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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:

Jason Martiesian - John Megrđichian

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Schedule of Sunday Services

Matins

9:00 a.m.

Sunrise Service

9:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy (Soorp Badarak)

10:00 a.m.

March 12, 2017

**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: Armenian

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**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**

**Announcement:** Today, before the beginning of the Divine Liturgy, a drawing will take place to determine who will be the youth Pilgrim to the Holy Land.

The candidate must have been a dues paying member for the year 2016 and have an active ministry in the life of the church.

*We wish Godspeed and great blessings upon our Pilgrim!*

Fr. Shnork Souin

## The Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The story of the Prodigal Son is one not only of repentance but of faith. Conversion is dependent on both repentance and faith which together effects regeneration and with it the new life in Christ. Repentance alone is insufficient as it comprehends not the presence and the energy of the Holy Spirit to effect a life oriented and pleasing to God. Aversion to sin must be accompanied with a desire to turn from sin and to seek the Divine Will and the power of the Holy Spirit. "Godly sorrow" (2 Cor. 7:10), is not mere regret but a desire for regeneration, flowing from faith.

In essence, the Prodigal Son could not have been redeemed from his lost state by a mere aversion to it, but with a desire for a return to his Father's home and a yearning for his forgiveness. Maybe unexpected, was the generous outpouring of love with which his father greeted him. The scriptures clearly teach that "there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance." (Luke 15:7) The joy in heaven, is expressed by the Father's welcome and the feast prepared for his returning son, who says, "For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate." (Luke 15:24)

Regeneration, is therefore not only forgiveness but a new life and the power of the Holy Spirit in transforming our will, strengthening us in our resolve and our desire to live a life of blessed comfort in the presence of God in whom we "move and have our being." (Acts 17:28)

The Lenten journey, continuing today, leads our souls along a path redeemed by Christ's life and the transforming will of the Holy Spirit.

- Please attend Wednesday evening **Bible Studies** at 7 p.m.
- Also please **attend Friday evening Rest & Peace Services at 6:30 p.m. followed by Family Night Lenten Fellowship at 7:30 p.m.**

Prayerfully,  
Fr. Shnork Souin



### 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!*



**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.

**Holy Communion is not distributed during Lent. For those seeking confession, please speak to the Pastor.**

## 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:*

- **MARY TARAIAN** (40 Day Memorial - Karasoonk) - requested by the Taraian Family.

- **BARSAM, HAIGANOUSH, BEDROS, BOGHOS and ESGOUHE TARAIAN** - requested by the Taraian 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., Rev. Fr. Bedros Kadehjian

***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**

Today's *Coffee Fellowship* is given in loving memory of Mary Taraian by the Taraian Family.

Today our *Sunday School* will meet at Sts. Vartanantz Church for the annual Tri-Church visitation.

**MARCH 13**

*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. **Please note:** A few ladies in our parish have expressed an interest in starting a *knitting/needlework* group to meet on Mondays at 10 a.m. If you or someone you know would like to join please call Margaret Moorachian and let her know of your interest (401-353-9109).

**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. The other date is scheduled for 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.

**MARCH 14 & 18**

*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 15**

Wednesday evenings of Lent *Bible Studies* in March on 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 16

*Lenten Kufita* will be available on Thursday, March 16. **Please place orders** with the church office as soon as possible (401-272-7712), \$18 per dozen, \$9 per 1/2 dozen. They may be picked up after 2 p.m. on 3/16. Also may be picked up on Sunday, March 19 after church.

### MARCH 17 & 18

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 17

*Friday Evenings of Great Lent*, Rest/Peace Services 6:30pm (with Guest Speakers) - Family Night Lenten Fellowship 7:30pm: 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 19

Sunday, March 19, the Sunday School will sponsor a *Bake Sale to benefit Syrian Armenian Relief in Armenia* via FAR after services. Please help support this Diocesan-wide cause. We also welcome any additional monetary donations or baked goods that day. Contact Anna Robinson by Friday, March 17 (serovserd@icloud.com).

### MARCH 26

The Women's Guild cordially invites you to attend a "*Soup and Salad Luncheon*" on Sunday, March 26 after church. All you can eat with a variety of soups. etc., includes coffee and dessert. Mac & Cheese & Hoodsie's for the kids! Donation \$10 Adults, \$6 Children (12 & under). Families, bring your favorite board games, cards or tavloo. Contact Stephanie Masoian (862-6323) or the Church Office (272-7712) for reservations (but not necessary).

## NOTICES

### **PALMS & FLOWERS FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER -**

Donations towards the purchase of palms for Palm Sunday and flowers for Holy Week and Easter would be greatly appreciated. Forms for this are available in the hallway by the church office, or you may your send your donation to the church office (call if you would like to use a credit card). Deadline for palm donations, April 6, and for flower donations, April 13. Donations will be acknowledged in the bulletins on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

**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 in the hallway across from the church office. For further information contact Naomi Thovmasian @401 942-3886, Naomi.Marsh@verizon.net or Dorothy Martiesian @749-0269, dmartiesian@yahoo.com.

The Nazeli Dance Group and Junior Choir will visit the *Armenian Nursing Home*, Jamaica Plain, MA, May 13, 2017 - dedicated to Mothers Day for a friendly afternoon performance.

**Save the Date:** Monday, June 26, 2017 for the Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church Golf Tournament, Cranston Country Club ... details to be announced.

**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.

*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.

**Diocese Now Accepting Scholarship Applications** - Applications for Diocesan scholarships are now available online. The application deadline for the 2017-18 academic year is May 20, 2017. Each year the Diocese awards scholarships to promising youth who are headed to college. The Diocese seeks students who are active in their local parishes and have assumed leadership roles in their communities. To be eligible, applicants must be U.S. citizens enrolled in four-year undergraduate programs. For information, contact Maria Barsoumian at (212) 686-0710. Student Application & Reference Forms available at (<https://armenianchurch.us/scholarships/>)

**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 March, we are requesting Kleenex and toilet paper. They may be placed in the bin in the Sunday School area. Thank you for your support in our children's outreach efforts.

**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** – Poor boxes for donations to the needy are 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**

**Please see insert.**