

St. Vartan Voice

The Newsletter of St. Vartan Armenian Apostolic Church

Rev. Fr. Krikor Zakaryan, Parish Priest



Սուրբ Վարդանի Չայն

Ս. Վարդան Հայ Առաքելական Եկեղեցու Պաշտօնաթերթ



Fr. Krikor Zakaryan

March 2023

“MICHINK”: THE MID-POINT OF GREAT LENT

If you’ve ever traveled with passengers via plane, train, or automobile—even by foot, skateboard, or bicycle—you’ve certainly heard these words at some point along the way: “Are we there yet?”

Lent is a journey of its own—a journey of the spirit. And the Armenian faith tradition actually anticipates that the faithful will eventually ask their own version of “Are we there yet?”

The church offers its answer on the 24th day of Medz Bakh (Great Lent), the season’s 4th Wednesday. Its answer is Michink—the Median Day of Lent.

What might the designation of Michink mean to us in the life of the Armenian Church?

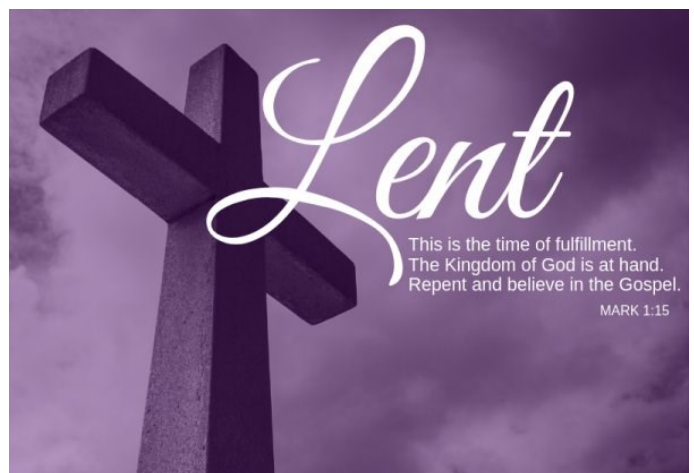
Perhaps we recognize the midpoint of the season to realize how far we have gone—and how far we have yet to go. Observing Michink can energize us to “keep going forward,” to focus on continuing our Lenten journeys so we may more mindfully celebrate Christ’s Resurrection when we “arrive” at Easter.

As a signal that we’re approaching the “home stretch,” Michink is a scheduled reminder, not unlike the automated update-reminders on our phones and computers. It helps us progress through Lent smoothly, and keeps us functioning efficiently. Although there is no specific liturgical service to mark Michink, the day is observed with reflection by pious faithful.

The Lord Journeys With Us

We know that Easter—the Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord—is the pre-eminent feast of our liturgical year. It is a time of vitality and new life. Indeed, it is the foundation for the entire Christian understanding and view of life. In preceding the greatest feast of the year, Lent provides a path for us to day-by-day reawaken our sense of purpose and wonder at the miracle of life.

Life itself is God’s miraculous gift. And even more miraculous is the gift He gave us in Jesus: who conquered death with death; who makes all things new. Christ’s victory over death—“mightily breaking asunder the bolts of hell”—is our strongest assurance that the power of God is unlimited. We profess this reality every time we sing with awe—



Bible Readings

- March 5 Luke 15:1-11
- March 12 Luke 16:19-31
- March 19 Luke 18:1-8
- March 26 Matt. 23:1-22



three times in succession!—the hymn Sourp Asdvadz.

At the midpoint of Lent we are in the best position to look back on where we've come from spiritually, and look ahead to our destination. For example, it is a time to ask: "Who are the examples of living faith that have blessed my life?" But it is equally a time to ask: "How am I being an example of living faith to others?"

Above all, it is a time to pause in our Lenten journey, take stock of the path behind us and the path ahead, and acknowledge the great truth of the Gospel message: that we do not walk this path alone, for God is with us, in Jesus Christ.

That truth holds even greater meaning for us at this moment in the life of our world, when so many people are living in enforced isolation. Let this day remind every one of us that though the path we're currently on is uncertain, Christ will be with us through the entire journey. And he will guide us to its end.

In these trying days, may all our people—in every location and of every age—continue to embrace this faith with hope and joy, for the tranquility of our spirits, for the building up of our holy Armenian Church, and for the glory of God.

By Megan A. Jendian EDACNA



On-Line Bible Study

7 pm

Wednesday, March 1

Thursday, March 9

Wednesday, March 15

Wednesday March 22

Wednesday, March 29

Register for Bible Study for Zoom Code at:

<https://www.stvartanoakland.com/events>



JOIN US FOR

SAINT VARTAN'S 2022 STEWARDS RECOGNITION

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023
AFTER CHURCH SERVICES
JOHN MARUKIAN HALL
650 SPRUCE STREET, OAKLAND, CA

RECOGNITION ~ APPRECIATION ~ FELLOWSHIP

Donations

St. Vartan Church Parish Priest and Council gratefully acknowledge the following donations:

Arshaluce and Harry Stone Endowment Fund—Carol and Harry Dokouzian

Yughakin—Jim Taylor, Susan and Richard Moxley

Stewardship—Yeghia and Ana Apkarian, Don and Lisa Manoogian, Kim Bardakian Demirjian and Vartan Demirjian

In Memory

† **Greg Tcherkoyan**

Janet Demirjian Schmid and John Schmid (Richard Demirjian Athletic Fund),
Jack and Tammy Papazian (Endowment Fund)

† **Bill and Beverly Nalbandian**

Seza and Dana Dominguez

† **Armen Boyd**

Evelyn C. Boyd

† **Khalid Yousif**

Evelyn C. Boyd

Krisdos Ee Metch (Badarak Hymn During Kiss of Peace)

Krisdos ee metch mer haidne tzav
Vor enn Asdvadz asd Pasmetzav
Khaghaghootian tsain hunchetzav
Soorp voghchooni hraman duvav.
Yegeghetzis mi atsun yeghev
Hampoorirus hot lurman duvav
Tushnamootiuan heratzav
Serun huntanoorus supretzav
Art bashdoniak partzial uztsain.
Dook zornootiun ee mi peran
miasnagan Asdvadzootian
Voroom srovpekn yen surpapen.

Christ in our midst has been revealed
He-who-is-God is here seated.
The voice of peace has resounded
Holy greeting has been given
Here the Church is become one spirit,
The kiss given as a seal of fullness
Enmity has been removed
And love is spread over us all.
Now ministers, raise your voices
Give a blessing with one accord
To the co-equal Godhead
In whom Angelic Seraphim give constant praise.



Altar Flowers

Please sign up to sponsor altar flowers on the 2023 Flower Chart, located in the church hall entryway. This is a great way to honor a deceased loved one or celebrate a family milestone. Suggested donation is \$50.

Wednesday Lenten Services at St. Vartan Church

6 pm

In-person & Online

February 22

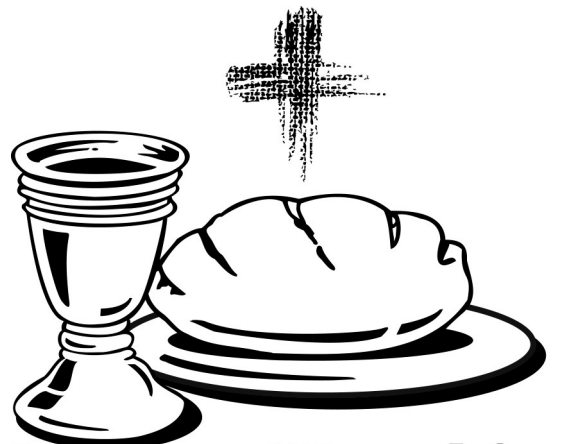
March 1

March 8

March 15

March 22

March 29



Lenten Worship

St. Vartan Cultural Committee Hosts a Conversation with Columnist Mr. Tatul Hakopyan on the Current Situation in Artsakh and Armenia



The St. Vartan Cultural Committee hosted an evening with Aliq Media columnist Mr. Tatul Hakopyan on February 4, 2023. Mr. Hakopyan was visiting the United States for several weeks and offered to come speak to us about the current situation in Artsakh and Armenia since the 44-day war, the September 12th incursions into Armenia proper and the current Azerbaijan blockade in Artsakh. He offered new insights into the geopolitical situation in the area and provided us with up-to-date information regarding the current crisis in Artsakh.

A question-and-answer session was held followed by a meet and greet reception. The audience found the presentation to be en-

lightening and quite informative.

Thanks to our Cultural Committee and Ani Center for Armenian Studies for putting this event together for our community.

Church Humor

The Board Meeting

“There will be a meeting of the Church Board immediately after the service,” announced the pastor. After the close of the service, the Church Board gathered at the back of the sanctuary for the announced meeting. But there was a stranger in their midst — a visitor who had never attended their church before.

“My friend,” said the pastor, “Didn’t you understand that this is a meeting of the Board?”

“Yes,” said the visitor, “and after today’s sermon, I suppose I’m just about as bored as anyone else who came to this meeting.”

The Miraculous Cane

Bent over and obviously in pain, the old man with a cane hobbled laboriously through the sanctuary and into the pastor’s office while the choir was practicing. Ten minutes later he came out, walking upright and moving with grace and speed.

“Good gracious,” the choir director exclaimed. “Did the pastor heal you by faith?”

“No,” the old man said with a smile. “He just gave me a cane that wasn’t six inches too short!”

Creation is Tiring Too!

God is talking to one of his angels. He says, “Do you know what I have just done? I have just created 24 hours of alternating light and darkness on Earth. Isn’t that good?”

The angel says, “Yes, but what will you do now?”

God says, “I think I’ll call it a day.”

Mrs. Watson

During her sermon on Jesus’s teaching that we should love our enemies, the pastor asked the congregation to raise their hands if they had enemies. Everyone did so except for Mrs. Watson in the front row, who had just turned 95. “Mrs. Watson,” the pastor asked, “how could you possibly live for 95 years and have no enemies?”

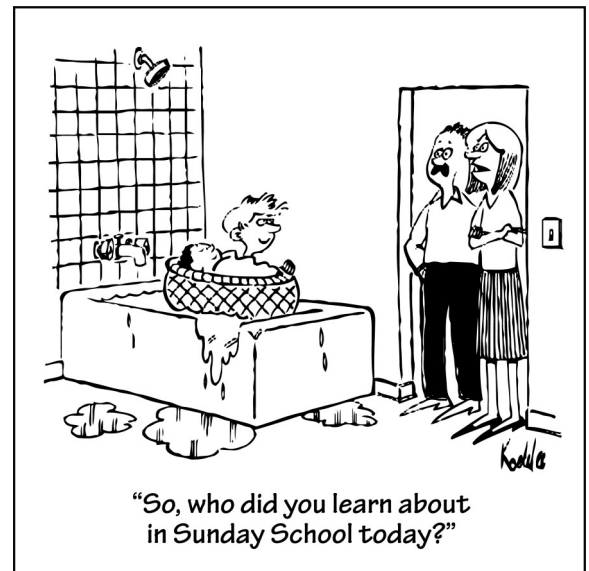
“That’s easy,” she replied, “I just outlived them!”

A Pastor’s Power

A pastor was in the middle of his sermon when he noticed a man had fallen asleep with his head on his wife’s shoulder.

“Wake up your husband,” Pastor Riley snapped.

The wife smiled and replied, “You put him to sleep. You wake him up.”



Trndez

St. Vartan Church celebrated the tradition of Tiarn'ndaraj/Trndez on Sunday, February 12, 2023 after church services with a bonfire, round dance and fellowship.



News from ACYO!

On Sunday, February 5 the ACYO took an active part in church services by taking on the responsibilities of Parish Council. They passed the plate, gave the Kiss of Peace and handed out Mas. They also passed a second plate to raise funds for their Warm Winter drive and through the generosity of the congregation, raised over \$1,000! After the service, Fr. Krikor recognized and blessed the new ACYO Executive Board with a prayer during their official installation.



They gathered the following Saturday to sort the amazing collection of blankets and jackets that were donated and add in the items bought with the funds collected. Socks, flashlights, gloves, snacks and healthcare items were put into 50 bags which will be distributed by East Oakland Collective in the next few weeks. Thank you to everyone who generously donated to this important outreach project for Oakland!



Sports

Our Girls Volleyball Team has been practicing and growing and we're very excited to see this team come together. Boys basketball is coming together and will also start in March. If any kids 12-17 want to join a team, let us know!

Ladies Society Campership Essay Contest

St. Vartan Ladies Society is pleased once again this year to provide two paid camperships for St. Vartan ACYO members ages 12 to 17 years old. The criteria is to be a regular attendee/involved/proactive St. Vartan ACYO member and write an essay themed, "What makes me an Armenian-Christian?"

Families who are willing to sign their kids for HyeCamp must do so at the opening of registration and pay the full tuition on their own. The two children to win the essay competition will receive campership from Ladies Society, which will be a reimbursement of the tuition that has been already paid at registration. (The campership amount is ~ \$600 to \$700/per child TBD).

There are two groups for submission: ages 12-14 and ages 15-17. Participants should email their entries saved as word documents to stvartanoakland@aol.com with their name, age and grade in school at the top. Essays should be 1 page or approximately 500 words.

The due date to submit all essays is March 1 and the winners will be chosen by March 10.



**2023 HYE CAMP
APPLICATION DATES!**

STAFF APPLICATIONS | FEB 14TH 2023

CAMPER APPLICATIONS | APRIL 1ST 2023

APPLICATIONS WILL GO LIVE @ 10 AM

WWW.HYECAMP.COM

**HYE CAMP 2023 WEEK
SCHEDULE**

Week 1	July 9th - July 15th
Week 2	July 16th - July 22nd
Week 3	July 23rd - July 29th
Week 4	July 30th - August 5th

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS:

Sunday, March 19

ACYO Sunday and Coffee Hour

Friday, March 24

ACYO Dinner and Discussion on Artsakh
Time and Location TBD

Saturday, April 1

ACYO Palm Cross Making and Baking Workday

Saturday, April 1

Hye Camp Registration Opens
Camper registration begins at 10am. Dates and registration deadlines for Hye Camp have been an-

nounced! We would love to get our Northern California Hye campers attending the same week at camp but we're waiting for official word on which clergy are attending which weeks. More to come but you might want to pencil in the dates now. Please note camper registration opens April 1. For more information on HyeCamp, visit hyecamp.com

Sunday, April 2

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 9

Easter Sunday and ACYO Bake Sale for Artsakh

Մեծ Պահքը

Փետրվարի 20-ին Հայ Առաքելական Եկեղեցին մտավ Մեծ պահքի շրջան: Հավատավոր մարդու համար պահոց շրջանը մարմնական զսպվածության, աշխարհիկ հաճույքներից հրաժարվելու և աղոթքի միջոցով Աստծուն մերձենալու, Նրա բարեհաճությանն արժանանալու և երբեմնի կորցրած Դրախտը վերագտնելու հնարավորություն է: Մեծ պահքին հաջորդում է Սուրբ Հարության տոնը՝ հնչում է մեծագույն ավետիսը քրիստոնյաներիս կյանքում:

Սակայն շատ կարևոր է նաև իմանալ որոշ կանոններ՝ պահք պահելու վերաբերյալ, որոնք հնարավոր է՝ մեզ օգնեն պահքի այս շրջանում:

Ի՞նչ է խորհրդանշում պահքի 40 օրը

Պահքի 40 օրը խորհրդանշում է անապատում Քրիստոսի քառասնօրյա աղոթքի, ծոմապահության և ապաշխարության շրջանը: Եկեղեցին Քրիստոսի օրինակին հետևելով՝ հաստատեց քառասնորդական պահքը, որը կոչվում է նաև Մեծ Պահք:

Կանոններ, որոնց պետք է հետևենք պահքի շրջանում

Մեծ Պահքի ընթացքում կարևոր է հավատացյալի կանոնավոր մասնակցությունը Ս.

Պատարագներին, առավոտյան և երեկոյան ժամերգություններին: Կարևոր է նաև մասնակցությունը Խոստովանության կարգին: Խորհուրդ ենք տալիս Մեծ Պահքի ընթացքում Ավետարան, եկեղեցու հայրերի ապաշխարության աղոթքներն ընթերցել: Ձղջումը, աղոթքն ու ապաշխարությունը ուղեկից է մեզ ողջ պահքի շրջանում:

Ինչի՞ց ենք հրաժարվում պահքի շրջանում

Պահքի ընթացքում հրաժարվում են ոչ միայն որոշակի կերակուրներից, ինչպես մեզ քաջ հայտնի է, այլև մոլի սովորություններից, շատախոսությունից, ստախոսությունից, հայիոյանքից և այլ մեղքերից: Կերակրից հրաժարվելն առանց մեղքից հետ կանգնելու՝ անօգուտ է: «Մատանան միշտ պահքիմեջ է, ոչինչ չի ուտում, բայց մեղք գործելուց չի դադարում և չի հոգնում», - ասում է Ս. Գրիգոր Տաթևացին: «Լեռան քարոզում» Քրիստոս պահքի մասին ասում է. «Երբ ծոմ պահեք, տրտմերես մի լինեք կեղծավորների նման, որոնք իրենց երեսներն այլանդակում են, որպեսզի մարդկանց այնպես երևան, թե ծոմ են պահում, ճշմարիտ են ասում ձեզ, այդ իսկ է նրանց վարձը, այսինքն՝ մարդկանց երևալը և նրանցից գովվելը: Այլ երբ դու ծոմ պահես, օծի քո գլուխը և լվա քո երեսը, որպեսզի չերևաս մարդկանց ծոմ պահող, այլ քո Հորը, գաղտնաբար, և քո հայրը, որ տեսնում է, ինչ որ ծածուկ է, կհատուցի քեզ» (Մատթ. 6:16-18):

Պսակի, Մկրտության ու մատաղի խորհուրդները՝ Մեծ պահքի շրջանում

Մեծ Պահքի ընթացքում սովորաբար պսակադրություն չի կատարվում, սակայն հաշվի առնելով մարդկանց անտեղյակությունը և այն, որ շատերն առանց իմանալու նախապատրաստվում են պսակադրությանն ու հնարավոր չէ տեղափոխել պսակի օրը՝ եկեղեցին ընդառաջում է և կատարում է պսակը՝ նախընտրելով օրհնել գույգերին և բացառել առանց օրհնության ընտանիք կազմելու հանգամանքը: Իրականում, սխալ է պահքի ժամանակ պսակվել, սակայն այս հարցում եկեղեցին առաջնորդվում է ոչ թե եկեղեցական կանոնների հրամայականով, այլ՝ հովվական խնամքի:

Մեծ Պահքի ընթացքում մատաղ չի կարելի անել, իսկ մկրտություն կարելի է: Մկրտության համար տարվա ընթացքում ոչ մի արգելված օր չկա:

Սուրբ Հաղորդություն կարո՞ղ են ստանալ

Պահքի ժամանակ Սուրբ Հաղորդություն չի տրվում՝ բացառությամբ այն դեպքերի, երբ բաց Խորանով Պատարագ է մատուցվում:

Կա՞ն մարդիկ, ում չի կարելի պահք պահել

Այո՛, կան: Նրանք են երեխաները, հղի կանայք, հիվանդներն ու կերակրող մայրերը: Փորձե՛նք անխախտ պահել մեր պահքը՝ շարունակ ուղեկցելով այն աղոթքով, զղջումով ու ապաշխարությամբ: Մոտենանք կատարյալ Աստծուն. «Եւ արդ, - ասում է ձեր Տէր Աստուածը, - դարձեք ինձ ձեր ամբողջ սրտով, ծոմապահութեամբ, լալով ու կոծելով: Ձեր սրտերը պատռեցեք եւ ոչ թէ ձեր հագուստները»:

Այո, դարձեք ձեր Տէր Աստծուն, որովհետեւ նա ողորմած է եւ գթասիրտ, համբերատար եւ բազումողորմ եւ արիւնքում է մարդկանց չարիքների համար» (Յովել 2:12 – 13):



St. Vartan Church Parish Assembly 2023

On February 5, 2023 St. Vartan Church held the Annual Assembly and Lamb Shank Luncheon.

Newly elected at the meeting were the 2024 Parish Assembly officers, chairman, Don Manoogian; vice-chair, Dicko Shahvekilian; and secretary, Patti Rosenthal.

The 2023 Parish Council includes, chair, Harout Hagopian; vice-chair, Rick Kurkjian; treasurer, Sako Soghomonian; recording secretary, Regina Garabedian; corresponding secretary, Seza Dominguez; stewardship chair and Cultural Committee liaison, Liz Ojakian; fundraising chair, Debbie Maturo, advisor, Nadya Yagjian; Ladies Society liaison, June Chatterjee; maintenance chair, Suzanne Diers; ACYO and Hye Social Club liaison, Nicole Vasgerdsian.

Diocesan Delegates include Ara and Angel Azizian, Don and Lisa Manoogian, and Edward Jamgotchian. The audit committee is comprised of Jim Taylor, Allen Yagjian, Nora Hanoian and alternate Anto Cingoz. The Stone Committee is Ron Ojakian, Edward Minassian and Stephen Sarafian. Arka Kargodorian, Don Manoogian and Stuart Arakelian comprise the Endowment Fund.

A special thank you to Nataline Jindoian, Seta Jindoian, Edward Jamgotchian, Anush Krikorian, Tanya Cardinalli, Silva Jindoian, Nicole Vasgerdsian, Suzanne Vasgerdian, Wartkes Hagopian, Armen Elias, Janet Yeghissian, and Liz Ojakian for preparing the delicious lamb shank luncheon.

At the luncheon, the congregation wished Archie Azizian a happy 92nd birthday.



Ladies Society News

The St. Vartan Ladies Society held their Famous Hamburger luncheon and BINGO on February 9, 2023. In addition to the delicious lunch, a fun afternoon was spent playing BINGO. This was our first hamburger and BINGO in three years!

Ladies Society is looking for new members. Anyone interested should contact Lisa Manoogian at 925-698-6399 or lisamno@yahoo.com. Please come and make new friends!

Cheese Beoreg Workdays - Help Needed

Please sign up and join us for any or all of 4 upcoming cheese beoreg workdays—April 15, April 17, May 6, and May 8 at 9:30 am. Lunch provided but feel free to bring something to share.

If you plan to attend we need to know in advance so please contact Sandi Capurro to let her know you are coming at: scapurro@sbcglobal.net



Fr. Krikor Attends Clergy Conference on the Feast of Sts. Ghevontians

In accordance with tradition, on February 14, the Feast of St. Ghevont the Priest and his Companions, the Diocesan Primate Archbishop Hovnan Derderian presided over the first clergy conference of 2023. At 9:30 am, the clergy gathered in the sanctuary of the Ghevontians Cathedral where a Requiem Service was held for the repose of the soul of the late Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian and all Diocesan clergy and Primates who had entered their eternal rest. The Requiem Service was followed by a collective morning prayer service.

The day's homily centered on the significance of the Feast of Sts. Ghevontians and Sts. Vartanants was delivered by the Very Rev. Fr. Yeremia Abgaryan.

Subsequent to the prayer service, at 10:30 a.m., the clergy gathered in the Hampar Family Room of the Western Diocese where the conference was held. It was attended by more than 35 clergymen, with the participation of deacons from the Cathedral, Desert and Las Vegas Parishes.

Welcoming remarks were delivered by the Very Rev. Fr. Dajad Dz. V. Yardemian who then invited the Primate to deliver his report.

In his remarks, the Diocesan Primate noted that the Feasts of Ghevontians and Vartanants present the clergy as servants of God and the shepherds of Christ's flock to renew their pastoral calling, to lead the faithful on the path to righteousness with a zealous Christian spirit and to overcome life's challenges equipped with Christ's love, grace, and wisdom.

Archbishop Derderian also introduced his upcoming trips to Armenia, New York, Japan and pastoral visitations to various diocesan parishes. He then referenced to the completion of the construction of the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin, the Blessing of the Holy Muron (scheduled to be held in the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin later this year), the mission of the Pan-ACYO, the Stewardship Program, the Diocesan seminarians at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, inter-diocesan collaboration between the Eastern and Canadian dioceses and lastly the ongoing construction projects taking place at the Western Diocese.

At 6:30 p.m., in observance of the Feasts of Sts. Ghevontians and Vartanants, Archpriest Fr. Shnork Demirjian celebrated the Divine Liturgy and delivered the sermon at St. Leon (Ghevontians) Armenian Cathedral.



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The deadline for all articles is the fifteenth of each month.

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate
Rev. Fr. Krikor Zakaryan, Parish Priest and President of All Church Organizations
Parish Council Chair: Harout Hagopian
Parish Assembly Chair: Don Manoogian
Choir Director: Armena Petrosova
Organist: Araks Aghazarian
ACYO Chair: Ani Vasgerdsian Brady
Sunday School Superintendent: Karen Mener
Armenian School Principal: Anna Massis
Ladies Society Chair: Lisa Manoogian
Cultural Society Chair: Liz Ojakian
Hokejosh: Nora Hanoian
Hye Social Chair: Annette Kevranian
Boys Basketball Coach: Mike Boloyan
Girls Volleyball Coach: Annette Kevranian
Newsletter Editors: Arlene Hovsepian and Rachel Harger
Church Secretary: Rachel Harger
Altar Flowers: Suzanne Vasgerdsian, Elo Markarian, Sylvia Gozurian, & Carole Chang
Church Custodian: Wartkes Hagopian
Mas Committee: Sylvia Gozurian, Elo Markarian, Hilda Mener

Divine Liturgy Service—Sundays 10:30 a.m.

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