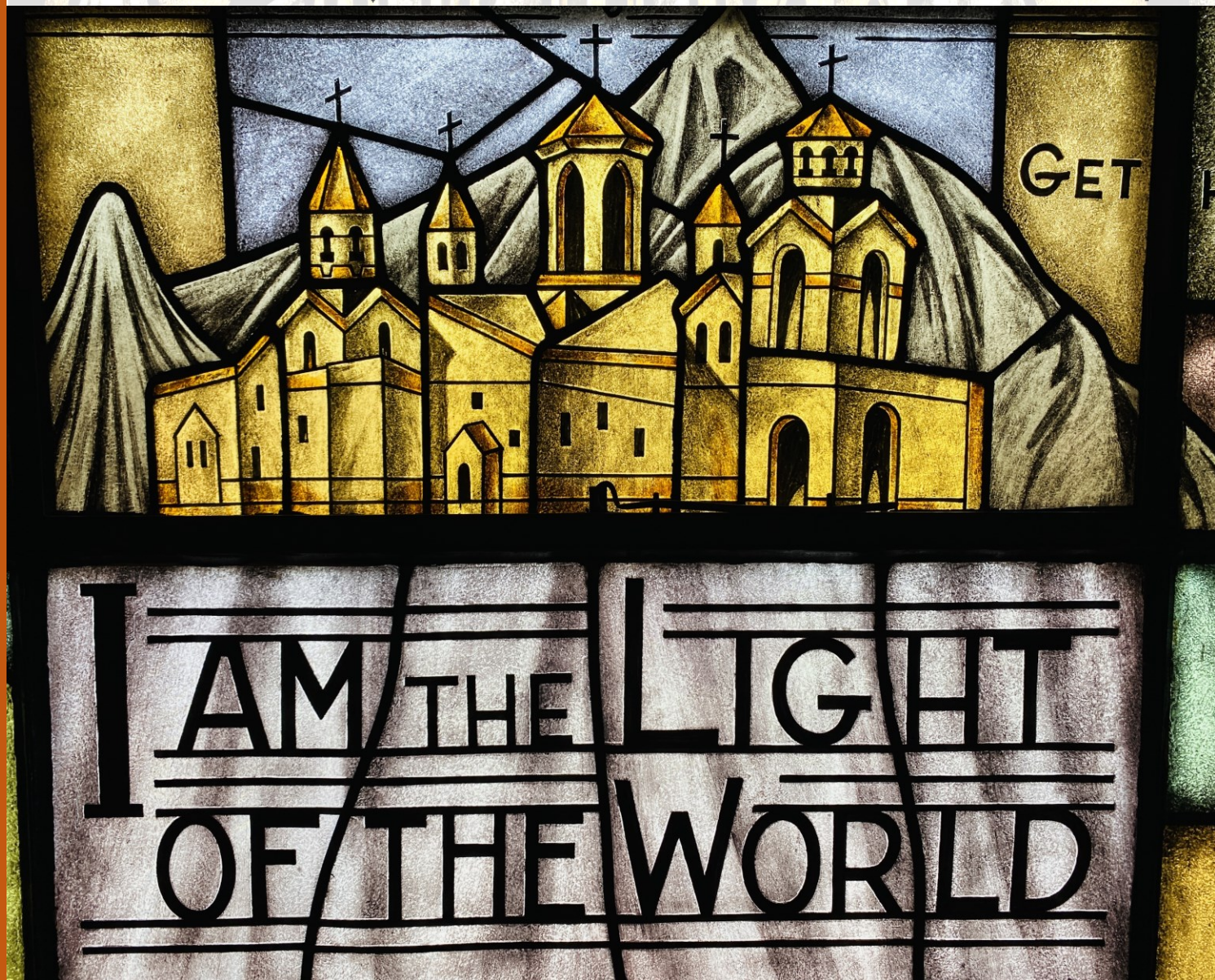


Mer Doon Hn Smln



V. Rev. Fr. Oshagan Gulgulian, Pastor



ST. SAHAG & ST. MESROB ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH PARISH COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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The Very Rev. Fr. Oshagan Gulgolian, M. Div.

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Church Office Hours

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Pastor's Hours

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sunday Divine Liturgy Services

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 a.m.
Choirmaster – Yn. Angel Metjian

Organists:

Laraine Ballard

PARISH COUNCIL

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Lisa Manookian	Vice Chair
Laraine Ballard	Treasurer
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Front cover:

Above the front doors to St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Apostolic Church, there are three large stained-glass windows: Christ, Apostle Thaddeus and Apostle Bartholomew, representing the coming of Christianity to Armenia. Under Christ's feet is a stained-glass representation of the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin. Holy Etchmiadzin is the Mother Church of the Armenian Apostolic Church, while The Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin is the seat of the Catholicos of All Armenians. The Cathedral was built in 301 A.D. following St. Gregory the Illuminator's vision of Christ striking the ground with a golden hammer, indicating where the cathedral should be built. Thus, Etchmiadzin means "the descent of the only begotten Son of God." Holy Etchmiadzin holds the designation as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.



THE PASTOR'S CORNER

You are not Alone

*W*e are in a difficult period of Armenian history, which has come to pass during one of the most difficult years of our lifetime.

In this time of desperation, our Armenian voices echoed united around the globe. Yet as we called out, it felt like our call fell on deaf ears. The atrocities we battled these 44 days are more than enough reason for weeping. We suffered and sacrificed, even as we continually drew upon the infinite power of prayer as our shield and our sword. However, let us consider this: the spirit of faith is not the only gift that God breathed into our souls. Our Heavenly Father, beyond our human comprehension, bestowed upon us Armenians a distinctive set of tools for us to utilize in building our future.

We may be considered an economically poor country on the world stage, but we are rich beyond measure in human intelligence, all forms of creativity, literary genius and gifts of engineering, technology and architecture. God bestowed upon us the characteristics of perseverance, tenacity, wit and ingenuity. *These* are our tools. *These* are the currencies that give us the potential to secure our future in a world that seems to have turned a blind eye. We must build the road to security ourselves, as one united nation. We Armenians have a history, a reputation and the ability to triumph over adversity. Our future will continue to bear this truth. The unique set of tools God has engineered in us enable us to be the architects of a secure future. These are not just empty words; this is our path forward.

And to my dearest Armenian brothers and sisters of Artsakh,
"If one member of the body suffers, we all suffer together." -1 Corinthians 12: 26.

We are all suffering with you. Our hearts are shattered with grief. Yet just as this is a crushing period of Armenian history wrapped up in a worldwide health crisis, know that you have the deepest love and support from Armenians around the globe, wrapped up in the infinite love of our Heavenly Father. For the time being, this is what we can offer you. And though it may not feel like much this moment, our faith, hope and love unites us as one, and with our divine gifts we will build Armenia's future together. In his own time, God will usher in healing and a true peace that surpasses all our human understanding. While we wait for that glorious day, I would like to say to you,

*You are not alone.
We are not alone.*

✍ Fr. Oshagan



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The year we came together in prayer, in advocacy, in generosity, in compassion, in unity, in spiritual growth. Years from now, when we think of 2020, what will we remember?

At the beginning of this year, no one could have predicted the circumstances we would face. The continuous stream of bad news has been seemingly inescapable, the threat to any sense of a normal life has been real and the impact has been significant. Yet through it all, the faith of our people and the spirit of the Armenian community has endured; serving as a beacon of light to guide us through a year that would otherwise be perceived as one of darkness.

As we continue to face a global pandemic, nothing has been more upsetting than the news of the losses of our brothers and sisters attacked in Artsakh. With this unjust war, our world as a global Armenian nation was rocked once again.

As parish leadership, the circumstances of this year have made it impossible to conduct normal business. It has been a time for us to do whatever is needed. In the early days of the pandemic, that was to ensure that we could continue to provide Sunday Badarak safely and remain financially sound. Though these felt like tall orders at the time, thanks to the generosity of many, combined with the cooperation of all who have attended church on Sundays, we were able to overcome these challenges and find a way to restore some sense of normal activity on Sundays.

Today, these challenges seem miniscule compared to what we as Armenians face now. While we will continue to be vigilant with respect to the coronavirus and following safety guidelines, our people are confronted with an even greater threat.

Though we are still working to understand the implications of the recent peace negotiations, our brothers and sisters in Artsakh and Armenia will need us to come together in a new way. We have already seen the Philadelphia community unify, in great support of them. At this moment however, as we will pray that the worst of the conflict is behind us, we should not think that the people of Artsakh are in any less need of our support. They need us now more than ever.

With this in mind, we are going to build on the success of our September drive-through picnic and host a similar event in place of our Annual Christmas Festival. Visit our website, www.sahagmesrob.church for details. 50% of all proceeds from sales and donations will go directly to humanitarian aid for the people of Artsakh.

As many of you know, the Christmas Festival is our largest annual fundraiser. In normal years, our parish budget can depend on it. This year, however, and this time, is unlike any other. And while this is a very small gesture compared to the scale of what is needed, we hope that our love for Artsakh and Armenia can come through in our preparation and participation in this event.

Surely, it will be difficult to enjoy this time as we have in years past, as Thanksgiving and Christmas may be clouded with pain, sadness and anger. Let us convert this pain to prayer, sadness to strength, and anger toward building an unshakable, globally unified, Armenian community. Thank you.

Alex Topakbashian
Chairman, Parish Council
alextopak@gmail.com



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Ֆիլադելֆիայի հայ համայնքին

ՀՀ պաշտպանության նախարարությունը իր երախտագիտությունն է հայտնում Հայրենական այս պատերազմին ձեր մասնակցության համար:

Հայոց բանակի հանդեպ հոգածու ուշադրությունը, ամեն կերպ օգտակար լինելու ձգտումն ամրապնդում են մեր հավաքը սեփական ուժերի նկատմամբ և ներշնչում ամուր թիկունք ունենալու շար կարևոր զգացում:

Վստահ եմ, որ հաղթանակից հետո ավելի մեծ թափով կլծվենք մեր հայրենիքը շենացնելու սրբազան գործին: Շնորհակալ ենք:

Հարգանքով՝

ՀՀ ՊՆ ՆՏԱ գլխավոր վարչության պետ

Ն. ՅՈՒՆԴՅԱՆ



Ecumenical Service for Peace and Justice in Artsakh, Armenia and the World



On Tuesday, October 27th St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Church hosted a ‘*Candlelight Vigil and Ecumenical Service for Peace and Justice in Artsakh, Armenia and the World*’ presided over by The Very Reverend Father Oshagan Gulgolian. We were fortunate to have participants from our sister churches and neighborhood faith communities representing the Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Jewish and Evangelical traditions. It was a crisp fall evening for the intimate and solemn occasion, which took place outside the sanctuary, surrounding the khachkar inscribed with the poignant quote “They call us Armenians and why shouldn’t we be proud? We exist, shall exist and yet flourish.”

Hayr Sourp began the service with a call for both physical and mental peace and stability for Artsakh, Armenia and the world. The program continued with prayers where the faith leaders and participants lifted their voices to ask the Lord to have mercy and watch over our brothers and sisters in Artsakh and Armenia. The beautiful acapella versions of *Soorp Soorp* and *Der Voghormia* seemed especially meaningful as tribute was paid to the brave soldiers battling the aggression of the Azeris and Turks, those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their homeland and the innocent civilians impacted by the horrors of war.

After the service was over a short program took place. Rabbi David Strauss from the Main Line Reform Temple drew upon the words of Joachim Prinz at the March on Washington in 1963 and spoke about the concept of a neighbor, noting it was not a geographic term but a moral concept. He also quoted Dr. Prinz’s profound statement that bigotry and hatred “are not the most urgent problem. The most urgent, the most disgraceful, the most shameful and the most tragic problem is silence.”

Hayr Sourp ended the program with remarks that spoke of hope. He shared that as he prayed with his fellow religious leaders and brothers and sisters in Christ and looked out at those gathered, he was uplifted by feelings of hope and love. We were all gathered to pray for peace for our troubled world, to pray for justice in every corner of this world, and to pray for God to watch over our brethren in Artsakh and Armenia under the shadow of the Holy Cross. He likened the events of the past month and a half to a modern-day David and Goliath story where Armenians were up against Azeri and Turkish bullies. With our holy weapons – the sword of the spirit,



helmet of salvation and shield of faith – we came together to ask God to extinguish the flames of evil and allow our people to live peacefully on our ancestral lands.

We are most thankful to all of our moral neighbors who participated in this special evening. They affirmed that they will not stand by silently and showed us that we are not alone. With God's grace the Armenian people will continue to flourish, despite the hardships of the war in Artsakh, despite the heartbreaking conclusion days ago. We honor the brave heroes who stood up to evil and we salute those who gave their lives. We will continue to pray for peace for Artsakh and Armenia and never stop fighting for what is right.

A sincere thank you to the following participants for joining us:

Reverend Father Mina Shaheid

Representing His Grace Bishop Karas of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Pennsylvania and the Surrounding Regions

Rabbi David Straus

Main Line Reform Temple

Rabbi Neil Cooper

Temple Beth Hillel – Beth El

Reverend Father Nerses Manoogian

St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church

Reverend Father Hakop Gevorgyan

Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church

Reverend Father Raphael Strontsitskyy

St. Mark's Armenian Catholic Church

Reverend James Pollard, Sr., PhD

Zion Baptist Church of Ardmore

Deacon Nicholas Siniari

Secretary of the Standing Conference of
Oriental Orthodox Churches

Deacon Steven Keytanjian

St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church

Deacon Armen Terjimanian

Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church

Sister Emma Moussayan

Principal, Armenian Sisters Academy

Sister Kayane Taslakian

Armenian Sisters Academy

Soloists:

Noel Krommenhoek

Emily Movsesian

✍

Alene Schreiner





Peace Services and Rallies

The past few months have been witness to multiple Peace Services and rallies. St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Apostolic Church has held Peace Services dedicated to nationwide civil unrest, the explosion in Lebanon, the conversion of Hagia Sophia, and several in tribute to the war in Artsakh. As Christians, the infinite power of prayer is our shield and our sword in the face of adversity and through these services our Armenian voices have echoed united around the world. Below is an accounting of our prayers [The Ecumenical Prayer Service hosted by St. Sahag & St. Mesrob is covered in a separate article].

On Wednesday, June 3rd, in light of nationwide civil unrest, St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Apostolic Church held a live-streamed Moment of Silence and Prayer for Peace by the directive of His Grace, Bishop Daniel Findikyan and the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the U.S.A. Along with our faithful Armenian community in America, at noon St. Sahag & St. Mesrob took a moment's pause in silence to offer prayers for God's peace and healing.

Also On Wednesday, June 3rd in the evening, The Very Reverend Father Oshagan Gulgulian participated in a Zoom Prayer Vigil for nationwide peace and healing alongside other members of neighborhood clergy from Churches of the Main Line.

On Friday, July 24th, by the directive of His Grace, Bishop Daniel Findikyan, St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Apostolic Church participated in a Diocesan-wide Day of Mourning, marking the grief and outrage over the plan of the Turkish government to convert the Cathedral of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople into a mosque. Eastern Diocese churches lowered flags to half-mast and at 3 p.m. rang church bells in solidarity for a period of one minute.

On Friday, August 7th, the Very Reverend Father Oshagan Gulgulian performed a solemn Vespers Prayer Service for our hurting brothers and sisters in Lebanon. The Very Reverend Father Oshagan Gulgulian offered



prayers for the wellbeing of the injured, the strength of those serving, the repose of souls, comfort for their loved ones, and healing for the people of Beirut.

On Saturday, October 3rd, at the request of His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch of All Armenians, Armenian churches around the world, including St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church, held coinciding services dedicated to Peace in Artsakh. His Holiness presided over this Peace Service at The Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, while churches around the world coordinated their services to coincide.



On Thursday, October 8th, some St. Sahag & St. Mesrob faithful along with the Very Reverend Father Oshagan Gulgulian traveled to Washington D.C. for a peaceful rally at the White House to take a stand in front of the world in support of our homeland in Artsakh and Armenia. Armenians joined together to call on our leadership to put an end to their visible absence on the world stage and demand the U.S. take action with sanctions.

with the Armenian community and friends in a peaceful rally in front of the Philadelphia Art Museum to take a stand in support of our homeland in Artsakh and Armenia.

On Sunday, October 18th, St. Sahag & St. Mesrob parishioners joined together

On October 21st, the Very Reverend Father Oshagan Gulgulian traveled to St. Vartan Cathedral in NYC to participate in the “Ecumenical Service for Peace and Justice in Armenia, Artsakh and the World,” Diocesan Primate Bishop Daniel Findikyan presided over a solemn prayer service alongside national clergy leaders from the Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant churches. Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop Elpidophoros, and Bishop David delivered powerful messages of support.

On Friday, October 30th, Father Hagop Gevorgyan and the Very Reverend Father Oshagan Gulgulian held a Peace Hour Service in response to His Grace, Bishop Daniel Findikyan’s call for a Day of Prayer and Fasting for Artsakh and Armenia. This solemn service was held at Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church in Cheltenham, Pa.

On Friday, November 6th, at the directive of His Grace, Bishop Daniel Findikyan, the Armenian faithful of the Eastern Diocese participated in a second Day of Prayer and Fasting for Artsakh and Armenia.

And Friday, November 13th marked our third Day of Prayer & Fasting for the sake of peace and justice in Artsakh and Armenia as directed by His Grace, Bishop Daniel Findikyan. For three consecutive Fridays we have united Diocesan-wide in fasting and prayer as an expression of our faith on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Artsakh. The third Friday, November 13th, included a Vespers Service at St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Apostolic Church at the close of the fast.





Monday Morning Prayer

In searching for new ways to reach you during this global pandemic, I came up with an idea. The concept of meeting with you in your kitchens on Monday mornings with a spiritual epistle took root in me. The idea of supporting my faithful by providing an opportunity for you to witness the power of our Armenian prayers blossomed and bore the fruit of a project called Monday Morning Prayer.

Every Monday, as you prepare for your day and your week ahead, you should be receiving an email from me with a traditional Armenian prayer and a brief message about the prayer. The message may include a few lines about the history of the prayer, when and why it is used, personal anecdotes and sometimes a resource for you to learn more. I don't know how much longer I will continue the project, but it has been my privilege to serve our community in this way.

Monday Morning Prayer began in May has continued every Monday through our summer and fall. Please visit the project on our website at www.sahagmesrob.church or on our Facebook page at St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church.

✍ Fr. Oshagan

Thank you

In this issue I would like to thank all of you who have financially supported both St. Sahag & Mesrob Apostolic Church and Artsakh, through the Armenia Fund or otherwise. These are difficult times. For St. Sahag & Mesrob, as with so many organizations, the coronavirus pandemic has ushered in with it financial challenges. We continue to face the unavoidable expenses that keep St. Sahag & St. Mesrob operating. And for Artsakh, we all know the devastating battle they have been up against for the past 2 months and the critical challenges that lie ahead. I give you my very sincere thank you for your support in this difficult time.

Please note, if have not yet paid your dues for 2020, please consider doing so now. If you have not been a dues-paying member in the past, please give serious and heartfelt consideration to becoming one this year. Your membership is vital to keep St. Sahag and St. Mesrob thriving today and into the future. Thank you.

✍ Fr. Oshagan

Graduation (additional)

Patrick A. McNelis, Jr. graduated from Rutgers University's School of Arts and Sciences with a Bachelor of Arts in History and a minor in Education. Patrick has been accepted in the Rutgers Graduate School of Education and has begun his graduate program virtually, as required for the time being. Patrick, Jr., is the son of Patrick and Sonia (Odabashian) McNelis and grandson of Mesrob and Grace Odabashian,

Wish List

We forego our usual wish list for St. Sahag & St. Mesrob this issue. In place of church needs, this season our wish is for healing, stability, unity and peace for Artsakh, Armenia and the world.



PARISH NEWS

WOMEN'S GUILD

Let me start off by saying how much I, along with the other members of the Women's Guild Executive Board, miss getting together with our community. We hope and pray that we can enjoy each other's company again as a collective group soon.

That being said, we have been fortunate to have had a few opportunities to be together and catch up with our female church parishioners. Audrey Klijian, Monica Whitcomb and I got together in September to cut chicken in preparation for the annual picnic. Who would have ever thought it could be so much fun handling and cutting chicken, but it was! Monica and Audrey had never met before that day, but it felt as though they had known each other for years. That is one of the many intangible benefits to being part of the Women's Guild; meeting other women, learning from each other, and building friendships. It felt good to be back in the Memorial Hall kitchen with friendly faces and it was a welcome break from our daily routine. I also would like to thank Grace Odabashian, Laraine Ballard and Roubina DerMartirosian for also volunteering their time to assist with this. It's so appreciated anytime one volunteers, but during this unique time, even more so.

We had so much fun making manti on Saturday, October 24th, for the bazaar. Sixteen women, and even a few husbands, were there to roll, shape, mix, bake, bag and just have a great day together. It was nice to hear that each one of the group was well and making the best of this new normal we are living. Thank you to Arpi Kilroy, Lucille Mikaelian, Maro Arutunian, Pat Pogharian, Julyet Degirmenci, Maro Derderian, Rosine Gouveia, Zarmine Boghosian, Robin Williams, Grace Odabashian, Tina Bejian-Binnion, Sona Bejian, Carol Keosayian, Janet Soghomonian, Elizabeth Barsamian, and the men - Missak Boghosian, Antranig Derderian and Nish DerSimonian. Because of your time and dedication, we can all look forward to enjoying a delicious bowl of manti on a cold winter's night.

Lastly, I want to thank those who came out on October 27th to make choreg for the bazaar. Julyet, Rosine, Robin, Carol, Maro D., Zarmine, Roubina and Frida Khoudoyan; thank you.

I'd like to share the good news that the executive board of the Women's Guild has decided to make a \$1,000 donation to the Diocese that will be sent to the Armenia Fund to assist with the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh. We are able to make this meaningful and significant donation through the dues money we received from our devoted members and our fundraising efforts. We pray that this donation provides relief and strength to those being so sadly affected by this atrocity. On behalf of the executive board, I offer my most humble appreciation.

There will be more opportunities to help with cooking and baking for the upcoming bazaar. Please reach out to me if you'd like to assist with this. You will learn great shortcuts, tips and enjoy your time with the women. If you would like to become a member of the guild for 2020, it's not too late. Dues are \$15, and that amount has held steady for years. Make your check payable to Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Women's Guild, and mail it to Rosine Gouveia, 414 Eldon Drive, Broomall, PA 19008. We hope for more opportunities to be together again soon. In the meantime, stay well and stay safe.



Nancy DerSimonian

*Remember Saint Sahag and Saint Mesrob Armenian Church
In Your Will*



SUNDAY SCHOOL

St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church has embraced our virtual learning environment. We have 36 students registered and attending our weekly zoom lessons. We held our kick-off on September 27th with Assembly and then parents/families picked up materials at the church picnic drive-through line.

In October we began with Assembly, bringing the weekly Scripture to our children and teaching them the essential Armenian Church traditions and prayers. We then break out into 3 groups, Pre-K to 2nd grade, taught by Teresa Yenovkian; 3rd to 6th grade, taught by Valerie Hagopian and Nancy DerSimonian; and 7th to 10th grade, taught by Arpi Kilroy and Sossi Avigrian. After 40 minutes of lessons, we bring everyone back together for our final Assembly closing hymns, prayer and announcements.

In October, we held a special lesson on making Mas. There were about 8 children present learning how to prepare it and Hayr Sourp joined in as well to give us some pointers and tell us the importance of Mas and its significance in remembering our church family in prayer.

We have several additional special projects scheduled for November and December to continue to build relationships with each other and to provide some service projects for the community. The Sunday School teachers meet 15 minutes prior to Sunday School for a prayer time to ready ourselves for the lessons. We all feel that God is working among our groups teaching the essentials to our youth. We pray that you have noticed them reaching out to you with the message of Jesus' love and kindness.

We look forward to bringing a virtual Christmas pageant to all parishioners' homes in December.

✍ Sossi Avigrian and Teresa Yenovkian





MEN'S CLUB

It was a perfect fall weather day at M&M Sporting Clays on October 25th for our first event since the COVID era came to pass. We came together with the mission of building ties within our St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Church Men's Club community while at the same time raising funds to support our soldiers in Artsakh. After dividing into small groups for the scored



50-clay bird sporting event, we came together to share lunch and tales under the covered pavilion. Awards went to Albert Kzelian for high score with a remarkable total of 47 out of 50, followed by his son Vahe Kzelian with 41/50 and Moe Balabanyan with 40/50. Congratulations and a thank you to everyone who participated in this fundraiser, as well as those who could not join us but chose to contribute. Your generous contributions allowed our St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Men's Club to send financial support to Artsakh in this time of need. We raised over \$1600, which was sent to the Diocese for the Armenia Fund. We plan to get together socially in the next month as pandemic restrictions allow.

✍ Alex Mamourian

ACYOA

At the beginning of quarantine, we did a few Zoom calls to try and keep our spirits high, and we played online games like Scattergories and virtual Pictionary. We found that since the pandemic, hunger and unemployment rates have risen and have affected even those around us who we might not have expected. In light of this, most recently we organized a food drive for the ACYOA members to take part in, with the mission of providing support to those who have been severely affected by COVID. We collected five big boxes of canned goods, cereals, pastas, dried goods, etc., and donated them to St. Mary's Church in Broomall, as they have been a local site collecting food all throughout the pandemic. This was a safe and rewarding way to help those in our local neighborhoods who need it most. We will continue to meet virtually and come up with new ways to connect as a group as well as with our broader community.

✍ Sona Sardakjian

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

The St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Church Archives Committee has not been active due to the COVID 19 quarantine--but we are pleased that our parishioners continue to submit material to the archives. The Archives Committee wishes to thank individuals for thinking of us. Audrey Klijian, a valued member of the Auditing Committee, donated photos. Arlene Ounjian, whose father, Charles Ounjian, served our church as deacon and trustee, donated materials to our Archives. Lucille Mikaelian donated a long-lost speech from her father, Joseph Hoplamazian, Sr., a pillar of our church. Also, Lisa Manookian contributed a variety of documents--from guidelines, to Parish Assembly reports to banquet books, to ACYOA information, to photos of Sports Weekends, Christmas Bazaars and back issues of *Mer Doon*--materials from her activities in our church.



If you have served our church and have notes, membership lists, minutes of meetings, photos, banquet programs, flyers, newspaper articles, etc., the Archives Committee is accepting them. Please bag donated items or put them in an envelope marked “Archives Committee” with your name and phone number. Drop off your donation to the church office. Photos need the name of the event, date--or approximate year, i.e., circa early 1970’s. If you are able to identify people in the photo, please list them on a separate piece of paper. Specify, for instance, “Front Row, third girl from the left..... Second Row, etc.” Attach the identification sheet to the photo. Please do not write directly on the photos.

We wish to acknowledge Rose Hagopian’s thoughtful monetary donation to the Archives.

St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Archives Committee always looks forward to receiving documents and photos from our parishioners.



Archives Committee

Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God

St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church held the Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God, the oldest commemoration dedication to St. Mary, and the Blessing of the Grapes service on Sunday, August 13th, 2020. This beautiful ceremony with its roots in the Old Testament is rich in symbolism and traditionally marked the beginning of the harvest season. Hayr Sourp blessed the grapes before they were distributed among the faithful in attendance, saying in part, *"We ask the Heavenly Father to bless this cluster of grapes, the first fruit of the year, to be a communion and a healing power as we eat with faith and understanding."*



Exaltation of the Holy Cross



The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, with the corresponding Antasdan Service and Blessing of the Basil, was held on Sunday, September 15th. This Feast Day is one of the 5 major Feast Days, otherwise known as Tabernacle Feasts of the Armenian Apostolic Church. It celebrates the return of the Holy Cross to Jerusalem after it had been captured by the Persians in 614 A.D. Hayr Sourp performed the traditional blessing of a cross in a bed of basil while chanting ancient prayers. *"When you take the basil into your homes, let the scent of this*

beautiful green basil fill your homes as a symbol of the presence of Christ," he told parishioners. Hayr Sourp also noted that the Monday following the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is known as “Merelotz” – a Day of Remembrance – for the souls departed in Christ and reminded the faithful to take a moment in the morning to pray for their departed loved ones. The blessed basil was then distributed among the faithful in attendance.



Annual Fall Picnic “Pick Up and Go”

Tailoring the event to meet the restrictions of the pandemic, St. Sahag & St. Mesrob hosted their Annual Fall Picnic as a “Pick Up and Go” event on September 27th, 2020, following Badarak. The Sunday School coordinated the kick-off of their 2020 educational program by distributing Sunday School materials at the same time. Many St. Sahag & St. Mesrob volunteers joined together in advance to shop and prepare the food as well as on picnic day to grill, bag and serve the food. Though the annual picnic was not traditional by any means, it was a cheerful event as the parishioners lined up in cars by the dozens to pick up their delicious Armenian kebab meals to go.





SACRAMENTS & GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

Baptism & Chrismation

Angela Danielyan

Daughter of
Suren Danielyan and Suzanne Rechelian
Baptized on October 9, 2020



Weddings



William Thomson, Jr. and Molly Mamourian

Best Man: *Marcus Mamourian*
Maid of Honor: *Ani Mamourian*
June 20, 2020



Tigran Marashlian and Gayane Matkhasyan

Best Man: *Avetis Marashlian*
Maid of Honor: *Hasmik Marashlian*
August 28, 2020



Nazareth Ohanessian and Serbuhi Kzelian

Best Man: *Artin Ohanessian*
Maid of Honor: *Aleen Streeter*
November 7, 2020



Wedding Anniversary

Albert & Lousine Kzelian

November 18, 2020



Funerals

Nevart E. Manoogian

Entered into her eternal rest on July 1, 2020.

Gifts to the Church

General and Memorial Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Vahan and Danielle Gureghian
in Memory of Harry and Ann Gureghian
Anonymous
Mr. & Mrs. Mikhail & Neli Bagdasarian
Ardo Besnilian

Mr. & Mrs. Karlen & Lida Ghazaryan
Mr. & Mrs. Aris & Seta Topakbashian
Mrs. Hasmik Bozadjian

TOTAL \$ 7,600.00

Assumption Day Donations

Mrs. Mary Arabatlian
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce & Laraine Ballard
Mrs. Sirvart Baronian
Mrs. Elizabeth Barsamian
Dr. Edwig Basil
Mrs. Rose Bidoyan
Mr. & Mrs. David Bozadjian
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel & Juliet Degirmenci
Mr. & Mrs. Antranig & Maro Derderian
Mrs. Alice Dertadian
Mrs. Mary Dulgerian
Mrs. Araksi Ishkhanian

Mrs. Silva Kailian
Drs. Taleen Metjian & Adam Lusk
Mrs. Debra Lussinian
Dr. & Mrs. Alexander & Pamela Mamourian
Lucy & Nora Martayan
Mrs. Rozaline Meguerian & Family
Yg. Angel Metjian
Dr. & Mrs. Shahab & Joanne Minassian
Mr. & Mrs. Mesrob and Grace Odabashian
Mrs. Veronica Torcomian
Mr. & Mrs. Samer Yacobe

Sunday School

Mr. & Mrs. Haig & Sheena Dadourian
Mr. & Mrs. Mesrob & Grace Odabashian

TOTAL \$ 200.00

Mer Doon

Mrs. Elizabeth Barsamian
Mrs. Maritza Mamourian
Mr. & Mrs. Mesrob & Grace Odabashian

TOTAL \$350.00



Pastor's Appeal

Ms. Linda Babikian
Mrs. Elizabeth Barsamian
M/M David Bozadjian
Mrs. Alice Dertadian
Mr. George Dulgerian
Mrs. Mary Dulgerian
Mrs. Eleanor Gurdikian
M/M George Gurenlian
M/M Robert Hagopian
Mrs Sonia Hagopian
Mrs Shirley Hajinian
M/M David Hoplamazian
Mrs Florence Kazanjian
Mr Michael Kazanjian
Mrs Helen Kazigian
Mrs Audrey Klijian
Mr Simon Koumjian II

Mr Simon Koumjian III
Mrs Kayane Mardikian
M/M George Mesigian
M/M Joseph Michaelian
Mrs Lucille Mikaelian
M/M Vram Nedurian
M/M Peter Paone
M/M Rafael Petrosian
Mr Albert Seraydarian
M/M Aris Topakbashian
Mrs Nauver Zerounian

TOTAL \$3,475.00

Easter Youghakin (additional)

M/M Samual Degirmenci
M/M Clive Gouveia
Angele Harutunian
Mrs Berjouhi Kitabjian
Mrs Mary Odabashian

TOTAL \$ 375.00

Stewardship

Mr. George Boyajian
M/M Samuel Degirmenci
Mr. Thomas Kouyoumjian
M/M Mesrob Odabashian
M/M George Ramoundos

Mrs. Anna Samuelian
Mr. Paul Sevag
Mrs. Pontish Yeramian

TOTAL \$1,275.00

CORRECTION of photo labels from *Mer Doon*, Fall-Winter 2020 issue, p. 15



Avedis Alabilikian

Leon Kazanjian

Aram Zakian

Sarkis Eouksouzian



In Memoriam In Lieu Of Flowers

Sincere sympathy is extended by the Pastor and Parish Council to the families of those parishioners who have departed from this life. May God receive the souls of all the departed into His everlasting kingdom and send the heavenly consolation of His Holy Spirit to those who mourn.

In Lieu of Flowers Donations In Memory of Nevart Manookian

Alma Alabilikian
Mrs. Lynn Baboujian
Linda & Pauline Babikian
M/M Bruce Ballard
Ms. Elizabeth Barsamian
M/M Robert Cannuscio
Mrs. Ayshe Chakmaklian
M/M Nishan DerSimonian
Ms. Sonia Garabedian
M/M Clive Gouveia
Mrs. Carol Keosayan

M/M Charles Keytanjian
M/M Steven Keytanjian
Ms. Lisa Manookian
Mrs Anahid Megerian
Duane Morris, LLP
Ms. Mary Odabashian
M/M Mesrob Odabashian
M/M Samuel Pogharian
Najarian/Kedeshian
Ms. Mary Robinson
M/M Armen Yepoyan

Total: \$ 1,135.00

In Lieu of Flowers Donations In Memory of Paul Tefankjian

Elizabeth Barsamian
M/M Edward Hoplamazian & Family
Mrs. Rose Jehanian
Lora T. Maul
Tefankjian Family & Walsh Family

Total: \$ 355.00

In Lieu of Flowers Donations (Additional) In Memory of Marcus Mamourian

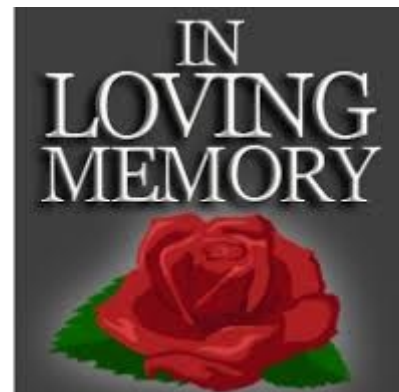
Dr. & Mrs. Nabet Kasabian
Mrs. Maritza Mamourian
M/M Robert Zakian

Total: \$ 1,250.00

In Lieu of Flowers Donations (Additional) In Memory of Mary Kehyayan

Ms. Gloria Keleshian
Karina Kollandjian & Emad Kronfli

Total: \$ 175.00





The St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church Christmas Festival Food Pickup

Order By: November 30th at: www.sahagmesrob.church

Pickup is Saturday, December 12th

**50% of All Net Proceeds will go to Humanitarian Relief
for the People of Artsakh**

<p>Shish Kebab (pint or quart)</p> <p>Cubed pieces of leg-of-lamb, marinated with onions and spices, skewered, and cooked over glowing charcoal embers. Garnished with chopped parsley and onions when served.</p> <p>\$30.00 - \$60.00</p>		<p>Chicken Kebab (pint or quart)</p> <p>Cubed pieces of chicken, marinated with an array of Armenian spices, skewered, and grilled to perfection over glowing charcoal embers.</p> <p>\$20.00 - \$40.00</p>	
<p>Lule Kebab (4 or 8 pieces)</p> <p>Ground lamb, mixed with chopped onions and spices. Shaped like a sausage. Charcoal grilled. Garnished with chopped parsley and onions when served.</p> <p>\$16.00 - \$32.00</p>		<p>Sou Boreg (half tray)</p> <p>Limited Quantity! Thin layers of hand-rolled dough, buttered and filled with cheese and parsley. Sold frozen with baking instructions included.</p> <p>\$40.00</p>	
<p>Manti (per pound)</p> <p>Thin canoe-shaped dough stuffed with a mixture of ground meat and seasonings. May be served as a soup when cooked in broth or served as an appetizer with a yogurt dip. Sold frozen.</p> <p>\$20.00</p>		<p>Pilaf (pint or quart)</p> <p>An Armenian Specialty, made with rice and browned fine noodles. Rice is steamed in chicken broth.</p> <p>\$5.00 - \$10.00</p>	
<p>Imam Bayildi (pint)</p> <p>Mixture of eggplant, onions, red & green peppers, and tomatoes baked with spices and served as a delicious cold side dish.</p> <p>\$12.00</p>		<p>Eetch (pint)</p> <p>Armenian cracked wheat salad made with bulghur wheat, tomatoes, scallions, parsley and spices.</p> <p>\$7.00</p>	
<p>Choreg (by the dozen)</p> <p>"Armenian Sweet Roll," made with a yeast dough, brushed with egg wash and topped with sesame seeds before baking. Usually served with cheese. Sold frozen.</p> <p>\$18.00</p>		<p>Pakhlava (singles or half tray)</p> <p>Layers of filo dough filled with a mixture of chopped nuts/cinnamon. Covered with unsalted butter and baked until golden brown. Served with a simple syrup.</p> <p>\$4.00 - \$36.00</p>	

St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church

630 Clothier Road, Wynnewood, PA 19096
Very Reverend Fr. Oshagan Gulgolian, Pastor
www.sahagmesrob.church
(610) 642-4212



Ս. ՍԱՀԱԿ ԵՒ Ս. ՄԵՍՐՈՊ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ ԱՌԱՔԵԼԱԿԱՆ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church

Հոգ. Տ. Օշական Վարդապետ Կիլիկիեան

V. Rev. Fr. Oshagan Gulgolian, M. Div.

November 7, 2020

Dear Parishioners, Community Members and Friends,

HATS OF FAITH

The other morning, greeted by a cold wind as I stepped outside, I shivered from the chill of winter approaching. And because our soldiers in Artsakh are always on my mind, I wondered... will they be warm enough? Will their heads be covered against the harsh elements as they defend our families, our borders, our identity this winter? The heavy burden of this thought on my mind and in my heart lifted when I happened upon an article about an 80-year-old Armenian woman knitting socks for the soldiers. As I read the article of this one woman's humble and beautiful efforts, I realized WE, too, can ensure our soldiers are warm. WE have the ability right in our hands. All it takes is a small gift of your time and talent. This one elderly woman so inspired me, that I write this letter to personally call on each of you to pull out your knitting needles or crochet needle, your unused yarn, and start knitting. Together, we can make sure our soldiers are warm and protected this winter. Together, we can protect them with **HATS OF FAITH**.



Տա՛տ ջան, վստահ եղիր՝ մեր զինվորները կգգան ձեռքերիդ հոգատարությունն ու սրտիդ ջերմությունը, որ ներդրել ես յուրաքանչյուր գուլպան գործելիս... Աստված պահապան մեր Տղերքին 🙏



As you are knitting warm hats for our soldiers, it is very important for you to pray. As you knit and pray, the words and the spirit of your prayers will be woven into the rows of the knitting, transforming these hats into **shields of faith and love**. The enemy our soldiers face may have bigger weapons, but we Armenians hold the most enduring and transcendent ammunition of all: **the armor of God** and **the unity of our people**. These HATS OF FAITH will not just keep our heroic soldiers warm; they will crown our soldiers with the protection of faith, love and prayers you have woven into each stitch.

So, let's put our words, our worries, our talk into action. Let's put our faith in motion. For my part, I will handle the organization of our efforts and arrange the packing and shipping to Artsakh. I have such faith in the ability of each one of you and the good work we can do together with HATS OF FAITH. Please see the flyer for specifics.

With Prayers,

Fr. Oshagan

V. Rev. Fr. Oshagan Gulgolian, M.Div.
Pastor

This is the translation of the remarks above the photo (*Dear Grandma, our soldiers will surely feel the care of your hands and warmth of your heart that you knit into each sock. God bless our boys*).



Ս. ՍԱՀԱԿ ԵՒ Ս. ՄԵՍՐՈՊ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ ԱՌԱՔԵԼԱԿԱՆ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church

630 Clothier Road, Wynnewood -PA 19096-2214 • ☎ (610) 642-4212 • E-Mail: hs@sahagmesrob.church



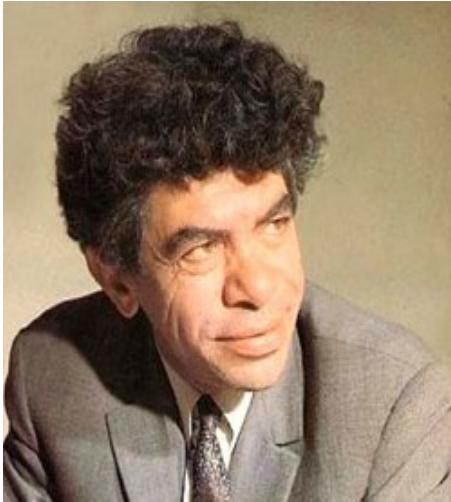
HATS OF FAITH

DETAILS

- ✚ For the protection of the soldiers, please knit with **dark colored yarn, preferably dark green or black.**
- ✚ With each *HAT OF FAITH*, you knit, *please write a short note in support of our soldiers.*
- ✚ If you have the more advanced skill to **knit socks and mittens** as well, please do so!
- ✚ If you do not knit but would like to participate, you can **buy a hat, socks and/or gloves to donate.**
- ✚ Please share our *HATS OF FAITH* project with family and friends.
- ✚ Please drop off your *HATS OF FAITH* at St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church by **December 10th** in time for delivery by Christmas.

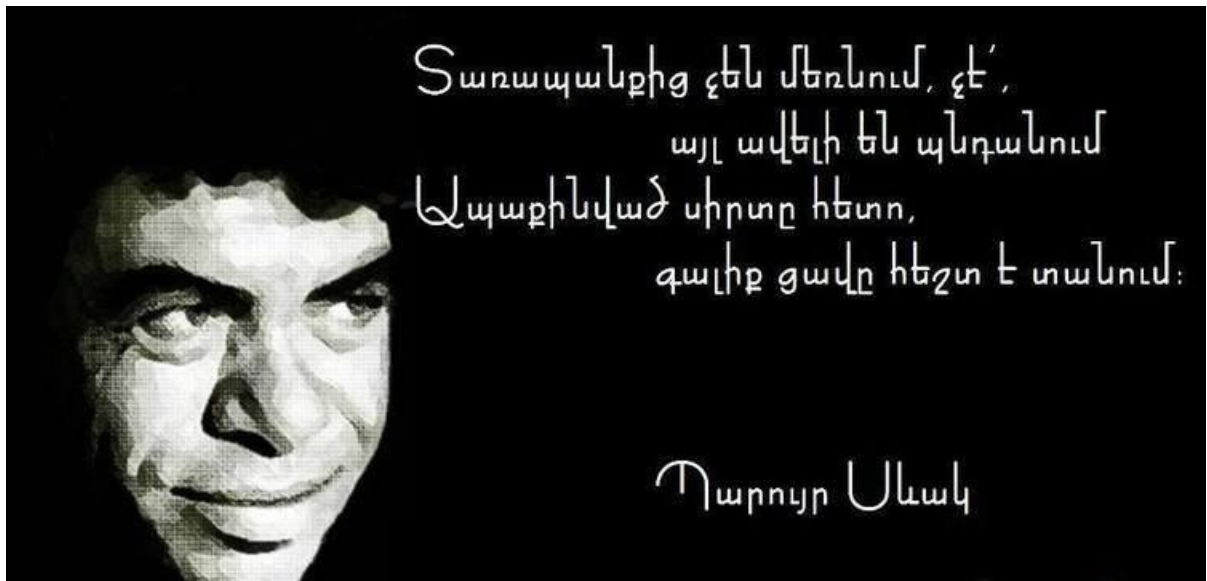


Baruyr (Paruyr) Sevag Ghazaryan (1924 – 1971)



Baruyr (Paruyr) Sevag Ghazaryan (1924 – 1971) was born near Mount Ararat and to this day remains one of the most influential poets in Armenian Literature. He used his poetry to not only preserve and share the history and rich cultural heritage of the Armenian people, but also to comment on the state of society at the time he was living during Soviet Union. Publishing over 50,000 works in his lifetime, his writings have the ability to deeply influence and unite Armenians across the world through the strength and pride that grew from our

oppression. He deeply influenced and shaped the minds of many writers during his time, as well as those who came after him. In 1971 he suffered a fatal car crash, suspected to be a result of his criticism of the political system, leaving him a martyr and a hero.





ՔԻՉ ԵՆՔ, ԲԱՅՑ ՀԱՅ ԵՆՔ

"We Are Few But We Are Called Armenians"

Baruyr (Paruyr) Sevag:

Մենք քիչ ենք, սակայն մեզ հայ են ասում:
Մենք մեզ ոչ որից չենք գերադասում:
Պարզապես մենք էլ պիտի ընդունենք,
Որ մենք, միայն մենք Արարատ ունենք,
Եվ որ այստեղ է՝ բարձրիկ Մեանում,
Երկինքը իր ճիշտ պատճենը հանում:
Պարզապես Դավիթն այստեղ է կրուել:
Պարզապես Նարեկն այստեղ է գրուել:
Պարզապես գիտենք ժայռից վանք կերտել,
Քարից շինել ձուկ, եւ թռչուն՝ կալից,
Ուսուցման համար եւ աշակերտել
Գեղեցիկին,
Բարուին,
Վաճառին,
Լաւի՞ն...

Մենք քիչ ենք, սակայն մեզ հայ են ասում:
Մենք մեզ ոչ մէկից չենք գերադասում
Պարզապես մեր բախտն ուրիշ է եղել,
Պարզապես շատ ենք մենք արիւն հեղել:
Պարզապես մենք մեր դարաւոր կեանքում,
Երբ եղել ենք շատ
Ու եղել կանգուն,
Դարձեալ չենք ճնշել մէկ ուրիշ ազգի,
Ո՛չ որ չի տուժել զարկից մեր բազկի:
Եթե գերել ենք՝
Լոկ մեր գրքերով.
Եթե տիրել ենք՝
Լոկ մեր ձիրքերով...

Պարզապես մահն է մեզ սիրահարուել,
Իսկ մենք ինքնակամ նրան չենք տրուել:
Ու երբ ճարահատ մեր հողն ենք թողել՝
Ուր էլ որ հասել, որտեղ էլ եղել,
Ջանացել ենք մենք ամենքի համար:
Ծիւնել ենք կամուրջ,
Կապել ենք կամար,
Ամեն տեղ հերկել,
Հասցրել բերքեր,
Ամենքին տուել միտք, առած, երգեր՝
Պաշտպանել նրանց հոգեւոր ցրտից,-
Ամեն տեղ թողել մեր աչքից՝ ցոլանք,
Մեր հոգուց՝ մասունք,
Եւ նշխար՝ սրտից...

Մենք քիչ ենք, այո՛, բայց կոչւում ենք հայ,
Գիտենք դեռ չանցած վերքերից տնքալ,
Բայց նոր խնդութեամբ ցնծալ ու հրճուել:
Գիտենք թշնամու կողմ մխրճուել
Ու բարեկամին դառնալ աջակից:
Դուրս գալ մեզ արուած բարութեան տակից՝
Մէկի փոխարեն տասն հատուցելով...
Յօգուտ արդարի եւ արեգակի
Գիտենք բուխարկել մեր կեանքով նաեւ...
Բայց թէ կամենան մեզ բռնի վաճել,
Մենք գիտենք միայլ եւ կրակ մարել:
Իսկ եթէ պէտք է խաւարոյ ցրել՝
Գիտենք մոխրանալ որպէս վառ կերոն.
Եւ գիտենք նաեւ մեզ կրքոտ սիրել,
Բայց ուրիշներին միշտ էլ յարգելով...
Մենք մեզ ոչ մէկից չենք գերադասում,
Բայց մեզ էլ գիտենք –
Մեզ հայ են ասում:
Եւ ինչո՞ւ պիտի չհպարտանանք...
Կա՛նք: Պիտի լինենք: Ու դեռ շատանա՛նք:

We are few but we are called Armenians
We do not put ourselves above anyone
Simply we also admit that we, only we have Mount Ararat
And that it is right here on the clear Sevan
that the sky could make its exact duplicate
Simply David has indeed fought right here
Simply the Narek was written right here
Simply we know how to build from the rock, a monastery
How to make fish from stone, how to make man from clay
To learn to become the student of the beautiful,
the kind,
the noble,
and the good

We are few, but we are called Armenians
We do not put ourselves above anyone
Simply our fortune has just been so different
Simply we have just shed too much blood
Simply in our lives of centuries long
When we were many and when we were strong
Even then we did not oppress any nation
See, centuries have come and centuries have passed
Yet over no one have we become tyrants
If we have enslaved, only with our eyes
And if we have ruled, only with our books
If we have prevailed, only with our talents
And if we have ever oppressed,
it has only been with our wounds

Simply with us death had fallen in love
Yet we willingly did not give ourselves
And when we were forced to leave our own land
Where ever we reached, where ever we went
Everywhere we left indelible trace
We have joined efforts for everyone, always
We plowed everywhere, we built bridges, we tied arches
We plowed everywhere and we brought forth crops
We gave everyone mind, proverbs, and songs
Another words we defended them from spiritual coldness
Every where we left our eyes reflection
A peace of our soul and a sacrament from the heart itself

We are few, truly, but we are Armenians
And by being few we do not succumb
Because it is better to be few in life, then to control life by
being many
Because it is better rather to be few, then to be masters by
being many
Because it is better to be few, then to be swindlers
We are few, yes, but we are Armenians
And we know how to sigh from yet unhealed wounds
But with a new juice we rejoice and we cheer
We know how to thrust into the foe's side
And how to lend a helping hand to our friend
How to repay goodness which was done to us
by compensating for each one by ten
And the benefit of it just in the sun
We vote with our lives, not only with our hands
Yet if they desire to rule us with force
We know how to smoke and how to quench their fire
And if it is needed to disperse darkness
we can turn into ashes like burning candles
And we know as well how to make love with lust
And we do this always by respecting others
See we do not put ourselves above anyone,
but we know ourselves We are called Armenians
And why should we not feel pride about that
We are, We shall be, and become many



HOMESMART
REALTY ADVISORS

Dikran Derderian

REALTOR®

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e dtherealtor@gmail.com

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Exton, PA 19341

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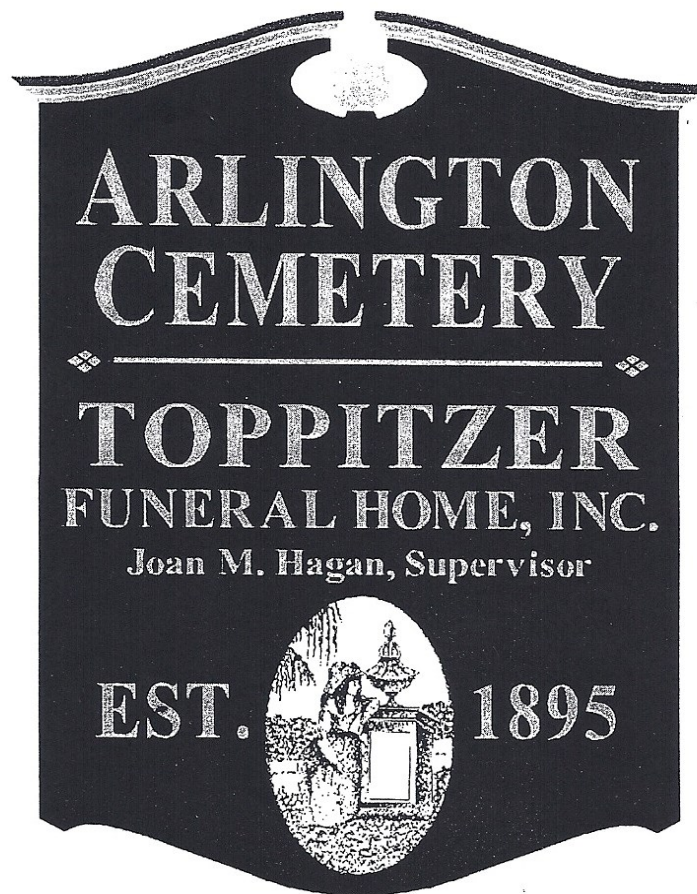


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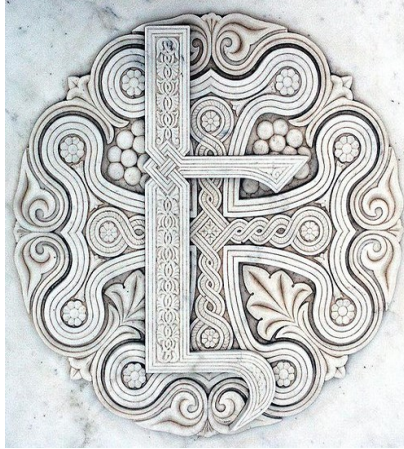
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| ❖ | <i>November 26, 2020</i> | <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> |
| ❖ | <i>December 12, 2020</i> | <i>Christmas Festival Food Pickup</i> |
| ❖ | <i>January 5, 2021</i> | <i>The Candlemas of the Nativity Armenian Christmas Eve
(Service during evening)</i> |
| ❖ | <i>January 6, 2021</i> | <i>Feast of the Nativity and Theophany of Lord Divine Liturgy &
Churorhnek</i> |
| ❖ | <i>January 30, 2021</i> | <i>St. Sarkis the Warrior</i> |
| ❖ | <i>February 11, 2021</i> | <i>Feast of Sts. Vartanantz</i> |
| ❖ | <i>February 14, 2021</i> | <i>Presentation of the Lord to the Temple</i> |
| ❖ | <i>February 14, 2021</i> | <i>Feast of Great Barekendan (Poon Paregentan)</i> |
| ❖ | <i>March 28, 2021</i> | <i>Palm Sunday</i> |
| ❖ | <i>April 4, 2021</i> | <i>Holy Easter</i> |