

ST. JAMES OF NISIBIS ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

ՍԲ. ՅԱԿՈԲ ՄՕԲԼԱՅԻ ՀԱՅՐԱՊԵՏ

ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ ԱՌԱՔԵԼԱԿԱՆ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

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ԴԵԿՏԵՄԲԵՐ 20, 2020

December 20, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Advent

Ե Կիրակի Յիսնակաց



SAINTS COSMAS AND DAMIAN

Armenian Historical Year 4513 (ՏՇԺԳ)-Armenian Calendrical Year 1470 (ՌՆՀ)

Morning Service 9:00 AM

Holy Badarak 10:00 AM

Bible Readings Isaiah 40:18-31; Hebrews 4:16-5:10; Luke 18:9-14

ԿԻՐԱԿԻ, ԴԵԿՏԵՄԲԵՐ 20, 2020

Առաւօտեան ժամ 9:00

Սուրբ Պատարագ 10:00

Ընթերցումներ Եսայի 40:18-31; Եբրայեցիներուն 4:16-5:10;
Ղուկաս 18:9-14**ՀՈԳԵՀԱՆԳԻՍ – HOKEHANKISD - REQUIEM SERVICE***Scripture Reading: John 12:24-26 (page 59)***For the souls of:**

Archbishop Sebouh Chouldjian

Martyrs who perished in the war against the unjust enemy
in Artsakh and in Armenia**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK**Alexander Adajian
Saro Anbarchian
Andre, Servant of God
Naringul Caliscan
Carolyn Conger
Veronica Dadourian
Sam Davidson
Seda Dilanjan
Linda Farsakian Wall
Rick Gergerian
Vartges Goorji
Hoyle GreenMichael Green
Nargez Hamayak
Fred Harburg
Leo Harootyan
Robert Lapointe
Melina Loloyan
Pat McCoy
Cassandra Mitchell
Varvara Movsesyan
Joy Nazarian
Shirley OmartianDn. Hagop Papazian
Nanci Perkhaus
Sofia Petrosyan
Antony Puckett
Virgie Jandegian Saskowski
Surpik Simon
Vigen Ter-Avakian
Milan Thakkar
Terre Tuzzolino
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.*

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 of 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"*

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. For the evening Badarak, fasting should begin after the midday meal and continue until the evening Badarak has been celebrated.

BADARAK PEW BOOKS

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

Android users can download the app from Google Play store.



Apple users scan the code below.



DESILK 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.

FEASTS AND FASTS

FEASTS AND FASTS

Monday, December 21

Commemoration of Saints Abraham and Khoren, Moneyless Physicians Cosmos and Damian

Tuesday, December 22

Commemoration of Saint Theodoron the Martyr

Wednesday, December 23

Fast Day

Thursday, December 24

Commemoration of the Prophet St. David and Apostle St. James, brother of Jesus

Friday, December 25

Fast Day

Saturday, December 26

Commemoration of St. Stephen the Protodeacon and Protomartyr

SAINTS ABRAHAM AND KHOREN (CLERGY)

Two of the Leonite (Ghevontyants) clergy who subsequent to the Battle of Avarayr were martyred by the Persians in the 5th Century.

SAINTS COSMOS AND DAMIAN, THE PENNILESS PHYSICIANS

Theodosia, the mother of these saints was a very pious woman whom the Greeks inscribe in their calendar. Despite having been widowed she raised and educated her five children with great care. Two of the youngest, Cosmas and Damian, became doctors. The mother taught them in the true way that, "since you receive freely, you shall give freely." They went forth and healed and drove out evil spirits and they restored good health and proclaimed the Gospel. They were arrested as Christians and subjected to severe tortures finally being martyred through decapitation in 285 A.D. during the early reign of Emperor Diocletian.

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: *Abraham, Khoren, Damian (December 21), David, James, Hagop, Jack (December 24), Stepanos, Stephen, Steven (December 26).*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Եսայու մարգարեությունը 40:18-31

18 Արդ, ո՞ւմ նմանեցրիք Տիրոջը, ո՞ւմ նման համարեցիք նրան: 19 Մի՞թե կուռք է նա, որին կերտել է արուեստաւորը, եւ կամ ոսկերիչը, ձուլելով ոսկին, պատել է նրան ոսկով՝ պատկերի նմանութիւն ու կերպարանք տալով նրան: 20 Հիւսնն էլ անփտելի փայտն է ընտրել եւ խելք ու հնարքի դիմել, թէ ինչպէս կանգնեցնի այն, որ չշարժուի: 21 Մի՞թե չլսեցիք ու չիմացաք, ի սկզբանէ ձեզ չպատմուե՞ց, չհասկացա՞ք, թէ ով հաստատեց երկրի հիմքերը: 22 Նա է, որ նստած է երկրի շրջածիրից վերեւ, եւ բնակիչները նրան մոռեխի չափ են երեւում: Նա է կանգնեցրել երկինքն ինչպէս կամար, ձգել ինչպէս վարագոյր եւ հիմնել երկիրը նրա մէջ բնակուելու համար: 23 Նա է, որ իշխաններին անիշխանութեան է դատապարտում եւ երկիրն ամայացնում, 24 որպէսզի չսերմանեն ու տունկեր չտնկեն, եւ նրանց արմատը հողի մէջ չհաստատուի: Նա կփչի նրանց վրայ, եւ կչորանան, ու փոթորիկը խռիւի նման կքշի դրանք: 25 «Արդ, ո՞ւմ կուզենայիք նմանեցնել ինձ, որին զուգահաւասար լինէի», – ասում է Իսրայելի Սուրբը: 26 Աչքներդ դէպի երկի՛նք բարձրացրէք եւ տեսէ՛ք՝ ո՞վ հաստատեց այս ամէնը, ո՞վ ստեղծեց նրա համակարգութիւնը՝ մեծ փառքով եւ անհնարին ուժով ամէն ինչի տալով իր անունը. ոչ մի բան ծածուկ չի մնում նրանից: 27 Մի՛ ասայ, Յակո՛բ, կամ՝ ի՞նչ ես խօսում, Իսրայէ՛լ, թէ՛ «Իմ ճանապարհները գաղտնի մնացին Աստծուց, եւ իմ Աստուածը վերացրեց իմ իրաւունքներն ու հեռացաւ»: 28 Արդ, չիմացա՞ր, չլսեցի՞ր, որ յաւիտենական Աստուածը, երկրի սահմանները հաստատող Աստուածը ո՛չ քաղց է զգում եւ ո՛չ էլ յոգնում, նրա իմաստութիւնն անքննելի է: 29 Նա քաղցածներին ուժ է տալիս, բայց ցաւ չունեցողներին էլ՝ տրտմութիւն: 30 Երիտասարդները քաղց պիտի զգան, մանուկները պիտի յոգնեն, քաջընտիր մարդիկ անզօր պիտի դառնան, 31 իսկ նրանք, որոնք Տիրոջն են ապաւինում, նոր ուժ պիտի ստանան եւ նոր փետուրներով զարդարուեն ինչպէս արծիւներ, պիտի վազեն, բայց չպիտի յոգնեն, պիտի գնան, բայց քաղց չպիտի զգան:

Եբրայեցիներուն 4:16-5:10

16Ուրեմն համարձակութեամբ մօտենանք շնորհքի՝ գահին, որպէսզի ողորմութիւն ստանանք եւ շնորհք գտնենք՝ պատեհատեն օգնելու մեզի: 1Արդարեւ, մարդոց մէջէն առնուած ամէն քահանայապետ՝ նշանակուած է մարդոց համար, որպէսզի Աստուծոյ մատուցանէ ընծաներ ու մեղքերու համար զոհեր: 2Ան կրնայ հասկացող ըլլալ անոնց՝ որ անգէտ եւ մոլորեալ են, որովհետեւ ինք ալ համակուած է տկարութեամբ. 3եւ այս պատճառով պարտաւոր է մեղքի պատարագ մատուցանել ինչպէս ժողովուրդին համար, նոյնպէս ալ իրեն համար: 4Ո՛չ մէկը ինքնիրեն կ'առնէ այս պատիւը, հապա միայն ան՝ որ կանչուած է Աստուծմէ, ինչպէս Ահարոն: 5Նոյնպէս ալ ո՛չ թէ Քրիստոս փառաւորեց ինքզինք՝ քահանայապետ ըլլալու համար, հապա ան՝ որ ըսաւ իրեն. «Դուն իմ Որդիս ես, այսօր ծնայ քեզ»: 6Ինչպէս ուրիշ տեղ մըն ալ կ'ըսէ. «Դուն յաւիտեան քահանայ ես՝ Մելքիսեդեկի կարգին համեմատ»: 7Ան՝ իր մարմինին օրերը, սաստիկ գոչիւնով եւ արցունքով, աղերսանք ու պաղատանք մատուցանեց անոր՝ որ կարող էր մահէն փրկել զինք. եւ ընդունուեցաւ՝ իր բարեպաշտութեան պատճառով: 8Թպէտ ինք Որդի էր, հնազանդութիւն տրվեցաւ իր չարչարանքներէն. 9ու երբ կատարեալ եղաւ, յաւիտեանական փրկութիւն պատճառեց բոլոր իրեն հնազանդողներուն, 10եւ Աստուծմէ յորջորջուեցաւ՝ Քահանայապետ Մելքիսեդեկի կարգին համեմատ:

Ղուկաս 18:9:14

9Սա՛ առակն ալ ըսաւ ոմանց, որոնք իրենք իրենց վրայ կը վստահէին թէ արդար են, եւ կանարգէին ուրիշները. 10«Երկու մարդ տաճարը բարձրացաւ աղօթելու, մէկը՝ Փարիսեցի, ու միւսը՝ մաքսաւոր: 11Փարիսեցին կայնած էր եւ սա՛ պէս կ'աղօթէր ինքնիրեն. «Ո՛վ Աստուած, շնորհակալ եմ քեզմէ՝ որ ուրիշ մարդոց պէս չեմ, յափշտակող, անիրաւ, շնացող, կամ ալ այս մաքսաւորին պէս. 12հապա շաբաթը երկու անգամ ծով կը պահեմ, եւ ամբողջ եկամուտիս տասանորդը կու տամ»: 13Իսկ մաքսաւորը հեռուն կայնած էր, ու չէր ուզեր աչքն ալ բարձրացնել երկինք, հապա՝ ծեծելով իր կուրծքը՝ կ'ըսէր. «Աստուած, ներէ՛ ինծի՝ մեղաւորիս»: 14Կը յայտարարեմ ձեզի թէ ասիկա այն միւսէն աւելի արդարացած իջաւ իր տունը.

որովհետեւ ո՛վ որ կը բարձրացնէ ինքզինք՝ պիտի խոնարհի, իսկ ո՛վ որ կը խոնարհեցնէ ինքզինք՝ պիտի բարձրանայ»:

Isaiah 40:18-31

To whom then will you liken god, or what likeness compare with you? The idol! a workman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold, and casts for it silver chains. He who is impoverished chooses for an offering wood that will not rot; he seeks out a skilful craftsman to set up an image that will not move.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; who brings princes to nought, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hid from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God?” Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary, his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Hebrews 4:16-5:10

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him.

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you;” as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered us prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his godly fear. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and being made perfect he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Luke 18:9-14

He also told his parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others: “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

- Monday:** Wisdom 5:15-17; Lamentation 3:22-56;
2 Timothy 3:10-15; Luke 12:32-40
- Tuesday:** Proverbs 10:1-6; Isaiah 56.3-7;
2 Timothy 2.3-10; Matthew 10:16-22
- Wednesday:** Hebrews 5:11-6:8; Luke 18:18-27
- Thursday:** 2 Samuel 5:1-10; 1 Kings 2:1-11; Ezekiel 34:23-27;
James 1:1-12; Matthew 22:41-46
- Friday:** Hebrews 6:9-7:10; Luke 19:1-10
- Saturday:** Acts 6:8-8:2; John 12:24-26

MAKING DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Stewardship, whether it takes the form of time, talent or treasure, is at the center of church life. It's the inherent selflessness involved in being a steward that allows a parish to grow and flourish. It's what ensures that the faithful can keep their oil lamps burning and their community healthy and vibrant.

For those who have already become 2019 stewards, we thank you again for your support. Through your generosity, St. James is on its way to meeting its 2019 stewardship goal. For those still considering stewardship, we encourage you to become part of this growing family of donors. No pledge is too small and can be divided into smaller donations throughout the year.

And if you have already pledged, please remember to honor your pledge before the end of the year. Should you have any questions, please contact [Der Hovhan](#) or any Parish Council member.

ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL
Academic Year 2020-2021

EVERY SUNDAY

All ages are welcome!

Classes are being offered via zoom and outdoors.

Sunday, December 27, 2020

**FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN,
THE PROTODEACON AND THE FIRST MARTYR**

Divine Liturgy begins at 10:00 am

Deacons and stole-bearers' dedication service

Prayer of intercession

Veneration of the relics of St. Stephen the Protomartyr

SCHEDULE OF NEW YEAR AND NATIVITY SERVICES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Pontifical Prayer and

12:00 noon

Blessing of Pomegranates

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021

EVE OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

Candlelight Badarak

6:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021

**FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY AND NATIVITY
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

Morning Service

9:00 AM

Holy Badarak

10:00 AM

Blessing of Water



FROM FR. HOVHAN

FAMILY BLESSING

One of the holy traditions of the Armenian 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 the disciples. When it was evening on that 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). During the apostolic times, the twelve apostles of Jesus visited the homes of the faithful to bless them and to spread the good news of Christ's birth and His Resurrection. Likewise their followers - priests and bishops, entered the homes of the faithful on the occasions of Christmas (Theophany) and Easter (Holy Resurrection) to tell the good news of our Lord's Nativity and to bless them and their homes through a special Service.

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, its inhabitants, and the children in good health, so that they live a devout life, glorify the name of Almighty God and heighten the Holy Church.

Since March, I have not been able to conduct home blessings because of the pandemic. During the warm days of summer and fall, however, I was able to make a few porch and backyard visits and conduct *Antasdan* (blessing of the fields) in your gardens. The weather does not allow me to continue doing this, and the numbers in our area continue to make it inadvisable to enter your homes at least for the immediate future.

But all is not lost: I invite you to schedule a time for your family to visit St. James during the week or over the weekend to receive the blessings of the church. During your brief visit, I will conduct a family blessing service and bless a piece of bread and a small container of salt that you can take back home along with a candle. This way we can keep up our tradition of seasonal home/family blessings in a safe manner.

Please contact me directly to arrange your visit. If you decide to come, please keep in mind that based on current regulations, everyone entering church must wear a mask (unless a child is under two years old), sanitize their hands and maintain six-foot social distancing. I will schedule only one family at a time, and the section of the sanctuary we will be using will be disinfected after each visit.



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

STAINED GLASS WINDOW RESTORATION PROJECT

St. James Armenian Church is in the process of restoring all the stained glass windows due to various issues; including individual stained glass pieces falling out, rotted exterior window wood, and glass pieces that are broken or were previously replaced with mismatched pieces. These windows are original to the church.

The Parish Council and Building Committee chose Arttig, LTD to be the contractor for this project. Arttig, LTD has completed other projects in the Armenian community including designing and constructing church stained glass windows and wood carved front doors.

We encourage as many parishioners as possible to participate, at any level your family wishes, so that you, your family and the entire parish can share in the legacy of this historic project.

We welcome as many families and parishioners as possible to donate towards two altar windows, which have the highest restoration costs. Each parishioner or family donating towards the altar windows will be recognized on a large group plaque. The designations for the donor levels are: Cherub (\$1,000 to \$3,999); Archangel (\$500 to \$999); Angel (\$1 to \$499).

We thank all of those that have donated and we thank you in advance for your future donations. If you have any questions, please call the church office at (847) 864-6263.

MEMBERSHIP

Many parishioners have told us that they would appreciate reminders about membership dues. So, this is our second 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!

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	bcsimon@wowway.com
Vice Chair:	Lisa Esayan	lesayan@kirkland.com
Treasurer:	Sedrak Pashyan	pashyan_s@hotmail.com
Assistant Treasurer:	Vartan Paylan	vartanp@gmail.com
Secretary:	Nairy Hagopian	nhagopian@dist113.org
Assistant Secretary:	Anoushik Anna Zakarian	anna@annaz1.com
Council Member:	Ohannes Korogluyan	ohannes@aol.com

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)