

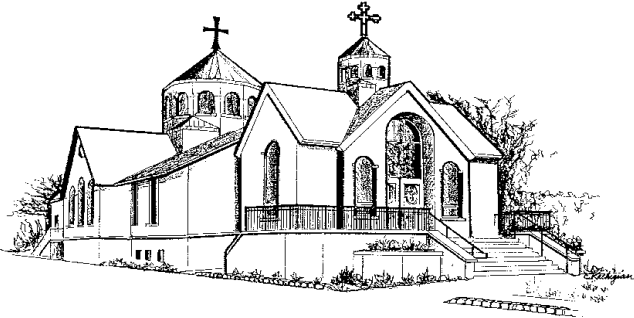
ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH

Second Day of the Fast of Nativity

December 31, 2023

Morning Service 9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM



Readings from the Holy Scripture

Isaiah 51:15-52:3

Hebrews 13:18-25

Luke 22:24-30

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

Rev. Fr. Diran Bohajian
ՏԻՐԱՆ ՔԷՆՅ՝ ՊՈՂԱՃԵԱՆ

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St. Leon's Website:

<http://www.stleon.org>

ALTAR SERVERS

Deacons Nurhan Ezik, Dr. Berdj Feredjian,
Diran Jebejian, Dr. Hrach Kasaryan,
Nubar Kasaryan, Dr. Gregory Kazanjian,
Sebuh Oscherician, Sarkis Pilavdjian

Subdns. Paul Chamesian, Jack Hamparian, Vahe Kiljian



CHOIR MASTER
George Paroonagian

PRINCIPAL ORGANIST
Sirvard Galstian

ASSISTANT CHOIR DIRECTORS
Daniella Ashbahian Dawn Donofrio



Our Brothers & Sisters of Armenia Need Our Help
Please Keep our Motherland in Your Prayers



Betty & Janette Tashjian have donated the pink altar carnations in memory of beloved mother, grandmother, Marie Ilanjian on the occasion of her 100th birthday.



PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairperson	<i>Mark Badach</i>
Vice Chairperson	<i>Serda Belekdanian</i>
Treasurer	<i>George Kundakji</i>
Assistant Treasurer	<i>Haig Buchakjian</i>
Recording Sec'y	<i>Peter Bedevian</i>
Corresponding Sec'y	<i>Patricia Toofangjian</i>
Members at Large	<i>Hratch Beylerian, Hagop Cilingiryan, Dawn Hourdajian, Marilou Pinajian, Barbara Royland</i>



HOKEHANKISD

† Dn. Sarkis & Sandra Pilavdjian & family request Hokehankisd for the souls of **Sona Khourouzian, Khatcherian Family, Lucyn Markarian, Rozine & George Pilavdjian, John Shenloogian** and **Rosa Boghosian**. The family has donated towards the altar flowers and has requested that the altar candles be lit in memory of their loved ones.

† Anait Kasabyan requests Hokehankisd for the soul of beloved husband, father, grandfather, **Toros Kasabyan**, and also for the souls of **all the deceased Kasabyan family members**, and for **Antranik, Alice, George, & Lucig Boyajian, Luso Gaysimonian & family members**, and **Sergey & Maro Krikorian**. The family has donated towards the altar flowers and has requested that the altar candles be lit in memory of their loved ones.

Hokehankisd Request Deadline:

Hokehankisd requests must be submitted by **noon on Thursdays** so that it can be printed in that week's Sunday bulletin.

Please be mindful that a standard word format is used to maintain non-preferential consistency in the allotted printing space.

Be sure to **include contact information** when emailing or leaving a message with your submissions.

✝ PRAYER FOR REQUIEM- HOKEHANKISD

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, Son of God, forbearing and compassionate, have compassion, in your love as our creator, upon the souls of your servants who are at rest, especially upon the souls of your servants (names), for whom we are offering these prayers. Be mindful of them on the great day of the coming of your kingdom. Make them worthy of mercy, of expiation and forgiveness of sins. Glorify them and reckon them with the company of your saints at your right hand. For you are the Lord and creator of all, judge of the living and of the dead. And to you is befitting glory, dominion, and honor, now and unto the ages of ages.



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

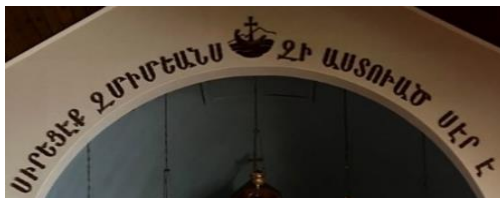
Remember in your prayers and ask for the recovery of,

(Kindly assist with updating the prayer list by notifying the church office of any changes).

Aleksan Aristakesian, Felicia Asomani, James Azarian, Mosses Bairamian, Hana Botie, Zoe Brooks, Frank Cornacchiulo, Jerry DiSanti, Julie Frattarola, Varoujan Harutunian, Lusine Hovsepyan, Silva Jinivizian, Robert John Karanfilian III, Brandon Katz, Annette Kucukshirin, Jim & Wendy Lathey, Sara Malajian, George Malke, Carmelina Mancini, Bill Manookian, Sebu Oscherician, Emily Ring, Michael Sakolsky, Melanie Sarkisian, Marie Tenguerian, Greg Tenbekjian, Clara Yeramian.

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

Do you know what the writing above the altar says?



*It is written in classical Armenian and says,
“Love one another, because God is Love.”*

(“Seeretsek izmeemeeyanis, zee Asdvadz ser e”)



Church Etiquette

Reverence Required

Please refrain from entering the pews when the following parts of the *Divine Liturgy (Soorp Badarak)* are taking place.

Kindly, stand in the back of the church until these parts have ended.

The parish council members will be happy to assist you.

1. Chanting of the Gospel, pg. 17
 2. Recitation of the Creed (Havadamk), pg.18
 3. Chalice Procession, pg. 24-25
 4. Intonation by the Priest, pg. 31
 5. Vorti Asdoodzo pg. 33
 6. Hayr Mer, pg. 41
 7. Hymn, "Der Voghormya," pg. 42-45
 8. Holy Communion, pg. 49.
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1. Also, please **do not** chew gum, cross legs, nor stretch arms over back pews during church services.
 2. Please observe the "arrows" in the liturgy books, they indicate when you should **Stand, Sit, or Kneel**.
 3. For your convenience, liturgy book pages are indicated on the monitor located on the right side of the altar.



ՀԱՂՈՐԴԱԳՐՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ

Սուրբ Ստեփանոսի տոնին կատարվեց սարկավազ ական ձեռնադրություն

Դեկտեմբերի 25-ին Հայաստանյայց Առաքելական Սուրբ Եկեղեցին տոնախմբեց Սուրբ Ստեփանոս Նախավկայի և առաջին մարտիրոսի հիշատակության օրը, որը նաև Եկեղեցու անդաստանում ծառայող սարկավագների տոնն է:

Տոնի առիթով Արմավիրի թեմի Սուրբ Աստվածածին եկեղեցում (ք. Վաղարշապատ), Գ.Ս.Օ.Տ.Տ. Գարեգին Երկրորդ Ծայրագույն Պատրիարք և Ամենայն Հայոց Կաթողիկոսի օրհնությամբ, Արցախի թեմի առաջնորդ և Մայր Աթոռ Սուրբ Էջմիածնի Արցախի հոգևոր մշակութային ժառանգության հարցերով գրասենյակի տնօրեն Գերաշնորհ Տ. Վրթանես եպիսկոպոս Աբրահամյանի ձեռամբ սարկավագական ձեռնադրության արժանացան Գևորգյան հոգևոր ճեմարանի Ե լսարանի 11 սաներ:

Նախօրը օրը՝ դեկտեմբերի 24-ի երեկոյան, Սևանի Վազգենյան հոգևոր դպրանոցի Սուրբ Հակոբ Մծբնա Հայրապետի մատուռում ձեռամբ Մայր Աթոռի «Գարեգին Ա» կրթական կենտրոնի տնօրեն Գերաշնորհ Տ. Վահան եպիսկոպոս Հովհաննիսյանի տեղի էր ունեցել դպրության, ուրարակության և կիսասարկավագության աստիճանների տվչության արարողություն:

Սուրբ Պատարագի ընթացքում՝ ձեռնադրության սուրբ խորհրդի ավարտին, Սրբազան Հայրը, անդրադառնալով օրվա խորհրդին, ի մասնավորի նշեց. «Հայ Եկեղեցին, գեղեցիկ ավանդության համաձայն, համաքրիստոնեական սրբի՝ Սուրբ Ստեփանոս Նախավկայի տոնին, կատարում է սարկավագական ձեռնադրություն: Աստվածային և երկնային շնորհներն անտեսանելիորեն իջնում են նորընծաների վրա՝ զորացնելով ու դարձնելով նրանց Հայ Եկեղեցու և ժողովրդի անվախ, քաջ և

նվիրյալ սպասավորները: Մեր նորագույն պատմության մեջ քիչ չեն այնպիսի սարկավագները, որոնք նմանվել են Սուրբ Ստեփանոսին՝ դառնալով նահատակներ և իրենց կյանքն առանց վարանելու զոհաբերելով հայրենիքին և Եկեղեցուն»:

Այս առնչությամբ Վրթանես Սրբազանը հորդորեց հավատացյալ հայորդիներին աղոթք բարձրացնել մեր նահատակ սարկավագների հիշատակի համար և հայցել Սուրբ Ստեփանոսի բարեխոսությունը, որպեսզի նորընծա սարկավագները նույն քաջասրտությամբ սպասավորները լինեն Հայ Եկեղեցու և ժողովրդի:

Քարոզի ընթացքում Սրբազան Հայրը նաև իր շնորհավորանքներն ուղղեց Մայր Աթոռի կրթական հաստատությունների տեսչությանը և միաբանությանը Սուրբ Ստեփանոսի տոնի և սարկավագական ձեռնադրության առիթով:

Սուրբ Պատարագի վերջում Սրբազան Հայրը «Պահպանիչ» աղոթքով և Սուրբ Ստեփանոսի մասունքակիր աջով օրհնեց նորընծա սարկավագներին և հավատավոր ժողովրդին:

Եկեղեցականները և ներկա բարեպաշտ ժողովուրդը նաև հնարավորություն ունեցան խոնարհվելու և հաղորդակցվելու տոնի առիթով Մայր Աթոռ Սուրբ Էջմիածնից Արմավիրի թեմի Սուրբ Աստվածածին եկեղեցի բերված Սուրբ Ստեփանոսի մասունքին:



Fundamental Teachings of the Armenian Church



The Seven Sacraments...

Baptism, Confirmation, Penance, Holy Communion,
Matrimony, Holy Orders, Unction with Oil (for the sick)

The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy...

To instruct the ignorant,
To counsel the doubtful,
To exhort & convert sinners,
To comfort the sorrowing & afflicted,
To forgive offenses,
To suffer wrongs patiently,
To pray for others, living & dead.

The Four Cardinal Virtues...

Prudence, Justice, Temperance, Fortitude

The Four Notes of the True Church...

One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic

The Four Symbols of the Gospels...

St. Matthew- Angel St. Mark- Winged Lion,
St. Luke- Winged Ox St. John- Eagle

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit...

Wisdom & understanding,
Counsel & spiritual strength,
Knowledge & true godliness,
Holy fear of the Lord.



BIBLE STUDIES

Wednesday, Jan 10, 2024.

TIME: 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Call or e-mail Fr. Diran to receive a zoom invite to the Bible study group.

Next bible study will focus on Jesus's public ministry in the Synoptic Gospels.

John the Baptist- Apart from Jesus Christ, John the Baptist is the most theologically significant figure in the Gospels. As was the case with Jesus, his birth was meticulously recorded. His entrance into the world was marked by angelic proclamation and divine intervention. John's birth not only parallels that of Jesus but echoes the momentous occasion of the birth of Isaac to Abraham and Sarah. John is clearly a pivotal figure in the salvation history of God. The central theme of his ministry was, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near (Matthew 3:2). He was called "The Baptist" because his practice was to baptize those who responded to the message he proclaimed and sincerely repented of their sins. John was an end-times prophet. He conducted his ministry with an eschatological authority that demanded immediate action. He taught that judgement is at hand. The axe is laid to the roots and God will thoroughly purge his threshing floor. And the authenticity of repentance was evidenced in very practical terms: share with those in need, eliminate graft and prohibit extortion. John was courageous in that confronted the hypocrisy of the religious establishment. He did not hesitate to expose the immorality of Herod and chose to die a martyr's death rather than compromise his convictions (Matthew 14:3-12, Mark 6:17-19).



Seasons Greetings

From Your Fellow Parishioners...

Marie-rose Arakelian " God Bless Our St Leon Families"
Florence Arzrouni & Melissa Arzrouni Dawson
Hagop & Lerna Baga
Bill Basralian
Anne Bchakjian
Anne Bchakjian
Sarkis & Ruth Bedevian "Christmas Blessings to Our Church Family"
Hagop, Serda, Varujan, & Celine Belekdanian
Fr. Diran & Yn. Kismet Bohajian
Robert & Julliet Borgersen
Mr & Mrs A Caparyan
Tom & Andrea Carden
Lucy Chagachbanian
John & Mimi Demirdjian
Ed, Dawn, Michael, Melissa Donofrio
Stu & Debra Halejian Duckman
Mike & Gladys Fenarjian
Robyn Greulich
Frank & Carol Grossi
Micheal Halebian, Jr.
Halejian Family
Artoun & Narine Hamalian
Michael & Marie Haratunian
Raymond & Donna Hortian
Greg Hourdajian



Seasons Greetings

From Your Fellow Parishioners...

Barbara & Lori Hovsepian

Jim & Natalie Ishkanian

Seta Jessourian

Madeleine Karanfilian

John Kardashian

Ardo & Linda Keshishian

George & Linda Kundakji

Jimmy & Linda Mastrull & Family

Araxy Moumdjian

"Best wishes to my friends at St Leon"

Steven & Karen Nargizian

Nishanian Family

Lawrence & Lucy O'Brien

George & Linda Paroonagian

Ara Pekmezian

Mark, Susan, Daron, Raffi, Haig Pogharian

Charles & Thelma Sarajian

Viktorya Sariminasyan

Gary Tashjian

Gloria Tomasian

John & Bertha Vaniskhian

Berjuhi Varjabedian

Bill & Patti Zengel

Harry & Gloria Zoraian



ՏՕՆԱԿԱՆ ՕՐԵՐՈՒ ԺԱՄԱՆԱԿԱՑՈՅՑ

Տիրան ՔՀնյ. ՊօՀաճեան Հոգեւոր Հովիւ

Կիրակի, Դեկտեմբեր 24, 2023

Ս. Ստեփանոս

Երեկոյեան Ժամերգութիւն

Ժամը 7:30 ին

Ս. Ծննդեան Երգեր

Ժամը 8:00 ին

Դպրապետուհի: Տանիէլա Աչպահեան

Ուրբաթ, Յունուար 5, 2024

Ճրագալոյց Ս. Ծննդեան

Երեկոյեան Ժամերգութիւն

Ժամը 7:15 ին

Ս. Գրքի Ընթերցում

Ժամը 7:45 ին

Ս. Էւ Անմահ Պատարագ

Ժամը 8:00 ին

Շաբաթ, Յունուար 6, 2024

Ս. Ծնունդ, Զրօրհնէք

Կնքահայր- Դանիէլ Առաքելեան

Առաւօտեան Ժամերգութիւն

Ժամը 9:00 ին

Ս. Էւ Անմահ Պատարագ

Ժամը 10:00 ին

“Վասնզի այսօր Դաւիթի քաղաքին մէջ

Փրկիչ մը ծնաւ ձեզի,

Որ օծեալ Տէրն է:”

Ղուկաս Բ:ԺԱ

Ս. խորանին պիտի սպասարկեն եկեղեցւոյս սարկաւազներ Բարեշնորհ Պէրճ Ֆէրէճեան, Տիրան Ժեպէճեան, Հրաչ Գասարեան, Նուպար Գասարեան, Սարգիս Բիլավճեան, նաեւ կիսասարկաւազներն ու ղպիրները: Սուրբ Պատարագի քարաձայն երգեսցողութիւնը պիտի կատարէ եկեղեցւոյս Դպրաց Դասը, Տիրա Ճորճ Բարունակեանի ղեկաւարութեամբ. Երգեհոնահար Սիրվարդ Գալստեան:



Theophany Season

Rev. Fr. Diran Bohajian, Pastor

Sunday, December 24, 2023 St. Stephen & Christmas Eve

Vespers	7:30 PM
Christmas Caroling	8:00 PM

The St. Leon Choir will lead us in the singing of Hymns
Choir Director: *Daniella Ashbahian*

Friday, January 5, 2024 Theophany Candlelight

Vespers	7:15 PM
Scripture Reading	7:45 PM
Divine Liturgy	8:00 PM

Saturday, Jan 6, 2024 Nativity of Our Lord/Blessing of Water

Godfather is Taniel Arakelian

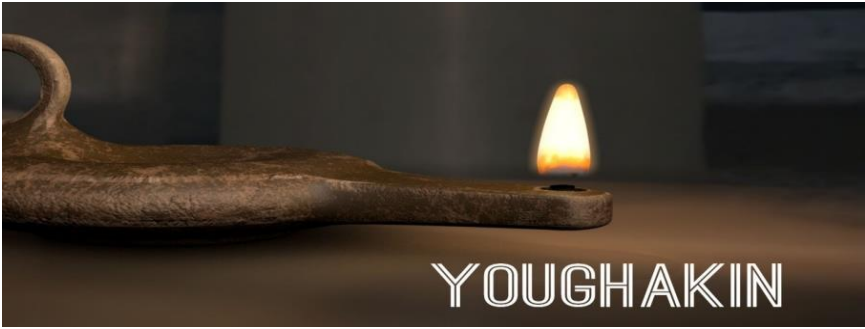
Morning Service	9:00 AM
Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM

***“For to you is born this day In the City of David a Savior,
Who is Christ the Lord” Luke 2:11***

Serving at the Altar will be Deacons:

Dr. Berdj Feredjian, Diran Jebejian, Dr. Hrach Kasaryan, Nubar Kasaryan, Dr. Gregory Kazanjian, Sarkis Pilavdjian, & Sub-Deacons and Acolytes of our Church.

Choirmaster: *George Paroonagian*
Organist: *Sirvard Galstian*



Youghakin is made up of two Armenian words: “yough” and “kin.”

“Youghakin” literally means the price of oil or donation in lieu of oil. In olden days, prior to electricity, oil lamps and lanterns illuminated homes and worship places.

Parishioners donated oil to keep the church lighted.

After the invention of electricity, as oil lamps were replaced with electrical lamps, the Armenian Apostolic Church continued asking members to bring symbolic contributions for the illumination of the church through the youghakin program at Christmas and Easter.

The context of this practice is inner illumination rather than stewardship.

When you send in your youghakin gift, you are not merely helping the church financially but are helping centuries of Armenian faith shine.

Through youghakin, you are in effect refueling the traditional symbolic lantern of faith, which St. Gregory the Illuminator lighted.



... Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

Church Campus Happenings...

Kiss of Peace: “Krisdos ee mech mer haydnetsav.”

(Christ is revealed among us.)

“Orhnyal e haydnootyoonun Krisdosi.”

(Blessed is the revelation of Christ.)

We need volunteers to perform the “Kiss of Peace” during Sunday Badarak. It’s a beautiful way to partake in our service. Please consider volunteering & call our church office if interested.

Armenian School:

All inquiries for purchasing opportunities of lahmajun, sujuk, & baghaj, may be forwarded to Nora Balekji at 973-513-2507 or nbalekji@gmail.com
Pre-paid orders may be picked up in Abajian Hall on the designated day.



Sunday School:

Runs from 10am -12pm, PreK through 11th grades. Click on the following link to register students; <https://bit.ly/3zLZoF6>. For further inquiries contact **Andrea Carden at 201-264-2805, acarden56@gmail.com.**

St. Leon’s Social Club:

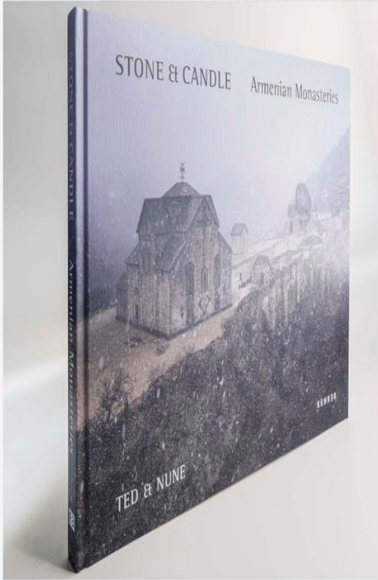
Social Club meets every Wednesday, 11:30am-3:00pm at the elevator accessible, upper level of our **Youth Center**. We encourage you to bring a friend and spend an afternoon together! *Donation is \$3.*
Hope to see you there this week!

Coffee Hospitality:

Today’s hospitality is hosted by our PARISH COUNCIL.
Please join us *after* Badarak, in Abajian Hall for coffee & fellowship.

Please Note: All campus postings *must be pre-approved* by the church office. **All others will be removed.** No taping on glass nor doors permitted. And *sorry*, no personal business promotions. Consider instead, inquiring about advertisement opportunities in our *Lradoo*.

SAVE THE DATE



STONE & CANDLE: ARMENIAN MONASTERIES
BOOK PRESENTATION & PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION
BY TED & NUNE

JAN 12 2024, 7:30 PM

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH | ABAJIAN HALL
12-61 SADDLE RIVER ROAD, FAIR LAWN, NJ

EVENT INFO: ARA@EDRCORP.NET | 917.837.1297
WWW.TEDANDNUNE.COM | 914.693.0649 | NUNE@TEDANDNUNE.COM

STONE & CANDLE

Armenian Monasteries

Book Presentation & Photography Exhibition
By Ted & Nune

Friday, January 12, 2024 7:30 PM

St Leon Armenian Church, Abajian Hall

12-61 Saddle River Road Fair Lawn, NJ, 07410

For more info: ara@edrcorp.net or 917 837 1297



Register here

Advance registration
appreciated.

Immerse yourself in the captivating beauty of Armenian monasteries through stunning photographs. Some from Artsakh—dating from the 4th century and among the earliest of the Christian world—were centers of education, where art and science flourished. They stand as timeless monuments of faith, devoid of crowds, open to the winds, and silent.

In addition to celebrating our rich architectural heritage, the enchanting evening will be an opportunity to learn from Columbia University's Dr. Kim Hekimian about our collaboration with the Fund for Armenian Relief supporting the special needs of pregnant women, infants, and young refugees from Artsakh. St. Leon will match each dollar donated by parishioners and friends, through the end of January, up to \$50,000. Proceeds from the exhibition will also be dedicated to this effort.

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY

JANUARY 27, 2024



ST LEON WINTER DANCE

MORE INFO TO FOLLOW

St Leon Church Membership

How do we understand membership
in the Armenian Church?

By receiving the sacrament of baptism in the Armenian Church, we are all members. However, per the bylaws of our diocese, membership is further understood as those who annually pay dues to a specific parish.

A dues-paying member is one who takes responsibility for offering their service for the spiritual and financial growth of our parish and in the advancing our Diocesan Christian mission.

“The mission of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church is to preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and to proclaim its message of salvation. This mission is realized through worship, education, witness, service, and the common life in Christ as expressed in the distinctive faith-experience of the Armenian people.”

Further, dues-paying members are eligible to participate in the governance of our parish by voting at the Parish Assembly and may run for office in any of the executive bodies of the various organizations of the parish, including the Parish Council.

The St. Leon Parish Assembly has designated the following amounts as the required minimum dues for St. Leon Parish Membership. Please consider becoming a dues-paying member & contribute as generously as the Lord leads you.



*Individual (18+): \$175

*Student (18-24): \$50

*Senior (65+): \$100

**Applications will be supplied upon request.*

REMINDER: Parish Assembly is scheduled for February 4, 2024.
Dues paying members should be up to date with their payments to vote.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun	Dec 31	Morning Service, Divine Liturgy, NO Sunday School
Mon CHURCH CAMPUS	Jan 1 & OFFICE CLOSED	<i>Happy New Year</i> 
Wed	Jan 3	Senior Social Club
Fri	Jan 5	Theophany Candlelight Vespers 7:15pm NO Armenian School
Sat	Jan 6	Feast of the Nativity & Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ - Armenian Christmas Divine Liturgy 10am 
Sun	Jan 7	Morning Service, Divine Liturgy, Sunday School
Wed	Jan 10	Senior Social Club
Fri	Jan 12	Stone & Candle Exhibit 7:30pm Armenian School resumes
Sun	Jan 14	Morning Service, Divine Liturgy, Sunday School
Wed	Jan 17	Senior Social Club, HNH Nurse Visit 2pm 
Fri	Jan 19	Armenian School
Sun	Jan 21	Morning Service, Divine Liturgy, Sunday School, ACYOA MANTI SALE
Wed	Jan 24	Senior Social Club
Fri	Jan 26	Armenian School
Sat	Jan 27	Winter Dance
Sun	Jan 28	Morning Service, Divine Liturgy, Sunday School
Wed	Jan 31	Senior Social Club

Last Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

There are no wedding sacraments permitted on Palm Sunday (Mar 24, 2024) & on the five major feast days in the Armenian Church which are:

Armenian Christmas – January 6, 2024

Easter –March 31, 2024

Transfiguration – July 7, 2024

Assumption of the Virgin Mary – August 18, 2024

Exaltation of the Holy Cross – September 15, 2024

