

# AVEDIS

# ԱԻԵՏԻՍ

St. Hagop Armenian Church

The Good News | Winter/Spring 2023

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Desk

PC Chair Report

Tsovagyugh by  
Dr. George

Photos from Fall-  
Winter at St. Hagop

Upcoming Events

Advertisements

Holy Week  
Schedule

Stewardship 2023

Issue Information

Calendar



Jesus + Anything =



Anything + Jesus =



‘But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim to you a gospel contrary to what we proclaimed to you, let that one be accursed!’ Gal 1:8

This verse from the letter of Paul to the Galatians is not a feel-good Bible verse that you saw quoted in nativity scenes this Christmas season. It is not quoted a lot for motivational speeches or weddings and you won't see it cross-stitched on a pillow or t-shirt any time soon. Yet the verse above and the entire second chapter of Paul's magnificent letter to the church of Galatia are key to a life well lived and can be expressed as two short formulas: Jesus + Anything=Joy, but Anything + a little Jesus=Sorrow. If Christ is in first position for us, sure add whatever you want to it, you should be ok. However, start with anything else; your success, the approval of your parents, your ethnic pride, and try to fit Christ into it, and we will discover the formula for failure.

The verse I began with gives a concise summary of today's longer reading and our formula for happiness; let me read it again. ‘But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim to you a gospel contrary to what we proclaimed to you, let that one be accursed!’ The Apostle Paul is insisting that the Gospel of Christ is one, and it alone is sufficient to make us happy. Paul then goes on to illustrate how this was true in key moments in his life of ministry, and the life of the early church. He writes that after almost twenty years of preaching and teaching about our Risen Lord, he traveled up to Jerusalem to meet with the rest of Jesus' Apostles, the center of the forming Christian church. Then-just like today-the church and culture was facing division and discord over battles of which flavor of Christianity was correct. Paul's answer is that Jesus first plus any flavor is delicious. But any flavor of anything + Jesus is unacceptable. Jesus + Jewish culture is great, but Jewish culture with a side of Jesus is a problem. Jesus + Greek culture is great, but Greek culture with a little Jesus is a problem. By extension, Jesus + Armenian culture is great, but Armenian culture with a little Jesus is a problem. And we all suffer from this problem-this sin-which is as subtle as the serpent. In the blink of an eye, it reverses our priorities and insists on making our own gods rather than serve the one true God. And it's not just ethnicity + Jesus that gets us into trouble. It might be, I want to be successful + a little Jesus. It might be, I want people to notice me + a little Jesus. Whatever we raise to be equal to God becomes our false God.

And one of the reasons this subtle switch is so easy to do and easy to miss is because Greekness, Armenianness, success, reputation, are not bad things, they are good things. Yet even good things-especially good things- become corrupted when put in place of God. I wonder if maybe the world church over the centuries has spent too much time trying to save us from our obvious sins, and too little time trying to save us from all of our good intentions, good aims and good deeds. We need saving from all these, because we are too easily tricked into thinking that these goods are as good as it gets. We can too easily become self-satisfied, instead of hungry for God and good. We can too easily settle for an uneasy comfort instead of a harder won but lasting peace.

A famous British preacher of the American great awakening named George Whitefield outlined this problem in one of his sermons in a very powerful way:

‘Before you can seek peace in your heart, you must not only be made sick of your original and actual sin, but you must be made sick of your righteousness, of all your duties and performances. There must be a deep conviction before you can be brought out of your self-righteousness; it is the last idol taken out of our heart. The pride of our heart will not let us submit to the righteousness of Jesus Christ...You may be saying to yourselves now, Well, I believe all this. But remember there is a great difference between talking and feeling. Did you ever feel a deep need for your Redeemer? Did you ever feel the deep need of Jesus Christ, when facing the deficiency of your own righteousness? And can you now say from your heart, Lord, the best duties that I ever performed are of nothing? If you are not brought out of yourself in this way, you may seek peace for yourselves, but you will find no peace.’

In the coming New Year, I pray that each of us will be brought out of ourselves in this way and brought to the conviction that the good we have done and the blessings we have can obstruct our way to God as much as our more obvious ‘sins.’ For our deepest sin has always been to make a god of the little good we know, rather than serve the One God who is the source of all things good, true and beautiful. God has much greater plans for us this year than we could possibly imagine, if we only get out of our own way and follow His way. For truly, Jesus first + anything at all = great joy, whereas anything at all with a little Jesus=great sorrow, now and always and unto the ages of ages; amen.

---

## Parish Council Report

---

A verse from Romans 15:14 seemed particularly apropos as I reflected on the state of St. Hagop and prepared this message:

*I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another.*

This beautiful verse from Holy Scripture, filled with assurance and inspiration, provides an overarching framework to report on recent church events, parish council governance, and stewardship activities towards which St. Hagop faithful have devoted their efforts. Goodness, the first trait mentioned, doubtless undergirds our brethren's commitment to serve St. Hagop and, by extension, our Lord. Knowledge and competence, other traits the verse highlights, invoke a sense of confidence and empowerment in our ability to accomplish tasks pleasing to our Lord.

### Recent Church Events

Jack and Tiffany Dikranian led a high-spirited committee that planned, organized, and hosted a dinner dance in October 2022 to celebrate the 15-year anniversary of the consecration of St. Hagop Armenian Church.

Approximately 120 parishioners and friends of St. Hagop attended the event, which also commemorated the 15-year anniversary of the ordination of Fr. Hovnan Demerjian, our beloved pastor. His ministry as our priest began before the church's construction and has yielded innumerable blessed outcomes, beyond what our community could have envisioned or prayed to realize.

The concomitant consecration and ordination celebrations evoked many fond memories of our prescient brethren who first envisioned an Armenian church in this community six decades ago. They persevered to bring their dream to fruition in the same manner scores of generations of our ancestors have perpetuated our faith and purpose over the millennia. Der Hovnan and Yn Anna have been vital to establishing our special church community.

Like past events of this sort, it was heartening, indeed, to commune with the diverse attendees participating in our dual celebration anniversaries of our church's consecration and our revered pastor's ordination. Families with children of all ages, parishioners and non-parishioners (again, of all ages), Armenians from places worldwide, and people not of Armenian descent but bonded to our heritage in some special, often complex way, attended. This human fiber enjoined the Armenian music, traditional dance, and foods we love, reinforcing our deep-ingrained connection to our ancestry, beyond what we can express or have conscious knowledge of, but know to be important to our identities.

The women's guild regularly displays its goodness and love through, among other things, its sponsorship of fellowship following Badarak. In November, it hosted another successful bake sale. We are grateful for the leadership Debra Kamajian and Karen Minassian provided as co-chairs of the women's guild and thank Rita Keshishian and Lucy Calikyan for assuming the co-chair roles during the upcoming year.

More goodness: on December 7<sup>th</sup>, Alysia Ekizian led our events committee in hosting another memorable Advent candlelight evening themed *God Writes Straight with Crooked Lines*. The event included a dinner with Christmas music provided by Grayson Stevens and Narek Demerjian, followed by a short service and program in the church. Lucy Calikyan, Dn. Kevork Demirjian, Hasmig Demerjian, and Rebekah Nouri provided testimonials in which they shared significant life challenges they encountered and described how their faith deepened and enabled them to overcome them.

## **Parish Council Governance**

St. Hagop's members elect parishioners to its parish council to oversee and manage the church's operations. Knowledge and competence, the latter traits the Bible verse above incorporates in its confidence of our ability to work collaboratively and synergistically, we pray, guide the council in its ministry to apply Armenian Christian values while tending to church business affairs.

The business your parish council routinely addresses relates to maintenance of our church grounds, fostering a church culture of inclusion, and responding to the interests of our parishioners – such as fiscal management of St. Hagop assets, spiritual development, preservation of Armenian culture and traditions, and outreach to human service needs in our community, homeland, and elsewhere. Of course, the council's work also involves participating in and contributing to the Eastern Diocese's ministries.

During the past few months, several challenges - the lingering effects of the coronavirus, downturn in financial markets, and a lightning strike that caused considerable damage to our property, to name a few – arose, also necessitating the parish council's attention. We welcome your input and ideas on how to promote St. Hagop's evolution and attainment of its mission: To evolve continuously as the bedrock of the Tampa Bay Armenian Christian community, perpetuating our Christian religion and heritage.

## **Stewardship**

St. Hagop is completing its 7<sup>th</sup> pledge season, punctuated by a few events meriting special note. Thanks to Pat and Sason Demirjian, and Armen and Lucy Calikyan for providing their testimonials during our stewardship campaign. Both couples have had longstanding, distinguished records of service to Armenian churches before joining St. Hagop and are relatively new to our parish. Also, Fr. Hovnan delivered two powerful sermons during pledge season reminding us that our stewardship responsibilities transcend our monetary pledge; they also include service via committing our time and talents to our church. Please keep this in mind during the upcoming year: St. Hagop needs you!

Thank you to all who made a 2023 pledge to monetarily support St. Hagop. We truly appreciate the prioritization and faith undergirding our parishioners' generous giving despite the challenges that have confronted them the past few years and the ongoing, demonstrated commitment to stewardship. Faith, humility, and selflessness hallmark the spirit of stewardship: an awareness that all we have is a gift from God, and we will be judged by how we have made use of His gifts in accord with His will and desires.

Imagine, as an ethnic Armenian or friend of our church living in the Tampa Bay community, no St. Hagop church or extended Armenian community it coalesces. There is a sense of comfort and solace knowing the great gift of our heritage flourishes in our midst, and in this season of stewardship we pray you will continue to give your time, talent, and treasure to maintain and grow our Armenian Christian community.

In faith,

**Michael Shahnasarian, Ph.D.**

Parish Council Chairman

---

## Reflection on St. Hagop Outreach to Tsovagyugh by Dr. George Kamajian

---

Below is the second of three parts of Dr. George's journal from his Armenia trip

### Artsakh

There are 4 of us in an old Ford van (the odometer says 200,000 miles but I don't believe it.) 3 doctors and one driver; Armine, founder of Traveling Doctors of Armenia, Armen, Haig the driver and myself. They tell stories the entire trip and translate into English when I struggle to understand.

**Armen:** Tall. Sleeve tattoos. Smart to the point of brilliant. Cardiologist, gynecologist, sonographer, anesthesiologist rolled up into one amazing human being. Voice cracks like a pubescent boy. I would trust him with my life. Makes diagnosis after diagnosis with the wave of his ultrasound probe. He offers medical advice in between scans and during scans without hesitation.

**Haig:** driver and translator when I'm struggling. Adventurer extraordinaire. Paragliding, hiking, motorbiking, forest ranger, drone operator. He drives 12 hours nonstop.

**Armine:** This is her van, her medical organization, and her contacts in Artsakh. She is a fireball, mother, wife, physician, bright as a nova. Thinks as I do about politicians and bureaucrats. Just got fired by the Red Cross because she gave a CPR class in Yerevan with Nairi, the nurse from Detroit, without their authority. Are they kidding? Worked in Sudan, Kenya, Somalia, Syria for months at a time. And I agonize about taking 3 weeks off from my nice comfortable life and nice comfortable home and my little Miata? "*Amot in-zee*" ...shame on me. Did I know about Aurora prize: for awakening humanity is an annual international humanitarian award of \$1,000,000 recognizing individuals for humanitarian work. Awarded on behalf of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide. Now I do. Armine went to Africa for 3 months to cover Dr Tom Catena's (2017 Aurora prize winner) practice so he could go to Yerevan to pick up the prize. Three months!!!

Armine is diminutive, smaller than 5 feet with dark hair. "I am *Mzungu*", someone with white skin she says. That is how all white people are referred to in Africa. In Swahili it means "Dizzy", a wanderer. The "Cross Race effect" (Someone of a different race is difficult to differentiate by another racial group) is equal across all racial groups. She says she was in Kenya to relieve Dr Tom Catena's medical mission (Aurora award). She continues her story. Another doctor in her group was from Tajikistan. She was Russian with a round face and yellow hair. She is also taller than 6'. "The Africans have difficulty in telling us apart." Armine continues the story about cultural and racial interactions. While she was examining a patient, someone came up behind her and touched her hair. First it was a cautious touch beginning at the end around her shoulders. Slowly the unknown fingers crept up to Armine's scalp, tugging and pulling to see where they suspected her "weave" began. The Africans have very short hair and are constantly putting in weaves. They cannot believe that her hair is real and not plastic.

The van has been modified to act as an ambulance/rescue vehicle for the last war. It has a secret compartment to hold weapons. I don't think there are any in it now, but... this team is not offering and I'm not asking. The van used to be red. Now it is green. The road to Artsakh is tortuous. You leave the very fertile Ararat Valley and head down a road flanked by a 10-foot earthen wall. I ask but don't really want to hear the answer. The Azeri's are a sniper shot away. The land becomes barren. We drive up an impossible mountain side with one switchback after another. And then there is another mountain and another. The radiator overheats. I've seen this before. We are in the middle of a mountain pass 50 kilometers from the nearest human being. I am sure our medical trip is over, if not my life. Haig, our driver, lifts the hood. Cuts a hose, pours our only drinking water in the radiator. Thirty minutes later we are driving again. I stare at the



temperature gauge the rest of the trip. After untold hours the road opens to trees and water and a town with people, restaurants and gas stations. We had a late start so we stop at Goris. Our hotel was built by a retired Armenian German neurosurgeon.

On our second day we cross over the Azeri border and drive the Lachin corridor, a road that snakes up the mountains. Once the road was entirely in Artsakh (Armenian hands) but now passible only through the courtesy of the Russians, who are de facto peacekeepers for 2 more years. The Azeri's are building a new highway from Baku. Everyone in the van is in awe and takes pictures. They were last here only a few months ago on another medical mission but the rate of construction of tunneling and multilane highway is phenomenal. "This is for Azeri's" they tell the Armenians. "You can keep the Lachin corridor?". At least for now. I wonder what is the urgency of their construction? Where is the highway going? Baku to where? There is really nothing of strategic value here. I think maybe because there are only 2 years left of the ceasefire.

There are 5 maned check points and several that are not. I assume they are rotated to keep everyone from being complacent. The guards are Russian or Russian/Azeri based on the flags and the patches on the uniforms. Everyone has a Kalashnikov and are heavily body armored in full combat gear. Most have their faces covered. Everyone looks like they are barely 18. Tanks and armored personnel carriers lie underneath sandbags and camouflage nettings. They check our ID's and there seems to be a focus on my American passport. They are always having to make several calls before they let us through.

Hours later we enter Stepanakert. There, the Armenians, our Armenians, the ones who we have come a long way to help, hold us hostage for an hour because our medical van has only one license plate instead of two. "We've been here hundreds of times" Armine protests. "Show me that regulation in writing" Armen says. He returns from the police checkpoint victorious, and we are waved on. The monument, "Menk' enk' mer lernerè" (We are Our Mountains) still exists despite the war. It is also called "tatik papik" which translates to Grandmother and Grandfather. My nickname in Artsakh is now *Papik*, not so much because I am a grandfather but because I am the oldest member on the medical team.

### **Getavan village, Matakert region**

We don't stop for another 2 hours of hard driving. Our first village is Getavan (Martakert region) and it is the furthest away from border and the last of the Armenian villages in what used to be Artsakh. The clinic there is on par with the Semyonovka clinic: flies, no running water, one live power plug that has a hundred extension cords tapped into it, no lights and most noticeably, an EKG machine that has never been used because the medical staff were not trained on it. The process begins. Armen takes his ultrasound machine and heads to a dark room. It is battery operated so he does not need additional power. We open our supplies and start the work.

One of my first patients is Alexandra, 12 years old, who cries as her mother pushes her towards us. I joke around the best I can. She finally agrees to be seen. A breakthrough happens when I give her an extra stethoscope to act as my "assistant".

*My wife calls outside our prearranged window. We are having a new driveway installed. The contractor inadvertently ruptured our sewer line. My wife informs me the plumber just gave us a bill that exceeds the cost of my first car. "I don't mean to bother you. I know this is not a big deal considering what you are experiencing now. I just don't want you to be ambushed." I am grateful. I need to have that grounding, that tether to my real life, my other life back in the United States. I left the ER after 30 years because I couldn't stand to see dead babies anymore. She keeps me whole because it is so easy to get lost here and I am going back.*

He is 5 years old. The mother gives us a pile of papers, all in Russian and Armenian, that relates the story of kidney stones. Kidney stones? In a 5-year-old? I have never heard of such a thing. Damn Russians. What are they telling these people? The boy goes back with our team and gets an ultrasound. Holy crap. He has a 5 cm stone. When I had a kidney stone it was 3 mm, and I was in agony. The ureter (the tube from the kidney to the bladder is blocked distally and is 10 times the size it should be. Worse, there is an abscess where the ureter meets the bladder. He needs emergency

surgery. The family doesn't have the resources to go to Yerevan, 12 hours away. Perhaps they can do the surgery in Stepanakert? They promise to take him. What can we do? Without surgery he may never see next week.

The next patient is in his 50's. He is diabetic. He is already blind, a sign of progressive disease. His kidneys have failed, and he has already had several toes amputated from gangrene. "Can you help," he wants to know? "Are you taking your medications?" I ask. He is supposed to take insulin, but that is impossible. Not just because it is too expensive but because it requires refrigeration. He has no electricity. His sugar is over 25 on the Armenian scale. I multiply it by the conversion factor of 18... over 450 on the US scale. "I don't eat sweets anymore," he reassures me. I look away. The drive back is tedious, and we are exhausted. Stepanakert, a city that suffered bombardment less than 2 years ago, is bustling metropolis with no apparent cares in the world. All evidence of war has been erased. During the next morning breakfast, I meet a couple from San Fransisco. Their son started his own project to help the Armenians in Artsakh by importing 350 chickens, they tell me. He hoped it would be an industry by now. Their son is devastated because all the chickens were eaten...not quite what the project goals were.

### **Village of Nakhijevanik in Askeran Province**

Our second day in Artsakh. I can see the 16<sup>th</sup> century fortress of Askeran in the distance. Whoever planned the highway bulldozed right through the middle of this major archaeological treasure. Unfriggin' believable. Along the road we see the remnants of tank berms and charred soil, evidence of missile or artillery strikes within a meter of those former tank placement. I cringe to think about the men caught inside as I take several photographs with my phone. A Russian soldier stops our van, waves his finger at me, and says "forbidden." For a moment, I think he is going to confiscate the phone. He stands by weapon close enough that I can read it's serial number, as I delete the images one by one. The next image is of a cow, and he waves us through. I am frustrated and angry about this censorship because I am an American and not used to someone telling me what to do. As we drive away, there is laughter from my medical team. I ask why. "The Russians are stupid." Armen replies. "Give me your phone." I hand it over. He presses a button, and the deleted pictures miraculously reappear on my phone. "Stupid Russians or stupid me?" I smile.

It has taken us almost an hour to drive to the village, an elevation of 2600 feet, even though it is only a few kilometers from the main highway. It is all uphill and has never seen any kind of paving. To the east is an unending plain that stretches to the horizon. That is all Azeri territory. It used to be Armenian.

"We don't care what the Azeri's do," the village headman says. Every night they send one of their few remaining young men to the very top of the mountain with what looks like a WWI Mauser rifle to stand watch for another Azeri invasion. That rifle was all they were permitted to keep after the last war. Mauser vs. drone? Not quite a fair fight. But the people stand resilient. They have been totally disarmed. The Armenian losses in the last war would be the equivalent of the US losing 250,000 troops...and that was in a two-month period. Now, totally surrounded, all the Azeri' need to do is turn off the water or electricity and the village is doomed. The process has already begun. Look at Google maps and see the name changes from Armenian to Azeri. I check my photo locator on all my pictures. Sure enough, they are all labeled "Azerbaijan."

It is hot. The drive has been hours and the day long. We are sizzling, sweaty, stinky, exhausted from seeing so many patients. There are no markets or stores, just the same unfinished stone house scattered around a few occupied dwellings with the ubiquitous mismatched front gates and fences made of any metallic material discarded years before. We see a man on a horse. They are stopping at a fountain built into the side of the mountain road that leads up to the village we just tended to. We pull over the green Ford diesel all-wheel drive van. "If horses can drink the water, so can we", I am told. Our priest in Florida was a young man when he volunteered in Armenia so many years ago. He ended up with giardiasis from drinking water in the countryside. "Don't drink the water" he always said. I feel as desperate as John Wayne in the 1948 movie "Three Godfathers", 3 outlaws in the desert, where they are so thirsty that they choose to drink poisoned water to survive long enough to get an abandoned baby to civilization. The water is cold and sweet as anything from Fiji or Glacier or Zephyrhills. Unfortunately, I did contract giardia and was sick for days.

Photos from an Active Fall & Winter Season at St. Hagop!



15th Anniversary Dinner Dance



October 15, 2022



Ghapama Fellowship & Tavloo Tournament



November 6, 2022



---

**Photos from an Active Fall & Winter Season at St. Hagop!**

---



Women's Guild Bake Sale



November 20, 2022



Advent Candlelight Service



December 7, 2022

# THE ART OF ARMENIAN LETTERS PAINTING WORKSHOP

Come learn the art of Armenian letter painting on Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> from 10am-3pm with accomplished iconographer and friend of St. Hagop, Fr. Garabed Kochakian. There is a \$35 fee for art supplies and lunch. Register by Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> by contacting Louise Yardumian at 727-463-1688.



## Calling All Women!

### St. Hagop Women's Retreat

**Sat. March 11<sup>th</sup> from 10am-3pm at St. Hagop**

Join us for our first Women's Retreat at St. Hagop Church on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. We'll start with coffee, discuss our calling as women and parishioners with Fr. Hovnan and keynote speaker Dr. Eileen Austin and break for lunch and fellowship. Free admission, donations welcomed. RSVP by March 1st to retreat facilitator Janet Davidian at [jdavidia@optonline.net](mailto:jdavidia@optonline.net) or 516-204-3545.

# The Apostles Thaddeus & Bartholomew and Their Significance for the Armenian Church

Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM, The Shahnasarian Hall

This talk will explore early traditions surrounding the apostolic missions of Sts. Thaddeus and Bartholomew to the Armenians. Who were these apostles who came and evangelized in Armenia before St. Gregory the Illuminator and why was their memory so important to the later Armenian Church?



Dr. Jesse S. Arlen is director of the Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center at the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America and a postdoctoral research fellow in Armenian Christian Studies at Fordham University. He holds a Ph.D. in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures from UCLA (2021). He has taught Classical Armenian at the Dumbarton Oaks and Hill Museum & Manuscript Library summer school as well as the University of Notre Dame, and has lectured on the medieval Armenian historical tradition and medieval Armenian poetry at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary. He has taught Western Armenian at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) and the Zarmanazan summer language program in France. His academic articles, studies, and translations have appeared in a number of international peer-reviewed journals.

---

## St. Hagop Community Businesses-Paid Advertisements

---

**1st Class** REAL ESTATE | GULF TO BAY

**Nadia Anac**  
Owner | 1st Class Real Estate - Gulf to Bay

☎ (813) 856-9502    📠 (305) 978-1986  
✉ Nadia.Anac@1stclassagents.com

[www.gulftobay.1stClassRealEstate.com](http://www.gulftobay.1stClassRealEstate.com)

**BUY. SELL. INVEST**

CALL OR TEXT:  
ARMAN CALIKYAN  
917.355.1463

**CAR AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICE**  
Serving All Areas  
Airport - Corporate - Business

By Appointment only      CLEARWATER FL. 33765

# Holy Week Աւագ Շաբաթ

*Join us for the most important and fulfilling worship services of the entire Armenian Church year.*



**Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy**  
Sun. April 2 | 10:30 am



**Washing of the Feet/"Votniva"**  
Thur. April 6 | 7 pm



**"Khavaroom" (Passion of our Lord)**  
Thur. April 6 | 8 pm



**Good Friday Burial Service**  
Fri. April 7 | 7 pm



**Easter Eve "Jragalooys Badarak"**  
Sat. April 8 | 7 pm



**EASTER DIVINE LITURGY 10:30AM**

**Easter Divine Liturgy**  
Sun. April 9 | 10:30 am

## A Great Start for 2023 Pledge Stewardship!

So far, we have been blessed with 54 pledges totaling \$104,550 for stewardship 2023! Your stewardship makes a difference for our church, and also for you! We invite you to mail your pledge card or submit online, it is not too late!

**In prayerful consideration of my stewardship of God's resources and my commitment to St. Hagop's mission and programs:**

**My/Our Stewardship Pledge for 2023 is:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_, given ( ) weekly ( ) monthly ( ) quarterly ( ) annually

Yes, please issue me offering envelopes     No, offering envelopes will not be needed

**I /we wish to support St. Hagop with time and talent in these areas:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_


**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone/Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Stewardship Pledge Card**

Please mail this pledge card to the church office, or bring to offering plate by Stewardship Sunday—November 27, 2022. No payment need accompany this form. We ask that 2023 pledge monies be paid by the end of the 2023 calendar year. Payments may be made online through the St. Hagop website.

May the Lord Remember All Your Offerings  
Շնորհք Տէր զամբողջ Պատարագս Ինձ



**Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to St. Hagop! Those who have submitted a pledge by 12/15/22 to support St. Hagop are identified below.**

Richard & Diana Aginian, Andrew & Theresa Anusbigian, John & Susan Arsenault, Grace Austin, Chuck & Lisa Begian, Fr. Hovnan & Yn. Anna Demerjian, Jean-Jacques & Hasmig Demerjian, Raffi & Tanya Demerjian, Sason & Patricia Demirjian, Leilani Doty, Araxi Dulgeroff, Art & Adrienne Ekizian, John & Victoria Franks, Martha-Anne Garabedian, Richard & Pauline Gilgan, Mallory & Scott Guinand, Gregory & Gina Hagopian, Teresa Haidarian, Berge & Tamar Hajian, Gregory & Stephanie Hovsepien, Dr. George & Debra Kamajian, Harry & Beverly Karim, Taisia Kasparova, David & Nancy Kazarian, Hannelore Keshishian, Chau Luong, Noubar & Ann Mahdessian, Yolande Miloian, Karen Minassian, Robert Mirak, Victoria Mouradian, Bejan & Rebekah Nouri, Mirella Ovanesian, John & Joanne Pehlivanian, Martha Samuelian, Berc & Tracy Sarafian, Tanya Sarafian, Chuck & Kathy Sarkisian, Leon & Sharon Sarkisian, Yates & Alexis Sayers, Stepan & Seta Serpekian, Ed & Maggie Shahnasarian, Michael & Jean Shahnasarian, Michele Shahnasarian, Robert & Christina Shamsey, Daniel & Norma Takoushian, Denise and Matthieu van Veen, Tigran & Lucine Vartazarian, Artin & Armenouch Vartoukian, James & Cathy Wilson, Haig & Lorraine Yaghoobian, Dr. Haig & Louise Yardumian, Armen & Linda Zakarian, Armen & Srбуhi Zakaryan

**Office Hours:** 9 am-5 pm Monday - Friday

**Worship Hours:** Sunday 10:30am – 12:30pm

**Sunday School Hours:** Sunday 11:00am – 12:30pm

**Fellowship Time in Shahnasarian Hall** – 12:30pm – 1:30pm

**Contact Information**

7020 90th Ave. North  
Pinellas Park, FL 33782  
P: 727-545-0380  
E-mail: [office@stthagopfl.org](mailto:office@stthagopfl.org)  
[www.stthagopfl.org](http://www.stthagopfl.org)

**Newsletter Team:**

**Editor**

The Rev. Fr. Hovnan Demerjian

**Contributors**

Yn. Anna Demerjian, Michael Shahnasarian, Dr. George Kamajian, Ara Keshishian, Teresa Haidarian

Avedis Newsletter is a publication of St. Hagop Armenian 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:

Next Issue	Submission
Summer 2023	April 15th

It costs over \$2,000 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 (\$1000); 1/4 issue (\$500) 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 email us at [info@stthagopfl.org](mailto:info@stthagopfl.org) if you are interested. Make checks payable to St. Hagop Armenian Church.

Rates are per issue:  
\$50 for a business card,  
\$150 for a half page and \$300 for a full page

**Parish Council**

**President**

Rev. Fr. Hovnan Demerjian  
727-545-0380  
[fr.hovnan@stthagopfl.org](mailto:fr.hovnan@stthagopfl.org)

**Chair**

Michael Shahnasarian  
813-264-9310  
[shahnasa@aol.com](mailto:shahnasa@aol.com)

**Vice-Chair**

Grace Austin  
813-294-2531  
[Austin.l.grace@gmail.com](mailto:Austin.l.grace@gmail.com)

**Treasurer**

Chuck Begian  
813-739-9293  
[chuckbegian@gmail.com](mailto:chuckbegian@gmail.com)

**Secretary-Recording**

Haig Yaghoobian  
603-689-3663  
[haigyaghoobian@gmail.com](mailto:haigyaghoobian@gmail.com)

**Sexton (buildings & grounds)**

John Arsenault  
508-254-3066  
[johnbhco@aol.com](mailto:johnbhco@aol.com)

**Members**

Martha Anne Garabedian  
727-596-2099  
[mgarabe519@aol.com](mailto:mgarabe519@aol.com)

Teresa Haidarian  
813-889-8040  
[haid50@aol.com](mailto:haid50@aol.com)

Rita Keshishian  
516-312-6274  
[rita\\_keshishian@hotmail.com](mailto:rita_keshishian@hotmail.com)

Arsen Sahakyan  
813-263-6651  
[asahakyan78@gmail.com](mailto:asahakyan78@gmail.com)

**Organizations**

ACYOA Seniors  
Mallory Maslar  
[mallorymaslar@gmail.com](mailto:mallorymaslar@gmail.com)

ACYOA Juniors  
[acyoajrs@stthagopfl.org](mailto:acyoajrs@stthagopfl.org)

Sunday School  
[SundaySchool@stthagopfl.org](mailto:SundaySchool@stthagopfl.org)

Women's Guild  
Co-Chair – Lucy Calikyan  
[lucyclivr@gmail.com](mailto:lucyclivr@gmail.com)

Co-Chair – Rita Keshishian  
[rita\\_keshishian@hotmail.com](mailto:rita_keshishian@hotmail.com)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**\*\*Divine Liturgy takes place every Sunday from 10:30-12:30. Sunday School takes place every Sunday at 11am. Fellowship in Shahnasarian Hall to follow immediately after service**

<b>Sun. Jan. 1st</b>	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School Special New Year's Fellowship	10:30AM 12:30PM
<b>Thurs. Jan. 5th</b>	Divine Liturgy/Armenian Christmas Eve	6:30 PM
<b>Fri. Jan. 6th</b>	Armenian Christmas - No Services- Church open for prayers	9AM-5PM
<b>Sun. Jan. 8th</b>	Divine Liturgy/ Armenian Christmas (Observed) Blessing of the Water-Godfather Chris Sassouni Special Armenian Christmas Fellowship	10:30 AM 12:15 PM 12:30 PM
<b>Tues. Jan. 10th</b>	Parish Council Meeting	6:00 PM
<b>Sun. Jan. 15th</b>	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
<b>Sun. Jan 22nd</b>	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
<b>Sun. Jan. 29th</b>	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
<b>Sun. Feb. 5th</b>	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
<b>Sun. Feb. 12th</b>	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship Annual Parish Assembly	10:30AM-1:30PM 12:30PM
<b>Sun. Feb. 12th</b>	Super Bowl Watch Party	6:00PM
<b>Tues. Feb. 14th</b>	Parish Council Meeting	6:30 PM
<b>Sun. Feb. 19th</b>	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship-Poon Paregentan Presentation by Dr. Jesse Arlen of Krikor & Clara Zohrab Info. Center	10:30AM-1:30PM 12:30PM
<b>Mon. Feb. 20th</b>	Great Lent Begins	
<b>Sun. Feb. 26th</b>	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
<b>Sun. March 5th</b>	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School Yalanchi Cookoff-Tavloo-Special Fellowship	10:30AM 12:30PM
<b>Sat. March 11th</b>	St. Hagop Women's Retreat	10:00AM-3:00PM
<b>Sun. March 12th</b>	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
<b>Tues. March 14th</b>	Parish Council Meeting	6:30 PM
<b>Sun. March 19th</b>	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
<b>Sun. March 26th</b>	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
<b>Sun. April 2nd</b>	Divine Liturgy – Palm Sunday Armenian Food Festival	10:30 PM 12:30 PM
<b>Thurs. April 6th</b>	Washing of the Feet/Votnlva Service Vigil/Khavaroom Service	7:00 PM 8:00 PM
<b>Fri. April 7th</b>	Burial Service (Good Friday)	7:00 PM
<b>Sat. April 8th</b>	Easter Eve/Jragalooys Divine Liturgy	7:00 PM
<b>Sun. April 9th</b>	Divine Liturgy-Easter Sunday Special Fellowship in Hall/Easter Egg Hunt	10:30 PM 12:30 PM
<b>Tues. April 11th</b>	Parish Council Meeting	6:30 PM
<b>Sun. April 16th</b>	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
<b>Sun. April 23rd</b>	Divine Liturgy Martyrs of Armenian Genocide Service	10:30 PM 12:30 PM
<b>Sun. April 30th</b>	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM

Please note that by, no Requiem Services may be held on the following major feast days of the church;  
(Christmas, Palm Sunday/Easter, Pentecost, Transfiguration & Exaltation of the Cross)



**St. Hagop Armenian Church**

7020 90<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782  
727-545-0380

[info@sthagopfl.org](mailto:info@sthagopfl.org)  
[www.sthagopfl.org](http://www.sthagopfl.org)