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Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church LOOYS



Cheltenham, PA

Spring 2017



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*



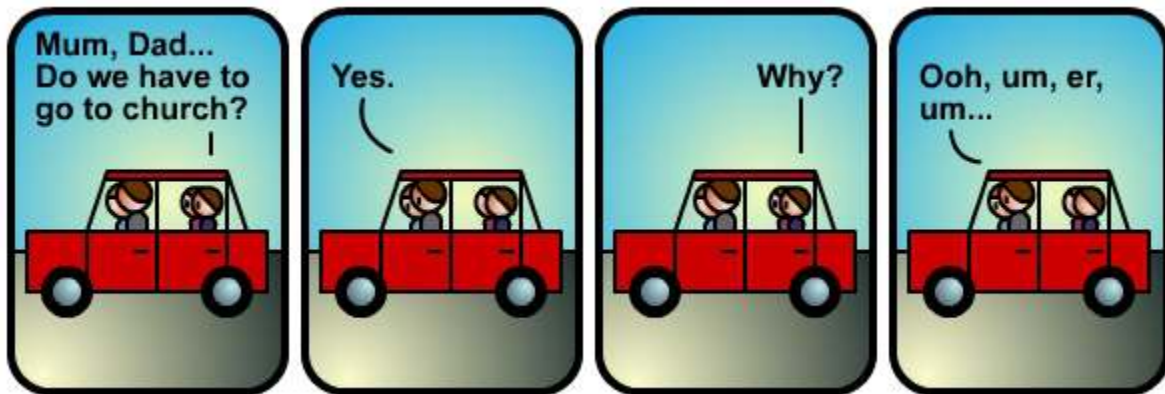
Upcoming Events

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

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

www.holytrinity-pa.org

Why do we go to Church?



This is a fascinating question and there is not only one answer to this question.

People go to Church for the music, especially for our Divine Liturgy which is so melodic and harmonious and attracts many people. I have heard from non-Armenians that our Divine Liturgy is one of the most beautiful Masses that they have ever heard. They said, "We don't understand one word in Armenian but the Armenian Divine Liturgy touched our hearts and souls." If non-Armenian people can have this kind of feeling, then Armenian people should be enriched even more from our Liturgy.

People go to Church because it is peaceful and a beautiful place in which to pray. Of course, we can pray at home, in the car, at the office or any other place; but as Christians we pray at Church at least once a week. On Sundays when we go to Church, we go for a specific reason to worship God and to pray. It is written, "My house will be called a house of prayer..." (Matthew 21:13). When we are in the car, we know that we have to drive; when we are in the office we know that we have to work; and when we are at Church we should know that we are there to worship and pray in the house of our Lord.

People go to Church because they love to be in the community and have fellowship hour with the parishioners. There is nothing wrong with this because even during Jesus' time, after praying the faithful had a fellowship hour. During the fellowship hour we get a chance to know each other better and also to welcome newcomers.

There are people who go to Church for the Holy Communion, sermon, reflection, worship or spiritual growth. If we are eager to learn and grow in our faith, it will happen gradually. Whether we walk, run or drive, we will get to our final destination. In the same way we have to move forward in our spiritual life. If we sit and wait, it won't happen automatically. Holy Communion, sermons, reflections and worship can always nurture our souls and help us in our spiritual growth.

Some people go to Church because they have a duty. In our community many people have different obligations and duties. All these duties are necessary for our Church to function properly. The chain is strong if each link is strong. Our Church can be strong if our dedicated parishioners continue their God-pleasing works.

All these I have mentioned above are very important for the Church to exist and for us to grow in Christ Jesus. It makes me very happy to see many people who attend our Church and hope that they are being fulfilled with faith in the Word of God.



Finally, we should always remember that the Church is heaven on earth. The Church is here to change and transform our lives into better lives. If we don't become better people or true servants of God, then we are doing something wrong. We should try to live a life that reflects Christ. Amen.

Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

By John Hanamirian, Chair

I hope everyone is doing well. In the past few weeks, (1) we have concluded our new fire and burglar Alarm System installations; (2) Andrew Movsessian and his Boy Scout Troop are preparing to install a Gazebo in our back field; (3) we are entertaining quotes for repainting our Church interior and dome; and (4) we have narrowed the options for the elevator project. All positive items and all moving forward.

On the economic front, we always need your help. Please be stewards and support the Church however you can. I know I ask all the time, but if we do not support the Church - no Church.

On the community front, we all felt a range of emotions surrounding the movie *The Promise*. I joked that "you have to see it or you are a bad Armenian, a bad Christian" but, of course, you are not. Seriously, the movie generated an odd sense of redemption for me as I saw all of what I read and all of the snippet stories of my grandparents and their friends compiled into one string of film. At the same time, I wanted to throw rocks at the Turks with the refugees on top of Musa Dag. I sat through the first of three times with my Mom and noticed her as she was so upset and I thought to myself, "these were her parents."

I knew nearly all of my grandparents for a good portion of my life and so the reality of Genocide is with me, but as we move further and further from those relationships, it is our responsibility to teach our children and make them feel that reality. Tell them stories and let them see *The Promise*. My girls understood and being a little shocked isn't a bad thing for them. Let them know how strong they are so they don't worry so much about a math test and whether they will do well. They will do well if they know their strength. You don't just survive persecution by chance.



April is our formal time of Genocide remembrance. We truly cannot ever forget and the reason we cannot forget is that what happens when we forget about historic atrocities is that they recur. We were all appalled by what we saw in video footage of the attacks on the protestors in front of the Turkish Embassy in Washington, D.C. Same group, different era and the abject disregard for human life is yet always startling. Same group, different era. The behaviors associated with mass killing, torture, rape and otherwise brutalizing human beings in the name of religion is not aberrational to this group. It is not that one man decided that this was a good idea 102 years ago and everyone merely followed in fear. No. Each person, each leader, each soldier, each had hatred for the Armenians and wanted to engage in those acts of horror. They wanted to do it. Imagine. Loading people into trains and driving them to their death. Burying people alive. These are not people who did not believe in what they were doing. They did not believe those acts to be wrong. Just like beating senseless unarmed, peaceful protestors on domestic soil; this is who they

are and this is what their God tells them is not only okay, but rewarded. Don't forget that. Remember our Martyrs, yes, of course, but remember their conviction, how they died, how they suffered and at whose hands they suffered and died; that is Genocide remembrance.

**THE DISCRETION OF A MAN DEFERRETH HIS
ANGER; AND [IT IS] HIS GLORY TO PASS
OVER A TRANSGRESSION.**

Proverbs 19:11

ABOUT OUR FAMILY

During the last few months, we have seen deep sorrows and great joys, which is the story of life. Holy Trinity lost one of its most faithful members with the passing of **Harry Mirijanian** after years of being such a devoted caretaker to his wife, Anita. He will be sorely missed. We also mourn the passing of **Albert Chapjian**, a good and loving member of our church in his later years. And finally, in the same family, **Andre Javardian**, brother of Gregory, passed away suddenly in California. Though he had not been living in our community for almost forty years, he is well remembered from his youth and in fact, was an active choir member. May the Holy Spirit bring comfort of all of our bereaved families... A special milestone birthday for **Lorraine Damerjian** was celebrated when the entire church community and family gathered at church for a big birthday bash hosted by her family. That's what it's like to be a part of the HT Family – we all celebrate!...Wedding anniversaries galore were (or will be) celebrated by **Berj & Mary Yeretjian** (67), **Martin & Deshouhy Attarian** (65); **Harry & Mary Injaian** (65); **George & Anne Terkanian** (45); **Peter & Robin Bilazarian** (40); **Greg & Grace Meranshian** (35); **David & Alyssa Santerian** (25); and **Fred & Janet Jordan** (25) – Yergar Dareener to all... We're a bit late with this news, but it was the best Christmas evah when **Kiki Javardian**, son of Greg and Maria, proposed to his special girl, **Alex Ogasanova**, in Florida with family members hiding "in the wings" until after the question was popped. Congratulations and love to the newly engaged couple and their families... With regret, we bid farewell to **Karine, Gagik and Seda Hovhannisyan** who were part of our church family for five years when they first arrived from California. They have now returned to sunny California where they have much family. We will miss them and hope they'll come back for a visit....A shout-out to **Marta Brann** who, through her HyeVine electronic mail, has been keeping us informed of cultural and other news relating to anything Armenian, both domestically and abroad. It's so great that she does the research for us!...Congratulations to **Anne Terkanian** for being selected as one of this year's WOW recipients at the annual Women's Guild conference held during the Diocesan Assembly. WOW is an award given to a person who is believed to be a "Women of Wonder" and our Annie is just that. Thanks for all you do, not just at Holy Trinity, but for all the energy and commitment you have put forth for the CASP program....In related news, we also congratulate **Antranig Garibian** who was re-elected to the Diocesan Council for another four-year term. His service continues far and wide....We say "abrees" to **Nancy Basmajian** who has become a Pastoral Care Volunteer at Abington Memorial Hospital. By doing this, she is providing much-needed spiritual uplifting to patients during difficult times.....Sincere condolences to **Rev. Fr. Stepanos** and **Richard Doudoukjian** and their families on the passing of their mother and grandmother, **Diramayr Sona**, after a long and fruitful life.... Please continue to keep in your prayers, **John Arslanian** whose ill health keeps him away from our weekly church life. He is missed!...We wish **Gary Altoonian** a speedy recovery from a serious bicycle accident. He is on the mend, but it will take



time...Hats off to **Laura Bilizarian**, daughter of **Robin & Peter**, for being named one of "21 Female Founders & CEOs to Watch" by the organization, Women 2.0. Laura is the CEO & Founder of Teamable. We've got our eye on you, Laura!.....the lazy, hazy days of summer are almost here, so when you're not on vacation, we hope to see you because - as you know – **God never takes a vacation!** Until then we wish you sunny days, more downtime and the enjoyment of a frosty glass of minted iced tea.



Lorraine at the Organ (cake!)

Address Changes and/or Additions

Esther Momjian
10 Steeplechase Lane
Blue Bell PA 19422

Joseph Shriver
8480 Limekiln Pike Apt L12
Wyncote PA 19095

Mickey Sherian
The Bridges at Warwick, Room 203
1600 Almshouse Road
Jamison, PA 18929



Calendar of Events

July 12, 19, 26, Aug 2 – Evening Bible Study
July 23 – Feast of Transfiguration
Aug 13 -- Feast of Assumption – Blessing of Grapes
Sept 10 – Church School Registration
Sept 17 - Exaltation of the Holy Cross & “Saving the Tomb” update
Sept 24 – Flora Keshgegian, guest speaker during fellowship
Oct 1 – Instructional Divine Liturgy and Albert Keshgegian, speaker during Fellowship
Oct 15 – Divine Liturgy: A Simultaneous Translation
Oct 27, 28, 29 – Annual Harvest Bazaar
Nov 12 – Godparents Sunday
Dec 10 – Der Hakob’s 10th Anniversary of Ordination

FUNERALS: 2017

ZEPHYRE HELEN KAMAJIAN entered into her eternal rest on March 3, 2017. Funeral services were held on March 11, 2017 at Holy Trinity. The officiating clergy for the service was The Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan.

MARGARET D. LECK entered into her eternal rest on March 16, 2017. Funeral services were held on March 21, 2017 at James Dougherty Funeral Home. The officiating clergy for the service was The Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan.

MICHAEL DOUGLAS COOK entered into his eternal rest on March 15, 2017. Funeral services were held on March 23, 2017 at Holy Trinity. The officiating clergy for the service was The Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan.

HARRY D. MIRIJANIAN entered into his eternal rest on March 24, 2017. Funeral services were held on March 29, 2017 at Holy Trinity. The officiating clergy for the service was The Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan.

ALBERT CHAPJIAN SR. entered into his eternal rest on March 31, 2017. Funeral services were held on April 5, 2017 at Holy Trinity. The officiating clergy for the service was The Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan.



WE APOLOGIZE for the omission of Patrick Killian’s name in the article “We Remember with Love” which appeared in the March issue. Pat passed away in August of last year and is still very much remembered and missed.

ATTENTION GRADUATES - The September issue of the Looys will include information about all graduates. Anyone wishing to submit a write-up and/or picture should submit it to looy@holytrinity-pa.org by August 15th. Pictures should be submitted in high resolution color. Write-up should be in

WORD format and should include: institution from which you were graduated; degree; future plans; other details of importance; and names of parents. Optional information can include activities in which you were involved, especially at church.

Thanks and More!

I would like to thank everyone who joined my family in celebrating my milestone 80th birthday. Thanks also to those of you who used your precious time to make extra-special foods to add to our lavish buffet. It was such a joy to share this event with all who are – and have been- such a big part of our lives for so many years. This party would not have been the same without your presence.

With sincere appreciation,
Lorraine Damerjian



Harry Mirijanian - In Memoriam

With the passing of Harry Mirijanian on March 24, 2017, Holy Trinity lost one of its most ardent and faithful parishioners. Harry loved his church and family with equal fervor. Those who knew him understood that whatever he did, it was with great passion.

His service to our church dates back to the time when Harry was attending church at Marshall and Susquehanna Streets during his twenties. As a young newlywed of three years, he had a desire to serve on the Parish Council (called the Trustees in those days), but because he was too young for that role, he asked if a Junior Trustee group could be formed that would enable himself and other young men to serve with their time and talent. The Trustees agreed and Harry, along with a few of his contemporaries, served in that capacity for five years. This dedicated group, spearheaded by Harry, help raise thousands of dollars for the church. By then, Harry had "come of age" and served often on the Parish Council over the course of approximately forty years.

When a fire destroyed the church at Marshall and Susquehanna in 1964, Harry served as treasurer of the Building Committee for the new church in Cheltenham under the leadership of Sooren Parechian and remained in that capacity for fifteen years until all the pledges could be collected.

His volunteerism was seen in all aspects of church life including Bazaar Chairman (more than once), member of the Welcoming Committee for His Holiness Vasken I when he made his first trip to the United States, organizing picnics, teaching Armenian School and anywhere that his skills could be put to use.

Beyond our immediate church, Harry was one of the original members of the Philadelphia Intercommunal Committee and remained involved with them until his passing. He was proud of the way our Armenian community worked together for a common good regardless of what the person's church affiliation was.

Ultimately, his leadership was most evident in his involvement with the Men's Club of Holy Trinity for over sixty years, twenty-five of them as Chairman. His mind was always filled with ideas for activities, programs and dinners, not only for our own Men's Club, but also by inviting the Men's Clubs of the other Armenian churches for an evening of fellowship and camaraderie. One of his joys was that our Men's Club has sponsored two CASP children since the inception of the program.

Above all, Harry served with true devotion and love in his heart, knowing that he was honoring God and his church in all of his efforts. Rest in peace, good and faithful servant.



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OUR DEACONS INSTRUCT THE FAITHFUL

How fortunate we were to be able to tap into the knowledge and experience of three of our deacons during this year's Lenten season to offer a Sunday morning educational series for our community. More than 30 parishioners attended each of the 10:00 a.m. programs, held just before the Divine Liturgy.

Fr. Hakob, who recruited and assigned the deacons, commented, "Last April, we had such success with the Diocesan 'Worship and Formation' experiment that we decided to give it another try, and again, it was successful. Our goal is to help our people develop a deeper and better-informed faith. I'm very gratified with the result."

The first session of the 3-part series, entitled "Medz Bahk: Fasting during Lent" was taught by Deacon Gregory Andonian. The next one, offered by Deacon Antranig Garibian, focused on Home Blessing in the Armenian Church. The series ended with senior Deacon Albert Keshgegian who spoke on the meaning of the Opening of the Doors service.

HELPING SOUP KITCHENS IN ARMENIA

At a recent Parish Council meeting, a commitment was made to annually sponsor three people at one of the soup kitchens in Armenia at a cost of \$357 per person. The soup kitchens are one of the many ways in which FAR (Fund for Armenia Relief) is helping to provide care and assistance to people in Armenia. Thanks to John Hanamirian who quickly underwrote the entire cost for the first year of this undertaking. Future donors, either alone or as part of a group, will be welcomed with appreciation.



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Faithful Gather for A Lenten Day of Prayer

A group of 40 faithful, including those from two of our sister parishes in the Philadelphia area, came together at Holy Trinity on Saturday, March 25 for an enlightening program on prayer. The “retreat” was sponsored by our Adult Christian Education ministry, led by Fr. Hakob, who works with a team of seven parishioners.

Rev. Fr. Arshen Aivazian and Yn. Sirarpi Aivazian, who guided the day-long journey, led an exploration of ways to enrich and deepen a relationship with God through prayer and meditation with Scripture. Participants were introduced to the desert fathers and mothers, to the daily hours of the church and presented with some concrete techniques on how to pray with Scripture. They were then given quiet time to practice the techniques. The program included worship, music, and group sharing.

Perhaps the most moving moment of the day came at the conclusion when Fr. Arshen, who pastored Holy Trinity from 1974 to 1982, anointed each participant with oil from Jerusalem which he received during a family pilgrimage to the Holy Land on the 50th anniversary of his ordination in 2015.

Brian Hoyle commented afterwards, “Looking back over about 28 years of participating in Lenten retreats, quiet days, and speakers, this was the best! The Aivazians were a great team and a blessing.” And, after Liturgy on the following day, Mary Yeretizian was approaching those who missed the program telling them, “The retreat was very inspirational. We covered several different stories from the Bible, sang, and were even anointed with oil from Jerusalem. You missed something really special!”



Peter Ohnigian Achieves the Rank of Eagle Scout

Peter Ohnigian, son of Jean and Robert, and grandson of Zevart Shakarjian, joined the rank of Eagle Scout, having earned at least 21 merit badges. Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouting program. To reach this level, a Scout must plan, organize and lead a service project, which is known as the Eagle Project. Peter's service project was to make 40 enhancements for the dogs at Providence Animal Center. In doing this project, the Scout demonstrates leadership, commitment and time. Once he has met all requirements, he must complete an Eagle Scout board of review.



The special evening during which the awards were made was filled with pride for Peter from the many family and friends who attended, but none more so than his parents. Each Scout was presented with the Eagle pin and medal, and each parent was presented with an Eagle pin. The four Scouts who received this honor all thanked their parents for their time, support and love to enable them to achieve this rank.

Congratulations, Peter, on a job well done!



Book Discussion: Life in Post-Genocide Turkey

Among the various educational initiatives sponsored by our Adult Christian Education ministry are the discussions on books of interest to our parishioners. The Lamentations of Narek by St. Gregory of Narek and The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness by Simon Wiesenthal were two books that drew the attention of our faithful in recent years.

This year, the book that captured the interest of our community, drawing twenty individuals to church on two Tuesday evenings in April and May was *Recovering Armenia: The Limits of Belonging in Post-Genocide Turkey* by Armenian scholar Lerna Ekmekcioglu, Associate Professor of History and Women's Studies at MIT.

Along with Fr. Hakob and facilitators Lucy Aghazarian and Nancy Basmajian, the group read and discussed this first in-depth study of the aftermath of the 1915 Armenian Genocide and the Armenians who remained in Turkey. Covering the period between 1923 and 1933, Ekmekcioglu tells how Armenians recovered their identity amid a drastically changed political landscape and gives voice to the community's most prominent public figures--notably the activist, editor and early feminist Hayganush Mark. Ekmekcioglu's study also highlights the remarkable work done by Armenian women in helping thousands of orphaned women and children left homeless and dispersed in the aftermath of the Genocide.

Much of the conversation and interaction among the group of both women and men focused on "Armenianess" and that while women were being celebrated for their traditional roles, a strong feminist movement found opportunity for leadership within this Post-Genocide community.

Our Parish Council Vice Chair Merle Santerian commented, "This was quite an eye opener; it was interesting to learn about a time in Armenian history where women were involved in preserving and growing their heritage so it wouldn't die. I would never have known about it had it not been for this book. Thank you for enlightening us as to how one Armenian woman affected the lives of Armenians living in post-genocide Turkey."



Holy Trinity Armenian Church Welcomes You To . . .

Wednesday

Evenings 7:00-8:30

Bible Study

Old Testament:
Wisdom Literature



All sessions will be held in the Conference Room off the church lobby.

July 12: Book of Job (Brian Hoyle)

July 19: Book of Proverbs (Leslie Movsesian)

July 26: Ecclesiastes (Dn. Albert Keshgegian)

August 2: Song of Songs (Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan)



To register, email nancybasmajian@verizon.net or call 215-722-3369

Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cheltenham, PA
Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan, Pastor
2017

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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MEN'S CLUB "200 CLUB"

Tickets for the upcoming 2017-18 season are now available for the 200 Club Raffle. A one-time donation of \$100 will entitle you to eight (8) months of drawings, with five winners drawn each month. Your ticket number could be drawn more than once in the eight monthly drawings. In fact several ticket holders have won twice this past season! The first drawing will take place in November and the last in June 2018; the prizes in those two months will be \$1000 / \$400 / \$200 / \$200 / \$200. The other six months will be \$500 / \$200 / \$100 / \$100 / \$100. And your chances are better than the lottery! Buy additional tickets to increase your chances of winning!



Contact Larry Der Hagopian (215-672-4188) or Mick Paretchan (215-947-4394) if you haven't already purchased your ticket! There will be \$10,000 in Prize Money. And the Men's Club provides significant financial support each year for our church through this endeavor, and has been sponsoring two orphaned children through CASP for many years.

APRIL 2017

\$500 Martin & Deskouhy Attarian #162
\$200 Albert Kapeghian #199
\$100 Robbie Barone #197
\$100 Shya Terkanian #168
\$100 Jennifer Hagopian #067

May 2017

\$500 Harry & Mary Injaian #200
\$200 Margo Silk #152
\$100 Berj & Mary Yeretizian #112
\$100 George & Anne Terkanian #185
\$100 Shant Kapeghian #076

JUNE 2017

\$1000 Greg & Maria Javardian #058
\$400 Sue (Bartow) O'Neil #150
\$200 Garo & Cece Garibian #012
\$200 Nick & Amy Terkanian #042
\$200 Linda (Nedzwecky) Fuchs #029

FUND FOR ARMENIAN RELIEF: FYI . . .

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty Program (BCPP)

Goal: BCPP aims to reduce the effects of poverty in Armenia's Tavush Province by empowering families and communities to become more self-sufficient and build a strong foundation for the next generation. The program aims to accomplish this through improved access to training and education, better nutrition, child protection, healthcare and other significant resources, as well as family stabilization and assistance, development of sustainable industry, and a multi-faceted approach, which involves working in partnership with the government, civil society and the private sector.



Types of Services: Family assessment; design and provision of social assistance packages; parental skills development; health screening for children (aged 6 months to 6 years); provision of nutritious menus to kindergartens in eight rural communities; tuition and stipends for youth pursuing higher education and vocational training; hobby groups in sports, arts and crafts; Sunday schools; economic development opportunities for individual families and communities, including vocational training in sewing to produce eco-bags, family-owned and operated greenhouses, and the provision of domestic animals; community education events on public health issues; continuing Medical Education for local physicians, nurses and healthcare workers

Objectives: To improve the health of children (aged 6 months to 6 years) in Tavush Province; to promote a dignified childhood for 700+ children from poor families in the Shamshadin Region of Tavush; to significantly increase the adult population's awareness and knowledge of children's health; to foster the economic development of targeted communities through the support of job creation, entrepreneurship and the formation of infrastructure for sustainable industry; to increase capacity of local healthcare providers to administer higher quality healthcare and medical services; to develop and set up sustainable tools and methodologies for public health education and professional development, in partnership with national and local healthcare institutions; to contribute to the financial and social stabilization of 250 vulnerable families per year; to develop a replicable program model for other regions of Armenia.

For more information on FAR and to find out how you can help, go to: www.farusa.org.

ACYOA Juniors

By Peter Ohnigian

The Holy Trinity ACYOA Juniors are just now finishing up a busy spring season. We first went to an ACYOA retreat up in Connecticut for a weekend of fun and fellowship where we learned more about “the fruits of the spirit.” We stayed in cabins with members from other parishes, and this enabled us to meet many new friends. Andrew Movsesian, Shannon King, and I attended. We all had a great time.

Shortly after the Connecticut retreat was a one-day retreat at St. Sahag. This time was spent with just the Philly ACYOA where we got more in touch with our faith and learned more about what it meant when Jesus sacrificed himself for our sins.

We then hosted the annual Palm Sunday Banquet. The program included piano performances by Shannon King and Stephan Sarkissian and a Q&A video asking faith-related questions to ACYOA Juniors and adult parishioners. The banquet went very well and the ACYOA Juniors did a great job serving all the guests.



Next we held a Mother's Day flower sale fundraiser. The fundraiser was successful as we made \$130. We then donated \$200 to the AYO! Project. Another great time was an after-church mini-golf outing with several of the Juniors. Andrew Movsesian came out on top with a final score of -2 strokes. We ended the day by stopping at Rita's for water ice.

Lastly, we joined together with St. Sahag's ACYOA to create the Philly team for the Hye M'rtsoom Sports Weekend at St. James in Watertown, MA. We competed in basketball, volleyball, chess, tavloo, and ping-pong. Unfortunately, we came up short this year and didn't make the finals in any sports. Luckily, that didn't take away from the fact that everyone from Philly ACYOA had a great weekend. Both of the dances were a great time and I'm sure that all the Juniors can't wait until the next Sports Weekend in October.

This concludes another successful year for the Holy Trinity ACYOA Juniors. We hope that all the Juniors had a great time together and are ready to do it all again next year. Here's to another great year for the HT ACYOA Juniors.



THE LADIES of HOLY TRINITY

By Liz Barone

God blessed us with a beautiful spring. The flowers and blooming trees were glorious. The weather was lovely most days except the Saturday we celebrated Mother's Day on May 13. The rainy weather did not deter our outing to the Apricot Stone in the Northern Liberties section of Philadelphia. We enjoyed each other's company while sharing our thoughts about the movie "The Promise." As we lunched on delicious Armenian food prepared for us by someone else, we smiled because we knew we were not responsible for the cleaning up!! The sun appeared as we returned to our cars. It was a rewarding afternoon where we enjoyed our Holy Trinity sisterhood.

The annual meeting for the Women's Guild was held in conjunction with the Assembly for the Eastern Diocese at the beginning of May. The sessions were composed of a general business meeting, workshops, and a mini-retreat. I always come away fulfilled and slightly disappointed because I was the only member of our church present to experience the program and reap the rewards from attending. I sincerely hope when we sponsor the Assembly in the near future, many of our ladies will register and participate.

The driving theme of our sessions was God is calling all of us to make a difference in the life of our beloved Armenian church. It is our obligation to help our church survive. Not a few but ALL!! We should not underestimate the power of prayer, making connections, and being different. We should embrace new ways to accomplish our goals, follow through, and always end with a positive outlook.



The highlight of the Women's Guild Assembly was attending the Women of Wonder Luncheon & Awards ceremony. Our very own Anne Terkianian along with Lucy Murad and Tanya Bukucuyan received the WOW Awards for leading CASP, the Children of Armenian Sponsorship Program. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, our Primate, presented to each honoree a Papal Encyclical which is called in Armenian, a "gontahg." This is the highest award our church presents to the laity. In addition, a monetary award was given to CASP in honor of the recipients.

So where do we go from here? I have told Der Hayr it is time to reorganize with a new leadership team. As I was writing this piece, I was looking over old minutes when Nancy Hovnanian and I took the baton many years ago. When Nancy stepped down, others stepped up. This spring marks more than eight years that I have been chairlady. I am looking forward to transferring the leadership to the young ladies who will guide us into the future as our parish continues to flourish and grow under Der Hakob's love for the Armenian Church and our beloved Holy Trinity parish.



Celebrating Sainly Women's Day

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Church School

Christian Education

By Patti Ayjian Smith, Co-Superintendent

Our Diocesan-wide Church School Lenten Drive focused on the urgent cause of helping more than 20,000 Syrian Armenians seeking refuge in Armenia. Our efforts this year raised an impressive \$1,700. This money will go towards providing emergency bedding, towels, kitchenware, and basic furniture for those living in temporary housing as well as school supplies for children. On behalf of the Church School, I would like to express deepest appreciation to our staff, students, and our Church families for their donations. A special thanks to our own "special angels," Nancy Basmajian and Kim Santerian who led the various fund-raising drives.

Sunday, June 4, was our final Communion and Graduation. Andrew Movsesian successfully completed all the requirements for graduation. He was anointed by Der Hayr and presented a diploma from the Church School and a beautiful Armenian initial designed and donated by Greg and Grace Meranshian. A very proud grandmom, Merle Santerian, gifted Andrew with a personal Bible. We are so proud of Andrew and rejoice in his accomplishment and the new life to which God now calls him.

As summer approaches and the Church School has closed, let's not forget to "Keep the Promise" by never forgetting the sacrifices our ancestors made. Our children need to understand and appreciate that Armenian lives matter. Please consider volunteering your time to help with our Church School. Have a safe and blessed summer. See you in September!



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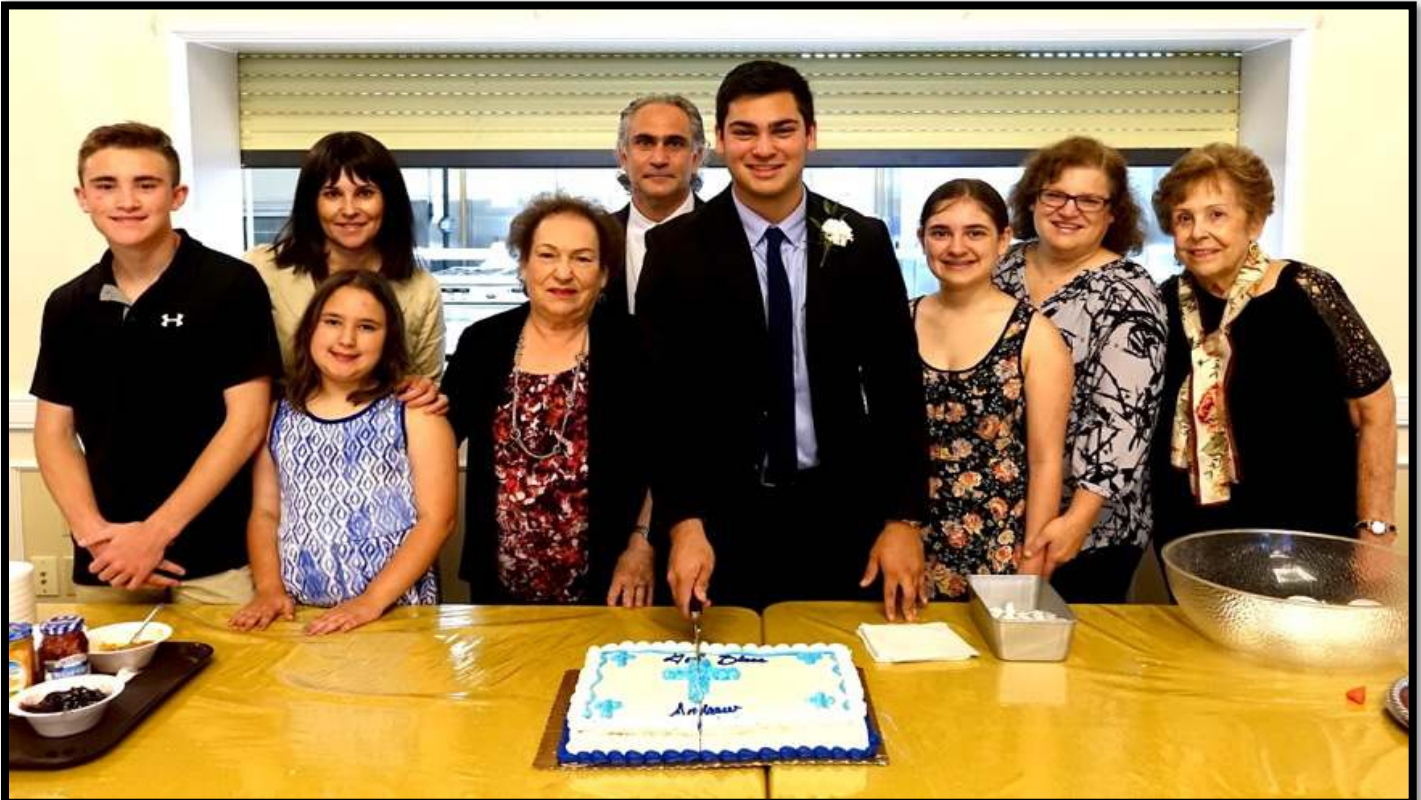
Proverbs 22:6

Armenian School

By Yn. Anna Gevorgyan, Co-Superintendent

Reflecting on the end of the school year, my memory raced through the Sundays of teaching the Armenian language and the excitement of the first day of school, which reminds me of a feast day. The teachers had their classrooms ready to make the students feel welcomed and comfortable and were anxiously waiting for their students to arrive. The hallway was overflowing by the cheerful voices of our children who were happy to see their friends after a three-month break.

The Armenian Language Program focuses on four basic skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening, as well as providing instruction in grammar and vocabulary. The children have shown great progress since the beginning of the semester, and we look forward to having them return in the Fall.



Blessing Service of Our Graduates

On Sunday, May 21, five young people from our church family participated in a short blessing service to acknowledge a special milestone in their lives—graduation. Peter Ohnigian and Michael Santerian who graduated from high school and Skye Jilajian, Freddie Jordan, and Scott Santerian who graduated from college, stood before the chancel as Fr. Hakob presented them to the congregation, saying “let us join hearts and prayers to bless their journey and wish them well.”

The ceremony included two Bible passages: Peter Ohnigian read from the Old Testament Book of Ecclesiastes, which tells us in poetry that there is a time for everything and that God is with us in all seasons. Skye Jilajian read from St. Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, which reminds us that God is love and love is the most important part of the answer to every one of life’s questions.

Fr. Hakob addressed the graduates before he blessed them with these words: “May you be blessed in this new chapter of your life; may you always see in all that happens, in joy as well as in sorrow, God’s presence and purpose.”

The graduates, their respective families, and the community continued the celebration during Coffee Fellowship, which included a tri-color cake wishing them well.



On August 28 the Armenian Church commemorates St. Stephen of Oolnia.

The following is a reflection by Deacon Albert Keshgegian, based on the epistle reading (Hebrews 4:12-16) for the day:

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and the attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

We may cheat on our income taxes for years and it is possible that the IRS may never find out. We may have a long extra-marital affair without our spouse realizing it. We may be full of hatred and envy, but be able to conceal our true feelings from acquaintances and co-workers. We can do these things because they involve fooling other people, whose ability to detect our lies and falsehoods is limited.

We can't be that way with God. The author of the epistle to the Hebrews characterizes the word of God as living and active. Hebrews describes God's word as sharper than a sword. A contemporary analogy might be to describe it as more accurate than the scalpel of a microsurgeon. God's word penetrates to our very core. It is precise – it can separate the joint from the bone and marrow; it can even separate our spirit and soul. God created everything, and nothing in all that he created is hidden from him. He sees everything; all is laid bare before him, even the very thoughts and attitudes within our hearts.

Jesus taught that not only evil actions, but also bad thoughts, are a sin. It isn't enough not to murder; even being angry with your brother is sinful (Matthew 5:21-22). It isn't enough not to commit adultery; even looking at a woman lustfully is committing adultery in your heart (Matthew 5:27-28).

God knows and sees everything that we do and think. Even if it seems he isn't around, he is. Even when we think we have hidden something from him, we haven't. And for all that we do, we will have to give him an accounting.

But God loves us even though he knows all of our faults and weaknesses. He sent his Son to be our high priest, our mediator with God the Father. His Son was human, like us, and understands what it means to be tempted and to be weak. He himself was tempted but resisted, and although he was human in every way, he was without sin. Christ, being God as well as human, promises us that our sins will be forgiven, if we hold fast to our faith in him. Through Christ we can approach

God with confidence, knowing that he will strengthen us in our times of need and give us mercy when we come before him.

St. Stephen of Oolnia (Stepanos Oolnetzee) and his companions lived in Asia Minor during a period of severe persecutions in the fifth century. Stephen, his parents, and a group of nuns and other companions escaped to the mountains for three months until a local shepherd betrayed them. Called before the judge, Stephen and his companions professed their Christian faith and their willingness to die rather than give it up. The group of saints was subjected to tortures and then martyred. Hundreds of pagans who witnessed their martyrdom, as well as the executioners themselves, were inspired to convert to Christianity. The converts gathered together the saints' relics and took them to the city of Oolnia.

St. Stephen and his companions realized that one's thoughts and actions before God are what really count. These saints wouldn't change their religion, or even pretend to, because God, who can see to our very core, would certainly be aware of what they had done. And they eventually would have to account for it. How could they approach God, in prayer or on the day of judgment, after they had denied him? How could they hope for his mercy if they had turned away from him? For them it was better to die as believers in God than to continue to live without his ongoing strength and mercy. They held fast to their faith and to their knowledge that Christ was their high priest and their access to God's grace.

We can't hide from God either. All of our sinful deeds and thoughts are laid bare before him. Even if we get our daily "fix" of pornography in the privacy of our bedroom, God knows. Even if we're only thinking bad thoughts, God is aware. Even if it's just a "little white lie" that won't be discovered, God will know that it is a sin.

But through his son Jesus Christ, who was one of us and knows our weaknesses, God has already forgiven all our sins. Through our faith in Christ, and our determination not to sin again, we can approach God on his throne and expect, not judgment and punishment, but mercy and love.

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POPPY AND ME

By Andrew Movsesian

*Born in the land of the oppressed
Born in the land of the free*

*A genocide that has not been confessed
A genocide remembered by me*

*Following your faith was a crime
Following my faith is a right*

*A generation wiped out in their prime
A generation whose future is bright*

*Learning to assimilate and to speak English
Learning to keep the Armenian culture alive*

*A legacy you did not relinquish
A legacy I will ensure to survive*

**Andrew wrote this poem about the Genocide
as part of a Church History requirement for the
Ararat Award program for Boy Scouts.**

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By Helen Keller

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Michael Hanamirian - 5
Rose Minassian – 5
Colleen Papazian - 5
Martin Attarian - 6
Lynn Hajatian - 6
Jon Sarkisian - 6
Christian Balint - 7
Alice Charles – 7
Kim Willard – 7
Robert King - 8
Brennan Pica - 8
Melani Burrows - 9
Antranig Garibian - 9
Andrea Alexanian - 10
Maxwell Hanamirian – 11
Artur Gyulnazaryan - 12
Mary Jamgochian - 12
Merle Santerian - 12
Garen Boghosian - 16
Anne Terkanian – 17
Judy Paretchan - 18
Alex Alexanian - 19
Jeannine Carol Juskalian - 19
Susan DerHagopian - 20
Janet Jordan - 20
Robert Barone - 21
Raffi Kaprielian - 21
Garo Garibian - 22
Jessica Jordan - 23

Nicklas Terkanian - 23
Lili Oflazian - 24
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Kylemore Hajinian - 26
Noushig Hovhannesian - 26
Logan Radell - 26
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Kristine Koengetter - 28
Melissa Paretchan - 28
Christine Peacock - 28
Virginia Knott - 29
Frederick Oskanian - 29
Christine Temoyan – 29
Gregory Andonian – 30

August

Breanna Asadoorian - 1
Jessica Sarkisian – 1
Gina Terkanian – 1
Diana Boghosian - 2
Michael Hanamirian Jr - 2
Albert Santerian – 2
Richard Doudoukjian – 3
Nane Hovsepian Arpajian - 3
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Kristen Santerian - 9
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Andrew Movsesian - 5
Paul Oflazian Jr - 6
Marie Hagopian – 7
Sabrina Garibian – 9
Sarkis Burrows - 10
Patrice Keshgegian - 10
Mark Santerian – 10
Ralph Arpajian – 11
George Medzigian - 12
David Santerian – 12
Ani Gargan – 14
Vahan Paretchan – 16
Annabelle Alexanian – 17
Adrienne Leck - 17
David Brann - 18
Johnny Alexanian - 19
Arpena Hajatian - 19
John Juskalian Jr - 19
John Lillis - 21
Valerie Santerian – 21
Greg Bilazarian – 22
Raffi Garibian - 23
Diana McGarvey – 23
Legna Santerian - 23
Ani Peckjian - 25
Christopher Boyajian – 26
Carlene Thomassian – 26
Phil Worrell - 27
Christopher Owens – 28
Tyler Juskalian - 29
Robert Ohnigian – 29

MEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

July

Sarkis & Katie Hashas	7/12/1959
William & Diana McGarvey	7/12/1986
Mark & Silva Santerian	7/16/1988
Gary & Colleen Papazian	7/24/2009
Antranig & Sabrina Garibian	7/25/2009
Garen & Diana Boghosian	7/27/2008

August

Daniel & Kimberly Dunigan	8/11/1996
Garo & Cecelia Garibian	8/12/2011
Michael & Lynn Hajatian, Jr.	8/12/1972
Paul & Leslie Movsesian	8/18/1990
Vartan & Elize Mazmanian	8/19/1962
Ken & Lucine King	8/20/1994
Aram & Lucy Aghazarian	8/22/1964
Ara & May Arzoumanian	8/27/2005
Gary & Sonia Papazian	8/28/1954
Gregory & Karinne Andonian	8/28/2010
Serge & Adrienne Minassian	8/31/1957

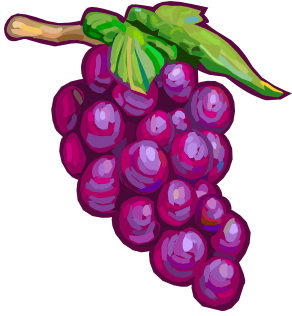
September

Fred & Michele Oskanian	9/3/1994
Kim & Gena Willard	9/9/2001
Richard & Naomi Mukalian	9/13/1981
Robert & Lorraine Damerjian	9/15/1962
Van & Suzanne Injaian	9/24/1961
Michael & Dori Juskalian	9/26/1998
Henry & Brenda LeCompte	9/27/1975
Harry & Valerie Santerian	9/29/1996
John & Adrienne Juskalian	9/29/1984

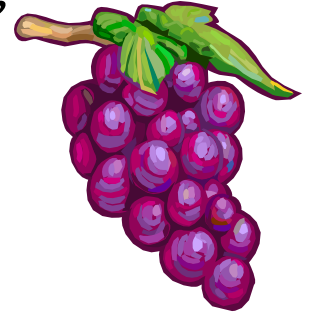


**This page is donated as a thank you
to Der Hayr, the Parish Council and
the Parish community
for allowing me to continue to
serve in our leadership.**

John M. Hanamirian



FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF
ST. MARY THE GOD BEARER
&
BLESSING OF THE GRAPES



Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church
Sunday August 13, 2017

Blessing of the Grapes following the Liturgy

We encourage you to send in your donations for the Grape Blessing by filling out the form below.



PLEASE FILL OUT AND SEND IN THIS FORM

Name: _____

(Circle one)

In Memory/Honor of: _____

Enclosed Donation: _____



PLEASE MAIL CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
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101 ASHMEAD ROAD
CHELTENHAM, PA 19012
SEND TO OFFICE BY 08/08/17



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
Office Fax: 215-663-1757
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

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Hanamirian (Chair)	215-431-0589
Merle Santerian (Vice Chair)	215-947-3777
Gary Berberian (Treasurer)	609-871-3782
Gregory Javardian (Asst. Treasurer)	215-938-7893
Elizabeth Barone (Secretary)	610-449-2236
Anton Balasanyan	267-237-7492
Larry D. Der Hagopian	215-489-7116
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Barbara Harmon	609-605-0489
Mickey Paretchan	215-947-4394
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DIOCESAN DELEGATES

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John Hanamirian	856-489-9809
Anne Terkanian	215-822-8436

CHOIR

Jeanette Der Hagopian (Co-Director)	215-672-4188
Karinne' Andonian (Co-Director)	609-760-4993
Lorraine Damerjian (Organist)	215-572-8465
Steve Aslanian (Treasurer)	215-757-2622

CHURCH SCHOOL

Yn. Anna Gevorgyan (Superintendent)	215-938-1313
Patti Ayjian Smith (Superintendent)	610-812-6052

MEN'S CLUB

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Michael Paretchan	215-947-4394
Michael Tookmanian	215-637-8304

BOOKSTORE

Gloria Basmajian	215-722-3369
Virginia Shakarjian	215-886-1904

ACYOA Jrs.

Andrew Movsesian (Chair)	
Leslie Movsesian (Treasurer)	201-801-2725
Robert Ohnigian (Parent Advisor)	610-716-7452

LADIES of HOLY TRINITY

Elizabeth Barone (Chair)	610-449-2236
Lorraine Damerjian (Treasurer)	215-572-8465
Melissa Paretchan (I.T.)	215-743-6925

INTERCOMMUNAL

Ara Shakarjian	215-886-1904
Tanya Paretchan	215-947-4394
Emily Movsesian	734-277-2753

COFFEE HOUR COORDINATOR

Merle Santerian	215-947-3777
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ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Nancy Basmajian (Coordinator)	215-722-3369
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Editorial Staff

Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan

Jeanette Der Hagopian

Larry D. Der Hagopian

Maggie Miller

Naomi Mukalian

Photographers

John Alexanian

Ara Shakarjian

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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