

AVEDIS

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St. Hagop Armenian Church

The Good News | Christmas 2010-2011

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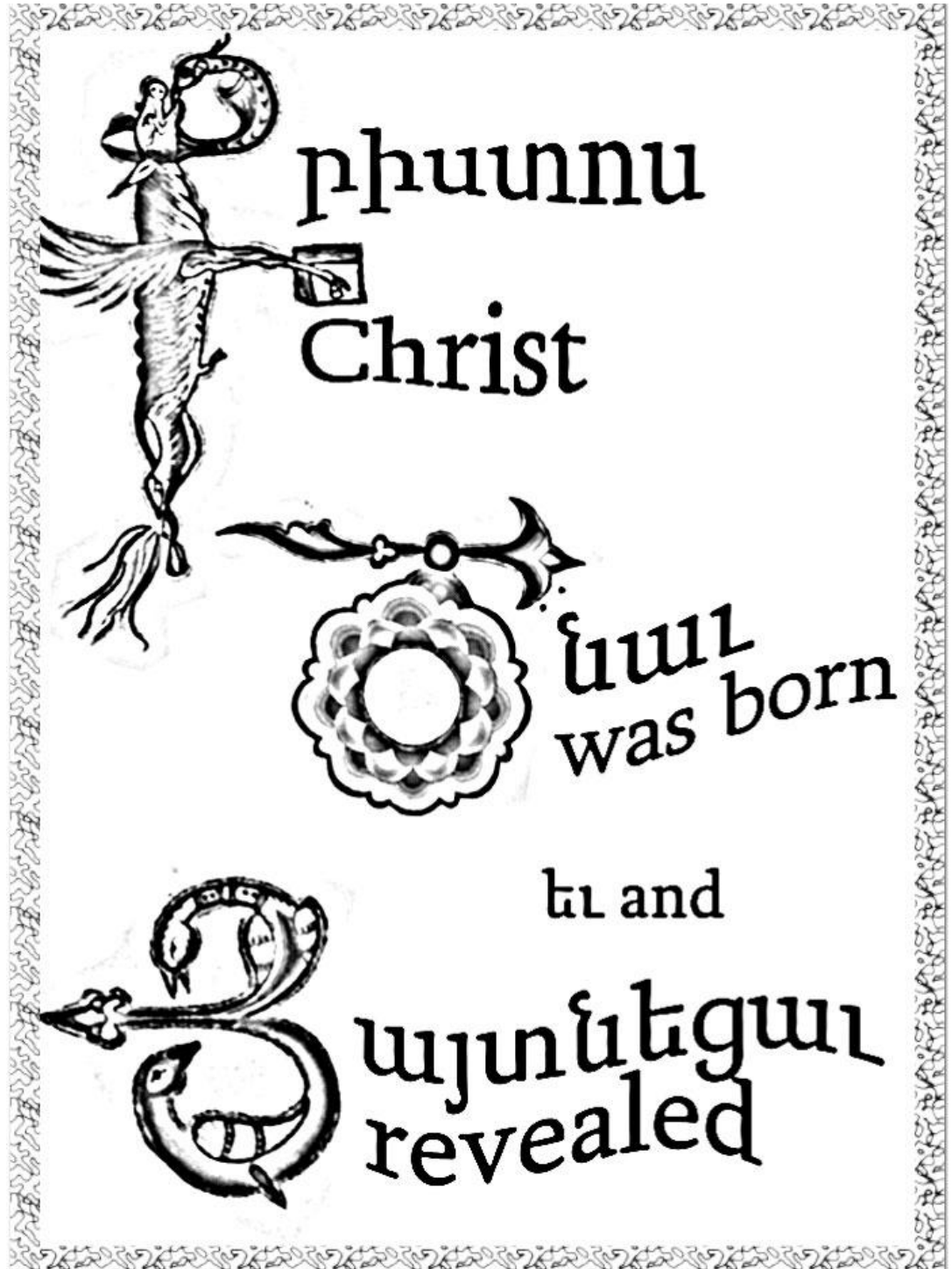
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Christ is Bigger Than Christmas

When we say the word Christmas, what usually comes to mind are Christmas trees, Santa Claus, shopping, and toys....all the things which we take out of boxes after Thanksgiving and put back into closets after New Years.

Armenian Christmas is something entirely different. The word for Christmas in Armenian is *Astvats-a-haydnutyun*, which is made of two words *Astvats*/God and *Haydnel*/Reveal, that is, the way that God continues to reveal himself to man.

Thus, Armenian Christmas reminds us that it is not that important whether we put up trees; give out presents or even put baby Jesus in front of our house. Whatever thing we do it is not very important during *Astvats-a-haydnutyun* because this holiday isn't not about us, it is about God.

And what a blessed opportunity we have as Armenian Christians, after putting away our Christmas tree, house decorations and our new toys to come to church in the following weeks and pray; "Lord God, now show us really who you are, because our violent world needs your peace. Lord God, now show us really who you are, because our sinful church needs your forgiveness and mercy. Lord God, now show me really who you are, because my weary heart needs your love and healing."

Let us remember this Christmas season that our Christ is bigger than Christmas. He is not found in Christmas things and is not bounded by one day. Rather he rules all places and all times and his glorious revelation is before us this New Year, this Christmas season and throughout the entire year.

Join me in inviting Our Lord Jesus Christ into our church and accepting Him into our lives, saying,

Քրիստոս Ծնաւ եւ Յայտնեցաւ | Kristos tsnav yev haydnetsav | Christ is born and revealed.

Օրհնեալ է Յատնութիւնն Քրիստոսի | Orhneal e haydnutyunn Kristosi | Blessed is the revelation of Christ.

Christmas Youghakin/Իւղագին Offering

Keeping the lamps of the Church burning is a sign of dedication to the Church and Jesus Christ. The ancient churches used oil-burning lamps, and the faithful would donate olive oil to keep the church illuminated.

Today, this offering of "oil/yough" takes the form of a financial contribution on Christmas and Easter, allowing the ministry of the Church, and its basic operations to continue.

**Thank You &
God Bless!**

How To Make A Donation:

- 1) Use a Youghakin offering envelope at Church
- 2) Mail a check in separate envelope (memo Christmas) to St. Hagop Church
- 3) Click on "donations" tab on our website
www.sthagoparmenianchurch.org



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT by Stepan H. Serpekian

“We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year”

This is the traditional greeting everywhere we go. The Armenian religious version says "**Քրիստոս Ծնաւ եւ Յայտնեցաւ**" "**Kristos Tzenav yev Haydnetsav, Orhneal a Haydnootyunn Kristosi**" **Christ is born and revealed, blessed is the revelation of Christ**" and the traditional version says "**Շնորհաւոր Նոր Տարի եւ Սուրբ Ծնունդ**" "**Shnorhavor nor Dari yev Soorp tsenoont.**" **Since Theophany comes after New Year, we first greet the New Year and then the Birth of Christ.**

In any case, since two thousand years ago, the world was touched by a miracle. We pray that the same gentle miracle of faith blesses you and yours this Christmas.

At St Hagop, we are blessed by our community; yes each and every one of you. Whether you are active or passive, a financial or emotional supporter...or non-supporter. The spirit of Christmas is not found under a tree...it is found in our hearts.

We are working very hard on refinancing our giant mortgage and lowering our debt. Would you become Santa's helper and make our dreams for St Hagop come true?

May your heart direct you to the path of St Hagop and its future.

Merry Christmas!



Immediately after church on Sunday, December 19th, the Women's Guild is holding their semi-annual bake sale. Enjoy coffee, baklava and choereg and stock up on lahmajun, yalanchi and other Armenian delicacies. Please contact Lori Keshishian, Seta Serpekian, or Debra Kamajian if you would like to donate an item to the sale.

Շնորհաւոր Նոր Տարի եւ Սուրբ Ծնունդ

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

St. Hagop Church wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. In the coming year, may God bestow His blessings on you, shine the light of His love into your home and grant health and happiness to you and your loved ones.

May the joyous announcement of Christ's birth resound in our hearts throughout the coming year:

Քրիստոս Ծնաւ եւ Յայտնեցաւ | Kristos tsnav yev haydnetsav | Christ is born and revealed.

Օրհնեալ է Յայտնութիւնն Քրիստոսի | Orhneal e haydnutyunn Kristosi | Blessed is the revelation

ST. HAGOP PILGRIMAGE TO ARMENIA

JUNE 28-JULY 12, 2011

Experience the ancient Armenian homeland
with your St. Hagop church family...

\$2950/PERSON

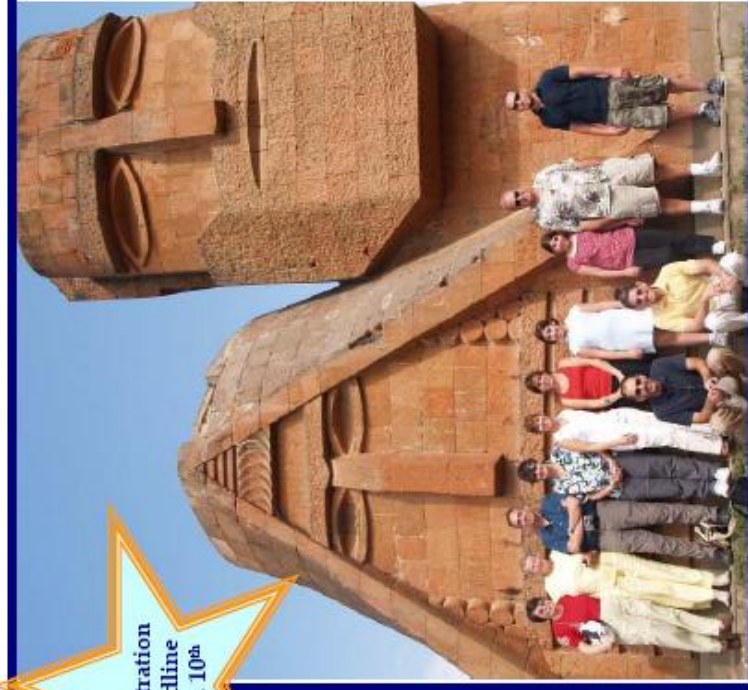
Trip Includes:

- ★ Roundtrip airfare (Air France)
- ★ Double Occup. 4-star hotel
- ★ Daily Breakfast & Lunch
- ★ Full Sightseeing Tour of Armenia
- ★ Tour Guide English/Armenian
- ★ Learn Armenian words, songs & history
- ★ Take time to reflect on your faith
- ★ Have fun with Fr. Hovnan, Yn. Anna and other travelers from our community

All ages are welcome!!!

Space limited to 22 participants – first come first serve!

Registration
Deadline
Feb. 10th

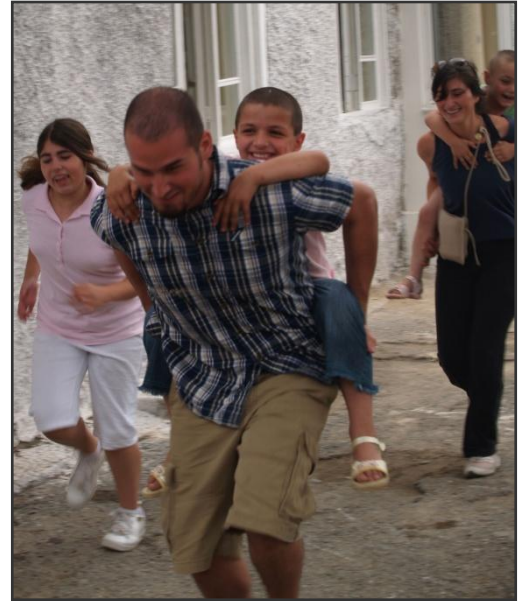


Contact Fr. Hovnan for more information and reserve spot with deposit
fr.hovnan@gmail.com | (727) 545-0380

Quotes from the 2008 St. Hagop Pilgrimage to Armenia...

“First of all, I accomplished what I wanted out of this trip and that was for my kids to all be together when we went to Armenia. Second of all, it was great getting to know everyone who went with us on this trip and how well we all got along.”-**George Kamajian**

“I’ve seen some good changes since my last visit 25 years ago. Armenia still has a lot more to accomplish, but it’s on the right track. Also, we traveled with an awesome group of people. You have never tasted an apricot or peach, until you’ve been to Armenia.”-**Debra Kamajian**



“My husband's father Nishan Kimatian came to the U.S. in the early 1912, but in 1915 went to Iran and from there joined the Armenian freedom fighters under General Antranig’s commandment. Nishan’s stories inspired me to see Armenia...and he was right, it is beautiful. I was so impressed how Armenians are rebuilding their country and their communities. I am certain I will go back again!” -**Rudi Kimatian**

“An Armenian son was lost, but now is found. A series of very strange and improbable events that began at the Florida Genocide Memorial convinced me to make the pilgrimage to Hayastan. Reconnecting with my family heritage has changed my life.” --**Chris Sassouni**

“We went to a small dinky church and Der Hayr gave the sermon and we went to a cool techie club and had dinner (our farewell dinner) and danced. I had a great time. It was fun.”- **Ani Kamajian**

“I liked seeing the puppies at the market place. They were not American dogs but Armenian dogs. There were a lot of poor people. It was fun being with Der Hayr and Yeretskin.” -**Janae Kamajian**

“Celebrating Badarak at Katoghike Church was very special for me. It was filled with old women and reminded me of my grandmother and her friends in the church I attended as a child in South Milwaukee. The ladies prayed fervently and audibly and at communion time, they noticed that I did not have a scarf and searched one out for me, just like the ladies at my church 50 years ago. It was a very moving memory for me to experience.” --**Teresa Haidarian**



Kef Time Tampa Bay

Join us for the 2nd annual Kef Time
at the St. Petersburg Marriott Clearwater,
12600 Roosevelt Boulevard in St. Petersburg, Florida

5pm cocktail reception starts off the evening with Otis and The Old School Band,
followed by Dinner & Dancing to the music of
Richard Hagopian's Kef Time Band

Ticket Prices:

\$150.00

Dinner/Dance Tickets Each

\$1,500.00

Table of 10 Dinner/Dance tickets

Buy a table of 10 to reserve a table and have guaranteed seating with your friends.

\$3,000.00

Sponsor a Table of 10

Includes 10 dance tickets

Includes 10 iPad raffle tickets

Includes 1 full page add

Includes bottle of champagne

Includes special reserved seating in the VIP section

\$100.00

Raffle Ticket for iPad - only 50 will be sold, so chances of winning are VERY good!

To reserve your ticket call David Kazarian at 727/692-3992 or Saint Hagop Armenian Church at 727-545-0380



LEAVE YOUR LEGACY ON THE ST. HAGOP CHURCH PERMANENT STONE HONOR WALL

MANY MEMBERS OF ST. HAGOP CHURCH, BOTH LIVING AND DECEASED, HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO ESTABLISHING A GROWING, FAMILY ORIENTED SPIRITUAL CHURCH THAT WE CAN ALL BE PROUD OF.

IN ORDER TO HONOR OUR OWN, A UNIQUE WALL IN THE NARTHEX IS BEING FASHIONED, UTILIZING OUR IMPORTED STONE FROM ARMENIA.

YOU MAY DEDICATE AN ENGRAVED STONE WITH THE NAME OF A PERSON CLOSE TO YOU, LIVING OR DECEASED. AVAILABLE STONES ARE:

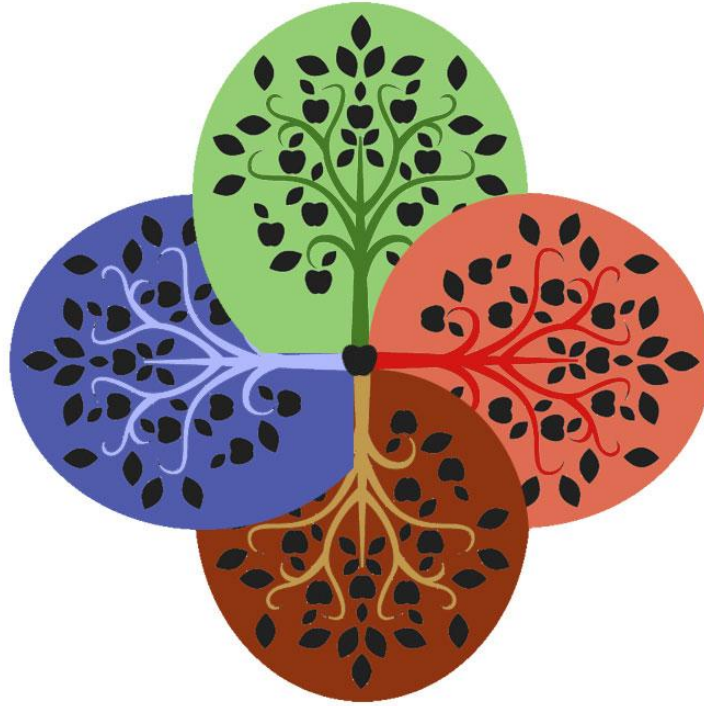
- TOP LEVEL CROSSES (6)—AVAILABLE FOR \$2000.
- REMAINING CROSSES AND TREES (32)—AVAILABLE FOR \$1250.

PLEASE CONTACT KAREN MINASSIAN 941-351-1143 OR STEPAN SERPEKIAN 813-817-3757 FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR VIEW THE ACTUAL SIZE POSTER OF OUR HONOR WALL ON DISPLAY IN THE CHURCH NARTHEX.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LEAVE A PERMANENT TRIBUTE ON OUR CHURCH WALLS!

Planned Giving

St. Hagop



Including St. Hagop Church In Your Will

Making a planned gift as part of your estate plan is not just for those who have wealth or special financial expertise, but for anyone with a generous spirit who wants to designate their gifts while they are living.

Each time we gather together at church, a dance or picnic, we are reminded of the gifts that were so generously given by the founders of our community.

Bequeathing a gift to St. Hagop's Armenian Church either in your will or in a trust not only honors God, but will leave a legacy that will impact future generations of Armenians with your generosity.

For more information on including St. Hagop in your planned giving contact John K. Shamsey, Esq. at 941-922-2042.

Final Reminder – Dues Must Be Paid By Dec. 31

St. Hagop Armenian Church 2010 Dues Paid Members as of December 08, 2010:

Anusbigian	Andrew		Kapreilian	Bea		Ohanian	Arnold
Agnacian	George		Kardashian	George		Palakian	Sima
Anusbigian	Ryan		Kardashian	Hannah		Pechdimaldji	Hermine
Anusbigian	Jamie		Kassabian	Leo		Przegendza	Bernard
Anusbigian	Drew		Kazarian	David		Reizian	George
Avernian-Thorenson	Arlen		Kazarian	Nancy		Samuelian	Martha
Barsamian Jennings	Eileen		Keshishian	Harry		Sarafian	Ayda
Bronleben	Brandi		Keshishian	Lori		Sarafian	Sirun
Cannon	Ann		Keshishian	Harout		Sarafian	Tanya
Chopoorian	Alan		Keshishian	Lucy		Sarkis	Vahak
Chouljian	Aram		Keuroghlian	Gregory		Sarkisian	Leon
Dabagian	Dick		Keuroghlian	Nora		Sarkisian	Sharon
Danielyan	Arthur		Kimatian	Rudi		Sarkisyan	Roman
Demerjian	Jean-Jacques		Koolakian	Bob		Semerjian	Noubar
Demirdjian	Natalie		Major	Marion		Semerjian	Gisele
Dikranian	Jack		Manoogian	Naomi		Serpekian	Avedis
Dikranian-Vartanian	Adrienne		Manoulian Kugeares	Sophia		Serpekian	Anahid
Dixon	Anahid		Martin	William		Serpekian	Aram
Doty	Leilani		Mashikian	Hagop		Serpekian	Seta
Dulgeroff	Araxi		Mashikian	Tobe		Serpekian	Stepan
Eggleston	Diana		Megerian	Aram		Shahnasarian	Eddy
Ekizian	Alysia		Megerian	Carla		Shahnasarian	Jean
Ekizian	Greg		Mekhitarian	Vahe		Shahnasarian	Lexy
Ekizian	Art		Merakyan	Ida		Shahnasarian	Lizzy
Ekizian	Adrienne		Messerlian	John		Shahnasarian	Michael
Frankian	France		Miller	Alice		Shamsey	John
Garabedian	Martha Anne		Millian	Zaven		Terzian	Carnig
Ghazikian	Steven		Millian	Berjouhi		Unjian	Arda
Haidarian	Teresa		Minassian	Karen		Varadian	Ida
Haydostian	Mary		Minassian	Vasken		Vartanian	Charles
Jamgochian	Darwin		Mouradian	Sarkis		Vizoyan	Serpouhie
Johns-Ghoogasian	Cheryl		Mouradian	Natalia		Waidley	Carolyn
Kamajian	George		Mouradian	Agop		Youakim	Maurice
Kamajian	Debra		Mouradian	Victoria		Youakim	Marina
Kapreilian	Sam						

Thank you for becoming a voting member of the St. Hagop Community!

SAVE THE DATE – 2010 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

2010 St. Hagop Annual Assembly
Sunday, January 30, 2010 at 12:00 PM

THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING YOUR CHURCH

If you or someone you know is interested in running for office at our upcoming assembly, please contact nominating committee members Dr. Hagop Mashikian 941-776-5952 or Eileen Barsamian-Jennings 727-343-8776 as soon as possible. Hagop and Eileen will share PC member responsibilities and level of commitment and will ask for biographical information to be printed and made available at the election. You must have been a church member in good standing for one year to run for office.

Women's Guild News

The Women's Guild is planning a luncheon at Brio on January, 15th at 1 PM at the International Plaza in Tampa. Spouses, children and friends are welcome. Please contact Debra Kamajian or Lori Keshishian if you are interested in attending.

The Women's Guild will have their next meeting on January, 16th after church in the Parish House.

There will be a Lamajun Luncheon immediately following church on February, 13th under the Tanielian Pavillion.

George and Debra Kamajian will be hosting a Chocolate Party at their home on Saturday, February 26th from 1-3 PM. All Chocolate sales will benefit St. Hagop Church. The cost is \$10. Please make checks payable to St. Hagop Armenian Church.

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Rates are per issue:

\$50 for a business card
\$150 for a half page
\$300 for a full page.

Office Hours: 9:30am-5:30pm

Worship Hours: Sunday 10:30am

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Rev. Fr. Hovnan Demerjian, Stepan Serpekian, David Kazarian, Debra Kamajian, John Shamsey, Karen Minassian, Teresa Haidarian (photos)

Avedis Newsletter is a publication of St. Hagop Church in Pinellas Park, Florida.

Submissions are welcomed and should be sent to the church office. All text should be electronic format, preferably Word. Editorial board reserves the right to modify or reject any submissions. All material must be received no later than the published deadlines below:

Issue	Submission
February/March/April	February 10 th
May/June/July	April 10 th

Currently it costs about \$600 to print and send each issue of Avedis. We would like to communicate as often as possible with our parishioners. Will you help defray some of the costs? Please send your check memo: Avedis Newsletter 1/2 issue (\$300); 1/4 issue (\$150) or other (\$) amount.

The *Avedis* is grateful to accept business ads which help us pay for our newsletter and help you reach your customers. Please notify Carla Megerian at cmegerian@gmail.com if you are interested. Make checks payable to St. Hagop Armenian Church.

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www.sainthagoparmenianchurch.org

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

****Divine Liturgy & fellowship take place every Sunday from 10:30-12:30 unless otherwise noted below****

DECEMBER	Sunday	5	Divine Liturgy	10:30 AM
	Tuesday	7	Parish Council Meeting	6:00 PM
	Sunday	12	Divine Liturgy ACYOA Blood Drive	10:30 AM 12:30 PM
	Sunday	19	Divine Liturgy Women's Guild Holiday Bake Sale	10:30 AM 12:30 PM
	Sunday	26	Divine Liturgy	10:30 AM
JANUARY	Sunday	2	Divine Liturgy	10:30 AM
	Wednesday	5	Eve of Theophany (Jrakaloots) Badarak	6:00 PM
	Thursday	6	Theophany – Armenian Christmas Church Open All Day For Prayer	
	Sunday	9	Divine Liturgy Blessing of the Waters Armenian Christmas Observed Sunday School Christmas Program	10:30 AM 12:30PM
	Tuesday	11	Parish Council Meeting	6:00 PM
	Friday - Sunday	14-16	ACYOA Florida Regional Workshop St. David Church, Boca Raton	
	Sunday	16	Divine Liturgy Women's Guild Meetig	10:30 AM 12:30 PM
	Sunday	23	Divine Liturgy	10:30 AM
	Sunday	30	Divine Liturgy Annual Parish Assembly	10:30 AM 12:30 PM