

ON THE OCCASION OF THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSECRATION OF ST. HAGOP ARMENIAN CHURCH

For decades Armenians on the West Coast of Florida dreamed of having their own sanctuary and cultural hall in which to worship God and preserve their unique cultural identity. And although dreams are important, they only get you so far. In Armenian we have a saying: *Քեզի համար կը քնիս, ուրիշի համար երեսդ կը տեսնիս*: “There are those who sleep for themselves, but dream for others.” It’s easy to dream, but it takes hard work and faith in God to make a dream come true.

Փառք Աստուծոյ, praise God, we have arrived at the tenth anniversary of our church’s consecration, because so many from this community and around the Diocese have sacrificed sleep for themselves, to realize the dream of all—our beloved St. Hagop Armenian Church. Turning this dream into reality was prayerful work which began more than forty years ago, when Armenians first began to move to the West Coast of Florida and founded the “The Armenian American Society of the Suncoast.”

In 1976 members of this new society joined the City of St. Petersburg with twelve other ethnic groups as founding members of “The St. Pete International Folk Fair Society (SPIFFS).” For many years, the Armenian Community was a prominent participant in the Festival that had become an annual pageantry.

As the community grew in numbers with social and cultural activities so did its spiritual life. Executive members of the Suncoast Armenians arranged for visiting clergy to celebrate the Divine Liturgy in host Episcopalian and Orthodox Churches. In 1985, on a pastoral visit to St. Petersburg, Florida, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, dedicated our community as a mission parish and named it St. Hagop in memory of Deacon Hagop A. Janoyan, who had passed away a few weeks earlier.

Through the dedication of so many-and with the special commitment of the Sarkisian family-the mission parish became motivated to bring to fruition its vision of a sanctuary and cultural hall. Over a period of a few years, nearly ten acres of land was acquired by the consolidation of the St. Hagop mission parish and the Armenian American Society into one entity. In 1999, the mission parish became a full parish with a half-time pastor, Fr. Nersess Jebejian, who set the groundwork for future growth of the parish and its organizations.

It would take until 2006 before the St. Hagop Parish Council-led by Arsen Bayandrian and with the support of Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian-would begin construction in earnest. On October 14, 2007, the long-nourished dream of a sanctuary became a reality with the consecration of the St. Hagop Armenian Church sanctuary by His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians. Gregory & Alysia Ekizian headed the group of sixteen major benefactors of the church who were named its “Godparents.”

In August of 2007, St. Hagop invited a newly ordained priest and yeretzgin, Fr. Hovnan and Yn. Anna Demerjian, who grew in service and leadership as the sanctuary and community grew alongside them. Building on all that had come before, the church was blessed in successive years with a new wave of leadership. In a decade’s time, and by a rededication to the primary God-centered mission of the church, this team grew the membership and strengthened church operations. The manifestation of this faith-centered growth came with the completion of our cultural hall in January 2016, led by building committee chair Stepan Serpekian and named after benefactors Michael and Jean Shahnasarian.

Truly, the dream of St. Hagop has become reality because of the tireless efforts and prayers of so many. God alone knows the seen and unseen offerings of the hundreds of faithful who have given their heart and soul to St. Hagop over the decades; parish council members, altar servers, choir members, the women’s guild, youth leaders, and all of our beloved parishioners. For all who have lost sleep in planning, providing and praying for St. Hagop Armenian Church: Մեր Վարձքը Կասուսը—We have received our reward!

ST. HAGOP ARMENIAN CHURCH - WEEKLY BULLETIN



Rev. Fr. Hovnan Demerjian, Pastor

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4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER-RED SUNDAY

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H.E. Abp. Khajag Barsamian, Presiding

Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, Guest Celebrant

May 7, 2017



Today’s Scripture Readings:

Acts 13:16-43; 1 Peter 5:1-14; John 5:19-30



Very Special Worship & Fellowship This Sunday May 7

It is our great honor to have our Primate, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian presiding over this Sunday's Divine Liturgy and complimentary after church luncheon. Many of our clergy and lay guests from around the Diocese will also be joining us. Please join us for a once in a lifetime Worship and Fellowship!

Diocese Now Accepting Scholarship Applications



Applications for Diocesan scholarships are now available online. The application deadline for the 2017-18 academic year is May 20, 2017. Each year the Diocese awards scholarships to promising youth who are headed to college. The Diocese seeks students who are active in their local parishes and have assumed leadership roles in their communities. To be eligible, applicants must be U.S. citizens enrolled in four-year undergraduate programs. Click <https://armenianchurch.us/scholarships/> to access the scholarship application. For information, contact Maria Barsoumian at (212) 686-0710.

Greeter Ministry Involvement Opportunities



St. Hagop seeks volunteer greeters who can commit to serve once per month on an ongoing basis to greet our worshippers and participate in Badarak worship tasks such as spreading the kiss of peace and passing the collection plates - tasks our parish council members have traditionally assumed. Please call the church office, if you have questions or for additional information about pursuing this ministry.

Prayer Requests



Please keep Sarah Malajian, Michelle Shahnasarian, Carolyn Saharian, Shirley Omartian, Apkar Omartian, Carnig Terzian, Naomi Manoogian the Sassouni Family, Margie Baylerian, Carolyn Saharian,, Rose Yaghoobian, Marion Rejebian, Kamo Gyularian, Diane Sahagian, Charles Garabedian, Harold and Tanina Garabedian, Daniel Nahapetyan, Stefi Hovious, and Debra Curry in your prayers for health and all good gifts in Christ.

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.

Services and Events

TODAY:	Divine Liturgy-Red Sunday Sunday School Special After Church Luncheon Fellowship	10:30 AM 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
Thursday, May 9	Parish Council Meeting	6:00 PM
Sunday, May 14	Divine Liturgy-Mother's Day Sunday School Last Day of Sunday School Blessing- Special Fellowship	10:30 AM 11:00 AM 12:30 PM



ACYOA Pins/Save the Tomb

The ACYOA Central Council are selling pins with the ACYOA logo to raise money for its youth ministries and the important Save the Tomb Project to restore Holy Sites in Jerusalem entrusted to Armenians. The pins will be for sale after church for \$5, and \$.50 will go towards the project. Please see Mallory Maslar or Linda Maslar if you would like to purchase one.

Shahnasarian Hall Available For Rental



Interest in Shahnasarian Hall is growing! Our beautiful hall makes a great place to celebrate a large family birthday party, graduation party, or even a staff Christmas party! Pledged Stewards receive a discounted rate for hall rental. Please go to <http://shahnasarianhall.com> or call the office for more information

2017 PLEDGED STEWARDS

George & Joan Agnacion, Andrew & Theresa Anusbigian, Artak Apyan, John & Susan Arsenault, Victoria Atamian, Leon & Gloria Atayan, Michael Atayan, Grace Austin, George Avadikian, Bagrad Badalyan, Eileen Barsamian Jennings, Charles & Lisa Begian, Cornelia Biggers, Sonia Cure, Fr. Hovnan & Yn. Anna Demerjian, Jean-Jacques & Hasmig Demerjian, Rose Derderian, Rita Dilanian, Fred Dikranian, Araxi Dulgeroff, Art & Adrienne Ekizian, Victoria Franks, Harbig & Mary Garabedian, Bill & Kim Gernazian, Richard & Pauline Gilgan, Adrienne Guendjoian, Gregory Hagopian, Teresa Hairdarian, Berge & Tamar Hajian, Janet Haydostian, Mary Haydostian, Nazdar Hermiz, Hayley Hovhanessian, Greg & Stephanie Hovsepien, Shirak Hovsepien, Darwin Jamgochian, Richard & Christina Kachadurian, Dr. George & Debra Kamajian, Sam & Bea Kapreilian, Seda & Irene Hakim Karamian, David & Nancy Kazarian, Hannelore Keshishian, Ara & Rita Keshishian, Garbis & Mari Kesisoglu, Gregory & Nora Keuroghlian, Houri Kojian, Geoffrey Korf, Richard & Margaret Kratljan, Noubar & Anna Mahdessian, Naomi Manoogian, Christine Martin, Dr. Hagop & Tobe Mashikian, Mallory Maslar, Richard & Linda Maslar, Aram & Carla Megerian, Vazken Melkisetian, Ida Merakyan, John Messerlian, Alice Miller, Vasken & Karen Minassian, Agop & Victoria Mouradian, Apkar & Florence Omartian, Sima Palakian, Margaret Penerian, Bernard Przegendza, Ira & Annette Ross, Xay & Rubina Salavong, Martha Samuelian, Ayda Sarafian, Michael Sarafian, Tanya Sarafian, Vahak & Elizabeth Sarkis, Charles & Eva Sarkisian, Leon & Sharon Sarkisian, Chris & Carol Sassouni, Avedis & Anahid Serpekian, Stepan & Seta Serpekian, Vicken & Courtney Serpekian, Alexis Shahnasarian, Edward & Margaret Shahnasarian, Elizabeth Shahnasarian, Dr. Michael & Jean Shahnasarian, Norair & Maro Shaldjian, Robert & Christina Shamsey, Daniel & Norma Takoushian, Anna Tossoonian, Ida Varadian, Charles Walker, James Wilson, Nazley Wilson, Dr. Haig & Louise Yardumian, Maurice & Marian Youakim, Armen & Rose Zartarian