



WINTER 2021-2022

ԼՈՒՍԱՔԵՐ LOOSAPER

12 VOCATIONS BANQUET HONORS FIRST 12 GRADUATES OF ST. NERSESS ARMENIAN SEMINARY *EVENING CELEBRATES THE FIRST 12 GRADUATES TO BECOME ORDAINED CLERGY*

An elegant affair was held at the Old Tappan Manor in Westwood, NJ, on November 13 to honor the first 12 graduates of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary (see photo below). Our own Fr. Stepanos, who was ordained in 1996, was among those recognized at the ceremony. For those interested in learning more about each of these clergy and their ministries, the Diocese has created a beautiful video that is now available on YouTube. The video may be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XyPyP2VbZwA>.



photo by Dn. Diran Jebejian

A beautiful commemorative booklet was created highlighting the 12 honored clergyman, as well as celebrating the 60th anniversary of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary. St. Peter Armenian Church was among many donors for this illustrious event and booklet, giving a donation in honor of Fr. Stepanos in recognition of his tireless ministry to our community.

(continued on page 3)

Սուրբ Պետրոս Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցի ST. PETER ARMENIAN CHURCH

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- 12 Vocations
- Women's Guild Outreach Projects
- "The Friendly Beasts"
- Gaghan Baba visits Armenian School Christmas Hantess
- ACYOA spreads Christmas cheer!
- Moving with Maria; going strong for almost two years and over 570 classes

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Women's Guild

Nancy Kassabian, Co-Chair
Sonya Moroukian, Co-Chair
PC Liaison: Frenchie Ekmalian

Thank you to all of the following for their support of the Christmas/New Year's Greetings program. They too wish to extend their New Year's greetings to their St. Peter Armenian Church family and friends:



Helen Bezjian & Family
Alice & Charles Chorbajian
Linda & Herb Chorbajian
Robert & Holly Dadekian
Sue Dickinson
Fr. Stepanos, Paulette, Jonah,
and Gloria Doudoukjian
Robert & Arleen Drooby
Debbie & Frenchie Ekmalian
Helena Ekmalian
Krikor & Nancy Kassabian
Linda Kazanjian
Isabel Krempa
Ida & Sarkis Mihranian, Jr.
Mark Moroukian & Family
Toros Shamlan, Jr.
Chuck, Carol, Tanya, Reyna,
and Noah Tutunjian

LOOSAPER DONATIONS

Many thanks to all those (listed above) who participated in the **Loosaper Christmas/Holiday Greetings** program raising a total of \$530 in donations.

Thank you also to **Girard Kasparian (CA)** for his recent donation to help offset the costs associated with the printing and mailing of our church publication.

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)

12 Vocations Banquet

The booklet included messages and greetings from Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Primate, Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate, Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Pontifical Legate of the Armenian Church in Western Europe, as well as Fr. Mardiros Chevian, Dean of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary. Biographical backgrounds as well as messages from each of the 12 honored priests were highlighted in the booklet.

“Six decades ago, the notion of founding an Armenian Church seminary far from the homeland in the United States was considered naïve at best, foolhardy at worst. Today, Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan’s foresight has been amply demonstrated by the seminary’s abundant fruits: bishops, priests, and deacons trained at St. Nersess tirelessly serve the Armenian Church throughout the world, as lay men and women spiritually reared at the seminary care for God’s people through a multitude of Christian ministries. Veterans of the seminary’s pioneering youth programs, diverse educational offerings, and spiritual retreats are now the life-blood of our parishes.”

—Bishop Daniel Findikyan



photos by Dn. Diran Jebejian

When interviewed for the booklet, Fr. Stepanos was asked, “When do you feel closest to fulfilling your calling?” He replied, “I feel a closeness to God’s calling whenever I witness spiritual growth in others: a deepening of their faith journey with Jesus Christ. For that reason I thoroughly enjoy leading retreats. I feel the Holy Spirit upon me whenever I offer them.

During his interview for a special video presentation that was prepared, Fr. Stepanos remarked on his ministry at St. Peter Armenian Church. “This community here at St. Peter Armenian Church has such a big heart and that’s one of the things that I’ve been so impressed with over my time here. They’re loving people, they’re caring people, they’re compassionate people, and they’ve inspired me to do my ministry here. There’s no greater joy for me as a priest than to walk with my people in their life journey.”



Jonah, Fr. Stepanos & Yn. Paulette Doudoukjian
with Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Primate

Pastor's Message

Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian

What are your plans for the Summer of "22"

Three years ago, I was asked by our Primate, Bishop Daniel Findikyan, to be the St. Vartan Camp Director for Session C. For the past two years, camp sessions were conducted virtually because of the Covid-19 pandemic. While it was not ideal, the feeling of camp was conveyed even through Zoom. The anticipation of in-person camp sessions this summer is quite palpable for our staff, CITs, and campers. What a joy for all of us to be together!

This summer promises to be an exciting one for St. Vartan Camp at the Ararat Center in Greenville. I am excited to share my love for God, love for our Armenian youth, and love for our St. Vartan Camp. I have been involved with the camp programs, on and off, for the past 35 years.

I will be directing the 2-week Session C which begins on Sunday, July 31, and ends on Saturday, August 13. It would be wonderful to have as many of our youth as possible participate in this year's camp program. The age range for campers is 8-15 years old; for CITs (Counselors in Training) 16-17 years old; and camp staff must be age 18 and up.

Please share this summer's camp information (*see flyer on following page*) with anyone you know that is eligible to participate in the St. Vartan Camp program.

If you have any questions or thoughts, please reach out to me. And, I hope to see you at St. Vartan Camp this summer -- remember it's "Where faith, fun, and fellowship meet."

God's Blessings, Rev. Stepanos

St. Vartan Camp through the years . . .





SAINT VARTAN CAMP 2022



WHERE FAITH, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP MEET!

CAMPERS (ages 8-15) | CITs (ages 16-17) | STAFF (ages 18+)

STAFF TRAINING: JUNE 29 – JULY 2

SESSION A: JULY 3 – JULY 16

SESSION B: JULY 17 – JULY 30

SESSION C: JULY 31 – AUGUST 13

Questions? ✉ KathrynA@armeniandiocese.org ☎ 215-452-8322

REGISTER ONLINE: DiocesanSummerCamps.org

Church Organization News



ST. PETER WOMEN'S GUILD 2022 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Nancy Kassabian
Co-Chair

Sonya Moroukian
Co-Chair

Francine Kaiser
Treasurer

Zovig Ashjian
Assistant Treasurer

Charlene Hrachian
Recording Secretary

Advisors:
Valerie Demarest
Sharon Foley
Phyllis Jevanian
Claudia Suppa
Carol Tutunjian

Women's Guild

After a very successful Harvest Fest in October 2021, the members of the Women's Guild immediately started preparing for the Holiday Freezer Sale. We scheduled eight cooking sessions and made the usual beoregs (cheese as well as spinach/cheese), cheoreg, losh kebabs, and kufteh balls. We also offered some new items: Khoritzov katah, a cookie medley with six kinds of Armenian cookies, and a veggie stew. Lahmejune and Armenian string cheese were also available for purchase. All so delicious!! The Holiday Freezer Sale was a great success, even more successful than the year before! It takes a village to ensure success, including all the volunteers to help cook, package, keep track of food made and sold, runners, dishwashers, and, of course, purchasers!! Many thanks to all who support the Women's Guild events. We wish you all a very happy and healthy 2022!

On Sunday, November 14, the Women's Guild Annual General Membership Meeting was held at church after services. There was good attendance and so nice to see some new faces. The Parish Council prepared a delicious roast pork dinner with pilaf and fasoulia. The camaraderie was felt and enjoyed. Many thanks to the members of the Parish Council for the luncheon and for showing your appreciation for the Women's Guild!

During this General Membership Meeting, three members were nominated to the Executive Committee: Sharon Foley, Valerie Demarest, and Nancy Kassabian. Many thanks to Sue Dickinson who has served as treasurer for three years and as member of the Executive Committee for two additional two-year terms. Many thanks also to Charlotte Sevazlian for her service. In addition to her recent term of two years, Charlotte has served as chair twice, as co-chair, and as an advisor.

Women's Guild is focused on some additional projects, two of which are outreach and fellowship. Sharon has volunteered to lead the outreach initiatives and Valerie has volunteered to lead the fellowship activities.

Project Warmth was our first and very successful outreach project. The donated "warmth items" supplied each of five organizations (Joseph's House and Unity House in Troy, Equinox in Albany, Schenectady City Mission, and St. Paul's Center in Rensselaer) with two large bags full of hats, scarves, socks, mittens, and even some jackets! So many children, women, and men are a little warmer, and perhaps a little more hopeful in spirit, as we begin 2022. Thank you, Sharon, for your leadership and efforts; and thank you, Sonya, for the creation of such a lovely Mitten Tree and donation box. Many thanks especially to all who donated and made this project so successful.

Sharon Foley and Fran Kaiser deliver donated items to five local organizations.



Church Organization News

Women's Guild

The next St. Peter Women's Guild outreach project will be **"Soup Kitchen in a Can."** With winter still upon us, we want to help combat the frigid temps and food insecurity. Please consider donating can(s) of delicious and nutritious soup for this effort that will run through March 25. A donation box will be provided at the church or items can be dropped off by contacting the church office. For more information on this project or ideas for future projects, contact Women's Guild Outreach Coordinator, Sharon Foley.

Women's Guild has decided that there will be a Mother's Day Luncheon in 2022. Yn. Paulette has offered to chair this event and, through her efforts, the luncheon will occur on Saturday, May 7, at 11:00 a.m. at Paolo Lombardi's Ristorante in Wynantskill.

Election of the new 2022 Women's Guild Executive Committee was held on January 19 with the following results: Co-Chairs, Nancy Kassabian & Sonya Moroukian; Treasurer, Francine Kaiser; Assistant Treasurer, Zovig Ashjian; Secretary, Charlene Hrachian; Advisors: Valerie Demarest, Sharon Foley, Phyllis Jevanian, Claudia Suppa, and Carol Tutunjian.

Fran Kaiser, Chair

The St. Peter Women's Guild has participated in the Children of Armenia Sponsorship Program (CASP) for many years. We are happy to share the letter below recently received from our sponsored child. For information on CASP or to sponsor a child, visit www.farusa.org/casp.

Hello my dear! I am Lilia Bulbulyan, from the village of Goris region. I study in the 5th form, but let me say that I finished last year with a victory, received an honor certificate and was awarded the best prize "Bee" Armenian for everyone in the competition. I have received a number of gifts, but let me mention that the important thing is not the gifts, but the joy I felt in those moments.

This year I really liked Nature Studies from the subjects. I decided to study well because I want to become a pediatrician. I like to dance and sing, everyone says that I dance well and I am so flexible. Today, our classes are online. I am always ready to join my classes and my teachers are satisfied with me.

Living in a border zone, we are still trying to live a normal life. I feel pain for the loss of every Armenian soldier. I have 3 cousins who are serving for our homeland and fighting against the enemy in Artsakh. Every day I pray for them and others as well. I went to church and lit a candle for them and for you wishing a long and carefree life, health and prosperity.

Now my dream is all about peace in Armenia. We respect and love each other in family. My mother and grandfather do everything for me. I love them a lot. I want to be grateful that you are by my side.



**Donate cans of soup
to the church
through March 25
for the Women's Guild
outreach program**

**SOUP KITCHEN
IN A CAN**



Lilia Bulbulyan
sponsored CASP child
from the village of
Goris region



**St. Peter Women's Guild
members and friends volunteer
for the 2021 Freezer Sale
at the cookie baking day on
Saturday, November 6**

Church Organization News

The Friendly Beasts *translated by Robert Davis*

Jesus our brother,
strong and good,
Was humbly born
in a stable rude,
And the friendly beasts
around Him stood,
Jesus our brother,
strong and good.

I, said the donkey
shaggy and brown,
I carried His mother
up hill and down,
I carried her safely to
Bethlehem town;
I, said the donkey
shaggy and brown.

I, said the cow
all white and red,
I gave Him my manger
for His bed,
I gave Him my hay
to pillow His head;
I, said the cow
all white and red.

I, said the sheep
with curly horn,
I gave Him my wool
for His blanket warm,
He wore my coat
on Christmas morn;
I, said the sheep
with curly horn.

I, said the dove,
from the rafters high,
Cooed Him to sleep
that He should not cry;
We cooed Him to sleep,
my mate and I;
I, said the dove,
from rafters high.

Thus all the beasts,
by some good spell,
In the stable dark
were glad to tell
Of the gifts
they gave Emmanuel;
The gifts they gave
Emmanuel.

Sunday School

The St. Peter Armenian Church Sunday School began the school year by meeting twice a month on Sunday mornings starting September 26 through December 19, 2021; ending the first half of the school year with a brief Christmas presentation called "The Friendly Beasts."



***"And the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus, our brother, strong and good."***

The 1st-3rd grades, led by Lena Guleserian-Hoglund and Katrina Mayba, had a lot of fun the first half of the year! We learned about how the Holy Trinity is three persons in one: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. As we moved into the Thanksgiving season, our little ones talked about all the things in our everyday lives that we can thank God for - our families, our health, a sunny day, and most importantly - our Church! The children enjoyed learning about the first Christmas and even played out the wonderful scene with the poem, "The Friendly Beasts," which was a different take on the traditional story about how the animals contributed to Jesus' birth and brought their own "gifts." We're looking forward to the second half of the year and we hope you can come join us as we continue learning about our Armenian faith!

The High School class, led by Sean McMullan and Chuck Tutunjian, learned about the Nicene Creed and the birth of Jesus.

Please stay tuned for more upcoming classes as we get ready for the second half of the year. As always, we encourage and welcome your child to participate at any time as they continue to be a part of a new generation of memories!

Alice McMullan, Sunday School Superintendent

Train up a child
**in the way he should go and when he is old
he will not depart from it.**

Church Organization News

Armenian School

Families were invited by the St. Peter Armenian School for an afternoon of apple and pumpkin picking at Indian Ladder Farms on Sunday, October 24. This was a wonderful outdoor activity enjoyed by the many who attended.

(Group picture below)



Gaghamt Baba visits again on Zoom! On Friday January 9, 2022, the St Peter Armenian school celebrated Armenian Christmas and the New Year again this year on Zoom. More than 75 attendees watched our students recite and sing while waiting for the arrival of their beloved Gaghamt Baba.

The opening prayer and blessing was offered by Der Gomidas Baghsarian, Pastor of Holy Cross Armenian Church (Troy). Aileen Dadekian sang “Թող հնչեն շաւղեր” (Let the Bells Ring), Jackie Kubikian sang “Տեւք սիրուն Ծննդեան ծար” (Gloria), and Armen, Satenig, Gregory, and Matheos Amirbekian presented “Ամանորի զօգուն զաւղեր” (The Bells of the New Year) while the group sang “Լուռ գիշեր” (Silent Night).



Each student presented their wishes for the New Year most especially asking for a healthy year and the end of the pandemic. After a taped interview on Zoom with Santa earlier in the program, the honorary guest of the program Gaghamt Baba (Patrick Kayayan) arrived through the snowy roads of the mountains of Armenia, carrying with him gifts and his promised “koefte”, specially made by Gaghamt Mama (the St Peter Women’s Guild). This year’s gifts were Christmas tree decorations of the Armenian letter initials of each student.

Raffi & Angelina Rejebian holding this year’s Armenian School Gaghamt Baba gift, their Armenian initials.

After the final prayer and well wishes from Der Stepanos Doudoukjian, the program concluded with The Lord’s Prayer. Many of the attendees expressed their heartfelt wishes and thanks to the students, teachers, and organizers of this beautiful program. The Armenian School thanks all those who attended and encourages our students to continue their learning of our beautiful language and culture.

*Dr. Ara Kayayan,
Armenian School Vice Principal*

Church Organization News

ACYOA

Christmas Cookies, Christmas Cheer, and Christmas Outreach! Our ACYOA Srs. & Jrs. (youth groups) gathered on Sunday, December 5 to bake and decorate homemade Christmas cookies. The cookies were packaged in Christmas tins and boxes and delivered, along with a Christmas message and card, to bring Christmas cheer to many in the church community. During the cookie-making activity, a thought-provoking discussion was held on the meaning of Christmas, comparing it from a secular perspective to a Christian perspective. A special thank you to all who participated and especially to Yn. Paulette and Mary Yegoryan for their guidance, direction, and assistance.



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 evening sessions available **Monday-Friday at 6:00pm**. 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: *Shakeh Assadourian, Liliana Basmajian, Judy Bedian, Linda Bedian, Diana Bourghol, Nadya Boyadjian (NJ), Nectar Derian, and Aline Jamgotchian (NJ)*. To date, \$6,505 has been raised thanks to all the participants and donors with special thanks to Maria for her boundless energy and dedication to health and fitness and to her St. Peter Armenian Church.

To date, over 570 classes have been offered and this March will mark two years since they began when all church services and programs were paused due to the pandemic. These classes continue to be well-attended and offer, not only physical fitness, but spiritual fitness as well. Each class begins with a prayer and a scripture reading to enlighten the heart and soul as well as the body. Contact Maria at dmgd2797ny@nycap.rr.com or the church office for information on how to join in for fun and fitness.

A group outing is being planned for a trip to St. Nektarios Monastery in Roscoe, NY, this May. Visit <https://www.stnektariosmonastery.org> to learn more about St. Nektarios Monastery. Further details on this trip will be announced in the near future or contact Maria for more information.

Church Organization News

Adult Christian Education 2022 Spring Semester

The 2022 Spring semester of the Adult Christian Education program offered by the Vemkar team of the Diocese began on February 1. Classes are offered Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm via Zoom. Participants can join at any time. This program offers the opportunity to learn about the theology and teachings of the Armenian Church. To register or for more information about this program, visit vemkar.us.

- February 1: "Introduction" *led by Dr. Abraham Terian*
- February 8: "The Joy and Delight of Psalm 51" *led by Bishop Daniel Findikyan*
- February 15: "Beyond Mercy: An exploration of Voghormoutiun in the Armenian Tradition" *led by Dn. Yervant Kutchukian*
- February 22: "Lent: Preparing for War" *led by Fr. Ghevond Ajamian*
- March 1: "Arevakal: The Service of the Rising Son" *led by Fr. Haroutiun Sabounjian*
- March 8: "Holy Week Through Holy Art" *led by Fr. Garabed Kochakian*
- March 15: "The Spirituality of Fasting" *led by Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan*
- March 22: "Ecotheology and its Relevance in the Armenian Church Context" *led by Dn. Alex Calikyan*
- March 29: "The Hymn of Thanksgiving" *led by Rhonda Boyajian*
- April 5: "The Ministry of Presence" *led by Dn. Adam Bullock*
- April 12: NO CLASS (Holy Week)
- April 19: "Job's Job During Lent" *led by Arpi Nakashian*
- April 26: "Resurrecting our Sufferings" *led by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian*

Zoom Reflections

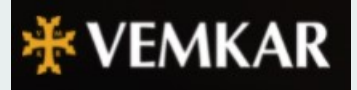
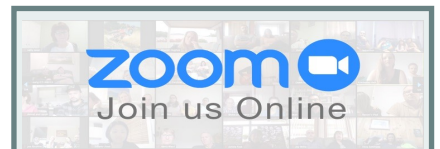
Fr. Stepanos continues to offer a 30-minute weekly reflection on most Thursdays at 12:30pm through Zoom. In addition to referencing the book "Wave Therapy: Reflections by the Sea," scripture and Armenian prayers are also incorporated to enhance these discussions. If you have 30 minutes to spare on any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

Pray Without Ceasing Zoom Group

This Prayer Group continues to meet every other Friday morning through Zoom at 10:30am. 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.

*"... The prayer
of the righteous
is powerful
and effective."*

—James 5:16



Adult Christian Education

Tuesdays @ 7:00pm

Vemkar's Adult Christian Education is an online live session program that shepherds the faithful of the Armenian Church into mature disciples of Christ. Every Tuesday from February 1 to April 26, a session will be held by an expert member of our Diocesan body concerning all aspects of adult Christian life. Bring your Bible, a prayerful attitude, and let us all build in our knowledge of Christ!

Zoom Reflections

Thursdays @ 12:30pm

Pray Without Ceasing

Fridays @ 10:30am

February 18

March 4 & 18

April 1, 15 & 29



Parish Community News

Sacraments and Rites



During the sacrament of baptism, Godparents are asked the following question:

“What does this child request?”

The Godparents answer on the child’s behalf:

“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

Charlotte Elizabeth O’Keefe, daughter of Daniel & Alexandra (Pomato) O’Keefe, on December 11, 2021. Godfather, Matthew O’Keefe; Godmother, Jennifer O’Keefe; Celebrant, Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian.

Marriage

Yervant Hagop Bardakjian, son of Hagop & Souralla (Terouz) Bardakjian, and **Kirsten Vaughn (Doherty) Alaia**, daughter of J. Craig & Cynthia (Stone) Doherty, were married at St. Peter Armenian Church on January 21, 2022. Godfather, Hagop Minassian; Maid of Honor, Bianca Rambidis; Celebrant, Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian.

Funerals

Joanne C. Hartunian entered her eternal rest on November 20, 2021. She is survived by her son, Richard (Beth) Hartunian and her daughter, Patricia (Joseph) O’Keefe; seven grandchildren, Daniel (Alexandra), Matthew, Christopher and Jennifer O’Keefe, and Joseph (Megan Cheney), John, and James Hartunian; a great granddaughter, Charlotte Elizabeth O’Keefe; and many nieces and nephews. Joanne was predeceased by her husband, Joseph Hartunian, and her daughter, Lynne Hartunian. A private funeral service for the family was conducted at St. Peter Armenian Church by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on November 24.

Vahe “Vic” Shahinian entered his eternal rest on November 24, 2021. Former owner of Roxy Cleaners in Brunswick, Vic is survived by his wife, Vickie Shahinian; two daughters, Tamar & Nora Shahinian; and two brothers, Ara Shahinian and Shahes (Lynn) Shahinian. The funeral service was conducted at St. Peter Armenian Church by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on November 29.

Barbara J. Anigian entered her eternal rest on December 5, 2021. She is survived by her children, Vanessa, Kevin, Kenny, Larry, Mark, and Veronica; several grandchildren and great grandchildren; and many loving relatives and friends. Barbara is predeceased by her husband, Lawrence G. Anigian, and daughters, Vickie and Valerie. Vickie A graveside service was conducted at St. Patrick’s Cemetery in Watervliet by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on December 17.

Marie Banjarjian entered her eternal rest on January 29, 2022. She is survived by her children, Berjouhi (Fouad) Shamounian, Euganie (Dickran) Aposhian, Misaak (Salpy) Nalbandian, Vahe (Salpy) Nalbandian, Harout (Lizette) Nalbandian, and Setrak (Talin) Nalbandian; a daughter-in-law; 20 grandchildren; and 17 great grandchildren. A private funeral service for the family was conducted at St. Peter Armenian Church by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian on February 2, 2022.

Hokehankist (Requiem Service)

NOVEMBER 7, 2021:

- All Armenians who perished in the fall of Cilicia in 1920 as requested by St. Peter Armenian church clergy, Parish Council, parishioners, and friends; Armenians of Aintab.
- Sarah Natcharian (Twentieth Anniversary); Philip Natcharian; Alice & Tom Wildman; Naomi Natcharian; Nazaret & Zarouhy Natcharian; Gorken Melikian; Varaztad & Arevnaz Soultanian; Archie Soultanian; Sara Matulwicz; and Nevart & Haroutiun Nazaretian as requested by Matthew & Lisa Natcharian & Family (CT); Michael Natcharian; Martin & Janice Toomajian & Family; Haig Soultanian & Anahid Ounanian; and Richard & Sonia Matulwicz & Family (RI).

NOVEMBER 21, 2021:

- Mariam Boyajian (40-Day Memorial - Karasoonk); Harout Boyajian as requested by Leza & Vartan Karayan.

Parish Community News

Sacraments and Rites

NOVEMBER 21, 2021: *(continued)*

- **Jeanine DerOhannesian** (First Anniversary - Dareleetz); **Paul DerOhannesian; Arsen & Makrouhi DerOhannesian; Frances B. Vliek** *as requested by Paul & Melissa DerOhannesian & Family.*
- **Polly & Vahe Moroukian; Rose Moroukian; Vartanus Uzar** *as requested by Alice & Charles Chorbajian; Virginia Mahserjian.*
- **Agnes Wiswall** *as requested by the Parish Council, clergy, parishioners, and friends of St. Peter Armenian Church.*
- **Our faithful departed Forefathers and Benefactors of St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church for whom Church Memorials have been established** (Names are listed on a separate page in this issue.)

DECEMBER 19, 2021:

- **Sirarpi & Karnik Babikian** *as requested by the Clergy, Parish Council, parishioners and friends of St. Peter Armenian Church.*
- **Ghevont & Anna Chorbajian** *as requested by Herb & Linda Chorbajian & Family; Charles & Alice Chorbajian.*
- **Carney & Charlotte Postoian** *as requested by Herb & Linda Chorbajian & Family.*
- **James & Nancy Hachigian; Sarkis & Helhna Hachigian; Dorothy (Hachigian) Tammian; Lucy (Hachigian) Ohanian; Mary Hachigian; Ardaches Ekmalian; Vartanouch (Ekmalian) Kalustian; Jirayr & Ann Hachigian; Jean (Frenchie) Ekmalian (Thirty-Fourth Anniversary); Henry & Silva Haroyan; Paul Ekmalian; Michael Kurkjian; Joseph Mardigian; Sarkis & Sonia Hachigian; John & Betty Howard; Joseph Grandato; Girard Hachigian; Jack Hachigian; Harry & Virginia Dolab; Harry & Elsie Mardigian; George & Lucy Krikorian; Gary & Patricia Krikorian; Edward Ekmalian; George Hachigian; Aurora L. (Ekmalian) Herrero** *as requested by Chorbajian, Ekmalian & Hachigian Families; Ara & Rachel Altounian.*
- **Lynne Carol Hartunian and the other 269 victims of Pan Am Flight #103 who died in the terrorist bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, on December 21, 1988 (Thirty-Third Anniversary)** *as requested by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hartunian & Family; Mr. & Mrs. Joseph O'Keefe & Family.*
- **Murad Khalaf** (Fourth Anniversary) *as requested by Mary Karayan & Family.*
- **Alice Moroukian; Hampartzoom & Vartanoush MedzMoroukian** *as requested by R. Paul & Sonya Moroukian & Family; Laura Clark & Family; Pamela Moroukian.*
- **William & Betty Jane Nevins** *as requested by Lenore Nevins.*
- **Khoren & Vergine Ohanesian** *as requested by the Ohanesian Family.*
- **Mary Shanks** (Seventh Anniversary on December 18); **Jimmie B. Shanks** *as requested by Mary P. Shanks.*
- **Michael & Berdjouhi Stepanian; Nishan & Helen Stepanian; Edward & Cleo Stepanian; John Dakasian; Anahid & Hrar Simonian; Alice Mazian; Peter Mazian; Sarkis & Sonia Hachigian** *as requested by Isabel Krempa.*
- **Ralph Vartigian** (Sixth Anniversary); **Ann Vartigian** (Fifteenth Anniversary) *as requested by Deborah Erlandson & Family (NJ); David & Susan Vartigian & Family; Daniel & Karen Vartigian & Family; Elizabeth Osganian; Mr. & Mrs. Richard Osganian; Bertha Kazanjian (MA).*

JANUARY 2, 2022:

- **Sally & Charles Ovian** (Fifth Anniversary) *as requested by Marie & Jack Saroyan & Family (CA); Alysia & Greg Ekiqian & Family (FL).*

In Loving Memory



"O Christ, Son of God, forebearing 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



Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers were donated on Sunday, December 19, by **Daniel & Karen Varitigan** *in memory of Ralph & Ann Vartigian*.

Christmas Wreaths decorating the Altar area for the Christmas season were donated by **John (Frenchie) & Debbie Ekmalian** *in memory of Chorbajian, Ekmalian, Hachigian & Moroukian Families*.

The Christmas Tree in the sanctuary for the Christmas season is donated by the **Mahserjian Family**.

Poinsettias decorating the church for the Christmas season have been donated by the following: **Herb & Linda Chorbajian** *in memory of Ghevont & Anna Chorbajian and Carney & Charlotte Postoian*; **Marion Jaffarian** *in memory of Paul Jaffarian and the Jaffarian Family*; **Isabel Krempa** *in memory of loved ones*; **Ida & Sarkis Mihranian, Jr.**

Altar Candles

Altar Candles were donated on Christmas Eve, December 24, by **David & Lori (Payette) Belemjian** *in memory of Edward & Virginia Belemjian*.

Those we remember on this Day of Memorials ~ November 21, 2021

Our Faithful Departed Forefathers and Benefactors of

St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church for Whom Church Memorials have been Established.

CLERGY OF THE PARISH:

REV VAHRAM MISIRLIAN,
VERY REV DRIPOUN BEDZAKIAN,
VERY REV LEVONT MARTOOGESSIAN,
VERY REV DIRYRE MARKARIAN,
REV BEDROS VARTANIAN,
REV SAHAG DERBEDROSIAN,
VERY REV STEPAN VARTANIAN,
REV YEGHISHE KALCHUNJIAN,
REV NISHAN PAPAZIAN,
REV YEGHISHE KASPARIAN,
REV LEVONT PAROUNAGIAN,
REV VAHAN GULDALIAN,
REV VARTAN DERASSADOURIAN,
ARCHBISHOP PAPKEN VARJABEDIAN,
VERY REV MESROB SEMERJIAN,
ARCHBISHOP HMayak INTOYAN,
REV GAREN GDANIAN

GODFATHERS/GODMOTHER OF THE PARISH:

APKAR APKARIAN, SARKIS M. ARKELL,
ALBERT AVAKIAN, KARNIK BABIKIAN,
JAMES DICHIAN, ARMANAC GAROOGIAN,
PAUL JAFFARIAN, EDWARD KAZANJIAN,
MICHAEL KOSHGARIAN,
R. PAUL MOROUKIAN, SR.,
VOZCAN L. PARSESIAN, JOHN TAMAMIAN,
CELIA VARTIGIAN, THEODORE SAPINO

DEACONS & CHOIR MEMBERS:

MARY KIZIRIAN, GARY URAM, HAROUTYOUN
MINASSIAN, JACK GULDALIAN,
LUCY HACHIGIAN OHANIAN,
CHARLES OUNJIAN, MARY HACHIGIAN,
ROSEMARY KAPRIELIAN KRIKORIAN,

DEACONS & CHOIR MEMBERS (continued):

MARY KIZIRIAN, GARY URAM, HAROUTYOUN
MINASSIAN, JACK GULDALIAN,
LUCY HACHIGIAN OHANIAN,
CHARLES OUNJIAN, MARY HACHIGIAN,
ROSEMARY KAPRIELIAN KRIKORIAN,
ALICE KARAGEOZIAN, ELIZABEL GOEBEL,
VERGINE OHANESIAN, HARRY VARTIGIAN,
ROSE GULDALIAN,
NEVART VARTANESIAN KOUZOUIAN,
SHAHE PANJARJIAN, ADRENA URAM,
SETA DEGERMENJIAN,
ANTRANIG MALKONIAN,
EDWARD BELEMJIAN, HRANT BARDAKJIAN,
SARAH (KENOSIAN) HRACHIAN,
HAMPARTSOUM KARAGEOZIAN

ARMENIANS OF AINTAB

ALICE & DICKRAN AMMIAN
SARKIS & BEATRICE ARAKEL
ROBERT & MARY ASADORIAN
BERJ & PARIS AVAKIAN
HARRY, JOHN, MARGARET, BERTHA and
ALBERT AVAKIAN

KARNIG & SIRARPI BABIKIAN

GEORGE A. BAKER
JOHN BALIAN
VARTAVAR & ARAM BALIAN
DN. HRANT BARDAKJIAN
YERVANT & ARCHALOUYCE BARONIAN
JACOB & MARY BELEMJIAN
EDWARD & VIRGINIA C. BELEMJIAN
LEO BUCHAKJIAN and
MARGARET (BUCHAKJIAN) WILSEY

Those we remember on this Day of Memorials ~ November 21, 2021
Our Faithful Departed Forefathers and Benefactors of
St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church for Whom Church Memorials have been Established
(continued)

SETH & VICTORIA CHICHAKIAN
 GHEVONT & ANNA CHORBAJIAN
 KENNETH CHORBAJIAN
 ALICE & HUGO DEMARTINO
 DICRAN & MARY DERARAKELIAN
 ARSEN & MAKROUHI DEROHANNESIAN
 PAUL & JEANNINE DEROHANNESIAN
 FLORENCE DERATZIAN AVAKIAN and
 LEONA DERATZIAN
 VIRGINIA M. & JAMES DICHIAN
 HAGOP & AZNIV DJEHIZIAN
 MIREILLE DJEHIZIAN
 AVAK, HACHADOOR, AZNIV & MARY ESSEPIAN
 DR. JOHN P. & DORIS (TYSINGER) ESSEPIAN
 RICHARD S. & SARAH FARASHIAN
 ROSE (ARTINIAN) FOLEY
 HARRY, JOHN & ARMENAG GAROOGIAN
 GAROOGIAN & MEGERDICHIAN FAMILIES
 FR. GAREN & YN. ISABELLE GDANIAN
 SIRAGAN & AROUSIAG GERAGOSIAN
 ANGEL & HRANT GEVREKIAN
 STEPHAN, MARIAM & OHANESS GHAZARIAN
 SARKIS & SONIA HACHIGIAN
 EDWARD HARTUNIAN
 JOSEPH HARTUNIAN
 LYNNE C. HARTUNIAN
 ZAVEN & ELIZE HOVANESSIAN
 HARAZAD & NECTAR HRACHIAN
 SUREN & SARAH (KENOSIAN) HRACHIAN
 SARKIS & SIRANOUSH JABIAN
 MARY JAFFARIAN
 PAUL JAFFARIAN
 TOROS, AGHAVNI & VIRGINIA JAFFARIAN
 JOHN & HALINA (LIPINSKI) KACHARIAN
 HENRY & ANNA (KENOSIAN) KAISER
 JOHN & NEVART KARIAN
 DICRAN & ARSHALOOS KASPIAN
 ANDREW & SARAH KAZANJIAN
 ARTHUR & VIRGINIA KAZANJIAN
 KAPRIEL & AGHAVNI KAZANJIAN
 LEO & ROSINE KAZANJIAN
 ASADOOR, SARAH, SATENIG & GRACE KENOSIAN
 GREGORY SR, KATHRYN & GREGORY JR KENOSIAN
 MARGARET & YERANOS KENOSIAN
 MARTIN KENOSIAN
 BYZAR & OSKIAN KILIDJIAN
 KURKEN V. KIRK
 MISSAK, AGNES, JOHN, JACK & CHARLES KOCHIAN
 KRIKOR & ZAKIA KORKUNIAN
 MICHAEL, MARY, ROSEMARY and
 GEORGE KOSHGARIAN
 HAGOP, AZNIV & ROSE KOUMJIAN
 KARNIG & EDWARD KOURBETIAN
 GEORGE MAHSERIAN

HARRY, HELEN & HRANT MARDEROSIAN
 STEVE & ENZA MATIGIAN
 PAYLIG & VAHE MEDZMOROUKIAN
 ROBERT MEESON
 VARTAN, RACHEL, LOOSAPER and
 GEORGE MEGHREBLIAN
 GRACE, THOMAS & JOHN MICHIOIAN
 MIHRAN & ALICE MOORADIAN
 MARK & ROSANNE MOROUKIAN
 NICHON & SARAH MOROUKIAN
 PAUL & ALICE E. MOROUKIAN
 ROSE MOROUKIAN
 SARKIS & ANNE MOROUKIAN
 NAOMI NATCHARIAN
 NAZARET & ZAROUHI NATCHARIAN
 PHILIP & SARAH NATCHARIAN
 AGHAJAN & VERKINE NAZARIAN
 MARJORIE NAZARIAN
 SHOUSHANIG & MARDIROS NAZARIAN
 LUCY OSGANIAN, OSGANIAN & SHEKERJIAN FAMILIES
 MARGARET PAPARIAN
 SAVERIO & ANNA (VARTIGIAN) PASCAZIO
 HAGOP & MARY (NAZARIAN) PATOUKIAN
 CARNEY & CHARLOTTE POSTOIAN
 JORGE T. & MARION T. QUIROGA
 MAYRANUSH & MIHRAN SAATJIAN
 HARRY & MARGARET SAKALIAN
 GEORGE, DAVID & MARTHA SARKISIAN
 HARRY T. SHAMLIAN
 TOROS, SR. & MARY SHAMLIAN
 GARABED SHEPIRTIGIAN
 HOVONESS, PYLOON, JERRY & SGT. JAMES SIMONIAN
 JENNIFER & ADAM SIMONIAN
 GARABED & LUCY P. SOGOIAN
 LEVON SOGOIAN
 ADOOR & MARY TABAKIAN
 HARRY, NOURITZA & ROXY TABLAIAN
 YEGHISHE & ELIZA TABLAIAN
 HENRY & FAY TALARICO
 ELIZABETH, DOROTHY, GEORGE, VAHAN and
 JOHN TAMAMIAN
 CHARLES R. & MARY B. TASHJIAN
 JOHN, ASTGIG & PHILIP TASHJIAN
 VARTAN G. TELIAN
 JAMES, VICTORIA & PAUL WAYNE TELLALIAN
 HOVAGIM & ARMENOUHI THOMASIAN
 KHOREN & SHOUSHANIG TORIGIAN
 KEVORK & SETA TOROSSIAN
 SHAHNAZAR & LUCY TUTUNJIAN
 ANN & RALPH VARTIGIAN
 CECILIA VARTIGIAN, VARTIGIAN and
 BOYAJIAN FAMILIES
 THOMAS & ALICE (NATCHARIAN) WILDMAN
 LOUSENTAG ZAKARIAN
 VAHAN & ALICE ZARIFIAN

In Lieu of Flowers

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

In memory of JULIE GARABEDIAN

Ellen Khachadourian

NEW TOTAL: \$2,145

In memory of JOANNE HARTUNIAN

Andrew & Deborah Aiezza
Gerald Arzoumanian
Linda Bedian
Richard & Lisa Bruno
Edward & Kathy Carangelo
Mr/Mrs Charles Chorbajian
Doris & John Cory (CT)
Garo & Maria Derian & Family
Larry & Wendy Farsakian (IL)
Amy Geragosian Fox
Michael Geragosian
Edward J. Hartunian
Joyce Hunt-Bouyea
Francine Kaiser
Ron & Terri Kaiser
Bertha Kazanjian (MA)
Levon & Karen Khachadourian
Donald Kinsella
Peter & Marlene Koshgarian
Isebel Krempa
Lorri & Michael McCarthy & Family
R. Paul & Sonya Moroukian
Terry & Mike O'Keefe
Michael & Eydie Pridavka (WI)
John Saburro
Mr/Mrs Harry Shamlian
Todd Slingerland
Dorann Stagnita
Elena, Liz & Nick Thomas
Edward & Adrina Tutunjian
Esther Viggiani

Rosemary Ammian
Janelle Baderian & Family (MD)
Donald & Rhonda Boyajian
Patricia Bucklin
Caruso Family
Bernadette Cipperly
Richard & Patricia Daboll
Robert & Arleen Drooby
Lonna Fenaughty & Jeff
Roswita Fragomeni
John Halebian
Mary Hartunian
Frank & Diane Iannone
Mr/Mrs Leon Kaiser
Linda Kazanjian
Marie Keenan and
Liam Tobin & Family
Catherine Knauer
Mary Anne Koshgarian (IL)
Bob & Kathy Littlefield
Ida & Sarkis Mihranian, Jr.
Niskayuna High School
Joyce Burke Paff
William Rainbolt
George & Joanne Scaringe
Toros Shamlian, Jr.
Susan Sogoian
Teal, Becker & Chiamonte
Susan & Patrick Touhey
Mr/Mrs Charles Tutunjian
Guy & Lucy Vozzy

The Anderson Group, LLC
Ara & Nancy Balian & Family (MA)
Judy Brennan (CA)
Paul & Maureen Cagino
John Chiamonte
Mary Lou Ciulla (NJ)
Richard DeMartino & Barbara Derian
Frenchie & Debbie Ekmalian
Daniel Ferris
Lorraine Geragosian
Lisa Kazanjian Harootunian (RI)
Barbara Hrachian
E. Stewart Jones, Jr. and
Kimberly Sanger Jones
Edward K. & Nirva Kazanjian and
Family (MA)
Edward King
Grace Koshgarian
Koshgarian Family (CT)
Paula & Bernard Malone
Mary Minassian
Cheryl Ohanesian
Mary Panjarjian
Sandra Sabonjian (CA)
Lorraine Schindler
Kathi & Matt Shortell
Brenda Sonnes & Steven Clymer
Nancy & John Thomas (CA)
Brian Turoff & Allison Gotfried
Kristin Usaitis

TOTAL: \$8,020

In memory of RUSSELL J. KILIDJIAN

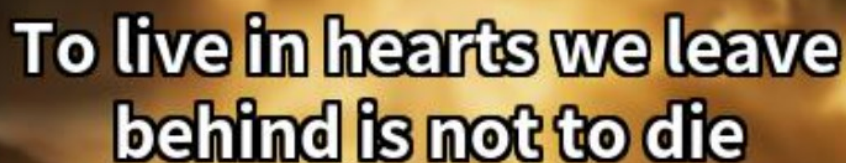
Michael & Sue Kilijian (CA)

NEW TOTAL: \$2,045

In memory of CAROL MATTOZZA

Grace Koshgarian

TOTAL: \$50



**To live in hearts we leave
behind is not to die**

~ Thomas Campbell (1777-1844)

CHRISTMAS 2021/2022 (Yughakin)

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

Mr/Mrs Kirkor Agopyan	Garyn & Brian A'Hearn	Vartouhi Allehverdi
Rosemary Ammian	Richard & Joan Ammian (FL)	Anonymous
Brian Apkarian	Helga Apkarian	Aram A. Atashian
Dr. A. Nancy Avakian	Nazar Bakerian	Judge Albert & Alice Barsamian
George & Elsie Bedrosian	Peter & Patty Boorujy (NJ)	Holly Chenaille
Mr/Mrs Charles Chorbajian	Gil & Bridgette Chorbajian & Family	Michael & Joanne Coogan & Family
Adrienne Daniels	Richard DeMartino and	Paul Dichian
Suzanne Dickinson	Barbara Derian	Marguerite Djehizian
Fr. Stepanos & Paulette	Frenchie & Debbie Ekmalian	Alain C. Ekmalian (CA)
Doudoukjian & Family	Ralph & Elizabeth Enokian	Arpy Ernest
Roswita Fragomeni	Mary Hartunian	Mr/Mrs Richard Hartunian
Stephen Hrachian	Andrew & Virginia Hyra	Charles & Delia Israelian
Marion Jaffarian	Vartan & Lynne Jerian	Phyllis Jevanian
Francine Kaiser	Mr/Mrs Leon Kaiser	Mary Kalteux
Marilyn Kasparian	Murat Kasparian	Girard Kasparian (CA)
Krikor & Nancy Kassabian	Chake Kazandjian	Hagop Kazanjian
Linda Kazanjian	Sandra Kilidjian	Catherine Knauer
Nadia & Jeff Knorr	Michael & Dianne Koshgarian	Arthur & Shigeko Koshkorian (VA)
Isabel Krempa	Steven Krempa	<i>in memory of Michael, Mary, George, and</i>
Irina & Slava Kyaruns	Marylinn Markarian	<i>Rosemary Koshgarian</i>
Christopher Martin	Will & Shelley Martin	Sean & Alice McMullan
Sally Mahserjian McNeff	Ida & Sarkis Mihranian, Jr.	David & Carmen Minassian
Mary Minassian	Mr/Mrs Robert Moroukian	Shirley Moroukian
John & Karen Nevins	Elsie Nigohosian (PA)	Elizabeth Osganian
Mary Panjarjian	Florence Paparian	Helen Paparian
Kevork Parseghian	Rita Petithory (MA)	Richard Roomian
Mr/Mrs George Scaringe	Levon Sedefian	Toros Shamlan, Jr.
Carole Kazanjian Smith (FL)	Lucille Sogoian	Susan Sogoian
<i>in memory of Dolly & Arthur Kazanjian</i>	Hariton Sprinceanu	Artin & Mary Sukljian
Anita Sunukjian	Brenda M. Torosian	Mr/Mrs Charles Tutunjan
Matthew Vallee	Mr/Mrs Joseph Vartanesian (NC)	Mr/Mrs Gary Vartanian
<i>in honor of Rosemary Ammian</i>	Marian Varteresian (MA)	Daniel Vartigian
Patty Vartigian	Mr/Mrs Augustus Vozzy	

TOTAL: \$6,135

Yughakin: What does it mean?



It is customary in the Armenian Church to provide *Yughakin* especially around the feasts of Christmas and Easter. This practice dates as far back as the time of Moses in the Old Testament. *Yughakin* in Armenian means “price of oil” ~ “*Yugh*” meaning oil and “*kin*” meaning price. Each local church community would donate money specially earmarked towards the purchase of oil, which in return would keep the lanterns burning and ultimately the doors open of the church. Of course, today we do not have oil-burning lanterns in church; however, we do have gas heat, electricity and other essential operating expenses. Thank you again to all those who helped keep the St. Peter Armenian Church “lanterns burning” during the Christmas season.

***Remember St. Peter
Armenian Church in your will!***

Special Donations



Stewardship is giving
from your heart.
Giving as you
have been blessed.

Giving back
to our church
originates from
our grateful
and generous heart.

Give as you have received!

Why we give . . .

C.S. Lewis on

Christian Charity

“Charity - giving to the poor - is an essential part of Christian morality... I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditures on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc. is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small.”

Stewardship Gifts

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

- Dr. & Mrs. Vardan Amirbekian
- Mark Anigian & Family
- Richard Blanco (CA)
- Richard & Valerie Buchakjian
- Dr. Neil Devejian
- From the estate of Louise Devejian
- Mr. & Mrs. Charles Doudoukjian (DE)
- John & Katherine Doudoukjian (SC)
- Joyce Kenosian
- Charles Mahserjian
- Sam Mahserjian
- Christophe T. Moore
- Aram Terchunian & Lise Frielinghaus *in memory of Seta & Kevork Torossian*
- Megan Vallee

Thank You

TOTAL: \$ 7,995

Additional Donations

Additional donations in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Consecration of the church as well as the 25th Anniversary of Fr. Stepanos' ordination to the priesthood were received from the following:

- Paul Dichian
- Lisa Kazanjian Harootunian & Lauren Harootunian (RI)
- Mahserjian Family
- Ovsanna Mooradian *in memory of R. Mibran Mooradian*
- Florence Paparian
- Rosemary Wieczorek (WI)

NEW TOTAL: \$ 20,850.17*

**These funds are earmarked to be used for the renovation to the entryway of the church which is currently being researched. More information on this project will be announced in the near future.*

Donations totaling \$350 were received in a special plate collection on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2021, for the **Pastor's Discretionary Fund**. Thank you to all those who made contributions to assist those in need throughout the year, as well as all those who made contributions to the Pastor's Fund for **Operation St. Nicholas** to assist those in need during the holiday season.

Thank you to the **St. Peter Women's Guild** for making their annual contribution to the General Fund in the amount of \$16,000.

Thank you to **Catherine Knauer** who donated new music stands for the choir.



*Share the Love
of Christ*

The Annual Parish Assembly

is scheduled to be held following services on
Sunday, March 6, 2022
in the Gdanian Auditorium

- ◆ All parishioners should make every effort to attend and be part of the discussions.
- ◆ All dues-paying members in good standing for 2021 are encouraged to participate and cast their votes.

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!

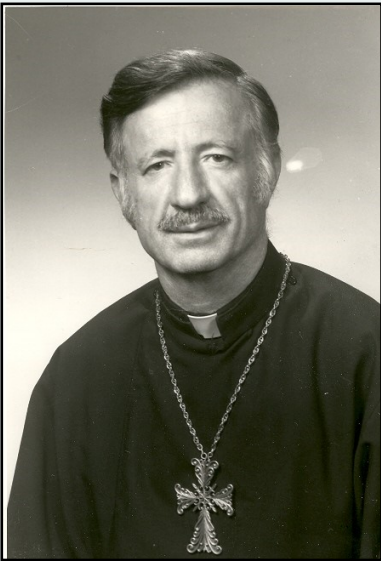


THE TOPICS

Election of
Officers

2022 Budget

Entryway
Renovation
Project



This message is shared from chapter 2 of the 1997 published book of short sermons by our beloved pastor emeritus, Rev. Fr. Garen Gdanian.

ԱՅՍՕՐ

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ԳԱՄ

Կարճ Քարոզներ

Գրեց

**“Today I Will
Come to Your
House”**

Short sermons
written by
Archpriest Garen
Gdanian

ԱՐԱՐԼԻՔ ԶԵՉ ՍԻՐՏ ՆՈՐ ԵՒ ՈԳԻ ՆՈՐ

“Ով ժողովուրդ, կ'ուզեմ որ ձեր անձին մէջ նոր սիրտ եւ նոր ոգի ստեղծէք:” Եղեկիէլ մարդարէի գրքէն առնուած այս դեղեցիկ խօսքը որպէս քարոզի ընտրեցի 1977 տարուայ առաջին կիրակիին համար: Նոր տարին նոր խորհրդածութիւններ ընելու եւ նոր որոշումներ տալու շրջանն է: Եւ մարդ էակը նոր սրտէն եւ նոր ոգիէն աւելի լարի ի՞նչ կրնայ խնդրել նոր տարին համար:

Նոր բաներու տիրանալու փափաքը, մարդոցս համար շատ անգամ կրկնուող իրականութիւն մը եղած է այժմ: Ոչ միայն նոր տարիի շրջանին, այլ որեւէ ժամանակ եւ որեւէ տեղ, նոր բաներ ունենալու ստիպման տակ ենք կարծես թէ: Հազուստ, վրայ գլուխ, կահ կարասիք հանապաղ վերանորոգութեան կարիքին տակն են: Ատենը մէյ մը նոր ինքնաշարժ մը դնելը նորութիւն չէ այլեւս: Շատ է թիւը անոնց որոնք նոր տունի կը նային եւ կամ ալ նոր գործ կը փնտռեն: Նոյնիսկ յառաջացեալ տարիքի մարդիկ նորանոր ուսմանց կը հետեւին, նորանոր ապրելակերպի եւ փիլիսոփայութեանց հետամուտ կ'ըլլան:

Բնաւ. չղարմանանք ուրեմն երբ Սուրբ Գիորգը կը խրատէ մեզ եւ կըսէ. “Ով ժողովուրդ, ձեր անձին մէջ նոր սիրտ եւ նոր ոգի կերտեցէք այսօր:” Ի՞նչ ըսել է նոր սիրտ եւ նոր ոգի կերտել: Եւ ինչո՞ւ պէտք է անոսալ այս խրատին:

Ներկայիս, շատ մը մարդիկ իրենց հինցած սիրտը կրնան հանել եւ ըտլորովին նոր սիրտ մը ստանալ, շնորհիւ արդիական մեքենականութիւններու: Ուրիշներ ալ կան որոնք հրաշալի գործիքի մը շնորհիւ իրենց մահացող սրտին տասնէն քսան տարիներու նոր կեանք կրնան պարգեւել: Դարձեալ, մերօրեայ թիչկներ կարողացած են հոգիով տառապող մարդոց նոր եռանդ եւ նոր տրամադրութիւն ապահովել, շնորհիւ “Հանդարտեցուցիչ” ըսուած դեղերու: Եղեկիէլ մարդարէ ոչ վերոյիշեալ մեքենաներուն եւ ոչ ալ հանդարտեցուցիչ դեղերուն կ'աւանդէ երբ կ'ըսէ. “Նոր սիրտ եւ նոր ոգի կերտեցէք:”

"Նոր սիրտ եւ նոր ոգի" խօսքը պէտք է առնենք իր կրօնական եւ հոգեւոր իմաստին մէջ: Սուրբ Գիւրգը երբ նոր սրտի եւ նոր ոգի ակնարկութիւն կ'ընէ, մարմինէ եւ արիւնէ զատ, կ'ակնարկէ նաեւ հաւատի, զգացումներու, փափաքներու եւ խորհուրդներու նորոգութեան: Ի մի բան ան կ'ակնարկէ մարդուս ամբողջ էութեան "Նոր սիրտ եւ նոր ոգի" ստեղծելու պատուիրանը թէ եւ հազարաւոր տարիներ առաջ արտասանուած է լայց եւ այնպէս այսօր եւս աստուածային պատուիրան մըն է: Անկեղծ էութիւնն է ոչ միայն ընդերք մարդարէութեանց այլ նաեւ քարոզութիւնն է Քրիստոսի եւ աստփաներու եւ ընդեր սրբազան հայրապետներու:

Աստուած կ'ուզէ որ մեր մարմինն մէջ նոր սիրտ եւ նոր ոգի մշակենք, որովհետեւ այլ բաներու պէս անոնք եւս կրնան մաշիւ, ծանրանալ, աղտոտիլ, չարանալ, մեղաց տիղմին մէջ կքիլ եւ անգործութեան մատուիլ: Մինչդեռ նոր սիրտն ու նոր ոգին կ'ըլլայ մաքուր, սուրբ, ճերմակ, անարատ եւ անբիծ: Նորութիւնը մարդուս կը շնորհէ նաեւ քաջութիւն, զօրութիւն եւ առողջութիւն: Նոր սիրտը կ'ըլլայ պարզ, ուղիղ, խոնարհ եւ աստուածապախ: Նոր հոգին կ'ըլլայ ուրախ, զուարթ, թեթեւ եւ լեցուն Աստուծոյ սիրովն ու բարութեամբը:

Նոր բաները առհասարակ կ'ըլլան սուղ: Հարուստ մարդիկ կրնան շատ դիւրութեամբ տիրանալ նոր բաներու: Աղքատ եւ անթի մարդիկ կրնան հին բաներով ալ գոհանալ: Բայց նոր սիրտ եւ նոր ոգի կերտելու համար դրամի եւ հարստութեան պէտքը չ'ունինք: Պատահած է նաեւ որ հարուստ մարդերու մերժումն է նոր սիրտ եւ նոր ոգի: "Եւ զնաց տրտմեալ" կ'ըսէ Աւետարանը այն հարուստ երիտասարդին համար որ Յիսուսին եկած էր նոր սիրտ եւ նոր ոգի խնդրելու համար: Միւս կողմէ եղած են շատ մը աղքատներ որոնք կարողացած են "Նոր սրտով եւ նոր հոգիով" հարստանալ եւ զուարճանալ: "Նրանի աղքատաց հոգւով" կ'ըսէ մեր Տէրը եւ կը շարունակէ "Զի նոքա ժառանգեցեն զԼէւրայութիւնն Աստուծոյ:"

Նորոգեալ սիրտն ու ոգին նոր պահելը դիւրին չէ: "Սատանան ալ նոր տեղեր կը սիրէ" կ'ըսէ Աւետարանը: Նոր սիրտն ու ոգին նոր պահելու համար մենք հաւաստալ պէտք ունինք Աստուծոյ օգնութեան:

ՓԵՏՐՈՒԱՐ 1977

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.

Community News

2022 Dates for Diocesan Summer Camps Announced

The Diocesan Camp Leadership is thrilled to announce that they plan to return to in-person Hye Camp and St. Vartan Camp programs in the summer of 2022!

The 2022 Camp dates are as follows:

Hye Camp 2022

CIT/Staff Training: August 3-6
Camp Week: August 6-13

St. Vartan Camp 2022

Staff Training: June 29 - July 2
Session A: July 3-16
Session B: July 17-30
Session C: July 31 - August 13

Online registration will
begin mid-January.

For details, visit

diocesansummercamps.org

Congratulations to . . .



Petty Officer Michael Bedian who recently advanced to the rank of Petty Officer First Class in the U.S. Navy. PO1 Bedian is the son of Bob & Sandy Bedian. A Wynantskill native, he is a 2008 graduate of Averill Park High and has served in the Navy since March 2013. Since joining the Navy, PO1 Bedian has lived in three states and two countries and has deployed to ten different countries. He has earned two warfare pins, one Navy Achievement Medal, and was recently nominated for sailor of the quarter at his command. He and his wife, Janie Bedian, are currently stationed overseas. Congratulations Michael! Your family is beyond proud of you!

Capital Region Today

On December 22, 2021, **Maria Derian** appeared on *Capital Region Today* with host Ann Parillo to share Armenian Christmas traditions. Thank you to Ann for inviting St. Peter Armenian Church to be part of the show's episode on Christmas traditions, episode #1151. Maria is first to appear in the segment sharing traditions of the Armenian Church and people. Use the following YouTube link to view this episode that was filmed on location at Proctors Theatre —

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MyE0FBTA61g&t=4s>.

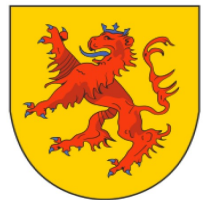


In Remembrance



We offer our condolences to the family and friends of **Clare Marion (Toolajian) Schisa** who entered her eternal rest on January 20, 2022. In addition to her parents, Harry & Zabel Toolajian, and her sister, the late Martha Rokow, Clare was predeceased by her husband of 51 years, the late Louis William Schisa. She is survived by her three daughters, Dr. Beth (Dr. Kevin) D'Angelo, Nancy (Dr. Michael) Porter, and Carol (Terrance) O'Grady; seven grandchildren; two great grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Visit brycefuneralhome.com to view Clare's full obituary.

Commemoration of the 101st Anniversary of the Fall of Armenian Cilicia: On Sunday, November 7, 2021 the St. Peter Armenian Church community and the "Armenians of Aintab" hosted a cultural program at the church in commemoration of the 101st anniversary of the fall of Armenian Cilicia (Aintab, Marash, Adana, Sis, Ourfa, Hagin, Dikranagerd). A requiem service was held following Badarak that morning for all the departed souls. The program was presented following services and a traditional Harissa Madagh meal was served to all who attended. Thank you to Berjouhi & Fouad Shamounian of Nora's Grocery for donating the food as well as Dr. Ara Kayayan for organizing the event. A total of \$793.00 in donations was collected to be added to the Armenians of Aintab Endowment Fund. We thank all who contributed and attended.



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