

Սուրբ Երրորդութիւն Հայաստանեայց
Առաքելական Մայր Եկեղեցի
Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Mother Church
Զայն Voice

Volume XXI: Issue 2 Փետրուար - February 2021



2226 Ventura Street • Fresno, CA 93721
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www.holytrinityfresno.org



For recognition and encouragement to deserving students within our parish, the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church is offering our high school seniors and college students scholarships for the 2021-2022 school year.

We are also offering scholarships to students who are pursuing a master's degree in nursing or agriculture.

Scholarships are based on students' involvement/membership at Holy Trinity, academic merit, and financial need.

All applications along with sealed transcripts and letters of recommendation must be submitted by March 31, 2021.

Please contact the church office at (559) 486-1141 or email nazik@holytrinityfresno.org to obtain an application and for more information.

Վարդանանց Տօն

Ամեն տարի Փետրուար ամսուն, Հայ Առաքելական Եկեղեցին կը տօնախմբէ Սրբոց Վարդանանց Զօրավարներու տօնը: Տօն մը, որ մտքերուն մէջ կը վերադարձնուի 451 թուականին տեղի ունեցած պատերազմ մը Պարսից հզոր բանակին եւ Հայ քաջերու միջեւ:

Ինչո՞ւ կը տօնենք այսպիսի յիշատակ մը, որուն ընթացքին մենք պարտութիւն կրեցինք: Ինչո՞ւ մենք ուրախութեամբ կը նշենք մեր պարտութիւնը: Այս հարցումներուն պատասխանը յստակ է: Նախ պետք է գիտնանք թէ Վարդանանց պատերազմը 451 թուականին իր սկիզբն ու վերջը չգտաւ, ընթակառակը ան արդէն սկսած էր երկար ժամանակ առաջ եւ իր աւարտը պիտի գտնէ տարիներ ետք հայ ազգի պատուաբեր յաղթանակով: Սակայն այս տարուան եւ յատկապէս այս պատերազմի յաղթանակը կու գայ մեզի յիշեցնելու թէ մեզի համար որքան կարեւոր պետք է ըլլայ մեր եկեղեցին, որուն համար այս սուրբերը իրենց արիւնը թափեցին:

Այդ տարիներուն երբ Պարսկաստանը իր կայսրութիւնը լայնցուցած էր ամեն կողմէ եւ նոյնիսկ հայկական աշխարհը իր սահմաններուն մէջ ներառած էր, ուզեց բոլոր ազգերուն պարտադրել զրադաշտական կրօնքը, որպէսզի այդպիսով կարենար հետզհետէ բոլորին մոռցնել իրենց մշակոյթը եւ բոլորին համար ըլլար միայն մէկ մշակոյթ՝ Պարսկականը: Սակայն հայ ղեկավարները նախատեսելով այս բոլորը, ուզեցին հաւատարիմ մնալ իրենց կրօնքին անտեսելով ամեն տեսակ չարչարանք եւ նոյնիսկ մահ:

Սիրելի հաւատացեալներ, այս տօնին առիթով եկէք լաւ ճանչնանք մեր եկեղեցին եւ չպարպենք զայն, որովհետեւ եկեղեցին հոգեւորականը չէ եւ ոչ ալ շէնքն է, այլ՝ մեր բոլորին հաւատքն է: Առ այդ, մեր սուրբերուն նահատակութեան վրայ հիմնուած պահենք մեր եկեղեցին:



Vartanandz

Every year in February, the Armenian Apostolic Church celebrates the Feast of St. Vartan. This Feast reminds us of the war between the Armenians and the Persian empire in 451, during which our soldiers fought bravely but could not resist the Persian power.

Why do we celebrate a war in which we were defeated? why is it important to remember a defeat which occurred 1600 years ago? the answer is simple. It is because the main reason of that war was to protect our Christian faith, which our ancestors did successfully.

During those days, when the Armenian nation lost their independence and kingdom and were under the Persian occupation, the Persians wanted to take advantage of that by forcing the Armenians to convert from Christianity to Zoroastrianism. The goal of this conversion was to drive the Armenian people from their culture, language, and beliefs. However, the Armenian leaders were aware of that and refused to convert. The Persian Emperor invited the leaders for a meeting and captured them to force the conversion, but our ancestors refused. After they were tortured, they decided trick the Persians and tell them that they had accepted the conversion simply so that the emperor would let them return to their country. After their return, they would declare that they would remain as Christians and be ready to sacrifice their lives for it. That was the truth and after they returned to Armenia, they wrote a letter to the Emperor by saying "Nothing can separate us from our religion" and based on that belief they went to battle.

This Feast comes to remind us of the significance of our church in our lives. The church is not the priest nor the building. The church is our collective faith. Therefore, beloved faithful, do not abandon your church for various reasons, because our church has been built on martyrdom of saints, who shed their blood in order to keep our church and our faith alive.





ՀԱՆԳԻՍ

Ն.Ս.Օ.Տ.Տ. Արամ Ա. Կաթողիկոս եւ Սեփի Տանն Կիլիկիոյ Կաթողիկոսութեան Միաբանութիւնը
սրտի դառն կակիծով կը գուժեն Կիլիկեան Միաբանութեան երեց անդամներն



Տ. ՄԵՂՐԻԿ ԵՊՍ. ԲԱՐԻՔԵԱՆԻ
(1968-2021)



վախճանումը, որ պատահեցաւ Շաբաթ, 16 Յունուար 2021-ի վաղ առաւօտուն:

AT REST

We sadly announce the passing of H.G. Bishop Meghrig Parikian
on Saturday, January 26, 2021 in Antelias - Lebanon
He served the community of Canada more than 13 years.

May he rest in Peace

Rev. Fr. Artsakh Badoyan



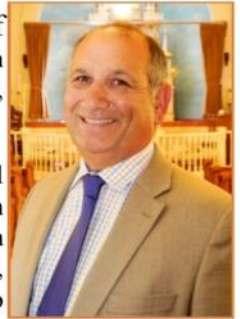
On Sunday, January 24, 2021, on the occasion of the name-day of St. Garabed Church in Las Vegas, H.G. Bishop Torkom Donoyan conducted his first Divine Liturgy as Prelate of the Western Prelacy and ordained Sevag Badoyan as a new priest renaming him as Rev. Fr. Artsakh Badoyan, in honor of both His Holiness Aram I., Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia's declaration (The Year of Artsakh,) and for our mother land Artsakh.

**We congratulate Fr. Artsakh on this very happy occasion!
May his journey be a blessed one!**

David Sarabian

We are proud and happy to announce that our Board of Trustees Chairman, David Sarabian, has been appointed to serve on the Center for Community Transformation (CCT) Cabinet, established in 2017 to serve the City of Fresno.

This cabinet, led by our newly-elected Mayor Jerry Dyer, will consist of faith leaders representing the broad spectrum of faith traditions in the valley. The Cabinet, made up of 26 leaders from the Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, Muslim, Sikh, Jewish, Hindu, LDS, and Buddhist faiths meet quarterly to focus on two simple things that influence the well-being of our city:



1. **Collaborative Impact:** Progress on things that need to happen in the city which city government alone cannot achieve, done jointly across our differences.
2. **Collective Wisdom:** be the voices of people of faith embedded in communities, helping to speak into city leadership as they make decisions about things that affect the quality of life in our valley.

We congratulations David on this honor!

Dear Parishioners

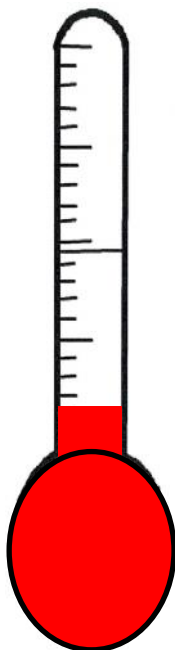
I hope the end of the virus is near, and we can begin normal operations soon.

As I speak to my Mom daily, she is always bored because there is nothing to do. I think many of us can relate to her and are anxiously waiting for a new start.

The church needs to be a place where friends and family can gather and share good memories and make new ones. When we open, please get involved and make suggestions to help the Board meet the needs of our congregation. We are all together because of our faith and our Armenian heritage. Don't take it for granted, and let's pass it down to the next generation.

Thanks to all who gave during Christmas and New Year's. Your contribution is appreciated and will be used wisely.

Watch us online. Pray for those who are sick. We will see each other soon.



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If you can, please donate towards our remodel project. Thank you.

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT



WILLY SAHATDJIAN AND TAYLOR LYN CREASY were joined in Holy Matrimony on Saturday, January 2, 2021. Officiating the ceremony was Rev. Fr. Ashod Khachadourian, assisted by Archdeacon Mark Shirin. Best man for this joyous occasion was Nick Sahatdjian, brother of the groom and Maid of Honor was Brianna Sahatdjian, sister of the groom. We congratulate the happy couple and their parents Bill & Christine Sahatdjian, Stacy & Michele Creasy and grandmother Iris Sahatdjian.

May the Lord bless and guide them as they start their new journey of life together.

BAPTISM ANNOUNCEMENTS



On Saturday, January 16, 2021, **LEA VANA GULGULIAN AND JOHN GARO GULGULIAN** received the Sacrament of Baptism. We congratulate their parents Gerard and Taline Gulgulian, Godparents Abel and Tania Herroz and the Gulgulian, Herroz, and Kasparian Families. *We congratulate Lea and John on reaching*



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Nicholas and Caitlan Mehas on the birth of their son **DEACON JAMES MEHAS**, born on Wednesday, December 2, 2020. We also congratulate grandparents George & Cheryl Mehas and Alan & Michelle Asadoorian, big sister Juliana Elle, aunts Alyssa & Adrienne Asadoorian and Alex Mehas.

God bless Baby Deacon.



Congratulations to Charles and Julie Hamamjian on the birth of their son **NICHOLAS RUSSELL HAMAMJIAN**, born on Thursday, December 24, 2020. We also congratulate grandparents Evelyn Hamamjian and the late Dennis Hamamjian and Ralph and Lana MacMichael, his siblings Charlie and Holly, and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

God bless Baby Nicholas.

Hope and Encouragement After Frustration and Discouragement

Because of COVID-19, last year was a very difficult and challenging year. People all around the world experienced financial and marital problems, educational and political issues, illnesses, fears, unemployment, loss of businesses and/or loved ones, stress, and depression. People are still experiencing these challenges.

Despite all of that, 2020 was the year of faith and prayers. People began to pray more, watched more church services from home, and many participated in Zoom bible studies. Throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, we see that all the Godly people experienced all kinds of difficulties which led them to frustration, discouragement, disappointment, and depression. They never lost faith and hope in God. If we look at their lives from the world's perspective, not all of them were successful and happy. However, from God's all-knowing, eternal perspective, they were blessed and chosen by God to accomplish His will on earth for His glory. They succeeded in all God's plans and were rewarded not only on earth, but also in eternal life.

“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the scriptures and the encouragement they provide, we might have hope.” Romans 15:4.

In Genesis 37-50, we see that Joseph at an early age experienced rejection and betrayal (from his own brothers), slavery, imprisonment, loneliness, fear, and many other problems. Throughout the years, Joseph was humble, obedient to God to the end and God rewarded him. Towards the end of his life, he became the ruler of Egypt, and he even saved his own brothers from starvation.

The book of Job tells us that Job was a very wealthy man who in one afternoon lost his children, business, servants, animals, and crops; he was even afflicted with skin sores. He mourned his losses, and he was frustrated, discouraged, disappointed, and very depressed that he cursed the day of his birth and wished to die. Job knew that God was in control of his life and all things happened by His permission. Yet, he did not curse God or blame Him 1:20-22. During his intense suffering time and grief, he prayed to God and for years God was silent. In Ch. 38, we see God finally spoke to him. In the end, Job was blessed and rewarded much more than his beginning, 42:12.

In the New Testament, John, one of the first disciples Jesus called to follow Him, and who was the youngest and the beloved one, left his profession to follow Jesus and be committed to Him. He wrote the fourth gospel, three epistles, and the book of Revelation. In the book of Acts, John helped Peter to heal people. He also cared for Mary, Jesus' mother until her death. He was persecuted and imprisoned for preaching the message of Christ. His brother James was the first disciple to be martyred. In his old age, he was captured and exiled to Patmos Island.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE, *Continued*

During that most difficult times in exile, he received a vision from Jesus and wrote the book of Revelation. He was the last disciple to die. John had a tough life but never stopped preaching the gospel which cost him everything.

Jesus Christ, to Him all the glory, is our perfect example, 1 Peter 2:21-22. He is the God, son of God, and our Savior who did not live an easy life on the earth. He came in the form of man, never sinned, and never lived one day for himself. He came to the world leaving His glory, holiness, and perfection of heaven to accomplish God's plan for our salvation, John 3:16, Romans 5:8-11. Jesus experienced temptation by Satan and was persecuted, followed by rejection, humiliation, loneliness, and agony in the garden of Gethsemane. He was also beaten, tortured, and crucified. Jesus' death was not the end of earthly life, it was the beginning of eternal life. God exalted Him above every name and gave Him all judgment, Hebrews 1:4-14, Philippians 2:6-11, John 5:22.

No matter what you experienced last year or are still experiencing, take a moment and look at those challenges from God's perspective. Are any of them beyond His wisdom to overcome or His power to conquer? Nothing is impossible for God, Jeremiah 32:27, Matthew 19:26.

Whatever the path that God has paved for you, humble yourself before God, count your blessings, and He will strengthen you and restore you, 1 Peter 5:6-11. Ask God to reveal His purpose for you; He has allowed them for a reason. Work with Him. and He will bring them to end in His perfect time. God will work everything together for good, Romans 8:28, 1 Corinthians 2:9-12.

"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God "Hebrews 12:1-2.

God Bless you all



Hokehankist was said for **GARO HOVAGIMIAN** on Sunday, January 17, 2021, a hero who lost his life fighting in Artsakh. Our sincere condolences to his great-uncle Armen and wife Sossi Hovagimian, cousins George, Talar and Raffi.



FUNERAL SERVICES



Chapel and graveside services were held for **HAGOP MOUKHTARIAN** on Thursday, January 7, 2021. Interment was at Masis Ararat Armenian Cemetery. Our sincere condolences are extended to his wife Anahid Moukhtarian, son Vatche and wife Anna Moukhtarian, grandchildren Vicken and Ava and the Moukhtarian, Moujoukian, Atikian, Pilavjian, Arakelian, and Khandjian Families.

Chapel and graveside services were held for **SOSSE MOVSES BIDANIAN** on Saturday, January 16, 2021. Interment was at Masis Ararat Armenian Cemetery. Our sincere condolences are extended to her children Azadouhy Bidanian, Silva and husband Bedros Khederian, Boghos and wife Lucy Bidanian, grandchildren Sevag, Ani, Anto, Miro and Niko, great grandchildren Danika, Bryant, Naomi and Michael.



Graveside services were held for **OHAN VAHE OHAN** on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Interment was at Masis Ararat Armenian Cemetery. Our sincere condolences to his wife Madlin Ohan, sons, Yirchanik and wife Molly Ohanian, George and wife Heidi Ohan and John and wife Alicia Ohan, grandchildren Vahae, Hovig, Lucine, Destiny, Serenity, Madlin, Johno, Fahima, and Farrah, and other extended family and friends.

Graveside services were held for **VERTAIEM KRIKORIAN** on Monday, January 25, 2021. Interment was at Masis Ararat Cemetery. Our sincere condolences to her children Araxi and husband Hovhannes Kahkejian, Ani Krikorian, Verjin Khasharian, Avo and wife Shousan Krikorian, grandchildren Shoushan, Knar, Harout, Mariana, Hagop, Sarkis, Sevan, Kevork, Aram, Shant and their families.



CONDOLENCES



Our Sincere condolences to Julie and Jenna Belmonte on the loss of their loving husband/father **BOB BELMONTE** who passed away in June 2020.



May God bless their souls!

ՀՈԳԵՀԱՆԳՍՏԵԱՆ

Պաշտոն պիտի կատարուի.....

Փետրուար 7

ՄԱՐԻԱՄ ՄԿՐՏԻԶԵԱՆԻ մահուան երրորդ տարելիցին առիթով, ՅՈՎՀԱՆՆԵՍ ՀԱՆ ՄԿՐՏԻՇԵԱՆԻ 4-րդ տարելիցին առիթով, ԳՐԻԳՈՐ ԵՒ ՊԵՆԿԱԶԱՏ ԿԻՐԱԿՈՍԵԱՆՆԵՐՈՒ, ԳԱԼՈՒՍՏ ԿԻՐԱԿՈՍԵԱՆԻ, ԽԱԶԱՏՈՒՐ ԵՒ ՍՐԲՈՒՋԻ ԿԻՐԱԿՈՍԵԱՆՆԵՐՈՒ, ՅԱԿՈԲ ԵՒ ՆՈՒՆՈՒՖԱՐ ՄԱՐԿՈՍԵԱՆՆԵՐՈՒ, ԴԱՆԻԷԼ ՆԵՐՍԷՍԵԱՆԻ, ՍՏԵՓԱՆ ԵՒ ՍԻՐԱՆՈՅՇ ԵԸԼՏԸԶԵԱՆՆԵՐՈՒ, ՀՐԱՆԴ ԵՒ ԱՐՄԻԿ ՆԱԼՊԱՆՏԵԱՆՆԵՐՈՒ, ՅԱՐՈՒԹԻՒՆ ԿԻՐԱԿՈՍԵԱՆԻ, ՄԱՐԻՆՈՍ ՓԱՇՈՒԿԵԱՆԻ, ԱՆՈՒՇ ԿԻՐԱԿՈՍԵԱՆԻ ԵՒ համայն ԿԻՐԱԿՈՍԵԱՆ ԵՒ ՄԱՐԿՈՍԵԱՆ գերդաստաններու ննջեցեալներու հոգիներուն համար, խնդրանօք՝ Ռոզի եւ ամուսնոյն Պրայլն Պետրոսեաններու եւ զաւակներուն: *Այս առիթով Ս. Խորանին ծաղիկներ կը նուիրեն:*

ԳՐԻԳՈՐ ԵՒ ՄԱՐԻԱՄ ԳԱՔՐԻԷԼԵԱՆՆԵՐՈՒ, ԳԱԼՈՒՍՏ ԵՒ ԵԱՂՈՒԴ ՄԿՐՏԻԶԵԱՆՆԵՐՈՒ, ՀԷՐԻ «ՅԱՐՈՒԹ» ԳԱՔՐԻԷԼԵԱՆԻ, ԱՆՆԱ ՄԱՆՈՒԿԵԱՆ ԵՒ ՀԷՐԻ ՄԱՆՈՒԿԵԱՆ, ԽԱԶԻԿ ԳԱՔՐԻԷԼԵԱՆԻ ԵՒ համայն ԳԱՔՐԻԷԼԵԱՆ ԵՒ ՄԿՐՏԻԶԵԱՆ գերդաստաններու ննջեցեալներու հոգիներուն համար, խնդրանօք՝ Ռոզի եւ ամուսնոյն Պրայլն Պետրոսեաններու եւ զաւակներուն, Սարգիս եւ Թամարա Գաբրիէլեաններու եւ համայն Գաբրիէլեան եւ Մկրտիչեան ընտանիքներու: *Այս առիթով Ս. Խորանին ծաղիկներ կը նուիրեն:*

ԹՐՖԱՆՏԱ ՓՕԼԱՏԵԱՆԻ մահուան 12րդ տարելիցին առիթով, ՍԱՐԳԻՍ ՓՈԼԱՏԵԱՆԻ մահուան 31րդ տարելիցին առիթով, ՄԱՐԳԱՐԻՏ ՓՕԼԱՏԵԱՆԻ մահուան 26րդ տարելիցին առիթով, ԳԵՂԵՑԻԿ ՆԱԳԱՇԵԱՆԻ 19րդ տարելիցին առիթով եւ ՄԱՐԻ ՔԱՐԼՋԻ առաջին տարելիցին առիթով եւ ՀԱՄԱՅՆ ՓՕԼԱՏԵԱՆ, ՆԱԳԱՇԵԱՆ ՓԵԼԴԻԲԵԱՆ, ՊԵՏՐՈՍԵԱՆ ԸՆՏԱՆԻՔՆԵՐՈՒ ՆՆԶԵՑԵԱԼՆԵՐՈՒՆ հոգիներուն համար, խնդրանօք կարօ եւ Նաթալի Փօլատեաններու, Կրէկ եւ Սուզան Փօլատեաններու, Յակոբ եւ Մարգարիտ Նաբաշեաններու, Ալպէրդ եւ Մարի Նիքոլըսներու եւ իրենց զաւակներուն: *Այս առիթով Ս. Խորանին ծաղիկներ կը նուիրեն:*

Փետրուար 21

ՅԱԿՈԲ ՄՈՒԽԹԱՐԵԱՆԻ քառասունքին առիթով, խնդրանօք տիկնոջ Անահիտ Մուխթարեանի, զաւկին Վաչէ եւ տիկնոջ Աննա Մուխթարեաններու եւ թոռներուն Վիքենի եւ Էվայի: *Այս առիթով Ս. Խորանին ծաղիկներ կը նուիրեն:*

HOKEHANKIST
will be said for.....

February 7

MARIAM MEGRDICHIAN, on the third year of her passing and **HOVHANNES JOHN MEGRDICHIAN** on the 4th year of his passing, **GRIGOR AND BENGZAD KIRAKOSIAN, GALOUST KIRAKOSIAN, KHACHADOUR AND SERPOUHIE KIRAKOSIAN, HAGOP AND NOUNOUFAR MARGOSIAN, DANIEL NERSESIAN, SDEPAN AND SIRANOUSH YELDEZIAN, HRANT AND ARMIG NALBANDIAN, HAROUTIOUN KIRAKOSIAN, MARINOS PASHOUGIAN, ANOUSH KIRAKOSIAN, AND ALL DECEASED MEMEBERS OF THE KIRAKOSIAN AND MARGOSIAN FAMILIES**, requested by Rosie and husband Bryan Bedrosian and Family. *Altar flowers are donated.*

GRIGOR AND MARIAM GABRIELIAN, GALOUST AND YAGHOUT MEGRDICHIAN, HARRY “HAROUT” GABRIELIAN, ANNA MANUKIAN AND SON HARRY MANUKIAN, KHACHIG GABRIELIAN AND ALL DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE GABRIELIAN AND MEGRDICHIAN FAMILIES, requested by Rosie and husband Bryan Bedrosian and family, Sarkis & Tamara Gabrielian and the entire Gabrielian Family. *Altar flowers are donated.*

TERFANDA POLADIAN on the 12th year of her passing, **SARKIS POLADIAN** on the 31th year of his passing, **MARKARID POLADIAN** on the 26th year of her passing, **KEGHETSIK NAKASHIAN** on the 19th year of her passing and **MARY CARLS**, on the first year of her passing, and **ALL DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE POLADIAN, PELTEKIAN, AND BEDROSIAN FAMILIES**, requested by Garo & Natalie Poladian, Greg & Susan Poladian, Hagop & Margueritte Nakashian, Albert & Mary Nicholas and their families. *Altar flowers are donated.*

February 21

HAGOP MOUKHTARIAN on the 40th day of his passing, requested by his wife Anahid Moukhtarian, son Vache and wife Anna Moukhtarian and grandchildren Viken and Ava. *Altar flowers are donated.*

ՀՈԳԵՀԱՆԳՍՏԵԱՆ

Պաշտօն պիտի կատարուի.....,

Փետրուար 21, (Շար.)

ՍՕՍԷ ՄՈՎՍԵՍ ՊԻՏԱՆԵԱՆԻ մահուան քառասունփոյն առիթով, խնդրանքով Պիտանեան եւ Խորեան ընտանիքներուն: *Այս առիթով Ս. Խորանիմ ծաղիկներ կը նուիրեն:*

ՕՀԱՆ ՎԱՀԷ ՕՀԱՆԵԱՆԻ մահուան քառասունփոյն առիթով, խնդրանքով տիկնոջ Մատլէն Օհանի, զաւակներուն Երջանիկ եւ տիկնոջ Մալի Օհանեաններու, ճորճ եւ տիկնոջ Հայտի Օհաններու, Ճան եւ տիկնոջ Ալիքք Օհաններու, թոռներուն Վահէի, Յովիկի, Լուսինի, Տէտիկի, Սըրէնիդի, Մատլիկի, Ճանոյի, Ֆահիմայի, եւ Ֆարայի, ինչպէս նաեւ եղբոր Մկրտիչ եւ տիկնոջ Ջեփիլո Օհաններու, զաւակներուն Կարպիսի, Աւետիսի, եւ Այտայի եւ իրենց զաւակներուն: *Այս առիթով Ս. Խորանիմ ծաղիկներ կը նուիրեն:*

Փետրուար 28

ՀԱՅ ՕԳՆՈՒԹԵԱՆ ՄԻՈՒԹԵԱՆ ՆՆՋԵՑԵԱԼ ՀՈԳԻՆՆՐՈՒՆ ՀԱՄԱՐ, խնդրանքով Յրէզմոյի Հայ Օգնութեան Միութեան Մայր եւ Սօֆիա Մասնաճիւղներուն: *Այս առիթով Ս. Խորանիմ ծաղիկներ կը նուիրեն:*

ՎԷՆԹԱԻՄ ԳՐԻԳՈՐԵԱՆԻ մահուան քառասունփոյն առիթով, խնդրանքով զաւակներուն Արաքսի եւ ամուսնոյն Յովհաննէս Քահկէճեաններու, Անի Գրիգորեանի, Վերժին Խաչարեանի, Ավո տիկնոջ Շուշան Գրիգորեաններու եւ իրենց ընտանիքներուն: *Այս առիթով Ս. Խորանիմ ծաղիկներ կը նուիրեն:*

HOKEHANKIST

will be said for.....

February 21, (Continued)

SOSSE MOVSES BIDANIAN on the 40th day of her passing, requested by the Bidanian and Khederian Families. *Altar flowers are donated.*

OHAN VAHE OHAN on the 40th day of his passing, requested by his wife Madlin Ohan, sons Yirjanik & wife Molly Ohanian, George & wife Heidi Ohan, John and wife Alicia Ohan, grandchildren Vahae, Hovig, Lucine, Destiny, Serenity, Madlin, John, Fahima and Farrah, and his brother Makrdij and wife Zepu Ohan and their children Garbis, Avedis, and Ida Ohan and their families. *Altar flowers are donated.*

February 28

ALL DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE ARMENIAN RELIEF SOCIETY, requested by the Fresno Armenian Relief Society Mayr and Sophia Chapters. *Altar flowers are donated.*

VERTAIEM KRIKORIAN on the 40th day of her passing, requested by her children Araxi and husband Hovhannes Kahkejian, Ani Krikorian, Verjin Khasharian and Avo and wife Shoushan Krikorian and their families. *Altar flowers are donated.*

Greetings Voice readers. The Ladies' Guild hopes you are doing well and keeping your spirits up during these challenging times.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, we have not been able to meet face-to-face in sometime. Despite the setbacks, we continue to find creative ways to fundraise and support our church. In fact, the Ladies' Guild recently presented the Board of Trustees with \$50,000 for our annual donation.

Our January 15th drive-thru food event, featuring Chicken Harissa, donated and prepared by **Linda Kaloostian**, in memory of her sister MaryAlice was a success. We served 224 dinners! The recipe used was Mary Alice's. We hope you found it to be delicious!

Patty Torosian assisted Linda with the harissa and donated the olives and string cheese for the mezza plate.

A big thank you also goes out to: **Ruby Baladjanian, Richard Bedoian, Mary Belemjian, Mary & Alain Ekmalian, Jill & Don Eskender, Evelyn Hamamjian, Madeline & Skip Kachadoorian, Jane Lanas, Serpouhie Messerlian, Barbara & Ron Mortanian, and Diana Shirin.** Your time and efforts are much appreciated!

We are planning to host another drive-thru dinner in March. Stay tuned for details.

Also, mark your calendars for November 20th. That's when we plan to host "Christmas in Paris." The fundraising gala will benefit the remodel of the large hall.

Members, a reminder, your 2021 dues are due. Please mail \$25 to the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church at 2226 E. Ventura Ave. Fresno, CA 93721. Be sure to include Attn. Ladies' Guild on the envelope.

Speaking of members, **Alice Vartanian** was recently featured in the Armenian Mirror-Spectator Newspaper. The story titled, "A Holiday Tradition in Good Taste at Fresno's Valley Lahvosh Baking Co." was written by Alice's daughter **Christine Vartanian Datian.** Alice's favorite persimmon cookie recipe was also recently featured. You can find the stories online at MirrorSpectator.com

We'd also like to thank Alice and Christine for their donation to the Ladies' Guild in memory of Pepay Sarkisian (beloved mother and grandmother), Hegina Vartanian (beloved grandmother), Rose Antoyan, Elmass Avedisian, Mary Hokokian, Gladys Jamgotchian, and Lynne Gregorian.

Until next time, have a healthy and faith-filled month ahead.

LADIES' GUILD, *Continued*



We wanted to show you how organized and professional our ladies are when they take on a project!

Siraik Panosian was the winner of the drawing held by Ladies' Guild for those who made a donation in December to the Armenian Missionary Association of America earmarked to aid refugees of Artsakh.



Gartank wishes everyone a happy new year and Jane a happy birthday. This was our 1st get together of 2021. Our small group always practices social distancing. Call dear Sophie Mekhitarian for information to join us on our new day and time. Temporarily missing J.A.M.S.V.A.D.S.

Tribute to Serpouhie Messerlian By Sarah Soghomonian



There's great value in a good education. Serpouhie Messerlian knows that firsthand. It's through education that doors have opened and opportunities have presented themselves throughout her life.

A native of Beirut, Lebanon, she got her first taste of education attending Loussinian Elementary school which was adjacent to St. Sarkis Church in the Bourj Hamoud district of Lebanon.

“Following the 1915 genocide most of the survivors settled in Middle Eastern countries,” Messerlian says. “Lebanon had a large influx of refugees who established Armenian schools next to many churches they erected.”

She fondly remembers playing on the wide street in front of the school building and can picture the single lightbulb that hung from the ceiling. On dark gloomy days it would be turned on.

“My childhood was a happy one in spite of the poor conditions that our refugee grandparents and parents could provide,” Messerlian says. “At home the streets were our playground where we played handball, hopscotch, jump rope and hide-and-seek.”

After graduating from elementary school she went on to attend Armenian Central Evangelical School in Ashrefih, a suburb of Beirut.

Getting there wasn't easy, but the commitment to bettering her education made it worth it.

“I had to walk 30 minutes to catch the tramway ride for 20 to 30 minutes and then climb the stairs up the hill to our school,” she recalls.

Following high school, Messerlian attended Beirut College for Women.

“Most of the girls were from wealthy Arab families and few Armenian middle class or poor families like mine,” she says. “I was very lucky that my parents sacrificed so much to make this possible.”

Attending college meant another long commute. Beirut College was on the other end of the city.

When a Civil War broke out in Lebanon in 1957 she had to stop attending school. It was no longer safe to make the long trek across town every day. She took a job teaching science and English at Nor Marash Armenian Evangelical School for one year. When the war ended she went back to college and completed her degree.

Through Messerlian's commitment to education she was able to leave the war torn Middle East for brighter opportunities in the United States.

Tribute to Serpouhie Messerlian, *Continued*

In 1961, after teaching Chemistry and Biology for one year at Tripoli Girls College, she came to California to continue her graduate work at Fresno State. Her older brother, Vartkes, was already living in Fresno, along with some other school friends from Beirut. “Fresno was known to us through William Saroyan’s works and Asbarez newspaper,” Messerlian fondly recalls.

In 1966, her parents, paternal grandparents, younger brother and sister all immigrated to Fresno. The Messerlian family quickly adapted to life in their new home. They became active with Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, Armenian Relief Society and Hamazkayin Cultural Association.

Serpouhie doesn’t just join organizations, she takes an active role. She sang in the Holy Trinity Choir for over five decades and held the position of choir president. She was a member of Ladies Aid and helped with catering services and the annual church bazaar. She’s also been involved with Saturday Armenian School and Sunday School.



“God has given each one of us talents and capabilities and we must put them to use,” Messerlian says. “It gives me self-worth and satisfaction that I could do some good for others.”

As a member of the Armenian Relief Society, she’s been the local chapter chairperson and has held positions on the Western Regional and Central Executive Boards.

“One of my pride and satisfaction as a member is the recreation of some historical Armenian costumes which our chapter exhibited numerous times in Fresno, Los Angeles and San Francisco,” Messerlian says. “These costumes were featured in a book which was the product of my labor with a few other members.”

For 21 years Messerlian taught Biology, Chemistry and Physics at Central High School. She led the science department, was a senior class advisor and head of the school’s California Scholastic Federation. In 1974, she was voted “outstanding teacher of the year.”

“Rather than being at a desk job in an office, I enjoyed being in the classroom with students organizing field trips and taking them to various college campuses for lectures and exhibits,” she says of why she never put her administrative credential to use. “I felt rewarded when graduates would come back and visit me sharing their successes and what impact I had on their education.”

Tribute to Serpouhie Messerlian, *Continued*



Messerlian also spent 12 years teaching at Bullard High School and taught Armenian language and literature classes at Fresno State. Following her retirement, Messerlian has worked as a volunteer at the Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School. The school is near and dear to her heart. In 1977, she and her brother Vartkes helped found the school. She's been a school board member and is a member of the Women's League that helps raise operating funds.

"I am glad we have the church, Armenian School and various cultural and charitable organizations to channel my energies for the good of my people, for the perpetuation of our culture and survival of our nation," Messerlian says.

For the past five years, she's been involved with the Fresno Medical Mission, a project organized by her niece's husband, Berj Apkarian, the Honorary Consul of Armenia. As an interpreter, she accompanies the non-Armenian doctors who give of their time to work in the hospitals and clinics in the villages of Armenia and Artsakh.

Now in her 80s, Messerlian's hope is that more young people will do like she has. Get a good education and then put it to use, by giving back to the community.

"My wish is to see more young people involved with these institutions and specially attend church more often." She says. "The church is the lofty fortress of my faith. It is the glue that holds our community together in the diaspora."

We congratulate Dr. Armen Bedrosian for being selected as the Chair of the Department of Medicine at St. Agnes Medical Center.

Wrong Funeral

I was at the funeral of my dearest friend, my mother. She finally had lost her long battle with cancer. The hurt was so intense; I found it hard to breathe at times. Always supportive, Mother clapped loudest at my school plays, held the box of tissues while listening to her daughter's first heartbreak, comforted me at my father's death, encouraged me in college, and prayed for me my entire life. When mother's illness was diagnosed, my sister had a new baby and my brother had recently married his childhood sweetheart, so it fell on me, the 27-year-old middle child without entanglements, to take care of her. I counted it an honor.

"What now, Lord?" I asked sitting in church. My life stretched out before me as an empty abyss. My brother sat stoically with his face toward the cross while clutching his wife's hand. My sister sat slumped against her husband's shoulder, his arms around her as she cradled their child. All so deeply grieving, no one noticed I sat alone. My place had been with our mother, preparing her meals, helping her walk, taking her to the doctor, seeing to her medication, reading the Bible together. Now she was with the Lord... my work was finished, and I was alone.

I heard a door open and slam shut at the back of the church. Quick footsteps hurried along the carpeted floor. An exasperated young man looked around briefly and then sat next to me. He folded his hands and placed them on his lap. His eyes were brimming with tears. He began to sniffle. "I'm late," he explained, though no explanation was necessary. After several eulogies, he leaned over and commented, "Why do they keep calling Mary by the name of Margaret?" He seemed rather confused. "Because, that was her name, Margaret. Never Mary, no one called her Mary," I whispered. I wondered why this person couldn't have sat on the other side of the church. He interrupted my grieving with his tears and fidgeting. Who was this stranger anyway?

"Isn't this the Lutheran church?" he asked. "No, the Lutheran church is across the street." I tried to speak softly as people were starting to stare. "Oh." I looked at him and said "I believe you're at the wrong funeral, Sir." The solemnness of the occasion mixed with the realization of the man's mistake bubbled up inside me and came out as laughter. I cupped my hands over my face, hoping it would be interpreted as sobs. The creaking pew gave me away. Sharp looks from other mourners only made the situation seem more hilarious. I peeked at the bewildered, misguided man seated beside me. He was laughing too, as he glanced around, deciding it was too late for an uneventful exit. I imagined Mother laughing.

PASS IT ON, *Continued*

At the final Amen, we darted out the door and into the parking lot. “I do believe we’ll be the talk of the town,” he smiled. He said his name was Rick, and since he had missed his aunt’s funeral, asked me out for a cup of coffee. That afternoon began a lifelong journey for me with this man who attended the wrong funeral, but was in the right place. A year after our meeting, we were married at a country church where he was the assistant pastor. This time we both arrived at the same church, right on time. In my time of sorrow, God gave me laughter. In place of loneliness, God gave me love. This past June, we celebrated our twenty-second wedding anniversary. Whenever anyone asks us how we met, Rick tells them, “Her mother and my Aunt Mary introduced us, and it’s truly a match made in heaven.”

Message: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Philippians 4:6



Watch the Holy Badarak on our Facebook
and YouTube pages at 10:00 am.

To watch on YouTube, search Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church

**Also, please subscribe to our YouTube
(There is no cost to you)**

**Men's Society Catering
is offering for sale appetizer-size
cheese berags, 24 for \$10.
Please call Ruby at 439-3319
to place your order.**

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

Are made in memory of.....

HOVSEP ANTONIAN

Asdghig Antonian

**DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE APKARIAN,
KASSABIAN AND ASSADOURIAN FAMILIES**

Boghos Apkarian

**NOUBAR APKARIAN AVEDIAN AND
EMMA LATCHIINIAN**

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ՓԵՏՐՈՒԱՐ 2021**

1. Սրբոց Ատովմանց զօրավարցն
Իմաստութեան 6:12-21; Եսայեայ 18:7-19:7; Բ. Կորնթացիս 4:10-5:5;
Յովհաննու 16:1-5
2. Սրբոց Սուբիասանց
Առակաց 22:1-12; Եսայեայ 56:6-7; Եբրայեցիս 11:30-40; Ղուկասու 12:4-9
3. Բ. Տիմոթէոս 3:16-4:8; Յովհաննու 7:1-13
4. Սրբոց Ոսկեանց ֆահանայիցն
Առակաց 24:1-12; Երեմեայ 30:18-22; Բ. Տիմոթէոս 3:10-12;
Մատթէոսի 5:1-12
5. Բ. Տիմոթէոս 4:9-22; Յովհաննու 7:14-23
6. Սրբոյն Իսահակայ Պարթեւի հայրապետին մերոյ
Իմաստութեան 7:12-18; Եսայեայ 61:3-7; Եբրայեցիս 13:17-21;
Յովհաննու 10:11-16
7. **Անուանակոչութենէն ետք Չորրորդ Կիրակի**
Եսայեայ 63:18-64:12; Տիտոս 1:1-11; Յովհաննու 7:37-52
8. Զաւարեայ 8:1-3; Հոովմայեցիս 8:28-39; Յովհաննու 15:17-21
Սրբոցն՝ Մարկոսի Եպիսկոպոսին, Պիոնի ֆահանային, Կիրղի եւ
Բենիամինի սարկաւազացն, եւ վկայիցն Սրբըլմընտեհի, Որմզդանայ եւ
Սայենի
9. Սրբոց Ղեւոնդեանց ֆահանայիցն
Իմաստութեան 5:16-23; Եսայեայ 35:1-2; Եսայեայ 61:6-7;
Ա. Պետրոսի 1:3-9; Ղուկասու 12:4-10
10. Տիտոս 1:12-2:10; Յովհաննու 8:12-20
11. Սրբոց Վարդանանց Զօրավարյն Մերոյ
Իմաստութեան 3:1-8; Եսայեայ 49:8-9; Եբրայեցիս 12:1-7;
Ղուկասու 6:20-26
12. Տիտոս 3:1-15; Յովհաննու 8:21-30
13. Կոստանդնուպոլսոյ Ա. Ժողովոյն հարիւր եւ յիսուն
հայրապետացն (381)
Եզեկիէլի 3:16-19; Բ. Կորնթացիս 6:1-14; Մատթէոսի 12:22-32
14. **Բուն Բարեկենդան: Նաեւ Տնտնընդառաջ: (Փետրուար 13):**
Ղեւտացոց 12:6-8; Առակաց 8:22-24; Եզեկիէլի 44:1-2; Մաղաքեայ 3:1-4;
Գաղատացիս 3: 24-29; Ղուկասու 2:22-40.
Սուրբ Պատարաք: Եսայեայ 24:21-25:8; Գործք Առաքելոց 7:47-50;
Գաղատացիս 4:1-7; Ղուկասու 2:41-52
15. Ա. օր Մածի Պահոց
Եսայեայ 1:16-20
16. Եզեկիէլի 18:20-23
17. Ելից 1:1-2:10; Յովելեայ 1:14-20

DAILY BIBLE READING

FEBRUARY 2021

1. Sts. Adom and Generals
Wisdom 6:12-21; Isaiah 18:7-19:7; 2 Corinthians 4:10-5:5; John 16:1-5
2. Sts. Sookias and Martyrs
Proverbs 22:1-12; Isaiah 56:6-7; Hebrews 11:30-40; Luke 12:4-9
3. 2 Timothy 3:16-4:8; John 7:1-13
4. Sts. Voski and Priests
Proverbs 24:1-12; Jeremiah 30:18-22; 2 Timothy 3:10-12; Matthew 5:1-12
5. 2 Timothy 4:9-22; John 7:14-23
6. St. Sahag Barteve
Wisdom 7:12-18; Isaiah 61:3-7; Hebrews 13:17-21; John 10:11-16
7. ***Fourth Sunday after Nativity***
Isaiah 63:18-64:12; Titus 1:1-11; John 7:37-52
8. Zechariah 8:1-3; Romans 8:28-39; John 15:17-21
Sts. Mark the Bishop, Plonius the Priest, Cyril and Benjamin the Deacons, and Martyrs Abdelmasih, Ormisdan, and Sayen
9. Sts. Ghevontiank
Wisdom 5:16-23; Isaiah 35:1-2; Isaiah 61:6-7; 1 Peter 1:3-9; Luke 12:4-10
10. Titus 1:12-2:10; John 8:12-20
11. Sts. Vartanank
Wisdom 3:1-8; Isaiah 49:8-9; Hebrews 12:1-7; Luke 6:20-26
12. Titus 3:1-15; John 8:21-30
13. The 150 Holy Fathers of the Holy Council of Constantinople (381 AD)
Ezekiel 3:16-19; 2 Corinthians 6:1-14; Matthew 12:22-32
14. ***Poon Paregentan (Eve of Great Lent)—Presentation of the Lord Evening (February 13): Leviticus 12:6-8; Proverbs 8:22-24; Ezekiel 44:1-2; Malachi 3:1-4; Galatians 3: 24-29; Luke 2:22-40. Morning: same lections as above.***
Divine Liturgy: Isaiah 24:21-25:8; Acts 7:47-50; Galatians 4:1-7; Luke 2:41-52
15. First day of Lent
Isaiah 1:16-20
16. Ezekiel 18:20-23
17. Exodus 1:1-2:10; Joel 1:14-20
18. Romans 6:3-14
19. Deuteronomy 6:4-7:10; Job 6:13-7:13; Isaiah 40:1-8
20. St. Theodore the Warrior
Wisdom 8:19-9:5; Isaiah 62:6-9; Romans 8:28-39; Matthew 10:16-22

**ԱՄԷՆՕՐԵԱՅ ԱՍՏՈՒԱԾԱՇՈՒՆՁԻ ԸՆԹԵՐՑՈՒՄՆԵՐ
ՓԵՏՐՈՒԱՐ 2021**

18. Հոովմայեցիս 6:3-14
19. Երկրորդ Օրինաց 6:4-7:10; Յոբայ 6:13-7:13; Եսայեայ 40:1-8
20. Զ. Օր Մեծի Պահոց Սրբոյն Թեոդորոսի զօրավարին
Իմաստութեան 8:19-9:5; Եսայեայ 62:6-9; Հոովմայեցիս 8:28-39;
Մատթէոսի 10:16-22
21. **ԳՅ. Է օր Մեծի Պահոց Բ. Քառասնորդաց**
Եսայեայ 33:2-22; Հոովմայեցիս 12:1-13:10; Մատթէոսի 5:17-48
22. Ա. Թագաւորաց 1:1-23; Առակաց 1:1-33; Երեմեայ 1:1-10
23. Ա. Թագաւորաց 1:23-2:26; Առակաց 2:1-3:10; Երեմեայ 1:11-2:3
24. Ելից 2:11-22; Յովելեայ 2:1-11; Միքիայ 4:1-7
25. Ա. Թագաւորաց 3:21-4:18; Առակաց 3:11-4:14; Երեմեայ 2:31-3:16
26. Երկրորդ Օրինաց 7:11-8:1; Յոբայ 9:1-10:2; Եսայեայ 40:9-17
27. Մեծի Պահոց Սրբոցն՝ Կիւրղի Երուսաղեմայ հայրապետին, Եւ միւս
Կիւրղի եպիսկոպոսին Եւ մօրն նորա Աննայի
Առակաց 11:2-11; Եսայեայ 61:3-7; Բ. Տիմոթէոս 4:1-8;
Յովհաննու 10:11-16
28. **Կիրակի ԳԿ. ԺԳ. օր Մեծի Պահոց Գի Քառասնորդաց: Անտակին**
Եսայեայ 54:11-55:13; Բ. Կորնթացիս 6:1-7:1; Ղուկասու 15:1-32

**DAILY BIBLE READING
FEBRUARY 2021**

21. *Second Sunday of Great Lent—Expulsion*
Isaiah 33:2-22; Romans 12:1-13:10; Matthew 5:17-48
22. 1 Samuel 1:1-23; Proverbs 1:1-33; Jeremiah 1:1-10
23. 1 Samuel 1:23-2:26; Proverbs 2:1-3:10; Jeremiah 1:11-2:3
24. Exodus 2:11-22; Joel 2:1-11; Micah 4:1-7
25. 1 Samuel 3:21-4:18; Proverbs 3:11-4:14; Jeremiah 2:31-3:16
26. Deuteronomy 7:11-8:1; Job 9:1-10:2; Isaiah 40:9-17
27. St. Cyril of Jerusalem
Proverbs 11:2-11; Isaiah 61:3-7; 2 Timothy 4:1-8; John 10:11-16
28. *Third Sunday of Great Lent—The Prodigal Son*
Isaiah 54:11-55:13; 2 Corinthians 6:1-7:1; Luke 15:1-32

Get Well Soon!

The Pastor and the Board of Trustees wish to express
to all church members who are ill and not feeling well,
(listed or not listed below) a speedy recovery.

Rev. Fr. Ashod Khachadourian

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