

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

Rev. Father Hovhan Khoja-Eynatyan, Pastor

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JAUNARY 25, 2015

ՅՈՒՆՈՒՍԱՐ 25, 2015

Second Sunday after the Octave of the Theophany

Բ Կիրակի զկնի Ծննդեան Ութօրեքին



Eve of the Fast of Catechumens

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



Morning Service: 9:15 AM
 Divine Liturgy: 10:00 AM
 Bible Readings: Isaiah 61:10-62:9; 2 Timothy 2:15-26; John 6:15-21

ԿԻՐԱԿԻ, ՅՈՒՆՈՒԱՐ 25, 2015

Առաւոտեան Ժամ 9:15
 Սուրբ Պատարագ 10:00
 Ընթերցումներ Եսայի 61:10-62:9; Բ Տիմոթէոս 2:15-26;
 Յովհաննէս 6:15-21

**HOKEHANKISD – REQUIEM SERVICE**

For the souls of:

VERY REV. FR. VAROUJAN KABARADJIAN
REV. FR. VARTAN MEGHERIAN
DN. NISHAN AND ANGEL CHERKEZIAN
DN. GEORGE GULDALIAN
DN. HOVAGIM FUNDUKIAN
ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS
ST. JAMES DIOCESAN DELEGATES
ST. JAMES PARISH FOUNDERS
SERYOJA AVETISYAN
MARINA SHAKARYAN (1 YEAR)

**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	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	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

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
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
TODAY at 12:30 P.M**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday - Thursday No readings
Friday Jon 1:1-4:11
Saturday Prv 3:13-17; Is 41:1-3; Eph 6:10-17; Lk 21:10-19


FEASTS AND FASTS

January 25 Eve of the Fast of Catechumens
January 26- 30 Fast of Catechumens
January 30 Commemoration of the Prophet Jonah
January 31 Feast of St. Sarkis the Captain, Patron Saint of Love and Youth, his son Martyros and his 14 Soldiers/Companions


EVE (PAREGENTAN) OF THE FAST OF CATECHUMENS

In the early days of Christianity, the custom was to fast five days before baptism in order to be freed from the evils of the physical world before one's spiritual rebirth. Thus, St. Gregory the Illuminator ordered King Tiridates and others to fast for five days before their baptisms in honor of this tradition.

However, St. Gregory extended this fasting practice beyond baptism to an annual fast to purify the five human senses from impurities before Great Lent. For this reason, the Fast of Catechumens, which begins three weeks before Great Lent, is also called the "fast of salvation." In ancient times, people were not allowed to eat anything other than bread and salt during the Fast of Catechumens. On those days celebrating Divine Liturgy was also forbidden.

There are two explanations regarding the name of this feast. First, it is the precursor to Great Lent, and second, it is the first specifically Armenian fast—the Fast of Catechumens is particular to the Armenian Church.

At times, the Fast of Catechumens has erroneously been called the Fast of St. Sarkis because the Armenian Church celebrates the Feast of St. Sarkis on the Saturday following the fast. In fact, in the Middle Ages, the Byzantine and Georgian Churches falsely accused the Armenian Church of sorcery for tying

the Fast of Catechumens to the Feast of St. Sarkis. (According to the testimonies of Armenian medieval writers, the Greek and Catholic Churches also had the Fast of Catechumens in ancient times before abandoning it.)

It should also be noted that the fifth day of the Fast, Friday, is also the day of remembrance of the Prophet Jonah. However, Jonah's remembrance day is celebrated not as a feast but as a day of reflection in memory of the repentance and abstinence that Jonah preached.

This year that day coincides with the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (always on February 14).



COMMEMORATION OF THE PROPHET JONAH

Jonah is one of the minor prophets of the Holy Bible. In the Book of Jonah of the Old Testament is a narrative describing his adventures. By the Lord's command, Jonah was sent to Nineveh to preach to the heathens, and he tried in every way to disobey God's command. Alas, his attempts were in vain. By the Lord's command, a large fish swallowed Jonah, and he remained alive inside the fish for three days and three nights. Only after Jonah's prayer and redemption did the Lord allow the fish to free Jonah. Now he obeyed the Lord's command and went back to Nineveh. On the first day as Jonah started for the city, he proclaimed, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned." The Ninevites fervently believed in God, thus they declared a fast. And all of them, from the least to the greatest among them, even the king, put on sackcloth. When God saw what they had done and how they had turned away from their evil ways, he had compassion upon them and did not bring upon them the destruction he had previously threatened.

Later, Christ cited the example of Jonah to the Pharisees when they asked for a divine sign, and the Armenian Apostolic Church always commemorates the memory of the Prophet Jonah during the Fast of Catechumens to symbolize that with sincere repentance one may deserve God's mercy



THE 70 YEARS, 70 FACTS

Fact 13

Due to the scarcity of Armenian clergymen, the diocesan office was unable to provide a pastor for the newly established St. James parish from 1954 to 1958. To the credit of the St. James congregation, the doors of the church remained open throughout that crucial period, thanks to visiting clergymen and especially to the services of the late Deacon Hovagim Fundukian and late Archdeacon Nishan Cherkezian and the devout members of the congregation.

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.

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**.

HOME BLESSING

Holidays are a time when homes are blessed by the pastor. All parishioners who wish to have their homes blessed on the occasion of the Feast of the Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ should call Der Hovhan (847) 644-7389) to make arrangements. Have a piece of bread, a dish of salt and a glass of water available for the blessing.

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Անոնք, որոնք կը փափարին Ս. Ծննդեան առիթով իրենց բնակարանները օրհնել տալ, թող բարեհաճին հեռաձայնել Տէր Յովհաննիս (847) 644-7389:



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.

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

January 25th is the last day to buy tickets at discounted price.

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* - February 14, 5:00 PM

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE: ARMENIAN RESPONSE AND AMERICAN PHILANTHROPY

Sunday, February 8, 1:30 - 4:00 PM

The Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center marks the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide with a powerful symposium that examines the United States' response to the Genocide through the lens of Near East Relief, the first non-governmental, non-sectarian, ecumenical effort of its kind. Panelists include: Dr. Stephen Smith, USC Shoah Foundation; Dr. Peter Balakian, Colgate University; Shant Mardirossian, Near East Foundation; and Omer Ismail, Enough Project and Darfur Genocide survivor.

Co-presented by Near East Relief Historical Society/Near East Foundation in partnership with the Armenian National Committee of Illinois.

TIGRAN HAMASYAN
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESENTS
THE TIGRAN TRIO
Friday, February 13, 7:30 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!

SERVICE OF BLESSING OF MARRIED COUPLES

In Celebration of the Feast of St. Sarkis, the Patron of Love
February 15 after Divine Liturgy

CALENDAR OF WORSHIP SERVICE AND EVENTS

January 25	Parish assembly meeting
January 28	Midday Hour (11:30 AM)
February 1	Blessing of married couples on the Feast of St. Sarkis, the Patron of Love
February 1	Combined Choir Rehearsal at All Saints Armenian Church (Glenview, IL)
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
March 7	Saintly Women's Day hosted by Holy Resurrection Armenian Church (S. Milwaukee)
March 15	Vartanantz Program hosted by KOV at the AGBU Center
April 19	Joint Divine Liturgy at the All Saint Armenian Church
April 24	Ecumenical Service at St. James Armenian Church

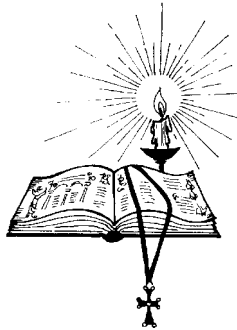


SCRIPTURE READINGS

ՅՈՎՀԱՆՆԷՍ 6:15-21

15Ուրեմն Յիսուս, գիտնալով թէ պիտի գան յափշտակելու զինք՝ որպէսզի թագաւոր ընեն զինք, դարձեալ լեռը գնաց՝ առանձին:

16Երբ իրիկուն եղաւ՝ իր աշակերտները իջան ծովեզերքը, **17**ու նաւնաւելով կէրթային ծովուն միւս կողմը՝ Կափառնայում: Արդէն մթնցած էր, բայց դեռ Յիսուս եկած չէր իրենց: **18**Օովն ալ ալեկոծ էր՝ սաստիկ փշող հովէն: **19**Երբ թի վարելով քսանհինգ կամ երեսուն ասպարեզի չափ գացին՝ տեսան Յիսուսը, որ կը մօտենար նաւուն՝ ծովուն վրայ քալելով, ու վախցան: **20**Բայց ինք ըսաւ անոնց. «Ե՛ս եմ, մի՛ վախնաք»: **21**Ուստի ուզեցին ընդունիլ զինք նաւուն մէջ. եւ նաւը իսկոյն հասաւ այն երկիրը՝ ուր կէրթային:



JOHN 6:15-21

15So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.

16Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, **17**and after getting into a boat, they started to cross the sea to Capernaum. It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. **18**The sea began to be stirred up because a strong wind was blowing. **19**Then, when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat; and they were frightened. **20**But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." **21**So they were willing to receive Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

Writing above the main altar:

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