



Illuminator

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St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church
Archpriest Fr. Nerses Manoogian, Pastor

January-March, 2018

Established 1952

Quarterly Newsletter

ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS CELEBRATED IN OUR CHURCH

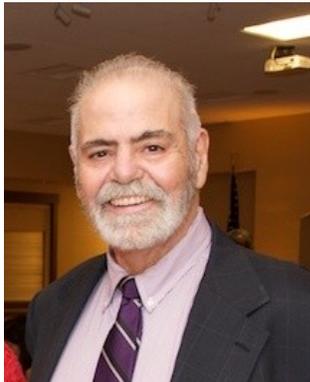
Armenian Christmas was celebrated in our parish once again with joy and fervor. day's festive Badarak and Blessing of the Water ceremony.

Unfortunately, due to frigid weather, Christmas eve service and the traditional Khtoom dinner was cancelled. But on January 6, despite the harsh weather, the church was filled with a capacity crowd who enjoyed the day's festive Badarak and Blessing of the Water ceremony. The Godfather of the Cross was William Chapanian. Very proud to state that William is one of our candle bearers, and his father, Hovig Chapanian was recently elevated to the rank of semi-deacon.



A MESSAGE TO OUR PARISHIONERS

IN MEMORIAM



It is with deep sorrow that we announce the sudden death of our beloved Chairman of the Board, William Eliazar Arthin. He passed away in his sleep on February 10, 2018 at home. He was the beloved husband of Armine, devoted father to Julie, and loving twin brother of Sam Arthin.

William was the longest serving Board member of the St. Gregory's Church. He served as Board member for 36 years, of which 10 years as chairman. He served also as NRA member for eight years.

His viewing and funeral were held on Thursday, February 15 at St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church, presided by His Grace Anoushavan Tanielian, Vicar of the Armenian Prelacy.

In lieu of flower donations may be made to St. Gregory The Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church.

Rest in peace brother!

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Nerses Manoogian

The Illuminator

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Archpriest Fr. Nerses Manoogian
Pastor

AS JESUS IS RISEN, HOW DO WE KEEP HIS CHURCH?

The fundamental message of Easter is, that Jesus is alive. This message is amplified through our Easter greetings and hymns *crescendo forte*.

What makes a church a church, we may ask? A church is a living organism in this world because of the confluence of two obvious energies: God's grace and human response.

God's grace, according to the Holy Bible, is ample and permeates all aspects of our lives. This reality has been true and will remain so for eternity. What is important especially for the purpose of building a church is the human response, which can be labeled "faith."

At one time in our parish history, these two met together and formed our church. Our predecessors responded to the grace of God and created the foundations of our church. It is a stark reality that church, first and foremost, is the body of believers who are set on a journey to nurture their souls. Without this reality, any church building will remain solely as mortar and brick.

The challenge is ours to make our church alive at all times. The question, then, is how do we do that? The answer is very simple and straightforward. **BY PARTICIPATION.**

Christian theology defines the church as "The Body of Christ," Christ being the head. The implication is that the body, in order to be alive, needs to be connected to the head at all times. So, in order to experience this unity, we need to come together at the location which is our church building, consecrated in His name. As I always used to say, in order to **BECOME THE CHURCH** we need to **COME**. Just as an athlete is an athlete only on a playing field and not in the comfort of his or her home, likewise we as church members find our true Christian identity in our "playing field," church.

As your pastor, I have observed for years that there are out there different groups of parishioners who have different misconceptions about the essence of their church. They see only a building and not a living organism. I have heard a variety of excuses throughout the years as to why people do not come to church. We have a group who practices "super-market" approach, i.e. think of church when they need a sacrament. We have the

"Christmas Easter (EC) crowd, the football fan crowd and the DNSH (do nothing and sit home) crowd.

Dear confused group of people, it is not too late. Come to your senses. Incorporate yourself into the body of Christ where you belong. Church is not a social building or a club, but in the words of the Armenian poet Vahan Tekeyan, "*the birth place*" of your soul. Young and old, if you desire to have a happy and meaningful life, if you need to know who you really are or why you were put on this earth, you need to have a close relationship with your Maker, who sculpted you after His image.

Find the faith and come closer to Him and His church. Experience His presence and you will find that everything else in life will be pleasing. Do not be afraid to be spiritual. You will not turn into a hermit, but will become a totally normal and cool person, who will eat and drink, who will have fun, who will appreciate and enjoy sports games and attend parties, and who, at the end of the day, will look at all earthly enjoyments through the lens of his or her spiritual values. Remember, Jesus turned water into wine (John 2) to prolong the wedding party, and that same Jesus promises to prolong your joy if only you stay with him. In retrospect, please do not forget as well that the same Jesus chastised those who tried to turn the house of the Lord into something it was not built for. (Read the story of the cleansing of the Temple in John 2:12-17.) Come and form the 'Body of Christ' every Sunday. Let your coming to church be your Christmas, a time when you and baby Jesus embrace each other. Let your departure from church every Sunday be your Easter, when you feel in yourself a new and rejuvenated person who will step into a new week with a renewed spirit emboldened with these words of Psalm 27:1 "*The Lord is my light and salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*"

COME TO BECOME.

Happy Easter. Christ is risen.



Ս. Զատկուան հիմնական պատգամը սա է, թէ Յիսուս կենդանի է: Այս պատգամը բարձրաձայն կը շեփորուի Աւետարանին եւ մեր շարականներուն ընդմէջ:

Եկէք հարց տանք, ի՞նչն է որ եկեղեցին եկեղեցի կը դարձնէ: Եկեղեցին ապրող իրկանութիւն մըն է շնորհիւ անոր մէջ համահոսուող երկու իրկանութիւններու: Աստուծոյ շնորհքը եւ մարդուն պատասխանը: Առաջինը, ըստ Սուրբ Գրքին, առատ է եւ մեր կեանքը կը ողողէ: Մա իրականութիւն մըն է որ յաւիտեան պիտի չփոխուի: Մա է կարեւորը, մանաւորաբար երբ հարցը կու գայ եկեղեցի հիմնելու, մարդուն պատասխանը գոր մենք կը կոչենք նաեւ հաւատք: Մեր գաղութի պատմութեան մէջ, օր մը այս երկուքը գրկախառնուեցան եւ հիմնեցին եկեղեցին: Մեր նախնիքները Աստուծոյ կանչին ընդ առաջ երթալով հիմքը դրին մեր եկեղեցւոյ: Բացայայտ իրականութիւնը այն է, որ եկեղեցին հաւատացող մարդոց մարմինն է ամէն բանէ առաջ: Հաւատացող մարդոց հաւաքականութիւն մը որ օր մը ճամբայ ելաւ իր հոգին սնուցանելու: Առանց այս իրականութեան եկեղեցւոյ շէնքը սոսկ քար ու երկաթ է:

Մարտահրաւերը մերն է ուրեմն մեր եկեղեցին միշտ ապրող եւ շնչող վիճակի մէջ պահելու: Ինչպէ՞ս կընեն զայն: Պատասխանը շատ յստակ է.- ՄԱՍՆԱԿՑՈՒԹԵԱՄԲ:

Քրիստոնէական Աստուածաբանութիւնը եկեղեցին կը սահմանէ որպէս «Քրիստոսի Մարմինը» որուն զլուխը Քրիստոս ինքն է: Հետեւաբար, մարմինը ողջ մնալու համար պարտի յարատեւօրէն ազուցուած մնալ զլիտուն: Մարմնի եւ զլիտու այս միութիւնը փորձարկելու համար մենք «մարմին եւ զլուխ» պէտք է միաւորուինք վայրի մը մէջ որ կը կոչուի Եկեղեցի՝ օծուած Իր անունով: Ինչպէս միշտ ըսած եմ, եկեղեցին «ԸԼԼԱԼՈՒ» համար պէտք է ԳԱԼ: Ինչպէս որ մարզիկը մարզիկ է խաղավայրին մէջ եւ ոչ թէ իր հանգստաւտ տան մէջ, նոյնպէս ալ մենք, որպէս եկեղեցւոյ անդամներ, մեր ճշմարիտ ինքնութիւնը կը գտնենք մեր «խաղավայրին» մէջ, այսինքն եկեղեցւոյ յարկին տակ:

Որպէս ձեր հովիւրը, տարիներու ընթացքին նկատած եմ որ, զանազան խումբի ծխականներ կան որոնք սխալ հասկացողութիւն ունին իրենց եկեղեցւոյ անդամակցութեան մասին: Անոնք եկեղեցի ըսելով միայն շէնքը կը հասկնան եւ ոչ թէ հոն գոյութիւն ունեցող կեանքը: Եկեղեցի

չգալու շատ պատճառաբանութիւններ լսած եմ շատերէ: Անոնցմէ խումբ մը եկեղեցին վերածած են խորհուրդներ «գնելու» վայրի մը: Ունինք (ՕԶ) Ծնունդ-Զատիկ խմբակ մը եւ Ֆոթօպոլի եղանակի գերիները եւ մեծ խումբ մը որ Կիրակի օր տուն կը մնայ եւ հասնգիստ կընէ:

Միւրեւի շուարած խմբակներ, քանի ուշ չէ՝ խելքի եկէք: Միաւորուեցէք հոն ուր կը պատկանիք՝ ձեր եկեղեցւոյ: Եկեղեցին ընկերային շէնք մը չէ կամ ակումբ, բայց Վահան Թէքէեանի խօսքերով ձեր հոգիներու «ծծնդավայրը»: Մեծ թէ փոքր, եթէ կը փափաքիք ուրախ եւ իմաստալից կեանք մը ունենալ, եթէ կուզէք գիտնալ թէ դուք իրապէս ո՞վ էք եւ կամ ինչո՞ւ այս աշխարհին մէջ դրուեցաք, հարկ է որ մտերմիկ յարաբերութիւն մը ունենաք ձեր Արարչին հետ որ ձեզ կաղապարեց օր մը իր պատկերին նմանութեամբ:

Գտէք ձեր մէջ հաւատքը եւ մօտեցէք Անոր եւ իր եկեղեցւոյ: Փորձարկեցէք անոր ներկայութիւնը եւ պիտի տեսնէք որ ձեր կեանքը իր ամբողջութեամբ հաճելի պիտի դառնայ: Մի վախնաք հոգեւոր ըլլալէ: Ճգնաւոր պիտի չըլլաք, այլ պիտի ուտէ եւ խմէ, զուարճանայ, պիտի վայելէ մարմնամարզական խաղերը, մէկ տարբերութեամբ որ ան այս բոլորին պիտի նայի իր հոգեւոր պրիսմակին ընդմէջէն: Մի մոռնաք որ, Կանայի հարսանիքին Յիսուս ջուրը գինիի փոխեց որ երկարաձգէ հարսնետոններու ուրախութիւնը, եւ սհա նոյն այդ Յիսուսը պիտի երկարաձգէ քու ուրախութիւնդ եթէ որոշես իրեն մօտիկ մնալ: Բայց ըզգուշացիք նաեւ, մի մոռնաք որ նոյն Յիսուսը պատճեց այն խումբ մը մարդիկը որ իր Հօր տունը վաճառականութեան կեդրոնի մը վերածած էին: (Յովհ. 2:12-17)

Եկէք միասին կազմենք իր «մարմինը» ա - մէն Կիրակի: Թող ձեր եկեղեցի գալը ամէն Կիրակի ըլլայ ձեր «Սուրբ Ծնունդը», առիթ մը գրկախառնուելու Յիսուս մանուկին հետ: Եւ եկեղեցիէն ձեր տուն վերադարձը ամէն Կիրակի ըլլայ ձեր յարութիւնը, երբ պիտի գտնէք ձեր մէջ վերանորոգուած եւ թարմացած նոր անձ մը որ Մաղմոսի սա բառերով ոգեւորուած կը վերադառնայ աշխարհին.- *«Տէրը իմ լոյսս եւ փրկութիւնս է, եւ որով՞ պիտի վախնամ: Տէրը իմ կեանքիս սպաւեանն է, եւ որով՞ պիտի զարհուրիմ»* (Մղմ. 27:1)

ԵԿԷՔ ՈՐ ԸԼԼԱՆՔ:

Քրիստոս Յարեալ ի մեռելոց:

2018 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The 2018 general membership meeting convened on Sunday, February 18, 2018 in the Founders Hall and in attendance were 56 dues paying members.

Our pastor, Archpriest Fr. Nerses Manoogian opened the meeting with prayer and invited all to observe a moment of silence in memory of recently deceased Chairman of the Board, Bill Arthin.

The membership examined the pastor's report, Board's report and the auditing committee's report and approved the proposed 2018-2019 budget.

The following were elected to serve as

Board members: Kurk Selverian, Glenn Papazian, Karnig Karagelian, Mike Injaian, Harout Aghajanian and Brian Tavakalian.

The followings were elected as delegates to National Representative Assembly: Hrant Jilozian, Arthur Selverian, Aram Hovagimian and Vartan Karakelian.

Richard Selverian, Silva Santerian and David Papazian were elected to serve as auditing committee members, and Dr. Ara Chalian, Noubar Yeremian, Minas Shirozian, Karine Shamlian and Diran Keytanjian were elected to serve as Nominating committee members.



BOARD'S BRAIN STORMING SESSION I

On March 11th, 11 parishioners along with Der Nerses participated in the first of three Membership Brainstorming sessions. The session was held in a Sunday School classroom and was led by Kurk Selverian on behalf of the Board of Trustees, who guided the participants through the process. The objective of the session was to cultivate as many ideas as possible to determine:

“How can we increase active participation and service to our church across all of our auxiliaries.”

The group was given a time-limit to privately document ideas down on post-it's. Once the time was up, each person shared their ideas with the group and placed them on the ta-

ble. Similar ideas were grouped together and the rest were sorted. Each participant was given a set of stickers to rank the top 4 ideas they thought were best. All of the ideas will be documented and shared with the Board of Trustees, but those that scored the highest will get priority. The session lasted exactly 1 hour and over 25 unique ideas were captured. We want thank all of those that participated. It was a very positive, engaging and enlightening experience. There are two more sessions planned, April 8th and May 6th where the same objective will be discussed. The Board is looking for more input, so all are welcome to attend. Please, use the following link to sign-up or contact Kurk Selverian directly at kurk@selverian.com, or call the church office: <https://goo.gl/forms/>





Youth Ministry News

Talene Artinian, Director



January 2018 Meeting



On Friday, January 19th, we had our youth group meeting which focused on Who is God? This study helps youth to come to an understanding of their personal identity and lets them know that their identity comes from God.

We also discussed the following: Does God exist? Why does God allow people to suffer? What does faith have to do with anything?

We ended the night with some fun games which include human tic-tac-toe, a chopstick marshmallow competition, the marshmallow drop (who could fill the ice cream cone the fastest with marshmallows) , and a fun cup partner game. We ended the night with a beautiful prayer



asking God to continue to bless and protect our families, our life, and for Him to reveal Himself more in our lives.

Thank you again for dedicating your time to bring your children. I cannot stress enough what an impact youth group had on my life and I am so blessed to be apart of our congregations youth program! I was hoping for our next social event to be ice skating or bowling.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions on times, dates, etc. Our next meeting will be in February and I will have details soon. Even if your child cannot make every meeting, we would love to see them! All are welcome!

God Bless!

Testimony of Our Youth on Christmas

Christmas means a lot to me because it is the day Jesus Christ was born. It is a very nice holiday because you can spend your time with people you love and enjoy all of the Christmas

Youth Group impacts my life by helping me be more close to God, and when I am in a bad situation, thanks to youth group, the first thing I do is pray to God.

season with fun activities and decorations.

Youth Group impacts my life by helping me be more close to God, and when I am in a bad situation, thanks to youth group, the first thing I do is pray to God. I pray that He will guide me in my tough times.

Youth Group also helps me become a better person. Thanks to our Youth Group leader and organizer Talene, she encourages us to have faith in Jesus and God, in a very fun way.

Merry Christmas!

Noemi Semerjian

Christmas to me is one of the most important holidays in the year. On Christmas, we remember when Jesus was born. Christmas is also the time of year when we spend this time with our family and friends. Christmas is my favorite

Youth group has had a huge impact on my life.

time of year and I also feel such joy on Christmas day. Youth group has had a huge impact on my life. I feel like I am a lot more social and get to see my friends more as well as learn more about Jesus. I really love youth group! We do so many fun activities while learning about Jesus. Sometimes we go on outings to places such as Linvilla Orchards and Sky Zone. I am so glad that Ms. Talene started Youth Group. Merry Christmas!

Teni Jehanian

Christmas to me is a time where families come together to celebrate the life of Christ and share gifts with each other. Although presents may be exciting to open, there is a bigger pic-

ture to Christmas that people should understand and realize. Christmas is especially important to me because I am able to be with my whole family which is truly a blessing that not everyone throughout the world is able to experience which is why it should not be taken for granted. Along with Christmas, the youth group is especially important because it brings together kids of all ages to have a great time and learn about God and our religion. Al-

Although presents may be exciting to open, there is a bigger picture to Christmas that people should understand and realize.

though I am one of the oldest kids there, I still enjoy the meetings we have because of Talene's hard work and all that she does to maintain the youth group. I am truly appreciative of all that she does to bring the youth together and I hope that her future goals for the youth group are fulfilled.

Tomas Karakelian

To me, Christmas is a time when all my family is around, the fire is roaring, the house smells of baked goods and everyone is laughing. There are decorations and lights everywhere and the world is happy. Jesus Christ is coming to forgive us. It is time for celebration

Jesus Christ is coming to forgive us. It is time for celebration for the birth of our Savior.

for the birth of our Savior. Youth group is like an extension of that family. We are all laughing and having fun with each other while learning about Jesus, and that is why I think youth group is a great influence on all members. Our youth group is a family, and we stick together.

Adam Hox

Christmas means to me family, food, traditions and celebrating the birth of Jesus. To me Youth group means a fun night meeting with

Testimony of Our Youth on Christmas

all of my Armenian friends that I usually don't get to see. It is always very fun and we learn a lot about God. The videos we watch are always interesting and I love coming to all of the meetings.

Laura Sickler

Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Christ with your close friends and family. It means a lot to me because I get to have such a great time with my family. Youth group has strongly impacted me in an amazing way. It teaches me about my faith all

Youth group has strongly impacted me in an amazing way.

while having fun and hanging out with my friends. I really look forward to going to youth group every month.

Camille Kakoyan

Christmas for me is a time to celebrate family and friends. It is a day to spend with your loved ones and go be joyful. Christmas is also a time to celebrate the birth of Christ and be thankful for him. Youth group has made a very big impact on my

Youth group has made a very big impact on my relationship with God and my friends.

relationship with God and my friends. Everytime I go to a youth group meeting, I'm always happy to see and spend time with my friends. I'm also interested in their opinions about God and Jesus and what they think Christianity is. Everyone provides a different perspective on their relationship with God and how it has impacted their life. Kevork and Talene entertain us throughout the meetings by providing fun activities and lots of snacks. They also enlighten and teach us things we didn't know about God and how to build a better relationship with Christ.

Apo Handian

Christmas is a time to spend time with your family and be happy. It is also a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus and what he gave to the world. For most people when you hear the word Christmas, you would typically think of presents. But to me when I hear or think of Christmas, I think of my whole family coming together and spending the holiday together. On Christmas, not only my immediate

family comes over, but my all of my parent's cousins and my cousins come to enjoy the holiday. We spend the day away from the world and bonding as

Christmas is not about the presents; it is about the happiness that the birth of Jesus has brought us.

a family. Christmas is not about the presents; it is about the happiness that the birth of Jesus has brought us. Thanks to God we are able to celebrate this holiday with our families. This past year I have gotten much closer with God because our youth group. In youth group we watched videos and learned many things which taught us how to strengthen our relationship with God. My relationship with God is stronger than ever. Since my relationship with God is much stronger, I am able to celebrate Christmas with my family in a much more valuable way.

Aren Dardarian

Christmas is a time not for gifts, but to remember Jesus Christ and the day he was born. During these times, it is a great remember to love one another and to be kind. Youth group plays a huge role in this. Because of youth group we can have fun, but

During these times, it is a great remember to love one another and to be kind.

also learn about Jesus and our relationship with Him. The video clips we watch are very helpful and give me insight on personal experiences with God. If you come to youth group you will not regret it!

Isabel Esenyan

Christmas means family and love. I celebrate Jesus's birthday together with my family. We travel to my grandparents for a special day. Youth group means learning about my Armenian culture and spending time with friends.

The videos we watch are very interesting and I learn all about God and how much he loves us.

We play fun activities and still learn a lot at the same time. The videos we watch are very interesting and I learn all about God and how much he loves us.

Gabrielle Sickler



Youth Ministry News

Talene Artinian, Director



February 2018 Meeting



such a wonderful ministry. For our next group outing, we will go bowling! I will send out an email shortly on a date! God bless and we can't wait to see everyone soon!

“ T h e s e things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of

Dear Families and Youth,

God.”

Last night we had a wonderful meeting I John 5:13. about “How Can I Have Faith?” There was great discussion about our relationship with Jesus and how we want to grow in our faith. We played a fun game where we tasted different candies blind-folded and had to guess the candies and put them in alphabetical order. We then gathered in teams to complete an obstacle course. We ended the night with a reflection song on Jesus being he center in our lives and a prayer. God is doing big things and we are so blessed to be a apart of





Youth Ministry News

Talene Artinian, Director



March 2018 Meeting

Our youth met on Friday, March 16th for our youth group meeting. We first went into church and the youth read to the congregation during the Lenten service. Der Hayr afterwards spoke to the youth about their faith and how important we each are to God and our church.

We then went to Agoump where we completed our lesson on “Why and How Do We Pray?” The youth watched a video on this topic. Throughout the video, there were pauses where the youth would reflect on and answer questions such as “Have you ever tried praying? How did it go?” We also spoke about bible verses on prayer. “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayers and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will

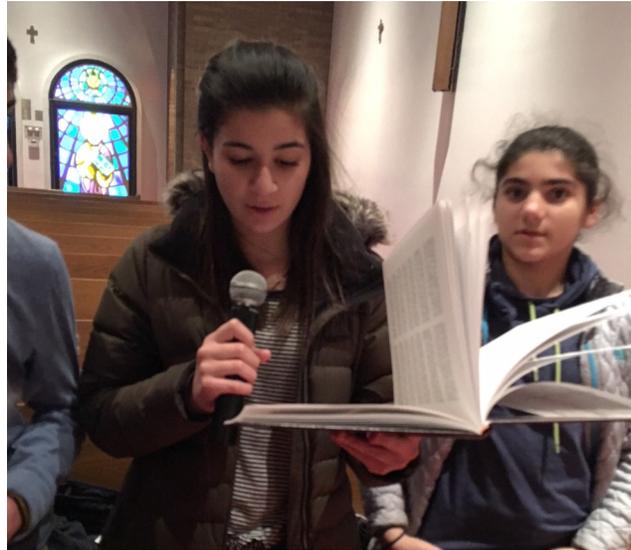
guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7. I shared with the youth a testimony about my week and how throughout the week, prayer got me through. Even though it was a difficult week, I did my part and God did the rest and blessed me through each trial. Simply put, prayer is talking with God. Jesus makes it possible for us to have a personal relationship with God. Just like all of our relationships, our relationship with God grows through communication. Through prayer, God transforms situations, gives us peace, changes our perspective and shows us more of what he is like. It is so amazing to see how God is transforming the lives of our youth through each meeting! It is all through Him! We also had a bonfire where we made s’mores and also had an egg hunt. Thank you for continuing to support us through prayer and in bringing your children, our future! They are such precious gifts from God!





Youth Ministry News

Talene Artinian, Director



Bible Verse Obstacle Course

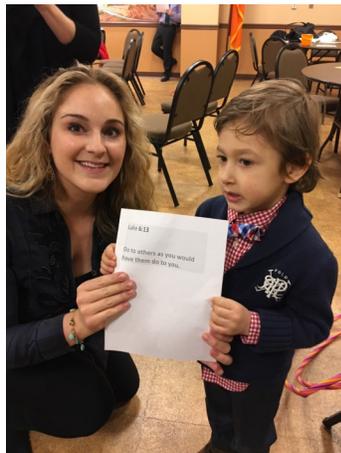
Sunday School students, during their Assembly time, played a new interesting and innovative game, called “Bible Verses Obstacle Course, under the guidance their director, Doreen Yeremian and teachers.

Here are the verses they tried to learn:

- ◆ Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- ◆ Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future
- ◆ John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him

shall not perish but have eternal life.

- ◆ Luke 6:13 - Do to others as you would have them do to you.
- ◆ Matthew 19:14 - Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”
- ◆ Matthew 21:22 - If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”
- ◆ 1 John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us.
- ◆ Colossians 3:20 - Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.
- ◆ Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
- ◆ Philippians 4:13 - I can do all this through him who gives me strength.



Men's Club News



On Sunday, December 24, our Men's Club versatile group, took over the kitchen operation and hosted our parishioners after the Liturgy with a sumptuous pancake breakfast.

Three cheers to our Men's Club and their volunteers including little Nicholas Selverian.

MEN'S CLUB FOOTBAL MANIA WINNERS IN WEEK 14,15,&16

Week 14
Ticket 2140
Place: Bonus
Amount \$25
Winner: Dave Papazian
Seller: Dave Papazian

Week 15
Ticket 2152
Place: Bonus
Amount \$25
Winner: Rich Stepanian
Seller: Rich Stepanian

Week 16
Ticket 1923
Place: Bonus
Amount \$25
Winner: Greg Gauthier
Seller: Al Soltanian

Which film won Best
Picture in 2015?

Trivia Night 2018

Who is on the
\$100 bill?

How many ounces of
chicken broth do you
use to make 3 cups of
Armenian pilaf?

HOLD THE DATE

APRIL 14, 2018

St. Gregory's Founder's Hall

(more information to come)

Name 4 members
of the Beatles!

What is the Capital
of Italy?

Men's Club News

Trivia Night 2018 is only 1 month away. It is scheduled for April 14th at St. Gregory's Founders Hall.

Please see the attached flier for additional information and use the following link to register for the event: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeX49Tq7Ecj-8rEG-zL7cclxWUjBqK4I23Mp1_afnDbESbWNQ/viewform

In short, we would like you to register anyone you plan on coordinating payment for.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

We are looking for another great event.

Thanks,
Arthur





3rd Annual Trivia Night

Sponsored by the St. Gregory's Men's Club
Professionally administered by McM Entertainment




A night of fun and laughs

When: Saturday, April 14, 2018
Doors open and dinner at 5:30 pm
Trivia begins promptly at 7:00 pm

Who: Gather your family and friends (13+ years old) inside and outside of the church community
Trivia competition will be played in teams of 8-12 people.
If you can't fill a table, we will match you with others to form a team

Where: Founders Hall
St. Gregory's Armenian Apostolic Church, 8701 Ridge Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19128

Price: \$40/person
(includes buffet dinner, beer/wine/water/soft drinks, dessert and Trivia competition)
Bring Your Own other cordials if you choose

Payment: Checks should be made payable to St. Gregory's Men's Club and mailed to church
Paypal.com and direct payment to stgregoriypal@gmail.com
Deadline to sign-up is April 5th
We strongly encourage team enrollment and payment



If you have any questions, contact Kurt Ajdaharian (484-432-2400; kurtajdaharian@verizon.net) or Arthur Selveian (arthur@selveian.com)

Contact Name _____	Mailing Address _____
E-mail Address _____	_____
Phone Number _____	_____

Team Members:

1. _____	6. _____
2. _____	7. _____
3. _____	8. _____
4. _____	9. _____
5. _____	10* _____

* Bring a full team of 10 people and receive 2 Easy Passes (automatic answers); a \$20 value

HAIGAZIAN SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE TO HAMAZKAINÉ'S GEN. KNOWLEDGE BOWL



The fourth Annual Hamazkayin Armenian knowledge bowl ended with a tie result between Detroit and Philadelphia Haigazian School groups. Both groups are winners. Great job all teams.

Congrats to our students Ani Hovsepien, Apo Handian, Alex Esenian, Isabel Esenian and Talar Hovsepien.

HAIGAZIAN SCHOOL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CELEBRATE POON PAREGENTAN



50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CELEBRATING ST GREGORY'S GRADUATES COMMUNION

*"A dream is a wish
your heart makes"
- Walt Disney*

IN THE BEGINNING

50 years ago, St Gregory's Board of Trustees made my wish come true. At the time, as a young mother of 3, and former Sunday School teacher, I had watched with great pride some of my students grow up, graduate and accomplish amazing things. I felt it would be wonderful if our whole Church family, would share in this pride. Since we had never highlighted the accomplishments of our youth, I approached the Board, to see if they would sponsor an event honoring our High School, and College graduates. They overwhelmingly approved. And so, along with the support of an enthusiastic committee, my dream became a reality. Invitations were sent. Graduates were invited to attend Church services with their families, hear an inspiring sermon, and take communion. After Church services a class photo was taken, and breakfast was served in a festively decorated Teheranian Hall, usually prepared by our Ladies' Guild. A program with a guest speaker followed. Each graduate was introduced and their accomplishments noted, and a gift, a book, usually an Armenian History book, was presented to each graduate on behalf of the Church. It has always been a warm and friendly event. With graduates meeting one another, networking, and in some cases making lifelong friendships. Families mingled, now sharing a common bond, which hopefully brought our Church families a little closer together. Over the years, one of my greatest joys has been congratulating our graduates, and their families. To share this pride with our parishioners, the names and accomplishments of all graduates were printed in the Illuminator each year.

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION JUNE 3RD, 2018

This year marks a historic milestone. We have been celebrating our youth for 50 years. Over the years, St Gregory's has honored close to 1,000 graduates. Extraordinary, and something to be

proud of. As far as we know, no other Church anywhere, has honored their graduates in this manner for this length of time. So, we have assembled a wonderful and enthusiastic committee: Lydia Arakelian, Veronica Babayan, Karolyn Chebookjian, Tamara Gureghian, Rita Selverian, and Marge Tavakelian. They are working hard to make this an exceptional and once in a lifetime event. You are invited.

WHAT TO EXPECT

A '50 Year' Commemorative Yearbook which will list or picture all the graduates from 1969-2018 is being compiled. It will also contain your updated questionnaire, plus other interesting information, and will be given to every graduate that attends. There will be a sumptuous brunch, with many selections. Along with celebrating our 2018 graduates' accomplishments, we are working on obtaining a speaker (which will be announced), a business card exchange and networking will take place, group photos will be taken of our first graduating class, along with alumni from the same college, professionals from the same field and more! This along with some special surprises, are in the works! This whole event will be part of St Gregory's archives. Don't miss this chance to be a part of St Gregory's Church history.

INVITATIONS

You should have received your invitation, hope you enjoyed the creativity that went into its preparation. Please respond to our sponsorship plea, in whatever way you can. Help us make this a once in a lifetime celebration to remember. Make your reservations early, seating is limited.

QUESTIONNAIRE

We would like all of our graduates to fill in the questionnaire update, which will be included in our 50th Commemorative Yearbook. We do not have the addresses or emails of many of our recent graduates. So, we are asking you as parents to forward this questionnaire to your graduate(s) so that he/she can also be included in this historic Yearbook.

Please reserve June 3rd, become a sponsor, and make your reservations as soon as possible.

Sandra Kurkian Selverian



ST. GREGORY'S CELEBRATES **50 YEARS OF GRADUATES**

— Sunday, June 3, 2018 —

Here's your chance to be included in our first ever commemorative booklet!

To be included, forward the following to GraduationStGregory@gmail.com by April 22, 2018.

Please email the requested information and photos.

REQUESTED INFORMATION	EXAMPLE
<p>1 Your name (include maiden name in parenthesis, if applicable).</p>	<p>Jane (Hajinian) Armenian</p>
<p>2 Your email address so old/new friends may contact you.</p>	<p>AArmenian@xmail.com</p>
<p>3 Your education. List graduation dates, degrees and names of schools.</p>	<p>Graduated from South High School (1985), Penn State (1989), Temple Law School (1992).</p>
<p>4 Your update using 300 characters or less, including spaces. Suggestions: fun facts, travel, hobbies, Armenian involvement, accomplishments, business website.</p>	<p>Married to Joe Armenian (25yrs). Children Ani (16) and Jim (20). Trial attorney with John Doe, LLC. Voted Best Attorney on the Main Line 2013-17. Known for the best shish kebab in Norristown. Avid skydiver. Armenian art collector. Favorite vacation: Haiastan (2015). AYF 50 yard dash record holder. www.JaneArmenian.weebly.com</p>
<p>5 Optional: A wallet sized graduation photo and current photo.</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>



BAPTISMS



Sofi Parantsem Hovagimian daughter of Mr.& Mrs. Aram and Sosi Hovagimian was baptized on February 17, 2018. Godfather Richard Keshgegian.



Nicholas Krikor Derderian, son of Mr. & Mrs. Gregory and Inga Derderian was baptized on March 4, 2018. Godfather Mark Armen Yilanjian.

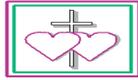


Chloe Lavelle Sevdalian, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Harout and Kara Sevdalian was baptized on March 18, 2018. Godfather Christopher Clemente.



Isabelle Hovsepian, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Justin and Jacqueline Hovsepian was baptized on March 24, 2018. Godfather was Alex Santerian III





Weddings



Gary Der Hagopian, Jr. and Nina Satenik Shahikian were united in Holy Matrimony, on December 23, 2017. Bestman James Jacob Der Hagopian.



40th DAY INFANT BLESSING

Alek Bedros Artinian, newly born son of Kevork and Talene Artinian, was brought to church on Sunday, December 17, 2017 to receive his 40th day special blessing

*A hearty welcome to
Alek
and congratulations to
his lucky parents*



40th DAY INFANT BLESSING

Rosdom Schayegh-Nalbantian, born on 23 September 2017, on Sunday, January 14, he was brought to Church by his parents, Tsolin Nalbantian and Cyrus Schayegh-Nalbantian to receive his special blessing.

A hearty welcome to Rosdom and congratulations to his lucky parents



The annual Ghevontiantz clergy conference of the Eastern Prelacy was held on February 5-8, 2018, in Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Worcester, MA.

The meeting was presided by His Eminence

Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, Prelate. Several of the clergy brothers were absent due to health reasons. Der Stepan Baljian celebrated Badarak and delivered the sermon. Clergy brothers served on the altar and Der Nerses conducted the choir.

Obituary

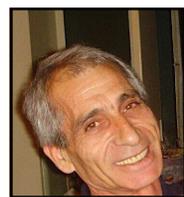


John P. Bahian, 92, of Smithfield RI, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at the Philip Hulitar Hospice Inpatient Center, Providence. He was the beloved husband of the late Dolores N. (Gureghian) Bahian.

Born in Providence, he was a son of the late Boghos and Lousaper (Aramagian) Bahian. John was a US Marine Corps veteran serving during WW II. He was a letter carrier for the US Postal Service for thirty-five years before his retirement.

He is survived by his loving children, Stacey L. Bahian-Khatchadourian and her husband Levon of Smithfield, and Paul B. Bahian of Downingtown, PA. John was the cherished grandfather Leila Khatchadourian and Aren Khatchadourian. He was the brother of Anthony Bahian of Warwick.

Relatives and friends were invited to attend his visiting hours on Saturday from 3-5 p.m. in the Nardolillo funeral Home & Crematory, 1278 Park Avenue, Cranston . His funeral service was held in St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church, 8701 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA, on Tuesday, December 19, viewing 9:30-11 A.M. funeral service @ 11. Burial was in Arlington Cemetery, 2900 State Road, Drexel Hill, PA. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church, 402 Broadway, Providence, RI 02909 or St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church, 8701 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128.



Andranik Abelyan, husband of Svetlana, entered into his eternal rest on Friday January 5, 2018.

His funeral was held on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 in St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church. Visitation 10-11 A.M. Funeral at 11. Interment was at Arlington Cemetery of Drexel Hill, PA

He is survived by his loving wife Svetlana, his two

sons, Vahe Abelyan and Krikor Abelyan and his wife Baydzar and his two grandchildren Andranik and Christian, his sister Lusik Kuredjian and her husband Varuzhan, his brother Hambartsum and his wife Narine.



Sarkis "Bob" Kerbeckian, age 85, of Pinehurst, ID, passed away at the Shoshone Medical Center in Kellogg, ID, on Sunday, February 4, 2018. He was a former longtime resident of Philadelphia, PA, having just recently moved to Idaho to live with his daughter and family.

Sarkis was born on May 3, 1932 in College Point, Long Island, New York, son of the late Khoren and Sapega Kerbeckian, and grandson of the late Zaruhi Ajdaharian. He was also preceded in death by his wife of nearly 36 years, Diane, as well his sister, Jervina Vishabazoon.

He is survived by his daughter Jennifer (Andrew) Fine; grandson Scott Schultz, Jr.; sister Victoria (Henry) Kachadourian; brother-in-law Philip Vishabazoon; niece Corinne (Richard) Khederian and their children Henry and Victoria ; nephew Mark (Nora) Kachadourian and their children Melanie, Jacqueline, and Henry.

A viewing was held at St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church, 8701 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128 on Monday, February 12, 2018 at 10:00am, service followed at 11:00am. Interment was at Lawnview Cemetery, 500 Huntingdon Pike, Rockledge, PA 19046, immediately after. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy in memory of Sarkis may be made to St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church.





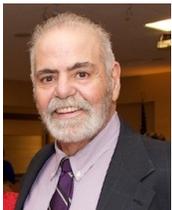
Rose (Vartouhi) Zartarian, passed away from a sudden illness, in Tampa FL, on February 6, 2018. She was the beloved wife of Armen for 63 years, devoted mother to Karen (Sevag) Panossian, Seeran (Greg, deceased) Mizii, and Karl (Nancy) Zartarian. She was the adoring grandmother to 4 grandchildren, Gregory (Mizii), and Lance, Laura, Kelly (Zartarian). She is survived by her brother Pierre (Marian) Avedissian. She is also survived by many loved nieces and nephews.

Rose was 85 and born in Beaumont, Marseille to Sarkis and Nevart Avedissian (both Genocide survivors). She came to Philadelphia in 1953, lived with her great-aunt and uncle, sewing piecework in the North Philadelphia factories. She had been singing since age 8 and met her husband, Armen, singing in the St. Gregory Choir 64 years ago; they continued to do so until present. Armenian music, and singing in general was a big part of her life. Rose's career as a realtor and broker continued until retirement, after which she resided in Cherry Hill, NJ and Sarasota, FL.

Her viewing and funeral were held on Friday, February 16, 2018 in St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church.

Viewing 9:30 - 11:00 A.M. funeral @ 11 A.M. Interment was at Arlington Cemetery of Drexel Hill, PA.

In lieu of flower donations may be made to St. Gregory The Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church.



William Eliazar Arthin, Chairman of the Board of St. Gregory's Church, passed away suddenly on February 10, 2018 at home. He was the beloved husband of Armine (Shelengian), devoted father to Julie, and loving twin brother of Sam Arthin. Besides his immediate family, he is also survived by dear in-laws, nephews, nieces, and by his entire church family to which he dedicated his life.

The viewing and funeral was held on Thursday, February 15 at St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church, 8701 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA.

Viewing 9:00 am to 12 noon, funeral to begin at noon. Interment will be at Arlington Cemetery, Drexel Hill.

In lieu of flower donations may be made to St. Gregory The Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church.

ODE TO BILL – AN APPRECIATION

Although I was blessed with two wonderful sisters, Armine and Karen, I always harbored a wish for an older brother, someone along the lines of, say, Wally Cleaver, in the old TV series “Leave It To Beaver”.

When you began dating Armine, you seemed to, well, “fit the bill”. Billy, you were Wally to my Beaver Cleaver (“Gee, Wally!”). I got my first impression of you when you entered our house on your first date with my sister. You were attired in a 3-piece suit, sporting a bushy mustache, Beatles’ hairstyle, wearing sunglasses, and carrying a bouquet of flowers. But you never removed those sunglasses!

In the beginning, you were a little aloof and formal, but just as a favorite leather armchair becomes comfortable over time, so too, did you. You were reliable and relatable to me and my family.

I suppose I liked you for your personality, which was the exact opposite of mine (opposites attract?) - you were big, bold, brash and boisterous .

Over the years, your greeting to me evolved from a firm handshake to a furry arm slung around my shoulders and a kiss on the cheek (“Hey, Richie! How ya’ doin’, pal?”). You were my go-to guy for anything sports-related (“Bill, why didn’t Foles run for the first down on that 3rd and 6?”).

Your dedication to St. Gregory’s Church is well known to its parishioners – I could write volumes concerning your tireless service to the church; just off the top of my head - Board of Trustees chairman, the Men’s Club, the Carnival and Bazaar, raffles, the Golfing Event, cooking (and sometimes burning) pots of pilaf (just don’t open the lid!), grilling kebobs, etc.

At my wedding you were the Best Man, and in so many peoples’ lives you were the “best man”. So long for now, big brother, and Godspeed to that Great Gridiron in the sky!

Love, Richie



Obituary

Elsie Santerian, born on Tuesday, August 23rd, 1927. Date of Death: Saturday, March 3rd, 2018. Visitation was held on Thursday, March 8th, 2018 At Bradley Funeral Home of Evesham Twp., NJ 08053. Funeral service followed at 11:00am. She is survived by children Virginia and John Meterissian, Alex and Melanie Santerian, Valerie and Albert DerPilbosian, six grandchildren, Christine, Lisa, Monique, Melissa, Alexander, Jacqueline and their spouses. Elsie also had nine great-grandchildren. Elsie 's brother Jack Vosbikian and his wife Ramona, Elsie's brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Albert and Linda Santerian and Marge Santerian. Memorial donations may be made to St. Gregory's church of Philadelphia.



Florence Arpajian, wife of Kurken G Arpajian (deceased Sept 2016) passed away March 9, 2018 surrounded by her family.



Florence was very active with Kurk until his passing and then with her church and family.

She was drafted by the Federal Government right out of school to go to Drexel to learn drafting after which she worked at the Frankford Arsenal during WWII. She enjoyed swimming, boating, and horseback riding for many years.

She is survived by her four sons Earl (Carol) Stalker, Timothy (Deborah) Stalker, Dean (Karen) Arpajian, and Brian (Ann) Arpajian. Fourteen grandchildren, nine great grandchildren and one great-grandchild, as well as a niece Susan (nee Arpajian) and Bob Jolly, and a nephew Allan Arpajian.

ILOF For Elsie Santerian

Alex and Melanie Santerian
 Jack and Ramona Vosbikian
 Lawrence and Jeanette Der Hagopian
 George Gazurian
 Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Gureghian
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mamigonian
 John and Virginia Meterissian
 Albert and Linda Santerian
 David and Alyssa Santerian
 Margaret Santerian
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Vosbikian
 Gregory and Joan Yulduzian

Total \$1,715



The Intercommunal Committee of Philadelphia five Armenian churches held its annual Vartanantz celebration on Thursday, February 8, 2018 in Armenian Martyrs Congregational Church of Havertown.

After a brief prayer session, Antranig Kzirian, chairman of the committee introduced the speaker of the day, Erin Pinōn, an Art Historian, who gave an illustrated talk on Vartanantz Battle based on illustrated Armenian manuscripts of 14th-17th centuries.

After the lecture, the host church served a nice spread for the guests.

Pictured above are committee members, area clergymen with the speaker.

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