



SPRING 2021

ԼՈՒՍԱԲԵՐ LOOSAPER

2021 FRIDAY FLAVORS OF ARMENIA
DRIVE-THRU, TAKE-OUT DINNERS



Again this year, in lieu of our traditional two-day Festival event, a series of drive-thru, take-out meals will be provided at St. Peter Armenian Church. Out of precaution, with COVID still a threat, our

most popular traditional foods will be made available for pick-up service only on the following Friday evenings from 5:00-7:00pm — **MAY 7, 14 & 21, and JUNE 4.**

Online ordering through the church's website, stpeterarmenianchurch.com/events, is required to secure your order and will be available Mondays-Fridays (until 2:00pm) each week of the drive-thru dates. Show your extra support and add a "tip" (donation) to your order.

Last year's dinners were so successful, we did not hesitate in providing the same (safe) service again this year. Our two most popular meals will be available each week — the Hye Burger Platter and the Chicken Dinner, along with lahmejune, cheese beoreg, cream kadayif, eech bulger salad, paklava sundaes, and possibly more on various weeks. Check the website each week to see the different menu items available.

To offer support through our Sponsorship program or to volunteer to assist with the many tasks leading up to and including the drive-thru dates, contact the church office for more information. We look forward to having an in-person Festival in 2022.

(see flyer on inside back cover for more information . . .)

Սուրբ Պետրոս Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցի
ST. PETER ARMENIAN CHURCH

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Friday Flavors of Armenia 2021
- New Parish Council members
- Pres. Biden's acknowledgement of the Armenian Genocide
- Moving with Maria *still moving* . . .
- Submit Graduate announcements for Summer 2021 issue

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Sunday School
Alice & Sean McMullan
(518) 371-6878

Women's Guild
Fran Kaiser
(518) 221-1571

Parish Council members wearing their "many hats."



LOOSAPER DONATIONS

Many thanks to the most recent donors who offered to help offset the cost of our church publication with donations totaling \$220.00:

- **Helga Apkarian**
- **George & Elsie Bedrosian**
- **Sarkis & Nancy Kazarian (FL)**
- **Rosemary Wiczorek (WI)**

Donations for *Loosaper* may be sent to "St. Peter Armenian Church" and mailed to PO Box 196, Watervliet, NY 12189 or securely given through PayPal under office@stpeterarmenianchurch.org.

Pastor's Message

Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian

Growing up in the 1970s, my earliest recollections and stories of the Armenian Genocide came from my father. Every April 24th, he would travel to New York City and participate in demonstrations, protests, and religious services. He'd attend the services at St. Vartan Cathedral and then would participate in the annual Armenian Genocide commemorations.

Each year, following the solemn remembrances, he would come home with books, pamphlets, signs, and banners which he shared with me that I still have to this day. I was always intrigued by his passion and desire to remember our genocide martyrs. Later, in my teenage years, we would travel together into New York City and participate in the Knights of Vartan rallies at Times Square. My father and I were able to bond and connect on a deeper spiritual and mystical plane as, together, we would remember and seek worldly recognition of the lives of the 1.5 million Armenians who were murdered, tortured, and massacred at the hands of the Turkish government in the Ottoman Empire.

President Biden's words on April 24, 2021, calling the Armenian Genocide truly a genocide, marks yet another historical milestone of our United States history. President Biden's statement, along with Proclamation 4838 by President Ronald Reagan on April 22, 1981, calling the massacres a genocide, together with the monumental House and Senate passed legislation recognizing the Armenian Genocide in the autumn of 2019, seals the invaluable affirmation and recognition of America's stance on the Armenian Genocide.

I can envision my father's bittersweet smile on his face today, knowing that our great country of the United States took a stand on the principles of life, truth, and justice. God bless the United States of America and may our Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide continue to shine their divine light on each of us.

Peace and mercy to you all,

Fr. Stepanos

Statement by President Joe Biden on Armenian Remembrance Day



Each year on this day, we remember the lives of all those who died in the Ottoman-era Armenian genocide and recommit ourselves to preventing such an atrocity from ever again occurring. Beginning on April 24, 1915, with the arrest of Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Constantinople by Ottoman authorities, one and a half million Armenians were deported, massacred, or marched to their deaths in a campaign of extermination. We honor the victims of the Meds Yeghern so that the horrors of what happened are never lost to history. And we remember so that we remain ever-vigilant against the corrosive influence of hate in all its forms.

Of those who survived, most were forced to find new homes and new lives around the world, including in the United States. With strength and resilience, the Armenian people survived and rebuilt their community. Over the decades Armenian immigrants have enriched the United States in countless ways, but they have never forgotten the tragic history that brought so many of their ancestors to our shores. We honor their story. We see that pain. We affirm the history. We do this not to cast blame but to ensure that what happened is never repeated.

Today, as we mourn what was lost, let us also turn our eyes to the future—toward the world that we wish to build for our children. A world unstained by the daily evils of bigotry and intolerance, where human rights are respected, and where all people are able to pursue their lives in dignity and security. Let us renew our shared resolve to prevent future atrocities from occurring anywhere in the world. And let us pursue healing and reconciliation for all the people of the world.

The American people honor all those Armenians who perished in the genocide that began 106 years ago today.

Please continue to support the Armenian cause



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20TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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***“Armenia
is an
American
ally that
provides
crucial
support
to the
United
States”***

The following letter from House Representative Paul D. Tonko, dated April 16, 2021, was received by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian:

Thank you for contacting me regarding United States foreign policy in Armenia and Artsakh. I appreciate hearing from you on this important matter.

As you may know, Armenia is an American ally that provides crucial support to the United States, and the United States remains one of the largest contributors of foreign aid to Armenia. In addition to supporting economic and political development in the region, the U.S. has also contributed to international efforts to resolve the longstanding Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. On September 27, 2020, Azerbaijan began the most significant military operation in Nagorno-Karabakh since Armenia and Azerbaijan signed a ceasefire agreement in 1994, and Azerbaijan continues to hold Armenian prisoners of war despite the new ceasefire agreement signed by both parties on November 9, 2020. It is important that throughout these difficult times, the U.S. reaffirms its support for the Armenian people and for a strong American-Armenian relationship.

The Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues was created to strengthen relations between the United States and Armenia. As a proud member of this caucus, I recognize the importance of continued advocacy for American-Armenian relations, and I am committed to working with my colleagues to raise awareness of American-Armenian issues on Capitol Hill.

I have and will continue to champion legislation that supports the Armenian people. In the 116th Congress, I cosponsored H.Res. 1165, which would condemn Azerbaijan’s military operations in Nagorno-Karabakh and denounce Turkey’s interference in the conflict, and H.Res. 296, which would officially recognize the Armenian Genocide. While these resolutions have not yet been reintroduced in the 117th Congress, on February 19, 2021, I joined 99 colleagues in sending a letter calling on the Biden Administration to hold Azerbaijan and Turkey accountable for their actions, support Armenia’s democracy, and assist those who have been displaced during the conflict. In addition, H.Res. 240 would call on Azerbaijan to release all Armenian prisoners of war. This resolution has been referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. While I am not a member of this committee, please be assured that I will keep your concerns in mind as I monitor this situation and as I continue to work with my colleagues to assist Armenian citizens and strengthen the bond of friendship between the U.S. and Armenia.

Thank you again for your correspondence. As your representative in Congress, I will continue to prioritize policies that create jobs, grow our economy, and protect America’s middle class. Should you have additional comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My door is always open.

To see my latest statements and voting record, please find me at @RepPaulTonko on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube or visit my website at <http://tonko.house.gov> and consider signing up for my e-newsletter.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

Message from Parish Council



1st Quarter 2021: The first quarter of 2021 has come and gone. During the first quarter, we held our first ever Annual Parish Assembly via Zoom on Sunday, March 14. Elections for Parish Council were conducted and the new members elected to Parish Council for 2021 are Brian Apkarian, John “Frenchie” Ekmalian, Catherine Knauer, Raffi Moroukian III, Cheryl Ohanesian, and Patricia O’Keefe (re-elected). We welcome them all to the Parish Council and look forward to a busy and productive year.

We also offer our gratitude and appreciation to the following outgoing members of the Parish Council for their years of service: Richard DeMartino, Garo Derian, Sharon Foley and Roswita Fragomeni.

Security and Surveillance System: An important agenda item that was voted on at the Parish Assembly was the approval of an investment of up to \$8,000 to install a new security and surveillance system for the exterior of the church property. The proposal was approved and the provider and final configuration will be decided upon shortly. It is planned to have the surveillance system installed and in full operation by the end of May.

Women’s Guild Contribution: Last year, despite the limitations imposed by the pandemic, the Women’s Guild successfully conducted fundraising events enabling them to donate \$7,000 to the church’s general fund. The Women’s Guild deserves a huge “Thank You” from all of us for their determination, innovation, and love for their church and the Armenian community.

Gift from United Armenian Calvary Congregational Church Community: The property that housed the former United Armenian Calvary Congregational Church in Troy was recently sold. Proceeds from the sale were generously distributed among the various local Armenian organizations including St. Peter Armenian Church, Holy Cross Armenian Church, the Knights & Daughters of Vartan, the Homenetmen of Albany, and the St. Peter Armenian School (and perhaps others). We are grateful to this church community for presenting these unexpected gifts. St. Peter Armenian Church was honored with a gift of \$20,857.85 (use yet to be determined) and the St. Peter Armenian School received \$10,428.93, in which a new Endowment Fund has been established.

Palm Sunday: Palm Sunday was a glorious day for us all! We were able to re-open the church to in-person services for the first time since the fall. It was wonderful to see so many back in church! We’ll continue to follow the proper health and safety protocols by implementing social distancing, mask wearing, etc. And, as infection rates decrease throughout the region, we will hopefully be able to continue meeting together and perhaps open to more activity taking place at the church.

Friday Flavors of Armenia: Watch your email and keep an eye on the St. Peter Armenian Church website because the Friday Flavors of Armenia drive-thru dinners are going to take place once again and are scheduled for four Fridays during the months of May and June. Quantities will be limited, so don’t forget to submit your orders through the church website at the beginning of each drive-thru week!

Church Infrastructure Evaluation: Our church structure and property is 50 years old this year! With that in mind, the Building Committee and the Parish Council are evaluating the condition of the front entryway to the church. Ways to update and repair the front entryway and surrounding landscape are being explored. Updates will be provided along the way as plans are formulated and decisions are made.

Linda Bedian,
Parish Council Chair

St. Peter Armenian Church 2021 STEWARDSHIP & DUES PLEDGE FORM

please list names of all committed givers

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

There are two categories listed below. Membership Dues are necessary for St. Peter Armenian Church to pay the Diocese in New York City. Stewardship Pledges are an individual commitment to help meet the needs of our own parish. Please consider both when completing this form.

CATEGORIES

Membership Dues for 2021 \$ _____

\$150 times the number of each dues-paying member in household. Note, dues-paying members of St. Peter Armenian 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 the annual Parish Assembly or hold elective offices.

☐ Please issue me weekly offering envelopes

Stewardship Pledge for 2021 \$ _____

(donations above & beyond dues)

TOTAL \$ _____

Signature _____

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Stewardship is a gift to the St. Peter Armenian Church parish, above and beyond Membership Dues.

Being a dues-paying member of the parish is important; however, the greater portion of the \$150 annual dues amount goes to the Eastern Diocese for its continued support of Diocesan programs and to remain in good standing as a greater member of the Church of Holy Etchmiadzin.

Your generous, sacrificial, unconditional giving through Stewardship helps St. Peter Armenian Church to sustain its yearly budget.

Stewardship contributions allows our church to continue to provide many ministries and services to all Armenians of the Capital District. Your generosity allows us to educate, inspire, and encourage Armenians and non-Armenians alike to develop and nurture a stronger relationship with our Lord and Savior through the very unique expression of the Armenian Church.

Stewardship is giving
from your heart.

Giving as you have
been blessed.



2021 Membership / Stewardship

The following is a list of those who have committed to participate in the church's 2021 Membership/Stewardship Pledge program. Each year, a Membership Dues/Stewardship Pledge Form is mailed to all parishioners requesting their annual financial commitment to the church. The list below represents those who have made that commitment thus far for 2021; please accept our thanks. If your name does not appear here, please consider making that commitment now by completing the form on the following page or by contacting the church office.

2021 Membership / Stewardship Participants

Smbat Amirbekian**	Mary Hartunian	Florence Paparian
Rosemary Ammian	Richard & Beth Hartunian*	Helen Paparian
Winifred Ammian*	Barbara Hrachian	David & Breann Parseghian
Brian Apkarian	Seren Hrachian	Kevork Parseghian
Helga Apkarian*	Stephen Hrachian*	David F. Quinones
Gerald Arzoumanian	Phyllis Jevanian	William Rainbolt**
Andre & Anne Assalian	Kimberly Kachougian	George & Joanne Scaringe*
Nazar J. Bakerian	Donald Kaiser	Lorraine O. Schindler**
Ara Baligian	Francine Kaiser*	Charlotte Sevazlian
Linda Bedian	Leon & Susan Kaiser*	Farid F. Shafik, MD (CT)
Robert & Sandra Bedian	Lenna Kandarjian	Harry R. Shamlan*
Rosalee Bedian	Grace Karian	Toros Shamlan, Jr.*
George & Elsie Bedrosian	Murat Kasparian	Mary P. Shanks
Donald & Rhonda Boyajian	Dr. Ara Kayayan*	Carole Kazanjian Smith (FL)
Leonard & Antoinette Buchakjian	Patrick Kayayan	Leo Sogoian
Charles & Alice Chorbajian	Linda Kazanjian	Lucille Sogoian
Michael & Joanne Coogan	James & Marion Kehrer	Susan Sogoian
Robert & Holly Dadekian*	Karen Khachadourian	Patrick Suppa **
Adrienne Daniels	Russell [†] & Sandy Kilidjian*	Claudia Suppa*
Louis & Sarine D'Angelo**	Catherine (Zadigan) Knauer	Berj Topalian
George & Karen Dayian	Harry Koshgarian	Charles & Carol Tutunjian
Diane DerBedrosian	Isabel Krempa	Edward & Adrina Tutunjian*
Isabel Derian	Steven Krempa	Gary & Laura Vartanian*
Paul & Melissa DerOhannesian	Christopher Martin	Daniel Vartigian
Suzanne Dickinson*	Will & Shelley Martin	David Vartigian*
Marguerite Djehizian and Elisabeth Chamberlain	Katrina Mayba*	Elsie Vozzy
Jonah Doudoukjian	Sean & Alice McMullan	
Yn. Paulette Doudoukjian	Lori Megherian	
Arleen Drooby	Sarkis & Ida Mihranian	
John & Debbie Ekmalian	Mary Minassian	
Gean Ekmalian**	R. Mihran & Ovsanna Mooradian	
Helena Ekmalian**	Shirley Moroukian**	
Ralph & Elizabeth Enokian	Lucy Morton	
Arpy Ernest	John & Karen Nevins	
Roswita Fragomeni*	Thomas Berj Nevins*	
Julie Garabedian	Cheryl Ohanesian	
Phil & Linda Gross	Daniel & Alexandra O'Keefe	
Jon Hairabedian**	Joseph & Patricia O'Keefe	
Joanne C. Hartunian*	George [†] & Elizabeth Osganian*	
	Mary Panjarjian	

*Is
Your
Name
Here?*

**Indicates those who have increased their pledge from the previous year.*

***Indicates those who are new to the Membership/Stewardship Pledge program this year.*

We thank you all!

Church Organization News

Sunday School

The St. Peter Sunday School will continue to meet on Zoom for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. Classes are held on Sunday evenings starting at 5:30 p.m. with the Little Faithfuls Group led by Fr. Stepanos and Mrs. Holly Dadekian.

The 6th-10th grade class, led by Sean McMullan, has been studying the Miracles and Parables of Jesus, as well as the Sundays of Lent, the Temptation of Christ, the Prodigal Son, and the First Communion. Over the next few weeks, this class will study the period of time between Christ's Resurrection and His Assumption.

A "Spring Forward" event was held on Saturday, April 17, in the Postoian Pavilion. Read more about this safe and fun social gathering for all church families in the Little Faithfuls article.

The Sunday School will recognize their 2020 graduates, Gloria Doudoukjian, Gregory Kayayan, and Noah Tutunjian, with a brief ceremony to congratulate all three on a job well done! The date has not yet been set, but will take place sometime in May — details will be announced in the near future.

Alice McMullan,

Sunday School Superintendent

Little Faithfuls

Faithfully, our littlest ones and their parents have been attending our gatherings every Sunday evening via ZOOM. With a prayer, short lesson, and finger game, our children learn about God's love and creation. They come with a smile, laughter, and energy that make all of us look at life through a child's eyes. Wow! Life is just wonderful!!

Our "Spring Forward" event was held in the Postoian Pavilion on Saturday, April 17. With all the laughter, noise, and running around, it was wonderful to ESCAPE from the daily news. When we asked if anyone had a special prayer before lunch, Sako Hogleund jumped up and recited the entire Hayr Mer! Thank you SAKO!

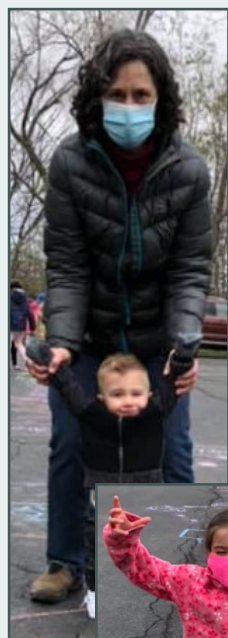
Everyone in attendance colored a hand which was taped on a very LONG ribbon. The children learned that they have their immediate family but they also have a Church family who loves them very much. They made heart glitter bottles, representing our love for each other and God's love for us. Another activity made something that represents love from pipe cleaners.

We had an exciting obstacle course for running, hopping, touching toes, twirling, jumping, zig-zagging, curly cues, and then "the pose!" It was a great FUN experience. Family members said, *Such a nice group of families...It was a nice event!...A great time!...So much fun!...A bit chilly, but the kids kept warm running around!...Seeing all the little ones warms my heart!...I love this!*

We would like to thank Lori Payette, Ani Chohamlian, and Frenchie Ekmalian for their assistance in cleaning the pavilion after the long winter months. Thank you especially to Lena Hogleund and Katrina Mayba for their organization assistance in planning this event.

Holly Dadekian,

Little Faithfuls Teacher



Mrs. Holly & Levi

Nina



Aileen



Perla



James



Alana



Sako

Church Organization News

ACYOA Srs.

Fr. Stepanos led an ACYOA Srs. Zoom discussion on the meaning of Lent referencing Matthew 6:1-21 — “Lent is more than giving up candy for 40 days.” This same discussion was also held virtually on other evenings for the ACYOA Jrs. and for the 20/30 Something group.

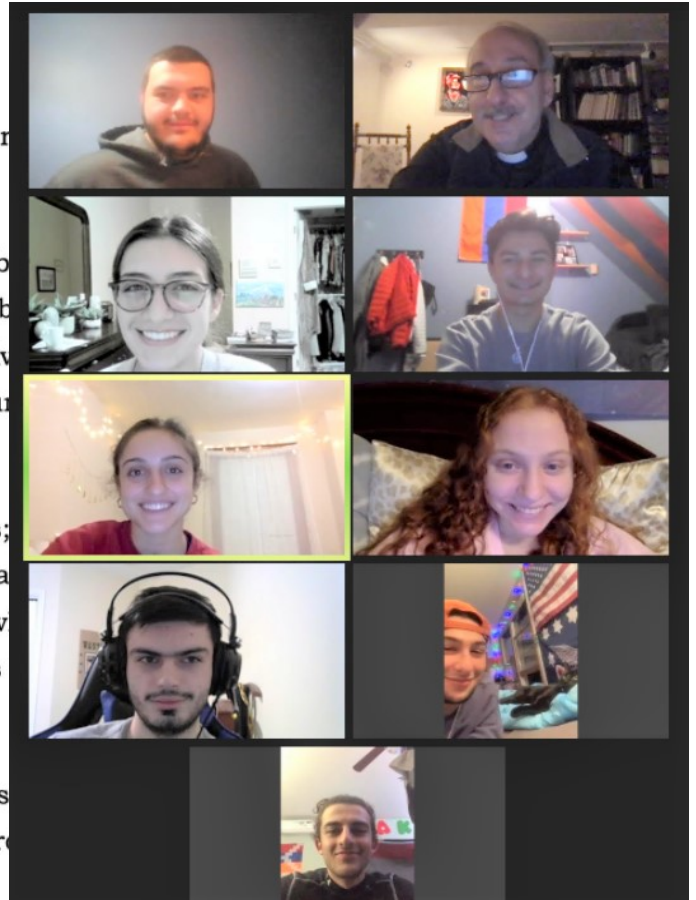
Matthew 6:1-21

6 “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order that you may have no reward from your Father in heaven.

2 “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. **3** But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4** so that your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

5 “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; they pray like this: ‘Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.’ Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. **6** But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. Your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

7 “When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases like the Gentiles, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Truly I tell you, your Father knows what you need before you ask him.



Sako



Der Hayr



Church Organization News

Այր ayr	Բեն bpen	Գրիմ gkim	Դտահ dtah	Էհ yech
Զա za	Էհ eh	Ըհ eht	Թո tto	Ճհ jeh
Իհ eenee	Լի lyon	Խհ kheh	Ծհ dsah	Կհ gehn
Հո ho	Ճա tza	Ղհ ghad	Ճհ jeh	Մհ men
Ջհ he	Նո noo	Շհ sha	Վո vo	Չհ tcha
Կհ beh	Շհ chah	Ռհ rra	Սհ seh	Վհ vev
Մհ dyoon	Րհ reh	Գհ tsah	Լհ hyoon	Փհ pyoor
Քհ keh	Լհ o	Օհ o	Ֆհ feh	

Joelle, an Armenian children's singer from Canada, gave a special presentation via Zoom to St. Peter Church families on the afternoon of Palm Sunday, March 28. Joelle is so entertaining and engaging and really puts on a marvelous show. Since the group attending that day was (unfortunately) small, Joelle graciously donated her time and talent for the program, therefore; the Armenian School presented the St. Peter Church general fund with a donation of \$200 from collected ticket sales.



Armenian School

Last summer, a beginner Armenian language class for adults began for what was supposed to be a 6-week series of classes. With the participants eager to continue to learn, Dr. Ara Kayayan extended the weekly class that still takes place via Zoom every Wednesday evening. Here are some of the words and phrases the class has been studying. Let us try to use these words every Sunday. Stay tuned for more words in the next issue of *Loosaper* (Bringer of Light, Լուսաբեր).

Learn to Speak Armenian Lesson

How to address the Armenian Church clergy:

- ♦ For the Catholicos

Աստուած օգնական, Վեհափառ Տէր

Asdvadz oknagan, Vehapar Der (May God be your helper, Your Holiness)

- ♦ For the Bishop

Աստուած օգնական, Սրբազան Հայր

Asdvadz oknagan, Srpazan Hayr (May God be your helper, Your Eminence)

- ♦ For Celibate Priest

Աստուած օգնական, Հայր Սուրբ

Asdvadz oknagan, Hayr Soorp (May God be your helper, Holy Father)

- ♦ For Married Priest

Օրհնեցէ՛ք Տէր Հայր

Orhnetzek Der Hayr (Bless us Der Hayr)

Essential church vocabulary

Եկեղեցի	Yegeghetzi	(Church) (Soorp Bedros Yegeghetzi)
Խորան	Khoran	(Altar) (Soorp Khoran)
Խաչ	Khatch	(Cross) (Soorp Khatch Yegeghetzi)
Պատարագ	Badarak	(Mass) (Soorp yev anmah Badarak)
Շարական	Sharagan	(Hymn) (Soorp, Soorp Sharaganeh)
Քարոզ	Karoz	(Sermon) (Kahanan geh Karozeh)
Մոմ	Mohm	(Candle) (mohmagal, Candle holder)
Աղոթք	Aghotk	(Prayer) (Aghotel, to pray) Yes G'Aghotem, I pray)

Հաղորդութիւն Haghortootioon (Communion)(Khosdovanank yev Haghortootioon, confession and communion)

Armenian School classes for grade school students continue to take place via Zoom on various days of the week with an Assembly for all on Friday evenings. On April 24, students participated in the **106th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide** commemoration at the memorial monument at Riverfront Park in Troy. A **Talent Show** to celebrate Mother's Day is being planned to take place via Zoom on Saturday, May 8, at 7:00pm. The **Year-End Hantess** program will be held at the end of June. For more information on the Armenian School program, contact Dr. Ara Kayayan at dctrara@aol.com.

Church Organization News

Moving with Maria

Let me tell you about our “Hye Fitness” program — over 325 classes and counting! We started March 25, 2020 with daily 30-minute workouts, Monday-Saturday. By May, we transitioned into 60-minute classes. Each class begins by praying the Hayr Mer (Lord’s Prayer) and sharing a short Bible verse. Then we jump right into our fun, motivating, and sweaty workout. The workouts combine cardio, strength training exercise, and dancing. An average class can track 5,000-6,000 steps.

We have built an incredible community of women with participants joining us from Albany to New Jersey, Montreal to Argentina, and everywhere in between. We welcome ladies of ALL ages and experience levels. This is about feeling good and taking care of the bodies that God has given us.

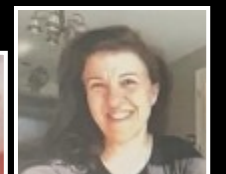
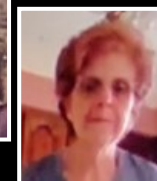
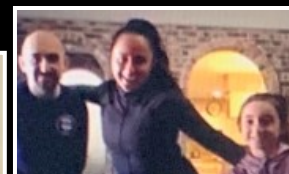
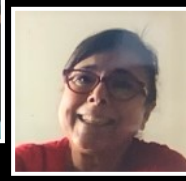
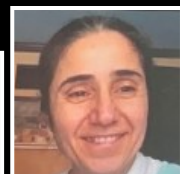
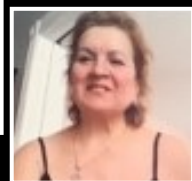
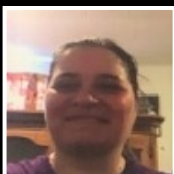
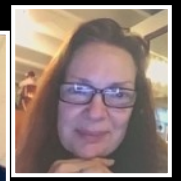
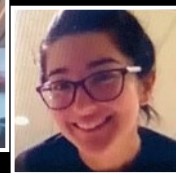
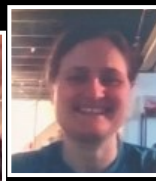
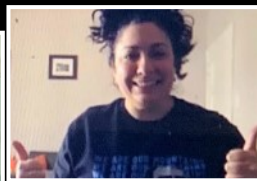
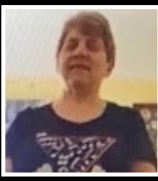
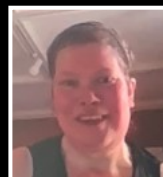
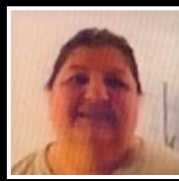
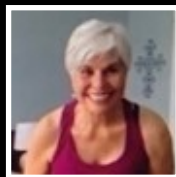
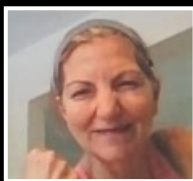
Classes are FREE; however, participants are encouraged to make a donation of any size to St. Peter Armenian Church. Since our last issue of Loosaper, additional donations have been received from the following: **Noushig Atamian, Liliana Basmadjian, Judy Bedian, Linda Bedian, Rosalee Bedian, Sue Dickinson, Heidi Guleserian, Aline Jamgotchian (NJ), Phyllis Jevanian, Sandra Kershaw, Alice McMullan, Lorie Odabashian, Berjouhi Shamounian, and Claudia Suppa.** This brings the total amount of donations from *Moving with Maria* participants to \$3,400.

Class Schedule: Monday-Saturday, 10:30-11:30am (live class); Monday-Friday, 4:30-5:30pm (pre-recorded class); Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30-7:30pm (pre-recorded class). Starting June 1, the time of the morning class will change to 10:00-11:00am. For the Zoom link to join, message me through my Facebook page or email me at dmgd2797ny@hotmail.com, or contact the church office. Come join us and do your health a favor! I hope to see YOU soon!!

Maria Derian, Hye Fitness Class Instructor



***Just a few of our
Hye Fitness
Zoom Ladies
(below)***



Church Organization News



ST. PETER WOMEN'S GUILD 2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Francine Kaiser
Chair

Sonya Moroukian
Vice Chair

Suzanne Dickinson
Treasurer

Charlene Hrachian
Recording Secretary

Zovig Ashjian
Corresponding Secretary

Advisors:
Phyllis Jevanian
Charlotte Sevazlian
Claudia Suppa
Carol Tutunjian
Sharon Foley, Ex Officio

Women's Guild

I held my first meeting as Chairwoman of the St. Peter Women's Guild on February 25, 2021. The Women's Guild was off to a running start! At that meeting, we began the planning for two events. The first (virtual) social event was held via Zoom on March 18. The theme was HYE TEA with participants enjoying a hot or cold beverage from their favorite cup or mug. Each had the opportunity to share the significance of their favorite cup, a favorite recipe story, and/or something about themselves that perhaps no one yet knew. The meeting then turned to some very fruitful discussion regarding new ideas for 2021 activities.

The next event to plan was the drive-thru Lenten Dinner to be held on Wednesday, March 31. The traditional fish dinner, served with vosbov kufte, coleslaw, and tahin hatz, was an overwhelming success with a record number of 155 (pre-ordered) meals to go. With additional tahin hatz sales, the Women's Guild raised over \$2,800. The event also generated some cookbook sales and donations to the Guild as well. We are grateful for all the support to those who coordinated and assisted with this event, and especially to all of our "customers" for making this event such a success.

The Women's Guild Executive Committee again met via Zoom on April 7. Approached by the coordinators of the upcoming *Friday Flavors of Armenia* series of drive-thru dinners, the Women's Guild has committed to assisting with this endeavor by preparing 11 trays of Kadayif, 7 trays of Paklava, and 600 Cheese Beoreg. Sonya Moroukian and Carol Tutunjian have volunteered to lead these task groups. Be on the lookout for more information and please be prepared to offer your assistance.

Some additional possible upcoming activities were discussed at the April 7 committee meeting, such as a plant sale, an outdoor "Paint 'n Sip," and a "Holiday Gift Box." The "Paint 'n Sip" is slated for Sunday, July 18, after church services. Stay tuned for more details on this and other activities in the planning stages.

Francine Kaiser, Women's Guild Chair



**2021 Tahin
Hatz Bake
March 17**

Church Organization News

St. Peter Church Choir

With in-person worship services resuming, the choir will resume rehearsals on a limited basis, starting with twice a month. Rehearsals will follow all health and safety protocol with masks mandatory and social distancing implemented and will be held outside in the Postoian Pavilion. Upcoming rehearsal dates will be Wednesday, May 12, and Thursday, May 20, from 6:30-8:00pm. During rehearsals, variable hymns will be reviewed and possible fundraising ideas will also be considered. Those interested in learning more about our hymns or joining the choir are encouraged to contact Choir Director, Rafi Topalian, at (518) 810-5018 or rafitop@aol.com. "Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises." (Psalm 98:4)

Adult Christian Education

Adult Christian Education has continued to provide a variety of classes, held Monday evenings on Zoom, which offer a greater understanding of how God has worked through the Armenian Church. Our semester began with Bishop Daniel Findikyan offering a class on Psalms in Prayer and Worship. Other instructors, including Winnie Kutchukian, Dn. Michael Sabounjian, Dn. Alex Calikyan, Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian, Andrew Kayaian, Dn. Armen Terjimanian, Ani Shahinian, Dn. Albert Keshgegian, and Rhonda Boyajian, have presented various topics using scripture, liturgical tradition, and Armenian Church history. We are thrilled that Dr. Roberta Ervine will be teaching the remaining three classes of the semester, ending on May 17. Students engage in thought provoking and inspiring discussions during the classes and all learn from one another. May the Lord continue to provide this educational opportunity for all the faithful.

Better Together Group

All are invited to join the "Life is Better Together" Bible study group. Discover how much easier life's challenges can be when we join together for prayer and Bible discussion. These morning gatherings, led by Fr. Stepanos, are held every other Wednesday at 10:30am on the following upcoming dates: May 5 & 19 and June 2, 16 & 30. Your insights and questions are welcomed and encouraged. Contact Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian or the church office for the Zoom link to join this group.

Pray Without Ceasing Group

Join this Prayer Group every other Friday morning at 10:30am on the following dates: April 30, May 14 & 28, and June 11 & 25. All are invited to meet to pray together — to pray for each other, for loved ones, for those in our church community and the greater community, and for those throughout the world. Bring your prayer needs to the group and feel the power of praying together. For more information, contact Winnie Kutchukian or the church office to join this Zoom meeting.

Zoom Reflections

Fr. Stepanos offers a brief, 30-minute weekly reflection on Thursdays at 12:30pm through Zoom. In addition to referencing the book "Wave Therapy: Reflections by the Sea," scripture and Armenian prayers are also incorporated to enhance these discussions. If you have 30 minutes to spare on any Thursday, contact Fr. Stepanos or the church office for the Zoom link to join in.



Upcoming Choir Rehearsals

Wednesday, May 12
6:30-8:00pm

Thursday, May 20
6:30-8:00pm

*To be held outdoors
in the Postoian Pavilion*
New members welcome!

St. Peter Church



On April 28, the St. Peter Church Book Club resumed its monthly meetings with a discussion on *One Night Two Souls Went Walking* by Ellen Cooney.

Meetings are held in the Gdanian Auditorium or in the Postoian Pavilion, weather permitting. Anyone attending must wear a mask and follow social distancing protocol.

To be informed of upcoming selections and meeting dates/times, contact Bill Rainbolt at bill.mindfulness@gmail.com or the church office.

Parish Community News

Sacraments and Rites

*"O Lord,
direct our steps
on the path of
peace. O Lord,
direct and guide
our souls and
the souls of
all the faithful
to walk on the
path of
righteousness
and into eternal
life."*



Funerals

Haig Sarkis Mahigian entered his eternal rest on November 17, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Betty; a daughter, Lisa Mahigian Howard; a son, Mark (Virginia) Mahigian; a granddaughter; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. In addition to his parents, the late Sarkis & Ossanna (Ganimian) Mahigian, Haig was predeceased by his sister, Haigoochi (Smith) Mahigian and his brother, Levon Mahigian. The graveside service was conducted at Elmwood Hill Cemetery in Troy by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on June 3.

Robert Horen Ajamian entered his eternal rest on January 6, 2021. He is survived by a brother, Roger Ajamian and a sister, Alice Dietrich. The graveside service was conducted at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Colonie by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on January 9.

George Osganian entered his eternal rest on January 30, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth "Betty" Osganian; three sons, Eric (Amy) Osganian, Michael (Debbi) Osganian (VA), and Mark (LeeAnn) Osganian; seven grandchildren; a brother, Richard (Libby) Osganian (NC); several nieces, nephews, grand and great nieces, nephews, and cousins. In addition to his parents, the late George & Lucy (Shakarjian) Osganian, George was predeceased by his sister, Ann (Osganian) Vartigian. The graveside service was conducted at Memory Gardens Cemetery in Colonie by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on February 6.

George "Red" Hachigian entered his eternal rest on February 13, 2021. He is survived by his sister, Helena Ekmalian; two nephews, Gean (Terri Garibaldi) Ekmalian and John "Frenchie" (Debbie) Ekmalian; and several great nieces, great nephews, and cousins. In addition to his parents, James & Nancy (Markarian) Hachigian, George was predeceased by his three sisters, Mary Hachigian, Lucy Ohanian, and Dorothy Tamanian, and his brother, Sarkis Hachigian. The graveside service was conducted at Elmwood Hill Cemetery in Troy by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on February 20.

Russell J. Kilidjian entered his eternal rest on February 24, 2021. He is survived by his loving wife, Sandra "Sandy" (Webber) Kilidjian; two daughters, Melanie (James Champoux) Kilian and Leta Hunter; a son, Russell (Angie) Kilidjian; seven grandchildren; three great grandchildren; a nephew, David Ketchoyan; and many cousins. In addition to his parents, the late Oskian & Byzar Kilidjian, Russ was predeceased by his sisters, Marge Sakalian & Rose Ketchoyan. The graveside service was conducted at Elmwood Hill Cemetery in Troy by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on February 26.

Eleanor (Michoian) Meeson entered her eternal rest on April 24, 2021. She is survived by her daughter, Sharon Pauley; five grandchildren, Lance W. Meeson, Douglas W. Pauley, Melanie Meeson, Robert W. Meeson III, and Blair Meeson; two great grandchildren, Alexandra Rinehimer and Lance Myles Meeson; a brother, Charles (Antoinette) Michoian; best friend, Anna Bouchard; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, the late Thomas & Grace (Sahagian) Michoian, Eleanor was predeceased by her husband, Robert W. Meeson, Sr.; her brother, John Michoian; her son, Robert W. Meeson, Jr.; her great grandson, Garrett J. Meeson; and dear friend, Santa DelBrocco. The funeral service was conducted at St. Peter Armenian Church by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on April 30.

Parish Community News

Sacraments and Rites

Hokehankist (Requiem Service)

DECEMBER 20, 2020:

- **All Armenian Soldiers and Citizens killed in Artsakh War** *as requested by the Clergy, Parish Council, parishioners, and friends of St. Peter Armenian Church.*
- **Sirarpi & Karnik Babikian** *as requested by the Clergy, Parish Council, parishioners, and friends of St. Peter Armenian Church.*
- **Edward & Virginia Belemjian** *as requested by David & Lori (Payette) Belemjian; Mr. & Mrs. Mark Belemjian & Family (MA).*
- **Barouyr (Barry) Hairabedian** *as requested by David Hairabedian & Family.*
- **Joseph Hartunian; Lynne Carol Hartunian and the other 269 victims of Pan Am Flight #103 who died in the terrorist bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, on December 21, 1988** (Thirty-Second Anniversary) *as requested by Joanne Hartunian; Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hartunian & Family; Mr. & Mrs. Joseph O'Keefe & Family.*
- **Murad Khalaf** (Third Anniversary); **Hampartzoum Karagozian** *as requested by Mary Karayan & Family.*
- **Robert W. Meeson, Sr.** (Thirteenth Anniversary); **Fr. Garen Gdanian; Grace & Thomas Michoian; John Michoian; Garrett Meeson; Douglas Pauley Sr.** *as requested by Eleanor Meeson & Family; Sharon & Doug Pauley.*
- **Mary Shanks** (Sixth Anniversary on December 18); **Jimmie B. Shanks** *as requested by Mary P. Shanks.*
- **Ralph Vartigian** (Fifth Anniversary); **Ann Vartigian** (Fourteenth Anniversary) *as requested by Deborah Erlandson & Family (NJ); David & Susan Vartigian & Family; Daniel & Karen Vartigian & Family; Mr. & Mrs. George Osganian; Mr. & Mrs. Richard Osganian; Bertha Kazanjian (MA).*
- **James & Nancy Hachigian; Sarkis & Helhna Hachigian; Dorothy (Hachigian) Tammian; Lucy (Hachigian) Ohanian; Mary Hachigian; Ardaches Ekmalian; Vartanouch (Ekmalian) Kalustian; Jirayr & Ann Hachigian; Jean (Frenchie) Ekmalian** (Thirty-Third Anniversary); **Henry & Silva Haroyan; Paul Ekmalian; Michael Kurkjian; Joseph Mardigian; Sarkis & Sonia Hachigian; John & Betty Howard; Joseph Grandato; Girard Hachigian; Jack Hachigian; Harry & Virginia Dolab** *as requested by Chorbajian, Ekmalian & Hachigian Families.*
- **Aghavni Topalian; Hambartzoum Tchilingarian** (Twentieth Anniversary) *as requested by Berj & Lucy Topalian & Family.*

JANUARY 31, 2021:

- **Leo Buchakjian, Margaret Buchakjian Wilsey, and Paul Wilsey** *as requested by Mary & Gary Sobo; Leonard & Antoinette Buchakjiani; Leo & Elaine Buchakjian; Christine & Scott McCarthy & Families.*
- **Harry Vartigian** (Fifteenth Anniversary) *as requested by Rosemary Wiczorek (WI).*

MARCH 7, 2021:

- **Yn. Zabel Gdanian** (First Anniversary - Dareleetz) - *requested by Arpy Ernest & Rick Carson; Kyn & Maureen Gdanian & Family; Garyn & Brian A'Hearn; Katrina & Chris Mayba & Family.*
- **Mary DerBedrosian; Nishan DerBedrosian; Askanaz DerBedrosian; Isabel Torigian Bedrosian; Sumpat DerBedrosian; Fr. Sahag DerBedrosian; Yn. Zabel DerBedrosian; Lucia Kalpakian Chorbajian; Nishan Chorbajian** - *requested by Karen Bedrosian Richardson.*

MARCH 21, 2021:

- **George & Katherine Mahserjian, Jack Mahserjian, George Mahserjian, Jr., and Samuel & Lucy Hartunian** *as requested by Mary Hartunian, Mr. & Mrs. George Scaringe & Family, and Edward Hartunian.*
- **Henry & Fay Talarico, Paul Urban, Frank & Julia Urban, Carol Duro, Julianna Hamada, and Talarico, Parsakian, Simonian, Sogioian, Duro, Hamada, and Urban Families** *as requested by Janis (Talarico) Urban (GA).*

Parish Community News

Sacraments and Rites

*A bright new flower
had appeared this
day out of the
new tomb.*

*The spirits, like unto
plants, adorned with
many hues, have
become green
with life.*

*The florescence of the
divine light had
bloomed in the
spiritual spring.*

*He who died for us in
love, raised with him
our fallen nature.*

*The light of the
resurrection shone in
the darkness of the
shadows of death.”*

*—excerpt from an
Armenian ode
during Eastertide*

Hokehankist (Requiem Service) continued . . .

APRIL 25, 2021:

- **Albert Derian, Araxie & Sarkis Derian, Margaret & Oscar Chadrjian, Ida & Mitchell Chadrjian, Jack Chadrjian, and Jane Dinneen** as requested by *Isabel Derian, and Barbara Derian & Richard DeMartino & Family.*
- **Hrepsime Jevanian** (First Anniversary - Dareleetz), **John Jevanian, Martin & Alice Jevanian, and Hrant & Orzen Siekertzian** as requested by *Mr. & Mrs. Alice McMullan & Family, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Tutunjian & Family, and Phyllis Jevanian.*
- **Edward Kazanjian** (Seventh Anniversary), **Leo & Rosine Kazanjian, Andrew & Sarah Kazanjian, Arthur & Virginia Kazanjian, and Hagop & Haygan Kassardjian** as requested by *Bertha Kazanjian (MA), Edward & Nirva Kazanjian & Family (MA), Lisa Harootunian & Family (RI), Ara & Nancy Balian (MA), Robert & Arleen Drooby, Carole Kazanjian Smith (FL) & Family, Arthur & Joann Kazanjian & Family, Peter, Patty & Sarah Boorujy (NJ), Linda Kazanjian, and Levon & Karen Khachadourian & Family*
- **George Mahserjian** (Fifth Anniversary) as requested by *Virginia Mahserjian & Family.*
- **George Osganian** (40-Day Memorial - Karasoonk) as requested by *Elizabeth Osganian & Family, and James & Mary Kalteux.*
- **Seta (Terchunian) Torossian** (Tenth Anniversary) and **Kevork Torossian** as requested by *Alex Torossian & Family.*
- **Ralph & Ann Vartigian** as requested by *Bertha Kazanjian & Family (MA).*
- **Vahan & Alice Zarifian** (on the occasion of their 78th wedding anniversary) as requested by *Pat & Claudia Suppa & Family.*

Altar Flowers

- Altar Flowers were donated on April 25 by **Alex Torossian & Family** in memory of *Kevork & Seta (Terchunian) Torossian.*

Altar Candles

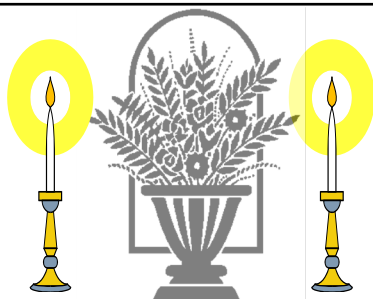
- Altar Candles were donated on April 11 by **Marguerite Djehizian** in memory of *Rosine Kazanjian.*
- Altar Candles were donated on April 25 by **Bertha Kazanjian & Family** in memory of *loved ones.*

ALTAR FLOWERS and ALTAR CANDLES

One way to celebrate the life of a loved family member or a friend is to donate either altar flowers or candles for Sunday worship service.

This can be for a name day, birthday, anniversary, or on the occasion of a requiem (Hokehankist).

Please call the church office to make the necessary arrangements.



In Lieu of Flowers Donations

Sincere appreciation and acknowledgement are extended to the following for their donations:

In memory of JEANNINE DEROHANNESIAN

Linda Bedian
Mr/Mrs Ronald Kaiser & Family

Mary Hartunian
R. Mihran & Ovsanna Mooradian

Marion Jaffarian
R. Paul & Sonya Moroukian

NEW TOTAL: \$2,070

In memory of LOUISE DEVEJIAN

Herbert & Linda Chorbajian
Carol Sulewski

George, Lynda, Lucine, and
Arevig Devejian

Niall & Joan Murray

TOTAL: \$475

In memory of VICTORIA D. FALASCO

Peter & Patricia Boorujy (NJ)

Linda Kazanjian

R. Paul & Sonya Moroukian

TOTAL: \$70

In memory of YN. ZABELLE GDANIAN

Women's Guild Central Council

NEW TOTAL: \$5,935

In memory of GEORGE M. "RED" HACHIGIAN

Ara & Rachel Altounian
Mr/Mrs Charles Chorbajian
Mr/Mrs Phillip Gross & Family
Mr/Mrs Ronald Kaiser & Family
R. Paul & Sonya Moroukian
Toros Shamlan, Jr.

Peter & Patricia Boorujy (NJ)
Robert & Arlene Drooby
Barbara Hrachian
Linda Kazanjian
Greg Nazarian,
The Ashby Family (OH),
and The Kehrer Family

Herbert & Linda Chorbajian
The Ekmalian Family
Leon & Susan Kaiser
Will & Shelley Martin
Elizabeth Osganian
Charles & Carol Tutunjian

TOTAL: \$1,100

In memory of RUSSELL J. KILIDJIAN

Gerald Arzoumian
Colonie Elks Lodge 2192
Debbie & Frenchie Ekmalian
Joanne Hartunian
Mr/Mrs Ronald Kaiser & Family
Grace Koshgarian
Mary Minassian
David Quinones
Rob Seraydarian & Deb Reiter
Linda Simidian

Ara Baligian
Mr/Mrs Paul DerOhannesian
Ralph & Elizabeth Enokian
Barbara Hrachian
Anne & Jirier Kalayjian
Harry Koshgarian
Barton Murray
Richard Roomian
Lucille Shamlan
Mr/Mrs Edward Tutunjian

Helen Bezjian
Sherry Edwards
Roswita Fragomeni
Seren Hrachian
Christine, Megan, Jared,
and Jackson Kilidjian
Mr/Mrs Matthew Natcharian (CT)
Manooshag Seraydarian
Toros Shamlan, Jr.
R. Paul & Sonya Moroukian

TOTAL: \$1,885

In memory of ROBERT W. MEESON, JR.

Richard DeMartino & Barbara Derian
Will & Shelley Martin

Barbara Hrachian
R. Paul & Sonya Moroukian

Mr/Mrs Ronald Kaiser & Family

TOTAL: \$340

In memory of GEORGE OSGANIAN

Rosemary Ammian
Herb & Nettie Crossman
John & Patricia Kothe
Richard & Elizabeth Osganian (NC)
Toros Shamlan, Jr.
Daniel & Karen Vartigian

Winifred Ammian
Marion Dickson
Will & Shelley Martin
Stephen & Ashley Schindewolf
Lucille Sogoian

J. Albert & Alice Barsamian
James & Mary Kalteux
The Family of George Osganian
The Family of Casper Seibert
Susan Sogoian

TOTAL: \$3,370

CHRISTMAS 2020/2021 (Yughakin) Donations

Sincere appreciation and acknowledgement are extended to the following for their donations:

Brian & Garyn (Gdanian) Ahearn
Lucille Ammian
Winifred Ammian
Helga Apkarian
Aram A. Atashian
J. Albert & Alice Barsamian
Holly Chenaille
Michael & Joanne Coogan & Family
Paul Dichian
Debbie & Frenchie Ekmalian
Ralph & Elizabeth Enokian
Roswita Fragomeni
Mr/Mrs Richard Hartunian
Marion Jaffarian
Francine Kaiser
Murat Kasparian
Hagop Kazanjian
Harry Koshgarian
Isabel Krempa
Christopher Martin
Sally (Mahserjian) McNeff
Robert & Theresa Moroukian
Cheryl Ohanesian
Helen Paparian
Richard Roomian
Marie & Jack Saroyan (CA)
Toros Shamlan, Jr.
Hariton Sprinceanu
Claudia & Pat Suppa
Patty Vartigian

Vartouhi Allahverdi
Richard & Joan Ammian (FL)
Anonymous (2)
John Arakelian
Betty Avakian
George & Elsie Bedrosian
Herbert & Linda Chorbajian
Adrienne Daniels
Rev/Mrs Stepanos Doudoukjian
and Family
Irina Ermolenko
Joanne Hartunian
Charlene Hrachian
Vartan & Lynne Jerian
Leon & Susan Kaiser
Girard Kasparian (CA)
D. Eddy Kebabjian
Dyanne & Mike Koshgarian, Sr.
Steven Krempa
Will & Shelley Martin
Sarkis & Ida Mihranian
Shirley Moroukian
George[†] & Elizabeth Osganian
Mr/Mrs David Parseghian
Sandra Sabonjian (CA)
Mr/Mrs George Scaringe
Carole Kazanjian Smith (FL)
in memory of Virginia Jaffarian Kazanjian
(70th anniversary on 12/25)

Smbat & Marija Amirbekian
Rosemary Ammian
Brian Apkarian
Andre & Anne Assalian
Nazar Bakerian
Sam P. Boyian & Family
Mr/Mrs Charles Chorbajian
Richard DeMartino and
Barbara Derian
Leon & Nayeri Elebyjian
Arpy Ernest
Mary Hartunian
Charles & Delia Israelian
Phyllis Jevanian
James & Mary Kalteux
Krikor & Nancy Kassabian
Catherine Knauer
Arthur Koshkorian (VA)
Slava & Irina Kyaruns
Christopher & Katrina Mayba
Mary Minassian
Elsie Nigohosian (PA)
Florence Paparian
Phyllis Rhoades
Theodore Sapino (FL)
in memory of Grace (Jaffarian) Sapino
Susan Sogoian
Artin & Mary Sukljian
Gary & Laura Vartanian

TOTAL: \$6,160

Other ways to give . . .



St. Peter Armenian Church has partnered with **AmazonSmile** as a registered charity. Next time you shop on Amazon, please be sure to sign in through Smile.Amazon.com, select “St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church” as your chosen charity (this step only needs to be done once), then continue shopping as usual. A small percentage of all eligible purchases will be donated to the church. To activate **AmazonSmile** in the mobile app, select the main menu (=) and tap on “AmazonSmile” within Programs & Features, select the church, follow the on-screen instructions and shop as usual. Since registering with AmazonSmile as a charity, the church has received over \$500 in contributions from eligible purchases from registered users.

ROUNDUP APP

Round up loose change for St. Peter Armenian Church! Download the **RoundUp App** on your smart phone, choose “St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church” as the charity of your choice, connect one (or more) of your credit cards, and every time you make a purchase, the amount will be rounded up to the nearest dollar and that “loose change” will be collected for an automatic end of the month donation to St. Peter Armenian Church. Since registering with RoundUp, the church has received almost \$1,100 in contributions from (very few) registered users. Just think of the loose change that could be raised if more parishioners and friends were to register for this (secure) way of donating loose change to the church.

EASTER 2021 (Yughakin) Donations

Sincere appreciation and acknowledgement are extended to the following for their donations:

Mr/Mrs Krikor Agopyan
 Brian & Garyn (Gdanian) Ahearn
 Vartouhi Allahverdi
 Ara & Rachel Altounian
 Mark & Francine Anigian
 Anonymous (2)
 Garen & Varty Apanosian (NJ)
 Brian Apkarian
 Helga Apkarian
 John S. Arakelian
 The Ashby Family (OH)
 Aram A. Atashian
 Nazar Bakerian
 J. Albert & Alice Barsamian
 Linda Bedian
 George & Elsie Bedrosian
 Mr/Mrs David Caruso
 Mr/Mrs Charles Chorbajian
 Michael & Joanne Coogan & Family
 Adrienne Daniels
 Richard DeMartino & Barbara Derian
 Isabel Derian
 Paul Dichian
 Rev/Mrs Stepanos Doudoukjian
 and Family
 Debbie & Frenchie Ekmalian
 Ralph & Elizabeth Enokian
 Arpy Ernest
 Roswita Fragomeni
 Joanne Hartunian
 Mary Hartunian
 Mr/Mrs Richard Hartunian
 Stephen Hrachian
 Charles & Delia Israelian
 Marion Jaffarian
 Raffi & Aline Jamgotchian (NJ)
 Vartan & Lynne Jerian
 Phyllis Jevanian
 Francine Kaiser
 Leon & Susan Kaiser
 James & Mary Kalteux

Edward & Lucille Kaprielian
 Murat Kasparian
 Girard Kasparian (CA)
 D. Eddy Kebabjian
 Catherine Knauer
 Harry Koshgarian
 Arthur & Shigeko Koshkorian (VA)
 Isabel Krempa
 Steven Krempa
 Slava & Irina Kyaruns
 Virginia Mahserjian
 Christopher Martin
 Katrina Mayba
 Sean & Alice McMullan
 Sally (Mahserjian) McNeff
 Yn. Yefkin Megherian
 Ida & Sarkis Mihranian, Jr.
 Mary Minassian
 R. Mihran & Ovsanna Mooradian
 Shirley G. Moroukian
 John & Karen Nevins
 Judith Newman (CA)*
 Elsie Nigohosian (PA)
 Cheryl Ohanesian
 Ohan & Rita Ohanian
 Elizabeth Osganian
 Helen Paparian
 Mr/Mrs Kevork Parseghian
 David Quinones
 Richard Roomian
 Sandra Sabonjian (CA)
 Mr/Mrs George Scaringe
 Ann Serian
 Toros Shamlian, Jr.
 Lucille Sogolian
 Susan Sogolian
 Artin & Mary Sukljian
 Claudia & Pat Suppa
 Mr/Mrs Charles Tutunjian
 Gary & Laura Vartanian
 Guy & Elsie Vozzy

TOTAL: \$5,030

**This offering is made in honor and appreciation of the members of the [Thursday afternoon Zoom] Reflections group and our leader/mentor, Father Stepanos Doudoukjian. I appreciate how warmly I have been welcomed to the group and appreciate the prayers and wisdom of the members.*

—Judy Newman

Resurrection Hymn for Easter Sunday **Kovya Yeroosaghem**

Գովեա երոսաղիմ գժեր:
 Յարեաւ Զրիստոս ի սեռոյն, ալիւիա:
 Եկայ ժողովոյն, երգեց Տառն՝ ալիւիա:
 Փառք Զօր եւ Որդոյ եւ Զգոյն Սրբոյ
 այծի եւ Սիշոն եւ յալիւիս յալիւիսից ալիւ:
 Յարուցելոյն ի սեռոյն ալիւիա, որ զաշխարհս լուսարեաց, ալիւիա:

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.

Kovya Yeroosaghem uzder

Haryav Krisdos ee merelotz. Alleluia.

Yegayk Jhoghovort Yerketzek Diarn. Alleluia.

Park hor yev vortvo yev Hokvoin Srpoh.

Ayjhm yev misht yev havedyans havedeneetz. Amen.

Harootzehlooyen ee merelotz. Alleluia.

Vor zashkharus loosavoryatz. Alleluia.

The Eastertide season lasts 50 days. As we continue to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, let us remember and continue in the custom of Yughakin, so we can keep our "oil-burning lanterns" always burning. Yughakin in Armenian means "price of oil" ~ "Yugh" meaning oil and "kin" meaning price. If you haven't done so already, please consider giving toward 2021 Easter Yughakin.



Special Donations



Pastor Discretionary Fund (PDF)

Donations to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund (PDF) are used to help both Armenian and non-Armenian families of the greater Capital District who seek assistance with food, shelter, and financial need throughout the year.

Plate collections during Christmas Eve and Easter services are historically used to support the PDF.

For the past six Advent seasons, funds have been collected through the PDF to help support our "Operation St. Nicholas" campaign which has provided Christmas gifts for families in need.

Donations are always welcome and appreciated and can be given through the church office or directly to Fr. Stepanos.

Additional Donations

- Christmas Poinsettias decorating the church for the Christmas season were donated by the following: **George & Karen Dayian** *in memory of Nesis Grigoryan*, **Marion Jaffarian** *in memory of Paul Jaffarian and the Jaffarian Family*, **Francine Kaiser, George^U & Betty Osganian** *in memory of loved ones*, and **Janis Urban (GA)** *in memory of loved ones*.
- Wreaths decorating the altar area during the Christmas season were donated by **John "Frenchie" & Debbie Ekmalian** *in memory of Chorbajian, Ekmalian, Hachigian, and Moroukian Families*. The Christmas tree in the sanctuary was donated by **The Mahserjian Family**.
- The palm trees that decorated the sanctuary and the palms distribution on Palm Sunday, March 28, were donated by **Mary Hartunian** *in memory of Katherine Mahserjian*.
- Easter lilies and flowers for Holy Week and Easter were donated by **Mr. & Mrs. Sean McMullan & Family, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Tutunjian & Family, and Phyllis Jevanian** *in memory of John & Hrepsime Jevanian, Joan Tutunjian, and Suzanne McMullan; in memory of Rosine Kazanjian by her children; Ida & Sarkis Mihranian, Jr. in memory of loved ones; and The Osganian Family in memory of George Osganian*.
- An anonymous donor graciously provided a contribution for the purpose of offering a small honorarium to each of the 2021 Lenten service presenters.

Stewardship Gifts

We offer our gratitude and thanks for those making contributions to the church as follows:

- **Dr. & Mrs. Vardan Amirbekian**
- **Mark Anigian**
- **Linda Bedian** *for virtual plate collection*
- **Helen Bezjian** *"Good Health to all!"*
- **Richard & Judith Brennan (CA)**
- **David & Roseann Caruso**
- **Robert & Holly Dadekian**
- **Adrienne Daniels** *for virtual plate collection*
- **John & Katherine Doudoukjian (SC)**
- **Bea Haledjian**
- **Kimberly Kachougian**
- **Kenneth MacLeod**
- **Sally (Mahserjian) McNeff** *in memory of George Mahserjian, Jr.*
- **Thomas Nevins**
- **Hariton Sprinceanu**
- **Nancy & John Thomas (CA)**
- **Rosemary Wieczorek**

Thank You

TOTAL: \$4,081.32

Congratulations



Congratulations to **Michael Dayian**, son of George & Karen Dayian, on his candidacy for Montgomery County Family Court Judge. Michael graduated Magna Cum Laude from State University of New York at Albany in 1991 and received his Juris Doctorate from Albany Law School in 1994. He has over 25 years of legal experience as an attorney, twenty-three of which has been working in the New York State Unified Court System. He also is currently President of the Montgomery County Bar Association and is Chairman of the Amsterdam Housing Authority. The father of two daughters, Michael and his wife Hayarpi live in Amsterdam, NY. For more information on Michael, his career, and candidacy, visit DayianForFamilyCourt.com.

In Remembrance

We offer our sincere condolences to the families and friends of:

- † **Robert W. Meeson, Jr.** who entered his eternal rest on December 23, 2020. Bob is survived by his wife, Sheila; two sons, Lance and Bobby Meeson; two daughters, Melanie (Scott Peconie) & Blair Meeson; two grandchildren, Lance Myles Meeson and Alex Rinehimer; his mother, Eleanor (Michoian) Meeson; and a sister, Sharon Pauley.
- † **Louise A. Devejian**, who entered her eternal rest on January 13, 2021. Louise is survived by two sons, Paul (April) and Neil (Kimberly) Devejian; a daughter, Donna (Ward) Fleischmann; five grandchildren; a sister and a loving aunt. A funeral service was held in the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs in Bayside, NY, on January 21.
- † **Yervant Bardakjian** who entered his eternal rest on January 17, 2021. Yervant is survived by his children, Hagop Bardakjian (Aleppo, Syria), Hratchia (Talar) Bardakjian (CA), Raffi (Leeza) Bardakjian, and Nayeri (Levon) Elebyjian; seven grandchildren; a sister-in-law, Alice Bardakjian; and several nieces and nephews. Yervant was predeceased by his siblings, Hrant Bardakjian and Mary Stepanian. A funeral service was held at Holy Cross Armenian Church in Troy on January 22. Interment was in Albany Rural Cemetery, Menands.
- † **Victoria (DeChristopher) Falasco** who entered her eternal rest on January 19, 2021. Victoria is survived by two sons, Michael (Donna Rae) Falasco and James J. Falasco, Jr.; a daughter, Theresa (Robert) Moroukian; two grandchildren; and several in-laws, nieces and nephews.
- † **John Dayian** who entered his eternal rest on March 22, 2021. John is survived by his wife, Pauline; two stepdaughters; one stepson; his brother, George (Karen) Dayian; nieces, Claudie Dayian (David) Abdalian, Allison Abdalian, and Sofia & Sati Dayian; nephews, Jacob Abdalian and Michael (Hayarpi) Dayian. A private funeral service was held at St. Vartanantz Armenian Church in Providence, RI, on March 31. Interment was in the Armenian section of the North Burial Ground, Providence, RI.



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 for publication in the summer issue of Loosaper. Please include the name of the school, the degree which you will receive, your future plans, and a senior year photo (optional).



In Loving Memory



Community News



Inscription of
Genocide Memorial in Troy

DEDICATED TO THE VICTIMS OF
THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915
AND THE SURVIVORS WHO SETTLED
IN AND AROUND THE CITY OF TROY
THE KNIGHTS AND DAUGHTERS OF VARTAN

*"I should like to see any
power of the world destroy
this race, this small tribe of
unimportant people, whose
wars have all been fought
and lost, whose structures
have crumbled, literature is
unread, music is unheard,
and prayers are no more
answered. Go ahead,
destroy Armenia. See if you
can do it. Send them into the
desert without bread or
water. Burn their homes
and churches. Then see if
they will not laugh, sing and
pray again. For when two
of them meet anywhere in
the world, see if they will
not create a
New Armenia."*

William Saroyan

Knights and Daughters of Vartan

The Knights and Daughters of Vartan, Davros Lodge and Shakeh Otyag, located in Watervliet, New York, are pleased and proud to announce that almost \$40,000 has been donated to support various international, as well as local humanitarian projects, including ongoing programs to aid homeless and needy people in Armenia who are victims of the recent Artsakh war.

On an international level, our organization has sent funds to the All Armenia Hayasdan Fund in support of the Artsakh war, the Diaspora for Front Line Families Fund (DFFF), the Lebanon Relief Fund, and the Women's Support Center in Armenia. In addition, donations have been made to the Sewing Machine Project in the Tavush region of Armenia, the American University of Armenia, the Syrian Armenian Relief Fund, and the Children of Armenia Fund. Finally, toys were collected and donated for the Christmas Gift Drive for underprivileged children in Armenia,

Recently, the Knights and Daughters jointly sponsored six families in Armenia who needed clothing and food and assistance with housing. It is hoped that a direct network will be set up to assist more needy families in Armenia. The members of Davros Lodge and Shakeh Otyag are working diligently to gather names, pictures, and personal information of these families, and it is our hope that interested members in our Armenian community will sponsor a family who needs our services and financial support.

Currently, effort is being made to assist a wounded soldier in a Yerevan hospital who needs to be transferred to Germany for a specialized surgery and rehabilitation.

In 2012, through the collective efforts of Davros Lodge and Shakeh Otyag, an Armenian Monument was erected at the Riverfront Park in Troy, New York. The monument was "Dedicated to the victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 and their descendants who settled in and around the City of Troy." This summer, an addition will be installed to the original monument. Black granite "wings" will showcase Armenian quotations and illustrations.

Davros Lodge and Shakeh Otyag have been involved in numerous local projects. Donations were made to St. Peter and Holy Cross Armenian Churches for assistance during the pandemic shutdown. Likewise, a donation was made to the Menands Junior Baseball League.

Other local projects include, Disney pillow cases, puzzles, and activity books donated to the Bernard & Millie Duker Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Hospital, as well as toiletries to women's shelter in Albany, NY. In addition, 100 chicken dinners were provided to the Albany City Mission and the Menands homeless shelter, and a donation was made to the Armenian Heritage Park in Boston.

In closing, as stated earlier, many of these projects are ongoing, and if any members of our community wish to join our organization, or make a donation toward these projects, please contact Ara Altounian at (518) 339-5816 or Karen Dayian at (518) 253-2446.

FRIDAY

Flavors of Armenia

**FRIDAY
SERVING DATES**
from 5-7 p.m.

**MAY 7
MAY 14
MAY 21
JUNE 4**

**St. Peter Armenian
Apostolic Church**
100 Troy Sch'dy Rd.
Watervliet, NY

2021 DIAMOND SPONSORS



DRIVE-THRU
Grab n' Go Meals

DINNER

- Online ordering is available Monday thru 2 pm Friday of each week at stpeterarmenianchurch.com

- Online orders will receive priority over drive-up orders.

- All health and safety protocols will be followed.

Thank You

Hye Burger Platter \$13



HUGE 1/2 lb. Beef/Lamb Burger combined with authentic spices. Served on fresh baked hard roll, topped with an Armenian Slaw and a serving of Pilaf.

Chicken Dinner \$13



3 Chicken Fillets in a zesty Armenian marinade, Served with Pilaf, Armenian Slaw Salad & P'ta Bread

DESSERT

Paklava \$3.50^{ea} or 4/\$12



Kadayef \$3.50^{ea} or 4/\$12



ALA CARTE

MAY 7 & 21

Eech \$8



**Frozen
Lahmajune
\$23/dozen**

*****DON'T DELAY*****
Frozen lahmajune will be offered
the first week until
it sells out!!

**MAY 14
& JUNE 4**

**Cheese Beoreg
4 for \$11**



ST. PETER ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
100 TROY-SCHENECTADY ROAD
P.O BOX 196
WATERVLIET, NY 12189

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(see page 6 inside for full details)

FRIDAY



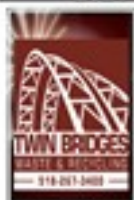
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