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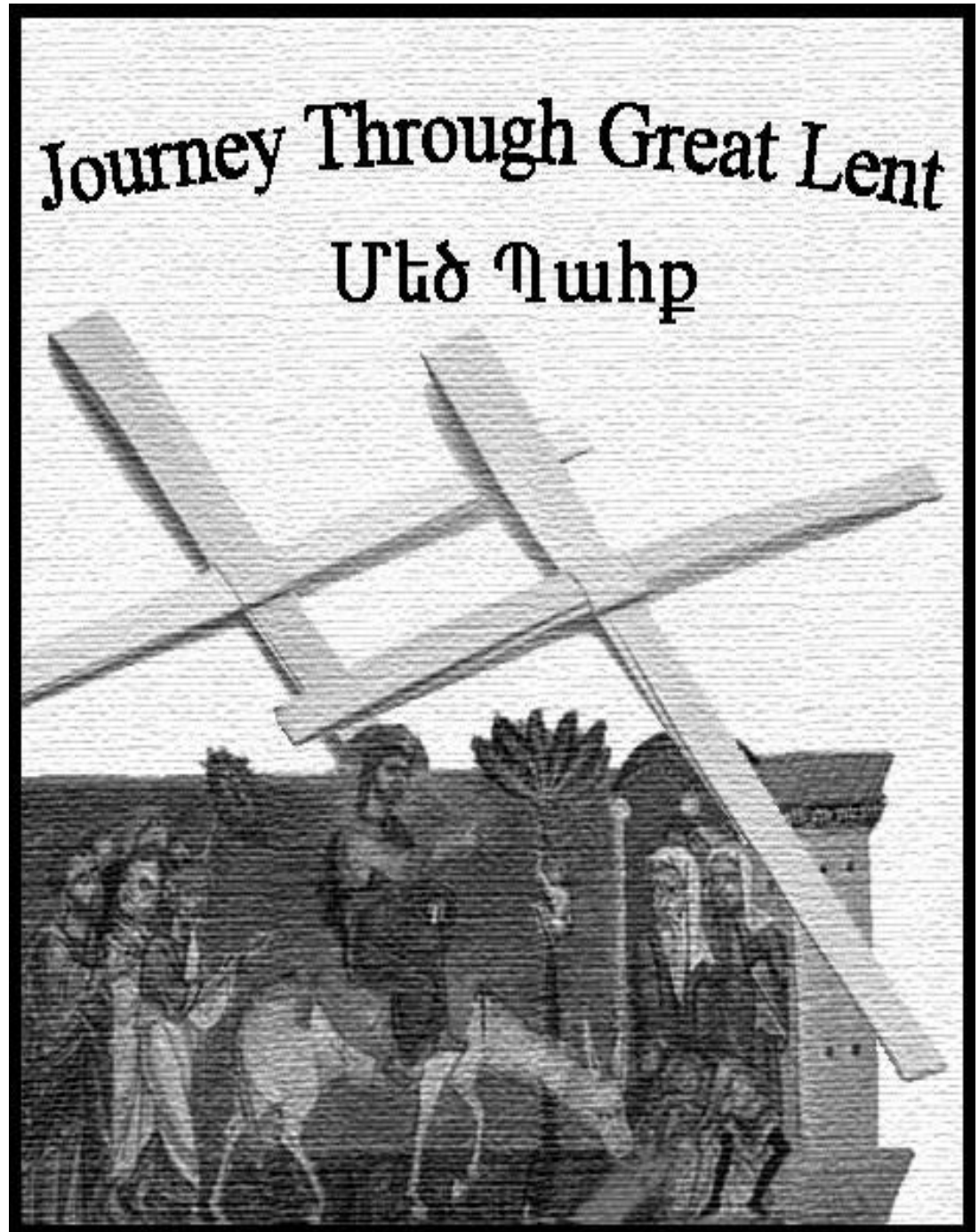
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The Amazing Journey of Great Lent

This month we begin Great Lent, our forty day journey of fasting and prayer. We celebrate Great Lent because Jesus himself fasted and prayed for forty days before his ministry of salvation (Matt. 4:4). Jesus was not teaching us to punish ourselves, but to restore ourselves to complete dependence on God. Here are eight ways to embark on a life-changing Lenten journey:

1 Read the Bible. Enjoy God's story and grow closer to what He's telling you through it. Follow the Armenian Church calendar of readings as a guide. Or: Read the entire Gospel of Mark. Or : Read all 4 Gospels. Or: Read 10 minutes a day starting with Matthew and see how far the 40-day journey takes you.

2 Attend church. Follow the Sunday lessons and weeknight Lenten services and then walk with Christ during His last days through the pageantry and prayer of Holy Week.

3 Pray. Only when we realize our emptiness without God, can Lenten prayer begin. St. Gregory of Narek eloquently declared that prayer is an "effective medicine for invisible pain." And so we pray unceasingly.

4 Fast. Lenten hunger makes people healthy, purifies your body, limits your consumption of the world's resources, and generates less waste. Fasting allows silence and restraint to replace gratification. In the same way, fast for your mind as well, refraining from excessive entertainment talking, and distractions.

5 Simplify. Change your habits and lifestyle to focus your attention on God and His direction for you. Spend less time shopping, in front of the TV and at the computer and more quiet time with family and friends. This will remind you of how precious life and loved ones are.

6 Give Up Something Special. Whether it's chocolate, TV, long phone conversations, pick something that's become important to you. Doing without it can remind us of what's really important.

7 Change. Like the hungry little caterpillar that becomes a butterfly, your 40 day "cocoon" can be a time of true renewal. Are you impatient? Do you get angry easily? Are you a gossip? Try to change.

8 Give. Lent invites us to give our time, our money, and our imaginative efforts to our church, to feed the hungry and visit the lonely.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10

Excerpted from "Lent Comes Alive" a publication of the Diocesan Department of Education

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT by Stepan H. Serpekian

Our Parish assembly took place on Sunday January 30th, 2011. Five members were elected for two years, Andrew Anusbigian, Chris Sassouni, David Kazarian, Stepan Serpekian and Tanya Sarafian. The remainder of the Parish Council, Chuck Begian, Linda Maslar, Karen Minassian and John Shamsey are serving the last year of their two year committment.

On Tuesday February 6, 2011 we had our regular Parish Council meeting. We selected the officers of the Parish Council, Stepan H Serpekian - Chairman, David Kazarian – Vice Chairman, Chris Sassouni – Treasure, Linda Maslar – Assistant Treasurer, Chuck Begian – Secretary and Karen Minassian – Assistant Secretary/Corresponding. Welcome to our new members, Tanya and Andrew we look forward to their energy and contribution to the team.

Also, at the Parish Assembly, we had our proposed budget for 2011. We have a projected budget of \$302,500 in expenses and a projected income of \$311,000. If we break down our expenses to the total paid membership of 140, each paid member has a daily obligation of \$6.00 and if we double that amount we can witness another milestone miracle in the form of the multipurpose building.

Our annual fundraising Gala, Kef Time, which was held on February 12th, was supported by over 125 members of the community, who enjoyed a night of dining and dancing. Thank You to everyone who attended! The proceeds from this event will help lower the principle on our mortgage leading the way to the day that we will have a mortgage burning event. What a dream! Can we do it? YES, we can. We are Armenians, the builders of homes and guardians of our culture.

Ask yourself this question, which came first the chicken or the egg. In our scenario the church came first and now is time to work towards building a multipurpose building. There is no time better than the present to get started. Those who are building a house will be poor for one year and those who sell a house will be rich for one year. Take a look at yourself and which option would you like to have.

I would like to thank the community on their trust in our effort to keep St Hagop's mission alive and contribute to the future of our children to stay Armenians in heart and soul.

2011 GREAT LENT PROGRAM

ST. HAGOP ARMENIAN CHURCH

When: Wednesdays During Great Lent from 6-8 PM

Where: St. Hagop Church Sanctuary

Who: Open to All—Parishioners and Guests



Wed. Mar. 9	<i>All We Know & Don't Know About Heaven</i> Speaker-Rev. Fr. Hovnan Demerjian
Wed. Mar. 16	<i>Wrestling With God—Bible Study on "Hagop"</i> Speaker-Rev. Fr. Hovnan Demerjian
Wed. Mar. 23	<i>Orphans of the Genocide</i> -Multimedia Presentation Guest Speaker-Mr. Bared Maronian, Producer
Wed. Mar. 30	<i>Armenian Christians in Iran—Past, Present & Future</i> Guest Speaker —Dr. Chris Van Gorder, Department of Religious Studies, USF
Wed. Mar. 6	No Program This Week
Wed. Apr. 13	<i>Armenians of the Holy Land</i> Guest Speaker —Dr. Manoug Manougian Department of Mathematics, USF

SUNDAY SCHOOL HYE LIGHTS by Alysia Ekizian and Adrienne Vartanian-Dikranian



Thank you to all the children and SHARE teens who shared their sweet voices with our congregation to celebrate Armenian Christmas. We are so proud of them! Special thanks to Suzie Hovanissian, our Music Program Director.

Thank you to Maro Shaldjian for another Armenian Dancing lesson in January. The children really enjoy learning to dance, and hearing the Armenian music.

The Sunday School students enjoyed our first "Family Worship Sunday" with a children's sermon on February 6th. We were excused after communion for a SS lesson on the Badarak. This is a Diocese led effort to have the students participate in Badarak and have their lesson during coffee hour. We will now have monthly Family Worship Sundays on the first Sunday of each month. On March 6th will be Family Worship Sunday followed by our annual Poon Paregandan breakfast to kick off the Lenten season.



2011 SUNDAY SCHOOL LENTEN DRIVE

March 7 THE FIRST DAY OF LENT

This year's Diocesan-wide Sunday School Lenten Drive will benefit:



THE PEOPLE OF HAITI

On January 12, 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake in Haiti killed 220,000 people and left an estimated 1.3 million people homeless. Although progress has been made, there are still 1.1 million people homeless a year later. And only a fraction of pledged support from around the world has actually been received. A recent cholera epidemic brought further suffering to this land of tragedy. Let's make this second and final year of support our most generous.



CAMP SIRANOUSH, ARMENIA

Twenty-one days spent in a blissfully carefree environment, by children who have been orphaned or lost their father: that's the gift of this special summer camp in Yeghegnadzor, a few hours south of Yerevan and nestled in a region of sloping peaks and magnificent vistas. Children ages 9-15 who spend the rest of the year helping families make ends meet are treated to 3 meals a day and a program of sports, education, Bible discussions, and fellowship.

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me..."

MATTHEW 25:45

IN THIS SEASON OF LENT, PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.



Department of Youth and Education
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)
630 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10016
elisea@armeniandiocese.org | 212 686-0710 ext. 157 | www.armenianchurch-ed.net



Kef Time Dinner Dance Gala



The 4th Annual
South of the Bridge/
St. Hagop Armenian Church
Armenian Picnic

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2011
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- \$15 per person, -\$5 for children
6 – 12 - children 5 & under FREE
- Price includes luleh kebab,
chicken kebab, pilaf and water
- Please bring a covered dish or
dessert to share
- All proceeds go to St. Hagop
Armenian Church



DIRECTIONS TO SUMMERFIELD COMMUNITY PARK IN LAKEWOOD RANCH, FL 34202
I-75 to EXIT 217

EAST TOWARD ARCADIA

DRIVE EAST TO 5TH LIGHT TO LAKEWOOD RANCH BOULEVARD

TURN RIGHT

TRAVEL ¼ MILE TO SUMMERFIELD COMMUNITY PARK ON RIGHT

Enjoy a day of Armenian fellowship, music, tavloo tournament, raffle, basketball, tennis and kids playground fun. Please bring your own lawn chairs.

Make checks payable to: St. Hagop Arm. Church, memo: "Picnic"

***Please RSVP to 941-351-1143, or by e-mail to:**

saltydogvsm@verizon.net or jshamsey@verizon.net

Ծով Կենցաղոյս | The Sea of Life

A 5th Century Lenten Hymn By St. Mesrop Mashtots

Ծով կեն - - ցա - ղոյս հա - նա - պազ
tsov ken - - - tsa - ghuys ha - na - paz

4 զիս ա - լէ - - կո - - ծէ:
zis a - le - - - ko - - tse

7 Մը - ըրը - կեալ ա - լիք Քըշ - նա - մին
mê - rêr - kyal a - lik têsh - na - min

10 ինձ յա - ըու - - ցա - նէ:
indz ha - ru - - - tsa - ne

13 Նա - լա - պետ բա - ըի, լեր աճ - ճին
na - va - pet ba - ri ler an - dzin

16 ի - մոյ ա - պա - լէն:
i - mo a - - - pa - - - ven

Word for Word Translation

Ծով կենցաղոյս հանապազ զիս ւալէկոծէ:
tsov kentsaghuyts hanapaz zis alekotse:
sea of-life always me tosses

Մրրկեալ ալիք թշնամին ինձ յարուցանէ:
mrrkyal alik tshnamin indz harutsane:
stormy waives enemy me raises

Նաւապետ բարի, լեր անձին իմոյ ապաւէն:
navapet bari, ler andzin imo apaven:
captain good be of-soul my refuge

Ի համբառնալ իմում առ քեզ զաչս իմ օգնեալ ինձ, Տէր:
i hambarnal imum ar kez zachs im ognya indz, ter:
in raising my to you eyes my help me Lord

Ի յօրհնութիւն նոր օրհնեսցուք զքեզ, Քրիստոս փրկիչ մեր:
i hornutyun nor orhnestsuk zkez, kristos prkich mer:
in blessing new let-us-bless you Christ savior our

Այցելու մեր եւ փրկիչ կեցոյ զանձինս մեր:
aytselu mer yev prkich ketso zandzins mer:
visitor our and savior save souls our

Literary Translation

The sea of life always tosses me about,
My enemy conjures stormy waves against me.
Good Captain, be the haven of my soul.
When I raise my eyes up to you, help me, Lord.
May we praise you with new blessings, Christ our Savior.
Our help and rescuer, give life to our souls.

Translations courtesy of Dr. Tom Samuelian at www.arak29.am

WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS by Debra Kamajian

On February 26th Debra Kamajian the Women's Guild Chair hosted a chocolate party at her home to help raise money for the church. Coffee and fruit, cheese and crackers were served. The proceeds from the chocolate sale will benefit St. Hagop Armenian Church. It was a fun time had by all!

On Sunday March 27th, will be the 3rd annual Yalanchi Cook Off. The contestants must make their own yalanchi to participate. Please make at least 100, so that there will be enough for all tasters to sample.

On April 17th, Palm Sunday, there will be another bake sale. Enjoy coffee, baklava and choereg and stock up on lahmajun, yalanchi and other Armenian delicacies.



Florida Regional ACYOA JRs Retreat

A Weekend of Faith, Fellowship and Fun with Teens From Across Florida

Date:

Saturday, March 26--2PM--to—
Sunday, March 27--2PM

Location:

St. Mary Armenian Church, Hollywood, FL.
St. Hagop youth/chaperones will meet at St.
Hagop Church first and travel together in 2 to
3 cars.

Questions-Contact:

Alex Oganeseva
St. Hagop Contact Person
727-637-8848
aoganesova91@gmail.com

Jennifer Morris
Diocesan Youth Outreach Coordinator
jenniferm@armeniandiocese.org

**Don't Miss This All-Florida Armenian Teen
Retreat...**

Youth ages 13-18 will have an opportunity to
retreat from the daily struggles and challenges
of teenage life for a weekend focused on
spiritual renewal and peer fellowship.

Contact Alex Oganeseva to save your spot and
to receive a registration packet.

Registration deadline is Sunday, March 20,
cost is only \$20.00 per participant. Make
checks payable to Diocese of the Armenian
Church.

Meals will be served and youth will sleep-over
at the St. Mary church campus with adult
chaperones. Download the attached form for
all details.

Parent needed as driver/chaperone. Please contact Alex to volunteer.



**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:

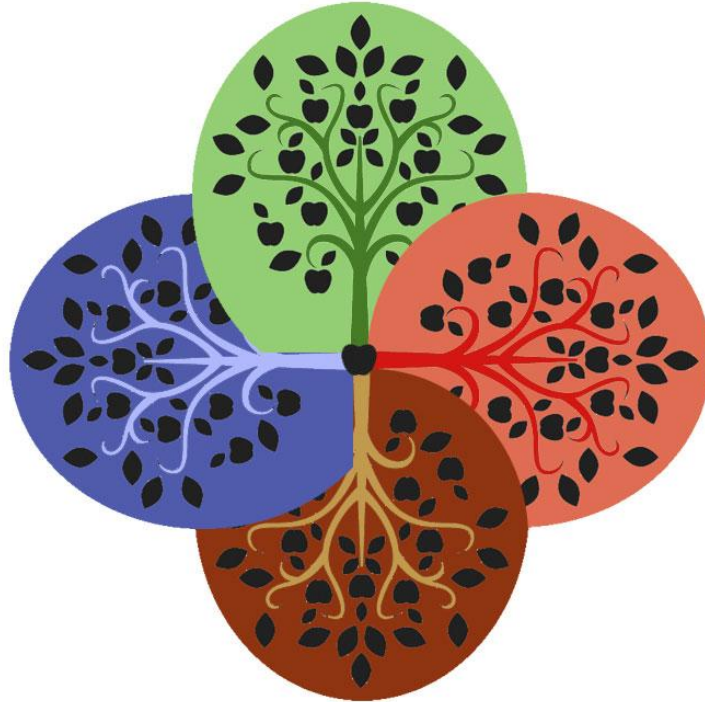
- TOP LEVEL CROSSES (6)—AVAILABLE FOR \$2000.
- REMAINING CROSSES AND TREES (32)—AVAILABLE FOR \$1250.

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.

THE REPATRIATE

LOVE, BASKETBALL, AND THE KGB

A MEMOIR

Coming to St. Hagop Armenian Church on
Saturday, March 12th from 12:00-2:00 PM

Wine and Cheese Reception Immediately Following



Born into the blue-collar immigrant community of southwest Detroit in 1928, Tom Mooradian graduated from Southwestern High School in 1947 with high academic honors and offers of athletic scholarships. He joined a repatriation group and went to Soviet Armenia, graduated from the Institute of Physical Culture and Sports with a bachelor's degree, coached junior basketball teams, and became a legendary basketball player for Soviet Armenia. After spending 13 years trying to return to his homeland, he was granted an exit visa by the Soviet government, attended and graduated from Wayne State University with a major in journalism, and worked for Detroit suburban newspapers until his retirement in 2003. For more information please visit www.tommooradian.com.

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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, Debra Kamajian, John Shamsey, Karen Minassian, Alysia Ekizian, Adrienne Vartanian Dikranian, 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
May/June/July	April 10 th
August/Sep./Oct.	July 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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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Tue. Mar. 1	Parish Council Meeting	6:00 PM
Sat. Mar. 5	South of the Bridge Picnic	11AM-4PM
Sun. Mar. 6	Divine Liturgy-Poon Parekendan	10:30 AM
Mon. Mar. 7	Great Lent Begins	
Wed. Mar. 9	<i>All We Know & Don't Know About Heaven</i> Speaker-Rev. Fr. Hovnan Demerjian	6:00 PM
Sat. Mar. 12	Tom Mooradian Talk	12-2 PM
Sun. Mar. 13	Divine Liturgy	10:30 AM
Wed. Mar. 16	<i>Wrestling With God—Bible Study on "Hagop"</i> Speaker-Rev. Fr. Hovnan Demerjian	6:00 PM
Sun. Mar. 20	Divine Liturgy Parish Council Swearing In	10:30 AM
Wed. Mar. 23	<i>Orphans of the Genocide</i> -Multimedia Presentation Guest Speaker-Mr. Bared Maronian, Producer	6:00 PM
Sat. Mar. 26	ACYOA Juniors Retreat-Hollywood, FL	
Sun. Mar. 27	Divine Liturgy 3 rd Annual Yalanchi Cook Off	10:30 AM 12:30 PM
Wed. Mar. 30	<i>Armenian Christians in Iran—Past, Present & Future</i> Guest Speaker —Dr. Chris Van Gorder, Department of Religious Studies, USF	6:00 PM
Sun. Apr. 3	Divine Liturgy Women's Guild Meeting	10:30 AM 12:30 PM
Wed. Apr. 6	<i>No Lenten Program</i>	
Sun. Apr. 10	Divine Liturgy	10:30 AM
Tue. Apr. 12	Parish Council Meeting	6:00 PM
Wed. Apr. 13	<i>Armenians of the Holy Land</i> Guest Speaker —Dr. Manoug Manougian Department of Mathematics, USF	6:00 PM
Sun. Apr. 17	Palm Sunday-Opening of the Doors Service Women's Guild Bake Sale	10:30 AM
Thur. Apr. 21	<i>Holy Thursday</i> Divine Liturgy Washing of the Feet/"Votnlva" Service Vigil /"Khavaroom" Service (Passion of our Lord, Jesus Christ)	10:30 AM 7:00 PM 8-9:30 PM
Fri. Apr. 22	Burial Service (<i>Good Friday</i>)	6:00 PM
Sat. Apr. 23	<i>Easter Eve</i> Divine Liturgy/"Jragalooyts Badarak"	6:00 PM
Sun. Apr. 24	Easter Divine Liturgy Armenian Martyrs Day Commemoration	10:30 AM 12:30 PM

St. Hagop Armenian Church

Parish of the Gulf Coast of Florida

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The Rev. Fr. Hovnan Demerjian, Pastor

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