

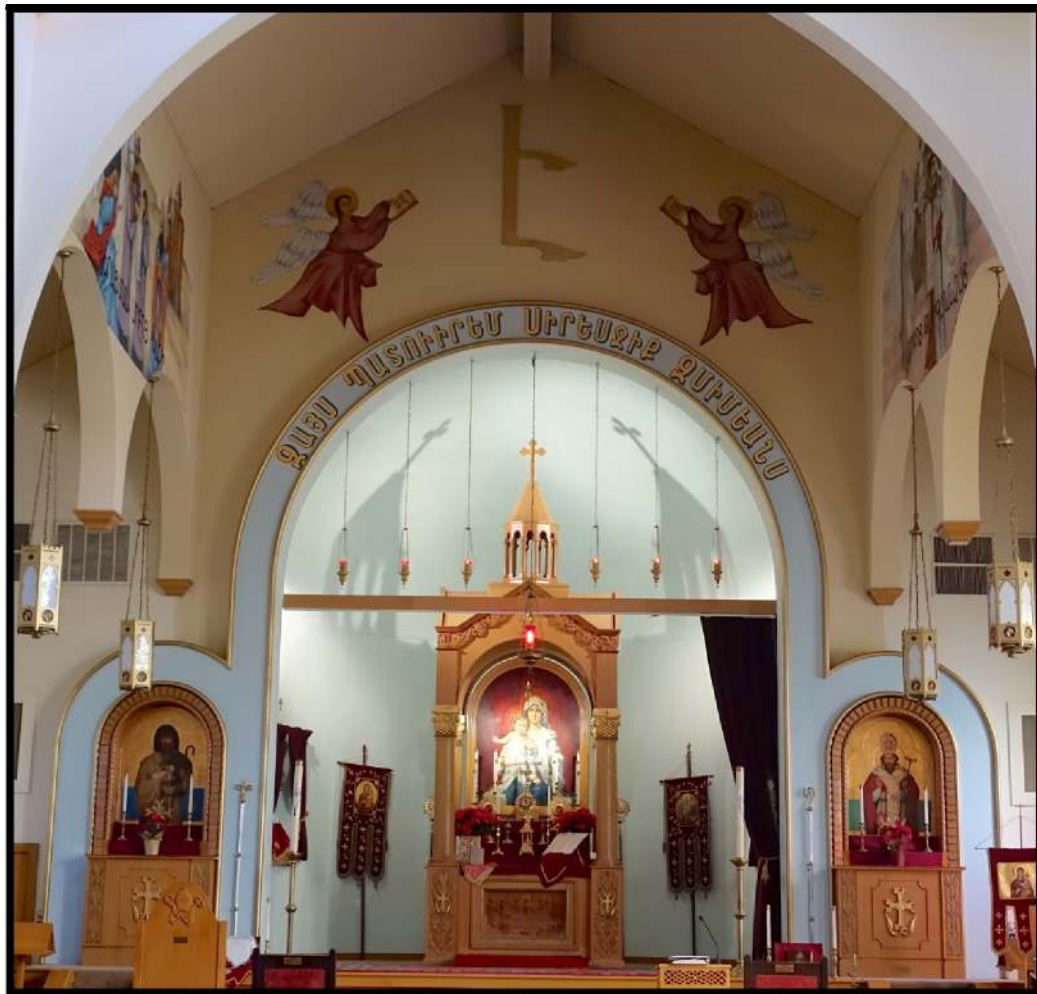
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Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church LOOYS



Cheltenham, PA

January to March 2016



The newly installed 'Eh' (Է) over the top of our altar, thanks to the inspiration and donation of Harry Andonian, in memory of his beloved wife, Alice.
(see complete story inside)

Hours of Worship

- Morning Service: 10:00 AM
- Divine Liturgy: 10:30 AM
- Sunday Church School: 10:15 AM

*Come celebrate with
Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan*



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

Finding Time for God

In our busy world we find time for everything, but when it comes to finding time for God, then we have very little time.

God, who is our Creator, spent some time to create this world and everything in it and then He created man and gave him opportunity to enjoy all His blessings. Our everyday life depends on God and we exist because of His mercy and grace. Even though many people know about this reality, still they are very busy and have more important works to do than to spend time with their Creator.

This world teaches us that we should worry only about our current and physical life. Some people think that this world is real because we can see it, and it's hard to believe that there is another world, our heavenly world, and an eternal life after death. We only learn that there is an eternal life, but we have never seen it. If this is an issue, then the Gospel has a good answer for us: "Blessed are those who don't see and yet believe" (John 20:29).



We don't have time for God because people work very hard to earn their daily bread or to secure their prosperous future. Our daily bread and our future are important, but there is something more important, which is our eternal future and our personal relationship with God. Here the Gospel reminds us about the rich fool, "Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you prepared, whose will they be?'" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God" (Luke 12:18-21).

Our problem is to have a clear picture about our time. When people talk about their plans, we get the impression that we are going to be here on this earth forever. But reality tells us that we can live here a maximum of one hundred years or less. It means that we have to make our plans accordingly. However, the Church fathers have a better idea for us - that

we should live our everyday life as if we are living our last day here on earth. Sometimes when people realize that death is close at hand, they turn to God, confess their sins, call on God for forgiveness and ask Him to accept their souls in His eternal dwellings.

This is a good idea and better than nothing, but we are taking a chance because we don't know when He is going to call us home. It would be better if we could know the Lord earlier in life and be assured of our eternal life. Here our life is short but the eternal life is forever.

We have a free will and choice to make, which is to spend all our time only for this fleeting and transient life, or to spend one part of our precious time with our Lord who is going to determine our eternal future.

Dear Parishioners, we should consider God as our closest friend and spending time with Him should become our favorite hobby.

Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan



Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

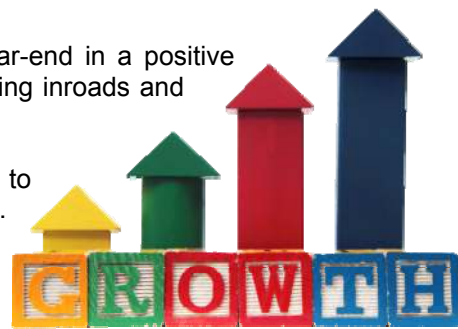
James 4:8

Parish Council Report

John Hanamirian, Chair

The winter has been very positive for the Parish. We closed out our Parish year-end in a positive financial position and our Stewardship contributions have increased. We are making inroads and we are taking more and more ownership of our Church.

Our Parish Assembly was well-attended and we elected some very new members to the Parish Council, including one member from our "newcomers" meeting. Wonderful news. We have some different voices with some potentially different perspectives and a broader representation of the population of our Parish on its governing board. That makes a great deal of sense.



I may or may not be Chairman after this issue, so I wanted to take a minute and thank all of the members of our Parish Council for their efforts, often unheralded and often unseen. Most of our volunteers do not like attention and they merely want to give their time and that is how they choose to serve God and this Parish. Humble servants. Really, though, Greg, Rick, Barb, Don, Garo, Merle, Jeanette, Larry, Garen and Brian.... Thank you for all of the help and support you provide and provided over the past year. Your experience and guidance are invaluable and your efforts make it possible for someone who is otherwise working full-time to maintain a leadership role on the Parish Council. That is something that matters and or does not matter, dependent upon how we want to make up our Council and what message we want to send to the Parish. If we are going to attract different and, perhaps, younger people to the Parish Council, they have to believe they can commit the time necessary to do the job effectively. Without the full support of the Members of the Council, I could not have done the work of the Chairman. Thank you again for allowing me to serve in this role.



Volunteering and spirit: I see people working everywhere, on the Altar, in the Narthex, in the Church School classrooms, in the kitchen, in the bookstore, in the lobby and in the Church office. As I look around the Parish, I notice the families, the individuals and the spirit. People are genuinely happy to be a part of this community - people of all ages. People are volunteering their time and people are coming to Church for Church, yes, but also for different events and they are bringing their children and they are bringing their friends. All of that means that this community has a leader and, for us, that leader is the greatest example of a humble servant.

During the years in which I have volunteered for the Parish, we have had years of a different leader each week, no leader or a visiting leader, but nobody as special as this leader - Der Hakob. I know he does not want this attention, but I have to say how much it means to me and how much I think he affects this community through his intellect, gentle demeanor, leadership by example and, as with all great leaders, his presence. Thank you, Der Hayr, for what you teach me, and all of us, without words.

About Our Family

In mid-January, when we had a snowstorm bad enough to close church, we thought we'd never see the end of a dreary cold winter, but **Punxsutawney Phil** has promised an early spring and he could just be right about that!Heartfelt prayers are being offered on behalf of our beloved **Yeghishe Srpazan**, who is resting at the Emerson Armenian Rehabilitation Center. His mind is sharp and he looks forward to visiting us. Please keep him in your prayers.... Congratulations to **Alyce Jilajian** who celebrated her 95th birthday during coffee hour on the last Sunday of the year – still going strong and making it to church!.....Our deepest sympathy to **John Terzian** on the passing of his lovely wife, Yolanda, after a long illness. Many will remember Yolanda's active years with the Women's Guild and even a visit to her fashion boutique. It's so good to see John back in church regularly...It was a Christmas Day arrival for **Arpeeneh and Patrick Griffin** who welcomed their first child, **Alexander Hatam**. They are among the newest members of our church family and we are happy to watch them grow!....Sincere condolences to **Rick and Naomi Mukalian** and their family on the passing of father, **Richard**, who was a great friend to many in our community.... One of our most senior members, **Berj Yeretzian**, celebrated his 92nd birthday at a local restaurant that he and Mary patronize, where the owner hosted a small surprise celebration for him with the locals and included an unexpected gift. Ask Berj about it when you see him!! ... Our church shares the deep sorrow of **Donna Sarkisian and Jon & Lori Sarkisian** on the untimely passing of brother, **Gregory**, and then one month later, their loving father, **Harry Sarkisian**, who succumbed to a brief illness. Harry was a very active member and true steward of our church for many, many years. His loss is felt by many....In the



Robin Barone reading to the children from her newly published children's book, **"Where is Robin ? USA"**



midst of sorrow, God is ever-present and with that, the **Sarkisian Family** welcomed "good news" – the arrival of **Benjamin Avedis**, born to parents **Jon and Kristine (Der Hagopian) Koengetter**, making **Donna** a second-time grandmother. **Benjamin** joins big brother **Cole**. Watch out – double trouble!!....We send warm wishes for the return of good health to **Anita Mirijanian, Patty Alexanian, Haig Hagopian, Harry Andonian and Ernie Peacock**. There may be others about whom we don't know – keep them all in your prayers..... Wedding bells rang far away in California for **Michael and Ani Hajatian**, who were married during a fun-filled weekend of elegant events. Atchkerneet Looys also to **Mike and Lynn Hajatian**, whose youngest and last child of four is now married!!....Congratulations to **Harry Mirijanian**, who had the honor of closing our Altar curtain this year as we entered the solemn season of Lent - well-deserved!.... We send a shout-out to **Phil Magee** of Blake Florist on the birth of his first grandchild, **Grace Taline**. Though Phil is not Armenian, he has been surrounded by Armenians since his youth and his lifelong affiliation with **John Hoplamazian**, of blessed memory. Phil is a great friend to our parish, helping us always with our floral needs and more.... Welcome to recent new members **Linda and Richard Boornazian**, who have immersed themselves into our parish life. We love seeing **Richard** at our Holy Altar, having served previously at St. Sahag's in Wynnewood and St. Mary's in Washington D.C.; and **Linda** is now teaching in our Church School as well as sharing her decorating talents in so many areas. They are a wonderful example of stewardship and we are lucky to have them as a part of our church family..... Heartfelt sympathy to **Mary Sona Brod** and her family on the loss of her beloved uncle, **Kosrof Pakhtigian**. Though he was a member of St. Sahag & Mesrob, he often sang with our choir whenever he visited our church and was highly respected.....Kudos to **Robin Barone**, who has written and published her first book for children called "Where is Robin? USA." This book is the first in a series that is dedicated to teaching children about the world through adventure travel books. Way to go, Robin!!!....**As we close, we wish you a glorious Easter surrounded by loved ones as you make new memories.**

An Adornment Above Our Altar

Our Holy Altar has been graced with the addition of the letter 'Eh' - one of the many names of God Who told Moses that His name is 'I am', or technically 'Is', or 'He Who Is'. Thus, God is a being Who just IS, and it is only the eternal God who can call Himself by this name. In Armenian, it is the letter/word 'Eh' (Է) that serves as the name for 'I am' or 'He is', and just as Moses realized the 'Eh' (Է) to be dwelling in the burning bush, so too does the Armenian Church realize that God (Eh) dwells at the church altar. This enhancement was made possible through a generous gift from Mr. Harry Andonian in memory of his beloved wife, Alice.



However, none of this would have been possible without the artists who designed and completed the sculpted piece of artwork. We thank Armen Yepoyan and Hildret Boghosian for the many hours they spent creating this inspirational piece to further beautify our altar.

Finally, the 'Eh' was finished but how would it find its home? As usual, the first (and only) call went to our faithful George Terkanian who is always ready to do whatever he can to repair, renovate, refurbish or install wherever necessary. Just imagine the heights to which he went to reach the arch above our altar!

In closing, we are indebted to these fine people who, each in their own way, are all stewards, and we – the parish – sincerely thank every one of them.

Honoring Those Who Serve

Ani Gooshian chose the wonderful occasion of Armenian Christmas to honor our Choir and Altar Servers for the service they faithfully provide as they participate in our Badarak every week, year in and year out. On this occasion she hosted a bountiful Coffee Hour in memory of her beloved husband, Ronald, and then went on to express how moved she is when she worships at Holy Etchmiadzin in the midst of beautiful professional voices. Fast forward to the present, she added that while sitting in the pews at Holy Trinity, she has often felt transported back to times at Etchmiadzin listening to the heavenly sounds of our own choir and deacons who serve with devotion and fervor. Der Hakob commented about how often he hears positive comments from those who are not members of our church and said he didn't feel that he was biased, but that Holy Trinity indeed is fortunate to have such committed and devoted servers. Thank you, Ani, for such a lovely acknowledgment.



Godfather Harout Nalbandian on Armenian Christmas, with Der Hakob and members of the Nalbandian Family

Home Blessing



One of the holy traditions of the Armenian Church is the Home Blessing Service which, according to St. Gregory of Datev, was established by Our Savior Jesus Christ, when after His Resurrection He entered the upper room and blessed the disciples. "When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'" (John. 20:19)

Through the Home Blessing Service, the house of the faithful becomes a small church and the priest prays to God and asks Him to keep the home, its inhabitants, and the children in good health, so that they live a devout life, glorify the name of Almighty God and heighten the Holy Church. It is especially meaningful for children in a home to witness this service and create a memory that will remain with them throughout their years.

We invite you to partake of this centuries-old tradition and schedule a time when Der Hakob can visit with your entire family and conduct this service. You will be happy you did!

Be a Coffee Hour Sponsor!!!

COFFEE
FELLOWSHIP

Join us!



Each Sunday the Parish Council sponsors a "Free Will Offering" Coffee Hour open to all. On some Sundays, parishioners volunteer (in advance) to sponsor the Coffee Hour in memory/honor of a loved one, following a forty-day or one-year period of a person's passing, an anniversary or birthday, or simply out of generosity. There are many ways to be a sponsor. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Merle Santerian, our Coffee Hour Coordinator, at merle712@aol.com, 215-947-3777 (home) or 215-205-1507 (cell).



SUMMER FAITH DISCUSSIONS:

Coming to a home near YOU . . .

For those who have been unable to participate in our Adult Christian Education programming because of work conflicts or distance, this is for YOU—one evening only. Three families have graciously volunteered to host a faith discussion group in their home. Here are the dates and locations:

- July 13: Larry and Jeanette Der Hagopian, Warminster, PA
- July 20: Albert and Patrice Keshgegian, Newtown Square, PA
- July 27: Brian and Joyce Hoyle, Medford, NJ

All programs will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30. **Details to follow.**
To register, contact Nancy Basmajian at nancybasmajian@verizon.net or 215-722-3369.

Camperships Available

Any youth of Holy Trinity Armenian Church who wishes to apply for a scholarship to any of the youth programs of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) may contact the church office at 215-663-1600 to inquire and receive an Application and Criteria for Scholarship Award information. Among the programs available are St. Vartan Camp, Armenia Service Program, St. Nersess Summer Conference Programs, etc. Applications and Criteria information are available from the church office and must be presented at least one month prior to the program.





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Asbet and Nayiri Balanian
1222 Disston Street
Philadelphia, PA 19111
215-342-5260

Anna Polizzi
1630 Upland Avenue
Jenkintown PA 19046
215-886-6607

Vaughn and Patty Alexanian
5 Golf View Drive
Voorhees NJ 08043
856-429-0408

Roxie Radnysky
2809 47th Street South
Gulfport, FL 33711

Jan Mirijanian
105 Willet Way West
Deptford NJ 08086
856-848-1504

St. Nersess Summer Conferences

St. Nersess Armenian Seminary has announced its schedule of 2016 Summer Conferences for high school and post-high school students. For the first time, the conferences will be held at the new St. Nersess campus in Armonk, NY.

- Deacons' Training Program: June 25-July 3
(Directed by Fr. Daniel Findikyan)
- High School Summer Conference A: July 15-24
(Directed by Fr. Ghevond Ajamian)
- High School Summer Conference B: July 29- August 7
(Directed by Fr. Shnork Souin)
- Post-High School Summer Conference: August 9-13
(Directed by Fr. Samuel Rith-Najarian)

Visit the St. Nersess Seminary website @ www.stnersess.edu to read more and for application information.

We welcome the following new dues-paying members to our church family:

Patrick Griffin Esq. & Arpeeneh Griffin
Anna T. Polizzi
Asbet Balanian
Vaughn and Patty Alexanian
Jan Mirijanian



From the Mailbox

Dear Der Hakob,

We wanted to tell you how very impressed we are with the new Church website. The marvelous photos and videos instantly captured our attention! We also found the site to be clear and rendering concise information.

This website, undoubtedly, is a creative work of art! Thank you for all of the effort put forth in this meaningful endeavor. The site is a pleasure to view, while enabling us to learn more about Holy Trinity and its happenings.

*Warmest regards,
Marge and Ray Ayoub*

Dear Fr. Hakob,

Thank you very much for your prayers and visiting me {Jacob} at the Health Care Center last summer. With God's help and prayers, I was encouraged, faithful and strengthened to recovery; physical therapy has helped me, improving slowly and steadily.....Our family has been faced with so much hardship in 2015, we pray to God and put it into His hands. Thank you for all you do for us. I know God is blessing you and your family

Jacob and Nina Okoorian

Dear Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan,

Words cannot express how thankful we are that you came to visit Arpen Agasar during the last hours of her life. She was not an overly religious person but definitely prayed often. Mom led a very Christian life and was a very good person. She would tell us stories about how her father (Joseph Alahverde) would make his 8 children kneel for hours to say their prayers. Aunt Doris' offer to call you was one of the best gifts Mom received during this stage of her life. It was so comforting for us all that you were able to give her an Armenian final blessing. Father, you saying the Lord's Prayer with her in Armenian and her joining in with you is something we will cherish forever.

Arpen was very, very proud of her Armenian heritage. She has passed that down to her children and grandchildren. When her grandchildren are asked what nationality they are, their first response is Armenian (2/8ths). That is a testament to what their Nee Nee meant to them and to us all.

*Thanks so much again,
God Bless You,
Jim, Mary Jane, Ron and Betty Agasar*

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OOPS.... How Did That Happen???

We humbly apologize to the Araxes Band for neglecting to mention the marvelous contribution they made to our Harvest Bazaar with their lively music which enhanced the evening and created new memories. You made the night!

Funerals

for they cannot even die anymore, because they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

Luke 20:36

2015

YOLANDA TERZIAN entered into her eternal rest on December 7, 2015. Funeral services were held on December 12, 2015 at Murray-Paradee Funeral Home. The officiating clergy for the service was The Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan.

GREGORY SARKISIAN entered into his eternal rest on December 27, 2015. Funeral services were held on December 30, 2015 at Holy Trinity. The officiating clergy for the service was The Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan.

2016

FRANK AGHAZARMIAN entered into his eternal rest on December 28, 2015. Funeral services were held on January 8, 2016 at Holy Trinity. The officiating clergy for the service was The Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan.

HARRY SARKISIAN entered into his eternal rest on January 26, 2016. Funeral services were held on January 31, 2016 at Holy Trinity. The officiating clergy for the service was The Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan.



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- Bea C. April 2009



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Sts. Nooneh and Maneh

On May 31 the Armenian Church commemorates Sts. Nooneh and Maneh. The following is a reflection by Dn. Albert Keshgegian:

Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like a blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned. Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Part of the epic story about the conversion of Armenia to Christianity involves a group of thirty-some nuns, of which St. Gayaneh was the leader and which included St. Hripsimeh. When St. Hripsimeh refused the advances of King Drtad, he had the group of nuns killed, an event that drove him mad and set the stage for his cure by St. Gregory the Enlightener and the subsequent conversion of the king and country.



Two of the nuns managed to escape – Sts. Nooneh and Maneh. Nooneh is said to have hidden behind some bushes when the men arrived to martyr the nuns. She saw her companions' souls rising up to heaven and received a command from God to go north. She traveled to Georgia, where she began to preach and heal and converted that country to Christianity. Maneh likewise escaped martyrdom; she had left prior to the arrival of King Drtad's executioners. She had a vision and retired to a life of prayer, meditation, and solitude on Mt. Sebouh.

Sts. Nooneh and Maneh both loved and were totally devoted to God and his Church; they made it their entire life. They gave up conventional marriage and family life and in a real sense were married to God. The Song of Solomon from the Old Testament (one of the readings for this day) speaks of the strength of love. Love is as strong as death—it cannot be destroyed. It is like a blazing fire or mighty flame that even rivers of water cannot quench or wash away. Love is priceless; there is no amount of wealth that can purchase it. Instead, love is free, a gift from God.

The Song of Solomon describes the love between a man and a woman, but may also reflect the marriage metaphors that have been used to describe Christ's relationship with his Church and with us. Hosea (2:16-20) wrote of God as husband. Jesus spoke of himself as the bridegroom (Matthew 9:15). St. Paul compared the relationship of Christ and the Church to a husband and wife, stating that "Christ loved the Church and gave himself for her to make her holy" (Ephesians 5:25-26). He also said of Christ's followers, "I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him" (2 Cor. 11:2). Revelation (21:2) includes in the Second Coming of Christ "the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband". The Song of Solomon can thus be interpreted as the love of Christ for his bride which is the Church, or even as the intimate experiencing of God's love in the believer's soul.

Sts. Nooneh and Maneh deeply felt Christ's love and committed themselves to serving him as their bridegroom and husband. We can feel that love for Christ, too. And that same love from God guides our own relationships, which should reflect the love of God for all of us. God's love for us includes a commitment to support and sustain us; we should make that same commitment toward our spouses. God's love includes steadfast devotion to wanting our happiness, just as we ought to be devoted to the happiness of our mate. God's love includes abiding faithfulness, as should our marital relationship.

Our modern society has trivialized marriage and sex. Sex has become an indoor sport, with the winner being the one with the most partners, rather than the deepest expression of love between two committed people. The marriage ceremony is sometimes a grand carnival, celebrated in outrageous costumes and settings (even while sky-diving!) rather than the solemn acceptance of grace in a sacramental encounter with the divine. And if the marriage develops difficulties (excepting those unions that truly need to be dissolved), it's easy enough to get a quick divorce and start all over, as one-half of couples do, rather than working together to solve problems. As Christians, husbands and wives need to appreciate the sanctity of marital love and honor God with their love for each other.

GARIBIAN

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Garibian Law Offices, P.C. represents clients throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Delaware. The firm offers experienced legal service and representation uniquely tailored to the specific needs of each client.

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It is a special privilege to have been raised in the Philadelphia Armenian Community and to be able to continue the legacy of our parents and grandparents. Please contact Garibian Law Offices if our firm may be of service to you.

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Holy Trinity Armenian Church

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TO REGISTER: Contact Nancy Basmajian at
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Baptisms:

January 6, 2016: **ALBERT ARMAN PETROSSIAN**

Son of Armen Petrossian and Elena Ovsepyan

Godfather: Sergey Nersesov

Godmother: Maria Nersesov



January 30, 2016: **SARKIS WILLIAM BURROWS**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Burrows

Godfather: Raffi Kodikian

Godmother: Erica Solitro



The amazing thing about becoming a parent is that you
will never again be your own first priority.

(Olivia Wilde)

February 6, 2016: **ALEXANDER HATAM GRIFFIN**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Griffin

Godfather: William Griffin III

Godmother: Angeeneh Iyengar



February 13, 2016: **MADISON ROSE PATRUSKEY**

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jordan Patruskey

Godfather: Kevin Kalustyan

Godmother: Kalie Kalustyan



Member Birthdays

April	Lucille Thomassian - 1	Erika Hajatian – 2	Todd Pica - 2	Nezihe Hashas - 3	Jake Terkanian - 4	Gena Willard - 4	Christine Williams – 4	Christine Boyajian – 5	Etienne Boyajian - 5	Michael Paretchan - 5	Jeanette Der Hagopian - 6	Virginia Shakarjian - 6	Megan Aslanian – 7	Alessandra Garibian - 7	Narek Gevorgyan - 7	Harout Nalbandian - 7	Cole Koengetter - 11	Maggie Tandourjian - 11	Harry Andonian - 13	Kalie Kalustyan - 13	Lynne Asadourian - 14	Berjouhy Bosnian - 14	Ani Gooshian - 14	Veron Monokian - 14	Tanya Paretchan - 14	Elize Taylor Radall -15	Vani Hanamirian - 17	Satenik Gyulnazaryan - 19	Silva Hovhannesian - 19	Viola Karagheuzian - 19	Alexander Oskanian – 21	Madeleine Theobald - 22	Donald Paretchan - 23	Rita Stepanian - 23	Pauline Chapjian - 25	Ani Javardian - 25	Richard Kazigian - 25	Cathy Gargan - 26	Anita Mirijanian - 26	Cole Owens - 26	Lorraine Damerjian - 28	Silva Santerian - 17	Elias Terkanian - 18	Kayli Tancredi - 18	Ana Torcomian - 18	Diane Yazujian - 18	Ronald Asadoorian - 19	Peter Bilazarian - 20	Albert Kapeghian - 20	Mark Keshgegian - 21	Ara Shakarjian – 21	Paul G. Bogosian - 21	Beatrice Brown - 22	Stephen Hovnanian - 22	Gary Papazian - 22	Lucas Terkanian - 22	Gustavo Alexanian - 23	Valentina Garibian - 23	Richard Vishab - 23	Krikor Javardian - 24	April Kumkumian - 24	Lori Vishab - 25	Garo Hovnanian - 26	Audrey Movsesian - 28	Cameron Santerian - 28	Edward Attarian - 30	Denise Hess - 30	Mikaela Juskalian - 30	Gregory Meranshian - 31	Alexandra Brod - 3	Paul Terkanian - 5	Bryan Peckjian - 6	Barbara Harmon - 7	Alyssa Santerian - 7	Talene Peckjian - 9	Ines Alexanian – 13	Shannon King - 13	Ernest Peacock - 13	Mary Injaian - 14	Dominique Damerjian – 15	Herbert S. Theobald - 15	Tom Harmon - 17	Harry Kalafian – 18	Claire Theobald - 18	John Chalikian - 20	Germaine Hashas - 21	Narthy Hajinian – 22	Carol Temoyan - 22	Steven Balint - 23	Susan Lillis – 23	Yn. Anna Gevorgyan – 24	Ken King - 24	Seta Pica - 24	Chloe Dunigan – 25	Joseph Polizzi - 25	Sarine Kaprielian - 26	Berj Yeretzian Jr. - 26	Rosemary Zarzatian - 27	Gregory Javardian - 30
May	Dorothy Grocott - 1	George Terkanian - 1	Ankine Kapeghian - 5	Jack C. Goushian - 7	John Paul Santerian - 7	Christopher Bennuhan - 9	Harry Injaian - 9	Lauren Mukalian - 9	Brenda LeCompte - 9	Paul Oflazian – 10	Andrea LeCompte - 10	Patrick Killian - 11	Stephanie Balint - 12	Diane Doudoukjian – 12	Tomas Montanez - 12	Zachary Hajinian - 14	Daniel Dunigan – 15	Tavit Murray - 15	Armen Simonyan- 15	Melissa DerPilbosian - 16	June	Patyl Oflazian - 1	Ethel Terzian - 1																																																																												

Member Wedding Anniversaries

April	Ohannes & Irene Oskanian	4/4/1964	Robbie & Christy Barone	5/24/2015
	Albert & Linda Santerian	4/5/1964	Gregory & Diane Yazujian	5/25/1985
	George & Anne Terkanian	4/8/1972	Arthur & Casey Baldadian	5/27/1976
	Patrick & Joyce Killian	4/17/1971	Michael & Legna Santerian	5/28/2002
	Richard & Diane Doudoukjian	4/17/1977	Fred & Janet Jordan	5/30/1992
	Timothy & Cathy Gargan	4/17/1988	John & Meredith Hanamirian	5/30/????
	Larry & Dorothy Grocott	4/19/1968	June	
	Richard & Linda Vishab	4/20/1968	Berj & Mary Yeretzian, Sr	6/3/1950
	Nazareth & Narthy Hajinian	4/22/1956	Martin & Deskouhy Attarian	6/7/1952
	Fred & Denise Hess	4/30/????	Nicklas & Amy Terkanian	6/9/2007
	Harry & Anita Mirijanian	4/30/1949	Ronald & Millicent Asadoorian	6/9/1963
May	John & Margaret Leck	5/2/1964	Toros & Anita Torcomian	6/12/2010
	Larry D. & Kimberly Der Hagopian	5/5/2012	Harry & Mary Injaian	6/15/1952
	Robert & Carol Temoyan	5/7/1972	Ohannes & Nezihe Hashas	6/20/1955
	Herbert S. & Azlen Theobald	5/10/2003	Russ & Maggie Tandourjian	6/21/1958
	Michael, Jr. & Melissa Paretchan	5/13/2006	Jennifer & Greg Ermentrout	6/22/2012
	Robert & Jean Ohnigian	5/14/1994	Johnny & Marcelle Alexanian	6/22/2014
	Gregory & Grace Meranshian	5/16/1982	Brian & Joyce Hoyle	6/23/1990
	David & Alyssa Santerian	5/17/1992	Kristine & Jonathan Koengetter	6/28/2008
	Thomas & Francesca Torcomian	5/17/1980		
	Peter & Robin Bilazarian	5/22/1977		
	Janice & Christopher Owens	5/24/????		
	John & Diane Williams	5/24/1980		
	Stephen & Nancy Hovnanian	5/24/1975		



In Lieu of Flowers

Because of space limitations, we are unable to list the individual donors who have contributed to in-lieu-of flowers, but each family has been provided with the complete listing donated in memory of their loved one. With deep appreciation, we gratefully acknowledge the memorial donations for those who have fallen asleep in Christ

- **EDWARD TERZIAN:** NEW TOTAL: \$2,340.00
- **ROBERT SARKISIAN:** NEW TOTAL: \$7,725.00
- **YOLANDA TERZIAN:** TOTAL: \$295.00
- **GREGORY SARKISIAN:** TOTAL: \$2,340.00
- **HARRY SARKISIAN:** TOTAL: \$11,270.00

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- Vahan Boyajian by Florence Boyajian
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The Ladies of Holy Trinity

(Elizabeth Barone)

With the advent of an early Easter, we can hope for an early spring as well. The crocuses are blooming and the tulips and daffodils are poking through the soil in our gardens. As the weather improves, we hope to see more of each other at church.

As I write this column, we are preparing for the annual Mitchink luncheon. Our gourmet cooks will prepare another delicious meal as we share in Christian fellowship. We are also planning a Mother's Day luncheon and possibly a trip to the 9/11 site in New York City this summer. We actively participate in our Bible-based programs that take place in our parish which help us grow in our walk of faith. Stay in touch with the Sunday Messengers and our electronic e-blasts for our ongoing activities.



We continue to serve in all areas of our church activities and functions but there are fewer of us now able to provide all that is needed with an aging population and so few following in our steps. I have written many times about the need to infuse new blood with new ideas into our organization. They are welcome with wide-open arms. This concern is even more important now that I have been elected to a two-year term on the Parish Council at our annual Parish Assembly. It is difficult to serve both positions at the same time, but I cannot leave the ladies without a leader. I stepped up eight years ago along with Nancy Hovnanian. Who will follow? Call, email, text or simply pull me aside at church. Serving our church is a rewarding experience.

Men's Club

The Men's Club would like to thank all those people who support the 200 Club 50/50 raffle.



Men's Club "200 CLUB" Winners

November 2015

\$1000 Alex & Melanie Santerian #163
\$400 Rob Barone #197
\$200 Leslie & Paul Movsesian #161
\$200 Ron Asadoorian #143
\$200 John Arslanian #059

December 2015

\$500 Rosemary Zarzatian #068
\$200 Harry & Grace Surabian (Boston) #079
\$100 Garo & Cecelia Garibian #012
\$100 Steve Parker #004
\$100 Greg & Diane Yazujian #176

January 2016

\$500 Philip Kazanjian #137
\$200 Mark & Silva Santerian #173
\$100 Rosemary Zarzatian #068
\$100 Michael & Tanya Paretchan #055
\$100 Ronald Mukalian #180

February 2016

\$500 Bryan Peckjian #020
\$200 Robert Damerjian, Jr #177
\$100 Don Paretchan #066
\$100 Connie Arko #126
\$100 George D Mukalian #128

The Tone of Voice

(author unknown)

It's not so much what you say
as the manner in which you say it.
It's not so much the language you use
as the tone in which you convey it.
"Come here," I said –
he looked and smiled
and straight to my lap he crept.

Words may be mild and fair
but the tone may pierce like a dart.
Words may be soft as the summer air
but the tone may break my heart.
For words come from the mind
grow by study and art –
but tone leaps from the inner self,
revealing the state of the heart.

Whether you know it or not,
whether you mean or care,
gentleness, kindness,
love and hate,
envy, anger are there.
Then, would you quarrels avoid
and peace and love rejoice?
Keep anger not only
out of your words –
Keep it out of your voice.

On the Occasion of the Celebration of Vartanantz Saints

Merle Santerian

On the blustery cold night of February 4, 2016, the Armenian Community came together to celebrate Vartanantz, an event that has been celebrated every year by Armenian Churches throughout the Diocese. This event was sponsored by the Intercommunal Committee of Philadelphia, a committee who works diligently to promote Armenian culture and history.

The evening began with The Lord's Prayer and welcome from V. Rev Fr. Thomas Garabedian, the new Pastor of St. Mark's Armenian Catholic Church in Wynnewood, Pa, which was the host church this year. He then gave a brief talk on the story of Vartanantz. Der Hakob, Der Nerses Manoogian, Badveli Nishan Bakalian, and Hayr Oshagan Gulgolian participated in the Evening Prayer, and readings from both the Old Testament and New Testament.

Twenty-four students from the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades of the Armenian Sisters' Academy sang songs under the direction of Karinne Andonian, and did recitations, under the direction of Tamar Panosian, Recitation Director. Antranig Kzirian, as Chairman, spoke on behalf of the Armenian Intercommunal Committee of Philadelphia. The program continued with readings from "Yeghisheh" by Alice Handian, Sevag Bakalian and Vicken Bazarbashian. The evening also included a viewing of a video called "A Great Cloud of Witnesses" which was prepared especially for the 100th anniversary of the genocide. The program concluded with the singing of the "Hayr Mer" by the clergy and congregation, accompanied on the organ by Dr. J. Andre Garabedian, Organist of St. Mark's.

After the program, everyone was invited for fellowship and delicious refreshments in the Church Hall provided by the host church. An uplifting and lovely evening was had by all who attended.

Sharing a Vision/Building a Team Leadership Workshop – Another Success

On Saturday, February 27, more than thirty of our parish leaders – members of the parish council, choir, and auxiliary executive bodies as well as altar servers, Church School Superintendent and teachers, convened to discuss and reflect on what it means to be a leader today in the Armenian Church. Presented by Elise Antreassian, Director of the Diocesan Department of Christian Education, the sessions transcended the traditional topics of prioritizing, delegating, running meetings, etc. and focused instead on the mission of the church: to enter into a deep and meaningful fellowship with Jesus Christ (1 Cor 1:9) nourished by the life-giving traditions of the church.

"Unless and until the leadership of our church accepts this as their own personal goal and the one that guides their ministries to the rest of the parish, we cannot possibly succeed in fulfilling our mission and might even end up as a simple social club, which was certainly not God's intention!" noted Elise.

The day's first session was a small-group discussion. In a Rorschach-like exercise of participants' feelings about the church, they were invited to consider such alternatives as "an exclamation point" or "a period" and "continuity" or "conversion" among other pairs. These and a number of other questions provoked lengthy and sometimes passionate conversation. This was followed by a consideration of the essential goal of Christian life – a union with Christ that is so total it affects all we think, speak and do, bringing to mind the beautiful prayer of St Nersess Shnorhali, "Jesus Wisdom of the Father," and echoing St. Paul's words: "it is no longer me but Christ in me." (Gal 2:20). The brief presentation offered a path to accomplishing this: all the beautiful disciplines revealed in Scripture and supported in the life and traditions of the church, including prayer, time with God's Word and even simple generosity – all of these both the tasks and ultimately the fruit of a faithful heart.

For the concluding session, everyone rolled up their sleeves, opened their Bibles, and worked together to outline all the ways we might know and love God and be enabled to love one another fearlessly and whole-heartedly. It was an eye-opener. At day's end, one participant confided "Wow...so much of this I had never heard before. It was a revelation.. and inspiring!"



Holy Trinity “feels the love!”

“Beloved, let us love one another because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”

Students Surprise Parishioners

These words from St. John’s first epistle were read by Audrey Movsesian, an 8th grader in our Church School; it was part of a surprise for the faithful who had just participated in a marriage renewal service conducted by Fr. Hakob, on Sunday, February 14, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord to the Temple.

Another 8th grader—Ella Hanamirian—explained the “surprise” as follows: “our Church School students wish to express their love for you in a symbolic way. Two of our younger students will be holding offering trays filled with chocolate kisses; and while you usually put something in to the offering trays—a beautiful gesture because those donations are love gifts to God through the work of the church—today you will be taking something out of the tray. Please take two chocolate kisses, one for you and one to give to someone you love. This is just our way of sharing Christ’s love with you, our Church family.”



After kissing the Gospel, parishioners received their “love gift” from 3rd grader Jessica Badishyan and 2nd grader Narek Gevorgyan who boldly told each person, “God loves you!” More surprises awaited parishioners as they entered the church hall for coffee fellowship: each table had valentine’s cards containing the message “Jesus loves you!” producing smiles and expressions of joy all around.

Marriage Renewal

Earlier, twenty-five couples participated in a Service of Renewal of Marriage Vows, which was designed by the Christian Education Department of the Diocese. The purpose of the service was to celebrate the sacred relationship between husband and wife—the very foundation of family life. The short service included a reading of St. Paul’s beautiful passage on love (1 Corinthians 13) and a series of questions posed by Fr. Hakob, in which the couples replied with a resounding “We do, with God’s help!” Among the most poignant was a petition to “invite Christ anew into your marriage to be the true and actual Lord of your lives as a couple, opening your hearts to his saving presence.” Each couple received a long-stemmed rose before leaving the sanctuary and celebrated with their church family at coffee fellowship—and a special cake!



The Christmas Story in Art

Accompanied by their pastor, the Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan, a group of faithful from the Holy Trinity Church in Cheltenham, PA viewed the creative and exquisite expression of the Christmas story on exhibit at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The December 16 “field trip” proved to be an entertaining and insightful tour of art that illustrates the New Testament accounts of Jesus’ birth and the origins of popular Christmas traditions.

Led by their tour guide, who provided informative commentary on the various works of art, the participants were given a brief tutorial on how to look deeply at paintings and sculptures in order to appreciate the sacred Christmas story. And Fr. Hakob offered theological interpretation which enriched the interactive experience. The group examined works that depict biblical accounts of the Annunciation, Mary’s visit to Elizabeth, the nativity, the visitors to Jesus’ manger and a few unusual pieces, including a black Madonna.



After the tour, the conversation continued over lunch at the museum’s fine restaurant. The tour was organized by the parish’s Adult Christian Education ministry, which continues to offer faith-based programming for its parishioners.

Robin Barone Climbs Mt. Ararat

Parishioners at Holy Trinity were treated to a mini-travelogue when Robin Barone shared the experiences of her trip last summer which culminated in the climb to Biblical Mount Ararat. Robin was part of approximately 15 people who undertook this monumental feat which so few have done.

The trip began with touring which included visits to the childhood home of Armenian famous poet, Yeghishe Charents, as well as many buildings of Armenian architecture in the period of 19-20th century, the Kars Fortress, Bridge of Vardan and St. Arakelots Church. They also visited Ani, the city of a thousand and one churches and then had the opportunity to visit the famous Armenian monastery, Khtskonq, and Artsap Village, which is known for its preserved cemetery and khachkars.

The actual climb, which covered four days, began by vehicle as the group reached an altitude of up to 2200 meters of Mt. Ararat, from where they began the walking part of the trip. After 4-5 hours of walk, a base camp was set up where they spent their nights. A second camp was set up at 4100 meters, all of which were necessitated in order to acclimate to the dramatic changes in altitudes from the start to reaching the summit at 5165 meters. Weather conditions were also very varied and temperatures could range from 0-15 degrees Centigrade. Their ascent to the top of Mt. Ararat occurred during a snowstorm which prevented them from seeing many of the distant territories of Armenia, Persia and Turkey. But the euphoria they all experienced nevertheless was unmatched.

Following the climb, the group had more opportunities to sightsee as they travelled to Van and visited the wonderful waterfalls of Berkri on the way. Some of the many other sights included the Church on Akhtamar, which is considered as the first of the seven churches of Armenian architecture by its unique architectural solutions, ornaments and sculptures. They enjoyed swimming in Lake Van after which they travelled to the Castle of Tushpa (Van Fortress, 9th century BC), where cuneiform inscriptions and mausoleum of kings of Sardar and Argishti are maintained. That was followed by a visit to see the door of Mher.

Robin is the founder of Diplomat Books, a platform dedicated to planting seeds of curiosity in young children through adventure travel books. She has visited over 60 countries and has had the chance to live in Paris, Buenos Aires, and Singapore where she was able to connect with Armenians through the AGBU! With her zest for adventure, Robin concluded her travelogue by encouraging people to not be afraid to undertake this experience of a lifetime – climbing Mt. Ararat!

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).

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frhakob@holytrinity-pa.org
Church Secretary: Maggie Miller
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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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Jeanette Der Hagopian
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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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