

**Fellowship Hour**

If you and your family would like to host the Sunday Fellowship following Church Services, please call the Church Office at 508-234-3677 or sign up on the board downstairs to reserve a specific Sunday in 2017, in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion or Just Because.....

**Woed By The Food**

Thanks to Joanne and everyone who helped to make it a success!

**Vacation Bible School (VBC)**

VBS planning meeting will be Tuesday, May 30, 7:00 pm, at the Village Congregational Church. Vacation Bible School 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.

**Altar Flowers**

If you and your family would like to donate flowers for the altar either in memory of a loved one or for a special occasion, please see or call Lusiya at 508-476-2920

**Hokehankisd (Memorial 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 performed 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.

**Memorial Day**

Der Hayr will be at Pine Grove Cemetery from 11:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. on Memorial Day for Graveside Requiem Services.

**Peace of Bread Food Pantry**

The need of donations is great, especially during the summer months. Please bring non-perishable, unexpired food items and toiletries. Our box is located in the foyer. All donations will help serve our neighbors in need within our community. Thank you--God Bless you!

**Sunday School**

Last day of Sunday School will be June 4<sup>th</sup>. The children will be participating in the Sunday service on the altar, in the choir, and other parts of the service.

**Board of Trustees Induction Service will also take place on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> following the Divine Liturgy.**

**SOORP ASDVADZADZIN ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH**

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**SUNDAY BULLETIN**

**May 21, 2017**

**Renewal?**

*Celebrant Rev. Fr. Mikael Der Kosrofian*

**EPISTLE: 1 John 3:2-6**

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

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

- Today:** Acts 20:17-38; 1 John 3:2-6; John 9:39-10:10
- Monday:** Acts 21:1-14; 1 John 3:7-10; John 10:11-21
- Tuesday:** Acts 21:15-26; 1 John 3:10-20; John 10:22-42
- Wednesday:** Acts 21:27-36; 1 John 3:21-4:6; John 11:1-46
- Thursday:** Acts 1:1-14; Matthew 28:6-20; Matthew 9:1-15
- Friday:** Acts 21:37-22:29; 1 John 4:7-21; John 1:47-54
- Saturday:** Acts 22:30-23:1; 1 John 5:1-12; John 11:55-12:11

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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***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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**FOLLOWING 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 via email.

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**Dismissal**

At the end of the Divine Liturgy, the faithful come forward towards the altar and kiss the Holy Gospel, saying:

**“May the Lord be mindful of your sacrifices and accept your supplications.”**

*The Celebrant Responds:*

**“May the Lord grant to you according to your heart and fulfill all your wishes.”**

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**Renewal?**

The reading today is from the Gospel of John chapter 10. Jesus said, “*Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*”

The theme at the NRA this past week was about renewal. It was very exciting to see the delegates' interest in this concept of renewal. After the presentations, discussions and debates the panels returned with their recommendations. It sounded very exciting, I was filled with hope for the future of the church.

Then it happened, the realization of what renewal meant to me and to every person that was in attendance. It seemed so simple and near to grasp yet so far away.

Jesus said His sheep know His voice and they won't follow strangers. If we want renewal then we need to learn His voice otherwise we'll always be following strangers.

Jesus came and made all things new, and as He said in verse 10, “*I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*” Abundant life. That's what He wants to give each person in this world. So, why is it that we aren't experiencing His abundance? Why does it seem that sometimes we're just existing instead of living for Jesus?

Because we haven't learned to live like Jesus. It's a simple answer. We live the way we want to live, without God - sure we all acknowledge a higher power, we say we believe in God but that really doesn't mean much.

Renewal starts with us. A renewal in Faith, renewal in the way we see things, how we respond, our actions, our deeds, everything. The heart has to change.

1 Samuel 16:7, “*But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”* God looks at the heart. And this is the essence of Christianity, a change of heart.

The goal of Christianity isn't to know the Bible more. The goal of Christianity is to experience the Bible more. God doesn't want us to just know about Him. God wants us to actually know Him. That's renewal. Anything less is a renewal of business as usual.

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