



**ST. JAMES ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH**  
**ՍՐ. ՅԱԿՈԲ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵՍՅՑ ԱՌԱՔԵԼԱԿԱՆ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ**  
Rev. Father Hovhan Khoja-Eynatyan, Pastor  
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JANUARY, 2017

ՅՈՒՆՈՒԱՐ 1, 2017

**ԾՆՈՐՀԱԲՈՐ ՆՈՐ ՏԱՐԻ**

*Happy*  
*New year*  
2017

Armenian Historical Year 4509 (ՏՇԹ) - Armenian Calendrical Year 1466 (ՌՆԿԶ)



<b>Psalms</b>	8:30 AM
<b>Morning Service</b>	9:00 AM
<b>Divine Liturgy</b>	10:00 AM
<b>Bible Readings</b>	Isaiah 51:15-52:3; Hebrews 13:18-25; Luke 22:24-30

**ԿԻՐԱԿԻ, ՅՈՒՆՈՒԱՐ 1, 2017**

<b>Սաղմոսներ</b>	8:30
<b>Առաւօտեան ժամ</b>	9:00
<b>Սուրբ Պատարագ</b>	10:00
<b>Ընթերցումներ</b>	Եսայի 51:15-52:3; Եբրայեցիներուն 13:18-25; Դուկաս 22:24-30

**PRAYER FOR THE CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS  
BLESSING OF POMEGRANATES**

**ՀՈԳԵՀԱՆԳԻՍՏ – HOKEHANKISD - REQUIEM SERVICE**

*Scripture Reading: Gospel of John 12:24-26 (Page 59)*

**For the souls of:****Requested by:**

Oscar Stepanian (5 years)  
Mardiros and Armaveni Stepanian  
Mugurdich Habeshian  
Harry and Yeranoohi Aslanian  
Zarouhi Mugurdechian

**Margaret Stepanian and Family**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK**

Let us remember all those 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**

Alexander Adajian	Karen Gevorgyan	Araxie Movsesian
Shoushan Altun	Vartges Goorji	Anna Marie Norehad
Saro Anbarchian	Hoyle Green	Dn. Hagop Papazian
Andre, Servant of God	Michael Green	Ernest Petrosyan
Patricia Antaramian	Pat Green	Anik Sarkis
Veronica Dadourian	Alice Gregorian	Surpik Simon
Levon Demirdjian	Mary Haidarian	Joseph Summer
Seda Dilanjian	Nargez Hamayak	Sarkis Tashjian
Linda Esposito	Janet Ibrahim	Vigen Ter-Avakian
Lucy Genian	Nona Israyelyan	Milan Thakkar
Jirayr Gerardo	Varvara Movsesyan	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.*

## FEASTS AND FASTS

<b>January 2</b>	Fourth Day of the Fast of Nativity
<b>January 3</b>	Fifth Day of the Fast of Nativity
<b>January 4</b>	Sixth Day of the Fast of Nativity
<b>January 5</b>	Eve of the Theophany and Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
<b>January 6</b>	Feast of the Theophany and Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
<b>January 7</b>	Second Day of the Theophany

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

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2017**

EVE OF THE THEOPHANY AND NATIVITY  
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

*Jrakalouyts* Divine Liturgy 6:30 PM

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2017\***

FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY AND NATIVITY  
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

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

**SUNDAY JANUARY 8, 2017\*\***

THIRD DAY OF THE NATIVITY

Morning Service 9:00 AM  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM  
Christmas Luncheon and Program 12:00 Noon

*Godfather of the Cross- Dr. Gregory Dumanian.*

**\*Please note** For those parishioners whose employers or school administrators require documentation for their absence from school or work on January 6, please ask Der Hayr for the explanatory letter written and signed by Archbishop Khajag Barsamian.

**\*\*Please note** For the convenience of our parishioners, **valet service** will be available on Sunday, **January 8th**. Beginning at 9:30 a.m. professional drivers will be available in front of St. James to park your car at no charge. Drivers will also be available until 1:30 p.m. to retrieve your car. Cars will be parked at the Evanston Parking Garage on Maple Street. We hope this service will help make your trip to St. James easier during the cold and snow.

## NEW YEAR



Presently all Christian denominations celebrate New Year on January 1. The word "January" means "birth." Before Christ's coming to the world, mankind was the captive of hell and was constrained by eternal death. Being born in January, Christ destroyed hell and saved mankind from eternal death and led it to the Kingdom of Heaven. That is why January became the first month of the year. Thus January 1 is the first day of the first month of the year and symbolizes the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is a folk tradition that on January 1 people decorate the New Year tree, which symbolizes the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden.



### BLESSING OF POMEGRANATES

#### The Mysterious Gift

by Arpi Nakashian

“The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good” (Gen 1:12).

Throughout the centuries, the pomegranate has been weaved into Armenian architecture, cuisine, art, manuscripts, literature, liturgical vestments and accessories. For the first time in history in 2015, the Supreme Patriarch of the Armenian Church, His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of all Armenians, together with the Armenian faithful, introduced a new service for the Blessing of Pomegranates, one of the seven biblical species of fruits and grains, at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin.

Christians have seen in the pomegranate an image of the Church: the seeds may be separated by a membrane, but they are undivided. The seeds are in communion, just like us, the faithful of the Church, acting as one body without losing our individuality in the Church; through the blood of Christ, we become greater than the sum of our parts! The striking red color of the fruit reminds us of Christ's blood and suffering, and the calyx (head) of the pomegranate represents Christ's crown as the King of kings.

For the various cultures of the Mediterranean region, the fruit represents life, fertility, and abundance. The pomegranate has numerous health benefits due to its high antioxidant content, and is the subject of research for its effects on

cancer, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes among other conditions. Long before science revealed the healing powers of the pomegranate, the Christian Armenians have associated this biblical fruit with the mystery of the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This mysterious, life giving, and delicious fruit needs to be unwrapped like a gift to reveal its beauty and nutrition. This miraculous and sacred fruit reminds us of the message of the Gospel. When the plain shell of the pomegranate is burst, we see the gems that it contains; similarly, one needs to dig deeply into the Christian faith to uncover its sweet treasures. At the core of that Christian teaching is the figure of Jesus, who in every way was an ordinary mortal human, yet revealed himself to be the incarnate Creator and Savior of the universe.

As we welcome the new year, may each of us reveal like pomegranates the sweet treasure of goodness planted in us by our Lord. May the new year be fruitful and abundantly filled with God's unconditional love.

## 13TH ANNUAL POON PAREGENTAN DINNER & DANCE!

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2017**

at Avalon Banquet Hall  
1905 E Higgins Road, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007  
6:30 – cocktails \* 7:30 – dinner \* 9:00 – dance



Kef the night away with the Karoon Band.  
Take home timeless memories with our photobooth.

Adult Dinner (w/open bar) - \$45 | Children (ages 4-12) - \$20  
Teens (ages 13-20) - \$30 | Children 3 & under – free  
Dance Only (w/open bar) - \$35

Discount Tickets available until **February 5<sup>th</sup>**.  
Price will then increase \$10 for adults & \$5 for teens and children.  
Deadline for dinner tickets is **February 12<sup>th</sup>**.  
No dinner tickets will be sold after the deadline or at the door.

For additional information and tickets contact:  
Christina Markarian 847-826-6275 christina1@lmkinc.com

## HOME BLESSING

One of the traditions of the Armenian Apostolic 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 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 Ն Օ Ր Հ Ն Է Զ

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



### GIFT OF LOVE

Christmas Yughakin. In this Holy Season of Christmas it has become a tradition in our church to donate our Christmas Yughakins as a gift of love in memory or in honor of our loved ones. The Yughakin form and the enclosed Offering Envelope are for your convenience.

Yughakin tradition is an ancient custom, which goes back to the Old Testament times. The faithful would bring oil to the temple of God so that its servants would have enough to eat. Later on this custom entered into the Christian religion when oil was brought to Church by believers in order to illuminate it by lighting the lamps in the Church.

Today, Yughakin is simply the price or the value of oil donated to the Church. Yughakin in Armenian means “price of oil.” In our church, today, we of course do not burn oil in order to illuminate the sanctuary, but we use electricity, gas and other operating expenses. Let us continue the custom of Yughakin to keep the lights of St. James always burning!

### ԻՂԱԳԻՆ

Հայկական բարեպաշտական ավանդույթին մըն է, որով հաւատացեալները հին ատեն իւր կամ դրամ նուիրելով վառ կը պահէին եկեղեցիին կանթեղները եւ կը հոգային այլազան ծախսերը: Իւրագինը կը խորհրդանշէ նաեւ եկեղեցւոյ ԿԵԱՆՔՆ ՈՒ ԱՌԱՔԵԼՈՒԹԻՒՄԸ:

### CALENDAR OF WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS

<b>January 5</b>	<b>Eve of Nativity and Theophany</b>
<b>January 6</b>	<b>Feast of Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ</b>
<b>January 8</b>	Annual St. James Nativity Program and Luncheon
<b>January 15</b>	Welcome back to Sergeant Arsen Sarkisian
<b>January 18</b>	Intercessory prayer service
<b>January 29</b>	Annual Parish Assembly
<b>February 25</b>	<i>Poon Paregentan</i> Dance
<b>February 26</b>	<i>Poon Paregentan</i> Sunday

## GOSPEL READING

### ՂՈՒԿՍՍ 22:24-30

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

### LUKE 22:24-30

**24**Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. **25**Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. **26**But 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. **27**For 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. **28**You are those who have stood by me in my trials. **29**And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, **30**so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.



### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

- Monday:** Hebrew 7:26-8:13; Luke 20:1-8  
**Tuesday:** Hebrews 10:1-18; Luke 20:9-18  
**Wednesday:** Hebrews 12:5-17; Luke 20:41-21:4  
**Saturday:** Mark 1:1-13; Acts 6:8-8:2; John 12:24-26



*Writing above the main altar:*

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