

# ԼՈՒՍԱԲԵՐ LOOSAPER

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ST. PETER ARMENIAN CHURCH

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

**MAY-JULY 2013**

*This issue of Loosaper is dedicated to our beloved Fr. Garen Gdanian,  
who faithfully served the Armenian Church for over 60 years  
and the St. Peter Armenian Church community since 1970.*

# St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church

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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.

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

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|--|----------------------------|
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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!

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| <p><b>CURRENT VOLUNTEER STAFF:</b></p> <p>Editorial: Yn. Paulette Doudoukjian &amp; Joyce Kenosian<br/>Photographers: Gilbert Chorbajian &amp; Maria Derian</p> <p><b>Please forward all articles to the church office.</b></p> |
|---|

**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: **\$30 - Barbara Hrachian, Clare Schisa; \$25 - Jack S. Injajigian, Sally McNeff, Carole Smith (FL).**

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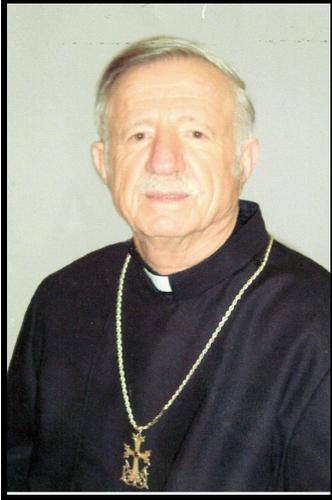
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## **Rev. Fr. Garen Gdanian**

### **1925 - 2013**



Father Garen Gdanian, 88, passed peacefully on Thursday, June 27, 2013, surrounded by his loving family. He was the second child of the late Kevork and Siranoosh (Tavookjian) Gdanian.

Father Garen Gdanian was born on February 1, 1925 in Aleppo, Syria. His baptismal name was Sarkis. He attended local Armenian schools; first, the Nersessian School, then Zavarian, and later Gertaisratz School.

At the age of 13, he entered the Armenian Seminary of Jerusalem and studied there six full years. In 1944, he returned to Aleppo and taught in the Zavarian Armenian School for one year. From 1945 to 1947, he studied at the Armenian Theological Seminary of Antelias, Lebanon.

In the year 1947, Father Garen came to the United States as a student upon the invitation of then Primate, Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan. He studied at the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, MA, where he received a Master of Divinity degree in 1950. He continued his studies one more year by attending the Harvard Divinity School.

Father Garen was ordained a deacon in January of 1948 and was assigned to Lowell Armenian Church as Deacon-in-Charge. On December 19, 1948, Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan ordained him as a priest at St. Vartanantz Church of Lowell, MA, giving him the priestly name 'Garen.' Father Garen served this parish nine full years as its pastor.

It was at this parish that Father Garen met his soul mate, Zabelle. In 1952, Father Garen married the former Zabelle Kludjian and together they had three children.

In September of 1957, Father Garen became pastor of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church in New York City. Archbishop Mampre Calfaian, who was the Primate at that time, made the change in assignment. In 1964, he was given permission to wear a pectoral cross. Father Garen stayed in this second parish for 13 years, until 1970.

Father Garen was elected Pastor of St. Peter Armenian Church of Troy, NY and began serving this community in September 1970. The parish was building a new church sanctuary in Watervliet and in two months' time the church community moved from Troy to Watervliet. Father Garen faithfully served this third parish for 19 years. Following his retirement in September 1989, Father Garen continued to serve the St. Peter parish and community as Pastor Emeritus up until the time of his death.

In 1977, Father Garen received his floral Pilonium and in 1984 he was elevated to the rank of *Avak Kahana* or Arch Priest. He served on the Diocesan Council from 1971-1975. The St. Peter Parish and Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America honored and celebrated his milestones of ordination to the priesthood in 1973 (twenty-five years), 1988 (forty years), 1998 (fifty years), and 2009 (sixty years).

Father Garen continued his studies by joining various workshops and seminars and by attending courses at the University of New York at Albany and Siena College in Loudonville, NY. He has been a member of the Watervliet Clergy and Capital Area Clergy Support Group.

He has also published several inspirational books based on his sermons and life experiences.

Although retired, Father Garen always helped out by filling in as a priest when needed in the Diocese, including the nearby Springfield and Binghamton parishes. He also travelled to serve parish communities in Texas, Ohio and Florida, as well as two preaching missions in Armenia.

Father Garen was a well-loved, kind, gentle and intelligent man. His passion for his church and for the people he served never ceased to be a second priority. His family was always number one. As a dedicated husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, he filled his family's lives with knowledge and joy that will stay with them for a lifetime. As an important figure in the Capital District community and throughout the Eastern Diocese, he will be dearly missed. His accomplishments not only lie within his priesthood, but within the friendships he developed and kept over the years.

Father Garen is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Zabelle (Kludjian) and his three children; daughter Arpy Gdanian Ernest, son Kyn (Maureen), daughter Garyn Ahearn (Brian), six grandchildren: Katrina Ernest Mayba (Christopher), Lucy Gdanian Stoyles (Gregory), Naomi Gdanian, Anna Gdanian, Josiah Gdanian (Chelsea) and Gregory Gdanian. He also has two great-grandchildren. Additionally, he leaves behind several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was pre-deceased by two brothers and one sister.

The funeral service held at St. Peter Armenian Church on Tuesday, July 2 at 11:00 a.m. included the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and the final anointing of Father Garen. Interment followed in Albany Rural Cemetery, Menands, NY.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church, Building Fund, P.O. Box 196, Watervliet, NY 12189.



**May God enlighten Der Garen's soul.**

## **Notes of Condolences from Clergy**

The following are notes of condolences, received by Fr. Stepanos and presented to the Gdanian Family during the Hokejosh for Fr. Garen Gdanian on July 2, 2013:

*Dear Fr. Stepanos,*

*It was with great sadness that I learned of the death of a true servant and shepherd of our church, Fr. Garen Gdanian. His love and devotion served as an example to all of us, both clergy and lay.*

*Please convey my deepest sympathies to all who are gathered for his Final Anointing, as I am unable to personally attend. Please give my love especially to Yeretzgin Zabelle, Arpy, Kyn, Garyn and to their families as well.*

*Fr. Garen was not only a relative, but a priest whom I looked up to since my childhood. His complete and total dedication to God and serving His children served as an example to me during my formative years as I was discerning my call to the Sacred Priesthood. A true Christian, Fr. Garen always tried to see the face of God in each of us. Never a negative thought or word, his demeanor was always positive and loving, the sign of a true shepherd of the church.*

*Sireli Der Hayr, once again, please convey my heartfelt sympathies to especially Yeretzgin Zabelle as well as to the many relatives, friends, parishioners, and clergy who gather to send our beloved Der Garen back to the Almighty. Asvadz Hokin Loosavoreh. May the Lord illuminate his soul.*

*Fr. Aren Jebejian, Pastor  
St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church  
Chicago, Illinois*

*Dear Yeretzkin,*

*I would like to offer my heartfelt sympathy and condolences to you and your family upon the loss of Der Garen Gdanian. May God surround, console and comfort you and your family as you endure this great loss. Through this loss, may you find strength, courage and hope through the peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, which surpasses all understanding.*

*May God grant Der Garen Eternal Rest in His Everlasting Kingdom and may the Holy Spirit bring you and your family comfort and consolation as you continue to live your lives as good and faithful servants of the Armenian Church.*

*Hold fast to these words of Christ, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."*

*Fr. Diran Bohajian, Pastor  
St. Leon Armenian Church  
Fair Lawn, New Jersey*

*Dear Fr. Stepanos,*

*It is with heartfelt sorrow that I read the passing of my priest brother Father Garen. First of all, Yn. Mary and I express our prayerful sympathies to Yn. Zabelle and family on this sad and difficult time. Father Garen was much loved person even when he was a student in St. James Monastery Seminary of the Jerusalem Patriarchate. And he did not change. He and I spent many years in the school as close friends and co-workers. And then, we continued our cooperative endeavors in the USA serving the Armenian Church, he in Lowell and I at Holy Trinity in Boston. Indeed we were students at the same time in the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Mass. Fr. Garen remained, throughout his life, the humble, simple, loving, caring and dedicated pastor of his people wherever he was called to serve. I don't remember him as a complainer or a critical person of anything, even when he was experiencing some difficult situation. He was kind with a beautiful attitude throughout his life. It is my prayer that our Lord Jesus will be pleased to receive the lovely soul of Father Garen into His kingdom and send The Holy Spirit down into the hearts and lives of the Gdanian family to console and strengthen them at this time of bereavement. May he rest in peace.*

*Father Shake & Yn. Mary Altounian  
Fresno, California*

Fr. Stepanos,

Thank you, Der Hayr, for sharing every moment with me about Der Garen as he passed to the Lord. He was the **FIRST** Armenian Priest I ever met at age 6. This is the story:

My maternal grandfather, Daniel, lived in Nashua, NH and was hospitalized. Der Garen was the pastor of the Lowell parish St. Vartanantz and would visit him. On the day we traveled from Salem, MA to Nashua to visit my grandpa and take him home from the hospital, to bring him to our house for a while, we were shocked to find out he was gone when we arrived.

My mother was frantic. Where did her dad disappear to? She asked around the nurses' station about Mr. Daniel Najarian. Where was he? After a bit, a nurse told her that some Armenian Priest was here visiting and took him home, as grandpa was anxious to get out of the hospital. Needless to say, after hunting him down and driving around unfamiliar roads in Lowell, there he was at Der Hayr's house. Then newly married to Yeretzgin Zabelle, they were the gracious hosts to our invading family looking for the lost sheep. He had already found the lost one—Grandpa Dan—and brought him to safe pasture until the rest of the herd arrived. It was a sweet reunion and a day to this time in my life I remember so vividly. If you could share this with Yeretzgin and the family, it would make me so pleased as I cannot be present for his funeral but will lovingly remember him at my Badarak this Sunday.

*Fr. Garabed Kochakian, Pastor  
St. John's Armenian Church of Greater Detroit  
Southfield, Michigan*

Dear Yeretzgin Zabelle,

In my prayers this morning, the reading of the day ended with, "The righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their father." (Matthew 13:43) This **INDEED** must refer to Der Garen. I was so lucky to see him the week before his death, to sing the Badarak with him, to be blessed by him. I did not consider myself worthy to pray over him, but was fortunate to have him make the sign of the cross over me.

A few years ago, my older daughter jokingly asked me, "So Dad, what do you want to be when you grow up?" And I said, "I want to be just like Der Garen." To which she seriously replied, "Dad, don't even try. You'll never make it."

Fr. Garen has left a deep and lasting impression on my family and on the Armenian Church in America. He exuded gentleness and goodness. We all felt genuinely loved when in his presence. His faith was an "icon" for all of us to emulate.

May the Lord keep you strong. May the Holy Spirit lead you to consolation. We will hold you and your family in prayer.

*Fr. Yeprem & Wn. Judy Kelegian  
St. Mesrob Armenian Church  
Racine, Wisconsin*

Dear Father Stepanos,

Please convey my brotherly love to Yeretzgin Zabelle and family members. Father Garen was very much liked and surely a gentle priest; a devout man of God.

By the way, I am happy to have in my library some of his short anecdotes in three small volumes. Although sometimes he seemed serious as I recall him (1966-1977 in the Eastern Diocese), but knew also how to be humorous at times. His expressions are result of his writing style for they are enjoyable and flavored with religious and cultural intonations. I wish both laity and clergy chance to read them, it truly reflects the life of an Armenian clergymen serving in a parish.

May God bless his soul and give comfort to his beloved Yeretzgin Zabelle and family members. We will miss him.

*Fr. Arshag Khatchadourian  
Western Diocese of the Armenian Church*

Dear Der Stepanos,

Sorry that I could not come and take part in Der Garen's funeral service last Tuesday [July 2].

Der Garen was an institution within himself and it will be hard to envision our clergy conferences without him. I do not know if we shall ever have another priest like him. He was the epitome of goodness.

May God bless his soul and give consolation to his Yeretsgin, family and former parishes.

*Hayr Krikor Vardapet*

Der Der Stepanos,

I was saddened with the news of Der Garen Avak Kahana's passing. Yes, he was an exemplary and people's priest. Knew him for many years from Lowell to Manhattan and then Troy and Watervliet. During my KV [Knights of Vartan] Avak Tivan visits 20 years ago he was so fraternal and supportive of the KV Tahlij and its activities. Asdvadz Hokin Lusavoreh!

*Deacon Allan Jendian  
Fresno, California*

Orhnetsek,

Please accept my and Holy Cross' deepest sympathies and condolences for the passing of Der Garen. *Աստուծո՞ւ հոգի՞ն լուսարեւո՞ւրէ՛:*

I would like to let you know that I will be coming to the Badarak/funeral for Der Garen on Tuesday.

*Der Bedros Shetilian  
Holy Cross Armenian Apostolic Church  
Troy, New York*

Dear Fr. Stepanos,

I regret I was out of town for the funeral of your predecessor, Fr. Garen Gdanian. He was a great priest and an ecumenist.

My condolences to his family and your congregation.

*Rev. James Kane, Ecumenical Officer  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany*

*The Gdanian family would like to extend the utmost gratitude to our church family for everything done for Der Garen's funeral services. It was inspiring how the entire community shared a common love and respect for this gracious man. We are so thankful to everyone who came together to prepare the delicious food and to make sure our family was taken care of.*

*Thank you for all the gifts sent to the house, they were full of some of Der Hayr's favorite goodies! We'd also like to thank those who made donations to the Church Building Fund on behalf of Der Garen. We appreciate all the love and support that was provided.*

*We would like to especially recognize Der Stepanos, a very special thank you to you, you were absolutely wonderful. Thank you all for making a mournful time a beautiful memory.*

*With Love,  
Yn. Zabelle and Family*

## A Word from the



## PASTOR . . . Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian

*Dedicated in memory of Fr. Garen Gdanian*

I'm sure most of you, after reading each issue of the *Loosaper*, either through them out or recycle them. However, this issue of the *Loosaper* is a keeper, as we have dedicated it in memory of Fr. Garen Gdanian. As you read through the pages and remember the wonderful and blessed memories of our dear Fr. Garen, please pray that God enlighten his soul and grant peace to his beautiful Yeretzgin Zabelle and their family. May this issue of the *Loosaper* serve as a reminder of Fr. Garen's gentle, caring and compassionate pastorate as he served St. Peter Armenian Church as a true Shepherd of God.

I met Fr. Garen many years prior to the beginning of my pastorate here at St. Peter Armenian Church and always admired him as an Armenian Priest. However, when I arrived at St. Peter Armenian Church almost 18 years ago, our relationship deepened. I have considered him as my second father and a spiritual father. He had always encouraged me in my ministry, helped me, and shared lots of his wisdom with me. During his dying days and even in his death, Der Garen continued to bless me, teach me, and be a true spiritual father to me.

The Sunday following his passing, I preached about Fr. Garen and his life. I was looking through the books he had written and came across the feature article in his book titled, "Yes Good Things Do Happen." As I read that article (printed below), his words became life-like as if he was speaking them to me and the congregation. In the article he writes, "Yes good things happen even at death." Fr. Garen concluded that article by saying, "Yes my friends, God is Great and God is Good. Even when you are surrounded by bad things just look around you and count your blessings."

At the end of my sermon, I summarized Fr. Garen's life in the following way: Fr. Garen loved God. He loved his family and he loved the Armenian Church. May Fr. Garen's life and eternal memory inspire each of us in our own lives to do the same as he did. Let us love God, our families and the Armenian Church more deeply in honor of a blessed and great man - Fr. Garen. *Asdvadz ir hokeen loosavoreh—May God enlighten his soul.*

*Fr. Stepanos*

### ***Yes, Good Things Do Happen***

*(From the 2002 published book of short sermons by Fr. Garen Gdanian)*

I am in the habit of walking in the mall. When it is cold and bad weather, I park my coat and hat at the jewelry store. One morning the sales clerk said to me: "Bless me father for I had a very bad day today." When coming to work she had hit a deer and totaled her car. She called a girlfriend to help. The girlfriend came but within a short time her car conked out. The sales clerk was at her wits end and she needed some blessing. And, of course, I blessed her.

Do bad things happen? Of course they do. Bad things happen to me, and to you and to all of us. There is no end to bad things. However, good things happen also—many, many times. All you have to do is to look for them. I decided to collect some good things, and I want to share them with you.

One morning my wife told me: "Der Hayr, I don't know where my car keys are. Do you know where they are?" I said to her: "Zabelle, I don't know where mine are, how would I know where yours are?" She kept looking for her keys with no luck. My garbage man comes on

Thursday mornings. When I went out to retrieve the empty garbage barrels, I saw my wife's car keys sitting on the barrel. The garbage man had found the keys and left them on the barrel. Yes, this garbage man was honest and a good man. He could have, but he did not steel them, or rob us. Yes, good things do happen.

Our Seniors Group had invited some dancers to the monthly social. The dancers entertained us more than one hour. They were excellent. When we offered them some money they refused and did not take money. The leader said: "We dance for thousands of seniors and we never take money." Yes my friends, money is not everything. People do good things for others for free.

The other day Fr. Stepanos called me and said: "Day Hayr, Louise is going to die. I prayed on her why don't you also go and pray over her." My wife and I went to Louise's house. And I said my prayers and then we sat for a while. The house was full with neighbors, friends, relatives and family members. It seemed as though every one was talking, laughing, gossiping and yelling. I said to Louise: "Aren't you getting tired with all this noise?" She said: "Not at all." Then I started thinking, if I am going to die I want to die like Louise with all the noise and with all my friends around me. I don't want to die at the back seat of Dr. Kevorkian's car. Yes good things happened even at death.

I had to take my wife to the hospital for a total-knee replacement. In the morning when I looked outside, the ground was covered with ten inches of snow. I got nervous and I said, "O My God, why did you decide to send down the greatest amount of snow this morning?" I started to drive with great apprehension. My wife sat at the back seat, not to interfere with my driving. We arrived at the hospital safe and sound. The operation was successful, and I stayed there all day. In the evening when I was sitting in my wife's room they started bringing the food. I said to the man: "When are you bringing my wife's food?" He said: "Your wife won't be able to eat anything now." I said: "I am diabetic, I have to eat something, can you give me a piece of bread?" The man brought me a whole tray of the most delicious food. Someone had decided not to eat his portion. I remembered the saying of the Gospels: "I was hungry and you fed me." Yes my friends, God sends His Good Things even in the hospitals.

On Sunday, after Badarak, I went to the market to buy a dozen roses for my wife. The clerk told me that Alan will prepare the roses. Alan is a tall and handsome African American. He spent more than half an hour to prepare the roses. While doing so, he kept smiling and singing and telling jokes. Two ladies admired the roses and asked me if they were for my sweetheart. I said: "No, they are for my wife." One of the ladies chuckled and said: "I wouldn't mind being your sweetheart for those roses." I am sure there are plenty of Alans who know how to produce excellent work. God makes all kinds of good workers.

When I brought my wife home and made arrangements for her comfort, I asked her if I could go out a couple of hours and do my daily walk and do some shopping. She said: "Yes," and I went out. When I returned, I saw that the fire truck was at our driveway and the fireman was sitting in our living room. It seems as though the carbon monoxide alarm had acted up. And my wife called for help. Throwing her crutches away, opening the windows, throwing the keys out and so forth. It turned out that there was no danger, and the alarm was faulty. I said to myself, even when you are disabled, do not despair, somehow God rushes to your help and you can achieve super human deeds. This is what my crippled wife was able to do.

Yes my friends, God is Great and God is Good. Even when you are surrounded by bad things just look around you and count your blessings.

APRIL 1998

## **Parish Council Message**

This is my first message in the *Loosaper* since being named Chairman of the Parish Council. It is an honor and somewhat humbling to serve in this role – especially when I think of the people who have filled these shoes before me. I would especially like to acknowledge Garo Derian who preceded me as Chairman and did an outstanding job of stewarding the Church through the past two years.

Of course, this “job” is made so much easier by the people who make up our community and who give so much of themselves to the Church. It’s still amazing to think that a church of our size could build a \$700,000 addition and pay off the entire debt on the project in just six years. That is a truly remarkable accomplishment, and one we plan to commemorate later this year.

And that’s not an isolated example. Just look at our most recent Festival. Watching the entire parish come together for our highest grossing Festival ever was a special thing to witness firsthand.

Looking ahead, we are about to embark on an expansive project to repaint the church – one that is much overdue. There are concerns, as there always are, about how it will be paid for and what impact that will have on our budget. But one need only look back on the past to know that somehow, someway, we will make it happen - because we are St. Peter - and this is what we do.

I’ll admit that this role is not something I envisioned for myself when I joined the Council three years ago. But after watching so many parishioners make personal sacrifices for the Church through the years, I felt it was now my turn to step up.

I’m not sure what the future will bring for me or the Church, but I give you my word that I will do all that I can – with your help and the support of the Council – to keep St. Peter’s on strong footing for years to come.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be your Parish Council Chair. Together, we will do great things and hopefully have some fun along the way!

*Gilbert Chorbaian*  
*Parish Council Chairman*



# Summer BBQs

at St. Peter Armenian Church

Monday Nights, August 12 & August 26 @ 5:30pm  
(\*weather permitting)

All are invited to join our church family for some summer fun  
on the beautiful church grounds!

*(100 Troy Schenectady Road, Watervliet)*

Join us for Delicious BBQ ~ Outdoor Sports ~ Music ~ Friendship

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

## **Parish Council Retreat**

### **April 20, 2013**

As Parish Council members, much of our time is spent discussing issues related to the operation and finances of the Church. It's an important "part of the job," but our focus on these areas can sometimes overshadow our equally important spiritual responsibilities.

With that in mind, Der Stepanos organized a retreat for Parish Council members on Saturday, April 20, where the entire focus was on the *Badarak*. For five hours, there was no discussion of bills, projects or other secular initiatives.

The day began with a presentation from Der Hayr on why we celebrate the Badarak; next was Deacon Yervant, who discussed how the Badarak is conducted; and then the Council members themselves provided interpretations of key hymns from the Service.

Der Hayr's presentation, called "The Top 10 Things to Know about the Badarak" taught us many more than ten things. For example, did you know that there are more than 900 references to the Bible in our Sunday Service? It's a fact that underscores items #4 and #5 on the Top 10 list – (4) the Liturgy is biblical and (5) the Bible is liturgical. Like a braided rope, the Badarak is intertwined with the Bible, and not simply a series of hymns and rituals that have been linked together through the years.

Deacon Yervant's discussion highlighted the importance of the sensory aspects of the Service. He talked about how the Badarak seamlessly weaves together smell (in the form the incense), sight (paintings, vestments, the altar), sound (choir, kshots), and taste (communion) in important and powerful ways.

Talk about tough acts to follow! On the heels of these wonderful presentations, it was time for the Parish Council members to provide their thoughts on different hymns from the Service, and each person proved more than up to the task:

- Bill Nevins discussed "Khoroot Khoreen," the hymn that begins the Badarak.
- Garo Derian offered some wonderful insights into "Marmeen Deroonagan."
- Will Martin, not content with simply one hymn, chose "Krisdos ee mech" and "Soorp Soorp."
- I did the "Hayr Mer."
- Joanne Scaringe provided her thoughts on "Der Vorghormia," one of the most moving hymns in the Service.
- Leon Kaiser chose "Amen Yegheetzee."
- Breann Parseghian closed the session with a personal reflection on "Orhnetztiz us der," complete with a powerpoint presentation!

The members of the Parish Council have likely attended thousands of Badaraks, but every person who participated in the retreat walked away learning something new, and in most cases, many new things about the Service. One of the Council members summed up the day perfectly when he described it as "a fulfilling and rewarding experience." Amen.

*Submitted by Gilbert Chorbazian*

## Sanctuary Project

A letter was recently mailed to all parishioners and friends of St. Peter Armenian Church outlining the scope of work needed to renovate and repair our church sanctuary.

To recap, the Sanctuary Project will include the following:

- Painting (and, where necessary, patching) the sanctuary's two side walls, back wall, and dome, as well as the vestibule and the stairwells leading to the Gdanian Auditorium.
- Cleaning the vents in the dome and adding new vents. This will hopefully reduce the amount of moisture that accumulates in the dome and leads to premature peeling and flaking.
- Applying a Minwax oil finish to the wood ceiling.
- Sealing the stained glass windows in the dome and the sides of the sanctuary to prevent future leaks.

The total cost of the project is expected to be \$33,500. The balance of the money remaining from the successfully completed Building Fund campaign totaling \$12,870, will be used to help pay for these improvements.

Announced in that recent letter was the exciting news that the Herb and Linda Chorbajian Family have issued a Matching Gift Challenge to assist in raising the remaining needed funds. The response so far has been very positive. To date, including donations received for the Sanctuary Project prior to this announcement, which will also be matched, a total of \$8,095 has been contributed. This is a great start! The Chorbajians will match monies donated through August 31, dollar for dollar, up to \$10,000. If you haven't already done so, or can give more, this is a wonderful opportunity to double the value of every donation and essentially finance the remainder of this project.

Please consider taking advantage of this generous matching offer and make a gift to help beautify our church sanctuary. To support this project, checks made payable to 'St. Peter Armenian Church' (Memo: Sanctuary Project) can be mailed to St. Peter Armenian Church, PO Box 196, Watervliet, NY 12189.

*The Parish Council*

*Dear St. Peter Armenian Church Parish Council,*

*On behalf of the Homenetmen of Albany / Syrian Armenian Relief Fund Committee, we sincerely appreciate the use of your hall, kitchen and audio/visual equipment. With the use of the facilities, we were able to cater a dinner and program for over 80 supporters. These supporters, and many more donors helped us raise over \$8,000 for our brothers and sisters struggling in Syria.*

*The needs of the Syrian Armenian community will persist for some time. We hope our efforts will aide them. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. May you and your families be touched by the generosity you have shown us as well.*

*Please accept again, our utmost gratitude for your kindness.*

*Homenetmen of Albany  
Syrian Armenian Relief Fundraising Committee*

**For more information on how to help this continuing effort, please contact  
Homenetmen of Albany Chapter at [executives@homenetmen-albany.org](mailto:executives@homenetmen-albany.org)  
or visit their website at [www.homenetmen-albany.org](http://www.homenetmen-albany.org) or  
on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/HomenetmenAlbany](http://www.facebook.com/HomenetmenAlbany)**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND DEDICATION**

## **2013 Annual Armenian Festival Report**

The 2013 Annual Armenian Festival hosted by our parish on June 8 & 9 was an amazing success with the largest crowd our community has ever seen for this event. The main goal of this year's Festival committee was to offer an improved visual, and a better food and entertainment experience for every attendee — and I must say, we did not disappoint. Some of the additions and changes to this year's event included:

- Live Armenian Music, featuring the John Berberian Ensemble
- The “*Hye Burger*” - Armenian Style Burger
- Armenian Style Pork Kebab
- Jajik – Armenian Yogurt & Cucumber salad
- Expanded Beverage Area - including *Armenian Pomegranate Wine Sangria*
- Improved Signage and Sponsorship recognition
- Expanded Carnival games
- The Apple Raffle – featuring Apple brand products

Our increased efforts in advertising, including TV commercials on YNN, a full-page ad in the Albany Times Union, and radio spots, surely paid off as evident by the significant increase in attendance. Perhaps the advertising may have been too good, because we sold out of all of the food and bakery items before the end of the festival.

The live Armenian music, with the renowned John Berberian Ensemble, added tremendously to the atmosphere by entertaining the onlookers and bringing many to their feet.

Some of the popular items that we continued with this year included:

- The Paklava Sundae
- Armenian Dance presentations by the youth
- Tavloo Tournament
- Cooking Demonstrations
- Bounce House & Dunk Tank
- Assorted Vendors for Armenian and other products

This festival could not have been a success without all of the volunteers that stepped up to do their part. There are way too many volunteers to thank, however special thanks go out to our committee members:

- Food Preparation – Bill Nevins
- Bakery Area – Sharon Foley / Women's Guild
- Entertainment – Yn. Paulette Doudoukjian
- Publicity/Advertising – Gilbert Chorbajian & Rafi Topalian
- Sponsorship/Raffle – Raffé Moroukian
- Beverages – John Avakian
- Barbecue – Bob Bedian & John Ekmalian
- Volunteers – Garo Derian
- Vendors – Charlotte Sevazlian
- Salad Preparation – Ara Baligian / Adult Fellowship

Congratulations to the following winners of the Apple Raffle prizes:

- Apple MacBook Laptop Computer – Sandy Bedian
- Apple iPad – Nora Mahserjian
- \$250 Cash – Dean Haledjian (VA)
- Applebee’s Gift Card – Kimberly Kachougian
- iPod Shuffle - Rachael Mahserjian

Businesses and friends were again given the opportunity to be Festival Sponsors, either by making monetary donations or by donating products and/or services needed for the Festival. The names of all Festival Sponsors were prominently displayed with banners at the Festival and in a Sponsorship Booklet. All their contributions were much appreciated. (See following pages for a complete list.)

A very special thank you to our Church Secretary, Lori Payette, for all her hard work in the organization of the Festival. Lori takes care of a great many of the details prior to, during and after the Festival, many of which we are not even aware. We thank Lori for going way beyond the ‘call of duty’ for the benefit of St. Peter Armenian Church.

This year’s festival had a net profit of approximately \$19,500. This included some large, one-time capital expenses that will be used for future festivals and church functions.

**Save the date for the 2014 Armenian Festival**  
**\* \* \* June 7 & 8 \* \* \***

*Bill Nevins & Chuck Tutunjian*  
*2013 Festival Co-Chairpersons*

**Annual**  
*Holiday Bazaar*

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Dec. 7 & 8**  
**2013**

Join us for another great  
St. Peter Armenian Church event  
More delicious foods, vendors,  
entertainment, and more!

**518-274-3673 or**  
[www.stpeterarmenianchurch.com](http://www.stpeterarmenianchurch.com)

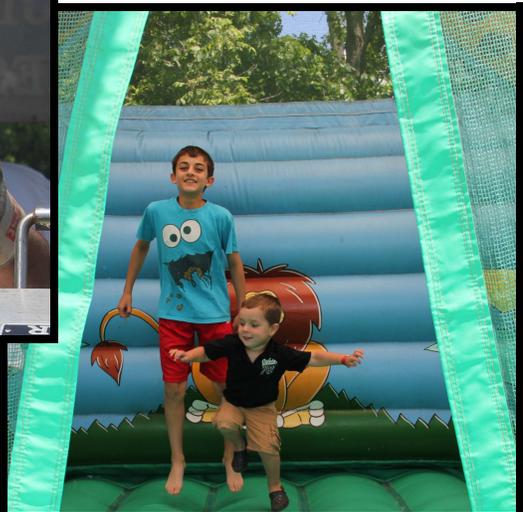
## 2013 Festival Photo Gallery



The John Berberian Ensemble (above).  
Kebab griller, Frenchie Ekmalian (left).  
Bounce house fun for the youth (below).



Beverage server, Harry Avakian, presenting featured Armenian beer (left).



## 2013 Festival Sponsors

### Event Sponsor



**ALBANY  
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**Become a member of Ukrainian FCU and  
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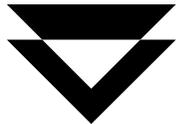


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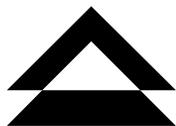
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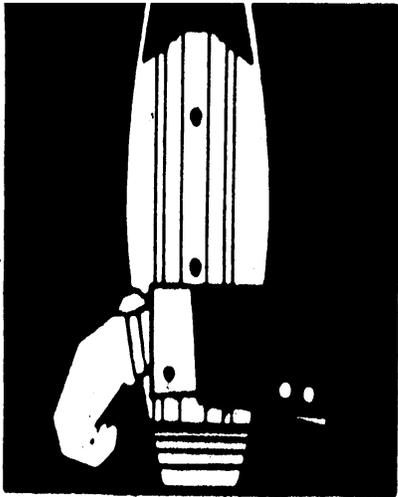
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# 2013 Festival Sponsors

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### **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%<sub>APR</sub> discount on any Consumer Loan, 0.10%<sub>APY</sub> on any Share Certificate, and much more. Visit their office today, call (518) 266-0791 or go online at [www.rufcu.org](http://www.rufcu.org) for more information.



(518) 266.0791 | [www.rufcu.org](http://www.rufcu.org) | 877.968.7828

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# 2013 Festival Sponsors

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# 2013 Festival Sponsors

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# 2013 Festival Sponsors

## Bakery Sponsors

*Thank you to all those listed below who made monetary contributions to the Women's Guild Hye Bake Shop for the Armenian Festival:*

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|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Rosemary Ammian         | Linda Jaffarian        |
| Winifred Ammian         | Hrepsime Jevanian      |
| Beatrice Arzoumanian    | Phyllis Jevanian       |
| Betty & Shirley Avakian | Susan Bott Kaiser      |
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| Lena Guleserian-Hoglund | Dolly Shamlian         |
| Sonia Hachigian         | Karin Shamlian         |
| Beth Hartunian          | Kate Shamlian          |
| Joanne Hartunian        | Kathi Shamlian         |
| Mary Hartunian          | Adrina Tutunjian       |
| Charlene Hrachian       |                        |

*Total Contributions: \$1,797*

## **Church Organization News**

### *Women's Guild*

Before I go any further, I would like to step back in time.....not too far though.....just to March 17. On that day the Women's Guild held its annual Saintly Women's Day commemoration followed by a very successful and enjoyable Eggplant Parmesan and Ziti luncheon. In looking back at my *Loosaper* article, I noticed that I inadvertently omitted recognizing Mary Panjarjian as the event coordinator. Thank you, Mary, for all your hard work in making the luncheon a delicious occasion.

On Thursday, March 28, the Women's Guild once again sponsored their annual Holy Thursday Breakfast following services that morning. The traditional menu for the breakfast consisted of cheese, olives, colored eggs, coffee, and tea. Thank you to Maria Derian and the Women's Guild Executive Committee for arranging the breakfast. It was a most enjoyable way to spend time together and to prepare for the upcoming Easter services.

On Sunday, April 22, the St. Peter Women's Guild assisted the Holy Cross Ladies Aid in preparing and serving the Madagh Dinner following the Divine Liturgy and special program commemorating the 97th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide being held at St. Peter Armenian Church. The *Badarak* and dinner that followed was well attended by both St. Peter and Holy Cross parishioners. It was a pleasure and an honor working along side the women from the Holy Cross Ladies Aid. The way in which both churches came together in worship and fellowship was a fitting and powerful tribute to the memories of those martyrs of the genocide.

The Women's Guild Central Council held their 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Guild Assembly in Boca Raton, Florida, May 2-5, 2013. St. David Armenian Church was the host parish and did a splendid job in welcoming all participants and making them feel right at home. This year our parish sent two delegates; Mary Panjarjian and myself. Dolly Shamlian also attended on her own as an observer and "parliamentarian of the day." Needless to say, our church was well represented. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, delivered his message entitled "Living The Gospel" emphasizing the critical role which women play within the Armenian Church in the past, present and future. Examples he gave were Mary the Mother of God, St. Anne, the Three Mary's, and Sandookdht to name a few. These women had very humble stations in life but yet strong ministry. They were the "first true evangelists." Women within the Guilds and Church as a whole are caring, nurturing and play a profound role in energizing not just women but all people within their communities, which in and of itself is a powerful expression of faith. The Women's Guild should continue their groundwork for the future through ongoing efforts and implementation of new ideas that completes a well-rounded ministry and strengthens their future. Mary and I were honored to have been chosen as delegates to represent the St. Peter parish and I found my first Assembly very enlightening and shared experiences with my fellow delegates I will always remember.

On May 3, the Guild held a Dolma "Lunch To Go" event. Thank you to our Coordinators Mary Hartunian and Joanne Scaringe for making the Dolma. Also thanks to Violet Dadekian for making homemade Madzoon as well as to Alice Chorbajian, Valerie Demarest and Holly Dadekian for helping in our "sales" department. It was a new endeavor that was quite successful. Look to the near future for other "To Go" deals.

The Women's Guild held their Annual Mother's Day Brunch on Saturday, May 19, at the Western Turnpike Golf Course in Albany, NY. A big thank you to Coordinators Maria Derian and Carol Tutunjian for arranging a beautiful day for everyone. This year we enjoyed a Hawaiian-themed event. Of course, the highlight of the day was the announcement of "Mother of the Year" – Isabel Derian! We certainly consider ourselves very fortunate to have such a woman in our ranks that we can look up to as an example of what true friendship is and an unending dedication to church and family. Thank you to everyone for all your help and donations to the event. A very special thank you to Lucy Topalian of Top Fine Jewelry for the silver charm donated for our special raffle and to Helena

Ekmalian for Isabel's flower arrangement. Thank you to Nora Derian who translated all our names into Hawaiian names...that was a lot of fun. Lastly, thanks to all 54 participants who attended. I hope you all had as much fun as I did. I'm just glad that next year's theme won't be Hawaiian - the only way I would be able to fit into that grass skirt outfit is with A LOT OF PRAYER!!

What a weekend!! The St. Peter Armenian Church community rose to the occasion once again by rallying together for the Annual Armenian Festival held on June 8 & 9. There was an abundance of great food, music and fellowship. The event was so well attended that not a crumb was left to be sold!! Thank you to everyone who worked tirelessly to make this year's Festival a most memorable event.

Our church family suffered a great loss in the passing of Der Garen at the end of June. Thank you to everyone for helping to prepare and serve food at the wake reception and Hokejosh. An even bigger thank you to the Parish Council for their assistance and to the ACYOA members who helped serve. Our sincere condolences go to Yn. Zabel and her entire family. We will continue to remember and honor Der Garen by always striving to serve church and family first, as he lived.

Please mark your calendars for the other following upcoming events:

**Women's Guild Day – September 15<sup>th</sup>:** A special day to honor our own for all their continued devotion to our Church.

**Women's Guild General Membership Meeting – Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Holiday Bazaar ~ Saturday-Sunday, December 7-8:** It may seem too soon to even think about the Christmas holiday. Nevertheless, our 'Bazaar' Coordinators, Yn. Paulette Doudoukjian and Holly Dadekian, are already hard at work with the planning stages. Stay tuned. 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!

*Sharon Foley aka Kolona (my Hawaiian name),  
Women's Guild Chairman*

## *Adult Fellowship*

On May 8, the club enjoyed a home cooked Losh Kebob luncheon prepared under the direction of Lucy Morton. The entertainment portion of the luncheon featured a special presentation of Native American Folklore offered by Professional Storyteller, Gil Payette. (If the name sounds familiar, its because he is the brother of Lori Payette, another professional who works in the St. Peter Office, the kitchen, the storeroom and other nooks and crannies of our church.) It was a very interesting presentation and he was kept overtime by the amount of interest and questions asked by the members.

The club had planned their annual excursion to the Mac-Haydn theatre on Thursday, August 1. However, due to lack of interest in attending the musical presentation of 'Les Miserables,' had to cancel this outing.

After a summer break, the club will resume activities in September with their annual anniversary celebration at an outside venue. Details will be announced in the near future.

Adults in our community are cordially invited to attend any and all of our meetings and functions. However you must be a member to receive personal reminders and telephone calls.

*Martin Kenosian, Secretary*

## *ACYOA Juniors*

The ACYOA Jrs. had their annual Blood Drive on April 27, 2013. We had 25 participants and 16 pints were donated, which could potentially help 48 people, all in the name of the Victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915. Thank you to the NY-Penn Red Cross Organization and to all those who donated this year for their support.

We had two participants attend the regional Hye M'rtsoom ACYOA Jr. Sports Weekend in Watertown, MA during Memorial Day weekend, Nora Derian and Tanya Tutunjian.

*"This year's Hyr M'rtsoom can easily be named as one of the best weekends of the year. I love my Armenian friends so much because we have that instant Armenian connection. I also created new friendships that will truly last a lifetime. Every aspect of the weekend was memorable and I am counting down the days until the next."* — Nora Derian

*"I like sports weekend because I loved being with Armenians and having fun. It is a really fun time to be able to spend time with my Armenian friends for a weekend. I would like to go to many more Sports Weekends and host a Sports Weekend here [at St. Peter] because it would be a fun experience to host one."* — Tanya Tutunjian

Congratulations to the ACYOA Jrs. who graduated high school this year! Encourage your younger siblings to participate, as they look to you for support and advice. Remember that ACYOA doesn't stop at high school, and that the ACYOA Srs. Group is from 18 to 28 years old. Please keep in touch if you're moving away on our Facebook Group pages: "St. Peter ACYOA Jrs" or the "20-30 Something Group."

Even though school is out and summertime is here, keep the ACYOA on your mind. Have a new idea for an event? Is there a teenager you know that should be included? Please let us know!

I sincerely hope you will take part in any ACYOA events, regionally or locally. Being active in ACYOA proves to encourage active members of the church for years to come.

St. Peter Armenian Church is counting on YOU!

*Lena Galeserian-Hoglund, ACYOA Advisor*

## *Adult Bible Study*

Well, another Bible study season has come to a close. It's always a little bittersweet for me. I love our group and the joy we share together in prayer and scripture discussion.

This year, we studied the greatest sermon ever preached which is the "Sermon on the Mount" from the Gospel of Matthew.

I love the nuggets of truth that we have learned from this magnificent sermon that Jesus spoke to the multitudes. It is such a privilege to actually read and discuss the very same words the people of that day were listening to firsthand. I believe our whole group has been enriched as we continued along this theme from September through April.

Der Stepanos also shared some wonderful teaching from the hymns of the Badarak. It has been very insightful, and I have learned a lot.

We ended the season on June 21 and, as always, it was a special session which also included a delicious lunch. Each year, I always look forward to our last class in June with excitement and some sadness. I will miss all of you during the summer, but trust we will enjoy the warm weather and have fun with family and friends.

Our church Bible study has a standing invitation to all our St. Peter family and friends. I hope you will consider joining us next fall when we begin a new season.

*God bless you all, Elsie Vozzy*

## **Parish Community News**

### **Sacraments and Rites**

#### **Baptisms**

**Robert Runnells III**, son of Robert & Elizabeth (Enokian) Runnells (ME), on April 6, 2013. Godfather, Ralph Enokian; Celebrant, Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian.

**Abby Runnells**, daughter of Robert & Elizabeth (Enokian) Runnells (ME), on April 6, 2013. Godfather, Ralph Enokian; Celebrant, Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian.

**Sieyla Adele Williams**, daughter of Celestino & Demecia (Lloyd) Williams, on May 11, 2013. Godfather, Jeison Williams; Godmother, Alyssa Lloyd; Celebrant, Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian.

**Charlee Lynn Dawson**, daughter of Jerome & Kaylin (Gross) Dawson, on June 29, 2013. Godfather, Brian Gross; Godmother, Stephanie Dawson; Celebrant, Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian.

**Aileen Arpi Dadekian**, daughter of Jonathan & Violet (Mirzoyan) Dadekian, on July 6, 2013. Godfather, Vahagn Mirzoyan; Godmother, Joyce Dadekian; Celebrant, Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian.

#### **Funerals**

**Rev. Fr. Garen Gdanian** entered his eternal rest on June 27, 2013. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Yn. Zabelle (Kludjian) Gdanian; two daughters, Arpy Gdanian Ernest and Garyn (Brian) A'Hearn; a son, Kyn (Maureen) Gdanian; six grandchildren, Katrina Ernest (Christopher) Mayba; Lucy (Gregory) Stoyles; Naomi Gdanian; Anna Gdanian, Josiah (Chelsea) Gdanian, and Gregory Gdanian; two great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. The wake service for Fr. Garen was held on Monday, July 1, and presided by Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian. The funeral service held on July 2 consisted of the celebration of the Divine Liturgy by Very Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian and the Final Anointing conducted by Archbishop Khajag Barsamian. The wake and funeral services also had the participation of several clergy of the Armenian Church and the Ecumenical community.

**Stephen Azarian** entered his eternal rest on July 2, 2013. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Pamela (Reinhart) Azarian; a daughter, Nadine Azarian; a granddaughter, Julia Azarian-Kozer; two brothers, Mardiros 'Mardy' Azarian (CT) and Nazareth 'Hoagy' Azarian (CT); a sister, Anahid 'Anna' Zakar (NJ); and several nieces and nephews. A special requiem (memorial) service was conducted by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian at St. Peter Armenian Church on Thursday, July 25.

#### **Karasoonek** (40-Day Memorial)

April 7, 2013

**John Koumjian** - requested by the St. Peter Adult Bible Study Group.

May 12, 2013

**Natalie Kachougian** - requested by Romy & Ava Horn; Kimberly Kachougian.

#### **Hokehankist**

April 7, 2013

**Albert Derian; Jack Chadrjian; Mitchell & Ida Chadrjian** - requested by Isabel Derian & Family; Richard & Barbara Derian DeMartino & Family.

- April 7, 2013      **Mary DerBedrosian** - requested by Karen Bedrosian Richardson.
- Rose Ketchoyan** - requested by David Ketchoyan; Russ & Sandra Kilidjian & Children, Melanie, John & Leta.
- Mariam Melkonian; Rihan Melkonian; Araksi Arakelian; Varoujan Avedisian; Setrak Avedisian** - requested by Norayr & Anoush Avedisian & Children.
- Alice Zarifian** - requested on the occasion of her birthday by Vahan Zarifian; Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Suppa & Family; Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Zarifian & Family (NJ); Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Leiby & Family (NJ).
- April 28, 2013      **Edward Hartunian** (Tenth Anniversary) - requested by Mary Hartunian; Mr. & Mrs. Edward J. Hartunian and Gregory & Matthew; Mr. & Mrs. George Scaringe; Stephen Scaringe & Alexandra Lambert; Mr. & Mrs. Michael Scaringe.
- May 12, 2013      **Nevart & Garabed Garoogian** - requested by the estate of the Margaret Avakian Endowment Fund.
- June 23, 2013      **Isabel Bedrosian** - requested by Herb & Linda Chorbajian.
- Joseph Hartunian** - requested by Joanne Hartunian; Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hartunian & Family; Mr. & Mrs. Joseph O'Keefe & Family.
- Harry Khachadourian** (Third Anniversary); **John Paparian; Harry Ahigian** - requested by Judy Khachadourian (FL); Helen Paparian; Karen & Kevin Broner; Michael & Connie Paparian; Michele & Dominic Martino (FL).

### **Altar Flowers**

- April 7, 2013      Mr. & Mrs. Martin Kenosian in memory of **Gary Uram & A. Gregory Kenosian**.
- April 28, 2013      The Asadoor & Sarah Kenosian Endowment Fund in commemoration of the **98th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide**.
- May 12, 2013      Romy & Ava Horn and Kimberly Kachougian in memory of **Natalie Kachougian**.
- Flowers distributed on the occasion of **Mother's Day** were donated by Edward Belemjian and John Ekmalian.
- June 7, 2013      Roses on the occasion of the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ were donated by the Dadekian & Mirzoyan Families in honor of the baptism of **Aileen Dadekian** on July 6.

### **Altar Candles**

- July 14, 2013      Josephine Speanburg in memory of **Fr. Garen Gdanian and Rose Ketchoyan**.

### **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. 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.

## **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.

- April 28, 2013      **Mrs. Mary Shanks** - prayers of healing requested by Mary P. Shanks.  
**Anna Gevorkyan** - prayers of remembrance requested by Isabel Derian & Family.
- May 12, 2013      **Satenig Nakeshjian & Mildred Quinones Schilo** - prayers of remembrance as requested by David F. Quinones.
- June 30, 2013      **Stella Shamlian** - prayers of remembrance as requested by Isabel Derian.

## **Thank Yous**

*On behalf of the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR), I would like to thank you for your donation of \$242. Dated 6/23/2013. Your contribution is essential for us to continue our Oklahoma Tornado Relief efforts.*

*FAR's programs, made possible with grants and donations like yours, help thousands of people improve their lives. As a partner of the Armenian people, we provide hope, opportunity and empowerment — a helping hand rather than a charitable hand-out. Thanks to your support, the most vulnerable segments of the population are more prepared to design their own future and shape their country for the better.*

*Garnik Nanagoulian, Executive Director*

*On behalf of the Pastor, Diocesan Delegates and the Parish Council, let me take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for your contribution [of \$100] to the 111th Diocesan Assembly [Booklet].*

*R. Carol Norigian, 111th Diocesan Assembly Chair*

*The Ararat Center Board of Directors wishes to extend its sincere thanks for your donation of \$250 towards the Ararat Center Pathfinder's campaign. Your brick now appears in the walkway along side hundreds of other names which surrounds the monument in front of the pavilion.*

*The Center's tasks are large, yet we continue to progress due to your support. We are hopeful that many others will also realize the needs and imaginable possibilities this Center can offer.*

*Thank you for keeping the Ararat Center close to your heart and for helping to enhance the inspiration and strength among Diocesan families.*

*The Ararat Center Board of Directors*

*St. Peter Armenian Church,*

*Thank you all so very much for the thoughtful cards. What a treat that was and to know so many of you are thinking of me is truly a blessing. I hope to see you all soon. God bless.*

*Michael Bedian, United States Navy*

*Der Stepanos, Parishioners & Lori,*

*I just want to drop you an informal 'Thank You' for the support you have always shown the Knights and Daughters of Vartan. From the Dedication Service given by Der Stepanos at the Armenian Heritage Memorial to the countless announcements in your church bulletin. Your support is appreciated.*

*Sb. John Bezjian*

## **Special Donations**

**General donations** for the General Fund were received from the following: Vahan Zarifian & Claudia Suppa (\$50) *in honor of Alice Wildman's 90th birthday on February 13*; Lucille Shamlan (\$50) and Sandord & Suzanne Fialkoff (\$25) *in honor of Kevork Torossian's 90th birthday on April 29*; Marion Kehrer (\$50) *for Fr. Stepanos offering a service at the Marjorie Doyle Rockwell Center*.

A total of \$242 was raised in special plate collections on May 26 and June 16 for the relief effort assisting those affected by the tornadoes in Oklahoma this May. Thank you to all those who made contributions toward this cause.

Thank you to **Margaret & Nazareth Azarian & Family (CT)** for donating a hand-carved Khatchkar to St. Peter Armenian Church. The Khatchkar, made of Tufa Stone, stands 21 inches tall with the base measuring 9 inches by 4 inches, and will be placed somewhere in the church sanctuary in the near future.

## *In Lieu of Flowers Donations*

### **IN MEMORY OF PEARLE ROSE BEZJIAN**

\$ 30 John & Kathi Bezjian

**Total: \$30**

### **IN MEMORY OF NATALIE KACHOUGIAN**

\$300 Mr/Mrs Richard Buchakjian, and  
Mr/Mrs Vahan Buchakjian, and  
Mr/Mrs Kyle Buchakjian

200 Albert † & Florence Paparian

Michael & Connie Paparian

Sue Swinburne

100 Albert 'Bud' Abbatiello

Helen & John Carswell

Herbert & Linda Chorbajian

75 Toros Shamlan, Jr.

60 Mickey & Beth Micieli and  
Dolores Micieli & Vince Bianchi

50 Bruce & Rita Boudreau  
Muraski & Pembook Family

Mr/Mrs Martin Kenosian  
Helen Paparian

Pauline Lipari  
Mrs. Mary Shanks & daughter

25 Connie S. Arko (PA)  
Harry & Marion Koshgarian  
Mr/Mrs R. Mihran Mooradian  
Clare Schisa

Edward A. Belemjian  
Dorothy Mikhitarian  
Mr/Mrs William T. Nevins, Sr.

James P. Gaston  
Mr/Mrs H. Khachik Minassian  
Anna Pascazio

20 Charles 'Don' & Lucy Alund  
Lucy Krikorian

Shirley Avakian & Family  
Helen & Patty Vartigian

Mr/Mrs Edward Kazanjian

15 Helen Morro

Ralph Vartigian

10 Betty Avakian  
Deborah Simm

Linda Kazanjian

Lucy Morton

**Total: \$2,055**

### **IN MEMORY OF JOHN KOUMJIAN**

\$ 25 Isabel Krempe

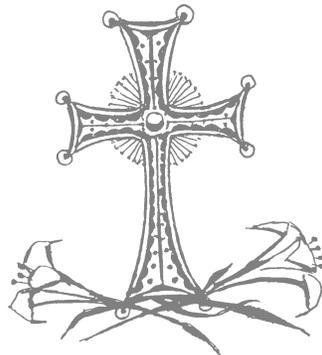
**Total: \$25**

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

# *Easter Yughakin Donations*

|       |   |  |  |
|-------|---|--|--|
| \$250 | Alan & Nevert Asadoorian (MA)   |  |  |
| 200   | Martin & Joyce Kenosian   | Mr/Mrs R. Mihran Mooradian   |  |
| 100   | Rosemary Ammian & Family<br>Barouyr Hairabedian<br>Doris Kasarjian Kavoukian (CA)<br>Mr/Mrs Charles Mahserjian<br>Andrew & Dianna Nazarian and<br>Andres Nazarian, Sr.  | Anonymous (2)<br>Joanne Hartunian<br>Eddy Kebabjian<br>George & Virginia Mahserjian<br>George & Betty Osganian   | J. Albert & Alice Barsamian<br>James & Mary Kalteux<br>Art & Sam Koshkorian (VA)<br>Mr/Mrs Robert Nazarian<br>Artin & Mary Sukljian  |
| 75    | Girard & Virginia Kasparian (CA)  | Mr/Mrs Russell Kilidjian   |  |
| 50    | Brian & Garyn (Gdanian) A'Hearn<br>Mr/Mrs Charles Chorbajian<br>Sherry Edwards<br>Sonia Hachigian<br>Harry & Marion Koshgarian<br>Alis Muradliyan<br>Ohan & Rita Ohanian<br>Mr/Mrs George P. Scaringe   | The Ahigian Family<br>Richard DeMartino and<br>Barbara Derian<br>Mr/Mrs Vartan Jerian<br>Shelley & Will Martin<br>Philip Natcharian<br>David F. Quinones<br>Mr/Mrs Charles Tutunjian   | Mr/Mrs Matt Chinian<br>Gary S. Donelian<br>Ralph & Elizabeth Enokian<br>Leon & Susan Kaiser<br>Mr/Mrs H. Khachik Minassian<br>Mr/Mrs William T. Nevins, Sr.<br>Alice Sanjian Rotondi<br>The Wendt Family |
| 40    | Nazar Bakerian  | The Doudoukjian Family   |  |
| 35    | Andrew S. Hyra, Sr.   |  |  |
| 30    | Mr/Mrs Hrant Bardakjian<br>The Kyaruns Family   | George & Elsie Bedrosian<br>Nellie Marderosian   | Lucy Krikorian   |
| 25    | Beatrice Arzoumanian<br>Ara Baligian<br>John & Debbie Ekmalian<br>Rev <sup>†</sup> /Mrs Garen Gdanian<br>Mr/Mrs Richard Hartunian<br>Grace Karian<br>Chris & Sarah Martin<br>Albert <sup>†</sup> & Florence Paparian<br>Pat & Claudia Suppa<br>Shakeh Young | Gerald Arzoumanian<br>Mr/Mrs Michael Coogan & Family<br>Levon & Nayeri Eleyjian<br>Mr/Mrs Phillip Gross<br>Paul & Marion Jaffarian<br>Isabel Krempa<br>George & Sally McNeff<br>Helen Paparian<br>Mr/Mrs Gary Vartanian & Family | The Ashby Family (OH)<br>Paul Dichian<br>Lenna Kandarjian Freedman<br>Mary Hartunian<br>Edward & Lucille Kaprielian<br>Mr/Mrs Charles Krikorian<br>Mary Panjarjian<br>Anna Pascazio<br>Ralph Vartigian   |
| 20    | Mr/Mrs Kirkor Agopyan<br>Gregory & Marjorie Nazarian<br>Susan Sogoian   | Ida & Sarkis Mihranian, Jr.<br>Mrs. Mary Shanks & daughter<br>Josephine Speanburg  | Lucy Morton<br>Lucille Sogoian   |
| 10    | Helga Apkarian<br>Stephanie Kaiser  | Betty Avakian<br>John Messikian  | Mr/Mrs Sarkis Garabedian<br>Sarah J. Zadigan   |

**Total: \$4,735**





# Class of 2013



*Congratulations to the following for their academic accomplishments. We wish them much success in their future endeavors.*

**Alexandra Clark**, daughter of Gary & Laura Clark, graduated from Niskayuna High School. She will be attending Siena College in the fall to pursue a Management Degree in Healthcare Administration.

**Joyce Dadekian**, daughter of Robert & Holly Dadekian, graduated from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri with a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy. Joyce is the granddaughter of Zaven & Arline Dadekian and Sarkis & Nancy Kazarian.

**Joseph Hartunian**, son of Richard & Beth Hartunian, graduated from Villanova University in December 2012 with a dual major in Economics and Political Science. He is currently working at the U.S. Capital for the Senate Rules Committee and hopes to attend law school in the future.

**Autumn Lynn Hayes**, daughter of Vicki Bajakian and Chuck Hayes, Jr., graduated from Shaker High School. She will be attending the College of Saint Rose in Albany to study Business Administration and Accounting. Autumn is the granddaughter of Aram & Helen Bajakian and Charles & Marian Hayes.

**Michael K. Karayan**, son of Charlotte Sevazlian and Bozant Karayan, graduated from Hudson Valley Community College in December 2012 with a degree in Applied Science in Criminal Justice. Michael is the grandson of Lucy Morton and Tervanda Karagozian.

**Ari Kazanjian**, son of Eddie & Nirva Kazanjian, graduated from Watertown High School with honors. He will be attending Tuft University in the Fall. Ari is the grandson of Ed & Bertha Kazanjian.

**Kate Erin Kulas**, granddaughter of Rose Artinian Foley and the late William E. Foley, Jr., graduated from Greenville High School with a Regents diploma and several International Baccalaureate certificates. Kate is an avid musician and has performed in chorus, concert and jazz bands, and musicals throughout the years. She will attend the Samaritan School of Nursing in the fall.

**Ian George Mahserjian**, son of Cathy & George Mahserjian III, graduated from Ballston Spa High School. Ian was offered scholarships to three colleges and was awarded a varsity soccer scholarship prize. Ian has chosen to attend the State College of Buffalo where he will study Civil Engineering. Ian is the grandson of Sally Mahserjian McNeff and the late George Mahserjian, Jr.

**Raffi Moroukian**, son of R. Paul & Sonya Moroukian, graduated from Niskayuna High School. He will be attending Roger William University in Bristol, RI in the fall majoring in Finance. Additionally, Raffi has been part of the Boy Scout Troup 37 in Niskayuna since 2005 and, in April, he officially became an Eagle Scout.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

## **Announcements**

Congratulations to **Richard Hartunian** for being appointed on April 29, 2013, to a two-year term as one of six new U.S. Attorneys for highly-coveted seats on the Attorney General's Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee advises the Attorney General on policy, management and operational issues impacting the offices of the U.S. Attorneys.

Congratulations to **Daniel O'Keefe** for being featured in The Business Review's *People on the Move* article dated May 14, 2013. Dan was hired as a Financial Consultant for Capital Financial Planning.

St. Peter Church Choir Director, **Rafi Topalian**, also known as 'The Singing Jeweler,' will perform the National Anthem, God Bless America, and other patriotic songs throughout the summer at all home games for the Albany Metro Mallers. All games are played at Christian Brothers Academy at 7:00pm. Check website for game schedule. Contact Rafi at 272-2000 or rafitop@aol.com for complimentary tickets to any game or just show up and say you're a friend of the 'Singing Jeweler.'

## **Community News**

*Dear Fr. Stepanos, Rafi [Topalian] and members of the Armenian community,*

*This week [April 25], I have thought a lot about your martyred saints and the unjust and indifferent attitude of the world community. I pay homage to the memory of those who died in the Armenian Genocide and understand your pain. You have waited a long time for justice and restitution because in part the lesson of 1915 is not felt by most of the world.*

*This week you will be in my thoughts and prayers as you honor the memory of the Armenians who suffered and died in the Genocide. May Jesus Christ bless you all and may this year's commemoration strengthen your community.*

*Your friend,  
Prof. Philip J. D'Noua*

Our condolences to the family and friends of **Vache P. Archanian** (47) who entered his eternal rest on May 31, 2013. He is survived by his wife, Michelle Roff Archanian; two sons, Zachary and Joshua; a sister, Salpe (Jose) Taverez (MA); three nieces; an uncle; and many cousins, friends and colleagues.

**FREE GED AND ESL CLASSES:** One of the services offered by the Adult Education Program of Capital Region BOCES is free General Equivalency Diploma (GED) and English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction at various sites and locations. Those interested may call (518) 862-4775 to register or for more information.

**KNIGHTS and DAUGHTERS OF VARTAN SUMMER PICNIC, August 25:** The public is cordially invited to the Annual Summer Picnic of the Knights and Daughters of Vartan to be held on Sunday, August 25, starting at 12:00 noon (meal served at 1:30 p.m.). Bring your family and friends for good food and fun. A tavloo tournament will also take place. The picnic will be held at the Peeble's Island State Park and Historical Reserve (entrance on Delaware Avenue off Ontario Street on Cohoes Island). Meal includes choice of steak or chicken, with corn, salad and dessert. Cost is \$24 per person. Reservations are required by August 18 and can be made by contacting Eddy Kebabjian at (518) 438-1105. Checks made payable to 'Knights and Daughters of Vartan' should be mailed to Eddy at 3 Red Lane Drive, Loudonville, NY 12211.

**OCEANIA STREET FESTIVAL, September 7:** Hosted by the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs the Oceania Street Festival will take place on Saturday, September 7, from 12 noon to 8:00 p.m. (rain Day - Sunday, September 8) at 209-15 Horace Harding Expressway, Bayside, New York. This event features Mediterranean food, homemade desserts, beer and wine garden, and the HYE MARKET for specialty foods to take home. There will be exciting entertainment such as International Superstar Robert Chilingirian, Aradzani & Hye Bar Dance Groups, Antranig Dance Ensemble, The Greek Armenian Folk Dance Society, Vanush Khanamiryan Dance Academy of NY, and special guests Kristy & Julie Asriyan. Other attractions include street vendors, White Elephant, children's rides, Booktique, Wine toss, and grand and mini raffles. For more information, visit [www.holy-martyrs.org](http://www.holy-martyrs.org).

**ANAHID PLAYED SOORP: THE FINDING OF ARAN PIRIAN:** This new historic novel by Mark Kadian is set in the final years of the Ottoman Empire amid the throes of the Armenian Genocide, told through the experiences of a young boy. Aran, the twelve year old son of an academician father and musician mother living in 1915 Constantinople, had all of life's essentials and more. Aran and his younger sister, Anahid, though, were unaware of what was about to come as World War I and a Turkish nationalist movement intent on ethnic cleansing intervened and subsumed their lives. A knock on the door of their home, and the abrupt seizure by Ottoman soldiers of Aran's father, Hovan, marked the beginning of events which forced Aran, Anahid, and their mother, Marem, on a harrowing journey. With the assistance of Hovan's Turkish friend and colleague, Professor Daigneau, Aran and his family are placed in hiding. Later found and imprisoned in a death camp, then sent into the desert borderlands in an attempt to find an escape with a caravan of Armenian refugees, Aran and his family sought sustenance wherever it could be found-in a crumb of bread, a stalk of wild wheat, a book of old Turkish poems, some photographs and Anahid's violin. Will it be enough sustenance to survive? Could it all be so plain and simple, or is living and dying a more complex matter? Aran would have no choice in finding out. *Anahid Played Soorp* was inspired by a story told to the author when a boy by the author's grandmother who as a young girl escaped the Armenian Genocide by joining a caravan through the desert borderlands of the Ottoman Empire. Along the way the author's grandmother met a little boy who was the inspiration for the character, Aran. Now available in paperback and Kindle at Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, and other bookstores.



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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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Please make check payable to: **St. Peter Armenian Church**  
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## ՎԵՐԱԾՆԵԱԼ

Մկրտությունն Խորհուրդի պահուն, ծիսակատար քահանան կը կարդայ Յովհաննու Աւետարանի այն մասը, ուր Յիսուս Քրիստոս կը պատգամէ. «Ամէն, ամէն ասեմ ձեզ, եթէ ոչ որ ծնցի վերստին, ոչ կարէ տեսանել զարքայութիւն Աստուծոյ»: Ա. Պօղոս Առաքեալ իր թուղթերուն մէջ մէկէ անկէ անգամներ Քրիստոսի ճշմարիտ հետեւորդներուն կը թելադրէ հին մարդը ամբողջութեամբ թօթափել եւ նոր մարմին զգեալու: Նորոգուիլ, նոր սիրտ եւ նոր ոգի ստանալ եւ նոր մարդ դառնալ: Վերստին ծնելու քարոզութիւնը քրիստոնէական եկեղեցւոյ վարդապետութեան մէկ շատ կարեւոր եւ էական մասն է: Առանց այս պատգամին՝ անկարելի է որ քրիստոնէութիւնը շարունակէ ունենալ իր կենսունակութիւնն ու զօրութիւնը:

Ներկայիս, քրիստոնէայ եկեղեցիներու եւ քրիստոնէայ հաւատացեալներուն մէջ «վերածնեալ» բառը յաճախակի կերպով գործածուող բառ մըն է: Գոյութիւն ունի անհատներու բազմութիւն մը՝ որ կը նախընտրէ «վերածնեալ» կոչուիլ եւ ճանչցուիլ: Հաւատացեալներու խմբակցութիւններ կան՝ որոնք այս անունին տակ կրօնական գործունէութիւններ կ'ունենան: Այս շարժումը թէեւ Բողոքական շրջանակներու մէջ ծագում առած երեւոյթ մըն է, եւ սակայն «վերածնեալ» անհատներ գոյութիւն ունին նաեւ հայոց մօտ, Կաթողիկ համայնքներուն մէջ եւ նոյնիսկ Օրթոտոքս եկեղեցիներու շրջանակներուն մէջ:

«Վերածնաեալ» քրիստոնէաներու այս տեսակը ի՞նչ է, եւ ի՞նչ տեսակ ընդունելութիւն պէտք է ընենք այսպիսի անձերու:

«Վերածնեալ» անձերը բոլորն ալ իրենց հաւատքին լուսաւորութիւնը կը ստանան յանկարծական կերպով: Եթէ ասեմին հաւատքի մէջ կոյր եւ կամ անտարբեր էին, մէկ օրուան մէջ Քրիստոսը իրենց անձին մէջ կու գայ եւ կարծէք թէ Քրիստոսով կը լեցուին: Իրենց հոգին ու սիրտը կ'ողողոյն աստուածային ուրախութեամբ: Հրաշանման բժշկութիւններ տեղի կ'ունենան եւ

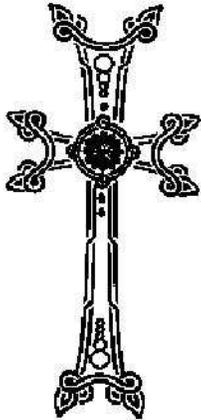
անհատը ամբողջովին կը փոխուի: Յիրաւի անհիկա վերստին ծնած մարդ մը կ'ըլլայ: Սուրբ Գիրքի սերտողութիւնը իրեն ամէնօրեայ զբաղմունքն է: Կրօնք, Աստուած եւ Յիսուս զիրենք կը յագեցնեն: «Վերածնեալ» անձեր բարի, համեստ, անհոգ եւ երջանիկ մարդիկ են:

«Վերածնեալ» անձերը սակայն ե՛ն անաւաւ անհոգ եւ անհանդուրժող: Իրենց հաւատքին մէջ զօրաւոր ըլլալը եւ Սուրբ Գիրքը լաւապէս սերտած ըլլալը կարծէք զիրենք ըրած է անաւաւ անհոգ եւ պատգամախօս աստուածային իմաստութեան: Առանց խղճահարութեան կը լքեն իրենց անխնիներու հաւատքը: Յարգանք եւ սէր չունին հիմէն եկած անանդութիւններուն եւ կանոններուն հանդէպ: Կարծէք թէ «վերստին ծնունդը» իրենց համար նոր կրօնք մըն է, նոր եկեղեցի մըն է եւ նոր յարանուանութիւն մը: Անոնք բոլորովին անհոգ են եւ չեն անդրադառնար որ իրենց այս անհոգ անհոգ կործանարար է եւ քիչ ժամանակէն իրենց դէմ եւս պիտի ստեղծուի մերժողութեան ոգին:

Կրօնասիրութիւնը, աստուածսիրութիւնը եւ Սուրբ Գիրքին հանդէպ սէր եւ գուրգուրանք տածելը «վերածնեալ» անձերու յատուկ առաքինութիւն մը չէ: Յիսուս Քրիստոսի աշակերտիլը՝ ընդհանրական պատուիրան մը եւ հրաւեր մըն է: Քրիստոսի եկեղեցին ամէն ժամանակներու մէջ ալ ունեցած է սուրբ հոգիներու բազմութիւն մը՝ որ զօրաւոր եղած է հաւատքի մէջ:

Եթէ Աստուած որոշած է անհոգ ժամանակներուն մէջ «վերածնեալ» անձերու հաւատքին մէջ այսպիսի գեղեցիկ եւ երանելի շնորհաբաշխութիւն մը ընել՝ «վերածնեալ» անհատներուն կը մնայ իրենց այս գեղեցիկ շնորհքը գործածել Քրիստոսի հաստատած եկեղեցիին մէջ լոյս եւ հաւատք տարածելու, եւ ոչ թէ նորակերպ կրօնք մը հաստատելու: Նման պարագայի մը տակ՝ վստահ եմ որ բոլորս ալ գրկաբաց կ'ընդունինք որեւէ անհատ որ կը դաւանի ըլլալ «վերածնեալ» եւ կ'ոգեւորուինք եւ կ'որախանանք անոնցմով:

## Խորհուրդ ~ Sacrament ~ Mystery



7 Sacraments  
7 Wednesday Evenings  
7 Potluck Dinners  
7 Lively Discussions  
7 Mysteries

3rd Wednesdays of the month...

- September 18<sup>th</sup> - **Baptism**
- October 16<sup>th</sup> - **Chrismation**
- November 20<sup>th</sup> - **Holy Communion**
- December 18<sup>th</sup> - **Penance**
- April 16<sup>th</sup> - **Holy Matrimony**
- May 21<sup>st</sup> - **Holy Orders**
- June 18<sup>th</sup> - **Unction/Anointing of the Sick**

6pm – Potluck Dinner • 7pm - Discussion

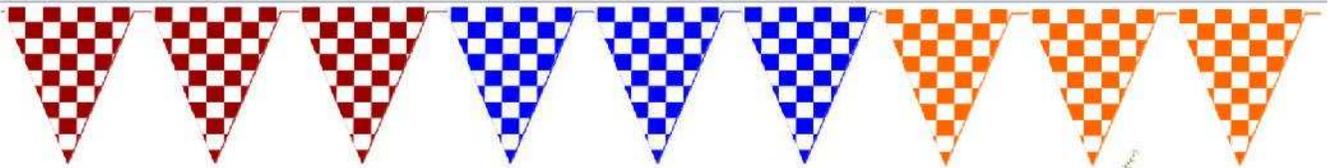
"Sacraments are outward or visible signs & ceremonies to give us God's invisible graces. They are channels by which the Christian graces enter into our souls to feed, to nourish & to strengthen our spiritual life"

~ Patriarch Shnork Kaloustian

# 3rd Annual MEN'S FELLOWSHIP EVENING

*An evening of camaraderie and brotherhood  
for the men of the Armenian community*

**Thursday, September 26, 6:00 pm**



- Mezzeh
- Shish Kebab Dinner
- Cognac
- Cigars (Avo)\*
- Music
- Door Prizes



**\* \* Must be age 21 or older to attend \* \***

**Held on the grounds of St. Peter Armenian Church, 100 Troy Schenectady Road, Watervliet.**

*For proper planning, we would like to know how many to expect; therefore, please . . .*

**Contact the church office with your reservation  
at [stpeter.armch@prodigy.net](mailto:stpeter.armch@prodigy.net) or (518) 274-3673.**

**\*Also, please indicate:  Smoking or  Non-Smoking**

Confirm your reservation with your payment made payable to "St. Peter Armenian Church" and mail to the church at PO Box 196, Watervliet, NY 12189.

Unable to attend? But would still like to support this event? Please send a donation.

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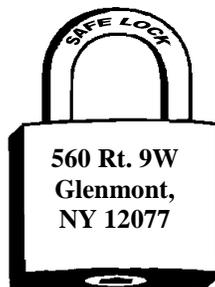
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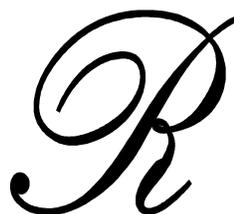
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### **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Sunday, August 4     | <b>Family Worship Day</b>  |
| Saturday, August 10  | <b>Holiday Bazaar Prep Day:</b> String Cheese ~ 10:00am<br>Coordinator: Mary Panjarjian  |
| Monday, August 12    | <b>Monday Night BBQ:</b> Church Grounds ~ 5:30pm   |
| Tuesday, August 13   | <b>Parish Council Meeting:</b> Conference Room ~ 6:30pm  |
| Monday, August 26    | <b>Monday Night BBQ:</b> Church Grounds ~ 5:30pm   |
| Sunday, September 1  | <b>Family Worship Day</b>  |
| Sunday, September 8  | <b>Sunday School Registration &amp; Parent Assembly:</b><br>Gdanian Auditorium ~ 10:00am<br><b>Fellowship Hour hosted by Sunday School Staff:</b><br>Gdanian Auditorium following services |
| Wednesday, Sept. 11  | <b>Holiday Bazaar Prep Day:</b> Yalanchi ~ 4:00pm<br>Coordinator: Holly Dadekian   |
| Sunday, September 15 | <b>Women's Guild Day / Sunday School Classes Begin</b>   |
| Wednesday, Sept. 18  | <b>7 Sacraments Discussion on Baptism:</b> Gdanian Auditorium<br>Potluck Dinner ~ 6:00pm<br>Discussion ~ 7:00 pm   |
| Thursday, Sept. 26   | <b>Men's Fellowship Evening:</b> Church Grounds ~ 6:00pm   |
| Friday, October 4    | <b>Holiday Bazaar Prep Day:</b> Rojig ~ 6:00pm<br>Coordinator: Holly Dadekian  |
| Saturday, October 5  | <b>Retreat at Ararat Center:</b> <i>Details to be announced</i>  |
| Sunday, October 6    | <b>Services at Ararat Center:</b> <u>No</u> services at St. Peter Armenian Church  |
| Wednesday, Oct. 16   | <b>7 Sacraments Discussion on Chrismation:</b> Gdanian Auditorium<br>Potluck Dinner ~ 6:00pm<br>Discussion ~ 7:00 pm   |
| Saturday, October 19 | <b>Church Anniversary Celebration Event:</b> <i>Details to be announced</i>  |