



SUMMER 2021

# ԼՈՒՍԱԲԵՐ LOOSAPER

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF

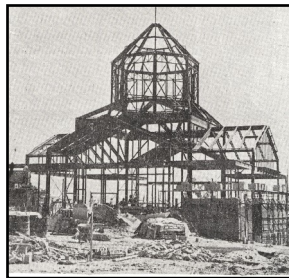
*ST PETER'S CONSECRATION IN WATERVLIET, SEPTEMBER 19, 1971*

## 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF

*FR. STEPANOS' ORDINATION TO PRIESTHOOD, FEBRUARY 11, 1996*

The year 2021 marks the 50th anniversary of the consecration of the St. Peter Armenian Church in Watervliet. This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the ordination of Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian to the Priesthood at St. Peter Armenian Church.

On September 29, 1971 over 500 were in attendance for the consecration of the new church on the hill in Watervliet. Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America at the time, Most Rev. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, officiated at the ceremonies assisted by former St. Peter Church pastors, Rt. Rev. Papken Varjabedian and Rev. Fr. Garen Gdanian, all of blessed memory.



Deacon Gregory Doudoukjian started with St. Peter Armenian Church as deacon-in-charge in November 1995. On February 10-11, 1996, Deacon Gregory was ordained and consecrated to the holy order of the priesthood of the Armenian Church by then Primate of the Eastern Diocese, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian. At the consecration service, Deacon Gregory was given the new name — Fr. Stepanos.

The name “Stepanos” was respectfully requested by Dn. Gregory in memory of his twin brother, Stephen, who passed away as an infant; it is also the name of the first Christian martyr and deacon.

*(continued on page 3)*

## Սուրբ Պետրոս Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցի ST. PETER ARMENIAN CHURCH

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Mask Protocol Update
- Anniversary Festival
- 2021 Friday Flavors of Armenia a success!
- Organic Ministry
- Armenian School Year-end Hantess
- Return of Harvest Fest
- Zoom programs continue
- Our Youth!
- Birth & Marriage announcements
- Our Graduates!

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### **Choir Director**

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PC Liaison: Dr. Ara Kayayan

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PC Liaison: Brian Apkarian

### **Women's Guild**

*Fran Kaiser*  
(518) 221-1571  
PC Liaison: Frenchie Ekmalian

## **UPDATE ON MASK PROTOCOLS**

There is no longer a mask mandate during our worship services.  
If you have been vaccinated, you are no longer obliged to wear a mask inside the church.



For those who are not vaccinated, we ask that you continue to wear a mask for your safety and for the safety of others.  
**If preferred, anyone is free to wear a mask regardless.**

## ***LOOSAPER DONATIONS***

Many thanks to the most recent donors who offered to help offset the cost of our church publication with donations totaling \$193.79:

- Helga Apkarian
- Mary DerArakelian Endowment Fund
- Sally (Mahserjian) McNeff

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

### Excitement and Hope

#### USHERS IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2021

It has been wonderful to enjoy so many gatherings recently. I have been enjoying get-togethers, dinner outings, graduation parties, celebrations, and Church! It is exciting to return back to some sort of normalcy, whether it's a new normal or something close to it. Lately, it does feel more reminiscent of pre-COVID times. Overall, things do look more hopeful! As you too begin to venture out and participate in more social activities and events, join us at Church and share your enthusiasm for things being "open" and back to "normal."

Speaking of our Church, while we were never fully closed (only one week during the pandemic), we have been using virtual technology (such as Zoom and Facebook Live) to share the Badarak and also spread the "Good News" through various spiritual and educational virtual programs. Since Palm Sunday, we have been offering in-person Badarak and we have now started offering various in-person activities and forms of fellowship. One example was our recent youth gathering when we had 27 young people come together to share a wonderful barbecue meal and a thought-provoking, spirit-filled discussion. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed seeing one another; no one really wanted to leave! *(See article and photos in this issue.)*

Events that are being planned for this summer at Church include: a movie night in July, a Sunday afternoon picnic in August, a celebratory festival in September, and a host of other activities. The Women's Guild is organizing the return of its popular "Harvest Fest" in the fall and the Sunday School and Armenian School will be offering a combined bonfire evening with s'mores for students and families.

We hope to see you soon and please come to what you can. We have all missed seeing each other, being with each other, and breaking bread with each other; as, ultimately, that is what Church is . . . the gathering of the faithful.

*Hoping in the Lord,  
Fr. Stepanos*

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,  
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

— Romans 15:13

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY / 25TH ANNIVERSARY *(continued from cover page story . . .)*

A combined anniversaries celebratory event will be held on Sunday, September 19, 2021, to kick off a variety of festivities commemorating these two milestone anniversaries for our community. An outdoor festival with delicious Armenian food, music, games and activities, and presentations will take place under the Postoian Pavilion following Badarak that morning. A joyous celebration will most certainly be welcome after the COVID-19 restrictions over these past 16 months. Full details will be announced and mailed to parishioners and friends in the near future.



**ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**

Postoian Pavilion and backyard grounds  
immediately following Badarak

*details coming soon . . .*

# Friday Flavors: Feasts & Festivities



Upon the request of the Parish Council, again this year a series of *Friday Flavors of Armenia* drive-thru meals were held in May and early June in lieu of the annual Armenian Festival.

Delicious Chicken Kebab and Hye Burger dinners, complete with pilaf and Armenian slaw, were served each week with optional ala carte items of lahmejune, cheese beoreg, eech, and hummus. Of course, delicious Armenian dessert of paklava and cream kadayef were also available for purchase — as well as paklava ice cream sundaes on the final week.

Customers ordered online or in-person in the safe, contact-free, drive-thru process. However, as state and local COVID restrictions eased up, people were allowed to sit under the Postoian Pavilion to eat and enjoy each other's company on the last Friday, June 4. On that week also, a special Armenian dance performance was presented by Maria Derian, Violet Mirzoyan, and Nayiri Tournayan.

A 50/50 Raffle was also organized for the final Friday Flavors week on June 4 raising \$955 in tickets sales. The first place winner of half the total ticket sales was Ron Kaiser. We thank Ron for donating a portion of his winnings back to the church. The second place winner of a gift bag of many of the frozen food items available during the drive-thrus went to Elena Baugh Bukda.

Overall, the very successful Friday Flavors event raised nearly \$30,000 for the church. This was, of course, possible by the generous sponsorship participation from the following businesses and individuals:

## **DIAMOND SPONSORS**

Glenmont Self Storage / Derian Family  
Tri-City Rentals  
Twin Bridges Waste & Recycling

## **GOLD SPONSORS**

The Buchakjian Families  
R. Paul Moroukian Wealth Management Group

## **BRONZE SPONSORS**

Bob's Diner  
Bryce Funeral Home, Inc.  
DerOhanessian & DerOhanessian  
Felthousen's Florist & Greenhouse  
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Sage Brothers Painting Co, Inc  
Congressman Paul D. Tonko  
S&G Trucking Repair / Guleserian Family  
Var Management, LLC  
Ye Ole Locksmith Shoppe Inc.

## **PLATINUM SPONSORS**

Arax Properties  
CD Perry, LLC  
Hilltop Plaza / George's Auto Glass / Mahserjian Family

## **SILVER SPONSORS**

Ida & Sarkis Mihranian Jr.  
Pioneer Bank

## **FRIENDS**

George & Elsie Bedrosian  
Isabel Krempa *in memory of Sonia Hachigian*  
Roma Foods Importing Co. Inc.  
Sign Studio, Inc.  
Raffi Jamgotchian, Triada Networks

A very special shout-out goes to ALL the numerous volunteers who assisted with food and dessert prep, meal service, set-up, and clean-up. None of this success could have been achieved without the efforts of all involved, who worked tirelessly to benefit our beloved St. Peter Armenian Church.

We look forward to returning to our traditional Festival in 2022, when we can all gather together again.

*I extend special thanks to the cooking crew volunteers for taking the time to help out in the barbecue area each week of the drive-thru dinners: Bill Alund, Kevin Lukasik, Paul Leonardo, Chris Martin, Will Martin, and Neville Woods. We all had fun, laughed, and got the job done! I hope this crew can work together again in the future.*

*Frenchie Ekmalian  
Barbecue Task Leader*



## Message from Parish Council



**New Security Surveillance System Installed:** The installation of a new surveillance system was completed in June by a local Watervliet company, Imperial Security Systems, Inc. The system includes nine camera views around the perimeter of the property which record any and all detected motion. These recordings are stored on a back-up system for up to two or three months, depending on the amount of movement/recordings. Viewing monitors have been installed in the church office as well as the priest's office, giving viewing access to all areas of the grounds. Live and recorded footage can be viewed remotely with a phone application as well. As an added deterrent, new signage will be mounted warning all who enter the property that a surveillance system is in use. The goal is to have the ability to keep a watchful eye on our beautiful property, deter those who may have mischief in mind, identify anyone who causes damage or abuses our property, and enjoy more peace of mind.

**Entryway Project:** A committee has been formed to research architectural ideas to renovate the front entrance area of the church. Bob Bedian and Chuck Tutunjian, along with Fr. Stepanos and other Parish Council members, have met with a couple of firms and decided to retain Wallant Architecture to design a preliminary schematic design. Once complete and agreeable to the committee, this design will be presented to the parish along with estimated construction costs. A project of this magnitude will require a passing vote from dues-paying members during a special parish assembly. Details on this project will be provided as they evolve.



**Organic Ministry Project:** If you've driven around to the back entrance of the church lately, you may have noticed that a small garden has sprouted up. I, with the help of Jonah Doudoukjian and Catherine Knauer, planted a variety of vegetables and herbs as a small community "Organic Ministry" project. *We welcome those who have the time and interest to assist with this project with weeding, watering, and, at some point, harvesting our small crop.* Bring your children to watch them grow, let them help by watering the garden (a hose is located directly across the driveway from the garden). Hopefully, in the near future we may enjoy the "fruits of our labors" at a fellowship hour or luncheon event at the church. Contact me with any questions and/or to offer your assistance with this summertime project.

*Linda Bedian  
Parish Council  
Chair*



# Church Organization News



L-R: Noah Tutunjian, Gregory Kayayan, Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian, Gloria Doudoukjian, and Sunday School High School Teacher, Chuck Tutunjian.



*Here is the church . . .*



## Sunday School

The St. Peter Sunday School ended classes for the 2020-2021 school year on May 16, 2021. On Sunday, May 23, a brief ceremony was held following worship services with special recognition to our 2020 graduates: Gloria Doudoukjian, Gregory Kayayan, and Noah Tutunjian. Each student spoke briefly to the congregation about what St. Peter Armenian Church has meant to them. After the ceremony, all were invited for lunch outside in the Postoian Pavilion. It was the first social in-person gathering since the pandemic and it was nice finally getting to see everyone and enjoying the fellowship.

*Alice McMullan,  
Sunday School Superintendent*

## Little Faithfuls

The Little Faithfuls Zoom year came to an end in May. Meeting on Zoom had its challenges, yet the year was full of hope. We prayed, we laughed, we loved, and we learned. With the end of the Sunday School year, our desire is to again meet in person beginning in September. There are many new children who have come of age to join our Little Faithfuls. We always look forward to more love and laughter!

A lesson activity was held on Sunday, May 23, in the Postoian Pavilion when our Little Faithfuls learned about the BEE-attitudes from the Bible.

**BEE GLAD  
BEE MERCIFUL  
BEE WISE  
BEE STRONG  
BEE CONTENT  
BEE KIND  
BEE THANKFUL  
BEE COURTEOUS  
BEE FAITHFUL**

The buzzing of children in the Postoian Pavilion making their bee paper plate projects was so inspiring. The children then joined their family for Badarak. At the end of services, as part of the Sunday School closing ceremony program, the Little Faithfuls class shared a gift with the community by way of a finger game — “Here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors and see all the people.” We are anxious for the fall so that we can be together again. Have a wonderful summer.

*Holly Dadekian,  
Little Faithfuls Teacher*



**Sunday School & Armenian School  
Bonfire & S'mores  
Friday, September 10  
at church**



# Church Organization News

## Armenian School

Marking the end of the school year, the St. Peter Armenian School held their year-end Hantess program on Friday, June 25, via Zoom. The theme of the program was “Father’s Day.” Students presented poems and songs, both live and previously recorded. The program started with the blessing and prayers of Der Gomidas Baghsarian from Holy Cross Armenian Church and concluded with the words and prayer of our spiritual father, Der Stepanos Doudoukjian. A “Father of the Year” award was presented to Armenag Shouhamlian who received a beautiful carved khatchkar that Dr. Ara brought back from his recent trip to Armenia.

The Armenian School is planning to start its program in the beginning of August with Friday night Assembly “reunions.” Classes will begin in September on Friday evenings, hopefully in person at the church.

### Armenian School Year-End Hantess Program participants, June 25

*Raffi & Angelina Rejebian*



*Siroon Bezjian, Perla Tournayan, Angelina Rejebian  
Sako Hoglund, James Tournayan*



*Suzie, Gregory & Armen Amirbekian*



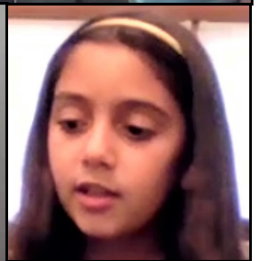
*Jackie Kubikian*



*Kevin Kayayan*



*Ella Ghazaryan*



*Aileen Dadekian*

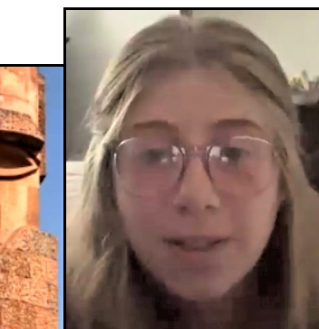


*Sako Hoglund*



*Left top:  
Bagrat Aghayan*

*Left bottom:  
Amy Karageozian*



*Right top:  
Lily Karageozian*



*Right bottom:  
Satenig Amirbekian*

**FATHER OF THE YEAR**  
Armenag Shouhamlian with his wife Marik  
and Armenian School Principal,  
Annie Altounian, on the phone screen.



# 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

The St. Peter Women's Guild is having a productive year so far! We thank all those who helped prepare paklava, cheese beoreg, and cream kadayef for the *Friday Flavors of Armenia* drive-thru dinners in May and June. Thank you also to all those who helped in packaging and serving the meals as well. The event was a great success.



All women of the church community were invited to attend a fun, social *"Paint 'n Sip"* activity to be held in the Postoian Pavilion on Sunday, July 18, starting about 12:00 noon (immediately following church services). Participants have the choice of personalizing a wine glass, mug, or mason jar. Lunch is being provided, as well as something to "sip." The fee for the activity and lunch is \$30 per person. For more information (if event has not yet passed by the time this issue is received), contact Zovig Ashjian with your project choice (wine glass, mug, or mason jar). Zovig can be reached by phone or text at (914) 473-6714 or through Facebook Messenger. Contact Zovig or the church office for payment options. Women of the church community are welcomed and encouraged to invite a friend.

A favorite event, *Harvest Fest*, is being planned for Sunday, October 10, in the Postoian Pavilion following church services. Save the date and plan to attend this autumn festival of fun, food, and foliage.

Details for the annual *Holiday Bazaar* will be shared in the near future.

Longtime Women's Guild and church member, *Lucy Morton*, is need of our prayers. We were very sorry to learn of Lucy's recent fall and resulting injuries. Please join us in praying for her speedy and complete recovery.

There are currently 45 dues-paying members of the St. Peter Women's Guild. For information on becoming a member, contact Women's Guild Treasurer, Sue Dickinson, at (518) 423-5443 or [sdickin@nycap.rr.com](mailto:sdickin@nycap.rr.com).

Copies of the *Women's Guild Armenian Cookbook*, "Flavors from our House on the Hill," are available for purchase for \$20 per copy. This is a beautiful, hard cover collection of recipes dedicated to "the many good cooks — both living and deceased — who unstintingly gave of their time, energy, and talents in support of the St. Peter Armenian Church." All the traditional, favorite foods provided at church events are included, and so many more. Contact a member of the Women's Guild Executive Committee or the church office to purchase.

*Francine Kaiser, Women's Guild Chair*





# Church Organization News

## St. Peter Church Choir

Choir rehearsals have resumed and are held twice a month outside in the Postoian Pavilion. Upcoming rehearsal dates will be Thursdays, July 29 and August 12, and Tuesday, August 24, 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](mailto:rafitop@aol.com). "Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises." (Psalm 98:4)

*"I can't imagine not having music and singing in my life. Even though I don't speak Armenian, I have Armenian roots deep in my heart and soul. The choir has given me a sense of belonging and connecting with my culture. I am learning something new from every rehearsal." —Catherine Zadigan Knauer*

## Better Together Group on Hiatus

The "Life is Better Together" Bible study group will take a break through the summer months and will resume in the fall. Please consider joining the weekly "Zoom Reflections" on Thursdays and/or the Friday morning "Pray Without Ceasing" group. See details below on these two groups that will continue to meet on Zoom throughout the summer.

## 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.

## Pray Without Ceasing Group

Join this Prayer Group every other Friday morning at 10:30am on the following dates: July 23, August 6 & 20, and September 3 & 17. 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.

## Moving with Maria

Maria Derian, continues to offer a 60-minute Zumba/exercise class every morning Monday-Saturday at 10:00am. Maria has also recorded several workouts for afternoon sessions available Monday-Friday at 4:30pm as well as 6:30pm on Tuesday & Thursday evenings. There is no charge for these popular classes; however, Maria asks that participants consider a donation to "St. Peter Armenian Church." Since the last issue of Loosaper, additional donations have been received from the following: **Sonia Adamo (NJ)**, **Liliana Basmajian**, and **Linda Bedian**. This brings the total amount of donations from *Moving with Maria* participants to \$3,805. Contact Maria or the church office for information on how to join in for fun and fitness.



## Upcoming Choir Rehearsals

**Thursday, July 29**  
**Thursday, August 12**  
**Tuesday, August 24**  
6:30-8:00pm

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



## St. Peter Church

The book selection for the next meeting of the St. Peter Church Book Club is ***Golden Girl***

by Elin Hilderbrand.

The book discussion will take place in the Gdanian Auditorium on Wednesday, August 4 @ 10:00am.

This book is part murder mystery as well as a reflection on what happens to a soul after a person's death.

***"Hilderbrand sets the gold standard for escapist fiction; a master of the complex romance."***

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



# Church Organization News

## ACYOA

On Thursday, June 17, lots of laughter, smiling faces, and chatter filled the Postoian Pavilion and backyard of our church grounds as twenty-seven youth and young adults gathered for an evening filled with fun games and ice-breakers, barbecued food, sharing of faith, and friendship.

The weather that evening was perfect and lent itself for a spectacular night of barbecuing, delicious food, great company, and conversation. The ice-breaker games were new and unique to this large group. There were a variety of activities and games, which included "SPUD" (a game similar to dodgeball), "Change places if" (a game similar to musical chairs), "I was walking down the street" (very creative story-telling made up by the 27 youth), and "Pass the emotion" (an activity of facial expressions). Special thanks to Thomas Nevins, ACYOA Sr. Chairman, for helping with the grilling, and to Becky Dearstyne and Lori Brown for their help cleaning up throughout the evening.

The night concluded with a large, warming bonfire, where everyone made delicious s'mores. It was around the fire that we had an hour-long discussion sharing stories, experiences of faith, and experiences learned from the pandemic. We all shared our thoughts, fears, concerns, and prayers that we had during the last 16 months. We concluded with lessons learned and a shared vision for a bright future. No one really wanted to go home! As ACYOA, we are looking forward to additional fun activities and fellowship throughout the summer.





# Parish Community News

## Sacraments and Rites

In the baptism service, Godparents are asked the following:



**“What does this child request?”**

The response:

**“Faith, hope, love, and baptism, to be baptized and justified, to be cleansed of sins, to be freed from demons and to serve God.”**

### Baptism

**Theodore Herbert Chorbajian**, son of Andrea Chorbajian, on May 8, 2021. Godfathers, Gilbert & Geoffrey Chorbajian; Godmother, Alyson Buff; Celebrant, Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian.

### Funerals

**Julie M. Garabedian** entered her eternal rest on May 1, 2021. She is survived by two daughters Lucy (Augustus) Vozzy and Linda (James) Khachadourian; a son, Christopher (Dawn) Garabedian; five grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; two nephews and a niece. In addition to her parents, the late Nazar & Lucy (Kochian) Tutunjan, Julie was predeceased by her husband of over 66 years, Sarkis Garabedian. The private funeral service was conducted at St. Peter Armenian Church by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on May 21.

**Victor Khachikian** entered his eternal rest on June 7, 2021. He is survived by two daughters, Rebecca (Michael) Dearstyne and Lori (Michael) Brown; five grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, the late Hovhannes & Takouhi Khachikian, Victor was predeceased by his wife, Mary (Margosian) Khachikian; two brothers, Khachik and Vartan; and his sister, Alice. The funeral services was conducted at St. Peter Armenian Church by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on June 12.

### Hokehankist (Requiem Service)

#### MAY 16, 2021:

- **Beatrice Arzoumanian** (First Anniversary - Dareleetz), **Jirair Arzoumanian**, and **Artin Arzoumanian** as requested by *Gerald Arzoumanian, Zareh & Annie Altounian, and Ohan & Rita Ohanian.*
- **Rev. Fr. Arten & Yn. Mary Ashjian** as requested by *Zovig Ashjian.*
- **Nevart & Garabed Garoogian** as requested by the estate of *Margaret Avakian (Endowment Fund).*
- **Murad Khalaf** (Fourth Anniversary), **Takrouhi Karayan**, and **Karayan & Khalaf Families** as requested by *Mary Karayan & Family and the Khalaf Family, and Ohan & Rita Ohanian.*
- **Van Moroukian** (First Anniversary - Dareleetz) as requested by *Shirley Moroukian, Robert & Theresa Moroukian & Family, and Michael & Denise Hart Moroukian.*

#### MAY 30, 2021:

- **Eleanor Meeson** (40-Day Memorial - Karasoonk) as requested by *Sharon & Doug Pauley.*
- **Gregory T. Zorian** (First Anniversary - Dareleetz); **Antwan & Angel Tournayan**; **Aboud & Antoinette Sarji** as requested by *Tony & Nayiri Tournayan.*

#### JUNE 13, 2021:

- **Julie Garabedian** (40-Day Memorial - Karasoonk) as requested by *Guy & Lucy Vozzy and Dn. Eric Vozzy.*

#### JUNE 27, 2021:

- **Arshak Avedesian** (First Anniversary - Dareleetz); **Vartanush Melkonian**; **Rehan Melkonian**; **Mariam Melkonian**; **Arakse Melkonian**; **Setrak Avedesian**; **Varuj Avedesian** as requested by *Norayr & Anoush Arakelian & Family.*

# Special Donations

## Armenian Church Endowment Fund (ACEF)

### FINANCIAL GUIDELINES for Endowments

#### Definition

Endowments are funds or property donated to St. Peter Armenian Church. The income from the endowments shall be used as follows:

#### Special Purpose Funds (Restricted endowments)

Funds or property donated for a specific purpose or use defined by the donor in cooperation with the Parish Council. Such purposes may include: scholarship, educational experience, or a specifically funded program.

Special Considerations: Any Special Purpose Fund shall require a minimum of \$2,500 and the approval of Parish Council. Additions to the fund may be made at any time. No subsidiary organization for the Church may establish or contribute to a Special Purpose Fund.

#### Permanent Funds (Unrestricted endowments)

Funds or property donated without any specific purpose or use identified by the donor. The income from these endowments may be used for general operating expenses or as designated by the Parish Council.

Special Considerations: Any Permanent Fund shall require a minimum of \$1,000 as an initial principal. All interest generated from the Permanent Fund shall be transferred annually to the General Fund.

We recently received our annual distribution check from the ACEF for the year 2020. Most of the distribution is from endowments established with St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church, but managed by the ACEF. Additionally, some of the distribution is received from endowments established by individuals directly with the ACEF, with the Church as the beneficiary of the income distribution.

Distribution for the year 2020 received in 2021 from the ACEF for Church endowments amounted to \$49,354.37 plus \$1,710.35 from direct endowments for a total of \$51,064.72. This amount was reduced by transfers, in accordance with provisions of special purpose funds, totaling \$2,579.79 and reinvestments of \$1,409.48, resulting in a net endowment income of \$47,075.45.

No new endowments were established in 2020. Additional amounts were added in 2020 to existing endowments in the names of *Kenneth Chorbajian, Leo & Rosine Kazanjian, Alice & Paul Moroukian, and Toros Shamlian*. Total additions in 2020 for existing endowments was \$28,050.00.

Additions to existing funds can be made at any time during the year. If interested in establishing an endowment fund, please contact the St. Peter Church office.

### Additional Donations

Additional Easter (Yughakin) offerings were received by **Herb & Linda Chorbajian** and **Lorraine Schindler** bringing the total amount of donations for the 2021 Easter season to \$5,530.

Flowers distributed on the occasion of Mother's Day on Sunday, May 9, were donated by **John "Frenchie" Ekmalian** in memory of *Edward Belemjian*.

A total of \$1,225 was received in a **special collection** in July for victims of a devastating fire in Watervliet. A total of 19 residents lost their home and all their possessions. The total collected from the St. Peter Armenian Church community will be presented to City of Watervliet Mayor, Charles Patrecelli, by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian.

### Stewardship Gifts

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

- **Anonymous** through Facebook Charities in lieu of birthday gifts
- **Anonymous** for prayers offered
- **Anonymous** for candles lit in memory of *Victor Khachikian*
- **Brian & Garyn (Gdanian) A'Hearn**
- **Judith & Richard Brennan (CA)**
- **David & Roseann Caruso**
- **Charles & Debra Doudoukjian (NJ)**
- **Albert Keshgegian** for Adult Christian Education class
- **Yervant Kutchukian** in memory of *Mickey Micieli*
- **Kenneth MacLeod**
- **Hariton Sprinceanu** in memory of *Virginia Sprinceanu*
- **Nancy & John Thomas (CA)**

Thank You

**TOTAL: \$1,535**



# In Lieu of Flowers Donations

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

## In memory of JULIE GARABEDIAN

Gerald Arzoumanian  
Jennifer Bedrosian  
Mr/Mrs Donald Boyajian  
Bob & Arleen Drooby  
Luba Grasso  
Leon & Susan Kaiser  
Bertha Kazanjian (MA)  
Ida & Sarkis Mihranian, Jr.  
Joyce Burke Paff  
Augustine & Eugenia Sperrazza

Rosalyn Baker  
George & Elsie Bedrosian  
Harold, Mary, Jim & Tara Curley  
Roswita Fragomeni  
Joanne Hartunian  
Ron & Terri Kaiser & Family  
Catherine Knauer  
Cheryl Ohanesian  
Mary Panjarjian  
Robert & Natalie Tutunjian (FL)

Linda Bedian  
Helen Bezjian  
Dr/Mrs Robert Dadekian  
Margaret Gerighty  
Barbara Hrachian  
Linda Kazanjian  
Diana Melkonian  
Mr/Mrs Joseph O'Keefe  
Toros Shamlan, Jr.  
Rose Watkins

**TOTAL: \$1,970**

## In memory of VICTOR KHACHIKIAN

Joseph & Perlant Arshakian (CA)  
Dr. Ara Kayayan

Nerces & Roobina Arshakian

Carol & Bob Carlson

**TOTAL: \$350**

## In memory of RUSSELL J. KILIDJIAN

Mr/Mrs Edward Kaprielian

Linda Kazanjian

**NEW TOTAL: \$1,945**

## In memory of ELEANOR MEESON

Anonymous  
Bob & Arleen Drooby  
Leon & Susan Kaiser  
Leslie & Bill Matthews  
Cheryl Ohanesian

Betty Avakian  
Mr/Mrs William Fogarty  
Ron Kaiser & Family  
Carol Michon  
Susan Sogorian

Linda Bedian  
Mr/Mrs Seren Hrachian  
Shelley & Will Martin  
Ida & Sarkis Mihranian, Jr.

**TOTAL: \$495**

## In memory of ROBERT W. MEESON, JR.

Anonymous

Susan Sogorian

**NEW TOTAL: \$385**

## Words of Thanks

*My family and I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and condolences with regard to Russ' passing. And, thank you to all who made a donation to our beloved church in his name. It is difficult for me to express how very much all of this has meant to me and my family. May God bless each and every one of you.*

*Sincerely,  
Sandy Kilidjian*

*Dear St. Peter parish,*

*I would like to say thank you for all the kind words and warm greetings I received from you when I returned to church following my mother's passing. You made me feel like I was coming home to a family who truly cared about my well being. Your cards and gifts to the church in honor of my mother meant so much.*

*The passing of my mother is a challenge, but the support I feel from our church family is very comforting. May the Lord bless you and keep you well.*

*Sincerely,  
Lucy Vozzy*

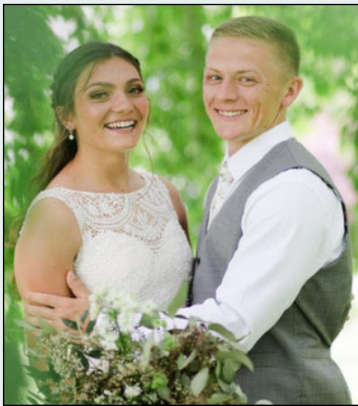
***"The Lord is near to the broken hearted; He saves those crushed in spirit."***

*— Psalm 34:18*

# Community News



Charlotte Elizabeth O'Keefe  
Born June 23



Tyler & Abby Bradley  
Married June 1

## SACRAMENTS

In the Armenian Church, the word խորհուրդ (*khoroort*) is best translated to “mystery” and is not limited to the seven ceremonies that are defined as “the sacraments:” baptism, confirmation, holy communion, penance, matrimony, ordination, and anointing of the sick. The traditional understanding of the Armenian Church, as testified by our church fathers, liturgical rite, theology, and canons, is that every liturgical service conducted by the church is a sacrament or mystery in the fullest sense of that term.

## Congratulations to . . .

**Dan & Alexandra O'Keefe** on the birth of a daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth O'Keefe on June 23, 2021. Congratulations also to the grandparents Joe & Patty O'Keefe and Michael & JoAnn Pomato and to the great grandmother, Joanne Hartunian.

**Abbey Runnells**, daughter of Bob & Liz Runnells (ME) and granddaughter of Ralph & Elizabeth Enokian, graduated as Ensign from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. Abby is assigned to the Dam Neck Naval Base at Virginia Beach where she will serve as a Military Intelligence Specialist.



**Tommy Enokian**, son of Tom & Alison Enokian and grandson of Ralph & Elizabeth Enokian, graduated as 2nd Lieutenant from the Air Force ROTC program at the University of Maryland. Tommy is assigned to the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, NC, as a Logistics Readiness Officer.

Congratulations to **Tyler & Abby (Runnells) Bradley** on their marriage on June 1, 2021 in Havre de Grace, Maryland. Abby is the daughter of Bob & Liz Runnells (ME) and the granddaughter of Ralph & Elizabeth Enokian. Abby & Tyler both graduated from the Naval Academy at Annapolis on May 28, 2021. Following their honeymoon, Abby will begin her assignment at the Dam Neck Naval Base (see above) and Tyler will serve as 2nd Lieutenant in the Marines attending the Marine Officer Training School at Quantico, VA.

## In Remembrance

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

**Virginia E. Sprinceanu**, who entered her eternal rest on April 20, 2021. Virginia is survived by her brother, Hariton Sprinceanu; two nieces, Corina Sprinceanu (Robert) Baugh and Sandra Sprinceanu (Thomas) Budka; and several grandnieces and a grandnephew.

**David F. Quinones, Sr.**, who entered his eternal rest on June 9, 2021. David is survived by five children, Linda Connell, David Jr. (Michele) Quinones, Brian (Kathryn) Quinones (MA), Stephen (Geraldine) Quinones, and Peter (Jill) Quinones; fifteen grandchildren; and twelve great-grandchildren.

## BLESSING OF GRAPES SERVICES Sunday, August 15



The Armenian Church celebrates the Assumption of the Holy Mother of God on the Sunday closest to the 15th of August. This year, the celebration will be observed on Sunday, August 15. For the feast, we will conduct the traditional Blessing of the Grapes Service following worship service that morning. *Those wishing to donate toward the grapes for this occasion are asked to contact the church office.*



## Our Graduates

**Isabella Caroline Balian**, daughter of Ara & Nancy (Kazanjian) Balian (MA) and granddaughter of Bertha and the late Edward Kazanjian, graduated with honors from Winchester High School, Winchester, MA. Isabella will attend Villanova University (PA) in the fall.

**Christopher Clark**, son of Laura (Moroukian) Clark, graduated from the State University at Albany (SUNY) with a bachelor of science degree in Business Economics. Chris plans to pursue a career in finance.



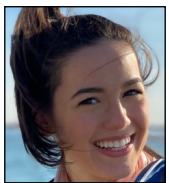
**Ava Sydney Coogan**, daughter of Michael & Joanne (Moroukian) Coogan, graduated with high honors from Colonie High School. Ava will be attending Fordham University in the fall with a major in political science/journalism pre-law.

**Gloria Doudoukjian**, daughter of Fr. Stepanos & Paulette Doudoukjian, graduated with honors from Niskayuna High School, also receiving the Medal of Excellence and induction into the National Honor Society. Gloria will begin by pursuing certification to become an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) while living in northern California, giving her valuable experience towards her ultimate, long-term goal of becoming a pediatric surgeon. Gloria then plans to study at Las Positas Community College and eventually transfer to a University of California school where she will finish her degree in biochemistry and molecular biology (pre-med) before attending medical school.



**Dr. Raffi Edward Kazanjian, DMD**, son of Edward & Nirva Kazanjian (MA) and grandson of Bertha and the late Edward Kazanjian, graduated from Tufts Dental School in Boston, MA, with a doctor of medical science degree. Dr. Raffi has accepted a position as a dental resident with NYU Langone in Buffalo, NY.

**Alexa Mahserjian**, daughter of George & Cathy Mahserjian and granddaughter of Sally Mahserjian McNeff and the late George Mahserjian, Jr., graduated with a 4.0 GPA from the State University of New York at Brockport with a bachelor of science degree in Physical Education. Alexa will continue her education in the fall in pursuit of a master's degree.



**Rebecca Moroukian**, daughter of R. Paul & Sonya Moroukian, graduated *cum laude* from St. John's University (Queens, NY) with a bachelor's degree in marketing with a minor in French. Rebecca is currently considering various employment opportunities in the New York City and surrounding areas.

**Noah Tutunjian**, son of Chuck & Carol Tutunjian and grandson of Nazar and the late Joan Tutunjian and the late John & Hrepsime Jevanian, graduated from Shaker High School. Noah will be attending Hudson Valley Community College in the fall to study Civil Engineering Technology.



We are proud to offer our congratulations to the graduating seniors of the St. Peter Armenian Church community and wish them much success in their future endeavors.

*Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for all of your blessings. We especially thank you for your young adults and students who are in college; growing, maturing and learning as they enjoy new experiences in life. They are learning to live on their own and transition into adulthood. We ask that your graces be upon them.*

*We ask you to send your Holy Spirit to descend upon them and grant them comfort, direction, and confidence; empower them to make good decisions, whether on campus, in their dorms, at home, or in their classrooms. Many challenges await them, but you have promised that you are with us always until the close of the age. We ask that your loving arms be like an umbrella over them. May your holy angels surround them and protect them in everything they do. Also grant peace of mind to their families who are separated from their children.*

*We thank you and praise you for all of your good gifts and we ask humbly to continue sending those gifts to us. We give thanks always to you, your son, and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.*



—Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian

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# Anniversary Festival

## Sunday, September 19



**St Peter's Consecration in Watervliet**  
**September 19, 1971**

**Fr. Stepanos' Ordination to Priesthood**  
**February 11, 1996**

*Stayed tuned for more details to come . . .*

