



ՓԱՐՈՍ ~ PAROS

SAINTS SAHAG & MESROB

ARMENIAN CHURCH

Սուրբ Սահակ եւ Սուրբ Մեսրոպ Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական Եկեղեցի

October/November/December 2022 ~ Fourth Quarter ~ Winter Edition
DER SHNORK STATE OF MIND (Formerly Pastor's Points of Light)



Merry Christmas and Happy New year.
 Christ is Born and Revealed.

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light” (Isa. 9:1).

What a joy for Christians on Christmas morning, whether you celebrate on December 25th, January 6th, January 7th or January 18th, to celebrate the Good News of the promised Saviour's Birth as

heralded every year in a glorious way to remind all of mankind that while we once walked in darkness the gloom of Adam's death has been dispersed with the Birth of the New Adam and the return to man's Communion with God in the infant child of Bethlehem from whose Holy face, gleam radiant beams of Love's Pure Light!!

While we bask in the glow of this festive season, however, we need to remind ourselves of the broken world that we live in, where the enemies of Christ continue to persist in the persecution of Good, both material and spiritual. We are after all, while not of the World, still sojourners living IN the world and as the Salt of the World, pray for her and seek by God's grace to be the preservative of it until He comes again.

My Advent thoughts, looking hopefully to the festive season, coincide with the reminder of brokenness and what seems to be hopelessness. In the shadow of December 7th, where we observed the 35th Anniversary of the devastating earthquake that hit Armenia, taking the lives of so many and devastating so many others, on December 13th, we learned of the renewed

hostilities of Azeri aggression which have resulted in a humanitarian crisis in Artsakh where water, gas and electricity have been cut off and no one or nation has offered to intercede. This situation still persists at this writing and once again, Armenians have been left alone as we cry out, looking both left and right and hoping that someone will hear us and perhaps, maybe this time, come to our help.

Again, following the devastation of the 44 day war in 2020, I observed the same outrage and the same hopeless cry of indignation and resignation. Everyone was left looking sideways, dumb founded, hopelessly looking across the horizontal plane of humanity with no help in sight. At the time, I thought to myself, “what if we, as we ought to have, looked up instead of to our left and right?” We are after all a **holy nation consecrated to God's true Son** from the beginning , a **nation of peoples reborn from the font of Baptism where Jesus came and appeared in 301AD**. Rather than looking to politicians or nations, who have their own interests in mind and often fail, we should be looking up and crying, “Lord have Mercy!!” Or, do we in fact believe that God can respond to our plea? If we are slow to answer, let's just examine our hearts and minds. Do we believe that Christ is Born? Do we believe that Christ suffered, died and was buried? Do we believe in his three day burial and resurrection? Do we actually believe that Jesus will come again according to his promise in order to raise the dead and to create a new heaven and new earth? If not, then we do well to look at politicians, whose lies, deficiencies and false promises have eluded and deceived us from the beginning. Or else, if we are like our ancestors who encountered Christ centuries ago and sought Communion with him in the sanctuary and birthplace of our souls, we can be true to our faithful legacy and trust in the Lord. We are a small community in Rhode Island. We cannot change the world, but we can change, we can repent from the darkness and hopelessness of sorrow and rather than

CALENDAR

JANUARY 2023

- Thursday Jan 5 – Eve of Theophany 6:00pm.
- Friday Jan 6 – Feast of Theophany Badarak 6:00pm
- Sunday 8 - Armenian Christmas Luncheon following Badarak
- Sunday 15 - Family Skating Outing with Der Shnork
- Sunday 22 – 4:00 Providence Bruins Outing

FEBRUARY

- Monday 13 - Feast of Ghevontians-Badarak
- Tuesday 14 - Badarak RI Orthodox Clergy
- Sunday 19-Lent begins-Poon Paregentan
- Sunday 26 - Annual Assembly following Badarak
- Lenten Services Friday Evenings 6:00pm - 2/17, 24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24

JUNE/JULY

- VBS - Date to be determined
- ST. VARTAN CAMP/ST. NERSESS SUMMER CONFERENCES - SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
- ARMENIA PILGRIMAGE/CAMP FOR YOUNG ATHLETES WITH DER SHNORK!! ASK DER HAYR FOR INFORMATION!!

looking in all the wrong directions, reorient and look up and see the Light of Life believing and trusting Jesus who will come to our aid and will vindicate us in the end.

In 2023, facing this new tragedy of cruelty in Artsakh, let us be emboldened, repent and reconfirm our faith and not look sideways, but up, like the Wise Men of old and follow the Star toward the Light that shines in darkness, to the manger where the Saviour lies in swaddling clothes, reminding us of his cave of burial from whence, from his burial cloths, he also Rose! We are children of Light and ought to confirm our faith and rise from the “death” of sorrow and hopelessness. What better way to celebrate Nativity but to recognize our own rebirth and promise of resurrection, for ourselves and our nation. With clear eyes, enlightened by love, we seek the Holy Saviour, praise him with delight saying Hosanna, blessed is he comes in the name of the Lord, who came to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness (Isaiah 42:7-7). Christ is Born and Revealed. God bless us all.

Kreesdos dzunav yev haydnetsav — Christ is born and revealed!

Tsezi mezi medz avedis —To you and all of us, that is great good news!

SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS:



1. Thank you to **Marc Janigian**, many volunteers, **Laurie Onanian** for the Resource Booklet, the Organizations, Dance Group, Schools and the very many who worked so hard, hand in hand to make this one of the best Bazaar’s ever!!



2. I regret to inform our parish that Melissa Amershek resigned her post as Communications Communicator. She was required to leave due to a promotion with her full time work and the additional responsibilities.

I am so thankful for the effort, time and work that Melissa gave to the church, in the short time, and to our ministry. I know I speak for Nayiri when I say that we will miss her joyful and energetic presence in the office as well as her creativity.

I wish her the best and ask God to bless her and her family in all things. Thank you Melissa!

God bless you.

Prayerfully

Der Shnork

www.armenianchurch.org

STATEMENT OF U.S. ARMENIAN ORGANIZATIONS

Over the past three days and counting, the government of Azerbaijan has ratcheted up its campaign to intimidate and target the Armenians of Artsakh in its ongoing effort to depopulate the centuries-old Armenian enclave and resolve its “Armenian Question.”

Cynically orchestrating a blockade of the Berdzor (Lachin) Corridor by fake government-paid environmental “activists,” Azerbaijan has effectively isolated 120,000 Artsakh men, women, and children from the rest of the world and facilitated conditions in Azerbaijan to inflame ethnic tension and hatred against Armenians.

Azerbaijan has chosen this reckless strategy because it has chosen to deny a path to freedom, safety, and security for Artsakh’s Armenians. Nor have the world’s governments sufficiently challenged Azerbaijan to stop its past and ongoing rights against Artsakh’s Armenians.

As long as Azerbaijan can target the Armenians of Artsakh as it is today—by cutting natural gas access in the dead of winter and eliminating safe passage of people, food, and medicine through the Berdzor Corridor between Armenia and Artsakh—the Armenians of Artsakh can expect a repeat of Azerbaijan’s genocidal pogroms that occurred against Armenians in Sumgait and Kirovabad in 1988 and Baku in 1990.

All who have a role to play in stopping Azerbaijan’s crimes will be held accountable for the fate of the Armenians of Artsakh who continue to fight for self-determination, safety, and security in the face of threatened genocide by the Aliyev regime.

We thank those U.S. officials who are already working to stop Azerbaijan’s dangerous actions and calling on the U.S. government to protect the freedom-loving Armenians of Artsakh who find themselves at the mercy of an Azerbaijan regime that claims them as citizens even as it moves to eradicate their presence from their indigenous lands.

We call on those who have not yet spoken out to condemn Azerbaijan’s brutal actions and join their colleagues to work toward a just resolution to the long plight of Artsakh’s Armenians.

Finally, we call on our Armenian-American community and allies to contact their elected officials to help resolve this evolving and worsening crisis, follow all the action alerts, and be prepared to take additional action to protect our brothers and sisters in Artsakh.

December 15, 2022

Signed:

Armenian Assembly of America
Armenian Democratic Liberal Party (Eastern District USA)
Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU)
Armenian National Committee of America (Eastern USA)
Armenian Network of America (Greater New York)
Armenian Relief Society (Eastern USA)
Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Eastern USA)
Armenian Student Associations United
Armenian Youth Federation (Youth Organization, ARF)

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern USA)
Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church (Eastern USA)
Hamazkayin Cultural Society (Eastern USA)
Homenetmen (Eastern USA)
Knights of Vartan
National Association for Armenian Studies and Research
Tekeyan Cultural Association of USA and Canada

An Update from the Eastern Diocese on the Recovery of Our Primate

In this beautiful season of glad tidings and joyful blessings, the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America wishes to share some joyous news with our Diocesan leadership, regarding the recovery of our Primate, Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan, from injuries sustained in an auto accident last summer.

We are happy to announce that Fr. Mesrop's recovery has progressed dramatically, to the point where he is no longer confined to a wheelchair, and is now walking with the assistance of a walker. Doctors are confident that continuing physical therapy will eventually dispense with the need for such aids, as well.

As of late December, the Primate has taken up residence at the Diocesan Center in New York, and has resumed being an everyday presence among the staff there.

Since he is still undergoing physical therapy, the Primate is not yet able to travel. However, plans call for him to preside over the Armenian Christmas celebration at St. Vartan Cathedral on January 6; and early in the New Year he will begin a series of virtual meetings with the leadership of each parish. The first such meeting is scheduled for January 19, and others will follow through the subsequent months.

The Eastern Diocese is profoundly grateful to God for bringing this healing to Fr. Mesrop. And we are also grateful to the kind, faithful people of our Diocese and the entire Armenian-American community. Thank you for your prayerful words and supportive actions throughout these past months.

May the New Year and Christmas bring sustenance and hope to all of our people.

The V. Rev. Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan, Primate

News from the Pews



In Memoriam:
Archbishop
Vatche Hovsepien
(1930-2022)
With deep
sorrow, the
Eastern Diocese
mourns the loss
of His Eminence
Archbishop
Vatche
Hovsepien, the
former and
longtime Primate
of the Western

Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America, who passed away on December 18 in California, at age 92.

Born in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1930, and a member of the Brotherhood of Holy Etchmiadzin, Archbishop Hovsepien was honored, during his final years, to be acknowledged as the eldest clergyman in the Armenian Church. But throughout his entire ministry—which encompassed seven decades—he stood as an example, for clergy and laymen alike, of that blend of piety, resolve, determination, and love for the people which characterizes the priestly vocation at its best.

Vatche Srpazan's distinguished service intersected at many points with the Eastern Diocese, most notably through his

service as pastor of Holy Cross Church in Union City, NJ, where he is still dearly remembered.

But he left his greatest mark, of course, on the Western Diocese. There he was a genuine trailblazer, leading the Diocese to great heights, expanding its reach, and laying the groundwork for brilliant achievements of the future. He was fearless in taking on ever-greater challenges—and his execution of those challenges was marked by an admirable striving for substance and quality.

He remained, first and foremost, a humble servant of our Lord, and our church was fortunate to enjoy his leadership at a critical time. His wisdom, vision, and diligence brought honor to the Western Diocese, to the sister dioceses of North America, to the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, and to the Armenian Church as a whole.

At this writing, funeral arrangements for Archbishop Vatche Hovsepien have not been announced. But please consult the [website of the Western Diocese](#) for details, and for additional information on Vatche Srpazan's life and ministry.

We convey our profound condolences to Archbishop Hovsepien's family, loved ones, and the many faithful who benefitted from his long leadership of our church. May our risen Lord Jesus Christ remember his faithful servant Archbishop Vatche Hovsepien on the great day of his judgment.

Prayerfully,

Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan, *Primate*

Ի ՏԵՂ ԶԱՆԳԵԱՒ Տ. ՎԱԶԷ ԱՐՔԵՊԻՍԿՈՊՈՍ

Այսու կազմով խոր ցաւով յայտնելու վախճանունը Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական մեր Սուրբ Եկեղեցւոյ երիցագոյն եւ վաստակաւոր հոգեւորականերէն եւ Մայր Աթոռ Սուրբ Էջմիածնի միաբան՝ Տ. ՎԱԶԷ ԱՐՔԵՊԻՍԿՈՊՈՍ ՅՈՎՎՍԷՓԵԱՆԻ:

Հանգուցեալ Սրբազան Հօր կենսագրութեան եւ բաղմանական արարողութեանց հետ կապուած այլ մանրամասնութիւններ պաշտօնապէս կը յայտարարենք յառաջիկայ օրերուն:

Այսու մեր ցաւակցութիւնները կը յայտնենք Տ. Վաչէ Արքեպիսկոպոս Յովսէփեանի ընտանիքի անդամներուն եւ հարազատներուն եւ Թեմի հոգեւորականաց դասուն եւ հաւատացելոց:



- On November 19, I was pleased to learn that Michael Papazian, a child of our parish, ordained acolyte and the son of Dr. and Mrs. Martin Papazian, a medical student in Philadelphia, ran the Philly Marathon and finished 719 out of 5114 men. He ran the Philly Marathon. PS. I just spoke with Mike who just announced his engagement to Maryn Cannon!!!

- Edward Avedisian, a Clarinetist and Philanthropist who lived a stellar life of music, playing the clarinet with the Boston Pops and Boston Ballet Orchestra, philanthropy, and generosity to education, medical, and Armenian causes has passed away at the age of 85. An alumnus of BU, Mr. Avedisian will ever be connected with Boston University's (BU) medical school thanks to his \$100 million gift that will support scholarships, endowed faculty chairs, and cutting-edge research and teaching. The school is being



renamed the Boston University Aram V. Chobanian & Edward Avedisian School of Medicine. He was a friend and supporter of our parish and a friend to all in the Armenian community of Rhode Island. Our condolences to his sister Zvart Onanian, the Avedisian, Onanian and Stickler families. memory eternal.



Armenian Historical Association of Rhode Island - AHARI

- I had the honor and privilege to address the history 2 class of Scituate high school being taught by Ms. Tara Seger in October. The topic was the Armenian genocide and its aftermath with personal testimony about growing up with grandparents were genocide survivors. What wonderful intelligent students and what an awesome teacher they are blessed to have. I look forward to inviting Mrs. Seger to our church to present her experiences of teaching about the Armenian genocide. (Pictured at right Fr. Souin addresses the class via ZOOM)

- AHARI - On October 1, 2023, The Armenian Historical Association of Rhode Island hosted an open house attended by many people and dignitaries of the community and had representation from the entire community. It was a gala event, with

the showing of their newly released film recounting the history of Armenians in RI, dance and dramatic presentations. Congratulations on the anniversary and God we pray that grant AHARI, its leadership and its membership long and successful years in service to our community in her preservation of heritage.

- The regional Clergy Retreat with all the clergy of the New England region met at the Betania Retreat Center where Abp. VAHAN Hovanessian led a retreat in Hermeneutics.



Կաղօթենք առ Աստուած, որ հանգուցեալ Սրբազան Հօր հոգին երկնային օրեւաններուն մէջ իր յաւիտեական հանգիստը գտնէ: Յիշատակն արդարոց օրհուրեմամբ եղիցի: Յովնան Արքեպիսկոպոս Տէրաւրեան Առաջնորդ Միացեալ Նահանգաց Արեւմտեան Թեմի 18 Դեկտ. 2022 - Պըրպէնի



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
 Medical Center
 830 Chalkstone Avenue
 Providence, RI 02908-4799

In Reply Refer To: 650/135

Our primate, Fr. MESROP Parsamyan was able to address the clergy, remotely, while he rehabilitated in New York.

- During the Women's Guild Fall luncheon on October 16th, Dns. Garen and Anthony gave an inspiring presentation on their pilgrimage to Jerusalem and how it moves them to a greater service to God and their greater service to the church.
- On November 6 we held a Veterans Day Salute with parishioners who served. Our congregation collected \$500 for

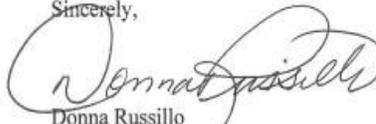
Fr. Shnork Souin
 Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church
 70 Jefferson Street
 Providence, RI 02908

Dear Father Souin:

Please accept my sincere thanks on behalf of our Veteran patients for the donation of \$500.00, check #2574, dated 11/22/22, that you recently gifted to us. Your donation will be used for the benefit of the patients seeking services at our Medical Center. Please know that your gift will assist us in maintaining a high standard of care for those who sacrificed so much to keep us free. It will also stand as a reminder to our Veterans that they have not been forgotten.

It is the generosity and thoughtfulness of caring people such as you that provides many of the supplementary items, activities and services that would not otherwise be available to our Veterans.

Sincerely,



Donna Russillo
 Chief, Voluntary Service

the VA Chaplaincy where Dn. Alex Calikyan serves. On Sunday the 26th, we presented the cheque to Chaplain East of the VA after Badarak who joined us for Badarak.

Sunday School

The Value of Sunday School

This month instead of writing about what we've been up to in our Sunday School here at Sts. Sahag and Mesrob, I thought it might be good to do something different. I'm not here to deliver a sermon, but rather offer up some food for thought.

Growing up in the 70's Sunday School was the place to be on a Sunday morning...your parents made sure you dressed up in your "church clothes" and into the car you went to - destination church. It wasn't just a one hour experience, we usually spent 2-3 hours there (depending on the level of our parental involvement in church matters). For me, I would generally accompany my father as he walked from one light switch to another, long after everyone had left, closing up the church for another week. I never complained about it, as my parents had set the example that on Sunday mornings, church was where we belonged, regardless of how much time we spent there.

Fast forward to 2022, on any given Sunday morning a child can be preparing to go to a birthday party, getting ready to play at a sporting event, working on homework for the coming week, or perhaps playing video games. Attending Sunday School/Church is not always a priority as it once was when I was a child. As a parent myself, I fully understand all the demands on parents and children, and finding a balance is no simple task. Our children want the fun, exciting events in their lives and I am sure that for many, Sunday School is not considered the most "fun" activity on a Sunday morning.

That being said, I'd like to offer another point of view...most of you know I am a public school educator and have been for 24 years. Our students today are dealing with much more in the way of social and emotional issues than we ever did



in the 70's. They are dealing with bullying, cyber-bullying, peer pressure to engage in vaping and cheating on tests and assignments, loneliness, and various mental health issues. We cannot stand back and say "we are Armenian, our kids are exempt from any of this" - because sadly we are not.

Let's go back to Sunday mornings at church... a time when children can be in church and learn that with faith in God, anything is possible. That while our problems will not magically disappear, we can gain the strength needed to overcome them. We are not alone - God is with us. He walks beside us in the good times, and carries us through the difficult ones.



For all the reasons listed above and more, our children need their church now more than ever. While schedules are tight, as parents we need to see the value of bringing the children to our beautiful church where people are ready and waiting to teach them about our faith and the teachings of the Armenian church. With that knowledge they will become strong, and approach their week with a "can do" attitude. They will develop friendships and establish a strong connection to the Armenian church.



In closing, I'd like to say that I hope those of you who read this consider bringing your children, grandchildren, nieces/nephews to our Sunday School - let them give it a try and see what happens. They might have a preconceived notion that it is not a fun place to be, and all the other options are more exciting. However, we are working very hard at making the necessary changes to keep up with the times - offering lessons and group activities that are enjoyable and interactive. Our teachers are so dedicated and put a great deal of time into their lessons every week. Bring your child on any given Sunday and give us a chance - I'm sure they will not be disappointed.

-Deborah A. Onanian
Sunday School Superintendent



ANNOUNCEMENT: LACROSSE IS COMING TO ARMENIA!!!!

With The Approval And Support Of World Lacrosse, The New Hybrid Game Of [World Lacrosse Sixes](#) Is Coming To Armenia With The Hope Of Eventually Establishing It In Armenia For International Play, Competing In The Pacific Division. A Committee Of **Johnny Mouradian, Fr. Shnork Souin And Mher Saribekyan**. [Johnny](#) Mouradian, One Of Fr. Shnork's Best Friend Is Renowned In Lacrosse As A Player, Coach, Manager And Executive, At The International And Professional Levels In Both Field And Box (Canadian Game) Lacrosse.

Mher, A Former Parishioner And Dear Friend Has Been Appointed As A Diaspora Youth Ambassador Of The Republic Of Armenia And Has Championed This Project. This Summer, An Inaugural Lacrosse Camp Will Be Held With 100 Youth From

5-15 To Introduce The Game And Will Be Held In Lori Region With The Help And Support Of Fr. Hetum Tarverdyan The Pastor Of Akhtala Monastery. In Order To Make This Footprint Successful, We Are Looking For Support And Sponsorship. If You Are Interested In Sponsoring This Pilgrimage or If You Know Of Anyone Who Has Played Or Is Playing Lacrosse That Wants To Be Part Of This Inaugural Mission Trip As A Part Of This Service Project, Mixing Christian Heritage And Athletics, Please Speak To Fr. Shnork Souin.

ST. JUSTIN MARTYR ON THE NECESSITY OF BAPTISM

Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3

“Whoever are convinced and believe that what they are taught and told by us is the truth, and professes to be able to live accordingly, are instructed to pray and to beseech God in fasting for the remission of their former sins, while we pray and fast with them. Then they are led by us to a place where there is water, and they are reborn in the same kind of rebirth in which we ourselves were reborn: ‘In the name of God, the Lord and Father of all, and of our Savior Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit,’ they receive the washing of water. For Christ said, ‘Unless you be reborn, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven’” (First Apology 61:14–17 [A.D. 151]).

Armenian School ~ ՀԱՅԿԱԿԱՆ ԴՊՐՈՑ Fifth Anniversary!

September has come again, welcome to our beloved Armenian school. We started our first day with a hymn and a prayer. We honored the memory of our immortal heroes with a moment of silence and prayed for our homeland. We have many new students. They got to know their teachers. We have helpers from our graduated students. We wish success to our school. Our goal is to teach our students to speak, write and read Armenian. To familiarize them with Armenian culture. To teach patriotic songs, ethnographic dances. We



invite everyone to learn Armenian. Special thanks to our Ter Hayr, the parish council and Maestro Konstantin Petrosyan for helping us in all matters.

Like every year, this year our school was in charge of the pastry section of the Armenian food festival. All the parents showed great support. They prepared Armenian traditional gata, Tigran the Great, Anahit and other pastries. The most important thing was our students selling and answering questions. Thanks to the parents and our students. for the great job. Like every year, this year our school was in charge of the pastry section of

the Armenian food festival. All the parents showed great support. They prepared Armenian traditional gata, Tigran the Great, Anahit and other pastries. The most important thing was our students selling and answering questions. Thanks to the parents and students for a great job.



Happy New Year!

Cultural Committee

Spiritual Music Festival

On Sunday October 22, RIOCF and the Cultural Committee of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church Choirs of St. Spyridon Greek Church, Holy Family Coptic of Cranston and Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church all performed to a large crowd of diverse Orthodox Christian faithful from the various churches.



The musical presentation was followed by an equally well attended fellowship in the Egavian Hall with guest clergy and faithful, hosted by the Cultural Committee.

Congratulations to composer Konstantin Petrosian on receiving the title of Honored Figure of Arts of the Republic of Armenia.



ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՆԱԽԱԳԱՀԻ ՀՐԱՄԱՆԱԳԻՐԸ
 ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԱՐՎԵՍՏԻ ՎԱՍՏԱԿԱՎՈՐ ԳՈՐԾՁԻ ՊԱՏՎԱՎՈՐ ԿՈԶՈՒՄ ԾՆՈՐՇԵԼՈՒ
 ՄԱՍԻՆ

Հիմք ընդունելով վարչապետի միջնորդությունը՝ համաձայն Սահմանադրության 136-րդ հոդվածի, ինչպես նաև «Հայաստանի Հանրապետության պետական պարգևների և պատվավոր կոչումների մասին» օրենքի 5.3-րդ հոդվածի 1-ին մասի.

Անկախության տոնի առթիվ, արվեստի բնագավառում ունեցած վաստակի համար Հայաստանի Հանրապետության արվեստի վաստակավոր գործչի պատվավոր կոչում շնորհել՝ Կոնստանտին Զրանտի ՊԵՏՐՈՍՅԱՆԻՆ կոմպոզիտոր, դիրիժոր Նարինե Կառլովի ԶԱՐԻՖՅԱՆԻՆ երևանի Կոմիտասի անվան պետական կոնսերվատորիայի ջազ-փոփ երաժշտության ամբիոնի վարիչ, պրոֆեսոր Գարեգին Սերգեյի ԵՎԱՆԳՈՒԼՅԱՆԻՆ Գ. Սունդուկյանի անվան ազգային ակադեմիական թատրոնի գլխավոր նկարիչ:

ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՆԱԽԱԳԱՀ Վ.ԽԱՉԱՏՈՒՐՅԱՆ
 2022թ. սեպտեմբերի 23 - Երևան ՆՅ-267-Ա



Honorary Worker of Art of the Republic of Armenia

The Honorary Title of Honored Worker of Art of the Republic of Armenia is awarded to composers, conductors, artistic directors of musical, choir, dance and other groups, directors and other art workers for display of skills in the given area and creation of valuable art pieces, as well as for great merit in rearing of creative generation.

Nazeli Dance

The Cultural Committee ended the year with a beautiful LIVE Christmas Concert with the ACRI, the Junior Choir and Soloists with recitations by the Armenian School students!!!



2022 ACYOA Seniors National Fall Retreat

I participated in the ACYOA Seniors National Fall Retreat in Lakeside, CT on November 11-13, 2022. There were 30 ACYOA Seniors from 17 different parishes who attended this faith-filled retreat. These retreats are a great opportunity to reflect with others, make new friends, and take a step back from our daily lives.

This year's fall retreat was centered around the theme of, "Seeking Purpose," where we were asked to reflect on what it means to be sent by God to fulfill His calling in our lives. There were many activities and breakout sessions throughout the weekend to further dive into this theme. During one activity, we were asked to reflect on things in our lives that we are grateful for. We analyzed Luke 10:1-11 in another activity, where we learned about being sent by God and the seven responsibilities that come along with it: (1) taking risks & being vulnerable, (2) focusing one's attention, (3) being flexible, (4) having and sharing peace, (5) being consistent, (6) receiving with a gracious heart, and (7) taking action. We also looked at our spiritual gifts and determined what brings us joy and bitterness.

This was my first retreat with the ACYOA; I didn't know a lot of people attending the retreat, so I was a little nervous going into it. I am so glad I went and stepped out of my comfort zone. I met many new friends and look forward to continuing those friendships through other ACYOA events and beyond. I highly recommend these retreats to any youth who is considering going. It is a wonderful opportunity to get involved with an active Armenian youth community, reflect, and build your faith.

— Jenna Maksian



BAZAAR AND FOOD FAIR

MORE PARISH NEWS

Christmas Concert

On Friday, December 9, the Cultural Committee of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church presented the concert “Silent Night, Holy Night” in the sanctuary of the church. This Christmas concert included the Armenian Chorale of Rhode Island and the Junior Choir of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church. This special evening also featured performances by talented soloists and students of our Armenian school.

Maestro Konstantin Petrossian, artistic director and conductor of the Armenian Chorale of Rhode Island and Junior Choir, presented a program featuring Armenian and international Christmas carols and songs. The Armenian Chorale sang a large variety of songs from sacred to secular.

A special song, “Yegeghetseen Haygagan”, was performed by the chorale and was dedicated to the loving memory of Reverend Father Nersess Jebejian. Also his grand-daughter Mari Megrđichian, soprano sang “There’s Always Tomorrow”. Before the performance of these songs Rev. Fr. Shnork Souin paid tribute to the memory of Fr. Nersess.

Maestro arranged for many soloists to perform in this concert. Soprano Gohar Manjelijian sang “O, Holy Night “ and “Diramayr” by Maestro Konstantin Petrossian. Satenik Emdjian, soprano, sang “Aysor Don Eh” by Gomidas. The special guest of the concert was Rosy Anush Svazlian, the soloist of the New York City Opera, who performed “Ov Zarmanali” a festal Nativity song with great skill. The program also included recitations of students of the Armenian school dedicated to Christmas and New Year. The Junior Choir sang the beautiful “Ding Dong”. The concert ended with the Armenian Chorale and Junior Choirs performing “Carol of the Bells” and “Silent Night”. The final song was “Joy to the World”, Janna Guegamian provided the organ accompaniment. Father Shnork Souin, pastor of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Church offered the closing remarks and led all in the Lord’s Prayer.

A lovely post-concert gathering by the Cultural committee took place in the Egavian Cultural Hall. Special thanks to Jebejian and Megrđichian families for offering the refreshments in memory of Fr. Nersess.

WOMEN'S GUILD

Women attending the Empowering Women Retreat at Holy Trinity Church-Cambridge, Some pictures from the Women’s Guild Cookie Stroll and Chef Arman’s Fruit Carving presentation.



ST. NERSESS ARMENIAN SEMINARY
Ս. ՆԵՐՏԵՍ ԸՆԾԱՅԱՐԱՆ

486 BEDFORD ROAD, ARMONK, NY 10504 (914) 273-0200 fax (914) 273-0210
www.stnersess.edu e-mail: info@stnersess.edu

September 19, 2022

Rev. Fr. Shnork Souin, Pastor
Mr. John Megrđichian, Parish Council Chairman
Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church
70 Jefferson Street
Providence, RI 02908

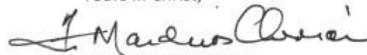
Dear Der Shnork and John:

Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, continues to make a difference with your unwavering support of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary. The Seminary has given more than 60 alumni in full-time service to the Armenian Church as bishops, priests, deacons and lay ministers. We are also increasing our outreach through continuing education programs for parish priests and lay people. Your parish’s annual donation helps ensure St. Nersess, the only Armenian seminary in the western world, can continue to provide the same quality education for our current and future students. You continue to help make all of this possible. On behalf of the Board of Directors, students and faculty, I thank you! We are deeply grateful to Saints Sahag and Mesrob for once again investing in the present and future of the Armenian Church with this donation of \$5,000.00.

St. Nersess will continue to prepare priests and lay leaders whose education, accomplishments and grace will continue to strengthen and bring honor to the Armenian Church. You are helping us achieve this goal.

May our Lord continue to bless you, your parish leadership and all your parishioners.

Yours in Christ,



Fr. Mardiros Chevian
Dean



October/November/December 2022



10“Paros” Saints Sahag and Mesrob



Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church

Armenian Christmas Dinner

Cohosted by: The Women's Guild & The Parish Council

Chicken & Pilaf Dinner

Sunday January 8th

Immediately after Church Service

**Join us in the celebration of
Armenian Christmas.
Food, family, friends and
the birth of Jesus Christ.**

**Donations
Gratefully Accepted**

**Reservations
401-272-7712**

**Address: 70 Jefferson Street
Providence RI**

YOUTH ACTIVITIES



Four young adults along with Der Hayr attended the first in-person Theology on Tap at Yolenis with 35 other young Orthodox Christians for a night of fellowship and discussion. Jenna Maksian, attended the ACYOA Fall Retreat (please see her attached article!) Many of our younger parishioners worked hard in preparation and at the Bazaar, helped with mailings, served, danced and helped in food preparation.

BAGS-HOLIDAY OUTREACH

I was pleased to deliver a carload of food, warm clothing, toys and gifts to Mary House at Saint Patrick Church on behalf of the faithful of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church. Father James was there to help me unload my car.



Thank you to all those who brought offerings of gifts and much needed food and warm clothing for the needy of Providence. Fr. James was delighted and sent his love and blessings to all..



The V. Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Damadian who is from the Armenian Patriarchate of Istanbul and studying at St. Nersess for a semester visited and celebrated the Divine liturgy in December. We spent a wonderful weekend together and even had an outing with the Altar servers sharing stories about service in the Armenian Orthodox Church.



October/November/December 2022



November 28, 2022

Father Shnork Souin
Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church
70 Jefferson Street
Providence RI 02908-4923

Dear Father Shnork,

The Ararat Association sponsored the 34th Annual Ararat Golf Tournament on August 29th at the Quidnessett Country Club. The Armenian community once again supported the tournament very well as we had a full field of golfers and 124 tee sponsors. The purpose of this event is to bring Armenians together for a day of relaxation, as well as to raise funds for various Armenian organizations. We were fortunately blessed with a beautiful day to play golf, and everyone enjoyed the camaraderie. I am pleased to announce that we have again selected Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church as one of this year's recipients. As you can see below, in addition to our annual recipient organizations, we have included a donation to repair the Gospel Book as well as provide the funds to purchase TV's for the Nursery School classroom and the Armenian School.

I am enclosing a check in the amount of \$8025 to be disbursed to the following organizations.

- \$500 Sunday School
- \$500 Armenian School
- \$500 Senior Citizens
- \$300 Senior Choir
- \$500 Women's Guild.
- \$1000 Cultural Committee
- \$300 Paros.
- \$2500 Youth Activities Fund
- \$ 100 Christmas Offering
- \$ 250 Christmas Altar Flowers
- \$ 600 Two TV's for the Armenian School
- \$ 575 Rebind/repair the Gospel Book
- \$ 400 TV and wall bracket for the Nursery school classroom

I hope this donation will be beneficial to these various groups.

Yours truly,

Alan G. Zartarian
Alan G. Zartarian
President

12"Paros" Saints Sahag and Mesrob

On the Eight-pointed Star and the Theology of the Number 8

Posted by [FR. GARABED KOCHAKIAN](#)



Eight-pointed star with the eternity symbol, and the eight-pointed star image on the altar of St. John Armenian Church, MI

The eight-pointed Armenian Star stands for Christ and His Divinity. It is often called the Bethlehem Star symbolizing the world Jesus came to save. Every year as part of the St. John's Annual Bazaar it has been a tradition to conduct a church tour for our community and friends. One of the mystifying aspects of our church's structure, footprint, and decorative adornments is the eight-pointed star that is highly visible. Its carved and painted design is virtually everywhere in view- on the face of the Bema, above the Virgin Mary's head where the nine doves appear, in a stained-glass window on the doors to our holy sanctuary. This eight-pointed star that we see profusely

decorating our sanctuary is an important aspect of Armenian Church architectural adornment.

The number 8 is significant in all of Orthodox Christian teaching because the number 8 connotes time beyond, eternity, resurgence, and resurrection. From the earliest times, Armenian clergy, many of whom were artists and architects in addition to their ordained ministry, used the eight-pointed star particularly in painting and carving on stone in order to give a message of a world in the future.

The number 8 is symbolic. Even in our Armenian alphabet, the eight letter ը* signifies Christ's Resurrection and reflects the Kingdom of God and eternity. In fact, this new age and new time to come is beyond the limits of this worldly time finds its expression most clearly in the liturgical worship of the Holy Badarak/Divine Liturgy. Father Alexander Schmemmann, a Russian Orthodox theologian and priest, and one of my own teachers in seminary writes in his well know book Introduction to Liturgical Theology: "The Church belongs to the new aeon [age], to the Kingdom of the Messiah, which in relation to this world is the Kingdom of the age to come. In Christ's Resurrection, the Kingdom has entered this world and exists in the Church. In God it is the present, and eternal-the future; pointing to "the age to come" while also being in this present world. Christ has inaugurated the "age to come" in His Incarnation [becoming human] and through His Resurrection." For the Church, the Lord's Day is not a substitute for the Jewish Sabbath but its Christian equivalent.

Sunday is often referred to as the Eighth Day – the time connected to eternity. The Eighth Day is the day beyond the limits of the cycle outlined by the week and punctuated by the Sabbath – the eighth day becomes the first day of the New Aeon [Age].

That is why Sunday in the Armenian Christian tradition is called in Armenian *Miashapat* [day one] or *Giragi* -from the Greek *Kyriaki emera* the Lord's Day. Thus, as we see the eight-pointed star on the facing of the *bema* of our altar, it tells us, we are in two places at the same time, here on earth and in the hereafter, heaven. As we come forth to receive Holy Communion, we are entering the time to come.

This mystery occurs as Christ brings heaven to earth. • Note, the eighth letter of the Armenian Alphabet is the letter called 'uht' – ը and follows the seventh letter 'eh' է. • է means I am, • ը signifies the Resurrection. • Put them together and we have I AM THE RESURRECTION.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR CAMP!

Speak with Fr. Shnork Souin about qualifications.

SAINT VARTAN CAMP 2023

let the countdown begin!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION COMING SOON

www.DiocesanSummerCamps.org

STAFF TRAINING: JUNE 21 - JUNE 24
SESSION A: JUNE 25 - JULY 8
SESSION B: JULY 9 - JULY 22
SESSION C: JULY 23 - AUGUST 5





On the Feast of St. Stephen the First Martyr and Deacon, our deacons wore the Crown symbolizing St. Stephen's Martyrdom and witness to the risen and victorious Christ for whom he was martyred. (The name Stephen means Crown in Greek!!)

Join Der Shnork and Saints Sahag and Mesrob Church
with Friends and family

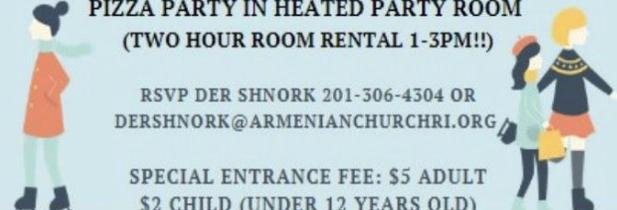


Ice Skating and Pizza Party

January 15, 2023 | 1:00-4:30pm
The Bank Newport City Center
2 Kennedy Plaza
Providence, RI 02903

PIZZA PARTY IN HEATED PARTY ROOM
(TWO HOUR ROOM RENTAL 1-3PM!!)

RSVP DER SHNORK 201-306-4504 OR
DERSHNORK@ARMENIANCHURCHRI.ORG



SPECIAL ENTRANCE FEE: \$5 ADULT
\$2 CHILD (UNDER 12 YEARS OLD)
\$6.54 SKATE RENTAL (PLUS SALES TAX)
**BRING YOUR OWN SKATES IF YOU HAVE THEM

2022-2023 PROVIDENCE BRUINS
**GROUP PROVIDENCE BRUINS
OUTING**

Join Saint Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church
Sunday, January 22nd @ Amica Mutual Pavilion
4:05PM vs HFD



OFFER DETAILS:

Join Saint Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church for a day with the Providence Bruins! The group will be seated all together in the 100 LVL! All members, family members, and friends receive this exclusive discounted offer!

ONLY \$24 PER PERSON

PURCHASE ONLINE NOW AT:

www.providencebruins.com/armenianchurch

INSTRUCTIONS: Please go directly to the link listed above to purchase your tickets. Once purchased you will receive an email in regards to how to access your mobile tickets through your mobile device. If you have any questions or concerns please call Matt Long with the Providence Bruins at 401-680-4753 or email him at Long@pseagency.com

PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL?
SPEAK TO FR. SHNORK – 401-272-7712



NEW - MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL

Establish Membership in the Perpetual Memory Endowment – PME

There are many parishioners who we have lost over the years and their memory has been forgotten in the continuing life and spiritual memory of this parish and sadly there is no one to continually pray for them and for their souls to be remembered. While some are fortunate enough to have family members remember them, even yearly, there may come a time that that too will be forgotten.

There is now a wonderful and pious way to ensure that the names of loved ones will be remembered annually in the prayers of Requiem at Saints Sahag and Mesrob Church. Membership in the PME.

Have your name and the names of loved ones forever embedded into the annual prayers of memorial as a member of the new PME at Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church. [Perpetual Memory Endowment Application Form](#)

SERVICES AND SACRAMENTS

SAINTS SAHAG AND MESROB PRAYER CARD MINISTRY
WHY SEND A HALLMARK CARD?

Offer instead the Card that Shares and Cares at Prayer! The church will happily end a card on your behalf, to your friend, acquaintance, colleagues, coworker or anyone else, for almost any occasion in order to show that you have requested prayers for them during our church services. What a great way to show them that you hold them in prayer! (Weddings, deaths, graduations, births, illness, well wishes etc.)

Information about the Prayer Card Ministry of Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church is available through the church office. If you would like to request a Healing Prayer Card, Memorial Prayer Card for a loved one, or some other special occasion Prayer Card, please call the office (272-7712).

The name of your loved one and the one requesting the card will be included in this bulletin on the Sunday of your request and the person will be remembered in prayer by the pastor during the Liturgy.

Requested by _____

Date of Request: _____

Requested for: _____

Occasion: _____

Donation: _____

(Suggested Minimum \$10)



BAPTISMS / CHRISTENING

-Knox Vartan Sherrill (11-27-22)

May these children be raised in the love and care of the Lord.

May these children be raised in the love and care of the Lord.

FUNERALS

- Charles H. DeBlois, Jr. (10-6-22)

- Rev. Fr. Nersess Jebejian (10-27-22)

- Martha J. Stepanian (11-14-22)

May the memory of the righteous be eternally blessed. Expressions of sympathy and prayers are extended to the families that their loved ones may be at peace in the care of the Lord.

Marriages: Arrangements for weddings are to be made at least eight months in advance. Marriage preparation and counseling, often called Pre-Cana, is required before the celebration of the sacrament. The Best Man (Khachyeghpayr) must be a confirmed communicant of the Armenian Orthodox Church. The parish office will make all necessary arrangements for the deacon, organist and soloist. Marriages are not celebrated during Great Lent.

Baptism and Chrismation (GNUNK): All baptisms must be scheduled at least two months in advance. Pre-baptismal preparation for the parents and godparents is strongly encouraged. At least one of the godparents must be a member of the Armenian Orthodox Faith. Speak to the pastor for information.

Regulations for Sacramental Services:

In accordance with Diocesan discipline mandated by the Primate, all sacraments, e.g., weddings, baptisms and rites of Christian burial, can only be administered in the church sanctuary which has been consecrated for the celebrations of these sacred rites.

Membership / Stewardship

Let's Start Building Our Future! Become a member and/or a steward of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church of Providence, RI.

It only takes a few minutes to complete the Membership form and \$175.⁰⁰ (\$100.⁰⁰ for students and \$125.⁰⁰ senior citizens) to become a dues paying member of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Church of Providence.

PLEASE REMIT STEWARDSHIP (and DUES)

While many churches of other faiths use the method of tithing, Saints Sahag and Mesrob Church simply asks a minimum fixed amount to be a due paying member of the church, and that amount is \$175.00. That's only \$3.37 a week! Membership for senior citizens and students is even less: \$125.00 a year or \$2.40 per week. GO ON-LINE or Please print and fill out the form and mail it, along with a check (unless you choose to use your credit card), to the church office:

ON-LINE OPTION IS BEST, SAFE, SECURE AND EASY

You can now pay Dues/Stewardship on-line at:
Click or go to: [Give to Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church \(breezechms.com\)](http://Give to Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church (breezechms.com))

The logo depicting a stylized Armenian Cross with the threefold elements of stewardship was created by Father Shnork Souin, showing that all three elements are required of the life in Christ.



Membership and Stewardship of Time and Talent and Treasure, are the building blocks of your commitment to the church. By your membership you are an architect in the life and building of the church and community

Your dues are not only essential, but facilitate the realization of the day-to-day operations of the mission of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church. In conjunction with your dues, your annual stewardship pledge is a way to express support of, involvement in and concern for the welfare and growth of our church with her many ministries offered.

We kindly ask that you fulfill your dues and stewardship pledges now.

Check out our new website!!!

www.armenianchurchri.org



Advertise in "Paros"

Full Page \$500/4 Issues Half Page \$300/4 Issues
Quarter Page \$150/4 Issues Business Card \$75/4 Issues

1100+ newsletters mailed 4 times a year

Predominantly Rhode Island addresses & Armenian Subscribers

For information, please call the Church Office 401-272-7712

office@stsahmes.org

Subject to USPS rules

Please Remit 2023 Membership

If you have not paid your dues for 2023, please complete the form below and send your donation to the church office.

You can pay your membership and/or stewardship with your MasterCard or Visa ;

CLICK: [Give to Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church \(breezechms.com\)](http://Give to Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church (breezechms.com))

2023 Membership Application Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church of Providence, RI

I/WE would like to be year 2023 dues-paying member(s) of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church of Providence.

\$175.⁰⁰ Adults;

\$125.⁰⁰ Senior Citizens;

\$100.⁰⁰ Students)

Members #1 Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms:

Members #2 Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms:

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip code: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____

Check enclosed

Charge my MasterCard/Visa/Discover/AE

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: ____/____

(Membership and/or Stewardship donations are tax deductible.)

START THE YEAR 2023

OFF RIGHT!

**SIGN UP NOW FOR SAFE AND
SECURE AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS.
PAYMENT OPTIONS AVAILABLE!!**

CLICK:

[Give to Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church \(breezechms.com\)](http://Give to Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church (breezechms.com))

or type in

<https://sahagmesrobri.breezechms.com/give/online>

NOTHING WRONG WITH A LITTLE PASSIVE INCOME FOR OUR CHURCH!!!!

Donate to Saints Sahag and Mesrob Church the Easy Way Through Amazon Smile

Did you know if you make any purchases through Amazon, you can pick our Church as a charity? Amazon Smile gives a portion of all your purchases to the *Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church PROVIDENCE*

Simply go to <https://smile.amazon.com/>

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Proofing

The official organ and quarterly publication of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Church is the **PAROS Newsletter**. Submissions of news articles, photos, essays, poetry, book reviews, and letters are welcomed and should be sent to the Managing Editor - Len Arzoomanian - arzo022@webrightservices.net. Each organization of the church is asked to provide quarterly articles and photos digitally to Len by the 15th of the following months, March, June, September and December. All text must be submitted in electronic format, preferably in Microsoft Word, as a text file or as e-mail. Please note that the editorial board reserves the right to modify and/or reject articles, photos, etc. All materials must be pertinent to our congregation, mission and ministry and received no later than the published submission deadline above.

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(401) 935-5271
yarumian@outlook.com

Women's Guild
Stephanie Masoian
401-862-6323
hvedeli@aol.com

Church Office Hours

The Church Office is open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If you would like to contact Father Shnork, call 201-306-4304 or via email at dershnork@armenianchurchri.org . If you call after hours, please leave your requests, and the administrative assistant will be happy to process them promptly. For Emergencies, please contact the Pastor at 201-306-4304.

www.armenianchurchri.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
office@stsahags.org 401-272-7712
www.armenianchurchri.org
70 Jefferson Street
Providence, RI 02920

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