

St. Vartan Armenian Apostolic Church
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The St. Vartan Voice

newsletter is published once a month by St. Vartan Armenian Church.

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

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Church Secretary: Rachel Harger
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Church Custodian: Wartkes Hagopian

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

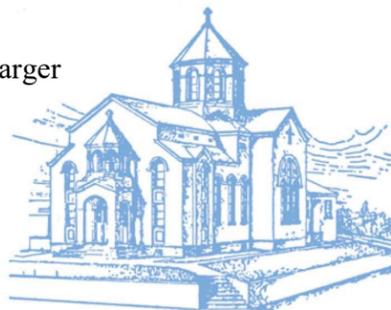
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St.Vartan Voice

The Newsletter of St. Vartan Armenian Apostolic Church

Rev. Fr. Krikor Zakaryan, Parish Priest



Սուրբ Վարդանի Չայն

Ս. Վարդան Հայ Առաքելական Եկեղեցւոյ Պաշտօնաթերթ

Fr. Krikor Zakaryan

June 2022

Pentecost

Imagine the predicament of the Disciples of Christ at the time of his Ascension. They were still filled with the excitement of His resurrection and of the 40 days they had spent with Him afterward.

Then came the Ascension, when he was taken up into heaven and suddenly the person who had been their life for the past few years, the person for whom they had given up everything, was physically gone from their midst. They could no longer touch him or speak to him or ask him for guidance.

Christ had instructed them in vague terms just before the Ascension to “not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised.” He said, “John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 1:4-5). And so the disciples, probably not knowing what else to do, gathered together in the place where they felt the closest to Jesus and each other: the Upper Room where they gathered for the Last Supper.

There, they elected Matthias to replace Judas, once again bringing their number to 12. And they waited for what would come. No doubt they were experiencing confusion, sadness, and fear.

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:1-4).

On that day, the Jewish feast of Pentecost, Peter delivered an inspiring sermon (Acts 2:14-40) and 3,000 men and women were baptized, becoming the first “church” in Jerusalem (Acts 2:41-42). The Apostles began to heal, to preach with a new confidence, and begin their separate—but equally important—missions throughout the world.

Personal Pentecost

The coming of the Holy Spirit (or Hokekaloust in Armenian) is celebrated by the Armenian Church, as in all Christian churches, 50 days after Easter. As we celebrate that “birthday” of the Church, we also celebrate our own Pentecost. For just as the Holy Spirit came to the Apostles on Pentecost, so too does the Holy Spirit come to each one of us on our personal

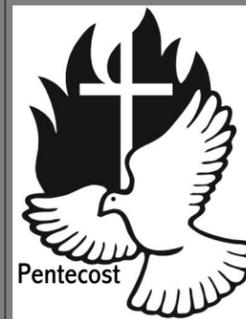


Bible Readings

June 5 John 14:25-31
June 12 Luke 4:25-30
June 19 John 10:22-30
June 26 Matt. 12:1-8

Acts 10:44

While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.



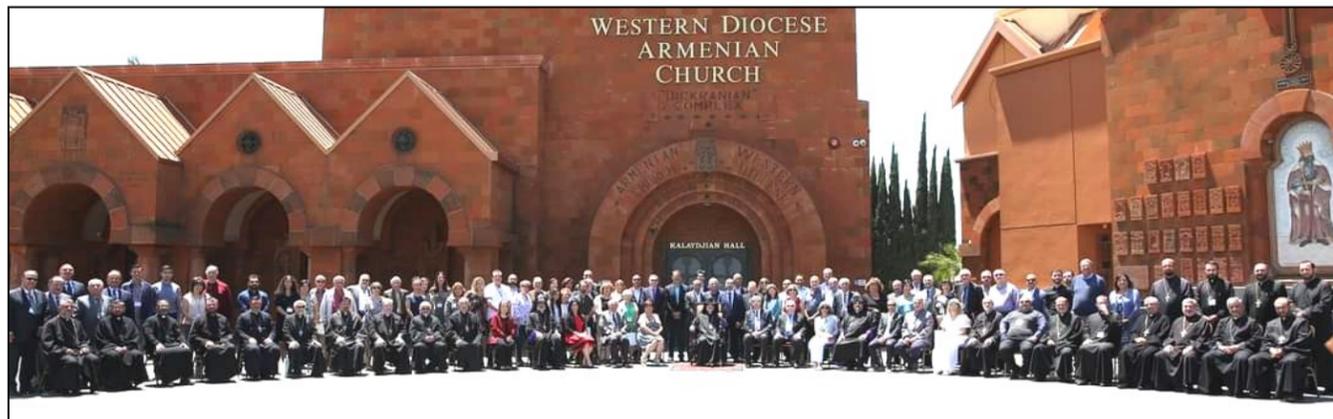
Pentecost

Pentecost at the time of our chrismation or confirmation.

On the day of our baptism, when we are anointed with oil, we receive the sacrament of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit dwells in the Church, so too does the Holy Spirit dwell in each one of us. It is a personal gift to be experienced individually. And if we are open to that gift, it can transform us and inspire us as it did the Apostles and the 3,000 men and women baptized on that Pentecost so long ago.

The Holy Spirit unites us to Christ and enables us to live a Christ-centered existence, in which the fruits of the Spirit — love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control — can grow and thrive (Galatians 5:22).

St. Vartan Church was represented at the 95th Annual Diocesan Assembly in Burbank on May 6 by Fr. Krikor and delegates Don and Lisa Manoogian. Lisa also attended the Ladies Society Central Council Assembly on May 5.



St. Vartan Cultural Committee Holds Cooking Class With Hasmig Cingoz

The St. Vartan Cultural Committee held a cooking class on Sunday, May 15 with Hasmig Cingoz to learn how to prepare her delicious Yogurt Eggplant Appetizer made famous at our Food Festival Hye Café booth. Twenty-two participants enjoyed the cooking class and had lots of fun preparing the dish. Our participants had so much fun that they asked if we could do this again. Participants learned tips on how to do certain things and had a hands-on experience in preparing the recipe. While waiting for the eggplant to soak, participants enjoyed lunch and spent time conversing with one another. Upon completion, each participant took a batch of Yogurt Eggplant home to enjoy. A very big thank you to Hasmig for taking the time to teach this class and to all the participants who supported this event.



On-Line Bible Study

Wednesday, June 1
Thursday, June 9

Wednesday June 15
Wednesday, June 22

Wednesday, June 29

Register for Bible Study for Zoom Code at: <https://www.stvartanoakland.com/events>





Church Humor

An old nun who was living in a convent next to a construction site noticed the coarse language of the workers and decided to spend some time with them to correct their ways. She decided she would take her lunch and sit with them, so she put the sandwich in a brown bag and walked over to where the men were eating. Sporting a big smile, she walked up to the group and asked, “Any of you men know Jesus Christ?” They shook their heads and looked at each other, very confused. Then one of the workers looked up into the steelworks and yelled out, “Anybody up there know Jesus Christ?” One of the steelworkers yelled back down, “Why?” The worker yelled back, “Cause his mom is here with his lunch.”

Donations

St. Vartan Church Parish Priest and Council gratefully acknowledge the following donations:
Armenian Army Chaplains—Lou Aronian
In Honor of Aria and Adam Yagjian’s Baptism—Their Grandparents, Nadya and Arto Yagjian
Stewardship—James and Mihoko Malian, Yeghia Apkarian and Ana Dalmeida, Ron and Liz Ojakian, Jack and Barbara Bousian, Ron and Liz Ojakian, Seza and Dana Dominguez, Fr. Krikor and Yn. Anoush Zakaryan, Ara and Angel Azizian, Seta Azizian, Ray and Reyhan Shepherd,
Armenian Heritage Day at the Oakland A’s Tailgate Sponsorship—Armenian National Committee-SF Bay Area
Wine & Cheese Event—Carole Chang
Youghakin—Seta Azizian, Caline Soghikian

In Memory
† **Jermen Gollu**
Nora and Harvey Hanoian (Ladies Society), Hasmig and Anto Cingoz, Alis Kutnaroglu, Ilda, Kevork and Linda Simkesyan, Roy and Nesli Simkesyan, Janet Yeghissian and Zaven Kanneian, Rose Sagatelyan, Vahe and Hilda Mener, Sarkis and Hera Kestekyan, Araks Ahgazarian, Marta Yousif, Nelly Kargodorian and Georgette DerGhazarian (Ladies Society), Ray and Reyhan Shepherd, Aris and Zarmine Aghazarian, Armen Gollu
† **Emma Mazmanian**
Lida Mazmanian (Endowment Fund), Greg and Laura Mazmanian (Endowment Fund)
† **John W. Kurkjian**
Louis and Candis Dokos
† **Patti Hofherr**
Lori and Andy Hill (St. Vartan Voice)
† **Leo and Sally Manoogian**
Don and Lisa Manoogian (Endowment Fund)

News From Our St. Vartan Family

Condolences

Sharon Leyman, the daughter of St. Vartan Church member Florence Morjig, passed away on April 10, 2022. Our condolences to Sharon’s mother, Florence, her siblings, Tom Morjig and Nancy Tiedemann, her husband, Bob Leyman, her children, Christy, David, Stephanie and Todd, her 9 grandchildren and her great-grandchild. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to St. Vartan Armenian Church or the Contra Costa County Food Bank.

Fr. Krikor conducted a memorial service for former St. Vartan Church secretary **Patricia (Patti) Ann Hofherr** on April 22. Our condolences to Patti’s children, Richard, Daniel, and Jessica, as well as her daughter in-law-Lindsay. Condolences also to her four grandchildren, CJ, Luke, Madison, and Logan.

Baptism

On April 30 **Aria Noelle Yagjian and Adam Gabrielle Yagjian** were baptized at St. Vartan Church by Fr. Krikor. Aria and Adam are the children of Andrew and Katherine Yagjian and the grandchildren of Nadya and Arto Yagjian and Sara and Patrick Kennedy. Aria’s Godparents are Allen Yagjian and Bronte Reed and Adam’s Godparents are Mark and Alis Perreira.

Wedding

Devin Joseph McGahey and Laura Elizabeth Partamian were married by Fr. Krikor at St. Vartan Church on April 23. Laura is the daughter of Gregory and Charlotte Partamian who were married at St. Vartan Church by Fr. Mesrob. Devin is the son of Randall and Judith McGahey. The best man was Stephan Georgen and the maid of honor was Julie Georgen.

Father’s Day Quotes

“The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.” – Theodore Hesburgh
“My father didn’t tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it.” – Clarence Budington Kelland
“God is the Father who is always home.” – Unknown

ST. VARTAN ARMENIAN CHURCH

WINE & CHEESE *Fundraiser*

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

3:00 TO 7:00PM

\$50/PERSON

*All proceeds to support
St. Vartan Church*

RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION

*Prizes include: vacation-home stays,
restaurant certificates, spa packages,
sports tickets and more!*

CHARCUTERIE & ARMENIAN MEZZE

WINE TASTING

At the home of
**STUART AND CAROLINE
ARAKELIAN**
DANVILLE

RSVP by May 30 **STVARTANOAKLAND.COM**
QUESTIONS? EMAIL CCARAKELIAN@YAHOO.COM

Inaugural Bay Area Armenian Community Day with the Oakland Athletics Exceeds Expectations

On Saturday, April 30, 2022 close to two hundred Armenians gathered for the inaugural Bay Area Community Day with the Oakland Athletics. Guests drove as far away as Los Angeles, Fresno and Sacramento to join together and cheer along with Bay Area Armenians.

Two hours prior to the start of the ballgame, a "Kef-style" tailgate was sponsored by St. Vartan Church. Nazar, Seta and Sevan Jindoian and Yeghia Aprkarian spent hours setting up and preparing the food which consisted of delicious tri-tip sandwiches along with Armenian owned companies including Caspers Hot Dogs, ZaZa Chips, Haig's Deli dips and Karen Wines. Armenian music played throughout while guests enjoyed catching up with new and old friends alike.

A highlight of the tailgate was when James Kaprielian, pitcher with the Oakland Athletics and the only Armenian player in Major League Baseball stopped by. Guests had a chance to take photos with him and some even brought him Armenian related gifts. One young boy asked James how to throw a curveball and he took the time to show him. Kaprielian was appreciative of the ongoing support from his Armenian fans in Oakland and around the U.S. when he plays in other ballparks.

After lunch, guests made their way into RingCentral Coliseum, home of the Oakland A's. Nobody wanted to miss Very Rev. Father Smpad Saboundjian, parish priest of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church in San Francisco, throw out the ceremonial first pitch. After weeks of training, Hayr Sourp threw an impressive ball over home plate!

Following the first pitch, 9th grade student from Piedmont High School and KZV Armenian School alumna, Danielle Zaroukian, sang a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem. She was cheered on by all.

Throughout the game, Armenians cheered together, waved their Armenian flags and their rally towels which read, "Can't Spell Armenian Without the A's." Two foul balls were even caught in our section.

A big thank you to event organizers Nicole Vasgerdsian, Kim Bardakian and Nazar Jindoian for their hard work on this event. A portion of all game ticket sales supported Mt. Davidson Cross, one of the oldest and tallest landmarks in San Francisco. It was clear that this event will become an annual event given the resounding success of the day's activities!



St. Gregory the Enlightener

St. Gregory, whose birth name was Suren, was the son of Prince Anag, who was sent to Armenia by the Sasanian, King of Kings of Iran, to assassinate King Khosrov of Armenia and facilitate the Iranian occupation of that country. Our ancestors were convinced that St. Gregory had received the grace of the Apostle because he was conceived near the grave of the Holy Apostle Thaddeus, the first enlightener of Armenia.

Anag and his brother succeeded in murdering King Khosrov in the city of Vagharshabad in about A.D. 240. They fled in haste, but the Armenian contingents stopped them near the city of Ardashad and slew Anag's entire family. Only two infants, Gregory and his brother, were saved from the massacre. Their Christian nurse Sophia took the boys to Caesarea to Eski Shehir, southwest of modern Kayseri in Anatolian Turkey.

In Caesarea, Gregory was christened and brought up as a Christian. When Gregory was of age, he married a Christian girl named Mariam, daughter of David. Gregory and Mariam had two sons, Vrtanes and Arisdages. Three years after Arisdages' birth, the couple willingly decided to part from each other. The elder child, Vrtanes, was placed in the care of his nurse and Mariam took the younger Arisdages with her as she withdrew to a convent. The custom of Christian couples dissolving their marriage ties to seek monastic life was common in the 4th century.

Gregory himself headed for Armenia to serve as King Drtad's secretary. At the time of King Khosrov's assassination, Drtad, the king's son and heir to the throne, was still an infant. Drtad was saved and taken to Roman territory. Also saved was Drtad's sister Khosrovitukhd. Drtad was raised under Roman protection and later joined the Roman legions. He achieved fame as a valiant soldier and the Romans recognized Drtad as king of Armenia and helped him to reclaim his ancestral throne in 274. While eastern Armenia was still under Iranian sovereignty, Drtad ruled for two years before he was ousted from his kingdom.

It was at that time (between 274 and 276) that Gregory, who had found out about his father's vile deed, entered the service of Drtad under a false identity to make amends. He pursued his duties faithfully over a period of several years. Drtad, once again with Roman help, was permanently established on the throne of western (Roman) Armenia in 287. Soon after, the relationship between him and Gregory deteriorated. The ceremony of thanksgiving and sacrifice to the pagan goddess Anahid in the village of Yeres (province of Yegegchik in western Armenia), following Drtad's great victory over the Persians. When Gregory refused to offer wreaths and thick branches of trees to the altar of the goddess at the king's request, he was incarcerated.

King Drtad ordered him to be subjected to twelve different kinds of torture at a site located to the immediate south of Erez, the present-day city of Erzinjan in Turkey. A monastery dedicated to the passion of St. Gregory was erected at this site.

After withstanding numerous incidents of torture, St. Gregory was transferred to the city of Ardashad and thrown into a bottomless pit reserved for notorious criminals condemned to death and located in the citadel of that town.

It is reported that Gregory survived in the pit for thirteen years. Gregory's survival was made possible through the charity of a widow who lived in the fortress where the dungeon was located. She had received a command in a dream to prepare a loaf of bread every day and throw it down into the pit. That served as the source of Gregory's sustenance for thirteen years. At the site of the bottomless pit, there is now a monastery called Khor Virabi vank (Monastery of Khor Virab, a place of pilgrimage facing Mount Ararat and almost on the border of present-day Armenia and Turkey).

His Sons and Grandsons

The Feast of St. Gregory the Illuminator's Sons & Grandsons

The calendar of the Armenian Church singles out four members of St. Gregory's family—his two sons, Sts. Arisdagés and Vrtanés, and his grandsons, Sts. Krikoris and Husig—and assigns them a special day of commemoration called "The Feast of the Sons and Grandsons of St. Gregory."

The day of commemoration (according to the present calendar in force since 1774-75) falls on the Saturday before the Third Sunday of Transfiguration. Originally it was observed on the Tuesday following the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost. The feast of the discovery of the relics of St. Krikoris, however, is observed separately on the Monday following the Fifth Sunday of the Exaltation. Excluded from this group of saints are the rest of the members of the Gregorid family, namely Sts. Nersés the Great, Sahag the Parthian, Vartan and his daughter, Shushanig. The latter are commemorated on different days during the year.

Տոն Կաթողիկէ Սուրբ Էջմիածնի

Առաջին նախամարգարեն՝ Մովսէսը, երբ կանգնեցրեց Աստուծոյ խորանը, այն օծելուց ու սրբազործելուց հետո հավաքեց ժողովրդին ու կատարեց խորանի նաժարակատիւքը: Այդ առիթով Իսրայելի իշխանները՝ նահապետական ընտանիքների տասներկու հրամանատարները, նվերներ մատուցեցին Տիրոջը: Տիրոջ հրամանով օրական միայն մի իշխան էր նվեր մատուցում զոհասեղանի նաժարակատիւքին և այդ օրը միայն այդ իշխանի ցեղն էր տոնում (տե՛ս Թվեր 7): Այդպիսով Իսրայելի ամեն մի ցեղ միայն մեկ օր էր տոնում, և նաժարակատիւքի տոնը տևում էր տասներկու օր:

Մենք ևս ամբողջ տարվա ընթացքում սուրբ Եկեղեցուն նվիրված տասներկու տոն ենք կատարում: Դրանք են՝ «Աշխարհամատրան» կիրակին, Սուրբ Զոգու գալուստը, «Էջ Միածնի» տոնը, սուրբ Տապանակի տոնը, որը Վարդավառի նաժարակատիւքն է, «Շողակաթը», որն Աստվածածնի վերափոխման տոնի նաժարակատիւքն է, Սուրբ Եկեղեցու տոնը, որը



հաչվերացի նաժարակատիւքն է, հաչվերացի տոնին հաջորդող վեց տոնական օրերից երեքը, որոնք կոչվում են «Եկեղեցու տոն», «Տյառնընդառաջը», «Շաղկազարդը» և «Նոր կիրակին»: Դրանց մի մասը այլևայլ տոներ լինելուց բացի միաժամանակ նաև սուրբ Եկեղեցու տոներն են:

Սուրբ Էջմիածնի տոնը

Հոգեգալստյան երկրորդ շաբաթը կոչվում է «Արարատյան դաշտի տոն», որովհետև այս շաբաթ են տոնվում հայոց նվիրական տոներից մի քանիսը. երկուշաբթի տոնվում է Զոհիսիմյանց կույսերի տոնը, երեքշաբթի՝ Գայանյանց կույսերի, հինգշաբթի՝ Յովհաննես Կարապետի և Աթանազիոս Եպիսկոպոսի տոնը, որոնց նշխարները սուրբ Գրիգոր Լուսավորիչը գետնից Տարոն գավառի Մուշ գյուղաքաղաքում իր կառուցած եկեղեցում: Շաբաթ օրը սուրբ Գրիգոր Լուսավորիչի Վիրապից ելնելու տոնն է, իսկ կիրակի՝ Սուրբ Էջմիածնի տոնը: Սրանք այն սրբերն են, որոնց ճգնությամբ, հեղած արյամբ և սուրբ նշխարների վրա հաստատվեց Հայաստանյայց Առաքելական Սուրբ Եկեղեցին: Այդ պատճառով նրանց տոները նախորդում են Կաթողիկէ Սուրբ Էջմիածնի տոնին, որը կարգել է հոգեկիր և առաքելաշնորհ սուրբ Գրիգոր Լուսավորիչը՝ Վիրապից ելնելուց, մեզ կենարար Ավետարանի ճշմարտության խոսքով լուսավորելուց, բազմները կործանելուց, դիպական տոները խափանելուց և տաճարը շինելուց հետո: Այդ պատճառով այն միայն Հայաստանյայց Առաքելական Սուրբ Եկեղեցին է տոնում, Պենտեկոստեին հաջորդող երկրորդ կիրակի օրը:

Այս տոնը նաև սուրբ Գրիգոր Լուսավորիչի տեսիլքի համաձայն կառուցված սուրբ Էջմիածնի տաճարի նաժարակատիւքի տոնակատարությունն է և տեսիլքի հիշատակը: Ըստ այդ տեսիլքի՝ երկինքը բացվում է և Աստուծու Միածին Որդին Իր հրաթև ու լուսեղեն զորքերի ուղեկցությամբ իջնում է Վաղարշապատ քաղաքի շեն տեղը, մուրճով հարվածում է ասնդարամետի մեղանին և այն ջախջախելով խորտակում: Այսպիսով տեսնում է նախկին մեղանի տեղում կանգնած ամպեղեն ու լուսեղեն մի տաճար՝ սյուներով ու կամարներով կառուցված: Արդյունքում հայոց մեջ վերջնականապես ջնջվում է կռապաշտությունը և փոխարենը կանգնեցվում Հայաստանյայց Առաքելական Սուրբ Եկեղեցին և Եկեղեցու հայրապետական իշխանությունը, որով մարմնավորվում է Հայաստանում երեք դար շարունակ առաքելական քարոզչության ճևարված հավատը: Աշխատասիրությամբ՝ Արամ Դիլանյանի



Genocide Commemoration
On April 24, St. Vartan Church joined the entire Bay Area at Mt. Davidson Cross to commemorate the 107th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. St. Vartan Church and ACYO provided flowers for the event.

