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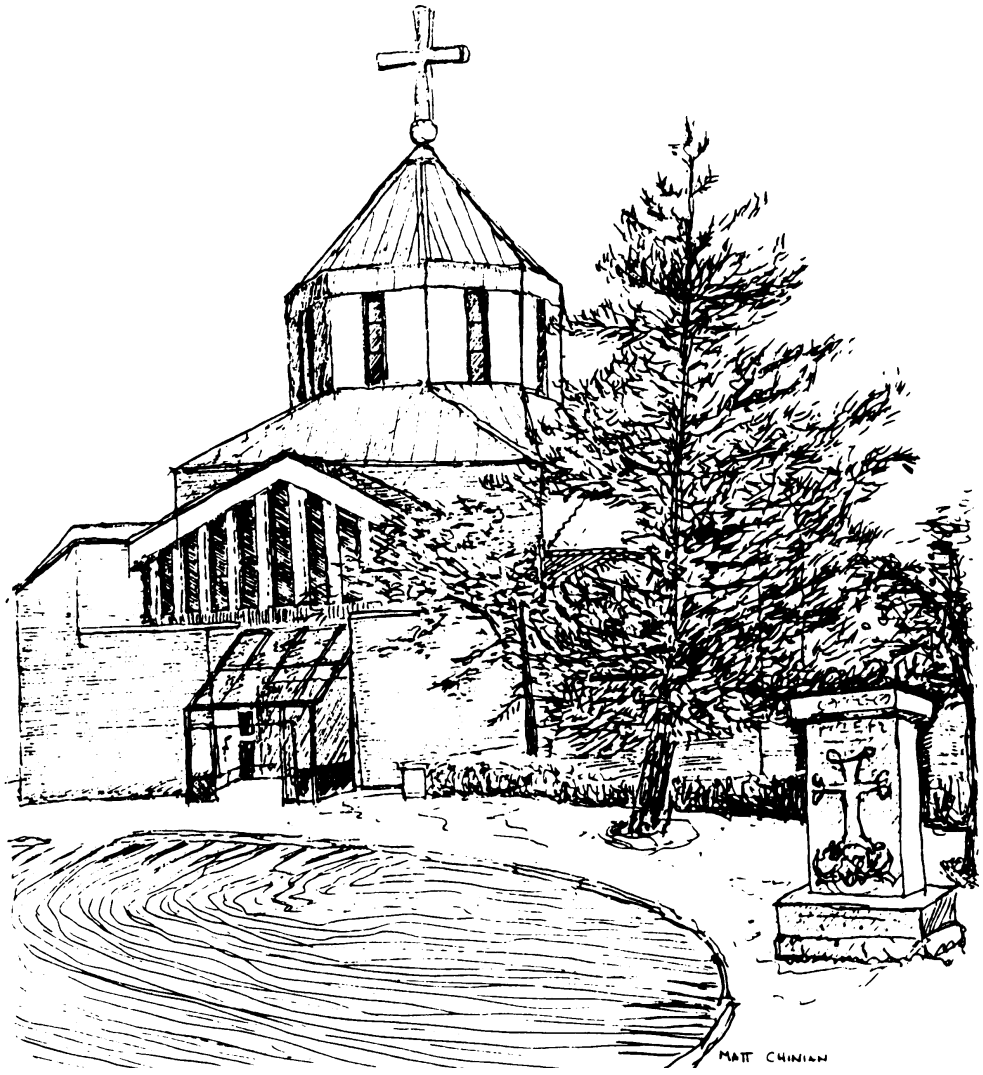
LOOSAPER



Սուրբ Պետրոս Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցի

ST. PETER ARMENIAN CHURCH

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

MARCH-APRIL 2013

St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church

100 Troy-Schenectady Road
P.O. Box 196
Watervliet, NY 12189
Phone: (518) 274-3673 ~ Fax: (518) 274-3103
E-mail: info@stpeterarmenianchurch.com
Website: www.stpeterarmenianchurch.com
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SUNDAY WORSHIP:	Morning Services	9:15 a.m.
	Divine Liturgy	10:00 a.m. sharp
OFFICE HOURS:	Monday-Friday	9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian, *Parish Priest*
839 Pearse Road
Niskayuna, NY 12309 377-7448
E-mail: frstepd@gmail.com

Rev. Fr. Garen Gdanian, *Pastor Emeritus*
1 Cindy Lee Court
Latham, NY 12110 785-4816
E-mail: dergaren@juno.com

Garo Derian, *Chairman*
560 Rt. 9W
Glenmont, NY 12077 436-7447
E-mail: garoderian@gmail.com

Rhonda Boyajian
35 Riverview Road
Clifton Park, NY 12065 371-3024
E-mail: rhondab@nycap.rr.com

Gilbert Chorbajian, *Vice Chairman*
6011 Baneberry Drive
Schenectady, NY 12303 356-5363
E-mail: gchorbajian@yahoo.com

Leon Kaiser
81 Old Coach Road
Clifton Park, NY 12065 383-3266
E-mail: luckylee99@aol.com

Willard Martin, *Treasurer*
90 Wagon W. Trail
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 587-4706
E-mail: wmartin7@nycap.rr.com

Yervant Kutchukian
2003 Brookview Road
Castleton-on-Hudson, NY 12033 732-7486
E-mail: yervant.kutchukian@gmail.com

John 'Frenchie' Ekmalian, *Assistant Treasurer*
11B Ledgewood Drive
Albany, NY 12205 421-1970

William T. Nevins, Jr.
43 Wolfert Avenue
Menands, NY 12204 465-9409
E-mail: billscafe@aol.com

Ronald P. Kaiser, *Secretary*
11 Clove Court
Clifton Park, NY 12065 371-2809
E-mail: rpk02@health.state.ny.us

Daniel O'Keefe
63 Corrit Drive
Delmar, NY 12054
E-mail: danjok1313@gmail.com

Breann Parseghian, *Assistant Secretary*
54 Spruce Street
Clifton Park, NY 12065 371-4258
E-mail: breannp@gmail.com

Joanne Scaringe
6 Chestnut Hill South
Loudonville, NY 12211 463-5004
E-mail: jmscaringe@hotmail.com

Robert Bedian
2 Carol Place
Wynantskill, NY 12198 283-9110
E-mail: yeggieb@aol.com

DIOCESAN DELEGATES:

Edward A. Belemjian
10 Orchard Grove
Loudonville, NY 12211 465-3029
E-mail: ebelemjian@yahoo.com

Charles Tutunjian
9 Dyke Road
Latham, NY 12110 785-9423
E-mail: chastutu@gmail.com

CHURCH ORGANIZATION CONTACTS:

ACYOA Jrs.	Lena Guleserian-Hoglund . .	227-1979
ACYOA Srs.	Jonathan Dadekian	346-1819
Armenian School	Anahid Altounian	463-2625
Bible Study	Elsie Vozzy	373-0242
Choir Director	Dn. Rafi Topalian	272-2000
St. Peter Adult Fellowship	Ara Baligian	279-3583
Sunday School	Lori Khachikian Brown	355-1051
Women's Guild	Mary Panjarjian	729-4493
Bookstore	Charlotte Sevazlian	274-6527

PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON:

Yervant Kutchukian
Yervant Kutchukian
Garo Derian
Yervant Kutchukian
Ron Kaiser
Edward Belemjian
Leon Kaiser
Rhonda Boyajian
Garo Derian

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

MAY / JUNE SCHEDULE FOR PUBLICATION	
Articles Deadline	Monday, May 20
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To Printer	Friday, May 31
Mailing	Wednesday, June 5

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: Sonia Hachigian, Joyce Kenosian & Philip Natcharian
Photographers: Maria Derian & Charlotte Sevazlian

Please forward all articles to the church office.

LOOSAPER DONATIONS

There is an outlay of approximately $450 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 donors who answered our call to help offset the costs of our church publication: **$141.42 - Mary DerArakelian Endowment Fund; $40 - Mr. & Mrs. Girard Kasparian (CA); $25 - Shakeh Young; $10 - Josephine Speanburg.**

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DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA (EASTERN)
ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴՈՒԹԻՒՆ ՀԱՅՈՑ ԱՄԵՐԻԿԱՅԻ ԱՐԵՒԵԼԵԱՆ ԹԵՄԻ

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

THE EASTER MESSAGE OF ARCHBISHOP KHAJAG BARSAMIAN

Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

A Further Role to Play

THEY HAD WITNESSED THE RESURRECTION of the Lord; received his triumphant assurance about mankind's salvation. Yet the disciples still did not understand that there was a further role for them to play. At their Master's urging they gathered on a mountaintop, and there listened to the last earthly words of Jesus Christ, before he ascended to his Father in heaven:

> *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. For lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world"* (Matthew 28:19-20).

Christ's final command, known as the Great Commission, marked a turning point in the activity of the early Christians. Previously, Jesus and his followers had never ventured more than a hundred miles from the place of Christ's birth. But now the disciples were commanded to travel the world, spreading the Good News to all nations. The "disciples"—followers and students of Jesus—would become "apostles": teachers, advocates, and living examples who would bring Christ's message—and Christ himself—to the rest of the world.

What they carried with them in their missionary travels—which included travel to our homeland of Armenia—were their personal memories of living side-by-side with Jesus, throughout his earthly ministry. They forged the church as the vessel which would transmit the Gospel message down through the ages. And through it, we too have been given the opportunity to stand alongside those early followers of our Lord. In the mystical setting of the church, we can enter the Gospel stories at the crucial moments of our Lord's ministry. We can *listen* to him, and *learn* from him, as his disciples did.

This is especially true of the profound drama we enter every year during the church's sacred observance of Holy Week. From Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday, each service leads us, in heart and mind, to stand among Jesus and his disciples.

We stand with them in the Upper Room, where Christ taught the deepest meaning of leadership, when he washed the feet of his disciples as a humble servant. Christ asked them to "do as I have done," and he asks the same of us. *We are called to serve*—and we must consider: How will we serve the Lord—not just today, but in the course of a lifetime?

We follow our Lord into the Garden, where he was abandoned, betrayed, and disappointed by those he loved. With his disciples, we hear his plea: "Stay here, and watch with me." And we learn that *we are asked to stay with Christ*—against the distractions, temptations, and opposition of the world. We must honestly ask ourselves: Have we lived up to his simple request?

We stand among the crowd at the Crucifixion, viewing with horror and pity our Lord's passion. We are reminded that the burden of suffering has always been felt by God's people—as it was surely felt by our own Armenian ancestors. In their memory, we bear witness that *we are called*

to be at the cross. And having stood in the cross' shadow, we must reflect on the meaning that Christ's crucifixion holds for us, as individuals and as a people.

Finally, we stand at the Tomb—the one place where Jesus is *not* present. "He is not here; he is risen!" was the angel's amazing announcement to the women who arrived at the tomb early on the first Easter Sunday; and he followed it with these words: "Go and tell the others." At last we stand face-to-face with the miracle of Easter, and its lesson could hardly be more direct: *we are commanded to go and tell*.

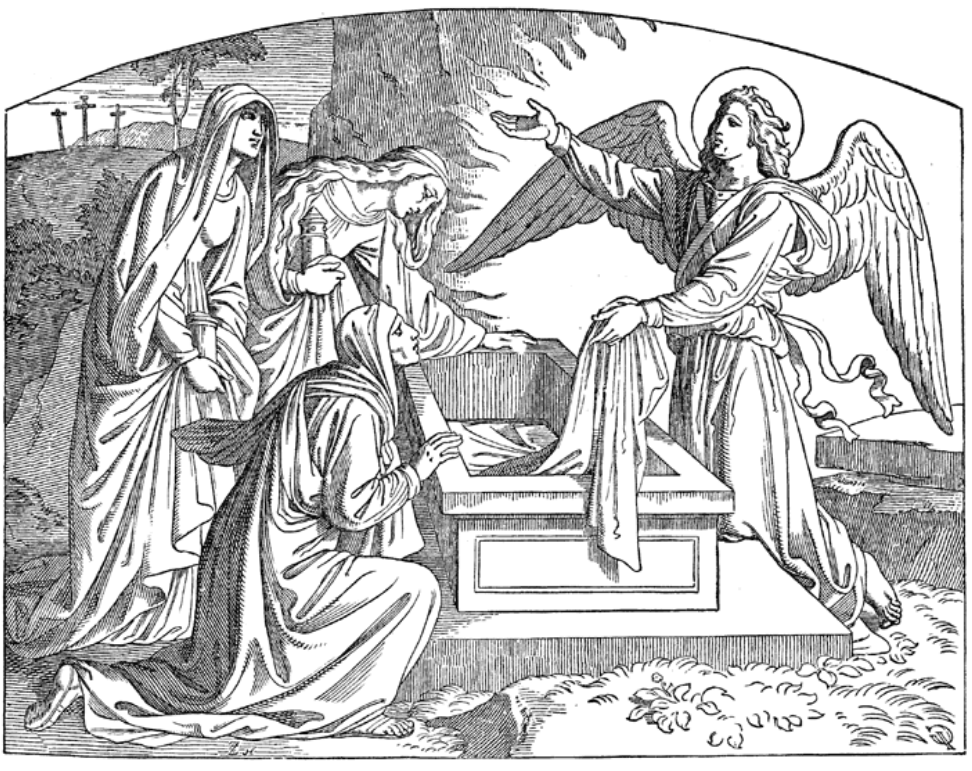
This is the journey of the spirit we should embark upon, as a church, through Holy Week and Easter. It culminates in our proclamation of the Gospel: the Good News of Christ's victory over sin and death. In our own Diocese, throughout the coming months, we will strive to deepen our understanding of the Good News, and equip ourselves to share it with others—in word and deed—through this year's theme: "Living the Gospel of Christ."

In the most basic sense, to live the Gospel is to recognize that there is a further role for us to play in Christ's mission. He invites us to draw near to him as disciples, but he also sends us out as apostles. "Go forth and make new disciples…" said our Lord in the Great Commission. "Go and tell…" said the angel at the Empty Tomb. We are asked to take up this mission as believers who have stood with Jesus and accepted him into our hearts. And as we stand with him, we should be aware that Jesus stands with us, also. For did he not promise that "I am with you always—even unto the end of the world"?

That is the great lesson, the beautiful promise, which unfolds before us during Holy Week. It is the truth we should hold in our hearts this Easter Sunday, as we go forth into the world, fulfilling the angel's command with our joyous greeting:

Krisdos haryav ee merelotz! Orhnyal eh harootiunun Krisdosee!
Christ is risen from the dead! Blessed is the resurrection of Christ!

Easter 2013



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA (EASTERN)
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Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻՈՅ ԱՄԵՐԻԿԱՅԻ ԱՐԵՒԵԼԵԱՆ ԹԵՄԻ ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴ ԳԵՐԾ. Տ. ԽԱԺԱԿ ԱՐՔ. ՊԱՐՍԱՄԵԱՆԻ ՋԱՏԿԱԿԱՆ ՊԱՏԳԱՄԸ

Յաւելեալ Դեր Մը

Ա նոնք վկաները եղած էին Տիրոջը յարութեան, ստացած անոր յաղթական խոստումը մարդկութեան փրկութեան վերաբերեալ: Սակայն աշակերտները դեռ չէին հասկցած՝ թէ կատարելիք յաւելեալ դեր մը ունէին: Իրենց Տիրոջ պնդումին անսալով՝ պիտի հաւաքուէին լերան մը կատարին՝ լսելու Յիսուս Քրիստոսի երկրային վերջին պատգամը՝ նախ քան անոր համբարձումը առ Հայր ի յերկինս:

> *«Գացէ՛ք ուրեմն, աշակերտ դարձուցէք բոլոր ազգերը, մկրտեցէ՛ք զանոնք Հօր եւ Որդիին եւ Սուրբ Հոգիին անունով: Սորվեցուցէ՛ք անոնց պահել այն ամէնը, ինչ որ պատուիրեցի ձեզի. եւ ահաւասիկ ես ձեզի հետ եմ բոլոր օրերը՝ մինչեւ աշխարհի վախճանը»* (Մատթէոս ԻԸ. 19-20):

Քրիստոսի վերջին պատգամը, որ ծանօթ է որպէս «տիեզերական առաքելութիւն», դարձաւ կարեւոր դարձակէտ մը քրիստոնէական շարժումի պատմութեան մէջ: Յիսուս եւ իր հետեւորդները ասկէ առաջ Քրիստոսի ծննդեան վայրէն մի քանի հարիւր մղոն հեռաւորութենէ անդին երբեք չէին ճամբորդած: Իսկ այժմ՝ աշակերտներուն հրահանգ կը տրուէր որպէս զի աշխարհի բոլոր կողմերը երթան՝ Աւետարանը բոլոր ազգերուն մէջ տարածելու համար: «Աշակերտներ»ը, կամ Յիսուսի հետեւորդները, պիտի դառնային «առաքեալներ»՝ ուսուցիչներ, ջատագովներ եւ օրինակելի անձեր, որոնք Քրիստոսի պատգամը, եւ նոյն ինքն Քրիստոսը, պիտի բերէին աշխարհի միւս մասերուն:

Անոնք իրենց առաքելութեան ճանապարհին, որուն վրայ կը գտնուէր նաեւ մեր հայրենիքը՝ Հայաստանը, իրենց հետ պիտի տանէին անձնական յիշատակներ Յիսուսի երկրային առաքելութեան ատեն անոր հետ կողք կողքի ապրուած օրերու: Անոնք է որ պիտի կռէին եկեղեցին որպէս անօթ մը, որ դարերու ընթացքին Աւետարանի պատգամը պիտի փոխանցէր: Այդ անօթին միջոցաւ մեզի եւս պիտի տրուէր առիթը կանգնելու Տիրոջ առաջին հետեւորդներուն կողքին: Արդարեւ՝ եկեղեցւոյ խորհրդաւոր յարկին ներքեւ է որ կրնանք թափանցել աւետարանական պատմութիւններուն, ի մասնաւորի մեր Տիրոջ առաքելութեան ճգնաժամային րոպէներուն: Հոն է որ մենք կրնանք մտիկ ընել Քրիստոսին եւ սորվիլ անկէ, այնպէս ինչպէս անոր աշակերտները ըրին:

Ասիկա մասնաւորաբար իրողութիւն է, երբ ամէն տարի եկեղեցին Աւագ շաբթուան տօներուն ընթացքին կը նշէ այս ամենաախորհրդաւոր տրաման: Աւագ Հինգշաբթի օրուընէ մինչեւ Զատկի կիրակի օրը՝ կատարուելիք իւրաքանչիւր արարողութիւն կ՛առաջնորդէ մեզ, սրտով թէ հոգիով, կանգնելու Յիսուսի եւ անոր աշակերտներուն կողքին:

Պիտի Կանգնինք անոնց հետ Վերնատան մէջ, ուր Քրիստոս շատ իմաստալից կերպով սորվեցուց առաջնորդ ըլլալը, երբ ան՝ որպէս խոնարհ ծառայ՝ իր աշակերտներուն ոտքերը լուաց: Քրիստոս ըսաւ անոնց՝ «ըրէ՛ք այն ինչ որ ես կ՛ընեմ», եւ նոյն բանը մեզի ալ կ՛ըսէ: *Մենք կոչուած ենք ծառայելու* – եւ պարտինք նկատի առնել թէ՝ ի՞նչպէս պիտի ծառայենք Տիրոջ – ոչ միայն այսօր, այլ մեր կեանքի ընթացքին:

Մենք պիտի հետեւինք մեր Տիրոջ դէպի Գեթսեմանի, ուր ան պիտի լքուէր, մատնուէր եւ յուսախաբ պիտի ըլլար անոնցմէ զորս կը սիրէր: Աշակերտներուն հետ մենք եւս կը լսենք անոր խնդրանքը՝ «մնացէք այստեղ եւ ինծի հետ արթուն կեցէք»: Մենք կ՛իմանանք թէ *մեզմէ կը խնդրուի որ մնանք Քրիստոսի հետ* – աշխարհի հրապոյրներուն եւ փորձութիւններուն ընդդէմ: Այժմ անկեղծօրէն հարցնենք մենք մեզի՝ Արդեօ՞ք այս պարզ խնդրանքին գոհացում տուած ենք:

Խաչելութեան ներկայ գտնուող ամբոխին մէջ պիտի կանգնինք, սոսկումով եւ կարեկցութեամբ դիտելու մեր Տիրոջ չարչարանքը: Տեսարանը կը յիշեցնէ մեզի, թէ չարչարանքը միշտ զգացեր է Աստուծոյ ժողովուրդը – ինչպէս որ մեր նախնիք զգացեր են անտարակոյս: Զանոնք յիշելով մենք եւս կը վկայենք թէ *մենք ալ կոչուած ենք խաչին ստորոտը գտնուելու*: Եւ կանգնելով Ս. Խաչին հովանիին տակ, պարտինք մտածել թէ Քրիստոսի խաչելութիւնը ինչ իմաստ ունի մեզի համար անհատաբար եւ որպէս ժողովուրդ:

Ի վերջոյ՝ կանգ պիտի առնենք գերեզմանին քով – միակ վայրը ուր Քրիստոս չի գտնուիր: «Այստեղ չէ ան, վասն զի յարութիւն առաւ», ահա հրեշտակին զարմանալի խօսքը ուղղուած այն կիներուն որոնք Զատիկի կիրակի օրը կանուխէն եկած էին գերեզման: Եւ ահա մնացեալ մասը այդ խօսքին՝ «իսկոյն գացէ՛ք, ըսէ՛ք միւսներուն»: Վերջապէս ղէմ յանդիման կը գտնուինք Զատիկի հրաշքին եւ անոր դասը հազիւ թէ աւելի յաստակ ըլլայ. այսինքն՝ *մեզի հրահանգ տրուած է երթալ եւ ըսել:*

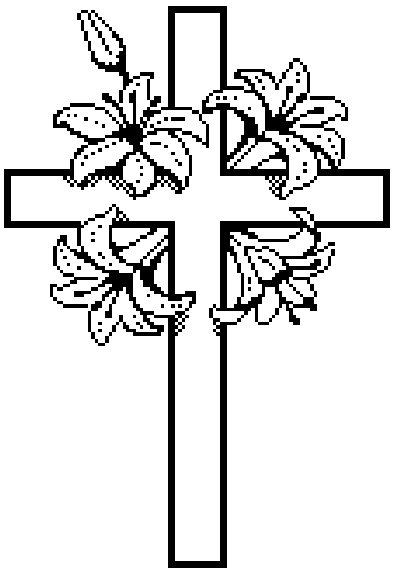
Այս է այն հոգեւոր ուղին որուն պարտ է հետեւիլ որպէս եկեղեցի Աւագ Շաբթուան ընթացքին եւ Զատիկին: Այդ ուղին իր բարձունքին կը հասնի երբ բարձրաղաղակ ծանուցանենք Աւետարանը, այսինքն՝ Աւետիսը (բարի լուրը) մահուան եւ մեղքին վրայ Քրիստոսի յաղթանակին: Մեր Թեմին մէջ՝ յառաջիկայ ամիսներուն պիտի ջանանք Աւետիսի (բարի լուր) վերաբերեալ մեր հասկացողութիւնը խորացնել եւ պատրաստել զմեզ որպէս զի ուրիշներ եւս բաժնեկից դարձնենք անոր ընթացիկ տարուան կարգախօսին միջոցաւ, որ է «Քրիստոսի Աւետարանը ապրիլ»:

Իրապէս՝ Աւետարանը ապրիլ կը նշանակէ ընդունիլ թէ՝ մեզի համար կատարելիք յաւելեալ դեր մը կայ Քրիստոսի առաքելութեան մէջ: Ան կը հրաւիրէ մեզ մօտենալ իրեն որպէս աշակերտ, բայց նաեւ կ՛ուղարկէ մեզ որպէս առաքեալ: «Գացէ՛ք ուրեմն եւ աշակերտ դարձուցէք …» կ՛ըսէ մեր Տէրը Տիեզերական Առաքելութեան մէջ: «Գացէ՛ք եւ ըսէք …» կ՛ըսէ հրեշտակը դատարկ գերեզմանին քով: Մեզմէ կ՛ակնկալուի այս առաքելութեան ձեռնարկել որպէս հաւատացեալներ որոնք Քրիստոսի կողքին կանգնած են եւ ընդունած են զայն իրենց սրտերուն մէջ: Եւ մինչ անոր կողքին կանգնած ենք, պարտինք վերահաստատ ըլլալ՝ թէ Քրիստոս ալ մեր կողքին կանգնած է: Միթէ չխոստացա՞ւ՝ «ես ձեզի հետ եմ բոլոր օրերը՝ մինչեւ աշխարհի վախճանը»:

Ահա այս է կարեւոր դասը, գեղեցիկ խոստումը որ մեր առջեւ կը ծաւալի Աւագ Շաբթու ընթացքին: Այս է իրականութիւնը որ պարտինք պահել մեր սրտերուն մէջ այս Զատիկին, երբ բազմութեան մէջ մտնելով հրեշտակին պատգամը կատարենք մեր ողջոյնի ուրախ արտայայտութեամբ՝

Քրիստոս յարեաւ ի մեռելոց. օրհնեալ է յարութիւնն Քրիստոսի:

Զատիկ 2013



Torkom Manoogian (93) Armenian Church Leader

The New York Times Obituaries, Sunday, October 21, 2012

— by PAUL VITELLO

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, the longtime leader of the Armenian orthodox church in the United States and a savvy communicator who used his pulpit in New York to broaden public awareness of the Armenian genocide, died on Oct. 12 in Jerusalem. He was 93.

He had been hospitalized since January with cardiac problems, church officials said in announcing his death.

From 1966 to 1990, Archbishop Manoogian was primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church in America, the larger of two dioceses in this country, where most of about 700,000 church members live. (The Western Diocese comprises Arizona and California.)

A skilled fund-raiser, the archbishop led the final phases of construction of St. Vartan's Cathedral, the first Armenian cathedral in North America. A work in progress on the East Side of Manhattan (Second Avenue at 34th Street) since the 1950s, the cathedral, with a gilded 120-foot-tall dome, was consecrated in 1968 in a ceremony attended by the city's civic and religious leaders, including Mayor John V. Lindsay.

In April 1975, to mark the 60th anniversary of the start of the Armenian blood bath, Archbishop Manoogian sponsored a series of public events, including one at Madison Square Garden, that brought new attention to the mass deaths and the Turkish government's continued refusal to accept responsibility for them as acts of genocide.

Like many ethnic Armenians in the United States, Archbishop Manoogian was a descendant of the large Christian population that was expelled from what is now Turkey in a campaign of ethnic cleansing undertaken by the Ottoman military between 1915 and 1923. An estimated one million Armenians were killed or starved to death. The archbishop was born in an Armenian refugee camp near Baghdad after his parents fled their Turkish town during the killings.

The Turkish government maintains that many died on both sides of an ethnic conflict between Armenians and Turks during World War I, but that Turkish authorities never adopted a program of genocide. Armenians have long demanded Turkish atonement for what most historians consider the first organized genocide of the century.

Archbishop Manoogian enlisted the American Catholic Conference, the American Jewish Committee and the Islamic Center of Washington to join in demanding that Turkey acknowledge the atrocities. Gov. Hugh L. Carey of New York signed a proclamation demanding the same.

The historian Barbara W. Tuchman, whose grandfather Henry Morgenthau Sr. was the United States ambassador to the Ottoman Empire in 1915, related his eyewitness account of the massacres before a standing-room-only crowd at the Felt Forum in Madison Square Garden.

Peter Balakian, author of "The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response," said the scale of the 1975 commemoration was groundbreaking and well timed.

"Holocaust studies and a new American human rights culture had emerged in the '60s and '70s," he said, and "the archbishop was astute in seizing that moment" to place the Armenian genocide "within the new arc of Americans' commemorative memory."

Several days of 60th-anniversary observances culminated in a march from St. Vartan's Cathedral past the United Nations and into St. Patrick's Cathedral. There, in his sermon, Archbishop Manoogian addressed an audience of survivors, their descendants and other supporters.

"We are here," he said. "And we were not supposed to be."

Many were involved in organizing the events, but Archbishop Manoogian was the survivors' spokesman, said Christopher Zakian, a diocese spokesman and editor of "The Torch Was Passed: The Centennial History of the Armenian Church of America."

"He was a witness to the genocide," Mr. Zakian said. "And — not saying this to diminish his dignity and stature in any way — he was also a P. R. genius."

Torkom Manoogian was born on Feb. 16, 1919, one of six children of Nargiz and Vahan Manoogian. His parents owned a photography studio in a southeastern Turkish town near the Iraq border. He was sent to school in Jerusalem at 12 and ordained as a priest in 1939.

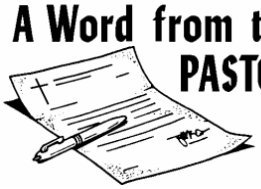
He arrived in the United States for the first of several church assignments in 1946, serving in California and Pennsylvania. He was primate of the Western Diocese in 1962 and named a bishop the same year. He became an archbishop in 1966, soon after he arrived in New York.

After the 1988 earthquake in Armenia, which killed more than 50,000 and left many more homeless, he spearheaded church relief efforts in the United States.

In 1990, Archbishop Manoogian was appointed patriarch of Jerusalem, a primarily diplomatic post that he held until his death.

Archbishop Manoogian was an authority on Armenian sacred music and on the work of the musician-priest Komitas, who became mentally ill during the Armenian genocide and is considered one of its martyrs. He died in 1935 in Paris. The archbishop also wrote poetry under the name Shen Mah and completed an Armenian translation of Shakespeare's sonnets.

His survivors include a sister, Dzovig Devletian, and two brothers, Khachig and Sooren, all of whom live in the United States.



A Word from the PASTOR . . . Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian

Praise the Lord O Jerusalem
Kovya Yeroosaghem
Գովեա Երուսաղէմ զՏէր

Christ is Risen from the Dead! Blessed is the Resurrection of Christ!

For the 40 days following Easter, we proclaim the resurrection greetings to each other. Easter is a time for us to embrace the Light of the Risen Jesus Christ. He has been raised from the dead to illumine the entire world -- to enlighten us from death to salvation, from debt to forgiveness of sins, from darkness to light, from damnation to glory.

One of the Easter hymns that are sung during Badarak at this time is called *Kovya Yeroosaghem.*

Praise the Lord O Jerusalem. Christ is Risen from the dead! Alleluia.
Come all people sing to the Lord. Alleluia.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
To the One risen from the dead Alleluia. Who shined light on the world, Alleluia.

Գովեա Երուսաղէմ զՏէր:
Յարեաւ Քրիստոս ի մեռելոց. ալէլուիա:
Եկայք ժողովուրդք. երգեցէք Տեառն՝ ալէլուիա:
Փառք Հօր եւ Որդւոյ եւ Հոգւոյն Սրբոյ
այժմ եւ միշտ եւ յաւիտենս յաւիտենից ամէն:
Յարուցելոյն ի մեռելոց ալէլուիա, որ զաշխարհս լուսաւորեաց, ալէլուիա:

This is my favorite Easter hymn! It calls all of us to take action on our faith. The hymn *Kovya Yeroosaghem* instructs us to do the following: 1) To Praise the Lord! 2) Come all People and 3) Sing to the Lord.

Why do we do those three action points? The answer is found in the hymn. We put our Easter proclamation into action because Christ is Risen from the dead and the Risen Jesus Christ shines light on the entire world. The light shined in a world that was full of darkness back in Christ's time and continues to shine even in a world today where we witness an equal amount of darkness.

Will we choose to remain in that darkness that we experience? Will we choose to be surrounded and controlled by the darkness we witness? Will we choose to support the darkness in the world today? These questions must be answered by each of us - every day? What will be our answer? What choice will we make?

My prayer is that we choose to live and follow the path of the Risen One, Jesus Christ, who came to enlighten the darkness of the world. If we choose His Light, we will never walk in darkness again. We will always be surrounded by His light of peace, love, mercy, goodness and illumination.

May the Risen Lord Jesus Christ bless each of us and our families.

Fr. Stepanos

Parish Council Message

Holy Week

Krisdos haryav ee merelotz! Orhnyal eh haroutyunun Krisdosee!
Christ is risen from the dead! Blessed is the resurrection of Christ!

The week preceding Easter or Holy Resurrection is called Holy Week - *Avak Shapat* in Armenian, which translated means Great Week. It is called 'Great' because it commemorates the most important events of our Lord's earthly life: the teachings of the last seven days, Christ's passion, His death and resurrection. I thank Der Stepanos for his spiritual leadership along with his two great pillars, Deacon Hrant Bardakjian and Deacon Hagop Derian, and all the other deacons and choir members who came together to lead our celebration of Holy Week at St. Peter Church.

We had a good turnout for our Annual Parish Assembly on March 3. I thank all the volunteers that helped prepare the Lenten luncheon for those who attended the Assembly. As part of the New Business presented at the Assembly, an expenditure of $33,500 was approved for a new Sanctuary Project. See the Building Fund Report in this issue for more details.

Yes! It's soon time for our Annual Armenian Festival again — being held this year on June 8 & 9. *(See flyer in this issue for more information.)* This is the largest activity held on our church grounds and we again aim to have another successful two-day celebration. ***The John Berberian Ensemble*** will be a special feature at our festival this year. There will also be additional mouthwatering Armenian foods and many more activities for the children. Please volunteer! There is much work to be done prior to and during the big event. This is such a gratifying community event for all of us when we all come together and help our church. My thanks to Chuck Tutunjian and Bill Nevins for co-chairing our Festival this year along with the other members of the Festival Committee and all the hardworking volunteers.

Let us continue to pray for Der Garen and his family. Let us also pray and visit the sick and shut-ins in our community. The sixty to seventy thousand Armenians in Syria who are currently going through a very difficult time also need our prayers.

Deacon Garo Derian
Parish Council Chairman

Rite of Grave Blessing

Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian will be available on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, to perform the Rite of Grave Blessing at the following locations:

Elmwood Cemetery in Troy
from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Albany Rural Cemetery
from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Memory Gardens
from 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Visits to other cemeteries may be made by contacting the church office by Friday, May 24.

The following is a list of participants to date in our 2013 Membership/Stewardship Pledge program. At the end of each year, a Membership Dues/Stewardship Pledge Form is mailed to all parishioners requesting their annual Dues/Pledge commitment for the following year. The list below represents those who have made that commitment thus far for 2013; please accept our thanks. If your name does not appear in the list, please consider making that commitment now by completing the form on the following page or by contacting the church office.

2013 Membership / Stewardship Participants

Joseph Akullian
Rosemary Ammian
Winifred Ammian*
Beatrice Arzoumanian*
Gerald Arzoumanian*
Alan & Nevart Asadoorian*
Aram A. Atashian, Jr.
Betty Avakian
Steve & Pamela Azarian*
Nazar J. Bakerian*
Eugene & Judy Bedian
Robert & Sandra Bedian*
George & Elsie Bedrosian
Edward Belemjian*
Leonard & Antoinette Buchakjian
Charles & Alice Chorbajian
Herbert & Linda Chorbajian
Robert & Holly Dadekian
Rich DeMartino & Barbara Derian*
Garo & Maria Derian*
Isabel Derian
Tamara Desanctis
Suzanne Dickinson*
Marguerite Djehizian
Yn. Paulette Doudoukjian
Arleen Drooby*
John & Debbie Ekmalian
Ralph & Elizabeth Enokian*
Arpy Ernest
Sharon Foley & Valerie Demarest*
Lenna K. Freedman*
Sarkis Garabedian
Fr. Garen & Yn. Zabelle Gdanian
Sonia Hachigian*
Joanne C. Hartunian*
Mary Hartunian
Richard & Beth Hartunian*
Barbara Hrachian*
Charlene Hrachian*
Seren Hrachian*
John Jerian*
Hripsime Jevanian
Phyllis Jevanian
Donald Kaiser
Leon & Susan Kaiser
Ronald P. Kaiser
Grace Karian*
Ara Kayayan*
Edward & Bertha Kazanjian
Linda Kazanjian
James & Marion Kehrer
Martin & Joyce Kenosian
David Ketchoyan*
Karen Khachadourian
Russell & Sandra Kilidjian*
Peter Koshgarian*
Isabel Krempa*
Steven Krempa*
Charles & Patricia Krikorian*
Lucy Krikorian*
David Kubikian*
Armenak & Winifred Kutchukian*
Yervant Kutchukian*
Christopher Le*
George & Virginia Mahserjian*
Nellie Marderosian
Willard & Shelley Martin*
Katrina Mayba*
Sean & Alice McMullan*
H. Khachik & Mary Minassian*
R. Mihran & Ovsanna Mooradian
Mark Moroukian*
Lucy Morton*
Philip J. Natcharian*
Gregory & Marjorie Nazarian
John & Karen Nevins
William & Betty Jane Nevins*
Joseph & Patricia O'Keefe*
George & Elizabeth Osganian
Mary Panjarjian
Albert & Florence Paparian*
Helen Paparian*
David & Breann Parseghian*
Alice Sanjian Rotondi*
George & Joanne Scaringe*
Charlotte Sevazlian
Harry R. Shamlian*
Lucille Shamlian
Toros Shamlian, Jr.
Mary Shanks
Leo Sogoian
Lucille Sogoian
Susan Sogoian
Josephine Speanburg
Hariton C. Sprinceanu*
Claudia Suppa
Fay Talarico
Kevork Torossian
Charles & Carol Tutunjian*
Nazar & Joan Tutunjian*
Daniel Vartigian*
Ralph Vartigian
Elsie Vozzy
Alice Wildman

Is Your Name Here?

**Indicates those who have increased their pledge from the previous year or are new to the Membership Dues / Stewardship Pledge program this year. We thank you!*

"GIFT OF PRAYER" MINISTRY

Prayers may be requested for healing, recognition or remembrance and may be made by completing the form available in this issue or by contacting the church office. Both the person making the prayer request, as well as the people we are praying for, will be remembered. A beautiful "Gift of Prayer" card will be sent out to the person(s) as an acknowledgment of your prayer request.

2013 Membership Dues/Stewardship Pledge Form

Name(s): _____

Please list name(s) of all committed givers.

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you.""

(Deut 16:17)

St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church
Membership Dues and Stewardship Pledge Form — Giving 2013

There are two categories listed below. Membership Dues are necessary for St. Peter Church to pay to the Diocese in New York City. Stewardship pledge is an individual commitment to help meet the needs of our own St. Peter Church parish.

A) **Membership Dues for 2013***.....$_____

($150 times the number of each dues-paying member in household.)
Dues-paying members of St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church must be at least 18 years of age and pay the annual dues of $150 in order to be in good standing. Only dues-paying members in good standing may vote at Parish Assembly Meetings or hold elective offices.

B) **Stewardship Pledge for 2013**.....$_____

(Total for all persons listed above.)
A pledge is a personal commitment, in addition to or besides Membership Dues, to support the mission and goal of St. Peter Armenian Church.

C) **Total Contribution for 2013**.....$_____

(Add Line A and Line B)

SIGNATURE:_____ DATE:_____

Please return this completed form to the church office as soon as possible to activate your 2013 Dues/ Pledge account. No payment is necessary to submit a Pledge Form. It is asked that Dues/Pledge monies be paid by the end of the 2013 calendar year.* Payments may now be made online through the St. Peter Church website stpeterarmenianchurch.com.

If you have any questions on how to fill out this form, please call the church office at 274-3673. Once this form has been submitted, you will be assigned an account number and offering envelopes (if you choose to use them) can be picked up the following week at the church office.

***According to Diocesan by-laws, Dues must be paid in full prior to end of the calendar year.**

❒ **Yes,** please issue me a box of offering envelopes.

❒ **No,** a box of offering envelopes will not be needed.

Building Fund Report

Sanctuary Improvement Fund Support Request

As you may be aware, our church sanctuary is in serious need of maintenance and upkeep that has been deferred for much too long. With this in mind, the Parish Council presented a building maintenance project proposal at the recent Annual Parish Assembly. This proposal was passed with unanimous approval by the Assembly. Consequently, the Parish Council now has the responsibility of raising the funds needed to cover the cost of painting the church sanctuary and related repairs with an expected price tag of $33,500.

The scope of the work includes painting the two side walls and back wall of the sanctuary, under the stained glass windows, and the stairwells and vestibule; cleaning the vents and adding new vents to prevent paint from peeling in the future. The project would also include repairs to the cracked walls and stains from water damage, the ceiling and dome deterioration, the vestibule area and stairwell, and deterioration around the vents most likely due to moisture, and application of a Minwax oil finish to the wood ceiling. And finally, the stained glass windows in the dome and the north and south sides of the sanctuary will be recaulked and resealed to prevent future water seepage and to protect the soon-to-be painted interior surfaces of the sanctuary.

The balance of the funds available from the successfully completed Building Fund campaign, totaling $12,870, will be used for the sanctuary project. After hearing of the building committee's project proposal at the Assembly, a new contribution of $300 was given specifically for this project by Philip Natcharian at the conclusion of the meeting.

Therefore, the Parish Council now has the task of raising an additional $20,330 to pay the balance of the sanctuary improvement project costs. We are asking for your continuing support in our efforts to properly maintain the property so generously built and paid for by our parents, grandparents and church elders.

Please consider making a contribution to this project to help us enhance our church sanctuary. Your check, made payable to 'St. Peter Armenian Church' (Memo: Sanctuary Project), may be mailed to St. Peter Armenian Church, PO Box 196, Watervliet, NY 12189.

Thank you for your consideration.

The Parish Council

Words of Thanks and Appreciation

On behalf of the American Italian Heritage Museum, we would like to express our thanks for joining us together with the Armenian community for a wonderful evening [January 18]. It is nice to know that these organizations can join together. We hope to see you in the warmer weather.

Sincerely yours,
Virginia & Dominic Paratore

Fr. Stepanos,

Thank you very much for giving our residents joy, peace and faith, We love having you here [at the Marjorie Doyle Rockwell Center on March 26] and sharing your guidance and friendship.

Marion [Kehrer]

Dear Der Hayr,

In the past 8-10 months, our work has taken us all over the country, but with very little time in the Albany area. As a result, we are moving out of our home here and returning permanently to our home in Massachusetts. . .

We will always remember how you and your parishioners made us feel welcome and at home the few times we were here to attend your beautiful church. We only wish we could have gotten to know everyone better.

We pray and ask the good Lord to bless you and your community as you continue in your commitment to our Armenian heritage and faith.

Thank you again . . . and again.

Sincerely,
Nevart & Alan Asadoorian

Church Organization News

Women's Guild

As my first official Loosaper entry as Chairman of the Women's Guild, I would like to thank past Chairman Mary Panjarjian and the former Executive Committee for all their hard work and dedication in serving the Guild.

Welcome 2013! The current Executive Committee, comprised of five existing and four new officers, has begun the task of working toward several annual events held during the Lenten calendar. Of course Mother Nature has cooperated with our schedule of events by giving us a mild winter with a glorious spring-time soon upon us.

Our Tahin Hatz Baking Day was a busy one beginning in the wee hours of the morning (6:00 a.m.) with Valerie Demarest and myself as coordinators. With Valerie's expertise in controlling dough ($) and mine in dough-making (in a bowl) we began the preparations for the many volunteers (29 in all) that came to help throughout the day. Needless to say, all those helping hands made our event a big success. Thank you to Dolly Shamlian for taking the tahin and dinner reservations.

Our traditional Mid-Lenten Dinner was a huge success! A special thanks goes out to Adrina Tutunjian and Mary Hartunian for their expertise in preparing the delicious Vosbov Kufte that was served with the meal. Thank you to all those who helped put on such an amazing meal. Attendance was great and the food was heavenly.

Saintly Women's Day was commemorated on Sunday, March 17. During the Badarak, appropriate readings were delivered by Nectar Derian in Armenian and Sonya Moroukian in English. Recognized this year were the oil-bearing women, also known as "The Three Marys" (Mary Magdalene, Mary of Clopas and Mary of Salome). Following the program, an Eggplant Parmesan and Baked Ziti dinner was served to the church community. A special thank you goes to Mary Panjarjian who coordinated the dinner and to all the Executive Committee members who assisted with the preparation. Thank you also to Lucy Morton for taking the dinner reservations. The lucky winner of the 50/50 raffle held that day was Helena Ekamlian who graciously donated her $90 winnings back to the Women's Guild. Thank you Helena!

On Thursday, March 28, the Women's Guild again hosted the annual Holy Thursday Breakfast following services that morning. The traditional menu for the breakfast consisted of cheoreg, cheese, olives, colored eggs, coffee and tea.

The St. Peter Women's Guild will assist the Holy Cross Ladies Aid with the preparation of the traditional Madagh dinner to be served following joint services on Sunday, April 28. *(See flyer in this issue for details.)*

Aloha! If you can't get away to Hawaii, join the Hawaiian-themed festivities of the St. Peter Women's Guild Annual Mother's Day Banquet being held on Sunday, May 19, 12:30-4:00 p.m. at the Western Turnpike Golf Club, 2350 Western Avenue, Guilderland. (See flyer in this issue for full details.)

The Women's Guild has again been given the task of coordinating the Bakery Area for the upcoming Annual Armenian Festival. We will need EVERYONE'S involvement to make this the most successful Festival ever. Stayed tuned for upcoming scheduled prep dates or contact a member of the Executive Committee to offer your assistance.

As always, we welcome everyone's ideas and suggestions towards making our Guild stronger and even more productive. Get involved! You will have fun and help keep our house of worship alive and well!

A blessed and Happy Easter to all! Krisdos haryav ee merelotz!

Sharon Foley,
Women's Guild Chairman

Adult Fellowship

Our potluck Lenten luncheon held on March 13 was attended by 25 members and guests and featured a buffet with a variety of non-meat dishes including beoreg, tabouleh, pasta salads, tutmaj soup, and an assortment of desserts. This was our first luncheon meeting in 2013.

At our meeting on April 3 in the Gdanian Auditorium, the members and guests enjoyed a catered Chicken Parmigiana dinner. After the meal, they had their choice of several activities in which to participate, including tavloo, cards and Bingo.

Our meeting in May will be held on the second Wednesday, May 8. Following the luncheon at 12:30 p.m., a special presentation on Native American folklore will be given by professional storyteller, Gil Payette. If that name sounds familiar, it should since he is related to another 'storyteller' named Payette — he is the brother of our church secretary, Lori Payette.

Mark Thursday, August 1, on your calendar. That is the date for our annual trip to the MacHayden Theatre. This year our group will be attending the matinee performance of a special musical 'Les Miserables.' We will again lunch at the Winding Brook Country Club prior to the theater presentation. Seats are limited so stay tuned for details and make your reservations early (before July 1) by contacting Martin Kenosian at (518) 785-3140.

The Executive Committee has been discussing ways to improve our monthly meetings and make them ore interesting. Suggestions and ideas from our members and friends are most welcome.

Martin Kenosian, Secretary

ACYOA Juniors

The St. Peter ACYOA Juniors had four out of the twelve participants in the **Annual Regional ACYOA Juniors Retreat** held at the Don Bosco Center in Stony Point, NY on March 1-3. The weekend focused on Bible study with discussions and prayer. Thank you to advisor Arsen Yelegen for chaperoning that weekend.

Although the general consensus was they didn't like the movie, the ten participants of the March 22 **ACYOA 'Chopped' Lock-in** had a great time with the activity and reuniting with friends. The Juniors were split into teams for a three-course cooking competition. Serving as judges were Yervant Kutchukian, Jonathan Dadekian, and Melissa Ann Argay. The creativity amongst our youth was amazing and judges had a difficult task of choosing an overall winner. Each participant was asked to write down their comments on the activity (see below):

- *My favorite part was doing 'Chopped' and hanging out with friends. The movie was ok. Next year we should watch something uplifting and happy. Overall, I would come again next year.*
- *Favorite part – 'Chopped.' Could have used more time; Movie – Sad. Next year no movie or happy movie; Great Time – should have one next year; Discussion was great. Dog / God; Man's best friend; We should have another lock-in.*
- *I would rather watch an uplifting movie instead of a sad one. I had a lot of fun seeing my old friends and seeing how they're doing. I like the discussion how we compared the dog in the movie to God.*
- *The 2013 Lock-in was an amazing experience. Whether we were in the 'Chopped' competition or watching a movie, we became great friends with everyone around us. I would rather do another activity in place of the movie. The movie was very sad and made everyone tired. I feel like if we did another Lazarath activity where we filmed it, it would have been really fund.*
- *My favorite part was the 'icebreakers' because they were fun and I learned a lot of new things. I like the lock-in and I would like to do it again. I think next time we should not watch a movie or a more happy one. 'Chopped' was another one of my favorite parts. I really would like to do it again.*
- *Coming to the lock-in for the first time in two years was an exciting experience for me. I saw some familiar faces and some new ones as well. I enjoyed getting to know my younger Armenian peers and share this night with them.*

- *My favorite part of the lock-in was playing 'Chopped.' I also liked the movie a little bit. Next year, we should watch a funnier movie. The food was good.*
- *My favorite part of this lock-in was 'Chopped.' The new ingredients were challenging but made the game more fun. The dinner was delicious. Yervant was my favorite judge so he should come back again next year. I enjoyed reuniting with my Armenian friends and talking to new ones like Autumn. I wouldn't suggest watching another movie because I usually fall asleep. Something interactive like last year would've been more fun.*

The morning after the Lock-in, set-up began for the **Annual Palm Sunday Brunch** being held that Sunday, March 24 when the ACYOA Juniors again hosted another successful event serving a delicious meal of mezza, manti, yogurt, beverage and dessert to over 50 patrons. Special thanks goes to Mrs. Nectar Derian for making hummus and baba ghanoush and also to Nora's Grocery for donating the pita bread. Thanks also to the ACYOA parents for their donation of food items and their assistance in the kitchen. The year, the Easter-themed raffle basket winner was Martin Kenosian.

In conjunction with the American Red Cross, the St. Peter ACYOA Juniors will again sponsor a **Blood Drive** this year to be held on Saturday, April 27, in the Gdanian Auditorium from 8:00 a. m. to 1:00 p.m. This blood drive is in commemoration of the victims of the Armenian Genocide. Schedule your appointment by contacting the St. Peter Church office at 274-3673 or stpeter.armch@prodigy.net. Appointments can also be scheduled online at www.redcrossblood.org and search with Sponsor Code 15478nyp. All presenting donors in April can enter for a chance to win a $50 music gift card.

The **Annual Hye M'rtsoom Junior Sports Weekend** will be held in Watertown, MA on Memorial Day Weekend, May 24-27. Youth ages 13-18 are encouraged to paraticipate in this weekend long social and sport event. Individual sports and team sports are available in which to participate. Please contact Lena Guleserian-Hoglund at lenabenna@nycap.rr.com for more information or to register.

St. Vartan Camp registration is now available online at www.armenianchurch-ed.net/programming/diocesan-camps/. Three sessions for youth ages 8-15 are available from June 30 to August 10. Register soon as space is limited. Visit the website for more information or contact an ACYOA Advisor.

Those interested in **St. Nersess Summer Conferences** can register online at www.stnersess.edu. Four sessions are available: Deacons' Training, June 24-July 2; High School A, July 5-13; High School B, July 29-August 6; and Post High School, August 8-13.

Book-of-the-Month Club

The next gathering of the St. Peter Church Book Club led by Dn. Yervant Kutchukian will be on Wednesday, April 24, at 7:00 p.m. The book selection will be *The Return of the Prodigal Son* by Henri Nouwen. "A chance encounter with a reproduction of Rembrandt's *The Return of the Prodigal Son* catapulted Henri Nouwen on a long spiritual adventure. Here he shares the deeply personal and resonant meditation that led him to discover the place within where God has chosen to dwell. Henri Nouwen probes the several movements of the parable: the younger son's return, the father's restoration of sonship, the elder son's vengefulness, and the father's compassion. The themes of homecoming, affirmation, and reconciliation will be newly discovered by all who have known loneliness, dejection, jealousy, or anger. The challenge to love as the father and be loved as the son will be seen as the ultimate revelation of the parable known to Christians throughout time, and here represented with a vigor and power fresh for our times. For all who ask, 'Where has my struggle led me?' or for those 'on the road' who have had the courage to embark on the journey but seek the illumination of a known way and safe passage, this work will inspire and guide each time it is read." Check you local bookseller or library for availability.

Parish Community News

Sacraments and Rites

Funeral — **Natalie S. Paparian Kachougian** entered her eternal rest on November March 22, 2013. She survived by two daughters, Romy (Scott) Horn and Kimberly (Ken MacLeod) Kachougian; a granddaughter, Ava Horn; and a brother, Albert (Florence) Paparian. Fr. Stepanos conducted the funeral service on March 27.

Karasoonk (40-Day Memorial)

March 3, 2013 — **Rev. Fr. Ghevont Samoorian** - requested by His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian; St. Peter Armenian Church Clergy, Parish Council, parishioners and friends.

Hokehankist

February 24, 2013 — **Sarkis Khanjian** (Third Anniversary); **Alice (Heybelian) Khanjian; Heybelian, Khanjian & Guzubeyikian Families** - requested by Sarkis & Heidi Guleserian & Family; Hoglund Family; Mr. & Mrs. Bedros Karian; Mr. & Mrs. Greg Karian; John Karian & Family; Arpine Karian; Mr. & Mrs. Raffe Moroukian & Family; Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Mahserjian; Sarkis & Betty Minassian; Nersess & Lori Minassian; Mr. & Mrs. Hrant Bardakjian; Ani Minassian; Mr. & Mrs. Ohan Ohanian; Mary Panjarjian; Zareh & Annie Altounian.

Jack Kolaian (Ninth Annivesary) - requested by Ed & Adrina Tutunjian.

Ann Vartigian (Sixth Anniversary) - requested by Ralph Vartigian; Curt & Debbie Erlandson (NJ); Dan & Karen Vartigian; George & Betty Osganian; Dick Osganian; Edward & Bertha Kazanjian; Rosemary Ammian; Charleen Akullian; Doris Kasarjian Kavoukian (CA).

March 3, 2013 — **Seroun Citigyan; Saelie Touzekian; Lousasine Gulerreseian; Nazareat Karagozian; Khachadour Karayan** - requested by Vartan & Tervanta Karayan.

Sosi Baghnasarian; Serone Halabyan - requested anonymously.

Altar Candles

February 10, 2013 — Josephine Speanburg in memory of **Alice Kazanjian** on the occasion of her birthday on January 29.

February 24, 2013 — James & Mary Kalteux in memory of **Ann Vartigian.**

March 17, 2013 — Josephine Speanburg in memory of **Richard Speanburg** on the occasion of his birthday on March 14; Mr. & Mrs. William T. Nevins, Sr. & Family in memory of **Paris Avakian** on the occasion of her birthday on March 17.

Palm Sunday & Easter Flowers

The palm trees that decorated the sanctuary and the palms distributed on Palm Sunday, March 24, were donated by Mary Hartunian & Family in memory of **Katherine Mahserjian.**

Easter lilies for Holy Week and Easter were donated by: Betty Avakian and Shirley Avakian & Family in memory of **Avakian & Baronian Families;** Isabel Krempa in memory of **loved ones;** Mr. & Mrs. William T. Nevins, Sr. in honor of **Thomas Berj & Riley Grove Nevins'** service as acolytes.

Fellowship Hour

To maintain a regular schedule of coffee hours, the Parish Council is asking that church auxiliaries/schools and individuals/families select dates to host a coffee hour. Please contact the church office to make the necessary arrangements and to reserve the date of your choice.

February 10, 2013 Hosted by the Sunday School & Armenian School staff and families
in commemoration of Poon Paregentan

February 24, 2013 Hosted by the Guleserian Family
in memory of Khanjian, Heybelian & Guzubeyikian Familes.

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 completing the request form available in this issue or 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.

February 10, 2013 **Alice Wildman** - prayers of recognition on the occasion of her 90th birthday requested by Virginia Gregg.

February 17, 2013 **Lucille W. Senecal** - prayers of remembrance requested by Barbara Derian.

Announcements

Michael Kevork Bedian has reported for active duty in the United States Navy. After graduating from SUNY Plattsburgh in May 2012, Michael then enlisted in the Navy and departed for basic training on March 13, 2013. He is stationed at Great Lakes Training facility in Illinois. Michael is the son of Bob & Sandy Bedian and the grandson of Anne Forsha Nelson and the late George & Penny Bedian. Michael's family and his church family are very proud of his decision to serve his country. We wish him good luck and may God bless him and keep him safe.

2013 GRADUATES: We ask all who are to graduate from High School, College or a University this spring to kindly send their names to the church office by Monday, May 20, for publication in the May/June issue of *Loosaper.* Please include the name of the school, the degree which you will receive and your future plans.

Special Donations

General donations for the General Fund were received from the following: Garo & Maria Derian ($100) *in honor of their sons, Hagop & Kevork Derian, participating in the opening of the curtains for the Trnpatzek Service on Palm Sunday, March 24;* Mary W. Dillon ($90) and Mr. & Mrs. Martin Toomajian ($90) *in honor of Alice Wildman's 90th birthday;* Marion Kehrer ($25) *for Fr. Stepanos offering a service at the Marjorie Doyle Rockwell Center;* June Atashian & Tamara Desanctis ($10);

To kick off the Lenten Season, Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian asked friends and faithful of St. Peter Armenian Church to participate in a special activity - as a reminder that the Lenten period is the season dedicated to prayer, fasting and giving. It is a time to dig deeper into our body, soul and mind; examine within and rededicate ourselves back to God. As part of this activity, he also asked parishioners and friends to make the extra sacrifice and give an additional monetary donation to St. Peter Armenian Church. Known as "**Above and Beyond**" week, total donations collected amounted to $2,050.00.

Thank you to the Adult Bible Study group for making donations totaling $102 toward a new coffee pot for the kitchen.

Thank you to Ralph Enokian for his donation of $60 to the St. Peter Church Bookstore.

Armenian Church Endowment Fund (ACEF)

We recently received a check from the ACEF as our annual distribution. The distribution amount was calculated by applying the rate of approximately 4.5% to each endowment fund's average market value for the prior twelve calendar quarters. A portion of the distribution is from endowments established directly with the ACEF and the balance is from endowments established with St. Peter Armenian Church, but managed by the ACEF. Details appear on the following schedule:

Direct Endowments with ACEF	Distribution
J. Albert & Alice Barsamian Endowment Fund	$ 27.24
Rev. Fr. Garen & Yn. Zabelle Gdanian Fund	458.50
Martin & Joyce Kenosian Endowment Fund	891.88
Bishop Papken Varjabedian Endowment Fund	248.07
St. Peter Armenian Church	
(Details of each individual endowment fund will appear in the Church's 2013 Annual Report.)	
Total Received	$ 22,580.07
Total Endowment Fund distribution received in 2013	$ 24,205.76

The actual distribution from the ACEF was larger than the amount shown above, but some of the monies were redistributed in accordance with the terms of the individual endowments.

Contributions made in 2012 to the St. Peter Armenian Church Endowment Funds were as follows:

ENDOWMENT FUND	AMOUNT
Anonymous	$ 2,000.00
Kenneth Chorbajian	100.00
Mary Jaffarian	3,000.00
Henry & Anna K. Kaiser	500.00
Asador & Sarah Kenosian	500.00
Grace & Dorothy Kenosian	500.00
Saverio & Anna Pascazio	2,734.34
Toros Shamlian	5,000.00
Total Additions	$14,334.34

An endowment fund can be established with the church at any time with a minimum of $2,000. Once established, any additional amounts can be added. Principal remains permanently in the endowment fund and the church receives an income distribution annually. If interested in establishing an endowment fund, please contact the St. Peter Church office.

St. Peter Armenian Church is now the proud member of
Ukrainian Federal Credit Union

Last year, St. Peter Armenian Church became a member of the Ukrainian Federal Credit Union which has a branch conveniently located in the Hilltop Plaza at 143 Troy Schenectady Road, Watervliet. They have since become one of our biggest supporters as sponsors of our Armenian Festival, Church Anniversary Event, and the Holiday Bazaar. Additionally, they will donate $25 for each parishioner or friend of St. Peter Armenian Church who opens a new account, and an additional $100 for every 10 new members. Credit Unions have become a very popular way to bank with many benefits. New members will receive 0.20%$_{APR}$ discount on any Consumer Loan, 0.10%$_{APY}$ on any Share Certificate, and much more. Visit their office today, call (518) 266-0791 or go online at www.rufcu.org for more information.

Community News

OUR CONDOLENCES TO:

The family and friends of **John Koumjian** who entered his eternal rest on February 16, 2013. He is survived by a daughter, Sharon (Leo) Jette; a sister-in-law; and several nieces and nephews.

The family and friends of **Christine T. Suppa** who entered her eternal rest on March 19, 2013. She is survived by a son, Patrick (Claudia) Suppa; a daughter, R. Joy (Jamie) Williams; two brothers, David (Fran) Placido and Nick Placido (FL); two granddaughters, Christine (Matthew) Hoyt and Claudine (Bill) Nevins; and four great grandchildren.

HELPING SYRIAN-ARMENIANS FUNDRAISER, April 13: The Homenetmen of Albany along with Homenetmen Eastern U.S. Region is seeking donations to help distraught Syrian-Armenians. All monies donated will be combined at a regional level and sent to Armenians in Syria. As a token of appreciation, Homenetmen is hosting a complimentary dinner to be held at St. Peter Armenian Church on Saturday, April 13, at 6:30 p.m. A video presentation with live footage from Syria's current war will be shown followed by a brief program and discussion. All are invited to come and offer your support. To volunteer to assist with this event, please contact Isabel at (518) 542-5233. Checks should be made payable to 'Homenetmen of Albany' (Memo: Syrian-Armenian Fund) and can be mailed to Armenian-American Community Center, 1627 3rd Avenue, Watervliet, NY 12189 or brought to the dinner on April 13. For more information, e-mail events@homenetmen-albany.org.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE COMMEMORATION, April 19: The ANC of Albany and Homenetmen of Albany will host the annual Armenian Genocide Commemoration on Friday, April 19, at 6:30 p.m. at Troy Riverfront Park. A memorial service will be followed by a Madagh dinner and program at the Armenian-American Community Center located at 1627 Third Avenue, Watervliet. For more information, e-mail ANCAlbany@gmail.com.

TOWN OF COLONIE WILL FLY ARMENIAN FLAG, April 20-27: In commemoration of the 98th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923, the Town of Colonie will fly the Armenian flag outside the Town Hall from April 20 to April 27.

AUTHOR OF THE SANDCASTLE GIRLS BOOK TOUR, April 25: The author of The Sandcastle Girls, a recent selection of the St. Peter Church Book-of-the-Month Club, Chris Bohjalian, will be in the Capital District as part of his current book tour. All are invited to this event sponsored by the New York State Writers Institute at the SUNY Campus Center Ballroom on Thursday, April 25, at 8:00 p.m. For more information, call (518) 442-5621.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 98TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE, APRIL 28: In solemn remembrance of the victims of Armenian Genocide of 1915, the communities of Holy Cross Armenian Church and St. Peter Armenian Church will worship together at St. Peter Armenian Church on Sunday, April 28. A special requiem and commemorative program will be held following Liturgy. The program will feature keynote speaker, Seminarian Saro Kalayjian, and a special presentation from the St. Peter Sunday School & Armenian School students. Following services and the program, a madagh lunch will be served in the Gdanian Auditorium prepared by the Holy Cross Ladies Aid. There is no charge for this meal; however, individuals may make a sponsorship contribution toward the lamb. Others may contribute toward a good will offering. *(See flyer in this issue.)*

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR 2013

The Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) has announced that, again this year, thanks to a number of generous endowments, it plans to grant scholarships to undergraduate students for the academic year 2013-2014. These scholarships are earmarked for Armenian-American students attending accredited 4-year undergraduate university programs. Preference will be given to those who are active in the life of the Armenian churches of the Eastern Diocese. The scholarship program is open to U.S. Citizens only. Beginning this year, the application and reference forms must be submitted electronically. You will find the forms on the Diocesan website at www.armenianchurch-ed.net/programming/scholarships. All applications must be accompanied by a recommendation from the parish priest or, for those parishes with no parish priest. the Parish Council Chairman.

The Sacred Music Council is pleased to offer two scholarships in 2013. Available are two $250 scholarships for St. Nersess Seminary Deacon's Training Program; and one $500 scholarship from the Margaret E. Hagopian Musical Training Scholarship fund. For more information on criteria and how to apply, contact the Sacred Music Council at the Diocese of the Armenian Church at (212) 686-0710 or visit www.armenianchurch-ed.net/eastern-diocese/music-council/scholarships.

St. Peter Armenian Church offers two types of scholarships for young people. The St. Nersess / St. Vartan Camp Scholarships are five scholarships of $50 per camper for young people interested in attending either the St. Nersess 2013 Summer Conferences or Saint Vartan Camp 2013. Those wishing to apply for one of the available scholarships should send a letter of interest indicating the session they intend to register for to the St. Peter Church office as soon as possible.

High school students entering a two-year or four-year accredited college or university in the 2013-2014 academic year may apply for a $250 scholarship. The student also must be the child of a dues-paying member of St. Peter Armenian Church and must also submit a 500-word essay on the topic "How has your Armenian-Christian identity impacted your life and how has your faith developed over the years?" These essays will be reviewed by a panel of three members of the church community. For more information on how to apply, contact the church office.

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LOOSAPER

AD RATES

For more information, call 518-274-3673

Loosaper is the official bi-monthly publication of St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church

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ՋԳՈՐԾՍ ՋԵՌԱՅ ՄԵՐՈՑ

Սեպտեմբերի առաջին Երկուշաբթին կը տօնենք Աշխատանքի եւ Աշխատաւորութեան Օրը:

Կրօնքը, քրիստոնէութիւնը, աստուածային պատուիրանները ըսելիք մը ունի՞ն աշխատանքի եւ աշխատաւորութեան մասին: Անաստուած եւ անկրօն մարդիկ այս հարցումին «ո՛չ» կը պատասխանեն: Անոնք այնպէս կը հաւատան որ գործի աշխարհը եւ կրօնքի աշխարհը իրարու հետ կապ չունին: «Առեւտուրի եւ շուկայի գործառնութեանց մէջ կրօնք չես կրնար քարոզել», կ'ըսեն անոնք: Ասիկա սխալ եւ վտանգաւոր մօտեցում մըն է անշուշտ: Կրօնքը եւ եկեղեցին շատ բան ըսած են աշխատանքի եւ գործաւորութեան մասին: Ի՞նչ պիտի ըլլար մեր վիճակը՝ եթէ Աստուած չհետաքրքրուէր գործաւորներու աշխարհով:

Ըստ Սուրբ Գիրքի՝ աշխատանքը սուրբ է եւ կամ պէտք է սուրբ ըլլայ: Ամէն արդար եւ ուղիղ աշխատանք աստուածահաճոյ է: Ճակտի քրտինքով շահուած ամէն աշխատաւորական արդիւնք աղբիւր մըն է ճշմարտութեան եւ բարօրութեան: Մեր երկնաւոր Հայրը գործունեայ Աստուած մըն է: Անիկա Իր ձեռքերովը կերտեց երկիրն ու երկիրը եւ անոր ամբողջ զարդերը: Կենդանիներն ու բոյսերը եւ մենք մարդիկս արդիւքն ենք աստուածային կամքին եւ աշխատութեան: Մեր Աստուածը ոչ ծերացած է եւ ոչ ալ հանգստեան կոչուած: Անոր օրհնեալ գործունէութիւնները յաւիտենական են եւ դադար չունին:

Յիսուս Քրիստոս աշխատաւորի զաւակ եղաւ եւ արհեստ սորվեցաւ Իր մանուկ հասակէն: Կրօնքի ոչ մէկ առաջնորդ մեր Տիրոջ նման աշխատաւորական մանկութիւն ունեցած է: Մեր Տէրը Իրեն աշակերտ ընտրեց աշխատաւոր մարդիկ միայն: Անիկա Իր քարոզներուն եւ առակներուն միւթ ըրաւ սերմնացանը, մաքսաւորը, ձկնորսը, ագարակապանը եւ վաճառականը: Քրիստոսի հրաշագործութիւնները ժամանակ եւ աշխատանք կը պահանջէին եւ Ինք գործեց գիշեր եւ ցերեկ եւ նոյնիսկ Շաբաթ օրեր: Քրիստոս

աշխատաւորներու կարիքներուն եւ տկարութիւններուն հասնող Աստուածորդի մըն էր: Ահա թէ ինչու Ան սիրով եւ ողորմութեամբ Իր գիրկը կանչեց բոլոր գործաւոր մարդիկը եւ ըսաւ. «Եկայք առ իս ամենայն վաստակեալք եւ բեռնաւորք եւ ես հանգուցից զձեզ»:

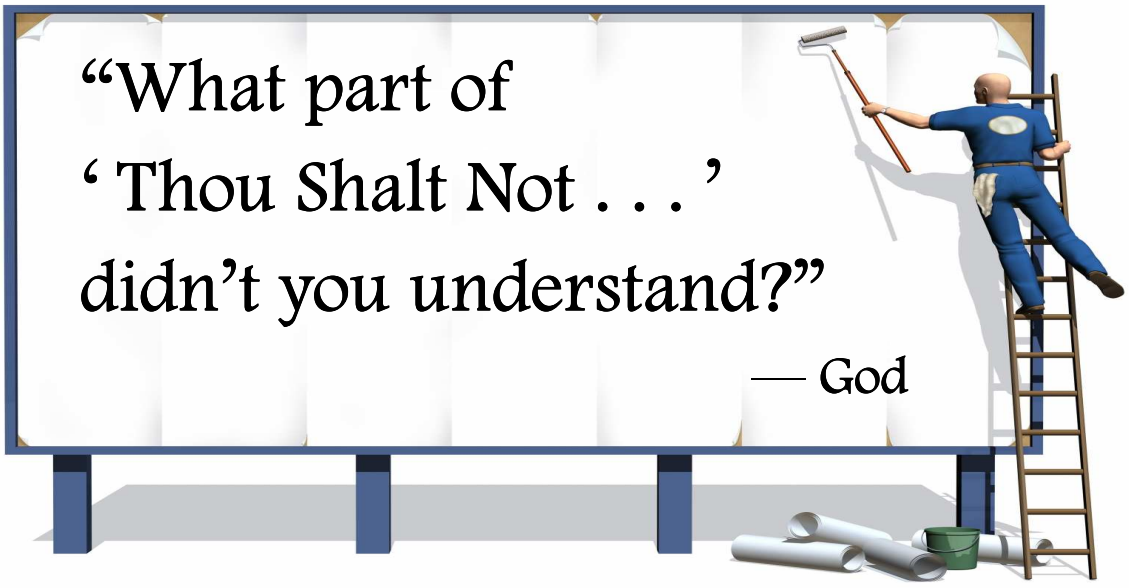
Աշխատանքը եւ գործաւորութիւնը սուրբ է ուրեմն Աստուծոյ եւ եկեղեցիին համար: Աշխատաւորական կեանքը ստեղծագործութեան ծրագրին մէկ կարեւոր բաժինն է: Աշխատանքը պատիժ եւ չարչարանք ընկատողները չարաչար կը սխալին: Բարի, արդար եւ ուղիղ գործ կատարելը աստուածայինն պատուիրան մըն է: Բարեգործ եւ արդար մարդիկ յաւիտենական կեանքի ժառանգորդ կը հանդիսանան:

Դժբախտաբար սակայն մեր աշխարհին մէջ կան նաեւ չար եւ անսուրբ գործեր: Մեղաւոր, անիրաւ եւ անսիրտ մարդիկ օրն ի բուն կը պղծեն եւ կը խաթարեն մարդկային աշխատանքները: Մեզ կը շրջապատեն սատանայի նմանող եւ ոճրագործ այնպիսի անհատներ՝ որոնք ոչ Աստուծմէ կը վախնան եւ ոչ ալ մարդոցմէ կ'ամչնան: Այս անխիղճ եւ անզգամ մարդոց համար դրամը ամէն ինչ է եւ ուրիշներու դժբախտութիւնը ոչ մէկ նշանակութիւն ունի իրենց համար:

Սուրբ եւ արդար գործն է միայն որ Աստուծոյ անունը պիտի փառաւորէ այս աշխարհի վրայ: Զայնակցինք ուրեմն սաղմոսերգու մարգարէին եւ աղօթենք. «Զգործս ձեռաց մերոց ուղիղ արա ի մեզ Տէր, եւ զգործս ձեռաց մերոց յաջողեա ի մեզ»:

1979

God Speaks Billboard



Sunday April 28

The St. Peter and Holy Cross Armenian Apostolic Churches invite you to the . . .

Commemoration of the 98th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide

ՀՈՎԱՆԱՒՈՐՈՒԹԵԱՄԲ ՍՈՒՐԲ ՊԵՏՐՈՍ ԵՒ ՍՈՒՐԲ ԽԱՉ
ՀԱՅ ԱՌԱՔԵԼԱԿԱՆ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻՆԵՐՈՒ՝

ՈԳԵԿՈՉՈՒՄ ՄԵԾ ԵՂԵՌՆԻ 98-Ի ԱՄԵԱԿԻ

ԿԻՐԱԿԻ, 28 ԱՊՐԻԼ 2013-ին,
ՍՈՒՐԲ ՊԵՏՐՈՍ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻՈՅ ՄԷՋ, Ուաթըրվլիթ

Միացեալ Սուրբ Պատարագ	Ժամը 10:00-ին
Ոգեկոչում և Հոգեհանգիստ (եկեղեցւոյ մէջ)	Ժամը 11:30-ին
Մատաղ (Կտանեան Սրահին մէջ)	Ժամը 12:30-ին

Մասնակցութեամբ՝ Կիրակնօրեայ և Հայ Դպրոցի Աշակերտութեան

Sunday, April 28, 2013

at St. Peter Armenian Church
100 Troy Schenectady Road, Watervliet

Holy Badarak	10:00 a.m.
Commemoration / Requiem	11:30 a.m.
Madagh Lunch (Gdanian Auditorium)	12:30 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: Seminarian Saro Kalayjian

Special presentation and dedication by the
Armenian School & Sunday School children

For further information, contact the St. Peter Armenian Church office at (518) 274-3673 or stpeter.armch@prodigy.net or Holy Cross Armenian Church at holycross1976@yahoo.com.

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The Women's Guild Mother's Day Banquet

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Sunday, May 19
12:30-4:00pm

Buffet-style Lunch
Adults $25; Children (12 and under) $15

Please RSVP to Carol Tutunjian at 334-1142 or cyjtutu@gmail.com or Maria Derian at 728-1828 or dmgd2797ny@hotmail.com. Make your reservation before May 5th and receive a free raffle ticket.

St. Peter Armenian Church

ARMENIAN FESTIVAL 2013

100 Troy-Schenectady Rd., Watervliet, NY (6 miles north of Albany)

Saturday
JUNE 8TH
Noon - 8:00 PM

Sunday
JUNE 9TH
Noon - 5:00 PM

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St. Peter Armenian Church

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"Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive."
- Matthew 21:22

GIFT OF PRAYER REQUEST FORM

Requested for: _____

(Unless otherwise indicated, the name of the person being prayed for will be listed in the Sunday bulletin.)

Purpose:

❑ Special Occasion (describe) _____

Examples: anniversary, birthday, graduation, new baby, retirement, new home, etc.

❑ Healing ❑ Remembrance (in memory of)

Prayer card sent to: _____

Address of Recipient: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Requested by: _____

To be kept anonymous? ❑ Yes ❑ No

Requester's Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Donation amount enclosed: _____

(Note: Suggested donation is $15. The donation amount will not be indicated on the prayer card.)

Please return this form with your check payable to:

St. Peter Armenian Church
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Watervliet, NY 12189

For more information or special requests, call (518) 274-3673 or e-mail stpeter.armch@prodigy.net.

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, April 12	**Adult Bible Study Class:** Gdanian Auditorium ~ 10:15am
Saturday, April 13	**Homenetmen of Albany Syrian-Armenian Fundraising Dinner:** St. Peter Armenian Church Gdanian Auditorium ~ 6:30pm
Wednesday, April 17	**Altar Server's Class:** 5:45pm
Thursday, April 18	**Choir Rehearsal:** Sanctuary ~ 7:30pm
Saturday, April 20	**Parish Council Retreat:** Gdanian Auditorium ~ 3:00-8:30pm
Wednesday, April 24	**Book of the Month Club:** Conference Room ~ 7:00pm
Friday, April 26	**Adult Bible Study Class:** Gdanian Auditorium ~ 10:15am
Saturday, April 27	**ACYOA Blood Drive:** Gdanian Auditorium ~ 8:00am-1:00pm *Call Church Office for an appointment*
Sunday, April 28	**Armenian Genocide Commemoration & Madagh Meal:** Joint Services & Program with Holy Cross Armenian Church at St. Peter Armenian Church ~ 10:00am
Wednesday, May 1	**Altar Server's Class:** 5:45pm
Sunday, May 5	**Family Worship Day**
Wednesday, May 8	**Adult Fellowship Luncheon Meeting:** Gdanian Auditorium ~ 12:30pm
Friday, May 10	**Adult Bible Study Class:** Gdanian Auditorium ~ 10:15am
Wednesday, May 15	**Altar Server's Class:** 5:45pm
Thursday, May 16	**Choir Rehearsal:** Sanctuary ~ 7:30pm
Sunday, May 19	**Women's Guild Mother's Day Luncheon:** Western Turnpike Golf Club, Guilderland ~ 12:30-4:00pm
Friday, May 24	**Adult Bible Study Class:** Gdanian Auditorium ~ 10:15am
Wednesday, May 29	**Altar Server's Class:** 5:45pm
Saturday, June 8	**ANNUAL ARMENIAN FESTIVAL~DAY 1:** Church Grounds ~ 12:00-8:00pm
Sunday, June 9	**ANNUAL ARMENIAN FESTIVAL~DAY 2:** Church Grounds ~ 12:00-5:00pm