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**SAINTE STEPANOS
ARMENIAN
APOSTOLIC
CHURCH**

9 Փետրուար 2014

**ԿԻՐԱԿՆՕՐԵԱՅ ԹԵՐԹԻԿ
SUNDAY BULLETIN**

February 9, 2014

**Դ Կիրակի զկնի Ա. Ծննդեան
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY**

Join us in worship this Sunday
Morning Service 9:30 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM

Church Website: www.ststepanos.org

1184 Ocean Avenue, Elberon, NJ 07740 / office (732) 229-3661

Rev. Fr. Daniel Karadjian - Pastor

Տ Դանիէլ Բինյ. Գարաճեան - Նոգետր Նովիւ

Dn. Sebah Oscherician will lead the Sunday Celebration in February 9, 2014

Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest

In the Armenian Church is a rule that highlights; only a Priest can celebrate Divine Liturgy, and neither can he celebrate more than one Liturgy in a day. However, The Midday Office (Djashu) Service can be held when the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated.

This Celebration is a rite provided by the Church as a response to the need of the faithful to gather for Sunday worship even in the absence of a priest.

According to the holy fathers of the Armenian Church, the Midday Office has its roots in the ancient Church service where it was held as a Christian educational service like in the Jewish Synagogue. The faithful used to come together for a prayer meeting before the Divine Liturgy. This service was open to the catechumens too, while Divine Liturgy was restricted only to the faithful. St. Justin the Martyr describes a Christian Midday Office as a sequence of Psalms, Scriptural readings, sermon and prayers.

The order of the Midday Office (Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest) as we now have, was established during the fourth century.

Through the sacrament of ordination the Deacon has responsibility to lead the prayer of the assembly; therefore, preference is given to our deacons as leaders of prayer when the parish gathers for a Sunday celebrations in the absence of a Priest. There also is an option, which includes the distribution of Holy Communion if there is an emergency, or the Deacon serves in a parish as a Deacon-in-charge (performs duty of a pastor).

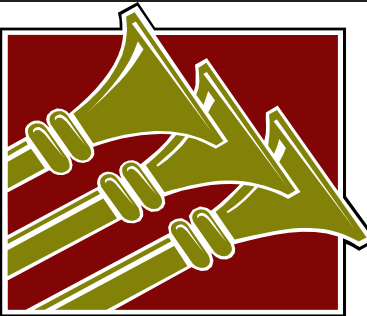
All in all, if a Pastor is unavailable to celebrate the Divine Liturgy due to extraordinary or emergency situations such as a sudden illness or he is out of office, the rite of Sunday Celebrations in the absence of a Priest may be invoked. This rite includes the hearing and reflecting on the Word of God, giving thanks, praise Lord and may also include reception of Holy Communion. This is not a Badarak, but The Midday Office (Djashu) Service remains important service for the faithful who can gather on Sunday in the Absence of a Priest as a community of faith who celebrates the Lord's Day.

Instructive Badarak



On Sunday, February 2, 2014, Rev. Fr. Daniel Karadjian, our Priest, conducted a special instructive Divine Liturgy. During the service, the narrator interrupted the liturgy from time to time to explain what was happening and why. The purpose of this narration was to deepen the congregation's understanding and awareness of the most important act of Christian worship so that it could participate more meaningfully. Fortunately, every aspect of the Holy Badarak was explained from the vesting of the Priest prior to the service and the purpose of each garment through the entire service leading up to Holy Communion and continuing through the re-

quiem service or "Hokehankist, Blessing and Dismissal." Many members of the congregation expressed their appreciation for this special instructive Divine Liturgy and requested that the members of the congregation receive booklets so they may better understand the reasoning behind virtually every aspect of the liturgy.



**ANNUAL
PARISH ASSEMBLY
OF SAINT STEPANOS
ARM. APOSTOLIC
CHURCH-ELBERON,
NJ**

**SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 23,
2014**

**IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING
CHURCH SERVICES**

Communicant Member

Did you know the Armenian Church has two kinds of members: “communicant” members and “voting” (a.k.a “dues-paid”) members? All men, women, and children baptized in the Armenian Church are communicant members of the Armenian Church- this means they have full access to the sacramental life of the Christian church. After Baptism and Chrismation they thrive in the life of the church through participation in all the rest of the sacraments; namely, Penance, Communion, Holy Orders, Holy Matrimony, and Rites of the Sick. The sacraments guide us in our life-long journey toward Christ.

Voting Member

A voting member is a special kind of communicant member. Through the donation of a nominal annual fee; a voting member gains additional rights and privileges. Specifically, voting members are able to:

- a. Participate fully and vote in the Parish Assemblies
- b. Hold elected office within parish administration or special committees
- c. Enjoy special discounts and courtesies for sacramental services (weddings, baptism, funerals, etc)
- d. Enjoy reduced rates for facility rentals
- e. Draft and Vote on proposals that influence our parish and the Diocese

Stewardship

A steward of the church is a voting member who supports the church above and beyond the nominal annual fee. Stewards respond to the call to serve as servants of Christ through a profound commitment of financial support-each according to their means. Your annual stewardship commitment will help sustain our parish and contribute toward its growth, thus ensuring that our children, grandchildren and family will always have a place of worship to call their home in the years ahead. Your annual membership commitment entitles you to fully benefit from the parish’s various ministries while financially supporting the work of your Armenian Church. Voting members must be at least 18 years of age.

The Parish Assembly

Voting members and communicant members are able to attend the Annual Parish Assembly, but only voting members have the right to vote, make motions, submit proposals, and/or hold elected office. The Parish Assembly is one of the administrative bodies of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America headed and presided over by the Primate of the Diocese. Within our parish it is the highest

administrative body and its jurisdiction covers all administrative matters associated with our church, including: building/renovation projects, outreach, education, auxiliary organizations, Diocesan issues, parish finances, as well as short and long term parish vision. The Pastor presides over the Parish Assembly and a lay chairman is elected from among the voting membership to conduct the meeting.

Our best wishes for a lot of happiness and long life on the occasion of the birthdays to the following parishioners:



Ann Marie Rooney - 02/01; Eric Heitman - 02/02; Maral Karakashian - 02/03;
Sharena Surenian - 02/03; Slava Grigorian - 02/04; Dicran Mouradian - 02/06;
Mary Ann Berberian - 02/10; Manush Vardumyan - 02/11; Berj Armenian - 02/13;
Inessa Tadevosyan - 02/14; Shant Gueyikian - 02/15; Aneta Topuzyan - 02/19;
Gurgen Arzoumanyants - 02/20; Alexander Chernoff - 02/20; Sylva Bakhtiarian - 02/20;
Hazel Menegigian - 02/23; Haig Bakhtiarian - 02/25; Chris Kesici - 02/26;

Trevor Pahigian - 02/26...

SAVE THE DATE

IN THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST TO THE TEMPLE

The Parish Council cordially invites you for a celebration honoring the Golden families of our parish. This appreciation dinner will take place Friday, February 14, 2014 at 6PM in our church hall. Live Music will be provided by Bob Aslanian.

Enjoy a delicious meal provided by Fr. Daniel and Yn. Mariam.

The donation for this event is \$20.00. Kindly RSVP by Feb.10 to the church office at (732) 229-3661. We look forward to seeing you at this event.



ARMENIAN LANGUAGE CONVERSATIONAL CLASSES FOR ADULTS



Where? At our Church. When? Every second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

Second lesson on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 7:00PM

Come to learn or brush up on your Armenian-speaking skills;

Learn about the Armenian culture and history.

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!



Please, contact the church office at 732-229-3661 with your interest to attend.

Study the Bible with us



February 18, 2014 – **Bible Study Class at our Church - 6:30PM**

God's Word is a "change agent" and being a part of a Bible class can be an important part of your spiritual well-being. Please give prayerful consideration to participate in our Bible Study classes.

Contact us at 732-229-3661 with your interest to attend.



February 16, 2014 - First general meeting of the group is scheduled for 2:00 pm

February 23, 2014 - Lunch for the Parish Assembly meeting at \$5.00 per person.

March 16, 2014 - Second general meeting which will be an election meeting and at that time visit of a representative from Women's Guild Central Council.

April 13, 2014 - Palm Sunday Choreg sale.

February 16, 2014 - SUNDAY OF THE CATECHUMENS - After Badarak the **Blessing of children service will be held.** Please come with your children who will receive blessings from the holy altar.



Fellowship hour: will be hosted by the Women's Club. Please contact Mary Ann Tutunjian at 732-776- 8333, if you would like to sponsor a fellowship hour.

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS BY THE PASTOR:

If you, a member of your family or a friend are hospitalized, please contact the Church Office so that the Pastor may visit, to pray for the recovery and spiritual well being of the patient/parishioner.

DER VOGHORMYA / SPECIAL PRAYER will be offered for the soul of His Beatitude Torkom Archbishop Manougian; for peace in Syria and for: Trudy Takakjian, Gegham Tukmanyants, Frank Yates, Dothy Otchy, Anahid Ghazinyan, Artin DerBoghossian and Ester Garabedian.

Pastor's Office and Church Office Hours Tuesday - Friday: 10AM - 2PM.
After hours in an emergency, please contact: Pastor's Cell: (732) 312-8661



The Middletown Township Public Library will host a free classical concert at 7p.m. February 10, at the Library's Community Room at 55 New Monmouth Rd. Kar'en Hakobyan will perform Classical Piano Concert. Music by composers Rachmaninoff, Scriabin, Chopin, Liszt, and Gershwin.

For more information call 732-671-3700.



MIDDAY READINGS ASCRIBED FOR THIS SUNDAY:

ISAIAH 63:7-19: The sinfulness of Israel will beget even more evil, so that Prophet begs God to deliver his forsaken people from their own sin.

II TIMOTHY 3:1-13: The end of the age was expected to be preceded by terrible conflict, by intense last-ditch efforts by Satan to gain control over the cosmos and by devastating upheaval in nature. Here, St. Paul describes what a real Christian is not. These words describe many of us who adhere to the forms of religion and still deny its power by our lives, actions and beliefs.

JOHN 6:22-38: "I am the bread of life." The bread given in the miracle of feeding the five thousand, supernatural though it is, it is perishable, sufficing only for one day. It cannot give life to the world much less eternal life. Christ is the true sustenance, food for eternal life, and the real bread from heaven.



THE HOLY GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

Our Lord Jesus Christ says:

The next day the crowd that stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other small boat there, except one, and that Jesus had not entered with His disciples into the boat, but that His disciples had gone away alone. There came other small boats from Tiberias near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks. So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into the small boats, and came to Capernaum seeking Jesus. When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You get here?" Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal." Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." So they said to Him, "What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform? "Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT.' "Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven." For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world." Then they said to Him, "Lord, always give us this bread." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. "But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe. "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

REQUIEM SERVICE / ՀՈԳԵՆԱՆԳԻՍ

Requested in loving memory of † Virginia (Ojen) Chilingirian was postponed for February 16, 2014.