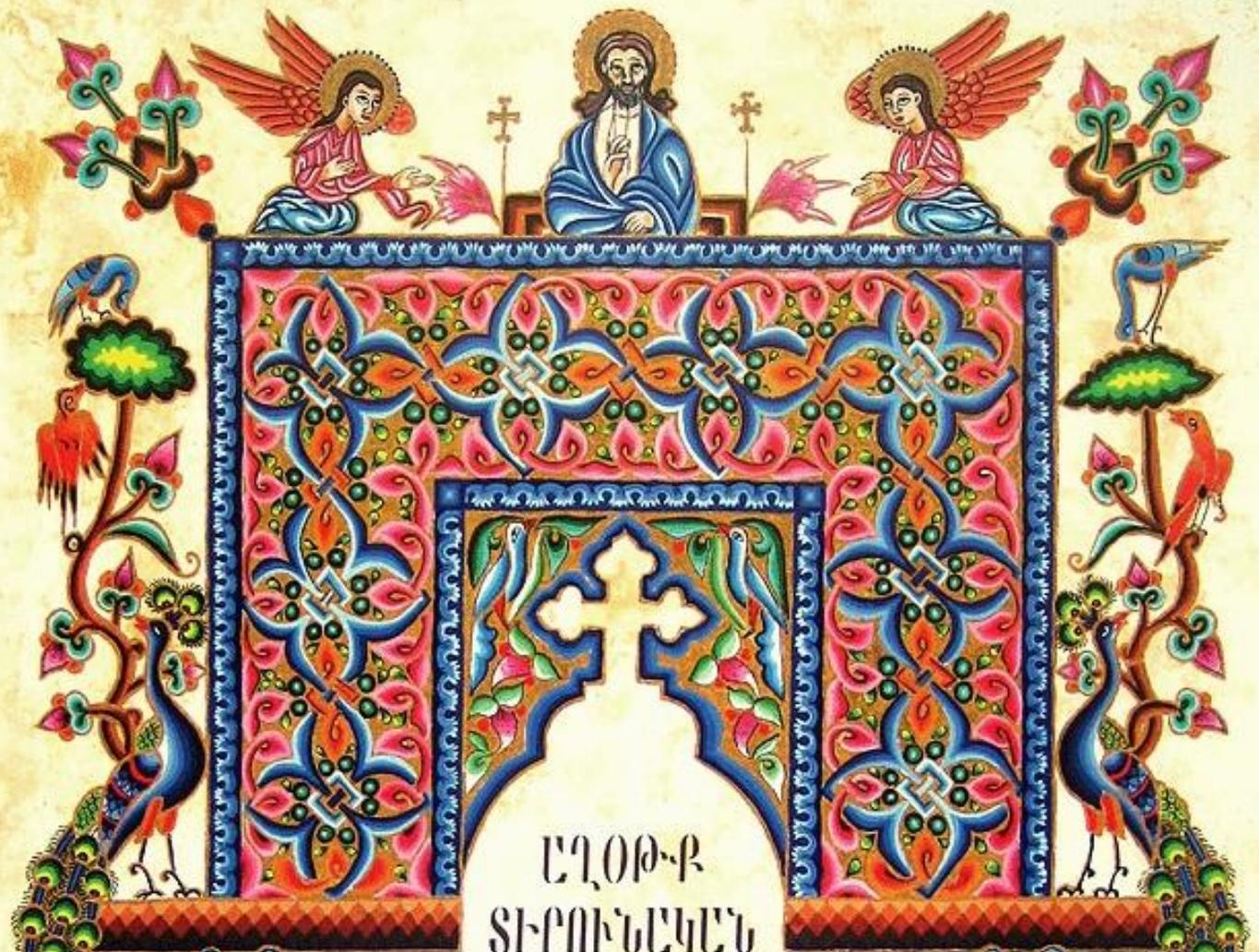




ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH ANNUAL JOURNAL 2018



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ST. MARY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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Rev. Father Hovsep Karapetyan, Pastor

Տէր Յովսէփ Քհնյ. Կարապէտեան, Հովիւ

January 6, 2019

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation” II Cor. 5:17.

The New Year has begun and we have embarked into a new journey through the year of 2019. What achievements are awaiting us this year? What are some of the challenges that we will face along our way? These are some questions that ponder in our mind as we are looking back at the past year and thinking about everything that happened, both positive and negative, then we wonder about what lies before us in the future.

Our future is unknown. What will happen this year is difficult to predict. We can plan and dream about a brighter future, the tasks that we want to accomplish and the heights that we want to achieve, we can dream big. However, all our predictions, plans and dreams of future are incomplete and at best will keep changing throughout time; but it is love which never ends. Love is perpetual, everlasting – in the words of St. Paul “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1 Cor. 13:4-7).

We all in Christ have one perfect inheritance, it is the Love of God. And the faultless evidence of that love is the gift of the Son of God, His incarnation and revelation to the world. When we live by that love and let God lead us with that same spirit of love, only then we can be new. Scripture reveals to us that “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation”.

As we begin the year 2019, let us plan and dream, always keeping in mind that God Loves us. Let us have Christ as our companion in all of our future endeavors and plans. When we put our trust in Him and let Him become a part of our life we shall not fear difficulties and obstacles, and our efforts will not be in vain, rather they shall bring God’s blessings upon us and our loved ones.

May His grace and guidance remain with us throughout the year 2019 and forevermore.

Prayerfully,

Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan

ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH ANNUAL JOURNAL January 2018

New Year's Eve Celebrations in Washington, DC



The Armenian community of Greater Washington and Baltimore ushered in the 2018 New Year at the ballroom of Hyatt Regency in downtown Bethesda, Maryland. Organized by the Armenian Community Events Planners, over 400 guests enjoyed the backdrop of festive holiday lights and welcoming remarks by committee members, Sintia Petrosian and Garbo Afarian, thanking supporters in advancing the group's mission of bringing both area churches and its parishioners together. Der Hovsep Karapetyan of St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church and Der Sarkis Aktavoukian of Soorp Khatch Armenian Apostolic

Church were invited to offer their prayers and good wishes for the New Year and Soorp Dznount.

The evening's entertainer Armen Aloyan and his band took the stage to warm up the crowd with Armenian music while everyone enjoyed a three-course dinner. Also enjoyed was dancing to Armenian rhythms and pop songs selected by DJ Chris Habibian. At the stroke of midnight came cheer, champagne, and platters of choreg and cheese for each table and dancing until two in the morning.

Feast of Nativity and Theophany Celebrated at St. Mary



On January 5 the Jragalouits Badarak began with readings from the Old and New Testaments by our school students who read passages from the scriptures pointing to the Nativity of Christ. After the Badarak, parishioners and friends enjoyed the traditional Home Blessing service in our church hall and a reception sponsored by the Parish Council.

St. Mary Church then celebrated the glorious Feast of the Birth and Baptism of our Lord with the Divine Liturgy and Blessing of the Water Service on January 6.

We congratulated Andre Alexandrian, the son of Edvik and Lena Alexandrian, who served as the Godfather for the Blessing of the Water. Parishioners participated in the liturgy on both days and greeted one another with the renewing and joyous news of our Lord's Revelation "To you and us good news! Tzez yev mez Medz Avedis! Christ is born and revealed. Kristos tsnav yev haytnetsav. Blessed is the revelation of Christ. Orhnyal e haytnutyunn Kristosi."

Nativity Festive Luncheon



After our parishioners celebrated the Feast of the Birth and Baptism of our Lord on January 6 they enjoyed a festive luncheon presented by the Ararat Avak Society. Nearly 100 people attended a lavish meal of koufta soup, rice pilaf, mushroom chicken, vegetables, green salad, and traditional anoush about dessert.

During this festive occasion we enjoyed the singing from some of our choir members and members of the congregation who sang traditional

Christmas songs in Armenian and English, accompanied by an expert pianist. The parishioners celebrated the holiday in a lovely setting within our church community of friends and family.

Badarak and Blessing of the Water Service



The Annual Badarak and Blessing of Water ceremony took place in the Baltimore Armenian Community on January 9 at St. Philip Nari Catholic Church of Linthicum, MD. The St. Mary Choir and Deacons joined Der Hovsep for this mission trip of celebrating and bringing the good news of our Lord's revelation to

the Baltimore community members.

The Godfather of Jrrohnek service this year was Emin Shahverdian, the son of Urik and Anahit Shahverdian of Baltimore. As in years past, this event was organized by the Armenian Association of Greater Baltimore, under the leadership of Mr. Zakar Shahverdian. A festive dinner was served after the Badarak and Blessing of the Water Service.

Women's Guild Election Meeting



On Saturday, January 20 the Women's Guild held their 2017 elections and general meeting with a potluck lunch. There were 30 members present with the Nominating Committee leading the elections. Numerous nominees were taken off the floor and added to the draft ballot. Once voting was complete the Nominating Committee had

the responsibility of counting the ballots. In the meantime, the rest of the membership concluded their general meeting and the event soon turned social. The day concluded with the Nominating Committee announcing the results of the elections. There was definitely excitement among the members about the new fresh faces that are eager to serve.

We congratulated our new Executive Committee members: Nadya Chubukian, Siran Demergi, Jermene Hallajian, Suzanne Harutunian, Arda Habert, Catherine Kapikian, Rita Koudoussian, Kristie Siroonian and Lusin Simone. We wished the new committee a great success in their endeavors in serving the Lord and His Church.

ACYOA Jr. Laser Tag



St. Mary ACYOA Juniors enjoyed a fun filled day on Saturday, January 20 by playing laser tag at Ultra-zone Laser Tag in Falls Church, VA. Fourteen of our youth, plus one brave parent, had a great time playing for 1.5 hours, then they welcomed much needed pizza and soft drinks after the game.

The ACYOA Juniors continued to plan more excit-

ing events for the year, including a Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 4 hosted by the Boghosian Family in Alexandria, VA.



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St. Mary ACYOA Juniors Super Bowl Party



On Feb. 4, the ACYOA Juniors met for a fun evening of football for their Annual Superbowl Party. About 15 teens gathered at the home of the Boghosian family to watch the historic triumph of the Philadelphia Eagles over the New England Patriots. A special thanks to Ara and Joyce Boghosian for opening their home and for their incredible hospitality! For further information about the organization or to subscribe to the informative ACYOA Juniors alerts, please send an email to stmaryyouthdc@gmail.com.

St. Sarkis Day Celebration Luncheon



St. Mary's Ararat Avak Society hosted the Saint Sarkis Day Celebration Luncheon on Saturday, February 10 where 75 people attended and enjoyed the Society's usual flair for beautiful table arrangements and a savory menu.

Saint Sarkis is one of the most beloved Armenian Saints as he is the Armenian Patron

Saint of love and youth. Together with his 14 soldier companions he was martyred for the sake of Christianity. On his feast day the Armenian people pray to Saint Sarkis asking him to make their prayers audible to God.

Special thanks to our ladies of the Ararat Avak Society - Mari Shafakian, Eva Shafakian, and Takuhi Halljian - for organizing this special day with heartfelt celebration and grace.

Annual Parish Assembly



The Annual Parish Assembly took place on February 11 after Badarak with 56 dues paying members in attendance. Annual statements and reports of all of the organizations were presented and approved. The budget for the upcoming year was also approved. The following individuals were elected to fill parish leadership and other positions: Parish Council - Eric Ashbaian, Ara Avedissian, Jack Guiragossian,

Mark Krikorian and Zakar Shahverdian, Nominating Committee - Ani Derderian, Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan and Anna Seferian, Auditing Committee - Raffi Karahisar, Investment Committee - David Sayian, WED Scholarship Committee - Sophia Shahverdian-Hawit.

Lenten Series 2018



St. Mary's first, second and third Lenten worship service took place on Wednesdays, February 14, 21 and 28. Parishioners and friends came together for a worship service, spiritual presentation and dinner. The year's theme was entitled "Seven Last Words of Christ from the Cross" and concentrated on the last words that Christ uttered from the cross, which provides a window into our Lord's soul, a way to understand what was ultimately important for Him as He was dying on the cross for our sins.

Der Hovsep, Sub Dn. Sevan Topjian and Ms. Danielle Saroyan spoke about the first three words

uttered by Christ from the Cross. Toward the end of the service and presentation the parishioners enjoyed one another's fellowship and the dinners were hosted by the Parish Council, Women's Guild and Shnorhali School.

Our appreciation goes to all those who faithfully served in their various capacities in the past.

Sevan Bıçakçı Documentary Movie presented in Washington, DC



On February 19, The DC Independent Film Festival presented the documentary movie "Sevan The Craftsman" at the local Carnegie Institution of Science. A small number of local Armenians attended the beautifully prepared movie, which presented the life of the Armenian artist from his apprenticeship to the international awards from Honk Kong to London and Las Vegas.

Of Armenian descent, Sevan

Bıçakçı was born in 1972 in the Istanbul, Turkey. He is known as the King of Rings. At the age of 12, his father, who was a theater actor, placed Sevan under the apprenticeship of Hovsep Catak in the Grand Bazaar of Istanbul.

Vartanantz Play



On Sunday, February 19, members and supporters of Knights and Daughters of Vartan presented to the students of St. Mary Armenian Church Shnorhali Sunday School students and the public an excellent theatrical play dedicated to the Vartanantz Day.

The play was a tremendous success thanks to the tireless work of the cast and director Naira Tashjian, which presented the political situation of Armenia during 451 AD, the battle of Vartanantz and the years that fol-

lowed. The play was written, directed and staged by Naira Tashjian, translated into English by Richard and Araxie Vann, and played by Armen Hovhannisyian, Jake Bournazian, Richard Vann, Kegham Anbarjian, Svetlana Hovhannisyian, Mike Tashjian, Dr. Ara Avedisian, Armen Oganesyian, Varoujan Kalikian, Daron Bedrosyan, and Ani Armani.

All cast members, being king, soldier or clergy were wearing costumes of the time. The stage lighting and individual sound was directed by Dr. Zareh Soghomonian and the video system by Araxie Vann.

Rev. Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan, pastor of the St. Mary Armenian Church, made appropriate closing remarks, urging the students to learn and remember the heroic battle of Vartanantz, which defended the faith and the Christianity of the Armenian nation.

The event was culminated by a delicious food reception, prepared specially by the ladies of Daughters of Vartan Dickranouhie Otyag of Washington, DC.

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Saintly Women's Day Commemoration



Our annual Saintly Women's Day commemoration took place on March 3. The Women's Guild members and friends gathered to honor two New Testament saintly women, Priscilla, who served as a church leader, a missionary apostle, and a teacher; and Phoebe, a figure of unequivocal authority, who exemplified Jesus' call to all people, men and women, to not only follow Him but then to teach and witness to others. Toward the end of the worship service a special installation of the newly elected ex-

ecutive committee members took place.

A lavish reception of Lenten food prepared by Women's Guild members brought everyone together in attendance for fellowship and an educational program. Ms. Sarine Zenian gave a wonderful talk entitled: Financial & Spiritual Well-Being: Building a Strong Foundation. Attendees also had an opportunity in the Lenten spirit to support the FAR Ayo program called GameChanger, which advocates for developing women leaders in Armenia through sports.

St. Mary Church Welcomed the Armenia Parliamentary Delegation

On Wednesday evening, March 7, St. Mary Church and the Washington community had the honor of greeting the Armenia Parliamentary Delegation. The reception was hosted by the Knights and Daughters of Vartan at St. Mary Church Hall.

The five members of the Armenia - U.S. Parliamentary Delegation arrived in Washington, D.C. on March 5, for a week-long series of meetings, organized by the Armenian Embassy, with the Congressional Armenian Caucus, Administration officials, think tank and foreign policy experts, and Armenian American leaders, all aimed at strengthening U.S.-Armenia political, economic and military relations, deepening the enduring friendship between the American and Armenian peoples, and encouraging continued constructive engagement by the United States on a range of regional development and conflict resolution priorities, reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

The Armenia-U.S. Parliamentary Delegation is headed by Arpine Hovhannisyan, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Armenia and includes Parliamentarians Armen Ashotyan, Edmon Marukyan, Aghvan Vardanyan, and Naira Zohrabyan.



Mid-Lenten Luncheon

On March 11, St. Mary Women's Guild hosted the annual Mid Lenten or Michink Luncheon. Michink is celebrated during the middle of Lent, symbolizing that the first half of the period of Great Lent has already passed and encouraging believers in their journey through Lent. It inspires and encourages steadfastness, so that the faithful will continue on through the second half, to its end, on Easter Sunday.

One particularly beautiful Armenian tradition was celebrated during

Michink, as unleavened cake was baked and a coin put in it while baking. The current year will be successful for the member of the family who receives the slice of pastry with the coin in it and would receive good luck.

Our Women's Guild members volunteered their time and talent by making delicious Lenten dishes and desserts for all to enjoy. Special thanks to Ani Derderian, Hripsime Sivaslian and Alis Chubuk for coordinating the Michink Luncheon.



U.S. Congratulated the Pontiff on his Fifth Anniversary as Catholic Leader



On March 13, as the world celebrated and recognized His Holiness Pope Francis on his 5th year as the leader of the Roman Catholic Church, Der Hovsep participated in a celebratory reception at the Vatican Embassy to the United States in Washington, DC.

On behalf of our Diocese, Der Hayr congratulated the Archbishop Chris-

tophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio, on the occasion of His Holiness Pope Francis Anniversary of the election to the See of Rome.

Many congressmen, ambassadors, diplomats and other dignitaries also attended this event to offer their congratulations.

St. Mary ACYOA Jr. Lock-in



Our ACYOA Juniors shared a fun and spiritually fulfilling evening at St. Mary Church on the evening of March 16. Eight Junior members gathered for activities, games and spiritual connection, facilitated by Mr. Yervant Khoranian and Mr. Eric Ashbahian.

In the evening they participated in a beautiful peace service led by Der Hovsep. Teens enjoyed pizza and snacks while they played games and relished in one another's company before returning home on Saturday

morning. Mr. Edvik Alexandrian and Ms. Becky Bagdasarian for chaperoned overnight.

Special thanks to Yn. Jennifer and Ms. Becky Bagdasarian for organizing the lock-in event for our ACYOA Juniors.

President of Artsakh Visits St. Mary Church

We were honored on March 18 by the visit of the Republic of Artsakh President Bako Sahakyan at Badarak. During the Requiem Service, a special homage was payed to the Freedom Fighters and Soldiers who sacrificed their lives to protect the boarders of Armenia and Artsakh, Archbishop Vicken Aykazian gave welcoming remarks as he greeted President Sahakyan and emphasized the impotrance of his visit.



Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan also made wel-

coming remarks stressing that the visit of the president was historical for St. Mary Church since it was for the first time a President of the Republic of Artsakh has visited St. Mary. Then Der Hayr presented President Sahakyan with an icon of St. Mary wishing and praying that the Holy Mother would guide and protect the President, our soldiers and the people of Artsakh.

The President offered words of his appreciation to the congregation and highlighted the celebration of growth and of Artsakh's ties to the US, its enduring commitment to peace, its thriving democracy, and the importance of diaspora's role in its development.

Palm Sunday Celebration at St. Mary Church



St. Mary ACYOA Srs. and Jrs. collaborated and joined their efforts to host a memorable Palm Sunday celebration on March 25. After the Badarak an installation of the new ACYOA Executive Committee Officers took place. We congratulated the new committee members Simon Shahinian, Maral Arslanian, Mariam Khaloyan, Seerun Cubuk and Arc Jamgo-

chian and wished them a productive year in the service of our church and community.

The day's celebration continued at the church hall as parishioners and friends gathered for a luncheon and program. The year's ACYOA Outstanding Service Award was given to Dn. Mark Krikorian for his dedication and love to the youth, Sunday School and St. Mary Church. The day's program included a musical performance by Nareg and Armen Boghosian, violin and Alene Boghosian, piano, as well as welcoming remarks on behalf of the Parish Council by Sarine Zenian. Words of appreciation were given by Ruben Karapetyan, Aren Avetisyan and Simon Shahinian who spoke about Dn. Mark and his contributions as their Sunday School teacher and mentor. Der Hayr presented the award to Dn. Mark and in his remarks mentioned that "Dn. Mark is a true example of a dedicated and loving servant of the church and a great role model for the younger generation."

Many thanks went to Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan, Becky Bagdasarian and Nadya Chubukian as well as all of the parents who helped organize ACYOA Day.

Women's Guild Easter Choreg Sale



Our beloved Women's Guild never cease to amaze the church community with their annual and much anticipated Easter choreg sale. Somehow they make their beautiful and delicious holiday presentation look effortless, and we are grateful for their continued hard work and dedication to St. Mary Church and the congregation.

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Holy Week and Easter Sunday



This year Holy Week was fully celebrated at St. Mary through many moving and special services, which commemorated the dramatic events leading to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

On March 29, Great and Holy Thursday, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated in the evening, then the "Washing of the Feet" ceremony was held, which re-enacts Christ's humble service to his 12 disciples during the Last Supper. Der Hovsep celebrated "Gark Vodnlvai" with the children at the altar St. Mary Church. It was followed by a brief reception hosted by Jermen Hallajian in memory of her Parents, and the moving service of the Betrayal and Passion of our Lord (Khavaroom).

The Order of the Crucifixion of Christ and the Order of the Entombment of the Lord were held on Great and Holy Friday, March 30. We thanked Asanet Hatchikoghlu for decorating Christ's tomb.

On Easter Eve, Saturday, March 31, the Badarak was preceded by Vespers and the Scriptural readings. Der Hovsep celebrated the Divine Liturgy with the beautiful lilies donated by our many generous parishioners who decorated the sanctuary, followed by the traditional Home Blessing in the Church Hall, and a hospitality table hosted by the Parish Council.

Easter Sunday, the Feast of Glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ was on April 1, began with a Morning Service and Badarak by His Eminence Abp. Vicken Aykazian as Celebrant, and attended by hundreds of people. The blessing of the four corners of the world, Antasdan service took place at the conclusion of the Badarak. It was followed by lunch and egg-cracking games in the Church Hall with a beautiful reception table hosted by the St. Mary Church Ararat Avak Society

We thanked everyone who contributed to the Easter Lilies and Yughakin Donations.

U.S. Medical Professionals Honored at The Armenian Embassy



On April 7, a prestigious event took place at the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the U.S., in cooperation with the Armenian American Cultural Association, Inc. (AACCA), the U.S. Sponsor of its humanitarian project in Armenia - the Armenian American Wellness Center (AAWC). The event was organized to honor the AACCA-AAWC U.S. Medical Advisory Board Members, who had traveled to Armenia to train the medical staff of the AAWC on-site in Armenia and in their respective medical institutions

in the U.S., during 80 medical exchanges organized by AACCA.

Seven of the eleven awardees traveled to Washington, D.C., to receive their Certificates of Appreciation and Medals from the Republic of Armenia's Minister of Diaspora Affairs, handed out by Armenian Ambassador Grigor Hovannissian. The evening also included honoring Sona Van, Armenian-American poet and essayist, with Homer - the European Medal of Poetry and Art for her latest book "Libretto for the Desert," which was translated into 14 languages.

The event was initiated and sponsored by Mrs. Rita Balian, President of AACCA and Founder of AAWC, who has dedicated her life, talents, and resources serving our Homeland and its people with compassion and love, since the 1988 earthquake in Armenia.

Rev. Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan gave closing remarks speaking about the Wellness Center and congratulated Mrs. Rita Balian for her work and dedication.

Shnorhali School Students Win Jeopardy First Place Award

Our Shnorhali School students won the First Place Award in an interactive tournament of Jeopardy competition that tested their knowledge of Armenian history and culture.

The contest, played on Sunday, April 15 at St. Thomas Church in Tenafly, NJ, was created and organized by the Armenian Studies Department of the Eastern Diocese.

Three participating schools - the Kirikian Armenian School of St. Thomas Church, Shnorhali School of St. Mary Church in Washington DC, and the Holy Trinity Church Armenian School of Cheltenham, PA - participated in the Jeopardy competition, giving answers to questions (or rather. providing questions to answers) about ancient and contemporary Armenian history, music, art, theater, and religion, among other brain-teasing categories.

Shnorhali School participated with five students from the 6th grade class, who were coached by school teacher Svetlana Hovhannisyan.

All of the teams were well prepared and in high spirits during the game. "This event was a wonderful experience for our children," said one parent.



Armenian Genocide 103rd Anniversary on Capitol Hill



Members of Congress joined the Armenian leaders, community and clergy on Wednesday, April 18 at a Capitol Hill observance hosted by the Congressional Armenian Caucus, making bipartisan calls upon the President and Congressional leaders to reject Turkey's gag-rule against honest American remembrance of the Armenian Genocide.

Holy Martyrs Day Commemoration

A solemn commemoration of April 24 took place at St. Mary Church. The day began with the Holy Badarak, then a special service commemorating the Holy Martyrs who gave their lives during the Armenian Genocide for their faith and for their homeland followed in front of the Khatchkar on the church plaza.



Following the service, Shnorhali School students and dance group performed in the church hall reciting poems, singing songs and performing traditional Armenian dances, thus commemorating the legacy that our Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide left to us. Special appreciation went to Shnorhali School teachers Anushik Mazmanyan- Scott, Julia Melikyan, and Marta Kotanjyan and dance instructor Nunik Nishanian for their hard work and dedication to our children and school.

The day's Luncheon and Madagh was hosted by St. Mary Parish Council, Women's Guild and Ararat Avak Society.



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The 116th Diocesan Assembly



The 116th Diocesan Assembly was held in Westchester County, NY May 3-5. St. Gregory the Enlightener Church of White Plains, NY was our gracious host. St. Mary delegates Mr. Onnik Sivaslian, Mr. Jack Guiragosian and Ms. Sarine Zenian attended along with Der Hovsep Karapetyan.

Fr. Findikyan was elected as Primate on May 4, by the delegates to the 116th Diocesan Assembly. He succeeds Archbishop Khajag Barsamian,

who earlier had announced he would conclude his term as Primate after holding the office for 28 years and seven terms of office, making him the longest-serving Primate of the Eastern Diocese. The 50th anniversary celebration of St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral took place on May 5-6. It began with a beautiful exhibit of photos and artifacts from 50 years of life at St. Vartan Cathedral and continued with a concert of sacred music featuring well known artistes. The festivities concluded on Sunday with the Divine Liturgy celebrated by His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian.

St. Mary Prepares for Spring Food Festival



In the month of May, St. Mary Women's Guild began to prepare for this year's Armenian Spring Food Festival by scheduling and conducting workshops and filling the church hall and kitchen with tantalizing aromas. The cultural foods from Armenia included lamb and chicken kebab, cheese boreg, pilaf, and kadayif, just to name a few.

We were thankful to the wonderful volunteers who participated in the workshops.

Hampartzoum

On Friday, May 11th the Women's Guild hosted a Hampartzoum celebration that was well attended with 75 guests. This year's honorees, the women of St. Mary's, along with their families and friends enjoyed a delicious dinner catered by Nora's Kebab and Catering. The program for the evening consisted of beautiful dances per-



formed by St. Mary's own delightful youth dance group instructed by Nunik Nishanian, a graceful solo by the lovely Milena Oganesyanyan, and finally the wonderful Arev Dance Ensemble. There was also a raffle with various gifts donated by the Women's Guild Executive Committee members. The festive evening closed with all of the honorees receiving a single rose and a group picture.

Spring Food Festival



St. Mary Church thanked all of our devoted hard working volunteers and loyal Armenian food lovers for making the year's Spring Food Festival a success.

During the days and evenings of May 18, 19 and 20 crowds dined throughout our church hall feasting on many of the Armenian favorites, such as, kabob, pil-

af, hommus, and pita, as well as our sumptuous homemade baked goods which are always a hit and enjoyed by our guests.

We thanked all of our volunteers and supporters wishing them an enjoyable and restful summer, as we geared up for our Fall Food Festival to take place on October 4, 5, 6 and 7!

ACYOA Seniors & Juniors Participate at Sports Weekend

This year the ACYOA Senior General Assembly and Sports Weekend was hosted in New York City from May 25 to 28, 2018 and the 43rd Annual Hye M'rtsoom ACYOA Junior Sports Weekend was hosted in Watertown, MA. Five Juniors and twelve Seniors participated in the events.

Junior games were hosted by St. James Church in Watertown. Our youth participated



in sports and attended prayer service at St. James where they also listened to an inspirational message from our new Primate, Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, who was the special guest for the service. Everyone had a great time, acted with respect and enjoyed their friends, peers, host families and church.

ACYOA Seniors were represented by twelve participants who attended the Sports Weekend in New York City. The newly elected Primate of the Eastern Diocese, the Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, presided over the gathering. To honor the 50th anniversary of St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral, events took place in and around the Diocesan Center in New York City. The weekend was hosted by a Regional Host Committee chaired by Liana Kurkjian of White Plains, NY.



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Feast of Holy Etchmiaszin and Shnorhali School 2018 End of Year Hantess



St. Mary celebrated the Feast of Holy Etchmiadzin on June 3rd. On this auspicious occasion a special prayer was offered for the Catholicos, the successor of St. Gregory the Illuminator. The service ended with the Blessing of the Four Corners of the World during which the Patriarchal See of Armenia was blessed in the name of the Holy Trinity "by the sign of the Holy Cross, the Gospel and the grace of this day."

After the service, families and friends gathered in the social hall to enjoy the beautiful performance by our Shnorhali School students at the year-end hantes presentation.

The second part of Shnorhali School year end hantes took place on June 10. Kindergarteners performed beautiful recitals and songs. The 4th graders played musical instruments, recited poems and performed a short skit. The 5/6th graders surprised everyone by presenting a stunning depiction of the life of St. Gregory of Narek. They contemplated on the biographical details of this great Saint of the Church and recited from his famous prayer book "Narek".

Our utmost gratitude to all of our dedicated administration and teachers of the Shnorhali School for their love and guidance to our children.

Women's Guild Summer Kick off Luncheon & General Meeting

On Saturday, June 9th the Women's Guild gathered for their annual Summer Kick-Off Luncheon. The members were joined by Der Hovsep and Yerezgin Jennifer at the Mon Ami Gabi restaurant in Bethesda. The menu offered everyone delicious options of chicken, steak or salmon followed by a dessert of their choice. Everyone had a wonderful time as they raved about their lunch



and socialized about family, upcoming vacations, new recipes, etc. At the gathering the Executive Committee announced that they were transferring \$7,000 to the Parish Council.

ACYOA Bowling Day



St Mary ACYOA Seniors had their beginning of summer get together on Friday June 15. They enjoyed an evening of bowling, games and fellowship. A fun time was shared by everyone and the group is looking forward to other activities throughout the summer.

Please visit the ACYOA Seniors Facebook page for the most up to date information on activities and events.

Annual Father's Day Picnic in Baltimore

The Baltimore community's Annual Father's Day Picnic took place on June 17 at Piney Run Park in Carroll County. It was organized by the Armenian Association of Greater Baltimore. Families and friends came together to enjoy the beauty of nature and each other's company as well as pay tribute to Fathers. The lamb and chicken kabob, pilaf and salad, desserts and watermelon was followed by fishing, canoeing, hiking, volleyball, basketball, tennis and soccer games for the youth. As always, the Armenian music and dancing, and most importantly the Armenian Spirit, was present throughout the entire day.



The Armenian Association of Greater Baltimore, under the leadership of Zakar Shahverdian, has been organizing different events, holding weekly Armenian School classes for the youth, organizing cultural programs, and the annual Nativity Badaraks for many years.

ACYOA Juniors Pool Party



On June 16, the ACYOA Juniors held their end of the year Pool Party. Gracious hosts, Paul and Lucy Murad opened their home to about 15 teens and parents who enjoyed swimming, barbecue and fun fellowship. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed this final activity before the summer vacation.

Special thanks to Paul and Lucy Murad for hosting and to all the parents who pitched in with bringing delicious food.

Andastan Service at the National Mall



On June 28, as a part of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival opening ceremonies, a special Service of the Blessing of the Fields (Andastan) took place at the National Mall. The Service was officiated by Very Reverend Fr. Daniel Findikian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese, His Grace Bishop Anoushavan Tanielian, Vicar General of the Eastern Prelacy. In attendance were Fr. Mardiros Chevian, Dean of St. Nersess Seminary, Fr. Sarkis Aktavoukian, Pastor of Soorp Khatch Church, Fr. Hovnan Bozoian, Pastor of St. Vartanantz Church, Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan, Pastor of St. Mary Church

and Dn. Mark Krikorian.

The special guest during the prayer service was Armenia's President His Excellency Armen Sarkissian., president of Armenia.

The festival highlighted cultural creativity from Armenia and Catalonia. People enjoyed craft demonstrations, music and dance performances, discussions, wine tastings, great food, shopping, and more.



ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH ANNUAL JOURNAL July 2018

Blessing of Khatchkar at the Smithsonian



On the concluding day of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, a special service of the Blessing of the Khatchkar took place at the National Mall. The two Khatchkars, one of which was brought from Armenia and the other one carved by an artist from Armenia, Bogdan Hovhannisyan, during the days of the festival, became objects of interest to many visitors. Prior to the blessing service, Prof. Levon Abrahamian spoke to the audience about the history and significance of Khatchkars. Fr. Simeon Oda-

bashian, Diocesan Vicar, who traveled from New York to preside over the blessing service, briefly explained and talked about the significance of the service of blessing. Participating in the service were also Fr. Sarkis Aktavoukian and Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan.

Khatchkars are unique to Armenia, where they are now a national symbol. Often used to commemorate an important event, mark a significant spot, or serve as a memorial gravestone, khatchkars are typically free-standing upright rectangular stone slabs with a carved cross on the side facing west, so that worshipers and tourists regard them like a rising sun. Sprouting and blooming motifs, which make the khatchkar a version of the Tree of Life, are prominent features.

The Feast of Transfiguration Celebrated at St. Mary

The glorious Feast of Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ was celebrated at St. Mary on July 8. This feast is one of the five Tabernacle feasts of the Armenian Church. It is called the Holy Transfiguration because the appearance of Christ changed and became luminous indicating His divinity and His divine glory. In the Transfiguration, the Apostles see the glory of the Kingdom of God present in majesty in the person of Christ. They see that in Him, indeed, "all



the fullness of God was pleased to dwell," and that "in him, the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily" [Col. 1:19, 2:9]. They see this before the crucifixion so that in the resurrection they might know who it is who has suffered for them, and what it is that this one, who is God, has prepared for those who love him. This is what the Church celebrates in the feast of the Holy Transfiguration.

The Knights of Vartan Charitable Programs in Armenia



On July 8, friends and parishioners enjoyed an informational presentation by Gohar Palyan, organized and hosted by the Knights and Daughters of Vartan. Mrs. Palyan, the Liaison of Knights of Vartan, Inc. Yerevan Communication Office made a comprehensive slideshow presentation on the Knights of Vartan Charitable Programs in Armenia. She also spoke about the nature of her job and the ways in which she is facilitating

charitable work in Armenia. At the end of her presentation, Mrs. Palyan answered questions from the audience. The day's hospitality table was hosted by the Knights and Daughters of Vartan.



ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH ANNUAL JOURNAL August 2018

St. Vartan Camp



In the Month of July and August 8 young members from St. Mary Church attended Camp Vartan. The camp was led by an experienced administration and staff and provides a physically, emotionally and spiritually healthy environment in which young Armenian-American Christians can grow and gain a deeper understanding of their Armenian faith and culture.

Overlooking the scenic Catskill Mountains, the location is on 65 acres and offered the children an on-site pool, tennis court, basketball court, soccer field, and dining and

recreational facilities. The program focused on a blend of Armenian religion, culture, language, history, dance, music, arts, and fellowship, together with a full sports program including soccer, basketball, softball, volleyball, tennis, and swimming.

We are happy that in the past couple of years St. Mary had a good participation in the camp programs. Special thanks to Edvik Alexandrian, Monica Emmerson and Talar Festekjian for transporting and chaperoning the children.

Feast Of The Assumption Of The Holy Mother-Of-God

The feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God was observed at St. Mary on August 12. Der Hovsep celebrated the Badarak which was followed by the special serve of the Blessing of Grapes.

Latter that afternoon the 1st Annual St. Mary's Picnic took place. Parishioners and friends came together for fellowship, delicious Armenian Kho-



rovadz and other treats. The particular focus of this special day was on the children to include fun activities that included a bounce house, balloons, games and face painting.

Special thanks to St. Mary Parish Council for hosting the event. We also thank all of the members and children of the church who attended, volunteered, supported, and enjoyed this holy day.

Volunteer In Armenia



Our church office administrator Dee Vartabedian Rogers spent two months in Armenia this summer. The following is a short reflection on her volunteer work and experience in Armenia.

This summer I accomplished my dream by being a volunteer in Armenia with the Armenian Volunteer Corps (AVC). After following AVC's well defined application process,

I was assigned to Impact Hub Yerevan as a Professional Corps volunteer to mentor Fellows who desired my hands on business development experience to help them grow and prosper in their newly developed businesses. Impact Hub Yerevan, an innovation space and community with a mission to support social impact projects and enterprises, was a perfect match for my skills and it was a great meeting of the minds. The entrepreneurs I worked with are smart, talented, driven, and dedicated to becoming successful. I felt privileged to be associated with these bright young Armenian people.

As a "local" for nearly 2 months I found Yerevan to be electric with its nonstop flow of beautiful people. It was not uncommon for me to step outside my hotel lobby to hear the music of an accordion, duduk, oud, and watch the people break into dance on Northern Avenue. And of course, the food was spectacular. The opera was just up the street and I took advantage of the many ballets, operas, and symphonies performed throughout my stay. The architecture is remarkable and oozing with history as I was sure to capture Yerevan's beautiful buildings and sites with photos, and I far exceeded my goal of taking 10,000 steps daily.

AVC, and its sister organization Birthright Armenia, offered Armenian language speaking lessons which I began in earnest, although I was getting away with a great deal by simply saying Barev Dzez, Shnorhakalutyun, Intch Arje, and Tchem Haskanum. Funny how the sales girls in Parma Food Market sought me out so that they could practice their English on me. I even took advantage of the weekend excursions offered by AVC and Birthright to Khor Virap, Areni and Noravank.

If your hope is to connect deeper with your homeland, contact the Armenian Volunteer Corps at www.armenianvolunteer.org Their effective infrastructure makes volunteering in Armenia affordable, safe and fulfilling. They provide logistical support from airport pick up, to host family living arrangements, Armenian language class, and more, to help volunteers integrate into life in Armenia.

With the ease of social media and technology, I continue to stay in touch with my new found friends in Yerevan as it keeps my experience alive in my mind and heart.



ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH ANNUAL JOURNAL September 2018

A Longtime Choir Master is Remembered



On Saturday, September 8 the fellow choir members, family and friends of our late choir director Dr. Socrates Boyajian came together at St. Mary Church hall to commemorate the 10th anniversary of his passing. Dr. Boyajian was a dedicated member of St. Mary who brought his professional services to serve the community and God. His longtime dedication and love for his beloved church have not been

forgotten as the fellow members of both Ani and St. Mary Choir during the commemoration and celebration of his life shared many wonderful stories and memories about him. The evening was filled with mixed emotions: his absence brought sadness to the hearts of many but the wonderful memories and tremendous legacy that he has left behind brought comfort and relief.

The evening also was marked with recognition and honor of Maestro Arsen Sayan for his establishment, contribution and longtime dedication to the Ani Chorale Group. Yn. Anahid Kalayjian and Ms. Clara Andonian also were honored during the commemoration as the original members of the group.

The next day, during the Hokehankist service, prayers was offered for the soul of Dr. Socrates Boyajian. During the Hokehankist, the community also prayed for the soul of Der Vertaness Avag Kahana Kalayjian on the occasion of his second anniversary of passing.

Women's Guild General Meeting

On Saturday, September 8, the Women's Guild held their first general meeting after summer break with a delicious breakfast hosted by the Executive Committee. With 22 members in attendance, the meeting started with an opening prayer from Der Hayr, a devotional message from Clara Andonian and an inspirational message from Arda. Nadya Chubukian gave the Chairman's report which included the Fall Food Festival Workshop Schedule and a kitchen clean-up day. Numerous members volunteered to participate in the kitchen clean-up day to be held on Wednesday, September 12th. Nadya Chubukian also presented the proposed Calendar of Events for the remainder of 2018. This included a Cultural Event in October, Women's Guild Elections and Thanksgiving Lunch in November, and a Christmas Party and Bake Sale in December. The meeting adjourned with Der Hayr's closing prayer.



Congratulations to our Graduate Aline Bogosian!



St. Mary's Sunday School marked a great achievement during the last academic year. For the first time in many years, it had its first graduate. Alene Boghosian, the daughter of Ara and Joyce Bogosian, graduated from the Diocesan Sunday School program. She successfully completed the prescribed course of study and met

the requirements of Christian education in the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. Throughout last year, Alene worked very hard under the guidance of her teacher Mrs. Patricia Yeghissian, who made sure she was prepared to complete and pass the graduation requirements and test. At the conclusion of the Badarak, on Sunday, September 9, Der Hovsep recognized Alene for her achievements, presented her with the Diploma and wished her success and new accomplishments in her life with God's blessings.

Special thanks to Mrs. Yeghissian as well as Ms. Becky Baghdasarian and Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan for their support and encouragement. Also, special appreciation to Ara and Joyce Boghosian for their dedication in preparing their daughter, Alene, for this valuable accomplishment. The Sunday School plans to continue this program and have more graduates for the 2018/2019 school year.

Knights and Daughters of Vartan presentation by Aram Bakshian

On Tuesday, September 11, Hon. Aram Bakshian, Speech Writer for Presidents Nixon, Ford Director of Presidential Speech writing for Ronald Reagan spoke at the church hall, about the subject "At The White House With President Reagan and The Current Affairs In The White House Today".

The event started with one minute of silence in memory of the victims of September 11 and was organized by Knights and Daughters of Vartan. Present were newly appointed Deputy chief of the Mission of the Armenian Embassy, Mr. Ara Magarian, newly appointed consul Arsen Mikayelyan, first and second secretaries Nareg Melikyana and David Janazian. David Zenian introduced the guest speaker, who presented the political periods of the presidents whom he worked with and reflected on the White House today.

Rev. Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan, Pastor, made the closing remarks and blessed the public.



Feast of Exaltation of the Holy Cross



The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross was celebrated at St. Mary Armenian Church on September 16, with an Antasdan Service immediately following the Divine Liturgy. The Armenian Apostolic Church celebrates the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Khachverats in Armenian) on the Sunday nearest to September 15.

It is one of the five major feasts of the Armenian Church, and the most important of the four feasts of the Holy Cross. Accord-

ing to the tradition, the first one to "exalt" the Cross was the Apostle James of Jerusalem, also known as the "Brother of the Lord."

After the Badarak an Antasdan service (blessing of the fields) was celebrated during which the processional cross adorned with basil (a symbol of royalty) was carried and the four corners of the church were blessed as a sign of the sanctification of the world. This sweet-smelling plant is associated with the celebration of this feast because in the early decades of Christianity, basil was a symbol of royalty, befitting the Savior who was crucified as a King. Church traditions also recall a beautiful story of the miraculous growth of basil on the ground at the foot of the Cross of the Lord after it had been removed. Basil, according to pious traditions, continued to grow on that ground despite the faithful cutting and taking it home

A Celebration of Armenia's Independence Day

The 27th Anniversary of Armenia's Independence Day was celebrated at St. Mary with a special Thanksgiving Prayer Service for the Republic of Armenia on Sunday, September 23. The service took place immediately after Badarak and was presided by Abp. Vicken Aykazian.

At the conclusion of the Thanksgiving Prayer parishioners and friends enjoyed a beautiful program at the church hall co-hosted by St. Mary Parish Council and the Knights and Daughters of Vartan.



The program included an interesting presentation by Mr. Arsen Mikayelyan, Newly Appointed Consul General of the Republic of Armenia in Washington, DC, as well as beautiful performances and reception by St. Mary's young members Andre Alexandrian, Anayis Chubukian and Hovsep Seferian.

The rebirth of the Armenian homeland is one of the most momentous developments in the history of the Armenian people. Armenia's citizens voted for independence from the Soviet Union on September 21, 1991, and the resulting free republic became a member of the United Nations on March 2, 1992.

ACYOA Juniors Fall Cookout



The ACYOA Juniors teen youth group held a pot luck dinner on September 22nd at the home of Der Hayr and Yn Jennifer Karapetyan. The group enjoyed volleyball and basketball, practicing for the upcoming Fall Sports Weekend event in New York. Teens also participated in a devotional Bible Study lead by Becky Bagdasarian.

Parents took the opportunity to discuss event planning for the upcoming year. It was a wonderful time of seeing old friends and making new ones! A special thanks goes out to all the youth advisers, the parents, and Der Hayr and Yn. for making the evening special.

Food Festival Preparations



Our loyal Women's Guild members and volunteers had once again devoted the entire month of September to preparing for the St. Mary 70th Annual Armenian Fall Food Festival. They had prepared hundreds of delicious food items in the kitchen as we enjoyed the aromas throughout the church. The authentic Armenian dishes are

from recipes that have long been part of our proud heritage and we are ever so grateful for their time, energy, and skills. Our heartfelt thanks to each and everyone of them.

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New Items at St. Mary Church



New and notable gifts were recently donated to our Church by generous donors. We are highlighting them so that our congregation can enjoy and appreciate their beauty together.

Website

Mark Bettis donated his time, talent, and resources to create the new St. Mary Armenian Church website at www.stmaryaac.org. If you haven't visited it yet, it is a must see. We can post news and events in real time in a more contemporary look and appeal. The church office now has the capability to customize all of the church events and

news and make modifications as needed. We are ever so grateful to Mark for his dedication, expertise, and generosity.

Baptismal Dove

Bagrat Bayburtnian donated to St. Mary a beautiful silver winged Baptismal Miuron Dove. The Baptismal Dove is a receptacle that holds the Holy Oil (Miuron) used during the baptism and confirmation and signifies the Holy Spirit.

Organ

Viguen and Teresa Ter-Minassian and Jerair and Anahid Nishanian were generous donors, along with many of our parishioners to help St. Mary purchase our new organ. Thanks to all of our donors, during weekly worship, our Church is filled with beautiful organ liturgical music as it accompanies the majestic voices of our beloved St. Mary Choir. For many years to come, the organ will bring the marvelous tradition of Armenian spiritual services to the Church community.

Candle Holders for Acolytes

Der Hovhan Khoja-Eynatyan's kind and generous donation of candle holders for St. Mary's acolytes are breathtaking as you can see for yourself by the photo. These colorful and elaborate candle holders add sparkle and magnificence during our Badarak service.

Thank you so very much to all of our donors for their loving support to St. Mary.

St. Mary 70th Armenian Fall Food Festival



of



porters who contributed and worked tirelessly to make St. Mary's 70th Annual Armenian Fall Food Festival a success!

St. Mary's Annual Armenian Fall Food Festival took place from October 4 to 7. As always, our dedicated volunteers worked very hard to make the festival a great success. The preparation began in September, with our Women's Guild creating a workshop schedule and shopping list, determining event chair ladies and many other details in order to assure an organized and well-managed festival. Our Parish Council was greatly involved with planning, preparing, and course, grilling! It is gratifying to note that the time and energy all of our volunteers invested in working and organizing this year's Food Festival paid off. We happily witnessed with pride and joy as our community enjoyed the Armenian foods and culture.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to

all our volunteers, sponsors and sup-

Passing of Maestro Arsen Sayan

The community was deeply sorrowed by the passing of Maestro Arsen Sayan on October 5, 2018. Maestro Sayan is survived by His loving Wife Catherine Sayan; Sister-in-Law Negda and Children Arsen, Raphael and Paula and their families (Venezuela); Sisters-in-Law Sirvart, Araxi (Henri) and their Daughters Solange, Valerie and Capucine (France); Sister-in-Law Koharig (deceased) (Gilbert) and their



Children Didier, Karine (Patrick) (Germany). Extended family Khantzian (USA), Khatchadourian, Manoukian, Terzian, Sahakian (France), Najarian, Boyadjian, Jamgotchian families in Armenia.

ACYOA Juniors Sports Weekend



Over Columbus Day weekend, more than 200 teenagers gathered at the St. Peter Church of Watervliet, NY, for the ACYOA Juniors annual Fall Sports Weekend. The parish hosted 217 participants from 19 parishes across the Eastern Diocese, for a weekend of worship, sports, and fellowship.

St. Mary ACYOA was represented by 17 teens and 4 chaperones.

The St. Mary teams participated in co-ed Volleyball, and Boys Basketball, lead by Coach Mike Sahakian. The great accomplishment of our team was winning 2nd place in Boy's Basketball. The weekend culminated with a dance on Saturday night and a closing Banquet and Awards Ceremony on Sunday evening.

Special appreciation to chaperones Mrs. Talar Festekjian, Mrs. Hasmik Keurian and Coach Michael Sahakian and Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan who brought their time and effort to make this an exceptional weekend for our youth. Many thanks to St. Mary Parish Council for their support and sponsorship of transportation.

Jerusalem - The Holy City for Three Religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam

A panel discussion of three speakers representing the three religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam took place on October 17 at the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church. The participants discussed the significance of the Holy City of Jerusalem to their various faiths. The panel members included: Rabbi Gerald Serotta, the Executive Director of the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington (IFC), Rev. Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan of St. Mary



Armenian Church in Washington, DC, and Imam Yahya Hendi of Georgetown University.

Der Hovsep spoke about the significance of Jerusalem to the Armenians, explaining the historical roots of the Armenian presence in the Holy City and its cultural and spiritual significance. He also spoke about the challenges that the people of the Holy Land face and the vision of Jerusalem being the capital of the three monotheistic religions.

The lecture was organized by Rev. Fuad Khouri of Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church.

Women's Guild Cultural Event



As part of the celebration of cultural month in October, St. Mary Women's Guild organized a beautiful afternoon of cherishing the Armenian culture and heritage. Parishioners and friends gathered in the St. Mary church hall on October 21 to enjoy various delicious dishes prepared by the Women's Guild members. The food included cultural and culinary backgrounds of different re-

gions of historical Armenia and different countries where Armenians have settled.

The day also included a slide presentation by guest speaker and photographer Serli Hacikoglu who spoke about her love and passion of Armenia and the Armenian culture sharing with the audience the many photos that she took during her stay in Armenia.

ACYOA Juniors Trophy Presentation



On Sunday, October 21, at the conclusion of Badarak, Der Hovsep officially presented a trophy to the group of the Sport's Weekend participants, who represented our ACYOA Jrs. team winning second place in basketball. Over the Columbus Day weekend, more than 200 teenagers gathered at the St. Peter Church of Watervliet, NY to participate in this annual event. Our church was represented by 17 teens and 4 chaperones.

Over the next few months the ACYOA Jrs. held a number of interesting events. On Sunday, November 4, the St. Mary ACYOA Jrs. (ages 12-17) put their faith into action and prepared lunches for over 200 homeless in our community. On Saturday, December 8, they celebrated the holiday season with their annual Christmas Party.

Farewell to the Ambassador Hovhannissian and his Family



On Sunday, October 28, the Parish Council of St. Mary Church and the Knights and Daughters of Vartan organized a joint farewell reception in honor of outgoing the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Armenia, Hon. Gregory Hovhannissian.

Welcoming remarks were made by the Parish Council Chairman Miss Sarin Zenian, who

welcomed the Ambassador and his family, as well as the diplomatic corps and the community members. The commander of the Knights of Vartan, Mr. Kevork Marashlian in his remarks thanked the Ambassador for his service to the Armenian nation and wished him success in the future service to our people and country.

Rev. Fr. Hovsep Karapetian, Pastor of St. Mary Church spoke about the dedication, love and professionalism of Mr. Hovhannissian, and the great impact that he had during his tenure as the Ambassador of Armenian in the US.

The evening was concluded by delicious horderves and loving fellowship as the members of the community expressed their appreciation and best wishes to the Ambassador and his family who for the last three years have become familiar faces to many on Sundays and during other community events and functions.



ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH ANNUAL JOURNAL November 2018

ACYOA Juniors Service Project

On Sunday, November 4, the St. Mary ACYOA Juniors put their faith into action and prepared lunches for the homeless in our community. The goal was to prepare 200 bagged lunches. The event took place in the church kitchen after Badarak.

The charitable, collaborative and joyful team building activity fortified our Juniors relationships with each other and build up their benevolent character to help those who are in need. An

assortment of pretzels, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, cookies and apples were bagged by about 15 of our juniors with the help of their parents. This year's lunchboxes were donated to those in need at the Community for Creative Non-Violence.

Special appreciation to Katie Kumkumian and Becky Baghdasarian for organizing the event. As well as to all the parents and supporters of our ACYOA Juniors for this heartfelt effort of teaching our children with their example.



Women's Guild Meeting and Election Results



On Saturday, November 3, the Women's Guild held their 2018 elections and general meeting with a pot-luck breakfast. There were 26 members present with the Nominating Committee leading the elections. Finding nominees proved to be a difficult task, but after much discussion the ballot was filled with 4 names for Executive Committee and 1 for Delegate. Once voting was complete the Nominating Committee had the responsibility of counting the ballots.

In the meantime, the rest of the membership concluded their general meeting. The day concluded with the Nominating Committee announcing the results of the elections and a birthday celebration for all the members who had birthdays from July thru December.

Avedis Hadjian's "Secret Nation" Book Presentation



On Sunday, November 4 St. Mary parishioners and friends gathered for a book presentation and signing by Mr. Avedis Hadjian. Mr. Eric Ashbahian, on behalf of St. Mary Parish Council, welcomed everyone and introduced the author. For his book, "Secret Nation: The Hidden Armenians of Turkey", the Mr. Hadjian traveled to the towns and villages once densely populated by Armenians, record-

ing stories of survival and discovery from those who remain in a region that is deemed unsafe for the people who once lived there.

Through reading some excerpts from his book the author took his audience to the heart of these hidden communities, unearthing their unique heritage and identity, and revealing the lives of a people that have been trapped in a history of denial for more than a century.

In recent years, a growing number of "secret Armenians" have begun to emerge from the shadows. Spurred by the bold voices of journalists like Hrant Dink, the Armenian newspaper editor murdered in Istanbul in 2007, the pull towards freedom of speech and soul-searching is taking hold across the region.

Making Mahs

Our devoted team of "Mahs Bakers" gathered within St. Mary Church's kitchen to make mahs. Our special thanks to Lola Pickering, Gulbahar Ozkayan, Haikouhi Koudoussian, and Takuhi Ozbenian who skillfully mixed the ingredients to make the mahs. The Armenian word "mahs" means a portion. It is blessed, unconsecrated bread (not Holy Communion) that



is given to the faithful to take to those who were unable to share in Holy Communion. It becomes their "portion" of the Badarak. When you receive mahs, extend your right hand so that the small piece of bread can be placed on the back of your hand, and as you receive the mahs say "Pazheen eem Asdvadz haveedyan" (God is my portion forever).

Women's Guild Thanksgiving Luncheon



On Sunday, November 19, the St. Mary Women's Guild served a sumptuous holiday meal to over 80 guests after Badarak in the church hall. Those who attended enjoyed tastefully decorated tables with fall and harvest themes, the company of their friends and family members of the congregation, and delicious food prepared by our members of the Women's Guild. At the end of the

luncheon a beautiful performance was given by Zaven, Edita, Jirair Kalayjians and Karine Muradyan.

As always, our heartfelt gratitude to the women who organized and hosted this wonderful event and to those who attended.



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Special Prayer for the Victims of the 1988 Earthquake in Armenia



On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the devastating earthquake that took place in Armenia in 1988, a special Requiem Service was conducted on Friday, December 7 at St. Mary Church to remember and pray for the souls of the victims of the earthquake.

Advent Bible Study



St. Mary Church held its Advent Bible Studies in November and December this year. During this year's Bible Study the participants took a journey through Advent with the Old Testament Prophets. The Christmas story began in the Old Testament. God's nature didn't change, nor did ours, and He had our redemption in mind all the time. The prophets Jeremiah, Malachi,

Zephaniah, and Micah all proclaim the Christ that was to come. The group enjoyed the insightful Bible Studies.

Women's Guild Annual Christmas Party



The Annual Women's Guild Christmas party was held on December 8 at "Fontina Grille" restaurant in Rockville, Maryland. The event was attended by 31 members. Clara Andonian gave the devotional of the day. Nadya Chubukian, the Women's Guild Charlady, greeted and welcomed all. Der Hayr expressed his ap-

preciation to everyone and wished a blessed and productive year ahead. The afternoon of celebration and fellowship was concluded by singing joyous carols.

St. Mary Armenian Church 86th Anniversary Celebration

Parishioners and friends gathered at St. Mary Church for a beautiful celebration of the church's 86th Anniversary on December 9. The day was signified with a visit of Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan for the first time after his election as the Primate of the Eastern Diocese. Hayr Soorp celebrated the Badark and presided over the festive luncheon and program in the church hall. It was also highlighted with the presence of the newly appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the US His Excellency Mr. Varujan Nersesyan.



At the conclusion of Badarak a special prayer was offered for the souls of victims of the 1988 earthquake in Armenia, on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. During the Hokehankist service parishioners and friends prayed for the souls of their loved ones as well as all the deceased chairladies of the St. Mary Women's Guild.

The festive luncheon and program at the church hall included a beautiful performance by the St. Mary Young Performers under the leadership of Nunik Nishanian and Victoria Petrosyan. Natalie George shared her experience in the Holy Land with a slide presentation and recounted her pilgrimage which she took in summer of 2018. Remarks were made by the Ambassador Varujan Nersesyan and NKR Representative Robert Avetisyan.

The culmination of the afternoon was the honoring of all those who served as a St. Mary Women's Guild chairlady. Der Hovsep presented the honorees with a certificate of recognition and stressed the important role of women in the church as "the educators, nurturers, the keepers and protectors of our Armenian faith and Christian heritage".

The event was concluded by remarks and benediction by Fr. Daniel Findikyan.

ACYOS Christmas Party

On Saturday, December 8, the ACYOA Juniors held their annual Christmas party. Over 30 teens celebrated with games, food, and a Christmas gift exchange. This incredibly fun and joyous occasion was hosted by the Kazanjian Family. Special appreciation to Victor and Glynis Kazanjian for opening their home to the youth of our church community.



Women's Guild Christmas Bake Sale



On Sunday, December 9 and 16, the Women's Guild held their annual Christmas Bake Sale. This year the Women's Guild also offered Armenian wine and Christmas gift items as part of their sale. All of the delicious baked goods, the beautiful packaging and gift items were generously donated by numerous members of the Women's Guild. The Women's Guild Executive Committee sends out a heartfelt thank you to all of their members who donated, packaged and worked at the bake sale. In addition, the Women's Guild thanks the St.

Mary community for their wonderful support of this annual tradition.

Arart Avak Society Holiday Luncheon

St. Mary Ararat Avak Society hosted its holiday luncheon on December 15. The festive luncheon was attended by over 75 parishioners and friends who enjoyed delicious food and beautiful decorations for the holiday setting. This year's gathering was highlighted by delicious Ghapama, a traditional Armenian dish consisting of a pumpkin stuffed to the brim with rice, nuts, raisins, apricots and other trimmings. We are grateful for the Ararat Avak Society's dedication, talent and energy which brings together members of the church community during this blessed holiday season.



Shnorhali School Hantess



On December 16 the St. Mary Shnorhali School held its annual Christmas Hantes. This year's Hantes centered around the true meaning of the "Gifts of Christmas" and included the participation of students from Preschool to High School with over 80 students in total. Children of different grades beautifully recited scriptural passages, read from the

Bible and sung different Sharagans and Carols as they presented six true gifts of Christmas: Joy, Hope, Giving, Worship, Peace and Love.

Our sincere appreciation to the talented Hantess organizers Miss Becky Baghdasarian and Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan, as well as the co-directors, Gohar Grigorian, Yervand Khoranian and Avedis Seferian, and the entire Sunday School staff and parents for their help and participation.

Blessings of Pomegranates



Pomegranates were blessed at St. Mary on Sunday, December 30. Throughout the centuries, the pomegranate has been woven into Armenian architecture, cuisine, art, manuscripts, literature and liturgical vestments. It represents life, fertility, and abundance.

Pomegranates were blessed after the Badarak and distributed to the faithful afterwards with a wish to bring prosperity and abundance in the year 2019.





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Hokehankists-Requiem Services

JANUARY 2018

January 7

For the Soul of: Varoujan Habibian

Requested by: Armig Habibian (Wife)

Mr. and Mrs. Manoug and Talin Habibian (Son and Daughter-in-Law) and Charles Habibian (Grandson), Christapor Habibian (Son)

For the Souls of: Avedis and Alice Marashlians

Requested by: Kevork, Vartiter and Alis Marashlians

For the Souls of: Bayzar Vorperian and Varojan Yazejian

Requested by: Vorperian and Yezejian Families

January 14

For the Soul of: Arsaluys Cekci

Requested by: Onnik Cekci and Family and Eva Shafakian

For the Souls of: Shukri Istepanian and Golizar Arten Babolian

Requested by: Rita Istepanian

January 21

For the Soul of: Hrant Dink

Requested by: St. Mary Parish Council and Der Hayr

For the Souls of: Sona Kohar Semerjian (35 years)

Diruhi Semerjian (11 years)

Requested by: Hratch Semerjian, Tamar and Ara

January 28

For the Soul of: Araxe Cherishian (40 Days)

Requested by: Kolenick Family

For the Souls of: Arousiag Boursalian (Mother), Peter Boursalian (Son), Pierre Boursalian (Brother)

Requested by: Noubar and Linda Boursalian

For the Soul of: Bedros Sarkis Kolandjian (3rd Anniversary)

Requested by: Mr. and Mrs. Emad and Karina Kronfli, Anthony and Dahlia Kronfli, Mr. and Mrs. David

and Hasmig Bozadjian, Mr. and Mrs. George and Maral Bozadjian and Tavit, Kevork, Siroun and Masis Bozadjian, Araxi and Victor Bozadjian

For the Soul of: Mary Maghrabelian-Bozadjian (7th Anniversary)

Requested by: Mr. and Mrs. David and Hasmig Bozadjian, Mr. and Mrs. George and Maral Bozadjian and Tavit, Kevork, Siroun and Masis Bozadjian, Araxi and Victor Bozadjian

FEBRUARY 2018

February 4

For the Soul of: Aghunik Ghalayan

Requested by: Ghalayan Family

February 11

For the Soul of: Jean V. Berberian

Requested by: Stephen Berberian, Brenda Berberian and Debora Berberian

February 25

For the Souls of: Victims of massacres of Sumgayit and Baku (30 years)

Requested by: St. Mary Parish Council and Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan

For the Souls of: Anjel Hovannesian and Arshavir Hovannesian

Requested by: Hovannesian and Sivaslian Families

For the Soul of: Jack Kazanjian (10 years)

Requested by: Gloria Kazanjian (Wife) Alan Kazanjian (Son)

For the Soul of: Nariman Assatourian

Requested by: Vazgen Assatourian and Family

For the Soul of: Pavel Badalian (10 years)

Requested by: Lilit and Bagrat Bayburtian and Family

MARCH 2018

March 4

For the Soul of: Emil Yeghiazarian (40 Days)

Requested by: Gayaneh Yeghiazarian Contos (Sister)

March 11

For the Soul of: Jack Andonian (26 years)

Requested by: Mrs. Clara Andonian and Family

March 18

For the Souls of: The Freedom Fighters and Soldiers who sacrificed their lives to protect the borders of Armenia and Artsakh

For the Soul of: Julietta Gevorkian (40 days)

Requested by: Karine and Ashot Nazarian, Daughter, Son-in-Law, Brother, and Grandsons David, Alex, and Michael

For the Soul of: Haykazyan Petros Asatouri - Distinguished Teacher of the Republic of Armenia

Requested by: Leonid Harutyunyan and Harutyunyan's Family Members

For the Soul of: Varuzhan Yenokyan

Requested by: Son-in-Law Artak Azizyan, Daughter Karine Yenokyan, Grandsons David Azizyan and Tigran Azizyan

APRIL 2018:

April 8

For the Souls of: Ter Vertanes Kalayjian, Ernest and Valerik Dolunts, Laura and Saro Shahbazyan, Ashkhen Karapetyan and Siranush Gevorgyan

Requested by: Zaven and Edita Kalayjian

April 15

For the Soul of: Margaret Krikorian

Requested by: Daughters Jacqueline Hutchinson, Karen Loosarian, Sonya Kalian, Christine Pollard and Son Krikor Krikorian

For the Soul of: Mardiros Shafakian

Requested by: Mari Shafakian and Family

April 29

For the Soul of: Horen Panosyan

Requested by: Arpine Panosyan (Wife) Ani and Ayda Panosyan (Daughters)

Aris and Alis (Daughter) Cubuk Garbis and Nadya (Daughter) Chubukian Seerun, Armen, Taleen and Anais (Grandchildren)

For the Soul of: Garabed Kurtjian (6 years)

Requested by: Firansuyi Kurtjian (Wife)

For the Soul of: Atef Azzam (40th Day)

Requested by: Wife Susan and Sister Badia, Brother Dr. and Mrs. Nabil and Rita Azzam and their Children, Rina, Lara, Amin, George and their Families, as well as several Nieces and Nephews and the Guiragossian Families

For the Soul of: Linda Kumkumian

Requested by: Her Mother and Father Charles and Arousiag Kumkumian, Linda's Sister Roxanne Schweitzer, and Linda's Brothers Simon and Greg Kumkumian

For the Soul of: Angela Bardizbanian (4th Anniversary)

Requested by: Son and Daughter-in-Law and Grandchildren Raffie, Maureen, Arthur and Raffie Jr. Bardizbanian

For the Soul of: Vassilica Effeian Kalikian

Requested by: Children: Hagop and Armine Kalikian, Varoujan and Aida Kalikian, Grandchildren: Aram and Narek, Arpi and Arman; and Niece: Araxi Vann

For the Soul of: Armen Garabedian

Requested by: Levon Garbedian

MAY 2018

May 13

For the Souls of: All the Freedom Fighters Who Sacrificed Their Lives for the Liberation of Artsakh

Requested by: Office of the Republic of Artsakh in the United States, St. Mary's Parish Council and Der Hary

For the Soul of: Marie Toungaian Emerson (40 days)

Requested by: Monica Emerson (Daughter) and

Seandor Emmerson (Grandson) and Family.
For the Soul of: Cynthia Anush Pickering (1 year)
Requested by: Lola Kechyan Pickering
May 27

For the Soul of: Anahid Ayrandjian
Requested by: Fr. Hovsep and Parish Council
For the Soul of: William Ervant Docter Hekimian
Benefactor of the St. Mary Church WED Educational
Fund

Requested by: WED Scholarship Community, St. Mary Parish Counsel and Fr. Hovsep
For the Souls of: All who have fought for and sacrificed their lives to defend our right to freedom.
Requested by: St. Mary Parish Counsel and Der Hayr

JUNE 2018

June 1
For the Soul of: Hacik Ozben (40 days)
Requested by: Zadik Ozbenian & family - Brother, Vartuvar Ozbenian & family - Brother and Gulbahar Ozkayan & family - Sister
For the Souls of: Yerchanik Bolat, Apraham Bolat, Sahak Bolat, Gulbenk Bolat and Bahar Bolat
Requested by: Vergin Bolat and Family

June 10
For the Souls of: The Deceased Members of St. Mary Women's Guild
For the Soul of: Ardavazd Harutunian
Requested by: David & Gilda Andonian and Family, Mrs. Yeghiabet Harutunian and Family

June 24
For the Soul of: Leo Sarkisian
Requested by: Tim Healy (The International Conservatory of Music), and Andonian Family
For the Soul of: Karina Kasabova
Requested by: Aida Kasabova (Sister), Margarita Saringulyan (Niece)

JULY 2018

July 15
For the Soul of: Mesrob Yeghiasarian (Sarian) (1 year anniversary)
Requested by: Anna Yeghiasarian, Esq.; Dr. Lara Yeghiasarian; Rosalin (Andrew) Panek; Grandfather

of Diana and Isabel Panek (Illinois); Brother of Rubina Faulkner; Peproneh Yeghiasarian; Levon (Hermineh) Yeghiasarian (California); Arick (Nina) Yeghiasarian (Australia); Uncle of Cord Faulkner and Rene Faulkner-McDonagh; Armen and Anahid Yeghiasarian; Peggy Spratling and Danny Yeghiasarian.

AUGUST 2018

August 5
For the Souls of: Orbel Khanbabaian (20 years), Marriam Nishanian (26 years), Carro Nishanian (5 years), Vartin Zarookian (10 years), Arsen Zarookian (35 years), Edward Gharakhanian (3 years)
Requested by: The Khanbabaian, Nishanian, Zarookian, Gharakhanian and Ghazarian Families
For the Souls of: Bob Nakashian (40 days), Nazeni Nakashian (3 years)
Requested by: Nakashian and McQueen Families

August 12
For the Soul of: Arousiag Kumkumian
Requested by: Kumkumian family
For the Soul of: Stepan Mihran Merdinian
Requested by: Kina Merdinian (Ankine), Gary Merdinian, Stephanie Merdinian Dumont
For the Soul of: Garabet Garabetian
Requested by: Arpine Koudalazian (Widow), Marc Garabetian (Son), Marale Garabetian (Daughter), Adrian Mihailescu (Husband of Marale)
For the Soul of: Roger Krikorian
Requested by: The Zeytoonian Family
For the Soul of: Badrik Bostan (5th anniversary)
Requested by: Bostan and Romero families

August 19
For the Souls of: Misak Mermer (40 days), Hariknaz Ozbenian (2 years)
Requested by: Maryam Mermer: Zadik Ozbenian; Aras, Jenna and Anayis Mermer: Gary and Juliette Ozbenian and children; John and Jacqueline Ozbenian and children.

For the Soul of: Der Dajad Davidian (40 days)
Requested by: Der Hovsep and Parish Council
For the Soul of: Ruzanna Mirzoyan (40 days)
Requested by: Liana Matevosian (Daughter)

August 26

For the Soul of: Haroutioun Bardizbanian

Requested by: Raffie, Maureen, Arthur & Raffie Jr. Bardizbanian

SEPTEMBER 2018

September 2

For the Soul of: Haroutioun Bardizbanian

Requested by: Raffie, Maureen, Arthur & Raffie Jr. Bardizbanian

September 9

For the Soul of: Der Vertanes Avaq Qahana Kalayjian (2nd anniversary)

Requested by: Diramayr Zabelle Kalayjian Mother Yerezgin Anahid, Sons Zaven and family, Der Avedis and family, and Berj

For the Soul of: Dr. Socrates Boyajian (10th anniversary)

Requested by: Molly Boyajian, St Mary choir, and Ani choral group

For the Soul of: Greta Abrahamyan

Requested by: Ella Khartashyan, Artur and Naira Babayan, Joann and Mariam Khaloyan

September 30

For the Soul of: Berjouhi Kazanjian

Requested by: The Kazanjian-Law Family (Ani, Larry, Jennie & Peter)

For the Souls of: Dr. John Berberian (1st year) Artine & Evelyne Berberian, Dr. George Berberian, Melda Fares, Henriette Najarian, Karnig & Asdghig Minassian

Requested by: Minassian, Berberian, Fares, Najarian, Alger, and Mercier Families

OCTOBER 2018

October 7

For the Soul of: Charles Aznavour

Requested by: Der Hovsep and The Parish Council

For the Souls of: Abraham Hovsepian, Nazar Nerssessian and Vartouhi Nerssessian

Requested by: Hovsep Hovsepian, Niever Hovsepian, Abraham Hovsepian and Christine Hovsepian

October 14

For the Soul of: His Beatitude Archbishop Torkom Manoogian (6th anniversary)

Requested by: Der Hovsep and The Parish Council

October 21

For the Soul of: Simon Gagikyan

Requested by: Marina Gagikyan and Robert Hazaryan Alexander Nazaryan (Grandson)

For the Soul of: Haig Ellian

Requested by: Sue Ellian, Levon and Jan Ellian, Aghavni Ellian and the Mulvihill Family

October 28

For the Soul of: Berge A. Kayaian

Requested by: Elizabeth (Daughter) and Susan (Granddaughter) Garabedian and Brig. General Albert Kaehn (Brother-in-Law) and Melina Kaehn (Sister)

NOVEMBER 2018

November 4

For the Souls of: Harotune Kooyoomjian (40 years) and wife Mary (Sarafian) Kooyoomjian (9 years), Thomas V. Smith (9 years) and wife Doris Smith (30 days), Nicholas Irvine (6 years) and wife Betty Irvine (31 days)

Requested by: The Kooyoomjian, Smith, Sarafian, Irvine & Cherkerzian Families

November 11

For the Soul of: Arsen Sayan (40 Days)

Requested by: Catherine Sayan (Wife), Sirvarte Pilikian (Sister-in-Law) and Members of the ANI Choral Group

For the Soul of: Ardemis Margossian (1 year)

Requested by: Maggie Keshishian (Niece) Andre Keshishian and Childer

For the Soul of: Nashkhoun Keshishian (3 weeks)

Requested by: Galoost Keshishian (Brother) Vahe, Andre and Aris Keshishian (Nephews) and Families

November 18

For the Soul of: Vartkess M. Balian (10th Anniversary)

Requested by: His wife, Rita S. Balian

His Sons: Raffi V. Balian and Sevag V. Balian with his wife, Nairi, and their four children / his grandchildren: Aram, Nareg, Sareen and Arya Balian.

Vartkess' sisters: Marie M. Balian and Haikouhi Balian Koudoussian with her twin daughters: Rita and Lena, along with her husband Edvik Alexandrian and son Andre.

For the Soul of: Isabel Kanderian Zakko (40 Days)

Requested by: Arda Kanderian Hebert and Paul Hebert (Sister and Husband)

Alice and Sona Kanderian (Sisters) Dr. Maha Kanderian Khouri and Dr. Suhail Khouri (Sister and Husband)

November 25

For the Souls of: Kiryakos Bolek (Father), Agop Hasar (Uncle)(5th years), Mayram Hasar and Alexan Hasar (Grand Parents)

Requested by: Anna Bolek, Asadur and Janet Tufekci

For the Soul of: Josef Tilimian (40 days)

Requested by: Arek Gharibian, Carmen Tilimian and Garnik Boghosian, Zorik Tilimian and Helen Markarian, Catherine Tilimian and Hendrik Keshishi, Serjik Tilimian and Inna Grigoryan, Armo Boghosian, Aren Boghosian, Seleia Tilimian, Menoa Keshishi, Arno Keshishi, Orbell Keshishi, Edwin Tilimian and Juliet Tilimian.

DECEMBER 2018

December 2

For the Soul of: Panos Manokian (40 Day)

Requested by: Ashken Manokian, Arek Manokian, Caro & Diane Manokian, Mannik Manokian & Sevada Sinanian (Nyra, Zabel and Alene) Nareneh & Mace McGrath (Ara) Armen Manokian, Ava Manokian Arax & Jirair Yousefian Levik & Marina Yousefian (Arsen, Artem, Arno) Narbeh & Ashley Yousefian (Vana)

December 9

For the Souls of: Arshavir and Anjel Hovannesian (Deacon), Bogos Zulikian (Church Organist), Harutyun and Arshaluys Sivaslian

Requested by: Bogos and Seta Sivaslian

For the Soul of: Gulbenk Sivaslian (5 years)

Requested by: Ojen Sivaslian (Wife), Nadya (Arut) Koseian, Ohannes (Hripsime) Sivaslian, Artur (Beverly) Sivaslian

For the Soul of: Avadis Ozkayan

Requested by: Atam Ozkaya, Paris Ozkayan, Mayram Ozben, Artin Ozben

On the Occasion of the 86th Anniversary of Our Church we remembered and prayed for the SOULS OF OUR DEDICATED PARISHIONERS, for the SOULS OF ALL THE VICTIMS OF THE 1988 EARTHQUAKE IN ARMENIA, and for the SOULS

OF ALL THE DECEASED CHAIRLADIES OF ST. MARY WOMEN'S GUILD

For the Souls of: Avoyan, Tomyan, Vardanian, Kazarian, Kofman, Shakhbekyan, Cerqueira

Requested by: David Tomyan

For the Soul of: Lora Shahbazyan

Requested by: Shahbazyan and Avetisyan Families

December 16

For the Souls of: Araxe Cherishian-Aunt (1 Anniversary), Onnig and Serarpe Halajian-Parents, Maryann Kinoian-Sister, Steve Cherishian- Uncle 3 Years, Karnig and Berjouhi Halajian- Aunt and Uncle, Hovannes and Nazenig Cherishian-Grandparents, Dikran & Nevart Halajian-Grandparents, Elmas Santourian- Great Grandmother

Requested by: Nancy and Michael Kolenick

For the Soul of: Sarkees Derhagopian (1 Anniversary)

Requested by: Silva Derhagopian, Harry Derhagopian and Lala Heinz

For the Soul of: Shogher Gharakhanian (5 years)

Requested by: Khatoun (Mother), Galoost Keshishian (Husband), Vahe, Andre and Tris Keshishian(Sons) and Family

For the Souls of: Nisan, Manuel, Vartuhi Kalatas, Agop, Mardiros, Vartuhi and Pilibos Shafakian, Mari and Kevork Cancikian, Aygul Tasci, Vahram and Hatun Hallacoglu

Requested by: Mari and Eva Shafakian and Mr. and Mrs. Artin Hallajian

December 23

For the Soul of: Mary Zulik (40 Day)

Requested by: Nurhan and Lisa Zulik





FUNERALS

VAGHARSHAK DER HOVSEPIAN

January 3, 2018

Beloved husband of Astghik Der Hovsepien, Beloved Father of Hrair and Hilda Hovsepien, Jirair and Arax Hovsepien and Evelyn and Vahag Shahnazarian, Beloved Grandfather of Levik, Narbeh, Anie, Nayiri, Alina, Lilia, Arpa, Beloved Great Grandfather of Arsen, Artem, Vana, Arno.

MAGISTRATE JUDGE JACOB HAGOPIAN

February 21, 2018

Beloved Husband of Mary L. (Pomoransky) Hagopian. Loving Father of Mark J. Hagopian and Wife Soon-Hie, Daughter Mary Lou Hagopian-Lamb and Husband Kenneth, Son Dana A. Hagopian, Son Jan C. Hagopian and Wife Glenna, and Son Jon G. Hagopian and Wife Christine. Beloved Grandfather of five cherished Grandchildren, Jacob C. Hagopian, Sydney K. Hagopian, Jacqueline R. Hagopian, Julia E. Hagopian, and Livia A. Hagopian.

MARGARET ATANOSSIAN KRIKORIAN

February 23, 2018

Beloved Mother of her five Children - Jacqueline, Karen, Christine, Sonya, and Krikor. Beloved Grandmother of her twelve Grandchildren - Alena, Matthew, Elyse, Andrew, John, Sarah, Jacob, Vlad, Katie, Kirk, Stephanie, and Nicholas, and her three Great Grandchildren Landon, Ryan, and Isaac.

MARDIROS SHAFAKIAN

March 8, 2018

Beloved Husband of his Wife Mari; Loving Father of Rober (Annie) Shafakian; Rudi (Rita) Shafakian; Proud Grandfather of Micaela Shafakian and Talia

Shafakian Siblings, Hagop Shafakian (deceased), Sahak Shafakian; Araxi Tunc, Ohannes Shafakian, and Takuhi Hallajian along with their spouses and children. Armen Garabedian

April 26, 2018

Beloved Brother of Levon Garabedian

EDWARD JAMGOCHIAN

April 13, 2018

He is survived by his son Michael and wife, Jill; daughter, Carol; and daughter, Linda and husband, Jim; as well as seven grandchildren.

STEPAN ASLANIAN

April 17, 2018

Beloved Husband of Eugenia Aslanian; Father of Edward and Natalia; Grandfather of Stephan, Angela and Elizabeth, Jenia and Stephanie; and Great grandfather of Eric.

VASSILICA EFFEIAN KALIKIAN

April 19, 2018

She is survived by her son Hagop (Jack), his wife Armine, and their sons, Aram and Narek (Nevada), by her younger son, Varoujan (Roger), his wife Aida, and children Arpi and Arman (Maryland), her sister in law Louisa Kazandjian, and by her nieces Noel and Silvia in Paris, France. Her niece Zarmine Benzer of NJ, Haigouhi Berkjian of Salem, Mass, and Araxi Vann of Fairfax, VA.

VARSENIKI JEFFERSON

June 17, 2018

Survived by Loving husband, Robert E Jefferson, Daughter Natalie A. Campbell, two Grandchildren Kerry and Emily Campbell, two Nieces in Istanbul Ani Nisanyan and Alin Samuelyan.

AROUSIAG "ALICE" KUMKUMIAN

June 25, 2018

Beloved wife of Charles Kumkumian; loving mother of Simon Kumkumian (Lenie), Greg Kumkumian (Katie), Roxanne Schweitzer (John) and the late Linda Kumkumian; grandmother of Jack, Alexis, Charles, William and Henry; sister of the late Vosgan Anbarjian; sister-in-law of Rita Anbarjian; aunt of Kegham Anbarjian, Ed Kumian, Mary Kumian and Suzanne Kumian and the late Alan Anbarjian.

MISAK MERMER

July 11, 2018

Beloved Husband of Maryam Mermer; loving Son of Nazar Mermer; Son-in-Law of Zadik Ozbenian; Father of Aras, Jenna and Anayis Mermer; Brother of Silva Kuvvet, Brother-in-Law of Gary and Juliette Ozbenian and their Children, John and Jacqueline Ozbenian and Children, Uncle of Sayat and Ari Kuvvet.

JOZEF TILMIAN

October 5, 2018

Beloved Husband of Arek Gharibian; Loving Father of Carmen Tilimian and Garnik Boghosian (Son-in-Law); Zorik Tilimian and Helen Markarian (Daughter-in-Law); Catherine Tilimian and Hendrik Keshishi (Son-in-Law); Serjik Tilimian and Inna Grigoryan (Daughter-in-Law). Devoted Grandfather of Armo Boghosian, Aren Boghosian; Seleia Tilimian; Menoa Keshishi, Arno Keshishi, Orbell Keshishi; Edwin Tilimian and Juliet Tilimian.

SARA ARZOOMANIAN

October 16, 2018

Loving Aunt of Jack Arzoomanian, Jr. and Wife Lissa. She is also survived by other loving family and friends

MARY ZULIKIAN

November 20, 2018

Beloved mother of Nurhan and Lisa Zulikian; sister of Norayr Ozungur.

CHARLES KUMKUMIAN

December 14, 2018

Beloved Husband of the late Arousiag Kumkumian; loving Father of Simon Kumkumian (Lenie), Greg Kumkumian (Katie), Roxanne Schweitzer (John) and the late Linda Kumkumian; Grandfather of Joeie, Jack, Alexis, Charles, William and Henry.

JOHN KAVOOKIAN

December 22, 2018

Beloved Husband of Eva June Kavookian

EMMA ARUTYUNOVA

December 27, 2018

Beloved Mother of Esther and Marina; Grandmother of Mark, Roman and Victoria, and Great-grandmother of Sophia, Maxwell, and Emanuel





BAPTISMS AND CHRISMATIONS

JANUARY

January 18, 2018

Tigran Hovhannisyan

Son of Petros Hovhannisyan and Bella Kristosturyan

Godparents: Ruben Kristosturyan and Nune Atyan

January 27, 2018

Vivienne Rae Kristosturyan

Daughter of Vahan Kristosturyan and Tatevik Mikaelyan

Godparents: Tigran Hovhannisyan and Gohar Torosyan

FEBRUARY

February 17, 2018

Myla Rose Armagan

Daughter of Artin and Allison Armagan

Godparents: Aris and Alis Cubuk

MARCH

March 10, 2018

George Kevork

Son of Robert and Lauren Boggio

Godparents: John Paul Garry and Jessica Garry

March 17, 2018

Taleen Masih

Daughter of Jack and Kelly Masih

Godparents: Joseph Masih and Heather Spindel

March 24, 2018

Celine Lorri Khachaturian

Daughter of Alex and Tamar Khachaturian

Godparents: Chris Darakjian and Alis Asadurian

APRIL

April 7, 2018

Elliana Saleigh Torossian

Daughter of Charle and Katlyn Darling Torossian

Godparents: Raffi and Tarik Tsehay Torossian

April 14, 2018

Izabella Margaux Sharabarka

Daughter of Aram Mattew and Alexis Sharabarka

Godparents: Chad Arroyo and Lorene Voskinarian

Aaron Mattew Sharabarka

Son of Michael and Mary Sharabarka

Godparents: Martus and Margo Arroyo

MAY

May 27, 2018

Armine Nafas Murad

Daughter of Gregory Aram and Razieh Murad

Godparents: John Avedis Ohanian and Andrea Lucien Murad

JUNE

June 3, 2018

Talar Noor Hawit

Daughter of Nader and Sophia Hawit

Godparents: Faris Ibrahim Hawit and Arda K Shahverdian

June 9, 2018

Taleen Noor Simon

Daughter of Girair and Jaime Simon

Godparents: David Gulugian and Kimberly Crane

June 23, 2018

Greyson Buchanan

Son of Cameron and Rubina Buchanan

Godparents: Jason Hand and Nanor Yakoubian

Owen Buchanan

Son of Cameron and Rubina Buchanan

Godparents: John Hand and Melinne Yakoubian

JULY

July 7, 2018

Robert Frey

Son of Robert Bryan and Ruzanna Frey

Godparents: Khachik Yevdogimov

AUGUST

August 11, 2018

Alex Koryun Hovian

Son of Vahe Hovian and Margarita Saringulyan

Godparents: Pavel Khrimian and Zarui Kocharyan

August 18, 2018

Alissa Hein

Daughter of Jason Hein and Kristina Artyunova

Godparents: Pavel Khrimian and Zarui Kocharyan

SEPTEMBER

September 15, 2018

Emin Ashot Tarpinian

Son of Andre Ara and Karineh Tarpinian

Godparents: Garen Shahverdian and Ava Manokian

Armen Shant Tarpinian

Son of Andre Ara and Karineh Tarpinian

Godparents: Norik Khachatourian and Manda Paul

NOVEMBER

November 10, 2018

Katvina Anna Movsisyan

Daughter of Ruben Movsisyan and Marina

Agafonova

Godparents: Liudvik Karapetian and Araksya Nazaretyan Karapetian

November 24, 2018

Zabel Ani and Alene Vana Sinanian

Daughters of Sevada Sinanian and Mannik Neena Manokian

Godparents: Valanti Koliyofotis and Alenoosh Yusefian Koliyofotis

DECEMBER

December 15, 2018

Eva Leeza Mirijanian

Daughter of Peter Mirijanian and Irina Petrossian
Godparents: Christian Walker and Galena Petrosian

December 22, 2018

Mateo Tahmasian

Son of Dodik Tahmasian and Noelia Rodriguez

Godparents: Raffie and Ani Kehyaian

December 29, 2018

Kai'el Elijah Loosararian Obaldo

Son of Ariel Obaldo and Elyse Loosararian

Godparents: Brian and Alena Alsrue





WEDDINGS

JUNE

June 2, 2018

Eric Krikor Ashbahian and Danielle Artemis Saroyan

Parents: Gregory and Janet Ashbahian

John and Gladys Saroyan

Best Man: Timonty Ashbahian

Maid of Honor: Lynn Saroyan

June 23, 2018

Sevan Khachatoorian and Bridget Diane Corsini

Parents: Robert and Hermine Khatchatoorian

John and Diane Corsini

Best Man: Steve Rozenblat

Maid of Honor: Danna Laureano

AUGUST

August 25, 2018

Haik Gugarats and Molly Christian

Parents: Karlen Gugarats and Aida Abrahamyan

Michael and Sandra Snyder Christian

Best Man: Raffi Manoukian

Maid of Honor: Karen Christian

OCTOBER

October 27, 2018

Aras Mermer and Jenna Oien

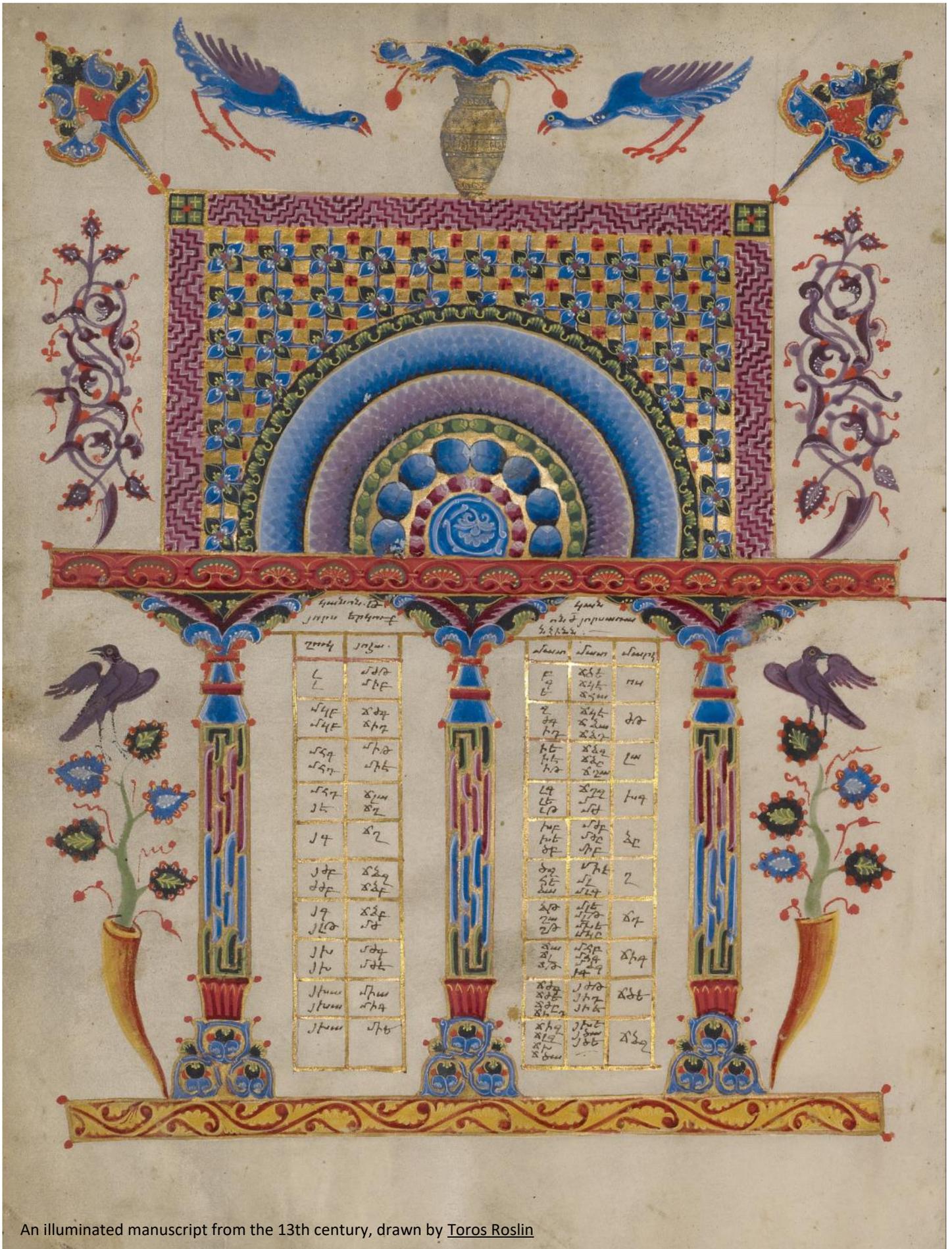
Parents: Misak and Maryam Mermer and

Robert and Theresa Oien

Best Man: Nareg Bakirci

Maid of Honor: Lisa Oien





An illuminated manuscript from the 13th century, drawn by Toros Roslin



CHRISTMAS YUGHAKIN DONATIONS 2018

Donated by:

Alexander, Edward
Anbarjian, Kegham
Balian Simonian, Rita
Balian, Margaret
Balian, Raffi
Baldadian, Dolores
Beloian, Aram and Arletta
Bodurian, Ellen
Boyajian, Molly
Cimen, Gazar and Surpik
Dedeyan, Betty and Sahag
Garden, Linda
Ghazarian, Kevork and Maria
Gueriguian, John and Ida Family
Harvhil Family
Hadjian, Asadour and Nvart
Hagopian, Haig and Annie
Kazanjian Law, Family
Kapikian, Catherine Andrews
Karahisar, Raffi & Kathy
Krzysztofowicz, Roman & Liana
Kumkumian, John & Kathleen
Kumkimian, K Gregory and Katherine
Khrimian, Ashot and Susanna
Mesrobyan, Ara
Mulvihill, Jason and Christina
Mnatzkanian, Peter
Ozbenian, Janser & Jacqueline
Pashayani, Marie & Zohrab
Pickering, Lola
Sakian, Misho & Lucy
Sahakian, Diane, Ara, Daniel and Lily
Shahinian, Jelalian Grace
and Shahinian Dean Esq

In Loving Memory of:

Mr. & Mrs. Mirijan Minassian and Mr. & Mrs. John Alexanian
Loved Ones
In loving memory of Vartkess Balian
Mr. and Mrs. Harutoon and Barkev Peltekian
Vartkes M. Balian
George and Flossie Baldadian
Loved Ones
Abraham and Elise Bodurian, Ohanes Sahakian
Armenak Boyajian, Keghanoush Boyajian and Sograd Boyajian
Loved Ones
Hamest, Shahren, Harry Yazujian and Beberian Family
Mike Seferian (Grandfather) Gerorge Dudgejian (Uncle)
Vahan and Ghazarian
Loves Ones
Zepur and Arkan Hatchikian
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Mrs. Berjouhi Kazanjian & Patriarch Karekin V. Kazanjian
Dr. Albert Kapikian
Hermine & Vahan Karahisar
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Aghunik Chalayan
Mihran & Zabelle Mesrobian
Haig Ellian and Jackand Barbara Tallalian
Loved Ones
Albert Jirikdjian, Hariknaz Ozbenian
Loved Ones
Yazmajian, Kechyan and Pickering families
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Witherspoon, Robert

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Loved Ones
Alice Margosian
Kevork Megerdich Tashjian, Khatchadur Hakobyan
Mari and Hagop Ekmekciyan

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Baldadian, Dolores

In Honor of:

The men and women of the armed forces of the United States

Jack & Jean Babashanian

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

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Yn.Zarouhi Jelalian
and Shahinian Dean Esq
Pashayan, Marie H and Zohrab
Gawler's, Joseph

In Loving Memory of:

The men and women of the armed forces of the United States
Lily Jelalian, Rev Vahen and

Loved Ones
Loved Ones



IN LIEU OF CHRISTMAS CARD DONATIONS

Balian Simonian Rita
Breg. Gen & Mrs. A.J Kaehn Jr, USAF
Dr. and Mrs. Zaven Khachaturian
Mariam Nishanian
Shahinian, Grace and Dean Shahinian Esq
Pashayani, Marie & Zohrab



*We thank all our Devoted Parishioners
and wish them a Happiest New Year and a Merry Christmas
Full of God's Grace and Blessings.*

Mrs. Grace Shahonoan and Dean V. Shahinian, Esq.



EASTER LILIES & YUGHAKIN DONATIONS 2018

Donated by:

Andonian, David, Gilda and Family
Alexandrian, Edvik and Lena
Alexander, Edward and Roseann

Arabian, Lawrence and Janet
Arkoian, Mrs. Rosemary O.
Asadoorian Family

Ayrandjian, Anahid
Balian, Marie
Balian, Rita S.: Loving Wife and Life Partner

Barsoumian, Vergine
Berberian, Stephen, Brenda, and Debora
Bodurian Family
Bolat, Vercin
Boyajian, Molly
Boyajian, Rajwantie C.
Booher, Harold and Anne
Der Bogosian, Dianne
Demirji, Sarkis and Siran
Derderian, Harry and Ani
Garabedian, Armen and Levon
Garden, Linda
George Family
Ghazarian, Kevork and Maria
Gueriguian, John, Ida and Family
Hadjian, Asadour and Nevert
Hovhannisyan, Svetlana
Kapikian, Catherine
Kavookian, John and June
Karahisar, Raffi and Kathy
Koseian Family
Koudoussian, Rita and Haikouhi
Krikorian, Helen

Kumkumian, John and Kathleen
Matikyan, Rober
Mesrobian, Ara

In Loving Memory of:

Jack Andonian
Loved Ones
Mr. and Mrs. Miredjan Minasian
Mr. and Mrs. John Alexanian
Yerchanik Bolat
Moses "Moe" Arkoian
Mergeditch Asadoorian, Eliza Alyanazian, Herman P. Carson,
Manuk Mitikyan, Ron Albertson
Nubar Y. Ayrandjian
Balian Family Departed Members
Vartkess M. Balian, Exemplary Brother, Husband, Father
and Philanthropist
Yenovk and Elissa Barsoumian, Araxie Diratzouian
Jean V. Berberian
Abraham & Elise Bodurian, Dr. Ohannes Sahakian
Loved Ones
Armenak Boyajian, Keghanoush Boyjian, Sograd Boyajian
Loved Ones
Levon A. Terzian
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Albert Shirikdjian
Mariam and Antranik Derderian, Ardashes and Markris Jindian
Mihran and Makrovhe Garabedian
Mike Seferian
Robert George
Vahan and Vartouhie Ghazarian
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Dr. Albert Kapikian
Ann Kavookian, Agnes Salisbury
Vahan and Hermine Karahisar
Sivaslian and Barsamyan Loved Ones
Hagop Koudoussian, Vartkess Balian, Janet Gabriel
Mariam and Vahan Morookian,
Deeran Krikorian and Satenig Krikorian
Loved Ones
Azniz and Agop Matikyan
Mihran and Zabelle Mesrobian

Mnatzakian, Peter and Michele
Mulvhill, Jason and Chrstina
Muradyan, Marine and Eduard Danielyan
Ozbenian, Janser and Jacqueline
Pashayan, Marie and Zohrab
Paternayan Coombs, Vivien
Sahr, David and Arpi
Satian, Marguerite
bian

Sayan, Arsen and Catherine

Shahinian, Dean, Esq.

Shahinian Jelalian, Grace

Shamigian, Charles

Shaverdian, Zakavoos and Patricia

Surabian, Martin and Sylva

Ter-Minassian, Viguen and Teresa

Tahmasian Family

Tatigian, Sarkis

Voskerchyan, Liana and Angela

Yousoufian, Hrant and Anne

Zenian, David and Leda

Donated by:

Asadoorian Family

Balian, Rita S.

Kaehn, Br. Gen. Albert and Meline

Kaehn, Br. Gen. Albert and Meline

Kanderian Hebert, Arda

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Kavookian, John and June

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Maryann Zartaryan

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Haygaz and Manouchag Pilikian

Kohar Themejian, Eddy Sayan

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Yn. Zarouhi Jelalian

Dr. Paul Shahinian, Ms. Lily Jelalian, Rev.Fr. Vahan and

Yn. Zarouhi Jalalian

Mary Shamigian, Jackie Nishanian

Loved Ones

Loved Ones

Hermine Ter-Minassian

Our Parents

Gloria Tatigian, Arlene Tatigian

Vardan Voskerchyan

Hasmig Couyoumdjian

Endza and Hovhannes Zenian, Shakeh Seraydarian

In Honor of:

Elmas Asadoorian, Nadya Cason, Anahid Ghazarian,

Deramayr Tamar Shatvoryan, For raising a Son like

Der Hovsep and Gifting Him to Our Church, St. Mary's

in Washington, DC

Members of the Armed Forces of the United States

The Women's Guild

Harry and Ani Derderian

Vartuhi Sivaslian

Marie Balian, Rita Balian

Ann Kavookian and Agnes Salisbury

Nalbandian & Pashayan

Grace Jelalian Shahinian

Sue Ellian



GRAPE & MADAGH BLESSING 2018
Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother-Of-God
Name Day of our Church



Donated by:

Andonian, David & Gilda

Alexandrian Lena & Edvik
Azam, Nabil and Rita
Badalians, Mary
Balian, Marie

Balian, Margaret E.
Balian, Rita S.

Boyajian, Molly

Bozadjian, Araxi
Families
Dellakian, Maria
Garabedian Levon
George Lara
Hovhannisyian, Armen and Svetlana

Karahisar, Raffi & Kathy
Koudoussian, Rita

Krikorian, M Helen
Kumkumian, John & Kathleen
Khrimian, Ashot and Susanna
Lee, Partecia
Mesrobian, Ara
Mnatzakanian, Peter and Michele
Muluhill, Tellalian Christina
Nostrant, Elina
Pickering, Lola
Sayan, Arsen & Catherine

Shahinian, Dean
Shamigian Chuck
Shahbazian, Vigen and Juliet
Tashjian, Mike & Naira
Varoujanian, Hartoun, Varoujan, Leeza

In Memory of:

Soghomon & Mariam Danelian, Asadur & Dirouhi
Harutunian
Mrs. Marie Missirian & Mrs. Marie Gabriel
Arousiag Kumkumian
Loved Ones
Vartkess Balian, Marie Simonian, Gabriel, Krikorian and
Missirian
Richard Balian
Husband Vartkess M. Balian (10th Anniversary was on
August 30) Mother Marie Simonian (13th Anniversary of
her passing away)
Armenak Boyajian, Keghanoush Boyajian, Sograd
Boyajian
Bozadjian, Kolandjian, Igidbashian and Maghrablian

Ohaness Dellakian
Miharan and Makrouhe Garabedian
Loved Ones
Artashes and Rosea Hovhannisyian, Suren and Valentina
Ghazaryan
Peruz Papazyan
Marie Missirian, Marie Simonian, Marie Garbriel and
Marie Krikorian
Mariam & Vahan Morookian
Loved ones
Loved Ones
George Margosian
Mihran & Zabelle Mesrobian
Loved Ones
Haig Ellian, Baibora and Jack Tellaian
Vilen Ter- Artyunov, Satenik Arutyunova- Sarkisova
Cynthia Anush Pickering and all the loved one
Haygaz and Manouchag Pilikian, Kohar Themejian, Edy
Sayan
Dr. Paul Shahinian
Mary Shamigian, Jackie Nishanian
Loved Ones
Kevork Megerdich Tashjian and Khachadur Hakobyan
Alice Varoujanian & Araxie Varoujanian & Family

Vartanian, Rita G.
Ziver, Mariamme A.

Vartanian Garbis and Marie
Vahram and Anna Ariyan Ziver

Donated by:

Donated by:

Alexandrian, Edvik & Lena

Balian, Rita

Koudoussian, Rita and Haikouhi

Manian Blanch

Muluhill, Tellalian Christina

Nostrant, Elina

Shahinian, Dean

In Honor of:

In Honor of:

Marie Balian

Marie Balian

Marie Balian

Armin Garabedian

Sue Ellian

Armen Nostrant, Julietta Arutyunova

Mrs. Grace Pelalian Shahinian





GIFT OF LOVE DONATIONS

On the Occasion of the 86th Anniversary of St. Mary

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Andonian Clara and Family
Asdourian Paul
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Jamgochian Dikran
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Kazanjian Casey and Bella
Kazanjian A Miriam
Khrimian Ashot and Bilbulian Susanna
Koseian Arut and Nadya
Koudoussian Rita and Haikouhi
Kibarian Mary
Krikorian Helen and Family
Kumkumian John & Kathleen

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Jack Andonian
John and Diana Asdourian
Haritun Aslan family and Aram Polat Family
Tigran Akopian
John Alexandrian
Hagop Koudoussian and Vartkess Balian
Geo and Flossie Baldadian
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Hermine & Vahan Karahisar
Menas and Aghavny Kazanjian
George, Nellie & Kenneth Kazanjian
Loved Ones
Gulbenk Sivaslian, Koseian, Barsamyn Loved Ones
Dikran Gulenia and Hagop Koudoussian, Mardiros,
Dikranouhi and Vartkess Balian
Garabed and Zartar Bandagian
Mariam and Vahan Morookian & Deeran Krikorian
Isabel Vartanian

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Loved Ones
Endza Zenian, Chake Shamiram Seraydarian

DONATED BY:
Koudoussian Rita

IN HONOR OF:
Haikouhi Koudoussian & Rita and Marie Balian

FOR THE SOULS OF THE VICTIMS OF THE 1988 EARTHQUAKE IN ARMENIA

Requested by: Vardanian, Avoyan, Tomyan, Kazarian, Shakhbekyan, Kofman, Cerqueira Spencer

Requested by: Der Hayr and Parish Council



Our sincere thanks to all of our parishioners
who offered their donations
TOWARD OUR ORGAN.



Nishanian, Jerair and Anahid

Ter-Minassian, Viguen and Teresa

Hakopian, Souren and Ema

Avedisian, Ara and Maggie

Karahisar, Raffi and Kathy

Arabian, Lawrence and Janet

Bodurian, Edward and Ellen

Andonian, Clara

Zenian, David and Leda

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Vartkess and Rita Balian Family Found

St. Mary's Avak Society

Shahverdian, Zakavoos and Patricia

Murad, Paul and Lucy

Vartanian, Malvina

Pulver, Thomas B.





OUR YEAR 2018

























PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTORY

WORSHIP HOURS

Sunday Morning Service 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.,
Monday to Friday
Office closed Saturday and Sunday
Phone: (202) 363-1923
E-mail: stmarychurchdc@gmail.com
www.stmaryaac.org

PASTOR

Rev. Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan
derhovsep@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL

Rev. Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan, President
Sarine Zenian, Chairlady
Dr. Ara Avedisian, Vice Chairman
Eric Ashbahian, Recorder Secretary
Mark Krikorian, Assistant Secretary
Jack Guiragossian, Treasurer
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Artur Sivaslian, Council Member

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Jack Guiragossian
Onnik Sivaslian

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SHNORHALI SCHOOL

Harry Tchetchenian

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan

WOMEN'S GUILD

Nadya Chobukian

ST. MARY ANNUAL JOURNAL

Edited by Dee Vartabedian Rogers

PASTORAL CARE:

HOME AND HOSPITAL VISITS

The clergy are always available and can visit homebound and hospitalized parishioners. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized and would like to be visited, please call the church office at (202) 363-1923. Please note: when asked about your religion at a hospital, patients should list themselves as "Armenian Orthodox" or "Armenian" not "other."

REQUIEM SERVICE/HOKEHANKIST

Arrangements for Requiem Service, Alter Flowers and Candles should be made through the church office by Thursday at noon. In accordance with the canons of the Armenian Church, Requiem Services may not be performed on the five major feast days: Armenian Christmas, Easter, The Feast of the Transfiguration, The Feast of the Assumption of the Mother of God, and The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

BAPTISMS AND CHRISMATIONS

All Baptisms must be scheduled at least three

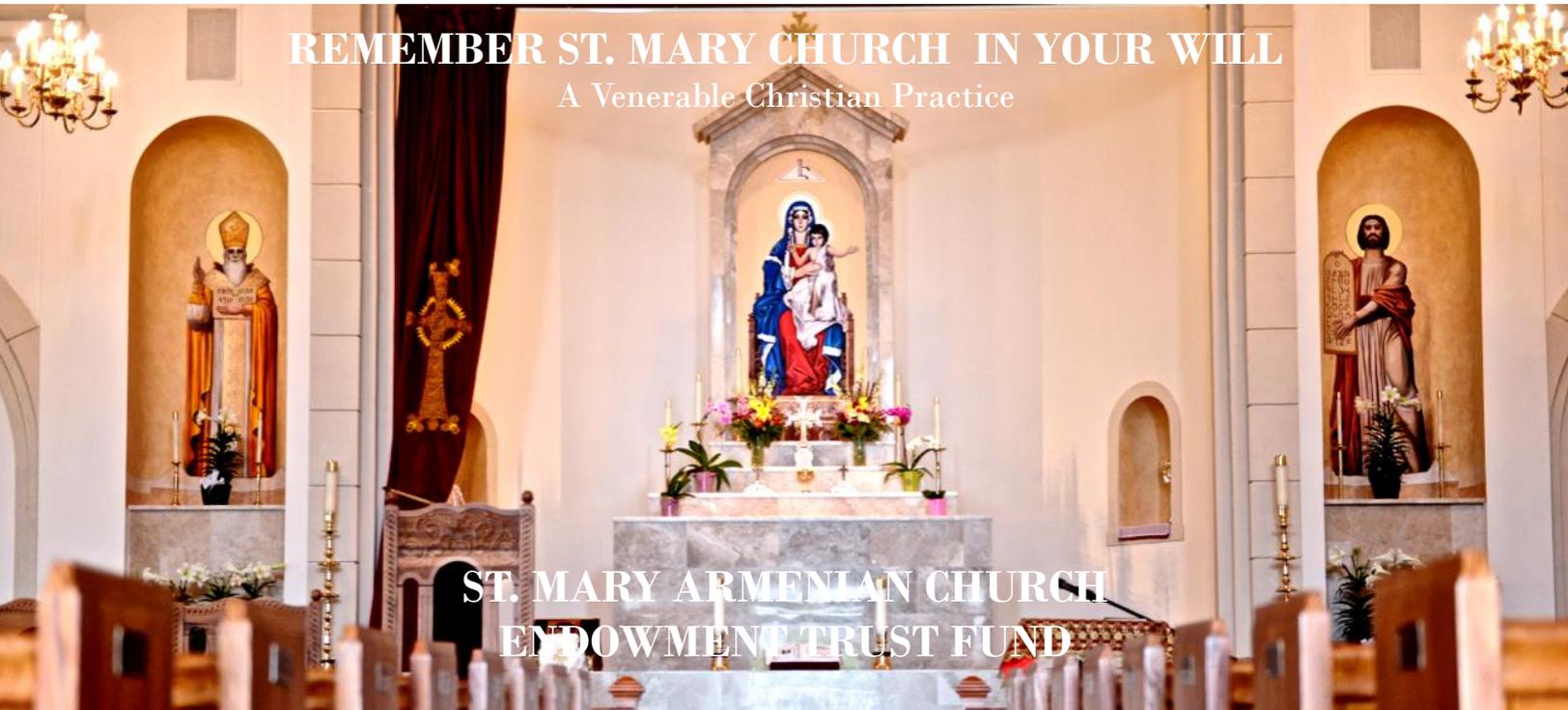
months in advance by calling the church office. According to the Armenian Church canons, a Baptism may only be performed once in a person's lifetime, provided such Baptism has been performed in a Christian Church and in the name of the Holy Trinity. At least one of the godparents must be a member of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church.

WEDDINGS

Parishioners should contact the church office at least six months in advance. A couple must contact St. Mary to confirm the availability of the Pastor and sanctuary prior to making any other arrangements. All weddings must follow the Canons of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church and the laws of the DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. In accordance with Diocesan discipline mandated by the Primate, all Sacraments must be performed in the church sanctuary. The couple must meet with the Pastor at least once for pre-marital preparation and counseling. Weddings cannot be performed during Great Lent or Holy Week, or on the five major feast days: Armenian Christmas, Holy Easter, The Feast of the Transfiguration, The Feast of the Assumption of the Mother of God, and The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

FUNERALS

Families should make arrangements with the funeral director of their choice, who will then contact the church office to arrange the funeral service. Funerals may not be performed on religious holidays, major feast days, Saturdays after 3:00 p.m., or on Sundays.



REMEMBER ST. MARY CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

A Venerable Christian Practice

ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH
ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND