

Սուրբ Երրորդութիւն Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական Եկեղեցի

# Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church



# LOOYS



Cheltenham, PA

Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan, Pastor

Fall 2020-04



## Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

### House of Representatives

#### INDEPENDENCE FOR ARTSAKH

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO  
OF CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding the ongoing conflict in Artsakh.

Artsakh is a very American story – the victory of a free people over foreign rule.

The citizens of this proud Republic embody the words of our own Declaration of Independence – which affirmed for Americans and all the world – that the just powers of government derive from the consent of the governed.

To the well-known and thoroughly documented historical role of Artsakh as an integral part of Armenia going back thousands of years, we can add Artsakh's strong legal standing as an independent Republic.

But what matters most today – during an ongoing rain of rockets and bombs on Artsakh civilians by Azerbaijan and Turkey and their ISIS allies - is that freedom is not just about honoring history or enforcing the law.

Freedom is the only answer left for Artsakh's survival - History-based, law-based, survival-based remedial secession.

There can be no going back. Artsakh must not return to Azerbaijan.

The path forward is one of liberty, which is why I am today calling for official U.S. recognition of the Republic of Artsakh's independence.

ANCA.ORG

#### 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!

**P**ray **U**ntil **S**omething **H**appens

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## Contact Information



**Holy Trinity Armenian Church**  
101 Ashmead Road, Cheltenham, PA 19012  
[www.holytrinity-pa.org](http://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  
Kitchen: 267-282-4594  
Pastor: Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan  
[frhakob@holytrinity-pa.org](mailto:frhakob@holytrinity-pa.org)  
Church Secretary: Maggie Miller  
[office@holytrinity-pa.org](mailto: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
Larry D. Der Hagopian (Vice Chair)	215-489-7116
Don Paretchan (Treasurer)	610-608-1866
Mike Santerian (Asst. Treasurer)	610-527-1065
Elizabeth Barone (Secretary)	610-449-2236
Steve Aslanian	215-771-1157
Gay Hagopian	609-502-4995
Barbara Harmon	609-605-0489
Arousiag Keshishian	215-982-0520
Mickey Paretchan	215-947-4394
Nicklas Terkanian	610-348-7678

### DIOCESAN DELEGATES

Nancy Basmajian	215-722-3369
Jeanette Der Hagopian	215-672-4188
Leslie Movsesian	215-801-2725

### 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 (Co-Superintendent)	215-938-1313
Leslie Movesian (Co-Superintendent)	215-801-2725

### MEN'S CLUB

Michael Paretchan	215-947-4394
Michael Tookmanian	484-351-8663

### BOOKSTORE

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

### ACYOA Jrs.

Margarita Badalyan (Chair)	
Mariana Majian (Parent Advisor)	215-758-2664

### LADIES of HOLY TRINITY

Elizabeth Barone (Coordinator)	610-449-2236
Lorraine Damerjian (Treasurer)	215-572-8465

### INTERCOMMUNAL

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

### COFFEE HOUR COORDINATOR

Jeanette Der Hagopian	215-672-4188
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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*  
*Naomi Mukalian*  
*Maggie Miller*

### *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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# HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE

On September 27 of 2020 Azerbaijan and Turkey, with the help of other countries, attacked the Republics of Artsakh and Armenia. The plan was and is to destroy the Armenian nation and to confiscate our lands, which include Artsakh, where Armenians have been living for thousands of years. The war is not news for us because our nation was and is in an existential war for almost every century. The war was very devastating and brutal. A few thousand people have died already, with thousands more injured.

Many of us may say, "Why is this happening to us?" It's a legitimate question, but I would like to concentrate on how we Armenians can go out from this situation.

When we walk or drive through a tunnel, we have hope that finally we will go out from the tunnel and will see the sun or the natural light. Today's reality in Artsakh and Armenia is very sad and dangerous. But we Armenians, the first Christian nation in the world who accepted the True Light Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, can't lose our hope and allow the enemy to destroy us. Instead, we should be filled with hope and be firm that all of us have to be united, to protect our homeland and rebuild it again for the next generations.



In this hard situation we wonder which country is going to help us with rebuilding. That's understandable. But the situation is very critical, the time is very short and before any other country will help us, we Armenians should show our love towards our homeland by our actions. In Armenia we have over ninety thousand refugees from Artsakh. They need shelter, food and clothes, things which we take for granted. Our continued financial support is not only helpful but critical. We have to think of giving sacrificially.

Jesus sacrificed the most precious....He gave His life for our salvation. The Bible says, "The greatest way to show love for friends is to die for them" (John 15:13). Now our brave Armenian soldiers in Artsakh have given their lives to protect our families, our faith and our homeland. Many of them were 18 or 19 years old. They also wanted to live and form families and have children but that did not happen for them. They died with hope so that we can live, we can have our homeland and our families can live in peace.

With prayers,  
Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan

*We must accept finite disappointment,  
but never lose infinite hope. "*

Martin Luther King Jr.

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# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

By John Hanamirian, Chair

This 2020. Ugh. Many write about the year 2020 and the misfortune we have all endured. First, the pandemic of Covid-19 virus victims and all the changes to our usual lives. Then, the elections and the polarization of our population and then, Artsakh. The common thread in each of these events is that, in the end, we as Armenians, bond through adversity.

As the pandemic unfolded, Don Paretchan had the idea of delivering Armenian dinners to those in our Parish who might want or need a pick-me-up in spirit. That worked so well and all of the volunteers who helped to deliver those meals can attest to the positive response from our community.

We next created a plan for virtual and in-person Sunday School. That “kind-of” worked, but again, the constant change in our medical community news made a consistent schedule nearly impossible to maintain. We also tried to continue our spirit of events and, as Armenians, that meant more food. Our food on-the-go events fostered community and provided a much-needed outlet for our giving spirit. Thank you to Gay, Liz, Barb, Arous and all others who made those events a reality.

Thank you to our Investment Committee, Steve, Mike, Greg and Kim for doing all they could to keep our investments safe during the stock and bond market turmoil that existed at the beginning of the year and thank you to Mike Santerian for his role as liaison.

The election. Ugh. People polarized by political candidates, willing to destroy their families and friends for two candidates for a political office that they never met. Think about that. We would never tell strangers that their religion was wrong, that they are foolish for believing in a god different from our own or no god at all, yet people actually ended relationships with one another over these strangers. We need to stop that. Neither party was or is “in the right” and, no matter, individuals should not be empowered to dictate the beliefs of others. As we say in the law, that is a slippery slope to dictating all facets of others’ lives because....we know better? Our Bible does not say we are better than others and that it is okay to persecute them when you disagree. I know our God doesn’t say that is okay and I know we came out of a Genocide that took place for exactly that reason.

Artsakh. I am not qualified to write on this topic. I do know that we all mourn the deaths of the soldiers and the innocents. Our community raised money, demonstrated and pulled together to educate the rest of the World. It seems we did all we could and Der Hayr literally poured his very being into leading us through that effort.

I do look forward to 2021, but I am thankful for the view that adversity gave to our incredibly giving community.





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# PRAYER FOR ARMENIA

Blessed are you, O Lord who dwells in the heights, and blessed is the glory of your greatness.

As we have in the past, we come to you in a supremely difficult time for our nation. With broken hearts and tears filling our eyes, we are united in grief over the loss of our ancestral holy lands of Artsakh. We are forced to leave behind our sacred temples of worship, and silence our joyful prayers within our glorious churches.

In this state of unbearable pain, we appeal to you, O Lord, to hasten to our aid in your divine mercy and love.

Dispel our deep sorrow; heal our wounded spirits; pull us back from the error of hopelessness and despair. Help us to find strength and refuge in your loving arms, and to unite our nation under the warm and caring wings of your Holy Church. Grant us the humility and wisdom to accept the things we can no longer change; and give us courage to effect needful change where we still can.

In a time of unrest and turmoil in our homeland of Armenia, give our people the peace you granted to all your followers: breathe into us, too, your life-giving Holy Spirit, so that we too may find peace from worldly commotion, worry, and fear. Help us to work together in love, directing our sincere efforts toward the recovery of our society. Guide us in rebuilding our broken homes, and heal our wounded families who lost loved ones during these bitter days of war.

Remember with love, Lord, as our Creator, the souls of our heroic soldiers and brave civilians who sacrificed their lives in your name. Remember them, bless them, and receive them into your Kingdom. Comfort their loved ones by the grace of your Holy Spirit.

Lord, today we are overwhelmed by the sense of loss and tragedy that has come upon us. But we know that you are always near to the brokenhearted, and you rescue those who are crushed in spirit [cf. Psl. 34:18 2]. We trust that all things are possible through you [cf. Philip. 4:13 3]. Help us realize that even when matters lie beyond our understanding, you still know the plans you have for us—plans to help us prosper and not come to harm; plans to give us hope for the future [cf. Jer. 29:11]. We cast our anxiety to you, lean not on our mortal understanding, and trust in you with all our heart [cf. Prov. 3:5]. For we have faith that in all things, you work for the good of all who love and honor you [cf. Rom. 8:28].

We are humble, Lord, and you are our glory; your very name is wondrous, triumphant, and holy. Surrounded by the great cloud of our newly martyred witnesses to you, we praise you along with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always, and unto the ages and ages. Amen.

(Offered by Rev. Fr. Hratch Sargsyan)



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# The Story of Artsakh

September 27, 2020....the unthinkable happened when Azerbaijan, supported and urged by Turkey, attacked Nagorno-Karabagh (Artsakh) without any provocation, other than trying to claim OUR lands. With hope that it would be short-lived, that was not to be. Daily we looked to see which countries in that region and even beyond would condemn the unwarranted attacks, but to no avail. We were fighting alone. It was up to us to do whatever we could without anyone's help.

As it continued, we suffered many deaths and injuries of our soldiers. Brave and loyal men in the United States & throughout the world chose to join their brothers in fighting the Azeris, who were being aided by the Turks and jihadist mercenaries. Days became weeks without end, and sometimes, without hope. Three cease-fires were arranged but none of them actually happened, always being broken by the attackers.

Calls for medical supplies, food rations and donations to fund the war defense were immediately put forth, not only in our country, but throughout the Diaspora and our faithful people reached into their pockets repeatedly to help.

Our Church treasury gave \$10,000 and then we collected another \$40,000 for a total of \$50,000 which was sent to the Diocese for transfer to the Armenia Fund. An additional \$10,000 was collected by our people and sent to our Diocese, specifically to help the families of those clergy who had died or were injured in the war.

In a spirit of tremendous allegiance to Artsakh, one of our parishioners, Ashot Avakyan, personally donated \$100,000 to the war effort along with one thousand pounds of medical supplies and warm clothing for the troops and displaced persons.

When there was a call for civilians to evacuate from Artsakh, another \$2,500 was collected from our membership to assist civilians who sought refuge in Armenia. This helped to provide food, medicines, warm clothing including thermal wear, bed linens, and so many other essentials – all of those things that we take for granted. Additionally, six families in Khor Virab, who each had a wounded warrior including one who had lost a child, received monies from this particular collection.

In the spirit of unity to which we always respond in times of attack on our homeland, endless prayer services with religious leaders from all walks of faith joined us to pray for a peaceful end to the unjust attack on Artsakh. Fasting, along with fervent prayers, took place all across our Diocese, our country and the world.

Unexpectedly, on the evening of Monday, November 9th, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan announced on social media that he had signed a peace deal with Russia and Azerbaijan to end the war. "It's not a victory, but there's no defeat," he said. Those who were fighting to defend our land would strongly disagree. Thousands had already lost their lives or suffered injuries, but those who remained were still willing to continue the battle. Shortly after the peace deal announcement, hundreds of Armenians, unhappy with the development, stormed government buildings in Yerevan, Armenia's capital, to show their displeasure.

The future of Artsakh and its people is uncertain at this writing.









# PICTURES FROM THE WAR IN ARTSAKH





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# GARIBIAN

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## LAW OFFICES

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Our mission is to provide solutions and deliver results. We aggressively fight for individuals and businesses in legal disputes and litigation. We also advise and counsel our clients on business formation, contract drafting and overall strategy.

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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Insurance Litigation  
General Civil Litigation  
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# A REFLECTION ON CHRISTMAS

By Deacon Albert Keshgegian

What's the first thing that comes to peoples' minds when they think of Christmas? It might be the colored lights or the decorated trees or getting together with family and friends, but most people probably would say giving (and getting) presents. We spend so much time finding just the right gift for everyone on our list and wrapping it up in shiny pretty-patterned paper and colorful ribbons to be opened on Christmas Day. And we delight in the presents that others have given to us.

The practice of giving presents at Christmas comes from the wise men, who brought gifts to the newborn Jesus. Gifts that would be worthy of the King that he was: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But there was another present that first Christmas, a precious one all wrapped up, one that we usually don't think about. St. Luke, in his account of Jesus' birth, tells us that his mother Mary wrapped up the baby in swaddling clothes, long bands of cloth, before putting him in the manger that served as a crib.

What was the purpose of swaddling clothes? Swaddling babies has been a practice in many cultures for hundreds of years. The long bands of cloth wrapped around the baby keep him from moving around. They protect the baby and keep her from hurting herself. They are calming and help the baby sleep. Swaddling has been a common and expected practice. The fact that Mary wrapped the baby Jesus in swaddling clothes reflects her total love, affection, caring, and concern for her newborn son.

But by wrapping her baby in the long bands of cloth that first Christmas night, Mary also gave the first Christmas present, a present for the whole world and for all of eternity. A present for everyone who lived then and everyone who would ever live. A gift that would totally overshadow the precious items presented by the visiting wise men.

That wrapped-up little baby would grow up and become our teacher and healer. He would offer himself as a sacrifice for our sins. He would be our Savior and lead us on the path to God and eternal life.


On Christmas morning, as the mounds of colorful wrapping paper and ribbons and bows quickly ripped off of presents begin to grow higher and higher, as everyone "oohs" and "aahs" over the stuff inside the boxes, we should pause for a moment and reflect upon that tiny, wrapped-up gift that Mary gave to all of us that first Christmas – Jesus himself. And that by far is the greatest gift of all!



And God showed his love for us by sending his only Son into the world, so that we might have life through him.

1 John 4.9





# ACE invites you to a warm and cozy JANUARY 2021

*All sessions will be conducted via ZOOM*

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

## **THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

Exploring God's Love: Theology of the Armenian Church  
Guest Presenter: Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian, Pastor  
St. Peter Armenian Church, Watervliet, NY

## **THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.**


The Bible in the Badarak:  
Psalms Here, There and Everywhere  
Presenter: Deacon Albert Keshgegian

## **THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

Holy Trinity Book Club:  
"To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee  
Facilitator: Nancy Basmajian

Look for details coming soon to your INBOX!  
For more information, contact [nancybasmajian@verizon.net](mailto:nancybasmajian@verizon.net)

*Holy Trinity Armenian Church / Adult Christian Education (ACE)  
Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan, Pastor  
[www.holytrinity-pa.org](http://www.holytrinity-pa.org)  
2021*



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## ABOUT OUR FAMILY

This has been a devastating 40+ days for Armenians the world over as we witnessed a war on **Artsakh** and the world stood by and did nothing. But we are survivors and despite the odds – which are always against us - we will continue to stay strong for our nation with faith in God ..... Among us at Holy Trinity, life continues quietly because of the ongoing pandemic, but special occasions took place and we like to recognize them. And so we congratulate those who celebrated (or will before year's end) a milestone birthday: **Karnig Torossian**, **Tom Torcomian**, **Liz Barone**, **Alice Karabian** and **Maria Javardian**. Our "nonagenarian" is **Jack Vishab** who reached his 90th birthday in October. We miss you, Jack, during this long shutdown ....Milestone anniversary wishes go to **Virginia & Ara Shakarjian** (65), **Alice & Berdj Kalustyan** (65), **Florence & Richard Maloumian** (55), **Brenda & Henry LeCompte** (45) and **Marta & David Brann** (40)....Kudos to our own **Karinne Andonian** as she directed her colleagues in the CHOP (Children's Hospital) Music Therapy Department when they sang an inspiring rendition of our National Anthem which went viral! Bravo to all these front-lines workers who have stayed "on the job" since the pandemic and continue still to this day.....We also welcome lots of new babies born to our parish family. In August **Michael and Jenna Alexanian** welcomed identical twin sons, **Andrew Aris & David Mikail**, who joined big sister, **Brielle**. And in the same family, just days later, **John Van Alexanian** arrived to greet his parents, **Noushig and Johnny**, and meet his older brother **Kristapor**. We congratulate not only the parents, but grandparents, **John & Selma Alexanian**, and GREAT-Grandmom, **Nezihe Hashas**. There'll be "joyful noise" when they're all together!.....Around the same time, **Vahan & Monica Paretchan** welcomed their new baby, **Julian Michael**, who joined his older brother **Sebastian**. Congrats to **Tanya & Mickey** for continuing in grandparenthood!....And still more when **Zabelle Armani** was born to first-time parents, **Nina & Gary DerHagopian**. It's also the first grandchild for both sets of grandparents: **Susan & Gary DerHagopian** & **Kim and Arman Shahikian**. We look forward to watching these babies grow in our parish from babies, to toddlers, young children and beyond. They are our future!....On another very happy note, we congratulate **Ashot & Aida Petrosyan** who became naturalized citizens in September. So proud of them for taking that big step!.....We began with **Artsakh** and we end with them as well. There is much uncertainty ahead for their citizenry, which is discouraging, but our fervent prayers and donations will keep them going. We – throughout the diaspora - must be diligent and dedicated to both of those needs.....Enjoy the coming holidays as much as possible..... be safe, be happy, be at peace.



## BAPTISMS

September 26, 2020: **ARINEH & VACHE TORCOMIAN**  
Daughter and Son of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Torcomian  
Godfathers: Toros Torcomian, Loris Alaverdian,  
Christos Karagiannis  
Godmothers: Anita Torcomian, Jaclyn Alaverdian,  
Ana Karagiannis

October 4, 2020: **TEREZE NABIL SINNO**  
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nabil Sinno  
Godfathers: Nerces Bardakjian  
Godmothers: Tanya Bardakjian

## FUNERALS: 2020

**ROSE CARLUCCI** entered into her eternal rest on August 16, 2020. Funeral services were held on August 24, 2020 at Foster-Warne Funeral Home.

**MARGARET SANTERIAN** entered into her eternal rest on October 24, 2020. Funeral services were held on October 29, 2020 at Holy Trinity Armenian Church.

**VLADYMR BAGDASAROV** entered into his eternal rest on October 31, 2020. Funeral services were held on November 1, 2020 at Levine & Sons Memorial Chapel.



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**HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN CHURCH**

## **MEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

### **January**

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

### **February**

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

### **March**

Doris Alahverde - 1  
Michael Damerjian - 1  
Paul Movsesian - 1  
Peter Ohnigian - 1  
Toros Torcomian - 1  
Deran Maloumian - 2  
Miles Hanamirian - 3  
Barbara Papazian - 3  
Anna Polizzi - 4  
Gary DerHagopian, Jr - 5  
Gary Papazian, Jr - 6  
John Kash - 6  
Casey Baldadian - 7  
Michael Tookmanian - 7  
Braxton Pica - 10  
Robin Bilazarian - 11  
Florence Boyajian - 12  
Kevin Kalustyan - 13  
Jaclyn King - 13  
Nishan Boyajian - 14  
Scott King - 14  
Robert Damerjian - 15  
Mikenzie Juskalian - 20  
Nancy Hovnanian - 21  
Michael Juskalian - 22  
Melody Damerjian - 23  
Michael Santerian - 23  
Robert Damerjian, Sr - 24  
Michael Paretchan, Jr. - 24  
Terri Sadjian-Mears - 25  
Brenda Jilajian - 26  
Mary Yeretzian - 26  
Skye Jilajian - 27

## **MEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

### **January**

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



*Happy anniversary!*



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# CHURCH SCHOOL

By Janet Jordan

The 2020 Church School year kicked off on September 13th. It consisted of Christian Education and two classes of Language instruction. It looked very different from other years. Our staff worked together to create a dual plan that would be the safest for all of our students.

Our Christian Ed students attended either online or in person. Grades K-4 and 9-12 were completely virtual. Grades 5-8 were both in-person and virtual. This format was in effect until November 22, followed by a break, with classes to resume in January. At that point, the Church School staff will meet to discuss the best model for the next session of Church School.

We would be remiss if we didn't make mention of our Superintendent, Leslie Movsesian, who was out on long-term leave due to medical issues. We hope that by the time this issue is in the mail, Leslie will be fully recovered and eager to return to her role as Superintendent, which she did with great enthusiasm and zeal.

A huge thank-you to our Sunday School Staff: Yn. Anna Gevorgyan, Nancy Basmajian, Gloria Basmajian, Krikor Javardian, Arousiag Keshishian, Mariana Majian, Grace Meranshian, Berjoohy Murray, Talene Peckjian and Margo Silk who have worked so hard to make this experience a success. Additional thanks go to Nune Sarkissian and Tamara Tadevosian, who were the instructors for Language classes. We couldn't have done it without them!

We interviewed some of our parents and students about their learning experience this Fall and here is what they had to say:

**Student, Vartan Gevorgyan:**

It's ok that kids are in person and zoom. I like my mom teaching me.

**Student, Lenna Vartanian:**

I like it because we meet in the church hall. We have more space to have class with Yn. Anna.

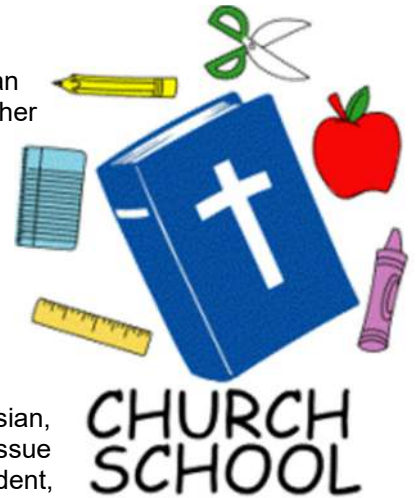
**Student, Grace Vartanian:**

I am sad that my friends aren't here with us.

**Parent & Parish Council Liaison, Arousiag Keshishian:**

I wish more people would participate in whatever platform they feel comfortable, so we don't lose touch with our church family.

We look forward to that time when we will be able to come together in person so that our students can continue to learn and grow together in the teaching of our faith and language.



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# NEVER AGAIN - ARTSAKH

By Erika Torosian

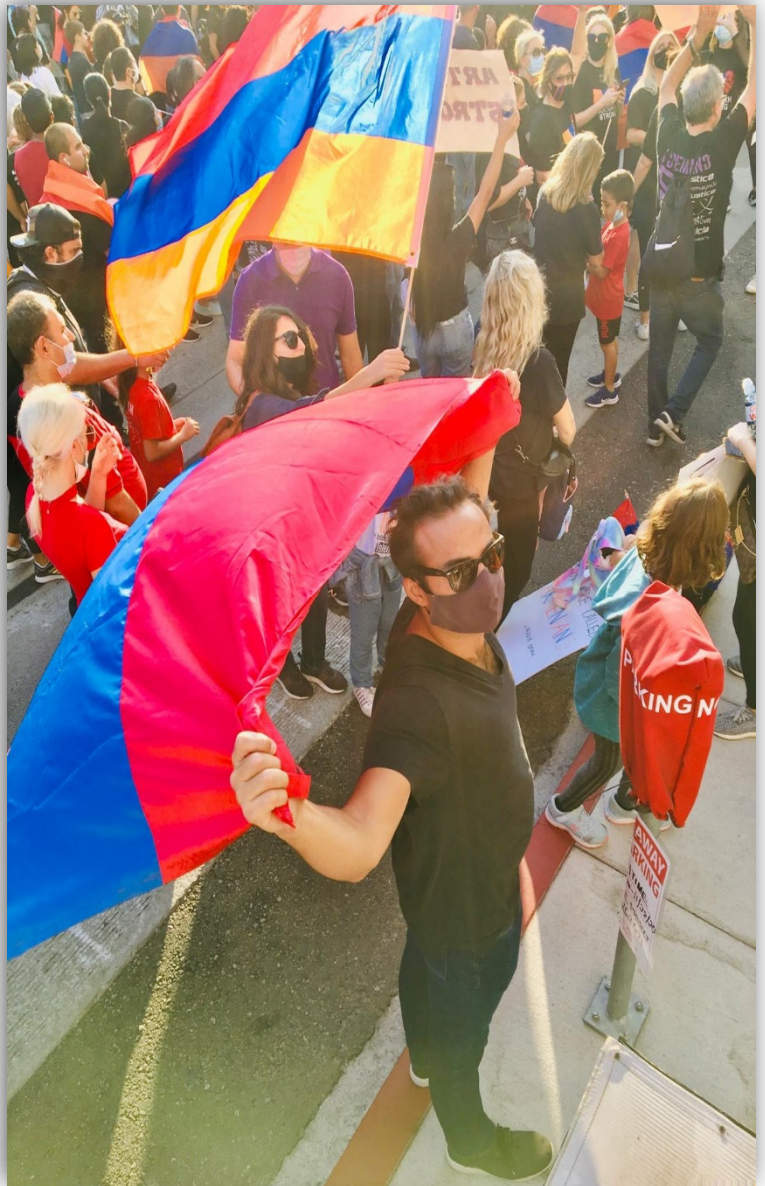
Five years ago, my husband and I moved out of our tiny one-bedroom apartment in Philadelphia to a single-family home in the suburbs. We had nothing but an old couch, a bed, a set of IKEA MALM dressers, and a dilapidated dining room table to take with us. The table was basically a pile of firewood sitting in my parents' basement, but my mom had the idea of refinishing it so I could use it in my new home. There was something about it. Maybe it was the intricate woodwork on the legs or the fact that it was one of a kind. It was my great grandmother, Arax's, and with a little TLC it could be mine.

I could've just as easily bought something for the price it took to refinish it. Something new and more my style. But to me, it felt like I had a piece of my past right there in my home. I wondered if other people my age would've done the same. Or was it because that as a descendant of Armenian Genocide survivors, I have a strong connection — more like an attachment — to my ancestors and our heartbreaking history?

Growing up, I considered myself “very Armenian.” Even though I was third generation, I was 100% Armenian, which to me was a big deal. I even had a gold necklace to prove it and I wore it with pride. And while my grasp of the language was limited to pleasantries and a collection of random words, in my heart, I felt Armenian. My family ate Armenian food and listened to Armenian music. I went to Holy Trinity Armenian Church on Sundays and spent weeks at St. Vartan camp in the summer. I was an active member of the ACYOA and Armenian dance group as a teen and the Armenian Students' Association during my college years at Boston University. I held internships through the Armenian Assembly in Washington, D.C. and AGBU in New York. As you can see, there is no shortage of ways to bring Armenians together. But even with what I thought was a pretty packed cultural résumé, it wasn't until my early 20s that I learned the importance of Armenian activism and advocacy.

I had just graduated from college and moved back home. I joined the AYF at the encouragement of some cousins, where I eventually met my future husband and gained a new set of friends. Whereas most of my family came to the States shortly after the Armenian Genocide in 1915, most of these friends' families had moved to other parts of the world — Syria, Iran, Iraq, and Lebanon — before coming to the U.S. Their food was a little different, their dialects were a little different, but we were all proud Armenian Americans who shared a rich culture and history.

I always knew the basics of the Armenian Genocide: a systematic mass murder and expulsion of over 1.5 million Christian Armenians at the hands of the Ottoman Empire during the height of World War I — when the rest of the world wasn't watching. And as a result, Armenians fled to all corners of the Earth in search of safety, creating what is now one of the strongest and most engaged diasporas in the world. I vacillated between feeling immense sadness and anger about what my great-grandparents suffered and feeling like, “It happened. It's in the past. Let's move on.” But through my new friendships, I realized that you can't move on from something that continues to be denied and isn't recognized for what





it was — genocide. You can't move on when Armenian land continues to be a source of contention — and which, at this very moment, is being used as a guise to carry out a second genocide against the Armenians. So, I came to appreciate the fight for Armenian Genocide recognition. And I became inspired to advocate for the protection and prosperity of Armenians everywhere.

Most Armenians are probably aware that Artsakh, also known as Nagorno-Karabakh, is currently under attack by Azerbaijan. Artsakh is a small, independent republic that has been part of Armenia since the 9th century. In 1921, Stalin wanted Turkey to join the USSR, so he redrew the map and gave Artsakh to Azerbaijan to appease Turkey. In 1988, Armenians in Artsakh demanded to be united with Armenia or become independent, and in 1991, they declared independence from the Soviet Union and formed the Republic of Artsakh. In response, Azerbaijan attacked Artsakh and a war broke out between Azerbaijan and Armenia. By 1994, a ceasefire was signed by Armenia, Artsakh, and Azerbaijan.

So when Azerbaijan violated this ceasefire on September 27, 2020 by launching an invasion along the Artsakh-Azeri border and shelling Artsakh's capital Stepanakert, it was my instinct to go into fight mode. Over the past few weeks, the entire Armenian Diaspora has made it its mission to bring light to what is happening in our homeland, to ensure that Azerbaijan's acts of aggression — acts of war — with the support of the Turkish government do not escalate into full-blown genocide. Men and women everywhere are signing up to join their Armenian brothers and sisters on the front lines. We're calling, emailing and using social media to educate our lawmakers and asking them to condemn Azeri and Turkish aggression on civilians in Artsakh and Armenia. We're donating and raising tens of millions of dollars through [ArmeniaFund.org](https://armeniafund.org) to protect and provide support and supplies to our people. We're spreading awareness, combating false propaganda and correcting inaccurate reporting through peaceful protests and outreach. We're doing whatever we can to educate non-Armenians that this isn't just an insignificant squabble, but rather a global crisis that impacts everyone. Armenians all around the world are crying out for help.

You may think, "How can a third generation Armenian-American be so rocked by something happening so far away?" Arax. Vahan. Mari. Ardashes. Arshalouys. Krikor. Thomas. Badaskhan. These are the names of my great grandparents who survived the Armenian Genocide. It's that simple. For over 100 years, Armenians across the globe have marched every April 24 in remembrance of those who perished and those who lived through the atrocities of the Armenian Genocide. Pleading with international leaders for recognition and chanting "NEVER AGAIN!" And now history is repeating itself. Armenia and Artsakh don't want war. They want peace. The Armenians in Artsakh want to live under the successful democracy that they created. So when Azerbaijan is committing war crimes by targeting civilians, using banned cluster bombs and starting a war in the middle of a global pandemic with Turkey's help, you better believe that Armenians everywhere are going to step up. We all have a duty to our ancestors to protect our land, our people and our legacy. We made a promise to them and to ourselves that never again, means never again.

**Editor's Note:** This article was written by Erika Torosian at the start of the war and does not reflect how it ended. She is the daughter of Lynn & Mike Hajatian and grew up at Holy Trinity. She lives in West Chester with her husband and two children and is a proud member of the Philadelphia Armenian community. Erika – we are proud of your passion as a third generation Armenian-American.

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# Reflections

When we take a step backwards we take a step forwards.  
When we lose we win, we learn, we adapt, we survive.  
It is human nature.

It is also human nature to dream.  
But what we dream about is the question we must ask ourselves.  
But even when our dreams seem hopeless or impossible,  
they're closer than you think.

We must look beyond the stars and dream.  
All it takes is one step, one thought, one dream.  
But while dreams are very important, we must do what is right.  
So if your dream involves doing something wrong pick a new dream.

Humans are meant to love and to care for each other, not hate each other.  
We must love our animals, our planet and everything we have.

We must forgive, be kind, and love no matter the color of someone's  
skin or if they are a boy or a girl. The only way you should judge someone  
is by their actions and their heart. And for what we own we must be thankful.

We must learn from our ancestors and grandparents...  
that it doesn't matter the color of your skin or someone  
else's or if you're a boy or a girl.

Love, peace, kindness, forgiveness and dreams  
are the only way for humanity to survive.



*Written by 11-year-old Luke Kapeghian,  
son of Heather & Krikor and  
grandson of the late Betty Kapeghian*

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## BOOK DISCUSSION

### — A GREAT SUCCESS!

On the evening of October 22nd, some 20 participants from Holy Trinity, St. Gregory and the community at large gathered via ZOOM to discuss Srpuhi Vahanian Dussap's book, *Mayda: Echoes of Protest*. The event was sponsored by Holy Trinity's Adult Christian Education (ACE) and was brought to fruition by ACE member, Lucy Aghazarian. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan moderated the lively program.

Srpouhi Dussap was born in Istanbul in 1841 to a well-off, well-connected, and well-educated family. She was the first Armenian woman to protest the injustices and prejudices against women in Turkey who lived both in the capital and in the provinces. Inspired by her mother, an early activist, and her husband, a French musician at the court of the Sultan, she wrote: "The painful condition of women has always been the subject of my reflections." Restricted mostly to keeping the home fire burning in a patriarchal, conservative, traditional Armenian culture, and compounded by a hostile, Ottoman Muslim environment, "a woman," wrote Dussap "...lives head lowered, her palm covering her mouth, she passes from this world voiceless and noiseless..."

Writing in the popular Armenian vernacular to reach a wider audience, Dussap spent her adult life advocating access to education, acquisition of work skills and free expression for women. Her critics did not remain silent, accusing her of being a danger to traditional family life. But she prevailed, becoming a role model to subsequent generations of young women writers and feminists.

Despite the shortness of the discussion hour, the gathering provided a very gratifying evening. In their very positive comments afterwards, the participants expressed astonishment that an Armenian writer in Turkey in the 19th century could write so eloquently about issues that are still relevant today. They also indicated that they enjoyed getting together around provocative ideas, and several suggested that we have other similar book discussions in the future. Some of their comments follow:

"The book discussion was excellent" - Margaret Kalalian

"Last night was great!" - Liz Barone

"Let's have more of these discussions!" - Janet Jordan

"It was an enlightening evening" - Armine Boghosian

"It was certainly an excellent zoom discussion" - Marge Ayoub

## WALKING WITH MARK

This fall, the Adult Christian Education (ACE) team hosted an eight-week "Walk Through the Gospel of Mark," led by Pastoral Intern, Dn. Armen Terjimanian. Held over Zoom, Der Hakob and Dn. Armen led participants through the Gospel of Mark, answering questions and providing context to Jesus' words and actions. Sessions were held from September 29 to November 17.

Dn. Armen, who graduated from St. Nersess Armenian Seminary and St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary earlier this year, provided a unique view on Mark's writings including giving clarity to the context of the time when the Gospel was written and the history of the Gospel's writing. The reminder that Jesus' lessons and actions in Mark, as universal and important as they are today, were in the context of ancient Israel and the Roman Empire proved to be powerful as we understood where Jesus came from with His wisdom to the Jews and Gentiles of the time.

Participants came to each session eagerly prepared with questions and struggles in understanding the Gospel, making for a healthy discussion during the weekly one-hour sessions. Special thanks to the ACE team, with the guidance of Fr. Hakob and Dn. Armen, for organizing this terrific opportunity to get to understand the Bible more intimately.

## "ELVIS AND COVID: GOD IS GONNA SEE ME THROUGH"

A most unlikely program took place when Senior Deacon, Albert Keshgegian, led a ZOOM presentation on "Elvis and COVID: God is Gonna See Me Through" back on June 16 to Holy Trinity parishioners. When word reached the Ministry Team at St. Peter Armenian Church in Watervliet, NY, pastored by Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian, Albert was then invited to present this unusual program to their parishioners in mid-October, at which time several members of Holy Trinity also joined.

The program included listening together to two Gospel songs of Elvis Presley: "One Pair of Hands" and "I've Got Confidence" (which includes the line "God is Gonna See Me Through"). Certain lyrics were related to selected passages from the Bible and writings of Armenian Church saints, such as the book of Narek and the hymn Aysor Anjar. Each section concluded with the participants discussing questions about the lyrics and writings, emphasizing the strong references of Elvis' lyrics to Bible verses and Church writings, and the messages they convey for us today.

Many positive comments of appreciation were extended to Albert for what one attendee called "a hope and faith-filled program."

## NEW MEMBERS

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

- Alina Zoraian
- Alexandra Zoraian
- Harrison Zoraian
- Jeff Barasatian

*Welcome*  
New Members

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## HOLY TRINITY CONNECTION TO THE ENTERTAINMENT WORLD!

Congratulations to Holy Trinity son David Alexanian (and also son of lifelong HT member Alex Alexanian), who was one of the producers of a new series, Long Way Up, starring Ewan McGregor and Charley Boorman who rev their motorcycle engines for one intense international ride! The show premiered globally on September 18 on Apple TV. David and his partner also directed the series. Motorcyclists.... check it out!

## RECEIVED IN DER HAKOB'S MAILBOX

Hi Der Hayr,

It is Pauly Terkanian. I am really concerned about the Armenians, so I am donating \$149 from my piggy bank. I hope that this money comes to good use like for blankets, shoes, sleeping bags, and more. My Mom will mail the money to you in a couple of days. Thank you for all of your help.  
Pauly



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## THOUGHTS TO PONDER...AND EMBRACE

1. Give God what's right -- not what's left.

" #B a;0# a%#halfl#e#u#<n#nfl#;l#B fl0# a%#halfl#e#;l#nfl#u#<n#

**3. A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.**

**4. He who kneels before God can stand before anyone.**

5. In the sentence of life, the devil may be a comma--but never let him be the period.

*6. Don't put a question mark where God puts a period.*

*7. Are you wrinkled with burden? Come to the church for a face-lift.*

**8. When praying, don't give God instructions - just report for duty.**

9. Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church.

10. WE DON'T CHANGE GOD'S MESSAGE -- HIS MESSAGE CHANGES US.

**11. The church is prayer-conditioned.**

12. When God ordains, He sustains.

13. WARNING: Exposure to the Son may prevent burning.

14. Plan ahead -- It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

*15. Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position.*

**16. Suffering from truth decay? Brush up on your Bible.**

*17. Exercise daily -- walk with the Lord.*

18. Never give the devil a ride -- he will always want to drive.

19. Nothing else ruins the truth like stretching it.

20. Compassion is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back.

**21. He who angers you controls you.**

22. Worry is the darkroom in which negatives can develop.

*23. Give Satan an inch & he'll be a ruler.*

*24. Be ye fishers of men -- you catch them & He'll clean them.*

**25. God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.**

**26. Read the Bible -- It will scare the hell out of you.**

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