



**ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH  
ANNUAL JOURNAL 2019**





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January 2019

Blessing of Pomegranates



Pomegranates were blessed by Der Hovsep Karapetyan and Der Kapriel Mouradjian at St. Mary Church on Sunday, December 30th, 2018. In 2015 the Supreme Patriarch of the Armenian Church, His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of all Armenian, introduced a new service for the Blessing of the Pomegranates. The pomegranate is one of the seven biblical species of fruits and grains, at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. Throughout the centuries, the pomegranate has been woven into Armenian architecture, cuisine, art, manuscripts, literature and liturgical vestments as it represents

life, fertility, and abundance.

Pomegranates were blessed after the Badarak and distributed to the faithful with a wish to bring prosperity and abundance in the year 2019.

New Year's Eve in Washington, D.C.

The Armenian community of Greater Washington and Baltimore ushered in the 2019 New Year at the Regency Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Bethesda, Maryland. Over 350 guests attended the event, where they enjoyed the back drop of the festive holiday lights and welcoming remarks by Kevork Marashlian who thanked supporters in successfully advancing the group's mission of bringing together both area churches and its parishioners. Der Hovsep Karapetyan



of St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church and Der Sarkis Aktavoukian of Soorp Khatch Armenian Apostolic Church were invited to offer their prayers and good wishes for the New Year and Soorp Dznount. The evening's entertainers included Barte and his Band, where they took the stage to warm up and welcome the crowd with Armenian music, followed by DJ Chris Habibi's latest pop songs drawing everybody to the dance floor. Guest enjoyed a three-course plated dinner, and at the stroke of midnight came cheers, champagne, and platters of choreg and cheese for each table and dancing until the early morning hours.

## Feast of Nativity and Theophany Celebrated at St. Mary



On Saturday, January 5th, the Jragalouits Badarak began with the Evening Service. After the Badarak, parishioners and friends enjoyed the traditional Home Blessing service in our church hall and a reception sponsored by the Parish Council.

On Sunday January 6th, St. Mary Church then celebrated the glorious Feast of the Birth and Baptism of our Lord with the Divine Liturgy and Blessing of the Water Service. We congratulated Hovsep Seferian, the son of Avedis and Anna Seferian, who served as the Godfather for

the Blessing of the Water. Parishioners participated in the liturgy on both days and greeted one another with the renewing and joyous news of our Lord's Revelation "To you and us good news! Tzez yev mez Medz Avedis! Christ is born and revealed. Kristos tsnav yev haytnetsav. Blessed is the revelation of Christ. Orhnyal e haytnutyunn Kristosi."

Following the Badarak, the Ararat Avak Society catered a festive lunch to over 100 parishioners.

## Avak Society Nativity Luncheon



On January 6th, after our parishioners celebrated the Feast of the Birth and Baptism of our Lord, they enjoyed a festive luncheon presented by the Ararat Avak Society. The lavish meal included koufta soup, rice pilaf, mushroom chicken, vegetables, green salad, and traditional anoush about dessert. The parishioners celebrated the holiday in a lovely setting within our church community of friends and family.



## Pilgrimage to St. Vartan Cathedral and Visit to Armenia Art Exhibit



On January 12th and 13th, 48 of our parishioners and friends embarked on an exciting journey to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in New York City to visit the *Armenia!* exhibition and St. Vartan Cathedral. The bus departed early Saturday, January 12th to the Museum. Everyone enjoyed the inspirational and marvelous display of the arts and culture of the Armenians from the conversion to Christianity in the early fourth

century through their leading role on international trade routes in the 17th century. The exhibition highlighted how Armenians developed their national identity in Armenia at the base of Mt. Ararat, and how they preserved and transformed their traditions as they globally populated.

Following the beautiful and uplifting time at the museum, the group enjoyed delicious Armenian food at the Krichian's Grill restaurant in New Jersey.

On the morning of January 13, everyone traveled to St. Vartan Cathedral to participate in Badarak. The celebrant was Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan. The pilgrims were welcomed by the Very Rev. Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan, the Vicar of St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral and enjoyed the tour of the cathedral and luncheon afterward.

The entire group of pilgrims had an uplifting and educational time.

## 27th Anniversary of the Armenian Armed Forces Celebrated at St. Mary

On Sunday, January 27th, a special Hokehankist prayer service took place at St. Mary's in observance of the commemoration of the 27th Anniversary of the Armenian Armed Forces, for the souls of all of our freedom-fighters and soldiers who sacrificed their lives for freedom and liberation of our Homeland. At the conclusion of the Badarak and Hokehankist service parishioners and friends enjoyed a lavish hospitality table hosted by the Office of the Defense and Military Attaché in the U.S.



Ambassador Varuzhan Nersesyan, Military Attaché Col. Arman Mkrtchyan and Abp. Vicken Aykazian were present, and they expressed their well wishes on the occasion of the Armed Forces Anniversary and spoke about the importance of having a strong and brave army for the defense of the motherland and Artsakh.

## Hayko Bagdat's Presentation at St. Mary



On January 25 parishioners and guests gathered at St. Mary to honor the memory of Hrant Dink with guest speaker, Hayko Baghdad, an Istanbul-Armenian journalist, and writer . In his presentation, Hayko Baghdad expressed his views on the direction that the modern Turkish government was moving towards in their denialist policies regarding the Armenian Genocide. He also spoke about the deteriorating human rights situation presently in Turkey and the state of the Armenian community in Turkey.

Further, he shared how his life was dramatically impacted in January of 2007 during the funeral of Hrant Dink, when the Armenian community decided that two Armenian young men along with a clergyman had to escort the funeral hearse in which Hrant Dink's body was being carried. "The two young men came up against 200,000 people who came to the funeral to express their love and support, and these two men, sitting in the car, when everything was done, were no longer able to continue their lives the same way. One of them was Garo Palian, and the other was me " said Baghdad.

As a result of his active journalistic activities, Hayko Baghdad was forced to leave Turkey and move to Germany after numerous threats. Today, the 43-year-old journalist continues his fight for justice and the rights of national minorities in Turkey.



# ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH ANNUAL JOURNAL February 2019

## Annual Parish Assembly



The Annual Parish Assembly took place on February 10 after Badarak with 61 dues paying members in attendance. Annual statements and reports of all of the organizations were presented and approved. The budget for the upcoming year was also approved. The following individuals were elected to fill parish leadership and other positions: Parish Council - Artur Sivaslian, Onnik Sivaslian, Ara Stepanyan and Bagrat Bayburtian. Nominat-

ing Committee - Rebecca Bagdasarian, Robert George and Catherine Sahakian. Auditing Committee - Vladimir Shekoyan. Investment Committee - Sarine Zenian. WED Scholarship Committee - Rebecca Bagdasarian.

We congratulated all the newly elected officers and wished them success in their ministry to our church.

## Bible Study on the Gospel of Matthew

St. Mary's series of Bible Study on the Gospel of Matthew began January 8th and was well attended weekly until February 19th.

Attendees explored the Gospel of Matthew and took an in-depth journey into the heart of God. They entered into the drama of Christ's family tree, the birth of our Savior, His duel in the desert with Satan, and the life-



changing truths of His Sermon on the Mount, the unfolding of Jesus' ministry through His miracles and parables.



## ACYOA Juniors Snow Tubing



On February 23rd, the ACYOA Juniors youth group enjoyed a day trip to Liberty Mountain in Pennsylvania. A group of teens, and a few of the brave chaperons, donned their snow pants and slid down the hill at the Snow Tubing center! Afterwards they had lunch and time of fellowship. Special thanks goes out to Catherine Sahakian for organizing the event!

## Commemorating the Pogroms of Sumgait and Baku



February marked the 31st anniversary of the attacks on the Armenian population of Sumgait, Azerbaijan. The February 1988 attacks subsequently spread to other cities in Azerbaijan with sizable Armenian populations.

St. Mary Armenian Church held a requiem service for the victims of Azeri aggression on February 24th.





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A Poon Paregentan Celebration at St. Mary Church



On Saturday March 2nd, the Women's Guild hosted a wonderful Paregentan celebration with festive hall decorations and table centerpieces. Over 100 guests attended and enjoyed delicious appetizers, dinner, desserts, and music by DJ Bedro.

The Women's Guild Executive Committee was thankful to all those who helped make the evening a huge success and continued this wonderful Armenian tradition before entering the Great Lent!

Lenten Service, Discussion and Dinner Series

The first four of a six-night Lenten series took place in March. Parishioners and friends came together for a worship service, spiritual presentation, and dinner with this year's theme entitled "Leading to Easter: Searching the Soul". This topic concentrated on the journey through Lent meditating on the last three chapters of the Gospel of Matthew. The season of Lent is a time for searching the soul through the lenses of the people closest to Jesus in His last hours. The last three chapters of Matthew are a juxtaposition of stories.

Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan, Miss Becky Bagdasarian, Mr. Avedis Seferian and Mr. Eric Ashbahian presented meditations on Matthew 26-27.

Towards the end of the services and presentations the parishioners enjoyed each others fellowship and dinner hosted and sponsored by the Parish Council, Women's Guild, ACYOA Juniors and St. Mary Choir.



## Celebration of the Sixth Anniversary of His Holiness Pope Francis

On Wednesday, March 13th, the Catholic Church worldwide celebrated and recognized His Holiness Pope Francis on his 6th year anniversary as the leader of the Roman Catholic Church.

Der Hovsep participated in a celebratory reception at the the Apostolic Nunciature in the United States of America in Washington, DC. On behalf of our Diocese, Der Hayr congratulated His Excellency Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio.

Many congressmen, ambassadors, diplomats and other dignitaries also attended this event to offer their congratulations.



## Saintly Women's Day Celebration



A beautiful Saintly Women's Day (SWD) commemoration took place on March 23rd by honoring three women from the Holy Gospels: the woman who touched Jesus' cloak, the woman who anointed Jesus' head at Bethany and the Syro-phenician woman. Robin Darling Young, Ph.D., Associate Professor, from The Catholic University of America,

was the guest speaker. Professor Young's presentation, "Women Saints in the Narratives of Early Christian Armenia", was a thought provoking reflection on the three women being honored for the day.

Almost 100 guests, including many from Soorp Khatch and the Baltimore area, enjoyed a delicious and plentiful Lenten lunch prepared by the Saintly Women's Day Committee, the Women's Guild Executive Committee and a few volunteer members of the Women's Guild.

The St. Mary Women' Guild Executive Committee was grateful to the SWD Committee and the volunteers for their hard work and dedication to their guild, their church and their community. The Executive Committee was thankful to all those who supported the event with their attendance and ensured it's success.



## St. Mary ACYOA Jr. Lock-in



Our ACYOA Juniors held their annual lock in at St. Mary Church on March 15-16. The event was both fun and spiritually fulfilling for our youth. Thirteen Junior members gathered for activities, games and spiritual connection, facilitated by Ms. Becky Bagdasarian, Mr. Eric Ashbajian and Mr. Daron Bedrosian. In the evening they participated in a

beautiful peace service led by Der Hovsep. Der Hayr also gave them a message and explained the purpose of the Lenten period in our church, its true meaning and how to effectively keep Lent in their hearts and minds.

The teens enjoyed pizza and snacks while they played games and relished in one another's company before returning home on Saturday morning. Special thanks to Ms. Becky Bagdasarian and Mr. Zaven Kalayjian for chaperoning overnight.

## Visit to Baltimore Armenian School

On Saturday, March 16, Der Hovsep Karapetyan was a guest speaker at the Armenian School of Greater Baltimore (ASGB). He spoke with the students and their families about the Christian faith, the Armenian church, and the Lenten season as we prepare for Easter.

The children made 'stained glass' crafts, learned the proper way to greet a Der Hayr ("Orhnetsek Der Hayr" to which Der Hayr responds "Asdevats Orhneh"), and received small crosses from Jerusalem and 2019 Armenian Church Family Lenten Calendar, with ideas, activities, and Scripture readings for a meaningful Great Lent.

ASGB holds Eastern Armenian language and culture classes for students Pre-k through grade 10. Classes meet on Saturdays from 10:00 am - 12:30 pm in Linthicum, MD.



## Annual Mid- Lenten Luncheon



The Women's Guild Mid-Lenten lunch was held on Sunday, March 31st after church services. The hall was filled with over 70 guests who enjoyed a wonderful afternoon with friends and family as they ate a delicious lunch of Lenten foods. The event was organized by Hrip Sivaslian and Sona Bakirci, and all of the food was donated by many of the generous Women's Guild members. Special appreciation to all who donated and supported the event.





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Mrs. Anna Hakobyan Visits Washington, DC



Mrs. Anna Hakobyan, wife of the Prime Minister of Armenia and President of the Board of Trustees of "My Step" and "City of Smiles" charitable foundations, visited the United States. On the first working day of her visit to Washington, DC, Mrs. Hakobyan, was accompanied by H.E. Ambassador Varuzhan Nersesyan, Principal Deputy Librarian of the Library of Congress Mark Sweeney, and former Armenia and Georgia Area Specialist Levon Avdoyan, they toured The Library of Congress and viewed the collection of Armenian manuscripts, rare objects and documents displayed at the Library.

Following the tour of the Library of Congress, US House Representatives Anna Eshoo and Jackie Speier hosted a reception at the Capitol in her honor. Also in attendance were Representative Frank Pallone Jr., Congressman Adam Schiff, Congressman Mike Thompson, Congressman TJ Cox, Judy Chu, Raja Krishnamoorthi - Congressman, IL-8, Congresswoman Katherine Clark, Congressman Jeff Fortenberry, Rep. Tom Suozzi, Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui, and Representative Zoe Lofgren.

Later that evening Mrs. Hakobyan had the opportunity to meet and interact with members of the DC Metro area Armenian-American community at a reception hosted by the Embassy of Armenia, supported by St Mary Armenian Apostolic Church, Soorp Khatch Armenian Apostolic Church, Women's Guild and The Knights and Daughters of Vartan.

## Lenten Service, Discussion and Dinner Series 2019



On Wednesday April 3rd and 10th, the last two Lenten services of a series of six were held at St. Mary. Mr. Ara Stepanian and Dn. Mark Krikorian gave a meditation concentrating on the last chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. During the entire Lenten period the parishioners and friends came together for a worship service, spiritual presentation and dinner with this past year's theme entitled "Leading to Easter: Searching the Soul".

The topic concentrated on the journey through Lent meditating on the last three

chapters of the Gospel of Matthew. The season of Lent is a season for searching the soul through the lenses of the people closest to Jesus in His last hours. The last three chapters of Matthew are a juxtaposition of stories.

## Women's Guild Easter Choreg Sale

On Palm Sunday April 14th, 2019, our beloved Women's Guild amazed the church community with their Easter Choreg sale. They always make their beautiful and delicious holiday presentation very tastefully, and we are forever grateful for their continued hard work and dedication to St. Mary Church and the congregation.



## New Addition to Our Altar



A new Curtain Rod Cover, was added to our Altar and made possible by the craftsmanship and donation of Mr. Manuel Ayvazian.

Our special thanks and gratitude to him for his hard work and generosity.



## Palm Sunday at St. Mary Church



During the Palm Sunday weekend the Dean and Students of St. Nersess Seminary visited our community. The entire weekend was filled with interesting activities. The Seminarians and members of St. Mary ACYOA Juniors enjoyed the hospitality of Souren and Ema Hakopian, who opened their

doors for an evening of fun and fellowship for our guests. It was a great opportunity for our Juniors to meet the seminarians in person, mingle with them, ask them questions, and learn about their day at the seminary and about their future plans.

On Saturday, the seminarians had a private tour of the Museum of the Bible and also had an opportunity to do additional site-seeing in Washington, DC. On Palm Sunday the Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian and Dean of St. Nersess Seminary celebrated Badarak and the Seminarians served on the altar alongside the St. Mary Acolytes and Deacons.

A beautiful luncheon was organized and hosted by the St. Mary ACYOA Juniors and their parents. Our special honoree during the Palm Sunday luncheon was Mrs. Patricia Yeghissian, youth adviser, Sunday School teacher and dedicated parishioner. The ACYOA Juniors honored her with a musical performance, special prepared remarks, and a plaque to commemorate her service to the youth of St. Mary. Our special appreciation went out to the ACYOA Juniors parents and teens for their dedicated hard work.

## April 24 Commemoration

On April 24th a Wreath Laying Ceremony was organized by the Embassy of Armenia, at the Armenian Embassy "Khatchkar." Following the ceremony a special intercessory prayer of the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide took place. A beautiful performance by the children of the St. Mary Armenian Church's Shnorhali School and Soorp Khatch Church's Hamasdegh School followed the prayer service.



## Holy Week and Easter Sunday



The Holy Week was fully celebrated at St. Mary through many moving and special services, which commemorated the dramatic events leading to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

On April 18, Great and Holy Thursday, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated in the evening, then the "Washing of the Feet" ceremony was held, which re-enacts Christ's humble service to his 12 disciples during the Last Supper. Der Hovsep celebrated "Gark Vodnlvai" with the children

at the altar at St. Mary Church. Following was a brief reception hosted by Jermen Hallajian in memory of her Parents, and the moving service of the Betrayal and Passion of our Lord (Khavaroom).

The Order of the Crucifixion of Christ and the Order of the Entombment of the Lord were held on Great and Holy Friday, April 19. Thank you to Asanet Hatchikoghlu for decorating Christ's tomb.

On Easter Eve, Saturday, April 20, the Badarak was preceded by Vespers and the Scriptural readings. Der Hovsep celebrated the Divine Liturgy with the beautiful lilies donated by our many generous parishioners who decorated the sanctuary, followed by the traditional Home Blessing in the Church Hall, and a hospitality table hosted by the Parish Council.

Easter Sunday, the Feast of Glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ was on April 21. It began with a Morning Service and Badarak celebrated by Fr. Hovsep, and attended by hundreds of people. The blessing of the four corners of the world, Antasdan service took place at the conclusion of the Badarak. It was followed by lunch and egg-cracking games in the Church Hall with a beautiful reception table hosted by the St. Mary Shnorhali School.

## Lecture and Book Signing by Dr. Taner Akcam

An enlightening lecture and presentation took place at St. Mary Church on April 26 by Dr. Taner Akcam on his recently published book "Killing Orders, Talat Pasha's Telegrams and the Armenian Genocide."

Dr. Akcam, who holds the Kaloosdian and Mugar chair of Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark University, is a historian, a sociologist, and is one of the first Turkish intellectuals to acknowledge and openly discuss the Armenian Genocide. In his presentation, Dr. Akcam spoke about his newly published book which



include variety archival evidence previously dismissed as being 'fake' in order to refute the on-going denial of the Armenian Genocide. With his meticulous research he argues that the sanctioning of the genocide can finally be proven through official documents.

Over 200 parishioners and friends enjoyed this informative presentation sponsored by Jerair Nishanian Foundation.



## Holy Martyrs Day Commemoration



A solemn commemoration of the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide took place at St. Mary on April 28. The day began with the Holy Badarak, then a special service commemorating the Holy Martyrs who gave their lives during the Armenian Genocide for their faith and for their homeland followed in front of the Khatchkar on the church plaza.

Following the service, the Shnorhali School dance group presented a musical program which included the

recitation of poems, singing songs and performance of traditional Armenian dances, thus commemorating the legacy that our Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide left to us. Special appreciation to the dance instructor Nunik Nishanian for her hard work and dedication to our children and school.

The day's Madagh was hosted by St. Mary Church Parish Council. A special prayer was also offered for the soul of His Beatitude Archbishop Mesrob II Mutafyan, 84th Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople, on the occasion of 40 day of his passing.



# ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH ANNUAL JOURNAL May 2019

## A Book Talk - Trauma and Resilience: Armenians in Turkey

Raffi Bedrosyan, civil engineer, concert pianist, and author of *Trauma and Resilience: Armenians in Turkey*, conducted a book talk on May 5 at St. Mary Church, attended by 40 parishioners. Mr. Bedrosyan has written and published numerous articles about Turkish-Armenian issues and history of churches left behind in Turkey after 1915.

As founder of Project Rebirth, he has appeared as keynote speaker in multiple international conferences related to human rights, genocide studies and Armenian issues.



## Triple Holiday Commemorated at St. Mary



It has become a tradition at St. Mary to commemorate the Triple Holiday every May. This year commemoration took place on May 12. The Triple Holiday is commemorated in Artsakh to celebrate three very important events, all of which took place on May 9: the anniversary of victory in the WWII, the liberation of Shoushi and the anniversary of the establishment of the Artsakh Defense Army.

The Badarak was celebrated by a guest clergy from the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin Rev. Fr. Gabriel Vardanyan. Present were the Embassy staff, NKR representative Mr. Robert Avetisyan. A special hokehankist service was

offered for the souls of all who gave their lives for the liberation of Artsakh.

The memorial reception in the church hall was hosted by NKR office in the US and St. Mary Parish Council.

During the hokehankist the community also prayed for the soul of long time parishioner Mr. Edward Onanian on the occasion of his 40 day passing.



## St. Mary 9th Annual Armenian Spring Food Festival

During the days and evenings of May 17, 18 and 19 crowds dined throughout our church hall feasting on many of the Armenian favorites, such as, kabob, pilaf, hommus, and pita, as well as our sumptuous homemade baked goods which are always a hit and enjoyed by our guests.

St. Mary Church wishes to thank all of our devoted

hard working volunteers and loyal Armenian food lovers for making this year's Spring Food Festival a success.



## Ararat Avak Society Brunch



The Avak Society hosted a Spring Brunch on Saturday, May 25. Community got together for a fellowship and enjoyed fabulous homemade Armenian brunch.

The guest presenter of the day was Mrs. Karine Sahagian who made a special illustrated presentation about the forgotten Armenian churches and Communities of Singapore and India.

Our appreciation goes to the Avak Society coordinating committee members and volunteers for their hard work and dedication.

## ACYOA Jr. Sports Weekend in Watertown, MA

This past Memorial Day weekend, St. Leon Armenian Church in New Jersey hosted the General Assembly and Sports Weekend. Our ACYOA Seniors, Chairlady Sophia Yedigarian and Vice Chairman Vasken Serpekian, attended the General Assembly on Thursday and Friday to represent our church. During the General Assembly participants discussed and voted on important matters which will affect the ACYOA throughout the upcoming year.



On Saturday and Sunday many St. Mary ACYOA Seniors participated in the sporting events, which included basketball, volleyball, tavloo, and ping-pong. The St. Mary ACYOA Seniors were able to enjoy each others' fellowship, as well as meet and spend time with other fellow Armenian Christian attendees of the Sports Weekend. We thank the St. Leon ACYOA Seniors for putting together a weekend of worship, fellowship, witness, education, and more!

## Hampartzoum Celebration



The Women's Guild hosted their Hampartzoum celebration on Friday, May 31st.

This year close to 50 guests and guild members gathered to proudly honor Mrs. Arsaluys Bahcali for her many years of dedication and commitment to her church and community.

A delicious catered meal from The Big Greek Cafe, complimented with homemade boreg and humus, was served.

The evening was beautifully concluded with a special performance by the Shghtagh Dance Company.





# ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH ANNUAL JOURNAL June 2019

## Shnorhali School End of Year Hantess, Graduation and Performances



The St. Mary Shnorhali School held its year-end Hantess on two separate joyous occasions. On June 2nd, a ceremony was held for the graduating class followed by a joint performance "Hayots Lezoon" by the students of three grades together (Tikin Marta', Tikin Anushik, and Tikin Maro classes). The play was written and directed by Mrs. Edita Kalaijyan. The Western Armenian class, led by Armen and Nareg Boghosian, also performed beautiful

violin solos.

The Shnorhali School congratulates all of its graduates of the Armenian School as well as students who received diplomas denoting their graduation from the Diocesan Christian education program: Marusya Airumian, Narineh Tekeyan, Amelia Kazazian, Sonya Sarkisian, Anna Sarkisian, Sosie Scott, Aren Avetisyan, Jirair Kalayjian, Andre Alexandrian, Haig Jamgochian, Johnny Guerigurian, Nareg Boghosian, Armen Boghosian, Hovsep Seferian, Arman Harutyunyan, Ruben Karapetyan, Tommy Tomyan, Ashot Hovhannisyan, Ani Mkrtychyan, Karine Mikayelyan and Narineh Tekeyan. May they continue to learn and grow in their Armenian faith, language and cultural history.

The second Hantess was held on June 9th and included performances from Tikin Melineh (Kindergarten), Tikin Anna, Tikin Gemma, and Tikin Julia's classes. The students recited beautiful programs about Armenian language and cultural history. We are thankful to all of our Shnorhali teachers, parents and volunteers.

## Women's Guild Summer Lunch

The Women's Guild Summer Kick-Off lunch was held at the Gordon Biersch restaurant in Rockville on June 1st. With 25 members in attendance, the women enjoyed a delicious lunch and dessert as they chatted about family, friends and summer vacations.

At the lunch, the Executive Committee announced that the Women's Guild, through the support of its dedicated members, was transferring another \$7,000 to the Parish Council.



## Young Pilgrims Return from the Holy Land



Twenty-three young adults from across the Eastern Diocese embarked on a 10-day tour of the Holy Land this month, as part of the Diocese's annual Young Adult Pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

Traveling June 4-13, the group visited holy sites and locales out of biblical history, like Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, Mt. Tabor, and the Jordan River. The young pilgrims were also awakened to the vital role Armenians have played in the story of the Holy Land, embodied in the centuries-old Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

The group was led by the Rev. Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan and assisted by Arpi Nakashian from the Diocese. "This pilgrimage is designed to deepen a young adult's Armenian Christian identity as they follow in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ," said Arpi, who is herself a native of Jerusalem. "It's an unforgettable experience to be immersed in the sacred history of our own people, who have lived in the Holy Land for centuries."

Having now returned as Mahdesis-literally "one who has viewed death," the age-old Armenian term for a Holy Land pilgrim-the young adults are expected to share their experiences in their respective parishes across the Diocese.

Some 300 pilgrims have participated in the Diocese's Young Adult Pilgrimage to Jerusalem over the years.

## Special Tour to the Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens

On June 29, by the incentive and invitation of the St. Mary Church Ararat Avak Society, a group of women from St. Mary and Soorp Khatch Churches and the Armenian Embassy representatives visited Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens.

Everyone enjoyed the guided tour arranged by Louisa Baghdasarian and delicious luncheon prepared by Avak Society committee members Takuhi Hallajian, Mari Shafakian and Eva Shafakian, supported by Clara Andonian and Margie Satian.



Hillwood remains Marjorie Post's most important legacy, and the artistry of its collections, beauty of its gardens, and graciousness of its founder continues to inspire. Hillwood today is vibrant with special exhibitions, programs and events, and gardens displays.

A wonderful Saturday was spent in this oasis in the heart of the nations capital.



# ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH ANNUAL JOURNAL July 2019

## Hokehankist for Ambassador Arman Kirakossian



On Sunday, July 14, St. Mary Church held a special Hokehankist memorial prayer service for the soul of H.E. Arman Kirakossian, former Ambassador of Armenia to the United States (1999-2005). The service was attended by Ambassador Varuzhan Nersesyan, the Staff of the Armenian Embassy and the members of the Armenian community.

Following the requiem service, Der Hovsep and Ambassador Nersesyan spoke during a community gathering at the church hall. Der Hayr

mentioned many contributions that Ambassador Kirakossian brought in his service to our Homeland as a politician, diplomat and scholar. In his remarks Ambassador Nersesyan acknowledged Ambassador Kirakossian's longtime service to the Republic of Armenia, his legacy as a great diplomat, scholar and mentor, and his impact on generations of young diplomats and students.

## Making Mahs

This week our devoted team of "Mahs Bakers" gathered within St. Mary Church's kitchen to make mahs. Our special thanks to Lola Pickering, Janet Arabian, Gulbahar Ozkayan, Haikouhi Koudoussian, and Takuhi Ozbenian who skillfully mixed the ingredients to make the mahs.

The Armenian word "mahs" means a portion. It is blessed, unconsecrated bread (not Holy Communion) that is given to the faithful to take to those who were unable to share in Holy Communion. It becomes their "portion" of the Badarak. When you receive mahs, extend your right hand so that the small piece of bread can be placed on the back of your hand, and as you receive the mahs say "Pazheen eem Asdvadz haveedyan" (God is my portion forever).





Through the grace of God, Haig Jamgochian, Sbdn. Armen Chubukian, Dn. Mark Krikorian and I were blessed to be able to represent St. Mary Armenian Church of Washington D.C. at this year's St. Nersess Armenian Seminary Deacons Training Program. For ten days we participated in daily activities including morning and evening services, deacons training classes, Armenian language classes, bible studies, lectures, and cultural hour. Throughout the week we also attended special events such as a personal invitation to our primate H.E. Bishop Daniel Findikyan's private hall for dinner and a Q&A session. We also attended and participated in the Divine Liturgy at St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church in White Plains, NY. Later in the session we had our annual beach day at Rye Playland and concluded the evening with a visit to the amusement park and watching the fire works for the 4th of July. Lastly, we were able to bare witness and participate in H.E. Bishop Daniel Findikyan's first diaconal ordination, where he ordained Johnny Chadoyan to the Diaconate in St. Hagop Chapel. What St. Nersess summer programs offer is not just fun and knowledge but access to some of the best quality staff and tools our Diocese has to offer. After attending a summer conference at St. Nersess, you or your child will not just leave a better Armenian, Christian and person, but most importantly will leave the seminary campus with the tools needed to be a true Christian in 2019.

Our goal at St. Nersess Deacons Training Program is for our participants to leave the seminary understanding their role in the church and their role as part of the body of Christ. There is also the added benefit of establishing a lifelong brotherhood with people all over our diocese and abroad. If anyone of you are interested in having your child(ren) attend the St. Nersess summer conferences, please look at their website, [stnersess.edu](http://stnersess.edu) for more information. St. Nersess also offers a high school conference, a post high school conference, and an adult conference for those who are not interested in being altar servers but want the St. Nersess experience.

Please consider St. Nersess Armenian Seminary Summer Conferences for your summer plans next year.



## The Feast of Transfiguration Celebrated at St. Mary



The glorious Feast of Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ was celebrated at St. Mary on July 28. This feast is one of the five Tabernacle feasts of the Armenian Church. It is called the Holy Transfiguration because the appearance of Christ changed and became luminous indicating His divinity and His divine glory. In the Transfiguration, the apostles see the glory of the Kingdom of God present in majesty in the person of Christ. They see that in

Him, indeed, "all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell," and that "in him, the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily" [Col. 1:19, 2:9]. They see this before the crucifixion so that in the resurrection they might know who it is who has suffered for them, and what it is that this one, who is God, has prepared for those who love him. This is what the Church celebrates in the feast of the Holy Transfiguration.



ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH  
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August 2019

New Icons for St. Mary Sanctuary



The St. Mary Sanctuary is adorned by three new icons on the left side wall of the Church's chancel. As the key figures in the history of Armenia's conversion to Christianity, these icons of St. Gregory the Illuminator, King Drtad the Great, and St. Hripsime have been donated in memory of Mardiros & Dikranouhi Balian and Vartkess Balian and in honor of Rita Balian.

We hope that they inspire our faithful in their prayers for years to come. On behalf of St. Mary, we would like to thank Mrs. Rita Balian and her family for their sponsorship.

St. Vartan Camp

On Sunday, July 14th our parish was represented at St. Vartan Camp by six of our ACYOA Jr. youths. They spent two weeks at camp. The kids spent their days playing volleyball, basketball, swimming and rotating between religion, art, heritage, music, and dance classes. Every evening they spent time with their age-specific groups creating skits and playing games.



Various clergymen visited the camp. It was an honor for the campers to be visited by our Primate Bishop Daniel, who took the time to lead a class in religion.

It was an emotional departure from camp on July 27th. Our campers look forward to July of 2020 to go back to see all of their friends at St. Vartan Camp.



## The Icon of St Gregory of Narek



An icon of one of the greatest Saints of our church St Gregory of Narek will be completed soon and placed above the side entrance door of the sanctuary. St. Gregory of Narek was an Armenian mystical and lyrical poet, monk, and theologian. He is a saint of the Armenian Apostolic Church and was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Francis in 2015.

Our appreciation goes to Dr. Ara and Magy Avedisian for their sponsorship.

## Feast Of The Assumption Of The Holy Mother-Of-God And Name Day Of Our Church

The feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God was observed at St. Mary on August 12.

Very Rev. Mamigon Keledjian, our guest clergy, celebrated the Badarak which was followed by the special serve of the Blessing of Grapes and Madagh. .

Latter that afternoon the parishioners and friends came together for fellowship around the hospitality table.

Especial thanks to St. Mary Parish Council for hosting the event. We also thank all of the members and friends who contributed towards the Great Blessing, supported, and enjoyed this holy day



# ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH ANNUAL JOURNAL September 2019

## Backgammon tournament



The first round of the backgammon tournament took place on September 6th. Twelve participants threw their hat in the ring with a fair number of supporters cheering for them. The tough competition revealed the incredible skills of our participants, who generously shared backgammon playing tips and tricks with each other. The finalists emerged after the first round. We have Daniel, Kolya Tevosyan, Mark Krikorian, and Nicholas Micha-

lopoulos that put their skills into the test again for the bid to win the title of the Master of Backgammon. The 2019 Backgammon Tournament concluded on September 19th with four finalist competing for the title of the "Master of Backgammon". As a result of a tough competition, Daniel won the prestigious title of the "Master of Backgammon". Kolya and Mark won the second and third places respectively."

## Book Signing and Presentation By Rosemary Hartounian Cohen

An interesting book presentation took place at St. Mary's on Sunday, September 8. The author Rosemary Hartounian Cohen spoke about her recently published book "Voices from the Hidden Genocide 1918". The book is about the Armenian Massacre that happened in northern Persia in 1918, which was the continuation of the 1915 Armenian Genocide in Turkey. It contains the words and the stories of the survivors of the massacre. The author presented some facts as to how with impunity, the Turks crossed the border into a neighboring sovereign country in order to massacre the Christian residents. Turkish soldiers entered large cities in northwest Persia: Khoy, Salmas, Urmia, Maku, Gharadagh and many smaller Christian villages. Christians, as well as Muslims in Persia's northwestern cities, suffered enormously.



The presentation was followed by a question and answer session, and book signing by the author.



## Feast of Exaltation of the Holy Cross



The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross was celebrated at St. Mary Armenian Church on September 15, with an Antasdan Service immediately following the Divine Liturgy. The Armenian Apostolic Church celebrates the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Khachverats in Armenian) on the Sunday nearest to September 15.

It is one of the five major feasts of the Armenian Church, and the most important of the four feasts of the Holy Cross. According to the tradition, the first one to "exalt" the Cross was the Apostle James of Jerusalem, also known as the "Brother of the Lord."

After the Badarak an Antasdan service (blessing of the fields) was celebrated during which the processional cross adorned with basil (a symbol of royalty) was carried and the four corners of the church were blessed as a sign of the sanctification of the world. This sweet-smelling plant is associated with the celebration of this feast because in the early decades of Christianity, basil was a symbol of royalty, befitting the Savior who was crucified as a King. Church traditions also recall a beautiful story of the miraculous growth of basil on the ground at the foot of the Cross of the Lord after it had been removed. Basil, according to pious traditions, continued to grow on that ground despite the faithful cutting and taking it home.

## Registration and the First Day of Shnorhali School 2019-2020

The Shnorhali Armenian School opened its doors for the academic year 2019-2020 on September 8th, with classes in Armenian language and culture and Christian education taught to K-12 students.

This year the School offers an Eastern Armenian language and Cultural heritage curriculum to seven grade levels, as well as one Western Armenian class. The Christian education curriculum is extended to include post graduate/high school levels.

As of the end of first week of school, there were 90 officially registered students; however, the number is expected to increase, as the registration process hasn't been completed. We wish our students and teachers a fruitful academic year.



## ACYOA Juniors Fall Cookout



On September 21st, the ACYOA Juniors kicked off the school year with a cookout at the home of the Kalayjian family. The teens had a great time catching up with each other and playing yard sports. Zaven Kalayjian served as the grill master, Patricia Yeghissian led the teens in a devotional, and "coaches" Mike Sahakian and Greg Kumkumian ran the kids through some volleyball drills. The gathering was a huge success, with about 20 youth in attendance.

If you know any teens (ages 12-18) who

would enjoy being a part of the St Mary ACYOA Juniors please contact Yn Jennifer Karapetyan [ynjennifer@gmail.com](mailto:ynjennifer@gmail.com) or Becky Bagdasarian [RebeccaBagdasarian@yahoo.com](mailto:RebeccaBagdasarian@yahoo.com).

## A Celebration of Armenia's Independence Day

The 28th Anniversary of Armenia's Independence Day was celebrated at St. Mary with a special Thanksgiving Prayer Service for the Republic of Armenia on Sunday, September 22. The service took place immediately after Badarak.

The rebirth of the Armenian homeland is one of the most momentous developments in the history of the Armenian people. Armenia's citizens voted for independence from the Soviet Union on September 21,

1991, and the resulting free republic became a member of the United Nations on March 2, 1992.



## Food Festival Preparations



Our members and volunteers have once again devoted the entire month of September to preparing for the St. Mary 71st Annual Armenian Fall Food Festival. They have prepared hundreds of delicious food items in the kitchen as we have enjoyed the aromas throughout the church. The authentic Armenian dishes are from recipes that have long been part of our proud heritage and we are ever so grateful for their time, energy, and skills. Our heartfelt thanks go to each and everyone of them.



ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH  
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Book presentation by Matthew Karanian



Author Matthew Karanian discussed his recently published book *The Armenian Highland: Western Armenia and the First Armenian Republic of 1918*, at St Mary Church on Sunday, October 27. In presenting his book, the author talked about *The Armenian Highland*, which is a geographic term that has been used for millennia to identify the vast highland plateau of Asia Minor—the ancient homeland of the Armenian nation.

Author and lawyer Matthew Karanian explores this vast Armenian homeland in his new book *The Armenian Highland: Western Armenia and the First Armenian Republic of 1918*. His illustrated presentation celebrated the ancestral home that Armenians today

know as Western Armenia, as well as Ani and Kars, on the lands of the Armenian Highland that are located outside the borders of today's Republic of Armenia.

Matthew Karanian practices law in Pasadena, California, and he is a former law professor and associate dean of the law school at the American University of Armenia. He is the author of several books about Armenia and he is the 2016 recipient of Armenia's Arshile Goriky Medal, in recognition of his service to homeland and for his role in helping to unite the homeland and the worldwide diaspora of Armenians.

2019 ACYOA Juniors Fall Sports Weekend

Young Armenian Church members ages 13 to 18 came together over Columbus Day weekend for the annual ACYOA Juniors Fall Sports Weekend. At Camp Kweebec in Schwenksville, PA, 213 participants from 14 parishes across the Eastern Diocese gathered for three days of worship, sports, and fellowship.

Under the theme of "Living the Hye Life," the ACYOA Juniors enjoyed the full variety of activities available on the expansive campgrounds. Participants played sports and individual games; had opportunities to zipline, rock climb, and rope swing; and enjoyed social events in the evenings.

St. Mary Church was represented by 12 participants who played team as well as individual sports. Our utmost appreciation to Mr. Michael Sahakian, Dr. Greg Kumkumian and Mrs. Talar Festekjian for driving and chaperoning over the weekend.



## St. Mary 71st Armenian Fall Food Festival



St. Mary's Annual Armenian Fall Food Festival took place from October 3 to 6. As always, our dedicated volunteers worked very hard to make the festival a great success.

St. Mary Parish Council, Women's Guild and many volunteers have worked very hard to make 71st Annual Armenian Food Festival a great success. It is gratifying to note that the time and energy everyone invested in working and organizing this year's Food Festival paid off. We happily witnessed with pride and joy as our community enjoyed the Armenian foods and culture.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to all of our volunteers, sponsors and supporters who contributed and worked tirelessly to make this year's festival a great success.

## Presentation by Nareg Seferian

An insightful presentation by Nareg Seferian took place at St. Mary's Church Hall on Sunday, September 29. Nareg spoke about the creation of his book published on the occasion of the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide. The book titled "Impact of An Ancient Nation", presents one hundred facts on Armenian history and culture. It was initially curated for the 100 Years, 100 Facts Project as it ran online from April 24, 2014 to April 24, 2015. The book was revised and updated with those glimpses into the Armenian experience in order to serve as a worthy testimony of a lasting heritage. From building the first coffee shops in Europe to building the longest aerial tramway in the world, from leading the global trade routes in the middle ages to leading the global chess rankings in modern times, Armenians carry a rich culture that has had a lasting impact on humanity. You can visit the 100-years-100-facts website by [Clicking Here](#).

Nareg Seferian is a PhD student at Virginia Tech's School of Public and International Affairs in the Washington, DC metro area. He holds a master's degree in international affairs from the Fletcher School at Tufts University and the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. From 2013 to 2016, Nareg served on the faculty at the American University of Armenia, running elective undergraduate courses in writing, literature, and politics.





## Food Festival Preparations



Our members and volunteers have once again devoted the entire month of September to preparing for the St. Mary 71th Annual Armenian Fall Food Festival. They have prepared hundreds of delicious food items in the kitchen as we have enjoyed the aromas throughout the church. The authentic Armenian dishes

are from recipes that have long been part of our proud heritage and we are ever so grateful for their time, energy, and skills. Our heartfelt thanks go to each and everyone of them.



# ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH ANNUAL JOURNAL November 2019

## Side Entrance Project Completed

We are excited to announce that the St. Mary Side Entrance Project has been completed. After several weeks of extensive work, under the supervision of the St. Mary Parish council members, the 41st entrance has received a new, fresh and more functional appearance.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to all of our dedicated parishioners whose contributions made this project a reality.

In addition, last week, the shingles of the entire roof of the church were replaced as well, which was damaged because of a hail storm in the early summer.

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of the St. Mary Parish Council members for accomplishing this project as well.



## Women's Guild Meeting and Election Results



On Saturday, November 9th the Women's Guild held their general meeting and annual elections for the Executive Committee.

The meeting was attended by 21 members and started with a delicious potluck brunch. Many subjects were discussed and the meeting concluded with the announcement of the election results.

## ACYOA Juniors Service Project

On Sunday November 10th the ACYOA Juniors assembled 200 bag lunches for needy Maryland children. The lunches will go to the students serviced by an organization called Nourish Now. The event, organized by the Kumkumian and Sahakian families, attracted over twenty teens from the St Mary community. Many thanks to all who participated or donated food.





ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH  
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New Icons Installed



If you have been at St. Mary Church recently, you probably noticed six new icons on the right side of the church, added to the previously installed three icons. The icons of St. Vartan Mamigonian, St. Hovsep Hoghotsmetsi Catolicos, St. Shushan. St. Gayane, St. Nersess Shnorhali and St. Grigor Tatevatsi have been donated by Aslanyan and Ka-

pikian families in memory of their loved once.

The beautiful icons are not only meant to decorate our church and create a more uplifting environment for worship but most importantly, the saints depicted in the icons are there to inspire us to live by their example and intercede on our behalf with our Heavenly Father.

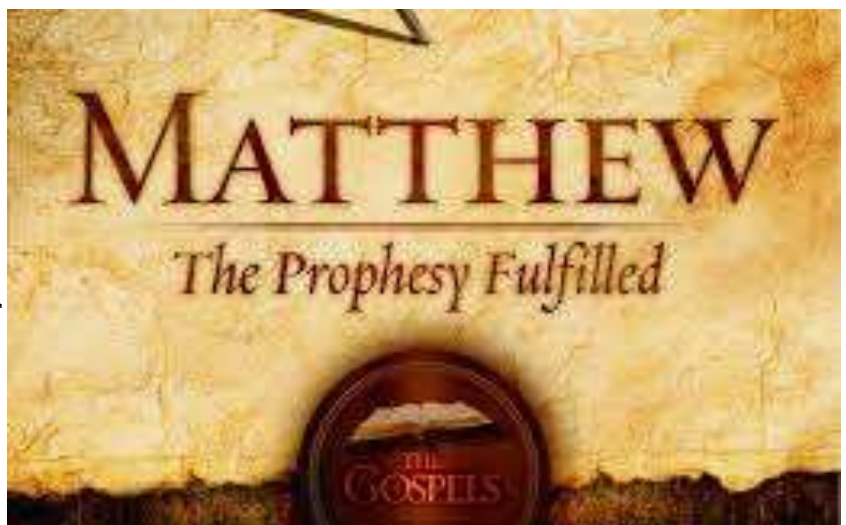
Next time you are in the church, make sure to take a few moments to pray to the saints, asking for their intercession.

St. Mary Bible Studies Conclude

Last week, the St. Mary Bible Study Group completed their journey through the Gospel Matthew.

The group has been meeting, every Tuesday from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, for past several month to explore the Gospel of Matthew and take an in-depth journey into the heart of God. They entered into the drama of Christ's family tree, the birth of our Savior, His duel in the desert with Satan, and the life-changing truths of His Sermon on the Mount. They experienced Jesus' ministry unfold through His miracles and parables.

As well as witnessed our Lord's triumphant entrance into Jerusalem on His way to the cross, tomb, and resurrection.



## Women's Guild Christmas Bake Sale



On Sunday, the Women's Guild held their annual Christmas bake sale. The table was full of beautifully decorated boxes and trays of delightful baked goodies all donated by the many generous members. The Women's Guild Executive Committee is thankful to all those who helped make both events successful.

## St. Mary's 87th Anniversary

St. Mary Church celebrated its 87th Anniversary on Sunday, December 8, with a special luncheon and program after the Divine Liturgy. The day began with Badarak celebrated by His Eminence Abp. Vicken Aykazian. At the conclusion of Badarak a special Hokehankist service



was conducted for all of our former dedicated parishioners and loved ones, as well as a for the souls of the victims of the 1988 earthquake. Over 140 parishioners attended the luncheon, including special guests His Eminence Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, Mr. Ara Margarian, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Armenian Embassy, the NKR Representative to the U.S. Mr. Robert Avetisyan and the entire Embassy staff.

Master of Ceremonies Ms. Becky Bagdasarian welcomed everyone and guided the day's program. Parish Council Chairman Mr. Onnik Sivaslian also welcomed the guests and thanked them for sharing in the special occasion with their parish family. During the luncheon, Mr. Ara Yeghissian recounted his experience from his pilgrimage to the Holy Land, which was led by Fr. Hovsep last summer. Remarks were made by Mr. Ara Margarian, Mr. Robert Avetisyan and Archbishop Vicken Aykazian.

The Honorees of the year Mr. Eric Ashbahian, Mrs. Julia Melikyna, Mrs. Marta Kotanyan, and Mrs. Jema Gevorgyan were recognized by Fr. Hovsep for their love, dedication, and service to St. Mary Shnorhali School. Mr. Luiz Gusmao, Jake Ciuccio, and Geroge Guiragossian were acknowledged for their dedicated volunteer service and their hard work during St. Mary's Food Festival.



## Shnorhali School Christmas Hantes

On December 15 the St. Mary Shnorhali School held its annual Christmas Hantes. This year's Hantes centered on our Lord Jesus Christ - the Light of the World and included the participation of students from Preschool to High school, over 80 students in total. Children of different grades beautifully recited scriptural passages, read from the Bible and sang different Sharagans and Carols as they reenacted the Christmas story with beautiful costumes and decorations.



Our sincere appreciation goes out to the talented Hantes organizers Miss Becky Baghdasarian and Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan, as well as all of our religion teachers and the entire school staff and parents for their help and participation.

## Women's Guild Christmas Party



Saturday, December 14th and Sunday, December 15th proved to be a pretty busy weekend for the Women's Guild.

On Saturday they celebrated their annual Christmas party in the beautiful home of Siran Demirji with delicious appetizers, a catered lunch, and amazing desserts.

Members also participated in a gift exchange and played Bingo for many wonderful prizes

## Juniors Christmas Party Bowling

The St. Mary ACYOA Juniors celebrated the Christmas season with a Bowling Party on Dec. 14. Over 20 teens had an amazing time showing off their skill on the lanes, as they munched on snacks, listened to music and had fun hanging out. Special appreciation to Catherine Sahakian for her tireless effort in working to organize this event for our teens. Thank you also goes to our chaperones, Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan, Becky Baghdasarian, Katie Kumukian and Zaven Kalaydjian.



## The Blessing of Pomegranates



Pomegranates were blessed by Der Hovsep Karapetyan at St. Mary Church on Sunday, December 29. In 2015 the Supreme Patriarch of the Armenian Church, His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of all Armenian, Introduced a new service for the Blessing of the Pomegranates, one of the seven biblical species of fruits and grains, at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. Throughout the centuries, the pomegranate has been woven into Armenian architecture, cuisine, art, manuscripts, literature and liturgical vestments as it represents life, fertility, and abundance. Pomegranates were blessed after the Badarak and distributed to the faithful with a wish to bring prosperity and abundance in the year 2019.







## Hokehankists-Requiem Services

### JANUARY 2019

January 20

**For the Soul of: Hrant Dink**

Requested by: St. Mary Parish Council and Der Hayr

**For the Soul of: Rubik Avetisyan**

Requested by: Ararat Stepanyan

**For the Soul of: Emil Yeghiazarian (1 year)**

Requested by: Gayaneh Contos (Sister)

**For the Souls of: Marutyán Ivan, Marutyán Yura and Oganyan Rimma**

Requested by: Karen Marutyán

January 27

**For the Souls of: The freedom-fighters and soldiers who sacrificed their lives for freedom and liberation of the homeland**

Requested by: The Office of the Armenian Defense Attache in U.S.

**For the Soul of: Garo Yeghissian (21st anniversary)**

Requested by: Patricia, Arvid, Talene and Ara

### FEBRUARY 2019

February 3

**For the Soul of: Rose Arakelian**

Requested by: Eleanor (Daughter) and David (Son-in-Law) Marvel, Anna Gharakanian (Sister), George and Robin (Nephews) and their Families

**For the Souls of: Arousiag Boursalian, Peter Boursalian and Pierre Boursalian**

Requested by: Noubar and Linda Boursalian

February 10,

**For the Souls of: Garo and Rose Bandazian, Barkev Kibarian, Simon and Yaghout Kibarian**

Requested by: Mary Ann Kibarian, Maral and Bill Skelsey, Charlotte and Freddie Skelsey

February 17

**For the Soul of: Charles Kumkumian (40 days)**

Requested by: Greg and Katie Kumkumian, Simon and Lenie Kumkumian, John and Roxanne Schweitzer and families.

February 24

**For the Souls of: Victims of Massacres in Sumgayit and Baku (1988-1990)**

Requested by: Office of Artsakh in USA, Parish Council & Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan

**For the Soul of: Anjel Hovanessian (3rd anniversary)**

Requested by: Bogos and Seta Sivaslian

### MARCH 2019

March 3

**For the Souls of: Deceased Members of the Knights and Daughters of Vartan**

Requested by: Knights and Daughters of Vartan

**For the Souls of: Meline Panosian Michalopoulos & Shnorik Tarakadjian**

Requested by: Nicholas Michalopoulos and Christine Burke and their Families

March 10

**For the Soul of: Mardiros Shafakian**

Requested by: Wife Mari Shafakian, Children Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shafakian,

Mr. and Mrs. Rudi Shafakian and Grandchildren Talia and Micaela

March 17

**For the Souls of: Dorothy Chakarian Hartmann, Virginia Keljikian, and Zarie Keosian**

Requested by: Dale Chakarian Turza and Peter Turza and Family; Helen Krikorian; Mark Krikorian and Family; and David Krikorian and Family

**March 24**

**For the Soul of: Varuzhan Yenokyan**

Requested by: Daughter Karine Yenokyan, Son-in-Law Artak Azizyan, Grandsons David Azizyan and Tigran Azizyan

**March 31**

**For the Soul of: Louise Manoogian Simone**

Requested by: Diocese, Der Hayr and Parish Council

**For the Soul of: Louiza Kazandjian**

Requested by: Araxie Vann and Richard Vann daughter and son in law

**For the Soul of: Ararat Yervand Melkonian**

Requested by: Mari M. Melkonyan, Tigran Melkonian, Daughter-in-Law Rouzanna Yolyan and Magdalena Melkonyan, Son-in-Law Artin Aharonian, Grandchildren Izabella, Alexander, Stephanie, Andre and Adrian

**For the Soul of: Angela Bardizbanian (5th anniversary)**

Requested by: Son & Daughter-in-law & Grandchildren Raffie, Maureen, Arthur & Raffie Jr. Bardizbanian

**APRIL 2019**

**April 7**

**For the Soul of: Mary Sarkisian**

Requested by: Andonian Family, Eaton Family, and Jacobs Family

**April 28**

**For the Soul of: Archbishop Mesrob II Mutafyan**

**84th Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople (40 Days)**

Requested by: Der Hovsep and the Parish Council

**For the Soul of: Ashot Shmavonyan**

Requested by: Nina Kankanian

**For the Soul of: Horen Panosyan (2nd Anniversary)**

Requested by: Arpine Panosyan (Wife), Ani & Ayda Panosyan (Daughters),

Aris & Alis (Daughter) Cubuk & Children, Garbis & Nadya (Daughter) Chubukian & Children

**MAY 2019**

**May 5**

**For the Soul of: Vassilica Kalikina (1st anniversary)**

Requested by: Varoujan & Aida Kalikian

For the Soul of: Andriy Simonyan

Requested by: John & David Simonyan (Sons)

**May 12**

**For the Souls of: All the Freedom Fighters Who Sacrificed Their Lives for the Liberation of Artsakh**

Requested by: Office of the Republic of Artsakh in the United States, St. Mary's Parish Council, Der Hary

**For the Soul of: Edward Onanian (40 days)**

Requested by: Lorie Onanian, St. Mary's Parish Council, Der Hary, Knights and Daughter of Vartan, Mike & Naira Tashjian, Clara Andonian

**May 26**

**For the Soul of: Sossie Zenian (5th Anniversary)**

Requested by: Vartan P. Zenian, Arda Z, Belt, Mr. Steve and Mrs. Zarminee Evereklian, Melvina Evereklian and Tanya S. Evereklian

**JUNE 2019**

**June 6**

**For the Souls of: The Deceased Members of St. Mary Women's Guild**

**For the Soul of: Seda Khoranian**

Requested by: Children Linet Blackwell and Yervand Khoranian, Grandchildren Nicollete Blackwell, Eric Blackwell, Hayasa Khoranian, Menua Khoranian

**June 9**

**For the Soul of: Vaughn Sayian (10 Anniversary)**

Requested by: Sayian and Talanian Families

**For the Souls of: Yerchanik Bolat (20 Anniversary), Sahag Bolat and Bahar Bolat**

Requested by: Mrs. Vercin Bolat and Her Family

**For the Soul of: Liam Tatigian (40 Days)**

Requested by: Liam Mc Kevitt, Bob Tatigian and Sarkis Tatigian

**June 16**

**For the Soul of: Aida Kechichian Najarian**

Requested by: Nevart and Khajag Tahmazian, and Granddaughters Nyrie and Garine Tahmazian



**June 23**

**For the Souls of: Linda Kumkumian and Arousiag Kumkumian**

Requested by: Kumkumian, Schwietzer and Anbarjian families

**JULY 2019**

**July 7**

**For the Soul of: Mary Kooyoomjian (10 anniversary) & Hatotune Kooyoomjian (30 anniversary)& Thomas Vincent Smith (10 anniversary)& Doris Smith (10 month)**

Requested by: Dr. & Mrs. Kachig Jack & Geraldine A. Kooyoomjian & Family, Carl & Phyllis Kooyoomjian & family & the Cherkerzian family

**July 14**

**For the Soul of: H.E. Arman Kirakossian, former Ambassador of Armenia to the United States**

Requested by: H.E. Ambassador Varuzhan Nersesyan and the Armenian Embassy Staff, Rev. Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan, and the Parish Council

**AUGUST 2019**

**August 4**

**For the Soul of: Zhudeks Petrosyan**

Requested by: Leonid and Nelly Harutyunyan's family, Edmon and Amalia Gazazyan, Evelina Atayan-Poghosyan and their family members.

**For the Souls of: Armenak Boyajian, Keghanoush Boyajian and Sograd Boyajian**

Requested by: Molly Boyajian

**August 11**

**For the Souls of: Archpriest Father Vertanes Kalayjian (3rd anniversary)**

**Zvart Samuelian (Yn. Kalayjian's Sister) (40 days)**

Requested by: Yn. Anahid Kalayjian, Rev. Father Avedis Kalayjian and Family

Berj Kalayjian, Zaven Kalayjian and Family

**For the Soul of: Karine Ter-Ohanyan**

Requested by: Hrach Topalyan

**August 25**

**For the Soul of: Mary Chobanian (40 days)**

Requested by: William Seabrook (grandson)

**SEPTEMBER 2019**

**September 1**

**For the Soul of: Kaloust Yedibalian (40 day)**

Requested by: Susan Yedibalian (Spouse), Taline, Christopher and Michel Yedibalian (Children)

**September 8**

**For the Soul of: Haroutioun Bardizbanian**

Requested by: Son & Daughter-in-law & Grandchildren. Raffie, Maureen, Arthur & Raffie Jr. Bardizbanian

**September 22**

**For the Soul of: Roza Petrosyan**

Requested by: Azat Hakobyan - (Grandson)

**For the Souls of: Harry Tashjian, III, Debora-Lu (Tashjian) Yepremian**

Requested by: Mrs. Debbie Tashjian - wife/daughter Mr. & Mrs. Harry (Irina) Tashjian, IV - son/sister

Harry Tashjian, V-grandson/Horkour

Troy Adamek -nephew/cousin

Ross Adamek -Godson & nephew/cousin

**For the Souls of: Berge A. Kayaian (1st anniversary)**

**Adrina Casparian Kayaian (10 anniversary)**

Requested by: Elizabeth -(Daughter) and Susan - ( Granddaughter) Garabedian

**September 29**

**For the Soul of: Galoost Keshishian (40 day)**

Requested by: Vahe, Andre and Aris Keshishian (Sons). Katrin, Maggie and Arpi Keshishian (Daughter in laws). Patrick, Alen, Shant, Abel and Aren Keshishian (Grand children)

**OCTOBER 2019**

**October 6**

**For the Souls of: Hariknaz Ozbenian and Misak Mermer**

Requested by: Zadik Ozbenian, Garo and Juliette Ozbenian, John and Jaqueline Ozbenian, Maryam Mermer, their children and grand children

**For the Souls of: Araxi Bostanian Kobrin, Theodore Kobrin, Sarkis and Esther Bostanian, Dikran and Armina Bostanian, John and Elizabeth Shanlian, Joyce Elizabeth Shanlian, Avedis and Kohar Shanlian, Kerop and Sarah Arsenian**

Requested by: Melanie Kobrin (daughter of Araxi

Bostanian Kobrin and Theodore Kobrin; Dennis Shanlian and Cynthia Shanlian Reid (cousins)

**For the soul of: Stephen Berberian 40 day service**

Requested by: Brenda and Debora Berberian, daughters

**October 13**

**For the Souls of: Abp. Tiran Nersoyan and Abp. Torkom Manoogian.**

**For the Soul of: Jozef Tilmian**

Requested by: Yester Gharibi (wife), Carmen Tilmian (daughter) and Family, Zorik Tilmian (son) and Family, Catherine Tilmian (daughter) and Family, Serjik Tilmian (son) and Family

**October 20**

**For the Soul of: Charles Balian**

Requested by: Margaret Balian (spouse) and Family

**October 27**

**For the Soul of: Shirley Mikaelian**

Requested by: Women's Guild, Knights and Daughter of Vartan and Clara Andonian

**November 2019**

**November 10**

**For the Soul of: Haig Ellian**

Requested by: Sue and Levon Ellian and Mulvihill Family

**For the Soul of: Armanush Avetisyan**

Requested by: Anush Avetisyan

**November 17**

**For the Souls of: Apraham Bedoyan and Fr. Hovsep Bedoyan**

**An Armenian Catholic priest and his father who were murdered this week in an act of terror by the Islamic State (ISIS)**

**November 24**

**For the Souls of: Elmas Santourian-Great grandmother, Nevart & Dickran Halajian, Nazenig & Hovaness Cherishian-grandparents, Serarpe & Onnig Halajian-parents, Maryann Kinoian-sister, Araxe Cherishian-aunt (2 anniversary) ,Steve Cherishian-uncle, (3 anniversary) ,Berjouhi & Karnig Halajian-aunt and uncle**

Requested by: Nancy & Michael Kolenick

**DECEMBER 2019**

**December 29,**

**For the Soul of: Daniel Bajger**

Requested by: Mark Krikorian

**For the soul of: Hasmik Zalyan**

Requested by: Astghik and Ruben Harutunian







## FUNERALS

### **KHAJAK HACOBIAN**

January 10, 2019

Beloved father of Joe Hacobian, brother of Vartan, Hacob, & Hriar Hacobian, and Hasmik Hacobian.

### **ROSE ARAKELIAN**

January 15, 2019

Beloved Mother of Eleanor and David (Son-in-Law) Marvel, Anna Gharakanian (Sister), George and Robin (Nephews) and their Families

### **ARARAT YERVAND MELKONIAN**

February 26, 2019

Beloved Husband of Meri M. Melkonyan  
Beloved Father of Tigran Melkonyan (Daughter-in-Law Rouzanna Yulan) and Magdalena Melkonyan (Son-in-Law Artin Aharonyan)

### **ARDEMIS BOYAJIAN YOUSOOF**

February 28, 2019

Beloved Mother of Celeste Campbell

### **EDWARD ONANIAN**

April 6, 2019

Beloved Husband of Zvart Onanian, Father of Laurie and Deborah (Eric), Brother of Harry Krekorian, Jr., Grandfather of John and Avedis Stickler

### **SEDA KHORANIAN**

April 26, 2019

Beloved Mother to Linet Blackwell and Yervand Khoranian  
Loving Grandmother to Nicollete Blackwell, Eric Blackwell, Hayasa Khoranian, and Menua Khoranian

### **AIDA KECHICHIAN NAJARIAN**

May 15, 2019

Beloved mother of Nevart Tahmazian and Khajag, Norayr Najarian, Nazo Najarian (France), Liza Haza-

rian (Lebanon), sister of Lucy Kechichian (Lisbon) and Garbis Keshishian (Greece), grandmother of Nyrie, Garine, Alik, Ani, Lory, Vana, Armen, great grandmother of Lory and Nareg.

### **ARAXI ESTHER BOSTANIAN KOBRIN**

July 24, 2019

Beloved mother of Melanie Kobrin and cousin of Dennis Shanlian and Cynthia Shanlian Reid; and beloved daughter of Sarkis and Esther Bostanian, sister of Dikran and Armina (Armenée) Bostanian, and cousin of John and Elizabeth Shanlian, of Blessed Memory

### **HELEN TOOKMANIAN THOMPSON**

July 15, 2019

Beloved Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother and Great Great Grandmother

### **MR. STEPHEN BERBERIAN**

August 19, 2019

Beloved father of Dr. Brenda Berberian and Ms. Debora Berberian.

### **GALOOST KESHISHIAN**

August 18, 2019

Beloved father of Vahe, Andre and Aris Keshishian, Katrin, Maggie and Arpi Keshishian  
Grandfather of Patrick, Alen, Shant, Abel and Aren Keshishian

### **NUBAR SAHAKYAN**

October 20, 2019

Beloved husband of Hermine Sahakyan;  
Loving father of Aret (Canan), and Raffi (Shoghig);  
Devoted grandfather of André, Aren and Aram.  
Appreciated brother of the late Ohannes (Verjin) and family,  
Antranik (Viki) and family and Jaklin and family  
Cherished uncle to nephews and nieces

**ANDRE PELTIKIAN**

December 5, 2019

André is survived by his son Alex Peltekian, daughter Kathy (Harmon) Peltekian, sisters Jeanette (Kiminias) Peltekian, Alice (Solloa) Peltekian, Madeline (Baines) Peltekian, Louise (Simon) Peltekian and brother Pierre Peltekian. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 39 years, Alice Peltekian in 2006 and his son André Peltekian in 1994.

**KARINE HOVANESIAN**

December 28, 2019

Karine is survived by her husband Ashot, her two sons, Arthur and Arshak and her three grandchildren-Ariana, Isabelle, and Alec







## BAPTISMS AND CHRISMATIONS

### MARCH

**March 21, 2019**

**Ava Hanessian**

Daughter of Bruce and Julia Hanessian

Godparents: Chris Hanessian and Shana Kurata

**March 23, 2019**

**Aram Toufighi**

Son of Yashar Toufighi and Tamar Boghosian

Godparents: Raffi and Diane Boghosian

**Gregory Boghosian**

Son of Raffi and Diane Boghosian

Godparents: Oshin Shahverdian and Tamar

Boghosian

### APRIL

**April 13, 2019**

**Melina Alice Postell**

Daughter of Daniel Howard Postell and Melissa

Christine Bagherian

Godparents: Armen Alex and Armineh Lida Ghazarian

**April 27, 2019**

**Ana Marie Ramadan**

Daughter of Ed Ramadan and Vana Ghazarian

Godparents: Ghazar and Zarouhi- Marie Ghazarian

### MAY

**May 6, 2019**

**Lilit Eynatyan Rosenblatt**

Daughter of Adam Samuel Rosenblatt and Ttevik

Khoja Eynatyan

Godparents: Alexander Khoja Eynatyan and Liana Parakesyan

### JUNE

**June 1, 2019**

**VERONICA AREV SHAKHBEKYAN**

Daughter of Levon Shakhbekyan and Ida Yengoyan

Godparents: John Cerqueira and Anna Cerqueira Karter and Kyle Brodie

Son of Andre Keith Brodie and Talin Mossessian

Godparents: Shant Mossessian and Suzie Chacon

**June 2, 2019**

**FARIDA MARTIROSYAN**

Daughter of Rustam and Gulzara Sultanova

Godfather Rafayel Gevorgyan

**June 15, 2019**

**MELANIE MERMER**

Daughter of Sarven Mermer and Angineh Babakhani

Godparents: Jack and Ani Tekeyan

**June 22, 2019**

**HARPER SAGE ELLIS**

Son of William Brendan and Cynthia Armine Ellis

Godparents: Mark Christopher Bettis and Caroline Claudia Holsombeck

**GRAYSON KNOX ELLIS**

Son of William Brendan and Cynthia Armine Ellis

Godparents: Mark Christopher Bettis and Caroline Claudia Holsombeck

**CYNTHIA ARMINE ELLIS**

Daughter of David Richard and Soussi Markarian Bettis

Godparents: Mark Christopher Bettis and Caroline Claudia Holsombeck

**HAIG HAGOP GAVOOR**

Son of Aram & Anoush Gavoor

Godparents: Melineh Mesrobian & Anaïs Barisani

**JULY**

**July 6, 2019**

**LOUIE ANDRANIK KARAPETYAN**

Daughter of Aram and Erica Karapetyan  
Godparents: Morgan and Gaiane Davenport

**July 6, 2019**

**EVANNA ADELE DERBARGHAMIAN**

Daughter of Varouj and Leana Derbarghamian  
Godparents: Areen and Masha Movsessian

**July 13, 2019**

**ELLA YOUSEFIAN**

Daughter of Narbeh and Ashley Yousefian  
Godparents: Joshua Spangler and Gina Delos Santos

**July 13, 2019**

**RONALD OWENS**

Son of Robert and Nancy Owens  
Godfather Serkis Gorjian Haftevani

**AUGUST**

**August 31, 2019**

**LUSINE BERJOUHI POLITZ**

Daughter of Conor James Politz and Jennie York  
Law  
Godparents: Peter Kazanjian Law and Anne Politz

**SEPTEMBER**

**September 28, 2019**

**ROMAN ARMAN DERIAN**

Son of Arman Setrak Derian and Viktoriya Derian  
Godparents: Garin Sevan Derian and Melissa Erdogan

**OCTOBER**

**October 19, 2019**

**ARTHUR KHRIMIAN**

Son of Tigran Khrimian and Elina Balayan  
Godparents: Arman and Armine Derdzakyan

**KHRISTINA KHRIMIAN**

Daughter of Tigran Khrimian and Elina Balayan  
Godparents: Arman and Armine Derdzakyan

**October 26, 2019**

**Theodore Owen Huber**

Son of Ryan William and Yvette Stepanian Huber  
Godparents: Garen Stepanianand and Caitlyn Laurel  
Huber

**NOVEMBER**

**November 9, 2019**

**RYLAN RAFFI TOROSSIAN**

Son of Charle Torossian and Katlyn D. Torossian  
Godparents: Gilbert Torossian and Vanya Kostova

**DECEMBER**

**December 7, 2019**

**ARTEM YOUSEFIAN**

Daughter of Levik Yousefian and Levik Yousefian  
Godparents: Armen Manokian and Ashley Davis





## WEDDINGS

### MAY

May 11, 2019

**Christopher Lylozian and Aline Kazanjian**

Parents: George H. and Kohar Lylozian

Hrair and Suzanne Kazanjian

Best Man: Sundeep Singh

Maid of Honor: Christina Ball

### JUNE

June 16, 2019

**Nora Eva Shafakian and German Eduardo Llerena**

Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Ohannes and Eva Shafakian

Mr. Eduardo Llerena and Ms. Ana Echeandia

Best Man: Daniel Llerena

Maid of Honor: Lerna Chaglassian

### OCTOBER

October 19, 2019

**Alexander Bedrosyan and Helina Gebremariam**

Parents: Mr. Raffi and Mrs. Joy Bedrosyan

Mr. Aglog Gebremariam & Mrs. Rahel Gebremariam

Best Man: Arman Bedrosyan

Maid of Honor: Ari Seyranian

### NOVEMBER

November 2, 2019

**David Hovsepian and Annie Banian**

Parents: Herair and Gohar Hovsepian

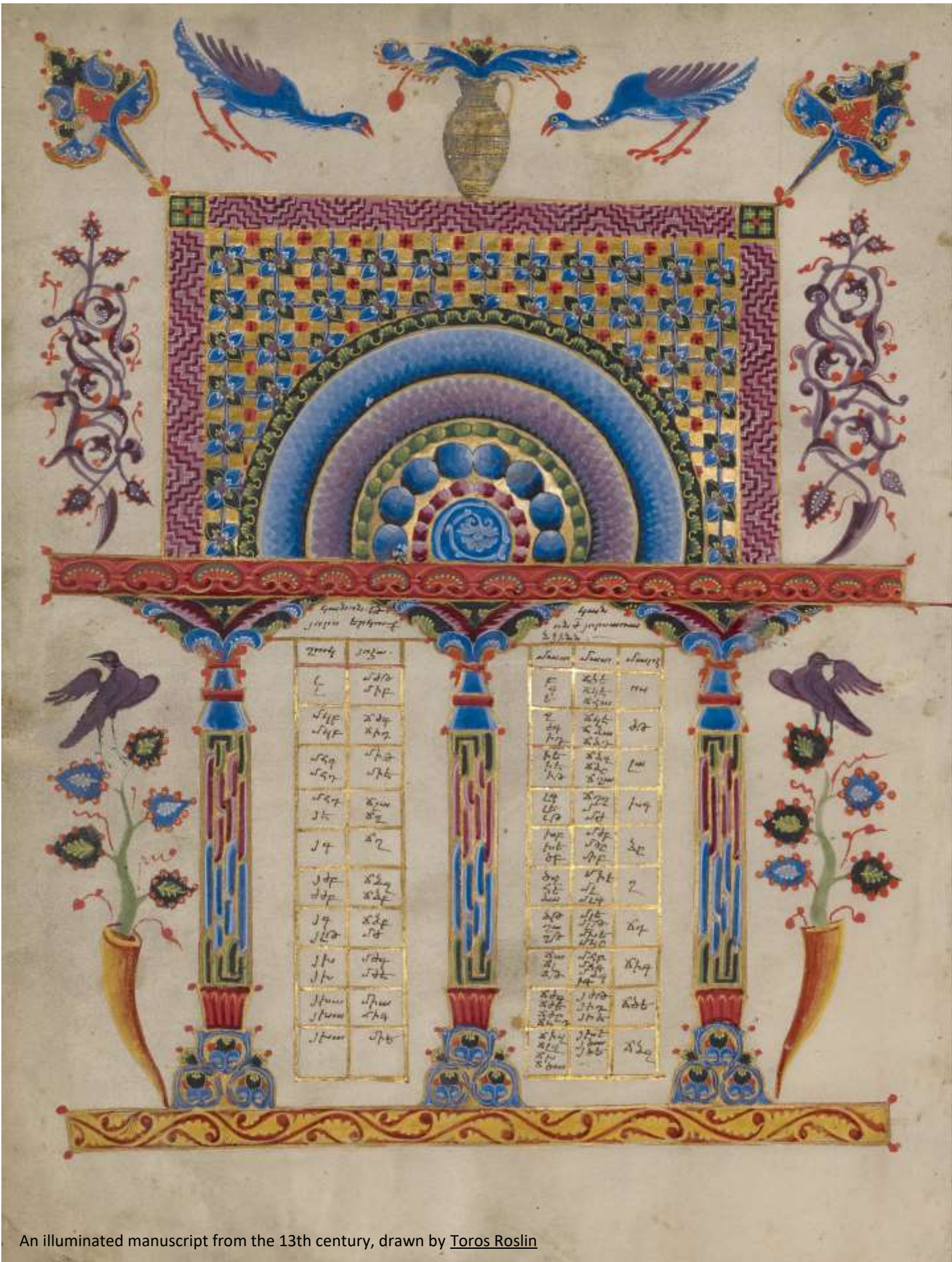
Barkev Banian and Loucine Keushkarian

Best Man: Sergey Sargsyan

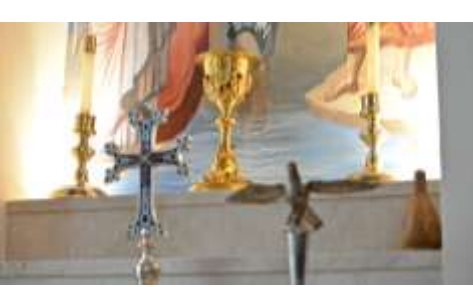
Maid of Honor: Rena Zabounian







An illuminated manuscript from the 13th century, drawn by Toros Roslin



## CHRISTMAS YUGHAKIN DONATIONS 2019

### Donated by:

Alexander Edward  
Alexander Christian & Arlene  
Anbarjian Kegham  
Asdourian Paul  
Asadourian Family  
Balabanian Family  
Balian Simonian, Rita  
Balian Margaret  
Balian Raffi  
Balian Margaret  
Balian Marie  
Baldadian Dolores  
Beloian Aram and Arletta  
Bodurian Family  
Boyajian Molly  
Cimen Gazar and Surpik  
Dedeyan Betty and Sahag  
Der Bogosian Dianne  
Garden Linda  
Ghazarian Kevork and Maria  
Gueriguian John and Ida Family  
Harvhil Family  
Hadjian Asadour and Nvart  
Hagopian Haig and Annie  
Ignatius Raul R.  
Kaehn Albert and Melina  
Kazanjian Law Family  
Kapikian Catherine Andrews  
Karahisar Raffi & Kathy  
Khachaturian Zaven  
Koudoussian Rita  
Krzysztofowicz Roman & Liana  
Kumkumian John & Kathleen

### In Loving Memory of:

Mr. & Mrs. Mirijan Minassian and Mr. & Mrs. John Alexanian  
Alexander, Minassian and Saryan Families  
Loved Ones  
John and Diana Asdourian  
Loved Ones  
Loved Ones  
In loving memory of Vartkess Balian  
Mr. and Mrs. Harutoon and Barkev Peltekian  
Vartkes M. Balian  
Charles Balian  
Vartkess Balian  
George and Flossie Baldadian  
Loved Ones  
Loved Ones  
Armenak Boyajian, Keghanoush Boyajian & Sograd Boyajian  
Loved Ones  
Hamest, Shahen, Harry Yazujian and Beberian Family  
Serma and Saten Mutulian  
Mike Seferian (Grandfather) Gerorge Dudgjian (Uncle)  
Vahan and Ghazarian  
Loved Ones  
Zepur and Arkan Hatchikian  
Loved Ones  
Loved Ones  
Loved Ones  
Loved Ones  
Mrs. Berjouhi Kazanjian & Patriarch Karekin V. Kazanjian  
Dr. Albert Kapikian  
Hermine and Vahan Karahisar  
Loved Ones  
Hagop Koudoussian and Vartkess Balian  
Loved Ones  
Loved Ones

Kumkimian K Gregory and Katherine  
 Khrimian Ashot and Susanna  
 Mermer Mayram  
 Mesrobyan Ara  
 Ozbenian Janser and Jacqueline  
 Sayan Catherine  
 Shahinian Grace & Dean Shaninan, Esq.  
 Shahverdian Zakar and Pat  
 Shamigian Charles  
 Shanigian Chuck  
 Stoutner B Jeffrey  
 Surabian Martin & Sylva  
 Tashjian Mike & Naira  
 Terzian Arpi  
 Witherspoon Robert

Loved Ones  
 Loved Ones  
 Misak Mermer and Hariknaz Ozbenian  
 Mihran and Zabelle Mesrobian  
 Hariknaz Ozbenian and Albert Jirikdjian  
 Arsen Sayan  
 Dr. Paul Shahinian  
 Loved Ones  
 Loved Ones  
 Mary Shanigian, Jackie Nishanian  
 Alice Margosian  
 Loved Ones  
 Kevork Megerdich Tashjian, Khatchadur Hakobyan  
 Carnig Terzian  
 Mari and Hagop Ekmekciyan

**Donated by:**

Breg. Gen & Mrs. A.J Kaehn Jr, USAF  
 Baldadian Dolores

**In Honor of:**

The Men and Women of the Armed Forces of the United States  
 Jack & Jean Babashanian

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**



**Donated by:**

Arabian Lawrence and Janet  
 Breg. Gen & Mrs. A.J Kaehn Jr, USAF  
 Shahinian Jelalian Grace and  
 Shahinian Dean Esq.  
 Pashayan Marie H. and Zohrab  
 Asadourian Family

**In Loving Memory of:**

Yerchanik, Bolt  
 The Men and Women of the Armed Forces  
 of the United States  
 Lily E. Jelalian, Rev. Vahen and Yn. Zarouhi Jelalian  
 Loved Ones  
 Loved Ones

**IN LIEU OF CHRISTMAS CARD DONATIONS**



Balian Simonian Rita  
 Breg. Gen and Mrs. A.J Kaehn Jr, USAF  
 Sahar David and Arpi  
 Mrs. Grace Shahinian and Dean V. Shahinian, Esq.  
 Marilyn Adrine Ziver





## EASTER LILIES & YUGHAKIN DONATIONS 2019

### Donated by:

Alexandrian Edvik & Lena  
Asadoorian Family

Armani Ani & Nerses

Arkoian Rosemary

Balian Margaret

Balian Marie

Balian Simonian Rita

Barsoumian Vergine

Bodurian Family

Boyajian Molly

Dedeyan Sahag & Betty

Debora Stephen & Brenda

Der Bogosian Dianne

Derderian George & Anna

Hammord Mitch & Annie

Garabedian Elizabeth

Garabedian H Levon

Ghazarian, Kevork & Maria

Gulan Liliane

Gueriguian Family John & Ida

Juskalian Lucine and family

Kavookian E. June

Kavookian Eva June

Kapikian Catherine

Karahisar Raffi & Kathy

Krikorian Helen

Khrimian Ashot

Koudoussian Rita & Haikouhi

Kumkumian John & Kathleen

Maghrablian Nora & William

Magzarian lousia

Mermer Maryam

Mesrobian Ara

Mulvhill Jason & Chrstina

Nostrant Elina

### In Loving Memory of:

loved ones

Herman Carson, Eliza Alyanakian, Manuk Matikyan,  
Ron Albertson, Maryam Matikyan and Megurditch Asadoorian

Loved Ones

Moses Arkoian

Charles Balian

Balian Family

Vartkess M. Balian, John & Marie Simonian

Yenovk & Elissa & Araxie

Abraham & Elise Bodurian

Dr. Ohannes Sahakian

Armenak, Keghanoush & Sograd Boyajian

Shahan & Hamest & Harey Yazujian

Jean V. Berberian

Florence Der Bogosian

Aznive & Antranig Attarian, Michael & Mary Petryk

Harout Kazandjian

Adrina & Berge Kayaian

Miharan, Makrouhe & Armen Garabedian

Vahan & Vartouhie Ghazarian

Zepur Hagopian Mahdessian

Loved Ones

George Juskalian, Araxie Diratzouian, Yenovk & Eliza  
Barsoumian

John Kavookian

Ann & Agnes Kavookian

Dr. Albert Kapikian

Hermine & Vahan Karahisar

Deeran & Satenig Krikorian

Parents

Hagop Koudoussian, Marie Missirian & Vartkess Balian

Loved Ones

Demierjdian & Maghrablian Family

Loved Ones

Misak Mermer

Mihran & Zabelle Mesrobian

Haig Ellian

Barbara & Jack Tellalian

Viken Ter- Arutyunov, Babken & Satenik, Norair, Minas  
Arutyunov

Ohanian Stephen  
Ozbenian Janser & Jacqueline  
Ozbenian Zadik  
Pickering Lola  
Sayan Catherine  
Shahnazarian Hilda  
Shahinian Dean, Esq.  
Shamigian Charles  
Surabian Martin & Sylva  
Tashjian Mike & Naira  
Terminassian, Vigen  
Yousoufian Hrant  
Zenian David & Leda  
Xakellis Theodore

**Donated by:**

Anonymous  
Asadoorian Family  
Krikorian Helen  
Shahinian Dean, Esq  
Mulvhill Jason & Christina  
Nostrant Elina  
Tashjian Silva

Yeter & Zadik Mermer  
Hariknaz Ozbenian & Albert Jirikdjian  
Hariknaz Ozbenian  
Yazmajian, Kechyan & Pickering  
Arsen Sayan  
Loved Ones  
Ms. Lily Jelalian & Dr. Paul Shahinian  
Mary Shamigian  
Surabian & Vartanian families  
Dr. Edward Onanian  
Hermine & Rouben Terminassian  
Baghdasrian Azniv  
Chake Seraydarian & Endza Zenian  
Mabel Hatcher & Beulah Shippen

**In Honor of:**

All the Armenian Faithful  
Elmas Asadoorian, Nadya Cason, Anahid Ghazarian,  
Mariam & Vahan Morookian  
Yr. Anahid Kalayjian & Mrs. Clara Andonian  
Sue Elian and Clara Andonian  
Armen Nostrant & Julietta Arutyunova  
Zabel Simonian



GRAPE & MADAGH BLESSING 2019  
Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother-Of-God  
Name Day of our Church



**Donated by:**

Badalians Mary  
Balian Marie  
Balian Rita Simonian  
Boyajian Molly  
  
Bozadjian Araxie  
Cimen Surpik & Gazar  
  
Garabedian Levon H.  
Ghazarian Anahid H & Taleen T  
Koudoussian Haygouhie & Rita  
Koudoussian Rita  
  
Kumkumian John & Kathleen  
Jamgochian Dicran  
Kavookian Eva June  
Maghrablian William & Nora  
Mikaelian Bryan M & April  
Muradyan Marine & Eduardo  
Ozbenian Janser & Jacqueline  
Pickering Lola  
Sahakian Ara A & Diane V  
Sayan Catherine P.  
Seferian Avedis & Anna  
Shahinian Grace and Dean  
Shamigian Chuck  
Tahmasian Onik & Amik  
Tashjian Silva M. & Farid A.  
Turza Dale Chakarian & Peter  
Witherspoon Robert & Eric  
Xakellis Theodore

**In Memory of:**

Loved Ones  
Marie Simonian, Gabriel, Krikorian, Missirian  
My Mother: Mrs. Marie Simonian  
Armenak Boyajian, Keghanoush Boyajian, and Sograd  
Boyajian  
Loved Ones  
Manuk Iroz, Kirkor Cimen, Nuri Akcayir, Manus Balkis,  
Giorgos Balkis  
Loved Ones  
Eliza Alyanakian, Carson, Albertson & Hissarlian  
Hagop Koudoussian & Vartkess Balian  
Marie Missirian (Aunt), Marie Simonian, Marie Gabriel  
(Aunt)  
Loved Ones  
Jamgochians  
John Kavookian, Ann Kavookian, Agnes Salisbury  
Maghrablian & Demerdjian family  
Mikaelian + Bedrosian families that suffered  
Danielyan Oleg & Gurgen Muradyan  
Hariknaz Ozbenian & Albert Jirikdjian  
Yazmajian, Kechyan, and Pickering Families  
Arshaur Ekizian  
Arsen Sayan  
All the departed of the Seferian & Andriasova families  
Dr. Paul Shahinian and Ms. Lily Jelalian  
Mary Shamigian, Jackie Nishanian  
Loved Ones  
Zabil Leon Makevdechyan  
Albert & Dorthy Chakarian, Paul & Virginia Keljikian  
Mari Ekmekciyan  
Mabel Hatcher



Ziver Marianne A  
Zulik Nurhan

Loved Ones  
Mary, Boghos, Rosa (Grandma) Zulik

**Donated by:**

Alexandrian Edvik & Lena  
Balian Rita Simonian  
Koudoussian Haygouhie & Rita  
Koudoussian Rita  
Sahakian Ara A & Diane V  
Turza Dale Chakarian & Peter  
Valizadeh Armine

**In Honor of:**

Ms. Marie Balian  
My Sister in-law: Marie Balian  
Marie Balian  
Marie Balian (Aunt)  
Esther Ekizian  
George & Zarie Keosian  
Needa Valizadeh





## GIFT OF LOVE DONATIONS

On the Occasion of the 87th Anniversary of St. Mary

### DONATED BY:

Alexander Edward & Roseann  
Balian Marie  
Balian Raffi

Booher Terzian Anne  
Bodurian, Ed & Ellen  
Ghazarian Anahid and Taleen

Ghazarian Hasmig  
Guiragossian and Azzam Family

Gulan Liliane Varteny  
Ignatius Paul  
Hekimian A. Margo  
Jamgochian Dikran

Johnson Kilejian Alice  
Kavookian E. June  
Kalbian Vicken  
Karahisar Raffi & Kathy  
Kazanjian Casey and Bella  
Khrimian Ashot  
Khoranian Linet  
Kumkumian John & Kathleen  
Koudoussian Rita  
Maghrablian William and Nora  
Melikian Armen  
Nishanian Jerair & Anahid  
Ohanian Stephen and Nvard  
Ozbenian Janser & Jaqueline  
Nostrant Elina  
Pakhchanian Angele  
Pickering Lola  
Sahakyan Raffi and Shoghig, Andre Aram  
Shahnazarian Hilda  
Sayadian Albert  
Sayan Catherine

### IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Nevart and John Alexanian , Armen and Miridjan Minassian  
Balian Family Members  
Vartkess Balian, Mardiros and Dikranouhi Balian, John and  
Marie Simonian, Kevork Keshishian, Hagop Koudoussian Ani  
Tashjian, Janet Gabriel, Missak Missirian and Yervant Missirian  
Harold R. Booher and Levon A. Terzian  
Apraham & Eliz Boderian  
Eliza Alyanakian, Parounagian, Hissarlian & Carson Families  
Carson Nadya  
Ghazaros Ghazarian  
Bedros, Hagop and Sona Guiragossian, George and Aroussiag  
Khanzoghian  
Sopie Mahdessian  
Loved Ones  
M. Jerry Hekimian  
Hrant, Sirarpi & Zevart Jamgochian, Arshalous Sarafian, Zaven  
& Jenya Hovhannesian  
Peter Garabed Kilejian  
John & Ann Kavookian and Sister  
Loved Ones  
Hermine & Vahan Karahisar  
Minas and Aghavny Kazanjian  
Loved Ones  
Seda Khoranian  
Loved Ones  
Hagip Koudoussian, Vartkes Balian, Annie Tashjian Sabella  
Maghrablian and Demerdjian  
Loved Ones  
Loved Ones  
Yeter and Zadik Mermer  
Albert Jirikdjian & Hariknaz Ozbenian  
Vilen Ter Arutyunov, Sara Arutyunova  
Papken Pakhchanian  
Loved Ones  
Missak Missirian and Yeravant Missirian  
Sahak Shahverdian  
Alice Tamrelian  
Arsen Sayan

Sivaslian Bogos and Seta  
Shahinian Dean, Esq. &  
Shahinian Grace Jelalian  
Semerjian Hratch  
Tatigian Sarkis  
Ter-Minassian Viguen  
Witherspoon Robert  
Zenian David Ieda  
Ziver Adrine Marilyn

Arshavir & Anjel Hovannesian, Bogos & Mary Zulik  
Ms. Lily Jelalian & Dr. Paul Shahinian  
Sona Kohar Semerjian  
Gloria Tatigian and Daughter Linda  
Hermine Ter-Minassian  
Hagop and Mari Ekmekciyan  
Shakeh Seraydarian & Endza and Hovhannes Zenian  
Anna Ariyan & Vahram Ziver Hagopian

**DONATED BY:**

Balian Marie  
Nostrant Elina

**IN HONOR OF:**

Rita Balian  
Armen Nostrant and Julietta Arutyunova



**HOKEHANKIST-REQUIEM SERVICE**

**for the souls of the victims of the 1988 earthquake in Armenia  
Tomyan family, Vardanian, Shakhbekyan, Avoyan, Kofman, Kazarian and Serqueira  
Requested by: David Tomyan, Parish Council and Der Hayr**

**For the Souls of: Avadis Ozkayan, Paris Ozkayan, Atam Ozkayan, Mariam Ozbenian and  
Artin Ozbenian, Maria Cristina Bustamante and Vicente Leiva  
Requested by: Ozkayan Family**

**For the Soul of: Gulbenk Sivaslian  
Requested by: Koseian and Sivaslian Family**

**For the Souls of: Hegine (10 years anniversary) and Harutyun Kizilian, Mihran Bahcali, Hripsime and Sa-  
hak Simon  
Requested by: Armenak and Lusin Simon**



**OUR UTMOST CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE 2018-2019 GRADUATES.**

**MAY GOD CONTINUE BLESSING AND GUIDING YOU.**



**Alene Naltchayan Boghosian**

Annandale High School, Advanced Diploma  
Will attend George Mason University, Fairfax, VA / studying Computer Game Design with a minor in Music



**Tiffany Martirosian**

Rock Ridge High School, Ashburn VA  
Will attend Villanova University, Villanova PA



**Annie Martirosian**

Richard Montgomery High School, Rockville MD  
Will attend University of Maryland, Baltimore County



**Raffi Joseph Paul**

Master of Fine Arts in Film & Electronic Media  
American University



**Armen Sivaslian**

Landon School in Bethesda, MD  
Will attend Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA



**Andrew Paul Adalian**

The George Washington University  
Bachelor of Science Computer Science (School of Engineering and Applied Sciences)



**Maxine Turner**

University of Maryland, College Park MD  
Bachelor of Science in Government/Politics and a minor in International Development



**Ruben Turner**

Albert Einstein HS, IB Diploma (with 4.0 unweighted GPA)  
Will attend University of Maryland, College Park, MD - Honors College /A. James Clark School of Engineering



**Bettina Saraydaroglu**

Graduated from Winston Churchill High School  
Going GWU Elliott School of International Affairs

**Robert Shekoyan**

St. Alban's School, Washington DC.  
Will attend Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

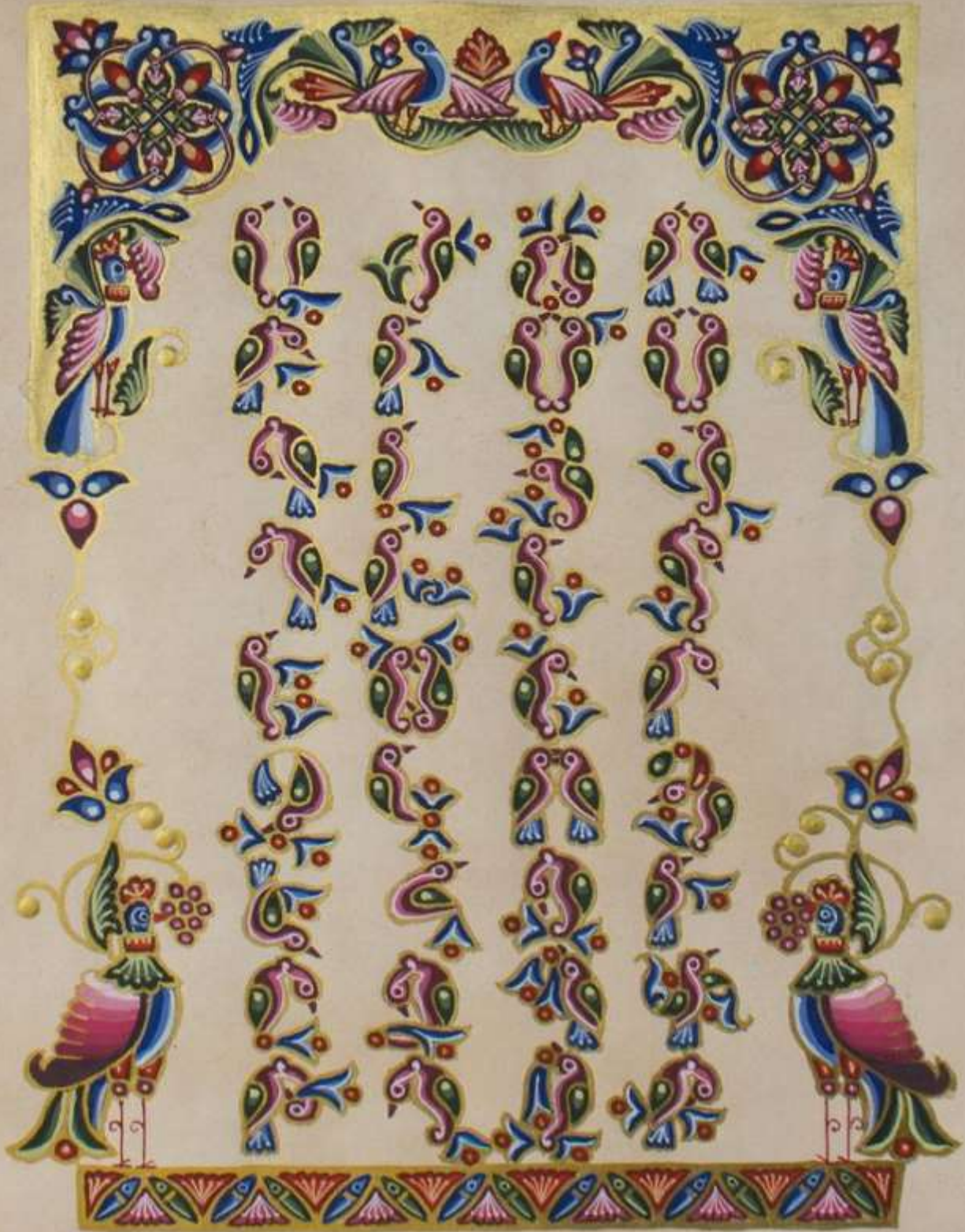
**Nyrie Tahmazian**

Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Hood College  
Nyrie will be working at MedStar Georgetown Hospital

**Robert Thomas George**

Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT - Honors Program  
Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and a minor in Economics







OUR YEAR 2019

















































## PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTORY

### WORSHIP HOURS

Sunday Morning Service 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.

### CHURCH OFFICE

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.,

Monday to Friday

Office closed Saturday and Sunday

Phone: (202) 363-1923

E-mail: [stmarychurchdc@gmail.com](mailto:stmarychurchdc@gmail.com)

[www.stmaryaac.org](http://www.stmaryaac.org)

### PASTOR

Rev. Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan

[derhovsep@gmail.com](mailto:derhovsep@gmail.com)

### PARISH COUNCIL

Rev. Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan, President

Ohannes Sivaslian, Chairman

Dr. Ara Avedisian, Vice Chairman

Eric Ashbahian, Recorder Secretary

Mark Krikorian, Corresponding Secretary

Jack Guiragossian, Treasurer

Bagrat Bayburtian, Vice Treasurer

Ara Stepanian, Adviser

Zakar Shahverdian, Adviser

Artur Sivaslian, Advisor

### DELEGATES

Onnik Sivaslian

Jack Guiragossian

Sarine Zenian

### OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Julie Avedikian

### ACYOA JUNIORS

Rebecca Bagdasarian,

Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan

### ARARAT AVAK SOCIETY

Takuhi Hallajian

Mary Shafakian

Eva Shafakian

### BOARD OF STEWARDS

Garbis Chubukian

### CHOIR

Edita Kalayjian

### DEACONS MINISTRY

Mark Krikorian

### FOOD FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Onnik Sivaslian

### GIFT SHOP

Aline Guiragossian

Shoghig Sahakian

Takuhi Hallajian

### SHNORHALI SCHOOL

Harry Tchetchenian

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan

### WOMEN'S GUILD

Nadya Chobukian

### PASTORAL CARE:

### HOME AND HOSPITAL VISITS

The clergy are always available and can visit homebound and hospitalized parishioners. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized and would like to be visited, please call the church office at (202) 363-1923. Please note: when asked about your religion at a hospital, patients should list themselves as "Armenian Orthodox" or "Armenian" not "other."

### REQUIEM SERVICE/HOKEHANKIST

Arrangements for Requiem Service, Alter Flowers and Candles should be made through the church office by Thursday at noon. In accordance with the canons of the Armenian Church, Requiem Services may not be performed on the five major feast days: Armenian Christmas, Easter, The Feast of the Transfiguration, The Feast of the Assumption of the Mother of God, and The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

### BAPTISMS AND CHRISMATIONS

All Baptisms must be scheduled at least three months in advance by calling the church office. According to the Armenian Church canons, a Baptism may only be performed once in a person's lifetime, provided such Baptism has been performed in a Christian Church and in the name of the Holy Trinity. At least one of the godparents must be a member of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church.

### WEDDINGS

Parishioners should contact the church office at least six months in advance. A couple must contact St. Mary to confirm the availability of the Pastor and sanctuary prior to making any other arrangements.

### FUNERALS

Families should make arrangements with the funeral director of their choice, who will then contact the church office to arrange the funeral service. Funerals may not be performed on religious holidays, major feast days, Saturdays after 3:00 p.m., or on Sundays.

REMEMBER ST. MARY CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

A Venerable Christian Practice



ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND