



# The LIGHT House Sunday School News

Walking and talking with the Saints at Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church

**February 10, 2019**

### *Church Calendar*

Paregendan of the Fast of the Catechumens

### *Readings*

Is 61:10-62:9, 2Tm 2:15-26, Jn 6:15-21.

### **Sundays: Look Ahead Calendar of Events**

<b>Feb 17</b>	Sunday of the Catechumens
<b>Feb 24</b>	Middle Sunday
<b>Mar 3</b>	Poon Paregendan

**CEAB On-Duty: Martha Jamgochian (401-481-2619)**

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

## **Today's Schedule**

### **Grades PreK-10**

- Regularly scheduled classes, 10:00am
- Assembly following Holy Communion: Learn Church Hymns (Sharagans) with Lisa Z

### **Readers this week:**

- **Ani Poghosyan and Susanna Ovsepian**

### **Save these Dates:**

- **Annual Lenten Drive Events:**
  - **Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Poon Paregendan**
  - **Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> – Mid Lenten Luncheon (vegan)**
- **Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> plate collection in Sanctuary**

**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*

- Contribute and participate in the quarterly Mary House Service Program
- **Hygiene Products – Toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, Kleenex, toilet paper, hand sanitizers, wipes, mouthwash, deodorants** – container is in Sunday School Hall
- **Keep Warm This Winter** – hats, gloves, mittens, sox, scarfs – to be donated to Mary’s House - drive from November to March --- container is in Sunday School Hall
- **This year’s Lenten Drive will raise money for Combating Child Malnutrition in Armenia – to be administered by FAR.**

### From DCE:

#### From Today’s Readings

**John 6:15-21** In this account of Jesus’ miracle of walking on the water, He assures His terrified disciples: “It is I; don’t be afraid” (v.20). The original Greek is a more powerful construction, namely, “I AM,” echoing God’s very same self-identification to Moses at the burning bush. *Discuss/reflect: It was evening, the seas were frighteningly rough and yet His disciples were terrified upon seeing Jesus approach them on the water. You would think they would have welcomed Him gladly! But what might make it difficult to see the Lord during rough times?*

**2 Tim 2:15-26** St. Paul urges his protégé, the apostle Timothy, to serve confidently as a man of faith and to adhere to rules for righteous living. To counter false teachings, he suggests instructing people gently so that their hearts might open to God’s truth. *Discuss/reflect: What does it mean to you to “be made holy, useful to the Master”(v.21)?*

**Is 61:10-62:9** Isaiah describes a commissioning by God in which Israel will bring healing and hope to others and for which it will be clothed in priestly “garments of salvation” and “robes of righteousness.”(v.10). These images are echoed in the Armenian rites of baptism and ordination as well as in the priest’s vesting prayers before the Divine Liturgy. *Discuss/reflect: What responsibilities and privileges come to mind when you are called a “priest of the Lord” (61:6)?*

#### February 14: Presentation of the Lord to the Temple (Dvarnuntarach) and Valentine’s Day



Following Law and Tradition, 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 was prompted by the Holy Spirit to be present at the Temple that day and the pious Anna, a prophetess. They give thanks for the fulfillment of their prayers. For the full story, read Luke 2:22-40.

An early Armenian custom associated with this feast combines Christian and pagan themes. The night before the feast, worshippers would light candles during the 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 -- they 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)*

## St Nersess 2019 Conferences:

- Adult Conference \*NEW\*: June 6-9
- Deacons' Training Program: June 28-July 7
- High School Conference: July 26-August 4
- College Winter Conference: January 2-6, 2020

## Camp Registration

Registrations and applications for Hye Camp and St. Vartan Camp are now available:  
[diocesansummercamps.org](http://diocesansummercamps.org)

Contact for St Vartan Camp: Kathryn Ashbahian ([kathryna@armeniandiocese.org](mailto:kathryna@armeniandiocese.org))

Contact for Hye Camp: Jennifer Morris ([jenniferm@armeniandiocese.org](mailto:jenniferm@armeniandiocese.org))

**St. Vartan Camp**

BONDING > LEARNING > PLAYING  
**SUMMER CAMP!**

Where Faith, Fun, and Fellowship Meet!

staff training: June 26-29    Session B: July 14-27  
Session A: June 30-July 13    Session C: July 28-August 10  
Campers Ages 8-15 / CITs Ages 16 and 17 / Staff and Volunteers Ages 18+

215.452.8322    [kathryna@armeniandiocese.org](mailto:kathryna@armeniandiocese.org)

REGISTER ONLINE: [DiocesanSummerCamps.org](http://DiocesanSummerCamps.org)

**Hye Camp**

BONDING > LEARNING > PLAYING  
**SUMMER CAMP!**

Where Faith, Fun, and Fellowship Meet!

staff training: July 24-27    Camp week: July 27-August 3  
Campers Ages 8-15 / CITs Ages 16 and 17 / Staff and Volunteers Ages 18+

248.648.0702    [jenniferm@armeniandiocese.org](mailto:jenniferm@armeniandiocese.org)

REGISTER ONLINE: [DiocesanSummerCamps.org](http://DiocesanSummerCamps.org)

## Sunday School Scholarships for St Nersess and Camp:

- Sunday School offers special scholarships for students who have at least one parent who is a dues paying church member.
  - Students with 90%-100% attendance can receive from 90%-100% scholarships for either St Nersess or camp fees. Non-attendance based scholarships are up to \$150.