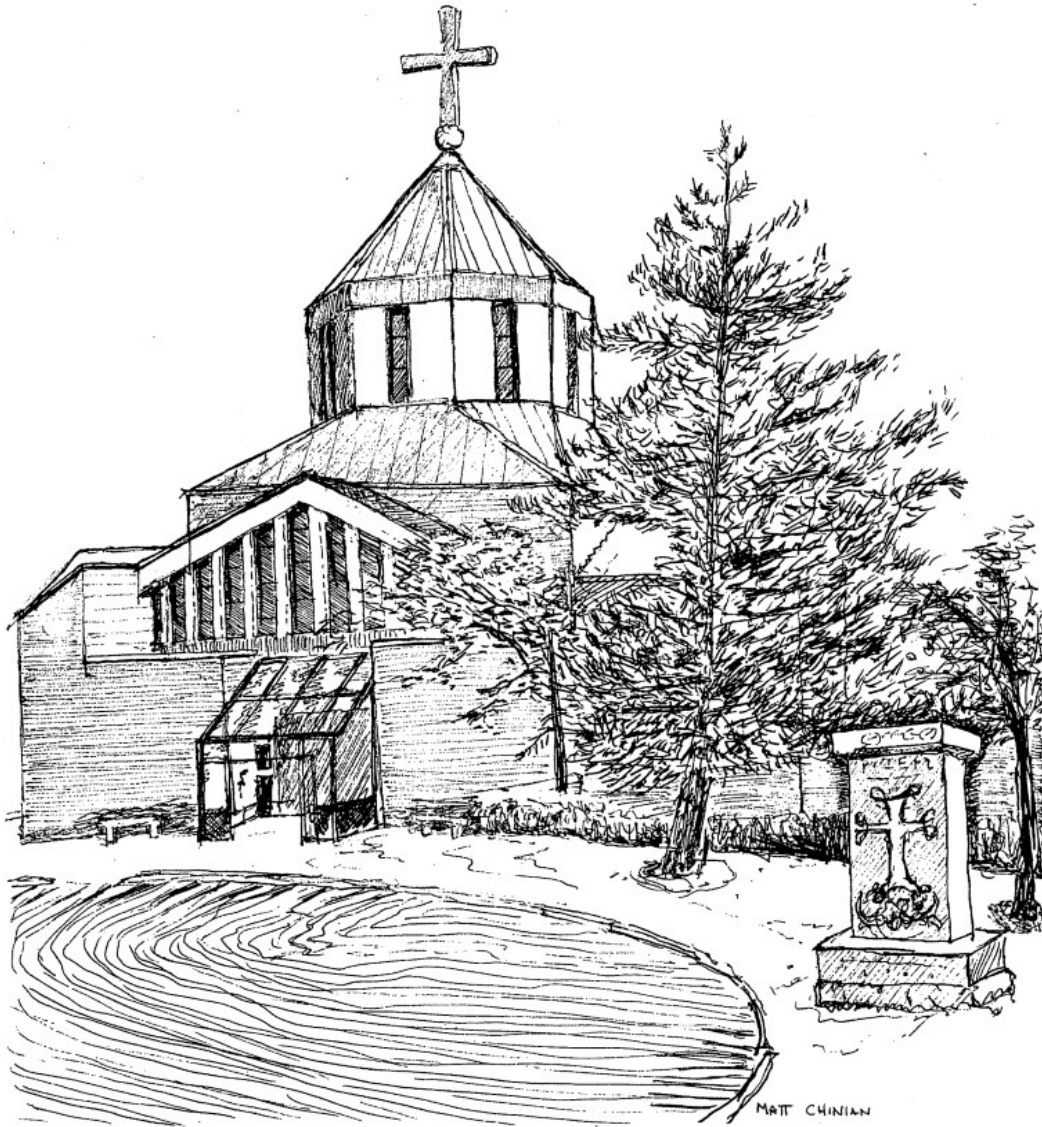


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ST. PETER ARMENIAN CHURCH

100 TROY-SCHENECTADY ROAD, PO BOX 196, WATERVLIET, NY 12189

AUTUMN 2019

St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church

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Watervliet, NY 12189

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E-mail: office@stpeterarmenianchurch.org

Website: www.stpeterarmenianchurch.com

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SUNDAY WORSHIP:

Adult Christian Education	9:30 a.m.
Morning Services	9:45 a.m.
Sunday School: Junior High & High School	10:00 a.m.
Sunday School: Little Faithfuls	10:15 a.m.
Divine Liturgy	10:15 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday	9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
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Choir Director

College Group

Prayer Group

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Remember St. Peter Armenian Church in your will!

All articles must be submitted on a timely basis by following the “Schedule for Publication” listed below:

WINTER 2019/2020 SCHEDULE FOR PUBLICATION

Articles Deadline	Monday, January 13, 2020
Typing and Proofreading	Monday, Jan. 13 - Friday, Jan. 24
To Printer	Tuesday, January 28
Mailing	Thursday, January 30

The *Loosaper* constitutes a vital and an historical record of the life of the St. Peter Church Community. Therefore, it is important to make every effort to preserve and maintain the continuity of this publication. In order to do this, we need help. Any parishioner interested in being a reporter or assisting the editorial staff with this publication should call the church office.

Church Secretary, Lori Payette, is responsible for compiling and typing this issue. A volunteer group performs editorial tasks such as: proofreading, layout, writing, and editing of articles. **All materials submitted are subject to editing by the Editorial Staff.** The mailing of the *Loosaper* is also handled by volunteers.

If you find errors in this edition of the *Loosaper*, please understand that, while perfection is always our goal, it is one that may remain forever beyond our reach!

CURRENT VOLUNTEER STAFF:

Editorial: Vicki Bajakian, Gil Chorbajian, and Nora Derian

Please forward all articles to the church office.

LOOSAPER DONATIONS

There is an outlay of approximately \$500 for publishing and mailing each issue of the *Loosaper*. Any contribution sent to defray part of this cost will be gratefully appreciated. Names of donors and contributions will be listed in the *Loosaper*, unless we are requested not to do so.

Many thanks to the most recent donor who answered our call to help offset the costs of our church publication: **Arthur Koshkorian (VA).**

Please use the form below to send your donation to:
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Please accept my **CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS DONATION** for *Loosaper** in the amount of \$ _____

**Although the next Loosaper issue will be received after the holidays, your greeting will also be shared via an email message to all on our distribution list in time for the holiday season.*

Name(s) to be included in the Greeting: _____

DEDICATE AN ISSUE OF LOOSAPER: A donation of \$500 will dedicate an entire issue of *Loosaper* in honor of someone, in memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special event. Contact the church office for more information.

A TALE OF THREE FRIENDS

Hagop Derian, Jonah Doudoukjian and Patrick Kayayan were ordained to the rank of subdeacon on Sunday, November 3rd, by His Grace Bishop Daniel Findikyan. The three boys are three months apart and have been friends their entire 18-year-old lives. The Armenian Church has been a constant, as well as a common denominator, from their very early days of crawling, walking, running, playing, praying, and serving. Together, as infants, they participated in "Little Faithfuls," a group that brought infants and parents together at church to pray and to grow in the Armenian faith. Together, they attended Armenian and Sunday Schools, learning the language, faith, and culture. Together, they had their feet washed on many Holy Thursday evenings, as well as participating in the "Darkness" vigil -- even bringing their sleeping bags, snacks, and video games for the three-hour service, ultimately falling asleep in the pews. Together, they matured and grew in their faith through ACYOA. Together, they serve at the Altar leading the other youth by their example. Now together, they were ordained to the rank of subdeacon.

Their friendship, as well as their commitment to service in the Armenian Church, is an inspiration to the St. Peter Armenian Church community. No doubt, both their friendship and desire to continue learning and serving the church, will only deepen over time.

The weekend of November 2nd and 3rd was also an opportunity to celebrate the 120th Anniversary of the establishment of the St. Peter Armenian Church parish. The symbolism and meaning of ordaining



L-R: Hagop Derian, Patrick Kayayan, Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Jonah Doudoukjian, Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian.

three teenagers on this milestone anniversary give much hope and encouragement for the future of the Armenian Church as well as to the Armenians of the Capital District. A new generation of church leadership is being formed and shaped in these three young men.

On the evening of November 2nd, the faithful gathered for a special Hrashapar Service welcoming Bishop Daniel to the St. Peter Armenian Church for the first time since becoming Bishop of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern). At the conclusion of the ceremony, His Grace Bishop Daniel Findikyan blessed a new altar curtain in blessed memory of Dn. Hrant Bardakjian. Dn. Hrant served the Armenian Church his entire life and had served as a deacon at St. Peter Armenian Church since 1972, until his passing in 2017.

During an eloquent and celebratory banquet, the three newly ordained subdeacons offered inspiring words, the following are excerpts from their remarks:

Today is one of the most important days of my life and will remain one of the most important for the rest of my life. My faith was instilled in me from a very young age through the patience, encouragement, and pure love of my family. I realize how blessed I am to be raised in a family that sings sharagans when we are in the car together or have spontaneous bible study in the living room. For this gift, I thank God.

I am especially thankful to my family for bringing me to church every Sunday. From a young age, I watched my role models prioritize faith over everything else and that has made me who I am today. I specifically thank my Hyrig and Medz Hyrig who have spent hours with me, teaching me thousand-year-old sharagans and explaining their significance. Yet this is only the beginning. I pray that I am able to expand my knowledge of our services and liturgy.

I am also extremely blessed by the people and environment of St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church. I really have the most excellent and caring Der Hayr, who wants for me what he would want for one of his own. He and Deacon Yervant have spent hours with us during deacons' training, building the foundation necessary to reach the achievement of becoming a sub-deacon. With me, during all those times, were Patrick and Jonah. We are lifelong friends who come together on Sundays and do what we love - serve on our home church's altar. We help and learn from each other, both on and off the altar. The three of us have come a long way from bringing sleeping bags and snacks to the Khavaroum service, to becoming candle servers, to our first poorvar swing, to now. So again, thank you everyone for coming today to celebrate such a meaningful milestone in my life.

~Hagop Derian

It is an honor to be ordained a subdeacon along with two of my best friends that I have known and have served with since birth. Being ordained in this church is special because this church means so much to me. I truly realized that when I was away recently in California. As most or all of you know, I was in California for just over three months working at a base camp helping the recovery efforts following the devastating fires that destroyed the three towns of Paradise, Magalia, and Pulga. Early on in my work there, there was talk of us getting ordained in early November if we could pass the test. I thought to myself that there is no way I'm going to pass this test; I won't even be home by then. I just blew it off. I didn't even think more about it. I was working 12-16 hours a day, 7 days a week, and I just didn't think I could do it. Well, I want to thank my parents for encouraging me, but about a week after word got around that I didn't want to do it, I got a call from someone special. This man talked to me for over 20 minutes and encouraged me to take on the challenge. I listened to him and I took on the challenge, studied, and eventually passed the test. That man was Hagop's father. Thank you so much Mr. Derian!

A lot of you don't know this, but the stole that I was ordained with was actually my father's, the same stole he was ordained with as subdeacon when he was my age. Finally, I have to thank Srpazan Hayr, also known to me as Uncle Padre. It's so cool and such an honor for me to get baptized by you and now ordained sub deacon by you as well 18 years later.



~Jonah Doudoukjian

I have always loved being a part of the Armenian Church. Ever since I was a little boy, my dad would always bring me to church every Sunday. I remember the days of starting out on the altar, holding the candle and trying my best to participate. I remember going to Sunday School before badarak, and coming upstairs for confession after. Looking back, I am baffled by just how much I, and also Jonah and Hagop, have grown as people and servants of God. It's crazy to think that the three of us have entered the next step of our service to God, and I am thrilled to be able to stand here today as a subdeacon. I am excited to keep growing in my faith and I look forward to staying as a part of this wonderful community.

I just want to take some time to say thank you to a few people. I would first like to thank Bishop Daniel for taking the time to come to our church and to officially ordain me as a subdeacon of the Armenian Church. It is an honor to have you here and I look forward to many more of your visits in the future. Next, I would like to thank Der Stepanos for all of his continued support and love in everything I do. Without his guidance and determination to believe in me, I wouldn't be standing right here giving this message as the person I am today. I would also like to thank my fellow deacons and altar servers for helping me and inspiring me to grow, both a person and as a servant of the Armenian Church. I would especially like to thank Deacon Hagop and Deacon Garo for their help in learning chants as well as guiding me on the altar if I did not know what to do. I would also like to thank Jonah and Hagop for being great friends throughout all the years. I do not think my love for serving the church would be as strong if I did not have them serving alongside me on the altar. I continue to look forward to serving with you guys. My last and final thank you goes out to all of you sitting in the audience. Thank you for all of the love, the prayers, and support that you constantly give to me. I am so glad to be part of such a loving community, and I am excited that I will be able to stay here as I pursue my studies at RPI.

~Patrick Kayayan



REFLECTIONS OF THE ST. PETER ARMENIAN CHURCH PILGRIMAGE TO ARMENIA June 29-July 10

The following reflections are from some of the 48 participants who traveled to Armenia. The pilgrimage was led by our parish priest, Fr. Stepanos. It was a life changing journey to our homeland and for many of the attendees it was their first time to Armenia. Enjoy the memories and experiences shared below!

My first outing in Yerevan brought me wandering through a park at midday. Couples shared a park bench and children played on rides in the cool space thick with trees. It was a welcome respite from the heat of the sidewalks. I noticed a bundle near the base of a tree and upon closer inspection saw a sleeping dog. He looked peaceful and content and quite at home. A family came by offering him some food scraps which he accepted quite politely. It was a humane gesture to a creature that has a somewhat odd relationship to the citizens of the city, and my first impression of Yerevan.

I was also impressed with the city's open spaces. From the carefully curated public art, and bubbling freshwater fountains, to the imposing memorials of historic figures. Armenians love and value their shady parks and city squares. Every fountain on Italia Street's block-long celebration of water was individually designed with motifs taken from ancient Armenian art, an homage to its culture and heritage. The park was filled with people day and night. In the summer nights, it was a joy to see entire multi-generational families enjoying their children, happily coming together around the fountains, sharing life with their families and friends. When friends greeted each other in the city, I saw hugs more than handshakes. I felt safe and never felt as though I was a foreigner.

The food! Fresh, ripe, homegrown tomatoes! The lahmajune and Imam Bayaldi! It was the best food I've ever had in any country.

From this journey, I have a continued love of all things Armenian. I saw the faces of my family in the faces of the people of Armenia; I wish I'd visited Armenia with my parents; I loved sharing this experience with the pilgrims of St Peter Church; I loved sharing this with my daughter; and I loved that she too was included and appreciated.

I am so thankful for the work, energy, love, and care that Der Stepanos built into this trip-of-a-lifetime for all of us. Shnorhakalutюн.

Rita Petithory (South Hadley, MA)

The countryside is beautiful! The poverty outside of Yerevan was eye-opening. Yerevan was a surprise as a bustling city, day and night. The people we met were very gracious, generous, and warm. The Catholicos was a down-to-earth kind of guy. I felt bad for the kids in the two non-AGBU after school programs and hope we can do something on a yearly basis to help them. Above all, I thought we had a great mix of people of all ages and interests in our group which really made the trip so much fun. Our bus driver and tour guide fit our personalities like a glove. We could not have gotten better ones.

Ron Kaiser (Clifton Park, NY)

Arrival in Yerevan



I was very impressed by the capital city Yerevan, and all it had to offer — from thriving businesses to water shows, and the arts. Also, I couldn't believe how yummy the food was. I was disappointed to discover that we had been making it all wrong back in the US. The part that made the biggest difference to me was the home blessing that Der Stepanos offered the family who lived in the container house. The lady who lived there was so moved, as well as all of us. It appeared heaven and earth met in her living room that day and I felt the earth shake. I really hope she gets a house soon. I also felt we had a great group of people and I felt even more Armenian after leaving. I can't wait to go back.

Stephanie Kaiser (Clifton Park, NY)

Our pilgrimage to Armenia, for me, was both inspiring and fascinating. We visited pagan ruins, we saw ancient monasteries still in use, we traversed the Ararat Valley, and we saw the site where St. Gregory the Illuminator was incarcerated. The trip was a whirlwind and packed with visits that covered the ancient beginnings of a Christian Armenia and before, bringing us to the present day. At one-stop, we saw a virtually untouched time capsule of a people and a country and the heritage they share. Since my return, I've researched some of the sites we visited and am educating myself more fully as to their place in our history, their contribution to our heritage, and their ongoing place in our future and the future of Armenia.

The most stirring visit of my trip came when I visited the Armenian Genocide Memorial and Museum. Although we didn't have time to take in the museum on our group visit, I and several others visited the museum on the following day and spent most of the morning there. The museum is beautifully curated, presenting a virtual timeline of the Armenian experience, touching on the many experiences, confrontations, and extermination suffered, at the same time personalizing some of the extraordinary people who came to the aid of the Armenians and their plight, as well as some of the extraordinary Armenians who devoted their lives for their fellow Armenians, their heritage, their country, and their Christian beliefs.

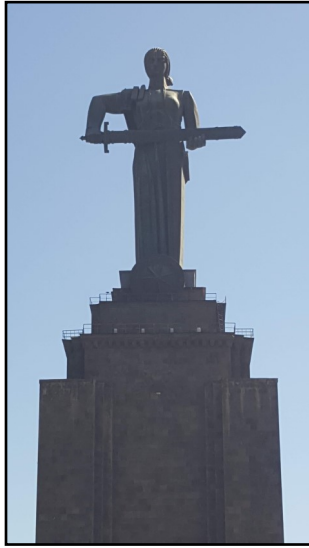
Present-day Armenia is a teeming, bustling country with many entrepreneurial spirits who are rebuilding, revitalizing, and reinventing the Armenian people and their country. From the present-day rug factories, to the magnificent wineries and the fabulous Armenian restaurants, as well the various aid organizations nurturing and educating the young, the country is embarking on yet another iteration of the Armenian march into the future while firmly knowing, understanding, utilizing, and embracing the rich Christian history that still exists today in its present form.

And now, having visited Armenia and having been exposed to the raw history as well as life in present-day Armenia, it is evident to me that the Armenians will continue to survive and continue to prosper. Despite the misery suffered, despite the invasions endured, despite the enormous reductions in the Armenian population of the world, we are meant to succeed.

Linda Bedian (Loudonville, NY)

Khachkars at Datev Monastery





*Mother Armenian
Mayr Hayastan*

My trip to Armenia was a life-changing experience. I walked with excitement when seeing and feeling my homeland. Every stop we made was full of history. I felt connected with my ancestors. The experience I gained on this pilgrimage cannot ever be replaced. Armenia is a beautiful country. I felt reconnected with my faith while I was there and still do. Everyone's hospitality and kindness reminded me of the important things in life. I am still touched by the woman we met in Gyumri. She opened up her house to us. Her spirit was amazing. I felt a connection with her. Meeting her made me realize that I cannot stress over the little stuff in life. I have to be grateful for what I have and try to make the best of it.

Marilyn Kasparian (Albany, NY)

Rick and I were most moved by how genuinely happy everyone is regardless of their situation. They don't value material things, but rather the more important things in life. They seem perfectly content with the things, situations, and people with which they surround themselves.

We learned that, no matter how hard we have a situation in America, we can learn from our Armenian sisters and brothers that we'll be fine. God provides! We walked away with a more humbling outlook on life. We already counted our blessings, but now we had more to be thankful for.

We experienced historical locations with our biological family and close friends as well as our new "yellow bus" family. We bonded over prayer, song, and so much wonderful food. To stand and look out over a vineyard and to see Mount Ararat, was a life goal of mine. It touched my heart to stand in its beauty and magnificent grandeur. To stand in Holy Etchmiadzin and to listen to the Vehapar, fulfilled my spirituality, as did lighting candles or sitting and praying in any of the ancient churches and monasteries. To soar over Datev, rendered me speechless. How did they build such beauty tucked in the mountains and have it be sustained all this time?



Meeting with His Holiness Karekin II

This was a trip of a lifetime that I'm pleased to have shared with my fiancé and such wonderful people. I hope to visit again one day to work on a project such as improving an orphanage or repairing a school or home. There is a need in me now to do this type of work.

Thank you Der Stepanos for all the planning and time you put into making this pilgrimage a reality. God give you continued strength to walk in His path doing such wonderful work.

Chrissy Hagopian (Stow, MA)

It was so amazing to be in our homeland. Visiting the sacred sites that I've heard about all throughout Sunday School, made it all come together. Climbing down into St. Gregory the Illuminator's pit was pretty intense for me as I imagined and wondered how he lived there for 13 years imprisoned like that. Being descendants of genocide survivors, this experience brought me closer to them by being there. I will never forget the first-time seeing Mt. Ararat. It was so beautiful, and a symbolism of Armenia. I literally had tears in my eyes. I loved meeting so many people from there — seeing how they live and seeing our culture. The food was also pretty amazing. I miss all the fresh fruits and vegetables and the lavash hatz.

We had a wonderful group of people on our pilgrimage; I have now extended my Armenian family!!! We all had such a great time.

Donna Lafian

The most inspiring, yet devastating, thing for me was when we went to Gyumri and visited the Domik of a family of seven. The bathroom conditions were disgusting. It is hard to believe that this family had been living in these conditions for over 30 years; yet, they have survived all the elements and their Domik was clean, well kept, comfortable, and cozy. What an amazing woman to keep her family going!

It makes me wonder, think, and also realize, that the little things are important. You don't need a big house or a car -- just your family, close friends, and your church who will look out for you. God is watching over that family and, when the right time comes, they will get a new home. Just like He is watching over all of us when we least expect it. I thank my lucky stars to be where I am today because of my church and my friends.

Zouig Ashjian (Niskayuna, NY)

It was a trip-of-a-lifetime to see my family's roots and traditions and to spend this precious time with Der Stepanos, his family, my son Philip, and the parish community. The spiritual connection was something I never experienced before. The women singing in the church and the children's crisis center especially, brought tears to my eyes unlike any I have ever shed before. There was so much I that experienced, that I am still processing everything.

Catherine Zadianian Knauer (Wynantskill, NY)

I found a deeper, spiritual understanding of my grandfather, and the love he had for our Armenian history and family and of the loss of his family in Armenia and his new life in Watervliet. I remembered the few times he spoke of it and wish I had had more time with him. I was also able to fulfill my dream of "some day" going to Armenia. Thank you, Der Stepanos.

Charlene Arachian (Clifton Park, NY)

Before we found out about this trip, my mom and I were talking about maybe going to Armenia some day and going with a group of people. Then my mom told me about St. Peter Church having a trip to Armenia and we decided we wanted to go. Before the trip, I was having a lot of issues with my ears! I was so nervous, I was even freaking out about going. Everyone made me feel comfortable and not so worried about my ears. It turned out that the plane ride was really great, and all my troubles seemed to go away.

During the trip, I got to go to amazing places. I got to go see amazing things and learn about Armenia and about my culture. It was so amazing to go the churches and monuments in different places. I really enjoyed going to the rug factory and going to see how they make lavash. I enjoyed going to the brandy factory. I got a little tipsy... just kidding!

Going to the Genocide Memorial and visiting the family in the shipping crate house was eye-opening and very emotional. Also donating all the dog toys and treats to the dog place and seeing all the orphanages were very emotional too.

During this trip, I also made great new friends. I have a great new friend, Stephanie, and she and I keep in touch. I made great friends with Ani and her sister Christina and Marilyn and the rest of the Kasparyans were welcoming too. I got to meet a wonderful lady, Catherine, and her son Phil. Everyone on the trip was so nice, kind, and caring that they all made me feel like family. Fr. Stepanos and Paulette, it was such a great pleasure to reconnect with you and your family too. Your kids are so lovely and grown up. Overall, this was a trip I won't forget.

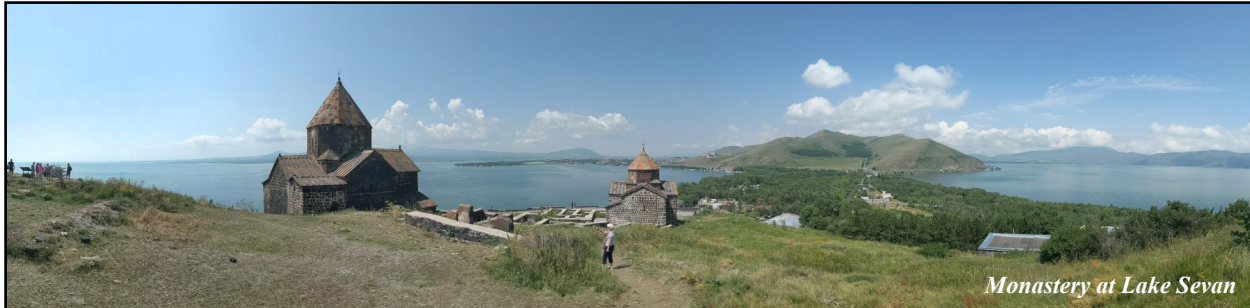


Megerian Rug Factory: Rug ripped in half during Genocide and given to two sisters by their mother. The two sisters reunited in New York City decades later and pieced their rug together.

Ani Petithory (South Hadley, MA)

My family and I decided to travel to Armenia this past summer. We've always wanted to go, but the timing was never right...until this fabulous opportunity arose. We are all so very grateful that we experienced Armenia with our future son-in-law Lou and our wonderful St. Peter Church family!

I believe most of us had an idea of what we were going to see and experience before we even stepped foot in Zvartnots International Airport. We went with photos in our heads and knowledge of the landmarks we were to see. But, to actually see Mt. Ararat with our own eyes, to hear the Armenian language spoken between children, smell the fresh mountain air of Dilijan, taste the delicious lavash freshly baked in the tonir, and touch the ice cold water of Lake Sevan, left such a lasting memory that will never fade away. What a life-changing trip!



Honestly, it's very difficult to pick only one place that meant a lot to me. Each place had its own uniqueness, history, and beauty. When I look back, the place that stood out the most would be Artsagh. (Our family stayed a few extra days in Armenia and traveled to Artsagh.) We visited this beautiful Monastery that was built in the 1200's called Dadivank Monastery (Monastery on the Hill). The Monastery was founded by St. Dadi who was a disciple of Thaddeus the Apostle who spread Christianity in Eastern Armenia during the 1st century. While we were there, my family and I were invited to eat a delicious lunch (that Yeretzhin prepared) at Der Hovanness Hovannessian's home (located in a modest building right near Dadivank). His dining room overlooked the spectacular view of the valley of the Shahumian Region. During lunch, Der Hovanness shared with us how, back in the day, he was a soldier who took back Artsagh from the Azerbaijanis in 1988. He showed a picture of himself along with the freedom fighters and the famous tank that surprised the Azeris and won back Sushik. He showed us the rifle he used to defend themselves. Der Hayr told us how he, along with a wealthy Armenian benefactor, Levon Hayrapetyan, thought of a way to increase Artsagh's population. Der Hovanness officiated the marriage of 700 Armenian couples in a mass wedding ceremony. Each couple received a monetary wedding gift. Also, the benefactor gave incentives to raise a family in Artsagh: 1st child \$2,000, 2nd \$3,000, up to 7th child \$100,000. His incentive was to increase the Artsagh population to 300,000. Most of the people of Artsagh are young military families. These heroes are very proud of their country and that feeling truly moved me. The way Der Hayr spoke to us during lunch, with such passion and love for Artsagh and Armenia, was extremely contagious. That day, we left Dadivank bursting with pride and love for our country.

Sonya Moroukian (Niskayuna, NY)

It did take a while for my thoughts to gel, since I did find the experience to be overwhelming, even though it was my second trip to Armenia. First of all, I felt at "home" in Armenia, in a way I can't really explain. Along with this is a strong sense of belonging, something I have never felt anywhere, including here, in the country where I was born and have spent my entire life. It's not really rational, but that's how it feels to me.

The beauty of the country, especially the way Yerevan is ringed by the mountains, goes right into my heart. The fact that I can routinely see Mt. Ararat, a symbol that makes Biblical history come alive, is astonishing to me. Spending days in a country where everyone is speaking Armenian, even though I am really challenged in that area, seems almost too good to be true! While it is hard to pick what was most meaningful to me, I will document two experiences.

The first was the visits to the ancient churches. There is something so peaceful and deeply spiritual in each one, almost built into the stone, that you can't help but be in awe. The careful inscriptions in the stone, all meant to transmit religious doctrine, are amazing in their detail and clarity. Inside, the way so often the light comes in through a hole in the ceiling that bathes the interior in a pure white light, is breathtaking. It created a rainbow in one space that I was in...along with the candles flickering that represent so many prayer requests...you can't help but feel God's strong presence as well as the spirits of the many people who have been there before. I have never experienced that to such a great a degree anywhere else.

My second, and equally meaningful experience, was the visits to the three children's centers. This was one of the main reasons I was excited about the trip. During the first two visits, we were able to see wonderful after school programs in action, along with a fantastic Broadway-style production at the AGBU Center. In both places, I was struck by the excellence of the programs, the dedication of the staff, and, of course, the intelligence and adorableness of the kids. Having looked at such programs for the NYS Education Department, I can honestly say I was thrilled to see that what is being provided there is first-rate. The only thing they lack



FAR Children's Center

are the resources available in a country like ours. The last visit to the FAR Children's Center, that supports abused and neglected children, was unique. We toured the building which houses around 45 people. It is a bright cheerful facility staffed by caring adults. The director spoke to us at length about their current mission and plans. Right now, they house children who are abandoned, abused, and neglected. Some come from troubled families who can be worked with; after which, the child can return home. For others, that will not be possible. In some cases, especially for the younger kids, adoptions can be arranged. There are not enough words to describe how outstanding and dedicated the director is. She highlighted services being provided, including trauma care. They have an available staff that includes social workers and psychologists. The director explained that the biggest challenge is the teens, for which adoption is not an option. She explained how their goal is to open another house outside of Yerevan as a next step for older children. She emphasized how critical this is, especially for the girls, as they are at great risk for being trafficked upon being discharged at age 18. This type of continuum of care is exactly what they need, and I hope that we will be able to help them in some way with this effort!

Finally, thank you so much Fr. Stepanos for arranging this trip and shepherding us around Armenia! Believe me, I know it wasn't easy. A special thanks to Paulette for her limitless kindness and patience!

Cheryl Ohanesian (Albany, NY)

Our pilgrimage to Armenia was an experience that I will never forget. I felt as if our group was together as a family on a mission to better everyone and everything around us. There were so many amazing moments—from the monasteries to the amazing lunches we had together. The most touching moment was when we were viewing the shipping container that housed children. I couldn't bear the thought of a child being raised there, especially during the harsh winters! These children still all had smiles on their faces which made me realize the fact that you cannot take anything for granted in this life—we need to just keep helping as many others as possible. And that's just what we were doing together every day on our pilgrimage!!! It was no doubt a spiritual journey for everyone!!

Philip Knauer (Wynantskill, NY)

Summarizing my experience in Armenia in just a paragraph is nearly impossible. I would need to touch upon every single day because it was a different experience each day. From breathtaking monasteries, beautiful landscapes, sing-alongs on the bus, humble and generous people, and delicious foods—this was the trip of a lifetime! It truly was a pilgrimage for me, as we walked the land of our ancestors, stepped into monasteries that withstood years of battles and earthquakes, played soccer with local children, and learned about the history of Armenia.



An amazing meal!

Growing up, the majority of what we learned about Armenian history revolved around the alphabet, the conversion to Christianity, Vartan Mamigonian, and the Armenian Genocide. Traveling to Armenia and visiting the museums and cities really taught me so much more about the great history of our people. From trade routes and battles, to kings and kingdoms, we walked away with an incredible history lesson that I will remember forever. A special thanks to Der Stepanos for organizing this trip - God only knows all the planning involved before, during, and after the trip, so thank you for everything you've done and continue to do!

Sarine Moroukian-D'Angeloo (North Bergen, NJ)

I am thankful to say that I have been on many trips in my life. The pilgrimage to Armenia definitely ranks number one by a longshot. Not only was I able to travel to another country with my family, but also 47 others that enjoy the culture as much as I do. I feel that I have grown since coming back to the U.S. I have a different outlook and appreciation for the life that I was given. There were many moments on the trip that made me reflect. The one that solidified my love for being Armenian, and the love that there is in the world, was one that happened on the 4th of July.

My family and I were on a five-hour bus ride with the other Armenians in the group, traveling across Armenia to the small village of Goris. Needless to say, we were exhausted when we finally made it, and looking forward to the dinner that was awaiting us in the hotel. When our bus pulled up to the hotel, we were looking out the window across the street to a small gated, cement lot where four little boys were kicking around a



deflated ball. They waved to our bus and started to do soccer tricks for us as we watched from the bus, cheering as they scored a goal or did a cool trick. So, we finally get off the bus, my sister Sarine and I headed to the room to get ready for dinner and, when we made it to the lobby, we looked outside and saw my brother Raffi and Jonah playing soccer with those four boys. Without thinking twice, we ran across the street, climbed under the fence in our nice clothes, and cheered on the boys. Within two minutes, Serena and I, along with 15 other neighborhood children were joining the game - it was the Americans vs. the Armenians. We couldn't speak the same language (for the most part) but the smiles, cheers, and high fives spoke for themselves. It was so humbling to see the kids enjoying the life they had. They didn't need material things to be happy, just a cement lot with a deflated ball, and they made the most of it. What an experience to have played with them and remembering what it was like to be carefree. This was definitely in the top three highlights of my trip to Armenia.

This is now just a memory, but it is one of my favorites. I will forever remember the smiles on each child's face. Even though each journey we went on humbled me, this spontaneous moment said it all. Without a doubt, I would go back to Armenia, not only to embrace the rich culture, but to be able to make an impact on another life.

Rebecca Moroukian (Niskayuna, NY)

Armenia was truly a trip of a lifetime! As a non-Armenian, being able to experience the culture, food, and history first-hand was something very special. One of the most amazing things that sticks in my mind is the pure hospitality of the Armenians. Everywhere we went, the locals were willing to give the shirts off their backs to make us comfortable. Every meal had a table full of food, and every lesson taught had a passionate lecturer.

We covered a lot of ground, had countless magical moments, and made lifelong friends. I walked away humbled, more educated, and filled with a renewed fire in my faith.

Lou D'Angelo (North Bergen, NJ)



*Badarak at St. Sarkis Cathedral
in Yerevan*



*Meeting with
His Holiness Karekin II*



Genocide Memorial



Church Organizations News

Women's Guild

Welcome to fall 2019; you know what that means — back to school, sports, and countless seasonal activities. It also means “back to business” for the St. Peter Armenian Church community, including the Women's Guild.

The third **Annual Harvest Fest**, sponsored by the Women's Guild on Sunday, September 29, was a huge success! It was a beautiful autumn day again this year and the Dolma dinner with all the fixings was a big hit. Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch as well as great fellowship and the beautiful, sunny day that God granted us that morning.

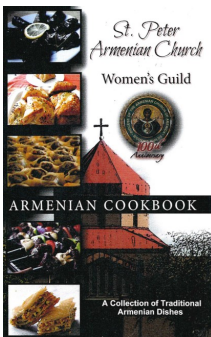
The **Annual Women's Guild General Membership Meeting** was held on Sunday, November 10, immediately following worship services that morning. This year, we needed to fill several positions on the Executive Committee. Participation in these proceedings is crucial and determines the continuation of this vital organization that is such a strong part in the life of the church. The Parish Council once again graciously prepared the lunch for the meeting. More information on the results of this meeting will be announced in the near future.

The next big event of the year, the **Holiday Bazaar** taking place on Saturday & Sunday, December 7 & 8, is fast approaching and preparations are well underway. Signing up to volunteer over the Bazaar weekend will soon be available online through Sign-Up Genius. Please consider signing up for a shift or two as soon as you possibly can. For those who do not use an electronic device, contact a member of the Women's Guild Executive Committee to offer your assistance. The success of this huge undertaking is dependent on everyone's participation.

Please also consider helping at one or more of the following prep dates:

- Saturday, November 16, 10:00 a.m. – Cheoreg (Coordinator, Mary Panjarjian)
- Saturday, November 23, 9:30 a.m. - Kufte Balls (Coordinator, Sonya Moroukian)
- Thursday, December 5, 11:00 a.m. – Paklava (Coordinator, Sonya Moroukian)
- Friday, December 6, 11:00 a.m. - Khazan Kebab (Coordinator, Sonya Moroukian)
- Friday, December 6, 5:00 p.m. - Hall Set-Up (All hands on deck!)

Additional prep dates will be posted in the weekly bulletins. No experience is needed; take advantage of them as cooking classes. We all learn together and from each other while enjoying camaraderie like no other place.



Consider the Women's Guild **Armenian Cookbook** for your holiday gift-giving. It is a collection of treasured family recipes that have been handed down to us; we need to pass them on to our next generation of foodies and cooks to enjoy. For \$20 each, it will leave a priceless legacy.

As always, we welcome prospective members to join us any time they can; there is plenty of work involved as well as laughter and fun to be had. We know it from experience, why don't you join us and find out how to “Serve The Lord With Gladness.”

We look forward to seeing you all at church.

Mary Panjarjian
Women's Guild Chairman



MARK YOUR CALENDAR
2019 HOLIDAY BAZAAR!!
Saturday & Sunday, December 7 & 8
See flyer in this issue for details.



Sunday School

The St. Peter Armenian Church Sunday School kicked off the 2019-2020 school year on September 15, 2019. We are very excited and thankful for the support of such a wonderful, talented, and dedicated staff. We especially thank Yn. Paulette Doudoukjian, our former Sunday School Superintendent, for all her years of service. She steps down as Superintendent, but will continue to provide the support of her dedication, time, and talent.

Chuck Tutunjian will continue to teach the high school students; Sean McMullan will instruct students in grades 6 through 9; and Phyllis Jevanian will be the teacher for grades 2 through 5. We welcome Holly Dadekian and Zovig Ashjian who will oversee the Nursery - 1st grade class. Last but not least, we thank Der. Stepanos for his ongoing leadership, guidance, and support.

In addition to a new format and start times (*refer to Fr. Stepanos' letter below that was sent to all Sunday School families this summer*), we will continue to have a Sunday School Assembly/Coffee Hour after worship service once a month. This is open to all! Our first assembly of the new school year was held on October 6 which was led by Guy Vozzy who presented an inspiring message. Although the school year is well underway, it is never too late to have your children join our "Family Church on the Hill."

Alice & Sean McMullan, Co-Superintendents

Greetings to you all ~

We had a Sunday School staff meeting this summer that was filled with much excitement, creative ideas, and anticipation for the upcoming school year. I wanted to share that excitement with you and invite you and your children to Sunday School this year. With your help, our goal is to bring the faith of Jesus Christ, as expressed through the Armenian Church, to the hearts of everyone - children and parents. We have something for everyone: infants and toddlers, children and teens, parents and adults.

Our *Little Faithfuls*, led by Holly Dadekian, will be joining us on Sunday mornings. As a former Sunday School Superintendent, Holly has lots of experience and love for children! *Little Faithfuls* will be for newborns through age three. Holly will be reaching out regarding your participation and activities.

We will be offering classes for Nursery through Elementary School-aged children as well as Junior High - and High School-aged students.

****NEW Sunday start times****

9:30am Adult Christian Education class

10:00am Junior and High School classes

10:15am Badarak

10:15am Little Faithfuls and Elementary classes

Our devoted, creative staff will once again introduce monthly themes and projects. All age groups and classes will be involved in creating projects related to each theme. Upcoming themes are as follows: September: "It Starts with Hello;" October: "In the Beginning;" November: "Giving Thanks;" December: "Advent."

I know that you and your children have many obligations and responsibilities that compete with Sunday mornings (our family has the same struggle). I understand and respect the other wonderful commitments you make as a family. I gently remind you that what you receive for 1½ hours on Sunday mornings at St. Peter Armenian Church, you cannot receive anywhere else. So, please make the effort to participate for the overall spiritual well-being of you, your children, and your family.

Thank you are in order! A special thanks to Paulette Doudoukjian for her six years of service as our Sunday School Superintendent. She will be stepping down in that role, but will continue to help out wherever needed. We welcome the husband and wife team of Sean and Alice McMullan as our new Superintendents. Thank you, Sean and Alice, for taking a leadership role with our Sunday School.

I sincerely thank YOU for taking the time to read this letter and I wish to conclude with some inspiring and motivating quotes from our staff who have answered the following questions: "Why is Sunday School important?" and "What do you enjoy about teaching?" Their answers (below) are sincere and heartfelt.

With God's blessings to you and your family, Fr. Stepanos

“Why is Sunday School important?” “What do you enjoy about teaching?”

“Without a fundamental understanding and knowledge of the basis of our faith, our youth are more likely to be led astray to other faiths or secular ideologies.”
—Chuck Tutunjian

“I enjoy teaching kids about the fundamentals on which Christianity is based because I think it’s important to read for oneself the teachings of Christ and the history of God’s involvement with the people He loves. The Bible is filled with wonderful stories of imperfect people who had problems and made mistakes just like we all do, but with God’s help they were able to overcome those problems.”

—Sean McMullan

“I enjoy teaching kids in general and to see them grow and use the things they have learned throughout their lives.”

—Zovig Ashjian

“I like to teach because I love sharing knowledge with others, as well as hearing their responses and insights on the subject. Teaching keeps me in the position of having to continually research and study before I share with others.”

—Elsie Vozzy

“It is through teaching and Badarak that the word of Christ dwells in our hearts. Learning the Word of God and what our Badarak is about strengthens and grows the Body of Christ. I love teaching because I love learning. There is nothing more I love than the Lord. It is an honor to share and present scripture and His story with others. Being part of Sunday School/Christian Education is living out the gospel and being part of it at the same time.”

—Rhonda Boyajian

“I can say that I thoroughly enjoyed every activity I had participated in growing up. Those activities and lessons were good experiences. The lessons, thoughts, prayers, music, and friends I have had through our Church have been part of my life and will be part of my life forever. This is what centers my life. This is what gives me stability. This is where I find peace.”

—Holly Dadekian

“I enjoy teaching the younger generation about our faith and our church. Sunday School is important because it give us knowledge about our faith.”

—Phyllis Jevanian

“‘Train a child in the way he should go...’ For me, Sunday School is important because it adds another layer - and perhaps the most important one - to a child’s foundation.”

—Paulette Doudoukjian

“Sunday School is important so that children can learn about God and what it entails to have a steady relationship with Him. It sets a foundation in the student’s faith, by forming a good habit of attending church. Sunday School can form lasting friendships and, last but not least, have fun while learning about God. I enjoy being a part of Sunday School because I grew up in this church, went to Sunday School, and I love that my children are a part of it too. I love to see other children grow in faith.”

—Alice McMullan

Little Faithfuls

Our *Little Faithfuls* have joined the weekly Sunday School! How time has passed that they are now old enough to be the next part of the life of our church! We have played finger games — “Here is the church; here is the steeple; open the doors and see all the people.” Going outside and searching for all the creations made by God and then cutting and pasting is always fun. We traced and colored a silhouette of our hands and feet because they help us to do God’s work.

Consider bringing your *Little Faithfuls* to join in the fun, learn about their faith and have new experiences. All are welcome to participate.

Holly Dadekian

St. Peter Book Club

The book selection for the December meeting of the St. Peter Church Book Club is *Stitches: A Handbook on Meaning, Hope, and Repair* by Anne Lamott. The book discussion will take place in the St. Peter Church conference room on Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Bill Rainbolt at bill.mindfulness@gmail.com.

In this book Lamott explores how we find meaning and peace in these loud and frantic times; where we start again after personal and public devastation; how we recapture wholeness after loss; and how we locate our true identities in this frazzled age. We begin, Lamott says, by collecting the ripped shreds of our emotional and spiritual fabric and sewing them back together, one stitch at a time. It’s in these stitches that the quilt of life begins, and embedded in them are strength, warmth, humor, and humanity.

Pray without Ceasing AM Prayer Group

All are invited to meet every other Friday morning to pray together — to pray for each other, for loved ones, for those in our church community and the greater community, and for those throughout the world. Bring your prayer needs to the group and feel the power of praying together. These prayer sessions, led by Fr. Stepanos and Winnie Kutchukian, are held at 10:30 a.m. Due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, there will be no gatherings on November 29 and December 27. The only remaining gathering in 2019 will be on Friday, December 13. Contact the church office for information on the upcoming 2020 schedule.

Better Together Group



All are invited to come to the Wednesday morning “Life is Better Together” group. Discover how much easier life’s challenges can be when we join together for prayer and Bible discussion. These gatherings, led by Fr. Stepanos and Elsie Vozzy, meet every other Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. We’ll start with coffee and a little something sweet, then TOGETHER we will listen to music, pray, read scripture, and enjoy some good discussion.

Bring your thoughts, questions, and prayer needs. The goal is to have you leaving refreshed, encouraged, and excited to come again. Please feel free to invite a friend or neighbor for these gatherings, because life really is “better together.” The schedule for the remainder of 2019 is as follows: November 20 and December 4 & 18. Contact the church office for information on the upcoming 2020 schedule.

Jazz on the Hill 2019

“*Jazz on the Hill*,” a special musical event featuring the New York Voices, was held at St. Peter Armenian Church on August 17. Not only a true testament to wonderful talent, we witnessed how “many hands make light work,” and “where there’s a will, there’s a way!” The evening was filled with much excitement as preparations were made for an evening “under the stars” with the Postoian Pavilion transformed into an outdoor theatre. Chairs were set up in rows, a stage was erected with a backdrop and lights, refreshments were made available, and then CRASH!! A storm came through with lightning, thunder, and oh so much rain. A decision had to be made . . . the show must go on! Everyone jumped into action as the weather drove us to move the show inside the Gdanian Auditorium. All available hands pitched in to reset the chairs, reset the music equipment, reset the refreshments, reset the box office, reset, reset, reset. But, we did it!!

The concert began, only 30 minutes behind schedule! Without skipping a beat, the New York Voices, featuring our own hometown girl Kim Nazarian Ashby, sang so beautifully that the stormy weather was all but forgotten as our hearts were filled once again. What an honor and joy for our church community to have world renowned singers performing in our church hall. The graciousness and talent of the members of the NYV brought smiles to everyone there.



Thank you to the event crew: Sonya Moroukian (backdrop and decorations), Charlotte Sevazlian (raffle basket creations), the St. Peter Women’s Guild (mezza boxes), Frenchie Ekmalian & Raffi Moroukian (stage riser transport and set-up), Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Albany (for use of the risers and stage), and Lori Payette (Church Office Secretary, and sometimes therapist when things got crazy).

Thank you to our sponsors and donors for their generous support: Deep Eddy Vodka, Shami Arslanian, Sandy Bedian, Sylvia D’Aprile, Rich DeMartino, Darmon Meader, and The New York Voices. Their support and money raised from ticket sales, wine-pull raffle sales, mezza and beverage sales, helped to raise \$4,190 for the general fund of St. Peter Armenian Church. Thank you again — to everyone that supported this event.

Marion Kehrer, Event Coordinator

Parish Community News

Sacraments and Rites

Marriage

Alexander Hulett, son of Carl & Linda (McTaque) Hulett, and **Lee Kruszeski**, daughter of Grace DerArakelian, were married on September 26, 2019. Best Man, Dakin Werneburg; Maid of Honor, Kimberly Anigian; Celebrant, Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian.

Louis D'Angelo, son of Luigi & Catherine (Arnold) D'Angelo, and **Serena Moroukian**, daughter of Raffie & Sonya (Karian) Moroukian, were married on October 5, 2019. Best Man, Peter D'Angelo; Maid of Honor, Rebecca Moroukian; Celebrant, Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian.

Funeral

Grace (Jaffarian) Sapino entered her eternal rest on July 19, 2019. Survivors include her husband, St. Peter Armenian Church Godfather, Theodore (Ted) Sapino (FL); two daughters; five grandchildren; and nine great grandchildren. The funeral service was conducted by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on August 3, 2019.

Beatrice (Bakerian) Johnson entered her eternal rest on August 29, 2019. She was the daughter of the late Bagdasar & Lucy Bakerian and is survived by three nieces and two nephews. A graveside service was held at Elmwood Hill Cemetery on September 7, 2019.

Shirley D. Mikaelian (CA) entered her eternal reset on September 23, 2019. The funeral service was conducted by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on October 3, 2019.

Sarah (Kenosian) Hrachian entered her eternal rest on October 12, 2019. She is survived by two daughters, Lucille (Edward) Kaprielian and Barbara Hrachian; one son, Seren (Pamela) Hrachian; five grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; a sister-in-law, Joyce Kenosian; and several nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews. The funeral service was conducted by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on October 18, 2019.

Frounze Miskarian entered his eternal rest on October 23, 2019. He is survived by his wife, Sonia Makarian; a grandson, Dr. Vardan (Anahid) Amirbekian; and several great grandchildren. The funeral service was conducted by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on October 26, 2019.

Karasonk (40-Day Memorial)

August 4, 2019

Joan Tutunjian - requested by Nazar Tutunjian; Mr. & Mrs. Harry Tutunjian; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Tutunjian & Family.

August 25, 2019

Garrett J. Meeson - requested by Sharon & Doug Pauley; Eleanor Meeson; Meeson & Michoian Families.

Dareleetz (First Anniversary)

May 12, 2019

Suren J. Hrachian - requested by Sarah Hrachian; Mr. & Mrs. Edward M. Kaprielian; Barbara Hrachian; Mr. & Mrs. Seren A. Hrachian; Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Lukasik & Family; Mr. & Mrs. Kai Wendt & Family; Mr. & Mrs. Peter Hrachian; Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Hrachian; Kenosian and Kaiser Families.

Hokehankist

August 4, 2019

Bishop Papken Varjabedian (Nineteenth Anniversary) - requested by the estate of Bishop Varjabedian.

August 18, 2019

Kenneth Chorbajian - requested by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Chorbajian; John (Frenchie) & Debbie Ekmalian; Virginia Mahserjian.

Michael, Mary, George & Rosemary Koshgarian; Khachig & Sadie Koshgarian; Krikor & Zechia Kerkunian - requested by Arthur Koshkorian (VA).

- September 22, 2019 **Edward Kazanjian** (Fifth Anniversary); **Kapriel & Mary Kazanjian; Krikor & Khatoun Kassardjian; Hagop & Aznif Djehizian; Mireille Djehizian; Leo Kazanjian; Mark Kapriel Kazanjian** - requested by Bertha Kazanjian; Edward & Nirva Kazanjian (MA); *(continued . .)*
 Raffi & Ari Kazanjian; Lisa & Lauren Harootunian (RI); Ara & Nancy Balian; Isabella & Alexa Balian; Linda Kazanjian; Peter & Patty Boorujy (NJ); Arleen & Robert Drooby; Rosine Kazanjian & Family; Karen Khachadourian & Family; Marguerite Djehizian; Elisabeth Chamberlain; James & Mary Kalteux; Toros Shamlan, Jr.
- September 22, 2019 **Adam & Jennifer Simonian** - requested by Brian & Barbara Olesen & Family.
- October 13, 2019 **Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan** (Thirtieth Anniversary); **Archbishop Torkom Manoogian** (Seventh Anniversary) - requested by His Grace Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern).
Tervanda Karagozian; Murad Khalaf; Seroun Chetjean - requested by Mary Karayan; Karayan & Khalaf Families.
Varastad, Arevnaz & Arshag Soultanian; Sarah & Philip Natcharian; Sara Matulewicz; Thomas & Alice (Natcharian) Wildman; Naomi Natcharian; Nazaret & Zarouhy Natcharian; Garnig & Sona Vartanian; Thomas, Mary & William Matulewicz; Bozigian Family - requested by Haig Soultanian; Anahid Ounanian; Sonia & Richard Matulewicz; John, Laura, Shannon, Steve & Shawn Soultanian; Steve, Zack & Nichole Soultanian; Debra, Randy, Amanda, Jordan & Stephanie Zareski; Cindy, Scott, Alexis, Austin & Logan Secor; Simon'e, Vahram, Alexan & Alessio Aynilian; Matthew, Lisa, Chris, Ryan & Will Natcharian; Ara, Jason, Sara & Ani Gomez; Janice, Martin, Anne, Martin, Melissa & Lucy Toomajian; Michael Natcharian.

Altar Flowers

- July 28, 2019 Roses on the occasion of the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ were donated by **Roswita Fragomeni; Betty & George Osganian** *in memory of Ackenbrack & Osganian Families.*
- September 15, 2019 **Asador & Sarah Kenosian Endowment Fund** *on the occasion of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.*
- September 22, 2019 **The Kazanjian Family** *in memory of loved ones.*
- October 13, 2019 **Haig Soultanian & Anahid Ounanian** *in memory of loved ones.*
- November 3, 2019 **The Derian, Doudoukjian, and Kayayan Families** *in honor of our three newly ordained sub-deacons, Hagop Derian, Jonah Doudoukjian, and Patrick Kayayan.*

Altar Candles

- August 25, 2019 **Arthur Koshkorian (VA)** *in memory of loved ones.*
- October 20, 2019 **Fr. Stepanos & Paulette Doudoukjian** *in honor of Gloria Doudoukjian's participation as "Miss Armenia" in the Festival of Nations.*
- November 3, 2019 **The Derian, Doudoukjian, and Kayayan Families** *in honor of our three newly ordained sub-deacons, Hagop Derian, Jonah Doudoukjian, and Patrick Kayayan.*

Announcement

Mr. & Mrs. Matthew (Rosanne) Shufelt are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Alexis Shufelt to T.J. Masiangelo. Alexis is the granddaughter of the late Alexander & Marion Arghnian, Marion Shufelt, and the late William Shufelt. A wedding is planned for January 2021.

Gift of Prayer Ministry

"You shall be remembered before the immortal Lamb of God." Special prayers may be requested for healing, remembrance (in memory of), or special recognition by contacting the church office. Both the person making the prayer request, as well as the one being prayed for, will be remembered. A beautiful "Gift of Prayer" card will be sent as an acknowledgment of the prayer request. Please continue to keep those for whom prayers have been requested in your personal prayers.

August 4, 2019 **Susan Mennillo** - prayers for healing as requested by The Doudoukjian Family.

November 3, 2019 **Robert Wade[†]** - prayers of remembrance as requested by Barbara Derian & Richard DeMartino.

Fellowship Hour

If you, or a member of your family, are celebrating a special event (birthday, anniversary, promotion, retirement, etc.), why not share the joy with your church family by donating refreshments for the fellowship hour? You might also wish to do this in memory of a loved one, as a thanksgiving, or just in "fellowship." Please contact the church office to make the necessary arrangements and to reserve the date of your choice.

September 22, 2019 **The Kazanjian Families** *in memory of loved ones.*

October 6, 2019 **The St. Peter Sunday School** *family assembly and activity*

October 27, 2019 **Armenian Pilgrimage participants** *for reunion and presentation on the trip to the parish community*

Special Donations

Donations to the **General Fund** totaling \$1,330 were received from the following: **Mark Anigian; Gerald Arzoumanian** *in honor of Beatrice Arzoumanian's 101st birthday on July 26; Judith Brennan (CA); Rosemary Burgher; Marion Kehrer; Toros Shamlian, Jr. in honor of the 60th wedding anniversary of personal friends, James & Roberta Gallagher;*

Additional Easter (Yughakin) donations were received, one anonymously and another from The Ashby Family (OH). The adjusted total of contributions received for 2019 amount to \$3,700.

Grapes for the Blessing of the Grapes service on the occasion of the Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God on Sunday, August 18 were donated by **Anonymous (2); Violet Mirzoyan Dadekian** *in memory of loved ones; Mary Hartunian & Joanne Scaringe* *in memory of Katherine & George Mahserjian.*

Basil for the decoration of the Holy Cross on Sunday, September 15 was donated by **Andre Assalian; Kate Chorbajian; The DeMartino/Derian Family.**

Donations totaling \$375 were received in a **special plate collection** on Sunday, September 29, to assist an Armenian family who is facing various health issues, has no insurance, and are out of employment. Thank you to everyone who generously contributed to help this family in their time of need.

Thank yous

"I offer my heartfelt thanks to all those who offered prayers, sent cards and gifts, and paid visits to me during my recent hospital stay."

Debbie Chorbajian

"Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian,

"Just a little note to say how much I enjoyed the Sunday service, July 28. I also loved how you smiled when we came up to take communion and the bigger smile as you sprayed us with water.

"I am so glad I was able to bring my daughter and granddaughter. They hadn't been to an Armenian Church service before and were looking forward to it. God bless you and your church."

Judy Brennan (Joanne Hartunian's niece)

"Hello — I just wanted to take this time and send a heartfelt thank you! I loved every single card that I got for my birthday as well as the gifts. It was all very beautiful! . . . Thank you everybody for a wonderful birthday, one that I will never forget!"

Love, Melissa Sargeant

120th Anniversary Stewardship Gifts

On the occasion of the 120th Anniversary of the establishment of the St. Peter Armenian Church parish in 1899, the following expressed their thankfulness with a monetary "stewardship" gift to the church.

Mr/Mrs Kirkor Agopyan
Winifred Ammian
Zovig Ashjian
George & Elsie Bedrosian
Mr/Mrs David Caruso
Michael & Joanne Coogan & Family
Barbara Derian & Richard DeMartino
Suzanne Dickinson
Ralph & Elizabeth Enokian
Julie Garabedian
Diana Guldalian & Family
in memory of Rose Guldalian
Charlene Hrachian
Hrepsime & Phyllis Jevanian
Ara & Kerri Kayayan
Catherine Zадigian Knauer
Isabel Krempa
Virginia Mahserjian
Yn. Yefkin Megherian
R. Paul & Sonya Moroukian & Family
Matthew & Lisa Natcharian
& Family (CT)
Mary Panjarjian
Toros Shamlian, Jr.
Rafi & Marianne Topalian
Nazar Tutunjian
... and six anonymous donors

Smbat & Marija Amirbedian
Helga Apkarian
Andre Assalian
Mr/Mrs Donald Boyajian
Herb & Linda Chorbajian
Dr/Mrs Robert Dadekian
The Derian Family
Fr. Stepanos & Paulette Doudoukjian
Arpy Ernest
The Ghazaryan Family
Joanne Hartunian
Mr/Mrs Richard Hartunian & Family
Marion Jaffarian
*Contribution made in memory of
Natalie Kachougian*
Grace Koshgarian
Winifred Kutchukian
Sally Mahserjian McNeff
Ida & Sarkis Mihranian, Jr.
Lucy Morton
Cheryl Ohanesian
Joe & Patty O'Keefe
Rita Petithory (MA)
Carole Kazanjian Smith (FL)
Peter & Maryanne Topian
Kai & Susan Wendt & Family

Harry & Mary Ammian
Mr/Mrs Jay Ashby (OH)
Linda Bedian
Rosemary Burgher
Mr/Mrs Charles Chorbajian
Violet Mirzoyan Dadekian
Paul DerOhannesian & Family
Frenchie & Debbie Ekmalian
Roswita Fragomeni
Carmen Giunta & Family
Mary Hartunian
The Høglund Family
Mr/Mrs Vartan Jerian
Leon & Susan Kaiser
James & Linda Khachadourian
Arthur & Shigeko Koshkorian (VA)
*in memory of Michael Koshgarian
in memory of Mary Koshgarian
in memory of George Koshgari
in memory of Rosemary Koshgarian*
Audrey Ohnikian (FL)
George & Elizabeth Osganian
Miss Charlotte Sevazlian
Patrick & Claudia (Zarifian) Suppa
Mr/Mrs Charles Tutunjian
Mary Yegoryan & Alex Safarov
Total: \$15,290

In Lieu of Flowers Donations

IN MEMORY OF DIANE DAVIDIAN

Sue Dickinson and
Bob & Jayne (Kenderian) Moore

Total: \$100

IN MEMORY OF SARAH HRACHIAN

Winifred Ammian
Adrienne Daniels
Ralph & Elizabeth Enokian and
Mrs. Isabel Avedkian & Family (MA)
Leon & Susan Kaiser
Jacob Krikorian (CT)
Dawn Montavon
Marilyn Parker
Linda Simidian
Edward & Adrina Tutunjian

Linda Bedian
Allen & Mary DeMarco
Mary Hartunian
Charlene Hrachian
Mr/Mrs Edward Kaprielian
Michael J. Matthews
Stanley H. & Suzanne Novak
also in memory of Suren Hrachian
Lucille Sogoian
Janis Urban (GA)

Mr/Mrs Charles Chorbajian
Suzanne Dickinson
Barbara Hrachian
Francine Kaiser
Russell & Sandra Kilidjian
Mary Minassian
Cheryl Ohanesian
Toros Shamlian, Jr.
Susan Sogoian

Total: \$1,820

IN MEMORY OF GARRETT MEESON

The Meesons

Betty Avakian & Family

Total: \$170

IN MEMORY OF FROUNZE MISKARIAN

Tsolak Amatuni & Family (CT)
Arthur & Anait Simonian

Dr. Vardan Amirbekian

The Kazarian Family

Total: \$1,250

IN MEMORY OF GRACE SAPINO

Mr/Mrs Charles Chorbajian
Marion Jaffarian
Linda Kazanjian
Carole Smith & Family (FL)

Robert & Arleen Drooby
Jean, Paul & Eric Johnson
Karen & Levon Khachadourian
Patricia Vartigian

Mary Hartunian
Arthur & Joann Kazanjian & Family
Toros Shamlian, Jr.

Total: \$1,210

IN MEMORY OF JOAN TUTUNJIAN

Barbara Hrachian

Mr/Mrs R. Paul Moroukian

New Total: \$3,110

Sincere appreciation and acknowledgment are extended to the above-named individuals for their generous memorial donations.

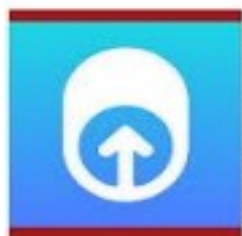
Other ways to give . . .

With the successful completion of Kitchen Project Fundraising Campaign earlier this year, income from some of the various special fundraising efforts will continue to be placed into the Building Fund for future renovation/maintenance projects, above and beyond “normal” maintenance of the church property. Proposals are being obtained on significant work to the parking lots as well as outside masonry and brick work. Please consider participating in one or more of the following fundraising opportunities, or continue doing so, to benefit the St. Peter Armenian Church Building Fund.

SHOP ON AMAZON AND THE CHURCH WINS TOO

If you shop Amazon, then please consider shopping **Amazonsmile.com** and you will be helping the Church. St. Peter Armenian Church has partnered with

Amazonsmile.com as a registered charity. So next time you shop online, be sure to sign in through **Amazonsmile.com**, select “St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church” as your chosen charity (this step only needs to be done once), then continue shopping as usual. A small percentage of all eligible purchases will be donated to the church. If all of our Amazon shoppers out there did this, it could really amount to something. But please don’t forget to sign in through **Amazonsmile.com** each time.



ROUND UP LOOSE CHANGE FOR ST. PETER

Download the application “Round Up” on your smart phone, choose “St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church” as your charity of choice, connect one of your credit cards (or two or three) and everytime you make a purchase, the amount will be rounded up with that “loose” change collected for an automatic end of the month donation to St. Peter. **This is SO easy and takes no thought after your initial set up. Please consider signing up today!**

ST. PETER RECYCLE PROGRAM

Our church is now registered with Clynk... a program offered through Hannaford stores as a way to donate the refund from your redeemable bottles and cans. ***It's so easy and simple.***

Take a specially tagged green bag from a Parish Council member, fill the bag with your redeemable bottles and soda cans, then drop the bag off at any Hannaford bottle redemption location. That's it! No need to insert bottles/cans into a machine and there is no collection slip. The money from returns will be sent directly to the Church on a monthly basis.



Community News

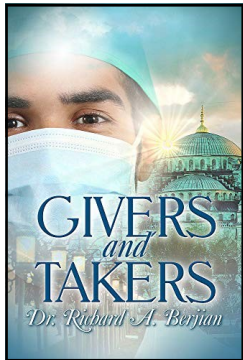
2019 FESTIVAL OF NATIONS: The 48th Annual Festival of Nations, held at the Empire State Plaza on October 20, was a resounding success! With 24 nations participating and thousands attending, this event promoted and celebrated cultural diversity by building unity and providing entertainment through song, dance, music, crafts, and, of course, food. The Capital District Armenian Genocide Committee especially appreciates the support and participation from the Armenian community. A special thank to our youth who walked in the parade and to Miss Gloria Doudoukjian, daughter of Fr. Stepanos & Paulette Doudoukjian, who represented Armenia as “Miss Armenia” with style and grace, reaching the finals in the annual crowning of Miss Festival of Nations. Miss Doudoukjian was so poised as she superbly sang the Mer Hyrenik. Young Miss Nanor Karageozian performed two solo dances on the huge stage impressing the thousands in attendance who were witness to her natural talent. Congratulations



to them both, their families, and to all those who shared their talent and love for their respective cultures and communities. The committee intends to build on the blessings of this success to enhance the experience for the Armenian community as well as the greater Capital District as we look forward to the 49th Annual Festival of Nations to be held in October 2020. For more information or to become involved through volunteering, donating, and/or sponsorship opportunities, contact the Chairman for Armenia, Rafi Topalian, at (518) 272-2000 or rafitop@aol.com.

KNIGHTS and DAUGHTERS OF VARTAN CHRISTMAS PARTY, December 15: All are invited to the Knights and Daughters of Vartan Annual Christmas Party to be held on Sunday, December 15 at 1:00 p.m. at McGreivey's Restaurant (91 Broad Street, Waterford). Guests will have an entrée choice of Steak, Glazed Salmon, or Tuscan Chicken with garden salad, seasonal vegetable, and potato, apple dumpling a la mode, and coffee or tea included. There will also be an antipasto display and cash bar available. Bring your family for good food, fun, and games. Cost is \$35 per person. Reservations are required by December 8 by contacting Ara Altounian at (518) 339-5816 or altounian@earthlink.net.

GIVERS and TAKERS by Dr. Richard A. Berjian: In his third novel, Dr. Berjian tells the story of the surviving generation with convincing characters that drive the plot. It's multi-generational history spans several decades and continents. Romance, racial bias, and the Turkish lobby's efforts to bribe Congress are intertwined in the story of an Armenian woman who will endure anything to make life better for her son. It is hoped that Armenians across this nation read the novel and promote it to non-Armenian friends as a way of enlightening the American public of Armenian history and the persistent denial by the Turkish government. For more about the author or to purchase or write a review on *Givers and Takers*, visit Amazon, Kindle, or Wingsepress.com. Profits from book sales will be donated to Armenian charitable organizations.



Mt. Ararat from Pilgrimage to Armenia

ԵՒ ՅԵՐԿԻՐ ԽԱՂԱՂՈՒԹԻՒՆ

Յիսուս Քրիստոսի ծննդեան օրը հրեշտակները «Փառք ի բարձունս» երգեցին եւ յայտարարեցին. «Աշխարհիս վրայ խաղաղութիւնը եկաւ»: Սուրբ եկեղեցւոյ հաւատքը այն է որ Յիսուս Քրիստոս այս աշխարհը եկաւ որպէս ապացոյց «խաղաղութեան»: Հայր Աստուած որ աղբիւրն ու մարմնացումն է «խաղաղութեան», Իր Միածին Որդին աշխարհ դրկեց իբրեւ «խաղաղութիւն»: Եւ Տէր Յիսուս Քրիստոս Իր ձեռքերովը հաստատած եկեղեցւոյ մէջ կ'իշխէ որպէս «իշխան, թագաւոր եւ Աստուած խաղաղութեան»:

Յիսուս Քրիստոս այս աշխարհիս վրայ խաղաղութիւն հաստատեց, խաղաղութիւն բաժնեց եւ խաղաղութիւն ստեղծեց Իր ամբողջ կեանքով, գործերով եւ խօսքերով: Երբ առաքեալներ սարսափի մատնուած էին ալեկոծ ծովուն վրայ, Ան Իր օրհնեալ ձեռքերովը հրաման տուաւ հովերուն եւ ջուրերուն եւ խաղաղութիւնը տիրեց: Երբ Տեռատես կինը Քրիստոսի քղանցքին մերձեցաւ եւ իր երկար տարիներու հիւանդութենէն անմիջապէս բժշկուեցաւ, Յիսուս օրհնեց զինք եւ ըսաւ. «Դուստր՝ հաւատք քո կեցուցին զքեզ, երթ ի խաղաղութիւն»: Յիսուս խաղաղութիւն շնորհեց այսահարներուն, Զաքէոս անուն մաքսաւորին եւ պողոտայի կնոջ: Ան խաղաղութիւն շնորհեց նոյնիսկ Իր աջ կողմը խաչուող աւազակապետին: Եւ ի վերջոյ Ան Իր անձնական խաղաղութիւնը ժառանգ թողուց Իր առաքեալներուն: «Զխաղաղութիւն զիմ տամ ձեզ, զխաղաղութիւն թողում ձեզ», ըսաւ Ան կրկին ու կրկին անգամներ:

Սուրբ եկեղեցին հետեւելով խաղաղութիւն բերող իր Թագաւորին, խաղաղութիւն կը խնդրէ եւ խաղաղութիւն կը ցանկայ իր բոլոր զաւակներուն: Խաղաղութիւն բառը կը յորդի մեր սրբազան աղօթքներուն եւ շարականներուն մէջ: «Եւ եւս խաղաղութեան զՏէր աղաչեսցուք», կը քարոզէ սարկաւազը: «Տուր աշխարհիս խղաղաղութիւն», կը պաղատին դպիրները: Պատարագիչ քահանան

«խաղաղութիւն ամենեցուն» կը կրկնէ, եւ հաւատացեալներ զիրար կը համբուրեն «Խաղաղութեան ձայն հնչեցաւ» եղանակելով: Երբ քահանան նորածին մանուկը կը կնքէ՝ «խաղաղութիւն ընդ քեզ օծեալդ» կը կոչէ, եւ «Տէր ուղղեա՛ զգնացս մեր ի խաղաղութեան» կ'աղօթէ՝ երբ գերեզման կ'իջեցնէ ննջեցեալին մարմինը:

Աշխարհ եւ ժողովուրդներ հանապազ խաղաղութիւն փնտռած եւ խաղաղութիւն ցանկացած են: Խաղաղութեան փնտրտութիւնը տեղի կ'ունենայ նոյնիսկ այսօր: ՄԱԿ-ի մեծերը աղքատին եւ անօթիին կերակուր կը քածեն «խաղաղութեան» անունով: Ահա այսօր ամեն ջանք ի գործ կը դրուի խաղաղութիւն վերահաստատելու համար Միջին Արեւելքի երկիրներուն մէջ: Մարդիկ եւ անհատներ խաղաղութեան կը կարօտին, կ'ուզեն խաղաղեցնել իրենց միտքն ու հոգին: Հազարաւորներ հոգիի խաղաղութեան սիրոյն դեղահատներու գերի կը դառնան: Դժբախտաբար սակայն, աշխարհի եւ մարդոց փնտռած այս խաղաղութիւնը չ'իրականանար:

Քրիստոս յայտարարեց որ Իր քաշխած խաղաղութիւնը նոյնը չէ այն խաղաղութեան հետ՝ որ աշխարհը կը փնտռէ եւ կամ կու տայ: «Ոչ որպէս աշխարհս տայ տամ ես զխաղաղութիւն», կ'ըսէ Ան եւ կը շարունակէ. «Համարիք եթէ խաղաղութի՞ւն եկի տալ յերկիրս, ոչ ասեմ ձեզ, այլ քածիմս»: Քրիստոսի տուած խաղաղութիւնը աստուածային է, երկնային է, հրաշալի է, չի հատնիր, չի կորսուիր եւ յաւիտենական է: Քրիստոսի խաղաղութիւնը ունեցողները կրակէ ու սուրէ կ'անցնին, օձերու եւ կարիճներու վրայ կը կոխեն, մարմին եւ ինչք կը զոհեն եւ սակայն (ինչպէս ըսին Վարդանանք). «Ոչ ոք կրնայ խլել իրենց հոգիի խաղաղութիւնը»: Քրիստոսի խաղաղութիւնը կ'աճի եւ կը տարածուի հաւատքի, յոյսի եւ սիրոյ գործերով եւ առաքիճութիւններով:

Սուրբ Ֆրանսիս աղօթեց եւ ըսաւ. «Ո՛վ Տէր, զիս ըրէ գործիքը քու խաղաղութեանդ»: Ի՛նչ սքանչելի պիտի ըլլար եթէ մենք եւս կարենայինք Քրիստոսի խաղաղութիւնը սփռող գործիքները դառնալ այս աշխարհիս վրայ:

The St. Peter Armenian School presents . . .



Joelle Entertainment - Armenian Children's Singer

L I V E @ St. Peter Armenian Church

*Saturday, November 30
6:30 p.m.*

*Open to ALL Armenian School & Sunday School
Families and Friends*

Light refreshments will be served.

TICKETS:

\$20—Adults (age 18+)
\$10—Youth (ages 2-18)
FREE—under age 2

To purchase or reserve tickets,
contact Ani Altounian at (518) 463-2625 or
Nayiri Chohamlian at (518) 650-4077 or
Nayiri91chohamlian@hotmail.com



Annual Holiday Bazaar 2019

Sat. & Sun.
Dec. 7 & 8

~hosted by~

Women's Guild

St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church

100 Troy/Schenectady Rd. • Watervliet, NY 12189

• (518) 274-3673 • office@stpeterarmenianchurch.org

Sat. Dec. 7, 2019 (11 - 5 PM)

Sun. Dec. 8, 2019 (12 - 4 PM)

Fun for the Entire Family

Portion of Proceeds to benefit

****Der Hayr's****

"Operation St. Nick"

Recipient will be an Armenian family.

PASTRIES

**ARMENIAN
FOOD**

**Attic
Treasures**

**Visit from
SANTA!**

RAFFLE



Christmas Services

Western Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24, 2019

5:45 p.m.

Nativity & Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Eve of the Feast of the Nativity and Baptism

Sunday, January 5, 2020

Morning Service only

9:45 a.m.

Readings from the Old Testament

5:00 p.m.

Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m.

Feast of the Nativity and Baptism

Monday, January 6, 2020

Divine Liturgy

10:15 a.m.

Nativity and Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Sunday, January 12, 2020

Morning Service

9:45 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Christian Education Classes

10:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy & Blessing of the Water

10:15 a.m.



Ժամանակացույց Պաշտամանց

Երեքշաբթի, Դեկտեմբեր 24, 2019

Քրիստմսի արարողություն

Երեկոյեան ժամը 5:45-ին

Ծրագրույց Ս. ԾՆՆՂԵԱՆ

Կիրակի, Յունուար 5, 2020

Ժամերգութիւն՝

Առաւօտեան ժամը 9:45-ին

Ընթերցում Հին Կտակարանի՝

Երեկոյեան ժամը 5:00-ին

Ս. Պատարագ՝

Երեկոյեան ժամը 6:00-ին

Երկուշաբթի, Յունուար 6, 2020

Ս. Պատարագ՝

Առաւօտեան ժամը 10.15-ին

Տօն Ս.ԾՆՆՂԵԱՆ եւ Աստուածայայտնութեան

Տեարն Մերոյ Յիսուսի Քրիստոսի

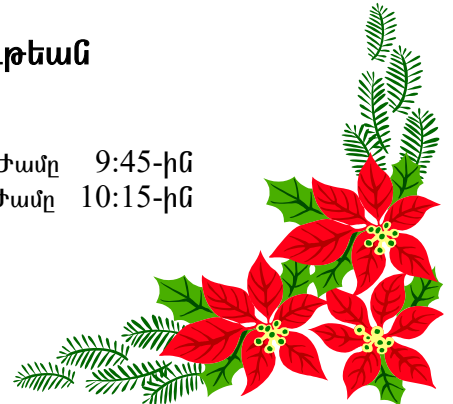
Կիրակի, Յունուար 12, 2020

Ժամերգութիւն՝

Առաւօտեան ժամը 9:45-ին

Ս. Պատարագ եւ Զօրօհնէք

Առաւօտեան ժամը 10:15-ին



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For more information contact Rhonda Boyajian

faithbuildingwomen@gmail.com



*This event is done under the auspices of Adult Christian Education at
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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

(Look for more details on most of these events inside this issue.)

All events and activities are held at St. Peter Armenian Church, unless otherwise noted.

Wed, November 20	Life is Better Together Group: Conference Room ~ 10:30am
Sun, November 24	Scheduled Requiem Service ~ immediately following Badarak <i>contact the church office to submit your request for Hokehankist</i>
Thurs-Fri, November 28-29	Church Office Closed (Thanksgiving holiday) <i>No AM Prayer Group on November 29</i>
Sat, November 30	Joelle Entertainment Children's Concert: Gdanian Auditorium ~ 6:30pm <i>hosted by the St. Peter Armenian School (details inside)</i>
Sun, December 1	Family Assembly & Fellowship Hour: Gdanian Auditorium following services <i>Hosted by the St. Peter Sunday School</i>
Tues, December 3	Parish Council Meeting: Conference Room ~ 6:30pm
Wed, December 4	Life is Better Together Group: Conference Room ~ 10:30am
Wed, December 4	St. Peter Book Club: Conference Room ~ 7:00pm
Sat-Sun, December 7-8	Annual Holiday Bazaar: Gdanian Auditorium <i>hosted by St. Peter Women's Guild</i>
Friday, December 13	AM Pray Without Ceasing Group: Conference Room ~ 10:30am
Sunday, December 15	Knights & Daughters of Vartan Christmas Party: 1:00pm <i>McGreivey's Restaurant, Waterford (details inside)</i>
Wed, December 18	Life is Better Together Group: Conference Room ~ 10:30am
Tues, December 24	CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE ~ 5:45pm <i>See Armenian Christmas schedule inside</i>

Holiday Bazaar
December 7 & 8
(details inside)