

AVEDIS

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St. Hagop Armenian Church

The Good News | Winter/Spring 2025

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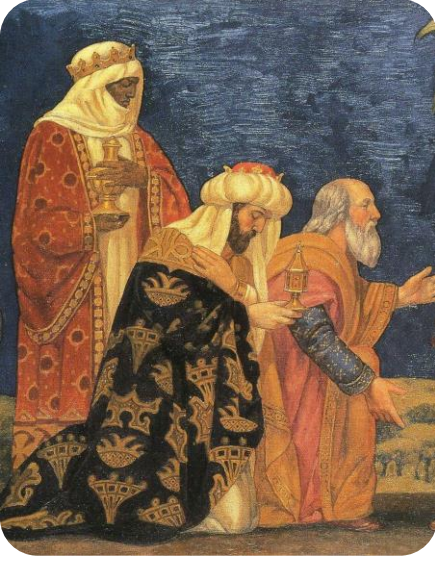
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The Wise Still Seek Him



One of the Gospel readings for Armenian Christmas is the story of the wise men seeking Jesus. We read this same reading each and every year, because it seems that the wisdom of seeking Jesus never gets old. That's just what the Christmas cards I send say. There is a picture of the three wise men on camels following the star, and etched in gold letters, 'The Wise Still Seek Him.' Indeed the wise do still seek Jesus and those who seek find. But just what specifically did these first wise men teach and exemplify about seeking and finding him? The three wise men demonstrated three wise ways to find God in our lives. For simplicity, let's say it like this: Don't Come Empty-Headed, Don't Come Empty-Handed and Don't Come Empty-Hearted.

*First, **Don't Come Empty-Headed.*** Some people think you have to be ignorant or ignore your rationality and head to be a faithful Christian. Yet from days ancient times, very wise people have believed that the most rational explanation for this entire amazing universe is that an intelligent God made it, and made us to become like Him; co-creating a world with God that is good, true and beautiful as He is. It is only in the past couple of centuries that people have come to see wisdom and science as somehow separate from faith in God. But this was not the case for the Wise Men of old, and it isn't for the wise today! The Wise Men found Jesus using the science of their time, following the movement of the stars. For nearly all of our history, humankind has understood that knowledge of creation brings you to God and knowledge of God helps us know and value his creation. So let's not be empty headed with our God. He gifted us brains to steward creation and aid in its unfolding, let's not neglect the gift or the giver.

The wisemen's next lesson in seeking God is ***Don't Come Empty-Handed.*** We Armenians know well, that when you meet someone for the first time and visit their home, you cannot come empty handed. Neither did the magi. It is written, 'Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.' (Mt 2:11)

Note that the wise men didn't just grab something quick at the *shooka* on their way; instead they found the perfect presents for the Christ child. Maybe you have gotten the perfect present before. If you did, the gift says something about who you are. As we say, 'Oh I thought this present just suits you,' or 'When I saw this I thought, this is you.'

The Wise Men's gifts were perfect for Jesus, because they recognized who he was and who he would become. Gold is a gift for a king; Jesus is a king whose kingdom is not of this Earth. Frankincense is a gift for a priest; Jesus is the mediator between God and man, heaven and earth. Myrrh is a gift to honor the dead, used in embalming. Jesus sacrificed his life for ours, that in Him we would have new life. The wise men did not come empty handed to God, they brought perfect gifts-acknowledging Jesus as king, priest and Savior. Let us then not come empty handed to God, so that we don't leave the same. If we give the best of our time and our resources to honor Him, He will bless and honor us.

And finally, the wise men showed us that when we look for God in our lives, we cannot ***Come Empty-Hearted.*** Before any other gift that we give to God, we must offer ourselves, our own hearts. The wise men did not mail their gifts, and they didn't send them with anyone else. They traveled thousands of dangerous miles to give it themselves, and then they fell to their knees and worshipped Him. There are some things in life that others can do for you, but finding the God who uniquely made you and loves you is not one of them. Each of us must do that for ourselves and discover St. Augustine's wisest of prayers, 'God you have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.'

So therefore, in this beautiful season of Christmas, let us remember that the Wise Men were the first to seek Jesus, and that the wise still seek him, here and now, you and I today. Let's heed the three examples of these three wise men; never coming to Our Lord Empty-Headed, Empty-Handed, or Empty-Hearted-but rather-following the one great commandment 'Let us love the Lord our God with all of our mind, all of our strength and all of our heart.'

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year | Kristos Tsnav Yev Haydnetsav!

Parish Council Chair's Message by Michael Shahnasarian, Ph.D

The last quarter of 2024 has been one of the most memorable I recall as a St. Hagop parishioner. It began with unprecedented hurricanes – less than 10 days apart - pummeling our community and causing catastrophic damage to some of our parishioner's homes and upheaval in their lives, and repairable damage to most of our parishioner's residences and to our church. With God's help, we again joined as a community and recovered.

In between the hurricanes, on October 6th, His Grace Mesrop Parsamyan, made his first visit to St. Hagop as a bishop and as our Primate. During his time in Tampa Bay he met with our church leaders after just returning from Armenia, where he participated in the Holy Muron ceremony – an ancient ritual, held every 7 years, in which the anointing oil of the Armenian Church is prepared and then dispensed worldwide. A master storyteller who exudes deep-rooted conviction in our Lord, Bishop Parsamyan provided uplifting insight into the tradition undergirding the ceremony, including its symbolism and transcendence to our past, present, and future shared bonds and responsibilities as Armenian Christians.

The hallmark of Bishop Parsamyan's visit included leading our Badarak worship service and then presiding over hallowed church ceremonial rites: first, ordaining 5 altar servers, and then presenting to our beloved Louise Yardumian the St. Nersess Shnorhali Medal, conferred at the order of His Holiness Karekin II. The medal and accompanying pontifical encyclical are among the highest honors granted to laypeople in the Armenian Church. A delicious, traditional Armenian meal Raelene and Scott Pullen prepared for approximately 200 parishioners, accompanied with Armenian music and an atmosphere of genuine Armenian hospitality and love, followed the presentations and provided a perfect ending to our Primate's visit.

While a seminal event, the Bishop's visit was far from the only major church happening during the past 3 months. Thanks to our Women's Guild and Events Committee, who continue to spoil us beyond their labor of love and good cheer they extend during our fellowship gatherings after Badarak, parishioners enjoyed several other rich Armenian cultural and supplemental Christian education experiences. To wit, a Ghapama fellowship and tavloo tournament, annual Thanksgiving bake sale, children's Christmas party, and Advent by Candlelight dinner/faith-inspiring program. Lusine Sahakyan, a new parishioner, caught the St. Hagop spirit and is chairing a New Year's Eve dinner/dance celebration certain to help bring a fine close to 2024 and anticipation of a promising 2025!

In terms of church operations, St. Hagop completed its annual stewardship campaign in December. This effort included 2 stewardship sermons Fr. Hovnan presented and heartfelt testimonials Greg Ekizian, Stepan Aghekyan, and Suzanna Hovhannisian delivered, reminding us that all we have is a gift from God, and we are obligated to give our time, talent, and treasure proportionate to our means through actions pleasing to Him. This is but a snapshot of St. Hagop's recent activities. We have an incredible Der Hayr and Yn Anna, and many dedicated parishioners who give selflessly through their Armenian Christian spirit, enabling your church community to thrive.

As we wind down another year together, navigating through the joyous seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas and anticipating the upcoming year, there are many evident and subtle God-given signs that bespeak the vitality of St. Hagop's church family. Many parishioners birthing children and baptizing them in our church . . . a growing Sunday school . . . new parishioners, of all ages and from places worldwide, joining our growing congregation . . . and multiple Christian education endeavors Fr. Hovnan continues to organize and lead, to name a few. One cannot help but sense St. Hagop is a blessed place, infused with the Holy Spirit.

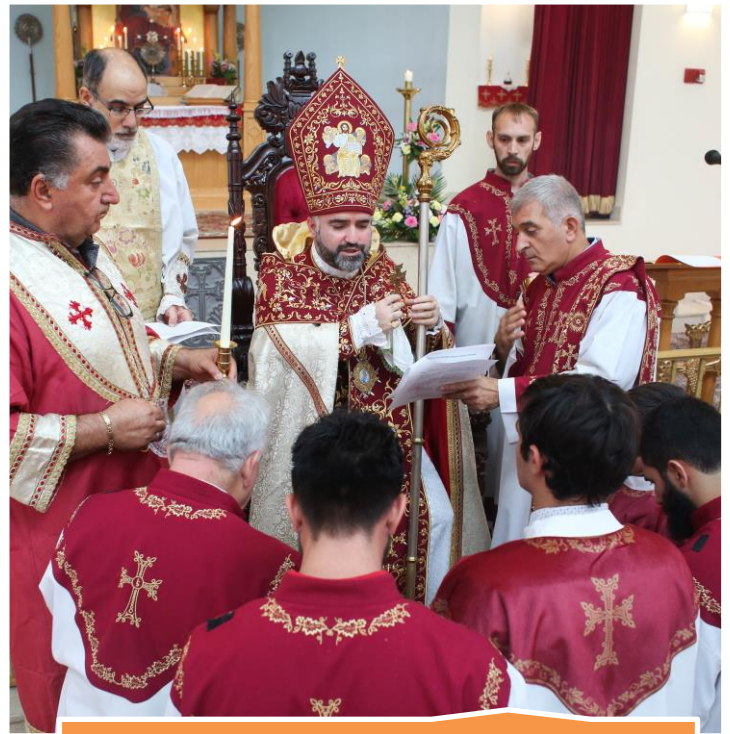
In closing, thank you for the opportunity to serve St. Hagop as its parish council chairman during recent years, and as a member 10 of the past 12 years. I will be rotating off the council in February 2025, after the annual Parish Assembly on February 2nd. Please plan to attend the assembly, which provides an opportunity to learn more about St. Hagop's operations, governance, and ways you can become involved to further our vision: To evolve continuously as the bedrock of the Tampa Bay area Christian community, perpetuating our Christian religion and heritage.

From the bottom of my heart, Shnorhagalutyun, thank you!

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



Evening with Bp. Mesrop



Altar Server Ordinations



St. Hagop's 17th Anniversary!



Women's Guild Bake Sale

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



St. Hagop Young Professionals



St. Hagop Teen Fellowship



Sunday School-FAR Christmas Drive



Sunday School Christmas Presentation

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



Advent Candlelight Service



Advent Candlelight Dinner

Armenian Christmas & Blessing of Waters-Sunday January 5th



2025 Christmas Worship Schedule

Sunday, Jan. 5th—Armenian Christmas (Observed)

Armenian Christmas Divine Liturgy 10:30AM

Blessing of Waters Service & Fellowship 12:30 PM

Godfather of the Blessing of Waters: John & Susan Arsenault

Monday, Jan. 6th—Armenian Christmas (No Services)

No Services at St. Hagop-Church Open for Individual Prayer 10AM-4PM

(no requiem services are allowed on January 5th, requiems may be requested for the next Sunday January 12th)

'No Greater Love' Advent Reflection of Sarah Stites



Fast forward four years ago. It was September 29, 2020, 6:30 am, a sunny Tuesday morning. The place: my apartment in Gyumri. A wail sliced the still, autumn air. A mother's voice – my neighbor's voice – protested the world's indifference to her tragedy.

My roommate woke up, but I didn't. Neither did the world. A few days later, I watched as cars clogged the pothole-pocked street outside my bedroom window. People clustered in somber groups like an eerie flock of blackbirds.

I didn't know the family. I wanted to take photos to help people in America understand the gravity of the then week-old war. Attending the funeral seemed inappropriate; not attending seemed callous. Our neighborhood grocer, sensing my discomfort, escorted me through the sea of black-clad

bystanders and memorial wreaths. The home we entered was warm with closely packed bodies and oppressive, like incense, with grief.

I was wracked with emotion. I understood the Armenians around me in a whole new way... the trauma of parenting a son. To make the excruciating decision to send him to the army or to leave Armenia to save him from that, if you had the chance. I was wracked also with the guilt of growing up in peace, never worrying about war...the guilt of still being alive.

I had celebrated my 26th year of life just a few days before. Vkul's life had ended at the same age. This hero had lived just across the street from me, but I was only now meeting him, draped in the too-bright tricolor flag. The coffin separated me from his mother. She was silent and hollow-eyed. Next to me, an old woman began to weep horrible racking sobs. I clutched her to my breast instinctively — either to seek relief or to give it, I knew not which.

The priest began to speak, sharing profound words about the nature of sacrifice. I didn't know it then, but as I would soon find out, Vkul had voluntarily traveled to Jabrayil, one of the most dangerous fronts in Artsakh. On September 28, when a young soldier forgot his bulletproof vest in the midst of a military maneuver, Vkul acted quickly; he removed his own and gave it to the young man. Moments later, Vkul was struck.

Vkul's mother Varduhi later told me that she and her daughter had spent the evening of September 28 at church, praying for their soldier. But as Varduhi pleaded for her son's safety over the light of a flickering candle, Vkul's life had already been snuffed out.

It would be easy for Varduhi to lose her faith, to question the love of God. I couldn't understand it either. Vkul was beloved by our Gyumri community and by his fellow soldiers. He was full of life. He loved children and was a defender of the needy. In the midst of her grief, Varduhi sought God to protect this uniquely kind and gifted man, a man who, living to a ripe old age, would have brought so much good to the world. Instead, God took Vkul. As I watched Varduhi bow in grief, surrounded by friends and relatives, I thought of Mary.

I love the beautiful song we sing at Christmastime: "Mary did you know?"

Mary, did you know

That your baby boy

Would one day walk on water?

Mary, did you know

That your baby boy

Would save our sons and daughters?

Did you know

That your baby boy

Has come to make you new?

This Child that you delivered

Will soon deliver you.

The last line always gives me goosebumps. No mother knows what the future has in hold for her child. Although Mary was the mother of God, she was mortal too. She didn't know the details of Jesus' future. On Good Friday, she very likely thought: Why did the Father entrust His Son to my care, only to allow this crucifixion, this injustice, this travesty?

And yet, as I sat in that miasma of despair, Vkul's funeral, asking the same questions, I realized one thing: There is a reason that death feels so wrong to us, so disastrous. Because we were actually designed by our creator for eternity. Moreover, I realized that more than anyone in the world, our God knew and knows the pain of Mary and Varduhi.

He knows the pain of every mother that has sent her son to war. God's Son was perfect, a man without blemish or defect. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Christianity is a beautiful, topsy-turvy faith. In other words, God gave His Son up to a miserable death so that we ourselves would not have to die.

In September 2020, we were declaring **#ՀաղթելուԵնք** ("We will win") with fervor. I saw the slogan in stores, on shirts, in social media posts, on billboards... and it gave me strength. But we didn't win. We lost land and we lost thousands of men. That slogan rang hollow.

Vkul's smile will never grace our neighborhood again. And three years after his sacrifice and the sacrifice of so many others, we lost all of Artsakh. It's incomprehensible, horrible, unnerving. But, as Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 5, "If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied... The last enemy to be destroyed is death... Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

During Advent, we think of Jesus as a baby. And it is a wondrous holiday — when the king humbly entered the world. His birth in a manger surrounded by livestock was topsy-turvy. But I personally love Easter best of all, because it is even more topsy-turvy — that day when Jesus, by dying, conquered death forever.

Let me encourage you to remember with me that the tense is not future, it is past. It is not **#ՀաղթելուԵնք** (We will win), it is **Հաղթել ենք** (We have won). We have already won thanks to the death of Christ on the cross.

The **#ՀաղթելուԵնք** signs in Gyumri have long since been removed, but there is one that still remains on Garegin Nzhdeh Street, one that will stand the test of time. It reads: «Ոչ ոք ավելի մեծ սեր չունի, քան եթե մեկն իր կյանքը դնում է իր բարեկամների համար»: That is John 15:13: "There is no greater love than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Through love, **#Հաղթել ենք**.

Varduhi and I meet still to sit and reflect together — we agree that Vkul's sacrifice calls us to live lives worthy of his sacrifice, to do what we can to support our people in the way he would have done.

That is one of the reasons I am honored to live and work in Armenia, to carry on Vkul's legacy. I joined FAR – our Diocesan charity – through its [Ayol crowdfunding program](#) just six months after the war ended. The first project I got to lead was called "[From Frontlines to Storefronts](#)" — to empower wounded veterans with grants to start small businesses. And I like to think that was in Vkul's honor.

'God's Love Shines Through People' Advent Reflection of David Kazarian



We're here this evening to speak about our Christian faith and dark times in our lives. But this reminded me of a story. A young woman teacher in the Liberal State of California explains to her class of small children that she is an atheist. She asks her class if they are atheists too. Not really knowing what atheism is, but wanting to be like their teacher, their hands explode into the air like fleshy fireworks. There is, however, one exception. A little Armenian girl has not gone along with the crowd. The teacher asks her why she has decided to be different. "Because I'm not an atheist." Then, asks the teacher, "What are you?" "I'm a Christian," says the girl.

The teacher is a little perturbed now, her face slightly red. She asks why she is a Christian. "Well, I was brought up knowing and loving Jesus. My mom is a Christian, and my dad is a Christian, so I am a Christian." The teacher is now angry. "That's

no reason," she says loudly. "What if your mom was a moron, and your dad was a moron. What would you be then?" She paused and smiled. "Then, 'I'd be an atheist!'" But now let's move on, we're not here to talk about atheists today.

You've often heard through God all things are possible." Sometimes we see God's Love through people. I want to talk about a woman that I can honestly say we all love, Zvart Jambazian. Her faith and love of God and our church was and is so powerful that she fought to come to church when we were told to stay home. People would invite her out to dinner, and she would cook for them at home instead. When others were distressed, she was there to help. When others were experiencing dark days, Zvart did what she could to comfort them. My cousin Lillian Kazarian is an example. She lost her husband and was distraught, she felt there was nothing to live for. Zvart would talk to her and comfort her. Through our Armenian Language, Zvart would speak to her each night, making Cousin Lil focus on language and less on her dark thoughts. Each night for several weeks, Zvart and Cousin Lil would speak Armenian. But Zvart wasn't the only one who helped. I've already mentioned in the past how Mike Shahnasarian saw Cousin Lil weeping in church and went to comfort her. Without going into the dark days Lil had, people from this church got her through her dark times. Mike's simple gesture in church had a profound effect on Lil.

Zvart also had dark days recently due to our hurricanes. This lady who had celebrated the 3rd anniversary of her 30th birthday, traversed 7 flights of stairway to come to church (the elevator wasn't working). Her bright demeanor was dull thanks to the destruction of her home, but the love for this woman was so huge, many from the church went to help her. Many times, God's love through people radiates warmth and comfort. Zvart lost much in the hurricane, but she has a treasure more valuable than the things that were lost in the flood and rain of 2024, the love of God and many parishioners at St. Hagop Armenian church. Cousin Lil still calls Zvart to speak Armenian and improve her language skills. Sometimes I think the tables are turned, and Cousin Lil has the job of comforting Zvart. Their friendship transcends the 1200 miles they are apart. Zvart and Lil still get together every so often on the phone for Lil's Armenian lessons. I spoke to Zvart this evening to tell her she could watch the Advent program on YouTube but her niece was not home so I couldn't make that happen. While speaking to her she wanted to tell me how much she missed everyone at the church and loved us all.

God's love shines through people in this Church. Friendships reflecting that strong love are seen all over this church. When our members experience dark days, there are many loving parishioners that jump in, and God's love shines through those people. When Zvart left here she wept. While some felt it was because of her loss of everything she had in her condominium, I think there were tears of joy and happiness that people in this church dug in and helped her. With God's love, dark days don't last very long. And without the darkness we wouldn't fully enjoy the light!

A Thank You From Louise Yardumian

thank you

NOVEMBER 26, 2024

Dearest Members of the St. Hagop Church Family,

It is with great humility and sincere thanks, that I write to you and try to express my deepest thanks, for the great honor of receiving the St. Nerses Shnorhali Medal with Gontag from the Vehapar. Never in my wildest dreams would I think I would ever receive such an awesome honor.

I grew up in a family, who taught us by example how to love and serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. My role models were remarkable... Father, Mother, Grandmother, Uncles and Aunts, Sion Surpazan (Manoogian), who was like a grandfather to me, and working with our Primates, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Bishop Daniel Findikyan and recently, Bishop Mesrob Parsamian; it has been a remarkable experience and unending lesson.

And this church family of St. Hagop Armenian Church, which was given its name in our living room by Torkom Surpazan, had been a dream that became a reality. With the tireless efforts of Der Hovnan Demirjian, and many remarkable lay leaders, we have a thriving church and church family here in St. Petersburg, FL, a church that has set many examples for other parishes, thanks to devoted, loving, knowledgeable people that have also worked tirelessly to make amazing things happen, like the members of our Parish Council.

I am eternally grateful and truly humbled in receiving this award, which I will cherish all the days of my life. Thank you.

With love and respect,

Louise Malleen Yardumian



New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance



It's not too late to purchase tickets if you act now!

Please join your friends and family of St. Hagop Armenian Church in the Shahnasarian Hall for a New Year's Eve celebration!

You can make ticket purchases online by visiting www.sthagopfl.org/product/new-years-eve-dinner-dance-tickets-24-25

You may also pay by check made out to St. Hagop, memo: 'New Years,' but check must arrive in the mail by Dec. 30th!

Please contact Lusine or Yn. Anna at events@sthagopfl.org with questions.

Where: Shahnasarian Hall 7020 90th Ave, Pinellas Park, FL

When: Tue. Dec. 31 Doors Open: 8PM | Dinner: 9PM
Dance: 10PM-1AM

Tickets: \$75/adult, \$40/youth ages 6-15. **All payments must be received by Dec. 30th. Tickets not sold at the door.**

Northern Armenia Immersion Tour June 2025

Fr. Hovnan is gauging interest for a two-week parish trip to Armenia in the second and third weeks of June 2025.

The group will spend roughly half their time in Yerevan and half in Northern Armenia.

There will be sight-seeing, but equal time spent interacting with local Armenians-particularly with St. Hagop mission partners in the small town of Stepanavan.



There will be regular occasions for worship, Bible reflection and faith discussions. There are no language or background requirements, only that travelers be able bodied for travel. Package will include land tour and logistics from arrival to departure. Participants will book their own air travel for maximum flexibility.

If you are potentially interested and want to receive communication as the trip details develop, call, email, message or speak with Fr. Hovnan.

St. Hagop Community Businesses-Paid Advertisements

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Calling All Piano Players-Opportunity to Grow & Serve Our Church



The terrific worship experience at St. Hagop is in large part due to the leadership that Louise Yardumian has provided in playing the organ, singing and leading our choir with faith and professionalism. Louise would like to pass on what she knows to an up and coming piano/organ player and help continue our legacy of inspiring worship.

St. Hagop is looking for musicians who have a basic foundation of piano playing and reading music to learn the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Louise will provide mentorship. Subsidized lessons and sponsorship to attend St. Nersess Youth Choir Workshop will be considered for young players with dedicated commitment. Please let Louise or Fr. Hovnan know if you or someone you know might be interested in this opportunity to serve the church and grow in musical talent.

Join Us For the Most Powerful Services of the Year-Holy Week (Ավագ Շաբաթ)



Holy Week SCHEDULE Ավագ Շաբաթ	
April 13 (Palm Sunday)	10:30 AM
April 17 (Maundy Thursday)	7:00 PM
April 18 (Good Friday)	7:00 PM
April 19 (Holy Saturday)	7:00 PM
April 20 (Easter Sunday)	10:30 AM

Walk the journey of Christ in the ancient tradition of the Armenian Church, recalling Jesus' final days, His victory over death, and the redemption of humanity and the fallen world. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and the Opening of the Door Service on April 13th and continues with evening services which all take place at 7PM on Thursday April 17th, Friday April 18th and Saturday April 19th. The trials of Holy Week culminate in the triumph of Easter Sunday April 20th. Join us for these unique, beautiful and spiritually profound services!

A Great Start for 2025 Pledge Stewardship!

So far, we have been blessed with 69 pledges totaling \$131,785 for stewardship 2025! 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 2025 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:	

Please mail this pledge card to the church office, or bring to offering plate by Stewardship Sunday—December 1, 2024. No payment need accompany this form. We ask that 2025 pledge monies be paid by the end of the 2025 calendar year. Payments may be made online through the St. Hagop website.

May the Lord Remember All Your Offerings
Յիշեցցէ Տէր Համբարձեալս
Պատարագս Բն

Stewardship Pledge Card

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to St. Hagop! Those who have submitted a pledge by 12/15/24 to support St. Hagop are identified below.

Ann Abajian, Stepan & Naira Aghekyan, George & Joan Agnacion, John & Susan Arsenault, Patrick & Gail Aslanian Compton, Vicky & Pauline Atamian Gilgan, Grace Austin, Zara & Harris Babayan Boyiadzis, Bagrad & Tatiana Badalyan, Charles and Lisa Begian, Jacob Bournazian, Fr. Hovnan & Yn. Anna Demerjian, Kenneth & Karen Demerjian, Jean-Jacques & Hasmig Demerjian, Raffi & Tanya Demerjian, Sason & Patricia Demirjian, Armand & Rebecca Dikranian, Araxi Dulgeroff, Art & Adrienne Ekizian, John & Victoria Franks, Martha-Anne Garabedian, Gregory & Gina Hagopian, Berge & Tamar Hajian, Joseph & Pamela Hajinian Brinker, Gregory & Stephanie Hovsepian, Richard & Christina Kachadurian, Edward Kapreilian, Ashot & Jemma Karapetyan, Harry & Beverly Karim, David & Nancy Kazarian, Lilian Kazarian, Hannelore Keshishian, Sargis & Susanna Knyazyan, Sophia Kugeares, Chau Luong, Ann Mahdessian, Jeff & Araksya Mekenyan Sprecher, Karen Minassian, Robert Mirak, Victoria Mouradian, Bejan & Rebekah Nouri, Mirella Ovanesian, Gregory & Christine Parseghian, Gregory & Stefanie Parseghian, Paula & Louis Pelosi, Keri Pinner, Pehlivanian Family Foundation, Scott & Raelene Pullen, Ira & Annette Ross, Arsen & Varduhi Sahakyan, Alex & Carolyn Saharian, Michael, Sarafian, Tanya Sarafian, Gayle Sarkisian, Leon & Sharon Sarkisian, Chuck & Kathy Sarkisian, Yates & Alexis Sayers, Stepan & Seta Serpekian, Michael & Jean Shahnasarian, John & Kelly Shamsey, Robert & Christina Shamsey, Ken and Katharine Talanian, Andrei Trapizonian, Matthieu & Denise van Veen, James & Lusine Vardanyan Roesch, Tim & Adrienne Vartanian Milewski, Terry & Carolyn Waidley, James & Cathy Wilson, Haig & Louise Yardumian, 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

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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 in 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 2025	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.

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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**

Sun. Jan. 5th	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Armenian Christmas (Observed) Blessing of the Waters-Godfather: John & Susan Arsenault Special Armenian Christmas Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
Mon. Jan. 6th	Armenian Christmas - No Services- Church open for prayers	10AM-4PM
Sun. Jan. 12th	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
Tues. Jan. 14th	Parish Council Meeting	6:00-8:00 PM
Sun. Jan 19th	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship 'Family & Friends CPR' training Faith Nursing/St. Anthony's Hospital	10:30AM-1:30PM 1:30PM-3:30 PM
Sun. Jan. 26th	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
Sun. Feb. 2nd	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship Annual Parish Assembly	10:30AM-1:30PM 12:30PM
Sun. Feb. 9th	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
Sun. Feb. 9th	Super Bowl Watch Party	6:00PM
Tues. Feb. 13th	Parish Council Meeting	6:00-8:00 PM
Sun. Feb. 16th	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
Sun. Feb. 23rd	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
Sun. March 2nd	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship- Poon Paregentan	10:30AM-1:30PM
Mon. March 3rd	Great Lent Begins	
Sun. March 9th	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
Tues. March 11th	Parish Council Meeting	6:00-8:00 PM
Sat. March 22nd	Women's Guild Spring Luncheon at St. Petersburg Yacht Club	
Sun. March 23rd	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
Sun. March 30th	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
Sun. April 6th	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
Tues. April 8th	Parish Council Meeting	6:00-8:00 PM
Sun. April 13th	Divine Liturgy- Palm Sunday/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
Thurs. April 17th	Washing of the Feet/Votnlva Service Vigil/Khavaroom Service	7:00 PM 8:00 PM
Fri. April 18th	Burial Service (Good Friday)	7:00 PM
Sat. April 19th	Easter Eve/Jragalooys Divine Liturgy	7:00 PM
Sun. April 20th	Divine Liturgy-Easter Sunday Special Fellowship in Hall/Easter Egg Hunt	10:30AM-2:00PM
Sun. April 27th	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship Martyrs of Armenian Genocide Service	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)



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