-7712)

MARCH 6

The next *Women's Guild* meeting will be Monday, March 6 at 7:15 p.m. at church. A reminder - we will be having elections. If anyone is interested in any position, please contact Lillibeth at emkooloian@aol.com. All positions are available and everyone is welcome to run.

MARCH 13

A *Focus Group Meeting of the Church Health Team* has been scheduled for **Monday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m.** Please RSVP to Martha Jamgochian (jmartha9@gmail.com, 723-3344) to let her know you would like to participate. Two other dates are scheduled for Monday, March 20 at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 25 at 11 a.m. The purpose of the Church Health Team is to take ideas, prioritize them, and turn them into a workable action plan that becomes part of the parish's strategic planning process and is open to all parishioners. Coffee, tea and snacks will be available. Each session will be approximately one hour.

NOTICES

Save the Date: 19th Annual Armenian Youth Day - Tuesday, April 18th - Egavian Cultural Center

Save the Date ...for the "*Women of Ararat*," a play by Judith Boyajian and directed by Carol Mikaelian Schlink, 2015 Rhode Island "Genocide Educator of the Year," will be performed on Sunday, April 30, 2017 at 3 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Auditorium, 2115 Broad Street, Cranston, RI 02905. Flyers for this event are located

2017 St. Nersess Summer Conferences - 2017 *Summer Conferences at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary* - brochures with complete information for programs and signing up are available in the wall pockets near the church office.

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 2017*. 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, 2017.

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, 2017 to be considered by mailing to Sylvia Long, 67 Pojac Pt. Rd., N. Kingstown, RI 02852, or call her at (401) 884-4343 with any questions concerning the application process.

The *Paul O and Mary Boghossian Memorial Trust Scholarship* is being made available again this year to RI students for study at institutions of higher education beyond the secondary level who demonstrate financial need, academic capability, and potential to contribute to the US and its form of government. Application form is available through the church office (401-272-7712) or available by e-mail. The due date for application is 3/15.

Daughters of Vartan, Aik Otyag #10 is proud to announce a \$1,000 scholarship for a high school senior who is a Rhode Island resident of Armenian descent. Applications and further information are available at the Church Office. Deadline for return of completed application is May 5.

The Aram "Ace" Ohanian Scholarship is a \$250 academic scholarship available to an Armenian track and field athlete from Rhode Island who is a high school senior or attending a college or university. For an application and a list of eligibility requirements you may contact Nathalie Yaghoobian at 353-2488. The deadline to submit a completed application and all documentation is April 1, 2017.

The Genealogy Subcommittee of the Armenian Historical Association of Rhode Island (AHARI) is forming a Genealogy Club. The purpose is to assist members in tracing their ancestors and discovering the daily events that shaped their and, eventually, our lives. We want to come together to help people find information about their ancestors. Share your family's past historical and cultural artifacts thru AHARI and help perpetuate Armenia's glorious past. AHARI is a 501c non-profit organization. The AHARI office is at 245 Waterman St., Suite 204, Providence. (Telephone 401-544-5511) Please contact Margaret Chevian at margo1915@gmail.com or 401-331-3985 if you have questions

PARISH MEMBER DUES - Membership dues are \$175 (\$125 for seniors). Based on a new Diocesan by-law, 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, 2017;** (new members must be received by June 30 to vote at Parish Assembly in February 2018.) 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.

PRAYER BOX - There is a *prayer box* in the chancel located on the table at the entrance of the Sanctuary on the elevator side where you may place your written prayer requests. The prayer box is donated by Michele Kazarian in loving memory of her father, Michael Halberian.

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.** 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 Meal Kitchen dates: 4/10/17, and 6/26/17. Your participation is always welcome.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Announcement: Sunday School students are participating in an outreach project collecting hygiene products. The packages will be given to Mary House as well as to St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Church to distribute as needed. During the month of January, we are requesting hand sanitizers and deodorants. They may be placed in the bin in the Sunday School area. Thank you for your support in our children's outreach efforts.

POOR BOX – Did you know we have poor boxes for donations to 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

- Today* Parish Assembly following the Divine Liturgy
27 Beginning of Lent
Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
Cultural Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.
28 Armenian School, 6 p.m.

MARCH

- 1 Lenten Bible Studies begin at 7 p.m.
3 Lenten Rest/Peace Service 6:30 pm, Family Night Fellowship 7:30
Junior Choir, 6 p.m., Nazeli Dance Group 6:30 p.m.
4 Arts Education, 10 a.m.
Armenian School, 10 a.m.
Music Appreciation Concert, 7 p.m.
5 Lenten Fish Dinner after church at 12:15 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal after services
6 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
7 Armenian School, 6 p.m.
Women's Guild Meeting, 7:15 p.m.
8 Lenten Bible Study 7 p.m.
10 Lenten Rest/Peace Service 6:30 pm, Family Night Fellowship 7:30
Junior Choir, 6 p.m., Nazeli Dance Group 6:30 p.m.
11 Arts Education, 10 a.m.
Armenian School, 10 a.m.
13 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
14 Armenian School, 6 p.m.
15 Lenten Bible Study 7 p.m.
17 Lenten Rest/Peace Service 6:30 pm, Family Night Fellowship 7:30
Junior Choir, 6 p.m., Nazeli Dance Group 6:30 p.m.
19 Bake Sale for the Sunday School Lenten Drive
20 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
21 Armenian School, 6 p.m.
Parish Council 7 p.m.
22 No Bible Study - Fr. Shnork Souin will be guest speaker at
Sts. Vartanantz Church's Lenten Vespers Service at 7 p.m.
24 Lenten Rest/Peace Service 6:30 pm, Family Night Fellowship 7:30
Junior Choir, 6 p.m., Nazeli Dance Group 6:30 p.m.
25 Arts Education 10 a.m.
Armenian School, 10 a.m.
26 2nd Plate Collection for the Sunday School Lenten Drive
27 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.
28 Armenian School, 6 p.m.
29 NO Bible Study
31 Lenten Rest/Peace Service 6:30 pm, Family Night Fellowship 7:30
Junior Choir, 6 p.m., Nazeli Dance Group 6:30 p.m.

APRIL

- 7 Lenten Rest/Peace Service 6:30 pm, Family Night Fellowship 7:30