#### Սուրբ Երրորդութիւն Յայաստանեայց Առաքելական Եկեղեցի

# Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church



LOOYS



Cheltenham, PA

Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan, Pastor

Winter 2021-01

Triple celebration for Presentation of the Lord to the Temple, Poon Paregentan and Valentine's Day



#### **Hours of Worship**

Morning Service: 10:00 AMDivine 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 Telephone: 215-663-1600

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

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 Shakarijan	215-886-1904

#### ACYOA Jrs.

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

#### **LADIES of HOLY TRINITY**

Elizabeth Barone (Coordinator)	610-449-22	236
Lorraine Damerijan (Treasurer)	215-572-84	65

#### 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

#### **ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Nancy Basmajian (Coordinator) 215-722-3369

#### Editorial Staff

Rev. Jr. Hakob Gevorgyan Jeanette Der Hagopian Larry D. Der Hagopian Naomi Mukalian Maggie Miller

> <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.

#### LIFE CONTINUES ...

Since the creation of this world mankind has been facing difficulties and disasters: pandemics, wars, earthquakes, floods and broken relationships, but life continues.

The year of 2020 will reluctantly stay in our memories. First, Covid-19 changed our lives and then the unexpected war in Artsakh brought more difficulties and stress to our nation worldwide. During the war and even after the war, we felt that life stopped for us. Day and night we were waiting to see how our small nation was going to protect its people and its borders. But the resources were incomparable; Azerbaijan and Turkey were fighting against our small nation. As a result of the 44-day war, we lost over 5,000 young men, we have over 10,000 wounded soldiers, and we lost 75% of our historic Artsakh, hopefully for only a short period of time.

After these heartbreaking results, some people think that we can't recover and others are hopeless. These two are not options for us Christians. Because Jesus said, "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Our enemies always want the same thing: to kill us and confiscate our land. And we have to make our decision that we are not going to give up; we are going to live and prosper. The enemy can kill the flesh but never can kill our spirit. Our nation had the Battle of Avarayr in 451, the Armenian Genocide in 1915, the Battle of Sardarabad in 1918, the Artsakh war in 1990s, and we saw the continuation of the same war in 2020.... but we are still here. We should always remember that our people died to protect our homeland and our faith. And the wounded and refuges need our continued help.

We have to realize that our homeland is holy and every Armenian around the world should help to protect that holy place. Armenia is our identity.... it is the guarantor of our continuation as a nation.

Dear Faithful, despite the difficulties, our life continues and each one of us has a mission in this world. Let us "trust in the Lord with all our heart, and lean not on our own understanding. In all our ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct our paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

With prayers, Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan

So Do Not Fear, For I Am With You; Do Not Be Dismayed, For I Am Your God. I will Strengthen You and Help You; I Will uphold You With My Righteous Right Hand.

Isaiah 41:10

#### PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

By John Hanamirian, Chair

I hope everyone is doing well. It seems things are "kind-of" headed into the direction of the old normal. We will see. Our Church attendance has been consistent at about 40 persons. We have been fortunate to receive contributions and other giving, sustaining us through this challenging time. Our Sunday School is back and attendance is climbing. Thank you all.

In September, December and January, the Diocese held their Diocesan Assembly. The three sessions were all virtual, but in the latter sessions, the Diocese utilized software to allow voting on the issues presented to the Delegates.

The Diocesan Assembly is a very valuable event. Sometimes, like school-age children, we lament those types of activities, but the reality is that attending the Diocesan Assembly is an incredibly valuable experience. When you first arrive at an Assembly, you are nearly overwhelmed by the number of Armenian faces and the amount of Clergy. An Assembly begins with the election of a Chairperson and then the Meeting is turned-over to Bishop Daniel for a prayer and opening remarks.

Having the opportunity to listen to Bishop Daniel speak about the current and future efforts and vision of the Church leaves me with an understanding of the organization as a whole and provides me with an appreciation of the level of work involved in the day-to-day operation of our Diocese. In the course of the Assembly, participants ask questions and appropriately challenge the administration of the Diocese in a healthy manner. Again, it is good to know the process exists and that each of us, in any leadership role within the Church organization is subject to review and that the actions of the organization are not just approved as a matter of course. I am always subject to the challenge of the members of our Parish and believe that any leader must welcome any challenge as a part of accepting a leadership role.

There is a "political" component to the Assembly as you see people lobbying support for different proposals they seek to present for a vote. That is interesting to observe. It is not my thing, but I respect those who engage in the process and understand the necessity. The Delegates bring forth an agenda from their respective Parishes and seek to implement change. That is how change happens. In the most recent Assembly, the Assembly voted to impose term limits for the persons acting as members of the Diocesan Council and for those persons acting as Delegates. Terms limits are seemingly always a good idea and we have them at the Parish level for membership on the Parish Council.

We are seeking to conduct our Parish Assembly in September of this year. Hopefully, it will be in-person, but we have a process for a virtual Assembly, if needed. During this time, our Parish Council will remain with the current members and new members will be elected in September.

On a personal note, thank you. Really, thank you. I have been a member of the Parish Council for now 12 years, In the first 6 years, I was Treasurer, a year off in-between serving as a Delegate, and then for the last 6 years, I have served as Chair. Thank you to my Uncle John too because if he had not "enlisted me to help ("Moosh, you have to do this with me"), I may not have had this opportunity to serve this Parish, work with Der Hayr and work with each of the different Parish Council members over the years. Each person, to a person, has been so kind to me and tolerant of whatever learning curve or gaps I may suffer or suffered. Our meetings are calm and respectful. That is Der Hayr's lead and my follow.

Please consider participating in Parish Council or any of the other organizations that run the engine of our Church. It matters.



#### ABOUT OUR FAMILY

February, when this is being written, is the month of "LOVE" so we begin with our own beautiful story of love. Two of our church members had weddings planned but both decided not to let Covid-19 stand in their way, so they re-imagined what their wedding could be and made plans to have a much smaller event, making the marriage - and not the party - the main attraction. We congratule them and their families. Tina Hagopian, a member since childhood, and her groom, Joseph LaRose, were married at Holy Trinity on December 5. Across the country on the very same day, Emily Movsesian, well known from our HT Choir and her groom, Armen Teriimanian, our Pastoral Intern, were married at St. John's in Detroit. We celebrate both of these couples on the new lives they have begun under the umbrella of God's love.....Best wishes to those who have had - or will have - milestone birthdays during this time: Maria Javardian (a Christmas baby!), Florence Boyajian, Sonia Nalbandian, Larry Grocott, Van Injaian, KC Baldadian and John Bandaian.... Special anniversary greetings go to Sue and Gary Der Hagopian upon celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary - yergar dareener..... We were happy to see that Steve Aslanian, an active and faithful member on both the Parish Council and the Choir, was chosen to serve as the Godfather of the Cross for the Water Blessing service this year. A lovely tradition is that the Godfather is further blessed by keeping the cross that was used in the service in his home for 40 days. Steve was a most worthy choice......Sincere condolences to the families of two long-time members, Berdj Kalustyan and Gary Papazian, Sr. We also extend sympathy to Angel Tookmanian on the passing of her beloved brother. Garabed (Garo) Yeterian, who lived most of his life in Kuwait. May God rest their souls in peace.....Kudos to Young Tavit Murray for



Young Tavit Murray

collecting almost 200 jackets, both new and gently-used, for donation to the St. Joseph Fund of Camden. Quite a feat for one so young. Parents **Tavit and Stacy and "MeMom" Berjoohy** are great examples for him.....Congratulations to **Steve Ajemian**, one of the earliest members of the Investment Committee, who was given the honor of closing the altar curtain at the end of the Badarak on Poon Paregentan, as the solemn period of Lent begins May this season be a renewal of our spirit in Christ.....It's been a long, challenging and sorrowful year for many, but there IS light ahead as we focus on the true light, Jesus Christ, whose Resurrection we will celebrate before long. Until then, be safe, be happy, be at peace.



# Our Family Is a circle of strength; Founded on Faith, Joined in Love Kept by God, Together

#### POMEGRANATE BLESSING SERVICE

On the last Sunday of 2020, a traditional Pomegranate Blessing Service was conducted following Badarak. In the Armenian tradition, the pomegranate as a national symbol reflects the meaning of life, prosperity and abundance. In the Christian symbolism the pomegranate represents the blood shed by Jesus Christ, symbolizing also the Glorious Resurrection of our Lord and the diversity of God's grace. In the interpretations of our church fathers, the pomegranate is presented that the church members are as diverse as the granules of the pomegranate but the pomegranate is covered by a solid peel, all being united in one Church. This Service is meant to be conducted within thirty minutes of the start of a new year, but for the sake of practicality, we have been doing it on the last Sunday of the year, starting several years ago. At the end of the service, each family was given a pomegranate as a reminder, especially of the Christian significance.



#### PRAYER AT THE THRESHOLD OF THE NEW YEAR

Written by Rev. Fr. Hratch Sargsyan

Almighty God, by your mercy our lives have been prolonged yet another year. Grant that your mercy may not be in vain. You led us during the past year through times and experiences of joy and sorrow, happiness and sadness. We had moments when we felt the weaknesses and strengths of our human nature. There were times of loneliness and togetherness. We experienced times of turbulence and peace, pain and healing, doubt and faith. You allowed us to go through it all and now you have brought us to the threshold of a new year. Give us the grace, we pray you, that we may learn from our past, and grow closer to you, our Creator. Forgive us, O Lord, our failures. Use us as your instruments to spread your love, compassion and justice through the year that is ahead of us. May it be a year of peace for our world, a year of healing for those who are hurting, and a time when we grow closer to one another in your love for us. And we shall glorify you, Master and Lord of life, always in everything we say, we do and we think; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### BLESSING OF THE WATER: GODFATHER STEVE ASLANIAN





#### SUPPORT FOR ARTSAKH

By Ani Javardian

team of seven donors from the East Coast (six of whom are our parishioners) have been taking part in a donation project to help families in the Aragatz region who have been affected by the Artsakh war in some way. Many families have lost their loved ones in battle or are facing permanent injuries, leading to a lack of income and support. Many of these families were living in and poor uncomfortable conditions with a lack of access to heat, clean water, and an overall difficulty with upkeep of their homes prior to the war. Der Hakob, Jeanette Der Hagopian and Garo Garibian had the opportunity to visit families in this region at different times in years 2016 and 2019.



Our small team has been sending money

through Money Gram on a monthly basis SAFELY and DIRECTLY (no third party organization involved) to Bishop Mkrtich Proshyan, the bishop of the Aragatz region in Armenia. The money is sent to Bishop Proshyan and he personally delivers the funds to 30 families in the region, families whom he knows on a personal basis.

We have sent \$1,200 for each of two months, which means each family is receiving \$40 a month. We would like to increase that dollar amount and also reach more families in this region.

Each donor has been contributing roughly \$100-200 monthly, or larger amounts every few months..... whatever is comfortable for the donor! Donations are sent to Holy Trinity Armenian Church via check OR Venmo'd to Ani Javardian.

The next step is for each donor to be given a family's contact information, if they wish, to keep in touch with and, God willing, visit one day in Armenia. Hopefully photos and letters can be exchanged between parishioners and the families in Armenia.

Thank you to our first group of donors which includes Jeanette Der Hagopian, Mike & Lynn Hajatian, Ani Javardian, Merle Santerian, Jake & Gina Terkanian and Greg & Diane Yazujian.

If you are interested in joining this donation team, please contact me at 267-746-1903 or ajavardian@gmail.com.

#### A Reflection by Deacon Albert Keshgegian

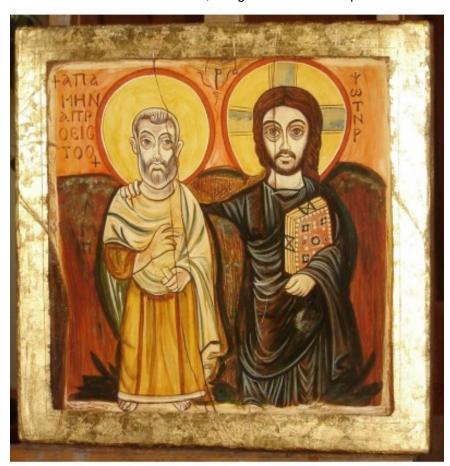
"I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father." (John 15:15)

In this season of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, we often reflect upon its major themes, with which we are all familiar: God loved us so much that his Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven and became human, to save us from our sins. He taught and preached and healed. He suffered, died for us on the Cross, and rose again on the third day, promising us all the hope of eternal life with him and the Father. We reflect on the gratitude we feel toward Christ for all he did and all he continues to do for us.

But there's another way of thinking about our relationship with Jesus, one that may affect us on an even deeper emotional level, a relationship that is reflected in the verse from the Gospel of John above (as Jesus spoke with the disciples on the night before he was to be crucified) and depicted in an 8th Century Coptic Church icon of St. Minas and Jesus.

St. Minas is a 3rd century saint who is commemorated in numerous Christian traditions, including the Armenian Church. The details we have about his life are very conflicting, as might be expected about someone who lived so long ago. But we do know that he gave his life for Christ. And we know that he is quite venerated in our Church; there are numerous Armenian churches in different parts of the world that are dedicated to him, and in the past the name Minas has been a popular one for Armenian boys.

The icon depicts St. Minas on the left and Jesus on the right, standing next to each other, looking at us. Jesus is holding an ornately-decorated Gospel book, containing his Word. You see the ears of St. Minas (but not those of Jesus), perhaps reflecting St. Minas listening to the Word. What is remarkable about the icon is that Jesus has his right arm around the shoulders of St. Minas, in a gesture of friendship. You can almost envision Jesus embracing the saint in joy



Ervine of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary.

and friendship in heaven after his martyrdom, perhaps presenting him to God the Father, asking him, as well, to welcome the saint into the warmth and splendor of God's kingdom.

This relationship with Jesus wasn't just for St. Minas or the disciples, and it isn't just for saints in general. Jesus wants to be a friend with each of us. He wants us to relate to him, not only as a deity to be worshipped, but as our close friend, who offers us caring, compassion, guidance, and strength. He wants us to pray to him, not as a superior being to whom we owe a serious obligation, but as someone with whom we can feel free to have a heartfelt about conversation anything and everything.

When we do, when we relate to him in prayer as our friend and listen to what he says, we become his friend. We become one of his own. And he may just greet us someday in heaven by putting his arm around our shoulders and welcoming us in!

And that's the promise of Easter!

Note: Some information and ideas in this reflection are from a lecture by Dr. Roberta

# GARIBIAN — LAW OFFICES—



Garibian Law Offices, P.C. represents clients throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Delaware. The firm offers experienced legal counsel and representation tailored to each client.

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**

Commercial and Corporate Litigation
Business Formation and Contract Analysis
Construction and Product Liability Litigation

Insurance Litigation
General Civil Litigation
Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome the following new dues-paying members to our church family: Artur Amiryan & Jessica Jordan

#### ADDRESS CHANGES AND/OR ADDITIONS

New Email: Alex Alexanian: aalexon@gmail.com

Jessica Jordan 1304 Hamilton Circle Harrisburg PA 17111 Phone Number: 215-436-5385

Phone Number: 215-436-5385 Email Address: jessjpitt@gmail.com



CHANGE OF ADDRESS, EMAIL, PHONE

Kalenian, Mark & Mariett 106 Springwater Way Dothan, AL 36305 Mark (C) 334-791-7743 mkalenian@graceba.net Mariett (C) 334-350-0645

#### ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (ACE) ZOOMS

#### **Exploring God's Love for Us**

On Thursday, January 14, Holy Trinity's Adult Christian Education (ACE) team presented a Zoom program on "Exploring God's Love for Us Through Holy Scripture and the Theology of the Armenian Church." Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian, Pastor of St. Peter Armenian Church in Watervliet, NY, and longtime priest in the Eastern Diocese, served as the guest presenter and moderator of the program. Over 25 people attended the program spanning from various parishes across the Eastern Diocese. Fr. Stepanos analyzed the various ways God loves each and every one of us, citing specific references from the Bible and also from our Armenian Church Fathers, including St. Gregory of Narek. The presentation greatly impacted those present as it opened up hearts and minds to the prospect of what God's love truly means for each and every one of us, especially during the dark days of the current COVID-19 pandemic that's dominated our lives for the past year. Participants truly realized even in these tough times, God's love never fails us (1 Corinthians 13:8).

#### **PSALMS HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE**

Twenty-one parishioners and parish friends gathered together on January 21 for a Zoom session on the psalms in the Badarak, presented by Dn. Albert Keshgegian. He explained that psalms are present throughout the Divine Liturgy – "here, there, and everywhere" in the title of the presentation – and add to the beauty and meaningfulness of the service. The group read the psalms as they were chanted in English by Dn. Armen and Emily Terjimanian. The participants discussed the messages in the psalms, felt the inspiration they provide, and learned how each psalm relates to the point in the Badarak where it occurs. The evening ended with an educational and entertaining quiz on the psalm before the Gospel reading, matching each psalm verse with its specific Holy Day.

#### NEW-ABOOK CLUB AT HOLY TRINITY!

ACE members, Lucy Aghazarian and Nancy Basmajian have joined forces with Janet Jordan, Acting Sunday School Superintendent, to organize a "club" at Holy Trinity. The focus of the club is what brought the three women together—they love books!

The Holy Trinity Book Club held its inaugural meeting via Zoom on January 28 to talk about an American classic, "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee. More than 20 participants joined pastor, Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan and facilitator Nancy Basmajian to discuss the heart-wrenching coming-of-age tale of a small Alabama town in the late 1930's dealing with the sin of racism. The hour-long conversation dealt with family, community, racial justice and the nature of morality. Joining the group was the Rev. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian, retired pastor of St. Mesrob Church in Racine, WI and member of the FAR Board of Directors. Fr. Yeprem offered the closing prayer which eloquently included the characters of the much-beloved novel.

In the past, several ACE programs have focused on books, such as the 2015 "Book and Brunch" group which spent four weeks on "The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness." Participants followed each discussion with a fellowship brunch at various local eateries. Other book selections included "The Lamentations of Narek," "Recovering Armenia: Belonging in Post Genocide Turkey" (Lerna Ekmekcioglu) and most recently Srpuhi Dussap's "Mayda: Echoes of Protest" led Lucy Aghazarian.

The next meeting of the Holy Trinity Book Club will be held via Zoom on April 8 and will be facilitated by Janet Jordan. The selection is "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows, a charming book full of eccentric characters and kindly humor.

For more information, contact nancybasmajian@verizon.net.

#### MEN'S CLUB 2020-21 "200 CLUB"

Congratulations to the Winners and Thank You for your Support!!

#### November 2020

\$1000 Jeff Thompson (Bryers Funeral Home) #002 \$400 Shant Kapeghian #051 \$200 Connie (Paparian) Arko #147 \$200 Alice Endrigian #100 \$200 Cece Garibian #019

#### December 2020

\$500 Greg & Karinne Andonian #123 \$200 Mick & Tanya Paretchan #101 \$100 John Hanamirian #062 \$100 Jack Baker #073 \$100 Jack Vishab #023

#### January 2021

\$500 Liz Barone #027 \$200 Robert Barone #005 \$100 Art Baldadian #031 \$100 Greg Arslanian #059 \$100 Gloria Basmajian #036

#### February 2021

\$500 Joe Fuchs #112 \$200 Valerie DerPilbosian #095 \$100 Jeff Pogharian #193 \$100 Peter Bilazarian #039 \$100 Jeff Thompson (Bryers Funeral Home) #002

#### AZOOMFELLOWSHIP

We have held and participated in a variety of ZOOMS over these many long months, among them Bible Studies, Book Club, Diocesan meetings, Lectures by guest clergy, and much more. However, it seemed we were lacking our after-church fellowship when we would interact and visit with each other. With that in mind, a ZOOM "Fellowship with Der Hakob" was held at the very end of the year with almost twenty participants who spent a full hour in spontaneous conversation with Der Hayr and each other. It was as casual as a coffee hour, but without the coffee. It almost felt like the days when we would spend time together in Santerian Hall after Badarak and Der Hayr would walk around to visit the tables, and often stop and chat along the way.

One of the main topics was that of Covid-19 and how everyone was handling it, and how our faith helped us through the long grueling months of missing family and being isolated and restricted to so many public places. Dn. Albert Keshgegian shared that he would be receiving the vaccine on the second day of the new year; he could possibly be the first among our church family to have received it!. Many people commented on the unexpected blessings that came about as a result of parents working from home; students doing a combination of in-school and virtual; and being able to have family meals together since the children weren't out and about with various outside activities, including sports.

The time spent together ended on an upbeat note with the prayer that a new year would bring about a reduction of isolation and restrictions.

#### BADARAK EVERY WEEK

We at Holy Trinity are so fortunate to have deeply committed worship leaders, all of whom should be mentioned in this space. A sincere THANK YOU goes to Karinne Andonian and Karnig Torosian who almost never missed a Sunday from the time we started celebrating

I want to get on that road that Saul in the Bible was on. The road to De-Mask Us.

Badarak back in April to the current time. Antranig Garibian also provided his support early on. Along the way, Dn. Garo Garibian became another every-Sunday regular on the Altar. And after a bit, some choir members began to join in (but usually never more than four for safety concerns). And it all came together when Larry Der Hagopian used his expertise so that our parishioners and friends could participate through live-stream. They indeed are devoted to our church and faith and have as their example our dear Der Hakob.

Being able to watch and participate in Badarak from the safely and comfort of our homes has been a blessing. If you chose to come to church, you would see social distancing and everyone wearing masks, assuring all that they were safe. To our knowledge, everyone coming to church remains healthy. Hopefully, as more people are vaccinated, there will be increased attendance. To those who have been unable to attend church in person, know that you have been missed.

#### HATS (& MORE) OF FAITH

By Elizabeth Barone

Several months ago I received an email from a member of our sister church, St. Sahag & St. Mesrob, asking me to knit warm winter hats for the soldiers fighting in Artsakh. My contact explained how important this project was and convinced me to reach out to our Holy Trinity members to support it. She added that hats, gloves and thermal socks could also be purchased and donated by those who were not knitters.

With the help of Larry Der Hagopian and Marta Brann, e-Blasts were sent out and within a matter of days. purchased hats, gloves and thermal socks arrived at church. By the close of this project, the knitted hats appeared. There are three special ladies who must be recognized: our seasoned knitters, Florence Boyajian and Serpouhi Karakashian; and our newest knitter,



Brenda Yazujian, who included personal messages written in Armenian!!

Right on schedule the donated items were packed and delivered to St. Sahag for shipping to Armenia. I thank everyone who heard my call and participated. God Bless you and may our Lord bless and protect our beloved Armenia!

## EASTER SERVICES 2021

Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church

# April 1, 2021 Holy Thursday 7:00 PM - Washing of the Feet

8:00 PM - Betrayal and Passion of Our Lord

# April 2, 2021 Holy Friday 7:00 PM - The Entombment of Our Lord Jesus Christ

## April 3, 2021 Holy Saturday

Easter Eve 7:00 PM - Divine Liturgy

### April 4, 2021 Easter Sunday

The Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ 10:00 AM - Morning Services 10:30 AM - Divine Liturgy

> Kreesdos Harvav ee Merelots Orhnial eh Haroutiunn Kreesdosi

#### A Holy Trinity "HGTV Makeover"

By the extreme generosity of the late Mrs. Vartouhi Hacikyan, a long-time member of our church, we learned that she bequeathed to our church her two-family home on the outskirts of Philadelphia. After thoughtful and productive/constructive discussions among the Parish Council, it was decided to refurbish both floors of the home and rent each floor in order to create an ongoing income stream.

It would turn out to be a tremendous task, beginning with hiring the assorted contactors necessary to restore all areas of the home, both inside and out. At the top, acting as General Contractor, was our own Fr. Hakob who oversaw the renovations as though it were his own home.

This project could not have been accomplished without the following list of people who donated services, in full or in part, to create a first-class renovation. To them, we extend our most sincere appreciation.

John Hanamirian, Diane Yazujian, Garo Garibian, Paul Movsesian, Vlad, the Armenian Handyman, DMR Kitchen and Bath, Don Paretchan, Terkanian Electric, Matt the Painter, Angel Heating and Cooling, Francisco Ramirez Concrete and Landscaping, John Zheng Windows, Jay Tree Service

To view this short video and see the amazing transformation that took place, go to our website (www.holytrinitiy-pa.org) and enter the word Makeover in the search box on the home page.



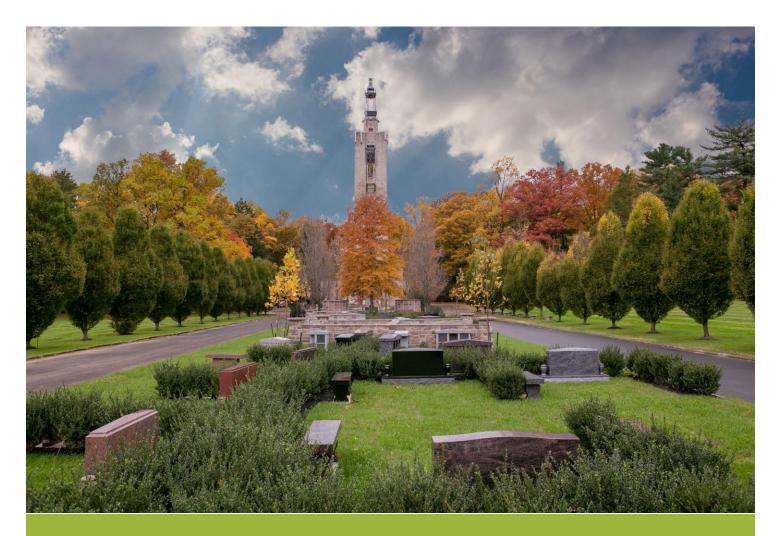


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#### SMC HOSTS AN ONLINE LECTURE ON VOCAL HEALTH

By Karinne' Andonian, Choir Co-Director

On Wednesday, December 16th, the Sacred Music Council hosted a very informative lecture by Dr. Norman Dertad Hogikyan about "Vocal Health and the Pandemic". We learned about the physiology and anatomy of our vocal cords and how the use of our singing voice impacts the potential spread of the coronavirus. It was rather validating and encouraging for many of us, specifically with regard to the choices we are making within our choirs in terms of precautions we are taking to keep us all as safe as possible while also worshiping in the way we know best-through singing or playing our beautiful sacred music.

In the discussion after the lecture, I got to thinking about our vocal health and the impact that stress has on it. For me personally, as a music therapist and a vocalist, I



think often about the mind-body connection and how stress impacts that connection often for the worse. In the lecture, the correlation of the impact good health has on good vocal performance was alluded to, and my take away from it is the reminder that we must keep ourselves in good and calm mental and physical health in order to use our God-given voices with the best opportunity for success in singing.

Dr. Hogikyan was able to shine light on several studies that have taken place over the past months regarding singers' masks and what practices have been proven to be more beneficial when attempting to keep the virus from spreading within choirs, including keeping space in mind with a minimum of 12 feet between singers and allowing time for the air in the space to circulate and cleanse periodically when possible. These studies have come out of Colorado State University and are rather fascinating. Dr. Hogikyan also taught us that there is still so much that we don't know about how the voice impacts the spread of the coronavirus, however what we can do is set ourselves up for success by following proper safety measures including wearing suitable masks that fit our faces properly, washing our hands, and remaining at least 12 feet apart when singing, and if possible singing without an organ can be useful as well because the need to project more would lessen.

What Dr. Hogikyan did not say was that he had all the answers of how we should conduct our services. Understanding that each of our parishes have a slightly different space, we were encouraged to be mindful of where we stand in relation to our congregations and to each other, and consider the possibility of singing at home throughout the week to keep our vocal cords strong and able. This seemed to be a key point for many of our participants in the lecture as there was concern that if we are not allowed to sing in church, will we lose our vocal strength? The answer to this, Dr. Hogikyan alluded to, was nonot if we sing at home.

Again, in speaking as a music therapist, there is so much truth to this idea of singing for the sake of giving ourselves joy and song. This practice can be rather restorative and like exercise, good for our overall mental and physical health. So, in closing, I think that I received a wonderful and validating reminder from Dr. Hogikyan which is -TO JUST SING even if you are home by yourself! JUST SING!



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- Bea C. April 2009



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#### CHURCH SCHOOL-LANGUAGE & CULTURE

By Yn. Anna Gevorgyan

While online classes continue despite the pandemic, opportunities for practicing the Armenian language remains productive in our attempt to educate our students, with its minor obstacles due to the fact that we are not in person. Currently, we have three virtual classrooms but we still pursue educating our students in any form that is helpful, enjoyable, and effective at all times.

Eastern Armenian Teacher, Mrs. Tamara Tatevosian, is an example of this, as she devotes her entire class either to one specialized lesson for the entire class or individualized lessons for each student, in order to inform them on aspects of the Armenian Language with which they may need assistance, but still maintaining the ability to make her class enjoyable.

Eastern Armenian Teacher, Mrs. Nune Sarkisian, is our teacher for the younger grades. Shown here are pictures regarding one of the projects assigned to our students during lockdown. Within her class, the students are mainly focused on all genres relating to the country of Armenia, and culture. Because she is involved with teaching younger grades, she maintains the ability to educate her students, but in an enjoyable way that most children enjoy.

Students in the Western Armenian virtual class experience many of the following subjects, including music relating to the homeland of Armenia, the alphabet and conversation.

With special thanks to our teachers, we also appreciate the commitment our parents have made to continue this important cultural education for their children.

#### **Artwork Presentation by Students**

#### 1) Vardan Gevorgyan 2) Hamlet Kocharyan



TO S

3) Karine Nersisyan



4) Karine Nersisyan



5) Mari Kocharyan



6) Erika Khachatryan



7) Erika Khachatryan



8) Vanik Khachatryan



#### CHURCH SCHOOL UPDATE

Happy 2021!!!! The Christian Education of the Church School ended 2020 by creating a Virtual Christmas Pageant, following the script sent to us by the Eastern Diocese. We assigned parts to our Church School families and they recorded their parts. Ani Javardian volunteered to put the video together for us and we sincerely appreciate her using her talents to do so. We hope you enjoyed the pageant and the joyful spirit in which it was made and shared.

We began our Spring Semester on January 31, 2021, and will be meeting twice a month until May 16th. Grades K, 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 11 and 12 will be virtual. Grades 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 will be both in-person and virtual. Once it is safe, we will return to in-person instruction.

We are always indebted to our many teachers who give of their time to prepare for and teach lessons to your children, but they have gone over and above by learning to navigate ZOOM technology in order to provide continuity so that the students can continue to receive their Christian education, be it by ZOOM or a combination of in-person and virtual.

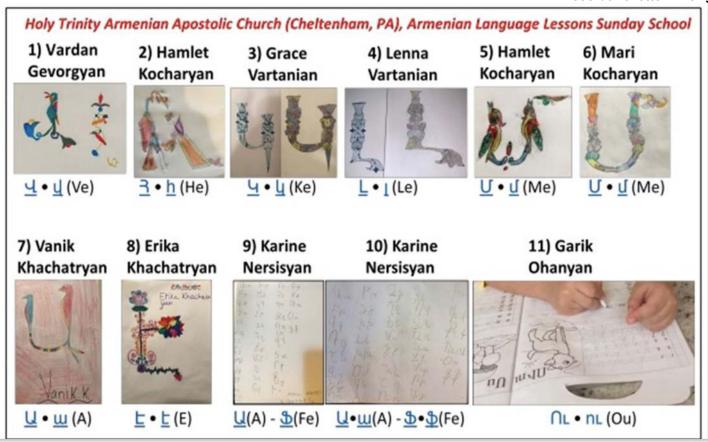
Thank you to our Christian Education teachers: Margo Silk, Berjoohy Murray, Mariana Majian, Yn. Anna, Talene Peckjian and Krikor Javardian.

This year the Church School will be holding a Lenten Fundraising Drive to benefit Artsakh, with the monies being sent through AYO! and its parent organization, Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR). Look for details in your email or in the Narthex at church.

Be well and stay safe.

Janet Jordan Arousiag Keshishian Acting Superintendents

Decorative letter writing



#### CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION NEWLY ADORNED

Back in April of 2018, a group of pilgrims, led by Der Hakob, traveled on the trip of a lifetime to Jerusalem. It most certainly

was life-changing for all of us as we were filled with joy and awe walking in the

pathways of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Among the many inspiring sites that we saw, the pilgrims visited the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth. This church stands on the land that is believed to be the childhood home of the Virgin Mary and it is where the Angel Gabriel descended from heaven to inform Mary of her pregnancy with the Son of God.

We admired beautiful mosaics that adorned this church representing gifts from various countries around the world. Much to our dismay, there was no mosaic representing Armenia. We were saddened, but vowed to do something about it!

We are beyond thrilled to announce that through the generous and tireless resolve of this group of pilgrims, there is now a beautiful mosaic at the Church of the Annunciation representing Armenia.

On February 15, 2021, His Beatitude Archbishop Nourhan Manougian, the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, blessed the Armenian Ceramic Icon which was installed on the wall of the Church of Annunciation in Nazareth. His Beatitude was accompanied by the tile artist of the icon, Mr. Viken Lepejian, and Rev. Fr. Koryoun Baghdasaryan, the Chancellor of the Patriarchate.

Armenia is now represented for all eternity at the Church of the Annunciation!



Special thanks to Hayr Norayr Kazazian, who served as our consultant and liaison with the artist in Jerusalem, along with huge thanks to our generous pilgrims and the committed efforts of our committee, Der Hakob Gevorgyan, Dr Garo Garibian, Tanya Paretchan and Gena DerHagopian Willard, for making this dream a reality.



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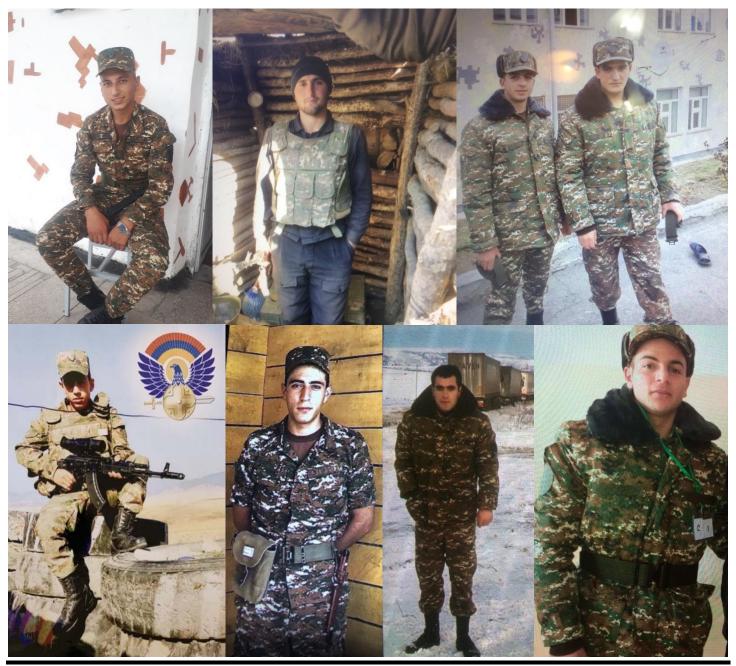
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#### LOCAL SUPPORT FOR ARMENIA & ARTSAKH FAMILIES CONTINUES

In addition to the \$162,500 that we have previously raised and donated to support Artsakh and Armenia, as reported in the last issue, we would like to recognize two new sources of financial assistance. The first is a donation from Dr.& Mrs. Garo Garibian (see below); and the other is a new ongoing project spearheaded by Ani Javardian to benefit families in the Aragatz region. (See story elsewhere in this issue.) We salute Ani for her heart's desire to help those suffering in our homeland.

Thanks to the beneficence of Garo and Cece Garibian, 17 families from the Ararat region were directly provided with financial assistance necessitated by the heroic actions of their sons during the disastrous Artsakh war in the Fall. Of the 17 solders (pictured on this page), 14 survived – many with injuries, and three were killed in action. The current status and future of Artsakh & Armenia remain in a state of limbo, but the lives they enjoyed before the war will not return for many years to come, as Azerbaijan, with Turkey's urging, continues with their desire to fully occupy our centuries-old lands of Artsakh and even Armenia. We salute Dn. Garo and Cece for their ongoing support of our homeland which they are continuing to provide, and hope it will provide an impetus for others to follow their humanitarian example to the extent that each one is able.



#### MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

#### <u>April</u>

Lucille Thomassian - 1 Erika Haiatian – 2 Todd Pica - 2 Nezihe Hashas - 3 Jake Terkanian - 4 Gena Willard - 4 Christine Williames - 4 Christine Boyajian – 5 Etienne Boyajian - 5 Michael Paretchan - 5 Jeanette Der Hagopian - 6 Virginia Shakarjian - 6 Megan Aslanian – 7 Alessandra Garibian - 7 Narek Gevorgyan - 7 Harout Nalbandian - 7 Cole Koengetter - 11 Maggie Tandourjian - 11 Kalie Kalustyan - 13 Lynne Asadourian - 14 Berjouhy Bosnian - 14 Ani Gooshian - 14 Veron Monokian - 14 Tanya Paretchan – 14 Alice Torossian - 15 Elize Taylor Radall -15 Vani Hanamirian - 17 Silva Hovhannesian - 19

Alexander Oskanian – 21 Madeleine Theobald - 22 Donald Paretchan - 23 Rita Stepanian – 23 Daniel Montanez - 24 Pauline Chapjian - 25 Ani Javardian - 25 Cathy Gargan - 26 Cole Owens - 26 Lorraine Damerjian - 28

#### **May**

Dorothy Grocott - 1 George Terkanian - 1 Ankine Kapeghian - 5 John Paul Santerian - 7 Christopher Bennuhan - 9 Harry Injaian - 9 Lauren Mukalian - 9 Brenda LeCompte - 9 Andrea LeCompte - 10 Stephanie Balint - 12 Diane Doudoukiian - 12 Tomas Montanez - 12 Zachary Hajinian - 14 Daniel Dunigan – 15 Tavit Murray - 15 Armen Simonyan- 15 Melissa DerPilbosian - 16

Silva Santerian – 17 Elias Terkanian - 18 Kavli Tancredi - 18 Ana Torcomian - 18 Diane Yazujian - 18 Ronald Asadoorian - 19 Peter Bilazarian - 20 Mark Keshgegian - 21 Ara Shakarjian – 21 Paul G. Bogosian - 21 Stephen Hovnanian - 22 Lucas Terkanian - 22 Gustavo Alexanian - 23 Valentina Garibian - 23 Richard Vishab - 23 Krikor Javardian - 24 Lori Vishab - 25 Garo Hovnanian - 26 Audrey Movsesian - 28 Cameron Santerian - 28 Edward Attarian - 30 Denise Hess - 30 Mikaela Juskalian – 30 Matthew Worrell - 30 Gregory Meranshian - 31

#### June

Ethel Terzian – 1 Alexandra Brod - 3 Paul Terkanian - 5 Bryan Peckjian - 6 Barbara Harmon - 7 Alvssa Santerian - 7 Talene Peckjian - 9 Ines Alexanian - 13 Shannon King - 13 Ernest Peacock - 13 Mary Injaian - 14 Dominique Damerjian - 15 Herbert S. Theobald - 15 Tom Harmon - 17 Claire Theobald - 18 John Chalikian - 20 Germaine Hashas - 21 Narthy Hajinian – 22 Carol Temoyan - 22 Steven Balint - 23 Yn. Anna Gevorgyan - 24 Ken King - 24 Seta Pica - 24 Chloe Dunigan - 25 Joseph Polizzi - 25 Sarine Kaprielian - 26 Berj Yeretzian Jr. - 26 Rosemary Zarzatian – 27 Artashes Danielyan - 27 Gregory Javardian - 30

#### MEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

#### <u>April</u>

Ohannes & Irene Oskanian	4/4/1964
George & Anne Terkanian	4/8/1972
Richard & Diane Doudoukjian	4/17/1977
Timothy & Cathy Gargan	4/17/ 1988
Larry & Dorothy Grocott	4/19/1968
Richard & Linda Vishab	4/20/1968
Nazareth & Narthy Hajinian	4/22/1956
Fred & Denise Hess	4/30/1973

#### May

Larry D. & Kimberly Der Hagopian	5/5/2012
Herbert S. & Azlen Theobald	5/10/2003
Michael, Jr. & Melissa Paretchan	5/13/2006
Robert & Jean Ohnigian	5/14/1994
Gregory & Grace Meranshian	5/16/1982
David & Alyssa Santerian	5/17/1992
Peter & Robin Bilazarian	5/22/1977
Janice & Christopher Owens	5/24/1998
	1000

Stephen & Nancy Hovnanian	5/24/1975
Robbie & Christy Barone	5/24/2015
Gregory & Diane Yazujian	5/25/1985
Arthur & Casey Baldadian	5/27/1976
Michael & Legna Santerian	5/28/2002
Fred & Janet Jordan	5/30/1992

#### June

<u>ourio</u>	
Martin & Deskouhy Attarian	6/7/1952
Nicklas & Amy Terkanian	6/9/2007
Ronald & Millicent Asadoorian	6/9/1963
Toros & Anita Torcomian	6/12/2010
Harry & Mary Injaian	6/15/1952
Jennifer & Greg Ermentrout	6/22/2012
Johnny & Marcelle Alexanian	6/22/2014
Brian & Joyce Hoyle	6/23/1990
Kristine & Jonathan Koengetter	6/28/2008
Karnig & Alice Torossian	6/30/1968

#### BAPTISMS:

January 3, 2021: AARON BELOTSERKOVSKIY

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Belotserkovskiy

Godfather: George Diloyan



#### WEDDINGS:

December 5, 2020:

TINA HAGOPIAN & JOSEPH LAROSE Brother of the Cross: Barry VanDoren



#### FUNERALS: 2020

<u>ALICE KALUSTYAN</u> entered into her eternal rest on November 28, 2020. Funeral services were held on December 4, 2020 at Bradley Funeral Home.

<u>GARY PAPAZIAN SR</u>. entered into his eternal rest on December 21, 2020. Funeral services were held on December 28, 2020 at Tomlinson Funeral Home.

#### FUNERALS: 2021

<u>VOLODIA KHACHATRYAN</u> entered into his eternal rest on January 21, 2021. Funeral services were held on January25, 2021 at Hatboro Cemetery.

<u>GEORGE ARSLANIAN</u> entered into his eternal rest on February 9, 2021. Funeral services were held on February 15, 2021 at Holy Trinity.

# And all who have this hope in him purify themselves even as he is pure

1 John 3:3

#### **OBITUARY**



Grace (Boyajian) Surabian, 95, passed away on January 7, 2021, after a brief illness. She was the beloved wife of Harry Surabian with whom she shared 52 years of marriage as well as the widow of the late John Mirijanian.

Born in Philadelphia, PA, Mrs. Surabian was the daughter of the late Vartan and Elizabeth (Fink) Boyajian. Her primary goal in life was to be the best daughter, sister, aunt, wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She was all about faith, family and friends. Grace was especially proud of her Armenian heritage. Her happiest moments were preparing and sharing traditional Armenian cuisine surrounded by her loved ones.

Most of her life was spent in New England. She was a member of the St. James Armenian Church for over fifty years. In that time Grace and Harry were active members of the Mr. and Mrs. Group. From this group spawned a closer-knit group of fourteen women better known as "Club 14" that got together once a month faithfully for over fifty years to play cards and enjoy each other's company.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Surabian is survived by her two children, Jan Mirijanian of NJ and Patricia (Gregory) Egavian of Boxford, MA; three grandchildren, Lauren, Eric, and Kimberly; two great grandchildren, Gabriella and

Sage; her sister, Mary Boornazian of PA; and her sisters-in-law, Florence Boyajian and Giselle Surabian. She was predeceased by her loving brother, Vahan Boyajian.

For those wishing to do so, In-lieu-of-flower donations may be sent to Holy Trinity Armenian Church.



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Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan and the Parish Council

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Rev. Fr. Hakob and Yn. Anna Gevorgyan, Ralph and Nane` Arpajian, Walter Bagian, Arthur & KC Baldadian IMO of Sarkis and Dorothy Baldadian, Albert Dandegian Jr., Dr. Garo & Cecelia Garibian IMO Hayarpie Garabian and Niaz Karabian, Gay, Tina & Marie Hagopian IMO of Haig Hagopian, Aram Hagopian, James and Susan Vosbikian, Hagopian, Vosbikian, Mozian and Gureghian John Hanamirian IMO Deborah Lynn Families. Hanamirian and Robert A. Hanamirian, Mr.& Mrs. Thomas & Barbara Harmon IMO Albert and Naomi Kapeghian, Harry and Mary Injaian IMO the Injaian and Torigian Families, Shant Kapeghian IMO Albert and Naomi Kapeghian, Susan Karpinski, John Kash, Ronald A. Kashkashian IMO Arsen and Katherine Kashkashian Dave & Terri Mears. Richard & Naomi Mukalian IMO the deceased loved ones of the Mukalian and Gutchigian Families, Merle Santerian in honor of my children and grandchildren, Jake & Gina Terkanian IMO/in honor of all the Armenian Soldiers, Karen Vartanian IMO Kappy and Mary Kapeghian, Kim & Gena Willard IMO Larry Der Hagopian and in honor of Jeanette Der Hagopian Greg & Diane Yazujian IMO of Harry Yazujian, Helen Vishab. Norair Hartunian. Mariam Hartunian. Armen Mirakian and Diane Clerico

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Total: \$10,450.

IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE. ACTS 20:35



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John Mirijanian and Grace Mirijanian Surabian by Jan D. Mirijanian

Kayane and Garabed Goushian, and Jack, John and Sooren Goushian by Berj & Suzanne Goushian

Garabed and Asdghig Keshgegian by Albert & Patrice Keshgegian

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<u>Stewardship donation in honor of Ralph</u> Arpajian

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In memory of Hermine Bennuhan

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Alis and Ani Hindoian Apo and Salpy Harutiunian

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Mass Card for Rose Mukalian
Mary and Pearl Jamgochian

<u>Donation for the Deacon's Fund</u> Gregory and Karinne` Andonian

In memory of her 63rd Wedding Anniversary (2/15/1958)

Doris Alahverde

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