

Mer Doon



V. Rev. Fr. Oshagan Gulgulian, Pastor

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

OFFICE

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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

Alex Topakbashian	Chair
Alene Schreiner	Vice Chair
Laraine Ballard	Treasurer
Edward Sarkisian	Asst. Treasurer
Tina Bejian Binnion	Recording Secretary
Ani Yeramyian Speirs	Corresponding Secretary
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Jeffery Bedrosian	Advisor
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Lisa Kailian	Advisor
Julyet Degirmenci	Advisor

Diocesan Delegates

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George Kodokian
Robin Williams

Mer Doon Advisory Committee

Editor Pamela Mamourian
Advisors Alene Schreiner

Nominating Committee

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Carol Keosayian
Alex Topakbashian

Auditing Committee

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Alex Mamourian
Viken Bazarbashian

Sunday School Superintendents

Sossi Avrigian and Teresa Yenovkian

Church Organization Chairpersons

ACYOA Jrs.	TBD
Choir	Laraine Ballard
Men's Club Senior	Haig Geovjian
Men's Club	Krikor Soghomonian & Karlen Ghazaryan
Permanent Endowment Fund	Steve Barsamian
Women's Guild	Nancy DerSimonian
Youth Committee	TBD

Communications/Website

Communications	Pamela Mamourian
Web Designer	Alex Topakbashian
Advisors	Alene Schreiner Noel Krommenhoek

Armenian Heritage Center

Carol Keosayian, *Coordinator*

Facilities Management

Alex Topakbashian,
Grounds & Maintenance Liaisons
Aris Topakbashian, *Coordinator*

Front cover:

His Holiness, Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, welcomes the V. Rev. Fr. Oshagan Gulgulian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of Iraq, to Holy Etchmiadzin for a formal visitation.

ARTICLES FOR MER DOON FROM YOU

The *Mer Doon* is accepting articles written by our parishioners. Have you celebrated a milestone – a wedding, anniversary, christening or birthday in your family? Have you been somewhere fascinating or participated in a special project? The *Mer Doon* wants to hear about it. Church organizations are strongly encouraged to contribute articles. Submit your articles and photos to office@sahagmesrob.church. Photos should include the following information: event name, date, and the identity of each individual in the photo.



THE PASTOR'S CORNER

A New Beginning

As this issue of Mer Doon comes to you, I have already travelled to Holy Etchmiadzin where I, along with the chairman of the Diocesan Council of the Armenian Church of Iraq and another Diocesan Council member, met with His Holiness, Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians. His Holiness presented me with a beautiful, Armenian-made, gold hand cross and said, in part, “This hand cross is for you, use it in good health to bless the flock that will now be under your spiritual care.” Now I am in Baghdad, in my new position as Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of Iraq. My primary church, St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Orthodox Church at the Diocese in Baghdad, is stunningly beautiful and quite inspiring.



I thank God for this opportunity to serve and for all the years I spent with you at St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church. I want to thank you, so many of you, who stood by my side, supported me, helped me, advised me, and guided me along my journey. It has been an honor to have been the Pastor of St. Sahag & St. Mesrob, to have served you and to have been welcomed into your families and into your homes, where we broke bread together. We grew together over these years; you became my family, and I will miss you dearly.

While it is not easy to say goodbye, it is with great honor and a deep sense of duty that I step into this position of distinction to serve the Armenian Church in this new capacity. Though leaving all of you who have truly become my extended family during my tenure at St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church brings me a heavy heart, I embark on this chapter with a faithful and optimistic spirit. Please keep me in your prayers, that our Heavenly Father will provide me with the strength and wisdom to serve God, the Armenian Church, and the Armenian people in this new capacity and in this new place.

Know that you are, and always will be, continually in my prayers,

✠ *V. Rev. Fr. Oshagan Gulgolian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church of Iraq*



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

We have long awaited this moment. Two years since the pandemic began, we can finally say that the disruption of Covid-19 is behind us. Though we know to continue to be cautious, most of us have been able to enjoy a return to our normal routines.

There was no better way to mark the return to full in-person church services than through the celebration of Holy Week and Easter. Throughout the week, we gathered in numbers that we have not seen in some time, culminating in a beautiful Easter Sunday. With Easter, the arrival of spring, and the pandemic nearing its end, it has been an appropriate time to reflect and consider what lies ahead.

This reflection has been accelerated by some significant news we received in May, both on a diocesan level and in our own parish. First, in early May, we learned that the Very Reverend Father Mesrop Parsamyan was elected by the Diocesan Assembly to succeed Bishop Daniel Findikyan and become the 13th Primate of our Diocese. Later in May we were met with the news that our very own Hayr Sourp, the Very Reverend Father Oshagan Gulgulian was elected to serve as the Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of Iraq. While this was surprising news, it has been natural to experience moments of sadness and pride as he will assume a very important role for a historic Armenian community.

Hayr Sourp’s departure will leave a void in our parish and with the many who worked with him throughout his thirteen years as our pastor. His tenure, the second longest in the history of our great parish, is one that will be recognized for his faithful dedication to the Armenian Church and to the success of our parish. Throughout his time here, and especially in the last two years during the pandemic, Hayr Sourp went above and beyond the call of duty, willingly taking on any task necessary for the good of our church.

With the sudden nature of the news of Hayr Sourp’s move to Iraq, we will have a banquet to celebrate his time with us when he visits later this year. We will be sharing more information about this in the coming months. In the meantime, we took the opportunity to say goodbye to Hayr Sourp after his final Badarak as pastor on June 5th. As I mentioned at the luncheon, no one can have an impact on a parish community like its pastor. This was reiterated by the many who came to express their appreciation for his service to the church and his contribution to each of them individually.

As we determine a date for a celebratory banquet, we will also have to shift focus to the future and the search for our next pastor. A search committee is being formed to assess the needs of our community and seek out individuals who are a best fit to address them. If you have any thoughts or recommendations about the work of the search committee, please feel free to contact me directly.

In looking ahead, there is no doubt that this is a very monumental period in our parish’s history. We will be appointing a new pastor, we will soon be hiring a youth director, and we are about to embark on a major renovation project to convert our small hall into the John and Helen Parseghian Center. Some of you are also aware that we continue to face zoning issues that have prevented us from hosting catered events during the last year. This arose after the lull in events due to the pandemic, when we were met with resistance from our neighbors about how we should use our facility. While we work to understand and address various concerns, we are confident that with your prayers and support, we can come to a reasonable resolution within the next few months, so we can continue to utilize this space as we have for the past 40 years.

Though the next few months may be challenging for our parish, they will indeed be pivotal for its future. I am grateful that we are blessed with many dedicated and able members of our parish leadership – Parish Council Members, Diocesan Delegates and Organizational Leaders – who actively welcome the challenge to grow and strengthen our Parish Community

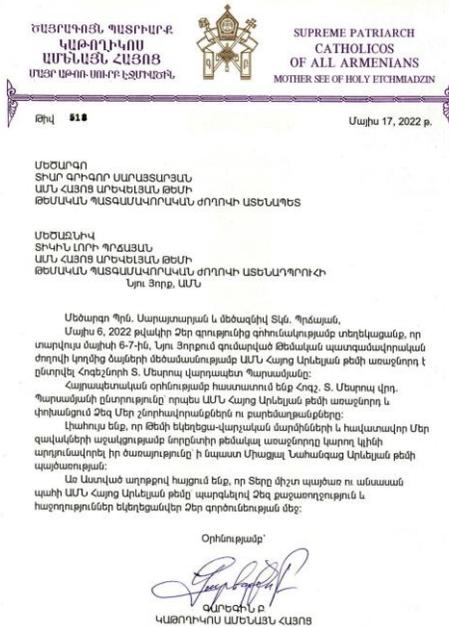
Thank you.

Alex Topakbashian, Chairman, Parish Council
office@sahagmesrob.church





Election and Enthronement of the New Primate



On May 6, 2022, the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America held the opening session of its 120th Diocesan Assembly, during which the Very Reverend Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan was elected Primate of the Diocese. His Holiness, Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, confirmed the election in a letter dated May 17, 2022. He wrote, in part,

“With our pontifical blessing we hereby confirm Father Mesrop Parsamyan’s election as Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, and extend our congratulations and best wishes. We are most hopeful that with the help of the Diocese’s administrative and parish bodies, and with the support of our faithful, the newly-elected Primate will enjoy a fruitful service for the greater splendor of the Eastern Diocese of the United States.”



On June 9, 2022, at New York’s St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral, Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan ceremonially took his place as the 13th Primate of the Eastern Diocese in the “Service of Enthronement,” during which the Primate staff, called the *assa* in Armenian, was passed to him by the outgoing Primate, Bishop Daniel Findikyan.

Select the following link to read Diocesan Primate Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan’s message at the Service of Enthronement and view photographs. <https://armenianchurch.us/2022/06/10/fr-mesrops-message-to-the-faithful/>



Poon Paregentan, Lent, Palm Sunday and Holy Resurrection

Poon Paregentan (Բուն Բարեկենդան), or the “day of good living,” is the Sunday preceding the Fast of Great Lent (Մեծ Պահք). This year it fell on February 27th. It is the day we Armenians traditionally celebrate with lavish tables of good food and cheerful merriment in our hearts. We celebrate Poon Paregentan with wholehearted joy



knowing that the following day we enter into the season of Great Lent; the 40 days of fasting, reconciliation and penance leading up to Palm Sunday, Holy Week and the crowning day of Holy Easter, the Feast of the Resurrection. Poon Paregentan marks the closing of the altar curtain for the period of Lent, symbolizing the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Kingdom of Heaven and emphasizing the solemn spirit of the season.

It is precisely because the following day ushers in the Season of Lent that Poon Paregentan is such a joyful day of celebration. The longest fast of the liturgical calendar, the period of Lent is the time for each of us to undertake the personal journey of deep reflection and reconciliation. Additionally, for 40 days it is customary to forego all animal foods, including dairy products. This 40-day journey is a somber time of preparation for that which marks the very foundation of Christianity: Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Holy Easter, the Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

During this period of preparation, the traditional Friday evening Lent Services at St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church serve as a weekly touchstone for meaningful, personal reflection and spiritual connection. Lasting about 30 minutes, the Friday services alternate between *The Peace Service*, comprised of prayers requesting peace at the end of the day, and *The Rest Service*, comprised of prayers requesting God’s care and protection through the night. These services have the divine power to touch a deep spiritual chord, providing time for personal reflection and offering the assurance that God is with us as we battle our daily trails and temptations. The twilight and quiet of the sanctuary provide a transformative setting for personal meditation.

Lenten Series 2022

Our Lenten season was hybrid with virtual presentations on four of the Wednesdays and dinner and fellowship on the six Fridays of Lent.

Our virtual programming included a diverse group of presenters with a steady group of participants each week. Our first presentation on March 2, 2022, *Together We Rise, Let’s Buy Armenian*, featured husband/wife Lilit Dolkarian Odabashian and Dr. Nishan Odabashian, the founders of the Buy Armenian platform, which began as a Facebook group and has now reached a global following of



over 50,000. BuyArmenian.com is a multi-vendor online marketplace where Armenian products from Armenia and the Diaspora are sold and delivered to the customer's home. The website boasts almost 10,000 products, from Armenia, the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Lebanon with over 1,000 vendors. <http://www.buyarmenian.com>.

Our second presentation on March 16, 2022, featured former ACYOA Central Council member Mallory Maslar, the Director of Operations for the *Artsakh Relocation Project*, which was founded in the Fall of 2020, in the aftermath of the Artsakh War. <https://www.artsakhrelocation.org/>. The organization is run by several young adults and aims to fulfill the needs of Artsakh families, providing essential items including food, toiletries, clothing, and rent.

Our third program on March 23, 2022, was led by The Very Rev. Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan, who at the time of his presentation was the Director of Ministries of the Eastern Diocese, but who was recently elected as Primate of the Eastern Diocese. Hayr Sourp's presentation, *The Practice of Armenian Christian Meditation*, highlighted how the Christian meditative practice of focusing on a Bible passage, or religious words like Der Voghormya, can enhance our intimate relationship with God. Fr. Parsamyan encouraged listeners that this heightened connection to God can readily begin to grow with just 5 quiet, meditative minutes a day.

Roger Kupelian, an award-winning Matte Painter, Concept Designer, Filmmaker, Illustrator, and novelist was our final speaker on March 30, 2022, focusing on *The Eternal Tribe*, about our never-ending cycle of tribal demise, rebirth, and survival. He created an animated video about our people using modern animation and digital tools. Furthermore, Roger has communicated the Armenian story worldwide, combining his visual media skills with his knowledge of history in his epic two-volume graphic novel series.

We thank the following supporters of the programs and Friday evening dinners: Elizabeth Barsamian, Steve Barsamian, Julyet & Sam Degirmenci, Nancy & Nishan DerSimonian, Berjouhi Kitabjian, Dr. & Mrs. Alex & Pam Mamourian, Lorie Odabashian, Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Williams, and our Men's Club and Sunday School.

✍ Lisa Manookian

Holy Week and Easter

As the liturgical calendar unfolded, it was the beautiful service of Palm Sunday, honoring the day our Lord triumphantly entered the city of Jerusalem, that began our Holy Week. We joyfully reflected on the day Christ was welcomed by the faithful with the traditional distribution of palms. Following Badarak, a Palm Sunday luncheon was held in Memorial Hall with two performances. First, the Sunday School staged a presentation of the joyous crowd welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem, and following the luncheon, singer Kevork Artinian enthusiastically entertained the parish with lively

Armenian songs. Holy Week continued with Maundy Thursday and the Washing of the Feet Service. Twelve boys joined Hayr Sourp on the altar to participate in the service that harkens back to the evening of the Last Supper when Christ washed the feet of his twelve Disciples. Following this service was the Vigil of the Passion



of Our Lord (Khavaroom). Along with Hayr Sourp, Deacons and subdeacons Steven Keytanjian, Dr. Shahab Minassian, Adrian Stepanian, and Lou Arabatli, read the 7 Gospels as the flames of the candles were extinguished until the sanctuary was dim and the solemn “Oor Es Mayr Eem” was chanted.

Hayr Sourp and deacons chanted another lamenting vigil at the foot of our beautifully decorated representation of Christ’s Tomb on Good Friday, while Saturday ushered in a transcendent Easter Eve, with scripture readings by several Sunday School students. The sanctuary and the altar were resplendent with fragrant and colorful flowers, lovingly donated by several parishioners (please see the following Holy Week Donations). As the sunlight slowly faded, each parishioner was given a beautiful glass candle holder, lovingly chosen and shipped from Armenia by Mr. and Mrs. Tigran & Syuana Shahinyan (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hovhannes Ghazaryan), who donated these gifts to the parishioners of St. Sahag & St. Mesrob.). The candles were lit, one by one, from the flame of the candle that came down from the altar. The faithful then processed into Hayatian Hall, where Hayr Sourp performed the Easter Eve Home Blessing, and great fun was had by all who played the traditional Easter egg game with the red eggs, lovingly dyed by the hands of Drs. Talen Metjian and Adam Lusk & family and Alma Alabalikian.



Krisdos Haryav ee Merelotz! Orhnyal eh Harootiununn Krisdosee! We were blessed with a beautiful, sunny Easter Sunday as St. Sahag & St. Mesrob concluded Holy Week with an uplifting Easter Service. In his sermon, Hayr Sourp expressed the concept of resurrection using the story of Kevork Nazar and how St. Mary’s Armenian Apostolic Church in Iraq came about. “This is an example of resurrection. As our people spread out across the world, they worked to establish Armenian communities wherever they settled.” The service was followed by a festive Easter egg hunt on the grounds and a packed social hour in Memorial Hall, where the parish expressed their joy in the Lord’s Resurrection and gathering together as a church family.

✠ Tam Mamourian

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Christ is Risen from the dead.

Blessed is the Resurrection of Christ



St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church ✦ Spring 2022
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St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church ✦ Spring 2022
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Parish Assembly Highlights

The Annual Parish Assembly was held in a hybrid format, in person and by Zoom, on February 27, 2022, in Memorial Hall. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm at which time the Very Reverend Father Oshagan Gulgulian gave the Invocation. Steve Barsamian was elected chairman; Alex Topakbashian, parliamentarian; and Pamela Mamourian, secretary. The 2022 Assembly Agenda was adopted and the minutes from the previous Assembly in 2021 were adopted. The nominating committee put forth a slate of names for Parish Council, Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee. General business included the Auditing Committee report, the Financial Report, the Pastor’s Report, and the Parish Council’s Report. The general budget for 2022 was adopted, the 2022 budget for the Campground Interest Fund was adopted, and the committee reports were adopted. The results of the elections were as follows:

Parish Council (Five to be elected): Julyet Degirmenci, Rosine Gouveia, Ed Sarkisian, Tina (Bejian) Binnion and Lisa Kailian. Nominating Committee: (Three to be elected): Carol Keosayian, Sonia Kailian and Alex Topakbashian. Auditing Committee (One to be elected): Vicken Bazarbashian. Benediction was given by The Very Reverend Father Oshagan Gulgulian and meeting adjournment was at 3:01 pm.

✍️ *Pam Mamourian*

Mother’s Day

“Motherhood: all love begins and ends there.” – Robert Browning

Mother’s Day is a special day to celebrate motherhood and the influence of mothers in our lives. On May 8th, Hayr Sourp recognized a very special mother within our Parish, Florence Kazanjian, as Mother of the Year. He presented her with a plaque that read:

“In recognition and appreciation for being a wonderful mother; congratulations for all the hard work and the sacrifice you have made with patient and loving kindness and for all the love and care you have given to St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania”

In her heartfelt remarks, Florence expressed her appreciation for this honor and dedicated her award to all the mothers in our parish. She thanked God for blessing her abundantly in her life and thanked her wonderful daughters, sons-in-law, and grandchildren.





We congratulate Florence for this well-deserved honor and are truly lucky to have her as a dedicated member of our church. Her support, kindness, strength, generosity, concern, and most importantly, love for all of us is a true blessing. We are thankful to have her as a mother figure for all.

✍ *Alene Schreiner*

Final Holy Badarak



On June 5th, 2022, we celebrated the Pentecost Advent of the Holy Spirit, and it also marked the final Holy Badarak for our beloved Hayr Sourp, the V. Rev. Fr. Oshagan Gulgulian, as the pastor of St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church.



The feast of the Pentecost is a commemoration of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the 50th day after the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit shielded them as they went out to preach and teach in the name of the Holy Trinity. In our tradition, the Holy Spirit descends unto those being anointed at their baptism. The Holy Spirit serves to shield us from evil and defends our spirit.

In an emotional sermon, Hayr Sourp noted his first Badarak as pastor of St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church was the first Sunday of June, 2009, and now, 13 years later, his last Badarak is the first Sunday of June, 2022. Coincidence or divine intervention?

He thanked God for giving him the strength to lead our parish through beautiful and difficult, happy and sad days. He thanked our community for being his family, for their friendship, for inviting him into their homes and breaking bread with him. Throughout his tenure he has baptized our children, married our young couples, and buried our loved ones. While it is not easy to say goodbye, as a soldier of God he humbly accepts his new responsibility to serve as Primate of the Armenian Diocese of Iraq and knows the Holy Spirit will guide him in his new mission. He left the faithful with a message of peace and love.

Following the service, the Parish Council hosted an informal farewell lunch which included some specialty foods of Philadelphia. A proper celebration and goodbye banquet will be planned for the fall.

Hayr Sourp, we will miss you and your leadership. We appreciate all you have done for our church, for us and for the Philadelphia Armenian community these past 13 years. As we bid you a fond farewell, our love and our prayers will remain with you always.

To view all the photographs taken that day, please visit St. Sahag & St. Mesrob’s Facebook page.

✍ *Alene Schreiner*

Father’s Day

On June 19th, the second Sunday of Pentecost, St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church celebrated the Feast of the Universal Church of Holy Etchmiadzin. At the conclusion of the service, Mesrob Odabashian was honored as St. Sahag & St. Mesrob’s 2022 Father of the Year. Alex Topakbashian, Parish Council Chair, presented Mesrob with a plaque congratulating him on all the hard work and sacrifices he has made with loving kindness, and for all the love and care he has shown to our parish. Alex fondly shared his personal appreciation with Mesrob for opening his home and heart to the youth of our parish.



The church service and award presentation were followed by a beautiful breakfast in honor of all fathers. The Very Rev. Fr. Mamigon Kiledjian blessed the meal, extended his congratulations to Mesrob and his family, and recognized all fathers and their importance to their families and our church. Special thanks to Juliet Degirmenci, members of the Women’s Guild, and all helpers for preparing and presenting a wonderful meal. Thank you, Women’s Guild; congratulations, Mesrob; and God bless all fathers!

✍ *Mary Odabashian*



PARISH ORGANIZATIONS' NEWS

WOMEN'S GUILD

As I am tasked to write these articles for the Mer Doon and reflect on the months since my previous article for the Women's Guild, I am filled with a sense of love, pride, and happiness. These wonderful feelings are present because of two things. First, the special women I have met through the Guild. And second, the inner, or intangible, and the outer, or tangible, beauty of our wonderful church. Both have added so much to my life, and for that I am so grateful.



I want to thank those who have become dues paid members. We add strength through our numbers. I am so excited to write that since my previous article, the Guild has added six members who had never joined before. I want to welcome Heripsime Assadourian, Edwig Basil, Zarmine Boghosian, Maro Derderian, Carol Hoplamazian and Pam Mamourian. You're a special group, and we are thrilled to have you join us.

As a Guild, we are slowly getting back to pre-Covid activities. Visits and calls were made to those who were homebound. We hosted a successful Miching Luncheon fundraiser on March 27th to celebrate the middle of Lent. Everything was delicious, and everyone had a great time. We are so blessed to have such tasty Armenian meals throughout the year, and the Lenten meals are no exception. Thank you to all who came that day to support us, and thank you to the women who worked in preparing the food.

On May 1st, ten women from the Guild went out for lunch at the Valley Forge Trattoria. It was such a beautiful day. It was nice to see women we haven't seen for a while, as well as new faces. It was an enjoyable time for all.

And lastly, the Women's Guild stepped up to help with the cooking for the Holy Thursday dinner, the serving for the first Lenten dinner, and cooking for the Early Bird Picnic. I have to say, everything at the picnic was delicious and perfectly cooked. It was a very hot day, and as I looked around and saw how hard everyone was working, I felt very blessed to be a part of such an amazing community. Thank you to those workers for your dedication.

On behalf of all the women, I want to acknowledge and thank the Men's Club for hosting a beautiful and fulfilling Mother's Day breakfast. It was so nice not to think about making breakfast that day as the Men's Club took care of that for us. The church hall was abuzz with festive conversations and smiles galore. Thank you, again.

That's it for now. If you are not on my email list and would like to be, please email me a ndersimonian@gmail.com. If you would like to become a member of the Guild, we'd love to welcome you. Dues are just \$15 and should be mailed to Rosine Gouveia at 414 Eldon Drive, Broomall, PA 19008.

Stay well and enjoy this beautiful weather. See you at church.

✍ Nancy DerSimonian



SUNDAY SCHOOL *Closing Ceremony May 2022*



Our Sunday School students closed out the year by reciting their chosen verse and then telling us why they chose that verse. We had 20 students recite verses, from our kindergarten group up through 11th grade. The students prepared posters of their verses for all those in church to see. Our students worked hard throughout the year, learning about Armenian church traditions, the Bible and Jesus' love for all of us. Nancy DerSimonian, Valerie Hagopian, Sossi Avrigian and Teresa Yenovkian worked to put together a wonderful Palm Sunday play for the Palm Sunday luncheon, portraying Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem after having raised Lazarus from the dead. The following Sunday, we held the annual Easter Egg Hunt after Easter Services. The children really enjoyed getting outside on that beautiful day and running around finding the eggs. When the egg hunt completed, the children enjoyed breaking eggs open to see who won. It was really nice to be in person and enjoy seeing all our children in their Easter outfits. The remainder of the year, the students met for Sunday School and then chose their verses to prepare for the closing ceremony. We had one student, Nicholas Fumento, who graduated from the Sunday School program this year and received his certificate from the Eastern Diocese. We want to thank all our parents for their support throughout this Sunday School year.





✍ Teresa Fenorkian

MEN'S CLUB

After a few years of planning and organizing events for Men's club, I'm writing to announce a change in the leadership. While I have sincerely enjoyed working together with the membership to do some good for the church and community, it's time for new ideas and new energy. I am delighted to say that Karlen Ghazaryan has agreed to step into the leadership role at Men's Club. Koko Soghomonian will continue to serve as treasurer, and I will remain an active member. Karlen has already taken a running start in his new role by organizing a very successful and delicious Mother's Day brunch after Badarak on May 8th. It was very well attended and provided a reminder of the wonderful community we have at St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church. Karlen is already planning the next event, a chartered, ocean-going fishing trip at the end of June. Please contact him at 484-410-1474 if you are interested in joining this trip. We all look forward to future Men's Club events and hope those of you who have not participated in the past will take advantage of this fresh start to join our upcoming activities. I want to thank all of you for your support for the organization over the past few years. I look forward to seeing you at future events.

✍ Alex Mamourian

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Church Sets Example by Preserving Archives

The Church Archives Committee was approached by freelance reporter, Paul Sookiasian about an article. After getting approval from our Pastor, V Rev. Fr. Oshagan Gulgulian, Paul met with our committee one Wednesday last fall to gather information. He wrote the article, had it approved by



Hayr Sourp, and submitted it to *The Armenian Mirror-Spectator* Editorial Board. You can view the article online:

<https://mirrorspectator.com/2022/03/03/philly-church-sets-example-by-preserving-archives/>.

We not only value Paul’s interest, but also his insightful and journalistic skills to produce this article. Thank you, Paul!

As we approach the 100th anniversary of our Church in 2024, the Archives continues to accept group records, banquet booklets, photographs as well as any other Church-related materials. These items would embellish our current records. All materials should be submitted in an envelope, labelled, “Archives”. Please include your name and email or phone number as the contact person. We would appreciate any identification of individuals in photographs on a separate paper as well as the event’s name and date/year. Anything you submit can be dropped off in the Church Office.



This photograph was submitted to us. It is of our ACYOA. Can you identify the people? Email your answers to: lsbdh@yahoo.com.

IN THE NEWS

On April 27th, one of our parishioners was honored at a reception at the St. Vartan Cathedral complex of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. Zarmine Boghosian, former teacher and principal at the Armenian Martyrs Day School, was honored in light of her recently published book, *From Azez to America*, and the anniversary of her 50 years as an educator. At the reception, Bishop Daniel Findikyan spoke, “Beyond all you have accomplished, most of all you are a teacher, the spirit of who we are. The highest honor is to be a teacher, and to transmit the spirit of who we are as Armenians and as Christians. And this is what you have achieved.” To read the full article honoring Zarmine Boghosian, please click the following link.



Photo credit: Diran Jebejian.

<https://armenianchurch.us/2022/05/04/eastern-diocese-honors-zarmine-boghosian-for-50-years-as-an-educator-writer/>



It was quite a delight to find our very own St. Sahag & St. Mesrob parishioners, Alex & Alexis Topakbashian & their family, on the cover of the March 2022 issue of *Marple Friends & Neighbors*. The article highlighting the Topakbashians is entitled, “Living Life to the Fullest,” which is certainly the theme voiced in the feature. In addition to learning about the busy family life of the Topakbashians, Alex and Alexis speak about the importance of their connection to their Armenian culture and heritage. To read more about the active lives of the Topakbashian family and their community recognition, go to: <https://www.marplemag.com/magazines/march-2022/> Congratulations Topakbashian family! We are very proud to call you our own.



Photo credit: Micduff Photography

One of our Sunday School students, Grace Yacobe, recently received an award from the Delaware Valley Science Fairs, Inc. organization. The organization allows the opportunity for middle and high school students to present their scientific research and engineering projects for review. Grace, a student at the Academy of Notre Dame de Namur, took 1st place in the category of Medicine and Health in all of Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey. Grace’s research focused on creating a non-invasive method to efficiently detect Bronchial Carcinoma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, and Emphysema. Furthermore, she received a bronze medal in recognition of her scientific intellectual potential in the ninth-grade category. Her award qualified her to an all-expense paid trip to the International Science and Engineering Fair in Atlanta, Georgia. You can see her listed on the Delaware Valley Science Fairs website at <https://www.dvsf.org/>



Additionally, Grace received a first-place award in Biology, and a perfect score, from the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science, resulting in a trip to the main campus of Penn State College, funded by her school, the Academy of Notre Dame de Namur. www.pjas.net

“I would like to thank my parents and my sister Joy, who have given me so much support,” says Grace. “Also, the Academy of Notre Dame de Namur and the teachers who wanted to see me succeed.



I am so grateful for all the resources I have been given and I thank God every day for it.” Grace, with her keen interest in fixing and solving puzzles, would like to become a surgeon one day. “The biggest puzzle to me is the human body. I would like to use the resources given to me to save lives.” Congratulations, Grace, we are all behind you.

✍ *Lam Manourian*



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Our Graduates College

CELINE ARABATLIAN earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, University of the Sciences. She graduated summa cum laude and received the Mahlon N. Kline Memorial Prize, which is an award given to the Doctor of Pharmacy candidate with the highest average grade in the pharmaceuticals course sequence. After graduation, Celine plans on pursuing her interests in academia and inspiring future pharmacists to work towards the common goal of bettering patients' lives. Celine is the daughter of Ohannes & Ronia Arabatlian and the granddaughter of the late Kevork & Zvart Arabatlian and Harout Mentcherian & the late Faris Mentcherian.



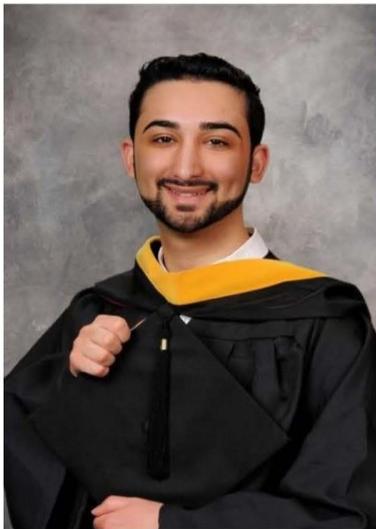
GEORGETTE AVRIGIAN graduated with honors from Loyola University Maryland in Baltimore, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech-Language Pathology and a minor in Music. Among her many memorable achievements was her role as an Evergreen (student mentor) for first-year students where she participated in summer orientation and facilitated enrichment activities. This past year she served as a Campus Ministry Music Intern and was responsible for the Chapel Choir. Over the years, Georgette was heavily involved in University Singers, Chapel Choir, the *National Student Speech Language Hearing Association* (NSSLHA), and weekly/monthly service opportunities through the Center for Community Service and Justice. She has been inducted as a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa, and NSSLHA National Honor Society. After graduation, Georgette will continue her education at Loyola University Maryland in their Master of Science Speech-Language Pathology program. Georgette is the daughter of Melcom & Sossi Avrigian and the granddaughter of the late George & Marion Avrigian and the late Krikor & Araxie Boyadjian.



Congratulations!



SERENA DERDERIAN graduated from Tufts University this June, receiving her Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Engineering. Serena was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority and participated on both the Swim Team and the Rowing Team. Serena has plans to work at Wistar Cancer Institute this summer in Philadelphia and will continue at Tufts University this fall to pursue her master’s degree. Serena is the daughter of Dikran & Michele Derderian and the granddaughter of Antranig & Marie Derderian.



DERIK GHEZARIAN-BOGHOSIAN graduated from Fordham University in New York City with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and a minor in Marketing. He will continue his studies in the fall at Fordham pursuing his master’s degree. Derik is the son of Hamo Boghosian and Kari Ghezarian



JESSICA L. HAMALIAN graduated from The College of New Jersey, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, with a concentration in Marketing, and a minor in Biology. While in school, Jessica was a mentor of the CEO Business Peer Mentor Program, founder and president of the Armenian Students’ Association, founder and artist of Jess Ham’s Sketchbook on Etsy, Brother of the National Service Fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, and student manager of the TCNJ Hockey Team. At TCNJ, Jessica focused on blending marketing and scientific strategies. She performed research in competitive drug analysis, developed strategic marketing plans for subdermal applications, and studied PCR and Gel Electrophoresis in DNA. Last summer, Jessica held an Internship with Merck & Co. as an Associate Specialist in Web Strategy and Services in U.S. Commercial Operations. Jessica has accepted a position in the same role at Merck as a Web Strategist in vaccines, chronic care, and hospital care. Jessica is the daughter of Ben & Trina Hamalian and the granddaughter of Rosette Alyanakian & the late Leon Alyanakian and Merin Hamalian & the late Sarkis Hamalian.



TALENE KNUDSON graduated with honors from Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Sciences. She will continue her education at Quinnipiac University to complete their Master of Occupational Therapy program with the goal to practice as an occupational therapist. Talene is a former graduate of The Armenian Sisters Academy and Academy of Notre Dame de Namur High School. Talene is the daughter of Dennis Knudson & Kayane Janjigian and the granddaughter of Anahid Odabashian & the late Papken Janjigian and Donald & Virginia Knudson.



ADAM JOHN TORCOMIAN graduated from Drexel University in June. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Information Systems and a minor in Human Computer Interaction User Experience. While attending Drexel, Adam successfully completed three Cooperative Education Segments. The first, at University of Pennsylvania Wharton School, he worked with various students daily in the IT department solving technical issues. The second, at Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads LLP, he worked with various attorneys, IT personnel, and support staff to provide daily hardware and software problem solving solutions. In his third & final co-op, Adam joined Brandywine Photonics, where he held the position of Electro-Optical Engineer, working on highly detailed mechanical projects. Adam has accepted a full-time position with SAP America, Inc. on the Customer Engagement Support (CES) team. He has begun working at the Newtown Square Campus, ahead of his June graduation date. Adam is the son of John Torcomian & the late Laura Torcomian and the grandson of Veronica Torcomian & the late Albert Torcomian and Ara & Evelyn DerMarderosian.

High School



LUKE BARSAMIAN graduated from Unionville High School in Kennett Square, PA, where he was a member of the Honor Roll and Dean's List all 4 years. Luke is a member of the National Honor Society and participated in many activities such as Choir, Drone Club, and the Volleyball Team. He will attend American University in Washington, D.C. in the fall on a grant scholarship where he plans to major in Business. Luke is the son of Eric Barsamian & Alexis Barsamian (and stepson of Sarah Hardin) and the grandson of Eileen Barsamian & the late Vahan Barsamian and Susan Hall & the late Jerome Segal (and step-grandson of Tanya Segal).



MYA DERDERIAN graduated with Distinguished Honors from Avon Grove High School. She has been a longstanding member of the Longwood Performing Arts & Company and with an extensive study and focus on the arts of Ballet/Pointe, Lyrical/Contemporary, Jazz, Tap, and Hip-Hop dance. Additionally, she has worked at Kennett Country Club and The Creamery in Kennett Square. Mya will be attending Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona, majoring in General Business with a minor in Interior Design. Mya is the daughter of Dikran & Michele Derderian and the granddaughter of Antranig & Marie Derderian.



ALEX ESENYAN graduated from Newark Charter School in Newark, Delaware. He founded and ran both the Finance Club and the Entrepreneurship Club. During his time at Newark Charter School, he won multiple business and investment theory competitions in the state. He was also an international finalist in multiple debate and pitch competitions. Alex currently runs a paid equity trading chat room with hundreds of members. He plans to study Finance at Georgetown University in the fall. Alex is the son of Siran & Jack Esenyan and the grandson of Solina Esenyan & the late Yervant Esenyan and Azad Muratdaghi & the late Armenak Muratdaghi.



ISABEL ESENYAN graduated from Newark Charter School in Newark, Delaware. She was a member of the Varsity Volleyball Team all 4 years, as well as an active member of club volleyball. She was a member of the National Honor Society, the Patriot Athletic Leadership Club, and she volunteered at the Red Cross. She also volunteered at a local food bank and at Sean's House, a nonprofit organization that aims to aid in mental health of teenagers and young adults. Isabel received the Jefferson's Award for Public Service. Additionally, she received numerous athletic awards, like First Team All-Conference, and academic awards like the AP Scholar With Distinction. She plans to study Sociology on a pre-law track at Vanderbilt University in the fall. Isabel is the daughter of Siran & Jack Esenyan and the granddaughter of Solina Esenyan & the late Yervant Esenyan and Azad Muratdaghi & the late Armenak Muratdaghi.





SAREEN MINASIAN graduated from the Academy of Notre Dame de Namur in Villanova, PA, with Distinguished Honors. She was the recipient of the St. Julie Billiart Scholarship for demonstrating strength of character and leadership in activities and service to her school, family, and community. Sareen held this award throughout her 4 years. She founded the Notre Dame de Namur Armenian Club and helped grow the club to over 40 members. She was a Notre Dame Ambassador, a member of Model UN, as well as a member of the Virtual Architectural, Fashion, Spanish, and Classics (Latin) Clubs. Sareen competed on the Track & Field Team. Outside her Notre Dame experience, Sareen was actively involved in the Armenian community. She continues to serve on the altar of St. Mark’s Armenian Catholic Church and is also the youth correspondent for the Eparchy newsletter, “The Eternal Flame.” She served as president of the Philadelphia chapters of ACYOA and SOAR (Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief) Juniors and she participated in Turkey Taxi and Hamazkayin’s Meghry Dance Group. Sareen is also an active member of the Philadelphia Armenian Genocide Walk Committee. Furthermore, she received her certification from Partners Against Child Trafficking. Sareen will attend Bucknell University in the fall. Sareen is the daughter of Rev. Fr. Asadur & Arpy Minasian and granddaughter of Sake Minasian & the late Bedros Minasian and Therese Voskeridjian & the late Hovhannes Voskeridjian.



SIMON EDWARD SELVERIAN graduated from Pope John Paul II High School. Over the last 4 years, Simon played CYO Basketball and was a member of the Junior Varsity Lacrosse Team. He received academic honors in his junior year. In addition, Simon has been an active member of the ACYOA and has volunteered with SOAR (Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief) Juniors and Turkey Taxi. Simon will attend the University of Delaware in the fall with plans to major in Business Administration. Simon is the son of Adam & Sarah Selverian and the grandson of Ardo Besnilian and the late Nazareth & Susie Selverian.





TIFFANY SUSIE SELVERIAN graduated Pope John Paul II High School. Over the last 4 years, Tiffany played CYO Basketball and Volleyball. She was a member of Rhapsodies in her freshman year, performing in several musicals. She has received academic honors throughout high school. In addition, Tiffany has been an active member of the AYP and has volunteered with SOAR (Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief) Juniors and Turkey Taxi. Tiffany will attend St. Joseph's University in the fall with plans to major in Clinical Psychology. Tiffany is the daughter of Adam & Sarah Selverian and the granddaughter of Ardo Besnilian and the late Nazareth & Susie Selverian.



NATALIE ANN YILANJIAN graduated from Pennridge High School in Perkasie, PA.

She was a member of the Girls Varsity Lacrosse Team all 4 years and was voted a Captain in her senior season. Natalie also participated in Link Crew, an organization assisting with incoming freshmen orientation. She was on Honor Roll all 4 years. Natalie will attend Marywood University in Scranton, PA, to study Biology with a focus on the pre-Physician Assistant Program. Natalie is the daughter of Peter & Michelle Yilanjian and the granddaughter of the late Kirkor & Maro Yilancioglu and Jacques & Zora Derderian.





Middle School

RAFAEL AGHABABYAN graduated from The Armenian Sisters Academy. He has been a member of Hamazkayin Meghry Dance Ensemble for 4 years. Rafael loves to watch and play ice hockey. His goal is to one day become the first Armenian professional hockey player. He has been more involved with ACYOA and cannot wait to make unforgettable memories and new friends. Rafael will be attending Marple Newtown High School. Rafael is the son of Zhanna Aghababyan & the late Serob Aghababyan.



ARAM AMIRIAN graduated from The Armenian Sisters Academy. Aram has been a passionate soccer player since he was 4 years old and enjoys playing and following many other sports. He loves his family and enjoys hanging out with his friends. Aram will be attending Devon Preparatory School. Aram is the son of Razmig & Socie Amirian and the grandson of the late Aram & Nevart Amirian and Araxi Getsoyan & the late Garabed Getsoyan.



NATHALIE AMIRIAN graduated from Paxon Hollow Middle School. Nathalie is very athletic and enjoys playing many sports, but she concentrates on volleyball and track. She enjoys dancing with the Hamazkayin Meghry group. Nathalie never misses an opportunity to explain her Armenian heritage to her teachers and friends and educate them about the Armenian Genocide. She loves her family and enjoys hanging out with her friends. Nathalie will be attending Marple High School. Nathalie is the daughter of Razmig & Socie Amirian and the granddaughter of the late Aram & Nevart Amirian and Araxi Getsoyan & the late Garabed Getsoyan.





KARNI ALIK DERDERIAN graduated from Notre Dame Academy of San Diego, CA. Karni is an avid and talented figure skater who devotes herself wholeheartedly to her sport. She has a strong sense of commitment to that which she is passionate about and will dedicate herself until her desired goal is achieved. She is a member of the St. Sarkis Armenian Church of San Diego, CA, and an active member of the youth group, volunteering regularly. Karni will be attending Cathedral Catholic High School in the fall. Karni is the daughter of Armen & Sevan Derderian of San Diego, CA, and the granddaughter of Antranig & Marie Derderian and Any Arabatli Darakjian (of Northridge, CA) & the late Kevork Darakjian.



ALEXANDER RICHARD FUMENTO graduated 8th grade from Paxon Hollow Middle School. He will attend Marple Newtown High School in the fall. Alex is an Honor Roll student and is enrolled in honors classes. He also plays soccer and track. Alexander is the son of Dr. Robert & Tamar Fumento and the grandson of Yerezgin Angel Metjian & the late Rev. Dr. Patee Metjian and Karen Fumento & the late Robert Fumento.



GARO YERAMYIAN SPEIRS graduated from The Armenian Sisters Academy. While at ASA, Garo participated in many sports, including flag football, basketball, and track. He has been, and continues to be, an avid drummer. Garo will be attending The Shipley School in the fall. Garo is the son of Dan & Ani Speirs and the grandson of Pontish Yeramyian & the late Ara Yeramyian and Susan Speirs & the late Robert Speirs.



SACRAMENTS & GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

Baptism & Chrismation



Nazareth Mamourian Thompson
Son of William D. Thompson, Jr. and
Molly Maritza Mamourian
Godfather: *Marcus Mamourian*
Godmother: *Louisa Olushoga*
April 23, 2022

Anoush Arpi DiLibero
Daughter of Grant Gabriel DiLibero and
Arpi Derderian DiLibero
Godfather: *Travis Miller*
Godmther: *Charis Yousefian*
May 28, 2022

Armen Grant DiLibero
Son of Grant Gabriel DiLibero and
Arpi Derderian DiLibero
Godfather: *Aram Derderian*
Godmother: *Linda DiLibero*
May 28, 2022





Wedding



*Gregory Ralph
&
Anna Hoplamazian*

Best Man: *Gary Ralph*

Maid of Honor: *Amy Hoplamazian*

May 14, 2022



The Pastor, Parish Council and Mer Doon staff would like to offer their heartfelt congratulations to the families of the newly baptized and the newlyweds. It is our great joy to see our St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Apostolic Church family grow. We wish you all God's beautiful blessings and may happiness and health follow you all days of your lives.

Funerals

Mary Arabatli

Entered into her eternal rest on February 28, 2022.

Marcus Alexander Mamourian

Entered into his eternal rest on May 16, 2022.





Gifts to the Church

General Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Vahan Gureghian *In memory of Harry & Ann Gureghian*
 Asdghig Kazanjian *For spiritual support and kindness through the years*

TOTAL \$4,200.00

Altar Flowers

Laraine Ballard	<i>In honor of Florence Kazanjian, Mother of the Year</i>
Millie Barsamian and family	<i>In loving memory of Paul Barsamian on the 20th anniversary of his passing</i>
Nancy DerSimonian	<i>In honor of Florence Kazanjian, Mother of the Year</i>
John Eskandarian	<i>In loving memory of Opy Eskandarian</i>
Dina Kazanjian	<i>In honor of Florence Kazanjian, Mother of the Year</i>
Margaret Yacoubian	<i>In memory of George Yacoubian</i>

TOTAL: \$550.00

Stewardship

Jeanne Bedrosian
 Alice Dertadian
 Veronica Torcomian

TOTAL: \$275.00

Mer Doon

M/M Antranig Derderian

TOTAL: \$50.00

Additional Youghakin-Christmas

Siran Karagulian

TOTAL: \$50.00

Holy Week Donations

Good Friday Flowers for the Tomb Donated by:

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| ❖ | Armen & Maro Arutunian | <i>In loving memory of their parents</i> |
| ❖ | Mrs. Elizabeth Barsamian | <i>In loving memory of Paul and Aram Barsamian</i> |
| ❖ | Dr. & Mrs. Alexander Mamourian | <i>In loving memory of Marcus Mamourian</i> |

Easter Sunday Altar Flowers Donated by:

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ❖ | Dr. Donald & Jeanne Bedrossian | <i>In memory of Anne Azarik</i> |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|



- ❖ Bidoyan and Hackett Families *In loving memory of John Bidoyan and Simpat & Siranoush Odabashian*
- ❖ Mrs. Sonia Hoplamazian
- ❖ Mesrob & Grace Odabashian *In loving memory of Misak, Mary & Arshalous Boyajian and Simpat, Siranoush & Sahag Odabashian*
- ❖ Aris & Seta Topakbashian *In loving memory of Garabet & Zaruhi Topakbash and Hagop & Arsalus Kaleli*

Easter Eve Votive Candle Holders Donated by:

- ❖ Mr. and Mrs. Tigran & Syuana Shahinyan

Easter Eggs Dyed and Donated by:

- ❖ Drs. Talen Metjian and Adam Lusk & family and Alma Alabalikian

Cheese for Easter Hospitality Hour Donated by:

- ❖ Sun-Ni Cheese Co.

* * * * *

Easter Youghakin

Alice Alyanakian
 Angeke Arutunian
 Alice Aznavourian
 Linda Babikian
 Tina Binnion
 Zarmine Boghosian
 Lillian Burg
 Robert Cannuscio
 Joseph Chamoun
 dba Cycle Sport
 Antranig Derderian
 Alice Dertadian
 Simone Djevharian
 Christine Droesser
 John Eskandarian
 Anahid Gharibian
 George Gurenlian
 Florence Kazanjian
 Carol Keosayian
 Naomi Kordzian
 Alexander Mamourian
 Nora Martayan

Rozaline Meguerian
 Angel Metjian
 Juliet Michaelian
 Joanne Minassian
 Sylvia Nedurian Jr.
 Mary G Odabashian
 Satenik Petrosian
 Sallee Rush
 Alene Schreiner
 Albert Seraydarian
 Jeffrey Sevag
 Krikor Soghomonian
 Aris Topakbashian
 Veronica Torcomian
 Araksi Torunyan
 Ara Yilancioglu
 Nauver Zerounian
 Jeff H Zoraian

Easter Offering

TOTAL \$: 2, 973.00



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 Mary Arabatli***

- Mr. Chuck Ajamian
- Maan Alsaigh & Family
- M/M Nerces Bardakjian
- Dr. Edwig Basil
- M/M Nubar Megerian
- M/M Antranig Derderian
- M/M Brian Gerber
- Ms. Lisa Kailian
- Sahar & Samer Kilihehi
- M/M Ara Kradjian
- M/M Nazaret Kradjian
- Ms. Lisa Manookian
- Mrs. Kayane Mardikian
- Mrs. Rozaline Meguerian
- M/M Muayd Nasir
- MM Mardiros Sarkahian
- Schreiner Family
- Mrs. Janet Soghomonian
- M/M Krikor Soghomonian
- M/M Hirant Torunyan
- Nauver & Arpie Zerounian

TOTAL \$1,135.00

***In Lieu of Flowers Donations
In Memory of Marcus A. Mamourian***

- Alma Alabilikian
- M/M Ohanes Arabatlian
- M/M Melcom Avrigian
- Ms. Linda Babikian
- Ms. Lynn Baboujian
- M/M Bruce Ballard

- M/M Robert Barone
- Ms. Elizabeth Barsamian
- Mr. Steven P. Barsamian
- Mr. Vicken Bazarbashian
- M/M Raffi Berberian
- M/M Sarkis Berberian
- Mrs. Rose Bidoyan
- Noah Burize
- M/M Garen Boghosian
- Dr & Mrs. Ara Chalian
- Mrs. Ayshe Chakmaklian
- M/M Samuel Degermenci
- M/M Nishan DerSimonian
- M/M Artranig Derderian
- Geralyn Derkrikorian
- Mrs. Alice Dertadian
- M/M Sam DiLisio
- Mrs. Mary Dulgerian
- Amoretta Eby
- M/M Vicken Evereklian
- Damon Fereshetian
- Mark Gittelman
- M/M Clive Gouveia
- M/M Mark Hackett
- M/M Robert Hagopian
- Imaging Educational & Research
- Kaiserian Family
- Mrs. Silva Kailian
- Kaiserian Family
- Lisa Kazanjian
- Mrs. Carol Keosayian
- Dr. & Mrs. Jacques Khoury
- Dr. Michael P. Koumjian



M/M Robert A. Kurkechian
 M/M Albert Kzelian
 M/M Paul Lockwood
 Dr. Laurie Loevner
 Peter MacIntyre
 M/M Roch F. MacIntyre
 Erkki & Kaelin Mackey
 Dr. & Mrs. Alexander Mamourian
 Mrs. Maritza Mamourian
 Mr. Avetis Marashlian
 Yn. Angel Metjian
 Ms. Karen Melikian
 M/M Paul Mihranian
 M/M Armen Movsisyan
 Makho Nsibandze
 M/M Mesrob Odabashian
 M/M Suren Pakhtigian
 David and Lisa Pastel
 M/M James Reynolds & Family
 M/M Wayne Reid
 Dr. & Mrs. Albert Sarkessian
 M/M Garabed Sarkessian
 Mr. William Shea
 Mrs. Janet Soghomonian
 M/M Krikor Soghomonian
 Leslie Stone
 M/M Aris Topakbashian
 Third Bridge - Susan Chu
 Mr. John Torcomian
 Mr. Tom Torcomian
 Mrs. Veronica Torcomian
 M/M Hirant Torunyan
 Ms. Joanne Treadway
 Dr. John Woo
 Nina Weisbord & George Wood
 Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Williams
 Mr. Tom Yorke

M/M Chris Zakian
 M/M Paul Zakian
 M/M Robert Zakian
 Zerounian Family

TOTAL \$ 7,585.00

*In
 Loving
 Memory*

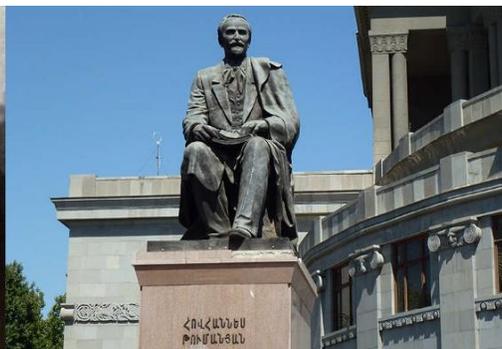
*Remember Saint Sahag and Saint Mesrob Armenian Church
 In Your Will*



HOVHANNES TOUMANIAN (1869-1923) was a poet, writer, political activist, and what one could argue, the heart and spirit of the Armenian people. Born in Dsegh, then located in the Russian Empire; now in the Lori Province, Armenia, he was the eldest of 8 children. As his father was the village priest and his mother, an avid storyteller, Toumanian's childhood was steeped in liturgical songs, parables and legends of Armenian oral tradition. Influenced by his mother's tales and his father's preaching and singing, his imagination was fertile ground for creativity. This influence became an integral element nourishing his words on paper, inseparable from his spirit. He began writing at an early age, composing his first poem at the age of twelve. At sixteen he left his formal education at the Nersisyan School to return home and provide for his family due to his father's death. Studying on his own from that point on, he successfully educated himself through intensive reading. Married by nineteen to Olga Matchkalyan,

they had a large family of 10 children.

Toumanian was a master of verse and word. Multiple drafts of some of his works show his efforts to achieve a simple yet effective, poetic style. He was prolific, and was adept at capturing the character, history, dreams and sentiments of the Armenian people in his various works. He wrote repeatedly about the harsh and truthful realities of Armenian life, the purpose of life and he often incorporated the beauty and strength of nature. He breathed such a fresh spirit into Armenian literature that this stage of Armenian literature is referred to as the "Toumanian phase." The operas *Anoush* (1912) and *Almast* (1930) were based on his writings, as well as numerous films. "The poet is first and foremost the heart of his people," he wrote, and he certainly was regarded as such for the Armenian people. He is considered by many to be the national poet of Armenia.





The Ancient Blessing

Hovhanness Toumanian

'Neath a hazel's green, gathered in a ring
 Sat the men of age, who had known life's sting.
 They sat them around,
 Stooped on the ground,
 For feasting and song,
 This ven'erable throng,
 Our fathers, the aged, our seniors, the sage
 Honoured for their age.
 With uncovered heads we three of us stood;
 We were school friends good,
 Just three village lads, spirited and lighthearted.
 Our hands on our chests in humbleness lay
 As in voices strong we enlivened the throng
 With song after song.
 At the songs of joy of our childhood world
 The gray Tamada his moustaches twirled,
 Then each filled his cup to the very brim
 And stood up with him.
 This blessing they spoke "Live long, lads, live happy,
 Not as we lived in our day!"
 Peace to your bones, our fathers who moaned!
 The ills that you bore we also have known,
 And now, in moments of joy or distress,
 When children we bless,
 We speak in your words: "Live long, lads, live happy,
 Not as we lived in our day!"

1887



ՀԻՆ ՕՐՀՆՈՒԹԻՒՆ

Յովհաննէս Թումանեան

Կանաչ, վիթխարի ընկուզենու տակ,
 Իրենց հասակի կարգով, ծալպատակ,
 Միասին բազմած,
 Մի շորջան կազմած,
 Քէֆ էին անում
 Եւ ուրախանում
 Մեր հըսկայ պապերն ու մեր հայրերը՝
 Գլուղի տէրերը:

Մենք, առոյգ ու ժիր մանուկներ,
 Երեք դասընկեր,
 Նրբանց առաջին գրլխաբաց կանգնած,
 Ջեռքներըս խոնարհ սրբտներիս դրրած,
 Չի՛լ, ուժեղ ձայնով նրբանց ըստասում՝
 Տաղ էինք ասում:

Երբ զուարթաձայն մեր երգը լըռեց,
 Մըռայլ թամաղէն բեղերն ոլորեց,
 Նըրբա հետ վերցրին լիք բաժակները
 Բոլոր մեծերը
 Ու մեզ օրհնեցին. «Ապրէ՛ք, երեխէ՛ք,
 Բայց մեզ պէս չապրէք...»:

Ժամանակ անցաւ, նրանք էլ անցան,
 Չըւարթ երգերըս վըշտակի դարձան.
 Եւ ես յիշեցի մեր օրը լակիս,
 Թէ մեզ օրհնելիս
 Ինչու ասացին. «Ապրէ՛ք, երեխէ՛ք,
 Բայց մեզ պէս չապրէք...»:

Իտադադութի՛ն ձեզ, մեր անբա՛խտ պապեր,
 Ձեզ տանջող ցաւը մե՛զ էլ է պատել:
 Այժըմ, տըխրութեան թէ քեֆի ժամին,
 Մենք էլ՝ օրհնելիս մեր զաւակներին՝
 Ձեր խօսքն ենք ասում. «Ապրէ՛ք, երեխէ՛ք,
 Բայց մեզ պէս չապրէք...»:

1887



630 Clothier Road, Wynnewood, PA 19096

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Introducing the newest star on the Main Line!

Once the home of prominent Philadelphia merchant, Isaac Clothier of Strawbridge & Clothier fame, this newly renovated elegant ballroom and expansive terrace sits on five beautiful acres.

The terrace is ideal for a beautiful garden ceremony or choose amidst the lush manicured landscape the perfect spot for your special moment. A separate terrace entrance to the indoor cocktail lounge creates a dynamic flow throughout the sparkling venue and is ideal for cocktail receptions of all types.

The large ballroom accommodates 300 seated guests with a stage for your band or DJ and you can dance the night away on our 24'x24' dance floor. If you want a quiet moment, relax in our secret garden lounge tucked away from the world. A cozy private spot with water features and firepit, it is an ideal area for a cigar bar or just a place to chill.

The sprawling lawn shaded by indigenous trees offers opportunities for team building activities or a quiet reflective stroll for our newly married couples.



Venue Details

- **Seated Indoor Dinner Capacity:** 360 (300 with dance floor)
- **Standing Indoor Cocktail Reception Capacity:** 400
- **Patio Capacity:** Ceremony seating 250, dinner seating 150; standing reception 250
- Tables, Gold Chiavari Ballroom Chairs, Bridal Suite, included in venue fee.
- Full bar service available
- Tented Patio May thru October with chandelier lighting and side walls.
- Outdoor Lounge located off the bar area

Amenities

- Ballroom with dance floor (3,700 sq. ft.)
- Bar and cocktail area (900 sq. ft.), with outdoor patio
- Stage with curtain
- Large screen for photos or video
- Fully integrated audio system
- Kitchen facilities
- Large bridal suite with restroom
- Groom's room
- Cove lighting
- Free ample and convenient off-street parking
- Wheelchair accessible



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at 610-642-4212 or

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ❖ July 4, 2022 Independence Day
- ❖ July 24, 2022 Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord
- ❖ August 14, 2022 Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother-Of -God
(Grapes Blessing)
- ❖ September 11, 2022 Annual Church Picnic
- ❖ September 11, 2022 Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- ❖ September 21, 2022 Armenian Independence Day
- ❖ September 25, 2022 Feast of the Holy Cross of Varak