



Paros

Saints Sahag and Mesrob Church

April/May/June 2020



PASTOR'S POINTS OF LIGHT

Pentecost 2020 – Sunday of Restoration of Public Worship

“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Acts 2:17-20

Dear beloved in Christ,



We are starting a new journey today into the “new abnormal,” not totally dissimilar to the first Pentecost, on this extremely windy day, outdoors under a beautiful blue sky staring up at the dome of our church, crowned with the Holy Cross, expecting the Holy Spirit to fill us as he did on the birthday of the Holy Church. All this, in the state of Pandemic where we are coming together for the first time in many months.

We know how anxious, maybe lonely and disconsolate many have felt during these unprecedented days. Many have been wounded and have been not only physically isolated in most cases, but with some shuttered for two and three months. Some have been struggling with the unknowns, anxious about, health, family, work and careers. Private business owners have been struggling to hold on to their businesses, they are worried about their families and the livelihood of those who they employ. Separated from loved ones, we’ve had parishioners die alone, family members unable to attend funerals of parents, grandparents unable to see their new grandchildren, children having their baptisms delayed and couples postponing marriages. What will the future hold? What is the new normal? Will there be a cure and will we be able to return to the freedom that we might have been taking for granted? Yes, the wounds are real and they are in many ways permanent. This is the journey we are on and it is into the new “abnormal”.

on[MS1] the pods of pig slop, like Adam, abandoned his father’s house; he squandered all that the father had appointed to him, lost the inheritance of perfect joy in his father’s home, willingly departing and choosing rather a reckless, lavish and foolish lifestyle...

(Continued on Page 4 Pastor's Points of Light)

In This Issue

	1
Pastor's Points of Light.....	1
Index.....	1
Publication Information.....	1
Disaster must be Prevented.....	2
An Appeal for Peace	2
Parish Council Corner	3
Pastoral Message – Catechism in the New Normal.....	5
An Encounter with Martin the Armenian	6
Apris Wines.....	6
Wash Your Hands	6
Wish List	6
Become a Coffee Fellowship Hour Sponsor	7
Cultural Committee.....	7
20/20 Vision.....	8
Wish List.....	8
Request a Service Online.....	8
A Place of Prayer in the Home.....	8
Last Day Of Armenian School.....	9
Liana Odabashyan.....	9
COVID-19 Ministries.....	10
Sunday School Zoom Classes.....	11
Armenian Music Festival	11
Sayat Nova Dance group.....	11
Gohar Manjelian/Maestro Konstantin Petrossian.....	11
Dr. Raffi Calikyan / Dr. Christine V. Hoogasian.....	11
COVID-19 Ministries Continued.....	11
Ad Section.....	12
Ad	13
Home is Where the Heart is.....	13
Picnic Date.....	13
If you need help	14
Sunday School.....	14
Armenian School	14
Summer Youth Program.....	14
Arts Education Application.....	15
News from Cultural Committee.....	15
Saints Sahag and Mesrob Prayer Card Ministry.....	16
Amazon Smile	16
Outreach – Mary House.....	16
Cultural Committee 2020 Events	16
Baptisms, Chrismation, Marriages, Funerals.....	17
Bible Study.....	17
Remember the Church in your Will.....	17
Father Shnork's Mission Statement.....	17
Transfiguration-Outdoors!	17
Membership / Stewardship.....	18
Newsletter Committee / Advertise in the Paros	19
Administrative Information	19
Calendar of Events	20

“Paros”

June 30th, 2020

Published 4 times per year

Issue 20-02 – FREE – Print Edition

Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church

70 Jefferson St, Providence, RI 02908-4923



“Disaster must be Prevented, but it is Possible Only Through the Joint Efforts, in an Atmosphere of Solidarity”
Catholicos of All Armenians

On June 05, His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians; met and had a discussion with the members of the Brotherhood of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin.

During the meeting, special reference was made to the activities of the clergy serving in the dioceses and the members of the Brotherhood of the Mother See in this period of the Coronavirus pandemic. In these current stressful conditions, they emphasized the importance of making more efforts to strengthen faith, the hope of overcoming these difficulties with the help of God, as well as a spirit of optimism and love towards the Fatherland, nation, and our Holy Church.

Appealing to the members of the Brotherhood with the words of the Apostle, who states: “Therefore, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:57-58), the Catholicos exhorted the clergy to continue their service with spiritual care, and with more vigorous preaching activities, through teaching the Bible and the divine commandments, and by conveying the doctrine of Christ, to fight against inappropriate and unacceptable phenomena in the life of our people.

During the conversation, the steps taken by the Church to overcome the consequences of the pandemic were discussed, and concerns were also expressed about the disharmonious and adversarial atmosphere that has been created in our national and political life.

In connection with the latter, His Holiness; stated in part: “Only through love, peace and patience, as well as a kind and caring attitude towards each other, will we be able to keep our national-ecclesiastical life strong, strengthen our statehood, and lead the Fatherland along new roads to progress. In this case, we reflect with sorrow on the undesirable atmosphere in the life of our fatherland, in particular on the Internet, where humiliation and hostility are spread, and values and sanctity are being violated.

The Bible says: “Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs.” (Proverbs 10:12). We, as Pastors, must take care to keep this realization strong within our children, so that different perceptions of the vision for the country’s development do not lead to acts of intolerance and violence, and political views and disagreements do not lead to the fracture of national solidarity. It is necessary to keep the boundaries of politeness, decency and mutual respect constant, as the establishment of justice and prosperity in the life of society cannot be implemented through inappropriate expressions and provocation of hostility. The current situation and the challenges facing the country should not become the reason for the retreat of virtue, respect and tolerance towards others, or for the violation of rights and dignity, or for the weakening of love and devotion towards the fatherland.

Everyone should follow the counsel of the Apostle, who says: “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things” (Philippians 4:8).

(Continued on Page 4 Catholicos of All Armenians)



Eastern Diocese
Have Mercy, O Lord: An Appeal for Peace

In the midst of an ongoing crisis that has put a halt to almost every productive, communal aspect of living, our national life has been disfigured this week by violence that is deeply troubling to peace-loving, civilized people.

No one could view the images of lethal force used against an already subdued man—no matter what the circumstance—without feeling outrage in the deepest part of your being. The killing of George Floyd—in a police apprehension gone horribly, even criminally, wrong—has exposed yet again the raw, unhealed wounds that continue to cripple our society.

No one could view the images of a city under siege, rocked to its foundation by violent riots—no matter the motivation—without sensing that our society has become profoundly disordered. The greater fear, adding together all that has led us to this terrible moment, is that we may be approaching a point where peace can no longer be restored.

As Armenians, even the passage of a century has not allowed us to forget our people’s painful experience of lives lost, indignities endured, discrimination suffered and civil justice denied. Equally seared into our consciousness is the experience of being subjected to mob violence; to seeing homes and workplaces destroyed, neighborhoods set aflame.

And so we instinctively stand in solidarity with all who suffer violence. Yet we also insist, from the bitterness of our experience, that the only solution to the plague of violence is to end it, and not to perpetuate it.

This was a lesson taught to us by our Lord Jesus Christ. In his last confrontation with the cynical authorities of his day—a confrontation which ultimately would prove lethal to our Lord—his friends moved to repay the violence against their master with violence of their own. Any of us might do the same; but Jesus would have none of it. “Put back your sword into its place,” he said: “for all who take up the sword shall surely perish by the sword” (Mt 26:52).

Jesus had no illusions about the moral status of his persecutors. But he foresaw that the escalating path of violence, regardless of the cause, would only bring ruinous destruction on the just and the unjust alike. Once unleashed, violence would make no distinction between the good or the bad, the innocent or guilty, the blameless or the blameworthy.

What was true two thousand years ago is equally true for us today. A gruesome killing awakens a conflagration of destruction. Injustice suffered by one person, or one group, spreads to consume every group, and all people. The only way to combat violence is to end it altogether. And we are assured that our risen Lord knows well the sufferings of his children, and will remember them when he establishes his kingdom, where true justice will finally prevail.

It is to him we pray—today, in the days to come, and always—for the repose of the departed, for the healing of the spiritual and moral afflictions tormenting our world, and for an end to the violence that can only lead to ruin. In the immortal words of our liturgy: Ungal, getso, yev voghormya; Receive our prayers, save your people, and have mercy, O Lord.

With my prayers,
Bishop DANIEL Primate



Parish Council Corner

It is an honor and privilege to address you as the newly elected Chairman of the Parish Council of our Church. It was a very humbling experience for me to be asked to take on such a duty. Our church has been honored to have many great people lead the Parish Council over the years. I only hope that I can continue in the tradition of service.

Our church has been greatly affected by the pandemic. Having to watch services through the Facebook feed and not be able to attend was painful, yet still comforting. We have now been able to return to Church albeit in a limited capacity. With the dedication of many people we have been able to still serve our congregation with Outreach Dinners, on-line concerts, as well as on-line Bible studies and Sunday School lessons lead by Der Hayr and Deacon Michael. It is with great love that we thank our former pastor, the Diocesan Vicar General, Very Reverend Father Simeon Odabashian for celebrating badarak during these troubling times.

We are going to continue to serve our Church Family. We are going to have another outreach dinner on Father's Day. Our plan is still to hold the annual Golf Tournament on July 28, as well hold a somewhat revised version of our Church Picnic in August. We ask that you and your families continue to be safe in everything in your lives as well as when you come to church. I want to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing members of the Parish Council. Chairman Steve Megrdichian, Vice Chairman Jason Martesian and Advisor Margaret Chevian. We thank them for their service to Church. May God Bless them.

God Bless you all,
John Megrdichian, Chairman

Catholicos of All Armenians Continued from page 1

Many problems in our lives belong to the realm of values, and are solvable through faith in our sacred values, in unity and solidarity. Over the centuries, we have been able to overcome difficulties and hardships with this spirit, and to strengthen our state and national life. Unity is the strength and power of our Haykazyan nation. In all of this, we emphasize the importance of the mission and role of our clergy".

His Holiness also referred to the mission of the clergy in these pandemic conditions. "Dear faithful, today, in the situation of this Coronavirus pandemic, it is imperative to organize more and more, and to be self-organized. In this regard, the Mother Church, with its clergy, has an important role to play. Continuously supporting the efforts of the state, we have the responsibility to guide our faithful children and urge them to strictly follow the rules set by the relevant authorities when visiting churches, places of pilgrimage, and wherever they go.

We should raise the consciousness of the responsibility for the safety of the lives of others in each individual. Today, we have no task more important than preventing the spread of the pandemic in order to return to our normal lives.

In this sense, our spiritual servants in the dioceses of the Diaspora should also guide our children with relevant exhortations and ensure that they strictly follow the health instructions of the relevant authorities of their countries. Disaster must be prevented, but this is possible only through

joint efforts, in an atmosphere of solidarity", stated the Catholicos of All Armenians.

Pastor's Points of Light-continued from page 1

Ten days ago, beloved, we celebrated the Ascension of our Lord on the 40th day of resurrection. The angels were shocked that Christ ascended into Heaven in bodily form with the mark of the nails still etched on his life-giving and creative hands, on his side from which his precious Blood flowed life into us, and on his feet, which trampled death under foot. Christ had by his glorious resurrection transfigured and glorified his wounds, pain and struggle. He will also transfigure our wounds, our pain, and our struggle. He will glorify us. We will by his wounds be healed[1] and those wounds will be the battle scars that will make us stronger as a people and as a church. We will come out of this galvanized and better than before.

To me and to many of us, where the church has always been the great source of spiritual and in some cases even physical support when things have become so desperate, we found ourselves in the unimaginable position where we were denied fellowship and communion in the comfort and mutual consolation among the faithful, a very profoundly Christian reality. On our end, we have also struggled. We have looked for ways to keep in touch, to bring hope, and consolation to you. However, visits, calls and outreach fall short, not to mention the complete inadequacy of virtual world, and only go so far in bringing comfort in time of isolation. I know this from my time spent in hospitals for many months, often alone and very wounded, physically but never spiritually or emotionally for Christ was always with me[2].

God has commanded us out of love to bring consolation to the afflicted[3], and to gather on the first day of the week in the fellowship of the "holy things". Thanks, and praise to God that while we were sheltered in place, like the Israelites in bondage, we too knew that God was with us. We all knew that we had to be strong and courageous, to not dread our desolation nor fear the contagion. We know as he promises in Deuteronomy 31:6, that "the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

Thankfully, by means of the incredible technology available to us, we were able to reach hundreds of people on a weekly and sometimes daily basis praying with them, keeping in contact and providing sources of Christian education, comfort and "virtual" fellowship. All the "arms" of the church were mobilized for this sacred task, some in hospitality, providing meals of comfort to the needy, educating the children in both Armenian and Sunday School on-line via Zoom, visiting and blessing homes, making calls and sending information as well as broadcasting services and sermons, even providing Instructional Liturgy and Deacon's Training virtually and meeting with groups for Bible Study, pastoral counselling, pre-Cana and various other ministries all on-line and even sometimes curbside. In other cases, we were able to provide Facetime visual feeds from graveside for bereaved families who were distanced and unable to attend the loss of loved ones. Many of you have remained in contact with the elderly, the lonely and others who are in need of mercy at this time. In a word, thanks you to all of you for caring and demonstrating your love and your faith in our Lord through these unprecedented and difficult times. You know that the "war" is not over and there is still some difficulty to go through and this is not the world we want nor the world that we hope for. We must still struggle in this new "Abnormal" and not accept it as

the way going forward. We must hope, pray and struggle for a return to freedom especially where faith and our relationship with Christ is at stake. It is not acceptable to be deprived of the precious life-giving sacrament in his living Body and Blood. We will not be distributing Holy Communion. This ought not to be considered “OK” for us and we must expect a return to the Lord’s table even to demand of our church and her hierarchy to figure out a way to make this happen and make it available for the faithful apart from which we will have “no life” as our Lord says, “unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you have no life in you.”

Today, in spite of very little change or advancement in practical terms to halt the spread of the virus or crush it completely, hospitals and restaurants are getting back into the “business” of treating people and feeding them. They are able to do it in new and safe ways, which mitigate the spread of disease. They’ve had time to “figure things out” but not everything. Our church too, must figure things out! She needs to figure out a way to “do” what she is called to do, to “give” what she is empowered to give, to distribute what she was mandated to distribute. Today after three months of restricting her children from physically being with her she still isn’t ready to give, do and distribute the very things that give her meaning as a spiritual mother and the place of the dispensation of God’s love and the Arc of salvation. We are restricted from distributing Holy Communion, baptizing our children and solemnizing the marriage of our couples. We can’t even give our blessed departed a proper Christian burial!! This is not “OK”. It is NOT “OK”. Yes, we are back to public worship. But nothing is “OK”. This is “makeshift” and it is temporary. We are hungry! I am hungry! We must come be sustained, and nourished at the font of our church’s sacraments.

If I can now go and eat at McDonalds to curb my earthly appetite, I must certainly be able to be able to approach the Lord’s Table for the satisfaction of my eternal hunger for the Lord. There are ways to do this but the faithful must be vigilant in demanding our hierarchy to “figure it out” as it is essential to the life and the essence of our faith. We are celebrating Pentecost! We are celebrating the church’s bold steps from a collection of common men who overcame every obstacle, enemy, persecution to proclaim Christ’s victory. Are we ready to do that today? Do we have the same faith that is sealed in us by the Holy Spirit? Where is our conviction and trust? I am not saying that we ought to be foolish, on the contrary, to be wise and seek God’s guidance in overcoming every obstacle. Today it is COVID-19, yesterday it was persecution, and who knows what tomorrow will be? The church has withstood 2000 years if the devil’s challenges, pitfalls and obstacles. We must be the emboldened church of the Pentecost now more than ever.

Today is the celebration of the church’s birth, her establishment when the Holy Spirit who our Lord promised came was sent by the Father, who himself being truly and personally God, came and filled the apostles with the gifts and charisms to keep the Lord’s word, to take his mission, ministry and salvation throughout the entirety of the world in spite of every danger and enemy of life and salvation! How did they do it? What made them so bold? Hear the words which record the life of this early church in the days following the Pentecost, from the book of Acts 2;⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common.⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.⁴⁶

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47) What was that fellowship? It wasn’t coffee, nor was it choreg. Fellowship was a technical term which implied unity in the common things, faith and everything that we have and share in common. It is also unity in faith and ideals, ideology and trust in the One True God.

Only in that Communion fellowship or Koinonia, would they dare “break bread together” or subscribe to the unified discipleship to the teaching of the apostles!” The did the Badarak in thanksgiving and they taught the faith of Christ! Today we are like the infant church. We must focus on the necessary things, to gather on the first day of the week, to “badarak” together and to learn the teachings of the apostles through the tradition of the church led by the Holy Spirit.

Truly we ought to be very hopeful for so many reasons that the future is in some ways brighter than ever for us and especially for the church. First, we have come to realize and always should have realized that we never completely safe and that we should always be dependent on Christ and never take him for granted. Because we expect and have grown accustomed to a pretty carefree life, with amazing cures, vaccines for various diseases, longer life expectancy, lowest infant mortality ever and great healthcare, many of us easily make long term plans. This has been a major “wake up call”. Remember that we are just a small state and an even smaller parish of Armenian Christians. This disease has effected many people already, not only in sickness and death, with Rhode Island alone recording over 600 deaths and our parish with three confirmed deaths due to this disease, but also in a debilitated economy, which may take years to overcome, and not to mention the social cost, with a rise in drug abuse, petty crime, and domestic violence. The social cost has been enormous, with at least to me one of the great costs being the affirmation socially and politically that the church is now considered a “non-essential” service. Can we stop and think for one moment the consequences of that statement? Dear beloved, the devil is having a heyday. He has our society right where he wants us. Focus on the physical carnage and ignore the spiritual! Brothers and sisters. Today is Pentecost. We have the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is providential that the restoration of public services takes place on this day that celebrates the inauguration of the church. “Christ is in our midst”, he is risen and he is more important to us today than ever.

No one ever imagined three months ago that this could happen. Maybe for the first time, for some of us, we perceive that we’re not in control or that our lives and the lives of those we love are in danger and maybe for the first time when we thought things were grand and we made plans for the future, that future is now somewhat in doubt. These are all wounds but in faith, these wounds which Christ heals, note, doesn’t take away, make us strong. We are like iron in the fire and that fire which forges us and galvanizes our wounds also, is the same fire which reinforced the Apostles and vested the early church for the incredible and audacious mission for which they were empowered and commissioned. That fire came and rested upon them in tongues and that fire is Personal, He is the Holy Spirit who proceeds[4] eternally from the Father and is sent by Jesus[5], and who is sealed in each of us[6]! It is the Holy Spirit the Comforter, the Lord and Giver of Life, whose Advent we celebrate today! Therefore, we have very good reason and with the divine sanctifying power of the Father and of the Son and

of the Holy Spirit to be of good cheer even in Pandemic, and to heed our Lord's words;²² "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on.²³ Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing.²⁴ Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds?²⁵ And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?²⁶ If you then are not able to do the least, why [d]are you anxious for the rest?²⁷ Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not [e]arrayed like one of these.²⁸ If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith?²⁹ "And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind.³⁰ For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things.³¹ But seek [f]the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.³² "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.³³ Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys.³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:24-34)

We're undergoing a new journey today, into the unknown, into a new "abnormal", but we embark with a compass, armed with the sacred tradition of our church and led by the guidance and urging of the Holy Spirit our guide, protector and comforter. We ought not be afraid, in fact we ought to be bold like the apostles, bold enough and faithful enough to try every reasonable approach whereby we might bring faith, hope and love to our people and to all people in proclaiming the Good News in Body, Soul, Sacrament, Word and all things. Let us be wise like foxes and gentle as lambs, looking to bring the balm of immortality to heal the wounds of a broken humanity and live with our trust in Jesus, and cling to his glorious presence. This past week we heard about the brutal murder of Mr. Floyd by a police officer. We are reminded that the enemy of life and salvation still lurks in this broken world. Let us be the source of hope and to be the first responders of faith, in order to bring hope in the face of every danger along this new journey, not only COVID-19, infection, viruses, and disease, but also by our work and word, to fight injustice, inhumanity, hatred, bigotry, crime, hunger, poverty, brokenness, and hardness of heart. We need Jesus now more than ever. Even so, come Lord Jesus! Maranatha, and to him with the Father and to the Life-giving Holy Spirit whose coming we celebrate this glorious day, offer honor and worship with bended knee, now and always and unto the ages, amen.

[1] Isaiah 53:5

[2] Isaiah 41:10 and Matthew 28:20

[3] 2 Corinthians 1:4

[4] John 15:26 (Note: Unlike the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Churches do not confess the double procession (Filioque) of the Holy Spirit, but confess that while the Father sends the Holy Spirit in Jesus Name, his procession, and that of the Son too, is of the Father.

[5] John 14:26; John 15:26

[6] John 14:16

Pastoral Message – Catechism in the New Normal

Dear faithful

I was so delighted this past Sunday to have the tremendous pleasure to spend two sessions with Sunday School students (PreK-4th, 5-10th) during online-classes/assemblies following the Divine Liturgy through the zoom application. I believe we reached 20 students and families. Going forward, this is becoming more and more of a very workable model for us to utilize. I also believe that there are opportunities that we may never have had to consider before. This might be showing us once again God's mysterious ways that even things that seem dark or hopeless are opportunities where God can truly - by the grace of his Holy Spirit and the strength of the body of Christ - create hope. Another example is that some of the people following our virtual liturgies have actually never been to church at least during my ministry.

This leads me to once again affirm my belief and the belief of many of our clergy if not most, that the worst time to do Christian education is during the Divine Liturgy. The current approach gives the unintended impression that worship is not important. It came out of a model developed only in America by a new immigrant community, in a time when they tried to culturally assimilate and to adopt American Protestant forms of church habits.

The unintended impression of "education" over worship on the Lord's Day, is intensified by some parents not attending the worship service themselves further impacting and forming the subconscious minds of the children. CEAB has been trying to rectify this by monthly Family worship during which time students and families were given an assignment regarding an aspect of the liturgy coupled with an assembly to review and unpack that which has been learned - as a way to learn more about our worship service, encourage engagement and turn spectators into participants.

Is Christian education and catechesis important? Yes, absolutely. But, Christian education is intended to direct one to worship and allow intelligible and faithful immersion into the faith of Christ's Living Body, his life-giving mysteries (sacraments) in the Church.

In our present condition, we are actually in a wonderful position to make broad changes to the when and how we offer and do Christian education. Most people are available, out of school and at home. Our present Sunday School enrollment is limited by those who have traditionally committed to Sunday morning. Everyone, whose child has been baptized into our church, is our spiritual heritage and responsibility. We must consider all of them as "students" and disciples in need of the apostolic teaching and the fellowship of the Lord's Table and his sacraments. The entire church body of children must be encouraged to realize that they are welcome to join our online educational opportunities. There is no reason that we couldn't hold our Christian education at any time, or on any day that might be appropriate for families and children thus engaging so many more, allowing the clergy to teach the children and to give the opportunity for children to be with their parents attending the services, now on-line on Sunday mornings and then at church on Sunday mornings, an approach that would not conflict with the "essential" participation in worship, through which only one can truly be understood as a member of Christ's Body.

Let's work on this together. I need your help, your understanding, your support and your willingness to consider changing how we think. This is a great time to start. We can find a great source of new life in this confusing time. There's

so much for us to learn, not to mention a great opportunity for fellowship with our church family especially now while we are “social distancing”.

We have already taken a couple of baby steps, first by Family Worship Sundays and now by utilizing the currently available technology towards this end, a virtual classroom setting that will continue even after the crisis is over. This has also led us to understand the importance of creating education opportunities for parents too, to help them better understand and personalize the important tenets of our true and God-given faith by hosting online Bible study, which we've begun, on-line discussions with topical issues of faith, family and formation. Again, beloved in Christ, as challenging as this current situation is, these are exciting times for our church and a real opportunity to look outside the box, understand our mission better, not taking it for granted as we may have for years, look for refreshment, holy and God-pleasing change and to confront the obstacles with courage and creativity.

Prayerfully and with hope, Fr. Shnork Souin, Pastor

An Encounter with Martin the Armenian

The Armenian Weekly, March 18, 2016, Tom Vartabedian

I've always been fascinated by the accomplishments made by Armenians to world civilization. Obviously, the fact we were able to overcome a genocide was monumental. The fact we were able to establish a democratic state after 70 years of servitude by the USSR was another.

Let's not omit the fact we were the first nation in history to accept Christianity as a state religion (301 A.D.). I look to the father of plastic surgery (Kazanjian) and the entrepreneur who saved the USS Constitution (Galician) from being scrapped as other reasons to celebrate.

But one that always stirs the pot is this. You may or may not know that the first naturalized citizen of what we today call America was an Armenian.

Look in the history books and you'll come across the name of Martin the Armenian. Yes, the first recorded Armenian immigrant on American soil was a Virginian. He goes back to 1607 when he settled in Jamestown with Capt. John Smith.

Martin introduced the cultivation of “silkworm” into the New World. Virginia records show that he gave testimony in a trial in Jamestown in 1619 and also worked as a tobacconist.

I enjoy throwing out these historical nuggets whenever I'm invited to a speaking engagement, not necessarily among Armenian circles but more notably inside the American mainstream.

Outsiders are amazed by our unique history, beginning with the landing of Noah's Ark on Mount Ararat, giving some credence to Armenia as the birthplace of the human race. Don't call it trivia unless you intend to minimize fact.

But Martin the Armenian four centuries ago? A listener not long ago questioned the veracity of that tidbit during a library presentation concerning my new book, Armenians of the Merrimack Valley. I don't recall how we approached the subject, unless I went off on a tangent and started rambling, which is often the occasion.

“America wasn't born at that time,” he reminded me.

“I realize that,” I answered back. “Territories had not been ratified into statehood back in the 1600's. The land we know now as Virginia was still a state in waiting. The Puritans came here and many Armenians joined the movement with Capt. John Smith.”

I don't know if my answer appeased the gentleman, but who was he to argue with history? A week later, I was at a Boston

hospital undergoing some tests when a woman approached me for some blood work. She looked Armenian to me—and I to her.

Like when two Armenians meet in the most unsuspected places, they create a new Armenia, as Saroyan tells us.

She recognized the name after being a long-time subscriber to the Armenian press. Turns out, she had read many of my articles.

“What's your name?” I inquired.

“You would never know I'm Armenian by my name. It's a long story.”

“You can tell me all about it while you're drawing my blood sample.”

“My name is Martin,” he interjected. “I'm Martin the Armenian.”

“You shortened your name from Martinian, then? I knew an Armenian like that. Had he dropped the ‘ian’ he would have been Martin Martin and that would have posed some question on the part of skeptics.”

Strange as it may seem, she knew nothing about Martin the Virginian but was surprised to hear this whole subject had been discussed only days before at the library. You will not believe how many Armenians never knew this about Martin.

I've only known one other Armenian named Martin. That would be Ken Martin, a very accomplished photographer in the Greater Boston community. We last worked together shooting the 100th anniversary of the genocide in Boston last April.

Martin the photographer has been on top of his game for decades. We exchanged pleasantries and agreed to share our photographs.

I know of many Armenians who share identical first and last names, except for the “ian.” A couple of close friends are Garabed Garabedian and Sarkis Sarkisian. My cousin was named Krikor Yedejanian. He Americanized it to Greg Janian.

What he didn't realize was how commonplace that name became. People often confused him with the musician. They never did meet far as I know.

APRIS Wines

Did you know that Noah planted vineyards after arriving at Mt. Ararat? That Armenia is the birthplace of wine and National Geographic highlighted the world's oldest winery in Armenia dating back 6200 years? APRIS Wines, modern-day Armenian wines from Artsakh are proudly available across Rhode Island and the United States.



APRIS Wines was founded in 2017 by Garen Bagdasarian, a long-time member of the Rhode Island Armenian community. With roots from Artsakh, Garen returned in 2016 after the war to establish ways to reinvest in the country and create opportunities to stimulate the economy.

Soon after establishing local partnerships, APRIS began its first harvest in the Martouni region of Artsakh with 4 farmers. Only a few years later, APRIS has grown to a team of over 50 people including winemakers, farmers, seasonal workers, and more. The addition of an international winemaker to our team has helped us achieve our mission of elevating the education of everyone involved, not only to produce internationally award-winning wines, but also to translate and bottle the pride of our country, people, and land, to share with the world.

(Continued on next page)

We are committed to showcasing indigenous varietals, practicing organic farming and low-intervention winemaking. The fruit of our labor is a testament to the strength of our roots. Our Sireni (Khindoghni) grapes are cultivated from vineyards surrounding Amaras Monastery, home to the first school Mesrob Mashtotz taught the Armenian alphabet.

Bring a taste of Artsakh into your home while supporting our homeland. All proceeds of APRIS are being reinvested directly!

into our Armenian communities in Artsakh as well as supporting our local community efforts. Over 13 retailers carry APRIS including Gasbarro's, McGreen's and Brickyard to name a few. For more information about our project and a full list of retailors please visit our website at www.apriswines.com. APRIS

Become a Coffee Fellowship Hour Sponsor

Please consider sponsoring the Sunday Coffee Fellowship Hour when you arrange a 40 Day Karasoonk (Requiem Service) for your loved one, or for any milestone celebration, etc.

The church offers this service for your convenience and includes:

- Choreg, Cheese, Olives, Fruit, and Coffee with Condiments, \$225
- Bagels, Cream Cheese, Peanut Butter, Coffee with Condiments, \$125 Both for 100-125 guests.

Please speak with the church office (401-272-7712) to make arrangements and discuss your preferences.



Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church

Cultural Committee

Presents

ARMENIAN CULTURAL HOUR

Every Friday at 7:30 pm

Dear Parishioners,

The Cultural Committee of the Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church are pleased to announce the start of a new series of programs for our parishioners. In this difficult time, when many are compelled to comply with quarantine, it is very important to support people morally. Therefore, the Cultural Committee organizes for you a series of unique programs "Meet with Armenian Doctors", concerts of famous Armenian musicians of the World with special programs, and Armenian documentaries presented in English.

Since May 29, 2020 every Friday at 7:30 pm (during of quarantine) you may participate online in live meeting with our Doctors, see and hear many of our musicians and singers from different countries (USA, Armenia, Argentina, Germany, Canada, Portugal, Spain, England), and watch movies on the screens of your computers.

All of them will prepare a special program for you and will perform for free of charge. Duration will be from 30 to 90 minutes. All events for you will be online. Before each event, we will notify you with special poster.

We are very happy that wonderful friends, like Daniel Ayriyan, and Deacon Michael Sabounjian are working with me. Our committee should beat very grateful to them for their fantastic job in this difficult time. Many thanks to Len Arzoomanian for the very prompt work on advertising. And also to all our friends, musicians, singers, sponsors, newspaper editors, radio tv for fruitful cooperation. Special thanks to Der Hayr, and PC for support us.

Maestro Konstantin Petrossian Cultural & Music Director of Church

SCHEDULE

JULY

- 3 – "A Musical Journey to Armenia", Armenian pop music and songs
Mutualite Hall, Montreal, Canada
10 – "Musical greetings from Buenos Aires"
Arno Stepanian, Virtuoso duduk & saxophone player
17 – "For You from Armenia"
Lilit Yan,
Laureate of international competitions, singer, songwriter
24 - "Meet with Armenian Doctors"
Dr. Vatche Seraderian, Dentist
Topic: the cosmetic dentistry and oral implantology.
31 – Inga & Anush Arshyakyans Concert
"Menk Mer Sareru"

The link to view the Cultural Committee Presentations will change weekly and be e-mailed and posted on the website

AUGUST

- 7 – "Armenia", Documentary
14 – Concert, featuring Joanne Mouradjian, soprano, Mari Panosian, piano
21 – "Meet with Armenian Doctors"
Dr. Gaiane Martirossian, Acupuncture
28 – Concert "Zepyoori Nman"
Janet Khalarian, popular singer

SEPTEMBER

- 4 – Selected Armenian Songs
by "Yerevan" Chorale & Orchestra
11 – Saro Danielian, Virtuoso
Duduk & Zurna player from Argentina
18 – "Salute to Armenia",
Concert dedicated to Independence of Armenia,
September 2011, Peter & Paul Cathedral
25 – "Meet with Armenian Doctors"
Dr. Ara Sadaniantz, Cardiologist

♦ **RENEWAL**

With the Challenges facing us in today's world, a spiritual renewal and a commitment to God and His Church are fundamental.

♦ **COMMITMENT**

Your financial contribution is vital and will sustain the Church and Her Mission.

♦ **STEWARSHIP**

Your Church needs you.

Become a Steward and give of your gifts, of your Time, Talent and Treasure

♦ **PARTICIPATE**

Attend the Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings, get involved with your Church, and help Her achieve her...

20/20 VISION

PLEASE MAKE YOUR COMMITMENT NOW

Wish List

The chairs we ordered were heavily discounted due to the chairs being discontinued.

Our new cost is only \$8,700.

We are still asking for donations to reach our 2020 goal!!!

Our old chairs were 25 years old and this change is long overdue!

Goal \$ 8,700

Raised \$6,950

Needed \$1,750

If you are interested in sponsoring, please contact Steve Megrdichian (401) 419-4392 or Jason Martiesian (401) 339-9750 or our church office (401) 272-7712. Please sponsor / Any amount helps! We thank you for your support. God Bless



Request A Service Online At:

<http://stsahmes.org/request-service/>

Baptisms
Cemetery Blessings
Counseling
Engagement / Wedding
Funerals
Hokehankist / Requiem
Home Blessings
Pastoral Visits
Private Confession
Pre-marital Consultation
Prayers for the Sick
Visits to the Sick
Pastoral Direction

A Place of Prayer in the Home-Fr. Shnork

During this time of crisis, we have an opportunity to create some great spiritual habits. While we can't attend church physically, we are all taking advantage of time with family, participating in church services, listening to sermons and messages, participating in Bible Study, all on-line in making use of this technology at our fingertips. Dn. Michael and I have tried to make the best use of this technology and will continue to do so.

An ancient custom of the church is the practice of preparing and maintaining a "Prayer corner, wall or table" in the family home.

This can be as ornate or simple as you'd like as long as it is dedicated and doesn't get used for anything but prayer and devotion nor does it get "cluttered" with non-religious decoration or "flare".

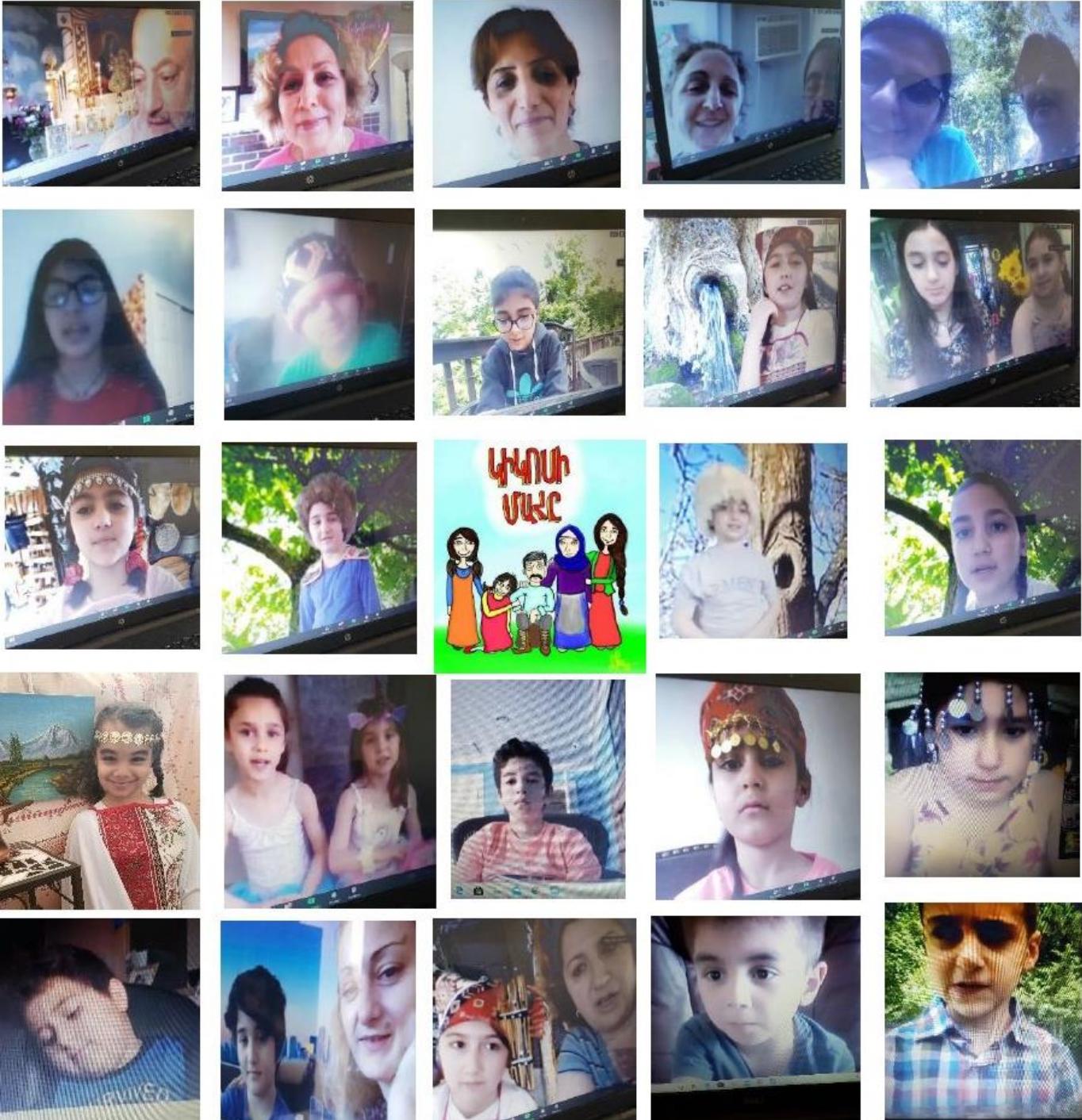
 Icons (holy images of Christ, St. Mary and saints)-images should be appropriate and traditional images recognized by church tradition-use good pious judgement and discretion-(ie. no "seeing eye", non-christian symbols etc.), a cross, candles, incense burner, prayer books, Bibles, lamps can be used. These items can eventually also be brought to church for blessing during the Divine Liturgy at some point before or even after using them.

The "sacred space" should ideally be "oriented" facing the East. When the priest can eventually visit your family home, he can offer a prayer of dedication, sprinkle blessed holy water and pray before it but you may and ought to pray before it regularly and often. Pray, praise God, give thanks, glorify him, offer your intentions and petitions, and seek the intercession of the saints. If you have any questions or need advice on how and where to procure sacred items, please call me at Der Shnork 201-306-4304.

Prayerfully
Fr. Shnork

RIGHT NOW, LEAVE WHAT YOU'RE DOING. WASH YOUR HANDS AND PRAY THE "OUR FATHER..." WHILE WASHING! PASS IT ON! – Fr. Shnork

Last Day Of Armenian School via Zoom With Der Hayr, Staff and Children!



Liana Odabashyan Trinity
Christian Academy 2020
Outstanding Christian Character
Award



COVID-19 Ministries When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, history was in the making. The disciples distanced from the crowds had prayed for 10 days preparing their hearts for what God would do. Then, they heard the sound of a mighty rushing wind and tongues of fire rested on each of them. The disciples, inspired by God's Spirit, overcame fear and began to speak in tongues and like us today in these strange days, doing new things in new ways that they never imagined!!



CURB-SIDE EASTER HOME BLESSINGS

“Blessed be the water, salt and bread by the sign of the Holy Cross, Holy Gospel and the grace fo this Day”



Sunday School Zoom Classes led by Der Shnork and Dn. Michael



Armenian Music Festival



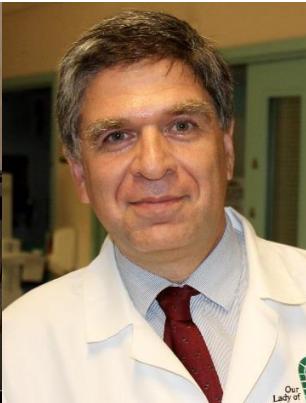
Sayat Nova Dance group



Gohar Manjelikian



Maestro Konstantin Petrossian



Dr. Raffi Calikyan



Dr. Christine V. Hoogasian

COVID-19 Ministries – Home Blessings Continued



Please Support those who Support Us!



Peanuts ~ Nuts ~ Trail Mixes ~ Dried Fruits ~ Snacks ~ Brown Bear Peanut Butter
260 Dexter Street ~ Providence, RI 02907 ~ 401-421-2543
Kaloostian Family
5th Generation Traditional Nut Roasters



Clean Outs, Clean Ups & Staging!
Buying or Selling your Home,
I'd love to work with you!

Diana (Thovmasian) Sanginario
401-368-8762
DianaSanginario@Gmail.com



Pizza Palace
1583 Plainfield Pike, Johnston, RI 02919



401-946-1600 • www.pizzapalacejohnston.com

J.F. SKEFFINGTON

FUNERAL HOME & CREMATIONS

"Proudly serving the community for over 100 years"

JOHN M. SKEFFINGTON, JR.

Director

JOHN A. SKEFFINGTON, III

Associate

J.F. Skeffington Funeral Home
925 Chalkstone Avenue
Providence, RI 02908-3598

Office (401) 331-3900
Residence (401) 521-4444
Skeffingtonfuneralhome.com

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS - SERVICE PROJECT JUNE 2020 – GOAL \$8,000

The collection for my Service Project-Armenia '20, in thanksgiving for the gift of my new heart and in memory of my donor and the miraculous prayers of Father Hetum Terverdyan, raising \$8,000 for the rectory and renovations of the Holy Mother of God Church in Akht'ala Armenia where Father Hetum is the abbot. So far you have raised \$4,550 with an outstanding balance as at March 24, of only \$3,450. Thank you to those who have contributed. If you can make a donation, I would so greatly appreciate it. God bless you.
\$1000 , \$500 , \$250 , \$100 , \$50 other \$ toward the Service Project for Akh'tala & Saint Mary Mother of God Monastery in Armenia.

Name Address: Phone: E-mail:

To the glory of God (your name), In memory of In honor of: Will be inscribed on permanent plaque at the Monastery. Donations can be made in whole or in part with a one-time payment, or monthly based on a pledge basis (ie. Pledge \$250 over 2 months with 2 payments of \$225.) * If you want to help the project in Armenia (ie. Painting, restoration) please consider adding either \$10, \$25 or \$50 to your donation. Please check the amount here \$

Signature *Payments can be made in full or part until August 2019, by cash, check, credit card, payable to Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church. NOTE: Service Project-AKHTALA on your check. To process credit card call office. Send to: Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, c/o Father Souin-Service Project 2020, 70 Jefferson Street, Providence, RI 02908



Annual Armenian Festival

Saturday August 22nd, 2020

SAVE THE
DATE



**ATTENTION-IF YOU NEED ANYTHING PICKED UP
SUCH AS GROCERIES OR PRESCRIPTIONS AND
HAVE NO HELP OR FAMILY
CALL FR. SHNORK AT 201-306-4304**

1. Remember to wash your hands often
2. Maintain Social Distancing
3. Follow church services and messages on-line
4. Pray for the world, world leaders, healthcare workers and first responders, and the sick. Petition God incessantly saying, "Our Father...", and "Lord Jesus Christ Son of God, have mercy." Give him thanks, and praise and seek intercession from the Holy Mother of God, Mary and from all the saints who have overcome the world.
5. Prepare a special place of prayer in your home, a cross, an icon, an incense burner, candles and books for prayer. Call me for guidance if you need direction on how to do this and what the Armenian Orthodox Tradition says about this

Sunday School News

What's happened to Sunday School since the outbreak of Covid-19?

Our last Sunday together was March 8th during which we hosted approximately 100 participants in the annual Tri-Church Sunday School Visitation. The students of the 8th to 10th and in-service students provided a program which included an assembly plus classroom-time crafts.

Our Annual Lenten Drive in which we participate with the other Sunday Schools of the Diocese fell short given Covid-19. We held one of three events: Mardi Gras luncheon which along with individual contributions provided approximately \$700 to FAR's Initiative for Food for Families and the Heifer Project: The Gift Ark (far short of our usual \$1500-\$3000 in years past). Other missed events included Graduation scheduled for May 3rd, now pushed to the fall. Camp and St Nersess scholarships will be held for next year given that those programs were cancelled for 2020.

During this period-of-time, our pastor, Der Shnork and our Pastoral Intern, Dn. Michael – hosted Sunday School Zoom-Assemblies – one for the younger grades and one for the older grades.



What's in our future:

Short Term – Der Shnork and Deacon Michael will host weekly assemblies, live and in-person and via Zoom at the Summer Youth Program 2020. One-hour sessions for 4 weeks starting July 25. Please see the Poster Advertisement.

Longer Term – School systems around the state appear to be planning a combination of on-site and virtual classes. The Sunday School Superintendents' Summit of 2014 & 2017 recommended that religious education should not conflict with Badarak worship. Two parishes of our Diocese provide both Badarak worship and religious education. Our Diocese is focusing on religious education taking place during non-liturgical times. Since this pandemic's outbreak, some parishes are holding classes via Zoom during week-nights and weekends.

We need to think out of the box – can we combine face-2-face as well as virtual via Zoom? Perhaps face- 2-face one week and the following week via Zoom? Can we stagger classes – perhaps one age-span on one Sunday and another on the

May/April/June 2020

following Sunday in order to comply with social distancing and related requirements? Can we have classes during the week? On Saturdays? Can we hold virtual assemblies led by our religious leaders or led by one or more of the classes?

We have many decisions to make and the opportunity to make positive changes that will enable faith development for our community and help grow our church. Would you like to be involved? Contact our Pastor, Der Shnork.

Last Day Of Armenian School

Last day of Armenian School via Zoom With the presence of Fr. Shnork, the Armenian students of Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church finished their last day of class via zoom with a beautiful performance: Singing, Poetry, and a Play named "Kikos" with Armenian costumes and backgrounds. They have done a marvelous job learning the Armenian language and their culture with the assistance of their wonderful teachers: Mrs. Lilit Amroyan, Mrs. Narine Hovsepyan, Mrs. Marina Stepanian, Mrs. Maggie Ovsepian and Miss Susanna Ovsepian. Students and parents are thankful and blessed to have them as teachers. They also want to thank their special guests: Mrs. Shoushan, former superintendent and Mariam. See you all back in September 2020-2021! For Adults or children classes 20-21, please contact Mrs. Lilit Amroyan at 401-632-6321 or the church office 401-272-7712.

Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church

Summer Youth Program 2020

Saturday, July 25 - Exploring Christ's Transfiguration
Grades K-5 meet AT CHURCH at 9 AM for outdoor prayer, lesson and activity.

Grades 6-10 meet over ZOOM at 10 AM for virtual lesson.

Saturday, August 1 - Exploring St. Mary's Assumption
Grades 6-10 meet at CHURCH at 9 AM for outdoor prayer, lesson and activity.

Grades K-5 meet over ZOOM at 10 AM for virtual lesson.

Saturday, August 8 - Service Project
ALL grades meet at CHURCH for an outdoor service project.

Sunday, August 16 - Outing at Husenig Grove
ALL grades meet after Church (12 PM) for an outdoor family picnic at HUSENIG GROVE (20 Simmons St. Rehoboth, MA).

For all youth. You don't have to be registered in Sunday School. Call and register now.

DEACON TRAINING - There will also be a Summer Deacon Training Retreat for the Fourth Consecutive Year at Husenig Grove in August. Stay tuned for details.



ARTS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM FOR FIRST SEMESTER OF 2020 - 2021

The Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church Cultural Committee offers art and cultural instruction in the following areas for a very modest fee. In which classes would your child (children) be interested?

AGES 5-17

CLASSES:	Number of Children	Ages
Drawing and Sculpture		
Nazeli Dance Group (ages 5-17)		
Piano		
Violin		
Guitar		
Flute		
Voice training		
Ballroom dance		
Theatre class (ages 8 - 18)		

Are there any other classes you would like to see offered? _____

Name _____ e-mail _____

Address _____ Tel.# _____

**Registration for 2020 - 2021 First Semester is on Saturday, August 29, 2020
from 12 noon to 2 pm in Egavian Cultural center, 70 Jefferson St. Providence, RI
Programs begin on Saturday, September 12, 2020.**

Nazeli Dance groups begin Wednesday, September 16, 2020.

Please send application to: Cultural Committee Arts Education Program
Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, 70 Jefferson St., Providence, RI 02908

For more information, or questions about the Arts Education Program please contact Program's Chairperson Mrs. Janna Guegamian
401 861-3573, e-mail: Petroskon@aol.com

News from Cultural Committee

The Cultural Committee began large-scale projects of the "Armenian Cultural Hour" and "Meet with Armenian Doctors". These programs are broadcast online.

The first transmission of the "Meet with Armenian Doctors" took place on May 3.

Our guest was Dr. Christine V. Hoogasian, who prepared a very interesting presentation on the problems of diabetes. The moderator was Jason Martesian, who provided reliable contact between the Doctor and audience and was watched by 523 people.

The first "Armenian Cultural Hour" concert was held on May 9 from the Egavian Cultural Center, and was dedicated to Mother's Day. Composer and pianist Maestro Konstantin Petrossian performed Armenian folk songs and melodies on the piano, as well as several popular jazz compositions. Mezzo Soprano Gohar Manjelikian took part in the concert, watched by 1136 people.

On May 29 and June 5, a video of the concert of the Armenian Musical Festival was held, which took place on September 27, 1997 at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Providence. The concert performance of the opera Anush was performed by the Armenian Chorale of RI, the State Philharmonic Orchestra, soloists – Metropolitan opera star Lily Chookasian, soprano Ellada Chakoyan, Tenor Razmik Papikyan, Bass Vago Ohanyan, Soprano Joanne Mouradjian, kamancha master David Ayriyan, clarinet player Michael

Mirzabekoff. The artistic director and conductor was Maestro Konstantin Petrossian. The concert was attended by the famous Sayat Nova dance group from Boston. Chairperson of concert was Liz Kooloian. The show was watched by more than 1,900 people.

On June 12, the next evening, "Meet with Armenian Doctors" This time, Dr. Raffi Calikyan pulmonologist, presented the information on the problems of coronavirus. The moderator of the evening was Gary Nahabedian, who provided online contact with the audience. This program was watched by 643 people.

The Cultural Committee expresses its gratitude to Deacon Michael Sabounjian for help with the high-quality presentation of these programs online, and to Daniel Ayriyan, for the technical preparation of the video programs. Many thanks to Len Arzoomanian for the very prompt work on advertising. We also sincerely thank the Doctors, Moderators, Sponsors of the Cultural Committee.

Our programs have become very popular at home and abroad. They are watched in many cities and countries. This is the only ongoing cultural online program among the Churches of our Diocese.

You can send your voluntary donations to the Cultural Committee of the church through online or by mail. We thank all of our supporters
Cultural Committee.

Saints Sahag and Mesrob Prayer Card Ministry

WHY SEND A HALLMARK CARD?



Offer instead the Card that Shares and Cares at Prayer! The church will happily end a card on your behalf, to your friend, acquaintance, colleagues, coworker or anyone else, for almost any occasion in order to

show that you have requested prayers for them during our church services. What a great way to show them that you hold them in prayer! (Weddings, deaths, graduations, births, illness, well wishes etc.)

Information about the Prayer Card Ministry of Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church is available through the church office. If you would like to request a Healing Prayer Card, Memorial Prayer Card for a loved one, or some other special occasion Prayer Card, please call the office (272-7712).

The name of your loved one and the one requesting the card will be included in this bulletin on the Sunday of your request and the person will be remembered in prayer by the pastor during the Liturgy.

Requested by_____

Date of Request:_____

Requested for:_____

Occasion:_____

Donation:_____

(Suggested Minimum \$10)



Donate to Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church Through Amazon Smile

Did you know if you make any purchases through Amazon, you can pick our Church as a charity? Amazon Smile gives a portion of all your purchases to the Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church

Simply go to
<https://smile.amazon.com/>

Sign into your regular Amazon Account

When asked to pick a charity

Search for and choose

Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church
Providence

Mary House Food Pantry Dates

TBD - depending on Covid-19

We meet at Saint Patrick's on Smith Street by 3:45 PM. The last meal is served by 5:15 PM when we help with clean-up. Call the Church office, Joyce Avedisian (401-724-3978) if you have any questions.

Cultural Committee 2020 Events

Sunday, September 27 at 12:30 pm
Dr. Ara Sadariantz, Cardiologist

Sunday, October 4, at 12:30 pm
Dr. Michael Alavian, Urologist

Sunday, October 18, at 12:30 pm
Dr. Vatche Seraderian, Dentist
Topic – Dental Implants

Sunday, November 22, at 12:30 pm
Dr. Aznif Calikyan, Anesthesiologist

* * * * *

Sunday, June 7, at 5 pm
Annual Talent show - exhibition
and

“Beacon” youth folk orchestra from Armenia
(special presentation of 16 youth musicians and singers)

* * * * *

Saturday, October 17
Special event, dedicated to 25 th Anniversary
of the Cultural Committee

* * * * *

Sunday, November 1, at 5 pm
Spiritual Music Festival
(Church Sanctuary)

* * * * *

Saturday, December 12
Christmas concert

* * * * *

ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM

January 11 - June 6

Second Semester of the 2019-2020 school year

September 12 - December 12
First Semester of the 2020-2021 school year

Every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Lessons (Drawing & Sculpture,Music)

Every Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00p.m. - NAZELI
Dance Group

(For more info call Janna Guegamian, Arts Education
Program's Chair - 401861 3573 or see Church website for
application.)

BAPTISMS

No Baptisms this quarter

May these children be raised in the love and care of the Lord.



CHRISMATION

None this quarter

May the anointed bask in the love and care of the Lord.

MARRIAGES

No Weddings this quarter.

Best wishes and prayers are extended to the couple for a long and happy life together.



FUNERALS

- Ardashes "Harry" DerAnanian, Jr. (4-5-20)
- Sylvia Derderian (4-5-20)
- Victoria "Vickie" (Kolligian) Jamgochian (4-18-20)
- Peter H. Babigian, Jr. (4-25-20)
- Marion "Mary" (Norigian) Der Vartanian (4-28-20)
- Emily Gilbert (4-28-20)
- Sara (Dardaghanian) Kazarian (5-25-20)
- Hagop Yagoubian (6-22-20)

Expressions of sympathy and prayers are extended to the families that their loved ones may be at peace in the care of the Lord and their memory be eternal.

Marriages: Arrangements for weddings are to be made at least eight months in advance. Marriage preparation and counseling often called Pre-Cana, is required before the celebration of the sacrament. The Best Man (*Khachyeghpayr*) must be a confirmed communicant of the Armenian Orthodox Church. The parish office will make all necessary arrangements for the deacon, organist and soloist. Marriages are not celebrated during Great Lent.

Baptisms and Chrismations: All baptisms must be scheduled at least two months in advance. Pre-baptismal preparation for the parents and godparents is strongly encouraged. At least one of the godparents must be a member of the Armenian Orthodox Faith.

Regulation of Sacramental Services: In accordance with Diocesan discipline mandated by the Primate, all sacraments, e.g. weddings, baptisms and rites of Christian burial, can only be administered in the church sanctuary which has been consecrated for the celebrations of these sacred rites.

Remember the Church in your Will



Hohehankisd/Memorial/Requiem

You can make your requiem request by calling the office
@ 401-272-7712 or online @
<http://stsahmes.org/request-service/>

Father Shnork's Mission Statement

My mission is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ according to the holy apostolic teaching, practice and doctrine of the Armenian Church in order to equip the parishioners of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church with faith, hope and love, to live and to serve as members of His Church in a wholesome Armenian Christian Family.

JULY 19 -Transfiguration-Outdoors!



ՀԱՅՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
Հունիսի 19 - Sunday July 19



Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church

Please Join us for this Major Feast Day Celebration of Transfiguration.
THE DIVINE LITURGY WILL BE CELEBRATED OUTDOORS UNDER THE TENT

9:30AM

CELEBRANT FR. SHNORK SOUIN, PASTOR
SAFE WATER GAMES, BBQ AND FUN ACTIVITIES FOR ALL
FOLLOWING THE BADARAK

OUTREACH OF SHARING AND CARING -Please bring items of personal hygiene, sanitizers, snacks, which will be packaged and prepared to be given to the Providence Fire Department firemen as a "service project" by our children who attend our Summer Camp they can use while serving our community.



Donations of Grapes- Feast of the Assumption and Blessing of Grapes

Name: _____ Amount: _____

In Memory of: _____ In Honor of: _____

Donations and names will be recorded. Please respond by August 13th. CALL 272-7712 or Return
SSMAC 70 Jefferson Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church
Cultural Committee

Proudly Presents Its

Music Appreciation Series

Featuring Talented Performers



Knarik Nerkarajian, Soprano



Nune Hakobyan, Piano (MA)



Gregory Ayriyan, Violin

Book Presentation

"Haykakan taraz - Armenian Costumes"

By Artist Gourgen Manoukian



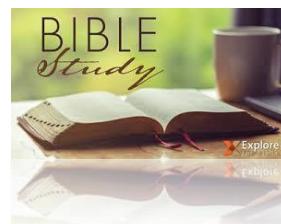
Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm

Egavian Cultural Center

70 Jefferson Street, Providence, RI

Donation: \$15

Refreshments



Bible Study-Every Tuesday at 7pm.
Look for "links" on the Virtual Bible Study through Church Emails

Membership / Stewardship

Let's Start Building Our Future! Become a member and/or a steward of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church of Providence, RI.

It only takes a few minutes to complete the Membership form and \$175.⁰⁰ (\$100.⁰⁰ for students and \$125.⁰⁰ senior citizens) to become a dues paying member of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Church of Providence.

While many churches of other faiths use the method of tithing, Saints Sahag and Mesrob Church simply asks a minimum fixed amount to be a dues paying member of the church, and that amount is \$175.00. That's only \$3.37 a week! Membership for senior citizens and students is even less: \$125.00 a year or \$2.40 per week.

Please fill out the form, print it out and mail it, along with a check (unless you choose to use your credit card), to the church office:

Please mail this completed form and payment information to the church office:

Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church
70 Jefferson Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

You can now pay Dues/Stewardship on-line at:
<http://stsahmes.org/dues/>

Stewardship

The logo depicting a stylized Armenian Cross with the threefold elements of stewardship was created by Father Shnork Souin, showing that all 3 elements are required of the life in Christ.
(DSS Der Shnork Souin)



Membership and Stewardship of Time and Talent and Treasure, are the building blocks of your commitment to the church. By your membership you are an architect in the life and building of the church and community

Your dues are not only essential, but facilitate the realization of the day to day operations of the mission of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church. In conjunction with your dues, your annual stewardship pledge is a way to express support of, involvement in and concern for the welfare and growth of our church with her many ministries offered.

We kindly ask that you that you fulfill your dues and stewardship pledges now.

Point your smart phone here to pay your dues!



Have You Paid Your 2020 Membership?

If you have not paid your dues for 2020, please complete the form below and send your donation to the church office.

You can pay your membership and/or stewardship with your MasterCard or Visa or use Paypal through our website at www.stsahmes.org.

2020 Membership Application Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church of Providence, RI

I/WE would like to be year 2020 dues-paying member(s) of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church of Providence.

\$175.⁰⁰ Adults;
\$125.⁰⁰ Senior Citizens;
\$100.⁰⁰ Students)

Members #1 Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms:

Members #2 Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms:

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zipcode: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Check enclosed
Charge my MasterCard/Visa/Discover/AE

redit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: ____/____

(Membership and/or Stewardship donations are tax deductible.)

For Office Use Only: _____

Account No(s): _____

Date Received: _____ Amount Received: _____

Check # _____ Amount: _____

START THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT!
LOOK FOR AUTOMATIC PAY BY THE MONTH OPTIONS
IN 2020 ON OUR WEBSITE

The Newsletter Committee

Editor-in-Chief

Reverend Father Shnork Souin,
Pastor

Editor

Leonard J Arzoomanian

Proofing

Ponsonby Britt O.B.E.

Layout and Design

Leonard J Arzoomanian

Full Page	\$500/4 Issues	Half Page	\$300/4 Issues
Quarter Page	\$150/4 Issues	Business Card	\$75/4 Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1100+ newsletters mailed 4 times a year • Predominantly Rhode Island addresses • Predominantly Armenian Subscribers • Ads accepted on a first come, first serve basis 			
For more information please call the Church Office 401-272-7712 office@stsahmes.org No promotional material for credit cards, commercially available insurance and travel arrangements accepted per USPS			

The Saints Sahag and Mesrob Church Newsletter is a publication of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Church of 70 Jefferson St., Providence, RI 02908. Submission of news articles, photos, essays, poetry, book reviews, and letters are welcomed and should be sent to the church office (office@stsahmes.org). All text must be submitted in electronic format, preferably in Microsoft Word, as a text file or as e-mail. Please note that the editorial board reserves the right to modify and/or reject articles, photos, etc. All materials must be received no later than the published submission deadlines per issue as published in the church bulletins.

Church Office Hours

The Church Office is open from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If you would like to contact Fr. Shnork, call 201-306-4304. To submit items for the Sunday Lighthouse Bulletin, please contact the office at 401-272-7712 or office@stsahmes.org. If you call after hours, please leave your requests, and the administrative assistant will be happy to process them promptly. For Emergencies, please contact Stephen Megrdichian @ 401-464-9004.

Administrative Information			
Parish Clergy	Cell: 401-529-0102 mamo529@gmail.com	Armenian School	Marc Janigan Cell 401-523-3276 mjanigan@cox.net
Reverend Father Shnork Souin, 401-272-7712 Cell 201-306-4304 dershnork@gmail.com	Martha Jamgochian Home: 401-723-3344	Janna Guegamian Home 401-861-357	Leonard J Arzoomanian, Cell 508-958-7391 arzoo623@webrightservices.net
Administrative Assistant Nayiri Odabashyan, 401-272-7712 office@stsahmes.org	Melanie Krikorian Home: 401-353-4519	Petroskon@aol.com	
Parish Council Chairperson John Megrdichian Home: 401-944-3201 Cell 401-742-2887 jmmeg1@verizon.net	Cell: 401-465-1957 melanie1250@aol.com	Bazaar Committee Marc Janigan Cell 401-523-3276 mjanigan@cox.net	Sports Committee Terrance Martiesian 401-272-0269 terrance.martiesian@verizon.net
Vice Chairperson Marc Janigan Home 401-942-3477 Cell: 401-523-3276 mjanigan@cox.net	Cell: 401-724-3978 avedisianj@cox.net	Diocesan Delegates Joyce Avedisian Cell: 401-724-3978 avedisianj@cox.net	Membership/Stewardship Jason Martiesian Home 401-455-3975 jcmartiesian@gmail.com
Secretary Dorothy Martiesian Cell 401-749-0269 dmartiesian@yahoo.com	Ann Ayrassian Home 401-272-4743	Gary Nahabedian Cell 401-871-8331 garynahabedian@hotmail.com	Women's Guild Stephanie Masoian 401-862-6323 hyedeli@aol.com
Treasurer Jeff Boghossian, Cell 401-340-7053 jkbrams@cox.net	Cell: 401-529-5210 istanbul27@verizon.net	Konstantin Petrossian Home 401-861-3573 petroskon@aol.com	Sunday School Christian Education Advisory Board (CEAB) Martha Jamgochian 401-723-3344 jmartha9@gmail.com
Assistant Treasurer Eric Stickler Home: 401-398-0485 Cell: 401-578-2621 eric_stickler@hotmail.com	Stephen Megrdichian Cell 401-419-4392 spmeg77@cox.net	Cultural Committee Konstantin Petrossian Home 401-861-3573 petroskon@aol.com	Investment Committee Doctor Robert Janigan rhjanigan@cox.net
Advisors	Organizations	Memorial Dinner Committee	
Len Arzoomanian Cell 508-958-7391 arzoo623@webrightservices.net	ACYOA Greta Janigan 401-556-0771 gjanigia@wellesley.edu		
Margret Chevian 401-368-9234 margo1915@gmail.com	Altar Guild Ann Ayrassian Home 401-272-4743 istanbul27@verizon.net		
Manouel Emdjian			





Please read your weekly emails
for the Calendar of events