

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

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ՅՈՒՆՈՒԱՐ 17, 2016

JANUARY 17, 2016

Eve (Paregentan) of the Fast of Cathecumens
Բարեկենդան Առաջաւորաց Պահքի



“It is I. Do not be afraid”

John 6:20

Armenian Historical Year 4508 (ՏՀԸ) - Armenian Calendrical Year 1465 (ՌՆԿԵ)



Morning Service: 9:00 AM**Divine Liturgy:** 10:00 AM**Bible Readings:** Isaiah 61:10-62:9; 2 Timothy 2:15-26; John 6:15-21**ԿԻՐԱԿԻ, ՅՈՒՆՈՒԱՐ 17, 2016****Արարողական Ժամ:** 9:00**Սուրբ Պատարագ:** 10:00**Ընթերցումներ:** Եսայի 61:10-62:9; Բ Տիմոթեոս 2:15-26;
Յավիհաննես 6:15-21**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:

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|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Patriarch Mesrob Moutafian | Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian | |
| Alexander Adajian | Shoushan Altun | Veronica Dadourian |
| Karen Demirdjian | Babken Dilanjan | Seda Dilanjan |
| Lucy Genian | Jirayr Gerardo | Karen Gevorgyan |
| Vartges Goorji | Hoyle Green | Pat Green |
| Mary Haidarian | Nargez Hamayak | Nona Israyelyan |
| Berjouhi Moukhtarian | Diramayr Sirarpi Nalbandian | Yalcin Oral |
| Dn. Hagop Papazian | Ernest Petrosyan | Anik Sarkis |
| Surpik Simon | Joseph Summer | Vigen Ter-Avakian |
| Mari Yegiyayan | Milan Thakkar | 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 or if a name should be removed.

TODAY AFTER BADARAK**12:30 PM - ACYOA JUNIORS MEETING****WOMEN'S GUILD MEETING****FEASTS AND FASTS****January 18 – 21** Fast of Catechumens**January 22** Fast of Catechumens. Remembrance of the Prophet Jonah**January 23** Feast of St. Sarkis The Captain, and his son Mardiros and his Fourteen Soldiers

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.)

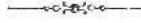
It should also be noted that the fifth day of the Fast, Friday, is also the day of remembrance of the Prophet Jonah. However, Jonah's remembrance day is celebrated not as a feast but as a day of reflection in memory of the repentance and abstinence that Jonah preached.



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



HOME BLESSING

Holiday season is the 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 Theophany and Nativity of Christ should call Der Hovhan (847) 644-7389 to make arrangements. Have a piece of bread, dish of salt and glass of water available for the blessing.

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Անոնք, որոնք կը փափարին Ս. Ծննդեան արիթով իրենց բնակարանները օրհնել տալ, թող բարնհաճին հեռաձայնել Տէր Յովհանին (847) 644-7389:



NAME DAY CELEBRATIONS

Whenever you know a friend or loved one whose Name Day/Feast Day is soon to be celebrated, honor the person by presenting them with a lit candle saying, "*Anoonovut abrees*" or "*Anoonovut dzeranas*" ("May you grow old with your name"). Or you can simply say, "Happy Name Day!"

NAME DAY celebrated this week: Hovnan, Jonah, Sarkis, Mardiros.

St. James Armenian Apostolic Church

Cordially invites you and your family to
SATURDAY AFTERNOON WORSHIP SERVICE

Saturday, January 30, 2016

5:00 pm – 5:45 pm (sharp)

No fellowship hour

Service will be conducted entirely in English. Let us enjoy the gift of prayer with other families and our friends and share our worship hour.

12TH ANNUAL POON PAREGENTAN DINNER & DANCE!

KEF THE NIGHT AWAY WITH KEVORK ARTINIAN AND HIS BAND

& SPECTACULAR MAGIC SHOW FOR THE KIDS BY MR. ASH

Saturday, February 6, 2016

6:00PM – Cocktails

7:00PM – Dinner 8:00PM – Dancing 9:00PM – Magic Show

at Monty's Elegant Banquets 703 S York Rd, Bensenville, IL 60106

**ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2016
12:30 PM**

RAVEN THEATRE FOR SYRIAN ARMENIANS

On Thursday, January 28 at 7:15 pm, the Raven Theater in Edgewater, Chicago (6157 N. Clark) will be staging Horton Foote's play **The Old Friends**.

Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased through parish council members, with checks made out to St. James parish, and will be held for you in your name at the Raven box office to be picked up the night of the performance.

There will also be a cover-free cocktail reception from 6:00 to 7:00 at Fritzy's Tavern (6156 N. Clark directly across the street from the Raven), featuring the live musical stylings of Krikor Paylan's jazz band, 'Tiny Miles and the Big Kids.' Parking is limited at the Raven. However, there is free, unzoned parking all over the neighborhood and metered parking right on Clark St. This event is co-sponsored by the following Chicagoland Armenian Churches: Armenian Evangelical Church, St. Gregory, All Saints, St. James, and Sts. Joachim and Anne.

Please note that this play is not appropriate for younger audiences.

ARMENIAN DANCE COMPANY OF CHICAGO

The Armenian Dance Company of Chicago (ADCC) will be hosting a bake sale fundraiser on Sunday, January 24 after Divine Liturgy to raise money to help cover their 2016 operating expenses. They will also be showcasing a few of their latest dances to entertain parishioners during coffee hour. Please come and support the ADCC.

2016 ACYOA JUNIORS W/IL REGIONAL RETREAT

February 12 – 14 at Camp Hickory

Registration deadline in February 5.

*Sponsored and Led by Diocese of the Armenian Church
Dept. of Youth & Young Adult Ministries*

Contact Der Hovhan to receive a registration packet.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Monday - Thursday: No Lections

Friday: Jonah 1:1-4:1

Saturday: Proverbs 3:13-17; Isaiah 41:1-3; Ephesians 6:10-17;
Luke 21:10-19

CALENDAR OF WORSHIP SERVICES & EVENTS AT ST. JAMES

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|------------|---|
| January 17 | Women's Guild Meeting |
| January 24 | ADCC Bake Sale |
| January 28 | Syrian Relief Fundraiser at Raven Theatre |
| January 30 | Evening Worship Service (in English) |
| January 31 | Parish Assembly |
| February 6 | Vespers - <i>Kirakamtits</i> |
| February 6 | Poon Paregentan Dance |
| February 7 | Poon Paregentan Sunday |
| February 8 | Great Lent begins |

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Հովհաննես 6:15-21

15Երբ Յիսուս իմացաւ, որ գալու են իրեն բռնել-տանելու, որպէսզի իրեն թազաւոր անեն, դարձեալ միայնակ դէպի լեռը գնաց: 16Եւ երբ երեկոյ եղաւ, նրա աշակերտները ծովեզերք իջան: 17Եւ նաւակ նստելով՝ գալիս էին դէպի ծովի միւս կողմը՝ դէպի Կափառնայում: Եւ երբ մութն ընկաւ, Յիսուս դեռ իրենց մօտ չէր եկել. 18Եւ ծովը հողմի ուժգին փչելուց փոթորկուում էր: 19Երբ շուրջ քսանհինգ կամ երեսուն ասպարէզ թիավարելուց յետոյ տեսան Յիսուսին, որ քայլում էր ծովի վրայով եւ նաւակին էր մօտեցել, աստիկ վախեցան: 20Եւ նա ասաց նրանց. «Ես եմ. մի՛ վախեցէք: 21Եւ ուզում էին նրան նաւակի մէջ առնել. եւ նաւակը շուտով հասաւ այն տեղը, ուր գնում էին:

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, 17and 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. 18The sea began to be stirred up because a strong wind was blowing. 19Then, 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. 20But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." 21So they were willing to receive Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.