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Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church



LOOYS



Cheltenham, PA

Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan, Pastor

Fall 2017



Der Hakob with
Rhoda Shapiro, the
artist
who painted our
Altar picture
(see page 2 for
more)

Hours of Worship

- Morning Service: 10:00 AM
- Divine Liturgy: 10:30 AM

Church School

- Language Instruction: 10:15-11:15
- Christian Education: 11:20-12:15



Upcoming Events

Read what's been happening at our
church and be a part of what's
coming up!

Pray **U**ntil **S**omething **H**appens

STEWARDSHIP

The dictionary says that stewardship is a job of supervising or taking care of something such as an organization or property.

In the book of Genesis we read the following, "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it" (Genesis 2:15). This means that everything in this world belongs to God and we are the stewards of His creation. Whatever we have here is like a loan, it belongs to us temporarily because we can't take anything with us when our life here on earth is over. If we keep this thought in our minds, then we will be more careful as to how to use all the gifts with which God has entrusted us.

Very often we talk about our rights here on this earth; but it would be nice to talk also about our responsibilities. As I mentioned above, everything belongs to God; then for this reason we should use His gifts according to His will and desire. We should pay more attention to how we use our time, talent and treasure.

Our time here in this world is limited; we are not going to be here forever. This means that we should do good works now and not wait for another day, week, month or a year. We can use our time just for our pleasure which is very selfish or we can use our time to please our Creator by doing service wherever He needs us.

I believe that every person has God-given talents. If we learn about our talents, that's wonderful; if not, then we should find out about them. Some people can teach, preach, write or paint; others can take care of the sick, and the list can go on and on. The question is - are we going to use our talents only for our good or use them for others too in order to make this world a better and more beautiful place.

Very often we don't want to talk about our treasure (money). That's fine; I understand that this is a very private topic. But it should not hold us back from sharing our treasure with others, or to help those who are in desperate need. Remember - we can't use our treasure in heaven.

Here on earth, we are accountable not only to God, but also to the community, our church, the government and our loved ones. In heaven we will be accountable only to God when we stand before Him, face-to-face.

Dear faithful, my hope and prayer is that each one of us will be trustworthy stewards before God and before the people. I would like to thank all the stewards of Holy Trinity Armenian Church who have been faithful stewards of our church for many years.

Your service is greatly appreciated. May God bless you and keep you in His care.

With prayers,
Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan

More about the Artist

In late September, Fr. Hakob had the pleasure of meeting Rhoda Shapiro, the artist who painted the picture of Jesus and the Blessed Mother, which has adorned our altar all these years. She currently lives in France but was in the area visiting family and hoped that she might find the church open for her to see the picture she painted in the 1960s. At that time, she was asked by then pastor, Fr. Zaven Arzoumanian, to paint the picture which she did to everyone's delight. She expressed her joy at being able to see the picture she painted still in its original place.



STEWARDSHIP

A way of Life

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

By John Hanamirian

Great news. We celebrate Der Hayr's tenth anniversary of ordination this quarter. We will have a wonderful celebration. As we know, he is a man to celebrate. I have been serving with Der Hayr since he came to lead our Church, and his knowledge, warmth, balance of emotion and integrity make serving this Parish so easy.

Good news. We have an Elevator. The project is complete and to date, we have raised near our goal of half of the cost. Thank you to everyone who reached out to raise money and the committee of persons who directed the project. Merle Santerian, Don Paretchan, Mickey Paretchan, Rick Mukalian and Larry D. Der Hagopian. Thank you also to Nick Terkanian and Barb Harmon, who also participated in fundraising efforts through their events.

Good news. Der Hayr arranged for the exterior Church walls to be painted and sealed for a very nominal cost.

Okay news. We raised a lot of money for the Elevator, as we expected, but that took away a good deal of our other fundraising for the year. Everyone is "giving-tired". Understandable, but moving forward, we have to keep going and continue our support for the Church. Our net income may be down from last year as a result, but it is not through lack of effort on the part of the Parishioners.

Good news again. Look at all the children we have running around the Sunday School. We don't have any room left in the classrooms. That is exciting news for the next 50 years of this Church.

Other news. Merle Santerian. I have worked with Merle for nearly 10 years now and I have served as her Treasurer and she as my Vice Chair. Merle is usually amongst a group of grumpy Armenian men in Parish Council and she maintains her conviction throughout. Merle is smart, strong and as caring as a person can be. She devotes her entire being to her family and to the Church. She does not ask of anyone anything that that she would not or does not do for the Parish. I am not saying goodbye to Merle, but I don't know if she means it when she says she might not run again for Parish Council and I wanted to take this time to thank her for me, for my Mom and Uncle, my girls and our Parish, for all the little things and big things she has done over the years. Please thank her. I thank you, Merle.



ABOUT OUR FAMILY

It's been wonderful to have more of our church family members back after the summer and we surely have been busy ever since, as you'll see throughout the pages of this issue.... We begin with a shout-out to **Nancy Hovnanian** who was selected by the staff at the Philadelphia Museum of Art to chair the 80-plus weekday guides – all a volunteer position. They certainly picked the right person for this job as Nancy truly knows her way around the museum, having been a docent for many years now. Congratulations, Nancy, on being “the people’s choice”!...Best wishes to two of our ladies who celebrated milestone birthdays with family and friends in tow: **Cece Garibian** and **Alice Kalustyan**. Both were taken by surprise, and isn't that always the best fun!...A word from Mickey Paretchan who said he would like to thank the many well-wishers who remembered him during his recovery from recent medical issues....Sending our thoughts to those who have been unable to come to church, though they are not forgotten: **Ginny Kouyoumjian**, **Betty Kapeghian**, **Mickey Sherian**, **Penny Hajatian**, **Rose Minassian**, **Helen Mirijanlian** and **Mary Parnagian**. If you are so inclined, drop them a note – they'll surely appreciate it.... Condolences to **Helen Kazigian** & family on the passing of husband and father, **Richard**, who was a life-long member of Holy Trinity....Sympathy is extended to **Adrienne Minassian** whose mother passed at the amazing age of 104....We also remember with fondness the late **Jack Goushian** who passed away recently. He was very much involved with all the legal issues when the Cheltenham church was being built.... Best wishes to our newest bride and groom – **Michael and Jenna Alexanian**. Yergar Dareener.... We are sending peace and comfort prayers to those who have been dealing with medical issues: **Albert Santerian**, **Annabelle Alexanian**, **Christy Barone**, **David Brann**....God continues to bless our parish family with new life and we happily welcome our newest arrivals. **Aiden Anthony Murray** was born to **Michael and Kristin Murray**, joining big brother, **Isaac**. **Me-Mom Berjoohy** is beaming too. We wish you all the best....Welcome to **Kristapor John Alexanian**, first child born to **John and Noushig**. Joining in the celebration are first-time grandparents, **John and Selma Alexanian**, and great-grandparents, **Ohannes and Nezihe Hashas**....Another set of twins has joined our church family. **Taline and Ani Burrows** were eagerly awaited for by parents, **Kyle and Melani** and big brother **Sarkis**. Congrats to their growing family and to grandparents **Doris and Hal Kodikian**....And just before press time, we learned that **Karinne and Krikor Andonian** welcomed their newest addition – **Zaven Garbis** – whose older siblings - **Stepan** and **Lilit** – can't wait to play with him. The happiness overflows to **Nancy and Steve Hovnanian** and **Great-Grandmom, Zev Shakarjian**.... One of these days, winter will really arrive, but until then, enjoy this unseasonably delightful weather. Be safe, enjoy the holidays and make a New Year's Resolution to partake of more of our activities in 2018.

WE SALUTE....

Congratulations to Andrew Movsesian for so many accomplishments! He was selected to attend Boys State by the American Legion this past summer; he received the Ararat Award for Boy Scouts from the Armenian Diocese; and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout from the Boy Scouts of America this past September. His Eagle Scout Project was to install the gazebo on the church grounds that can be used for weddings and other special events. Shown are photos of Boys State recognition and the Eagle Scout announcement in the local newspaper.

COFFEE HOUR COORDINATOR

Merle Santerian is looking for a replacement in her role as Coffee Hour Coordinator OR someone who is willing to share the responsibilities of running this position. It does not require doing the work alone but seeking volunteers who can help on a rotating basis. The rewards of serving your church are innumerable as well as rewarding.


Please contact Merle for more information if interested.



Times Chronicle

Local Scouts achieve rank of Eagle Scout

Oct 18, 2017 [Comments](#)



Submitted photo — Washington District

[f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [p](#) [i](#)

Three local Scouts, Andrew Movsesian, left, Jacob Leon and John Morgan Jr., recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

CHANCEL ENHANCEMENT

Sincere appreciation is extended to Craig Mirijanian who donated an heirloom Oriental rug to our church in loving memory of his parents, Harry and Anita, who passed away within months of each other earlier in the year. This hundred-year-old rug is a wonderful addition to the chancel where it has been placed and will often bring to mind the devoted service of Harry and Anita throughout the years.

FULL COVERAGE OF DER HAKOB'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS PRIESTLY ORDINATION WILL BE COVERED IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

IN DER HAKOB'S (E)MAILBOX

Thank you very much for providing a multitude of opportunities for parishioners to learn more, and understand better, the Armenian church services. I greatly appreciated the Instructed Liturgy. I also want to note the welcoming nature of your church. Although my family has traditionally attended another church, I always feel welcomed at any event at Holy Trinity. To phrase it more correctly, I feel embraced. Thank you for your deep commitment to the church and community and for continuing to foster an inviting atmosphere.



Sincerely,
Tamara Gureghian

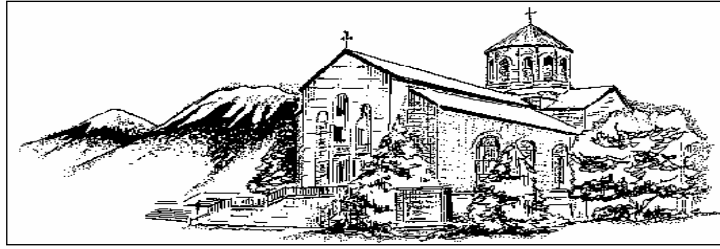
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Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church
Cheltenham, Pennsylvania

Christmas Services 2018



Friday, January 5, 2018

Christmas Eve

7:00 PM Divine Liturgy

Followed by a House Blessing in the Hall

Please bring food to share during the fellowship hour



Saturday, January 6, 2018

Christmas Day

10:30 AM Divine Liturgy



Sunday, January 7, 2018

10:30 AM Divine Liturgy

Followed by Blessing of the Water

Godfather: Matthew Santerian

CHURCH SCHOOL

The Church School here at Holy Trinity is thriving! Our enrollment is at 94 students attending the language and religion classes, with an average of about 55 students attending each week. (We have actually had to turn the Attic Treasures room into a classroom!)

A wonderful tradition here at Holy Trinity is the Church School's community breakfasts for the whole congregation. We held our first one after church on Sunday November 5th. A BIG thank you to Anne Terkanian and her helpers: George Terkanian, Gary and Sue Der Hagopian, Eric and Margo Silk, Vatche Soghomonian, and Marta Brann for all of their hard work! The breakfast they prepared was wonderful.

The Church School receives Holy Communion the first Sunday of the month. Besides receiving communion that Sunday, the students have the opportunity to redeem the tickets they earn throughout the month for participation, good behavior and any other good deed they do that their teacher feels warrants a ticket at the school store. This program has been a great success.

To the parents of our students:

1. Please take the time to be in contact with your child's teacher if your child cannot attend class. Our teachers are very dedicated and take the time to prepare their lessons during their busy week and would love to know how many students are coming each week.
2. If you can donate a snack for the students such as; goldfish crackers, pretzels, small bottled waters, a tub of animal crackers.... That would be greatly appreciated. Just bring your donation to the Church School office. Our students seem to learn better when snacking!
3. Thank you for bringing your children and entrusting them to us for 2 hours every Sunday morning. The relationships they are forming at church will be theirs throughout their lives.

May you all enjoy a Blessed Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year!

Yn. Anna, Patti Ayjian-Smith, and Nancy Hovnanian
Co-Superintendents

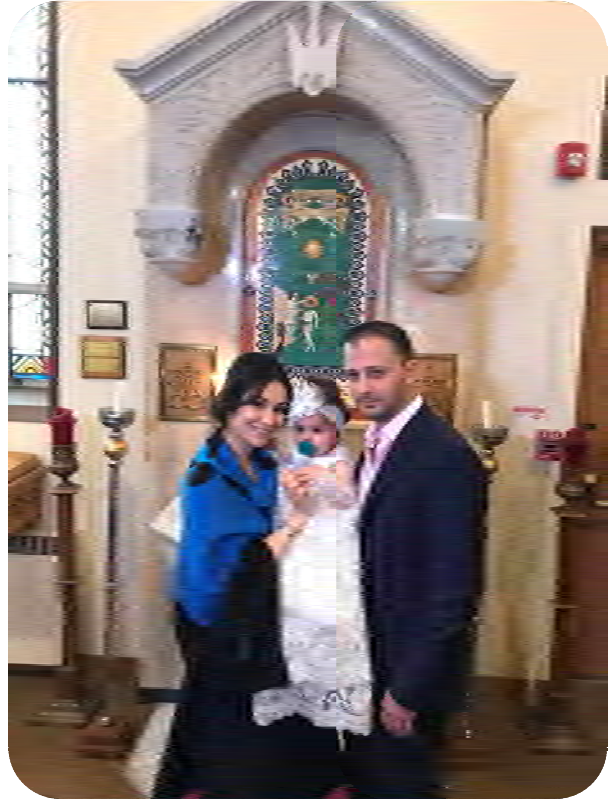


BAPTISMS:

November 5, 2017: **RITA ZOULOIAN (adult)**
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Korun Zouloian
Godfather: Ruslan Nayflesh
Godmother: Natalya Bordan



November 12, 2017: **ARIANNA SHUSHAN ALLAKHVERDOV**
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sergey Allakhverdov
Godfather: Alex Danelyan
Godmother: Jaclyn Ananikyan



*May this holy
occasion bring with it
lots of joy and happy
memories.*

November 19, 2017: **DAVID ANANYAN**
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Aleksandz Ananyan
Godfather: Hovanes Ananikyan
Godmother: Mariam Alaverdyan



WEDDINGS:

June 4, 2017:

JOSEPH FISCHER & ZARUHI ALAYAN



October 14, 2017:

MICHAEL ALEXANIAN & JENNA PAWLOWSKY

Brother of the Cross: John Alexanian

FUNERALS: 2017

RICHARD KAZIGIAN entered into his eternal rest on October 8, 2017. Funeral services were held on October 12, 2017 at St. Sahag and St. Mesrob. The officiating clergy for the service was The Very Rev. Fr. Oshagan Gulgolian.

JACK GOUSHIAN entered into his eternal rest on October 11, 2017. Funeral services were held on October 16, 2017 at Holy Trinity. The officiating clergy for the service was The Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan.

So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your
God. I will strengthen you and help
you; I will uphold you with my
righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

HOLY TRINITY BOOKSTORE- GREAT GIFT IDEAS!



TREASURE CHESS OF ARMENIA BOARD GAME

This game is a new and exciting way to learn about our homeland. Spend quality time with family and friends while discovering interesting facts and figures about some of the most unique sites and destinations in Armenia. A great way to "travel" the homeland! Cost: \$30

HISTORIC ARMENIA AFTER 100 YEARS **by Matthew Karanian**

For the first time since the Armenian Genocide, the cultural wealth of the Armenian nation in Western Armenia is presented in one readable and beautifully illustrated volume. The book's 176 pages are illustrated with 125 color maps and photographs, including antique photos from one century ago. This book will guide you to the history and culture of the ancient Armenian homeland. Cost: \$30



The KHORENIAN BADARAK is an entirely original Divine Liturgy commissioned by the late Catholicos of All Armenians, His Holiness Vasken I, and composed by Khoren Mekanejian in the early 1980s. A masterpiece of sound and devotion, it has been performed all over the world, but no professional recording had been made until now.

The present recording was completed in October 2016, with the participation of the choir of St. Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral in Yerevan, Armenia. The two-disc album comes complete with an informational booklet in an attractive plastic case. Cost: \$25

HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN CHURCH MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

January

Lucy Aghazarian - 1
May Arzoumanian - 1
Joyce Hoyle - 2
Kimberly Der Hagopian - 4
Drew Doudoukjian - 4
Serge Minassian - 4
Andrea Minassian - 5
Mark Santerian - 5
Alec Yeretzian - 5
Laura Temoyan - 6
Nicole Santerian - 7
Berj Yeretzian, Sr - 7
Stepan Andonian - 8
Alexander Arzoumanian - 8
Naomi Mukalian - 8
Diane Williams - 8
Lori Sarkisian - 9
Lucine King - 10
Rose Carlucci - 13
Fred Jordan - 13
Sona Nalbandian - 13
Arax Gargan - 16
Victoria Gureghian - 16
Larry Grocott - 17
Amy Terkanian - 17
Maria Danielyan - 17
Dylan Santerian - 18
Halle Santerian - 18
Ella Hanamirian - 22
Nareg Kaprielian - 22
Albert Keshgegian - 22
Gavin Pica - 22
John Williams - 22
Daniel Aslanian - 23
Betty Hovsepian - 24
Hagop Arzoumanian - 25
Sophia Carnevale - 26
Martin Gutchigian - 28
Gay Hagopian - 29
John Hanamirian - 30
Pauline Dedeian - 31

February

Rev Fr Hakob Gevorgyan - 2
Aren Torcomian - 2
Frederick Jordan, Jr - 3
Rimma Rafiyeva - 3
Dariko Danielyan - 3
Anna Hanamirian - 4
Michael Santerian - 4
Alik Oflazian - 5
Kyle Burrows - 6
Eileen Carr - 6
Michael Hajatian, Jr - 6
Melanie Minassian - 7
Gregory Yazujian - 7
Ashley Radell - 8
Van Injaian - 9
Mickey Sherian - 9
Michael Hajatian - 10
Franklin Vartanian - 10
Patil Boghosian - 11
Benjamin Koengetter - 11
Mark Kalenian - 14
Ricky Mukalian - 14
Ayshe Chakmaklian - 15
Vartan Gevorgyan - 15
Pearl Jamgochian - 17
Wilson Theobald - 17
Gale Zorian - 17
John Bandaian - 18
Gloria Basmajian - 18
Timothy Gargan - 18
Manoug Hovhannesian - 18
Alexander Balint - 20
Janice Kapeghian King - 20
Edward Tatoian - 20
Brenda Yazujian - 21
George Arslanian - 22
Jonathon Tancredi - 22
Diran Alexanian - 23
Russ Tandourjian - 23
Michael Yazujian - 23
Tamara Brod - 25
Shooshig Oflazian - 27
Doretta Aslanian - 28

March

Doris Alahverde - 1
Michael Damerjian - 1
Paul Movsesian - 1
Peter Ohnigian - 1
Toros Torcomian - 1
Deran Maloumian - 2
Miles Hanamirian - 3
Barbara Papazian - 3
Gary DerHagopian, Jr - 5
Gary Ppazian, Jr - 6
John Kash - 6
Casey Baldadian - 7
Michael Tookmanian - 7
Braxton Pica - 10
Robin Bilazarian - 11
Florence Boyajian - 12
Francesca Torcomian - 12
Kevin Kalustyan - 13
Jaclyn King - 13
Nishan Boyajian - 14
Scott King - 14
Robert Damerjian - 15
Benjamin Asadoorian - 17
Mikenzie Juskalian - 20
Nancy Hovnanian - 21
Ara Arzoumanian - 22
Michael Juskalian - 22
Virginia Kouyoumjian - 22
Melody Damerjian - 23
Michael Santerian - 23
Robert Damerjian, Sr - 24
Michael Paretchan, Jr. - 24
Terri Sadjian-Mears - 25
Brenda Jilajian - 26
Mary Yeretzian - 26
Skye Jilajian - 27
Mariett Kalenian - 29

MEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

January

Peter & Rosaleen Oskanian	1/6/2001
Richard & Rose Carlucci	1/10/1954
Michael & Tanya Paretchan	1/15/1972
Tom & Barbara Harmon	1/21/2006
Diran & Andrea Alexanian	1/29/2000
Gary & Susan DerHagopian	1/31/1981

February

Alex & Annabelle Alexanian	2/4/????
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Weddings and Events.... Beyond Beautiful!!

After visiting so many florists, it was a relief to find someone who could work with my ideas and just make them that much better. Thank you for helping me make my special day so beautiful and elegant."

- Bea C. April 2009



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PRESENT ABSENCE: A JOURNEY TO HISTORIC ARMENIA

The Rev. Dr. Flora A. Keshgegian

Two years ago, I went on a journey to historic Armenia in Eastern Turkey, to towns and areas from which my family and other Armenians had been forced out: Kars and Ani, Van, Diyarbakir, Kharpert, Malatya and Arapgir, my family's hometown. The title of this presentation, "Present Absence" is what I experienced in so many of the places I visited. Armenians are present but absent, which is to say that whatever presence there was in those places witnessed to that absence. There are very few Armenians left in eastern Anatolia, very few in historic Armenian lands. And much of what can be claimed as Armenian is in ruins. Even efforts at rebuilding and restoration speak to the absence. The beautiful restored church on the island of Aghtamar stands virtually empty except for the tourists that come to see it. Soorp Giragos, the church which was restored in Diyarbakir with hopes of a renaissance for Armenians there, did not have a priest or congregation to speak of when I was there and now is again in ruins, due to bombings and destruction by the Turkish government in its assault on the Kurdish people.

Earlier in my life, I did not believe I would ever go to Arapgir, my parents' hometown. It was wonderful to be there, but it was also difficult and frustrating. I was moved to see how beautiful the countryside there was and to see sites, such as wool washed and spread out to dry, that were reminiscent of scenes from my childhood. Yet landmarks such as churches are gone and those living in Arapgir now have little knowledge of the past. Although a few Armenians own property there, there are no Armenians, to speak of, who live there. So much is lost. So much is unknown.

For me this journey was about making my past, the past of my family and my people more real, more concrete. So much that I saw moved and filled my heart, at the same time that my heart was broken for all that has been and continues to be lost.



UPDATE ON SAVING THE TOMB

On Sunday, September 17, Holy Trinity Armenian Church held a “Saving the Tomb” event during Coffee Hour educating the more than 100 participants on the Tomb of Christ in the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem and the significant restoration that took place last year. As one of the three guardians of this most religious site in Christianity (shared with the Greeks and Franciscans), the Armenians were among those financially responsible for the costs of exploration and renovation.

Dn. Garo Garibian began the program by asking everyone in attendance to “become a pilgrim” and envision being in Jerusalem throughout the talk. He led his presentation with a brief history of the Armenian presence in Jerusalem and continued with a detailed explanation and many pictures of the Holy Sepulchre and Tomb of Christ. Dn. Garo emphasized the importance of the Tomb: without the empty grave where Jesus was resurrected, there would be no Christianity.

A video was shared, prepared by our Diocese, that showed footage of the Tomb’s restoration and physical evidence that the location is, in fact, where Jesus was buried and resurrected. Two members of Holy Trinity who had the opportunity to take pilgrimages to Jerusalem, Nadia Soghomonian and Gabrielle Meranshian, shared their personal reflections.

“When I first visited the Holy Sepulchre, I was overcome with humility as an Armenian that we, as such a small population of people, have guardianship over one of the holiest places in Christianity,” Nadia said. “To see tourists and pilgrims of all faiths and walks of life bow down and worship at the Tomb, with Armenian priests and deacons at their posts, was surreal.”

Gabrielle recalled, “being able to walk the same paths of Christ was the most amazing experience I could imagine.”

As the program concluded, parishioners were encouraged to make contributions towards the costs of renovations for which the Armenian Church remains responsible.

The massive steel girders from 1947



Renovated Tomb 2016



Armenian Services at the Tomb of Christ



ADDRESS CHANGES AND/OR ADDITIONS

Russ and Maggie Tandourjian
1920 Frontage Road Apt 307
Cherry Hill NJ 08034

Berdj and Alice Kalustyan
2220 Hailey Drive
Marlton NJ 08053

Araxie Radynsky
54 Curley Mill Road
Chalfont PA 18914

Arpena Hajatian
301 Norristown Road Suite D 202
Ambler PA 19002

Vartan and Elize Mazmanian
4408 Merchant Square Place
Lansdale PA 19446
267-222-8646

Helen Mirjaniyan
2990 Holme Avenue Rm 440A
Philadelphia PA 19136

Mary & Berj Yeretizian
121 Andorra Glen Court
Lafayette Hills PA 19444

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 5	Armenian Christmas Eve
Jan 6	Armenian Christmas
Jan 7	Blessing of Waters
Jan 14	Day of Remembrance
Jan 17	Young Adult Bible Study
Jan 27-28	ACYOA Jrs. Lock-in
Feb 4	Poon Paregentan
Feb 16, 23	Lenten Programs
Feb 24	ACYOA Jrs. Retreat
Feb 25	St. Nersess Program
Mar 2, 9, 26, 23	Lenten Programs
Mar 25	Palm Sunday Banquet
Mar 29	Washing of Feet & Passion Service
Mar 30	Burial Service
Mar 31	Easter Eve
Apr 1	Easter Sunday



GOOD DEADDS

For the fourth consecutive year, Ani Gooshian has served as a volunteer teacher in Armenia at an after-school youth center. In her words, "it is a humbling experience and rejuvenating one as well." Bravo, Ani!



Thank you to Der Hayr, the Parish Council, our Delegates and Diocesan Council and the other Church organizations, for allowing me to continue in the role of Parish Council Chair. Each person below gives their time and effort tirelessly and entirely without fanfare.

Unsung Heroes

Every Altar server
Every Angel in the Choir
Every Church School Administrator, Teacher or Assistant
Every Men's Club and Women's Guild member
Every ACYOA member and leader

Parish Council

Merle Santerian
Gary Berberian
Barbara Harmon
Gregory Javardian
Elizabeth Barone
Anton Balasanyan
Larry D. Der Hagopian
Garó Garibian
Mickey Paretchan
Nicklas Terkanian

Diocesan Council and Delegates

Antranig Garibian
Nancy Basmajian
Anne Terkanian

SHARING STORIES OF GROWING UP ARMENIAN

On a recent balmy October evening, an intergenerational group of thirty men and women came together at Holy Trinity to talk about the blessings and challenges of growing up as children and grandchildren of Armenian immigrants in the Diaspora.

Along with our pastor, Fr. Hakob and facilitators, Lucy Aghazarian, Suzanne Sherinian and Anita Hovsepien, the first hour of the evening opened with an examination of the issues related to straddling two cultures, one at home, and one outside. What are the benefits and the disadvantages? What constitutes integration, assimilation, and what does it mean to be “odar?” There were many more questions, but no easy answers.

Each of the facilitators then turned to the works of several renowned Armenian writers who have written eloquently about their childhood growing up in two cultures. Included were William Saroyan, Peter Balakian, Eric Boghossian, as well as Gregory Djanikian, professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania, and Iran-born poet Golia Der Hovannisian.

The second hour was devoted entirely to the participants who shared their personal experiences. The lively evening ended with rave reviews and a comment from Fr. Hakob who captured the spirit of the program when he said: “It was very gratifying to hear people share their stories and adventures about being Armenian. Having grown up in Armenia, and not the Diaspora, I was amazed to learn how universal some of our experiences were.”



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“...For when two of them meet anywhere in the world, see if they will not create a New Armenia.”

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HOLY TRINITY OUTREACH

During the month of November, the faithful of Holy Trinity Armenian Church decided to put their faith into action by participating in two service opportunities sponsored by the parish's adult Christian education ministry. Both efforts, coordinated by Jeanette Der Hagopian, a member of the lay ministry team, focused on outreach to those in need.

Along with their pastor, Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan, who was among the first to don an apron, twenty individuals, including seniors, Sunday school students and ACYOA members came together on Saturday morning, November 11 to prepare nearly 200 meals for "Aid for Friends." The local charity is committed to alleviating the hunger and loneliness of isolated home-bound individuals living in the greater Philadelphia region. The organization delivers the meals to shut-ins--mostly seniors—who could not otherwise remain in their homes without the support provided by Aid for Friends. Begun at Holy Trinity in 2005, the "cooks" have provided over 5,800 meals since inception and it's rare when someone declines to help. When Fr. Yeprem Kelegian, the Diocesan FAR Parish Coordinator, read about the project, he immediately sent a note to Fr. Hakob saying, "I liked your last e-communication regarding feeding the hungry. The work of the Church is to heal and aid ALL those around us...our neighbors. Nice job!"



Brian Hoyle, who along with his wife Joyce, were among the volunteers, commented afterwards, "I can't think of a more satisfying way to spend a Saturday morning; this is how we express our faith. Even though the trip to church takes us nearly an hour, we'd love to do this again!"

The other service opportunity was Operation Christmas Child, which is under the umbrella of Samaritan's Purse, headed by Franklin Graham. Individuals prepare shoeboxes filled with toys, school supplies, personal items and small gifts which are distributed to children in need in over 100 countries overseas, including Armenia. This is the 13th year that the parish has supported this project and over all these years has filled over 900 shoeboxes to date. It's amazing to imagine that Samaritan's Purse has collected and delivered over 146 million shoeboxes since they began this outreach in 1993.

According to Jeanette Der Hagopian, "these two efforts for outreach touch my heart when we realize how they impact so many of God's people – particularly the young and the elderly -- who live in the most meager of ways, especially when we recognize how blessed our local Armenian communities are with our abundance. It's high on my personal priority list of church work!"



FAITH THROUGH NATURE

Organized by the Adult Christian Education team at Holy Trinity, a group of thirteen enthusiastic parishioners, including Fr. Hakob, toured the Philadelphia Museum of Art to explore nature's revelation in religious art, guided by Rev. John Hougen of the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia. The group saw paintings and sculptures from major world religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism. In each religion, images of the natural world, such as animals and plants, have been used to reveal qualities of the divine and convey important religious teachings. Examples include a salamander carved into a column from a medieval Christian monastery; the ability of salamanders to regenerate body parts reminds us that Christ's resurrection offers eternal life after death. A Jewish sculpture from World

War II depicts Nazi cruelty as a vulture. The arabesque, intertwined, never-ending, vines and flowers in Islamic art point to the unity of faith and infinite nature of God. All the members of the group agreed that they left with a greater understanding of other religions and religious symbols from nature depicted in art.



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FAMILY IN TAVUSH IN DIRE NEED

We have learned about the Klekchyan Family who live in devastating circumstances in a converted barn along with animals in the town of Tavush in Northeast Armenia, bordered by Georgia and Azerbaijan. The family consists of two parents and two young children, one of whom has already undergone heart surgery. To further confirm what we had learned, we asked Garnik Nanagulian, the Executive Director of FAR (Fund for Armenia Relief) to check on this family in order to verify their disastrous circumstances. He confirmed our information and further informed us that a real home could be purchased for them at a cost of \$5,000. Imagine what little we would have to give up in order to help this unimaginably needy family. In this season of giving, we are seeking fifty compassionate people who would each contribute \$100 to help this family. Or perhaps two persons together would contribute that. *"And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'"* (Matt 25:40). For any questions, please contact Der Hakob. Checks can be made to Holy Trinity Armenian Church - Memo line: Tavush Family.



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ALBERT KESHGEGIAN BOOK RECEPTION

On October 1, the Parish Council of Holy Trinity hosted a book reception for the latest book written by our own Dn. Albert Keshgegian: "Communicate in Holiness: Reflections on the Divine Liturgy."

In his presentation, Albert explained that the Divine Liturgy is the most important service we have in the church yet many people do not understand it and are, therefore, unable to fully participate. He wrote the book with the hope of providing another resource that would help parishioners better understand and personally experience the Badarak and then try to relate it to modern life. He further pointed out the significance of the Eucharistic Prayer that takes place during the Liturgy, said by the priest, both audibly and quietly.

Most people know that in his personal life, Albert Keshgegian, who is retired from a career in medicine, has an impressive educational and professional background: he holds both an MD and PhD. He is a recipient of the St. Vartan Award and has been serving at the Holy Trinity altar for more than fifty years, the last ten of them as Senior Deacon where he mentors young men serving at the altar. He is also known throughout the Diocese as the author of several books, including three books of meditations for use during Lent as well as a book about the Saints in our Church.



We share here some wonderful comments about this new book which might encourage you to pick up your own copy.

From a parishioner at St. Mark's Armenian Church: "I can't begin to tell how much I'm enjoying Albert's bookit fills my soul as I read...am now learning what is actually happening during the Liturgy...it has opened the doors for me and provided such meaning.

And from Fr. Vart Gyozyan, Armenian Church at Hye Point:

"...this book is indeed a valuable communicative asset that can help others....will use this book in the future in teaching out parishioners the lessons within..."

For those interested in becoming more familiar and participatory with the Divine Liturgy, Albert's book can be purchased at our Holy Trinity Bookstore for \$10.



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PASTORAL INITIATIVES FOCUS ON THE DIVINE LITURGY

“As the shepherd of this community, I want my flock to understand the Divine Liturgy so that their worship experience is meaningful and enriching. That is my role as pastor. My role as priest is to celebrate this sacred act that feeds my flock and draws them closer to God.” So commented Fr. Hakob upon reflection on two recent adult education programs initiated by him and his adult education ministry team.

The Instructed Liturgy was presented on Sunday, October 1; a repeat of the 2013 event, it inspired many faithful to arrive early in order to benefit from the instruction. Assisted by our senior deacon, Albert Keshgegian, Choir Director Jeanette Der Hagopian and two of our finest young people—Ashod Balasanyan and Ani Peckjian—the Liturgy was interrupted in progress for commentary on the meaning and symbolism of the various elements and actions of the Badarak.



A month later, on November 5, a “Simultaneous Translation” was offered. The experiment—conducted for the first time in a Diocesan parish—called for Fr. Hakob’s prayers and blessings, including a few of his silent prayers, to be simultaneously translated into English. “I wanted our faithful to hear these sacred words of worship in what is, for most of our people, their own language. I was gratified by the response,” said Fr. Hakob.

In recent years, our parish has sponsored a host of educational programming focused on the Divine Liturgy; in each instance, Fr. Hakob has worked in close collaboration with senior deacon, Albert Keshgegian whose knowledge and experience have proven invaluable to our parish’s educational mission. All these programs have been received with enthusiasm by our parishioners.



OCTOBER CULTURAL CELEBRATION

The Intercommunal Event during October was hosted by our church on October 15, 2017 with almost two hundred people in attendance. Before the program began, prayers were offered for Fr. Thomas Garabedian, pastor of St. Mark's Armenian Catholic Church, whose untimely death was felt deeply not only by his clergy brothers, but by many in the local community. Sevag Bakalian read a heartfelt letter from his parents, Badveli Nishan and Maria, who now serve as missionaries in Beirut, about the passing of Father Thomas.



The Areni Choir from New York performed for an appreciative audience that filled the hall. This choir was established in 2013 to preserve, promote and perform Armenian music for a wide range of audiences. The group has also performed in New York City and Washington, D.C. The 22-voice group, with director, Arminé Verdanyan, performed different types of choral music composed by traditionally recognized, as well as modern, artists. A member, originally from Artsakh, displayed her sophisticated piano skills as she accompanied the chorus in Four Seasons by Mansuryan. A trumpeter mesmerized all with the clarity of his instrument as he played Babajanyan's Serenade. During the closing numbers, the men of the choir, dressed in fatigues, sang patriotic songs of Armenia and Artsakh.

The free-will offering was earmarked for the Armenian Wounded Heroes Fund which provides first aid supplies for the wounded soldiers on the front lines in Armenia and Artsakh.

The Ladies of Holy Trinity prepared an extensive reception which everyone enjoyed after the program.



*At all times and in all circumstances,
God should be a first thought, not an after-thought.*

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2017 HARVEST BAZAAR HAS A RECORD YEAR!

This year's Harvest Bazaar proved to be one of the most successful in years, bringing in a profit of over \$27,000 to help our "Elevator Fund." The weather cooperated most of the weekend, which allowed great crowds. There was something for everyone: Gift & Silent Auctions, a fully-stocked Country Store, the "anything-and-everything" Attic Treasures, Bake Shoppe, fine artwork, and a few new vendors. Once again the Meghry Dance troupe did a wonderful job, sending us the younger dancers who performed on Friday night. Saturday was a nice relaxing evening for people to enjoy the great food. On Sunday afternoon our children entertained us with a delightful Halloween Parade.

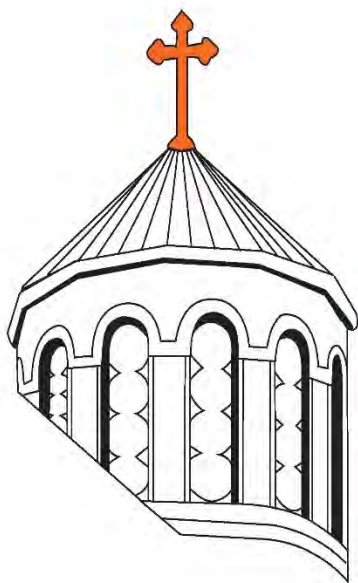
This year's event was chaired by Barbara Harmon, but it takes a lot of fabulous volunteers to put it all together. Robbie Barone and Larry D. Der Hagopian headed up the kebab crew. Attic Treasures had a successful year yet again with the help of: Ayshe Chakmakian, Liz Barone and Pauline Chapjian with an assist from Adrienne Movsesian, Joyce Killian and Grace Meranshian. The Silent and Gift Auctions were headed up by Linda Boornazian and kudos to her on a Banner year! She brought in just about \$5k! Thank you Linda!!! Anne Terkanian and crew had a record year at the Bake Shoppe, Lorraine Damerjian and Jeanette Der Hagopian headed up the country store with Maria Javardian as their "intern in training." Merle Santerian and Yn. Anna took care of the décor and Tom Harmon with Shant Kapeghian and Vince Iosca (our 50/50 winner) took care of the bar. Big Thanks to Merle for staffing our Buffet, and to Margo Silk for staffing the cashiers. This year our cashiers were using our "brand new " ipads" which helped make everything so simple and allowed us to accept credit cards.

We can't forget the kitchen ladies: Vicki Gureghian, Patty Alexanian, Alyssa Worrell, Maral Torossian Davis, Angel Tookmanian (pilaf), Heather Kapeghian, Lisa Beberian, and Janice and Jaclyn King. And we can't forget the women who helped in preparation ahead of time: Nancy Hovnanian once again headed up the "Souboreg" crew; and Anne Terkanian headed up the Yalanchi crew. Our food was nearly sold out, with thank yous to Gay Hagopian who made the Vosp, the Imam Bayaldi prepared by Anne Terkanian, the Eetch prepared by Jeanette Der Hagopian (with an assist by Larry the elder!), and the Muhamarra prepared by our own Yn Anna. It was all delicious! And thanks to the many more who helped in preparing the various boregs, tourshi, eetch, luleh kebabs and the ladies who cleaned all that parsley!

Congratulations to our Raffle winners: Jan Mirijanian took home \$250, Erika Torosian took home \$500, and Shant Kapeghian won the big money of \$1000.

We especially thank all those who supported in any way: with donations, with service and with your attendance. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!





2017 Harvest Bazaar

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Rev. Fr. Hakob and Yn. Anna Gevorgyan
Albert Kapeghian in memory of Naomi Kapeghian & Cholakian Families
Ronald A. Kashkashian in memory of Arsen & Katherine Kashkashian
Kim and Gena Willard in honor of our parents, Larry & Jeanette Der Hagopian

GOLD

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Norair Hartunian & Miriam Hartunian

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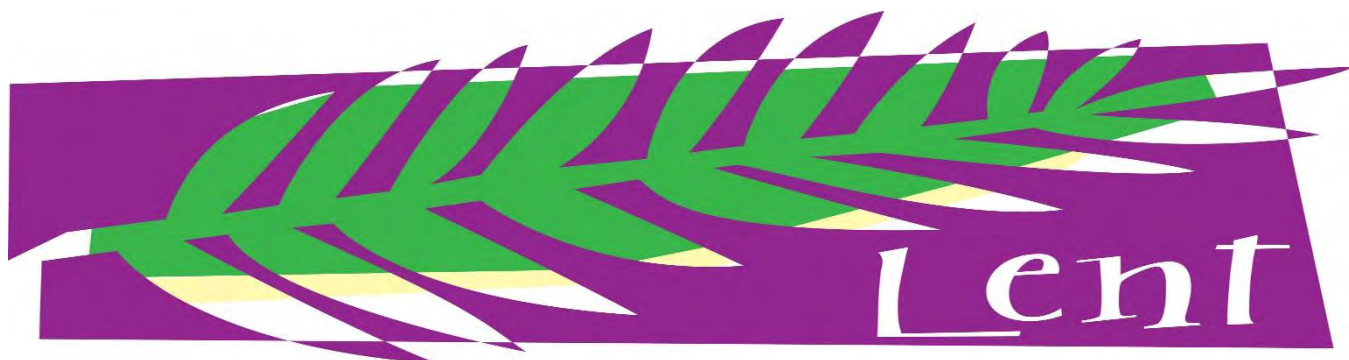
Holy Trinity Armenian Church

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Thank you for your support!





2018 Friday Night Lenten Series

LIVING YOUR FAITH

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| February 16 | "A Lenten State of Mind"
Leslie Movsesian, Adult Christian Education |
| February 23 | "Understanding the Creed, Our Confession of Faith"
Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian, Dean, St. Nersess Seminary |
| March 2 | "The Holy Badarak: What They Never Taught You"
V. Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, Director
Zohrab Information Center, New York City |
| March 9 | "The Three Levels of Spirituality of St. Nersess Shnorhali"
V. Rev. Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan, Director of Ministries
Diocese of the Armenian Church, New York City |
| March 16 | "There and Back Again: My Pilgrimage to Jerusalem"
Ani Peckjian, 2017 Holy Land Youth Pilgrimage |
| March 23 | Holy Jeopardy |

6:30 – Worship 7:00 – Dinner 7:45 – Program
Free-will offering for all programs/meals

- Interested in hosting a dinner? Contact Anne Terkanian at takitoo@yahoo.com •

Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cheltenham, PA
Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan, Pastor
www.holytrinity-pa.org



A REFLECTION - THE FIRST MAN

By Deacon Albert Keshgegian

(Editor's note: This article is being reprinted to include two pictures which relate to the text and were accidentally omitted in the last issue. The larger picture clearly shows God's direct connection with humankind.)

Last summer Patrice and I had the opportunity to go on a Mediterranean cruise. Before going on the ship, we spent a few days in Rome and, along with other sightseeing, took a tour of the Vatican museum, Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter's Basilica. The sights and crowds were both impressive. Among all the great art in the Vatican two pieces stood out in my mind. One is a large statue of our own St. Gregory the Illuminator, who is regarded as a saint in the Roman Catholic Church as well as ours, standing in a prominent place in the courtyard between St. Peter's and the Sistine Chapel. The other is the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, completely covered by scenes from the Bible, painted by Michelangelo in the early 16th century, and considered one of the greatest masterpieces in the history of art. The centerpiece of the ceiling design is a depiction of the Creation of Adam.

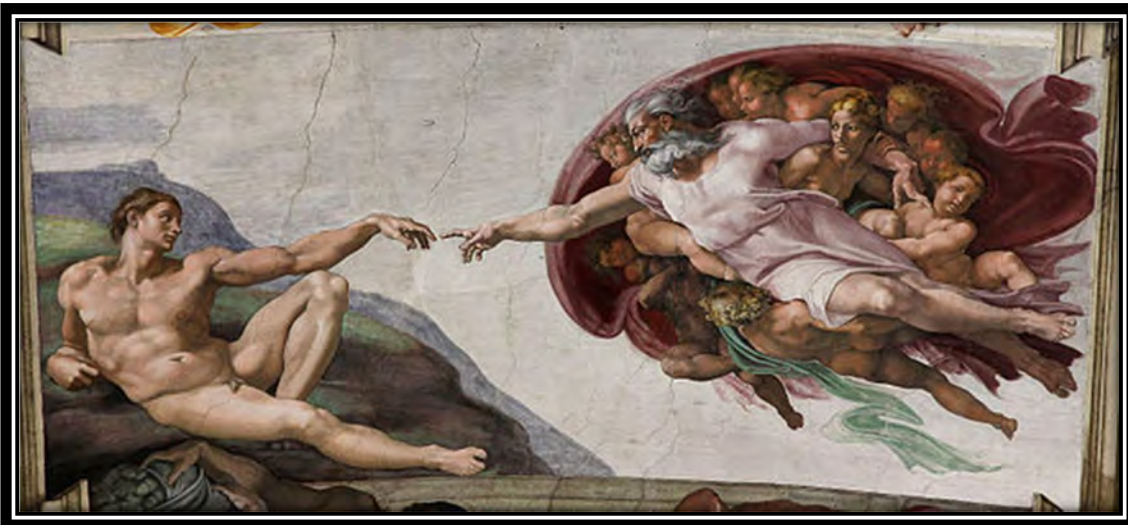
The book of Genesis tells us that God created Adam in his own image (1:26-27) and "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life" (2:7). Michelangelo had a different vision and interpretation.

The fresco depicts Adam in the lower left, reclining languidly and looking very passive, perhaps not yet quite alive. Adam is looking at God and extending his hand out to God, but also in a listless manner, with his forefinger bent down.

God looks very different. He is at the fresco's upper right, surrounded by angels, looking deliberate and purposeful, forefinger stretched straight, not quite yet touching Adam's finger, with all the power and majesty that belong to God alone. God is about to impart the energy of life to Adam. You can almost see and feel the energy, like a spark of electricity, which will flow in a moment between God and man, giving life to the first human being.

God reached out to Adam at the beginning, and he has reached out to humanity countless times throughout the years since. He rescued the Israelites from bondage in Egypt. He inspired the prophets to warn the Jews that they were not following him and were falling into sin. He sent his only Son to suffer and die for our sins. He inspired the saints to do great works or sacrifice their lives for him.

And God continues to reach out to each and every one of us. He loved Adam, to create him in his image and give him life.



And that greatest power and energy in the universe loves each of us so very much. He wants us to live in his energy, protected in his power, secure in his love. Adam responded to God by reaching out back to him, albeit hesitantly, as best as he could. We need to respond, too, and accept the love and many other gifts that God offers us.

Contact Information



Holy Trinity Armenian Church
101 Ashmead Road, Cheltenham, PA 19012
www.holytrinity-pa.org

Items for inclusion in the Sunday Messenger or requests for Requiem Services or Special Prayers should be sent to the church office by Wednesday for the upcoming Sunday. For all emergencies, please contact Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan at the church 215-663-1600 (cell 917-213-8658).

CHURCH INFORMATION

Office Telephone: 215-663-1600
Pastor: Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan
frhakob@holytrinity-pa.org
Church Secretary: Maggie Miller
office@holytrinity-pa.org

REGULAR SUNDAY HOURS OF WORSHIP

Morning Service: 10:00 AM
Divine Liturgy (Soorp Badarak): 10:30 AM
Church School: 10:15 AM

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The mission of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church is to preach the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ and to proclaim its message of salvation. This mission is realized through worship, education, witness, service, and a common life in Christ as expressed in the distinctive faith-experience of the Armenian people. All the faithful of the Armenian Church — both clergy and laity — are called to participate fully in this mission.

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