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Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church



LOOYS



Cheltenham, PA

Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan, Pastor

Fall 2023-04

ACYOA Jrs. Fall Retreat and Lock-in



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: 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

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Barbara Harmon (Vice Chair)	609-605-0489
Don Parechan (Treasurer)	610-608-1866
Michael Santerian (Asst. Treasurer)	610-527-1065
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Rob Barone	610-529-2178
Larry Der Hagopian	215-489-7116
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Margo Silk	856-425-6565

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Emily Terjimanian	734-277-2753

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Jeanette Der Hagopian (Co-Director)	215-672-4188
Lorraine Damerjian (Organist)	215-572-8465
Steve Aslanian (Treasurer)	215-757-2622

CHURCH SCHOOL

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Leslie Movsesian (Co-Superintendent)	215-801-2725

MEN'S CLUB

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

BOOKSTORE

Gloria Basmajian	215-722-3369
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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: https://www.instagram.com/htac_acyoajrs

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Elizabeth Barone (Advisor)	610-449-2236
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INTERCOMMUNAL

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COFFEE HOUR COORDINATORS

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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 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.

War, Atrocities, Ethnic-Cleansing

Luke 23:13-34

Dear Faithful,

Our world is in crisis because we see wars, atrocities and ethnic-cleansing in different places of the world.

After the Armenian Genocide which took place in 1915 and we lost more than 1.5 million Armenians, today our people once again are facing ethnic-cleansing. In 2020 our neighbor Azerbaijan attacked Artsakh and this war, with some interruptions, continued until 2023. As a result of this war, we lost more than five thousand young men, more than ten thousand were injured and at the end we lost our Republic of Artsakh. Over one hundred twenty-thousand people were forced to leave their homeland where they were living for a few thousand years. Now our people are saying, "We suffered a lot. Why is this happening to the Armenian people again?"

First of all, let us pay attention to this Bible verse which will help us to better understand our world and its sad reality.

"Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, 'Crucify, crucify Him!' A third time he said to them, 'Why, what evil has He done?' "(Luke 23:20-22). Jesus Christ who is the Son of God and who is God, came down from heaven to bring us the Good News and to save us but He was arrested, tortured and crucified from His own creation. And from this He brought salvation to all mankind. Through the perspective of our eyes and beliefs, we harden our hearts on the outlook of the world, but through God's eyes there is a path and a destination - a good destination - but a hard path.



Secondly, "They crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on His right and one on His left. Then Jesus said, Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:33-34). It is very hard to forgive those who hurt us, but Jesus was praying and forgiving those who were killing Him. If we want to be forgiven by God, we have to forgive all those who sin against us.

Finally, when our people were leaving Artsakh, many of them left their homes as is, because they barely escaped from massacres. Some of them burned their homes, but one lady did something different. She cleaned her house, washed the dishes and left the house in perfect condition so that the newcomers will live and enjoy the house.

In conclusion:

God willing, our stolen Artsakh will come back to its real owner, the Armenian nation, because we Christians believe that after Crucifixion there is always Resurrection. Just as this lady cleaned her house, I hope we also can be cleansed ourselves from sin so the Holy Spirit will dwell in us and help us always to make a right choice and please our Lord. Amen

With prayers,
Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan

This February 6th the Armenian Church commemorates St. Ghevont the Priest and His Companions.

The following is a reflection by Deacon Albert Keshgegian based upon the epistle reading for the day:

Praise be to the God and father of our lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1:3-9

A diamond doesn't become brilliant, hard, and precious until after many years of intense heat and pressure. Gold must be melted at high temperatures to remove impurities before it can be made into beautiful jewelry. Iron must be heated in a blast furnace to remove impurities and form the alloys that make steel strong, tough, and so useful. So it is sometimes with our faith.

Our faith is of greater worth to God than gold, more precious than diamonds, more useful than steel. But sometimes circumstances combine to test our faith. Trials come into our lives, bringing times of adversity. These may lead us to question the promises of God or even his very existence. But just as diamonds, gold, and steel become harder, more beautiful, and more useful by the processes they must go through, so also our faith can become stronger and be proved genuine by going through trials in our lives.

God helps us get through these times of trial by shielding us in his power, helping us to keep our faith, until the day that Christ returns. God gave us his son Jesus and he, through his resurrection, gave us a gift that is perfect. A gift that will never perish, spoil, or fade. A gift that is being kept in heaven for us who have faith – the salvation of our souls and eternal life with God. Our faith assures us of this gift and fills us with inexpressible and glorious joy in anticipation of receiving it, no matter what trials we may be facing in our lives.

St. Ghevont and his companion priests felt this joy, even though their lives were filled with great adversity. This group of clergymen lived at the time of the Battle of Vartanantz. They are named after the priest Levontius (Ghevont Yerets) and also include Catholicos Hovsep, Bishops Sahag and Tatig, Priests Mousheh, Arshen, Manuel, Abraham, and Khoren, and Deacons Kachach and Abraham.

St. Ghevont and his companions participated in the Council of Artashat, which wrote the reply to the demands of the Persian king that Armenians adopt paganism. As part of that reply the Vartanians said to the king:



We are ready to serve you; we are ready to put to your disposition all we have; we are even ready to fight for you and to shed our blood for the empire... but when it comes to our eternal salvation, there is nothing you or your priests can do... your religion is a lie and should be laughed at... ours alone is true and teaches the love of God and of men... we cannot worship the sun and the moon and the wind and fire.

Ghevont Yerets was one of the primary leaders against the Persian king. He had led an uprising against the Persian priests who had come to Armenia to convert churches into fire temples. Before the Battle of Avarayr he addressed the soldiers and exhorted them to sacrifice themselves for the sake of God's immortal power, as Jesus had sacrificed himself for us. Ghevont Yerets has been called the soul of the movement of Christian resistance.

St. Ghevont and his companions were martyred in the wilderness (so that their people could not obtain their relics) a few years after the Vartanantz battle, on July 25, 454. They were martyred for their strength of faith and their love for the Armenian nation.

Christian Armenia has continued to face adversity through the centuries. Persians were followed by Arabs, who in turn were followed by Turks and, in our lifetime, Communists and Azerbaijan. Centuries of domination and subjugation, culminating in massacres, genocide, and recently, "ethnic cleansing" in Artsakh. Despite all this, Armenians have clung fast to their Christian faith and have persevered. Their faith has been tested time and time again, but adversity has made it grow only stronger. And through it all, the Armenian nation has continually thanked God for hope of life and an inheritance in heaven, given to us by the resurrection of his Son.

We all have ups and downs in our lives. We all encounter times of trial that are difficult to get through and that test our faith. We need to remember what St. Ghevont and his companion priests knew and what Armenians have felt through the centuries. Facing difficult times is not a reason to give up on our faith. It's an opportunity to allow our faith to grow stronger, to take comfort in the promises God has given us, and to feel the inexpressible inner joy of living as God proposes, not the world.



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About Our Family

Welcome to winter! Brrr....It has been a very busy few months, with good, bad and sad.....We begin with the newly formed couples who have come to be.....In mid-November, **Frederick (Freddy) Jordan** and **Marie Conaway** tied the knot and became **Mr. & Mrs! Freddy** is the son of **Janet and Frederick Jordan** and grandson of **Rosemary Zarzatian**....And just weeks later, **Nicholas Turekian**, longtime eligible bachelor, found his match and wed **Katie Crille**. **Nicholas** is the son of **Vicky Gureghian** and grandson of **Roupen & Marge Gureghian**.....Congrats to **Jaclyn King**, who became engaged to **Kyle Blalock** with a wedding planned for August this year. **Jaclyn** is the daughter of **Janice (Kapeghian) & Robert King**, and the granddaughter of our beloved **Albert & Naomi Kapeghian** of blessed memory.....and finally, it was a New Year's Eve surprise – truly.....when **Phillip Santerian** popped the question to girlfriend, **Kelly Quinn** who, in an instant became his fiancé. **Phillip** is the son of **Alyssa and David Santerian** and grandson of **Linda Santerian** and **Marguerite Donoian**.....To our newly engaged couples, we wish smooth sailing as you plan your weddings – the best is yet to come!....Bravo to **Robbie Barone** who became a member of the Million Dollar Club of Keller Williams Real Estate. We all know that means! Keep it going, **Robbie**....Sincere condolences to the **Torcomian** Family on the passing of their beloved mother, **Veronica (Ronnie)** who was the matriarch of their family. For a period of time, Ronnie and her late husband Albert, were members of our church.....At the same time we also express our sorrow to **Diane & Greg Yazujian** on the passing of Diane's mother, **Vera Hartunian**, in Ct....Sadly, we learned that **Berjoohy Murray** was seriously injured when she was rear-ended by a driver who didn't stop in time. Her car was totalled and unfortunately, she will have a lengthy recuperation going forward. Please keep her in your prayers.... We welcome a new advertiser to our LOOYS, **Diane Sarkisian**, daughter of the late **Bobby Sarkisian**. She will guide you with your real estate needs.(see ad in this issue.)..... Congratulations to **Café Pom**, located in Paoli. **Anita Torcomian** is the proprietor and she will help you with her specialty products. We welcome this new Mediterranean Market and Café to our community as we are in great need of their offerings. We have already heard great reviews. May their success continue for many years.....As we wrap up Armenian Christmas, we would like to congratulate **Robbie Barone** for being the Godfather of the Waters Blessing for this year's service of Christ's baptism....For now, stay warm until Groundhog Day which is less than a month away, when we live in hope for an early Spring! The days really do fly by! Until next time - be safe, be happy, be at peace.

New Restrooms

By Mickey Paretchan

The remodeling of the two restrooms in the Sunday School corridor has been completed. The result is two beautiful single-use, family-type restrooms that are handicap accessible. We would like to thank the committee for their planning and follow-through, and John Chalikian for making time to complete the necessary electrical work. Stop in and take a look! A sincere thank-you to the Estate of Doris Alahverde for underwriting the costs of this project.





Holy Trinity Cheltenham Continues Filling Shoeboxes

Since 2005 the Holy Trinity Parish has been filling Christmas shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse organization, led by CEO/President, Franklin Graham. The shoeboxes are filled with both fun items and necessities to be distributed to children during Christmas time after transport to more than 110 countries, including Armenia. Since beginning this undertaking, more than 1100 total shoeboxes have been filled by the parishioners and donated to the organization. Samaritan's Purse began this project in 1993 and to date have shipped over 20 million Christmas shoeboxes to the many countries across the globe.

**"GIVE, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU.
GOOD MEASURE, PRESSED DOWN, SHAKEN
TOGETHER, RUNNING OVER, WILL BE PUT
INTO YOUR LAP. FOR WITH THE MEASURE
YOU USE IT WILL BE MEASURED BACK TO
YOU."**

LUKE 6:38



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A Worthy Vocation

On November 4, 2023, a small contingent of parishioners, led by Der Hakob, travelled to Northern Jersey to attend the second in a series of "12 Vocations." The title refers to the celebrations that take place to recognize the groups of men and women who attended and were graduated from St. Nersess Armenian Seminary.

The first in the series was held in 2021 where the very first twelve students who were graduates of St. Nersess were recognized. That first group of 12 people consisted of men, all of whom ultimately were ordained into the Holy Priesthood.

What made this second celebration in the series of "12 Vocations" was that our own Nancy Basmajian was one of the honorees in the group of twelve people this time around. Nancy has been in ministry for most of her life, having earned a Master of Divinity degree from Eastern Baptist Theological School. Thirty-four years of her career were served at the Eastern Diocese in various capacities. Upon her retirement from there, she committed her time to her home parish, Holy Trinity.

With the full support of Der Hakob, she became the guiding force behind the creation of the Adult Christian Education (ACE) ministry at Holy Trinity, which has just enjoyed their tenth anniversary. Nancy would disagree but we are fortunate to have her as our leader. She inspires us with her knowledge and challenges us with her creativity for us to dig deeper as we study Scripture in our walk of faith. Through and through, she is a daughter of Holy Trinity.

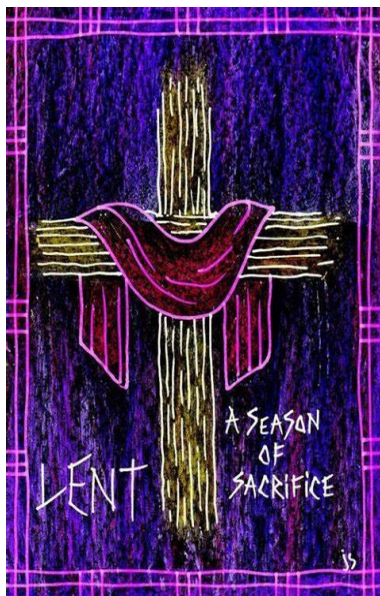


Then



Now

Lent 2024



A HYBRID SERIES

Lenten services will be held in our church sanctuary every Friday at noon from February 16 thru March 22.

Friday, February 16, 7 pm – ZOOM (register to receive link) Rest Service featuring the prayers of St. Nersess Shnorhali read by Holy Trinity young adults

Sunday, March 3 – IN-PERSON (following Liturgy)
A power point presentation on “The 7 Words Spoken from the Cross” by Deacon Garo Garibian

Sunday, March 10 – IN-PERSON (following Liturgy & Mitchink luncheon)
Guest speaker, Fr. Glenn Sudano, well-known, dynamic Spiritual Director and founding member of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (see separate flyer)

Saturday, March 16 – IN-PERSON, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm (registration required)
“The Gospel According to Elvis,” a workshop on the gospel music of Elvis Presley, facilitated by Deacon Albert Keshgegian (see separate flyer)

Friday, March 22, 7 pm – ZOOM (register to receive link)
“Purple and the Robe of Christ,” a thought-provoking session guided by Church School Superintendent and artist, Leslie Movsesian

*All IN-PERSON programs will take place at Holy Trinity Church.
For ZOOM link to other programs, contact nancybasmajian@verizon.net*

*Sponsored by Adult Christian Education (ACE) · Holy Trinity Armenian Church
Cheltenham PA · Rev Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan, Pastor*

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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 Commemorates National Grandparents Day

Our faithful gathered on September 10—a rainy Sunday morning—to honor the grandparents of our parish. In his sermon, Fr. Hakob gave a brief history of the origins of National Grandparents Day and its ratification by Congress in the 1970s. It is observed in the U.S. on the Sunday following Labor Day; this year, it was September 10.

Fr. Hakob began an inspiring Blessing Service (written by Elise Antreassian, the former Director of Christian Education for the Diocese) saying, “...we celebrate the precious love grandparents share with their grandchildren and their unique contribution to our community’s story.” Grandparents were given candles to hold during the service in which Fr. Hakob prayed, “that our grandparents, as they bear candles in church today, always bear the light of Christ to their beloved grandchildren, acting as beacons of hope and right living.”

The service, which followed the Divine Liturgy, included other prayers and litanies from the Armenian Church tradition, a reading of Psalm 128 recited by the entire congregation and a final blessing from Fr. Hakob as follows:

“Loving God, bless all our grandparents, those with us here today, those who cannot be with us, and those who have gone to be with you. May they heed your call to share their wisdom and faith. May they have courage and confidence to hand on their gifts of experience and knowledge, of stories, memories, and counsel. Bless them with length of days and great joy.”

The entire community was then invited to enjoy a Fellowship Celebration with refreshments and, of course, ice cream and cake!



Holy Trinity Uses The Senses To Enhance The Liturgy

Every Sunday morning from October 15 to November 5, Holy Trinity presented a series of Sunday Short Studies before the start of the Divine Liturgy in the church's sanctuary. The sessions were led and facilitated by Emily and Dn. Armen Terjimanian. The subject of the interactive talks focuses on Sensing God: Using the five human senses to tune in closer to God's presence while participating in worship during Badarak or any other Armenian Church service in a sanctuary.

The short study topics included Seeing God (what draws our eyes during the Badarak?); Hearing God's Word (How do all the sounds in the sanctuary from chanting sharagans to shaking kshots on the altar contribute to our experience of God?); Tasting Goodness (What does the smell of incense and the taste of Holy Communion move our minds?); and Feeling God's Presence (What do we physically touch during Badarak and how does that shape our prayer experience?). "It was exciting to lead a discussion on how we utilize our senses during prayer and especially during Badarak," said Emily and Dn. Armen. "To see the participants realize how the different ways they see, hear, smell, touch, and taste during services every Sunday in the sanctuary hopefully will draw them closer to the Lord.



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Far/Ayo! Visits Cheltenham

On December 17th, the Holy Trinity family, led by Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan, welcomed Sarah Stites who has been visiting parishes in our Diocese to inform and update how FAR/Ayo! Are helping the people in our homeland. She came prepared with a power point presentation, which enabled the viewers to see real people, hear their story and learn how they are being helped in many varied ways, while helping to promote the country's sustainable development.

Sarah Stites is the Development Officer for Fund for Armenian Relief's Ayo! program. Originally from the D.C. area, Sarah decided to say "Ayo!" to Armenia five years ago and hasn't looked back. Since 2018, she has learned Armenian, became a dual citizen and bought an apartment in Gyumri. Sarah is a remarkable young woman who said that she is "25%" Armenian through her maternal grandfather who died before she was born. Her faith and her compassion for the Armenian people knows no bounds.



We learned that soldiers who were injured in the many wars often could not return to their former occupation, but were guided by FAR who helped to provide opportunities for them in another field, and ones that made them feel productive and valued. At the same times, there are over 100 thousand people who need our help desperately.





FAR also has been providing grants to help people open their own business, often in a new profession in order to accommodate the injuries they suffered. Another support is the opportunities that have been provided for young people with special needs, such as the opening of Armenia's first bakery to employ people with disabilities.

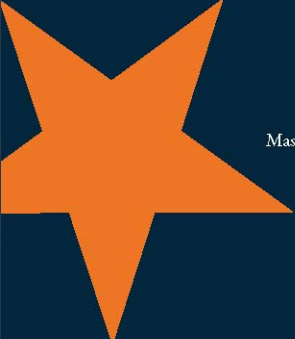
Sarah shared the "lesson from carpets." When we look at the underside, it looks like a jumble of various colored threads - worthless, but when we turn the rug over, we see how it all comes together to create a beautifully finished product.

The response of the Cheltenham parish was the total quiet as they watched, heard and understood the great need that FAR has to continue with their mission... and the checkbooks were opened generously from our parishioners and church organizations!

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Harvest Bazaar 2023

By Gay Hagopian, Bazaar Chair

After months of planning and preparation, this year's Harvest Bazaar was held on Saturday, November 21 and Sunday, November 22. There was no shortage of fun, food and fellowship among our church family and friends. Our lobby and hall were bursting with excitement and activity throughout the weekend. From the moment you entered the lobby, you noticed the beautiful decorations, the Gift Auction table and Country Store. Then on to the "Vernisage," featuring exquisite, handmade gift items brought back from Armenia just a week before by several of our parishioners; and finally, to the Children's Gift Auction table. Enter Santerian Hall to a burst of color from the gaily decorated booths, table arrangements and mums – a sign that Autumn was certainly upon us. Attic Treasures provided browsers with much to see in the way of costume jewelry, household items, toys and collectibles. Art from Armenia was another attraction as was Karas wine from - where else - but Armenia!

The most anticipated feature of the bazaar was, as always, our bountiful buffet, filled with traditional Armenian cuisine – kebabs, pilafs, boregs, eetch, kufteh, vospov kufteh, kadayifs, paklava, simit and on and on. Everything was prepared from "scratch."



Our thanks and appreciation to our sponsors and donors, and "THANK YOU" to all of our wonderful volunteers who worked many, many long hours to make this year's bazaar a financial and social success. The dedication and participation of young and old alike was encouragement that future generations will continue with our traditions. We would be remiss if we did not especially recognize "The Kitchen Ladies of Holy Trinity," who not only rally at bazaar time, but all through the year, making sure that we always have our incomparable and widely renowned choreg supply on hand!

We look forward to more reasons to gather together at our beloved Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church.



Vernisage 2.0 Delights At Holy Trinity

By Gena Der Hagopian Willard

This year's Harvest Bazaar again featured an Armenian gift market with a variety of merchandise directly from Armenia. We are grateful for our many generous donors, who underwrote the purchase of the unique items sold, which in turn provided much needed support for the Armenian artists and crafters.

It was a win-win for both Holy Trinity and for the artists and crafters. Our shoppers were delighted to purchase special treasures crafted in Armenian. And we were especially grateful to be able to provide a bit of much needed support to our Armenian brothers and sisters in Yerevan and elsewhere during these very difficult and despondent days.

Our Holy Trinity "Vernisage" has been so well received that we're considering making some of this merchandise available for purchase at our Holy Trinity Bookstore all year long.

A huge thank you to our very happy customers who supported our marketplace! Hats off to the big-hearted patrons who supported our Holy Trinity Vernisage by underwriting the cost of the products that were purchased from Armenia

Liz and Robert Barone, Marta and David Brann, Lorraine Damerjian, Robert Damerjian, Jeanette Der Hagopian, Kim and Dan Dunigan, Leslie and Paul Movsesian, Gay Hagopian, Merle Santerian, Michael and Legna Santerian, Greg and Diane Yazujian, Gayane Hambardzumyan, Mickey and Tanya Parechan, Garo and CeCe Garibian, Boghos and Shake Derderian, Earnest and Gina Mamigonian, Kim and Gena Willard



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ACYOA RETREAT A GREAT SUCCESS

By Narek Gevorgyan

On November 11th and 12th, the ACYOA of Holy Trinity in Cheltenham, PA hosted a regional Retreat and Lock-In event with members from other churches, including St. Sahag & St. Mesrob, Wynnewood, PA, St. Stepanos in Elberon, NJ and St Leon's in Fair Lawn, NJ. Thirty-two kids attended the Retreat and sixteen stayed for the Lock-In.

It was truly a blessed time for all those of us who gathered for this fantastic ACYOA event. To welcome everybody to the Retreat, our Juniors put together a fun icebreaker. Sophie Yavru-Sakuk and Anna Akhobaze ran an activity that was based on musical chairs. This set the stage for a discussion with Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan on the current geopolitical events in Artsakh. Our discussion included a review of the history of Artsakh followed by questions from the group.

We broke from our discussions to enjoy dinner and desserts that were ready, thanks to Lucine King, Ruzanna Israelyan, Mariam Alaverdyan, and Mariana Majian. Our Retreat continued after dinner with a discussion led by Antranig Garibian that invoked the importance of gratitude introduced with a video by our dear Primate Mesrop Parsamyan that spoke of the 125 years of history that have been established in America by the Armenian community. This was followed by a group discussion directed towards the importance of faith and our church while again focusing on the importance of gratitude for our church's history in the United States.

After this presentation, we urged our chaperones for some time outside to run around with our friends while some of our attendees were being picked up. We then enjoyed a group activity to start the Lock-In. The sixteen participants were separated into three groups, each assigned a movie scene they had to re-create. After the activity, we put on a movie in the church hall where we all camped out. We woke up to a fantastic breakfast that was donated by Sabrina Garibian and prepared by Nick Terkanian and Tory Torcomian.

Although the event ended after breakfast, most of us attended either Divine Liturgy or Sunday School. We as a church extend a large amount of gratitude and thanks to those who helped run this event including the six chaperones Brenda Jilajian, Larry Der Hagopian, Mariana Majian, Alex Yavru-Sakuk, Yn Anna Gevorgyan, and Der Hakob. This new experience was very joyful and exciting for our group!



ACYOA Jr's Trip to Longwood Gardens

By: Lenna E. Vartanian

On November 18th, thirty-seven members of our Holy Trinity Church family gathered for the spectacular Christmas event at Longwood Gardens. Our moderator, Mr. Alex Yavru-Sakuk, spent much time organizing this event, which we hoped would be a success, and it was!

Every bit of the almost two hundred acres of gardens and pathways were illuminated with Christmas lights! It was a magical evening, as the beautiful landscape seemed to come to life. It felt like a winter wonderland, and although it was very chilly, the breathtaking sights made the cold so much more bearable! Some participants came a bit later than others, but Mr. Robert Damerjian made sure no one was left behind!

We saw distinct types of cacti, lovely poinsettias, and there was a wide variety of plants and florals. Not to mention all those Christmas trees! I have never seen so many uniquely decorated trees at one time! It was an amazing experience, to come together as a church family, and enjoy the wonders of God's green earth ahead of the Advent season!

While we enjoyed delicious hot chocolate at the Gardens, we were hungry. One large group decided to go for sushi, while another group went to the White Dog Café! It was a memorable ACYOA Juniors outing which we hope will become an annual tradition.



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Son of Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Curtis

Godfather: Kevin Kalustyan

Godmother: Kimberly Patruskey

November 5, 2023: Luseen Nalbandian

Daughter of Richard & Alyk Nalbandian

Godfather: Joseph Nalbandian

Godmother: Shoushanig Oflazian



December 3, 2023: Celine Shamkalian

Daughter of Nicholas & Maria Shamkalian

Godfather: Armen Petrossian

Godmother: Elena Petrossian

December 3, 2023: Mikaella Thompson

Daughter of Ian & Margarita Thompson

Godfather: Vahe Kafalmazyan

Godmother: Angelina Kafalmazyan



Brayden Curtis



Celine Shamkalian



Luseen Nalbandian



Mikaella Thompson

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November 11, 2023

Frederick Jordan and Marie Conaway



November 26, 2023

Nicholas Turekian and Katie Crilley



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