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Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church



LOOYS



Cheltenham, PA

Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan, Pastor

Fall 2022-04

Ararat at Sunrise



Hours of Worship

- Morning Service: 10:00 AM
- Divine Liturgy: 10:30 AM

Church School

- Language Instruction: 10:15-11:15
- Christian Education: 11:20-12:15



Upcoming Events

Read what's been happening at our church and be a part of what's coming up!

Pray Until Something Happens

Contact Information



Holy Trinity Armenian Church
101 Ashmead Road, Cheltenham, PA 19012
www.holytrinity-pa.org

Items for inclusion in the Sunday Messenger or requests for Requiem Services or Special Prayers should be sent to the church office by Wednesday for the upcoming Sunday. For all emergencies, please contact Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan at the church 215-663-1600 (cell 917-213-8658).

CHURCH INFORMATION

Office Telephone: 215-663-1600
Kitchen: 267-282-4594
Pastor: Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan
frhakob@holytrinity-pa.org
Church Secretary:
office@holytrinity-pa.org

REGULAR SUNDAY HOURS OF WORSHIP

Morning Service: 10:00 AM
Divine Liturgy (Soorp Badarak): 10:30 AM
Church School: 10:15 AM

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| John Hanamirian (Chair) | 215-660-0000 |
| Barbara Harmon (Vice Chair) | 609-605-0489 |
| Don Paretchan (Treasurer) | 610-608-1866 |
| Nicklas Terkanian (Asst. Treasurer) | 610-348-7678 |
| Steve Aslanian (Secretary) | 215-771-1157 |
| Greg Andonian | 330-283-3729 |
| Rob Barone | 610-529-2178 |
| Larry Der Hagopian | 215-489-7116 |
| Gay Hagopian | 609-502-4995 |
| Mickey Paretchan | 215-947-4394 |
| Mike Santerian | 610-527-1065 |

DIOCESAN DELEGATES

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Barbara Harmon | 609-605-0489 |
| Emily Terjimanian | 734-277-2753 |

CHOIR

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Karinne' Andonian (Co-Director) | 609-760-4993 |
| Jeanette Der Hagopian (Co-Director) | 215-672-4188 |
| Lorraine Damerjian (Organist) | 215-572-8465 |
| Steve Aslanian (Treasurer) | 215-757-2622 |

CHURCH SCHOOL

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|
| Yn. Anna Gevorgyan (Co-Superintendent) | 215-938-1313 |
| Janet Jordan (Co-Superintendent) | 215-801-6097 |
| Arousiag Keshishian (Co-Superintendent) | 215-982-0520 |

MEN'S CLUB

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Michael Paretchan | 215-947-4394 |
| Michael Tookmanian | 484-351-8663 |

BOOKSTORE

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Gloria Basmajian | 215-722-3369 |
|------------------|--------------|

ACYOA Jrs.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Tigran Safaryan (Chair) | |
| Jessica Badishyan (Secy) | |
| Alex Yavru-Sakuk (Parent Advisor) | 917-603-0407 |
| Mariana Majjan (Parent Advisor) | 215-758-2664 |

LADIES of HOLY TRINITY

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Elizabeth Barone (Coordinator) | 610-449-2236 |
| Lorraine Damerjian (Treasurer) | 215-572-8465 |

INTERCOMMUNAL

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Ara Shakarjian | 215-886-1904 |
| Tanya Paretchan | 215-947-4394 |
| Emily Movsesian | 734-277-2753 |

COFFEE HOUR COORDINATORS

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Jeanette Der Hagopian | 215-672-4188 |
| Berjoohy Murray | 856-912-2417 |

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Nancy Basmajian (Coordinator) | 215-722-3369 |
|-------------------------------|--------------|

Editorial Staff

Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan
Jeanette Der Hagopian
Larry D. Der Hagopian
Naomi Mukalian

Photographers

John Alexanian
Ara Shakarjian

The mission of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church is to preach the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ and to proclaim its message of salvation. This mission is realized through worship, education, witness, service, and a common life in Christ as expressed in the distinctive faith- experience of the Armenian people. All the faithful of the Armenian Church – both clergy and laity – are called to participate fully in this mission.

THE HEALINGS OF JESUS

From the Gospel we learn that Jesus cured many sick people. The healing was an important part of His ministry. That way Jesus showed His love, mercy, compassion and caring attitude toward mankind. Each healing story has a lesson for us.

Those people who were healed by Jesus became more aware of God's healing power and started to serve Him. "After leaving the synagogue He entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Him about her. Then He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately she got up and began to serve them" (Luke 4:38-39).

Prayer is always a powerful tool. It not only helps us but also can help those who are sick and vulnerable. God will help us if we ask Him for help. "They brought to Him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged Him to lay His hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put His fingers into his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, He sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha' that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly" (Mark 7:32-35). Let us always pray for one another.



God's forgiveness can bring us physical healing. "Just then some men came, carrying a paralyzed man on a bed. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus; but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus. When He saw their faith, He said, 'Friend your sins are forgiven you. ...I say to you, stand up and take your bed and go to your home.' Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went to his home, glorifying God" (Luke 5:18-25). Let us forgive each other so that we can be forgiven.

"... Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here'. And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, He is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want Me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go, your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed Jesus on the way" (Mark 10:46-52).

Dear Faithful, the most important part in the healing process is our faith. For God's miracle, we all need to have faith in Almighty God, in His life-giving Word and in His healing power. Dear Lord, please help us, have mercy and cure all the sick people. Amen

With prayers,
Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan

....and the people all tried to touch him because power was coming from him and healing them all

Luke 6:19

PARISH COUNCIL

By John Hanamirian, Chair

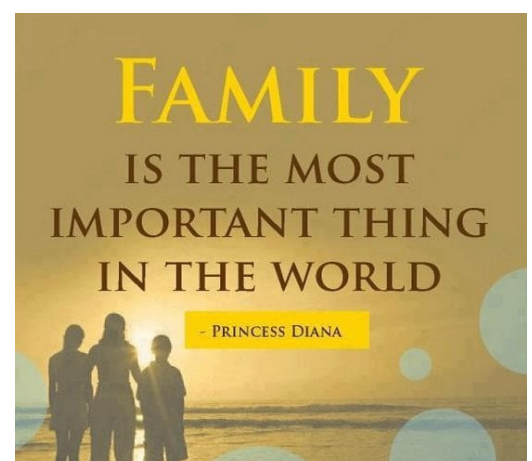
I hope everyone is doing well. We had a terrific Harvest Bazaar, and it seems we were all ready to be out and about. Thanks to everyone who helped and to Barb Harmon for her never-ending effort. Really, though, thanks to all. There are so many people you don't see who are involved. It is all volunteers working quietly and off the radar to assure that everything gets done and that everyone enjoys the event. Some volunteers walk away smelling like shish kebab and some walk away counting cash that smells like shish kebab; either way, it's a lot of work and for myself and Parish Council, I thank them all.

Speaking of helping others. I didn't fully understand how many people do outreach for our parishioners. There are members of the church who reach out on a regular basis for any of us who are suffering some circumstance. What an amazing group of people. We know Der Hayr does it with home visits and more than a hundred phone calls every month, but there are others who help him and help our parishioners on a daily basis, and we don't know about their efforts. I don't want to identify them because I think they prefer anonymity, but I want to thank them for their effort and their selflessness in sharing their time, compassion, and empathy with those in need. I have a tendency to focus on the business of the church, which is our charge, but I have to remember that the business of the church is only a means to the end of allowing the church to be a place of refuge.



ABOUT OUR FAMILY

Our column this issue begins with a resounding "Congratulations" as we celebrate the tenth anniversary of our Adult Christian Education (ACE) Ministry. How the years have flown by! Of note is that the attendees of our programs are often not limited to those of our parish. The ZOOM platform has enabled guests from parishes in other communities (not necessarily nearby) to join us and we joyfully welcome them. Our endeavor is always to enrich all aspects of a life in Christ....It was a Hallmark Movie moment when **Paul Chamesian** knelt down on bended knee – in Central Park, NYC - to propose to his long-time love, **Ani Javardian**. We congratulate the happy couple and their families. May they delight in this beautiful time of planning the next part of their lives....We share in the joy of our newly baptized babies: **Armen Haig**, son of **Tina and Joe LaRose**; **Anna Sophia**, daughter of **Rick and Nicole Mukalian**; and **Olivia Ani**, daughter of **Kristin and Richard Schmidt**. We look forward to watching them grow in our church family...Congratulations to **Sue and Gary Der Hagopian** on the arrival of their second grandchild, **Zara Siroon**, daughter of **Nina and Gary Jr**. They are blessed.....OOPS! - Belated congrats to **Joe and Linda (Nedzwecky) Fuchs** on their milestone 50th wedding anniversary on July 8, 2022. Sorry we missed that one! We send a shout-out to the following who will be celebrating milestone birthdays in the coming months: **Gay Hagopian**, **Serge Minassian**, **Gail Zorian**, **Gary Papazian, Jr.**, and **Nancy Hovnanian**. Yergar Dareener!....What a delight to see **Michael Alexanian** serving again on our Holy Altar. He has been missed! He and wife, **Jenna**, have been busy raising three toddlers and have now begun bringing them to church....From our family to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and prosperous and healthy New Year....By the time you receive this issue, we expect that 2023 has begun and we hope it will be filled with good health and prosperity to all.... Until next time - be safe, be happy, be at peace.



A TIMELESS LENTEN JOURNAL

We are excited to announce that a limited number of newly reprinted copies of "My Lenten Journal: A Spiritual Journey to Easter" are available from the church bookstore for \$10. Originally published in 1997 by the Diocesan Department of Religious Education and authored by our own Deacon Albert Keshgegian, the journal helps us move "day by day" through Lent by offering meditations based on the biblical reading for each day. It offers simple, heartfelt prayers, anecdotal information on Scripture and the Armenian Church, and reflection questions to help us "grow" spiritually. The book was very popular, and two editions completely sold out. Those who own the book continue to re-read it during the Lenten season from year to year. Don't miss this opportunity while supplies last to obtain a copy for yourself!



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MEN'S CLUB- "200 CLUB"

We have sold-out the 200 Tickets for the 2022-23 season thanks to a number of generous parishioners and the church will again receive a \$10,000 Donation in December. If you have not previously purchased a ticket, please keep the 200 Club in mind for next year (2023-24).

Reminder: A one-time ticket donation of \$100 entitles you to eight (8) months of drawings. With five winners drawn each month; that's 40 possible chances to win.

- Prizes for Winners: Nov 2022 & June 2023 will be \$1000 / \$400 / \$200 / \$200 / \$ 200.
- Drawings: Dec 2022 thru May 2023 will be \$500 / \$200 / \$100 / \$100 / \$100.

The first drawing for this season took place on November 13 and the winners were:

\$1000 Mickey Sherian #135
\$400 Ed Attarian #014
\$200 Shya Terkanian #160
\$200 Harout Arzoumanian #174

\$200 John Hanamirian #193
\$200 Harout Arzoumanian #174
\$200 John Hanamirian #193

PARISH COUNCIL FACILITIES PROJECTS

Completed - Year to Date 2022

- ✓ HVAC – 2 New A/C-Heaters installed on Hall Roof, replacing units from 2000.
- ✓ HVAC – 2 New A/C-Heaters installed behind Altar area, replacing units from 1985.
- ✓ ROOFING – New Hall Roof installed; last upgraded in 1980's.
- ✓ ROOFING – New Kitchen Area Roof; original roof damaged by falling tree.
- ✓ ROOFING – New Conference Room Roof, original roof (2000) was leaking.
- ✓ LANDSCAPING – Numerous Trees pruned / removed in front & side of church.
- ✓ LANDSCAPING – Numerous overgrown shrubs removed along fence line and wild brush cleared, in back property.
- ✓ PAINTING – Portico, Offices and Conference Room exterior walls completely cleaned, repaired, and resealed/painted.
- ✓ PAINTING – Conference Room Ceiling, damaged by roof leak, repaired & repainted.
- ✓ PAINTING – Repaired & repainted the Water damage to upper wall near the Kitchen.
- ✓ CEILING TILES – Cleaned & recoated tiles in Hall affected by water leaks and ventilation system.
- ✓ LIGHTING – All bulbs replaced in Lobby and Hall ceilings.
- ✓ FLOORING – All Lobby & Hall carpeting completely cleaned.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Every passing day is one that is gone forever. Make sure it is one in which you have done something for others, especially those who cannot do for themselves.

HOME BLESSING FOR ALL

We share with you this picture of a happy group of people. There are many reasons why people could be this happy. In this case, they are happy because Der Hakob visited them and their extended family and conducted a beautiful Home Blessing Service. Having your home blessed brings a sense of peace and trust that God is watching over you and your family. If you would like to feel as these people do, contact the church office and make arrangements to have your home blessed in this new year. It's the best gift you can give yourself – and you will be happy you did!



THANK YOU

Dear Holy Trinity Family and Friends,

My deep gratitude to Fr. Hakob for his presence and prayers for my daughter Lori L. Aghazarian during her illness and the beautiful funeral service at West Laurel Hill cemetery assisted by Dn. Albert Keshgegian. Despite the language barrier for our non-Armenian friends, so many who attended told us how moved they were by the service. Most sincere thanks also to our church family who sent us so many caring messages, cards, letters and calls. It meant the world to me and my son, Aram Alan.

With much affection,
Lucy Aghazarian

Address Update:
Joyce Killian
110 Rodeo Drive
Oyster Bay Cove, NY 11791

STANDING WITH ARMENIA

During the September 2022 Azerbaijani attack in Armenia, 250-300 soldiers were killed, some of whom were decapitated. On a recent visit to Armenia, Garo Garibian took this opportunity to donate monies he received in honor of his 70th birthday to two families whose sons were killed. Our parish thanks and appreciates the kindness and generosity that he provides to families in their darkest hour.



-Մամ, ուշադիր ես այի բան չես նկատում:
-Ի՞նչ տղես:
-Տերևները դեղնում են, աշուն ա, գալիս են:

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A reflection by Deacon Albert Keshgegian on the first miracle of Jesus:

On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; Jesus was also invited to the marriage, with his disciples. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now six stone jars were standing there, for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the steward of the feast." So they took it. When the steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it was from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the bride-groom and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first; and when men have drunk freely, then the poor wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him. (John 2:1-11)

It was the first miracle that Jesus performed, and, perhaps appropriately, it is the Gospel reading selected by the Church fathers for the first Sunday after the eight-day feast of Theophany (birth and baptism of Jesus). Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding celebration after the wine had run out. And it wasn't just any wine – it tasted so good, better than the wine that had first been served. This action demonstrated the power and authority of Jesus, and the Gospel tells us that the disciples believed in him.

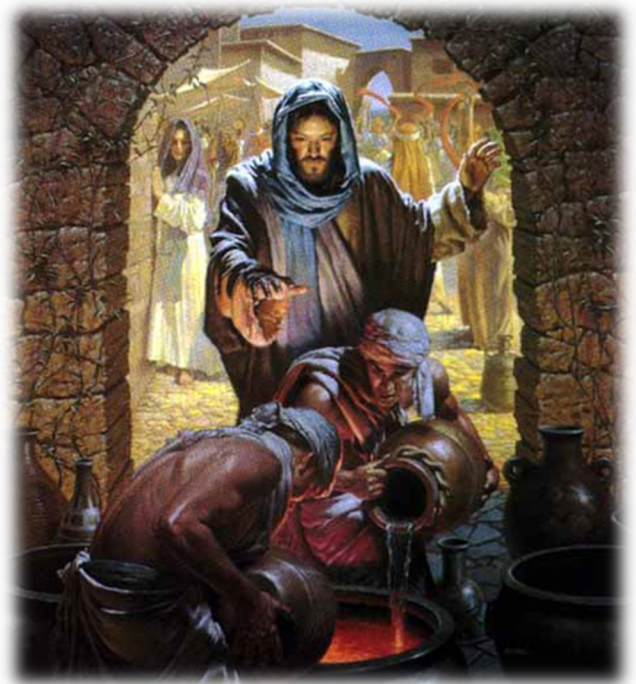
But there are other meanings in this miracle, relating to the many differences between water and wine, even though they are both beverages.

Water is plain and basically tasteless, especially if it is purified. Any taste that some waters have is due to other substances that have been dissolved in the water. Wine, on the other hand, has a complex taste, and the more complex and interesting the taste is, the more the wine is prized.

There are so many descriptions of flavors that may be present in wine, all at the same time. Fruits of multiple kinds, spices, pepper, tobacco, earth. Wine is described first by its fragrance, and then by the taste when it first touches the tongue, the variations in taste as it is swallowed, finally followed by the "finish" -- the taste it leaves in your mouth. Five "characteristics" of wine need to be in proper balance: sweetness, acidity, tannins, alcohol, and body. People spend years studying the tastes of wines. The taste and appearance of each wine can be so distinctive that experts can identify not only the type of wine, but where and in what year it was produced. All these many factors combine to make a wine complex, interesting, pleasurable, and vibrant.

It is the same with life. Our life can be like water – flat, uninteresting, simple to describe, empty. Or it can be like wine – deep, complex, interesting, and full. The difference lies in Jesus and what he promised his followers: "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10b).

When we follow Jesus, our life is more focused, meaningful, purposeful, and joyful. It is also abundant and eternal. It has the depth, complexity, and vibrancy of wine rather than the blandness of water. In changing water into wine at that wedding long ago, Jesus was also giving us a first taste of his message and power that changed so many lives then and still do today.



HOLY TRINITY CHELTENHAM GOES ON A FIELD TRIP!

On a recent Saturday in November, the leadership of the Church School organized a field trip for its students, their families and interested parishioners. Their destination was the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA, where they attended a live production of "David" from the Old Testament in the Bible.

The theater, which hosts multiple tour busses at every performance, produces biblical musicals every year and the new David show did not disappoint. The students were in awe of the magnificent set designs, and the skilled actors, both the human and the animal varieties!

The educational component was achieved as students, at the lunch that followed, discussed which commandments were broken and how God's unconditional love and grace reaches even those sins we consider unforgivable. From what they learned during the production, the students also created a list which they will be presenting to Der Hakob Gevorgyan, pastor of Holy Trinity, for him to answer at the upcoming Students' Communion Sunday.

All the attendees requested that this memorable field trip be an annual event. God willing, Moses is on the agenda for next year.



THE RETURN OF THE HARVEST BAZAAR

By Barbara Harmon, Bazaar Chair

This year's Harvest Bazaar was held on Saturday, October 22, and Sunday October 23, and was a success as in years past. The adjusted opening times proved to work out just fine for those who prefer to attend during the daytime. The past two years without a bazaar did not hinder those who came out to enjoy just as before.

This year the traditional food, raffles, bake shop, attic treasures, country store and the Basket Raffles did not disappoint. There was a new booth to the bazaar this year: an Armenian Vernissage, which was a huge success. The ACYOA hosted a traveling nature show with live animals. The children learned about various small animals and were even able to pet them. I'd like to personally thank all the many volunteers who made this year's bazaar a success; from the women who spent two entire days preparing the souboreg, to the many cooks who prepared our delicious dishes, to the men who prepared and cooked our shish kebab and chicken kebab; the women who spent hours working on the attic treasures, to the women who collected items for the raffle, shopped for all ingredients, decorated the tables and the many "bakers" who helped make our Bake Shoppe sell out! Thank you all. Without their dedication, it couldn't happen.



Diramayr Maro Gevorgyan with just a small portion of their pomegranate crop

VERNISAGE DEBUTS AT HOLY TRINITY

By Gena DerHagopian Willard

This year's Harvest Bazaar featured an Armenian gift market with a variety of merchandise directly from Armenia. Many generous donors underwrote the purchase of the unique items sold, which in turn provided much needed support for the Armenian artists and crafters.

It was a win-win for both Holy Trinity and for the artists and crafters. Our Holy Trinity "Vernissage" was so well received that we sold out most of our inventory. A huge thank you to our generous donors and our very happy customers. We're hoping that, with your help, we'll be able to make this an annual Harvest Bazaar feature!

Hats off to the big-hearted patrons who supported our first-time Vernissage venture!

Greg & Diane Yazujian
Greg & Maria Javardian
Dan Dunigan & Kim Santerian
Michael & Legna Santerian
David & Alyssa Santerian
Jeanette Der Hagopian
George & Anne Terkanian
Robert & Elizabeth Barone

Merle Santerian
David & Nadine Hoplamazian
Scott Santerian
Phillip Santerian
Michael Santerian
Berjoohy Murray
Jared & Ryan DeRantz
Alice Karabian

Paul & Leslie Movsesian
Mickey & Tanya Paretchan
Dr. Garo & Cecelia Garibian
Kim & Gena Willard
Gay Hagopian
Gayane Hambardzumyan

2022 BAZAAR DONORS

PLATINUM

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- ❖ Albert Dandegian Jr. M.D. *in memory of Albert & Florence Dandegian, Michael & Rose Karabian, Ms. Ruth DeStefano*
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- ❖ Steve Aslanian *in memory of Doretta Basmajian Aslanian*
- ❖ Hagop Arzoumanian *in memory of Diramayr Serbouhy Arzoumanian*
- ❖ Sarah S. Babaian *in memory of Thomas Babaian, George Medzigian*
- ❖ Paul Borian
- ❖ Dr. Steven Balint & Stephanie Ekizian Balint & Family *in memory of Hagop Jack Ekizian*
- ❖ Jeanette DerHagopian *in memory of Larry DerHagopian*
- ❖ Terri M. Gaspar *in memory of Gaspar, Jamack & Zemaitis Families*
- ❖ Donna Hagopian & Ashley Marshall *in memory of George Hagopian*
- ❖ Fred & Janet Jordan *in memory of Edward L. Zarzation, Jr.*
- ❖ Robert Ohnigian
- ❖ Michael & Tanya Paretchan *in memory of Sooren & Mary Paretchan, Karapet & Hayarpie Garibian*
- ❖ Scott Santerian
- ❖ Mr. & Mrs. Harry Yazujian & Family
- ❖ Rosemarie Zarzation *in memory of Jack & Mary Pagdikian, Edward L. Zarzation Jr.*

OTHER DONATIONS

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Yalanchi prepared and donated by Mrs. Kim DerHagopian
Paklava prepared and donated by Gary Altoonian
Eetch prepared and donated by Mrs. Jeanette DerHagopian

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- ❖ Edward A. & Sara P. Kaiserian
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- ❖ *Michael & Rose Karabian*
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- ❖ Albert Keshgegian *in memory of Garabed & Asdghig Keshgegian*
- ❖ Joyce Killian *in memory of Patrick Killian, John & Dorothy Chalikian*
- ❖ Esther Momjian
- ❖ Don & Judy Paretchan *in memory of Sooren & Mary Paretchan*
- ❖ Chris Sadjian-Peacock & Ernest Peacock *in memory of Souren & Elizabeth Sadjian*
- ❖ Merle Santerian *in memory of Ned Santerian, Corinne Santerian Moore, D.O.,*
- ❖ *John & Rose Serabian*
- ❖ Diane Sarkisian *in memory of Mary Parnagian*
- ❖ Charlene & Jon Simonian *in memory of Charles & Naomi Antaramian*
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- Bea C. April 2009



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Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church
Cheltenham, Pennsylvania

Christmas Services 2023

Thursday, January 5, 2023

Christmas Eve

7:00 PM Divine Liturgy

Followed by a House Blessing in the Hall

Please bring food to share during the fellowship hour

Friday, January 6, 2023

Christmas Day

10:30 AM Divine Liturgy

Sunday, January 8, 2023

10:30 AM Divine Liturgy

Followed by Blessing of the Water

Godfather: Levon Soghomonian

Mini-Course on the Bible Attracts Many

By Lucy Aghazarian

To Fr. Hakob's delight, close to thirty participants came together on four consecutive Wednesday evenings in October via Zoom to further their understanding of the fundamentals of the Old and New Testaments of the Bible and their relationship to one another.

Under the programming of the Adult Christian Education (ACE) Ministry, the course, Bible Basics (also known as Bible 101), designed and facilitated by Sr. Dn. Albert Keshgegian was a roadmap for the uninitiated who had been asking for such an introductory course for some time, and a review for the more experienced.

Using a concise syllabus, Dn. Albert began with a definition of terms: Gospel, Scriptures, Psalms, Torah, Covenant. Then questions were asked: Who wrote the Bible? When was it written? How did it come together?

Dn. Albert then moved to the Old Testament and its books, pointing out its main messages and its importance to Christians. Subsequent sessions moved to the New Testament with its overall messages, while examining the books that covered the life of Jesus, His teachings, His works and more. Throughout, participants were engaged with their questions, offering their own interpretations, asking for clarification of terms and events, and along the way, learning not only from the course leader but from one another.

These stimulating sessions were going lightning fast with so much to learn and when the final session arrived, one question still remained on the syllabus —the most difficult one - how would you summarize the overall message of the Bible - i.e., who God is, who we are and how we relate to God? But the answer to these could not be answered quickly. They needed reflection, honesty and faith. They needed to be grappled with privately. Our hope is that by continuing to study and learn from the Bible, we will get some of those answers.

The smiles and enthusiastic thank-you's to Dn. Albert, Der Hakob, and even to one another, were surely an indication that Bible Basics had been a success as one participant was heard quietly asking, "Is there a Bible 102?"



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MUSIC TO THE EAR

October 9, 2022 was a perfect Fall day for outdoor activities, but a large crowd instead filed into Santerian Hall for a concert of Armenian classical and folk music organized by Seeds of Hope Armenia and Sponsored by the Armenian Inter-Communal Committee of Philadelphia for the benefit of the wounded soldiers of the brutal war in Artsakh.

Der Hakob welcomed everyone and after a short prayer, introduced the three talented artists to an eager audience - Armine Khachatryan, pianist, Samvel Arakelyan, violinist, and Edita Dolunts-Kalayjian, soprano. The program began with a somber, mournful Sharagan, "Mother and Virgin" and ended with a joyful rendition of V.Sargsyan's "Hoynar." From beginning to end, the musical selections of old favorites as well as more recent pieces thrilled the audience who in turn rewarded the artists with long applause and numerous requests for more.

Seeds of Hope Armenia is a women led, non-profit humanitarian organization based in Washington, D.C. devoted not only to raising funds for the victims and Artsakh, but also to bring musicians and artists and Armenian culture to old and new audiences. Armenia-born, now living in the U.S., these young, hard-working organizers are not only moved by the plight of their fellow Armenians back home but also, they say, by a sense of gratitude to their mother country. As one of the women put it, "We consider it our duty to help our fellow Armenians first, before we can ask others to do so."

For more information and donations to Seeds of Hope Armenia, call 703-495-2141.





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A Conversation About Prayer at Holy Trinity Cheltenham

In late October, the Adult Christian Education (ACE) team hosted a ZOOM event with guest speaker, Rev. Fr. Hratch Sargsyan, pastor of St. Narek Armenian Church in Richmond Hills, Ohio. He also serves as Interim Director of Ministries for the Diocese and is a member of the Diocesan Council. The subject of his talk was a review of the well-known book, *Beginning to Pray*, by the late Abp. Anthony Bloom of the Russian Orthodox Church, followed by a very lively discussion with many questions and comments.

Praying is a subject that is integral to our faith walk. According to Bloom, prayer is an encounter and a relationship with God. Our desire to be with God drives us to pray but we need to make God a priority in our lives. We were reminded that we need to be silent in order to hear God and know that God surrounds us when we come into His presence and beyond.

When we spend time with God, we need to set aside our pride and expose our vulnerability. He knows it anyway. We need to come before Him with humility, like the tax collector. Joyce Avedisian who joined the conversation from Rhode Island said, "I am so grateful to be able to be part of this. The book and Der Hratch's presentation cracked the shell I've put around myself. It was very meaningful for me."

Together with Der Hratch's review of the book and the conversation that followed, Jeanette Der Hagopian, a member of the ACE team said, "a clear and logical road map of a powerful prayer life emerged. No degrees are needed to understand how to grow and improve our relationship with God and it is available to everyone twenty-four hours a day."



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AN INVITATION from the Holy Trinity Church



The popular Holy Trinity Zoom Book Club is in its third year!

Every six weeks or so, on a Thursday evening at 7pm, Der Hayr and 15 to 20 book lovers meet on zoom to discuss the book of the evening. There are people from our sister parishes and cities along with our own parishioners on the zoom call each time. Some participants are happy to discuss, while others just like to listen.

Please join us, everyone is welcome!

Our next four books are historical fiction with topics such as the building of the Brooklyn Bridge, World War II, and the Genocide.

January 12, 2023 - The Engineer's Wife by Tracey Enerson Wood

Nancy Hovnanian - facilitator

February 23 - Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand

Don Parechian - facilitator

April 20 - Sandcastle Girls by Chris Bohjalian

Lucy Nalbandian - facilitator

June 1 - Book of Lost Names by Kristin Harmel

Nancy Hovnanian - facilitator

An invitation comes via email each month to sign up to receive the zoom information.

We would love to see you. If you have any questions or book ideas contact:

Marge Ayoub - margeayoub@gmail.com

Janet Jordan - jfjffj@comcast.net

Nancy Hovnanian - nancyhov53@gmail.com

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FUN IN THE FALL

In late October, the Ladies of Holy Trinity enjoyed a delightful evening, called Paint & Sip, organized by Gena DerHagopian Willard and a small committee. It was an evening that allowed all of us to see how much artistic flair we had. With an instructor guiding us through the process, we enjoyed painting wine glasses with a pomegranate design, a favorite fruit of Armenians.

Those who chose to do so brought their own - BYOB - while a large selection of non-alcoholic beverages was available to those who chose them. Each guest received a prepared mezze dish to enjoy, along with a lavish dessert buffet.

In a space filled with sixty ladies ready to enjoy fellowship and camaraderie after the long drought of Covid, the energy in the room was high, and the results were that many one-of-a-kind "masterpieces" were fashioned by people who thought they couldn't even paint.

Everyone left energized, happily satisfied, and ready for another fun-filled evening with old friends and new!



BAPTISMS

September 17, 2022: VIOLET KITABJIAN
(conducted at St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Armenian Church)

October 9, 2022:
ALEXANDER NOOBAR MARDIROSIAN
Son of Mr. & Mrs. Noobar Shwarsh Israel Mardirosian
Godfather: Saro Mardirosian
Godmother: Anita Mardirosian

DAVID NOOBAR MARDIROSIAN
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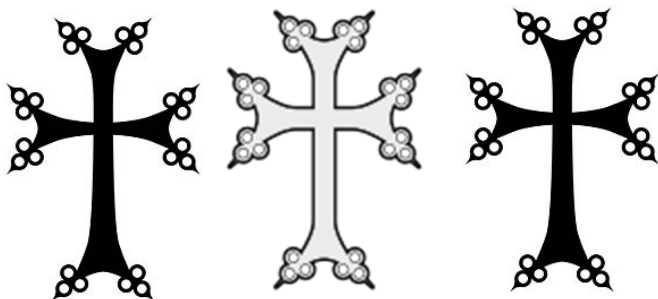
October 15, 2022: ANNA SOPHIA MUKALIAN
Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Richard Mukalian
Godfather: Michael Haroutunian
Godmother: Melissa Haroutunian



So in Christ Jesus you are all children of
God through faith, for all of you who
were baptized into Christ have clothed
yourselves with Christ.

Galatians 3:26-27

October 30, 2022: OLIVIA ANI SCHMIDT
Daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Richard Frank Schmidt
Godfather: Robert Schmidt
Godmother: Danielle Ashbahian



November 6, 2022: ROSE ELENA MYASNIKOV
Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Dmitry Vladimirovich Myasnikov
Godfather: William Alexander Katsak
Godmother: Firuza Abramyan



November 13, 2022: SAROJ PARIDA
Son of Mr. & Mrs. Parida
Godfather: Michael Checkanov
Godmother: Lilya Checkanov



November 19, 2022: ARMEN HAIG LaROSE
Son of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph LaRose
Godfather: Gary DerHagopian
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November 13, 2022: MARGARET INTIRAT
Godfather: Michael Checkanov



WEDDINGS

November 19, 2022

SAROJ K. PARIDA & MARGARET INTIRAT

Godfather: Michael Checkanov

*May your joining together bring you
more joy than you can imagine.*



**IN THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS LIFE, AND IN ITS
PATHWAY, THERE IS NO DEATH**

Proverbs 12:28

FUNERALS

– Conducted by Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan

MARY PARNAGIAN entered her eternal rest on September 4, 2022; Funeral services were held on September 9, 2022, at Holy Trinity Armenian Church.

ROSETTE ALYANAKIAN entered her eternal rest on September 21, 2022; Funeral services were held on September 29, 2022 at St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Armenian Church.

EKATERINI HASHAS entered her eternal rest on October 3, 2022; Funeral services were held on October 7, 2022 at John J. Bryers Funeral Home Inc.

BETTY A. RICHARDS entered her eternal rest on October 6, 2022; Funeral services were held on October 19, 2022, at Toppitzer Funeral Home.

JOHN BANDAIAN entered his eternal rest on October 7, 2022; Funeral services were held on October 13, 2022, at R.L. Williams Jr. Funeral home Inc.

PEARL “DOLLY” JAMGOCHIAN entered her eternal rest on October 7, 2022, Funeral services were held on October 12, 2022, at The Logan Videon Funeral Home.

ANGELA RAFIEV OVSEPYAN entered into her eternal rest on October 15, 2022, Funeral services were held on October 20, 2022 at Forest Hills Cemetery.



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For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:6-8

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