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Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church



LOOYS



Cheltenham, PA

Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan, Pastor

Summer 2021-03



Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God

Hours of Worship

- Morning Service: 10:00 AM
- Divine Liturgy: 10:30 AM

Church School

- Language Instruction: 10:15-11:15
- Christian Education: 11:20-12:15



Upcoming Events

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

Pray Until Something Happens

Contact Information



Holy Trinity Armenian Church
101 Ashmead Road, Cheltenham, PA 19012
www.holytrinity-pa.org

Items for inclusion in the Sunday Messenger or requests for Requiem Services or Special Prayers should be sent to the church office by Wednesday for the upcoming Sunday. For all emergencies, please contact Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan at the church 215-663-1600 (cell 917-213-8658).

CHURCH INFORMATION

Office 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

Karinne' Andonian (Co-Director)	609-760-4993
Jeanette Der Hagopian (Co-Director)	215-672-4188
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
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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

Nick Terkanian	610-348-7678
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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.

SERVING GOD

*"If they listen and serve Him (God),
They will end their days in prosperity
And their years in happiness" (Job 36:11).*

What is the purpose of our life here on earth? I believe that each one of us has a mission in this world. Some people are called to be teachers, others are led to be preachers, some people called to be doctors, others lawyers, some people called to be social workers and others farmers, and the list can be continued. But the important question is how do we put God in the midst of our life and work.

First, we have to realize that we are created by God, the Author of this universe. "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:27). Knowing this, we have to honor the fact that we have God's image and we should be willing to live our life according to His will and not ours. That can be one step to serve Him.

Second, we should be able to hear God's voice and follow His guidance. "A voice came from the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One; listen to Him!'" (Luke 9:35). If we really want to serve God, then we should have the ability to listen and obey Him.

Third, serving God is a great opportunity not only for the clergy but also for the laity. That's why we should always encourage our parishioners to serve in the Church...something that they like, are able to do, or even willing to try. "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each one of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully" (Romans 12: 6-8). There are countless ways to serve if the heart is willing.

And finally, we can serve God by helping other people, for example our brothers in sisters in Artsakh and in Armenia, or any person who is in need. "Then the king will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger, and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me'" (Matthew 25:34-36).

In conclusion, dear Parishioners, I believe that by serving God our life can be more beautiful and meaningful. Let us use this amazing opportunity to serve our Lord and please Him in our everyday life. Amen

With prayers,
Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan



PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

By John Hanamirian, Chair

I hope everyone is doing well. Our Parish Assembly will take place in mid-September and we have good news to report. Our contributions and other revenue have been steady and closely tracking the past two years. We have also had a number of bequests from estates and trusts. Our expenses have remained mostly consistent and, as result, we are in solid financial shape.

Our investments have been a focus of a number of Parish Council meetings over the past few years. In that vein, we have undertaken a diversification strategy to assure that we do not have “all of our eggs in one basket”: understandably, an elementary investment framework. In that regard, we have two rental properties, a private mortgage that we hold, investment in ACEF (alongside the Diocese), stock and bond market investments at Charles Schwab managed by our Investment Committee and most recently, we opened an investment account at Morgan Stanley with a professional investment advisor. The latter effort was a result of many years of debate. The objective is to assure that our investments are secure and that the investments that we do ourselves are consistent with professional standards, principles, and rates of return. In short, we needed a “Plan B” and as Parish Council members, we owe our Parishioners a “Plan B.” When you see how difficult it is to raise money for the Church, you become sensitive to the need to protect that money.

In reviewing our existing structure and the rate of return on investments over the past several years, the Morgan Stanley investment advisor concluded that our Investment Committee did a fine job, generating nearly identical rates of return to those generated under the model used for testing. So, thank you to the members of the Investment Committee for that and thank you for tolerating this latest effort to diversify and protect our investments for the present and long-term health of the Church.

Other than that, there has been a return to normal. The Church School is preparing for in-person classes, and we have a banquet set for the fall. We are not doing a bazaar as the climate was too unpredictable to plan properly, but we will continue with what has come to be called our “grab-and-go” dinners.

I am at the end of my allowable term on the Parish Council. I am not at Church as often as I should be, and I am not available for all that needs to be done. I know that. What I do is help to keep the business of the Church moving forward in a positive economic manner and try to have our governing body act consistent with what is best for the Church population now and for the future.

I thank my fellow Parish Council members for their unyielding effort, commitment, and caring about one another and our Church home. I am proud to be in this role on this Parish Council; it makes me feel like I am doing something worthwhile and that my grandparents would approve.



ABOUT OUR FAMILY

How thankful we are that life has opened up again for us in so many ways, without having to wear masks most of the time. Church services continue to uplift our parishioners who attend and **Der Hakob** always expresses sincere joy at seeing his flock – whether many or a few. We have also enjoyed hearing an occasional sermon from our Pastoral Intern, **Armen Terjimanian**...The date may have passed, but we send a belated shout-out to **Patty & Vaughn Alexanian** who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary, knowing that their two hearts are one!... And when one turns 85, we can keep celebrating that for our dear **Merle Santerian** as was done in July with many of our readers in attendance (coverage elsewhere in this issue)...We thank **Gay Hagopian** for the donation of a beautiful sideboard which now enhances our lobby....Antzadz Ullah to **Doris Alahverde, Rosemarie Zarzatian, Ayshe Chakmaklian,** and **Mike Tookmanian,** all in various stages of recovering health. You are all missed!...On the Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God, we enjoyed a fuller church as we celebrated one of the five major feast days in the Armenian Church and also enjoyed for the first time in 18-plus months a Fellowship Coffee Hour (or two!). May we all continue to be safe and free from Covid infections so that we may resume life as we knew it, worshipping with our church family and sharing a Coffee Hour Fellowship with them.... And speaking of Coffee Hour, thank you to **Tavit Murray** for his donation of a variety of paper products, that will be used for Coffee Hour....We congratulate **Dn. Armen & Emily Terjimanian** for expanding their service in ministry as leaders at the High School and College Conferences at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary. (see expanded coverage elsewhere in this issue.)...We will soon be enjoying cooler temperatures and the anticipated change of colors in the foliage that surrounds us, all orchestrated by our Creator. So until our next issue, be safe, be happy, be at peace.



Preparing for Holy Communion

THE BIBLE IN THE ARMENIAN CHURCH

The following is the first of a four-part adult education series on the Bible in the Armenian Church, written by Rev. Fr. Vazken Movsesian of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church.

To understand the Bible, one must first understand the Church. Just as a psychologist, in studying a child's behavior, will examine the environment and the various circumstances in which that child developed, it is necessary for us to review the conditions under which the Bible evolved so our study of Holy Scriptures becomes dynamic and fulfilling.

In Armenian, we refer to the Bible as Asdvadzashoonch, i.e., the "Breath of God." The Armenian Church believes that the Bible is God-inspired. Even more, as the word Asdvadzashoonch implies, the Armenian Church attaches great importance to the Bible and does not view it as just another book. However, the Armenian Church does not teach that the Bible is the ultimate authority or voice of God. We cannot merely hold up the Bible and say this is it! Certainly, God is much greater than the Bible and the words contained in it.

Here in America, the constitutional guarantee for freedom of religion has given rise to many philosophies under the guise of a "church." It might be easy to conclude that one can receive the power and authority to establish a church from the Bible. In fact, we have heard groups exclaim that if something is non-biblical, it is not true or relevant or does not belong in the Church. Especially among fundamentalist Christians, the Bible is seen as the final authority on questions of faith. Unfortunately, people with this view are operating under the common misconception that the Church is a creation of the Bible. It is important to keep in mind that this holy book did not fall from heaven. God did not give us a Bible to define our faith. God gave us something far more valuable than printed words. God gave us His most sacred gift, His Son, Jesus Christ. In His turn, Christ did not give us the Bible. (As far as we know, Jesus never authored any written document.) Christ gave us His most precious Body, the Holy Church. It was the Church, which after centuries of thought and development gave us the book we call the Bible.

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE LOOYS

BAPTISMS

June 12, 2021: **EMMA RAE BIDWELL**
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Bidwell
Godfather: Cole Owens

July 10, 2021: **ANDREW ARIS ALEXANIAN**
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Alexanian
Godfather: Diran Alexanian

July 10, 2021: **DAVID MIKAIL ALEXANIAN**
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Alexanian
Godfather: Diran Alexanian

July 24, 2021: **ALEX MESROPYAN**
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Karlen Mesropyan
Godfather: Vahe Grigoryan

July 24, 2021: **VICTORIA MESROPYAN**
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Karlen Mesropyan
Godfather: Vahe Grigoryan



We know there is no job – big or small – that our beloved Der Hakob will not undertake personally and here is another example, up high on a ladder, as he makes an adjustment to the light fixture over the organ.

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GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD: HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.

Psalm 107:1



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Celebrating Life, Honoring Tradition

On September 30 the Armenian Church commemorates Saints Sahag and Hamazasp. The following is a reflection by Dn. Albert Keshgegian, based on one of the Bible readings for their Saints' Day:

Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. Jeremiah 17:5-8

Where do cities tend to spring up? Usually along rivers or other bodies of water. Even in arid areas, cities develop elaborate systems to produce water from deep within the earth or transport it from far away. For individuals, water is the nutrient that we most need to live. Without food we could live for weeks, but without water we would die in a few days.

It's the same with our souls. The prophet Jeremiah describes two kinds of plants, representing types of people. On the one hand, there is the small shrub that tries to grow in the parched desert, eking out a marginal existence and eventually succumbing to the elements. That shrub is like the person who puts all his faith in his own ideas, intelligence, and desires, or those of other people, turning away from the values of God. Just like the shrub, the person who turns away from God has no good source of sustenance. She is already weakened and will succumb when hard times come, as they inevitably do.

On the other hand is the large tree that grows by the riverbank, sending its roots deep by the stream to draw up life-giving water. That tree will flourish and bear fruit, even in times of severe heat and drought, when other plants wilt and die. That tree is like the person who trusts in God and has confidence in his ability to fill all her needs.

Even though water feeds the tree and helps it grow, even though water quenches our thirst and helps us live, we will grow thirsty again. And eventually we will die. Jesus encountered a Samaritan woman drawing water from a well. He offered her – and everyone – *living* water. Whoever drinks that water will never be thirsty again, he said. The living water will become a spring inside, welling up to eternal life (John 4:7-26). Jeremiah also quotes God describing himself as “the spring of living water” (Jeremiah 2:13).

Sts. Sahag and Hamazasp Ardzroonik had this kind of relationship with God. They were two brothers in a group of Armenian nobles who revolted against the Arab rulers of Armenia in the eighth century. When the brothers were captured, they were given the choice of changing their religion to Islam or dying. When they refused to convert, the Arab overlord had them tortured and beheaded. Their bodies were burned and their ashes spread into the wind so that no relics would remain from their martyred bodies.

Sts. Sahag and Hamazasp knew that only by receiving sustenance from God could they live more than a short while. Christ had offered them living water, and they had accepted it. As followers of Christ, rooted in his living water, they knew that the hope of eternal life that lay before them was far more important than a few more short years on earth. They chose to remain Christian, suffering martyrdom, but gaining their goal of eternal life with God.

When we feel thirsty and reach for that tall, refreshing drink with floating ice cubes, let us remember that Christ also offers us his living water. Water that will quench our thirst for meaning and security. Water that roots us in God's love, strengthening us to endure whatever difficulties we encounter. Water that provides us eternal life with the source of all our good gifts – God.



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

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HOLY TRINITY DELEGATES VIRTUALLY ATTEND THE 119TH DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

Led by pastor Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan, Diocesan Delegates Nancy Basmajian, Jeanette Der Hagopian and Parish Council Chair John Hanamirian, participated in the 118th Diocesan Assembly. The sessions were held via Zoom on May 1 and May 25 along with several "breakout sessions" during the month.

150 clergy and lay delegates were present to receive the Primate's annual message, which included several accomplishments including the creation of a Deacons' Fellowship, the ongoing work of a Commission on Women's Ministry and a committee on Racial and Social Justice. Additional virtual sessions received reports from Diocesan administrative bodies, including the Diocesan Council and ministry departments.

Of special interest was a report on the Dues to Stewardship Initiative being piloted in several parishes with much success. If implemented, it would replace the Diocese's current dues-paying membership system with one based on voluntary stewardship contributions.

The Assembly also received a status report on the Diocese's Facilities Development Project still in the process of being finalized.

Finally, elections for various Diocesan Offices were conducted; these included Board of Trustees, Nominating, Auditing, Proposals and Nominations committees. Newly elected members of the Diocesan Council were Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian (St. Peter Church, Watervliet, NY), Fr. Hratch Sargsyan (St. Gregory of Narek Church, Richmond Heights, OH), Lisa Esayian (St. James Church, Evanston, IL), Mona Karoghlanian (St. Gregory of Narek, Richmond Heights, OH), Richard Papalian (St. Gregory Church, White Plains, NY), and Alex Topakbashian (Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Church, Wynnewood, PA).

MEN'S CLUB "200 CLUB"

Tickets for the upcoming 2021-22 season have been mailed or distributed prior to Labor Day.

As of 8/12/21, three (3) Tickets are available for purchase; new ticket buyers preferred. A one-time donation of \$100 will entitle you to eight (8) months of drawings, with five winners drawn each month; that's 40 possible chances to win. And your ticket number could be drawn more than once during the Eight monthly drawings.

The first drawing will take place this November and the last drawing next June.

Prizes for Winners: Nov 2021 & June 2022 will be \$1000 / \$400 / \$200 / \$200 / \$ 200.
Dec 2021 thru May 2022 you could win \$500 / \$200 / \$100 / \$100 / \$100.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE MEN'S CLUB. If you already have a ticket, Thank You for your support. Please consider purchasing another ticket or maybe split a ticket with a friend or family member.

There will be \$10,000 in Prize Money & \$10,000 donated to the Church!

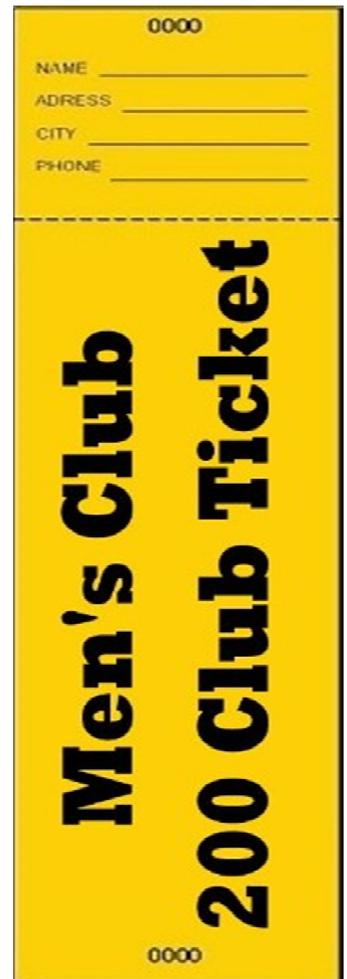


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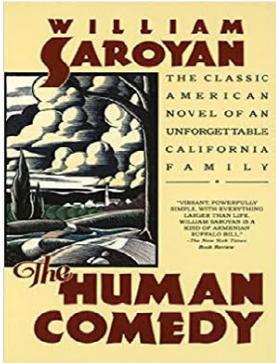
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\$400 Mary Injaian #200
\$200 Liz Barone #027
\$200 Jeff Thompson #002
\$200 Garo Garibian #115



SAVE THESE DATES . . .

Holy Trinity ZOOM Book Club



September 16: *Educated* by Tara Westover
facilitated by Nancy Hovnanian

October 21: *The Human Comedy* by William Saroyan
facilitated by Lucy Aghazarian

December 2: *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*
by C. S. Lewis, facilitated by Emily Terjimanian

To receive the ZOOM link for any, or all, of these book discussions, contact:
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WHY GROUP CONFESSION?

In church each week, we repent together. We confess that we have sinned in “thought, word, and deed,” by what we have done, and by what we have left undone, that we have neglected to love God with our whole hearts, and our neighbors as ourselves. This practice of communal confession is a vital way to enact the habit of confession that marks our daily lives. Through it we learn together the language of repentance and faith.

Confession reminds us that none of us gather for worship because we are pretty good people. But because we are new people, people marked by grace in spite of ourselves because of the work of Christ. Our communal practice of confession reminds us that failure in the Christian life is the norm. We—each and all—take part in gathered worship as unworthy people who, left on our own, deserve God’s condemnation. But we are not left on our own!

(From Liturgy of the Ordinary by Tish Harrison Warren)

We welcome the following new dues-paying members to our church family:
Karen Kirakozov / Michael & Suzanne Sherenian / Ani Navasartian

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

The invitations have been mailed for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of His Eminence, Archbishop Vicken Aykazian. This special event will be held on Sunday, October 17 and we look forward to an active participation by our community as we show our respect and appreciation for the many years he has devoted to representing The Armenian Church in the faith community in this country and globally. If you prefer, you can reserve your seats by going to www.holytrinity-pa.org/Vicken50 Further information can be obtained by calling the church office (215-663-1600).

Reserve Your Spot Online at www.holytrinity-pa.org/Vicken50

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES



Noushig Hovhannesian, daughter of Silva Hovhannesian, graduated from St. Joseph's University with a Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA). Noushig is continuing to pursue her career in Corporate Real Estate.



Kyle Richard Dunigan, son of Kimberly Santerian & Daniel Dunigan, graduated from Central Bucks East High School in June of 2021. He was an active student in his high school's athletic programs, excelling in soccer and in their Track and Field pole vaulting event. He received Suburban 1 First team accolades as a soccer goalie, MVP in Track and Field and set a personal best record in pole vaulting. He received a scholarship to Alvernia University in Reading, PA, where he will continue his soccer career in goal. Kyle plans to concentrate his collegiate studies in Finance, Business and Entrepreneurship.



Michael Armen Santerian, son of David & Alyssa Santerian, earned his degree of Bachelor of Business Administration. He majored in Risk Management and Insurance with a concentration in Property and Casualty from Temple University's Fox School of Business. While attending Temple University, Michael was the Treasurer of the Armenian Students Association, Member of Gamma Iota Sigma Risk Fraternity and Philanthropy Chair of Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity. Michael is employed at Chubb Insurance in Philadelphia as an Associate Underwriter.



Matthew Santerian, son of Michael & Legna Santerian, graduated from the 8th grade of the Armenian Sisters Academy. He actively participated in soccer, basketball and golf. Matthew will be continuing his education at Radnor High School.



John Paul Santerian, son of Harry & Valerie Santerian, graduated from May River High School in Bluffton, South Carolina. He will begin his freshman year this Fall at The College of Charleston. He plans on majoring in Commercial Real Estate Finance.



Alexander Hagop Balint, son of Drs. Steven and Stephanie (Ekizian) Balint, graduated from Central Bucks South High School, with a Cum Laude Diploma. He was active in JV and Varsity Baseball (this year Alex had the most wins and the lowest ERA on the team), National Honors Society; and ACYOA Juniors. Alex will be attending the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC where he is plans to continue his education in the field of business and sports management.

Weddings and Events.... Beyond Beautiful!!

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- Bea C. April 2009



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RETURN OF ST. NERSESS SUMMER CONFERENCES

After a year hiatus because of the Covid-19 pandemic, St. Nersess Armenian Seminary brought back its annual Summer Conferences in August with two seven-day sessions. From August 1-7, 16 altar servers of various ranks and experience gathered for the Deacons' Training Program that was co-directed by Dn. Armen, our Pastoral Intern, and St. Nersess Dean, Fr. Mardiros Chevian. Novice and beginner altar servers learned and perfected the deacons' parts and movements of the Divine Liturgy (Badarak) while more advanced altar servers studied the services for the Blessing of the Grapes (Khaghoghornek) on the Feast of Assumption, Blessing of the Water (Choorornek) for the Feast of Theophany, and the Blessing of the Fields (Antasdan) for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Khatchveratz). Between classes, participants learned how to make Nushkhar, the "host" unleavened bread that is combined with wine to make Holy Communion, went on an outdoor hike at a nearby nature preserve, and enjoyed time to share ideas and create new friendships and connections.



The next week, August 8-14, Emily joined Dn. Armen and they co-directed a High School Conference session. Despite the small group of 10 participants, it was clear when the teens arrived Sunday that this would be a special group: they immediately started an all-participant game of volleyball, and were inseparable from then on. From free time hanging out in St. Nersess' recently renovated recreation room playing ping pong or billiards to learning about St. Mary, traditional Armenian prayers for healing, environmental stewardship, and dealing with anxiety, this year's participants showed not only a desire to grow closer to the Armenian Church and God but also displayed a maturity beyond their years that is a sign of great things to come as future leaders of our parishes and the Eastern Diocese.

The St. Nersess Summer Conferences are a valuable program for the youth and altar servers of our Diocese and beyond. We know the huge amount of summer events available to all (camps, vacations, etc), but we encourage teens and altar servers to consider attending a future session to make new friends, expand their knowledge in the Church, and further develop their connection and love to Christ.



A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

On Sunday, July 11, 2021, in what could be called her “second home,” a celebration of Merle Santerian’s 85th birthday took place in Santerian Hall following Badarak. The party included more than 125 church parishioners and Merle’s many friends, from throughout the entire Philadelphia Armenian community. It was also the first time that we gathered as a congregation for fellowship since the Covid restrictions kept us from being together this way.

The party was hosted by all of her children and included the participation of all fourteen grandchildren who had an opportunity to share many of Merle’s favorite comments and lessons to them through the years.

Merle has been a faithful servant of our church for over 60 years and has been involved in almost every aspect of participation. She is a woman of deep faith and shares it often. Her generosity has been seen not only at our church, but throughout the Diocese, St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, our homeland and wherever a need exists.

All who attended were so thankful to be together after such a long absence and to share in this celebration. Highlights included tributes to Merle from her family, a special message from His Grace Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Primate, and Der Hakob, who is not only her neighbor but an important part of Merle’s family.

Many thanks go out to Berjoohy Murray, Yn. Anna, Maggie Miller, Tanya Paretchan, Angel Ebrahimi, Larry DerHagopian and all of our wonderful servers and helpers who were happy to do their part in making this celebration of Merle a very special day.



**Happy Birthday
Aunt Merle!**



Dear Church Family and Friends,

I want to express my deep thanks and appreciation for all who shared in the celebration of my 85th birthday. Your kind and caring words to me, donations to church in my honor and other gifts, and especially your presence, created a day – from start to finish - that I will always fondly remember.

With love and friendship,
Merle Santerian



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA (EASTERN)
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His Grace Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Primate

July 11, 2021

TO MERLE SANTERIAN

On the blessed occasion of her 85th birthday

It gives me such great pleasure to send my blessings on the occasion of your 85th birthday. When your pastor, Der Hakob Gevorkyan, informed me of your upcoming milestone, I felt compelled to offer a few words of congratulations to a woman I have known and admired for so many years.

Merle, your dedication to the Armenian Church – as both a worldwide institution, as well as through your service to Cheltenham’s Holy Trinity Church – is a quality of personal character to celebrate along with the passage of these years. More than that, your tenacious faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is an example for all of us to reflect on, with wonder and gratitude, as we ponder our own commitment to our faith.

I am reminded of the brief parable offered by Jesus (Mt 13), comparing his kingdom to a “pearl of great price”: the object of all of our aspirations and searches; that one treasure that is the summation of all of life’s efforts and hopes.

Certainly, Merle Santerian is one of those rare souls whose entire life has led her to embrace that precious treasure – which is Jesus Christ. The joy and hope she has found in our Lord energizes her, driving her to devote herself ever more to the church, and to the welfare of others. With profound generosity she has shared her faith with those around her, lending them strength even when she herself was burdened by life’s deepest pains.

In such an exemplary person, we all see with greater clarity what it means to “build up the Body of Christ.” And we are inspired to assess our own priorities, and devote ourselves more completely to the Son of God.

Merle, I am delighted to congratulate you and all your loved ones today, on behalf of a grateful and proud community. Your inner strength and tenderness to others exemplify the finest virtues of the Armenian people. May God continue to bless you, and may He keep the flame of faith burning brightly in your heart for many days to come.

With my prayers,

Bishop DANIEL
Primate

HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN CHURCH

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

October

Marina Hovhannesian - 2
 Grace Meranshian - 4
 Spencer Murray - 4
 Steve Aslanian - 5
 Aram Attarian - 5
 Robert King - 5
 Jack Vishab - 5
 Matthew Santerian - 6
 Janice Owens - 7
 Brianna Juskalian - 10
 Jeannine Juskalian - 10
 Tomas Torosian - 11
 Karnig Torossian - 13
 Marta Brann - 18
 Karinne Andonian - 19
 Florence Maloumian - 19
 Mary Parnagian - 19
 Peter Hovnanian - 20
 Jean Ohnigian - 21
 Henry LeCompte - 22
 Peter Oskanian, Jr. - 23
 Lilit Andonian - 23
 Christopher Torcomian - 26
 Ella Hovnanian - 27
 Laura Bilazarian - 29
 Adrienne Minassian - 29
 Tara Zane - 29
 Kyle Dunigan - 31
 Katie Hashas - 31
 Michelle Oskanian - 31
 Alice Sisian - 31

November

Rosaleen Oskanian - 1
 Scott Santerian - 1
 Annabel Hovnanian - 3
 John Oskanian - 3
 Dori Juskalian - 4
 Kimberly Dunigan - 6
 Bennett Oskanian - 8
 Thomas Torcomian - 8
 Lesly Attarian - 10
 Stephen Griffin - 11
 Patty Alexanian - 12
 Angel Tookmanian - 12
 Gary Altoonian - 16
 Ani Burrows - 16
 Taline Burrows - 16
 Selma Alexanian - 17
 Elizabeth Barone - 17
 Shawn Carnevale Jr - 18
 Veronica Carnevale - 18
 Janet Hashas - 20
 Marie Kazanjian - 21
 Stefanie Vishab - 22
 Larry D. DerHagopian - 23
 Zaven Andonian - 25
 Madison Radell - 25
 Timothy Worrell - 26
 Vaughn Alexanian - 27
 Levon Attarian - 27
 Gabrielle Meranshian - 28
 Valerie DerPilbosian - 29
 Joyce Killian - 29

December

Alice Karabian - 1
 Carol Jerrahian - 2
 Kimberly Kalustyan - 2
 Nancy Basmajian - 4
 Alise Peckjian - 4
 Abigail Zane - 4
 Sonia Papazian - 5
 Robbie Barone - 7
 Berjoohy Murray - 7
 Robert Damerjian Jr - 9
 Mariana Majian - 9
 Leslie Movsesian - 9
 Linda Vishab - 9
 Richard Mukalian - 10
 Phillip Santerian - 10
 Danielle Sarkisian - 12
 Margaret Bandaian - 13
 Berj Kalustyan - 14
 Michele Yeretian - 14
 Natalie Boghosian - 17
 Denise Sisian - 18
 Harry Vartanian - 19
 Helen Terzian Gallagher - 22
 Theresa Hovnanian - 22
 Grayson Oskanian - 22
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 Baby Jesus - 25
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 Christina Juskalian - 25
 Alexander Griffin - 25
 Isabella Balint - 27
 Taline Schmidt - 27
 Jonothan Koengetter - 28
 Alexis Javardian - 29
 Adrienne Juskalian - 29
 Michael Alexanian - 31

MEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

October

Todd & Seta Pica	10/2/2004
Steven & Stephanie Balint	10/12/1997
Berj & Michele Yeretian, Jr	10/ 14/1989
Garo & Tamar Hovnanian	10/14/2006
Michael & Jenna Alexanian	10/14/2017
Gregory & Maria Javardian	10/15/1983
Ara & Virginia Shakarjian	10/ 16/1955
Donald & Judy Paretchan	10/18/2009
Jake & Gina Terkanian	10/20/2007
Steve & Mary Sona Brod	10/28/1990
Berj & Alice Kalustyan	10/29/1955

November

Vaughn & Patty Alexanian	11/2/1980
Gary & Eileen Altoonian	11/5/ ????

Ernest & Christine Peacock	11/6/1976
Phil & Alyssa Worrell	11/13/2010
Steve & Doretta Aslanian	11/15/1987
John & Margaret Bandaian	11/25/2005
Ralph & Nane Arpajian	11/26/2010
Richard & Florence Maloumian	11/27/1965
David & Marta Brann	11/29/1980

December

David & Terri Sadjian-Mears	12/1/1984
Robert & Janice King	12/3/1983
Armen & Emily Terjimanian	12/5/2020
Joseph & Tina LaRose	12/5/2020
Albert & Patrice Keshgegian	12/22/1974
Melani & Kyle Burrows	12/29/2007
Robert & Elizabeth Barone	12/30/1972



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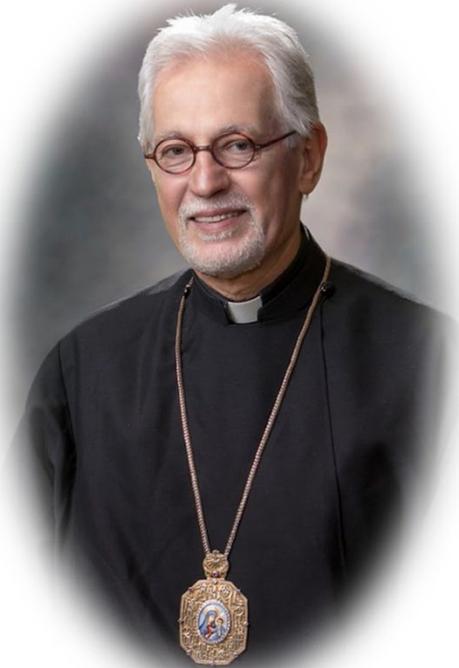
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