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# Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church



# LOOYS



Cheltenham, PA

#### Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan, Pastor

Summer 2023-03

Pilgrimage to Armenia July 2023



#### 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!



#### **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 <u>frhakob@holytrinity-pa.org</u> Church Secretary: Sabrinna Dabney 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)	215-660-0000
Barbara Harmon (Vice Chair)	609-605-0489
Don Paretchan (Treasurer)	610-608-1866
Michael Santerian (Asst. Treasurer)	610-527-1065
Steve Aslanian (Secretary)	215-771-1157
Greg Andonian	330-283-3729
Ralph Arpajian	215-518-4159
Rob Barone	610-529-2178
Larry Der Hagopian	215-489-7116
David Santerian	215-518-2256
Margo Silk	856-425-6565

#### **DIOCESAN DELEGATES**

Barbara Harmon	609-605-0489
Emily Terjimanian	734-277-2753

#### **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 Movsesian (Co-Superintendent)	215-801-2725

#### **MEN'S CLUB**

Michael Paretchan	215-947-4394
Michael Tookmanian	484-351-8663
<b>BOOKSTORE</b> Gloria Basmajian	215-722-3369

#### ACYOA Jrs.

Jessica Badishyan (President) Narek Gevorgyan (Vice-President) Mariana Majian (Parent Advisor) 215-758-2664 Alex Yavru-Sakuk (Parent Advisor) 917-603-0407 Instagram: <u>https://www.instagram.com/htac\_acyoajrs</u>

#### LADIES of HOLY TRINITY

Yn. Anna Gevorgyan (Coordinator)	215-938-1313
Elizabeth Barone (Advisor)	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 COORDINATORS**

Jeanette Der Hagopian	215-672-4188
Berjoohy Murray	856-912-2417

#### ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Nancy Basmajian (Coordinator)

215-722-3369

<u>Edítoríal Staff</u> Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan Jeanette Der Hagopían Larry D. Der Hagopían Naomí Mukalían

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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 faithexperience of the Armenian people. All the faithful of the Armenian Church – both clergy and laity – are called to participate fully in this mission.

## The Living Water

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to Me, and let the one who believes in Me drink" (John 7:37).

Here we see that God invites us to drink of Him as the Living Water. We may want to drink the Living Water, but don't know how. Let's see how we can drink the Living Water.

We can drink the Living Water by thanking the Lord. This is something we can do very easily in the morning, in the evening or throughout the day. The Lord Jesus has done so much for us through



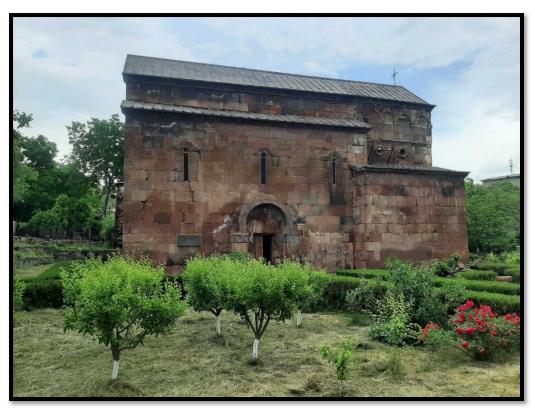
His death and resurrection, and He cares for all of us. That's why He is worthy to be thanked at all times.

We can drink the Living Water by confessing our sins every day and trying to minimize them. We can't be perfect but we can try to be like Jesus.

Also, we can drink the Living Water by doing God-pleasing works; for example, helping the poor and needy, being nice to each other, forgiving those who have hurt us, and loving people around us.

And finally, most of all, we can drink the Living Water by making Jesus and His kingdom a priority of our lives.

A little boy was sent to bed by his father. A few minutes later the boy said, "Dad, I am thirsty. Can you bring water?" The father answered, "No, you had your choice. The lights are out." Five minutes later, again this little boy asked for water. The father replied, "No. If you ask again, I'll spank you." The boy said, "When you come to spank me, can you bring a cup of



water?"

This little boy made every effort to quench his physical thirst. I hope that we all will make every effort to quench our spiritual thirst with the Living Water, with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

With prayers, Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan

A SIGNIFICANT ROOF RENOVATION ON THE 10TH CENTURY ST. JOHN CHURCH IN BYURAKAN WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY A DONATION FROM DER HAKOB'S PASTOR'S FUND.

## Parish Council

John Hanamirian, Chair

We have some "goings-on." You likely noticed the two bathrooms at the end of the hallway in the Sunday School that have been under renovation. We are making those bathrooms single bathrooms and both will be disabled-accessible. We are also evaluating replacing the front steps of the Church; that project is in its beginning stages.

Other than those items, things are running smoothly. Our contributions are down from last year, but I believe before the end of the year, things should even out. Enjoy the Bazaar and thank you to Nick, Gay and all of those they enlisted to help. I am sure it will be a success.

Next, please consider continuing your giving. We are doing the projects to keep the Church maintained and we have the resources to do so, but for our future and the future of our children, we have a chance to make the process of keeping our Church going so much easier. Truly, it sounds like a cliché, but every little amount of giving adds up.

Now, Artsakh. Just a horrible end to a horrible situation. I was with Der Hayr at a funeral a few weeks ago and we were talking about what can possibly go through someone's mind when they reach a conclusion that killing another person is a good idea, let alone when killing masses somehow makes sense to you. It is literally insane and of course, tragic. Get involved however you can. Posting on social media to a thousand of your Armenian friends isn't getting involved. Your thousand Armenian friends know of the tragedy; getting involved is using a voice that reaches the rest of the World. We are an ingenious population; that is part of the reason we are persecuted. Try to figure out how you can reach those in power and don't be afraid to put yourself out there. You never know who is listening.



## HOLY TRINITY BOOK CLUB UPDATE

We would like to thank all of the previous facilitators and organizers of the Holy Trinity Zoom Book Club for their inspiration, thoughtfulness, and passion for reading. We have seen an increase in the number of individuals joining each month

and that is a tribute to their dedication. Most who log on have read the book; others log on to listen to the discussions! We welcome all!

Our goal this year is to try and expand the genres that we are reading. We started the year with an Agatha Christie style murder mystery, Daisy Darker, and this generated wonderful discussions and conversations in September. Our November 2 selection was The Personal Librarian, by Marie Benedict and Victoria Murray. This is the little-known story of Belle da Costa Greene, J.P. Morgan's personal librarian, a black woman who was forced to pass as white, leaving a lasting legacy

that enriched our nation. Belle became a fixture of New York society and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world. It is a Historical Fiction novel that captivates the reader with its memorable characters and historical references.

This proved to be a great discussion!

Throughout the year we hope to present books that interest many and expand our reading experiences. If you have any suggestions for novels and/or you'd like to facilitate a Zoom discussion, please reach out to: Alyssa Santerian: <u>apsanterian@gmail.com</u> or Suzanne Sherenian: <u>ovsanna1@comcast.net</u>



We look forward to "seeing" you at a future Zoom Book Club meeting!

"Read. Read. Read. Just don't read one type of book. Read different books by various authors so that you develop a different style." R.L. Stine



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## Men's Club "200 Club"

Tickets for the upcoming 2023-24 season were mailed or distributed in August. As of 9/15/23, nine (9) Tickets were available for purchase. 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 2023; June 2024 will be \$1000 / \$400 / \$200 / \$200 / \$200. Dec 2023 thru May 2024 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, and \$10,000 donated to the Church.

For Tickets Contact: Mick Paretchan (215-947-4394), Larry D. Der Hagopian (215-489-7116), Mike Tookmanian (484-351-8663) or Mike Santerian (609-352-1575)

Final Winners for 2022-23 Season - June 2023

- \$1,000 Steve Aslanian #132
- \$400 Don Paretchan #168
- \$200 Greg Bilazarian #162
- \$200 Gloria Basmajian #036
- \$200 John Chalikian #133





## MER HODYS, House of Hope

We were delighted to learn that Vani Hanamirian, who made her first trip to Armenia recently, paid a visit to Mer Hooys in Yerevan. She had heard about the facility which provides a safe home environment for young girls, ages 9-18, where they are able to continue their education and learn many life skills on their way to becoming independent. After visiting and spending time with the young women, Vani, a journalism major in college, was compelled to share their story. She is an accomplished writer whose articles have been published in many various newspapers, including The Philadelphia Inquirer, Moorestown Sun and Hairenik, to name a few; and they often focus on Armenians and Armenian causes. Vani is the daughter of our Parish Council Chair, John Hanamirian. To support and learn more about Mer Hooys, visit: mer-hooys.org.



## **CELEBRATING TEN YEARS**

It was ten years ago when over 100 individuals—clergy and laypeople from all five Armenian churches in Philadelphia gathered at our parish to do something they never imagined they would be doing—they mimed, recited, gestured, laughed, and prayed their way through the entire Old Testament in a mere six hours. Then a year later, they did the same thing, this time with the New Testament!

Both these programs were brought to Holy Trinity by our pastor, Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan, working with Nancy Basmajian, who holds a Master's Degree in Divinity. It was the beginning of adult faith formation at Holy Trinity—we know the ministry as "ACE" or Adult Christian Education

as "ACE" or Adult Christian Education.

In the last ten years, the ministry has thrived; they have brought our community Bible studies,



liturgical programs, annual Lenten series, retreats, seminars, workshops, museum visits, faith-based films, a number of speakers including more than a few Diocesan pastors and two Primates(!), a Zoom Book Club that has already read 20 books, neighborhood home discussions, and two Gospel Marathons. Perhaps their most unique and popular events have been the various blessing services they have created such as Remembrance Day, Marriage Renewal Sunday, Blessing of Elders, Blessing of Graduates, and Blessing of Grandparents.



In addition to its educational mission, ACE also serves those in need with its outreach ministry; this includes their "Caring for Friends" preparation of meals for the homebound and the annual "Operation Christmas Child" campaign.

Nancy Basmajian, who has served as Coordinator of ACE since its inception, recently reflected on the 10year milestone: "I never dreamed that ACE would have this kind of staying power—ten years is a long time. Almost 200 people have participated in over 150 of our initiatives. Those are measurable stats based on our mission to increase biblical and church literacy among our adults. But have we given our parishioners opportunities to learn and grow closer to their church and most importantly deepen their relationship with God? I hope so, but we can't measure that."

Under the guidance and vision of Fr. Hakob and the support of the Parish Council, the ACE team hopes to continue to provide meaningful and inspiring programming. The parish acknowledges with gratitude and affection the following individuals who have served on the ACE team during this past decade: Lucy Aghazarian, Liz Barone, Nancy Basmajian, Jeanette Der Hagopian, Kim Der Hagopian, Brian and Joyce Hoyle, Dn. Albert Keshgegian, Leslie Movsesian, Merle Santerian, Dn. Armen and Emily Terjimanian.

## ACYOA Fun in the Sun

By Sophie Yavru-Sakuk

This summer, the ACYOA of Holy Trinity Armenian Church wanted to get together to celebrate their achievements and their commitment to the ACYOA. Jessica Badishyan, our Vice President, offered to host a pool party at her home in Richboro, PA on June 19th. Everyone contributed to the party by bringing food, drinks, and desserts! We enjoyed some delicious hot dogs, hamburgers, and Marianna's delicious chicken kebab!

Twenty-eight people attended the pool party, including eleven ACYOA Juniors, four of their siblings, and thirteen adults, including our very own



Der Hakob and Yn. Anna!! We also had a very special furry friend named Jojo who decided to attend as well!

What's a pool party without some music? We decided to listen to Armenian music the whole time and even started a Michigan Hop around the pool! We played tons of games including volleyball, football and a big game of Categories.

At the end of the night, we had a very special treat. Sophie and Nina Yavru-Sakuk brought sparklers for the whole group to enjoy! As they were lit, the group sang Mer Hayrenik! Our President this past year, Tigran Safaryan, is off to college! Unfortunately, he could not make it to the pool party, but we wish him the very best at Temple University and look forward to seeing you at church next year.



a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, Ecclesiastes 3:4

### We welcome the following new Members:

Gevork Sarkisian 464 W. Harvest Lane Middletown, DE 19709 Karine Nersisyan 62 Bowman Drive Feasterville, PA 19053 Lindsey Aliksanyan - LA445@Cornell.edu Juliana Shinn - Juliana.e.shinn@gmail.com

## The Joy of Armenian Gata (or Katah)

By Liz Barone

When I attended the Women's Guild Assembly this past spring, I learned one of the Guilds was doing cooking classes via Zoom. I thought this was a great idea for our busy ladies who have expressed interest in learning to cook & amp; bake Armenian specialties. I shared this idea with Yn. Anna. She had a better idea. Let's invite the ladies to join us in the kitchen for an in-person experience.

Our Yn. Anna planned a "working social" for Sept. 14. There was wine, mezze and desserts to enjoy when our guests arrived, along with time to socialize before the cooking class began.

Margarita Ananyants, one of our parishioners, was our instructor. She was our Holy Trinity "Food Network" star. She taught us about the ingredients & amp; measurements as she and Anna prepared the dough. She invited us to come to the work table to roll out the dough, fold it correctly, brush the gata with the egg wash before baking this sweet Armenian treat.

Once baked, the gata pieces were baked & bagged. The evening ended when we left with our sweet treats &; copies of the recipe. We look forward to our next Armenian cooking adventure. Come join us. You are all invited!!





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## St. Nersess Shnorhali

Dn. Albert Keshgegian

This year the Armenian Church commemorates the 850th anniversary of the death of St. Nersess Shnorhali. His Saint's Day is on October 14 this year, together with the other Holy Translators.

The following is a reflection by Deacon Albert Keshgegian:

-Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

-Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

-Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

-For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. (Psalm 100)

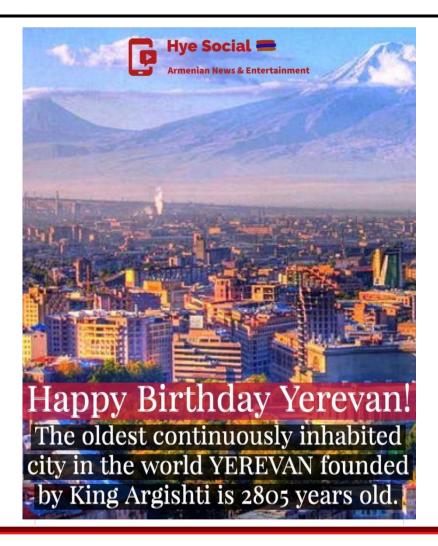


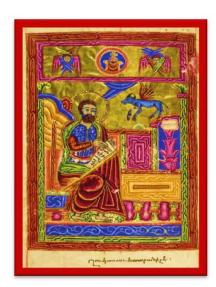
When do we turn to God? For many, it's in times of distress, despair, illness, or other hurt that we think of God and seek from him understanding, comfort, and support. But God is there always. He created us and everything else. He loves us and wants to be a part of our lives every day. We should serve him daily with gladness and give him thanks for his goodness, in good times as well as bad.

St. Nersess Shnorhali ("Grace-filled") did this. He was born in 1102, the son of a prince and the grandson of a great church writer. He was ordained at age 18 by his brother Catholicos Krikor III Balavouni and by age 30 had become a bishop. He served as an aide to his brother and succeeded him as catholicos in 1166, serving until 1173.

St. Nersess is known for his "General Epistle", which eloquently guided the Armenian people in their faith. He wrote "Jesus, the Son", a poem-prayer of 4000 verses that starts with creation, describes the ministry of Christ, and concludes with the Day of Judgment. St. Nersess composed many prayers, chants, and hymns that greatly enriched the Armenian Church and which are still in use today. One of the most beloved prayers is "Havadov Khosdovaneem" ("I confess with faith…"), a penitential prayer with 24 verses, one for each hour of the day, which is part of the Rest Service. Some of his hymns are acrostic, a format popular at the time: the first letter of each verse spells out a word or is in a certain sequence. Among his best-known hymns are Ashkhar Amenayn ("The entire earth…"), Aravod Loosoh ("Morning of light…"), and Aysor Anjar ("Today the shining forth…") from the Night Service, in all of which the first letter of each verse proceeds through the Armenian alphabet. Another of his well-known hymns, Norasdeghdzyal ("Newly created…"), from the Morning Service, contains six verses that start with the letters N,E,R,S,E,S, spelling out the saint's name in Armenian. In the "Song of St. Nersess", Nayatz Seerov ("Look with love…"), from the Night Service, the first letter of each verse spells out N,E,R,S,E,S,I (Y)E,R,K – "Song of Nersess".

St. Nersess gave praise, thanksgiving, and adoration to God through his many prayers and hymns. He brought joyful singing into God's presence and worshiped him daily with gladness. We should feel that way, too. We owe God so much. We owe him our very existence. Everything that we have, he has provided. He created land and sea, plants and animals, and all else that exists, for us. He gave each of us abilities for success. He sustains us as much as we ask. He lovingly came to us as a human being, personally taught and cared for us, and allowed himself to die so that we could have eternal life with him. How could we not be grateful? How could we not thank him?





Pastor's Weekly **ZOOM** Bible Study: The Gospel of Luke

Wednesdays 7:00–8:00 p.m. starting November 8

Our Guide: Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan

We invite you to join us *every* Wednesday or *any* Wednesday!

To receive **ZOOM** link, contact nancybasmajian@verizon.net

## Weddings and Events.... Beyond Beautiful!!

After visiting so many florists, it was a relief to find someone who could work with my ideas and just make them that much better. Thank you for helping me make my special day so beautiful and elegant." - Bea C. April 2009



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## YOUNG ADULT PILGRIMAGE TO JERUSALEM

By Diego A. Majian

For the first time since 2019, the Eastern Diocese's Young Adult Pilgrimage to Jerusalem departed on June 3 rd, 2023, with 31 young adults, from New York for a nine-day journey through the Holy Land. Leading this year's group was Rev. Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan (St Mary Armenian Church, Washington, DC) and Der Guregh Hambardzumyan (St. John the Baptist Armenian Church, Greenfield, WI).

We traveled in and around Jerusalem, including the Old City and the Armenian Quarter, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jericho, Cana, and Galilee. As we visited holy sites, Badarak and other liturgical services were celebrated; Bible Studies at each historical site broadened our knowledge and provided a deeper understanding of each place we visited.



We began our journey with a visit to Bethlehem because that is where Christianity began – at the Church of the Nativity, the holy site of Christ's birth. We went to see the manger, which was in an underground cave. We learned about the traditions and history of the site. After lunch, a Bible Study took place in Shepherd's Field. We also had the opportunity to visit with the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, His Beatitude Abp. Nourhan Manougian, and ask him questions.

The River Jordan was the next day's outing, where a blessing of the water service took place, and I was very honored to serve as the Godparent of the cross. Following that, we went to the Qumran in the West Bank of Jericho which is an archeological site where 900 Dead Sea Scrolls were hidden in 134 BCE and have since been excavated. We got to see the caves (from a distance) that the scrolls were hidden in and the ruins of ritual baths. Next, we went to the Mount of Temptation where we read Matthew 4:1-11 and visited a shop (some of us even got on a camel!). Following lunch, we broke into Bible Study groups to debrief the Bible passage and struggles of temptation. Our day ended with swimming (more like floating) in the Dead Sea. At the Dead Sea, some of us put mud on our skin because it reportedly has health benefits.

Day Three took us to Nazareth where we visited the (modern) Basilica of the Annunciation, which is a Catholic Church built in 1969 AD over the remains of the cave where the Virgin Mary received the news that she would give birth to Jesus. The church's shape is inspired by the Madonna Lily, a symbol of the Virgin Mary. On the outside of the church, there are murals of the St. Mary and Baby Jesus, and one of them was donated by the Armenian pilgrims of Philadelphia, USA, in honor of the St. James Brotherhood of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem for their dedicated services to the holy places, during the patriarchy of His Beatitude Abp. Nourhan Manougian. We also visited the Church of the Apostle Nathanael Bartholomew, in Cana built on top of his home; the wedding church in Cana, the celebration of Jesus's first miracle turning water into wine. We also learned about weddings in the Armenian church and the meaning of the crown.

Mount Tabor, the mountain and basilica, represents the location of Jesus's transfiguration. Here we shared a bible study over transfiguration and the revelation of Christ. Mount of Beatitudes, church by the Sea of Galilee where Jesus delivered his sermon. We also hared a beautiful bible study here about Christ's sermon. Our day ended with a beautiful boat ride on the Sea of Galilee

On the fourth day, we visited the Mount of Olives. We visited many churches including Christ's ascension and the first location of John the Baptist's severed head. We also went to one of the sites Christ showed himself to his disciples after His crucifixion. We also visited Mary's tomb at the foot of the mountain. The tomb is shared by the Armenians and the Greeks. While we were there, we celebrated Badarak and then visited the Garden of Gethsemane.

On the fifth day, we visited many churches until we were introduced to the Armenian quarter. We got to interact with the community there and make some friends. We had a great time hanging out with the youth and young adults at the Armenian Patriarch and playing sports! We walked the Old City, the Via Dolorosa, and the Holy Sepulcher. Then we went to the Patriarch and had Q&A with Bedross Der Matossian and Fr Mardiros about Armenians in the Holy Land and toured the recently opened Armenian Museum. After lunch, we visited St. James Monastery and participated in the evening service there.

Day Six took us to the tomb of Lazarus which we had to go in groups to see because it was in a small underground cave.

Finally, on the last day, we visited the Holy Sepulcher. We stayed there for the whole night, and we read THE 24 verses of St. Nerses Shnorhali (the Grateful) and then celebrated Badarak at 4 am! Following Badarak, we each took turns entering the Tomb of Christ, which was an amazing experience.

For centuries, the city of Jerusalem has been revered as a spiritual oasis, drawing countless pilgrims from diverse faiths to its hallowed grounds. Among these many different religions, the Armenian Christian community has maintained a profound connection to the holy city. A pilgrimage to Jerusalem for an Armenian Christian is more than just a journey, it is something we do to keep our heritage



strong. The trip was an amazing experience that I wish lasted a bit longer.

The trip was sponsored by the Diocese and individual parishes. I would like to express thanks to Diocesan benefactor, the late Mr. Aso Tavitian; our beloved former Primate, Bishop Daniel;, Very Rev Fr. Father Mesrop Parsamyan, our current Primate; Rev. Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan; Der Guregh Hambardzumyan for leading our Pilgrimage, Shake Derderian (Nour Travels); and of course and not least, I want to thank Der Hakob and my Holy Trinity family for selecting me to participate in this pilgrimage, which was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



## Congratulations to Our 2023 Graduates



**COLE CHRISTOPHER OWENS**, son of Christopher and Janice Owens and the grandson of the late Gilbert Sr. and Silva DeMirjian, graduated from Temple University with a Bachelor of Arts in Media Studies and Production. He plans a career in Audio Engineering/Production.

**DOMINIQUE DAMERJIAN**, the daughter of Robert and Melody Damerjian and the granddaughter of Lorraine and the late Bob Damerjian, graduated from Saint Joseph's University: Philadelphia College of Pharmacy with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree (PharmD) in May of 2023. Dominique was accepted into a 6-year direct-entry pharmacy program which allowed her to be directly accepted into the graduate

program as long as she maintained a minimum GPA. During her college career, she was a member of Philadelphia College of Pharmacy Student Council, earned a four-year merit scholarship, and earned a "Pass with Distinction" during her sixth year professional rotations. She currently works as a Pharmacy Graduate Intern at Walgreens pharmacy while she studies for her licensure exam.





**TOMAS KEVORK MAJIAN**, son of Mariana Majian, graduated from the Armenian Sisters Academy with Academic Honors and the President's Education Award program awarded in recognition of Outstanding Academic excellence. He will continue his education at Abington Senior High School as a 9th grader. Tomas enjoys playing soccer, drawing, and arts and crafts. In our church community, Tomas takes part in Church School and ACYOA Jrs.

**TIGRAN SAFARYAN**, son of Kahren and Flora Safarian, graduated from Lower Moreland High School and is currently attending Temple University. He is majoring in Biology, on a pre-dental track. His interests mostly include sports, playing soccer for Temple and with his friends. He is also into

weightlifting. At Holy Trinity, Tigran participated in the ACYOA, Jrs. and served as President last year. He also volunteered as an Assistant Teacher in the Armenian language classes for two years.





**CAMERON MERLE SANTERIAN**, daughter of Michael and Legna Santerian, granddaughter of Merle and Ned Santerian & amp; Angèl and Youra Ebrahime, graduated

from the Armenian Sisters Academy. Cameron has attended the Armenian Sisters Academy from the age of three. She has had a rewarding and enriching experience encompassing her Armenian heritage and culture. Cameron had an opportunity to travel to Armenia for the first time with her ASA graduating class. Cameron achieved academic honors and Armenian honors every year. Cameron enjoys playing soccer as well as lacrosse. She is an active member of our ACYOA juniors. She looks forward to attending Radnor high school this coming fall.

**NICOLE JULIA SANTERIAN**, daughter of Michael and Legna Santerian, granddaughter of Merle and Ned Santerian & amp; Angèl and Youra Ebrahime, graduated high school, from the Agnes Irwin school. Nicole received high honors all four years of high school. Nicole was involved in both varsity basketball and tennis at the Agnes Irwin School and engaged in multiple non-athletic extracurriculars. She engaged in the Middle Eastern Student Alliance, the Business and Entrepreneurship club, and the Girls Grant Making Club at Agnes Irwin. She has also worked multiple jobs during her high school years. Nicole is involved with her ACYOA Jrs. chapter and continues to be actively involved in the local Armenian community today. On weekends, she and her sister Cameron volunteered at Armenian Delight preparing food and helping out where needed in the kitchen. Nicole will be continuing her education at Villanova University.





**HARRY VARTANIAN**, son of Antranik and Hasmig Vartanian, recently received his law degree from the University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law, where he specialized in Intellectual Property, Technology, and Information Law. After practicing as a patent agent for the last 20 years, Harry plans on becoming a licensed Patent Attorney and continuing to work on patenting automotive technologies for car manufacturers.

## **Good Luck To All The Grads!**

## A Pilgrimage and a Blessing

Thanks to the donors mentioned herein, who gave to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, Der Hakob was able to provide \$4,000 of financial sustenance to several families while visiting them during the pilgrimage he led in August. Steven Aslanian, David and Liesje Damerjian, Jeanette Der Hagopian, Thomas and Barbara Harmon, Berjoohy Murray, Merle Santerian, Karnig and Alice Torossian, Gregory and Diane Yazujian



## "Hayastan – Artsakh – Ev Spyurk" Musical Show by Students of Armenian Language Lessons at the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church (June 4, 2023)

These days, when any support is especially important for people in Armenia and Artsakh, our students of Armenian Language Lessons at the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church prepared a wonderful Concert, dedicated to the three spines of Armenian World – **Armenia**, **Artsakh**, and **Spyurk**, on June 4, 2023. Students demonstrated what they learned during Spring 2023 semester, including Armenian Alphabet letters ("Our Alphabet" by Hamo Sahyan), shown by *Yelena, Sona, Vardan*, and *Suren*), Armenian famous poems and Armenian magnificent songs about Yerevan, Armenia, and Artsakh. One of the songs was "Piti Aprenk" (We Must Live!) written by maestro *Edgar Gyanjumyan*, who sent his music notes to *Stephan Sarkissian* (who helped with music performance) specifically for this Concert and was very happy to know that the students of our Church will sing this song at the Musical Show in Holy Trinity Armenian Church! Importantly, our new students also had a chance to actively participate (*Lily, Eduard,* and *Robert*). Even more, we had guest students from Yerevan (*Hasmik* and *Gevork*), who not only came to our Concert, but also read famous poems by Silva Kaputikyan.

Our Armenian language class students (mentored by Yn Anna Gevorgyan and Dr. Nune Darbinian) and a choir presented several songs, along with individual performances by *Karine, Sona, Elena, Grace, Lenna, Vardan, Suren, Garik*. Students also played Armenian composers' piano pieces (*Karine, Elena, Suren, Vardan, Alex,*) and Komitas' music for viola (*Sona*).

We are very proud of our talented students, who work hard during the semester, and then happily demonstrate best Armenian

	Hayastan – Artsakh	- Yev Spyurk Barsegh Kanachyan, Mikael Nalbandayn
. Students' Choir (all students*)	Mer Hayrenik	Barsegh Ranachyan, Mikael Nalbandayn
. Gevork Gyozalyan	Hayots Lezu	
. Vardan Gevorgyan/ Stepan Sarkissian	Azatutyun (Freedom) / Prelude in E minor	
3. Vardan Gevorgyan	Sardarapat [piano]	Alexander Hovhannisyan
. Karine Nersisyan / Students' Choir*	Piti Aprenk	Edgar Gyanjumyan, Seda Gyanjumyan
Karine Nersisyan	Haverjakan Ser (Forever Love) [piano]	Charles Aznavour
	Meghedi (Melody) [piano]	Arno Babajanyan
5. Hasmik Gyozalyan	Khosk im Vordun	Silva Kaputikyan
6. Elena, Vardan, Suren, Sona	Mer Aybubene	Gevorg Emin
7. Alex Akhobadze	Solfeggietto [piano]	Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach
3. Sona Melyan	Hey Jan Yerevan	Artemni Ayvazyan, Hovhannes Ghukasyan
9. Suren Melkonyan	Im Yerevan	Arno Babadjanyan, Vahan Harutyunyan
	Andantino "Ivan Sings" [piano]	Aram Khachaturyan
	Armenian Folk Dances [piano]	Nikoghayos Tigranian
ntermission		
<ol><li>Anahit Hakobyan</li></ol>	Im Hayastan	Robert Amirkhanyan
11. Sona Melyan	Erkinkn Ampel e [viola]	Vardapet Komitas
12. Garik Ohanyan	Erevani Gishernere Kaputak	Aleksander Dolukhanyan, Ashot Grashi
3. Karine Nersisyan	Karine	Artemiy Ayvazyan, Vladimir Harutyunyan
14. Elena Sysoyev	Prelude in A Major [piano]	Frederic Chopin
	Eraz / [p]	Shahaziz, Vardapet Komitas
5. Mariam Alaverdyan	Kanche Krunk	Vardapet Komitas
16. Grace Vartanyan	Tsitsernakn Bun e Dnum (Swallow's Nest)	Ghazaros Aghayan, Barsegh Kanachyan
	Melody [piano]	
17. Lenna Vartanyan		i) Hovhannes Tumanyan, Armen Tigranyan
	Melody [piano]	
18. Stephan Sarkissian	Erebuni-Yerevan [piano]	Edgar Hovhannisyan
	Prelude in F Major BWV 927 [piano]	Johann Sebastian Bach
19. Students' Choir*	Khajeri Erg/Song of Braves, Karine operet	
20. Karine Nersisyan	Yerevan	Robert Amirkhanyan

poems and songs at various Talent Shows during a year. It is also important to mention that students are willing prepare more to and more challenging songs, Armenian and bringing more friends or relatives to Concerts, confirming the importance of learning Armenian language, to pass letter on to their little brothers and sisters, and to

communicate with their grandparents and relatives in Armenia, and to preserve our native treasure - Armenian Language. We thank Fr. Hakob for supporting Armenian Language School, and Jeanette Der-Hagopian for supporting musical performances. After their successful performances, students are currently organizing their next Concert - a Musical for New Year and Christmas

Show.



## SHARING OUR HISTORY

Der Hakob enjoyed the opportunity to meet Leo Hanian who visited our church during this past summer to check out his creation. Leo was the architect and builder of our Genocide Memorial which graces the front of our church.

Many will remember the dedication that took place on 9/15/96.



## Humanitarian Aid from Samaritan's Purse

On the morning of October 7, 2023, the organization of Samaritan's Purse, left Greensboro, North Carolina, headed to Armenia to bring help to refugees there in Jesus' Name. More than 100,000 people fled to Armenia due to conflict in the region of Artsakh. The plane was loaded with 30 tons of relief goods including medical supplies, hygiene kits, blankets, and solar lights. Additionally, they mobilized surgical teams to provide care for burn patients injured during a recent gas station explosion that occurred in Nagorno-Karabakh, the area the refugees were leaving. This organization, led by President Franklin Graham, son of the late Billy Graham, well-known evangelist, is one of the first



humanitarian organizations to arrive on the scene to provide aid in these extreme calamities that take place. We are thankful for the support they have given us. Please continue praying for the over-100,000 people who were forced from their land and their homes, and most everything they had to leave behind.

## A Pilgrim's Dream Comes True

By Lucy Aghazarian

Long ago, to borrow from poet C. Cullen, 1903-1946, "I had wrapped my dreams in silken cloth and stored them in a box of gold." And on July 30, I unwrapped one of my dreams and with my son, Aram, joined a group of two dozen pilgrims for a trip to Armenia led by the Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan.

After a long flight, we arrived at Zvartnotz Yerevan Airport and I was surprised that everyone around us spoke Armenian. I was disoriented. I checked with Aram who said, "Yes, I think we are in Armenia, mom." After spending some time at baggage claim we boarded our tour bus and headed for the city and our hotel, a new Holiday Inn. Exhausted, I went to bed but early in the morning I headed for breakfast. Dear Lord! An unbelievable display of foods was ready for us, from freshly baked pastries to piles of fresh fruit and everything in between.

I wandered out a few steps from our hotel and an immense plaza opened up as far as the eye could see surrounded by beautiful neo-classical buildings - Republic Square - and street signsthat read Abovian, Zakian, Amirian, Sayat Nova Avenue, etc. I was now pretty convinced we were in Armenia.

And so began our 10-day pilgrimage, filled with surprises, discoveries and concluded that Erevan is a world-class, bustling city. Wide streets, elegant shops, endless cafes and restaurants, friendly people, lots of traffic, loud car horns, crossing lights that changed too quickly and a burning August sun that made our evening strolls after dusk and late dinners heavenly. Did I mention the food? Everything we ate was amazing–dolma, lahmajoun, freshly made lavash, grilled meats, paklava, kadayif, manti, and so much more! And if you were tired of Armenian fare, you could sit at an Armenia cafe after midnight for a delicious tiramisu and a cup of Armenian coffee and watch rivers of people walking by speaking that wonderful East

Armenian with a lilt that made everything women uttered sound sweet.

But our trip was to discover both the old and the new, and with a packed schedule, we were going from the secular to the religious, from the modern to the historic. We did not have to travel too far to see an ancient world unfold. We began with the promise of Fr. Hakob to take us to a site where we would have one of the best views of Ararat. A short drive, up an easy dirt path, and suddenly there she was, so close it seemed, the legendary mountain, massive, immoveable, her twin peaks snow-covered, she was spectacular and breathtaking! I held back my tears of joy and sadness for those in my family who would never see her. We took pictures, (injured- did you mean enjoyed?) a moment and ran down to our waiting bus and on to the next site.

How is one to describe 10 days of amazing places and activities in a few words? I will select my favorites: Spectacular landscapes at every turn. Chains of mountains. Fertile valleys with unending vineyards, and orchards, centuries-old monasteries perched on high hills, their graceful dome reaching for the clouds, jewel-like churches such as Hripsime and Gayane, where we said a quick prayer, lit up candles and continued on. More amazing vistas, mountain sides of bold rocks and others covered with lush forests, streams running down from mountain tops, and stops for lunch in scenic places and on to Holy Etchmiadzin, the stately, beautiful cathedral, ageless yet centuries old, a beacon of our faith around the world, followed by a privileged audience with Karekin II, our Supreme Patriarch-Catholicos, and a quick look at some of the cathedral's dazzling treasures.

How can I not mention the Genocide Museum's photographic collection of the 1915 horrors? How about the beautiful performances of the young people at the Hay Vordat's Tun maintained by Holy Etchmiadzin and the AGBU? Should I leave out the wine and cognac factory visits and finally our lovely lunch in Khor Virab hosted by Fr. Hakob's parents on their trellised patio and their amazing garden?

When our last day came, we gathered in Yerevan Airport and as we were pulling our heavy bags and heading for check-in, Fr. Hakob called us back for a final prayer. His flock gathered around him and as their voices rose up in a soft "Hayr Mer," it seemed for a moment that all other sounds in the airport melted down to a whisper.

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## **SACRAMENTS: Baptisms**

#### June 4, 2023: Anna Chepysheva (right) Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sergiy Chepyshev Godfather: Arsen Saakyan Godmother: Ecaterina Locoman (Is this spelling correct – last name?)





June 5, 2023: Kapriel Terjimanian (*left*) Son of Armen and Emily Terjimanian Godmother: Jenna Soiles Godfather: Adam Bullock



June 10, 2023: Asher Ashot Tadevosyan (right) Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ara Tadevosyan Godfather: Aleksey Tadevosyan





June 17, 2023: Logan Scott Bidwell Son of Scott and Kristin Bidwell Godfather: Brian Thompson Godmother: Kimberly Ann Thompson

June 18, 2023: Ashleigh Kozicz (right) Daughter of Amanda and John Kozicz Godmother: Julie Wilson Godfather: Bill Cleal

July 8, 2023: ACE Hagopian \*

July 29, 2023: Gevorg Gyozalyan and Hasmik Gyozalyan (below) Children of Ruben and Meri Gyozalyan Godmother: Nune Sarkissian Godfather: Ka'ren Sarkissian









### SACRAMENTS: Funerals (conducted by Der Hakob)

Kihatir "Alice" Alis Sisian entered into her eternal life on June 1, 2023

Evgenia Mosesova entered into her eternal life on June 4, 2023

Lucy Boornazian entered into her eternal life on June 16, 2023 \*

Satenik Rush entered into her eternal life on July 17, 2023 \*

\* Conducted at St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Armenian Church

## DONATIONS

#### **ARTSAKH DONATIONS FOR 2023**

(\$19.366.00) Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan Lucy Aghazarian Gregory Andonian Steve Aslanian **Elizabeth Barone** Gloria Basmajian Nancy Basmajian Peter & Robin Bilazarian Marta & David Brann Avshe Chakmaklian Jeanette Der Hagopian Larry & Kimberly Der Hagopian Lynn & Mike Hajatian Barbara & Tom Harmon Mary Jamgochian Gregory & Maria Javardian Michael Juskalian Albert & Patrice Keshgegian Joyce Killian Anonymous (2) **Berjoohy Murray** Michael & Tanya Paretchan Anna Polizzi Ernest & Christine Sadjian-Peacock Merle Santerian Ka`ren & Nune Sarkissian Victoria Shakarjian Ashot Tadevosyan Gena & Kim Willard Diane & Greg Yazujian Plate Collection

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LUKE 6:38

On the occasion of the Feast of Blessed Virgin Mary and the Rite of the Blessing of Grapes, the following have made donations to our Church

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