

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH

Fifth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

Morning Service 9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM



Readings from the Holy Scripture

Isaiah 40:18-31

Hebrews 4:16-5:10

Luke 18:9-14

“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՝ ՊՈԼԱՃԵԱՆ

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

Phone (201) 791-2862

Church E-mail address:

churchoffice@stleon.org

Fr. Diran's E-mail address:

dbohajian@stleon.org

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



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>



Thank you to the Fair Lawn High School Transition Program students who typically fold & deliver our weekly bulletins.

HOKEHANKISD

† Matilt & Serj Veziroglu, & daughter Sandra Veziroglu and Liz & Bulent Tunalilar & daughter Tugce Tunalilar request Hokehankisd for the soul of **Erol Bilecikyan**, *beloved father, father in law, grandfather*, on the occasion of *the 40th day* (Karasoonk) of passing into eternal rest. The family has donated towards the altar flowers and has requested that the altar candles be lit in memory of their loved one.

† Dawn, Edward, Michael, & Melissa Donofrio request Hokehankisd for the soul of **Alice Foronjy**, *beloved mother, grandmother* on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of her passing into eternal rest, and for **Sona Manuelian**, *beloved cousin, godmother* on the occasion of the 2nd anniversary of her passing into eternal rest, and for **all deceased members of the Foronjy, Fanarjian, Donofrio, and Cwynar families**. The family has donated towards the altar flowers and has requested that the altar candles be lit in memory of their loved ones.

† Leo Manuelian, Ani Mooney, Lori Korn & families request Hokehankisd for the soul of **Sona Manuelian**, *beloved wife, mother, grandmother* on the 2nd anniversary of passing into eternal rest, and also for souls of **members of the Manuelian, Baroutjian & Varjian families** on passing into rest. 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."



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.

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

Ամենայն Հայոց Կաթողիկոսին իր գիտական կոչման վկայականը հանձնեց Տ. Աբրահամ քահանա Մալխասյանը

Դեկտեմբերի 18-ին Մայր Աթոռ Սուրբ Էջմիածնում Ն.Ս.Օ.Տ.Տ. Գարեգին Երկրորդ Ծայրագույն Պատրիարք և Ամենայն Հայոց Կաթողիկոսն ընդունեց ԱՄՆ Ֆորդհամի համալսարանում աստվածաբանական գիտությունների դոկտորի կոչմանն արժանացած ԱՄՆ հայոց Արևելյան թեմի Սրբոց Նահատակաց եկեղեցու (Նյու Յորք) հոգևոր հովիվ Արժանապատիվ Տ. Աբրահամ քահանա Մալխասյանին:

Վեհափառ Հայրապետի օրհնությամբ Տեր Հայրն իր ուսումնառությունը շարունակել է Ֆորդհամի համալսարանի Կրոնագիտության ֆակուլտետում՝ պաշտպանելով դոկտորական թեզ «Հոգևոր հոտից անջատման խնդիրը Հայ Եկեղեցում նոր հազարամյակին ընդառաջ» թեմայով, և դասախոսում է Նյու Յորքի Սուրբ Հովհաննեսի անվան համալսարանում:

Ներկայացնելով իր դոկտորական աշխատանքը Նորին Սրբությանը՝ Տեր Աբրահամն ընդգծեց, որ աշխատության նպատակն է բացահայտել այն արդի մարտահրավերները, որոնց արդյունքում երիտասարդ ընտանիքները դժվարանում են մասնակից լինել եկեղեցական կյանքին, և գտնել դրանց հաղթահարման ուղիները:

Ամենայն Հայոց Հայրապետը գոհունակությամբ անդրադարձավ Տեր Հոր գիտական ձեռքբերմանը՝ ընդգծելով, որ սույն աշխատությունը կարևոր նպաստ է հովվական աստվածաբանության ոլորտում և հնարավորություն հոգևորականներին ի մոտո ծանոթանալու երիտասարդությանը վերաբերող հիմնահարցերին:

Հայոց Հովվապետն ուրախությամբ արձանագրեց, որ եկեղեցականները հովվական ծառայությանը զուգահեռ ծավալում են նաև գիտական գործունեություն՝ հարստացնելով իրենց գիտելիքներն ի նպաստ հոգևոր ծառայության առավել արդյունավորման:

Հանդիպմանը Վեհափառ Հայրապետը, որպես գնահատանք, Տեր Աբրահամին ընծայեց քահանայական լանջախաչ:

Վերջում Արժանապատիվ Տեր Հայրը Նորին Սրբությանը հանձնեց իր թեզի աշխատությունն ու դոկտորական կոչման վկայականը:



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 izmeemeyanis, zee Asdvadz ser e")

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



Seasons Greetings

From Your Fellow Parishioners...

Raymond & Donna Hortian

Greg Hourdajian

Barbara & Lori Hovsepian

Madeleine Karanfilian

John Kardashian

Ardo & Linda Keshishian

George & Linda Kundakji

Jimmy & Linda Mastrull & Family

Araxy Moundjian

"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

Bill & Patti Zengel

Harry & Gloria Zoraian

WEEK OF PRAYER *for* CHRISTIAN UNITY

ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE
AT ST. VARTAN ARMENIAN CATHEDRAL

*“You shall love the Lord your God...
And your neighbor as yourself”*

(Luke 10:27)

Please join His Grace Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, and Faith Leaders of New York City as they gather to pray for Christian Unity.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024
6:30 PM**

Following the service, all are welcome to join a festive reception in Haik and Alice Kavookjian Auditorium

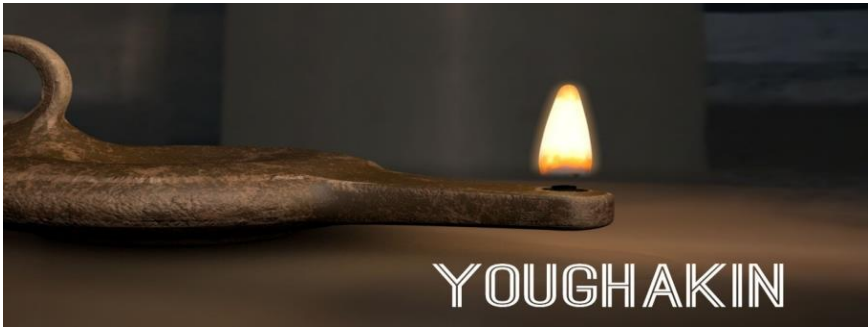
St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral

630 SECOND AVENUE (CORNER OF 34TH STREET),
NEW YORK CITY

PARKING: Mention St. Vartan Cathedral to receive
A \$16 FLAT-RATE PARKING DISCOUNT
at Tunnel Parking Garage (300 East 34th St., across
from the cathedral).



EASTERN DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA
Առաջնորդութիւն Քայոց Ամերիկայի Արեւելեան Թեմի
630 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10016
WWW.ARMENIANCHURCH.US



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



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 երգեցողութիւնը 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*

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, & bağ  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 SUNDAY SCHOOL. 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*.

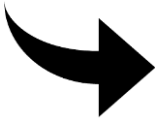


Holy Name Medical Center provides
**COMPLIMENTARY BLOOD PRESSURE
SCREENING at St. Leon**

Typically, every third Wednesday of each
month, **from 2-3pm.**

We need more participants for this service to
continue.

Please consider stopping by on our next
scheduled screening-



January 17, 2024
(Mark your calendars)

It's a walk-in service, no appointment needed.
Feel free to call the church office,
with any questions.
201-791-2862

Your heart will thank you!





St. Leon Armenian Church

Paving the Way...Brick by Brick

Assist in paving the way to St. Leon Armenian Church's new education and recreation building. A common area at the entry to the building will consist of engraved bricks. This is a wonderful way to make your support of this facility permanently known. You may choose to have your name, the name of a child or grandchild, birthday, anniversary or graduation day, engraved on the brick. The possibilities are numerous and the help invaluable in meeting our goal of expanding our ministry by expanding our facilities.

There are two sizes to choose from in English and Armenian letters. Each donor will receive a certificate of ownership and the satisfaction of knowing that your support will help our St. Leon family continue to grow in faith in the Armenian Church well into the 21st century.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Commemorative Brick Purchase:

English Letters

_____ 4" x 8" Brick @ \$135.00

Maximum of two lines, 13 letters per line

For 4" x 8" - engraving to read as follows: (please print clearly)

_____ 8" x 8" Brick @ \$250.00

Maximum of four lines, 13 letters per line

For 8" x 8" - engraving to read as follows: (please print clearly)

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please return this form to:

Barbara Royland

44 Benson Avenue

Westwood, N.J. 07675

Email: hyemom@optonline.net

201-666-5735

Check payable to: St. Leon (Memo: Brick Campaign)

All donations are tax deductible.

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 24	Morning Service, Divine Liturgy NO Sunday School Vespers & Christmas Caroling 7:30pm
Mon	Dec 25	Church Office & Campus CLOSED <i>Merry Christmas!</i>
Wed	Dec 27	NO Senior Social Club
Fri	Dec 29	NO Armenian School
Sun	Dec 31	Morning Service, Divine Liturgy NO Sunday School
Mon	Jan 1	CHURCH & OFFICE CAMPUS CLOSED
Wed	Jan 3	Senior Social Club
Fri	Jan 5	Theophany Candlelight Vespers 7:15pm NO Armenian School
Sun	Jan 7	Morning Service, Divine Liturgy Sunday School resumes 10am
Wed	Jan 10	Senior Social Club
Fri	Jan 12	Armenian School
Sun	Jan 14	Morning Service, Divine Liturgy Sunday School



Last Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

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

