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Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church



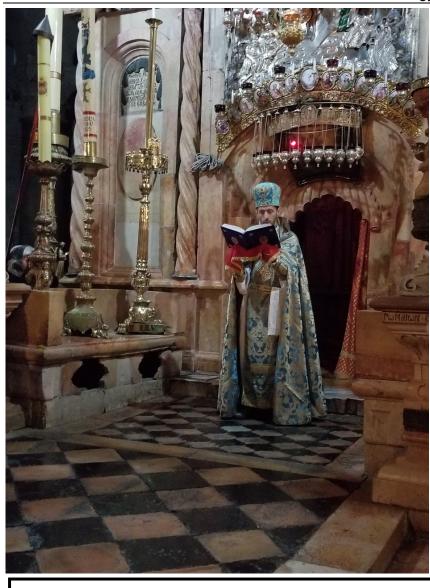
LOOYS



Cheltenham, PA

Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan, Pastor

Spring 2018-02



Der Hakob
Celebrating
Badarak
at
the
Tomb
of
Christ

Hours of Worship

- Morning Service: 10:00 AM

- Divine Liturgy: 10:30 AM

Church School

- Language Instruction: 10:15-11:15

- Christian Education: 11:20-12:15



Upcoming Events

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

Pray Until Something Happens

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	Telep	hone:	215-0	663-1	600

Kitchen: 267-282-4594

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

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Larry D. Der Hagopian (Vice Chair)	215-489-7116
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Jeanette Der Hagopian	215-672-4188
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Nancy Hovnanian (Co-Superintendent)	609-922-1101

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Editorial Staff Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan Jeanette Der Hagopian Larry D. Der Hagopian Maggie Miller Naomi Mukalian

> <u>Photographers</u> 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.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

By John Hanamirian, Chair

The email header reads: "SAVE THE CATHEDRAL" COMPLEX FROM BEING SOLD. A gentleman sent an email to all the Diocesan Delegates and Parish Council Chairs to inform and, at the same time, gather support for his disagreement with the sale of the Air Rights and other property where the Cathedral is housed in New York City. The gentleman states:

"We just celebrated the 50th anniversary of the consecration of St. Vartan Cathedral, in the heart of New York City, arguably one of the most important and visible cities in the World. We extolled the wisdom of our founders for having the vision and dedication to secure this unique and irreplaceable property one parcel at a time over multiple years. Their objective was to acquire this full city block so there would be no adjacent buildings within that block, and roads on all four sides. They then had the dedication to raise the funds to build the administrative headquarters and a Cathedral, as well as the foresight to design the banquet hall, and the administration/reception building so that they did not visually interfere with or overshadow the view of the Cathedral. Its visibility and public awareness has also since been enhanced by being located across from the park named after it, by being on the corner of two major thoroughfares, and adjacent to both public transportation, as well as the entry/exit to the Queens Midtown Tunnel.

"Now 50 years later, while other dioceses, churches, and synagogues are exploring and moving forward with utilizing the <u>new building codes</u> designed to preserve and protect their property by allowing monetizing their air rights <u>off site</u> (see attached articles), <u>we are selling one third of our irreplaceable property</u> without even properly pursuing these off site alternatives. In addition, there has been no impartial evaluation of the long term financial feasibility and logistic ramifications of this decision of having to move or lose the advantages of a single, shared central location for all of our Diocese and its auxiliary departmental and organizational offices, reception and meeting rooms, as well as the onsite apartments, and parking garage on one campus adjacent to the Cathedral. Though the sale of air rights off site may not be the quickest and easiest way, Armenians have historically always chosen the best and right way as opposed to the easiest way, which is why we are still a Christian Nation.

"As leaders and representatives of our parishes, we have freely voiced our concerns over other issues like the current global Bylaw dictates. We need those voices now to prevent our Diocesan Council members, whom we elected to represent us, from making this milestone, irreversible decision to sell, without even considering our input requesting proper evaluation of both off site alternatives, as well as the long term logistic and financial feasibility, let alone even considering asking for the approval of the Diocesan Assembly."

The issue of the sale of the Cathedral property was raised at the Diocesan Assembly, where it was discussed and the Assembly Members were advised of the decision to sell, but were also advised that the Diocesan Council was within its rights under the Diocesan By-Laws to make the decision to sell the Cathedral property without the vote or any other approval of the Assembly. Rather, the Diocesan Council can and did decide on their own to sell the Cathedral property obtaining only the approval of the Diocesan Board of Trustees, which consists of ten members.

When John Kash was Chair of the Council and I was the Treasurer/Legal Liaison, I had a similar, smaller-scale issue arise with respect to my negotiations for the sale of the easement rights for the gas pipeline for our Church property. I had negotiated a good deal for our Church and felt very good about it and then thought, wait a minute, this isn't really our property; the Church property is legally owned by the Diocese and I have to ask them if this is okay. Fortunately, they did agree and we also agreed that, as a gesture of good faith, that the funds from the sale, \$400,000.00, would be invested in the Armenian Church Endowment Fund (ACEF), consistent with the Diocese's own investment strategy of maintaining a balance of \$100,000,000.00 in ACEF.

Having obtained the approval of the Diocese, I read our own By-Laws and concluded we could sell the property without a vote of our Parish Assembly; we only needed the Diocese to approve and I had that approval. I then thought again and said to my Uncle, it is not the right thing to sell this property without the approval of the Parish Assembly. He agreed. The Parish Assembly approved.

Now, I understand that this sale of Cathedral property will generate approximately \$50,000,000.00 for the Diocese along with some additional monies that the Diocese identifies as necessary to repair the Cathedral and adjoining facilities. That is fine and it is a tremendous amount of money, but it is likely better to ask for a vote of confidence or at least entertain the Assembly dialogue in advance of the decision.

PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND

In 2013, about twenty people from our Church went to visit the Holy Land. That was my first visit to the Holy Land and there was a lot to see, learn and observe.

This year God blessed us with another opportunity to visit the Holy Land again, and this time with my family and parishioners, totaling fifty people. After celebrating our Easter over here, on April 2nd, we traveled to the Holy Land to see the Holy sites, and celebrate Holy Week and Easter in Jerusalem, according to the Old or Julian calendar.

When we arrived, I was very tired because I couldn't sleep on the airplane. A few hours later, I learned that I could celebrate the Badarak at Christ's Tomb. My eyes were closing but my mind was telling me that this is the best



opportunity to celebrate with my Lord and parishioners. With my family and parishioners, we stayed overnight in the Holy Resurrection Church, also known as the Holy Sepulcher. That night was different from all the other nights of my life because instead of sleeping, we were celebrating, praying and contemplating our relationship with God. Jerusalem is a very noisy city, but I could find peace in His House, a peace which gives me joy and strength.

We usually started our day around 6 or 7 am because we traveled to different parts of the country and also participated in the Holy Week services. I heard no complaints from our people about our daily schedule. I was not surprised because our tour guide was excellent, from day one. He taught us that we are not tourists but we are pilgrims, which makes me think about our daily life and when we get upset easily or angry about little things that are not so important. We have to realize that we are pilgrims not only in Jerusalem but also in this world. And if we have difficulties or discomfort in this world, it will go away because we too are temporary in this world. We should try to concentrate on our spiritual life and relationship with our Creator since that relationship is going to last forever.

Generosity to Jerusalem

Sincere thanks to the following people who donated approximately \$9,000 in total to the Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem as a positive result of their pilgrimage and learning about the highly esteemed Armenian presence as caretakers of many of the Holy Sites. May their blessings be multiplied. (See Jerusalem article elsewhere in this issue.) Marge & Ray Ayoub, Elizabeth Barone, Garo Garibian, Kim & Gena Willard, Diane Yazujian, Vaughn Melikyan, Kim Bardakian, Lisa Kailian, Susan Dedeyan, Don & Jean Bedrossian and Lisa Kazanjian.

There is an Armenian saying: "If you want to know the person, you should travel with him." This Pilgrimage not only helped us to grow in our spiritual life but also it helped us to get to know each other better and be true brothers and sisters in Christ.

Jesus came down from heaven to this earth for each one of us, and I believe it should not be hard for a Christian person to travel to the Holy Land and walk with Christ a few days and remember all that Christ did for us. Our trip to the Holy Land was uplifting, memorable and a life-changing experience.

With prayers, Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan

WE ARE PILGRIMS NOT TOURISTS!

By Nancy Hovnanian

The phrase "remember, we are pilgrims not tourists" is what our tour guide told us the first time we were all gathered on our tour bus when he picked us up at the Tel Aviv airport. The phrase would become the mantra of our group of 50 pilgrims who had traveled from all over the United States and from Moscow to be in Jerusalem during Holy Week. It reminded us to be mindful, be patient with the thousands of other tourists that were there and, above all, to be on time for the bus (or you would be left behind).

Our trip-of-a-lifetime pilgrimage to Jerusalem was led by Der Hakob and Garo Garibian. The details of the trip were organized by Shake' Derderian of Nour Travels. The Philadelphia contingency included pilgrims from our church and St. Sahag's. We also had the pleasure of having Der Arakel, Yn. Anoush and their son Raffi, from St. Mary's in Livingston, NJ, join us.

Our hotel, The Gloria Hotel, was located right inside the Jaffa Gate in the Old City of Jerusalem and was within walking distance to the Armenian Church (St. James) and The Holy Sepulchre also known as the Church of the Resurrection. The day of our arrival, we all settled in, had dinner, and were told we could spend this first night at the Holy Sepulchre starting at 9pm when the doors would be closed and locked. A brave group including the two Der Hayrs and their families borrowed blankets from the hotel and spent the night there. Those of us who stayed back at the hotel were up and ready by 4 am to walk through the quiet deserted streets to be at the church when the doors were unlocked at 5 am. Der Hakob celebrated Badarak for us at the entrance to Christ's Tomb. And that started the marathon of Holy Week in Jerusalem!

Sites and activities the first day of our tour included a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee in a boat that looked like Noah's Ark, the Church of the Assumption in Nazareth, and a lovely spot where Jesus preached the Beatitudes.

Since it was Holy Week, visiting places like Gethsemane, Mt. Olives, Church of the Agony all became real, especially when we attended church services for Washing of the Feet and Christ's Burial.

Early Friday morning we boarded our tour bus and went to Jericho passing Bedouin settlements and camels along the way. (We also passed signs attached to barbed wire that read "Danger Mines.") Our first destination was the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized. He was actually baptized on the East side of the river which is in Jordan. However, we were not allowed there. Once a year the Armenians in Jordan and the Patriarch in Jerusalem and parishioners come to the river to celebrate



Jesus' baptism. Family members who live in the two separate countries can all wave to each other. Besides our own group, there were also many pilgrims at the river. Some had on white tunics and were getting baptized in the river. We sang Hayr Mer and the two Der Hayrs splashed water on us.

The next stop was the Dead Sea - which is actually a lake. There were changing rooms with showers for those of us who wanted to enter the water. There was also a pool for the children to swim. A few brave souls ventured into the Sea. There is so much salt you actually float! There is a tradition there to spread the river mud all over your body. Some of us did and our skin felt amazing!

On Holy Saturday our group met at 8 am to travel together to St. James Armenian church which was a five-minute walk from our hotel. However, it was also the last day of Passover, and the Orthodox Jewish population would walk the same road to the Western Wall for their prayers. The road was closed to non-Jews. We had to leave the Old City and walk outside the walls to another gate which was a fifteen-minute walk. There we met with another blockade and hundreds of pilgrims, many from Georgia and Armenia, who were also trying to get to St. James. After several hours and many obstacles, we all arrived there safely. The street at the entrance was very narrow and people were lined up on both sides waiting for the parade that begins the walk to the Church of The Holy Sepulchre. This is where the Armenian and Greek Patriarchs pass the "fire" out from Christ's Tomb. This is known as Looysi Or or Holy Fire. Words really cannot describe all the emotions and feelings of the whole process. The crowds are in the thousands and there were police everywhere. Once inside the Holy Sepulchre, everyone found a spot to settle in to wait for the "light" or fire to come out of the tomb. About three hours later it did and it was worth all that had transpired before that moment. There was a feeling of pure joy throughout the entire structure. Candles lit from the initial light were lit throughout the entire building in a matter of moments. People had bundles of candles they were lighting then blowing them out to take the "light" home. A truly once in a lifetime experience.

Easter Sunday we were back at the Holy Sepulchre for Badarak. There were so many people there it was hard to really get a special feeling. However, when we were kneeling on the stone floor for confession, I noticed that the stones under my knees felt almost soft and did not hurt my knees. This got me to thinking about the millions of people (many who were Armenian) who had come to this spot over the centuries, all for the same reason. I felt such a strong sense of connection to the past, the present, and then the future.

We enjoyed a private audience with the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, His Beatitude Archbishop Nourhan Manougian. He rekindled memories with members of the group who were his parishioners at Holy Trinity when he was our pastor in the early 1980s.

We ended our trip by first participating in Badarak at St. Mary's Tomb, watching a once-a-year procession of the Holy Relics at St. James, and visiting Bethlehem. At the end of the procession of relics, Der Arakel and I had an opportunity to kiss one of the relics. A chill went through me! I looked at Der Hayr and his eyes were wide too. We learned that it was a relic from St. John Chrysostom. (The relics are housed in gold arms with a hand and there were a few dozen in the procession).

While in Bethlehem that day, we visited the Church of the Nativity. Upon arrival, we waited a few minutes and then we went into the place where the nativity occurred. An altar had been built over it along with a church that had amazing mosaics. After lighting candles, we left the spot of the nativity and walked through the nave of the church and then noticed a long line of people on one side. They were pilgrims who had to stop and wait for us to go in because we were Armenian. We had a

"fast pass."

I could go on and on about our This is just perspective of the trip. Each one of us had their own experience. However, I think one of the main thoughts we all experienced and came away with was the importance of the presence of the Armenian Church in the Holy As Armenian Land. an Christian experiencing the Holy Land for the first time, I felt so proud of being Armenian. The Armenian presence needs to supported. People of the diaspora need to go there and support our fellow Armenians and the Church there.

Be a pilgrim to Jerusalem.... it is worth it!



A REFLECTION

By Deacon Albert Keshgegian

While it makes you feel good to please other people, it makes you fulfilled to please God

-- Tim Tebow, Shaken: Discovering Your True Identity in the Midst of Life's Storms, 2016, Waterbrook Press, p. 77

I have set the Lord continually before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. (Psalm 16:8)

This is the story of Tim Tebow: winning the Heisman trophy (for best player in all of college football) in 2007 as a sophomore, setting new college passing and rushing touchdown records, being named starting quarterback of the Denver Broncos national football league (NFL) team in 2011, turning around their season, leading them to the AFC West title, and winning a playoff game. And yet, despite all these ever-increasing levels of accomplishment, his potential as a pro-level quarterback was called into question due to a perceived lack of passing ability and persistent fumbles. He was released from the Broncos and wandered from team-to-team until his football career ended. He became the only quarterback in the history of the NFL younger than 30 who won a playoff game and then never started another NFL game.

How does someone handle the incredible success of being a winning NFL player and then having it all fade away? Tim Tebow shares how he did it in his autobiographical book, Shaken. Among the Bible quotes in the book, Tim quotes Psalm 16:8, from which the book title also came. The psalm says that if you put God continually before you, you will not be shaken by the storms that inevitably occur in life.

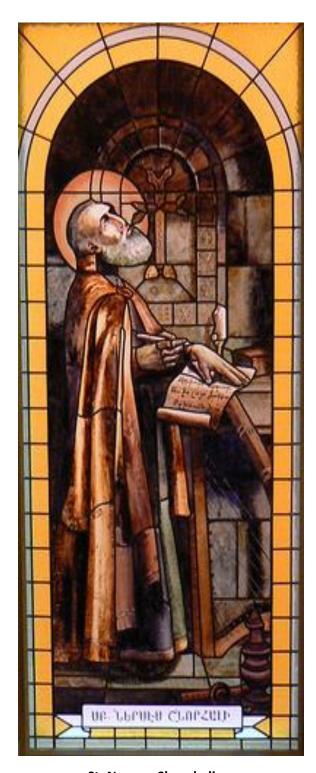
What does it mean to put God continually before you? It means putting God first in your life, making everything you do, everything you plan, with him in mind, with the purpose of pleasing him and following his, not necessarily your own, desires.

At one point in the book, Tim also contrasts the feeling you get by pleasing people with the feeling from pleasing God. Tim Tebow did please many people as a football player, especially in Denver. The thrill of seeing your city's team have a successful season, maybe winning it all in the Super Bowl, can be exhilarating. We saw that earlier this year in Philadelphia, when the Eagles finally won their first Super Bowl. And Tim, like the Eagles players that we saw in the parade that followed, felt so good in making many others happy. But, he goes on to say, that's not the best feeling there is. Although pleasing others can make you happy, it is only by pleasing God that you can feel fulfilled: feeling that your life has purpose, important purpose, and that you are doing what you were called upon to do. In order to feel fulfilled, Tim created the Tim Tebow Foundation, with several different types of ministries "to bring faith, hope and love to those needing a brighter day in their darkest hour of need."

What can we do in our own lives to show God that he is first, that we are doing what will please him? By helping others. By doing what we can, even if it seems so little, to make the world a better place. By talking with God regularly, in prayer, sharing with him our thoughts and feelings, and getting his guidance on how we should lead our lives. And by having faith. By trusting that he will guide, support, and protect us through this life, through all the disappointments, failures, and storms that may occur.



Holy Trinity Armenian Church Summer Study: Scripture and Shnorhali



St. Nersess Shnorhali

Join us as we explore Scripture and selected writings of one of the most beloved and celebrated saints of the Armenian Church, St. Nersess Shnorhali (Grace-filled). Serving the Church in the 12th century as a priest, a bishop and a Catholicos, he is perhaps best remembered as a theologian, a poet and writer of prayers and hymns still in use today in the 21st century.

Tuesday mornings, 10:00-11:30 JULY 10, 17, 24, 31 Holy Trinity Conference Room

OUR GUIDES:

Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan Dn. Albert Keshgegian

TO REGISTER:

email nancybasmajian@verizon.net or call 215-722-3369 by **July 8**

Holy Trinity Armenian Church 101 Ashmead Road, Cheltenham, PA Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan, Pastor www.holytrinity-pa.org

2018



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ABOUT OUR FAMILY

Summer has arrived – along with lots of rain, but at least, it's NOT SNOW! We are happy to share the many milestone wedding anniversaries of Linda & Richard Vishab (50 years), Diane & Bob Paretchan (50), Alice & Karnig Torossian (50), Millie & Ron Asadoorian (55), Maggie & Russ Tandourjian (60) and the grand winner - Mary & Berj Yeretzian (68)!....Congratulations to Melissa & Chick Deetz on their springtime wedding. Melissa is the daughter of Valerie & Albert Der Pilbosian and worked with our youth many years ago...We continue to keep in our prayers Butch Kumkumian, Annabelle Alexanian, Albert Santerian, Diana McGarvey, Marguerite Donoian, Rick Mukalian and Doris Alahverde. We hope that by the next issue, some will have "graduated" off this list!....We celebrate the arrival of Gavin Dennis, first child born to Jared & Colleen DeRentz, and fifth grandchild in the blended family of Cece and Garo Garibian....We have a new artist among us! Leslie Santerian and her daughter Natalie recently returned from a trip to Prague where Leslie entered some of her work in an Art Show there with great results....With sadness, we learned of the passing of Diramayr Virginia Melkonian at the age of 91. As the beloved mother of our pastor, Very Rev. Haigazoun Melkonian of blessed memory, she was like an extended member of our church family and often joined us on our New York theatre trips, overseas travel and other excursions, despite the fact that she lived in Michigan.... Congratulations to Sirvard (Silva) Khalatyan who became a citizen of the USA in April. Silva was the first of her family to arrive in our community more than ten years ago and after several years, her daughter, Marina Balasanyan, and family -Anton and Ashot.- arrived to become valued and committed members of our community....Some of our milestone birthdays include Vickie Shakarjian, Pauline Chapjian, George Terkanian, Ara Shakarjian and Ethel Terzian. Congratulations one and all.... A great big shout-out to







Andrew
Movsesian who
became Eagle
Scout. To reach
that goal takes

incredible commitment and dedication. (See article elsewhere in this issue.).... Hats off to Nicole Santerian, a student of the Armenian Sisters Academy, who participated in the PA Junior Academy of Science Finals, and won a Second Place Award in the Seventh Grade Bio-Chemistry Division, which was held at Penn State University, in State College, Pa. Nicole is the daughter of Mike and Legna, and granddaughter of Merle Santerian and a regular student of our Church School....And continuing with "The Younger Santerians," triple kudos to Audrey Movsesian, daughter of Paul and Leslie, and granddaughter of Merle Santerian and Adrienne Movsesian, who had a very busy month of May. First, she celebrated her 16th Birthday; later in the month was inducted into the National Honor Society at Lower Moreland High School; and ended with a trip to Disney World with her High School Music Department where she performed with the Concert Choir and in the Orchestra, playing the violin. She is also a regular member of our Church School. Our church is blessed to have so many talented people among us, especially of the younger generation. Let's keep encouraging them!....A safe and relaxing summer to all ...

ADDRESS CHANGE

Joyce Killian 31 17th Street South Brigantine NJ 08203 609-264-9680 215-694-4812



IN APPRECIATION

The cost of this issue has been partially funded by Ani Gooshian in loving memory of Ronald Nishan Gooshian & Bagrad and Mariam Boursalian

THANK YOU NOTE

To Der Hayr and Church Family

We want to express our thanks and appreciation to Der Hakob for his visit and prayers while we were recuperating, it meant a lot to us, and to the church family for the beautiful card. Sincerely,

Vartan and Elize Mazmanian





ATTENTION GRADUATES - The September issue of the Looys will feature information about all graduates and we are hoping that you will submit your own details so that you can be included. Write-up should include: full name, parents' names, name of institution, grade level or degree achieved, activity involvement, and future plans (further education/ work). Please include a picture (in high

resolution color), if desired. Everything should be sent to looys@holytrinity-pa.org no later than August 20th.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 10, 17 Summer Study: Scripture and Shnorhali Summer Study: Scripture and Shnorhali

Aug 12 Feast of the Assumption

Sept 16 Exaltation of the Holy Cross; Program on Opioids

Oct 26 – 28 Annual Harvest Bazaar



Vaughn Derassouyan



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Men's Club 2017-2018 "200 CLUB" - Winners Update

March 2018

\$500 Angel Ebrahime #183

\$200 Alice Endrigian #100

\$100 Mark & Silva Santerian #173

\$100 Ricky & Naomi Mukalian #184

\$100 Ethel Terzian #147

April 2018

\$500 Bryan Peckjian #020

\$200 Grant Parnagian #017

\$100 Jack Baker #073

\$100 Cece Garibian #115

\$100 Jim McConomy #087



May 2018

\$500 Garo Garibian #012

\$200 Butch Kumkumian #124

\$100 Pearl Jamgochian #167

\$100 Larry & Kim Der Hagopian #057

\$100 Mary Parnagian #074

June 2018 - Final Drawing

\$1000 Richard Maloumian #025

\$400 Larry & Kim Der Hagopian #048

\$200 Larry & Kim Der Hagopian #153

\$200 William Mukalian #064

\$200 Linda Preske #018

Congratulations to the Winners and Thank You to our Supporters!! The tickets for Season 2018-19 will be distributed in August 2018.

We are pleased by the interest of our younger church members. It is important that we continue to develop a new base of supporters and look forward to their energy & ideas! And due to the generosity of several more winners, we have received additional funding to support our two Armenian CASP orphans.

Thank You!Holy Trinity Armenian Church Men's Club

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Church School StudentS Participate in Armenian Jeopardy

By Yn. Anna Gevorgyan

On April 15, 2018, several of the Armenian Language students from our church, accompanied by the teachers and parents, participated in "Armenian Jeopardy" organized Armenian by the Studies Department of the Eastern Diocese.The tournament was hosted at St. Thomas Armenian Church in Tenafly, NJ. They welcomed the participants from three Armenian schools: Kirikian Armenian School of St. Thomas Church, the Holy Trinity Church Armenian School of Cheltenham, PA, and the Shnorhali School of St. Mary Church in Washington D.C.



This was the second time we participated in the tournament which not only was testing the students' knowledge of the Armenian history and culture but also a refreshing practice for teachers as well. It covered all the aspects of the Armenian culture, including ancient and modern history, music, art, cinema, geography, photography, science and religion.

The students were awarded medals by Gilda Buchakjian Kupelian, Director of the Diocese's Armenian Studies program. The Shnorhali School won first place, Kirikian School second, and Holy Trinity School third. Following the awards, parents and students were invited to a lavish table of refreshments.

This event was a stimulating educational experience for our children and having them meet students from other Armenian Language schools and igniting an interest and devotion to their Armenian heritage and community.



Our Talented Armenian School Students



ACYOA JRS.....FIRST & LAST

Reflections by two members of the ACYOA Jrs., one of whom is sharing his first time as an attendee at a Sports Weekend while the other is sharing his last time since he has "aged out" of the Jrs organization.

Hayk Safaryan: Hi! I am a 16-year-old high school student from Yerevan, Armenia, and I moved here four years ago. I go to the Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Cheltenham. I joined ACYOA, Jrs. one year ago and this was my first time going to the HYE Sports Weekend. At the beginning, I was thinking about whether going or not, because it was my first time and I didn't know anybody there. After thinking about it for some time, I decided to go and see what the Sports Weekend really was like. We went to Boston on the bus and throughout the ride, I already got some friends. When we got to the St. James Church, I felt very nervous. I barely knew anybody and I felt left out. After we went to our host family's house, I got to know 5 other guys who stayed with me in the same house. The next two days were the best days of my life. I won the Advanced Chess Tournament and got 1st place out of everybody. The day of the award ceremony, when they called my name to hand me my trophy, I was so happy and proud of myself. It was my first time going to the Sports Weekend and I already got my 1st place trophy. During the dance, I got to know way more people than I expected and I still keep in touch with them through the social media. As a result, I decided that from now on, I will not miss any of the future Sports Weekends, because I already miss all of my friends and all the memories we had together.

Andrew Movsesian: Sports weekend is undoubtedly the biggest highlight of all the ACYOA JRs events. This past Memorial Day Weekend, I attended my last Jrs. Sports Weekend and I am really going to miss it. Sports Weekend is a fantastic time to meet new friends and see old friends from camp or past ACYOA events. Being able to see all my Armenian friends in one place for an entire weekend is truly amazing and when the weekend is over I think I can speak for everyone when I say no one wants to leave. Unfortunately, Philly couldn't bring home any gold this year but competing, housing, and going to the dances with all of my friends was rewarding enough. Of course, I am a little saddened that I will no longer be attending the Juniors Sports Weekend but I am looking forward to attending Seniors Sports Weekend and reuniting with old friends.





Champion Hayk Safaryan



Hayk & Fr. Vasken

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH SCHOOL

May 20th was our Armenian and Language School closings. After communion, Shannon King, this year's graduate, was anointed by Der Hayr and presented her diploma. We are so proud of Shannon and can't wait to see what God's plan is for her. Thank you to Grace and Greg Meranshian who presented Shannon with her Armenian initial. We celebrated with a cake and refreshments during coffee hour.

During Fellowship in the hall, the Armenian School students had their annual hantess singing several songs in Armenian. They were beautifully accompanied on the piano by Stephan Sarkissian.

A sincere thanks to all of our staff, parents and parishioners who made this school year so successful. Approximately 100 students were registered. We are in need of dedicated teachers for the 2018-19 school year. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!!!!!!!! We will train you - just a love for children and church are needed. The Church School and Armenian School cannot survive without the support of our Holy Trinity family. Please contact Yn. Anna, Nancy or Patti for more information.

Have a safe and blessed summer!

Sirov.

Patti Ayjian Smith (patti3128@aol.com) Nancy Hovnanian (nancyhov@gmail.com)





ACE BRINGS DIVERSITY TO ADULT PROGRAMMING

Our adult education ministry team had a busy few months providing us with a variety of learning opportunities involving some new faces... and some familiar ones. These included a lively Q and A with Fr. Hakob (see below), Holy Jeopardy with a surprise host, a young seminarian on the road to the priesthood, a film honoring the role played by women during the Armenian Genocide, a talk by the new Diocesan Director of Ministries and four members of our Holy Trinity family who shared their knowledge and faith experience.

The Friday Night Lenten Series began with a presentation by Leslie Movsesian on "A Lenten State of Mind." Using video, music



and a fun quiz, participants were challenged to use Lent to grow closer to God and to make some changes in their lives through self-examination.

The following Friday, St. Nersess seminarian, Deacon Michael Sabounjian spoke on "Understanding the Creed, Our Confession of Faith." Accompanying him to Holy Trinity were three other seminarians (who facilitated a retreat for our ACYOA Juniors on Saturday) and their Dean, Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian, who celebrated Divine Liturgy on February 25. (NOTE: Deacon Michael graduated from St. Nersess Seminary on May 19 and will be spending a year studying in Etchmiadzin in preparation for ordination.)

Making his first visit to Holy Trinity, the newly-appointed Diocesan Director of Ministries, the Very Rev. Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan led participants through the spiritual journey of St. Nersess Shnorhali (the Grace-filled), one of the greatest saints of the Armenian Church. (NOTE: In July, ACE is sponsoring a four-session summer study on selected works of St. Nersess and related scriptural passages. (See flyer elsewhere in this issue.)

Parishioners who were unable to attend the March 16 Question-and-Answer program with Fr. Hakob missed out on a lively and informative evening. Pulling cards from the golden "Question Box," which was placed in the narthex during Lent, Nancy Basmajian read more than 20 questions, a few of which challenged Der Hayr, but he was up to the task! If they pique your curiosity and you would like to know the answers, feel free to speak with Der Hayr. Here's a sampling:

- I understand that communion and the Gospel reading are the two most important parts of the Divine Liturgy. Yet the Gospel is read in a language most of our people don't understand and communion is not distributed during Lent. Isn't this wrong? Why should I come to church?
- What do our bishops talk about when they meet together in an "official" capacity? Is their agenda available to church members?
- Does our church accept cremation? Can a person who wishes cremation still have a church funeral? How?
- I saw that the Antelias Church recently ordained a female deacon. Why can't our Diocese do that?
- What is the status of unity between the Prelacy and the Diocese in the U.S.? We are the same church—it seems shameful that we are separated. Why can't we worship together [celebrate Badarak] like we did in 2015 at the 100th anniversary of the Genocide?
- Is it a sin to not attend Badarak?
- Aside from 301, what, in your opinion, is the most important date in Armenian Church history?

Rounding out the Lenten series was our own version of Holy Jeopardy hosted, for the first time ever, by Alexis Trebekian (actually our own Marta Brann) who handled her duties with elegance and grace (not an easy task, given the competitive spirit of a few of the players!).

Getting to church at 10:00 for the Sunday Morning Educational Series during April proved to be a positive (and not-so-difficult) decision for those who came to learn from, and support, fellow parishioners Brian Hoyle, Emily Movsesian and our beloved Yeretzgin Anna Gevorgyan. Each of them spoke on a topic close to their heart: Emily focused on a prayer in the Divine Liturgy composed by St. John

Fr. Mesrob Parsamyan

Chrysostom and pointed out its deep biblical roots. Brian's message in "Get Me to the Church on Time" dealt with Liturgy as a thanksgiving feast in which we would NOT want to be late. Those present engaged in a discussion of the perennial issue of lateness for



Liturgy. At the last session, having newly returned from her first pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Yn. Anna shared her emotional response and spiritual experience to being present at the holy sites in Jerusalem.

Following the Divine Liturgy on April 29, the award-winning and compelling documentary film, Women of 1915 was presented in the church hall. Lucy Aghazarian and Anita Hovsepian introduced the film and spoke about its well-known director Bared Maronian. The film included seldom-seen footage and described the vital role played by women during the 1915 Armenian Genocide and whose ancestors became people of distinction and prominence.



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It is a privilege to be part of the Philadelphia Armenian Community and to continue the legacy of our parents and grandparents. Please contact Garibian Law Offices if we may be of service to you.

PRACTICE AREAS

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Business Formation and Contract Analysis
Construction and Product Liability Litigation

Insurance Litigation
General Civil Litigation
Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution

BAPTISMS

March 17, 2018: **DOMINIC SEVUMYANTS**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ruben Sevumyants

Godfather: Vazgen Sevumyants Godmother: Stella Sevumyants





March 24, 2018: **THEODORE ETHAN KESHGEGIAN** Son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Keshgegian

Godfather: Michael Buchmann Godmother: Armine Keshaegian





April, 21 2018: **TALINE ANNETTE JANE BURROWS** Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Burrows

Godfather: John Solitro Godmother: Tiana Bragg

April, 21 2018: ANI CLARA GRETA BURROWS

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Burrows Godfather: Larry D. Der Hagopian Godmother: Kimberly A. Der Hagopian

April, 28 2018: <u>TULA TOROSIAN</u>
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Torosian
Godfather: Antranig Torosian
Godmother: Alexis Topakbashian





April, 28 2018: **LAYLA BROOKE PATRUSKEY** Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jordan Patruskey Godfather: Brian James

Godmother: Kalia Kalustyan





May 20, 2018: MARK SYSOYEV
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrey Sysoyev
Godfather: Alexander Ananyan
Godmother: Gayane Petrosyan



WEDDINGS:

May 11, 2018: MELISSA DERPILBOSIAN & CHARLES (CHICK) DIETZ

FUNERALS: 2018

LILLY OFLAZIAN entered into her eternal rest on March 23, 2018. Funeral services were held on March 28, 2018 at Holy Trinity. The officiating clergy for the service was The Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan.

ARMEN THOMASSIAN entered into his eternal rest on April 2, 2018. Funeral services were held on April 12, 2018 at Holy Trinity. The officiating clergy for the service was The Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan.



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Congratulations to our Sunday School Graduates Students and Teachers on a Successful School Year!



John M. Hanamirian

MER HOOYS - HOUSE OF HOPE

In March, we welcomed The Honorable Adrienne Krikorian, founder of **Mer Hooys** – House of Hope, to tell us about this facility in Yerevan and how it is making a difference for young women in Armenia. **Mer Hooys** was created for the express purpose of providing opportunities for at-risk girls in Armenia, many of whom come from severely impoverished families and either have been or are in imminent danger of being placed in government-run facilities, boarding schools or crisis facilities.

Mer Hooys provides qualified girls with a comfortable and safe home, a family environment, psychological support, family reunification services and educational support, including training in languages, social skills, community relations, arts, religion, health and life skills, and job skills.

The loving home is funded entirely by donors and benefactors and operates with full transparency. Their goal is to be a part of creating a better life for at-risk young women. If you wish to help support this worthy endeavor, go to www.mer-hooys.org for more information or contact Garo Garibian (garogaribian@gmail.com).



HOLY TRINITY HOSTS FAITH FORUM



On Saturday, June 2, a small group of clergy and lay people came together at St. Nersess Seminary in Armonk, NY to discuss adult faith formation. The informal gathering was sponsored by the Adult Christian Education (ACE) ministry team at Holy Trinity Church under the leadership of Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan.

At the gathering, Der Hakob commented on the purpose of the Forum: "We wanted to share the results of our new ministry at Holy Trinity where we provide opportunities for our faithful to grow in their faith. I believe there is a deep hunger for more substance among our people. My brother clergy have expressed interest in what we're doing so we thought this day might be the beginning of a new direction for our Diocese and assistance for our pastors."

Participants spent the day examining the nature of faith formation, looking at excerpts from writings of well-known theorists and also exploring and critiquing a few current studies in the field including the Terian Report which was commissioned by the Diocesan Council in 2006.

"Our goal was to bring together those who are working regularly on the parish level—in the trenches, so to speak. Hopefully this will be the start of something new and fresh – we have identified several projects which we would like to pursue," stated Nancy Basmajian who along with Fr. Hakob and Elise Antreassian organized the Forum.

Attending the Forum from the Diocese were the Primate, Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, the Director of Ministries, Very Rev. Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan and Director of Christian Education, Elise Antreassian. The Dean of St. Nersess Seminary, Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian was also present. Holy Martyrs Church in Bayside, NY which also has identified adult faith formation as a goal was represented by Arthur Asadorian and Donna Sirounian. The sponsoring parish was represented by their seven-member ACE team which included Jeanette Der Hagopian, Brian and Joyce Hoyle, Albert Keshgegian, Leslie Movsesian and Merle Santerian.



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ANDREW MOVSESIAN BECOMES AN EAGLE SCOUT



Sunday, April 22nd was a day of celebration at Holy Trinity Church as Sunday School teachers, Parish Council members, Scouts and Scouters gathered in Santerian Hall to witness the culmination of many years of effort for Andrew Movsesian, who became an Eagle Scout. Andrew has grown up in the Holy Trinity Church since baptism and has been active throughout the years, graduating from the Sunday School, actively serving in the ACYOA Jrs. as a member and Chairman, and active in all church community events.

Following a luncheon, a moving and uplifting ceremony was conducted where guests viewed a video showing Andrew's "Trail to Eagle" which culminated in a community project in which Andrew supervised 27 people to build a gazebo on the back lawn of Holy Trinity for the church and surrounding community to utilize and enjoy.

A highlight of the ceremony was when Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan presented Andrew with one of the last badges he earned before receiving his Eagle badge this day, the Ararat Emblem. This religious emblem is one of three badges offered by the Armenian Church of America, Eastern Diocese, developed to teach a scout more about his faith and the Armenian church. (Andrew had achieved the St. Gregory emblem during his Cub Scout years.)

Fr. Hakob read the poem Andrew wrote about the Armenian Genocide, as part of the Church History requirement for this badge. The poem is called Poppy and Me, which paralleled Andrew's life to that of his great-grandfather who fled from Shabinkarizar as a young boy during the Genocide of 1915. The poem reads as follows:

Poppy and Me

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



After Andrew was presented with his Eagle Scout pin, he in turn presented pins to his parents, Leslie and Paul Movsesian, and grandmother, Merle Santerian, for their unwavering support of his Boy Scout endeavors through all the years and publicly thanked them and many others when he addressed the assembled guests.

Only four percent of boy scouts make it all the way to an Eagle, making this level all the more significant. Congratulations, Andrew!

LOOYS UPGRADE SUPPORTERS

As we begin our fifth year printing in color, we express our sincere appreciation to those who have contributed to this enhancement, enabling us to produce the best newsletter possible for your reading pleasure.

GENERAL DONORS

Rev. Fr. Hakob & Yn. Anna Gevorgyan, Nancy & Gloria Basmajian, Larry & Kim Der Hagopian, Dr. Garo & Cecelia Garibian, Stephen & Nancy Hovnanian, Hagop & Sonia Ergenian, Harry & Mary Injaian, Ayshe Chakmaklian, David & Marta Brann, Fred & Denise Hess, Mary & Pearl Jamgochian, Mickey Sherian, Melinee Derassouyan, Richard & Linda Vishab, Tom & Fran Torcomian, Lorraine and Robert Damerjian, John Terzian, Terri Gaspar and Shant Kapeghian

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Diramayr Serbouhi Arzoumanian by Hagop Arzoumanian

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Zaven Hovsepian by Elizabeth Hovsepian

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STEWARDSHIP 2018

Ralph and Nane Arpajian, *Hagop Arzoumanian, Steve and Doretta Aslanian, Ayshe Chakmaklian, *Vartouhi Hacikian, *Elizabeth Hovsepian, Brian and Joyce Hoyle, Mary Jamgochian, Pearl Jamgochian, John Kash, Albert and Patrice Keshgegian, Virginia Knott, Emily Movsesian, Kim and Gena Willard

Total: \$ 15,985.00 (* New stewards since last listing)



We salute our dedicated parishioner, **Don Paretchan**, who is a man of many talents that are still coming to light. He came to the rescue by recovering the seats of our lobby chairs which needed repair. Don has also volunteered his time and talent to assist Barbara Harmon with the duties of the Treasurer several hours weekly. Thank you, Don, for the true steward you are!

We thank the generosity of *Kim Willard of Economy Roofing*, for seeing that our gutters and drains have been checked, cleaned, and are always in good working order. Kim does this regularly, as needed, and always at no cost to the church. Hats off to you, Kim!

For more years than we can remember, the man behind the screen is **Ara Shakarjian** who has been seeing to our video needs whenever

we have a program of any kind to present. His talents also include preparing Power Point presentations for our Parish Assembly meetings and our fun-filled Jeopardy games during Lent, among others. We thank you, Ara, for being our go-to guy!

ENDOWMENTS - THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

The ACEF with an initial investment of \$606,455.00 generated \$30,064.00 income to the church in 2017. Of that amount \$2,853.00 is designated by the endowments for specific purposes such as Choir, Sunday School and Youth.

HT Investments \$412,500.00 is from the SPECTRA pipeline easement. As of March 2018 it had a market value of \$463,302.00 and has generated \$101,703.00 since 2013.

A tabulation of the income generated for 2017 and received in March 2018 is shown in the table below:

Account Name	Original Investment	Distribution Amount Year End 2017
Lillian Avrigian Memorial Fund	1,000.00	\$54.08
Acabe & Roxie Boornazian Endowment Fund	11,500.00	\$624.96
Aram & Rose Boornazian Endowment Fund	5,000.00	\$271.72
Chalikian Family Memorial Fund	55,230.48	\$3,001.50
Nicole Der Hagopian Memorial Fund	24,330.00	\$1,217.04
Donchian, Hajeian, Chirkinian Fund	10,000.00	\$508.00
Karapet B. Garibian Endowment Fund	12,912.00	\$701.71
Niaz Garibian Memorial Fund	1,000.00	\$54.35
Mary Mirakian Sunday School Fund	7,685.00	\$412.40
Elsie Parnagian Youth Endowment Fund	5,935.00	\$322.52
Dr. Corinne Santerian Moore Endowment Fund	7,985.00	\$377.34
Ned Santerian Family Endowment Fund	11,000.00	\$597.79
Elizabeth Tookmanian Endowment Fund	2,230.00	\$121.21
HT Investments	412,200.00	\$20,097.25
V. Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian Endowment Fund	15,635.00	\$742.07
Patriarch Torkom Manoogian Fund	15,670.00	\$717.42
Nicole Der Hagopian Memorial Fund	7,143.40	\$284.26
Totals:	\$606,455.88	\$30,064.00

The endowment fund generated 10% of our income.

OTHER DONATIONS

In memory of George LaMarra

David and Marta Brann

DeBrielle Family

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Alice Karabian

Steven LaMarra

Barbara Papazian

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Karnig and Alice Torossian

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NEW TOTAL: \$12,080.00

VIRGINIA KOUYOUMJIAN

Greg and Maria Javardian



MEMBER WEDDING **ANNIVERSARIES**

<u>July</u>

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

August

8/11/1996
8/12/2011
8/12/1972
8/18/1990
8/19/1962
8/20/1994
8/ 27/2005
8/28/1954
8/28/2010
8/31/1957

September

Fred & Michele Oskanian	9/3/1994
Kim & Gena Willard	9/9/2001
Richard & Naomi Mukalian	9/13/1981
Robert, Sr & 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, Jr & Adrienne Juskalian	9/29/1984

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

July

Richard Weinsheimer – 1

Fred Hess - 2

Nazig Rafivey - 2

Linda Santerian - 2

Sarkis Hashas – 3

Nadya Vartanian - 4

James Der Hagopian - 4

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

Antrania 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

Lindsey Santerian - 24

Olivia Torcomian – 24

Eva Torcomian - 24

Kylemore Hajinian - 26

Noushig Hovhannesian - 26

Logan Radell - 26

Peter Oskanian - 27

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

Elizabeth Kapeghian – 3 Meredith Hanamirian - 4

Jeff Hajatian - 6

Heather Maloumian - 6

Helen Mirijanian - 6

Kristen Santerian - 9

Ohannes Hashas - 10

Mary Ohnigian - 10

Adrienne Movsesian - 11

Kelsey Sarkisian - 12

John DerHagopian - 14 Gregory Keshgegian - 14

Marsha Marshall - 14

Alyssa Worrell - 14

Hermine Bennuhan – 15

Sarkis Dedeian - 15

Norik Gyulnazaryan - 15

Richard Maloumian - 15

Robert Zane - 15

Kimberly Asadoorian - 17

Stephanie Williames - 17

Millicent Asadoorian - 18

Daniel Mazmanian - 19

Nazareth Hajinian - 20

Araxie Radynsky - 20

Mary Sarkisian - 22

Tavit Murray - 23

Azlen Oskanian - 23

Harry Santerian - 23

Azlen Theobald - 23

Albert DerPilbosian - 24 Sue Iniaian - 26 Helen Kazigian - 26 Donna Sarkisian - 27 Aram Kumkumian - 28 William McGarvey - 28 Arthur Baldadian - 30 Richard Maloumian Jr. - 30 Shirley Hajatian - 31 Brian Hoyle - 31

September

Cate Zane - 31

Brayden Asadoorian – 1 Elsie Soghomonian - 1 Gary DerHagopian - 3 Gianna Tancredi - 3 Jenna Tancredi - 3 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 Peckiian - 25

Christopher Boyajian – 26

Carlene Thomassian - 26

Phil Worrell - 27 Christopher Owens – 28

Tyler Juskalian - 29

Robert Ohnigian - 29





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



<u>Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church</u> <u>Sunday August 12, 2018</u>

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.



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