

February / March 2011

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CHALICE

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SOORP ASDVADZADZIN ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
Whitinsville, MA

Sunday Worship

All Welcome

Rev. Archpriest Aram Stepanian

Morning Service — 9:30am

Divine Liturgy (Soorp Badarak) — 10am

Sermon (English/Armenian) — 11am

Sunday School (Sept-June) — 10am

Divine Liturgy followed by coffee hour in the church hall.



Կիրակնօրնայ Պաշտամունք

Ամէն մարդ հրավիրուած է

Արժ. Տ. Արամ Ա. Քինյ. Ստեփաննան, Հովի

Արաստնան Ժամերգութիւն – 9:30

Սուրբ Պատարագ - 10:00

Քարոզ (Անգլերէն/Հայերէն) – 11:00

Կիրակնօրնայ Վարժարան (Սեպտեմբեր – Յունիս)

Պատարագէն վերջ սուրճի հիւրասիրութիւն՝ եկեղեցոյ ներքնասրահին մէջ

Heavenly King, Preserve Your Church Unshaken And Keep In Peace Those Who Worship Your Name.

Թագաւոր երկնատր, զեկեղեցի քո անշարժ պահեա, եւ զերկրպագուս անուանդ քում պահեա ի խաղաղութեան



CHALICE

A publication of

Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church

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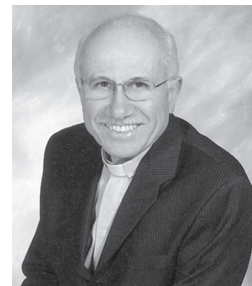
Cover Art: Sue Shenian (1962-2007)

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Let Us Make Resolutions to Improve Our Inner Life

By Rev. Archbishop Aram Stepanian

We have entered 2011. Another year, although for God it doesn't make any difference. For Him time and years are irrelevant. He lives in eternity; He works and plans for eternity. We are the ones who have started the year full of hope, anticipations and promises. Speaking of promises, I am sure some of us who made New Year's resolutions have already broken them by now. We vow never to do this or that again, to get rid of bad habits, to visit church this year more often. Most of the time when we make resolutions we try to make them easy enough to pull off at least for a while.



I think most of us make resolutions to improve the outer part of ourselves — that is to lost weight, to stop smoking in order to not get sick or make others sick, never to eat another ounce of fatty food, exercise every day, etc. Some of us who are in the business world vow to achieve more, to be more prosperous and get richer.

As you can see, most of the above are resolutions that will make us look better, more prestigious and financially secure. There is another side of life besides improving our outer world: That is to make resolutions to be a better person with better behavior and attitude; something that is not tangible yet visible to others, a change of inner life.

Paul writing to the Christians in Colossae said, "*Clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*" (Col. 3:12) You notice all the above qualities have to do with others rather than yourself.

Compassion

The word "compassion" means feeling someone else's pain, experiencing their pain as they are experiencing it personally. In one word, entering into another person's pain and afflictions and try to soothe them. Have you made a resolution to be more understanding and compassionate towards others?

Kindness

God wants us to put on kindness. We teach our children to be kind and polite in their conversation, yet we often neglect this important virtue. What does it mean to be kind? It means merely to treat others without harshness, rather with respect and honor, even though he/she disagrees with us. Saint Paul writes, "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one an

Saint Vartanantz Day

By Alice Sagherian

Every year on the Thursday preceding Lent, Armenians all over the world celebrate St. Vartanantz Day in commemoration of Vartan Mamigonian and all the brave Armenians who fought against the Persian army in 451 A.D.

The cause of the war was the issue of religious freedom. Until Armenians proclaimed Christianity as their state religion in 301 A.D., they had lived peacefully with the Persian people, who were pagans. When the Armenians showed signs of alienation from the Persians, the king of Persia decreed that all Christians under his rule should abandon their new religion and accept Mazdean worship (of sun and fire). The Armenians sent back a bold answer declaring that they had not the slightest intention of altering their Christian beliefs. Angered by this, the Persians sent an army of 220,000 to crush the resistance and convert the country to paganism by force.

Under the leadership of Vartan, the Armenians, who only numbered 66,000 and were semi-trained and poorly equipped, waited for the invading Persian army, spending the night before the battle in prayer and devotion, every soldier taking communion. Catholicos Hovsep, head of the Church, was there with the soldiers, inspiring them with his words.

Toward morning, they saw the approaching Persian army. The clash of the two armies was great, with swords glittering and blood running profusely. Although the Armenians inflicted great losses on the enemy, the battle



ended with the fall of Vartan. The Armenians, without a leader, withdrew to the mountains to carry on a guerilla war. Although they lost the battle, they won the war for which they were fighting because when the Persians realized how steadfast the Armenians were in their faith and convictions, they eventually gave up the fight to convert them. Their defeat became a moral and spiritual victory for Armenians. Inspired by Vartan and his brave comrades, millions of others following their

example laid down their lives so that future generations of Armenians might worship their Lord and God freely.

Chant for St. Vartanantz

Newly wondrous crown-bearer and leader of the virtuous ones, you courageously armed yourself against death with the weapon of the Spirit; O Vartan, courageous martyr, you drove away the enemy and have crowned the church with your rose-colored blood.

Guided by your exalted wisdom you fought and conquered with the weapon of a the heavenly King, O Khoren, wise and good, you became a witness of the crucified one and were crowned by shedding your blood.

Filled with the divine light and endowed with the redness of flowing blood, the brave Ardag drank the cup of salvation. He was baptized by his own blood and entered the ranks of the angels to sing glory to the Trinity.

Pastor's Message (continued)

other as more important than yourselves." (Phil 2:3) Let us look at others and try to see them the way God sees them, not judgmental but with love.

Gentleness

Some people think to be gentle is a sign of weakness. Definitely not. In gentleness there is affection, tenderness, kindness and compassion. Jesus was gentle and He was anything but weak. He said, "Take my yoke upon you and

learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart." (Matt. 11:28)

So what kind of resolutions have you made? Though God cares about your outer appearance He is more interested in your inner change and attitudes. What image do you want people to see when they look at you during 2011? The choice is yours. Go ahead and make a sensible and meaningful resolution for the year 2011. It's not too late.

May God help each one of us to grow inwardly as we have entered the year 2011.

2010 Annual Bazaar

Another successful annual holiday bazaar of Soorp Asdvadzadzin Church was held on December 4, 2010 at the Christian Reformed Church on Cross Street. As always, dedicated volunteers worked for months ahead in preparing food, the silent auction table and attending to many details, while the heavy lifters did their part in set up and break down of truckloads of supplies. Many thanks to all who helped, attended and supported this major church fundraiser. Board of Trustee chairman Chuck Gigarjian reports this year's profit as \$18,750, a decrease of \$5,250 from \$24,000 in 2009. More information about upcoming bazaar plans will be presented at the annual church meetings on Sunday, February 27 and March 6.

Armenian Christmas Day Luncheon

The Ladies Guild sponsored a festive Christmas day luncheon on January 6, 2011. After Badarak and The Blessing of the Waters, approximately 40 people enjoyed a delicious meal in the church hall prepared by Joy Callan, assisted by other members of the guild. By popular request, Joy shared her *Havaboor* (chicken lemon rice soup) recipe from that day.

Havaboor (Chicken Lemon Rice Soup)

- 2½ cups water
- 1 cup rice or small pasta
- 64 oz chicken broth
- 1 large lemon juiced and strained
- 2 large eggs, well beaten
- 1 tsp. ground black pepper

1. In a 4-quart pot, bring water and rice/pasta to boil. Reduce to simmer, uncovered, until most of the water is absorbed. Remove from heat. Add chicken broth to cool down boiled mixture.
2. Beat two eggs well. Beat strained lemon juice into eggs. When the chicken broth has cooled down the cooked rice/pasta, the egg and lemon mixture may be whisked into chicken broth. Move back to medium high heat, continuing to whisk to prevent eggs from curdling. Gradually raise heat until soup is very hot but not boiling. Remove from heat and continue whisking for about 5 minutes. Season with pepper.
3. Reheat soup on stove or in microwave. Heat to simmer, not to boil. Soup will thicken the second day and can be thinned if desired, with water or chicken broth.

*Shnorhavor Nor Dari Yev Soorp Dznount.
Christos Dznav Yev Haydnetsav.
Tsezi Mezi Medz Avedis!*

*Happy new year and holy birth.
Christ was born and was manifested.
To you, to us, great greetings!*



A shepherd with his flock of angels from the Christmas program.
Back row: Brian DerKosrofian, Caroline Gallant, Anna Shenian, Aznive Gigarjian. Front row: Aza Whittlesey, Gabrielle Gallant, Maya Porter, Sosie DerKosrofian, Zabel DerKosrofian, Anna Lehtola.

Sunday School

On Sunday, December 19th, 2010, the Sunday school students presented a program re-enacting the birth of Jesus. Many thanks to Peter Baghdasarian for the sturdy wooden stable he built for the children that can be easily stored and used annually, and to the Sunday school parents for providing the delicious refreshments that were enjoyed by all!

A conference for Sunday School teachers is scheduled to take place at the Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, CT, March 25-27. The theme of the conference is Feasts of the Armenian Church. All Christian educators or others interested in learning more about the Armenian Christian faith and traditions are encouraged to contact Yeretsgin Margaret Stepanian to attend.

Poon Paregentan!

Saturday, March 5. Details to follow.

Birth

Welcome to little Macy Grace Bondurant, born Sunday, December 26 at 8:07pm. Congratulations to the proud parents Alicia and Eric Bondurant, grandparents Debi and Peter Bedrosian, great grandmother Sue Bedrosian, great great aunt Sylvia Bedrosian and the entire Bedrosian family.

Marriage

Brian Lehtola to Jamie (Hoard) in Soorp Asdvadzadzin Church on January 1, 2011. Best wishes to the new Mr. and Mrs. Brian Lehtola, parents Joanne and George Khoury and all extended family!

Bulletin Announcements

All announcements and Hokehankist requests must be received by Thursday each week to be included on Sunday. Please email your announcements and requests to Diran DerKosrofian at diran37@yahoo.com or leave them on the church office answering machine at 508-234-3677. Thank you.

Annual Parish Meeting

Please mark your calendars. The annual parish meeting will take place after Badarak on February 27th and on March 6th. Details to follow. The Nominating Committee is looking for a few good men/women to serve on the Board of Trustees. This is an important body of the church and interested candidates should give their names to Rick Kazarian or Lucy Almasian.

Ladies Guild Sponsored Events

Our own Sue Baghdasarian — knitter, felter, yarn spinner and wool dyer — will give a presentation of her wool works and lead members of the Ladies Guild in making their own wool needle-felted Valentine at our February meeting on Monday, February 6. Demonstration starts at 6pm sharp and lasts one hour. Please bring a large-eye needle for decorating your heart with knots. All parishioners and friends are welcome to attend. Business meeting to follow.

Come to church and leave with extra cash in your pocket (a first!) at the Ladies Guild \$\$\$Gold Fundraiser\$\$\$! Sunday date to be announced soon. Enjoy a delicious coffee hour sponsored by the Ladies Guild and exchange your old, unwanted gold jewelry for cash at top prices calculated daily.

Lenten baking begins in March. Please contact Nay Avakian at 508-839-3809 if you can help with choreg baking.

Lenten Dinner: April 3

Chalice and Email Newsletter

Next Chalice deadline is March 1 for the April/May issue. Please email correspondence to carol.bedrosian@gmail.com, fax to 508-278-9641 or mail to the church office. Please sign up to receive email news and announcements regularly by emailing Ani Gigajian at gigajian@gmail.com.

CALENDAR

Ongoing: Bible Study 7pm (Thursday)
February 7: Ladies Guild Meeting 6pm (Monday)
February 27: Annual Parish Meeting Part 1 12:45 (Sunday)
March 5: Sunday School Poon Paregantian 6pm (Saturday)
March 6: Annual Parish Meeting Part 2 12:45 (Sunday)
March 7: Ladies Guild Meeting 6pm (Monday)
March 10-April 14: Lenten Services 7pm (Thursday)
April 3: Lenten Dinner 12pm (Sunday)

The Meaning of Lent

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And he fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was hungry.” (Matthew 4:12.)

This is the Biblical basis of the period called Lent, given to us to prepare for the feast of feasts, the Resurrection. Just as we need time to prepare for any great event in life, we need time to make ourselves ready to participate in the blessed and wondrous event commemorated by Easter.

Lent gives us the opportunity to:

- Renew our commitment to God
- Reflect on our lives and let them be directed by God
- Respond to Jesus’ call for love and mercy towards all of God’s children

Lent is a special time in the year when we guard against worldly distractions and make room for the Holy Spirit to fill us. During Lent we go into our own inner wilderness, caused by sins, spiritual laziness and empty vanity. There we confront the devil. Through prayer, fasting, Bible reading and self-examination we gain the strength to work at being more loving, humble, and gentle.

Information courtesy www.armenianchurch-ed.net.

Lenten Services

Lenten services will be held each Thursday beginning March 10 from 7-8pm in the sanctuary with guest speakers each week. Please join us from 6-7pm in the hall for a light supper preceding services.

Mystery Photo



Can you name these fondly remembered parishioners pictured at a baby shower in the church hall from 1984? Answer on page 7.

Two Traveling Angels

Author Unknown

Two traveling angels stopped to spend the night in the home of a wealthy family. The family was rude and refused to let the angels stay in the mansion's guest room. Instead the angels were given a small space in the cold basement.

As they made their bed on the hard floor, the older angel saw a hole in the wall and repaired it. When the younger angel asked why, the older angel replied, "Things aren't always what they seem."

The next night the pair came to rest at the house of a very poor, but very hospitable farmer and his wife. After sharing what little food they had the couple let the angels sleep in their bed where they could have a good night's rest.

When the sun came up the next morning the angels found the farmer and his wife in tears. Their only cow, whose milk had been their sole income, lay dead in the field.

The younger angel was infuriated and asked the older angel, "How could you have let this happen? The first man had everything, yet you helped him," she accused. "The second family had little but was willing to share everything, and you let the cow die."

"Things aren't always what they seem," the older angel replied. "When we stayed in the basement of the mansion, I noticed there was gold stored in that hole in the wall. Since the owner was so obsessed with greed and unwilling to share his good fortune, I sealed the wall so he wouldn't find it."

"Then last night as we slept in the farmers bed, the angel of death came for his wife and I gave him the cow instead. Things aren't always what they seem."

Sometimes that is exactly what happens when things don't turn out the way they should. If you have faith, you need to trust that every outcome is always to your advantage. You just might not know it until some time later.

Never take away anyone's hope. That may be all they have.

Submitted by Vicky Ovia



Winter Of Your Life

Author Unknown

You know, time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years.

It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. And yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went.

I know that I lived them all...

And I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. But, here it is, the winter of my life and it catches me by surprise. How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?

I remember well, seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like. But, here it is, my friends are retired and getting gray. They move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me, but I see the great change. Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant, but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now, I find that just taking a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore, it's mandatory! Cause if I don't

on my own free will I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so, now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!

But at least I know that though the winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last, this I know: that when it's over, its over. Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done, things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in your winter yet, let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. Whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!

Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not!

Live for good today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!

Life is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.

—Submitted by Sebouh Kalousdian

Youghakin (Christmas Donations)

Vahan & Rosemary Marterosian	Peter & Debby Bedrosian	Barbara Shamshoian Chandler
Michele & Matthew Malkasian	Jerry Bagdasarian & Family	Sadie Manoogian
Peter and Sue Baghdasarian	Wendy Garabedian	Elizabeth Telian
Joe & Margo Montecalvo	John & Barbara Berberian	Shirley Demagian
Ardashes Nahabedian	Nancy Moscofian	Cappy Shenian
Oscar Asadoorian	Mary Arakelian	Suzanne Bedrosian
Victoria Peroni	Sebouh and Margaret Kalousdian	Paul & Dorothy Arakelian
Peter & Celeste Bedigian & Family	Sally Kulegian, in memory of husband, parents and sister	John Arakelian
Diana & Karnig Ovian	George & Rose Torosian	Dona Nashawaty
Edward & Pauline Naroian	Peter Bedigian, Sr.	Enoch & Claire Malkasian
Roy & Joy Callan	Ted & Vivian Nigro	Gerry & Kathy Gonyor
George & Carol Mooradian	Martha Garabedian	Nish & Vicky Ovian
Steve & Ann Ovian	Carol Tosoonian	Harry Kazarian & Grace Kazarian
Nazely Avakian	George & Joanne Khoury	Pauline Ovian
Magdy & Linda Faltaous	Sara Barsamian & Susan DerSarkisian	Amy Garabedian
Rose Belisle	Margaret Shenian	Sylvia Roche
Archie Misakian	Anonymous	Annie Malkasian
John Kasparian	Ted & Joyce Torosian	Grace Kazarian
Tom & Margo Yaylaian	Chuck Gigarjian	John & Sonia Meregian in memory of our beloved parents
Joe & Margaret Derderian	Ann Samkiranian	Total: \$3250
Peter & Sippy Andonian		

Additional Donations to Our Church

Rosa Marashian

\$20 — Chalice donation

Harry and Norma Megerdichian,

in memory of Ohannes & Takauyie Megerdichian

Under \$1000 level — *Building Fund donation*

Total building fund donations to date is \$105, 485. Thank you to everyone for your continued support! Please contact Hagop Antranigian at 508-473-7695 or email jim.antranigian@kcc.com to find out how you can also become a part of this project.

Please remember our church with your donations for altar flowers or candles, commemorative plaques placed in the church foyer in memory of your loved ones and donations to support this Chalice. Mail your check to Soorp Asdvadzadzin, 315 Church Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588 or call Alice Sagherian in the church office at 508-234-3677 for information.



A scene from this year's crowded bazaar.

Mystery Photo Answer: (left to right) Lousaper Mantashigian, Siranoush Mooradian, Armenoohi Tiberian, Altoon Elmasian

To help make our Chalice more meaningful, please take a few moments to fill out this survey and return it (no name) to the church office or mail to Soorp Asdvadzadzin Church, 315 Church Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588. Thank you!

Please rate from 0–4 what items are of interest.

(0 = no opinion 1 = no interest 2 = rarely interested 3 = sometimes interested 4 = always interested)

- 1. Church contact information _____
- 2. Pastor’s message _____
- 3. Armenian tradition/saints _____
- 4. Board of Trustee news _____
- 5. Sunday School news _____
- 6. Ladies Guild news _____
- 7. Past event photos _____
- 8. Calendar/announcements _____
- 9. Potpourri _____
- 10. Parishioner birthdays/anniversaries _____
- 11. Prelacy news _____
- 12. Archbishop’s message _____
- 13. Baptisms, weddings, etc _____
- 14. Humor/inspiration _____
- 15. Recipe _____
- 16. In lieu of flowers/donations _____

Would you like to see/read more communication from:

- 1. Board of Trustees _____
- 2. Prelacy _____
- 3. Pastor _____
- 4. Community members _____

Would you like to know more about the Armenian Church?

- 1. History _____
- 2. Lives of the saints _____
- 3. Church feast days and traditions _____
- 4. Church service and ritual _____

Please add any additional comments or suggestions:

**Soorp Asdvadzadzin
Armenian Apostolic Church**
315 Church Street
Whitinsville, MA 01588

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