

**Helen Mazoujian, a member of our Church family for over 50 years, passed into her eternal rest. Lradoo has included a remembrance of Helen for those among us who had not the opportunity to know her. God give light to Helen's soul and grant her a peaceful sleep. Asdvadz Hokeen Loysavor eh.**

**Helen Mazoujian** surrendered her soul to the Lord on December 16, 2011. Thirteen years ago a stroke left her with partial paralysis with which she valiantly battled. Eventually she moved from our midst to be near her family. Her daughter said of her, "Her love for St. Leon never stopped, nor did her dedication to it. She missed her church so much after her stroke, but she could still burst into song at her assisted living facility in Massachusetts."

Born in Connecticut she grew up in West New York, NJ and attended Holy Cross Armenian Church in Union City. As a young boy Der Diran remembers going to the church hall with his parents and hearing Helen sing. Remembering Der Diran was also a fond memory for Helen. It was also during her youthful years at Holy Cross that she met her future husband. A wedding photo of them shows Aram in his uniform as they were married during wartime in the 40s.

Helen and her husband eventually moved to Dumont and drove to Paterson every Sunday without fail when they joined St. Leon in the 50s. (Garden State Parkway was to make the trip easier and faster in later years.) Aram made the signs for the bazaars and picnics and proudly held the keys to the church as he was entrusted with locking up after Sunday services. Husband and wife were fondly referred to as 'pillars' of the church by their fellow parishioners. Both sang in the choir; but it was Helen's voice that resounded in everyone's ears as she was our soloist - not only on Sunday mornings - but for weddings, banquets and funerals. Her service didn't end with singing in the choir. She was a member of Women's Guild and served as chairman in 1989 and 1990. Her gifts of time and caring also extended to her local community where she was an active member and past president of the Women's Club of Dumont. She was also a member of the New Jersey State Chorale.

Helen passionately loved God and said, "You go to church for the Lord not because you have to, but because you want to." That was her way of life.

Helen is survived by her daughter, Aramene, son-in-law George and granddaughters Kristin, Wendy and Stephanie Sarkisian and her husband, Russell Jewell.