

**Sunday of the Judge**  
(excerpt from Diocesan website)



*"O Christ, You have given to Your Church a true commandment: to pray to God continually and at all times with spirit and understanding. You established the truth of Your commandment when You gave us an example bypassing the night in prayer to God, having willingly become man. O Christ, let us stand always before You with pure prayers, as the angels in heaven do." -- Sharagan for the Fifth Sunday.*

The Sunday of the Judge gives us another parable about a "child of this world," a judge so jaded that he will not even help a poor widow (Luke 17:20-18: 14.) That widow is much like us, feeling helpless and worn down in this world in which the evil people seem to have all the success. Finally the judge is so tired of her pestering that he takes action on her behalf. Now, the parable asks us, if even such a godless man as the judge can finally be moved by the pleas of the weak, can we doubt that God in His infinite love for us will help us?

He will -- but He will also decide when. Our Creator knows our needs, and we must have faith that He will answer them at the proper time. This is the question for us: Do we trust God, even in our suffering, and believe His promise of justice for the oppressed? Do we pray and continue to pray, even when His answer does not come at the moment we would like? "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?"

The other readings (Isaiah 65:8-25, Philippians 3:1-4:9) exhort us to pray and remind us that present sorrows will fade to nothing in the light of the glory to come.

# St. Hagop Armenian Church

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March 18, 2012

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5TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT-SUNDAY OF THE JUDGE



**Today's Scripture Readings:**

Isaiah 65:8-25; Philippians 3:1-4:9; Luke 17:20-18:14

**ACYOA JRS RETREAT CONCLUDES TODAY AT ST. HAGOP!**



Thanks to Jennie Morris, director of this year's ACYOA Juniors retreat, Yn. Anna Demerjian our local coordinator, and Andrew Anusbigian, Teresa Haidarian and Stepan Stapanian for donating their time and care to our teens...it was a truly wonderful weekend of prayer, fellowship and fun for everyone!

Please contact Yn. Anna Demerjian if you would be interested in helping to coordinate quarterly events for our teens!

**ST. HAGOP-SOUTH OF BRIDGE PICNIC – SAT. MAR 24**



The famous "South of the Bridge Picnic" is being held at your favorite location, the Summerfield Community Park in Lakewood Ranch. Picnic is Saturday, March 24 from 12:00 Noon- 4:00PM. See flyer in church or download online for more details. Contact person is Vasken Minassian at 941-351-1143. Please bring a covered dish or desert to share.

Also bring your friends, relatives, appetites and lawn chairs to fellowship with other Armenians and their families!

**LENTEN PROGRAM--EVERY THURSDAY OF LENT – 6:30PM**



Lent is the time to grow stronger as Armenian Christians. Every Thursday at 6:30PM, there will be a Bible Study/Faith Discussion. This year our theme is The Gospel of Matthew ... All are welcome to join this intimate and informal Bible study held in our church!

**KISS OF PEACE**

As a reminder, below is the greeting and response during the "Kiss of Peace" which is found on p.27 in your pew books...

**The greeting is:**

Քրիստոս ի մէջ մեր յայտնեցաւ:  
Krisdos ee mech mer haydnestav.  
Christ is revealed among us.

**The response is:**

Օրհնեալ է յայտնութիւնն Քրիստոսի:  
Orhnyal eh haydnootyoonun Krisdosee.  
Blessed is the Revelation of Christ.

**UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS**

Sun. March 18	Divine Liturgy-Sunday of the Judge	10:30 AM
Wed. Mar. 21	Armenian Lesson	6:00 PM
Thu. Mar. 22	Great Lenten Bible Study Week 5	6:30 PM
Sat. March 24	South of Bridge Picnic-Lakewood Ranch	12 Noon
Sun. March 25	Divine Liturgy-Sunday of the Advent	10:30 AM
Tue. March 27	Parish Council Meeting	6:00 PM

**LEAVE YOUR LEGACY ON OUR 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 we have dedicated a unique wall in the narthex utilizing our imported stone from Armenia. You may dedicate an engraved stone with the name of a person close to you, living or deceased. Crosses and tress around the perimeter of the wall are available for \$1,250. Please contact Karen Minassian 941-351-1143 for more information.

**WHAT IS DIFFERENT IN CHURCH FOR LENT?**



The Altar curtain remains closed throughout the 40 of Great Lent. The closing of the curtains and covering the altars in dark-colored drapery symbolizes the Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise and our separation from God. The Kiss of Peace and Holy Communion are not given, and we do not kiss the Gospel after Badarak. During Lent, we begin Sunday with the Sunrise Service *Arevagal*, followed by a shorter Lenten Badarak.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL--TODAY**

This week our younger children will meet with Mrs. Ekizian, the entire older group will all be in church for the conclusion of their teen weekend retreat at St. Hagop.

**ST. HAGOP OPERATIONAL BUDGET:**

**HOW DID WE DO LAST WEEK**

Needed Weekly for Operations → (\$3,000)  
Total Collection Last Week → (\$1,077)

