

ST. HAGOP ARMENIAN CHURCH MINISTRIES

St. Hagop parishioners and friends of the church commit in many ways to serve our Lord. Life circumstances can govern one's ability to make a commitment to church service. Nevertheless, regardless of their position in life, Armenian Christians remain mindful of their responsibility to offer proportionate to their means their time, treasure, and talents to God. As you contemplate your commitment to St. Hagop, we encourage you to reflect and pray about your service to our church and how you may lend your time in support of its ministries. A brief description of St. Hagop's 12 primary ministries, listed in alphabetical order, follows. Of course, service is not limited to these ministries. We invite you to present to members of St. Hagop's parish council any personal church service objectives you may hold.

ALTAR GUILD/FLOWER GUILD

Parishioners are encouraged to join the Altar Guild/Flower Guild to prepare the altar for services and decorate the church with appropriate flower arrangements to glorify God. Teams of people prepare the altar, ensure the church is in proper order for each service, and arrange flowers for the altar and other areas as appropriate. This very rewarding opportunity is humbling and fulfilling, knowing you are preparing God's table for our spiritual fulfillment. **Contact: Louise Yardumian**

ALTAR SERVICE

In addition to clergy, lay parishioners and guests of St. Hagop participate in Sunday mass and other sacraments - such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals - as deacons, altar servers, and acolytes. They also serve in special observances throughout the year, inclusive of those conducted during Holy Week, Christmas, and at mission parishes and special feasts throughout southwest and central Florida. **Contact: Fr. Hovnan Demerjian**

ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA (ACYOA)

Parishioners aged 18 through 35 are eligible to participate in the Armenian Christian Youth Organization of America (ACYOA). Group activities focus on worship, education, witness, service and fellowship in Christ. In addition to activities at the local level, members can participate in regional, national, and international events such as general assembly and sports weekend, chapter workshop, leadership conference, and special programs in Armenia. Similar programs are available for junior parishioners (ages 13 through 17). **Contact: Mallory Maslar**

EVENTS COMMITTEE

In concert with its mission to serve as the bedrock of Armenian Christian religion and culture in southwest Florida, St. Hagop sponsors a range of events. These events have included lectures by scholars of Armenian religion and history, music performances, dinner dances, and viewings of Armenian culture documentaries. Less esoteric events have included talent shows, Armenian specialty cooking contests, and a number of performances by our youth. The events committee reports to the Parish Council, plans an events schedule, and tends to details inclusive of budgeting, catering, and event hosting. Contact any member below for more information. **Contact: Jean Shahnasarian**

GREETERS MINISTRY

Both members of the parish council and congregation serve as greeters prior to, during, and after Sunday mass. Duties include readying the church for worship services, welcoming and orienting church attendees, counting attendees, and participating in the liturgy by receiving and spreading the kiss of peace, assisting parishioners who partake in Holy Communion, and distributing the collection plate. Parish council members count, document, and prepare for deposit collection receipts and other contributions. **Contact: Michael Shahnasarian**

OUTREACH MINISTRY

St. Hagop has served a variety of humanitarian causes – non-secular and secular -outside its parish. These efforts have included providing funds for Syrian Christian relief, Armenian orphans, and the Fund for Armenian Relief. The parish has also been active in hands-on efforts inclusive of preparing and serving food to indigent people in Pinellas County, and participating in roadside cleanup projects. Elderly, disabled, and otherwise disenfranchised people in need are of special interest to this ministry. **Contact: Grace Austin**

MAINTENANCE/FACILITIES ENHANCEMENT

Our church and church hall – along with outdoor pavilion, walkways and genocide monument, parking areas, and grounds – require year-round maintenance and care. The maintenance/facilities enhancement committee ensures our property is maintained well, and attractive to parishioners, neighbors, and members of our community who may choose to lease our facilities. **Contact: Andy Anusbigian**

MUSIC MINISTRY

In addition to its centrality to our Sunday worship services, like our altar servers, those committed to St. Hagop's music ministry participate in special sacraments and events throughout the year. Members of our music ministry lend their musical instrument and vocal talents. Also, visitors of St. Hagop have an open invitation to participate in our choir as their schedule permits. **Contact: Louise Yardumian**

PARISH COUNCIL

The parish council is composed of members elected by St. Hagop's parishioners; they serve two-year terms and participate in the church's governance. Parish council members attend monthly meetings and – both during and between meetings – tend to governance issues confronting the church. Also, parish council members serve as greeters during church services, and manage plate collections on Sundays. **Contact: Fr. Hovnan/Michael Shahnasarian**

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Bible teaches us that all we are given is from God, and we are temporary stewards of His gifts. The stewardship committee plans and administers stewardship activities intended to inspire parishioners to commit their monetary, time, and talent resources to our ministries, proportionate to their means. A related group, the auditing committee, is elected by the church to ensure transparency and best practices in financial accounting. **Contact: Michael Shahnasarian**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

St. Hagop's Sunday school aims to promote Armenian religious and cultural education of youth. In addition to religious studies, subjects addressed pertain to Armenian music, arts, and cuisine. Beyond teaching Sunday school classes, members of this ministry contribute by assisting in determining curricula, and tending to logistical and administrative details. **Contact: Linda Maslar**

WOMEN'S GUILD

St. Hagop's Women's Guild is the backbone of our church's hospitality initiatives. Members prepare and serve meals – ranging from light snacks following Sunday mass, to full, celebratory meals for formal events and Armenian specialty dishes during bake sales and festivals - and tend to parishioners' special needs, such as during times of infirmity, grieving, or other taxing life events. Additionally, the Women's Guild events help to raise funds necessary to maintain and procure resources necessary to ensure St. Hagop's facilities remain in good order. **Contact: Lena Kotchounian**