

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

September 2022

We Bow Down Before His Cross

"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing. But to those of us who are being saved, it is the power of God." (I Corinthians 1:18)

Sunday, September 11, 2022 will be the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross: the start of the season of the Holy Cross, one of the five major divisions of the Armenian Church calendar.

The Feast of the Exaltation recalls a story about St. James, the brother of the Lord—one of Christ's Apostles and the first bishop of Jerusalem. He was the first to exalt a cross in the likeness of the original cross of the Crucifixion, and venerate it as a symbol of the power of God, saying: "We bow down before your Cross, O Christ." We still recite those words in Armenian: Khachi ko, Krisdos, yergirbakanemk.

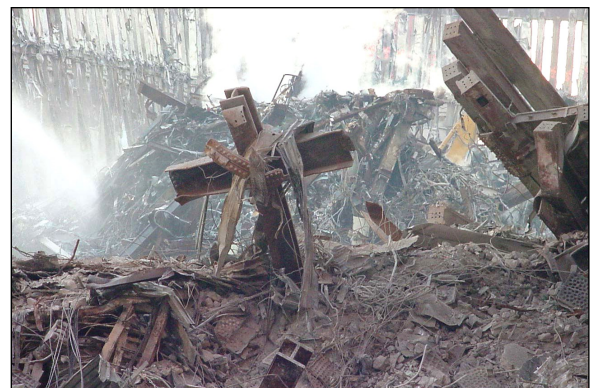
From the perspective of that time, James' act of exaltation could only be called unexpected. After all, to residents of the Roman-dominated world of the 1st century A.D., crosses were instruments of torture and humiliating death. Yet for James, its association with the miracle of Christ made the cross an object of reverence—eventually to become the Christian symbol of salvation and victory over death.

We today can only marvel at the eyes which first beheld the once-fearsome cross, and perceived it as a divine sign of Life. But perhaps we can gain an insight into the Exaltation through another story, about another cross. The story is not a part of our holy tradition (although perhaps one day it will be). For this cross was exalted, not in 1st-century Jerusalem, but in New York City, in the aftermath of September 11, 2001.

This month marks 21 years since that dreadful event. Many of us can still summon up the horror and outrage we felt as we confronted the incredible loss of life, and the prospect of an evil enemy who would willfully extinguish those lives. One couldn't help wondering, at the time, whether anything could ever arise to redeem the despair of that day.

And yet, something did arise.

Digging amid the ruins of Ground Zero, where the Twin Towers had collapsed only a month before, one of the rescue workers discovered something he felt to be a miracle. Two steel beams from the wreckage had fallen together, and landed in the form of a cross. The cross was set up-right in the middle of the wreckage, to cast its shadow—literally and symbolically—over the scene.



Bible Readings

Sept. 4 Mark 7:31-37
Sept. 11 John 3:13-21
Sept. 18 Mark 10:1-12
Sept. 25 Matt. 24:30-36

Galatians 6:14

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.



Bow Before
The Cross

News spread quickly, and soon firefighters, police officers, and construction workers were making “pilgrimages” to the cross, to pray and reflect on the 9/11 attack.

In that bleak landscape of despair, the “Hero’s Cross,” as it came to be called, became a source of spiritual strength. At a blessing service before that site, a Franciscan friar offered these words: “Behold the glory of the cross at Ground Zero,” he said. “This is our symbol of Hope. Our symbol of Faith. Our symbol of Healing.”

Perhaps that’s the divine message St. James intuited, when he first raised the cross some 2,000 years ago. It’s the message of many beloved Armenian sayings: Khachi ko, Krisdos, yergirbakanemk (“We bow down before your Cross, O Christ”), and Sourp Khachn yeghitsi eents oknagan (“Let the Holy Cross be my support”).

And it is certainly the message St. Paul wished to convey, in the words which began this essay: “To those of us who are being saved, the cross is the power of God.”

On this day of deep sorrow, as we pray for the souls of those who were cruelly taken from this world on September 11, 2001, and as we ask our Lord to grant peace to all those who have suffered loss and hardship in the long aftermath of that day, let us also bow down before the Cross of Christ: the unexpected sign of God’s love for, and solidarity with, mankind—which exalts us, even in our pain and suffering.

Through the Cross, God has truly revealed His power to the entire world. Is the world ready to accept it?

That question has lost none of its urgency in the two decades after 9/11, or in the 2,000 years since our Lord’s resurrection.

The way we answer it today will surely determine whether we emerge from our present time of turmoil and tribulation.

By EDACNA

New Start Time for St. Vartan Church Sunday Worship Services

Starting in September 2022

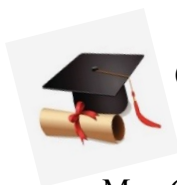
Morning Service—9:30 am
Divine Liturgy—10 am

Our Dearest St Vartan Family,

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, get well cards, prayer candles & well wishes during my extremely trying recovery. I don't wish this on anyone.

With great appreciation & Love,
Mary Donikian

Thank
You



Congratulations Graduate!

Danielle Lena Dominguez graduated from Azusa Pacific University in Southern California with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science on May 6, 2022. She has been interning at MLB (Major League Baseball) in IT and looks forward to seeing what God’s plans are for her.

Her proud parents are Dana and Seza Avakian Dominguez.



On-Line Bible Study

Wednesday, September 7

Thursday, September 15

Wednesday, September 21

Wednesday, September 28

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

September 5, 2022

LABOR
Day

Donations

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

In Honor of Danielle Dominguez' Birthday—Seza and Dana Dominguez

Youghakin—Hrant Sahagian

Grape Blessing—Edward Jamgotchian, Harout and Marie Hagopian and Family, Claris Sarkis-Golly, Vartan and Ayko Berberian, Hagop and Elizabeth Tatoian

Priest Discretionary Fund—Edward Jamgotchian

In Honor of Georgette DerGhazarian's 95th Birthday—Paula Boghossian (Ladies Society)

In Honor of Anto and Hasmig's 50th Wedding Anniversary—Nora and Harvey Hanoian

Stewardship Donors—Seza and Dana Dominguez, James & Mihoko Malian, Janet Yeghissian & Zaven Kanneian, Yeghia Apkarian & Ana Dalmeida, Fr. Krikor & Yn. Anoush Zakaryan, Ray and Reyhan Shepherd

Food Festival Donations

Case of Wine—Donna O'Connor, Don and Virginia Tafjen

Leg of Lamb—Patti Rosenthal, Charles and Seda Chavdarian, Lisa and Don Manoogian, Judith Peterson, Peg Magarian, Silva and Karnig Mikaelian, Annabelle Taylor, Kathleen Demerdjian, Michael DeOrian & Barbara Sundahl

Tent—Don and Lisa Manoogian

Case of Beer—Don and Virginia Tafjen

Armenian Coffee—Don and Virginia Tafjen, Lena Gozurian

Program Guide—Charles and Seda Chavdarian

Food Festival General Donation—Maral Afarian

In Memory

† **Dorothy Hazarian**

Nora and Harvey Hanoian (Endowment Fund), Annabelle Taylor, Jerald Tusan (Endowment Fund),

Jon and Janet Chilingirian, Greg Cherezian, Carol and Harry Dokouzian (Endowment Fund),

Harold and Bonnie Koojoolian (Ladies Society) Barry and Carole Chooljian (Endowment Fund)

† **John Gulbenkian**

Aylin Gulbenkian, Sylvia and John Alexanian

† **Sharon Leyman**

Florence Morjig

† **Margaret Sherinian**

Judy and Richard Sharafian (Ingredients and supplies to make sarma)

News From Our St. Vartan Family

Condolences

A funeral services was held for **Dorothy Hazarian** on August 12, 2022 at St. Vartan Church. Our deepest condolences to her siblings, Diana Chilingirian and Alberta Bedoian (Jack); her sister-in-law, Donna Sarabian, her sons, Russell (Christine) and Jeff (Karen); her grandchildren, Scott, Garrett, Danielle and Lauren. She is preceded in death by her husband, Charles, brother, Chuck, and her parents, Eliza Melkonian and Jacob Sarabian.

St. Vartan Armenian Church is saddened to announce the passing of **Lawrence Vaughn Chang** on Sunday, August 14, 2022. A memorial service was held for Lawrence at St. Vartan Church on August 25, 2022. Our condolences to Lawrence's mother, Carole Mazmanian Chang; his brother, James (Kat) Chang and his beloved nephews, Liam and Ewan.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to the Lawrence Chang Retaining Wall Replacement Fund. This is a new fund being established in Lawrence's memory to replace the retaining wall located in front of the church sanctuary.

Birth Announcement

Jessica and Jevell Rollins announce the birth of their daughter, **Jayden Ryleigh Rollins**, who was born on July 22, 2022. Jayden weighed 7lbs 7.8oz at birth and was 19.5 inches tall. Her proud grandparents are Dana and Seza (Avakian) Dominguez and Verna Gainer.





**Saturday, September 17, 9am-3pm
St. Vartan Church, Oakland**

Community Rummage Sale

Clear out those closets! Get into that garage! Donations are now being accepted for our Second Annual Rummage Sale!

We will not be accepting the following items: clothing, shoes, books, DVDs or video tapes, broken or dirty kids' toys, non-functioning or outdated electronics, children's safety items such as car seats, strollers, and cribs.

Small furniture accepted. Please check ahead if you have anything oversized. We cannot do pickups. Please donate items that are sellable!

You can bring items to church on Sunday mornings, or arrange a time for drop off with the church office at (510) 893-1671.

Questions or want to volunteer? Contact Nicole at nvasger@yahoo.com.

Assumption of the Holy Mother of God & Grape Blessing Service August 14, 2022



Saint George / The Golden Legend

In the well-known version from Jacobus de Voragine's *Legenda aurea* (The Golden Legend, 1260s), the narrative episode of Saint George and the Dragon took place somewhere he called "Silene", in Libya.

Silene in Libya was plagued by a venom-spewing dragon dwelling in a nearby pond, poisoning the countryside. To prevent it from affecting the city itself, the people offered it two sheep daily, then a man and a sheep, and finally their children and youths, chosen by lottery. One time the lot fell on the king's daughter. The king offered all his gold and silver to have his daughter spared, but the people refused. The daughter was sent out to the lake, dressed as a bride, to be fed to the dragon.

Saint George by chance arrived at the spot. The princess tried to send him away, but he vowed to remain. The dragon emerged from the pond while they were conversing. Saint George made the Sign of the Cross and charged it on horseback, seriously wounding it with his lance. He then called to the princess to throw him her girdle (*zona*), and he put it around the dragon's neck. When she did so, the dragon followed the girl like a "meek beast" on a leash.

The princess and Saint George led the dragon back to the city of Silene, where it terrified the populace. Saint George offered to kill the dragon if they consented to become Christians and be baptized. Fifteen thousand men including the king of Silene converted to Christianity. George then killed the dragon, beheading it with his sword, and the body was carted out of the city on four ox-carts. The king built a church to the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint George on the site where the dragon died and a spring flowed from its altar with water that cured all disease. Only the Latin version involves the saint striking the dragon with the spear, before killing it with the sword.

The Golden Legend narrative is the main source of the story of Saint George and the Dragon as received in Western Europe, and is therefore relevant for Saint George as patron saint of England. The princess remains unnamed in the Golden Legend version, and the name "Sabra" is supplied by Elizabethan era writer Richard Johnson in his *Seven Champions of Christendom* (1596). In the work, she is recast as a princess of Egypt. This work takes great liberties with the material, and makes St. George marry Sabra and have English children, one of whom becomes Guy of Warwick. Alternative names given to the princess in Italian sources still of the 13th century are Cleolinda and Aia.



Սուրբ Գևորգ Զորավար

Ս. Գևորգը ծնունդով Կապադովկիայից էր, այսինքն այսօրվա Կեսարիայից: Մեծացել է քրիստոնյա ընտանիքում: Ապա զինվորագրվելով հռոմեական բանակ, կարճատև ժամանակի ընթացքում հասավ մինչև զորավարի աստիճանին: Օրվա կայսր Դիոկղետիանոսի համար սիրելի զորավար դարձավ: Երբ վերջինս քրիստոնյաներին հալածելու հրովարտակը պիտի արձակեր, նախ խորհրդակցեց իր մեծամեծերի հետ, որոնց թվում էր նաև Գևորգը: Բոլորը, բացի Գևորգից, որը նախ հաստատեց, որ այդպիսի որոշումը անարդարացի պիտի լինի կայսրության խաղաղ բնակիչների հանդեպ, հավանություն տվեցին կայսրի գաղափարին: Բոլորն էլ կռահեցին, որ Գևորգը քրիստոնյա է և փորձեցին նրան կռապաշտության բերել: Բայց Գևորգն ասաց. «Ես ձեզ բոլորիդ որպես քրիստոնյաներ կցանկանայի տեսնել և ձեռագործ կուռքերին ձեր մատուցվող փառքն ու պատիվը երկնքի և երկրի Արարչին մատուցելիս տեսնելի»: Այս խոսքերի վրա Գևորգը բանտարկվեց և սոսկալի չարչարանքների ենթարկվեց, որոնց քաջաբար տոկաց: Ի վերջո կուռքերին տեսնելու համաձայնություն հայտնեց: Կայսրը նրան ուրախությամբ մեհյան առաջնորդեց, սակայն այնտեղ, Ս. Գևորգն, աստվածային նախանձախնդրությամբ լցված, մեկ առ մեկ կործանեց դրանք: Այս հանդուգն արարքի պատճառով Դիոկղետիանոսն անմիջապես գլխատել տվեց նրան:

Առհասարակ բոլոր նշանավոր սուրբ զորավարների պատկերները ներկայացվում են ձի հեծած, վիշապ սպանելու դիրքում: Կարող է պատահել, որ նրանցից մեկը նմանատիպ քաջագործություն արած լինի, բայց սրբերի դասերի մեջ ներառելու համար այդքանը բավական չէ: Այս պատկերները ավելի խորհրդանշական իմաստներ ունեն, քան թե՛ պատմական: Վիշապը խորհրդանշում է աշխարհի չարությունը, դիվական զորությունն ու բռնակալությունը, որոնց դեմ, արդարև, անվախորեն պայքարեցին Քրիստոսի այս քաջ նահատակները: Համարվում է, որ Ս. Գևորգը նահատակվել է 303 թ.-ին, Նիկոմիդա քաղաքում: Իսկ ըստ այլ ավանդությունների՝ Պաղեստինի Ռամլե, կամ Լյուդ քաղաքավանում, այս օրերի Թել-Ավիվի օդանավակայանից ոչ շատ հեռու, որտեղ հայերը, հույները և լատինները Ս. Գևորգ անունով եկեղեցիներ ունեն: Ս. Գևորգն Անգլիայի պահապան սուրբն է:

Հայերս նրա հիշատակը տոնում ենք Ս. Խաչին հաջորդող երկրորդ շաբաթ օրը:

St. Vartan Church Picnic

Sunday, August 7, 2022





Hye Camp 2022



<https://hyecamp.smugmug.com>

Church Humor

The Sunday School Teacher asks, "Now, Johnny, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?"
"No sir," little Johnny replies, "I don't have to. My Mom is a good cook."

Address Updates

St. Vartan will be updating the church directory to be distributed at the food festival. Please email stvar-tanoakland@aol.com or call the church at 510-893-1671 with any address changes.



**WE WANT
YOU!**

To prepare Sarma/Yalanchi for Food Festival

Tuesday, October 4	9 am	Roll Sarma
Wednesday, October 5	9 am	Roll Sarma
Thursday, October 6	9 am	Box Sarma



Calling all Festival Food Server Volunteers!

If you are interested in serving for the upcoming Food Festival in October, please go to the Sign-up Genius Website and look up the sign-up sheet with the email "linda@mcmahonrt.com". The sign-up sheet for the St Vartan's Bazaar Food Servers will come up.

If you have any questions or want to schedule directly, please call Linda Gozurian McMahon at 415-515-4079. Thank you.

Celebrate the return of our 67th Annual Food Festival Friday, October 7 and Saturday, October 8, 2022 at St. Vartan Church.

Dear Friends,

As you know, we haven't had our annual food festival since 2019 and we've missed all the fun, food and fellowship our festival brings. Our event returns this year on October 7 and 8 and we are looking forward to celebrating with you and once again producing our annual festival booklet. While our last festival was in 2019, we did have a directory in 2020. Thank you to all who placed an ad during such a challenging year. We invite you this year to place an ad for your business in our yellow pages or submit a personal message to share with family and friends. This year, our directory will celebrate our 67th annual food festival. Purchase space to celebrate graduations, birthdays, anniversaries, remember loved ones, or just to say hello to your St. Vartan family. We have a lot of catching up to do!

"Yellow Page" ads for businesses and personal services are also encouraged, and the member phone directory will once again be included. Directories will be sent or be available for pickup at church in October. Return the directory order form inserted in this newsletter to place your ad or personal message. **Ads are due by September 9, 2022.**

Sincerely,
Fr. Krikor Zakaryan and the St. Vartan Church Parish Council

Festival Donation Requests

Please consider making a bazaar donation to one or several of the categories listed on the chart below. Send your check to St. Vartan Church and mark your donation on the memo line.

Items Requested	Number of Donors	Item Cost	Items Received	Still Needed
Leg of Lamb	100	50	20	80
Tent	15	250	1	14
Admission Booth	1	250	0	1
Game Booths	5	200	0	5
Newspaper Advertising	4	100	0	4
Case of Wine	10	50	3	7
Case of Armenian Tan	2	50	0	2
Case of Armenian Beer	12	40	0	11
Armenian Coffee	2	30	2	0
Program Guide	5	25	1	4



*St. Vartan Church Food Festival
Committee*

ST. VARTAN ARMENIAN CHURCH 67TH ANNUAL

Armenian Food Festival

FRI, OCT. 7, 2022
5:30-11:00PM

SAT, OCT. 8, 2022
NOON-11:00PM

Celebrate Armenian food, music, dance and culture

Music by Khatchig Jingirian and dancing at 9:00pm

Food served until 9:00pm

games for kids
vegetarian fare
church tours
food to go



illustrations:
alysiakerian.com

ST. VARTAN ARMENIAN CHURCH 650 SPRUCE STREET, OAKLAND
510-893-1671 STVARTANOAKLAND.ORG



ARS EREPOUNI CHAPTER
ST. VARTAN CHURCH

**Armenian
School**



JOIN US FOR ARMENIAN SCHOOL

A.R.S. Erepouni Chapter and St. Vartan Armenian Church
invite you to join our new Armenian School
where children ages 5 – 14 will learn
Armenian language, history, faith, and culture.

Classes will be held at
St. Vartan Armenian Church
650 Spruce Street, Oakland
Sundays, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

September – May, 2023

Join us for registration on Sunday, September 11, 9:30 am

For information or to sign up, please contact:

Anna Masis (925) 323-2222 or anna@anna-realty.com

Karen Mener (510) 469-6778 or karenarmine@me.com

Language • Culture • Faith

St. Vartan Armenian Apostolic Church
650 Spruce Street
Oakland, CA 94610

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OAKLAND, CA
94615
PERMIT NO. 2273

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.

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate
Rev. Fr. Krikor Zakaryan, Parish Priest and President of All Church Organizations
Parish Council Chair: Dicko Shahvekilian
Parish Assembly Chair: David Ojakian
Choir Director: Armena Petrosova
Organist: Araks Aghazarian
ACYO Chair: Anna Krikorian
Sunday School Superintendent: Karen Mener
Ladies Society Chair: Suzanne Abnous
Cultural Society Chair: Liz Ojakian
Hokejosh: Nora Hanoian
Hye Social Chair: Annette Keyranian
Boys Basketball Coach: Mike Boloyan
Girls Volleyball Coach: Annette Keyranian
Newsletter Editors: Arlene Hovsepian and Rachel Harger
Church Secretary: Rachel Harger
Altar Flowers: Carole Chang
Church Custodian: Wartkes Hagopian

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

650 Spruce Street, Oakland, CA. 94610

Phone (510)893-1671

Fax: (510) 893-2102

Email: stvartanoakland@aol.com

Website: www.stvartanoakland.org



St. Vartan Annual Directory 2022

Ad Specifications and Agreement

Please fill out form and return with ad or message and include payment by **SEPTEMBER 9, 2022**

AD/PERSONAL MESSAGE PRICE LIST

Sponsor: \$500.00 Name in front of directory plus full page ad. Full page sponsor ad size is 6" x 9"	Full Page: \$175.00 5" wide x 8" high	Half Page: \$100.00 5" wide x 3.875" high
		Quarter Page \$50.00 5" wide x 1.875" high

➡ **Place an ad in the yellow pages**—all ads submitted in this section will be printed on yellow paper to stand out among the messages. Use the ad section to promote your business or personal service.

➡ **Submit a personal message or family ad**—Use this space for personal messages or memorials. Submit a photo of your family with a message. (Photos may be cropped to fit space.)

Indicate whether your submission is a Yellow Page Ad or Personal Message by checking the appropriate box below.

Directories will be sent or available for pickup at church in October.

☐ **YELLOW PAGE AD SPECS**

All ads are black and white except for covers.
Image can go to full ad size, but do not extend image outside ad area.

For digital submissions:

Please send print-ready pdf or high resolution jpg, tiff, ai or eps file. All bitmap files must be at least 300 dpi at 100% of the size at which it will appear. Include a hard copy of the final ad with digital submission.

For hard copy submissions:

If you are mailing a hard copy only, please be sure it is a high quality laser print. Hand-drawn, MS Word, business card or yellow pages ads may be submitted, but they may be redrawn at our discretion.

☐ **Please use existing artwork from page _____**
in the 2020 food festival booklet.

☐ **PERSONAL MESSAGE/FAMILY AD**

Write or type your brief message below. Print clearly and be aware of capitalization and grammar as your message will be recreated as printed below.

Message

☐ **Please use photo:** ☐ **attached** ☐ **emailed**

(hard copy photos will not be returned)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Signature _____ Date _____

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☐ **payment**
☐ **agreement**
☐ **artwork or photo**
to St. Vartan Church
650 Spruce Street
Oakland, CA 94610
Attn: Anto Cingoz
(510) 893-1671
stvartanoakland@aol.com
by September 9, 2022