January 6, 2017

“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

Another year entered the history in the life of our church. This year, as every other year before this, was also filled with the moments that we all cherished with joy and with those that brought sadness to our hearts and tears to our eyes. As we are about to begin the new year 2018 it is always good to change our attitude and look forward with a positive vision for our own lives, the life or our family and church.

As people of God we are called to provoke one another to love and show kindness towards each other. What better place to practice love and kindness and to show our belonging to Christ then His church. Jesus loved His church. And that means that we cannot follow Christ without loving the church.

To love your church means to be a part of it. To simply come, to show up. When we come and participate, we are not only obeying the Word of God, and heartening our personal and spiritual growth but we also showing our love to our church. When you love someone you want to spend time with that person. Your presence speaks volumes about your love towards your church.

To love your church means to help your church. Not only be a consumer, but first and foremost be a contributor. Taking the ownership of your church, striving for its betterment, giving, serving and participating are the best ways to strengthen your love toward your church. When you love someone you invest in that person. You invest in your church when you help and care for it.

To love your church means to pray and care for your church. There is nothing more powerful and uplifting then the prayer. Not only praying in the church but also praying for the church. When you love and care for someone you pray for that person. Your love towards your church is manifested in the prayer and care for your church.

Scriptures declare that “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” (Eccl 3:1) There are seasons in the life of the church us well. The church may go through a dry, difficult or struggling period. Periods when it is easier to give up then to endure. However, like in every life, you have to endure the harshness and severity of the winter to be able to enjoy the blessing and warmth of the spring, in the same way, in the course of the life of your church. The greatest way to love your church is not to walk away from her. Hanging in there when it is hard is not only saying, but showing, that you love your church.

May 2018 be filled with the blessings and love of God in our personal life, in the lives of our families and our church.

Prayerfully,

Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan
Throughout the centuries, the pomegranate has been woven into Armenian architecture, cuisine, art, manuscripts, literature and liturgical vestments. It represents life, fertility, and abundance. For the first time in history in 2015, the Supreme Patriarch of the Armenian Church, His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of all Armenians, together with the Armenian faithful, introduced a new service for the Blessing of Pomegranates, one of the seven biblical species of fruits and grains, at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin.

At St. Mary Church, Der. Hovsep blessed the pomegranates on January 1 with a beautiful service following the Badarak. They were distributed to the faithful afterwards with a wish to bring prosperity and abundance in 2017.

The Armenian community of Greater Washington and Baltimore rang in the 2017 New Year at the festively decorated ballroom of Hilton Hotel in Gaithersburg, Maryland. For the second time, the Armenian Community Events Planners (ACEP) organized the year’s "sold out" event. More than 350 revelers, including children of all ages, gathered to welcome the New Year and celebrate the unity that brought every one together.

The evening began with brief remarks by Dr. Teny Abrahamian, ACEP’s Chair, thanking supporters and introducing the members of the committee who worked side by side for a whole year. Der Hovsep Karapetyan of St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church and Der Sarkis Aktavoukian of Soorp Khatch Armenian Apostolic Church offered their prayers and good wishes for the New Year and Soorp Dznount.
On January 5 the Jragaloutis 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 gave special thanks to Ara Stepanyan who was the Godfather for the Blessing of the Water and his son Sevak. 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. Kreedos Dzunav yev Haydnetsav. Blessed is the revelation of Christ. Orhneal e Haytnoutiounn Kristosee."

The St. Mary Pilgrimage to the Holy Land to celebrate the Feast of Nativity and Theophany of our Lord took place from January 12 to 23. Twenty-two pilgrims had a wonderful time spending ten days in the Holy Land, walking through the footsteps of our Lord, visiting holy sights and participating in the celebration of the birth and baptism of our Lord. They visited Bethlehem, Mount of Olive, celebrated Badarak at the tomb of St. Mary, journeyed to the Sea of Galilee and the area of Nazareth where our Lord performed his public ministry. With Christ in their hearts, they visited the Wilderness of Judea, Mt. of Temptation, the Tomb of Lazarus and the baptismal site where our Lord was baptized. They walked through the way of the cross and attended early morning Badarak at the church of Holy Sepulcher at the empty tomb from where Jesus was resurrected. The highlight of the pilgrimage was the celebration of the Feast of Nativity and Theophany of our Lord in Bethlehem. The pilgrims stayed for midnight service and participated in the early morning Badarak at the Church of Nativity, in the manger where the Lord was born.

Everyone returned home safely with renewed faith and uplifted spirits, cherishing the good memories and great spiritual experiences and blessings they received as pilgrims.
National Prayer Vigil for Life

The National Prayer Vigil for Life was held from Thursday afternoon, January 26 to Friday morning, January 27, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Over 20,000 pilgrims from around the nation prayed there for an end to abortion before the annual March for Life. The Vigil marked the 44th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton decisions legalizing abortion nationwide. Since those decisions, over 57 million abortions have been performed legally in the United States.

The principal celebrant and homilist at the Vigil Opening Mass was Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, chairman of the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities. It was concelebrated by his fellow cardinals and many of the nation’s bishops and priests in the Basilica’s Great Upper Church. The Vigil continued overnight in the Crypt Church with confessions, a National Rosary for Life, Byzantine Rite Night Prayer, and holy hours led by seminarians from across the country. Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan was among the Orthodox guests representing our Diocese.

Ararat Avak Society 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 70 people attended a lavish meal of koufta soup, rice pilaf, mushroom chicken, vegetables, green salad, and traditional anoush abour dessert. The parishioners celebrated the holiday in a lovely setting within our church community of friends and family.
The ladies of St. Mary church were very busy preparing for the annual Lenten Food Fair. The first workshop took place on February 7, during which a group of dedicated members and friends got together to prepare the stuffed grapes leaves and additional workshops were held to prepare Cheese Boureg, Baklava, Khadayef, Tava and other delicious dishes.

The Annual Parish Assembly took place on February 12 after Badarak with 65 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: Mr. Garbis Chubukian, Mrs. Sarine Zenian, Mr. Onnik Sivaslian, and Mr. Artur Sivaslian; Diocesan Delegates: Mr. Jack Guiragossian, Mrs. Sarine Zenian, and Mr. Onnik Sivaslian; Nominating Committee: Nadya Chubukian, Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan, Anna Andrisova Seferian, and Pat Shaverdian; Auditing Committee: Luiz Gusmao; Investment Committee: Michel Sahakian; WED Scholarship Committee: Patricia Yeghissian.

We congratulated all the newly elected officers and wished them success in their ministry to our church. Our appreciation to all those who faithfully served in their various capacities in the past.
Poon Paregentan Celebration

Traditional Poon Paregentan Celebration took place on February 25. The event was organized by St. Mary Women's Guild and brought together families and friends to celebrate the joyous occasion with music, dance and dinner. The delicious food was prepared by our Women's Guild Executive Committee members and the music was provided by DJ Raymond. Those who attended had a wonderful time enjoying this masquerade ball signifying the last day before entering the Great Lent. Many thanks to our Women's Guild for bringing back a wonderful Armenian tradition to our community.

Commemorating the Pogroms of Sumgait and Baku

February marked the 29th anniversary of the attacks on the Armenian population of Sumgait, Azerbaijan. The February 1988 attacks subsequently spread to other cities in Azerbaijan with sizable Armenian populations. At St. Mary Armenian Church a requiem service was held for the victims of Azeri aggression on February 26.
A special Vartanantz Day presentation took place at St. Mary Church on March 5th. After Badarak, the upper classes of Shnorhali School joined the parishioners in the Church Hall to benefit from an interactive and informative slide show presentation given by our parishioner Mr. Paul Murad. Mr. Murad spoke about one of the most crucial events in the history of the Armenian people, the Battle of Avarayr and the developments that preceded and followed the battle. He elaborated on the vital role that the battle of Vartanantz played in the history of the Armenian people and Church. After the presentation the Shnorhali School children had an opportunity to ask questions and share their own impressions of the lecture.
St. Mary's Lenten Food Fair took place on March 17, 18 and 19. Throughout the months of February and March our devoted Women's Guild members worked hard to prepare delicious and traditional Armenian dishes for the Lenten Food Fair. During the workshops the Women's Guild ladies and friends got together to make Yalanchi, Cheese Boureg, Baklava, Bourma, Khadayif, Tava, Green Beans, Hummus and other delicious dishes. The turnout by our congregation and community was tremendous as they enjoyed the traditional Armenian Lenten cuisine We thanked all of our Women's Guild members and volunteers for their hard work, endless energy and Armenian food preparation expertise.

A beautiful Saintly Women's Day commemoration took place at St. Mary Armenian Church on March 25. The year's theme was "Saintly Women of Vartanants". Those attending participated in the prayer service and recalled the bravery and heroism of the noble women who became "partners in protest" thereby willingly sacrificing their loved ones as well as their own lives for the protection of their faith and identity. During the reception the Women's Guild Chairman Mrs. Ani Derderian recited Vahan Tekeyan's poem dedicated to the Battle of Avarair and Mr. Avedis Seferian meditated on the lessons learned from Vartanants and the lives of women and men martyred for their Christian faith. Our appreciation went out to the Women's Guild executive committee for organizing this event.
On March 26, 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 had passed and encouraged believers in their journey through Lent. It inspired and encouraged steadfastness, so that the faithful would continue on through the second half, to its end, on Easter Sunday.

One particularly beautiful Armenian traditional was celebrated during Michink, as unleavened cake was baked and a coin put in it while baking. The year would be successful for the member of the family who received the slice of pastry with the coin in it to bring good luck.

Our Women's Guild members volunteered their time and talent by making delicious Lenten dishes and deserts for all to enjoy.
ACYOA Seniors Bible Study took place on April 1. Our youth came together to study the scripture and contemplate on the "desires of flesh" and the "fruit of the Spirit" (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) from St. Paul’s Letter to Galatians (5:16-26). They reflected on how each of them in some tangible way can embody the fruits of the Holy Spirit during the Lenten season and encourage their friends, family and church to do so as well. After the Bible Study our ACYOA members went out and enjoyed themselves with a fellowship and social time together.

Our last Lenten service took place on April 5 as parishioners and friends came together for a worship service, spiritual presentation and dinner. Our special guest for the evening was Fr. Yeprem Kelegian who spoke about the Gift of Fear. He enumerated on how the fear of God guides Christians in their journey through life keeping them focused on their final destination to God’s Kingdom.

FAR Executive Director Mr. Garnik Nanagoulian, gave a beautiful and heart warming presentation to St. Mary leadership and parishioners about the different programs run by FAR in our homeland of Armenia. He said FAR was born from the tragedy of the 1988 earthquake that devastated Gyumri and Spitak. It is an organization that was formed in response to the outpouring of compassion, sympathy and love from the parishioners of the Eastern Diocesan (USA) for our brothers and sisters in Armenia. At the conclusion of his presentation the parishioners had an opportunity to ask questions.

We hoped that all participants of the Lenten services found the series as fulfilling and meaningful as St. Mary Church enjoyed and was grateful for the attendance and participation. And, of course, we extended our heartfelt gratitude to those who presented, served on the alter, and sponsored the dinners.
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 April 13, 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, April 14. We thanked Asanet Hatchikoglu for decorating Christ's tomb. On Easter Eve, Saturday, April 15, 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 15 with a Morning Service and Badarak 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, hosted by the Shnorhali School parents.

We thanked everyone who contributed to the Easter Lilies and Yughakin Donations.
It was our pleasure to offer tickets for purchase of the movie premiere The Promise on April 21 in Bethesda. These 100 tickets were purchased and donated to St. Mary Church by one of our generous parishioner families, and we were grateful for their kindness and support. The Promise, produced by Survival Pictures and financed by the late legendary Kirk Kerkorian, was set with the backdrop of the Armenian Genocide, and for the first time was a wide release film featuring our history in nearly 1,500 theaters in the US and Canada.

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 Khatchar on the Church plaza.

Following the service, a Musical Memorial Program entitled "They Were Sanctified and Resurrected ... They Left Us A Legacy to Live by Faith..." performed by the Shnorhali School Students under the leadership of Naira Tashjian took place in the St. Mary Church Hall. Naira and all of our Sunday School participants gave their time, talent, and dedication for the special performance and commemoration.

The day’s Luncheon and Madagh was hosted by St. Mary Women’s Guild.
The ACYOA Jrs. held their annual Lock-In at St. Mary’s on April 28-29. Lead by Kathryn Ashbaian, Associate of the Diocese’s Department of Youth and Education, teens participated in a full range of activities that connected them closer to each other and to their faith. Kathryn lead a Bible study centered on the Fruits of the Spirit and Der. Hovsep lead the teens in a discussion focused on the Holy Spirit after which the teens participated in the evening Service. After games and pizza, the teens spent the night in the Church. In the morning, they watched an interactive video called “Bread & Salt: Tongues of Fire” about the importance of the Holy Spirit in the Armenian Christian faith. The experience ended with a discussion and the teens created an individual prayer journal for them to take home. Special appreciation went to Becky Baghdasarian and Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan for organizing this event and to Kathryn Ashbaian for organizing the program and bringing her wisdom to the participating youth of our parish.
The 115th Diocesan Assembly was held in Palm Harbor, FL on May 4-7. St. Hagop Church of Pinellas Park, FL was our gracious host. St. Mary delegates Mr. Onnik Sivaslian, Mr. Jack Guiragosian and Ms. Sarine Zenian attended with Der Hovsep Karapetyan.

The Women’s Guild Assembly was also held at the same time and attended by Mrs. Ani Derderian, Mrs. Hripsime Sivaslian, Mrs. Louisa Baghidasarian, Mrs. Nadya Chubukian, Mrs. Lucy Murad and Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan. Mrs. Lucy Murad was honored at the “Women of Wonder Lunch” for her work and many years of dedication and service to the Children of Armenia Sponsorship Program.

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), presided over the meeting of more than 125 clergy and lay delegates, representing parishes from across the Eastern Diocese.

St. Mary Women’s Guild was very busy scheduling and conducting workshops in support of the St. Mary's 7th Annual Spring Food Festival. Our church hall was filled with the aromas of lamb kebab, cheese boreg, pilaf, and kadayif. Those busy days rolled into another successful food festival weekend that was well attended by our church community and neighborhood.

And we are grateful to the wonderful volunteers who participated.
St. Mary Church was grateful to all of its devoted hardworking volunteers and loyal Armenian food lovers for making the Spring Food Festival a success. During the days and evenings of May 19, 20 and 21 crowds dined throughout the church hall feasting on many of the Armenian favorites, such as, kabob, pilaf, hommus, and pita, as well as sumptuous homemade baked goods which are always a hit and enjoyed by guests.

On May 26, the St. Mary Women’s Guild organized an Ascension Day Celebration which was attended by over 70 members, parishioners and friends. The evening was filled with the joy of honoring members who had given many years of service to St. Mary Church. Celebrations also included a musical program, traditional Vijag and a delicious dinner. Mrs. Zvart Bolat and Mrs. Sona Bakirci were recognized and honored for their dedication and many years of service to St. Mary Armenian Church Women’s Guild. A beautiful musical performance by Ernesto Bravo concluded the evening of celebration and joy.

A benefit concert took place at St. Mary Armenian Church on May 27. Organized and sponsored by the Knights and Daughters of Vartan, the night’s fundraising event benefited the orphans of the Tavush region of Armenia. During the beautiful evening, over 200 members of the community came together to enjoy the Armenian singer Bartev Garyan, and we thanked all for supporting this important cause.
During Memorial Day weekend, St. Leon Armenian Church in New Jersey hosted the General Assembly and Sports Weekend. Our ACYOA Seniors Chairlady Sophia Yedigarian and Vice Chairman Vasken Serpekian, attended the General Assembly on Thursday and Friday to represent our church. During the General Assembly participants discussed and voted on important matters which would affect the ACYOA throughout the year.

On Saturday and Sunday many St. Mary ACYOA Seniors participated in the sporting events, which included basketball, volleyball, tavloo, and ping-pong. The St. Mary ACYOA Seniors were able to enjoy each others’ fellowship, as well as meet and spend time with other fellow Armenian Christian attendees of the Sports Weekend. We thanked the St. Leon ACYOA Seniors for putting together a weekend of worship, fellowship, witness, education, and more!
On Sunday June 4, St Mary Armenian Church celebrated the Feast of Pentecost. The day was marked by a variety of events. At the conclusion of Badarak, Der Hayr conducted a special blessing for Simon Shahinian, who along with 30 other young adults, traveled to Jerusalem on the annual Young Adult Pilgrimage under the leadership of Der Hovsep.

During the Hokenhankist service, parishioners prayed for the deceased members of the St. Mary Women's Guild, remembering them and thanking God for their service and sacrifice to our Church. After Badarak, the Shnorhali School commemorated its Graduation Ceremony and Hantess.

On June 11, the St. Mary Church Shnorhali School hosted its second 2017 hantess. The 1st/2nd grade class, the 3rd grade class, and the 5th grade class participated in a memorable year-end celebration. All classes gave very inspiring performances which included songs, short plays and recitation.

While Der Hovsep lead the 5th Annual Youth Leadership Pilgrimage to the Holy Land consisting of 30 young adults from across the Eastern Diocese, St. Mary Armenian Church was blessed with a guest celebrant, Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, who presided over Badarak on June 11. Fr. Daniel is the Director of the Eastern Diocese Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center as well as a member of several scholarly and ecumenical associations. We expressed our profound gratitude for celebrating the Divine Liturgy at St. Mary Armenian Church.
Ararat Avak Society "Beginning of Summer Luncheon" took place on June 17, during which community members got together for fellowship and fabulous food. It was pleasurable to bring the community together on a sunny afternoon to share a menu of traditional chicken and beef shish kebab and dessert. The luncheon was sponsored by Derderian, Delikahya, Erdogan and Derian families in memory of their loved ones. Our appreciation went out to Ararat Avak Society Coordinating Committee for their hard work and dedication.

The Women’s Guild had their last meeting before the summer break on June 24. It was held at the home of Suzanne Harutunian, who graciously opened her home for the meeting. Fifteen WG members attended the meeting and enjoyed the beautiful lakeside setting. After the luncheon, a short meeting was held reviewing the events of the past six months; a report was also given by delegate Nadya Cubukian on the WGCC assembly held in May. The WG Chair thanked the members for their support and announced that the WG will transfer $15k to the Parish Council.
A group of 28 young adults from parishes across the Eastern Diocese traveled to the Holy Land from June 6 to 16. The seventh annual Youth Leadership Pilgrimage to the Holy Land was led by the Rev. Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan. Fr. Hovsep was assisted by Arpi Nakashian of the Diocese’s department of Creative Ministries and Yn. Danielle DerAsadourian of St. Sarkis Church of Charlotte, NC.

The young pilgrims visited the Church of the Nativity of Christ in Bethlehem, the Jordan River, Dead Sea, toured the sites of the public ministry of Jesus Christ around the Sea of Galilee and area of Nazareth, celebrated Badarak at the Church of Nativity, the St. Mary’s Tomb and the Holy Sepulcar, visited the Garden of Gethsemane and Mt. of Ascension among other great sites of biblical history. They learned about the Armenian presence in the Holy Land, and explored ways to strengthen their leadership roles at the parish and Diocesan levels.

The Baltimore community’s Annual Father’s Day Picnic took place on June 19 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, organizes different events, such as, holding weekly Armenian School classes for the youth, organizing cultural programs, and the annual Nativity Badaraks.
An interactive book presentation took place at St. Mary on, June 25. Mrs. Adrienne Alexanian, Editor of the "Forced into Genocide", presented her father Yervant Edward Alexanian's memoir which she had spent years preparing for publication.

In her presentation Mrs. Alexanian contemplated on her father's life, who was an Armenian soldier in the Ottoman Turkish Army and became an eye-witness to the massacre and dislocation of his family and countryman during the Armenian Genocide. His memoir is a one-of-a-kind "insider's account," documenting the Genocide's astonishing cruelty - but also its rare, unexpected acts of humanity.

The presentation was well received by those who attended and was followed by a book signing.

The event was co-sponsored by St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church, Knights and Daughters of Vartan, Armenian Assembly of America and Armenian National Committee.

---

The Armenian Assembly of America hosted a presentation by Congressman Jim Costa (D-CA) from Fresno, California on June 26 at St. Mary Armenian Church, where he shared his experiences traveling to Armenia for the first time in 2016. During his travels, he met with Armenian officials, visited the Armenian Genocide Memorial Complex and historical sites, and gave special remarks at the American University of Armenia.

Congressman Costa is a Member of the Armenian Caucus and has been a proud supporter of U.S.-Armenian relations for many years.
Our St. Mary youth enjoyed St. Vartan Camp, sponsored by the Diocese of the Armenian Church, on July 9 where 13 attended for 1 week, and then on July 15, where 7 attended for an additional week. The camp is 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.

Der Hovsep accompanied the youth and taught at the camp for one week. We thanked Talar Keshishian Festekjian for volunteering at the camp and for the fabulous photography that captured all of the fun and excitement shared by all and to Garbis Khiriguian for safely driving our children to and from their camp experience.

On July 23 St. Mary Church celebrated the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ with the traditional "Antastan" service at the conclusion of the Holy Badarak.

The parishioners came together to recall Christ's ascending up Mount Tabor, accompanied by His disciples John, James, and Peter. At the mountain's summit, to the disciples' frightened amazement, Christ was transfigured in a blinding white light, the Old Testament figures Moses and Elijah emerged from the mists of time to confer with the Lord, and the voice of God boomed from out of the heavens to affirm Jesus as his Son.

This celebration is one of the five major feasts of the Armenian Church which traditionally have also been called Vartavar. In a uniquely Armenian part of the celebration, the churchgoers sprinkle each other with water on the feast day.
The WED (William Ervant Docter) Educational Scholarship Committee met on July 15 to select the recipients of the WED scholarships for the school year 2017-2018. The fund, established at St. Mary Armenian Church in 1998 with the generosity of William Ervant Docter (Ervant Hekimian), has provided financial support to many qualified Armenian Americans pursuing studies or training in United States or Canada.

The Committee received a total of 31 applications. Sixteen (16) of the applicants were awarded grants totaling $39,000, based on carefully selected criteria designed to demonstrate both financial need and academic excellence. Two (2) applicants received $4,000 each; six (6) received $3,000; five (5) received $2,000, and finally three (3) others received $1,000 each.

The WED Scholarship Committee consisted of Dr. Zaven Kalayjian, Ms. Nevart Tahmazian, Ms. Anna Andriasova Seferian, Ms. Patricia Yeghissian and Mr. Raffi Karahisar. The Committee was assisted ably by the WED Office Manager, Ms. Julie Avedikian, and the WED Treasurer, Mr. Zakar Shahverdian.
St. Mary Commemorates One Year Anniversary of Passing of Rev. Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian

On August 6 St. Mary Armenian Church held a Hokehankist commemorating the one year anniversary of passing of Rev. Fr. Vertanes Avak Kahana Kalayjian.

Family, parishioners and friends gathered to remember and pray for Der Vertanes who served St. Mary for more than 30 years, and whose works, kindness and generosity, have affected people throughout our entire Diocese.

We expressed our heartfelt gratitude to Hayr Soorp Jirair Tashjian from Paris, France, for visiting and partaking in Sunday's Badarak with Der Hovsep.

Feast of the Assumption and Name Day of Our Church

On August 13 St. Mary observed the feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother of God, the Blessing of Grapes and the Name Day of our Church.

Fr. Hovsep celebrated the Badarak, which was presided by Archbishop Vicken Aykazian. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Archbishop Aykazian and Fr. Hovsep performed the "Blessing of Grapes" service and blessed the "madagh".

Later that afternoon a luncheon was held during which parishioners Armenak and Lusin Simon were honored with the Pastoral Certificate of Recognition for their Dedication and Love to St. Mary. We were also privileged by the presence of the Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the United States H.E. Mr. Grigor Hovhannissian, and the Permanent Representative of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic to the United States Mr. Robert Avetisyan. The day's program also included a special musical performance by Mrs. Karine Muradyan.
ACYOA Seniors had a great time hosting a joint ACYOA Seniors and Juniors Day on August 26 at the ballpark watching the Nationals beat the Mets 9-4! A total of seventeen people attended, and celebrated Faith Day at the baseball game.

On September 9, the Women's Guild had their first potluck luncheon meeting after the summer break. Twenty-one members attended. After the opening prayer, Der Hayr welcomed everyone and gave the devotional message of faith and encouragement. Four members won surprise door prizes prepared by Sona Bakirci.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Nadya Chubukian, and a Membership Dues update by Suzanne Harutunian. Ani Derderian introduced the proposed Event Calendar planned by the Executive Committee for the remainder of 2017, plus some new ideas/activities:
1. Secrets of Grandma's Cooking Classes
2. Stretch and Exercise Classes
3. Guest Speakers, and
4. Spiritual Fitness Meetings (Spirit Fit).

The Chairman stressed the importance of members participating and volunteering for the upcoming Fall Food Festival and donation of baked goods for the Bake and White Elephant tables.

Hripsimeh Sivaslian reviewed the Fall Food Festival Workshop Schedule with the members and requested workshop volunteers and chairs.

Members enjoyed socializing and partaking in a variety of the luncheon fare.
The ACYOA Juniors kicked off the year with a Pool Party and BBQ on September 9. Over 30 teens and parents gathered at the home of Paul and Lucy Murad to enjoy burgers, swimming and plenty of fun! Parents also got in on the fun and were able to gather and plan activities for the upcoming semester. Teens also practiced their volleyball skills in preparation for the Oct. 6-9 Sports Weekend, held at St. Leon’s Church in Fairlawn, NJ. The ACOYA Juniors expressed their appreciation to the Murad Family - for their Christian love and spirit in opening their home and their hearts to the youth of our Church!

St. Mary’s ACYOA Seniors Executive Board met on September 10 to discuss plans for the year and appoint new positions. The newest addition to the Executive Board was Maral Arslanian, who moved to Washington, D.C. from Dallas, Texas and was a member of St. Sarkis Armenian Church. The new Executive Board positions: Chairman - Vasken Serpejian; Vice Chairman - Danielle Saroyan; Treasurer - Aram Tramblian; Recording Secretary - Simon Shahinian; and Corresponding Secretary - Maral Arslanian.
After the Badarak on September 17, an Anantasdan service (blessing of the fields) was conducted during which the processional cross was adorned with basil (a symbol of royalty) and the four corners of the church were blessed as a sign of the sanctification of the world. The association of the sweet-smelling plant with the celebration of this Feast was because basil in the early decades of Christianity was a symbol of royalty, befitting the Saviour who was crucified as a King.

Church traditions also preserve 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.

On September 24, St. Mary Church celebrated the 26th Anniversary of the Independence of our Homeland with a special prayer of thanksgiving for the Republic of Armenia, which took place after the Badarak.

Independence Day is an official holiday in Armenia. It commemorates the restoration of the Republic of Armenia in September 21, 1991, from Soviet rule. When the vote took place almost 95 percent of the qualified voters took part, and more than 99 percent of these voters said "Yes" to the having an independent, free, and self-governing state. Parishes of the Eastern Diocese also conducted the "Order of Thanksgiving Prayer of the Republic of Armenia."

Throughout the month of September our tireless Women's Guild members and volunteers conducted workshops and resembled a small army of expert cooks, preparing hundreds of items in the kitchen for the 69th Annual Fall Food Festival. The Women's Guild of St. Mary spent a tremendous amount of time and effort preparing authentic Armenian dishes from recipes that have long been a part of our heritage.
St. Mary had been conducting special fundraising events and plate collections during the month of September to provide relief to the people of St. Kevork Armenian Church in Houston, TX.

A beautiful fundraising concert of Armenian folk dance by Ani Nishanian took place at St. Mary Church on October 1. Parishioners and friends gathered to enjoy the elegant Armenian Dances performed by little Ani and at the same time to support St. Kevork Armenian families in Texas affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Our heartfelt appreciation went out to those who provided support and gave their generous donations and special thanks to Ani for her inspirational creativity and talent to dance in order to raise funds to support the victims of the hurricane.

Our church members’ tireless energy and countless efforts made the 69th Armenian Fall Food Festival a huge success. We were blessed with wonderfully sunny days and warm weather so that our food loving community could enjoy eating outdoors.

We know the commitment was not just about the 4 day weekend as all began giving long before the festival with planning, shopping, preparing, baking, and cooking.

All of our volunteers and supporter’s hard work and devotion helped St. Mary continue its long and enduring legacy and beautiful traditions of our religious and national heritage, community and Christian servitude, with love and reverence towards our Church.
On Oct. 6-9 the St. Mary ACYOA Juniors participated in the ACYOA Juniors Fall Sports Weekend at St. Leon Armenian Church in Fairlawn, NJ. Over 250 teens from churches across the Diocese participated in basketball, volleyball and various other competitive activities. The St. Mary teams participated in co-ed volleyball and girl's basketball, lead by Coach Mike Sahakian. The weekend culminated with a dance on Saturday night and a closing Banquet and Awards Ceremony on Sunday evening. Special appreciation went out to chaperones Mrs. Hasmik Keurian and Coach Michael Sahakian who made this an exceptional weekend for our youth. Many thanks also to Ms. Becky Baghdasarian and Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan for organizing and coordinating the trip.

As part of the celebration of the cultural month in October, St. Mary Women’s Guild organized a screening of the newly filmed movie "They Shall Not Perish." Parishioners and friends gathered at St. Mary church hall on October 22 to watch the film about the Near East Relief and the heroic American response to the refugee crisis during the Armenian Genocide. The film featured the stories of American diplomats, missionaries and relief workers who, as witnesses to the Armenian Genocide, responded to a call to action and mobilized the largest non-governmental international humanitarian movement undertaken by American citizens. Motivated by nothing more than a moral sense of duty, these man and women - among them industrialists, ambassadors, teachers nurses, advertisers and Presidents - helped bring care and comfort to millions of suffering refuges in extremely harrowing circumstances. The movie was both emotional and educational and was enjoyed by those who attended.
"New Names of Armenia", a group of talented young musicians performed on October 29 to a capacity crowd at Landon School Auditorium located in Bethesda, Maryland. Their repertoire was a mix of classical and Armenian folk music, showcasing their talent as Armenia’s cultural representatives. The audience’s delight was shown in many standing ovations but if there was a moment of awe, it would was the two young kanon players. Every hand stroke was precisely synchronized; every rhythm was in unison.

The event was organized by Armenian Community Event Planners (ACEP). ACEP, established in the aftermath of the Centennial Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide held in Washington in May 2015, comprised of members of St. Mary and Soorp Khatch Churches.
St. Mary Church ACYOA Juniors lived by the words of our Lord, "so in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you" (Matt. 7:12), as on November 5 they gathered to prepare 200 bagged lunches for the homeless.

The charitable, collaborative and joyful team building activity fortified our Juniors relationships among themselves as they shared a common goal of helping those in need within our community. An assortment of pretzels, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, cookies and apples were bagged then dropped off at the Community for Creative Non-Violence in Washington, DC.

We thanked our ACYOA Juniors, parents and supporters for this heartfelt effort of giving back.

The Ararat Avak Society presented and served a lavish and delectable Fall Luncheon on November 3 at St. Mary Church, which was attended by over 50 guests. Special thanks went to Takuhi Hallajian, Mari Shafakian, and Eva Shafakian for preparing and donating the Fall Luncheon in memory of their beloved parents. The program also showcased a special faith-based jewelry presentation for those who had interest in making some early Christmas purchases.

The St. Mary Ararat Avak Society is a fellowship of church members and friends who engage in social, cultural, and educational activities. The organization’s tireless efforts are dedicated toward serving the church community with occasional and holiday luncheons.
Making Mahs

This month our devoted team of "Mahs Bakers" gathered within St. Mary Church's kitchen to make mahs. Our special thanks went to Lola Pickering, Gulbahar Ozkayan, Vercin Bolat, 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. 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).

Advent Bible Study

Our four session Advent Bible Study occurred on Tuesdays in November and December and took place in the St. Mary Church Hall. This annual series study was entitled "Living the Gospel of Christ: Journeying Through Advent with the People of the Nativity" and concentrated on the experiences of different figures involved in the Nativity Story. The Bible study took place at St. Mary Church and attracted some 20 participants who came together to make the celebration of the season of Advent more meaningful by preparing their hearts and minds for Christmas.

Women's Guild Thanksgiving Luncheon

On November 19, the St. Mary Women's Guild served a sumptuous holiday meal to over 50 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, whose gracious hosting is enjoyed by all and appreciated.
National Geographic’s newest exhibition is unlike any other. The viewer is virtually transported to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem for an immersive 3-D journey to learn about the unique restoration effort of this important site. This iconic church, which is over 1,700 years old, has suffered from the effects of age, weather, earthquakes, fires, and human conflict. This historic project was focused on the tomb of Christ, or the Holy Edicule, located in the center of the church and believed by many to be the site of Jesus’ burial tomb.

A team of engineers and preservation architects were hard at work, securing this important site for future generations. In the exhibition, one can see how the remote sensing technology can be animated into renderings, creating high-resolution 3-D digital images and is a truly immersive experience. Fr. Hovsep participated in the exhibition preview followed by a private luncheon with the exhibition’s curator, archaeologist Dr. Fredrik Hiebert.

"Unity Concert" in Washington

Washington, DC’s National Cathedral held a "Concert for Unity" on November 13, where civic and religious leaders gathered to hear a program built around Russian artists performing their own national music.

The Rev. Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan, pastor of St. Mary Church, attended the concert representing Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian. He also joined a symposium on "cultural engagement" that preceded the concert.
St. Mary Church celebrated its 85th Anniversary on December 10, with a special luncheon and program after the Divine Liturgy. More than 150 parishioners attended the event, including special guests His Eminence Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, Ambassador Grigor Hovhannissian, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the United States, and NKR Representative Robert Avetisyan. Master of Ceremonies Mike Sahakian welcomed the audience and expertly lead them through the program. Parish Council Chairman Onnik Sivaslian also welcomed the guests and thanked them for sharing the special occasion with their parish family. During the luncheon Simon Shahinian presented slides and recounted his glorious experience during a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Fr. Hovsep. Remarks were made by Ambassador Grigor Hovhannissian, NKR Representative Robert Avetisyan and Archbishop Vicken Aykazian. The Honorees, Mr. and Mrs. David and Leda Zenian, were recognized by their family as they spoke about their lifetime achievements, personally and professionally, and their many contributions to the Armenian community. Fr. Hovsep presented Mr. and Mrs. Zenian with an award and cake to celebrate their commitment and lives with all.

St. Mary ACYOA Juniors had their Christmas get together on December 9. The Sahakian family graciously opened their doors and hearts to some 15 ACYOA members and their parents for a wonderful time. The evening began by a Home Blessing service with the participation of ACYOA members and a short message by Der Hovsep. The day was filled with the spirit of celebration of this wonderful time of year and joyous season. Our ACYOA members played games, exchanged Christmas gifts and socialized together throughout the evening. Our heartfelt thanks went to Mike and Catherine Sahakian for graciously hosting the event.
The Annual Women's Guild Christmas party was held on December 9 at “Nantucket’s Reef” restaurant in Rockville, Maryland. The event was attended by 22 members. Yn. Kalayjian gave the prayer before the luncheon meal. The Chairman gave a short presentation reviewing the years' 15 WG events and thanked the members for their support. The Chairman also announced that the WG had transferred $22k to the Parish Council for 2017. Special thanks were given to Der Hayr and Yn. Jennifer for their continuous support. After lunch, Christmas carols were sung and door prizes awarded.

On December 17 the St. Mary Shnorhali School held its Annual Christmas Pageant. Our students beautifully performed the Nativity Story in its fullness. All the participants, from preschool to high school, over 70 students in total, had a role to play in the performance. In addition to the beautifully and tastefully implemented Nativity performance, the students also recited Biblical verses, chanted Christmas carols in both Armenian and English, and performed parts from Badarak.

Sincere appreciation went to the talented Hantess Directors, Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan and Rebecca Bagdasarian and the entire Sunday School staff, including Eric Ashbaian, Danielle Saroyan, Maro Hovhanisyansyan, Michael Sahakian, Melineh Pertosyan, Greg Kumkumian and Svetlana Hovhannisyan. The Sunday school staff was especially grateful to all the parents and our beloved principal, Mr. Harry Tchetchenian for his continued leadership and tireless efforts to help make the Shnorhali School a welcome and loving place of learning for all children and families in our community.
On December 31, Der Hovsep blessed the pomegranates after celebrating Badarak. For the first time in history in 2015, the Supreme Patriarch of the Armenian Church, His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of all Armenians, introduced a new service for the Blessing of the Pomegranates, one of the seven biblical species of fruits and grains at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. For centuries, the pomegranate has been woven into Armenian architecture, cuisine, art, manuscripts, literature and liturgical vestments as it represents to Armenians life, fertility, and abundance. After Der Hovsep's blessing the fruit was distributed to the congregation with a wish to bring prosperity and abundance into the new year.
JANUARY 2017
January 22
For the Soul of: Hrant Dink
Requested by: Der Hayr and St. Mary Parish Council
January 29
For the Souls of: Arousiag Boursalian and Peter Boursalian
Requested by: Noubar Boursalian & Linda Boursalian

FEBRUARY 2017
February 5
For the Souls of: Laura Mkrtchyan, Galina Kanzapetova-Melkumyan
Requested by: Vache Sarukhanyan, Marina Sarukhanyan, Irina Tashjian, Ruzanna Surina
February 12
For the Soul of: Aleksan Khanjian
Requested by: Ararat Stepanyan, Sandro Khanjian and Family
February 19
For the Soul of: Arshaluys Cekci (40 Days)
Requested by: Mr. Onnik Cekci - Husband, Mrs. Talin Arjona - Daughter, Mr. & Mrs. Bianca and Philips - Daughter and Son-in-Law, Mr. Tamar Cekci - Daughter, Mr. & Mrs. Haygaz Cancikian - Brother and Sister-in-Law, Mrs. Nazeni Kesisian - Sister, Mrs. Eva Shafakian - Sister, Mr. & Mrs. Onnik Cancikian - Brother and Sister-in-Law, Mr. & Mrs. Setrak Mikaelian - Sister and Brother-in-Law and their Families

MARCH 2017
March 5
For the Soul of: Ghazaros Ghazarian (1 Year)
Requested by: Hasmig Ghazarian, Siran and Hagop Levonian, Christine and Rob Gresham.
For the Soul of: Vahe Baladouni, Ph.D. (40 Days)
Requested by: Billie Salisbury Baladouni, D.Min, BCC (Wife), Janig Baladouni Hear (Daughter), Vahan Baladouni (Son), Fr. Yeprem and Yn. Judy Kelegian.
March 12
For the Soul of: Nariman Assatourian (40 Days)
Requested by: Aghavne Assatourian (Spouse), Vazgen Assatourian (Son),
Ofelya Assatourian (Daughter-in-Law), Lillian Assatourian (Granddaughter), Annais Assatourian (Granddaughter), Eileen Assatourian (Granddaughter), Dr. Karineh Assatourian (Daughter), Hamlet Abnos (Son-in-Law), Osheen Abnos (Grandson), Ani Abnos (Granddaughter).

March 19
For the Soul of: Jack Andonian (25 Years)
Requested by: Clara Andonian and Family.
For the Soul of: Robert George (11 Years)
Requested by: Doris George (Wife), Bob George (Son), Merlene Kovac (Daughter), Lara George (Daughter).
For the Souls of: Jean Berberian, Krikor and Hripsime Berberian, Tatos and Hripsime Bazoian, Vartan Papazian, Alice Papazian, Krikor Mahakian
Requested by: Mr. Stephan Berberian, Dr. Brenda Berberian, Ms. Debora Berberian.

March 26
For the Soul of: Dr. Albert Z. Kapikian
Requested by: Catherine Kapikian (Wife), Albert Kapikian (Son), Thomas Kapikian (Son), Gregory Kapikian (Son).

April 2017
April 2
For the Souls of: The Armenian Servicemen and Civilians who fell during the Four Day War in Artsakh last year
Requested by: The Office of Artsakh in USA, Der Hovsep and the St. Mary Parish Council.
For The Soul of: Angela Bardizbanian (3 years)
For the Soul of: Nariman Assatourian (40 Day)
Requested by: Aghavne Assatourian (Spouse), Vazgen Assatourian (Son), Ofelya As-satourian (Daughter in-Law), Lillian Assatourian (Granddaughter), Annais Assatourian (Granddaughter), Eileen Assatourian (Granddaughter), Dr. Karineh Assatourian (Daughter), Hamlet Abnos (Son in-Law), Osheen Abnos (Grandson), Ani Abnos (Granddaughter).

For the Soul of: Varoujan Yenokian
Requested by: Yenokian Family.
April 30
For the Soul of: Raphael Couyoumdjian who passed away in Meudon, France (40 days)
Margearite Babakhian who passed away in Grenoble, France (1 year)
Requested by: Anna Yousoufian (Sister), Hrant Yousoufian (Brother-in-Law), Elise Yousoufian (Niece).
For the Soul of: Khatchig Nazarian
Requested by: Ararat Stepanyan, Daron Bedrobian and Family Members.

May 2017
May 14
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 Hovsep.
May 21
For the Souls of: Yervant Missirian (2nd Year), Missak Missiran, Garbis and Suzan Garyan, Deceased Members of Missirian, Joukhian, Kevorkian, Sahakyan, Shirinian and Garyan Families
Requested by: Sahakyan, Missirian, Mahoney and Garyan, Bartev and Families.
For the Soul of: Sofie N. Demirjian (3 years)
Requested by: Vartan Zenian (Son), Arda Zbelt (Daughter), Zarmine Evereklian and Family.
For the Soul of: Heros Grigoryan
Requested by: Grigoryan Family.
May 28
For the Soul of: William Ervant Doctor Hekimian (Benefactor of the St. Mary’s WED Scholarship fund)
Requested by: WED Scholarship Community, St. Mary Parish Council and Der Hovsep.
For the Soul of: Gharapet Carro Nishanian
Requested by: Vazrik and Nunik Nishanian (Son), Artemis and George Calomiris (Daughter) and Azad Nishanian (Wife).
JUNE 2017

June 4

For the Souls of: The Deceased Members of St. Mary Women's Guild

For the Souls of: Ardavazd Harutunian
Requested by: Mr. & Mrs. David and Gild Andonian and Family, Mrs. Yeghiabet Harutunian and Family.

For the Soul of: Linda Esther Kumkumian (40 Days)
Requested by: Kumkumian and Schweitzer families.

For the Soul of: Horen Panosyan (40 Days)
Requested by: Arpine Panosyan (Daughters), Aris Cubuk (Son-in-law) & Alis Cubuk (Daughter), Garbis Chubukian (Son-in-law) & Nadya Chubukian (Daughter).

June 25

For the Souls of: Maryam Derderian, Arshaluys and Armenak Afaryan, Narin and Baron Delikahya
Requested by: Harutyun Derderian, Melkon Yercanik Delikahya, Simon Erdoghan, Setrak and Mari Derian.

For the Soul of: Cynthia Anush Pickering (40 days)
Requested by: Lola Kechyan Pickering (Mother)

For the Soul of: Araxie Janiachian
Requested by: Avedis & Anna Seferian, and Seferian family.

JULY 2017

July 16

For the Soul of: Lida Shahbazyan
Requested by: Varduhi Shahbazyan (Daughter), Ardavazd Avetisyan, David and Tigran Avetisyan (Grandchildren).

July 30

For the Soul of: Haig Ellian
Requested by: Ellian Family, Mulvihill Family and Jenia Kazanjian.

For the Soul of: Lena Karapetyan (1 Year)
Requested by: Ruben & Tamar Karapetyan, Der Hovsep & Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan and Family.

AUGUST 2017

August 6

For the Soul of: Rev. Fr. Vertanes Avak Kahana Kalayjin (1 year)
Requested by: Diramayr Zabel Kalayjian (Mother), Yn. Anahid Kalayjian (Wife), Dr. Zaven and Edita Kalajjian and Children Jirair, Hrak, Pargev, and Zorair (Son and Daughter-in-Law and Grandchildren), Berj Kalayjian (Son), Der Avedis and Yn. Karen Kalayjian and Children Aram and Arev (Son and Daughter-in-Law and Grandchildren), Zarmine Boghosian (Sister), Missak Boghosian (Husband of Zarmine) and their Children and Families, Kevork Kalayjian (Brother), Maral Kalayjian (Wife of Kevork) and their Children and Families, Dr. Anie Kalayjian (Sister), Mr. Vazken Kalayjian (Brother), and Jacqueline (Wife) and their Children and Families.

For the Soul of: Araxie Janiachian (40 days)
Requested by: Seferian Family.

For the Soul of: Nazik Vardanyants
Requested by: Hasmik and Haykuhi Malumian (Daughters), Helen and Mike Keshishian (Granddaughter and Son-in-Law).

August 20

For the Souls of: Armenak Boyajian, Keghanoush Boyajian and Sograd Boyajian (9 years)
Requested by: Molly Boyajian.

For the Soul of: Badrik Bostan
Requested by: Bostan and Romero Families.

August 27

For the Souls of: Sirvart Yeghissian, Yervant Bahadurian and George Bahadurian
Requested by: Patricia Yeghissian and Family.

For the Soul of: Mesrob Yeghiasarian (Sarian)
Requested by: Anna Yeghiasarian, Esq., Dr. Lara Yeghiasarian, Rosalin (Andrew) Panek, Grandfather of Diana and Isabel Panek (Germany), Brother of Rubina Faulkner, Peproneh Yeghiasarian, Levon (Hermineh) Yeghiasarian (California), Arick (Nina) Yeghiasarian (Australia), Uncle of Cord Faulker and Rene Faulkner-McDonagh, Armen and Anahid Yeghiasarian, Peggy Spratling and Danny Yeghiasarian.
September 24  
**For the Soul of: Berjouhi Kazanjian**  
Requested by: Ani Kazanjian, Larry Law, Jennie and Peter Law

**For the Soul of: Hariknaz Ozbenian**  
Requested by: Zadik Ozbenian (Husband), Maryam and Misak Mermer, Garo and Juliette Ozbenian, Janser and Jacqueline Ozbenian  
Grandchildren: Aras, Anayis, John, Christina, and Rita

**For the Souls of: All those who sacrificed their lives for the liberation and freedom of our Homeland, Armenia**  
Requested by: Der Hayr and the Parish Council of St. Mary

**OCTOBER 2017**

October 15  
**For the Souls of: Elmas Santourian—Great Grandmother, Dickran and Nevart Halajian—Grandparents, Hovaness and Nazenig Cherishian—Grandparents, John and Serapce Halajian—Parents, Karinig and Berjouhi Halajian—Aunt and Uncle, Maryann Kinoian—Sister, Steve Cherishian—Sister, Steve Cherishian—Uncle.**  
Requested by: Michael and Nancy Kolenick

October 29  
**For the Souls of: Carmen Tolidjian (Mother) 1st year, Sarkis Tolidjian (Father) 30th year, Beatrice and Tavit Tolidjian (Grandparents), Armine, Kevork and Valentina Pilibossian (Grandparents and Aunt), Hripsime, Takuhi and Mgrdich Papazian**  
Requested by: Beatrice Tolidjian - Daughter of Carmen and Sarkis Tolidjian, Armand Tolidjian - Son of Carmen and Sarkis Tolidjian, Jennifer Tolidjian - Granddaughter of Carmen and Sarkis Tolidjian, Christo Marinov - Son-in-Law of Carmen and Sarkis Tolidjian, Stephanie Marinova - Granddaughter of Carmen and Sarkis Tolidjian

**For the Souls of: Vagarshak Kortoian (40 days), Sally Kortoian (10 years)**  
Requested by: William and Nora Maghrablian.

**NOVEMBER 2017**

November 5  
**For the Soul of: Dr. John Berberian**

Requested by: Elen Berberian(Wife), Aline and Gregoire Minassian (Sister and Brother-in-Law), Laurent and Family, Nadgarian and Family (Nieces), Alger and Family, Mercier and Family (Nephews and Nieces).

November 26  
**For the Souls of: Alexan Hasar, Mayram Hasar, Akop Hasar (4 years) and Kiryakos Bolek.**  
Requested by: Anna Bolek, Asadour and Janet Tufekci.

**DECEMBER 2017**

December 3  
**For the Soul of: Herman Bagdasaryan**  
Requested by: Mr. & Mrs. Vartkes & Ani Keshishian (Sister & Brother-in-Law)  
Mrs. Alis Sahakyan (Mother) Talar, Yeprem, Arlene and Shaunt Festekjian (Niece & Family) Lilian, Peter, Alexander and Christina Festekjian (Niece & Family)

December 10  
**On the Occasion of the 85th Anniversary of Our Church we remember and pray for the Souls of our Dedicated Parishioners. And the Victims of the 1988 Earthquake in Armenia.**

December 17  
**For the Souls of: Gulbenk Sivaslian, and deceased members of Sivaslian and Barsamyan Families**  
Requested by: Mrs. Ojen Sivaslian (Wife), Nadya (Daughter) and Arut Koseian, Onnik (Son) and Hripsime Sivaslian, Artur (Son) and Beverly Sivaslian, Grandchildren Aret and Maria Koseian, Arlet, John and Levon Beckham, Tamar and Maral Sivaslian, Armen, Nadya and Seline Sivaslian  
For the Soul of: Khachadur Hakobyan  
Requested by: Naira (Daughter) and Mike Tashjian

December 31  
**For the Souls of: David Montgomery and Sarkees Derhagopian**  
Requested by: Mark Krikorian.
Illuminated Armenian Gospel with Eusebian canons, 1609, miniature by Mesrop Khzanetsi
**ALICE MARGOSIAN**  
January 3, 2017  
Beloved Mother of: Russell Margosian, Sherry Margosian Stoutner and Jeffrey Stoutner of Clinton, Iowa. Beloved Grandmother of: Ivy Margosian of Charlotte, NC, Duncan Stoutner, Nicole Alice's Alessandra all of Scottsdale, AZ.

**ARSALOS CEKCI**  
January 10, 2017  

**HOREN PANOSYAN**  
April 21, 2017  

**CYNTHIA ANUSH PICKERING**  
May 12, 2017  

**KEVORK KESISOGLU**  
May 16, 2017  

**MESROB YEGHIASSARIAN (SARIAN)**  
July 16, 2017  
Beloved Father of: Anna Yeghiasarian, Esq.; Dr. Lara Yeghiasarian; Rosalin (Andrew) Panek. Beloved Grandfather of: Diana and Isabel Panek (Germany), Brother of Rubina Faulkner, Peproneh Yeghiasarian, Levon (Herminhe) Yeghiasarian (California), Arick (Nina) Yeghiasarian (Australia). Beloved Uncle of: Cord Faulker and Rene Faulkner-McDonagh, Armen and Anahid Yeghiasarian, Peggy Spratling and Danny Yeghiasarian.

**DR. JOHN BERBERIAN**  
September 26, 2017  

**AGHUNIK GHALAYAN**  
December 20, 2017  
JANUARY
January 28, 2017
Zareh Melkonian
Parents: Raffi and Maria Melkonian
Godparents: Tigran and Maral Avetisyan

MARCH
March 26, 2017
Reina Mari Derian
Daughter of Arman Derian and Viktoriga Tarskaya
Godparents: Garin S. Derian and Melisa Erdogan.

APRIL
April 25, 2017
Sanaz Mohammadi
Daughter of Hassan H Mohammadi and Jasaman Avni Rahani
Godparents: Sebu Megherditchian and Emma Megherditchian.

April 29, 2017
Lucine Amal Hawit
Daughter of Nader Samer Hawit and Sophia Talene Shahverdian Hawit
Godparents: Oshin Panos and Roula Amal Hawit.

MAY
May 27, 2017
Isaac Alexander Loosararian
Daughter of Jake and Bethary Loosararian
Godparents: Peter Sulaiman and Katie Loosararian.

JUNE
June 3, 2017
Jacklyn Marie Guiragossian
Daughter of Jack Bedros Guiragossian and Annie Herepsema Guiragossian
Godparents: George Guiragossian and Kareen Guiragossian.

June 23, 2017
Razieh Murad
Daughter of Mohsen Bagherpour and Marzieh Saadati
Godparents: Paul Armand Murad and Lucy Ohanian Murad.

June 24, 2017
Aria Natalia Morais
Daughter of David Nogueira Morais and Taline Tahmassian Morais
Godparents: Vahe Arshak Tahmassian and Kelly Fitzgerald Shannon

JULY
July 8, 2017
Eva May Visscher
Daughter of Gregory Armen Visscher and Isis Hill Visscher
Godparents: Serjik Sogomonian and Juliet Seghmon.

July 29, 2017
Ryan Ambrose
Son of Stephen Ambrose and Karen Ambrose
Godfather: Harout Doukmajian.

AUGUST
August 11, 2017
Victoriya Tarskaya
Daughter of Margarita Taris
Godparents: Melkon & Yerchanik Delikahya.

August 19, 2017
Lucina Baloyan
Son of Aramayis Baloyan and Arpine Petrosyan
Godparents: John Craig and Mane Manukyan Craig.
SEPTEMBER
September 16, 2017
Dylan Rose Gulugian
Daughter of Christopher and Elizabeth Gulugian
Godparents: David Gulugian and Kimberly Crane

September 30, 2017
Vincent Rand Toufighi
Son of Yashar Hassan Toufighi and Tamar Boghosian
Godparents: Raffi and Diane Boghosian

NOVEMBER
November 4, 2017
Daniella Alexandra Oliver
Daughter of Piter A. Oliver and Rita Istepanian
Godparents: Harootyun Istepanian

November 4, 2017
Levon Lombardy Beckham
Son of John Lombardy Beckham and Arlet Vartouhi Koseian-Beckham
Godparents: Aret Koseian and Maria Christina Aghguiguian

November 18, 2017
Thalia Marianna Shafakian
Daughter of Rudi and Rita Shafakian
Godparents: Rafi and Kristin Festekjian

DECEMBER
December 4, 2017
Milena Oganesyan
Daughter of Rafael and Marina Oganesyan
Godfather: Alex Ambartsumian

December 16, 2017
Nishan Sarkis Huang
Son of: Zhen Feng and Ani Danielian Huang
Godparents: Joseph and Ashley Piatt
WEDDINGS

APRIL
April 30, 2017
Lauren Diane Garry and Robert Edward Boggio
Parents: John Garry and Carol Garry, Robert Boggio and Mercedes Agraz
Best Man: Victor Jaramillo
Maid of Honor: Jessica Garry

MAY
May 12, 2017
Sanaz Mohammedi and Raymond Sinanian
Parents: Norik Sinanian and Nora Narasarian, Hasan H Mohammadi and Tasaman A Rhani
Best Man: Tadeh Khodaverdi
Maid of Honor: Schermin Smiley

May 21, 2017
Jbeed Melinda Tufeckgian and Jude Brian Muso
Parents: James Muso and Arlene Willey, Aghajan Tufeckgian and Gulbahar Tufeckgian
Best Man: Asadour Tufeckgian
Maid of Honor: Denchali Carnevale

JUNE
June 2, 2017
Aret Koseian and Maria Christina Aghguiguian
Parents: Arut Koseian and Nadya Sivali Koseian, Ohannes Aghguiguian and Chouchan Talahnian Aghguiguian
Best Man: John Beckham
Maid of Honor: Lara Kasparian

OCTOBER
October 1, 2017
Sebouh Kasbarian and Sandra Derminassian
Parents: Kevork and Sona Kasbarian, Wilhem and Armineh Derminassian
Best Man: Areg Abrahamian
Maid of Honor: Liya Hoffman

September 23, 2017
Ryan Edward Ambros & Zepur Nichole Nakashian
Best Man: Kevin Ambrose
Maid of Honor: Natalie Nakashian

September 24, 2017
Arman Derain & Viktoriya Tarskaya
Parents: Setrak and Mari Derian, Ily Tarskiy and Margarita Taris.
Best Man: Garin Derian
Maid of Honor: Melissa Erdogan

October 21, 2017
Sevan Karakaya and Tatiana Dolottseva
Parents: Vahan Karakaya and Vahanush Horhor, Valeri Dolottsev and Marina Proshytinskaya
Best Man: Kevork Horhor
### 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
- Gueriguiian, 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
- Kumkumian, K Gregory and Katherine
- Khrimian, Ashot and Susanna
- Mesrobian, Ara
- Mulvihill, Jason and Christina
- Mnatzkanian, Peter
- Ozbenian, Janser & Jacqueline
- Pashanyan, 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
- Abraham and Elise Bodurian, Ohanes Sahakian
- Armenak Boyajian, Keghanoush Boyajian and Sograd Boyajian
- Mike Seferian (Grandfather) Gerorge Dudgjian (Uncle)
- Vahan and Ghazarian
- Zepur and Arkan Hatchikian
- Loved Ones
- 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
- Yazmajaxian, Kechyan and Pickering families
- Loved Ones
- Ohannes Sahakian and Arshavir Ekizian
- Dr. Paul Shahinian

---

CHRISTMAS YUGHAKIN DONATIONS 2017
Shamigian, Chuck
Shahverdian, Zakar and Par
Stoutner, B Jeffrey
Tashjian, Mike & Naira
Witherspoon, Robert

Mary Shamigian and Jackie Nishanian
Loved Ones
Alice Margosian
Kevork Megerdich Tashjian, Khatchadur Hakobyan
Mari and Hagop Ekmekciyan

Donated by:
Breg. Gen & Mrs. A.J Kaehn Jr, USAF
Baldadian, Dolores

In Honor of:
The men and women of the armed forces of the United States
Jack & Jean Babashanian

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Donated by:
Breg. Gen & Mrs. A.J Kaehn Jr, USAF
Shahinian, Jelalian Grace
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 Yn.Zarouhi Jelalian
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 Khachaturia
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.
Donated by:
- Andonian, David, Gilda & Family
- Alexandrian, Edvik & Lena
- Alexander Edward & Roseann
- Arabian Lawrence & Janet
- Asdourian Paul
- Asadoorian Family
- Avedisian Ara & Maggie
- Ayandjian, Anahid
- Balian Marie
- Balian Rita
- Barsoumian Vergine
- Baldadian, Dolores
- Berberian, Stephen & Brenda
- Bodurian Family
- Boyajian, Molly
- Bolat Anto
- Bezdikian, Levon
- Delikahya Melkon
- Der Bogosian, Dianne
- Derderian, George & Anna
- Garabedian, Elizabeth
- Ghazarian, Kevork & Maria
- Gulian, Liliane
- Guerigian Family, John and Ida
- Hagopian, Haig & Anahid
- Hutchinson Family
- Ignatius Paul R
- Kapikian, Catherine
- Kazanjian, law family
- Karahisar, Raffi & Kathy
- Krikorian, Helen
- Krikorian, Jacqueline & Hutchinson, Stephen
- Khrimian, Ashot
- Koudoussian, Rita & Haikouhi

In Loving Memory of:
- Jack Andonian
- The loved ones of Alexandrian and Koudoussian families
- Mr. & Mrs. Miredjian, Minasian
- Mr. & Mrs. John, Alexanian
- Yerchanig, Bolat
- John & Diana, Asdourian
- Herman, Carson, Eliza, Alynakanian, Manuk
- Matikyan, Ron, Albertson
- Araksi, Prodromidis
- Kohar & Antranig, Avedisian
- Nubar, Y., Ayandjian
- Vartkess, Balian
- Vartkess, M. Balian, Loving Husband
- Yenovk & Elissa & Araxie
- Mr. & Mrs. Jack & Jean, Babashanian
- Mr. & Mrs. Serge & Hossie, Baladadian
- Jean V., Berberian
- Abraham & Elise, Bodurian
- Dr. Ohannes, Sahakian
- Armenak, Boyajian, Keghanoush & Sograd, Boyajian
- Yersavik, Bolat
- Mr. & Mrs. Levon, Bezdikian
- Loved Ones
- Mahak, Zimrout, Der, Bogosian, Murad, Anna, Mutulian
- Aznive, Attarian, Mary, Petryk
- Drina, Kayaian
- Vahan & Vartouhie, Ghazarian
- Simon, Zepur & Gerard, Mahdessian, & Stephane, Gulan
- Loved Ones
- Loved Ones
- Robert & Evelyn, Hutchinson
- Loved Ones
- Dr. Albert, Kapikian
- Berjouhi, Kazanjian & Patriach, Karekin, Kazanjian
- Vahan & Hermine, Karahisar
- Marim & Vahan, Morookian
- Deenan, Krikorian
- George, Krikorian
- Parents
- The loved ones of Koudoussian & Balian families
Kumkumian John & Kathleen
MacArthur Anne
Mangigian Pauline
Magzian Albert Anna, louisa
Mermer Misak
Mesrobian Ara
Mulnhill Jason and Chrstina
Nalbandian Zohrab
Najarian Vrge & Mary
Pashayan H. Marie
Pakhchianian Angele
Pickering Lola
Price Lucy
Sakian Misha & Lucy

Sahakian Diane & Ara
Sayan Arsen and Catherine

Semerjian G. Hratch
Sekercan Jeannette
Shahinian Dean, Esq.
Shahinian Jelalian Grace
Shahverdian Zakar & Pat
Shamigian Charles
Sheldon R. Lipson & Maria Elena Salas De Lipson
Simchian Family
Tamzarian Alice
Tashjian Mike & Naira

Tatigian Sarkis
Terminassian, Vigen and Teresa
Teymouri Vazgen and Aida
Vartabedian Dorothy
Wartanian W. Ghevont
Yeghissian Patricia

**Donated by:**
Asadoorian Family

Avedisian Maggie and Ara
Balian Marie
Balian Rita
Kazanjian -law Family
Katac Migirdic
Koudossian, Rita and Haikouhi
Shahinian Dean, Esq
Sakian Misha and Lucy
Mulnhill Jason and Chrstina
Shahnazarian Hilda
Sheldon R. Lipson & Maria Elena Salas De Lipson

Loved Ones
Eli Takesian
Andrew & Melene Mangigian
Samuel H. & Victoria C. Magzianian
Gulden Mermer, Hariknaz Ozbenian
Mihran & Zabelle Mesrobian
Haig Ellian
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Papken Pakuchanian
Yazmajian & Pickering
Bert Oconner
Dr Arshag & Verkin Sarkissian
Ohan & Yeghisa Sakian
Arshavir Ekizian
Haygaz and Manouchag Pilikian
Kohar Themejian, Eddy Sayan
Sona Kohar Semerjian
Krikor & John David Sekercan
Ms. Lily Jelalian Rev. Fr Vartanes Kalayjian
Dr. Paul Shahinian, Rev.Fr. Vahan and Yn. Zarouhi Jalalian
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Florence Salas De Basquez De Belasco
Arshalous Drorian & Mack George
Kegham Tamzarian
Kevork Megerich Tashjian
Khatchadur Hagobyan
Gloria Tatigian
Hermine Terminassian
Hasmik Teymouri
Lauretta A. Small Otts
Loved Ones
Mary Bahadur & Shantoukt Yegissian

**In Honor of:**
Elmas Asadoorian, Nadya Cason, Anahid Ghazarian,
Kevork Ghazarian
Kohar & Antranig Avedisian
Rita Balian
Haikouhi Koudoussian
Clara Andonian
St. Mary Armenian Church
Marie Balian, Rita Balian
Yr. Anahid Kalayjian
Loved one
Sue Elian
Vartaei Rostamloo
Shant Markarian family
GRAPE & MADAGH BLESSING 2017
Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother-Of-God
Name Day of our Church

Donated by:
Andonian, David & Gilda
Asdourian Dr. Paul
Alexandrian Lena & Edvik
Badalians, Mary
Balian, Marie
Balian, Rita S.
courageous
Bodurian Family
Boyajian, Molly

Bozadjian Araxi
Delikahya, Melkon
Davis Robert L & Michelle R
Garabedian Levon
Ghazarian Kevork & Maria
Ghazarian Anahid

Hagopian Annie
Hekimian A Markrid
Kaehn J B.Gen & Mrs Albert
Karahisar, Raffi & Kathy
Kazanjian, Ani
Koudoussian, Rita

Kapikian Family
Krikorian, Helen
Kumkumian, John & Kathleen
Marachelian Alis
Mesrobian, Ara
Mermer Maryam
Melikian Armen
Maghrablian William and Nora
Ozbenian Zadik
Panosyan Arpine
Pashayani, Marie & Zohrab
Pickering, Lola

In Memory of:
Soghomon & Mariam Danelian, Asadur & Dirouhi Harutunian
Diania and John Asdourian
Mrs. Marie Missirian & Mrs. Marie Gabriel
Loved Ones
Marie Simonian, Gabriel, Krikorian and Missirian
Marie J. Simonian, Genocide survivor, College educated,
and accomplished woman
Abraham and Elise Bodurian and Dr. Ohanas Sahakian
Armenak Boyajian, Keghanoush Boyajian, Sograd
Boyajian
Bozadjian, Kolandjian, Igidbashian and Maghrablian
Families
Loved Ones
Dr. Norris Hekimian
Miharan and Makrouhe Garabedian
Vahan & Vartouie Ghazarian
Alyanakian, Hisarlian, Parounagian, Timaksian and
Carson
Marie Tabibian
M. Jerry Hekimian
Loved ones
Peruz Papazyan
Berjouhi Kazanjian, Patriarch Karekin Kazanjian
Marie Koudoussian Missirian, Marie Simonian, Marie
Ayanian Garbriel
Dr. Albert Kapikian
Mariam & Vahan Morookian
Loved ones
Mardirossian & Attarian dear ones
Mihran & Zabelle Mesrobian
Hariknaz Ozbenian
Loved Ones
Maghrablian and Demirdjian Familys
Hariknaz Ozbenian
Horen Panosyan
Joseph Pashayani & Garabed Nalbandian
Pickerings, Yazmajyan, Kecian families
Sahr David & Arpi  
Sayan, Arsen & Catherine  
Shahinian, Dean V. Esq & Mrs. Grace  
Shamigian Chuck  
Tashjian, Mike & Naira  
Teymouri Aida  
Varoujanian, Hartoun, Varoujan, Leeza  
Vartanian Malvina  
Zarookian Nejdeh

Maryam Zartatyan  
Loved ones  
Dr. Paul Shahinian  
Mary Shamigian, Jackie Nishanian  
Kevork Megerdich Tashjian and Khachadur Hakobyan  
Hrand Mailian  
Alice Varoujanian & Araxie Varoujanian & Family  
Marie Vartenian  
Loved ones

Donated by:
Alexandrian, Edvik & Lena  
Balian, Rita  
Dedeyan Elizabeth  
Davis Robert L & Michelle R  
Tahmazian Hnazant  
Katac Migirdic  
Kazanjian, Ani  
Koudoussian, Rita  
Maghrablian William and Nora

In Honor of:
Marie Balian  
Loving and special Sister-in-law Marie Balian  
Aida Keshishian  
Mrs. Betty Hekimian  
Aida Keshishian  
St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church  
Clara Andonian  
Marie Balian  
Jda Keshishian
DONATED BY:
Asadoorian, Family
Ayrandjian, Anahid
Balian, Mrs. Rita
Barsoumian, Vergine
Bodurian, Ed & Ellen
Chorbajian, Victor
Derderian, George and Anna
Dixun Nargizian, Pauline
Garabedian, Armen and Levon
Garabedian, Elizabeth
Ghazarian, Anahid and Taleen and Carson, Nadya
Gulan, Liliane and Varteny
Hunt, Mary and Gary
Kazanjian, Karnik and Alice
Katac, Migirdic and Family
Kazanjian Law, Family
Kapikian, Catherine
Karahisar, Kathy & Raffi
Koudoussian, Rita and Haikouhi
Krikorian Dr. Jacqueline
Kumkumian, John & Kathleen
Marashlians, Kevork and Wartiter
Melikian, Armenak and Helga
Ozbekian, Janser and Jaqueline
Ozkayan, Family
Sayan, Arsen Catherine
Sakayan, Harold & Victoria
Sahakian Lily, Daniel, Diaive, Ara and Ekizian Linda
Shahinian, Dean, Esq. & Shahinian, Grace Jelalian
Terzian, Family
Tahmazian, Hnazant and Family
Mac Arthur, Anne L.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:
Megerditch Asadoorian, Eliza Alnayakian, Manuk Matikyan,
Mariam Matikyan, Herman Carson, Ron Albertson
Mouradian, Ayrandjian, Families
Vartkess Balian (Philanthropist of the Church Hall)
Yenovk, Elissa Barsoumian and Araxie (Daughter)
Abraham and Elise Bodurian and Dr Ohannes Sahakian
Lila Chorbajian
Mr & Mrs Michal and Mary Petryk and Mr & Mrs John and Azniv Attarian
Andrew and Melene Nargizian
Mihran and Makrouhe Garabedian
Loves Ones
Alyanakian, Parounagian, Hisarlian, Timaksyan, Michigan
Carson and Albertson Families
Simon, Zepur, Gerard Mahdessian, Sveto Gulan
Mr. and Mrs John Perkins
Kazanjian and Sumbulian parents
Eleni Katac
Mrs. Berjouhi Kazanjian & Patriarch Karekin V. Kazanjian
Dr. Albert Z. Kapikian
Hermine & Vahan Karahisar
Jannette Gabriel (Cousin) Balian and Koudoussian loved ones
George K. Krikorian
Loved Ones
Dr. Nubar Berberian
Shmavon and Hriptsem Melikian
Loves Ones
Avedis, Atam and Paris Ozkayan
Haygaz and Manouchag Pilikian, Kohar Themejian Edy Sayan
Aram & Vartuhee Sakayan, Hovanes & Luisarpi Manoukian
Arshavir Ekizian
Rev. Fr Vahan Jelalian
Peter Terzian
Khatchadour Tahmazian, Khacher, Markerid and Krikor
Dedeyan and Nazeli Hovsepian
Eli Takesian
Mermer, Misak and Maryam
Mesrobian, Ara
Van Stavoren, William
Witherspoon, Robert and Hilda

Herkinaz Ozbenian
Mihran and Zabelle Mesrobian
Rosa Kouyoundjian Van Stavoren
Mari and Hagop Ekmekciyan

**DONATED BY:**
Kzanjian Law, Family
Wallace A. Mark

**IN HONOR OF:**
Mrs. Clara Andonian
Ms. Marilyn Ziver

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
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 4:00 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  
Onnik Sivaslian, Chair  
Garbis Chubukian, Vice-Chair  
Sarine Zenian, Secretary  
Mark Krikorian, Assistant Secretary  
Arthur Sivaslian, Adviser

DELEGATES  
Jack Guiragossian  
Sarine Zenian  
Onnik Sivaslian.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF  
Julie Avedikian  
Dee Vartabedian Rogers

ACYOA JUNIORS  
Rebecca Bagdasarian,  
Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan

ACYOA SENIORS  
Vasken Serpekian

ARARAT AVAK SOCIETY  
Takuhi Hallajian  
Mary Shafakian  
Eva Shafakian

BOARD OF STEWARDS  
Garbis Chubukian

CHOIR  
Edita Kalayjian

DEACONS MINISTRY  
Mark Krikorian

FOOD FESTIVAL COMMITTEE  
Onnik Sivaslian

GIFT SHOP  
Aline Guiragossian  
Rebecca Petrosian  
Takuhi Hallajian

SHNORHALI SCHOOL  
Harry Tchetchenian

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan

WOMEN’S GUILD  
Ani Derderian

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/HOEKHANKIST  
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, 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.

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 one 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