ST. JAMES OF NISIBIS ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC ORTHODOX CHURCH ԱԲ. ՅԱԿՈԲ ՄԾԲՆԱՑԻ ՀԱՅՐԱՊԵՏ

ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ ԱՌԱՔԵԼԱԿԱՆ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

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OQNUSNU 30, 2020

AUGUST 30, 2020



Thurd Sunday after the Assumption.
Feast of the Discovery of the Belt of the Theotokos

Armenian Historical Year 4513 (S&A)-Armenian Calendrical Year 1470 (NV)

Morning Service 9:00 AM Holy Badarak 10:00 AM

Bible Readings Isaiah 9:8-19; 2 Corinthians 1:1-11; Mark 4:35-40

Առաւօտեան ժամ 9:00 Սուրբ Պատարագ 10:00

Ընթերցումներ Եսալի 9:8-19; Բ Կորնթացիներին 1:1-11;

Մարկոս 4:35-40

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Nanci Perkhaus Alexander Adajian Hovle Green Michael Green Saro Anbarchian Sofia Petrosvan Andre, Servant of God Nargez Hamayak Antony Puckett Naringul Caliscan Fred Harburg Virgie Jandegian Carolyn Conger Robert Lapointe Saskowski Veronica Dadourian Cassandra Mitchell Surpik Simon Sam Davidson Vigen Ter-Avakian Varvara Movsesvan Seda Dilanjian Joy Nazarian Milan Thakkar Rick Gergerian **Shirley Omartian** Terre Tuzzolino Vartges Goorji Dn. Hagop Papazian Kary Valenziano 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.

BADARAK PEW BOOKS

Dear Parishioners, as a precasionary measure we have collected the pew books that were previousely used to follow Badarak. We are happy to inform you that the electronic version of the book is available in the KIRAKI-ԿԻՐԱԿԻ mobile app. The app is available for both Apple and Android devices.

Click here to download from Google Play store



Click here to download from Apple App store



FASTING FOR HOLY COMMUNION

The Holy Communion is one of the important sacraments for the salvation of Christians and for the nourishment of our souls. Holy Communion is a sacrament by which the believer receives Christ's Body and Blood in the form of bread and wine for remission of sins and the reception of eternal life. It is offered to the faithful during the celebration of Badarak. For person in good health, it is necessary to fast, abstain from food and participate in the sacrament of Confession before receiving Holy Communion. For those of ill health who are on special medication, a light breakfast is permitted. Fir the evening Badarak, fasting should begin after the midday meal and continue until the evening Badarak has been celebrated.

MAS

MAS (Antidoron) is very thin unleavened bread of wheat, of any reasonable size making it possible to be baked on a metal tray. It can be made by any member of the congregation. It is distributed after the Liturgy to those of the congregation who have not received communion. It is customary to take mas to the members of one's family and to friends, who have been unable to attend the Liturgy. Mas symbolizes the bond of love among the members of the church.

Mas, meaning "a portion", represents the remaining part if the loaf which the faithful used to bring to Church in ancient times to be used as bread for the Eucharist. A fraction (nshkhar) of this loaf was taken to consecration, while the remainder was distributed among the congregation at the end of the Liturgy.

Tiran Abp. Nersoyan, "Divine Liturgy of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church

FEAST OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE BELT OF THE THEOTOKOS

Today, the second Sunday after the Assumption, is the Feast of the Discovery of the Belt of the Theotokos. Because there are no relics of the Holy Mother's earthly body (She was assumed into Heaven), Her personal belongings became articles of devotion. Her belt was the first item to be discovered in Jerusalem in the fifth century, an event that was later honored in the Armenian Church with a feast day. There are eight feast days dedicated to the Holy Mother of God: Her Nativity, Her Presentation to the Temple, the Annunciation, the Conception of Mary, the Purification, the Assumption, the Discovery of Her Belt and the Discovery of Her Glory Box.



COMMEMORATION OF THE PROPHETS EZEKIEL, EZRA AND ZECHARIAH- ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST'S FATHER

Prophecy is one of the most important phenomena of the Old Testament. A *prophet* is a person who has had a close relationship with God, meaning they have "spoken" with God, received a message from God or have been sent by God to an individual or to a nation to transfer His message. The author of prophecies is God. He has transferred His revelation to mankind through the grace of the Holy Spirit. First He inspires the prophets with His ideas, and then, under His influence, the prophet, understanding the true message of God's ideas, transfers them to His people.

The prophet Ezekiel was one of the priests serving in the Temple of Jerusalem. After the King of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, took Jerusalem in 597 B. C., Ezekiel was exiled with other Israelites. Four years later God called Ezekiel to Him in order to make him His prophet. From his place of exile, Ezekiel warns both the Jewish captors and captives of Jerusalem of their evils. After the capture and fall of Jerusalem in 587 B. C., Ezekiel addressed the people, consoling them and giving them hope.

The beginning of the Prophet Ezra's priesthood is considered to be 397 B. C. His most important deed was keeping Israelites back from intermarriage, which often led people to forget God and distorted Jewish national identity. Ezra also collected and classified the rules of Moses.

The prophet Zechariah (Zechariah) is John the Baptist's father and served in the temple of Jerusalem. He and his wife, Elizabeth, who was the sister of St. Anna, our Virgin Mary's mother, had no children for many years. One day, when Zechariah was already an aged man, he was offering a sacrifice in the Temple, and an angel appeared to him and told him that his wife would bear him a son. For doubting the good tidings of the angel, Zechariah was punished. He became unable to speak and remained silent until the day of birth of his son, St. John the Baptist.

Zechariah was mortally stabbed at the holy altar of a cathedral for hiding his son from the soldiers of King Herod.

COMMEMORATION OF STS. JOHN THE BAPTIST AND JOB THE RIGHTEOUS

St. John the Baptist (the Forerunner) is the most prominent person in the Gospels after Jesus Christ as it is he who opens the era of God's Kingdom, that is, the era of Christ's Church. Being a promised son and born in excellent conditions, John spent his youth in isolation and in the presence and virtues of God. At the age of 30, he went to the Jordan Valley to preach and to prepare the people for Christ's Coming. In the very beginning of his mission, he appealed to the people and exhorted them to turn from their sins: "Turn away from your sins, because the Kingdom of heaven is near! ... Do those things that will show that you have turned from sins... The ax is ready to cut down the trees at the roots; every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown in the fire" (Matthew

3:2, 8, 10). In the Gospels he is the man that the Prophet Isaiah is talking about when he says, "Someone is shouting in the desert, "Prepare a road for the Lord; make a straight way for him to travel!" (Matthew 3:3). The peak of John's activity was the baptism of Jesus and declaring him to be the promised Messiah. After John's realized his mission was also to baptize King Herod, the ruler of Galilee imprisoned John the Baptist for reprimanding him for marrying to Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, and then beheaded him.

Job lived in the land of Uz surrounding the Dead Sea. He "worshipped God and was faithful to him. He was a good man, careful no to do anything evil" (Job 1:1). Job had seven sons and three daughters; he was rich and had a large number of servants. However, wealth had not spoil him.

By the will of God, Job was subjected to various forms of suffering, including the loss of his property and his children. He was also afflicted with leprosy. Nevertheless, he did not sin against God, and in response to his wife's complaints said: "When God sends us something good, we welcome it. How can we complain when he sends us troubles?" (Job 2:10). Facing all this suffering, in the end Job was restored to his former wealth with even greater prosperity.

Job's life teaches us two important and true things: firstly, that the spirit of evil, Satan, always stands in the roots of the evil, and secondly, that suffering contributes to people becoming better people.

FEAST AND FASTS

- August 31 Commemoration of Saints Stephen of Oulnia and the Martyrs Goharinos, Zamidus, Tuchicus and Raticus
- **September 1** Commemoration of Holy Prophets Ezekiel, Ezra and Zachariah the Father of John the Baptist
- **September 2** Fast Day
- September 3 Commemoration of Saints John the Forerunner (Baptist) and Job
- the Righteous **September 4** Fast Day
- **September 5** Commemoration of the 318 Fathers of the Holy Ecumenical

Council of Nicea (325A.D.)

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: Stepanos, Stepan, Stephan, Steve, Goharine, Kohar (August 31), Ezra, Ezras, Zachariah, Zachary, Zach, Zakar (September 1), John, Hovhaness, Hovhan, Ohan, Garabed (September 3).

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Եսայու մարգարեությունը 9.8-19

8 Տէրը Յակոբի տան վրայ մահ արձակեց, բայց այն եկաւ հասաւ Իսրայէլի վրայ։ 9 Թող Եփրեմի ողջ ժողովուրդը եւ Մամարիայում ապրողներն իմանան, որ հպարտութեամբ եւ ամբարտաւան սրտով խօսեցին՝ ասելով. 10 «Աղիւսները թափուեցին, բայց եկէք քար տաշենք, մայրիներ ու եղեւնու ծառեր կտրենք եւ մեզ համար աշտարակ կառուցենք»։ 11 Աստուած պիտի կործանի Սիոնի լեռան վրայ բարձրացածներին եւ ցիրուցան պիտի անի Յուդայի թշնամիներին. 12 արեւելքից՝ ասորեստանցիներին եւ արեւմուտքից՝ լոյներին, որոնք լիաբերան կերան Իսրայէլին։ Այնուամենայնիւ, նրա բարկութիւնը տեղի չտուեց, տակաւին նրա ձեռքը բարձրացած է։ 13 Ժողովուրդն էլ դարձի չեկաւ, մինչեւ չենթարկուեց հարուածի։ Չօրութիւնների Տիրոջը փնտրող չեղաւ։ 14 Եւ Տէրը մէկ օրում վերացրեց Իսրայէլի գլուխն ու պոչը, մեծին ու փոքրին։ 15 Ծերն ու ականաւորը գլուխն են, իսկ մարգարէն, որ անօրինութիւն էր ուսուցանում, պոչն է։ 16 Եւ պիտի այնպէս լինի, որ երանի պիտի տան այս ժողովրդին, բայց մոլորեալները պիտի մոլորեցնեն նրան, որպէսզի կուլ տան։ 17 Դրա համար էլ Տէրը բարեհաձ չի լինելու նրանց երիտասարդների հանդէպ, նրանց որբերին ու այրիներին չի գթալու, որովհետեւ նրանք ամէնքն էլ անօրէն են ու չար, ամէն բերան անարդարութիւն է խօսում։ Այս ամէնի հետեւանքով Տիրոջ զայրոյթը չի իջել, տակաւին նրա ձեռքը մնում է բարձրացած։ 18 Անօրինութիւնը պիտի վառուի ինչպէս կրակ, չորացած սիզախոտի պէս պիտի այրուի կրակից, պիտի վառուի մայրիների անտառում, որոնց շուրջը, բոլոր բլուրների վրայ, հուրը պիտի ձարակի նրանց։ 19 Տիրոջ զայրոյթի ու բարկութեան հետեւանքով համայն երկիրը կրակի պիտի մատնուի, եւ ժողովուրդն էլ հրով կիզուածի պէս պիտի լինի։

Պողոս առաքյալի Բ թուղթը կորնթացիներին 1:1-11

1 Պօղոսը՝ Յիսուս Քրիստոսի առաքեալը Աստծոյ կամքով, եւ Տիմոթէոս եղբայրը՝ Կորնթոսում գտնուող Աստծոյ եկեղեցուն, Աքայիայի բոլոր կողմերում եղող բոլոր սրբերով հանդերձ. 2 շնո՛րհ ընդ ձեզ եւ խաղաղութի՛ւն մեր Հայր Աստծուց եւ Տէր Յիսուս Քրիստոսից։ 3 Օրհնեալ է Աստուած եւ Հայրը մեր Տէր Յիսուս Քրիստոսի, Հայրը գթութիւնների եւ Աստուած ամենայն մխիթարութեան, 4 որ մխիթարում է մեզ մեր բոլոր նեղութիւնների մէջ, որպէսզի մենք էլ կարող լինենք մխիթարելու նրանց, ովքեր ամէն տեսակ նեղութիւնների մէջ են, այն մխիթարութեամբ, որով մենք ենք մխիթարւում Աստծուց. 5 որովհետեւ

ինչքան որ շատ բաժնեկից լինենք Քրիստոսի չարչարանքներին, նոյնքան եւ Քրիստոսի միջոցով մեր մխիթարութիւնն էլ առաւել կլինի. 6 քանզի եթէ նեղութիւն ենք կրում, այդ ձեր մխիթարութեան եւ փրկութեան համար է։ Եւ եթէ մխիթարւում ենք, դա ձեր այն մխիթարութեան համար է, որ համբերութեամբ կրել է տայիս այն չարչարանքները, որոնցով եւ մենք ենք չարչարւում։ 7 Եւ ձեր հանդէպ մեր լոլսը հաստատուն է, քանզի գիտենք, որ մասնակից էք ինչպէս չարչարանքներին, այնպէս էլ մխիթարութեանը. 8 որովհետեւ, եղբայրնե՛ր, ուզում եմ, որ դուք գիտենաք Ասիայում մեզ պատահած այն նեղութեան մասին, որը մեր կարողութիւնից աւելի ծանր տարանք՝ մինչեւ իսկ կեանքից մեր յոյսր կտրելու աստիձան. 9 եւ մենք մեր անձի վրայ իսկ կրեցինք մահուան վձիոր, որպէսզի մենք չապաւինենք մեզ, ալլ՝ Աստծուն, որ լարութիւն է տալիս մեռելներին, 10 որ ալդպիսի մահուանից փրկեց մեզ եւ կփրկի. 11 քանզի լոլս ունենք, որ դեռ պիտի փրկի՝ մեզ համար ձեր արած աղօթքների օգնութեամբ, որպէսզի շատերը, այդ աղօթքների միջոցով առատօրէն մեզ տրուած շնորհները տեսնելով, գոհութիւն տան Աստծուն մեզ համար։

Ավետարան ըստ Մարկոսի 4.35-41

35Այդ նոյն օրը, երեկոյեան դէմ, աշակերտներին ասաց. «Եկէք անցնենք ծովի միւս կողմը»։ 36Թողնելով ժողովրդին՝ նրան իրենց հետ տարան նաւակով, ինչպէս նաեւ՝ միւս նաւակները, որ նրա հետ էին։ 37Եւ մեծ մրրիկ բարձրացաւ ու ալիքները նաւակի մէջ էր թափում, այնպէս որ նաւակը գրեթէ լցւում էր։ 38Իսկ ինքը նաւակելի կողմը բարձի վրայ ննջում էր. նրան արթնացրին եւ ասացին. "Վարդապե՛տ, քեզ համար բնաւ հոգ չէ՞, որ ահա մենք կորչում ենք"։ 39Եւ նա արթնանալով սաստեց հողմին եւ ասաց ծովին. "Դադարի՛ր, լռի՛ր"։ Եւ հողմը դադարեց, ու մեծ խաղաղութիւն եղաւ։ 40Եւ նրանց ասաց. "Ինչո՞ւ այդպէս վախկոտ էք. դեռեւս հաւատ չունէ՞ք"։ 41Եւ նրանք սաստիկ վախեցան եւ միմեանց ասում էին. "Ո՞վ է արդեօք սա, որ թէ՛ հողմը, թէ՛ ծովը հնազանդւում են սրան"։

Isaiah 9:8-19

8The Lord sends a message against Jacob, And it falls on Israel.

9And all the people know it, That is, Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria,

Asserting in pride and in arrogance of heart:

<u>10</u>"The bricks have fallen down, But we will rebuild with smooth stones; The sycamores have been cut down, But we will replace them with cedars."

11 Therefore the LORD raises against them adversaries from Rezin

And spurs their enemies on,

12The Arameans on the east and the Philistines on the west;

And they devour Israel with gaping jaws.

In spite of all this, His anger does not turn away And His hand is still stretched out.

13Yet the people do not turn back to Him who struck them, Nor do they seek the LORD of hosts.

14So the LORD cuts off head and tail from Israel,

Both palm branch and bulrush in a single day.

15The head is the elder and honorable man,

And the prophet who teaches falsehood is the tail.

16For those who guide this people are leading them astray;

And those who are guided by them are brought to confusion.

17 Therefore the Lord does not take pleasure in their young men,

Nor does He have pity on their orphans or their widows;

For every one of them is godless and an evildoer,

And every mouth is speaking foolishness.

In spite of all this, His anger does not turn away

And His hand is still stretched out.

18 For wickedness burns like a fire; It consumes briars and thorns;

It even sets the thickets of the forest aflame

And they roll upward in a column of smoke.

19By the fury of the LORD of hosts the land is burned up,

And the people are like fuel for the fire; No man spares his brother.

St. Paul's Second Epistle to the Corinthians 1:1-11

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia: 2 Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; 4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. 5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. 6 And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. 7 And our hope of you is stedfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation. 8 For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: 9 But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: 10 Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us; 11 Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.

Mark 4:35-40

35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." 36 And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. 37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. 38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" 39 And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. 40 He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?"

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Monday Proverbs 10:1-7; Isaiah 44:24-26; Hebrews 4:11-15;

Mathew 5:1-12

Tuesday: Ezekiel 18:30-32; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10; Mathew 23:34-39

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 15:58-16:11; Mark 4:10-20

Thursday Proverbs 20:6-22; Job 42:12-17; Lamentation 3:22-56;

Acts 13:25-33; James 5:7-11; Mathew 14:1-12

Friday: 2 Corinthians 5:6-18; Mark 7:24-30

Saturday: Ezekiel 44:23-24; Hebrews 12:1-7; John 4:25-31

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St James Armenian Church

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FROM FR. HOVHAN

REGARDING HOME VISITATIONS

It is the fifth month of our "new reality" when out of love for one other we do not come together in large groups to celebrate Badarak, worship during the week, celebrate important milestones and achievements in our lives or simply enjoy each other's presence in the daily communion of love. For clergy, visiting congregants is the fulfillment of our commitment to serve God's people, and it is with a heavy heart that I continue to avoid contact with you, including comforting the sick in hospitals or at home. And although in early July we restored church services and sacraments for inperson participation following proper COVID protocols, we continue to livestream the majority of our worship services since many of you continue to avoid public spaces.

I cannot tell you how much it sorrows me that my contact with you remains limited to phone calls, but I would like to offer two ways we can reconnect in person:

- 1. As long as it continues to be warm, I would love to stop by and spend a few minutes with you outside--on your sidewalk, in your backyard, on your porch. We can even take a walk in the park! Of course, we will wear masks and socially distance.
- 2. I can also visit you virtually via Zoom, Facebook or other means of teleconference.

If either of these two ways work for you and your family, please call or email me and we can work out the details.

REGARDING HOME BLESSINGS

In the spirit of the tradition of the Blessing of the Grapes and given the fact that I cannot perform a traditional home blessing, I would love to perform the Blessing of the Gardens (or vineyards if you have one) at your homes. Please contact me to schedule a visit.

UPCOMING FEASTS AND WORSHIP SERVICES

Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 8:00 pm Prayer for the Healing Saturday, September 5, 2020 at 5:00 pm Vespers- Kirakamdeest

Sunday, Septemer 13, 2020 Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

STEEPLE REPAIR PROJECT

Dear Parishioners.

Our spiritual home is in dire need of your help. St. James has stood watch over the Armenian Community since 1944. The building has stood as a testament to God since 1896 and has deteriorated to the point that urgent repairs are required. The brick facade of the steeple is separating from the wall; the mortar has crumbled and the windows are leaking into the vestibule of the hurch. Significant work is required to restore the structural integrity of the front of the building within and under the steeple.

These repairs need to be under way as soon as possible. Our community has always been protected by the shadow of the Holy Church. This is OUR opportunity to meet the church in her moment of need as she has been there for every one of our life events.

You can donate toward this project by any of these methods:

- 1) Check, via the envelope mailed to your home
- 2) Cash, in person at the church any Sunday
- 3) Via our website www.stjamesevanston.org
- 4) Via Paypal www.paypal.me/stjamesvirtualfest20

ST. JAMES CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS

Over the past few years we have developed different ways of communicating with our parishioners. In addition to regular mailings of announcements, flyers, and letters we email the electronic version of our Sunday bulletin, as well as send Calling Post messages via telephone.

If you wish to be added to the mailing, emailing or Calling Post list of any of these services, please provide our office with your current contact information.

MEMBERSHIP

Many parishioners have told us that they would appreciate reminders about membership dues. So, this is our first reminder of the year! Please take a look at your checkbook or other records. If you have not yet submitted your membership dues for 2020, now is a great time to send in your 2020 St. James membership dues. Annual membership dues are \$125 per person; \$100 per person over 65; \$30 for students.

There are two easy ways to submit your membership dues. The first way is by check, made out to St. James Armenian Church.

It's also easy to send your membership dues or steeple contribution via St. James website www.stjamesevanston.org

Thank you for helping our church to keep its memberships rolls up to date!

DOWNLOAD ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH APP DESEELK

DESEELK connects users to a variety of helpful resources: details about upcoming events, the latest posts on St. James' Facebook page, photo galleries and other relevant content. You can share the link to the app via Twitter, Facebook or email.

DESEELK is the quickest, simplest and most convenient way to stay current with the goings on at St. James. Download the app today!!!

St. James official mobile app, DESEELK, is now available for both Adroid and Apple users.

Android users can download the app from Google Play store.

Apple users scan the code below.

Contact church office if you have any questions or need assistance.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please consider donating flowers to adorn the Holy Altar. You may either bring flowers or make a monetary donation towards the purchase.

ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL 2020

Chairman: Robert Simon Vice Chair: Lisa Esavian Sedrak Pashyan Treasurer Assistant Treasurer: Vartan Pavlan Secretary:

pashyan s@hotmail.com vartanp@gmail.com nhagopian@dist113.org Nairy Hagopian

Assistant Secretary: Anoushik Anna Zakarian Council Member:

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Ohannes Korogluyan

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS BULLETIN

St. James Church is committed to Creation care. Please recycle this bulletin by taking it with you and use the information throughout the week or leave it at the back of the sanctuary. You can also deposit it in the recycling receptacle in the Nishan Hall as you leave. Thank you!

Writing above altar:

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