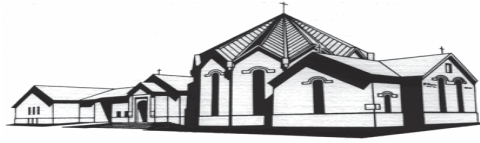


**ՍՈՒՐԲ ԱՏԵՓԱՆՈՍ
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ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ**



**SAINT STEPANOS
ARMENIAN
APOSTOLIC
CHURCH**

30 Մարտ 2014

**ԿԻՐԱԿՆՕՐԵԱՅ ԹԵՐԹԻԿ
SUNDAY BULLETIN**

March 30, 2014

**Ե ԿԻՐԱԿԻ ՔԱՌԱՄՆՈՐԴԱԿԱՆ ՊԱՀՈՑ
ԴԱՏԱԻՈՐԻՆ**

SUNDAY OF THE JUDGE (Fifth Sunday of Lent)

Church Website: www.ststepanos.org

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

Rev. Fr. Daniel Karadjian - Pastor

Տ Դանիէլ Թինյ. Գարաճեան - Նոգետր Նովիւ

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



THE SUNDAY OF THE JUDGE

We are not more than half-way through Great Lent. This Sunday, March 30, is the “Sunday of the Judge” (Tadavori Giragi). The Gospel reading for this day is the parable of the Unjust Judge told by Jesus Christ more than 2000 years ago. The parable is about a widow and a judge. The judge in the parable is seen as hard-hearted and without principles, fear of God, or regard for people. The widow from the same town has been ill-treated and she has come to the judge for justice.

The judge does not pay attention to her case. However, she is persistent and she makes the same appeal again and again until at last the judge decides to see that she receives justice. He does this not because he cares about justice, but because he wants to be rid of the widow.

Jesus taught this parable to emphasize that we must always pray and never lose heart. He uses the example of the “unjust” judge to tell us that if the judge finally submits to the supplication of the widow, won’t the good and righteous

Lord hear and respond to our needs?

Earnest and persistent prayer is one of the fundamental means by which believers return to their Father’s sweet home and regain their position as beloved children. There are many references to justice in this brief parable - an indication, also, of how God might want us to focus our prayers.

The precondition for prayer is certainly faith.

40 Holy Martyrs of Sebastia

by Jamil Malone

During the reign of the Emperor Licinius (AD 320), there was a group of forty young Christian soldiers of the Roman army who were garrisoned in the city of Sebaste, Armenia. They were excellent examples of men who could bear arms for their country and still worship the Prince of Peace. The forty young men did not just accept Christ as their Savior on their own, but they did so with the knowledge that they ran a considerable risk of being killed. Licinius soon discovered their allegiance to Christ and issued an edict that those who did not worship the pagan gods would face punishments that could include torture or death. When the forty young men were given the choice of recanting or dying, none of them stepped forward to be counted as a pagan. It was very cold at this time, which led to the idea of stripping the soldiers and standing them out by a lake where the cold winds would

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

kill them. The forty stood shivering in the wind looking across at the warm fires of the pagans to which they could go if they denied Christ. The forty preferred death to that kind of dishonor and stood their ground.

They endured the whole night naked in such circumstances, encouraging one another to be patient and singing holy hymns to God until the end. Finally there was one in the group who weakened and started for the warm fires, but he died before reaching them. As death grew nearer, a band of angels descended from Heaven and placed crowns on the heads of the dying soldiers. This spectacle overcame one of the pagan guards so much that he stripped off his clothes and rushed to die at the side of these men. This brought to forty the number who died for Christ on that somber day. It is for this reason that we use crown and say a prayer at a wedding as a symbol of the blessing of Heaven for those who keep their faith in Jesus Christ.

Սեբաստիոյ Քառասուն Մանուկ



Սեպաստիոյ մէջ նահատակուած Քառասուն մանուկները Կապադովկիոյ կայսերական զինուորական զունդէն էին: Ամենքն ալ կանխաւ դարձած Քրիստոնեայ, կը մերժէին Ագրիկողայոս դատաւորին հրամանին հնազանդիլ՝ որ էր կուրքէրուն զոհ մատուցանել:

Ագրիկողայոս ամենեւին չկարողացաւ զանոնք բաժնել Քրիստոսի հաւատքէն, ու անոնց բանտը նետել տուաւ: Ութ օր յետոյ Լիսիաս Կեսարիոյ Դուքսը Սեբաստիա եկաւ, եւ դարձեալ քննութեան ատեան բերուեցան Քառասունը:

Սակայն անոնք նորէն ցոյց տուին իրենց հաստատուն հաւատքը, եւ յանդիմանեցին կռապաշտներու անաստուած մոլորութիւնը: Առաւօտուն, անոնք համարձակօրէն կեցան բռնաւորներուն առջեւ եւ ըսին «ըրէք ինչ որ պիտի ընէք, մենք պիտի չուրանանք մեր Քրիստոսը»:

Այն ատեն կապեցին անոնց վիզերն ու ձեռքերը եւ տարին դէպի լիճ: Անոնք մերկ վիճակի մէջ լիճը ձգուեցան իրիկունադէմին:

Որովհետեւ ձմեռ էր սառած լիճի ջուրերը սկսան ձեղքրտել անոնց մարմինները: Իրենցմէ մէկը չկարողացաւ դիմանալ լիճին սառնութեան, վազելով սառած ջուրէն ելլալով մտաւ տաք բաղնիքին մէջ որ պատրաստուած էր իրենց համար եթէ ուրանային Քրիստոսը:

Բաղնիքին ջերմութենէն լուծուելով հալեցաւ եւ իսկոյն մեռաւ:

Գիշերամիջին, երկնային լոյս մը ձառագայթեց լիճին վրայ, պսակներ երեւեցան նահատակներուն գլուխներուն վերեւ: Հսկիչ զինուորներէն մին հոգեկան փոփոխութիւն մը զգաց մերկացաւ, նետուեցաւ լիճը աղաղակելով Քրիստոնեայ եմ: Առտուան դէմ հանեցին Քառասունը լիճէն, բիրտով խորտակեցին անոնց ծունկերը եւ մահացնելով սայլերով գետեզեր տարին զանոնք: Իրենց մարմինները այրեցին եւ գետը թափեցին նշխարները: Երեք օր ետք, Սեբաստիոյ Եպիսկոպոսը Պետրոս, երազի մէջ տեսաւ թէ իրենց սուրբ մասունքները գետին ասփունք ելած են, հաւաքեց եւ ամփոփեց զանոնք պատուով 316ին:

LENTEN SUNDAYS

- March 30– Judge Sunday – Perseverance and the need to be in constant communion with God are revealed through an unjust and unrighteous judge who is the center of this day’s message. (Luke 18)
- April 6 – Advent – Christ returns to Earth to judge the living and the dead. How can we be prepared? What responsibilities do we have? Have we understood Christ’s first coming? (Matthew 25)
- April 13 – Palm Sunday – We enter Holy Week. The triumphant entry into Jerusalem by our Lord also signals the beginning of the holiest days of Christianity. (Matthew 20:29-21:17)

SAVE THE DATE

LENTEN CHURCH SERVICE AND DINNERS

According to our Armenian Church traditions during Lent, every Wednesday and Friday we hold an evening prayer service which is called the Hour of Rest. During this year's Lenten period in our church, we will hold these service every Friday evening.

Our Christian faith teaches us that we all are priests, and the Lord Jesus is our High Priest. Therefore, in His Church, we all pray together, because the faithful church united in one body prays together, and this is the purpose of the Friday evening services during the Lenten period.

We hope that our congregation will be inspired and motivated by the Holy Spirit to come and attend our Lenten church services. "By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding, it is established" /Proverbs 24:3/

On Friday, March 21 Lenten Dinner was hosted by the Nakashian, Toufayan and Terjanian families.

We would like to express our deep gratitude for their generous support and good will to be a part of our ministry.

Each Friday of the month Lenten Dinners start at 6:30p.m followed by Church service at 8:00p.m.

April 4, Friday - Lenten Dinner will be hosted by Manoushak Vardunyan and friends.

April 11, Friday - Lenten Dinner will be hosted by the Lahham and Garabedian families.

Donation: \$10.00 Adults / Children ages 6-10 \$5.00.

March 30, Sunday. Immediately after Badarak our Parish council will sponsor a Dinner and Mari's Market again will visit us.

A special Program will be presented on a planned Tribute Book to the Survivors of the Armenian Genocide which will include testimonies from our local community and will be published by the Center for Holocaust, Human Rights & Genocide Education (CHHANGE) at Brookdale Community College for the 100th anniversary of the Genocide. Dale Daniels (Executive Director) and Jane Denny (Director of Education) of CHHANGE will visit our church to explain the goals of the project and will answers questions.

Sunday April 6, 2014 - Initiation Service for our revived chapter of the Women's Guild who after Badarak will hold their general meeting with election of the WG officers.

April 22, Tuesday - 7:00 P.M. Armenian Genocide Remembrance Program sponsored by CHHANGE featuring guest lecturer KHATCHIG MOURADIAN at the Warner Student Life Center, Navesink Rooms, Brookdale Community College in Lincroft (Parking Lot 7).



Fellowship hour: will be hosted by the PC.

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.

Stewardship Donations for 2014 are desperately needed to keep our beautiful church well.

We are currently very short of the amount that need to meet the first quarter of the Church Budget . Remember we have bills to pay and depend on each of you to do so to keep the doors of our spiritual home open.



Apply for a Diocesan Scholarship Online

The Eastern Diocese is now accepting applications for its annual scholarship program. Applications must be completed and submitted online no later than May 9, 2014.

Each year the Diocese awards scholarships to promising undergraduate students. The Diocese seeks candidates who are active in their local parishes and have assumed leadership roles in their communities. To be eligible, applicants must be U.S. citizens enrolled in four-year undergraduate programs. <http://www.armenianchurch-ed.net/programming/scholarships/>

The John M. Azarian Memorial Armenian Youth Scholarship Fund is now accepting applications for the 2014-15 academic year. To download an application and all other necessary forms please visit www.azariangroup.com/scholarship.html. **Complete applications must be submitted by May 31, 2014.**



PARISH LIFE

On Friday, March 21 under the watchful eyes and enormous help of Yeretzgin Mariam the following members Silva Terjanian, Sossie Sheoukian, Sona Toufayan, Krikor Toufayan, Yeretzgin Mariam and her parents who are visiting, made over 400 small choregs. All this preparation is a donation from our church for the upcoming Annual Diocesan Assembly taking place in St Vartan Cathedral in New York this year. Several churches are preparing goodies to serve the guests who will participate in this meeting. We all had so much fun working together for a good cause.

On Saturday, March 22 was Sainly Women's Day honoring St Santoukht, first Armenian Saint and Martyr. This year it was hosted by the Women's Guild of St Leon's Armenian Church, Fair Lawn NJ. A group of Ladies from St Stepanos Church, who just joined the Women's Guild and for which we all are so happy, had the privilege to join and honor St Santoukht. Our group consisted of Fr. Daniel, Yeretzgin Marian as well as her parents visiting them, also Silva and Terenig Terjanian, Mary Gorra, Linda Patruno, Virginia Sabonjian, Sona and Krikor Toufayan. It was a good group representing our St Stepanos Church at this important celebration of Armenian History. Lunch was served, prepared by the ladies of St Leon's Church, delicious Lenten food that we all enjoyed. It was a very memorable day and informative at the same time. The guest speaker was Prof. Roberta Ervine who enlightened us with her speech. The Professor teaches religion in St Nersess Seminary. Thank you to all the Women's Guild Ladies of St Leon's Church for their hard work to make this event a successful affair.

Sona T

MIDDAY READINGS ASCRIBED FOR THIS SUNDAY:

PHILIPPIANS 3:1-49:

In describing the "gain" of his conversion, St. Paul brings out the "gains" which every Christian can claim. The ultimate "gain" is to be the resurrection of the just at the Second Coming. Those that have a righteousness not based on the law, but which is through faith in the Risen Christ, will achieve this complete conformity to the Risen Christ through living and suffering in the Christian way.

LUKE 17:20-18:14:

Our Lord relates the parable of the unjust Judge and the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. Both parables concern themselves with prayer. Prayer is simply conversation with God, talking things over with our Heavenly Father. However, to be meaningful, it must be steadfast, honest and sincere.



DER VOGHORMYA / A SPECIAL PRAYER at the altar today is for the healing and health of **Trudy Takakjian, Gegham Tukmanyants.**

Our Primate asks our Diocesan parishes and families to offer prayers for our brothers and sisters in Kessab. In this hour of need, please remember them in your prayers, at home and in church.

Archbishop Barsamian wishes to remind us that the Diocese continues to accept donations on behalf of Syrian relief, which are distributed to our people through the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. He asks our parishes to conduct special plate collections for this purpose on the next three Sundays—March 30, April 6, and April 13 (Palm Sunday)—with proceeds to be sent to the Diocese by Friday, April 18. Individuals may also make secure online contributions on the Diocesan website (please select the "Syrian Relief" item in the relevant drop-down menu).