



The LIGHT House Sunday School News

Building Up The Body of Christ – Year of the Family

February 9, 2020

Church Calendar
Fourth Sunday after the Octave of Theophany
Readings
Is 63:7-18, 2Tm 3:1-12, Jn 6: 22-38.

Sundays: Look Ahead Calendar of Events

Feb 16	Fifth Sunday after the Octave of Theophany
Feb 23	Poon Paregentan – Great Lent
Mar	First Sunday of Lent – Sunday of the Expulsion

CEAB On-Duty: Jacinta Tapalian (508-801-5684)

Absent Teacher On-Call: Anna Robinson (401-580-6788)

Today's Schedule

Grades PreK-10

- Students and their families attend Divine Liturgy at 10:00am
 - A copy of this month's instructional packet & pencils will be available at the church entrance – **this month's topic is "Kiss of Peace" – see attachment**
 - Please go directly to the Sanctuary and sit in the Sunday School area
- Following Holy Communion, an Assembly will be held in the Sunday School Hall
 - Deacon Michael will lead the assembly for all the Sunday School students – to review the packet and unpack the topic of the day
- Badarak attendance will count towards attendance-related scholarship opportunities

Faculty/CEAB Meeting following church services

Save the dates:

- Sunday, February 16th: Mardi Gras Family Celebration (**Lenten Drive Event**)
- Monday, February 17th: Armenian Youth Day 2020 – St Vartan & the Vartanantz, The Battle for Religious Freedom (**special session for older student**)
- Sunday, March 8th: Tri-Church Sunday School Visitation hosted by our Sunday School
- Sunday, March 22nd: Traditional Mid Lenten Luncheon (**Lenten Drive Event**)
- Sunday, March 29th: Second Plate Collection in the Sanctuary (**Lenten Drive Event**)

**Visit these Websites: <https://vemkar.us/>
<http://www.stvoski.org/embed.html> <https://armenianchurch.us/>**

On-Going Charitable Projects: *charitable giving includes canned goods collections, hygienic products collection, weekly plate collection, winter warmth items and the Lenten Drive – begins February 24th*

- Contribute and participate in the **quarterly Mary House Service Program**
- **Hygiene Products**
- **Keep Warm This Winter**

From DCE:

From Today's Readings

John 6:22-38 Awestruck by Jesus' miracle of feeding a large crowd with just a few loaves and fish, people eagerly seek him. To their questions, Jesus answers that He offers more than physical sustenance. He tells them He is the true bread from heaven in the famous words: "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me will never go hungry." *Discuss/reflect: The crowds ask Jesus for a miraculous sign that they might believe (as if feeding thousands with a few loaves and fish were not enough!). Are you in need of such a sign? What might open your eyes to the miracle of Jesus' presence in your life?*

2 Tim 3:1-12 St. Paul warns his protégé Timothy of false teachers who might appear godly, yet whose behavior will reveal their true character (v. 8: Jannes and Jambres were Egyptian court magicians at the time of Moses, false teachers themselves). *Discuss/reflect: Paul describes qualities of people gone astray, people who are "lovers of themselves...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God." In what ways do we often manifest these two false loves?*

Is 63:7-18 Almost Psalm-like in structure, these verses recall God's saving actions in the past (such as the Exodus), acknowledge the sins of Israel, and end with a plea for mercy. *Discuss/reflect: "I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord." (v.7) As you look at your life and the world, what would you have to tell?*

February 14: The Presentation of the Lord (Dyarnuntarach) and Valentine's Day



Joseph and Mary took the infant Jesus to Jerusalem to be presented at the Temple. There they met two devout people: Simeon who had been waiting patiently to encounter the Messiah and the pious Anna, a prophetess. For the full story, read Luke 2:22-40.

An early Armenian custom associated with this feast combines Christian and pagan themes. Worshippers would light candles during the evening church service, carrying the flame out into the darkness (symbolically bringing light into the void). They would then take it home to light lamps or light a bonfire in the church courtyard. The festivities included dancing around and leaping over the fire. Newlywed women would step over it to scorch their skirts (a symbolic appeal for fertility).

Valentine's Day has Christian origins. Valentine was a priest in the 3rd century who was imprisoned for marrying a couple against the Caesar's command (young men capable of being soldiers were forbidden to be married). While imprisoned, the priest (priests were allowed to marry at that time) and the jailor's daughter fell deeply in love. And when Valentine was taken away to be executed, he sent her a farewell letter signed "from your Valentine," words that continue to echo in today's Valentine's cards to loved ones.

Department of Christian Education/ Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern)