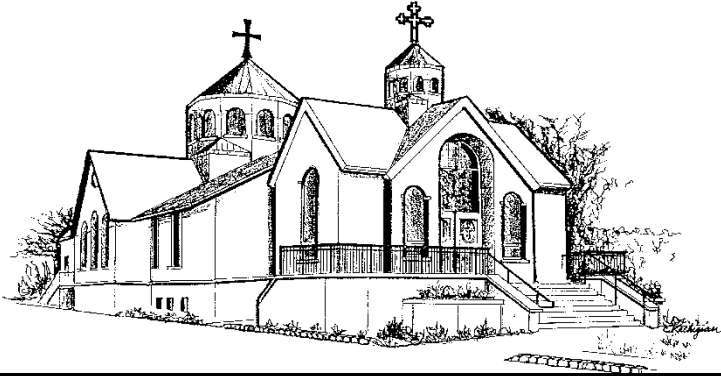


*ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH*  
*April 5, 2020*  
*Palm Sunday*

Morning Service

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

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*Readings from the Holy Scripture*

Zec 9:9-15

Phil 4:4-7

Gospel of Mathew 20:29-21-17

God so loved the world that He gave His only son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life. John 3:16

Rev. Fr. Diran Bohajian

Տ. ՏԻՐԱՆ ԲԶՆՅ. ՊՕՀԱՃԵԱՆ

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St. Leon's Website: <http://www.stleon.org>

# ALTAR SERVERS

*Sr. Dns*, Dr. Berdj Feredjian,

Diran Jebejian, Hrach Kasaryan, Nubar Kasaryan,

Sebuh Oscherician, Sarkis Pilavdjian, Nurhan Ezik

**Subdns.** Paul Chamesian, Gregory Kazanjian, Vahe Kiljian,

Jack Hamparian

## **CHOIR MASTER**

George Paroonagian

## **PRINCIPAL ORGANIST**

Sirvard Galstian



*"Krisdos ee méch me haydnetsav." – "Orhnyal é haydnootyoonun Krisdosi."*

*"Christ is revealed among us." - "Blessed is the revelation of Christ."*



Palm Sunday Services can be watched on live stream at  
Stleon.org at 10:00 AM

St. Leon Armenian Church is closed indefinitely. You can request  
Hokehankisd on April 19 by calling the Church Office.

## **NO HOKEHANKISD TODAY**

**Holy Week Services at St. Leon (conducted behind closed doors)**

Sunday April 5 Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.  
(No blessing of Palm Branches)

Thursday April 9 Holy Thursday 8:00 p.m. Betrayal Service  
*Khavaroom* of Jesus (No Divine Liturgy in the Morning and No  
Washing of the Feet Service)

Friday April 10 Holy Friday 8:00 p.m. Entombment Burial  
Service of Jesus.

Saturday April 11 Easter Eve Service 8:00 p.m.

On April 12, Easter Sunday, our Primate Bishop Daniel will be the  
only one celebrating Badarak (Divine Liturgy) which will be

conducted at St. Vartan Cathedral. No Badarak or Services will be conducted in our parishes. 10:30 AM

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Remember in your prayers and ask for the recovery of Grant Tenbekjian, Diane Scholz, , Karen Weidner, Robert John Karanfilian III, Annette Kouchshirin, Brandon Katz, George Ghazarian Jr., Robert Foronjy, Jim & Wendy Lathey, Mary Varteressian, Dan Patoyia (Moynihan), Juliette Haddad, James Azarian, Varoujan Harutunian, Mosses Bairamian, Lou Scipione, Jared Tashjian, Ruben Grigoryants, Michael Sakolsky, Lynne Ford, Frank Cornawchiulo, Ryan Hallak, John Hallak, Carmelina Mancini, Marie Tenguerian, Hana Botie, Mary Ann Kral, Emily Ring, Clara Yeramian, Jerry DiSant, Julie Frattarola, Melanie Sarkisian and all those who are suffering.

*We commit our sick and shut-ins to our Heavenly Father who cares and watches over all His children. “I will never leave thee nor forsake thee”.*

**Reverence Required** ~ Please be advised that, according to the tradition of the Armenian Church, members of the congregation are strongly reminded to refrain from walking in and out of the Sanctuary while services are in progress. You are *especially* reminded ***not to do so*** during **1**) the Chanting of the Gospel, (pg. 17); **2**) recitation of the Creed (*Havadamk*), (pg. 18); **3**) the Chalice Procession, (pg. 24-25); **4**) Hayr Mer (pg 41); **5**) the Hymn, “*Der Voghormya*,” (pg. 45); and **6**) distribution of the Holy Communion, (p. 49). Also, please do not chew gum or cross legs during church services. Please observe the “arrows” in the new liturgy books. They indicate when you should *Stand, Sit, or Kneel*.

**THE OFFICE IS ACCEPTING DONATIONS  
FOR CHRIST TOMB AND LILIES ON THE  
ALTAR.**



Palm Sunday is the feast of Christ's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem. Having raised Lazarus from the dead, Christ was hailed by the people as the Messiah and new King of Israel. By entering Jerusalem, riding on a donkey, the Old Testament prophecy was fulfilled (Zechariah 9:9). The people hailed him shouting, "Hosannah! "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" And they spread flowers and palm branches before Him. The ode (dagh) of Palm Sunday brightly illustrates His coming thus:

Today, the created rejoice.

With gleeful blessing.

Heaven and earth coming together,

Resound in applause.

Today on Mount Zion,

The nard has spread its fragrance.

The rose glows with color,

Of intense red violet.

On that morning, palms are blessed in church and distributed to the faithful. The faithful follow in procession as they celebrate the great and triumphant victory of Christ's entry into Jerusalem. With this, we also enter into Holy Week and attentively accompany Him through His passion.

## **Holy Week: A Prelude to Easter**

The Armenian Church calls the final week of Christ's life on earth **Great Week or Holy Week** (*Avak Shapat*). During this time, we share in His teachings, His suffering, His death, and His resurrection.

**Holy Monday** is dedicated to the creation of Heaven and Earth, the foundation for Christ's Second Creation. Christ condemns the fig tree that did not bear fruit (as Israel failed to bring forth the fruits of repentance) and teaches that faith can have the strength to move mountains, overcoming despair and even death.

The parable of the Wise and Foolish Maidens (Matthew 25:1-13) is the focus of **Holy Tuesday**. Ten maidens waited for their bridegroom (in the custom of that time and place, the bridegroom would fetch the bride from her parents' home to bring her to his own). Five of the women foolishly took their lamps with no extra oil and when the bridegroom was delayed, could not go out and meet him. The wise maidens went prepared and joined him in the marriage feast. Similarly, we must pray and wait, in a state of perpetual preparation to receive Christ.

In the reading for **Holy Wednesday** (Matthew 26:6-13), a fallen woman anoints Christ with costly oil and kisses his feet. The apostles chastise her for wasting oil that could have been sold to help the poor, but Christ defends her action, perceiving her deed as one of devotion, and knowing that this anointing anticipates His upcoming death and burial.

The morning liturgy service on **Holy Thursday** marks the institution of the New Covenant: Holy Communion, which Christ established at the Last Supper. During a Passover meal, Christ broke and distributed unleavened bread and shared the wine with His apostles, identifying these as elements His Body and Blood. Through this sacrament, mankind participates in the Kingdom of God.

Another episode at the Last Supper is recalled during the evening service on **Holy Thursday**. “The Washing of the Feet” ceremony commemorates how Christ washed the feet of His apostles, setting an example of humility and love. The priest, in turn, washes the feet of twelve church members, usually young men.

On **Holy Thursday**, an all-night vigil is kept in memory of the last sleepless night of our Lord on earth. This service is called *Khavaroom* (Darkness). Before He was arrested, Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane and endured in solitude the agony of His impending death. Six sets of laments are chanted, each followed by a Gospel reading depicting Christ’s betrayal, imprisonment, torture, trial, sentence, and crucifixion. Twelve lit candles, 11 white and 1 black (representing Judas), are extinguished in pairs.

**Holy Friday** is the most solemn and sad day of the Christian calendar. The Crucifixion Service, usually held at midday, recalls the suffering, execution, and death of our Lord, memorialized amid readings from the psalms. In the evening, a white tomb is placed in the chancel of the church for the Entombment or Burial Service. The tomb is adorned with flowers and during the service is taken in procession around the church. As the faithful leave the church they approach the tomb, kiss the Gospel book, and take a flower in remembrance.

On **Holy Saturday**, also known as the Easter Vigil, the mystery of salvation in the Resurrection of Christ is celebrated. The church is dark, its lights are dim. Then the great verses from Isaiah 60 are read: “Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you”- at which point the lights are suddenly turned on. The dramatic, joyful candle-lighting ceremony is called *Jrakalouytz*.

Finally, **Easter Sunday** celebrates the joy of the Resurrection and the promise of salvation for all humanity. Armenian Christians around the world exchange the Easter greeting: *Krisdos Haryav ee Merelotz! Orhnyal eh Harootiunun Krisdosee!* Christ is risen from the dead! Blessed is the resurrection of Christ!

**Easter Sunday** is followed by a period of 40 days, during which time there are no saints’ days or fasting days. This period, dedicated to the glory of Christ’s Resurrection and to the 40 days He spent on earth after His Resurrection, leads up to Ascension Day, commemorating our Lord’s entry into heaven.

**NOTE: St. Leon Armenian Church is closed and the**

**St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral is closed**

**All services will be conducted behind closed doors**

**ALL ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN  
TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED**

Sunday School and Armenian School have been suspended  
Bible Study has been suspended  
Palm Sunday has been cancelled  
St. Leon Social Club (Wednesday's) is suspended

**KIDNEY DONOR REQUESTS**

**Robert Ross** is one of our St. Leon Parishioners and is in need of a kidney transplant. Please call Marlene Ross for further information (201-410-5840). Any donation of a kidney match or otherwise elevates the patient to the top of the list.

**Sebuh Oscherician** is one of our St. Leon Parishioners and Deacon and is in need of a kidney transplant. Please call Rita Oscherician for further information (201-417-7145). Any donation of a kidney match or otherwise elevates the patient to the top of the list.

**ST. LEON SOCIAL CLUB**. Suspended

**Seniors** have much to offer - **our** wisdom, **our** experience and **our** time. St. Leon Social Club meets every Wednesday from 11:00-4:00 PM. Donation \$4.00 coffee and dessert. Bring a sandwich, lunch is at 12:00 noon. There are card games, backgammon, bring a board game or just sit around and have coffee and dessert. Bring a friend and enjoy the afternoon



Dear Members and Parishioners,

As I write this message in this extraordinary time, I know that many of you are wondering what tomorrow will bring. What we thought would be impossible only days ago, has now turned into our reality. Millions of people have been instructed to stay home which has brought uncertainty for our whole nation and the world at large.

Please know that our beloved Armenian Church is in the deepest mode of prayer for our people- from the Catholicos of All Armenians, to our Diocesan Primate, to clergy in every local parish, including our own St. Leon church.

We are called to be prayerful and to increase our faith during times like this. But we are also called as Christians to think of our brothers and sisters during this time of crisis. Within the parameters of the guidelines that our Primate has emphasized, I, our Parish Council and our Church Organizations are ready to help those in need. Please let me know if there is someone that could benefit from a check-up call. I and our church organizations have already begun this service to our faithful who may be living alone.

May God grace you with good health, and healing for those who are currently ill with the Covid 19 Virus. Remember Lord, protect all the first responders, doctors, nurses, all those who are on the frontline battle with this virus day in and day out, protecting them under the shadow of the Holy Cross standing majestically over our church and over us all.

With Love and Prayers,  
Fr. Diran

## Last Gospel of John 1:1-14