



AUTUMN 2021

ԼՈՒՍԱԲԵՐ LOOSAPER

ST. PETER CHURCH COMMUNITY

CELEBRATES MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES:

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST PETER'S CONSECRATION IN WATERVLIET
25TH ANNIVERSARY OF FR. STEPANOS' ORDINATION TO PRIESTHOOD

On Sunday, September 19, the St. Peter Armenian Church family commemorated two milestone events: the 50th anniversary of the Consecration of the Church building at the current location in Watervliet, NY, and the 25th anniversary of our beloved Fr. Stepanos' Ordination to the Holy Order of Priesthood. Badarak was celebrated by Diocesan Vicar, Very Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian, who also delivered the sermon on "gratitude."

Following Divine Liturgy, an outdoor festival was held in the back of the church property, under the Postoian Pavilion. A large crowd enjoyed a delicious lunch beginning with traditional mezzeh followed by grilled kebab and Armenian dessert favorites. A special thanks to the Women's Guild of St. Peter Armenian Church, as well as the many other volunteers, who cooked and served for the event.

Following the meal, an informal program took place which commemorated both anniversaries with inspiring words and expressions of gratitude that highlighted the milestones. Fr. Simeon read a letter on behalf of Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

(Eastern), who was unable to attend in person.

continued on page 3...



*Pictured left-right:
Congressman Paul Tonko,
Fr. Stepanos, and
V. Rev. Fr. Simeon
Odabashian*

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Anniversaries Celebration
- Prayer for Artsakh War 1st Anniversary
- Schools resume with in-person classes
- Lots of summer fun and outdoor events
- Send your holiday greetings with us
- Celebration of Assumption with "Picnic in Armenia"
- The return of Der Garen's Column

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PLEASE WEAR A MASK IN CHURCH

Wearing a mask is again **MANDATORY** for all areas inside the church (whether vaccinated or unvaccinated). No matter how "inconvenient," we wear a mask for the benefit of others.



With increased community spread and the beginning of the school year, we must do all we can to protect our youngest parishioners, and each other.

LOOSAPER DONATIONS

Many thanks to the most recent donors who offered to help offset the cost of our church publication with donations totaling \$190.00:

- **Helga Apkarian**
- **Kyle Apkarian (OH)**
- **Holly Chenaille**
- **Barbara Hrachian**
- **Arthur Koshkorian (VA)**

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.

Cover Story (cont'd)

Milestone Anniversaries Celebrated

The Bishop noted the fact that, although the building that was consecrated by Archbishop Torkom Manoogian on this exact date is fifty years old, the Watervliet parish, at more than 120 years old, is actually one of the oldest in the Eastern Diocese. He mentioned that this accomplishment is the work of many hands and an achievement of love and faith. Bishop Daniel described Fr. Stepanos as an honorable and compassionate priest always seeking to broaden his pastoral abilities and as a pastor who truly upholds Christ's Cross, holding it high to inspire all around him. The Bishop acknowledged that our priest has been a blessed leader who has been greatly appreciated by this community, as he has spent much of his ministry here. In addition, Fr. Stepanos' family, Paulette, Jonah and Gloria, are a source of strength to him, and also continue to be a blessing to this community.

Fr. Stepanos was presented with Proclamations acknowledging and honoring both anniversaries by New York State Congressman Paul D. Tonko, Assemblymember Phil Steck, as well as the City of Watervliet Mayor, Charles Patricelli. After remembrances and kind words from Fr. Simeon and gift presentations to Fr. Stepanos from the Armenian School and Parish Council, the day, which was also blessed with beautiful weather, continued with joy and fellowship. We are truly grateful for these achievements as we continue to move forward with faith and hope.

With many of his parishioners present, Fr. Stepanos shared that it is a great honor and privilege to journey through all their life experiences as their pastor. He added that this is his greatest source of satisfaction and joy of being the parish priest at St. Peter Armenian Church. He noted the fact of having married quite a few of the couples present as well as baptizing many of the children in attendance and also acknowledged other sacraments performed, including funerals for those parishioners who have passed. Fr. Stepanos ended his remarks with a strong focus on how we, the parishioners of St. Peter Armenian Church, are called to do God's work, and together build up the body of Christ. Looking to the future and the next 50 years, he announced plans regarding much needed renovations to the church building and property which will begin soon, as we look toward the next 50 years.

In the words of Bishop Daniel, "On this special milestone, may our Lord continue to bless and strengthen Fr. Stepanos, and all of his loved ones. And may He inspire all of you to carry forward the precious legacy of your church, and our Armenian Christian heritage, with the same reverence, honor and holiness."

Submitted by Cheryl Ohanesian

Parish Council Vice Chair

Fr. Stepanos poses next to anniversary memory boards lovingly created by Sonya Moroukian.



Diocesan Vicar General, Very Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian, serves as guest celebrant and preacher at Anniversary Celebration on September 19.



Pastor's Message

Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian

Thanks be to God (for everything)!! I am extremely thankful and grateful to God for both the golden and silver celebrations that took place at St. Peter Armenian Church on Sunday, September 19. We celebrated the golden anniversary (50 years) of our present structure of the "church on the hill" in Watervliet. A special thank you to our Women's Guild and Parish Council and to all who donated their time and cooked so many delicious foods which we all enjoyed that day.

We are truly indebted and grateful to the Godfathers and Godmothers of our church, and to all those who worked so diligently and passionately to literally and spiritually "build up the body of Christ" at 100 Troy Schenectady Road. What an accomplishment! With this great achievement, comes responsibility and stewardship. In some way or another, we have been handed down this legacy of the Armenian Church and, specifically for us living in the Capital District, the legacy of St. Peter Armenian Church. I invite you to be a part of the next 50 years in creating a legacy for the next generation. Join us on Sundays, be stewards of the Church, volunteer your time, share your gifts, and give according to your financial abilities.

As one of her priests, St. Peter Armenian Church has been the vessel for me to serve the Armenian Church. On September 19, we also celebrated the silver anniversary (25 years) of my ordination to the Holy Order of Priesthood. There has been no greater joy in my ministry than to serve as your parish priest. As I said during my remarks on that day, it is an honor and privilege to walk along each of you and your families throughout your life journeys. It is a gift to be able to share in your joys, successes, challenges, and sorrows. It is spiritually fulfilling to offer the sacraments of the Holy Church to you and your families: joining couples in holy matrimony, baptizing your children, laying to rest your loved ones, and breaking bread and sharing the Eucharist at God's Holy Altar each Sunday. I thank all of you for your generosity and love that you have shown me and my family.

I look forward to seeing you in our sanctuary on Sundays as we celebrate together in the Divine Liturgy (Badarak) and continue to build up the body of Christ and to do God's work on earth.

*God bless you all,
Fr. Stepanos*

Parish Council Message

We are well into the fourth quarter of the year 2021 and it has been an extraordinary year by any measure. We didn't miss a beat in the spring when plans were formulated and put into action to make this a memorable year.

We haven't looked back since our Friday Flavors events in May and June. The Women's Guild had been percolating all year last year and they jumped right into their Hye Tea event and then the innovative Lenten Dinner drive-thru, which was enormously successful, and then right into their Paint 'n Sip which brought out more people than ever to enjoy an opportunity to socialize with one another and to express their inner creativity!!!

Mid-summer brought everyone out to enjoy our "Picnic in Armenia" under the Postoian Pavilion on a beautiful summer day. A fabulous occasion, a fabulous turnout, and a fabulous time was had by all! Several notable milestones were celebrated this past summer as well. Another spectacular summer day invited us outdoors again to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the ordination of Fr. Stepanos and to recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the consecration of our St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church here on the hill. However, 50 years does take its toll and work is underway to refresh our church building and surrounding property which have served us well all these years.

The Parish Council is working with an architectural firm to provide new design renderings of the front entrance, including the stone walls and the block work that surround the church entryway. It's all very exciting and we will share our findings with you as plans are formulated and fundraising formally begins on the front entryway project. Stay tuned, much more is yet to come!

*Linda Bedian
Parish Council Chair*

A Prayer for the Solemn 1st Anniversary of the 44-Day Artsakh War

Lord Have Mercy, Lord Have Mercy, Lord Have Mercy

MERCIFUL LORD JESUS CHRIST, one year ago on this day [September 27], we were ready to celebrate a beloved feast day dedicated to your Holy Cross—the feast of *Varaka Sourp Khatch*—when we learned that our visible enemy had unleashed a large-scale offensive against our beloved homeland Artsakh. It was a dark hour for our beloved homeland Armenia: a time of fear and anxiety when we turned to your Holy Cross for strength, hope, refuge, and guidance.

Lord, on this anniversary day we ask you to remember the brave souls of our beloved brothers and sisters who gave their lives for our faith and for our homeland. They fought with courage and valor, and received their ultimate crowns of martyrdom, mixing their pure blood with our holy land. Receive their bright souls into your eternal tabernacles, and into the peace of your heavenly kingdom. Continue to comfort their loved ones with the grace of your Holy Spirit.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Cross again today, we ask you to hear our prayers and give us the strength to continue our journey of the cross on this earth. Help us find hope and consolation in your promise: “But the one who endures to the end will be saved” (Mt 24:13).

O Lord, by the mystery of your all-powerful, miraculous Holy Cross, transform the world’s pain and devastation into new life and hope; bring forth that true justice that comes only from you. For unto you we give glory, honor, and worship, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Աղոթք Արցախյան 44-օրյա պատերազմի առաջին տարեկիցի օրվա առիթով

Տեր, ողորմյա, Տեր ողորմյա, Տեր ողորմյա:

ՄԵՐ ՏԵՐ ԵՒ ՓՐԿԻՉ ՀԻՍՈՒՄ ՔՐԻՍՏՈՍ՝ Ողորմած Աստված, մեկ տարի առաջ այս օրը, երբ ամենքս խանդավառությամբ պատրաստվում էինք նշելու Քո փրկչական Սուրբ Խաչին նվիրված տոներից՝ Վարազա Սուրբ Խաչի տոնը, տազնապով լսեցինք Քեզ հավատացող սուրբ ժողովրդի վրա երևելի թշնամու հարձակման մասին:

Վախի և քառսի մեջ մեր սրտերն ու հայացքները կրկին դարձան դեպի Քո կենարար Սուրբ Խաչը՝ ուժ, մխիթարություն, հույս ու առաջնորդություն ստանալու համար: Տեր Աստված մեր, այս տարեկիցի ցավոտ օրը աղաչում ենք Քեզ, որ հիշես մեր քաջարի եղբայրների և քույրերի հոգիները, ովքեր իրենց կյանքը տվեցին վասն հայրենյաց և վասն հավատի: Նրանք կռվեցին քաջությամբ և աներեր արիությամբ՝ մարտի դաշտում ստանալով իրենց նահատակության սրբազան պսակները՝ մեր սուրբ հողին խառնելով իրենց մաքրամաքուր արյունը: Ընդունիր նրանց պայծառ հոգիները Քո հավիտենական սուրբ խորաններում Երկնային Արքայությանդ մեջ և շարունակիր մխիթարել նրանց սիրելիներին Սուրբ Հոգուդ ամենառատ շնորհներով:

Տեր Աստված, Հիսուս Քրիստոս, այսօր էլ կրկին, երբ մենք նշում ենք Սուրբ Խաչիդ տոնը, խնդրում ենք Քեզ, լսի՛ր մեր աղոթքի ձայնը և ուժ տուր մեզ շարունակելու մեր խաչի ճանապարհը այս աշխարհի վրա և օգնիր մեզ հույս ու մխիթարություն գտնելու Քո խոստման մեջ. «Բայց նա, ով համբերի մինչև վերջ, կփրկվի»: (Մատթ. 24:13):

Քո ամենազոր և պատվական Սուրբ Խաչի խորհրդով փոխակերպիր աշխարհի բերած ցավն ու տրտմությունը դեպի նոր կյանքի արշալույսի և փրկության հույսի, ու հաստատիր ճշմարիտ արդարությունը, որը գալիս է միայն Քեզանից: Եվ մենք էլ քեզ մատուցենք փառքը, պատիվը և երկրպագությունը՝ Հոր և Սուրբ Հոգու հետ միասին, այժմ և միշտ և հավիտյանս հավիտենից: Ամեն

Church Organization News



**Campfire & S'mores Night
September 10**



Sunday School

With our beautiful upstate fall season upon us, the Sunday School and the Armenian School families kicked off the new school year with a festive and fun campfire night on the church grounds on Friday, September 10. Dr. Ara Kayayan led us in singing Armenian songs as we held hands and danced around the campfire. Fr. Stepanos then guided us in an “ice-breaker” activity using a beach ball to catch and to learn. *Little Faithfuls* instructor, Holly Dadekian, “sailed” the children through a game about the animals on Noah’s Ark. Of course a campfire is not complete without s’mores! Marshmallows were toasted, then added to graham crackers with chocolate for a yummy treat and huge smiles of delight! Thank you to Dr. Robert Dadekian for the beautiful, cozy fire.

The St. Peter Sunday School staff is very excited for the new 2021-2022 school year with in-person classes that began on September 26. With COVID-19 still present in the community, all the necessary precautions are being taken to ensure the safety of our students, staff, and parishioners. Classes will meet twice a month on Sunday mornings from 10:30-11:45am on the upcoming dates: November 7 & 21 and December 5 & 19.

We welcome Lena Guleserian-Hoglund and Katrina Mayba to our teaching staff for 1st-3rd grades. Holly Dadekian continues to lead our *Little Faithfuls* (for infants through age four), Sunday School Superintendent, Alice McMullan, instructs grades 3-6, and Chuck Tutunjian & Sean McMullan co-teach middle school and high school students. Dr. Ara Kayayan continues to teach the students hymns from the Badarak.

So far this year, younger elementary school students learned about the cross — the khach. Nursery school students are learning that, in “the beginning,” God called the light Day and the darkness Night. What will God create next?

The middle/high school class consists of a half hour of Bible study which is currently focused on the theme “What is Jesus Like?” This study takes a deeper look into the teachings of Christ and his relationships with the people around him. Mr. Tutunjian then spends time with the students on the traditions of the Armenian Church, its beliefs, and meanings of the rituals found in the Badarak.



Church Organization News

Armenian School

During the week of September 13, Armenian School classes resumed for the new school year with a “Hybrid” of online and in-person classes. Classes for older students are held during the week via Zoom. For better interactive teaching, younger students meet in person at the church on Friday evenings at 6:30pm. All students will come together once a month at the church on a Friday evening for an **All-in-School Reunion** program for cultural and fun activities. For questions or more information on the Armenian School, contact Dr. Ara Kayayan at dctrara@aol.com. Thank you to our dedicated teaching staff who work so hard teaching our students the beautiful Armenian language and history: Mrs. Ani Altounian (Superintendent), Miss Srpoohi Ashjian, Mrs. Leeza Bardakjian, Ms. Violet Mirzoyan, Mrs. Rita Ohanian, Mrs. Rima Rejebian, and Mrs. Nayiri Tournayan.

Pictured below: Armenian School children enjoyed an outdoor summer activity with water games and rides at the church on August 28.



On behalf of the Armenian School, staff members presented Fr. Stepanos with a gift during the September 19 celebration of the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Pictured below with Fr. Stepanos are (from left to right) dance instructor, Maria Derian, Vice Principal, Dr. Ara Kayayan, and class instructor, Nayiri Tournayan.



Church Organization News



ST. PETER WOMEN'S GUILD 2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Women's Guild

St Peter Women's Guild continues to have a productive year! The July 18th **Paint 'n' Sip** was a great success! There were some very artistic painting projects created and delicious food galore! Sue Dickinson was the winner of the 50/50 raffle drawing and graciously donated her winnings back to the Guild.

September was a busy month for the Women's Guild. On September 9, we prepared a **Hokejosh** (memorial) meal for the family of Ted Sapino, one of the Godfathers of the Church. On September 19, we participated in the grand, double celebration of the 50th anniversary of the church's consecration and the 25th anniversary of Der Stepanos' ordination. The Women's Guild prepared and donated many of the food items served at the luncheon that day.

On October 10, we provided the **Harvest Fest** with delicious Manti soup, beoreg, pita bread, and veggies, as well as a variety of scrumptious apple desserts prepared by contestants of the apple bake-off! The winners of the bake-off were as follows: 1st prize went to Sonya Moroukian, 2nd prize to Carol Tutunjian, and 3rd prize to Fran Kaiser. The winner of the 50/50 raffle was also Fran Kaiser (who graciously donated her winnings back to the Women's Guild). Winner of the second place raffle prize of a beautiful autumn-themed gift basket was Paul Moroukian.

The annual **"Holiday Bazaar"** will again be a drive-thru freezer sale to take place on Saturday, December 4 (snow date December 11). Details on the expanded menu of items are being made available through e-mail and social media, as the deadline for orders is November 3. In preparation for this ambitious endeavor, the Women's Guild is asking parishioners and friends and family to help out at the many baking days. (See schedule on the left and offer your help wherever possible.)

The Parish Council will again provide the luncheon for the **Women's Guild Annual Membership Meeting** to be held on Sunday, November 14, immediately following worship services that morning. All members of the Women's Guild are invited and encouraged to attend. Elections for new Executive Committee members will be held. Non-members are also encouraged to attend to learn more about the Guild and its activities.

Many thanks to those who made time to help us in our many endeavors. The St Peter's Women's Guild is a service organization and it takes active participation by many to accomplish our mission. Please feel welcome to join us at any of the scheduled prep times and events. If not already a member of the St. Peter Women's Guild, we warmly invite you to become a member by contacting Sue Dickinson, calling the church office, or attending the November 14 membership meeting. All are welcome to join us in camaraderie and preparation of so many fine foods!!!

Over the past year, new techniques have been introduced to speed preparation times and reduce the work hours and effort to make the many traditional Armenian dishes. For example, a dough machine, donated by Sue Dickinson, significantly cuts the time to make the dough for Manti and Tahin Hatz. Also, we have implemented modifications for making paklava, cheese and spinach boreg, and cream khadiyif that also reduces the prep time!!

We are very grateful for all the support parishioners have provided for all our events. Your support is what allows for the success of our events. MANY THANKS!!

Fran Kaiser, Chair



FREEZER SALE PREP DATES

Please offer your helping hands on the any of the following baking days in preparation for the Holiday Freezer Sale.

Sat, Oct 30, 9am-CHEOREG

Wed, Nov 3, 6pm-KATA

Sat, Nov 6, 9am-COOKIES

Wed, Nov 10, 6pm-COOKIES

Sat, Nov 13, 9am-BEOREGS

Wed, Nov 17, 6pm-KEBABS

Sat, Nov 20, 9am-KUFTEH

Sun, Nov 21, 12pm-STEW

Contact a member of the WG Exec Committee or sign up using the following link:

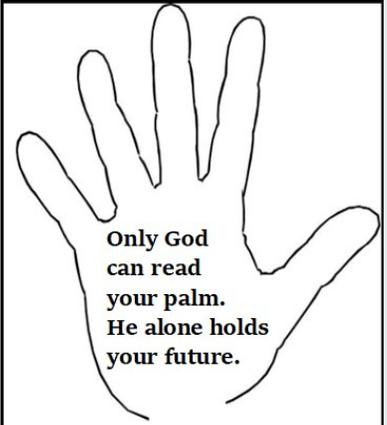
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10cob49a8a62ca1fe3-2021>

Church Organization News

ACYOA Seniors

Building up the Body of Christ! A group of St. Peter ACYOA Seniors gathered outdoors in the Postoian Pavilion on the evening of October 6. A pizza dinner was served with a discussion led by Fr. Stepanos on the topic “Who Holds the Key to Your Future: Psychic Readers? Fortune Cookies? Yourself? Or God?”

This “Faith Talk” explored hope for the future and about God loving each of us and wanting to do His will and discussed the “real stuff” that nurtures the heart and soul!



For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm to give you a future with hope.

— Jeremiah 29:11

For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, “Do not fear; I will help you.”

— Isaiah 41:13

ACYOA Vartavar Celebration, July 11



Church Organization News

Moving with Maria

Maria Derian, continues to offer a 60-minute Zumba/exercise class every morning Monday-Saturday at 10:00am as well as recorded workouts that are available Monday-Friday at 4:30pm. 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: *Nousbig Atamian, Armine Bareghamyan, Liliana Basmajian, Judy Bedian, Linda Bedian, Nectar Derian, Sue Dickinson, Nayeri Eleyjian, Nancy Kassabian, Sandra Kershaw, and Carol Tutunjian.* Since the classes began in March 2020, this brings the total amount of donations from *Moving with Maria* participants to \$5,245. Contact Maria or the church office for information on how to join in for fun and fitness.



The “Hye Fitness” class had two in-person get-togethers; one on July 25 and another on September 26, both in New Paltz, New York. There were 13 attendees at the first outing to Clemson Brothers Brewery and 30 people the second time for apple picking and lunch at Twin Star Orchards. Participants of the class came together from New Jersey, New York City, as well as throughout the Capital Region!

We had an incredible time sharing our experiences and discussing how each of us has benefitted from participating in the class. There was an undeniable sense of friendship, community, and support. We pray, we work out, and we encourage one another - it is truly a “judgement-free zone.” Everyone is very busy, but these ladies take the time to take care of their bodies; whether in the morning or in the afternoon class, most participate 4-6 days a week!

So far, we’ve had 500 classes and have raised \$5,245 for St. Peter Armenian Church!!! Thank you to everyone who participates in the workouts and to those who come to the events! We look forward to adding more members to our fitness community!



Church Organization News

Adult Christian Education

Rhonda Boyajian is now serving on the Vemkar team at the Diocese as the Adult Christian Education Coordinator. Classes are offered Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm via Zoom. This program offers the opportunity to learn about the theology and teachings of the Armenian Church.

- November 2: "The Homeless Christ: The Social Teaching of St. John Chrysostom" led by Fr. Nigoghos Aznavourian
- November 9: "Translating Ashagerdetsek: Discipleship in the Armenian Church" led by Fr. Samuel Rith-Najarian
- November 16: "A Kiss is Just a Kiss . . . Or Is It?" led by Rhonda Boyajian
- November 30: "Praying Through Theophany" led by Dn. Eric Vosgy
- December 7: "Delicious Fruits from a Bitter Tree: St. James and St. Gregory" led by Dr. Roberta Ervine
- November 14: "Knowing of whose spirit we are: James, John, and our own identity" led by Dr. Roberta Ervine.

To register or for more information about this program, its history, and a complete schedule of classes, visit vemkar.us.

Zoom Reflections

Fr. Stepanos offers a brief, 30-minute weekly reflection on most 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 Zoom Group

Join this Prayer Group every other Friday morning through Zoom at 10:30am on the following dates: November 12 and December 10. (Note: Due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, there will be no sessions on November 26 and December 24.) All are invited to meet and 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.

St. Peter Church Choir

Choir rehearsals are held twice a month, during which variable hymns are reviewed and possible fundraising ideas considered. Upcoming rehearsals will be held from 6:30-8:00pm on the following Thursday dates: November 4 & 18, and December 9 & 23. 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)

Book Club

The book selection for the next meeting of the St. Peter Church Book Club is *Kindred* by Octavia Butler. The book discussion will take place at St. Peter Armenian Church on Wednesday, November 10 @ 1:00pm. *Kindred* explores the dynamics and dilemmas of antebellum slavery from the sensibility of a late 20th-century black woman. The first science-fiction written by a black woman, *Kindred* has become a cornerstone of African-American literature. This combination of slave memoir, fantasy, and historical fiction is a novel of rich literary complexity. To be informed of upcoming selections and meeting dates/times, contact Bill Rainbolt at bill.mindfulness@gmail.com or the church office.



**Adult Christian
Education**
Tuesdays @ 7:00pm

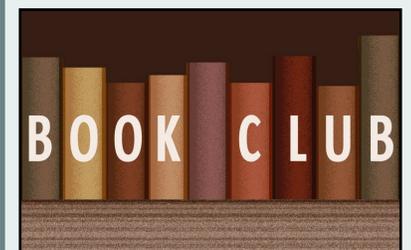
Zoom Reflections
Thursdays @ 12:30pm

**Pray Without
Ceasing on Zoom**
Fridays @ 10:30am
November 12
December 10

IN-PERSON



**Upcoming
Choir Rehearsals**
Thursdays, 6:30-8:00pm
November 4 & 18
December 9 & 23
New members welcome!



Kindred
by Octavia Butler
Discussion on
Wednesday, November 10
1:00pm @ Church

Parish Community News

Sacraments and Rites

"Plant them as a fruitful olive tree in the House of God, so that living in the godliness according to Your beneficent will, they may see the children of their children and be unto You a people serving You and glorifying You, together with the father and the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

Amen."

—from the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

Marriage

Caroline Sophia Boyajian, daughter of Donald & Rhonda (Surabian) Boyajian, and **David Peter Johnson**, son of Roger & Patricia (Tyree) Johnson, were married on October 2, 2021. Godfather, John Quinn; Godmother, Allison Boyajian; Celebrant, Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian.

Funerals

Vartuhi "Leyla" Kasparoglu entered her eternal rest on July 11, 2021. She is survived by her children Arjanti Kasparoglu, Murat Kasparian, and Madlen Balgin, five grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. Leyla was predeceased by her husband, Nisan Kasparoglu, and grandson, Alex Kasparian. The funeral service was conducted at St. Peter Armenian Church by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on July 17.

R. Mihran Mooradian entered his eternal rest on July 12, 2021. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Ovsanna (Yahnian) Mooradian; two daughters, Susan Mooradian and Linda (John) Della Volpe (MA); two sons, Robert Mooradian (MA) and David (Tara) Mooradian; six grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, Mihran & Alice Mooradian, Mihran is predeceased by his sister, Lucille Quinn and his brothers, Richard & M. Edward Mooradian. The funeral services was conducted at St. Peter Armenian Church by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on July 16.

Denis Edward "Eddy" Kebabjian entered his eternal rest on August 10, 2021. He is survived by his daughter, Denise Kebabjian; son, Michael Kebabjian, Sr.; four grandchildren; long-time girlfriend, Susan Barger; and friend and musical partner of 30+ years, Steve (Sandy) Caddick. Eddy is predeceased by his loving wife of 49 years, Nancy. The funeral service was conducted at New Comer Cremations & Funerals by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on August 17.

Joseph "Josie" (Kazanjian) Speanburg entered her eternal rest on August 22, 2021. Josie is survived by many cousins and was predeceased by her parents, Armen & Nouritza (Patanian) Kazanjian, and her husband, Richard W. Speanburg. A private funeral service was conducted at St. Peter Armenian Church by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on August 26.

Theodore "Ted" Sapino entered his eternal rest on August 15, 2021. He is survived by two daughters, Cheri (Tim) Dunnigan and Thea (Kevin) Stewart; a brother, Chester (Ethelyn) Sapino, Jr.; a sister-in-law, Marion Jaffarian; a brother-in-law, Charles Hewison; five grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, the late Chester & Hazel (Bierwirth) Sapino, Ted is predeceased by his wife of 70 years, Grace (Jaffarian) Sapino, and his two sisters, Aileen Hewison & Mary Sapino. Mr. Sapino was one of the 18 Godfathers of the consecration of St. Peter Armenian Church in Watervliet in 1971. The funeral service was conducted at St. Peter Armenian Church by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on September 9.

[Grace & Ted Sapino were] "the best grandparents a kid could ever have. I owe them a lot. The Armenian Church was very important to them, so it's important to me and my family. I will cherish the many beautiful memories of them forever."

—Kevin Stewart

Hokehankist (Requiem Service)

JULY 18, 2021:

- **Bishop Papken Varjabedian** (Twenty-First Anniversary) *as requested by the estate of Bishop Varjabedian.*
- **Victor Khachikian** (40-Day Memorial - Karasoonk) **and Mary Khachikian** (Twenty-First Anniversary) *as requested by Lori & Michael Brown & Family; Rebecca & Michael Dearstynne & Family.*

JULY 25, 2021:

- **Kevork Lehemjian** (40-Day Memorial - Karasoonk) *as requested by Leza & Vartan Karayan & Family.*
- **Michael & Mary Koshgarian, George & Rosemary Koshgarian, Khachig & Sadie Koshgarian, and Krikor & Zechia Kerkunian** *as requested by Arthur Koshkorian (VA).*

AUGUST 29, 2021:

- **Kenneth Chorbajian** *as requested by Charles & Alice Chorbajian, Debbie & Frenchie Ekmalian, Virginia Mabserjian, and Linda & Herb Chorbajian.*
- **Hagop Nalbandian** (40-Day Memorial—Karasoonk), **Nazaret Nalbandian, and Dikran Aposhian** *as requested by Berjouhi & Fouad Shamounian, Marie Banjarjian, Garo & Maria Derian & Family, Johnny & Susanna Shamounian, Raffi & Jamie Chamoun, Setrak & Talin Nalbandian & Family (IN), Alice Bardakjian (IN), Ara & Lara Ashjian, Sarkis & Heidi Guleserian, Mr. & Mrs. Hrant Bardakjian, and Dr. & Mrs. Ara Kayayan.*
- **Hrant Bardakjian** (Fourth Anniversary), **Hagop Bardakjian, and Bardakjian & Tutunjian Family Members** *as requested by Setrak & Talin Nalbandian & Family (IN), Alice Bardakjian (IN), and Mr. & Mrs. Hrant Bardakjian.*
- **Malak, Marin & George Chamoun, Farha, Lurice, Aboud & Gabie Sahdo, and Josephine & George Khaeb** *as requested by Berjouhi & Fouad Shamounian, Marie Banjarjian, Garo & Maria Derian & Family, Johnny & Susanna Shamounian, Raffi & Jamie Chamoun, Ara & Lara Ashjian,*

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021:

- **Arshak Karen Apkarian** *as requested by Helga Apkarian and Brian Apkarian.*
- **Gabriel Sahdo, Azneef Melkonian, Vartanosh Melkonian, Rehan Melkonian, Arshak Avedesian, Mariam Melkonian, Araksi Melkonian, Setrak Melkonian, Varuj Avedesian, and Seta Jerkian** *as requested by Norayr, Anoush & Ades Arakelian.*
- **Tervanda Karagozian** (Fifth Anniversary on September 7) *as requested by Leza & Vartan Karayan & Family.*
- **Adam Simonian** (Seventeenth Anniversary) **and Jennifer Simonian** *as requested by Brian & Barbara (Simonian) Olesen & Family.*

In Loving Memory



"O Christ, Son of God, forbearing and compassionate, have compassion, in your love as our creator, upon the souls of your servants who are at rest, especially upon the souls of your servants (name of departed), for whom we are offering these prayers. Be mindful of them in the great day of the coming of your kingdom. Make them worthy of mercy, of expiation and forgiveness of sins. Glorify them and rank them with the company of your saints at your right hand.

For you are the Lord and creator of all, judge of the living and of the dead. And to you is befitting glory, dominion and honor, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

—from the Requiem Prayer

Parish Community News

Sacraments and Rites

BLESSING OF GRAPES SERVICES

On Sunday, August 15, the traditional Blessing of the Grapes Service was conducted following worship services. This service is peculiar to the Armenian Church and originated in the ancient Hebrew custom of celebrating the first fruits of the harvest. After the adoption of Christianity, the celebration assumed a new meaning with symbolic religious significance.

The grape wine used in Holy Communion, after it is consecrated, becomes the blood of Christ which was shed on the Cross for our salvation. Also, as grapes are propagated by their vine, not by seeds, so was our Lord conceived without human seed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Thus, the Blessing of the Grapes Service has become a special religious ceremony in which we ask the Holy Spirit to make the grapes holy, and for those who eat them in faith to receive physical healing and spiritual nourishment.



Hokehankist (*Requiem Service*)

OCTOBER 24, 2021:

- **Mary Asadorian, Robert Asadorian, Joseph Asadorian, Sr., Arshalous Haboian, Mesrob Haboian, Mary Boyajian, Joseph Boyajian, Mary Derderian, and Daniel Derderian** *as requested by John & Carolyn Haboian (CT).*
- **Hayguhe Bakerian, Michael Bakerian, and Vasgen Bakerian** *as requested by Charlotte Sevazlian and Lucy Morton.*
- **Shahe Panjarjian and Aznive Hamalian** *as requested by Mary & Ara Panjarjian, Sarkis & Ani Khatcherian, Sharon Foley, and Valerie Demarest.*
- **Gabriel Sahdo, Azneef Melkonian, Vartanosh Melkonian, Rehan Melkonian, Arshak Avedesian, Mariam Melkonian, Araksi Melkonian, Setrak Melkonian, Varuj Avedesian, and Seta Jerkian** *as requested by Norayr, Anoush & Ades Arakelian (rescheduled from September 26).*

Altar Flowers

Roses for the altar on July 11, on the occasion of the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ, were donated by **Betty Osganian** *in memory of George Osganian* and the **Asador & Sarah Kenosian Endowment Fund.**

Donated on July 18 by **Lori Brown & Rebecca Dearstyne & Families** *in loving memory of Victor & Mary Khachikian.*

Donated on August 15, on the occasion of the Feast of the Assumption, by the **Asador & Sarah Kenosian Endowment Fund.**

Donated on September 12 by the **Family of Theodore Sapino** *in his memory.*

Donated on September 19 by **Herb & Linda Chorbajian** *in memory of Carney & Charlotte Pостоian and Ghevont & Anna Chorbajian.*

Altar Candles

Donated on July 25 by **Arthur Koshkorian (VA)** *in memory of loved ones.*

Altar Flowers & Altar Candles

Donated on September 19 by **Paulette, Jonah & Gloria Doudoukjian, Rich, Diane & Drew Doudoukjian, Charlie, Debbie & Stephen Doudoukjian, Steve & Alice Hortian, Angel, Christine, Angeline & Ariana Figueroa, Girard Kasparian, and Roxann Kasparian** *in honor of Fr. Stepanos' 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.*

Blessing of Grapes, August 15

Grapes for the Blessing of the Grapes service on the occasion of the Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God on Sunday, August 15, were donated by the following:

- **Vartouhi Allahverdi**
- **Nazar Bakerian** *in memory of Joseph & Siran Bakerian*
- **George & Elsie Bedrosian**
- **Krikor & Nancy Kassabian** *in gratitude*
- **Ida & Sarkis Mihanian, Jr.** *in memory of Dr. Oksen Acemoglu*
- **Violet Mirzoyan Dadekian** *in memory of loved ones*
- **Perla Mary & James Tony Tournayan**

Special Donations

Stewardship Gifts

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

- **Brian & Garyn (Gdanian) A'Hearn**
- **Mark Anigian**
- **Judy Brennan (CA)**
- **Roseann & David Caruso**
- **John & Katherine Doudoukjian (SC)**
- **Christine Hagopian**
- **Kenneth MacLeod**
- **Charles Mahserjian**
- **Yn. Yefkin Megherian**
- **Judith Newman (CA)** *in appreciation of Fr. Stepanos' Zoom Reflections*
- **Elsie Nigohosian (PA)**

Thank You

TOTAL: \$1,655

Additional Donations

A total of \$535 was received in a **special collection** in September which was sent to the Diocese to help in the dire circumstances in the nations of Haiti and Lebanon. Haiti had experienced a mammoth earthquake, with catastrophic loss including hundreds of churches throughout the island. And, more than a year after the explosion in Beirut's harbor, Lebanon is still burdened by the destruction and loss of life, magnified by political, economic, and medical upheaval.

Basil for the decoration of the Holy Cross on the occasion the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on Sunday, September 12, was donated by **Nazar Bakerian** and by the **DeMartino/Derian Family** *in memory of loved ones.*

Thank you to **Dr. Ara Kayayan** for donating a speaker/sound system to the church. This system is especially helpful for events held outdoors. Thank you Dr. Ara!

Thank you to **Joanne & Mike Coogan** for donating the backyard game "Cornhole" to the church to use for our fun outdoor events.

Holiday Greetings

Let us send your holiday greetings to your St. Peter Armenian Church family and friends.

Save the time, trouble, and cost of sending individual Christmas cards to friends and family of the St. Peter Armenian Church community. Submit your name to the church office and you will be included in the following messages that will be offered by St. Peter Armenian Church:

- An email will be sent to all on our distribution list the week of December 13 offering a special Christmas message prepared by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian, signed by all who participate in the Holiday Greetings.
- That Christmas message, with listed names, will also be posted on the church's Facebook page.
- Another email will be sent prior to Armenian Christmas (January 6) with additional emphasis on well wishes for the New Year.
- Additionally, names will be included in the Winter 2020/2021 issue of *Loosaper*.

Those wishing to be included in the Christmas and New Year's greetings are to contact the church office to be included in all of the above. When submitting your name, please consider a small donation which will go to benefit the continued publication of the *Loosaper*.

Donations may be submitted to "St. Peter Armenian Church," PO Box 196, Watervliet, NY 12189 (Memo: Holiday Greetings)

Or, through the church's website at stpeterarmenianchurch.com/giving/loosaper



In Lieu of Flowers

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

In memory of JULIE GARABEDIAN

Mary Hartunian

Lorraine Schindler

NEW TOTAL: \$2,095

In memory of GEORGE HACHIGIAN

Ara & Rachel Altounian

Herbert & Linda Chorbajian

Mr/Mrs Phillip Gross, Jr. & Family

Mr/Mrs Ronald Kaiser

Will & Shelley Martin

Elizabeth Osganian

Charles & Carol Tutunjian

Peter & Patricia Boorujy (NJ)

Robert & Arleen Drooby

Barbara Hrachian

Linda Kazanjian

R. Paul & Sonya Moroukian

Toros Shamlian, Jr.

Mr/Mrs Charles Chorbajian

The Ekmalian Family

Leon & Susan Kaiser

Isabel Krempa

Greg Nazarian,

The Ashby Family (OH),

and The Kehrer Family

TOTAL: \$1,175

In memory of VARTUHI "LEYLA" KASPAROGLU

Ara & Rachel Altounian

Mr/Mrs Charles Chorbajian

John & Carolyn Haboian (CT)

Mr/Mrs John Khachadourian

Jen Dalton & Amanda Panetta

Zareh & Annie Altounian

Crystal Ditonno

Jesse

Mr/Mrs Sarkis Minassian

Amber

John & Debbie Ekmalian

Dr. Ara Kayayan

Ohan & Rita Ohanian

TOTAL: \$316

In memory of VICTOR KHACHIKIAN

Brian Masick

NEW TOTAL: \$390

In memory of RUSSELL J. KILIDJIAN

Isabel Krempa

NEW TOTAL: \$2,020

In memory of R. MIHRAN MOORADIAN

Mr/Mrs Robert Bedian

Mr/Mrs Hagop Derian

Lenna Kandarjian

John Bezjian

Barbara Hrachian

Mary P. Minassian

Mr/Mrs Charles Chorbajian

Mr/Mrs Ronald Kaiser & Family

Toros Shamlian, Jr.

TOTAL: \$425

In memory of THEODORE SAPINO

Guido & Linda Bellizia (FL)

Anita & George Clymas (MA)

Jean Johnson

George & Joanne Scaringe

Kevin Stewart (*in memory of Grace & Ted Sapino*)

Barbara Bourcier & Family (RI)

Cheri, Tim & Matt Dunnigan (FL)

Arthur & JoAnn Kazanjian

Toros Shamlian, Jr.

Herbert & Linda Chorbajian

Marion Jaffarian

Bertha Kazanjian & Family (MA)

Carole Kazanjian Smith (FL)

TOTAL: \$2,070

In memory of JOSEPHINE SPEANBURG

The Ammian & Vallee Families

Anonymous

Winifred Ammian

Mary Hartunian

Richard & Joan Ammian (FL)

TOTAL: \$700

This lovely note was received following the funeral service for Theodore Sapino with Hokejosh (memorial meal) prepared and served by members of the St. Peter Women's Guild.

"Dear Fr. Stepanos,

"Thank you so much for all that you and the beautiful ladies of the Women's Guild did for us . . . We feel so blessed and we are so grateful to all of you! God Bless you all —"

Cheri, Tim & Matt Dunnigan (FL)

Anniversaries Donations

Thank you to the following who made donations to St. Peter Armenian Church in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Consecration of the church in Watervliet in 1971 as well as the 25th Anniversary of Fr. Stepanos' ordination to the priesthood in 1995. The total amount of these donations will be used toward an upcoming renovation project of the front entrance of the church. (Details on this project will be made available soon.) If you have not already done so, please consider making a donation to the church in commemoration of these two milestone anniversaries.

Eduard Aghayan & Family
 Brian & Garyn A'Hearn
in memory of Fr. Garen & Yn. Zabelle Gdanian
 Kathy & Richard Allen
 Ara & Rachel Altounian
 Dr/Mrs Vardan Amirbekian
 Anonymous (4)
 Anonymous
in memory of Hrant Bardakjian
 Brian Apkarian
 Helga Apkarian
 The Apkarian Family
 Gerald Arzoumanian
in memory of Beatrice Arzoumanian
 The Ashby Family (OH)
 Aram A. Atashian
 Nazar Bakerian
 Judge/Mrs J. Albert Barsamian
 Linda Bedian
 Robert & Sandra Bedian
 Rosalee Bedian
 George & Elsie Bedrosian
 David & Lori (Payette) Belemjian
 Peter & Patty Boorujy (NJ)
 Mr/Mrs Donald Boyajian
 Judy Brennan (CA)
 Bryce Funeral Home Inc.
 Leonard & Antoinette Buchakjian
 David & Roseann Caruso
 Holly D. Chenaille
 Mr/Mrs Charles Chorbajian
 Linda & Herb Chorbajian
 Dr/Mrs Robert Dadekian
 Adrienne Daniels
 Richard DeMartino &
 Barbara Derian
 The Derian Family
 Suzanne Dickinson
 Prof/Mrs Philip DiNovo
 Marguerite Djehizian and
 Elisabeth Chamberlain

Fr. Stepanos & Paulette Doudoukjian
 and Family
 Robert & Arleen Drooby
 Ralph & Elizabeth Enokian
 Ernest/Gdanian/A'Hearn Families
in memory of Fr. Garen & Yn. Zabelle Gdanian
 Damon & Joyce (Dadekian)
 Fereshetian (PA)
 Michael Geragosian
 Joanne Hartunian
 Mary Hartunian
 Mr/Mrs Richard Hartunian
 Barbara Hrachian
in memory of Suren & Sarah Hrachian
 Charlene Hrachian
 Marion Jaffarian
 Francine Kaiser
 Mr/Mrs Leon Kaiser
 Ron & Terri Kaiser
 Mary A. Kalteux
 Lenna Kandarjian
 Edward & Lucille Kaprielian
 Karapetian Family (CA)
 Alexander (Murat) Kasparian
 Krikor & Nancy Kassabian
 Arthur & JoAnn Kazanjian
 Bertha Kazanjian (MA)
 Linda Kazanjian
 Kevork Keleshian
 Levon & Karen Khachadourian
 Yvette Khachadourian
 Catherine Knauer
 Knights & Daughters of Vartan
 Grace Koshgarian
 Michael & Dianne Koshgarian
 Isabel Krempa
 Steven Krempa
 Virginia Mahserjian
 Chris Martin
 Will & Shelley Martin
 Carol Mattozza

Katrina Mayba
 Sean & Alice McMullan
 Sally Mahserjian McNeff
 Ida & Sarkis Mihranian, Jr.
 Shirley Moroukian
 R. Paul & Sonya Moroukian
 Mark Moroukian & Family
 John & Karen Nevins
 Elsie T. Nigohosian & Family
*in loving memory of Leon Nigobosian, Sr.
 and Siragan & Lucine Nigobosian*
 Anita Taraqqi Ogali
 Cheryl Ohanesian
 Robert Ohanesian Family (VA)
 Ohan & Rita Ohanian
 Mr/Mrs Joseph O'Keefe
 Betty Osganian & Family
 Mary Panjarjian
 Florence Papanian
 Helen Papanian
 Joanne & George Scaringe
 Charlotte Sevazlian and
 Lucy Morton
 The Shamlians
 Toros Shamlian, Jr.
 Carole (Kazanjian) Smith (FL)
 St. Peter Armenian School
 St. Peter Women's Guild
 Jeffrey & Cesar Stewart-Morales
 Patrick & Claudia Suppa
 John & Nancy Thomas (CA)
 Martin & Janice Toomajian
 Berj & Lusine Topalian
 Rafi & Marianne Topalian
 Peter & Maryanne Topian
 Charles & Carol Tutunjian
 and Family
 Edward & Adrina Tutunjian
 Patty Vartigian
 Susan Wendt
*Plus additional donations from
 collection box at September 19 event*

TOTAL: \$18,600.17

Community News

Words of Thanks

"I'd like to express my appreciation on behalf of the burn victims of the recent fire in Watervliet for your generous gift.

Your contribution [in the amount of \$1,225] will be placed in the burn victims fund at Pioneer Bank. This fund is administered and distributed by representatives of victims and Watervliet City government. Thank you."

John Razzano

Watervliet Charitable Foundation

"Fr. Stepanos,

"Just wanted to say thank you for your donation to the fire victims. It's greatly appreciated. Thank again."

Charles [Patricelli]

City of Watervliet Mayor

Congratulations to . . .

Alexis Shufelt, MSN, RN, daughter of Matt & Rosanne (Arghnian) Shufelt, who graduated with a Masters of Science degree in nursing. Alexis is teaching at Nazareth College as well as continuing her nursing career at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, NY. Alexis is the granddaughter of the late Alexander & Marion Arghnian and Marion and the late Bill Shufelt.

Matthew Shufelt, Jr., son of Matt & Rosanne (Arghnian) Shufelt, who graduated with an Associate's Degree in accounting. Matthew is attending Southern University (NH) in pursuit of a Bachelors Degree in finance. Matthew is the grandson of the late Alexander & Marion Arghnian and Marion and the late Bill Shufelt.

In Remembrance

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of:

Dr. Levon A. "Lefty" Bedrosian who entered his eternal rest on April 9, 2021. In addition to his parents, the late Aram & Flora (Roubian) Bedrosian, Dr. Bedrosian is predeceased by his wife of 62 years, Mary Margaret "Candy" (Canfield) Bedrosian, and his sister, Araxie Bedrosian. He is survived by two sons, Gary (Gena) & Richard "Rick" Bedrosian, three grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

Peter P. Prince who entered his eternal rest on June 27, 2021. Peter is survived by his wife of 43 years, Patricia (DeDomenico) Prince; two daughters, Laura (Tom) Lane (UT) and Sara (Ryan) Fenton; his son, Peter M. (Rebecca) Prince (NH); and eight grandchildren. In addition to his parents, Harry & Mary Prince, Peter is predeceased by his sister, Grace Bedrosian and brother-in-law, Jim Bedrosian, and his brother, John Prince.

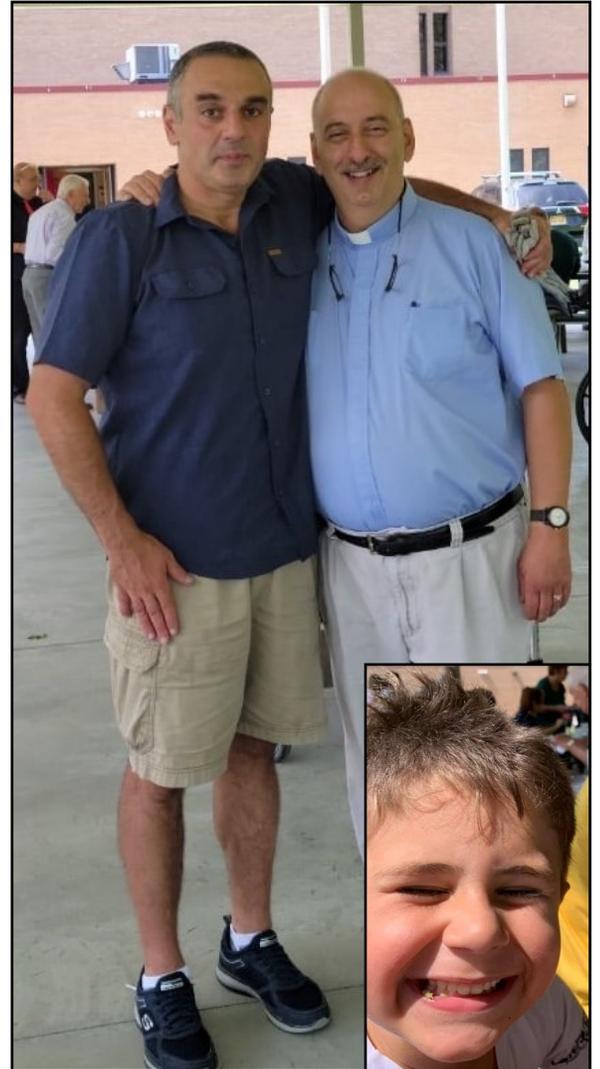


Sunday, November 7 @ 1:30pm on ZOOM!

This year the Festival of Nations is celebrating 49 years of providing a platform for the ethnic groups of the Capital Region to share their ethnic identity. Again this year, the Festival will be held virtually through Zoom, free of charge — on Sunday, November 7, starting at 1:30pm. **Miss Rosie Elebyjian**, daughter of Levon & Nayeri Elebyjian, will represent Armenia in the Miss Festival of Nations contest. For full details, visit www.festivalofnations.net. For information on future involvement joining the cultural committee or volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, contact Rafi Topalian at rafitop@aol.com or (518) 810-5018. The Festival of Nations will celebrate their 50th Anniversary in 2022 with a live, in-person event.

“Picnic in Armenia” celebrates the Assumption

After celebrating the Assumption of the Holy Mother of God with the traditional Blessing of the Grapes service on Sunday, August 15, over 80 parishioners and friends rekindled friendships and enjoyed a traditional “Picnic in Armenia” with delicious *Khorovats* including all the trimmings and desserts from Armenia. A special thank you goes to Violet Mirzoyan, Nadezhda Babjanyan-Knorr, and the Amirbekyan Family for sharing their time, talent, and treasure by preparing and serving the abundance of remarkable food. Thanks to their generosity, the picnic was provided free of charge for all who attended.





This message is shared from chapter 1 of the 1997 published book of short sermons by our beloved pastor emeritus, Rev. Fr. Garen Gdanian.

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Գրեց

Կարէն Աւագ Քահանայ Կտանեան

Ալաբրնի, Նիւ Եօրք

**“Today I Will
Come to Your
House”**

Short sermons
written by
Archpriest Garen
Gdanian

ԵՂԻՅԻ ԱՆՈՒՆ ՏԵԱՌԻՆ ՕՐՀՆԵԱԼ

Մեր Երկրին մեծագոյն տօներուն շրջանն է արժմ: Ծնորհակալութեան Տօնը ունեցանք: Եւ ահա կը պատրաստուինք *Քրիստոս* - ի եւ Նոր Տարիի Տօներուն: Անշուշտ թէ շատերուն համար այս երեք տօներն ալ խրախճանքի առիթներ են պարզապէս: Իսկ վաճառականները զանոնք կը դորձածեն որպէս շահի աղբիւր: Բայց մեզի, Քրիստոնեաներու համար անոնք ճշմարիտ տօն օրեր են, սուրբ օրեր են - *Հոլի Տէյք* - : Այսինքն այնպիսի օրեր ուր մեր Արարիչին հետ խօսելու, խնդալու եւ բարեկամանալու առիթներ կ'ունենանք:

Աստուծոյ հետ խօսելու՝ շատ մը ուրիշ առիթներ եւ օրեր եւս կան անշուշտ: Օրինակի համար երբ մեզքերու տիղմին մէջ կը տապալինք, մեր Աստծոյն հետ կը խօսինք եւ թողութիւն կը խնդրենք: Երբ ահն ու զողը կը պատէ զմեզ, երբ կոտորած, մահ եւ պատերազմ կը հասնի մեր վրան, դարձեալ կը խօսինք Իր հետ եւ խաղաղութիւն կը հայցենք Իրմէ: Երբ հիւանդութիւններով եւ զանազան ախտերով կը տառապինք, բժշկութիւն եւ ցաւերու դարման կը խնդրենք Իրմէն: Մեր Աստծոյն կը զիմենք անթութեան եւ աղքատութեան եւ ծառաւի ատեն: Իրեն կը զիմենք երբ մարդիկ զիրար կը յօշոտեն եւ զիրար կ'ատեն: Եւ ի վերջոյ Իրեն հետ կը խօսինք նաեւ սատանայական փորձութիւններէ ազատելու եւ երկնային Արքայութեան արժանանալու համար:

Գոհարանութեան Տօնը, *Քրիստոս* -ը եւ Նոր Տարին երեքն ալ ցնծութեան, ուրախութեան եւ փառարանութեան օրեր են սակայն: Եւ այդ օրերուն, Աստուծոյ եւ մարդոց մէջ եղած խօսակցութեան նիւթն ալ լիցուն է երգի, խնդուքի, փառատրութեան եւ օրհնելութեան ձայներով: Այո այս կիանքին մէջ անպակաս են անբախտ եւ չար բաներ: Բայց պէտք է մոռնանք որ Ստեղծագործութիւնը երջանիկ իրականութիւն մըն է: "Երկինք պատմեն զփառս Աստուծոյ:" Մարդը արարածներուն ամէնէն երանելին է տակաւին: Ան ուրախութիւնը սիրող էակ մըն է: Հարսանիք եւ տոնախմբութիւն կ'ունենայ: Կը պարէ, կը խաղայ, կը կատակէ, կը խնդայ, կ'երգէ, կը նուագէ եւ կը զոհանայ:

Մեր պաշտամունքներուն մէջ փառքի, զոհունակութեան եւ ցնծութեան նուիրուած աղօթքներն ու շարականները մեծ տեղ կը դրուեն: Հակառակ անոր որ մեր ազգային պատմութեան մէջ շատ մը զուլումներու ենթարկուած ենք, դադար չենք առած սակայն մեր Աստուծոյն երգ ու խնդութիւն կարդալէ: Առնենք Փառք ի Բարձուակի եւ Իւզարէոփց ի բառերը: Երգենք Այսօր Տօն է կամ Ուրախ Լեր Սուրբ Եկեղեցի: Հետեւինք Երեք Մանուկներու օրհներգութեան եւ Մարիամ Աստուածածնի նուիրուած Մեծացուցչէ - ներուն: Ազաղակենք Աչչուեա - ները, Միտնի Որդիք ք եւ Անդաստանի բառերը: Տեսէք թէ Եկեղեցին ինչպէս հրաւէր կը կարդայ իր Ժողովուրդին, խնդալու, ծափահարելու եւ ծնծղաներով շուրջ պար կատարելու: Խօսեցէք ձեր Աստուծոյն հետ վերոյիշեալ երգերուն բառերը գործածելով եւ տեսէք թէ ինչպիսի երանութիւն պիտի պարուրէ ձեզ, եւ ձեր հոգին ինչպիսի ցնծութեամբ պիտի ողորուի եւ պիտի վերանայ:

Ստորեւ շարադրած եմ երգի եւ զոհարանութեան նուիրուած աղօթք մը: Անոր բոլոր բառերն ալ քաղած եմ մեր ժամադրքի էջերէն: Այս աղօթքը կարելի է գործածել թէ այս օրերուն եւ թէ որեւէ ատեն որ ձեր հոգին ու միտքը ցնծութեան կարիքն ունի:

" Ով Տէր Յիսուս Օրհնեալ եւ Դուն:...Դուն մեզի բաշխած ես քու ողորմութիւնդ առատօրէն եւ մենք ուրախ ենք եւ զուարթ ենք:... Ուրախ ենք նոյնիսկ երբ կը տառապինք, կ'երգենք նոյնիսկ երբ ազքատ եւ տնանկ ենք:... Օրհնութիւն Քեզի, այժմ եւ յաւիտեան:...Ով Ժողովուրդ եկէք եւ օրհնեցէք ձեր Արարիչը: Օրհնեցէք եւ զովեցէք եւ բարերանեցէք զինքը: Զի քաղցր է զի յաւիտեան է անոր ողորմութիւնը:... Ով Տէր Դուն մեր թաղաւորն եւ Քու անունդ հղօր է, յաղթող է եւ սքանչելագործ է: ... Ով եղբայրներ եւ քոյրեր Օրհնեցէք Տիրոջ անունը: Արեւելքէն մինչեւ Արեւմուտք եւ Հիւսիսէն մինչեւ Հարաւ զՔրիստոս բարերանեցէք:... Գիշեր եւ ցերեկ, ձեր ձեռքերը վեր վերցուցէք եւ օրհնեցէք Անոր անունը:... Ով իմ հոգիս սրհնէ քու Աստուածդ: "

ԴԵՎՏԵՄԲԵՐ 1975

FROM THE LIFE OF FR. GAREN GDANIAN

February 1, 1925: Born in Aleppo, Syria, to Kevork and Siranoosh (Tavookjian) Gdanian, with a Baptismal name of Sarkis.

1930-1938: Educated in Aleppo Armenian School System.

1938-1944: Studied and was graduated from Jerusalem Seminary

1944-1945: Taught in Zavarian Armenian School, Aleppo, Syria

1945-1947: Studied and was graduated from Antelias Seminary, Beirut, Lebanon

September 1947: Came to the United States by invitation of The Most Rev. Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan.

1947-1950: Studied and received his Bachelor of Divinity Degree from the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Cambridge, Mass.

December 19, 1948: Was ordained a priest by The Most Rev. Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan at St. Vartanantz Armenian Church of Lowell, Mass.

1948-1957: Served at the above parish.

August 27, 1952: Married to former Isabelle Kludjian and went on to have three children, two daughters and one son.

1957-1967: Served as a member of the Diocesan Council for Religious Education of New York City.

1957-1970: Served as the Pastor of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church, New York City.

August 31, 1964: Received permission by His Holiness, Vasken I, to wear a Pectoral Cross.

September 1970: Elected as the Pastor of St. Peter Armenian Church of Watervliet, New York.

1971-1975: Served as member of the Diocesan Council, New York City.

1977: Received floral Pilon (Phelonion—Cope).

1984: Elevated to the rank of Avak Kahana (Senior Priest).

September 1989: Retired but continued to serve when and where needed.

June 27, 2013: Entered his eternal rest.

ST. PETER ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
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P.O BOX 196
WATERVLIET, NY 12189

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Happy Holidays

*Be included in Christmas and New Year's
greetings offered by St. Peter Armenian Church.
Share in our message to friends and family of
the church community for the Christmas
and New Year's Holidays!*

(more details inside . . .)