

Altar Flowers

Are donated by Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Nigro in memory of their son Alfred Nigro.

Hokehankisd (Requiem Service)

The Armenian Church instructs the faithful not to forget their loved ones who are fallen asleep in Christ. The Scripture says, "*The memory of the righteous will be a blessing*" (Proverbs 10:7) Hokehankisd is held at the end of Badarak, during which special prayers are said on behalf of the souls who are fallen asleep in Christ Jesus. The church advises us to request Hokehankisd **seven** and **forty days** after a person is deceased and thereafter annually. Please contact a board member or call church office.

MEMORIAL PLAQUES

If you would like to have the name(s) of your loved one(s) engraved on a brass plaque to be displayed on our Memorial Board in the foyer,
Please call the Church office at 508-234-3677 or speak with a Board member.

Ladies Guild

The next Ladies Guild meeting will be on May 6th, 9:00 am in the Church Hall.

If you and your family would like to host the Sunday Fellowship following Church Services, please call the Church Office at [508-234-3677](tel:508-234-3677) or sign up on the board downstairs to reserve a specific Sunday in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion or Just Because.....

Clothing Drive

Friends of Peace of Bread is holding a clothing drive during the UPCW yard sale on April 29th. 51 Cottage St, Whitinsville, MA We are looking for good, sellable clothing, accessories (belts, scarves hats etc.), shoes, linens, small household items and books. We will have pickup trucks parked alongside the church during the yard sale so all you have to do is place your items in the truck. If you can't make it to the yard sale please call the church office at 508-234-8220 to set up a drop-off time. You can go to <https://fundrive.savers.com/e/friendsofpeaceofbreadclothingdrive> to get more information or to make a pledge of bags.

We are shooting for 600 bags so we can raise \$1500. We appreciate your help!

Chef of the Month

A Chef of the Month dinner will be held on Saturday April 29th at 5:00 P.M. here in the Church hall. Come and enjoy a delicious Chicken Kebab dinner, prepared by Gerry & Kathy Gonynor; fellowship and fun! Donation of \$12.00 per person; children under 10 are Free. ~ See Flyer for more information.
Please see a board member for tickets or call church office at 508-234-3677.

NAC Food Pantry

Please bring non-perishable, unexpired food items, your donations will help serve our neighbors in need within our community. Thank you--God Bless you!

SOORP ASDVADZADZIN ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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SUNDAY BULLETIN

April 23, 2017

What's Your Promise?

Celebrant Rev. Fr. Mikael Der Kosroffian

EPISTLE: James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

The order of the Readings for this week is as follows:

- TODAY:** Acts 5:34-6:7; Jas 3:1-12; Jn 1:1-17
- Monday:** Acts 6:8-7:29; Jas 3:13-4:6; Jn 1:18-28
- Tuesday:** Acts 7:30-8:2; Jas 4:7-17; Jn 1:29-34
- Wednesday:** Acts 8:3-13; Jas 5:1-11; Jn 1:35-42
- Thursday:** Acts 8:14-25; Jas 5:12-20; Jn 1:43-51
- Friday:** Acts 8:26-40; 1Pt 1:1-12; Jn 2:1-11
- Saturday:** Acts 9:1-22; 1 Pt 1:13-25; Jn 2:12-22

We Welcome Visitors and Hope You Enjoy Worshipping With Us. Please sign the *Guest Book* in the foyer. If there is anything we can do for you, please let us know or fill in the welcome cards that are in the pew racks in front of you and leave in the office or foyer.

HOW TO FOLLOW THE LITURGY

We have Liturgy Books in the pew racks, take one and follow the pages illuminated on the wall. This way the Liturgy will become more meaningful to you.

Blessing of Homes

Der Hayr has resumed the blessing of Home Service, if you would like to have your home blessed, please see or contact Der Mikael at 774-462-8041 or email.

Do you want to have God pleasing faith? You cannot unless *you give time* to study the Bible, because “.... **Faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.**” ~ Romans 10:17

What's Your Promise?

Tomorrow is April 24th, events have been taking place everywhere commemorating the 102nd Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, and we commemorate not with hate but with hope because we are a hopeful people and we can rejoice in our rebirth.

“The Promise” is now playing, I'm sure there are many opinions and of course I have mine – a very well made movie and if you haven't seen it yet, please go and see it. Take a friend or two, especially if they're not Armenian. It's amazing how a great and educated country such as the United States knows so little about history.

What's sad though, is hearing Armenian's themselves make comments like “*I'm not that interested in April 24.*” Maybe their tired of hearing the same thing each year, maybe they are discouraged that the genocide may never be recognized by the United States. There could be many reasons but the worst reason would be to say, “*I just don't care*”.

William Saroyan wrote, “*This is a thing you remember and remember. The remembrance is full of the hush and mystery of the world.*” But memory is what will conquer the genocide.

Sevana Panosian writes, “*We remember, we pass down stories, we post the sepia toned and torn photos of our beloved grandparents in an attempt to resurrect these voices—and then, come May, June and beyond, these stories get buried in our photo streams until we are reminded next April, to post them again, and again, and again.*”

It's heart wrenching to hear negative comments about being Armenian, our Liturgy and the Armenian language. God has been good to us, like Jesus Christ, our people suffered and they persevered. They had faith, they prayed, they believed.

God blessed Armenia with Christianity, He blessed us with our alphabet, He walked with our faithful throughout the centuries and is with us today. His blessings, a gift, have been with us for over 1700 years. A gift from God will never die!

In 2015, our Martyrs were canonized. What does this mean for us? It means that we are now the descendants of Saints and we have a great responsibility. We must all make this promise. The promise to—once and for all—put a stop to our own genocide.

In the movie, the character of Mikael vows revenge. And Anna replies, “***Our revenge will be to survive***”. But in order for us to survive, we cannot be tired of genocide commemorations, we cannot be tired of being Armenian, we cannot be tired of church or speaking our language.

The promise we must make is to teach and reclaim our Liturgy, our heritage, our language and all that which may soon be lost, and to fill it in the hungry hearts and minds of our future – our children because this is the most important part of who we are. Promise to never let go!
