



The LIGHT House Sunday School News

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

May 12, 2019

Church Calendar

Red Sunday

Readings

Acts 13:16-43, 1Pt 5:1-14, Jn 5:19-30.

Sundays: Look Ahead Calendar of Events

July 28	Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord
Aug 18	Feast of the Assumption of the Mother-of-God

Happy Mother's Day

Sunday School Registration will be in early September

Thank you all – Sunday School Families and Parishioners - for your continued support of Sunday School including our Charitable Projects.



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

From Today's Readings

John 5:19-30 Jesus replies to the Jews who criticize Him for healing on the Sabbath and calling God His Father. He affirms that 1) the Father has granted Him life-giving power and entrusts Him alone to judge the world (vv 21-22) and 2) those who hear His words and believe will have eternal life (vv 24-25, 29). *Discuss/reflect: "Whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me," says the Lord.... "crosses over from death to life": Powerful words that point to eternal life but also to the way we live here and now. In what specific ways do we cross over from death to life when we follow Jesus?*

Acts 13:16-43 Just as Peter did at Pentecost (Acts 2) in Jerusalem, here St. Paul teaches the Jews in Antioch the history of God's intervention in the life of His people right up to Jesus' resurrection. What God promised has been fulfilled, Paul exclaims, and through Jesus' Resurrection, our sins are forgiven in a way that would be impossible under the old Law. *Discuss/reflect: Paul emphasizes that the salvation of God's people is fully realized in the Risen Christ (vv. 38-39). Read more about this in Romans 3:20-24 and 8:3-4. St Paul knew his Scripture and cited the history of his people (vv 17-22; 41). How well do you know Scripture? How might that knowledge strengthen your faith and help you witness to others?*

1 Peter 5:1-14 Peter exhorts church leaders to serve willingly and generously and to be alert because evil "prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." He stresses humility in all relationships. *Discuss/reflect: What two temptations for church leaders does Peter suggest in vv. 2-3? What anxiety or concern would you want to turn over to the Lord? (v. 7)*

Today is Red Sunday



The third Sunday after Easter (or the 4th of Eastertide, which includes Easter itself), Red Sunday has no ecclesiastical origin. It is not listed as such in the *Donatzouytz*, the Calendar of Feasts. Like last week's Green Sunday (Sunday of the World Church), the day has been so named because of the colors of nature at this time of year: green for the new growth of spring, and red for the red flowers that were said to be in bloom.

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

Be the Church: Come and Celebrate!

Two of the Five Major Feast Days (*Heeng Daghavarnner*) fall in the summer [Parents: ask your child(ren) to name the other three!] Try to attend one or both this year as a family. Use this sheet to better understand the day.

The Feast of the Transfiguration (Vartavar) July 28, 2019

- One of the Five Major Feast Days of the Armenian Church.
- This “variable” feast can fall anytime between June 28 and August 1.
- Jesus took His three closest disciples, Peter, James, and John, up to Mt. Tabor with Him.
- There He was “transfigured,” appearing radiant; His clothes became “dazzling white.”
- The prophet Elijah and the patriarch Moses appeared at His side.
- A voice from heaven exclaimed: “This is my beloved Son.”
- The story can be read in the Synoptic Gospels: Mark 9:2-10; Matthew 17:1-9; Luke 9:28-36.
- Some customs of an ancient Armenian pagan festival for the goddess Asdghig are still associated with this feast, such as decorating the church with roses or flowers (hence the Feast’s name *Vartavar*; it is more formally called *Aylagerbootyoon* or *Baydzaragerbootyoon*) and spraying one another with water. It is still the practice in parts of the Armenian world to splash one another with water!

The Feast of the Assumption (Asdvadzadzin) August 18, 2019

- This is the oldest of feasts associated with St. Mary.
 - The Armenian Church celebrates this feast on the Sunday nearest August 15.
 - It commemorates the taking up into heaven (“assumption”) of Jesus’ mother at her death.
 - Tradition relates that Mary lived another 15 years after our Lord’s crucifixion. St. Bartholomew, the only apostle absent from Jerusalem when St. Mary died, asked to visit her tomb upon his return a short while after she was buried. When the tomb was unsealed, her body was gone and angels were heard singing for three days and three nights.
 - The blessing of grapes is associated with this feast day.
 - Grapes are the “first fruit” of the harvest, just as St. Mary was the first true apostle and witness of the new covenant as the “mother/bearer of God” or *Asdvadzadzin*. Grapes are also made into the wine of Holy Communion.
- Attend church and share the blessed grapes with your church family!

Sts Sahag & Mesrob Sunday School Graduation, May 5, 2019



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

Contact for St Vartan Camp: Kathryn Ashbahian (kathryna@armeniadiocese.org)

Contact for Hye Camp: Jennifer Morris (jenniferm@armeniadiocese.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.

