



**ST. JAMES ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH**  
**ՄԲ. ՅԱԿՈԲ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ ԱՌԱՔԵԼԱԿԱՆ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ**

Rev. Father Hovhan Khoja-Eynatyan, Pastor  
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**DECEMBER 14, 2014**

**ԴԵԿՏԵՄԲԵՐ 14, 2014**

**Feast of St. James of Nisibis, Our Patron Saint**  
**Մբ . Յ ա կ ո բ Մ ծ բ ն ա յ Հ ա յ ր ա պ է տ ի Տ ո ն**



**St. James Church Name Day**  
**Ե կ է դ է ց լ ո յ Ու խ ս ի Օ ր**

**Armenian Historical Year 4507 (ՏՇԷ)-Armenian Calendrical Year 1464 (ՌՆԿԴ)**



Morning Service: 9:15 AM  
 Divine Liturgy: 10:00 AM  
 Bible Readings: Wisdom 7:12-20; Isaiah 44:1-5;  
 Hebrews 13:17-21; John 9:39-10:10.

**ԿԻՐԱԿԻ, ԴԵԿՏԵՄԲԵՐ 14, 2014**

Առաւոտեան Ժամ 9:15  
 Սուրբ Պատարագ 10:00  
 Ընթերցումներ Իմաստութիւն 7:12-20; Եսայի 44:1-5;  
 Եբրայեցի 13:17-21; Յովհանէս 9:39-10:10

**HOKEHANKISD - REQUIEM SERVICE**

FOR THE SOULS OF:

Archbishop Karekin Hovsepian (later Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia)  
 Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan  
 Very Reverend Father Varoujan Kabarajian  
 Rt. Reverend Father Vartan Megherian  
 The founders of the St. James Armenian Church

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK**

Let us remember all those here at St. James who are suffering health problems and are in need of God's healing and comfort. Let us keep them in our prayers and thoughts, especially:

Patriarch Mesrob Moutafian	Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian	
Alexander Adajian	Shoushan Altun	Varsenik Avagyan
Roupen Demirdjian	Karen Demirdjian	Babken Dilanjian
Seda Dilanjian	Lucy Genian	Jirayr Gerardo
Hoyle Green	Pat Green	Mihran Guragossian
Mary Haidarian	Nargez Hamayak	Dn. Garabed Hardy
Vartges Goorji	Marie Ipjian	Mary Ipjian
Carnig Kahaian	Rita Koleff	Parsegh Jack Merjimakian
Diramayr Sirarpi Nalbandian	Yalcin Oral	Berjouhi Moukhtarian
Dn. Hagop Papazian	Anik Sarkis	Surpik Simon
Joseph Summer	Vigen Ter-Avakian	Mari Yegiyayan
Carla Ziegler		

*If you know of anyone that needs our special prayers, please call the church office (847) 864-6263) or Der Hovhan (847) 644-7389) so that their names can be included on this list.*

**ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH (EVANSTON, IL)**

Cordially invites our faithful to celebrate our

**NAME DAY**

**Today**

*MADAGH* will be blessed at the end of Divine Liturgy and will be distributed during the festive luncheon.

**FEASTS**

- December 15** Commemoration of the Pontiffs Sts. Ignatius, Adde and Bishop Maruta
- December 16** Commemoration of Bishop St. Theopompus, martyr St. Theovna and soldiers Sts. Basos, Eusebius, Eutikus and Basilides from Anna
- December 18** Commemoration of the Virgins Sts. Indos, Domna, Prist Glerikus and twenty thousand martyrs martyred in the Church of Nicomidia
- December 20** Commemoration of St. Abgar, First Martyr of the Church and our first king believing in Christ



**COMMEMORATION OF PONTIFF ST. JAMES OF NISIBIS, HERMIT ST. MARUGE AND BISHOP ST. MELITUS**

Pontiff St. James of Nisibis, the patron saint of our church, is one of the most authoritative and most beloved saints of the Universal Church. He is a prominent saint not only in the Armenian Church but also in the Syriac Church. He was born, raised, worked and died in Nisibis, which today is known as the city of Nusbyien in Southeastern Turkey.

St. James deserves the epithet *Thaumaturge* (Wonderworker) for the numerous miracles attributed to him. According to hagiographical sources, St. James was from the Parthian dynasty and the nephew of St. Gregory the Enlightener. When the family members of Anak the Parthian were killed, nurses secretly fled to Caesaria, taking with them the infant brothers Suren and James. In Caesaria, they were educated in the Christian faith. When they were still children, James and his sister Sakden were taken to Persia and lived for a time in the royal palace. However, when a young man, James rejected his safe and well-to-do life and became a hermit. In his young adulthood he withdrew to the desert to live and pray as an ascetic. He eventually left for Nisibis where he became a disciple of the hermit St. Maruge, famous for leading a life befitting saints. In turn, St. James became the teacher of Ephraem the great patristic Syrian priest and writer.

St. James learned from St. Maruge that many people despite their conversion to the true faith were skeptical about the existence of Noah's Ark. The hermit told James that, "The ark rested here on the nearby Cordoyenes Mountains known to the Armenians as Ararat." Thus, St. James decided to climb the mountain in

order to see the Ark himself and bring back a piece of it in order to put to rest people's doubts. Despite his unshakable will power, St. James could not reach the peak of Mount Ararat. However, while taking a short nap to recover from his struggles, an angel visited him in his dreams and put a piece of the Ark under his head. James took the relic with great joy and brought it to Maruge, who upon seeing it was filled with great joy. According to tradition, in the place where St. James had lain down there appeared a cold stream with healing and miraculous qualities. In the future a church bearing the Saint's name would be built nearby the stream. The relic of the Ark given to St. James by one of God's angels is currently in the museum of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin.

After the death of the Bishop of Nisibis, two candidates emerged from two conflicting groups. However, God appeared to St. Maruge and told him that St. James was the most worthy and deserving candidate to become the next Bishop of Nisbis. On the advice of the hermit, everyone switched their focus to St. James and summoned him from the desert. He was ordained bishop in 320 A.D. in Amida.

St. James participated in the Council of Nicaea in 325 at which he enjoyed great respect from the Emperor Constantine and the other attendees. He became one of the great champions of the orthodoxy of the Christian Church against Arius and Arianism, which were condemned at the Council. Two or three times he saved Nisbis from Persian invasions with his prayers.

Although subjected to persecutions and tortures prior to becoming a cleric during the persecution of Maximianos, he nevertheless died peacefully at an old age in 338 A.D. His many relics were taken to Constantinople in 970 A.D. and became the subject of great honor in the imperial city.

Bishop St. Mielitus was born in Melitene, Armenia Minor. In 358 he became the Bishop of Sebastia. In 360 he ascended the throne of Antioch and continued St. James' struggle against the Arians. In 381 he presided over the Second Ecumenical Council convened in Constantinople but unfortunately passed away before its conclusion.



## THE 70 YEARS, 70 FACTS PROJECT

### Fact 9

The original name of our was Church North Shore Armenian Apostolic Church of Cook County, IL.

### ST. JAMES' KHACHKAR PROJECT

Please consider contributing to the historic purchase of our parish *khachkar* by January 31. Refer to the *khachkar* letter sent home in November for details or ask Der Hovhan or any Parish Council member.

**DEACONS' DEDICATION SERVICE AND COMMEMORATION  
OF ST. STEPHEN PROTODEACON AND PROTOMARTYR  
FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY  
Sunday, December 28, 2014**

**HOME BLESSING**

One of the holy traditions of the Armenian Church is the Home Blessing Service, which, according to St. Gregory of Datev, was established by Our Savior Jesus Christ when after his Resurrection He entered the upper room and blessed his disciples. When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you" (John. 20:19).

During apostolic times, Jesus' twelve apostles also visited the homes of the faithful to bless them and to spread the good news of Christ's birth and Resurrection. According to the sacred traditions of the Armenian Church, clergy are to visit the homes of the faithful on the occasions of Christmas (Theophany) and Easter (Holy Resurrection) to tell of the good news of our Lord's Nativity and Resurrection and to bless them and their homes through the Home Blessing Service. Home blessings are also encouraged on the joyous occasion of moving into a new home.

Through the Home Blessing Service, the house of the faithful becomes a small church. "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:2). During the Service, the priest prays to God and asks Him to keep the home and its inhabitants, especially the children of the family, in good health so that they live a devout life glorifying the name of Almighty God and heightening the Holy Church. Furthermore, the priest prays for love and peace, as our church fathers understood so long ago to be the cornerstones of any family, to prevail in the newly sanctified home.

It is important, however, that the faithful be mindful of the heavenly graces that fill their homes and thus be worthy of God's love and peace. And if sinful behavior dominates, the house can never become a true church inhabited by the Holy Trinity and the saints and angels. The sacredness and peace are disturbed by sinful behavior, and there is no peace and no understanding of sacredness, love, unity and harmony. God's blessings can never be given. Thus, any space that is devoid of the Lord's protection will naturally be full of evils and devils, and as Scripture tells us, "Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

To be sure, priestly prayers and blessings alone are not enough to renew our spiritual life and to remove evil from our homes. Great faith is needed from each individual to receive blessing and healing as well as to commune with the divine graces. As we read in the Gospel of Matthew, "Then he touched their eyes and

said, ‘According to your faith let it be done to you.’” (Matthew 9:29). Thus, each family member should prepare themselves for the Home Blessing Service through faithful prayer, repentance and fasting because, "But this kind does not come out except by prayer and fasting" (Matthew 17:20).

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All parishioners who wish to have their homes blessed on the occasion of the Feast of the Theophany and Nativity of Christ should call Der Hovhan (847) 644-7389 to make arrangements. Please have a piece of bread, a dish of salt and a glass of water available for the blessing.

### Տ Ն Օ Ր Հ Ն Է Բ

Անոնք, որոնք կը փափաքին Ս. Ծննդեան առիթով իրենց բնակարանները օրհնելի տալ, թող բարնհաճին հեռաձայնել Տէր Յովհանին (847) 644-7389:

#### **CANNED FOOD DRIVE**

*Please join our parish as we make the Holiday Season more cheerful for families in need.*

Canned food items and gift cards intended for distribution to needy parishioners, as well as those who receive assistance at local food banks, will be accepted at St. James on the following Sundays: **December 14, and 21**

**Please be sure to check expiration dates on all food items.**

#### **LOVING HEARTS – SERVING HANDS**

A reminder of our new initiative to reach those parishioners in need of assistance during times of illness, death and other life difficulties. Please bring to the Parish Council or Der Hovhan's attention when need arises. And as always, we are looking for volunteers to lend their time in making this a successful initiative in our parish.

#### **POON PAREGENTAN DANCE 2015**

*A Celebration of Life and Love*

**Saturday, February 14, 2015**

See the flyer for details.

#### **PRAYER CARD REQUEST**

St. James has recently begun sending parishioner-requested prayer cards to mark occasions such as baptisms, weddings, bereavement and healing. A copy of the request form was sent to parishioners' homes. You can also pick up additional copies in the sanctuary or in Nishan Hall. Please see Der Hovhan if you have any questions.

*From ACYOA Jrs.*

### BOOK DRIVE

Please help us collect materials for Open Books, a local non-profit working to promote literacy in Chicago and beyond! There will be a box in the church foyer to collect any new or used books in good condition as well as CDs and DVDs in playable condition. Examples of types of books include fiction, nonfiction, craft books, cookbooks, children's books, textbooks, encyclopedias, and more! Thank you for helping support literacy in our community!

For more information contact **Selena Groh.**

### ST. JAMES ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES

**Morning Services:** Sundays 9:15 AM

**Divine Liturgy:** Sundays 10:00 AM

**Midday Hour** (Wednesdays) - 28, 11:30 AM

**Vespers** (Saturdays) *Kirakamtits* - January 10, February 14, 5:00 PM

### DUMPLINGS AND LAHMAJOON FOR SALE

There are still several dozen frozen dumplings left over from the recent Fall Food Bazaar, \$10/dozen. Also we have some lahmajoon left for sale, \$20/dozen. Please see any Women's Guild or Parish Council Member to purchase. Thank You!

### CALENDAR OF WORSHIP SERVICE AND EVENTS

December 14	St. James Armenian Church (Evanston, IL) Name Day
December 28	Deacons' dedication service and Commemoration of St. Stephen Protodeacon and Protomartyr
January 5 (Monday)	Eve of the Feast of the Nativity ( <i>Jrakalooys</i> )
January 6 (Tuesday)	Feast of the Nativity (Badarak at 10 AM)
January 10	Saturday Evening Service- <i>Kirakamtits</i> (5:00 PM)
January 11	Blessing of the Water and Appreciation Luncheon
January 28	Midday Hour (11:30 AM)
February 14	Saturday Evening Service- <i>Kirakamtits</i> (5:00 PM)
February 14	<i>Poon Paregentan</i> Dance
February 15	<i>Poon Paregentan</i> Sunday



*Writing above the main altar:*

"Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you." (James 4:8)

## SCRITURE READINGS

### Յովհաննես 17:1-10

1Եւ ըսաւ իր աշակերտներուն. «Անկարելի է որ գայթակղութիւններ չգան. բայց վա՛յ անոր, որուն միջոցով կու գան: 2Աւելի օգտակար պիտի ըլլար անոր, որ իշու ջաղացքի քար մը կախուէր իր վիզէն ու ծովը ձգուէր, քան թէ գայթակղեցնէր այս պատիկներէն մէկը: 3Ուշադի՛ր եղէք դուք ձեզի: Եթէ եղբայրդ մեղանչէ քեզի դէմ՝ յանդիմանէ՛ զայն. ու եթէ ապաշխարէ՛ ներէ՛ անոր: 4Եթէ օրը եօթն անգամ մեղանչէ քեզի դէմ, եւ օրը եօթն անգամ վերադառնայ քեզի ու ըսէ՝ “կ’ապաշխարեմ”, ներէ՛ անոր»:

5Առաքեալները ըսին Տերոջ. «Աւելցո՛ւր մեր հաւատքը»: 6Տերը ըսաւ. «Եթէ մանանեխի հատիկի չափ հաւատք ունենայիք, կրնայիք ըսել այս թթենիին. “Արմատախի՛լ եղիր եւ տնկուէ՛ ծովուն մէջ”. ան ալ պիտի հնազանդէր ձեզի»:

7«Բայց ձեզմէ ո՞վ, ունենալով երկրագործ կամ հովիւ ծառայ մը, երբ ան տուն մտնէ արտէն՝ իսկոյն կըսէ անոր. “Գնա՛, սեղա՛ն նստէ՛”: 8Հապա չը՛սեր անոր. “Պատրաստէ՛ իմ ընթրիքս, ու գօտիդ կապած՝ սպասարկէ՛ ինձի, մինչեւ որ ես ուտեմ եւ խմեմ. յետոյ դուն ալ կեր ու խմէ՛”: 9Միթէ շնորհապա՛րս կըլլայ այդ ծառային՝ իրեն հրամայուած բաները ընելուն համար. չեմ կարծեր: 10Նոյնպէս դուք, երբ ընէք ձեզի հրամայուած բոլոր բաները՝ ըսէ՛ք. “Մենք անպէտ ծառաներ ենք. ըրինք ինչ որ պարտական էինք ընել”»:

### Luke 17:1-10

1And he said to his disciples, “Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! 2It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. 3Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, 4and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.”

5The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” 6And the Lord said, “If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

7“Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and recline at table’? 8Will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink’? 9Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? 10So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’”