

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
Sixth Sunday after the Octave of Theophany
February 20, 2022

Morning Service 9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM



Readings from the Holy Scripture

Isaiah 63:18-64:12

Titus 1:1-11

Gospel of John 7:37-52

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
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Phone (201) 791-2862 Fax (201) 791-1329

Church E-mail address: stleon@stleon.org
Fr. Diran's E-mail address: dbohajian@stleon.org
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,
Gregory Kazanjian

Subdns. Paul Chamesian, Vahe Kiljian, Jack Hamparian



CHOIR MASTER

George Paroonagian

PRINCIPAL ORGANIST

Sirvard Galstian

ASSISTANT CHOIR DIRECTORS

Daniella Ashbahian

Dawn Donofrio



“Krisdos ee méch me haydnetsav.” – “Orhnyal é haydnootyoonun Krisdosi.”
“Christ is revealed among us.” - “Blessed is the revelation of Christ.”

HOKEHANKISD

✝ Der Diran and Yeretzgin Kismet request Hokehankisd for the soul of **Lucia Bossbaly**, loving grandmother, on the **35th anniversary** of her passing into eternal rest. The family has donated toward the Altar Flowers and request that Altar Candles be lit in her memory.

✝ The Ohnikian and Royland Families request Hokehankisd for the souls of **Arthur Ohnikian**, loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather on the **1st year anniversary** of his passing into eternal rest, and **Annette Ohnikian**, loving aunt and great aunt on the **1st year anniversary** of her passing into eternal rest. The families have donated toward the Altar Flowers and request that Altar Candles be lit in their memory.

✝ Sevan Kucukyan and Family request Hokehankisd for the souls of **Atam Cesmeçi**, beloved uncle on the **40th day** of his passing into

eternal rest, and for **Kirkor Sanoyan**, on the **1st year anniversary** of his passing into eternal rest. The family has donated toward the Altar Flowers and request that Altar Candles be lit in their memory.

✝ Aline Frankian, Angela Frankian, Garabet Chadoyan and Family, and Vlad and Tina Korolove request Hokehankisd for the soul of **Kebraiel Frankian**, loving father, on the **3rd year anniversary** of his passing into eternal rest, **Seta Shadoyan**, loving mother, sister and aunt, on the **17th year anniversary** of her passing into eternal rest, and **Aydin Azadian**, **Haykanosh Shadoyan**, **Tuma Shadoyan** and **Nishan Shadoyan** on their passing into eternal rest. The families have donated toward the Altar Flowers and request that Altar Candles be lit in their memory.

✝ Mrs. Angel Wassef and Family, the Astourian Family, the Wells Family and Genna Family request Hokehankisd for the souls of their beloved family members: **Khatoun Movsessian**, loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, **Marie Astourian**, loving sister, mother and grandmother, **Nevart (Rose) Movsessian East**, loving sister and aunt, **Armenouhi Movsessian Wells**, loving sister, mother and aunt, **Arek Astourian**, loving father and grandfather, and **Ashken Movsessian Amirian**, loving sister and aunt, **Yolanda Genna**, loving mother, **Rosalie Genna**, loving sister, **Mahboub Wassef**, loving husband, father, grandfather and uncle, **Azad Mkhitarian**, loving father and grandfather, **Yeprime Mkhitarian**, loving mother and grandmother, **Zohrab Amirian**, loving husband, **Hratch Mkhitarian**, loving brother and uncle, **David Wells**, loving brother and cousin, **Freddy Wells**, loving father and uncle, **John East**, loving uncle, **Astrid Kemp**, loving aunt and **James Kemp**, loving uncle on their passing into eternal rest. The families have donated toward the Altar Flowers and request that Altar Candles be lit in their memory.

Hokehankisd Deadline: Please note that requests for Hokehankisd need to be received by 4 PM Thursday to be included in that week's Sunday bulletin.

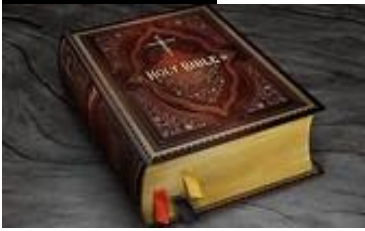
PRAYER FOR REQUIEM – HOKEHANKISD

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. O Christ, Son of God, fore bearing 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 in 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 Sebul Oscherician, Robert John Karanfilian III, Silva Jinivizian, Greg Tenbekjian, Annette Kouchshirin, Brandon Katz, Zoe Brooks, Jim & Wendy Lathey, Dan Patoyia (Moynihan), Juliette Haddad, James Azarian, Varoujan Harutunian, Mosses Bairamian, 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*.

BIBLE STUDY



TIME: 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Zoom Bible Study. Please call or e-mail Fr. Diran and he will send you the link for the Bible Study Wednesday, February 23, 2022. Please note the day change.

Book of Jeremiah

Chapter 35 “The Rechabites Commended”

Chapter 36 “The Scroll Read in the Temple”

Chapter 37 “Zadekiah’s Vain Hope”

We see in the central message of Jeremiah, in which he develops the most important concept that will guide the Israelites in their spirituality. There are parallels between Jeremiah’s life and the Gospels. The spirituality of Jeremiah will flow into the New Testament. Jeremiah develops the importance of consolation which is cultivated by Israel. The seed of good and happiness will become the announcement of Jesus as the “Good News”. This “Good News” is the Word of God becoming man which we come to know as the Incarnation of Jesus. As Jeremiah had predicted, the Babylonians capture all the major cities of Judah except Jerusalem, which they have now surrounded. Inside is Jeremiah, under arrest in the palace courtyard for speaking out against King Zedekiah’s policy of defending the city; Jeremiah had advised surrender. While the siege is underway, Jeremiah buys a field from his boy hood home nearby. The sale is meant to serve as a symbol to Israel. God tells Jeremiah to put the bill of sale in a clay jar- the ancient version of a safety deposit box- so it will last a long time. Jeremiah reports what God has told him: “I promise you that people will once again buy and sell houses, farms and vineyards in this country”. (32:15)

Holy Communion: Today is the last day to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Next Sunday is the beginning of Lent and there will be no Holy Communion until Lent is over.

Alter Flowers: The alter flowers have been donated today by Rosine Ghichlian and John Mazzo on the occasion of their wedding day.

St. Leon Armenian Church Lenten Service & Lecture Series for 2022

Friday March 4th **“Understanding the Lord’s Prayer”**
Presented by Deacon Adam Bullock

Friday March 11th Lent; **“Giving or Giving up ”**
Presented by Very Rev. Fr. Luke Edelen

Friday March 18nd **“Understanding the Divine Liturgy ”**
Presented by Rev. Fr. Diran Bohajian

Friday March 25th , **“The Messiah of the Prophets”**
Presented by Mr. Hovanes Khosdeghian

Friday April 1 **“Lessons I learned from the devil” An Exorcist shares some wonderful truths of our faith he has learned in ministry of spiritual liberation**
Presented by Very Rev. Fr. Glen Sudano

Friday April 8th **“Christ is Resurrected from the Dead ”**
Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian

Lecture will be approximately 30-45 minutes
Lenten Service begins at 7:30 p.m. – Lenten Lecture begins at 8:30 p.m.
Sponsored by The Sarkis Gabrellian Endowment Fund

Armenian School - Next lahmajun, sujuk, baghaj distribution is March 6th. Orders must be to Barbara Hovsepien no later than February 22nd. Text Barbara at 551-206-6686 or email bhovsepien@optonline.net with your order information. If ordering lahmajun, please specify regular or hot (spicy).

Sunday, April 24th – The Gomidas Choir of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, under the direction of Maestro Kris Kalfayan, will be singing during our Sunday Badarak.

Coffee Hospitality – Everyone is invited to the Community Center immediately following worship services. Today’s Hospitality is donated by the Parish Council.

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
PARISH ASSEMBLY
SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, February 27, 2022



The Parish Council of St. Leon Armenian Church extends an invitation to all dues-paying members to attend the Annual Parish Assembly, which will be held on Sunday, February 27, 2022 in Abajian Hall, immediately following Divine Liturgy.

A light luncheon to be served immediately following the assembly.

2021 Membership must be paid in full to be eligible to vote.

The Parish Assembly booklet & invitation, along with the “Saint Leon 2022 Phone Directory” were mailed to our members on February 10th.

Dear Parishioners,

Last week the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin asked us to bring to the attention of government officials and ecumenical leaders a recent announcement by Azerbaijani officials regarding the removal of all Armenian inscriptions from Armenian religious monuments in Artsakh, which will amount to open acts of vandalism.

Please use the following “Appeal on Artsakh TEMPLATE” to prepare letters on letterhead to your local officials. Also, encourage your parishioners to write similar letters to express outrage toward this threat to our sacred places.

Thank you,

Fr. Simeon Odabashian

Diocesan Vicar

Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern)

MESG 220211 Appeal on Artsakh Armenian Monuments TEMPLATE

[to be sent to public officials.]

I am writing to express concern and outrage over recent announcements from the government of Azerbaijan, that signal its official plans to desecrate Armenian Christian monuments, and erase evidence of their Armenia origin, in the region of Nagorno-Karabagh.

It is well known that Nagorno-Karabagh has been the subject of a territorial dispute between the Republic of Armenia and Azerbaijan, since the period before the fall of the Soviet Union. Scholars recognize Karabagh (known anciently as Artsakh) as a centuries-old, majority-Armenian region, considered part of historic Armenia since antiquity. For 30 years, starting in the early 1990s, Karabagh was governed as an independent Armenian republic. But in the fall of 2020, Azerbaijan launched a surprise attack on the region, conquered large portions of it through force of arms, and incorporated these lands into its own territory. That event displaced thousands of Christian Armenians from

their homes, and left hundreds of Armenia monuments vulnerable to desecration by Azeri military forces.

Earlier this month, the Azeri Minister of Culture announced his government's intention to proceed with another anti-Armenian initiative. According to this announcement, in Azerbaijan a "working group of experts in Albanian history and architecture" has been formed, whose goal is to remove "false traces [sic] left by Armenians" from "Albanian religious temples."

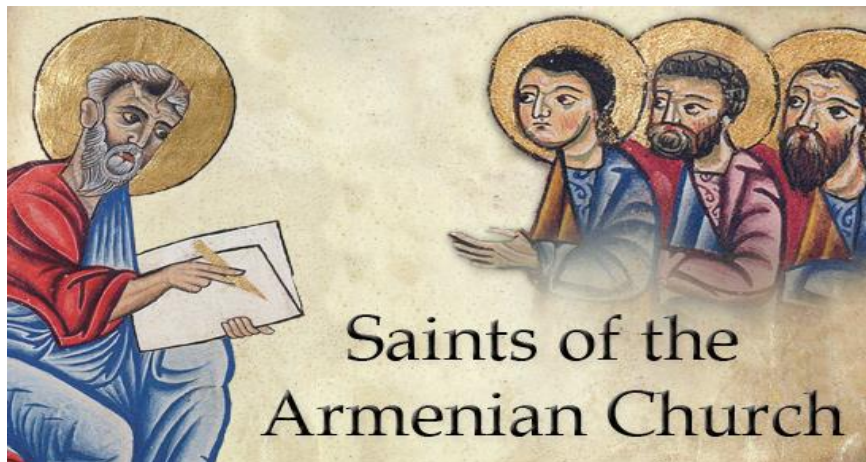
The Culture Minister's statement references a theory, which has become prominent in Azerbaijan—but is categorically dismissed by mainstream scholars—that Armenian inscriptions in churches on Azerbaijani territory are not original, but were late additions to churches built under Caucasian Albania, an ancient Christian kingdom that ruled part of the territory that is today Azerbaijan.

Scholarship testifies to the contrary, however, that the Armenian identity of these Christian holy places has never been in question. That identity is a reality firmly established by scholars across the globe, and not a topic of debate. The supreme authority of the worldwide Armenian Church, the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, has strongly condemned this initiative of the Azerbaijani authorities, calling it "an uncivilized act against humanity, which demonstrates an ongoing, underlying enmity and hatred towards Artsakh and the Armenian people."

Now, we join our voices in this cause. We implore all nations concerned with settling the Karabagh conflict, as well as religious organizations and international bodies, to condemn this attempt of "cultural genocide" by Azerbaijan, in the hope of preventing similar acts of vandalism against Christian monuments in Karabagh, and indeed around the world.

We appeal to you to make your condemnation of this outrageous policy known to the public, and especially to the government authorities of Azerbaijan. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this urgent matter.

FYI: You can download this Word document template from our website, stleon.org



Feast of St. Leontius the Priest and His Companions

On Tuesday February 22, 2022, St. Leon Armenian Church will observe the Feast of St. Leontius (Ghevont) the Priest and His Companions.

St. Ghevont is one of the great exemplars of the Armenian priesthood, remembered for his courage and resolution at the Battle of Avarayr in 451 A.D. He and his brother clergymen stood with the Armenian soldiers, under the leadership of St. Vartan Mamigonian, in their stand against the Persian army to defend Armenia's existence as a Christian nation.

On the eve of battle, Ghevont celebrated the Divine Liturgy, distributed Holy Communion and baptized soldiers who had not yet been baptized in the Armenian Church. He also delivered a stirring sermon, stressing that neither the Persian forces nor death could undermine the soldiers' union with Christ.

Each year on this day, clergy of the Eastern Diocese gather for the annual Ghevontiantz Day observance. St. Leon Armenian Church will host the tri-state area observance on Tuesday, February 22, 2022. St. Leon will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at 11:00 AM.



SAINT VARTAN CAMP 2022



WHERE FAITH, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP MEET!

CAMPERS (ages 8-15) | CITs (ages 16-17) | STAFF (ages 18+)

STAFF TRAINING: JUNE 29 – JULY 2

SESSION A: JULY 3 – JULY 16

SESSION B: JULY 17 – JULY 30

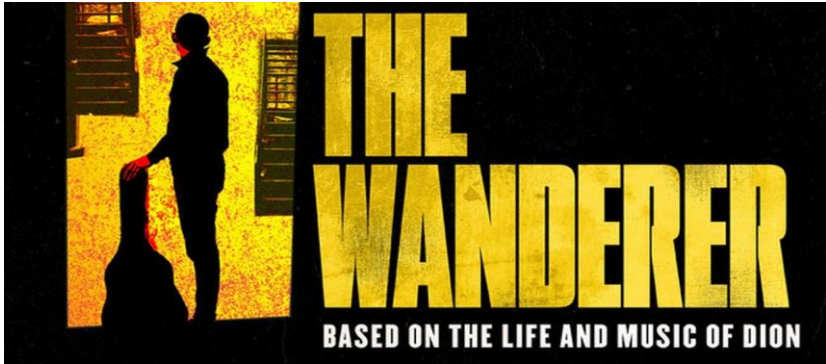
SESSION C: JULY 31 – AUGUST 13

Questions? ✉ KathrynA@armeniandiocese.org ☎ 215-452-8322

REGISTER ONLINE: DiocesanSummerCamps.org

ST. LEON SOCIAL CLUB Seniors have much to offer: our wisdom, our experience and our time. St. Leon Social Club meets every Wednesday from 11:30-3:00 PM. Donation is \$3.00. We are serving only coffee. Example: play cards, backgammon, bring a board game or just sit around and have a cup of coffee. Bring a friend and enjoy the afternoon. We meet in the Community Center. Please note these gatherings have been put on hold until further notice, however meetings will start again when conditions allow.

Join us on a journey to see



*Sponsored by our Women's Guild at the
PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE
in Millburn, New Jersey*

Thursday, April 21, 2022 - Matinee Performance
50 tickets only (First come, first served!)
Reserve before March 15th!

*Price of \$105 includes your choice of a custom-ordered
boxed-lunch from Panera Café, round-trip bus transportation,
and admission to the show.*

*Lunch will be served in Abajian Hall beginning at 11:15 AM; bus
departs for the theater at 12:15 sharp! Lunch orders will be taken
later.*

NOTE: Papermill Playhouse Covid Requirements for All Attendees:

(1) Face masks are to be worn in the theater and throughout the performance, (2) Proof of vaccination card is needed to gain entrance to the theater, and (3) Driver's license (or photo ID) must be shown.

*Please make \$105 check payable to St. Leon Women's Guild,
write "Papermill" on the memo line and mail your check to
Nadya Boyadjian, 26 Holmhill Circle,
Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417. Check must be received by March 15,
2022 and your check confirms your reservation.*

**St. Leon Armenian Church Women's Guild
Annual Fish 'N Chips Dinner
Tuesday, March 22, 2022
5:30 pm – 7 pm**

Please Note: Last serving is at 6:45



Come and enjoy great food with great friends!
Adults: \$16.00 Children under 12: \$10.00
NO WALK-INS!!

Make your reservations by March 15 by sending your
check payable to:

St. Leon Women's Guild (put Fish 'N Chips in memo)
St. Leon Armenian Church
WG - Fish 'N Chips Dinner
12-61 Saddle River Road
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

If you have any questions you can email or call:
Christine Badach: clchak@aol.com
Gladys Fenarjian: gafenarj@gmail.com or 201-328-7276

**CELEBRATE
ARMENIAN
CHRISTMAS**

AT ST. LEON

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2022, 7pm TO MIDNIGHT

12-61 SADDLE RIVER ROAD, FAIR LAWN, NJ

**SAVE THE DATE
DETAILS TO FOLLOW**

**COVID-19
VACCINATION AND/OR
OTHER SAFETY MEASURES
WILL BE ANNOUNCED**

ONNIK DINKJIAN

FEATURING

MAL BARSAMIAN

ARA DINKJIAN

JIM KZIRIAN

RAFFI MASSOYAN

**CELEBRATION
RESCHEDULED
MAY 1, 2022**

“THE GREATEST HONOR”

“To serve Mary and to be her courtier is the greatest honor one can possibly possess, for to serve the Queen of Heaven is already to reign there, and to live under her commands is more than to govern.”

St. John of Damascus- (c.675-c.749)

“THE GLORY OF GOD IS A PERSON FULLY ALIVE”

St. Irenaeus (c.125-c.203)

“FOR THE SAKE OF EACH OTHER”

“For the sake of each of us, He laid down his life- worth no less than the universe. He demands of us in return our lives for the sake of each other.”

St. Clement of Alexandria (c.159-c.215)

“LOVE”

“He who has love is far from sin.”

St. Polycarp- (c.69-c.155)

“THE FOOD OF LIGHT”

“Darkness is the food of light, since where it finds darkness, light swallows it.”

St. Ephraim The Syrian (c.306-373)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun	Feb 20	Morning Service Divine Liturgy, Sunday School
Tues	Feb 22	Saint Leon Day, Badarak – 10 AM Start
Fri	Feb 25	Armenian School
Sun	Feb 27	Morning Service Divine Liturgy, Sunday School, Parish Assembly Meeting 12:15 PM Abajian Hall
Fri	Mar 4	Armenian School
Sun	Mar 6	Morning Service Divine Liturgy, Sunday School
Tues	Mar 8	Women’s Guild Meeting, 6:30 pm, Abajian Hall
Fri	Mar 11	Armenian School
Sun	Mar 13	Morning Service Divine Liturgy, Sunday School
Fri	Mar 18	Armenian School
Sun	Mar 20	Morning Service Divine Liturgy, Sunday School, Parish Assembly Meeting 12:15 PM Abajian Hall
Tues	Mar 22	Saint Leon Annual Fish ‘N Chips Dinner, 5:30 PM – 7 PM at Abajian Hall
Fri	Mar 25	Armenian School
Sun	Mar 27	Morning Service Divine Liturgy, Sunday School

Last Gospel is Mark 4:26-34

There are no wedding sacraments permitted on the five major feast days
in the Armenian Church which are:

Armenian Christmas – January 6, 2022

Easter – April 17, 2022

Transfiguration - July 24, 2022

Assumption of the Virgin Mary - August 14, 2022

Exaltation of the Cross-September 11, 2022