

### Ladies Guild

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

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### Chef of the Month

A Chef of the Month dinner will be held this Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 P.M. here in the Church hall. Come and enjoy a delicious Chicken Kebab dinner, prepared by Gerry & Kathy Gonyon; 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.

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### Vacation Bible School (VBC)

Plans are being made for the ecumenical Vacation Bible School which will be held July 17 - 21 at the Village Congregational Church. We welcome all children who are age 4 through grade 6. For information, call Carolyn Mitchell at 508-234-3544.

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### 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. Our Church also has a Memorial Board in the foyer, if you would like a plaque engraved with the name of your loved one(s), please see any Board member.

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### Feed the Hungry

St. Patrick's John 21 Community Breakfast ministry provides a free, nutritious breakfast every Saturday morning in the spirit of community fellowship and hospitality. The cost is about \$2.40 per meal and we serve an average of 160 meals a week. Please consider making a donation today. For more information please contact Shelly@mystpatricks.com or call 508-234-5656.

UniBank will match your donation to John 21 dollar for dollar up to \$5,000

From April 28-(Mother's Day) May 14th. For donations please go to mystpatricks.com under ministries find John 21 and click on the PayPal link or write a check made out to John 21 Community Breakfast and mail to St. Patrick Church, PO Box 60, Whitinsville, MA 01588

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**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.**

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Der Hayr, the Board of Trustees, The Ladies Guild and the Soorp Asdvadzadzin Church Family extends their condolences to the family of Paul Vartabedian, who entered eternal rest on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Please keep Jeanne and Zackary and the entire family in your thoughts and prayers.

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### SOORP ASDVADZADZIN ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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## SUNDAY BULLETIN

April 30, 2017

### Spiritual Rebirth

*Celebrant Rev. Fr. Mikael Der Kosrofian*

**EPISTLE: 1 Peter 2:1-10**

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

- TODAY:** Acts 9:23-31; 1 Pt 2:1-10; Jn 2:23-3:12 (pg. 1649)
- Monday:** Acts 9:32-43; 1 Pt 2:11-17; Jn 3:13-21
- Tuesday:** Acts 10:1-23; 1 Pt 2:18-25; Jn 3:22-36
- Wednesday:** Acts 10:24-48; 1 Pt 3:1-9; Jn 4:1-23
- Thursday:** Acts 11:1-6; 1 Pt 3:10-22; Jn 4:24-42
- Friday:** Acts 11:27-12:24; 1Pt 4:1-11; Jn 4:43-54
- Saturday:** Acts 12:25-13:15; 1 Pt 4:12-19; Jn 5:1-18

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*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.

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**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.

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**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.

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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  
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**Spiritual Rebirth**

We’ve all heard the term “Born again Christian”, or people saying that they are “Born again Christians” What does that really mean?

Unfortunately for many, it’s a mental license not to do anything, not to be a part of the church because they are guaranteed salvation once they’ve become “born again”. But being “born again” means so much more than reciting what is known as the sinner’s prayer and more than just going to heaven when you die. God has great expectations from Christians – Accountability.

Let’s look at the word “again”. “Again” means “from above”, and it clearly refers to the heavenly birth from God through faith in Jesus. This heavenly birth is baptism and our adoption by God as our Father.

Jesus is very clear, He said we must be “born again”, a birth from above realized by water and the Spirit. In His conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus said, “*no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.*”

From the beginning the Church has recognized the “water” to be the water of baptism, and the “Spirit” to be the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the new birth consists of being joined to Christ in the water of baptism and the receiving of the Holy Spirit through anointing or “Chrismation.”

Salvation, then, is more than saying a prayer for forgiveness of sins, more than a mental acceptance of Jesus and His teachings, we don’t go to heaven because we’re good. You go to heaven because you’ve been changed – on the inside.

God wants to completely renew our hearts, a complete makeover, a remodeling of our spiritual being. He wants us all to have loving hearts, forgiving hearts, peaceful hearts not a hardened heart, all bitter.

Being born again carries with it an enormous responsibility. Being born again is not about being a child of the king and living like one.

We are the children of a Father who only wants one thing: “... all men to be saved (born again), and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (I Timothy 2:4). God isn’t interested in us living lavishly and being of the world. He’s blessed us all in different ways – and wants us to use those blessings to bring glory to Him and He wants to fill heaven with His children. That’s the desire of our Heavenly Father.

Being a part of God’s family, a part of His Church is special because it will last forever, guaranteed by God the Father, secured by God the Son and anointed by God the Spirit.

*“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.” ~ 1 Peter 2:2.*  
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