

St. Vartan Armenian Apostolic Church  
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Oakland, CA 94610

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

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# St.Vartan Voice

The Newsletter of St. Vartan Armenian Apostolic Church

Rev. Fr. Krikor Zakaryan, Parish Priest



## Սուրբ Հարդանի Չայն

Ս. Հարդան Հայ Առաքելական Եկեղեցւոյ Պաշտօնաթերթ

Fr. Krikor Zakaryan

November 2021

### Celebrating the Saints

At the beginning of November every year, the Armenian Church celebrates All Saints Day. As a church we remember the good and holy people—whether known or unknown—who were spirited heroes filled with Christ’s love, endurance, and faith. Often they started out as ordinary people with ordinary lives. But they became extraordinary models of the character of sainthood.

Even so, the saints of the church remain obscure to many of us. We spend countless hours a day reading books, newspapers, the Internet; but seldom do we read about the saints and their lives. Yet if we don’t know them, how could we ever follow their holy examples?

And how will we recognize the “seeds” of saintliness in the people around us—even in ourselves? In St. Paul’s writings to the early Christian communities, he commonly addressed his followers as “saints,” simply because he saw them as good, holy, God-loving people. In Armenian we have specific words—Asdvadzaser, Asdvadzahajoh—to describe those who devotedly follow the Lord throughout life. These are the saints of our daily experience.

But how is a “Capital S” canonized Saint declared?

Surprisingly, in the Armenian Church tradition, no rigidly structured process is involved. It happens by consensus of the laity and clergy: a universal agreement that a particular person’s deeds and intentions—his or her “living in the spirit of God”—pointed to sainthood. Such people are said by the church to “sit at the right hand of Christ,” and to be honored and emulated by the faithful.

#### Light Shining Through

Remember this, though: No one is born a saint. We are all born sinners, and only by sacrament and faith do we answer God’s call to holiness. For some, making that choice seems the furthest thing from the earlier record of their lives. St. Paul persecuted and killed Christians; the Armenian King Drtad tortured St. Gregory, murdered St. Hripsime, and went mad. Both—and many others like them—eventually saw the Light of God, and saw their lives transformed.

You might say the Light of God shines through them, to illuminate the world. Perhaps that explains why churches often depict the saints in stained glass windows. The light passes through the painted figures to illuminate the sanctuary and shine on the worshippers. But this should also remind us that Christ’s Light can shine through us, too—and bring its warmth and brightness to those around us.

Remember that Heaven is not the only “home” of the saints. Every one of them first lived here on Earth. That is where sainthood begins. Were we to meet the well-known saints during their earthly lives, we might be surprised to find that for some of them, at least, their demeanors were not sweet and angelic, but gruff and sharp around the edges. In that regard, they really were no differ-



#### Bible Readings

Nov. 7	Luke 8:49-56
Nov. 14	Luke 9:44-50
Nov. 21	Luke 11:1-13
Nov. 28	Luke 12:22-31

#### Psalm 97:10

The Lord loves those who hate evil; he preserves the lives of his saints; he delivers them from the hand of the wicked.





ent from us. But it's the good they performed, the faith they embodied, that makes them models to imitate—and celebrate.

And we will indeed celebrate them this Saturday, on “The Feast of All Saints: The Old and the New, the Known and the Unknown.” Through prayer we will ask them to inspire us with their spirit, and to intercede on our behalf with God. We will not pray to them—only Christ our God receives prayers. But we will pray with the saints, firm in the conviction that it is not the church that makes a saint holy: it's the saints who make the church holy.

—by The Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America



*News From Our St. Vartan Family*

Condolences

St. Vartan Church is sorry to announce the passing of Lucine Kroeckel on September 29, 2021.

Our condolences to her husband, Robert Kroeckel; her sons, Rob Krockel and John (Christine) Kroeckel; her daughter, Laura (Augie) Beltran; and her six grandchildren, Jessica and Dalton Crump, Alexandria Kroeckel, Adam, Alyssa and Adriana Beltran. Private services were held for the family. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to St. Vartan Church.



Wedding

Zovig and Jivan Rouchanian announce the wedding of their son, Hagop Rouchanian, and Madalyn Macarr that took place on September 25, 2021 at St. Gregory Armenian church in Pasadena. The best man was Hrach Rouchanian and the maid of honor Marla Macarr.

**Send Your Christmas Greetings**



You can send a Christmas Greeting in the December issue of the St. Vartan Voice newsletter to all your family and friends at St. Vartan Church. Call the church office at 510-893-1671 or email [stvartanoakland@aol.com](mailto:stvartanoakland@aol.com) before November 15, 2021 to place your greeting. Suggested donation for a Christmas Greeting is \$30.

This is a great opportunity to send Christmas well-wishes to all of your friends at St. Vartan Church, while supporting the Voice Newsletter.



**St. Vartan Holiday Food Drive**

St. Vartan Church is sponsoring their Annual Food Drive for the Alameda County Community Food Bank this holiday season throughout November and December 2021. We will be collecting healthy, non-perishable food. Please place your donations in the barrels in the church hall entryway.

**Children's Message**

Join us in Sunday School on Sunday, November 7 for a special Children's Sermon. As we return to in-person worship, Father Krikor will continue the St. Vartan tradition of giving a special sermon tailored to our youth on the first Sunday of each month. Children will meet in Sunday School and come into church as a group for a message they can relate to. This is a great day to bring your kids and check out our Sunday program.



On October 3, 2021 St. Vartan Church celebrated the birthday of Yn. Anoush Zakaryan during Fellowship Hour after church.



**St. Vartan Ladies Society invites  
The Entire Congregation**

**ANNUAL  
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

**Sunday, December 12, 2021**

**12:30 pm**

**Tickets: \$20**

**Entertainment:**

**Christmas Caroling led by Fr. Krikor & Yn. Anoush Zakaryan**

**Fabulous Raffle Prizes**

**\$20 for a pack of 25**

**RSVP: Advanced pre-paid reservations required. Luncheon will be open seating. Please complete the form below to secure your reservation. You may contact Nelly for reservations at 925-577-1873 or [moug42@gmail.com](mailto:moug42@gmail.com). Reservation deadline is December 5, 2021.**



**RSVP by December 5, 2021**

**to Nelly Kargodorian, 420 LaCasa Via, Walnut Creek, CA 94598**

**Check payable to St. Vartan Armenian Church**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of lunches (\$20 each)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Raffle tickets (\$20 for pack of 25)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount included** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **I would like to donate a raffle basket/gift.**





## ARMENIAN RELIEF SOCIETY Oakland Erepouni Chapter

### DRIVE-THRU BAKE SALE

**All Proceeds will go towards ARS Programs  
(Armenia, Syria and Lebanon)**

**Sunday, November 14, 2021  
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

Please choose your pickup location:

**St. Gregory Armenian Church - San Francisco  
St. Vartan Armenian Church - Oakland**

**Please call or text your orders by November 6, 2021**

**Ung. Hasmig Kozanian (510) 468-9579  
Ung. Mary Atashkarian (925) 899-6339  
Ung. Nellie Azizian (510) 882-4303**

### Armenian Favorite Cookies Baked by Our Members

- \* Maamoul / Dates
- \* Maamoul / Walnuts
- \* Date Cookies
- \* Ghourabia
- \* Gata
- \* (One Dozen for \$20)
- \* Cream Cheese Cookies
- \*\* Zaatar Cookies
- \*\* Salt cookies
- \*\* Choreg
- \*\* (One Package more than Doz \$15)

### Donations

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

**In Thanks for Bible Study**—Elkie Bavoukian-Romero  
**Drive Through Festival Donation, Virtual Case of Beer**—Yeghia Apkarian and Ana Dalmeida-Apkarian  
**In Honor of Dicko Shahvekilian**—Vartan and Ayko Berberian  
**Endowment Fund**—Don and Lisa Manoogian

### In Memory

† **Nadya Cingoz**  
 Gary & Satenik Eldemir  
 † **Earl Saroyan**  
 Mae Kaljian  
 † **Heriar Alexanian and Hagop Tersakian (Seta Jindoian's uncles)**  
 Harvey and Nora Hanoian  
 † **Vartanoush Jindoian (Nazar Jindoian's mother)**  
 Harvey and Nora Hanoian  
 † **Charles Kezerian**  
 Suzanne Diers (Endowment Fund)  
 † **Lucine Kroeckel**  
 Robert Kroeckel, Rob Kroeckel, John, Christine and Alexandria Kroeckel, Jessica and Dalton Crump,  
 Laura, Augie, Adam, Alyssa and Adriana Beltran, Damodaran Ramani

### Stewardship Donations

Platinum	365 Day Steward	Donor
Norma Yaglijian	Maggi Kooyounjian-Wiley & Rick Beardsley	Harout and Marie Hagopian
Jim & Mihoko Malian	Linda Dardarian	Nadya & Arto Yagjian
Silver	Paul Dermenjian & Lisa Ouzounian	Nicole Vasgerdsian
Don & Virginia Tafjen	Jack & Barbara Bousian	David & Angela Karamian
Carol Rustigian	Mary & Jack Aslanian	Stuart & Caroline Arakelian
Marlene Tolegian	Steward	
Bronze	Armen & Jermen Gollu	
Edward Minasian	Suzanne Diers	
Don & Lisa Manoogian	Seta Azizian	
Zaven Kanneian & Janet Yeghissian	Arax Konjoyan	
Emma and Lida Mazmanian	Michele Radcliffe	
Angel & Ara Azizian	Denise Navarra	
June E. Demerdjian	Louise Metaxas	
Seza & Dana Dominguez	Fr. Krikor & Yn. Anoush Zakaryan	
Ana Dalmeida & Yeghia Apkarian	Edward & Karen Sarafian	
	Mona Keeler	
	Mary Kamian	

### Stewardship Program

Become a Steward of St. Vartan Church. Participation in the stewardship program is open to any individual or family. The goal of the program is to meet the church's operating expenses and carry out parish projects and objectives. To receive a stewardship pledge form or for more information, contact the church at 510-893-1671 or stvar-tanokland@aol.com.



Dear Friends at St. Vartan:

Enclosed find our donation from Barbara and Jack Bousian. This is in honor of Arlene Hovsepian and Rachel Harger who have done an excellent job for many years as editors of the St. Vartan Voice, and also in honor of Wartkes Hagopian who helps prepare the newsletter for mailing.

Sincerely with hugs for wellness, Barbara Bousian

**SET CLOCKS BACK  
ONE HOUR BEFORE BED  
SATURDAY NIGHT**

**Sunday, November 7, 2021  
Daylight Savings Time Ends**





## Drive Through Food Festival October 2, 2021

St. Vartan thanks all the volunteers who made our Drive Through Festival so successful this year. We also thank everyone who purchased items to support the church and the Ladies Society.



I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness; I will sing the praises of the name of the Lord Most High. Psalm 7:17

### Khanoot Korner

Pickup day for November is Saturday, November 20 from 11 am to 1 pm in the church hall. Please place your orders no later than Friday, November 19 by 6 pm. You may reach me at (408) 247-3772. Please leave a message with your order if you get the machine and I will call you back to confirm.

—Kristian Minasian

Bastirma — \$12  
Cheese Berag — \$40/1-dozen lg or 2-dozen am  
Kufta — \$42/ ten (limit 2 pkgs)  
Lamajoon — \$11/ half-dozen  
Spicy Lamajoon — \$11/ half-dozen  
String Cheese — \$12

Bulghur — \$2/ pound (all sizes)  
Gata w/Khoritz — \$15/ dozen  
Lahvosh 5"rounds — \$7/ bag  
Luleh — \$32/ four (thaw and cook)  
Soujouk — \$11  
Ladies Society Cookbook — \$ 25

**DER KRIKOR INVITES**  
**ALL FAMILIES WITH JUNIORS AGES 12 TO 17**  
**TO A GET TOGETHER AT HIS HOME**

**REBOOTING ACYO JR'S**  
ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION  
**WORSHIP SERVICE EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP**

Saturday, November 13, 6 pm

Dinner  
Formation of ACYO Jr's Team  
Fellowship

RSVP for address and more information  
Text or call Der Hayr at 510 435 0802

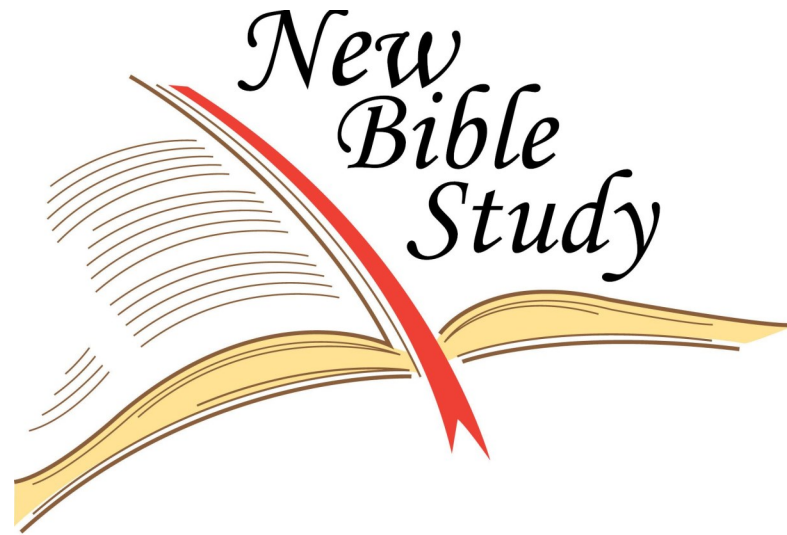


# New Beginners Bible Study

On-line Wednesday Mornings  
Starting Wednesday, November 3, 2021  
10 am

This simplified Bible Study will focus on the basic tenants of scripture and the traditions and rituals of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Register for morning Bible Study at <https://www.stvartanoakland.com/events> to receive the Zoom code. This is a different code than the one for evening Bible Study.



## On-line Bible Evening Study with Fr. Krikor

Wednesday, November 3      Thursday, November 11  
Wednesday, November 17

Bible Study Zoom code: <https://www.stvartanoakland.com/events>.

If you have already attended evening Bible Study, you can use the same Zoom code.



## ST. VARTAN GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL SKILLS CLINIC

Sunday, November 14, 1:30pm (after church services)



If you have absolutely no experience with volleyball, but would like to give it a try, **this afternoon is for you!** We'll be going over the basics in order to prepare for practices which will start in January, 2022. Come meet our coach, Annette Kevranian and have fun with other ACYO members age 12 and up. Join our team! RSVP to nicole at [nvasger@yahoo.com](mailto:nvasger@yahoo.com)

## Ladies Society Update

On Sunday, September 19, 2021, the Ladies Society hosted a luncheon reception to honor Surpazan Hovnan Derderian's presence and to also celebrate the recipients of the St. Vartan Spirit Award.



## Ladies Society Featured Recipe of the Month Cream Khadaif

2 pints heavy cream  
3 TBSP corn starch  
3 TBSP sugar

1/2 cup milk (warmed)  
2 lbs Khadaif dough  
1 lb unsalted butter

Step 1: Combine corn starch, sugar and milk to make a paste. Bring heavy cream and paste to a boil and let cool - texture is like pudding. \*The cream mixture and syrup can be made the day before.

Step 2: Melt butter

Use a 9 x 13 pan sprayed lightly with Pam to assemble.

In a large mixing bowl, combine 1 lb of shredded dough and drizzle half of the butter to coat. Place in pan and spread cooled cream. Repeat with remaining 1 lb shredded dough and butter.

Bake at 375 for 35 to 40 minutes or until lightly browned.

Syrup: 1 1/2 cup sugar, 3/4 cup water, and 1 tsp. lemon juice. Evenly pour the cooled syrup over the hot cream khadaif. Cut into squares or desired shapes.

## St. Vartan Ladies Invited to St. John Ladies Society Joint Ghapama Luncheon November 18, 2021

At St. John Church, 275 Olympia Way, San Francisco

Arrive & Mingle 11:30 am

**Luncheon Served 12 noon**

Donations: \$10

RSVP by Tuesday, November 12 to St. John Church office 415-661-1142

Ghapama is an Armenian stuffed pumpkin dish. It is prepared by removing the guts of the pumpkin and stuffing with boiled rice and dried fruits, almonds, apple, apricot, plums, dates, raisins. It is common to pour on honey and mix in ground cinnamon. The pumpkin is then baked until it becomes soft.



## Your Questions, Our Answers “I’ve Got Faith!” Church Head Covering

For nearly 2000 years in the Orthodox Church, the tradition has been for women and girls to veil their heads during worship, whether at church or at home for family prayer time. Godly women had covered their heads for thousands of years prior to the advent of Christ. And when the New Testament Church was born, godly women continued the practice.

In our Armenian church today, all women and girls are asked to wear head-coverings out of respect for the holy traditions of the Orthodox Church. St. Paul points out in Scripture (1 Corinthians 11:1-34), a woman brings honor to herself by covering her head during prayer. In addition, head-coverings encourage humility. Godly women come to church to focus on worship, not to draw attention to themselves. Lastly, head-coverings help show love and consideration for male brothers in Christ.

Christian head covering, also known as Christian veiling, is the traditional practice of women covering their head in a variety of Christian denominations. Some Christian women, based on Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Moravian, Anglican, Reformed, Methodist, and Quaker teaching, wear the head covering in public worship and during private prayer (though some women belonging to these traditions may also choose to wear the head covering outside of prayer and worship), while others, especially Anabaptist Christians, believe women should wear head coverings all the time in the reflection of the Saint Paul's words that Christians are to "pray without ceasing". The practice of Christian head covering for "praying and prophesying" is taught in the traditional interpretation of 1 Corinthians 11:2-6 in the New Testament of the Bible. The majority of Biblical scholars have held that "verses 4-7 refer to a literal veil or covering of cloth" for "praying and prophesying" and verse 15 to refer to long hair of a woman for modesty. Head covering was universally taught by the Church Fathers and practiced by Christian women throughout the early modern era, and continues to be the ordinary practice in many parts of the world, such as Romania, Russia, Armenia, Ukraine, Ethiopia, India, Pakistan, and South Korea, though it is now a minority practice among contemporary Christians in the Western World. The style of the Christian head covering varies by region.

The beautiful tradition of Christian head covering, also known as Christian veiling in the Armenian Church is preserved until today and is an expression of respect for the holy traditions of the Orthodox Church.



**We're Fundraising with See's Candies!**

Help us earn money for our organization and make the holidays even sweeter.

**See's CANDIES.**

We have teamed up once again with See's Candies to add some sweetness to your holidays. From now until December 3, 2021 access our online shop from the link at the [St. Vartan Church Website](http://www.stvartanoakland.com) (www.stvartanoakland.com) to buy delicious See's Candies (or gift cards) and show your support for St. Vartan Church.

## Archbishop's Pastoral Visit to St. Vartan Church

On September 19, 2021 His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian celebrated Badarak at St. Vartan Church. Surpazan also handed out the St. Vartan Spirit Award. This is a new, annual service award which recognizes various members of our community for their leadership and dedication. St. Vartan Church is proud to announce the recipients of this year's award: Ara Azizian, Suzanne Diers, Arlene Hovsepian, Vartan Hovsepian, Nazaret Jindoian, Seta Jindoian, Zaven Kanneian, Rick Kurkjian, Liz Ojakian, Dickran Shahvekilian, and Nicole Vasgerdsian. The St. Vartan Ladies Society hosted a reception after the service.

