

Սուրբ Երրորդութիւն Հայաստանեայց
Առաքելական Մայր Եկեղեցի

Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Mother Church

Զայն Voice

Volume: XXIV Issue 1 Յունուար - January 2024



2226 Ventura Street • Fresno, CA 93721
(559) 486-1141 Office; (559) 486-1939 Fax
www.holytrinityfresno.org

Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church Armenian Christmas Eve

Friday, January 5, 2024

Evening Hour Service: 4:00 pm
Reading of the Holy Scriptures: 4:30 pm
Christmas Eve Holy Badarak: 5:00 pm
Dinner: 7:00 pm

Menu: Fish, Vartabed Soup, Bulgur Pilaf and Salad

Tickets: \$15 Adults; \$5 for 12 and under

RSVP by: Friday, December 29, 2023

By calling the office: 559-486-1141

Seating is limited

ՍՈՒՐԲ ԵՐՐՈՐԴՈՒԹԻՒՆ ՀԱՅՑ. ԱՌԱՔԵԼԱԿԱՆ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ
ՃՐԱԳԱԼՈՅՑ Ս. ԾՆՆԴԵԱՆ
Ուրբաթ, Յունուար 5, 2024

Երեկոյեան Ժամերգութիւն՝ Երեկոյեան Ժամը 4:00

Ս. Գրոց Ընթերցում՝ Երեկոյեան Ժամը 4:30

Ճրագալոյցի Ս. Պատարագ՝ Երեկոյեան Ժամը 5:00

Աւանդական Ընթրիք՝ Երեկոյեան Ժամը 7:00

Պիտի հրամցուի Ձուկ, Վարդապետ Ապուր,
Ձաւարով Փիլաւ եւ Սալատ

Տոմսի գին՝ 15 տոլար, 12 տարեկանէն վար՝ 5 տոլար
Տոմսերը ապահովելու համար հեռաձայնեցէք
559-486-1141 Մինչեւ Դեկտեմբեր 29, 2023
Կանխաւ ապահովեցէք ձեր տոմսերը:



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

By: Rev. Fr. Ashod Khachadourian

On Friday December 22, 2023, our choir had an amazing performance by the name of "O Come All Ye Faithful" that kicked off the celebrations of Christmas for our beloved congregation.

The concert was held at our historic Holy Trinity Sanctuary. The concert started with Nareg Apkarian's opening remarks, where he welcomed everyone, especially the Very Rev. Fr. Smpad Sabounjian, who came from San Francisco to represent our Prelate, His Grace Bishop Torkom Donoyan. The choir preformed a total of 11 songs, which were a beautiful mix of the hymns of the Armenian Apostolic Church and Traditional Christmas carols. The concert amazed those who attended.

Our young soloists were Sarine Der Simonian, Sylvie Khatchikian, Alina Tateosian. During the concert, Biblical verses were read by Anisa Deeb and a part of song was read by Patrick Khatchikian.

At the end, Hayr Smpad offered the closing remarks, in which he expressed the appreciation and the support of our Prelate to the choir and their endeavors. Also, Hayr Smpad shared a brief story between him and Hayr Ashod that took place a short while ago, where *OUR* Hayr Soorp preferred to have choir rehearsal than to go and watch an NBA game in San Francisco.

Our faithful congratulated and commended every single member of the choir, the organist Mrs. Armine Ghazarian and Hayr Ashod for their dedication and tireless work.



December was a busy month for Sunday School! Our students wrote Christmas cards for the residents of the California Armenian Home. We sent over 100 cards to the residents. Also, our students attended church and received Holy Communion from His Grace Bishop Torkom Donoyan when he was here on December 10.



On December 17, our students put on an outstanding Christmas Program followed by our traditional Birthday cake for Jesus. The festivities concluded with a visit from Gaghan Baba who made a special stop at the Holy Trinity Social Hall from the North Pole!



Thank you to Sunday School teachers Sharon Toroian, Lara Simonian and Accompanist Margaret Gallistl for teaching our students the Christmas songs and directing the program! Thank you to Sunday School Superintendent, Jasmine Kalanjian and our parent volunteers for getting all of the Christmas program details ready for our students and families! As always, thank you to our Church Board for their support!

For Armenian Christmas, our students are getting ready to participate in the Annual Nativity on January 7 in our church. Also in January, we will be learning new church sharagans under the direction of Mrs. Dzovig Kutumian, accompanied by Mrs. Margaret Gallistl. Please feel free to stop by our Sunday School Assembly Room to hear our students in action as they learn our traditional church hymns!

A new year has arrived! The Ladies' Guild wishes all of our Voice readers a safe, healthy and joyful 2024. A wonderful way to kick off the new year is to take part in the Armenian Christmas celebrations happening at church.

Saturday, December 9, was a wonderful day for our Ladies' Guild. That's when our annual Christmas Luncheon at Fort Washington Country Club took place. The event was organized by Susie Parnagian, with help from Jennette Parnagian. The two shop for and wrap the dozens of beautiful raffle prizes. This year funds were raised to support Armenians displaced from Artsakh. Berj Apkarian spoke to the crowd of over 100. He talked about the outreach being done by the Medical Mission group to help those in need.

The Ladies' Guild has a new board of directors in place. Janet Williams is Chair, Arpy Tanielian is Vice Chair, Jill Eskender is Corresponding Secretary, Julianne Williams is Recording Secretary and Debby Bagdasarian is Treasurer. Thank you to everyone for their willingness to serve our guild and church.

Our first meeting of 2024 will be a luncheon meeting on January 9th. We look forward to seeing you.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

On Sunday, December 3rd the Christian Education Committee tradition continues with another successful gathering at Second Space with their production of "A Christmas Carol" to a sold-out crowd.

Upon entering the lobby, guests were treated to an array of delicious appetizers and a plethora of silent auction items. Guests greeted one another and mingled until the start of the show. Patty Torosian, chair of the event, welcomed all the patrons and thanked all those who helped to make this event a success. The Second Space actors were stupendous! They truly brought "A Christmas Carol" to modern times and kept the audience engaged throughout their entire performance.

During intermission, guests feasted to some yummy desserts in the lobby and had their last opportunity to put in their final bids for the silent auction. As they took their seats, raffle prizes were awarded, which were passed out by the children in the audience. They were Speed Ariotzbehere, Lillian Bedrosian, Vivian Bedrosian, Addison Evans, Avy Kevorkian, Alexander Surabian and Emily Surabian. Act 2 concluded with a standing ovation! As guests ushered out, they were notified of their winning bids in the silent auction. It was a perfect afternoon to kick start the Christmas Season.

The Power or Words

A group of frogs were hopping contentedly through the woods, going about their froggy business, when two of them fell into a deep pit. All of the other frogs gathered around the pit to see what could be done to help their companions. When they saw how deep the pit was, the rest of the dismayed group agreed that it was hopeless and told the two frogs in the pit that they should prepare themselves for their fate, because they were as good as dead. Unwilling to accept this terrible fate, the two frogs began to jump with all of their might. Some of the frogs shouted into the pit that it was hopeless and that the two frogs wouldn't be in that situation if they had been more careful, more obedient to the froggy rules and more responsible.

The other frogs continued sorrowfully shouting that they should save their energy and give up, since they were already as good as dead. The two frogs continued jumping as hard as they could and after several hours of desperate effort were quite weary. Finally, one of the frogs took heed to the calls of his fellows. Spent and disheartened, he quietly resolved himself to his fate, lay down at the bottom of the pit and died as the others looked on in helpless grief.

The other frog continued to jump with every ounce of energy he had, although his body was wracked with pain and he was completely exhausted. His companions began a new, yelling for him to accept his fate, stop the pain and just die. The weary frog jumped harder and harder and - wonder of wonders! He finally leapt so high that he sprang from the pit. Amazed, the other frogs celebrated his miraculous freedom and then gathering around him and asked, "Why did you continue jumping when we told you it was impossible?"

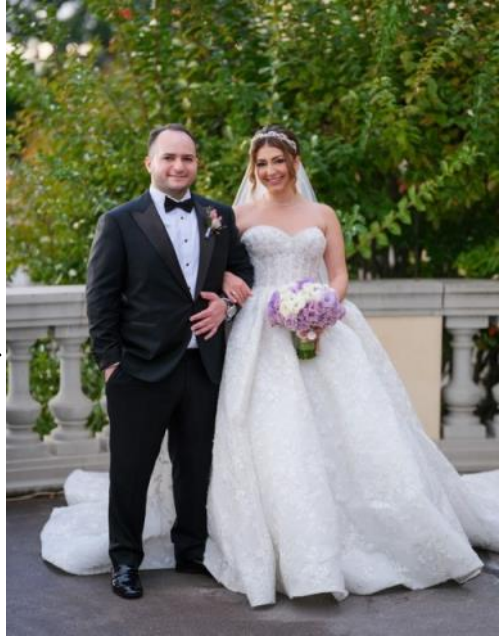
Reading their lips, the astonished frog explained to them that he was deaf and that when he saw their gestures and shouting, he thought they were cheering him on. What he had perceived as encouragement inspired him to try harder and to succeed against all odds.

This simple story contains a powerful lesson. Your encouraging words can lift someone up and help him or her make it through the day. Your destructive words can cause deep wounds. They may be the weapons that destroy someone's desire to continue trying or even their life. Your destructive careless word can diminish someone in the eyes of others, destroy their influence and have a lasting impact on the way others respond to them.

Message: Gentle words bring life and health; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit. Proverbs 15:4

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

We congratulate **VARDAN VARDANYAN & ALINA ARAKELIAN** who were joined in Holy Matrimony on Saturday, November 18, 2023. The joyous occasion took place at St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church in Pasadena, CA. Officiating the ceremony was Rev. Fr. Boghos Baltayan. The Best Man was Ruben Vardanyan and Matron of Honor was Alysse Hovannisian. We also congratulate parents Levon & Karine Vardanyan and Barret & Caroline Arakelian. *May the Lord bless and guide them as they start their new journey of life together.*



BAPTISMS

“On Saturday, December 23, 2023, **STEPHAN PETROSYAN**, received the Sacrament of Baptism. We congratulate parents, David Petrosyan and Angelina Kirakosian; Godparents Sevrak & Rhonda Petrosyan; Grandparents Sarkis & Ruzanna Petrosyan and Ashod & Rita Kirakosian. *We congratulate Stephan on reaching this spiritual milestone.*”

“On Sunday, December 3, 2023, **EMMA CHOOLJIAN**, received the Sacrament of Baptism. We congratulate parents, Connor & Whitney Chooljian; Godparents John & Lindsay Hovannisian and Jennifer Ramirez; Grandparents Gerald & Tammy Chooljian and David & Linda Hovannisian. *We congratulate Emma on reaching this spiritual milestone.*”



GENERAL DONATIONS

Armond Arakelian

Bryan & Pamela Arakelian
(In memory of Pat & Virginia Ourlian)

Junelle Avedisian *(Sunday School)*

Gary Basmajian

Jack & Alberta Bedoian
(In gratitude for all well wished for Jack's birthday)

Carolotta Bedrosian

Laura Castanos
(In memory of Pat & Virginia Ourlian)

Nicholas & Janine Econimides

Michael & Gail Garabedian

Homenetmen Fresno Sassoon Chapter

Barbara Howsepian Family

Lucine Keroglian

Michael Kilijian
(In honor of Jack Bedoian's 85th Birthday)

Irma Noroian *(Voice)*

Dr. Randy & Kathy Shahbazian
(Choir, Youth Group, Sunday School)

John & Sosi Vogt

ARTSAKH RELIEF

Harry Buchaklian
Marvin & Helen Caprelian
Logan & Virginia Howard
Iris Sahatdjian

Thank You
for your donation!

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

Are made in memory of.....

LILLIAN BUCHAKLIAN
Darren & Debbie Boyajian

ASADOUR & VARTOUHI HAMAMJIAN
Hrair & Vera Hamamjian

ALL DECEASED MEMBER OF HOMENETMEN
Homenetmen Fresno Sassoon Chapter

KHATOUN LENA KALFAYAN
Barret & Caroline Arakelian
Pierre & Melissa Pilavian

HRAIR KASSABIAN
Varoujan & Satenig Kassabian

ARDEMIS MEGERDIJIAN
Raffi & Nazeli Megerdijian

VARTKES MESSERLIAN
Berj & Arpi Apkarian
Serpouhie Messerlian

ELMER NOROIAN
Iris Sahatdjian
Mark & Margaret Shirin

**ASADOUR TUFENKJIAN, SARKIS TUFENKJIAN,
AND VICKEN TUFENKJIAN**
Hamo & Seita Mihranian



Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Romans 8:28

IN-LIEU OF FLOWERS DONATIONS

Are made in memory of.....

MARAL CHADERJIAN

Mark & Margaret Shirin

JANE GAMOIAN

Vars Gaston

Dian Karabian

Mark & Margaret Shirin

Lynne Ann Surmeian

JOHN HOVANNISIAN JR.

Jason Ahronian Jeff & Karen Melikian

Richard & Joan Ahronian Paulette Janian Melkonian

Eddie & Lynn Arakelian Richard & Joyce Nunes

Richard Bedoian Warren & Lesa Paboojian

Gerald & Tammy Chooljian Gary Poochigian

Richard & Geraldine Hagopian Jordan & Courtney Sarabian

Darryl Hanoian Nishan & Debbie Soghominian

Ralph & Janet Hovannisian Joyce Terzian

Dian Karabian Albert & Tracy Valenia

Harry Manoogian

KHATOUN LENA KALFAYAN

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Harvey Stepanian

Gerald & Lynette Tomassian

MERILYN BERNICE KARIBIAN

Gerald & Margaret Conkle

Iris Sahatdjian

JACK ADOB KRIKORIAN

Ara & Lena Karkazian

ANAHID MATOSIAN

Leslie & Dr. Janice Emerzian

HELEN SAHAKIAN

Michael Shirinian

VIRGINIA SARABIAN

Mark & Margaret Shirin

FUNERALS

HRAIR KASSABIAN passed away on November 28, 2023 in Henderson, Nevada. He was born June 21, 1946 in Nazareth, Palestine to Zareh & Arshalouis Kassabian. He is survived by his wife Seta; son Levon, his wife Sarah and son Christopher; grandchildren Siana and Zaven; brother Varoujan and his wife Satenig; sister Yeran Kassabian; and his nieces and nephews in America, Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt. He was predeceased by his parents, brothers Levon and Khachadour, and sister Sona. A private service was held.



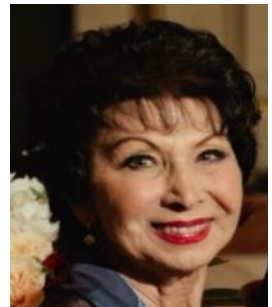
Funeral services were held for **JACK (AKOB) KRKOUR-KRIKORIAN**, on Tuesday, December 5, 2023. Interment was at Masis Ararat Cemetery. Our sincere condolences to his son, Marty Krikorian and his family, brother in laws, Jack Vartanian and Kirk Vartanian and their families, as well as, his extended family and friends.

Funeral services were held for **JOHN HOVANNISIAN, JR.**, on Thursday, December 6, 2023. Our sincere condolences to his wife, Karen Hovannisian, children Sarah Hovannisian, Alex & Alysse Hovannisian, Meagan & Andrew Melkonian and their families, mother, Vars Hovannisian, siblings David & Linda Hovannisian and Gary Hovannisian and their families, as well as, his extended family and friends.



Funeral services were held for **HELEN A. SAHAKIAN**, on Wednesday, December 20, 2023. Interment was at Masis Ararat Cemetery. Our sincere condolences to her children, Christine Sahakian and Paula Sahakian, as well as, her extended family and friends.

Funeral services were held for **MARION DER TOROSIAN PISTORESI**, on Thursday, December 28, 2023. Interment was at Calvary Cemetery. Our sincere condolences to her children, Ralph Pistoresi and Jim Pistoresi and their families, siblings, Haig Der Torosian, Leo Der Torosian and Jayne Payne and their families, as well as, her extended family and friends.



HOKEHANKISTS

Are made in memory of.....

January 7:

ANTONIO FERRANTE, requested by his wife Zunoot Ferrante.

January 14:

JOHN AND GRACE CAPRELIAN AND ALL DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE CAPRELIAN AND AHARONIAN FAMILIES, requested by Marvin and Helen Caprelian and Stephanie Caprelian and their families. *Altar flowers are donated in their memory.*

LUCILLE GAHVEJIAN on the 4th year of her passing and **JACK GAHVEJIAN** on the 7th year of his passing, requested by their daughters Jackie Hollingsworth, Leslee Minas, Lisa Moody, and their families. *Altar flowers are donated in their memory.*

January 21:

MARY MORTANIAN on the 6th year of her passing, requested by her daughter Dr. Janice and husband Leslie Emerzian, son Ron and wife Barbara Mortanian, and grandsons and great-grandchildren. *Altar flowers are donated in her memory.*

ՀՈԳԵՀԱՆԳԻՍ

Պաշտօն պիտի կատարուի.....

Յունուար 7:

ԱՆԹՕՆԻՈ ՖԵՐՐԱՆՏԷ հոգւոյն համար, խնդրանօք տիկնոջ Ծնունդ Փըրանթ:

Յունուար 14:

ՃԱՆ ԵՒ ԿՐԷՅՍ ԳԱՔՐԻԷԼԵԱՆՆԵՐՈՒ ԵՒ ՀԱՄԱՅՆ ԳԱՔՐԻԷԼԵԱՆ ԵՒ ԱՀԱՐՈՆԵԱՆ ԸՆՏԱՆԻՔՆԵՐՈՒ ՆՆՁԵՑԵԱԼՆՆԵՐՈՒ հոգիներուն համար, խնդրանօք՝ Մարվին եւ Հելեն Գաքրիլեաններու եւ Սթեֆընի Գաքրիլեանի եւ իրենց ընտանիքներուն: *Այս առիթով Ս. Խորանին ծաղիկներ կը նուիրեն:*

ԼՈՒՍԻԼ ԳԱՀՎԵՃԵԱՆԻ մահուան 4-րդ տարելիցին առիթով եւ **ՃԷԳ ԳԱՀՎԵՃԵԱՆԻ** մահուան 7-րդ տարելիցին առիթով, խնդրանօք՝ դուստրերուն Ճէքի Հօլինկզուօրդի, Լէպի Մինասի, Լիսա Մուտիի, եւ իրենց ընտանիքներուն: *Այս առիթով Ս. Խորանին ծաղիկներ կը նուիրեն:*

Յունուար 21:

ՄԱՐԻ ՄՈՐԹԱՆԵԱՆԻ մահուան 6-րդ տարելիցին առիթով, խնդրանօք զաւակներուն՝ Տօրտ. Ճէնրս եւ ամուսնոյն Լէս Էմերգեաններու, Բան եւ տիկնոջ Պարպարա Մօրթանեաններու. Թոռնիկներուն՝ եւ ծոռերուն: *Այս առիթով Ս. Խորանին ծաղիկներ կը նուիրեն:*

CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5: Armenian Christmas Eve Holy Badarak at 5 PM. Dinner at 7 PM. Large Social Hall. Fish, Vartabed Soup, Bulgur Pilaf and Salad. Adults \$15 and 12 and under \$5. RSVP by Friday, December 29 by calling the office at (559)486-1141. Seating is limited.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6: Armenian Relief Society Sophia Chapter is hosting an Armenian Christmas Luncheon. 1:30 PM. Garo and Alice Gureghian Armenian Cultural Center. Donations are \$40 per person and 12 & under are \$20. RSVP no later than January 1st to Renee at (301)642-8860, Nazik at (559) 974-3089, or Sossie at (559)681-4001.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7: Holy Trinity Armenian Church Sunday School presents 31st Annual Living Nativity. Following church services in the Sanctuary.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10: The Fresno ANCHA Committee is proud to present "The Dignity of Being Armenian" Book Signing. Co- Authors Varoujan Der Simonian and Sophia Matewosian-Mekhitarian. The purchase price is \$60 for the limited edition book. Those who contributed to the ANCHA Monument will receive a complimentary copy. 1-3 PM. At the Armenian Museum of Fresno 550 E. Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12: AYP Juniors presents a Movie Night "Super Mama". Garo and Alice Gureghian Armenian Cultural Center. Doors open at 6:30 PM. No outside food or drinks. Concessions available for purchase. Tickets are \$5. Buy 4 tickets get one free. For tickets call/text: Lena (559)213-5669 or Armen (559)765-7864.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4: Holy Trinity Armenian Church Sunday School Poon Parigentan Carnival. Sunday School Gym. More information to follow.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2: Armenian Relief Society Fresno Mayr Chapter presents International Women's Day Luncheon. Holy Trinity Armenian Church Social Hall. More information to follow.

Get Well Soon!

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

Ghazaros Kalinian

Ս. ԵրրորդութՅն Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական Մայր Եկեղեցի
Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Mother Church
2226 Ventura Street - Fresno, California 93721

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Sunday School (559) 486-0111
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messerlians@aol.com

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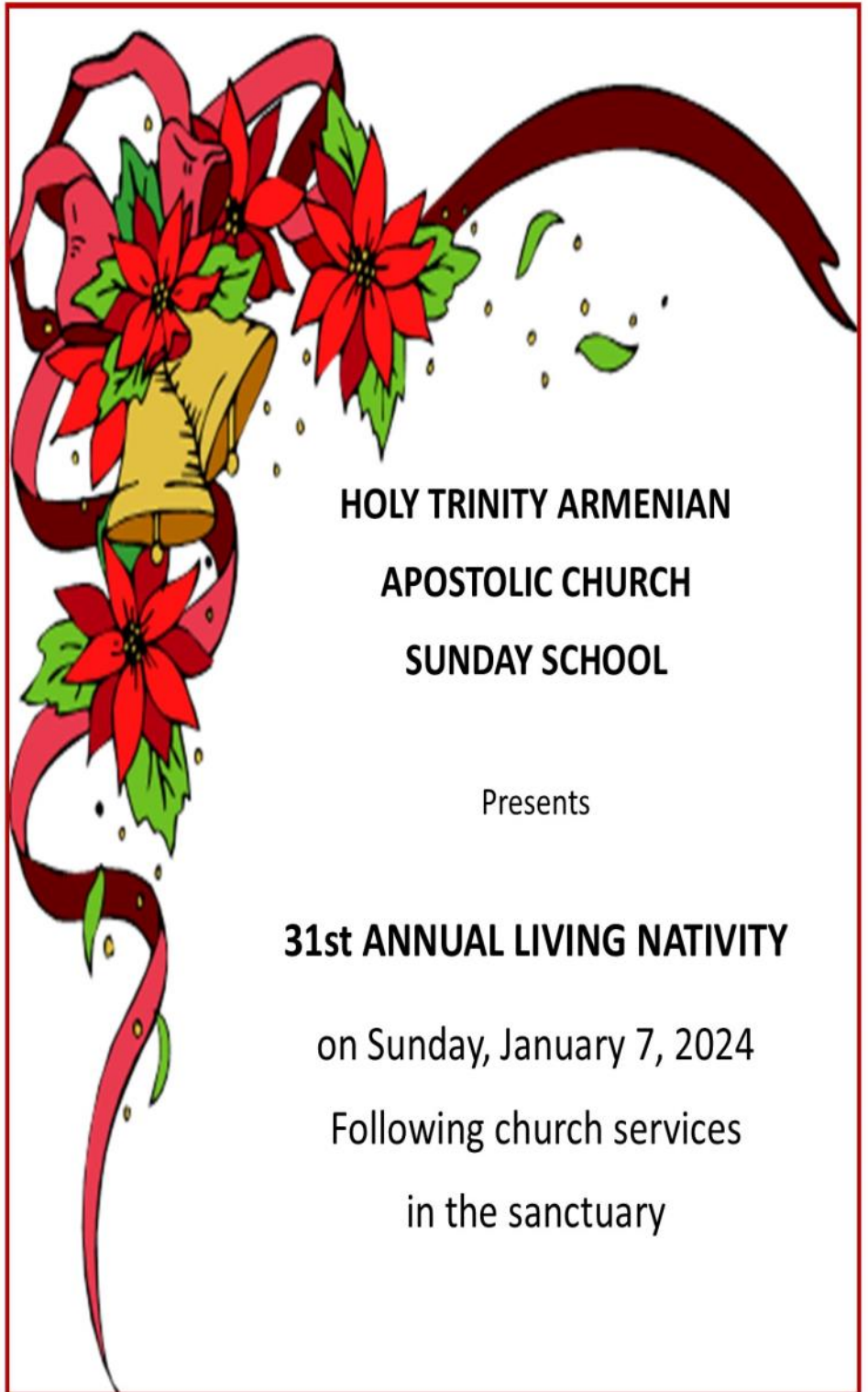
Jasmina Kalanjian, Superintendent
jasminakal@icloud.com
Sato Sanikian, Administrator
ssanikian@gmail.com

**THURS. MORN. BIBLE STUDY
SATURDAY SCHOOL**

Sharon Williams, Contact
sharoninkingsburg@sbcglobal.net

YOUTH GROUP

Very Rev. Fr. Ashod Khachadourian
moseskhachadourian@gmail.com



**HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN
APOSTOLIC CHURCH
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Presents

31st ANNUAL LIVING NATIVITY

on Sunday, January 7, 2024

Following church services
in the sanctuary

HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

Nonprofit Organization
2226 Ventura Street, Fresno, CA 93721

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