



ST. JAMES ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
ՍԲ. ՅԱԿՈԲ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ ԱՌԱՔԵԼԱԿԱՆ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

Rev. Father Hovhan Khoja-Eynatyan, Pastor
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DECEMBER 28, 2014

ԴԵԿՏԵՄԲԵՐ 28, 2014

Sixth Sunday of Advent
Զ Կիրակի Յիսնակաց



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



Morning Service: 9:15 AM
 Divine Liturgy: 10:00 AM
 Bible Readings: Isaiah 51:15-52:3; Hebrews 13:18-25; Luke 22:24-30

ԿԻՐԱԿԻ, ԴԵԿՏԵՄԲԵՐ 28, 2014

Առաւոտեան Ժամ 9:15
 Սուրբ Պատարագ 10:00
 Ընթերցումներ Եսայի 51:15-52:3; Երբայացիներուն 13:18-25;
 Ղուկաս 22:24-30

Today, as we celebrate the Feast of St. Stephen the Protodeacon and Protomartyr, we honor those who have followed in his path:

<i>Deacon Garabed Hardy</i>	
<i>Deacon Krikor Mirijanian</i>	<i>Sub-deacon John Nersesian</i>
<i>Deacon Larry Farsakyan</i>	<i>Sub-deacon Gary Rejebian</i>
<i>Deacon Kavork Hagopian</i>	<i>Sub-deacon Nicholas Rejebian</i>
<i>Deacon Levon Kirakosyan</i>	
<i>Deacon Christopher Shaklian</i>	
<i>Deacon Aram Sarkisain</i>	
<i>Deacon Arie Zakarian</i>	
<i>Deacon Aras Korogluyan</i>	

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 Dilanjan
Seda Dilanjan	Lucy Genian	Jirayr Gerardo
Hoyle Green	Pat Green	Mihran Guragossian
Mary Haidarian	Nargez Hamayak	Dn. Garabed Hardy
Vartges Goorji	Marie Ipjian	Mary Ipjian
Diramayr Sirarpi Nalbandian	Yalcin Oral	Berjouhi Moukhtarian
Dn. Hagop Papazian	Anik Sarkis	Surpik Simon
Joseph Summer	Vigen Ter-Avakian	Mari Yegiyayan
Carla Ziegler	Anahit Melkonyan	

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.

On December 7, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese, officiated at the ordination of the Rev. Fr. Samuel Rith-Najarian at the St. Sarkis Church of Charlotte, NC, in the presence of the community, family, and guests from around the country.

The Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan served as the sponsoring priest and Dn. Yervant Kutchukian was the godfather at the ordination.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO DERASSADOURIAN FAMILY
AND
WELCOME, YERETZGEEN DANIELLE!**

FEASTS

December 29

Eve of the Fast of the Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Feast of Christmas)
Commemoration of the Apostle St. James and Evangelist St. John

January 1

New Year



**COMMEMORATION OF ST. STEPHEN THE PROTODEACON
AND PROTOMARTYR**

Saint Stephen (Saint *Stepanos* in Armenian) was the first Christian martyr and one of the first seven deacons to be ordained by the twelve apostles. The responsibility of these seven deacons was to take care of the secular needs of the Hellenic (Greek Speaking) Jewish Christian community in Jerusalem. However, when we read Acts 6 and 7, we see that Saint Stephen did much more than that. And in Acts 8, we read that Stephen began to preach the word of God, “And Stephen, full of the grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people” (Acts 6:8).

Truly feeling the power of God, Saint Stephen worked hard to spread God’s name and love in the Jewish community of Jerusalem. However, he became a controversial figure and was eventually falsely accused and taken to the Sanhedrin where he was charged and convicted of blasphemy. He was stoned to death as he was being cast out of the city. The site of his martyrdom was the eastern gate of Jerusalem, which was later renamed in his honor.

As he was being stoned, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them” (Acts 7:59).

As the first deacon and first martyr, Saint Stephen has served as the model of Christian living for centuries. Thus, we honor him on his feast day and honor those who have followed in his path.

THE 70 YEARS, 70 FACTS PROJECT

Fact 11

St. James Armenian Church is a founding member of Family Promise Northshore, and one of twenty-one churches and synagogues that have partnered to support families in the community that are facing homelessness. Family Promise is dedicated to helping families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless get back on their feet and provide a stable lifestyle for their children.



HOME BLESSING

One of the traditions of the Armenian Apostolic Church is the Home Blessing Service, which, according to St. Gregory of Dedeopatz, was established by Our Savior Jesus Christ when after his Resurrection He entered the upper room and blessed his disciples. When it was evening of that blessed 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). Following his example, Christ's chosen twelve visited the homes of the faithful to bless them and to spread the good news of Christ's Birth and Resurrection.

In keeping with the Apostles' practice, according to the sacred traditions of the Armenian Apostolic 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 may live a devout life glorifying the name of Almighty God and strengthening His Holy Church. Furthermore, the priest prays for love and peace, which our church forefathers 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. For if sinful behavior dominates in the house, it can never become a true church inhabited by the Holy Trinity and the saints and angels. Sacredness and peace are disturbed by sinful behavior, and there can be no peace or understanding of sacredness, love, unity and harmony in such a house. God's blessings can never be given under such circumstances. And any space that is devoid of the Lord's protection will naturally be full of evils and devils and, as Scripture tells us, will be a space where, "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 in order 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, “This kind does not come out except by prayer and fasting” (Matthew 17:20).

All parishioners who wish to have their homes blessed on the occasion of the Feast of the Theophany and Nativity of Our Lord Jesus 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 Ե Օ Ր Հ Ե Զ

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

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.

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.

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**.

SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. JAMES

MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2015

EVE OF THE NATIVITY AND THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Evening Service	6:00 PM
Divine Liturgy	6:30 PM
Home Blessing, Fellowship & Refreshments in Nishan Hall	8:00 PM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2015

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY AND THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Morning Service	9:15 AM
Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM

SUNDAY JANUARY 11, 2015 - SIXTH DAY OF THE NATIVITY

Morning Service	9:15 AM
Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM
Blessing of Water	
Christmas Luncheon and Program	12:00 Noon



**Ս. ՅԱԿՈՒԲ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ ԱՌԱՔԵԼԱԿԱՆ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ
ԺԱՄԱՆԱԿԱՑՈՅՑ ՍՈՒՐԲ ԾՆՆԴԵԱՆ ԱՐԱՐՈՂՈՒԹԵԱՆՑ**

Երկուշաբթի, Յունուար 5, 2015

**ՃՐԱԳԱԿՈՅՑ Ս. ԾՆՆԴԵԱՆ ՈՒ ԱՍՏՈՒԱԾՍԱՅԱՅՏՆՈՒԹԵԱՆ
ՏԵԱՌՆ ՄԵՐՈՅ ՅԻՍՈՒՄԻ ՔՐԻՍՏՈՍԻ**

Երեկոեան Ժամերգութիւն	6:00
Սուրբ Պատարագ	6:30
Տնօրինէք եկեղոցոյ Նշան սրահին մէջ	8:00

Երեքշաբթի, Յունուար 6, 2015

**ՏՕՆ Ս. ԽՆՆԴԵԱՆ ԵՒ ԱՍՏՔԻԱԾՍԱՅԱՅՏՆՈՒԹԵԱՆ ՏԵԱՌՆ ՄԵՐՈՅ
ՅԻՍՈՒՄԻ ՔՐԻՍՏՈՍԻ**

Առաւտտեան Ժամերգութիւն	9:15
Սուրբ Պատարագ	10:00

ԿԻՐԱԿԻ, ՅՈՒՆՈՒԱՐ 11, 2015 - Զ ՕՐ ՍՈՒՐԲ ԾՆՆԴԵԱՆ

Առաւտտեան Ժամերգութիւն	9:15
Սուրբ Պատարագ	10:00

Զրօրինէք

Ս. Ծննդեան աւանդական ճաշկերոյթ եւ տօնական յայտագիր 12:00

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.

POON PAREGENTAN DANCE 2015

A Celebration of Life and Love

Saturday, February 14, 2015

See flyer for details.

ST. JAMES ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES

Morning Services: Sundays 9:15 AM

Divine Liturgy: Sundays 10:00 AM

Midday Hour (Wednesdays) – January 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

January 5 (Monday)	Eve of the Feast of the Nativity
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

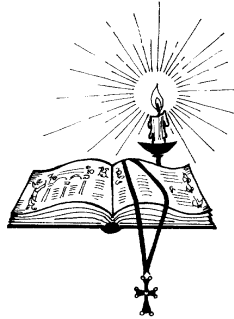
Writing above the main altar:

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

ՂՈՒԿՍՍ 22:24-30

24Վեճ մըն ալ եղաւ անոնց մէջ, թէ իրենցմէ ո՛վ պիտի համարուի մեծագոյնը: 25Ան ալ ըսաւ անոնց. «Հեթանոսներուն թագաւորնէ՛րը կը տիրեն իրենց, եւ անոնք որ կիշխեն իրենց վրայ՝ բարերար կը կոչուին: 26Բայց դուք այնպէս պետք չէ ըլլաք. հապա ա՛ն որ ձեր մէջ մեծագոյնն է՝ կրտսերին պէս թող ըլլայ, ու հրամայողը՝ սպասարկուին պէս: 27Քանի որ ո՛վ է մեծը, սեղան նստողը՝ թէ սպասարկուն: Միթէ սեղան նստողը չէ՞. սակայն ես ձեր մէջ սպասարկուի մը պէս եմ: 28Եւ դուք անոնք էք՝ որ միշտ ինձի հետ կը մնայիք փորձութիւններուս մէջ. 29Ես ալ թագաւորութիւն մը կը կտակեմ ձեզի, ինչպէս իմ Հայրս թագաւորութիւն մը կտակեց ինձի. 30որպէսզի դուք ուտէք ու խմէք իմ սեղանէս՝ իմ թագաւորութեանս մէջ, եւ բազմիք գահերու վրայ՝ դատելու Իսրայէլի տասներկու տոհմերը»:



LUKE 22:24-30

24Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. 25Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. 26But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. 27For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. 28You are those who have stood by me in my trials. 29And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, 30so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.