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**SAINT STEPANOS
ARMENIAN
APOSTOLIC
CHURCH**

25 Մայիս 2014

**ԿԻՐԱԿՆՕՐԵԱՅ ԹԵՐԹԻԿ
SUNDAY BULLETIN**

May 25, 2014

**Զ ԿԻՐԱԿԻ ՅԱՐՈՒԹԵԱՆ
SIX SUNDAY OF ESTERTIDE**

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 Թինյ. Գարաճեան - Նոգետր Նովիւ



**Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?
(Acts 1:1-11)**

This coming Thursday will mark the Feast of Holy Ascension. It marks the ascent of our Lord Jesus Christ into heaven on the 40th day after His glorious

Resurrection. The timing is clearly specified in the Acts of the Apostles, where it is stated that Christ presented himself alive to the Apostles, “appearing to them during forty days and speaking of the kingdom of God” (Acts 1:3).

On the 40th day, after he finished speaking to the Apostles, “as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.” (Acts 1:9).

The Gospel according to Mark sums up the same story as follows: “So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God” (Mark 16: 19). The same account is also in the Gospel according to Luke:

“While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven” (Luke 24:51). There are also several references to this event in some of the other books of the New Testament.

Ascension has always been a joyous festival for the Armenian people. In times past, in the land of our forefathers, Ascension Thursday was celebrated not only with religious ceremonies but also with picnics, singing and dancing.

Those who are familiar with the opera “Anoush” can attest to this. This festive spirit was promoted not only by the advent of spring after the long months of winter, but also by the Feast of Ascension itself, which is a celebration of the ultimate victory of good over evil.

The most beautiful account of the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ can be found in the Book of Acts ch. 1 : 9-11.

In the Armenian Church, the day of Jesus Christ’s Ascension is also commemorated for another reason as well. In 1441, the See of the Catholicosate of All Armenians was returned to its historical origins. Following a resolution of the National Assembly gathered in Vagharshapad, the Patriarchal See was relocated from the city of Sis in Western Armenia to the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. Following his vision of Christ striking the ground with a golden hammer, St. Gregory the Illuminator had founded the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin in 303. We know that for 1000 years, the Mother See of our Catholicos settled in various cities throughout Armenia. The decision to return the throne of the Catholicos to the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin was the fulfillment of a national dream for the Armenian people.

Համբարձման տօնը՝ մարդուն փրկութեան եւ կատարելագործուման տօնն է: Փրկութեան ամբողջ ընթացքը, այսինքն՝ Ծնունդը, Չարչարանքը, Մահը ու Յարութիւնը կ'ամբողջանայ Քրիստոսի Համբարձումով:

Յիսուսի երկինք համբարնալը տեղի ունեցաւ Իր յարութիւնէն քառասուն օր ետք: Մինչ այդ, մեր Տէրը երեւեցաւ իր աշակերտներուն, խօսեցաւ իրենց հետ եւ յանձնեց իր վերջին պատգամները: Իր խաղաղութիւնը տուաւ անոնց եւ խոստացաւ ուղղարկել միախորհիչ մը Սուրբ Հոգին, որ մնայ իր Եկեղեցիին հետ մինչեւ աշխարհի կատարածը:



Այս բոլորով Քրիստոս կատարելագործեց իր Մարդեղութեան խորհուրդը եւ փառքով երկինք համբարձաւ: Թող «փառքերու Թագաւորը» գայ եւ մուտք գործէ մեր սրտերուն մէջ ինչպէս որ Ան մուտք գործեց երկինք ու «կը նստի Հօր աջակողմը»:

MIDDAY READINGS ASCRIBED FOR THIS SUNDAY:

On this Memorial Day Weekend, A Soldiers Prayer

O God, we know you care about each of your children, around the globe. We praise your loving kindness, your merciful grace. This day we lift to you our troops. So far from home and family, they do their best to serve with faithfulness and honor. Hold them tightly, Holy One. Give them courage. As they endure harsh conditions, loneliness and great danger, let them know your nearness. Help them feel your love, and comfort the families left behind. Also, we pray for the end of war. We pray for your strength, your wisdom and your reconciliation. That the serving men and women of every nation might be at home, wrapped in their families, we seek your peace, here on earth, as in heaven. Creator, bless us all as we pray in your holy name. Amen.



ACYOA ASSEMBLY 2014

This past week marked the ACYOA Annual General Assembly and Sports Weekend hosted by Holy Martyrs Church, Bayside, NY and held in "The Big Apple." The Assembly hosted roughly sixty young adults from various parishes. Our parish was represented by ACYOA Chairperson, Alyne Corrigan and Der Daniel Karadjian.

The assembly began with a message given by our Primate which inspired the Youth to stay true to their faith and culture. Following Morning Service and singing of the Hayr Mer, General Assembly began. The meetings discussed important business necessary to ensure the success of the ACYOA nationwide. Presentations were given highlighting additional organizations which assist our Armenian Communities and Motherland. Websites like shopLavenk and weareayo.org provide the diaspora with both handmade products for sale as well as opportunities for empowering change.



The weekend was a great success! Thank you Bayside for a wonderful General Assembly and Sports Weekend.

Mothers Day Dinner and Mother and Woman of the Year 2013

On Saturday, May 17, 2014 we had a very special dinner and evening at St. Stepanos.

All of the mother's of St. Stepanos were honored at the celebration of Mother's Day and the award of Mother and Woman of the Year to our Parish Council Chairperson Aida Kado. The event chaired by Yeretzin Mariam was supported by the donation of the dinner by the Lahham family.

The dinner was prepared by Azad Lahham, Yester Garabedian. Robina Chaudhari provided all of the prizes for the evenings raffle. We thank all that helped in preparation and the serving of the dinner as well as all donations. During this write-up the word special will be used such that it will seem over used. It is not, it fits every place it is stated.

John Haytaian

MIDDAY READINGS ASCRIBED FOR THIS SUNDAY:

Acts 20:17-38, I John 3:2-6, John 9:39-10:10

ACTS 20:17-38:

The Apostle Paul speaks to the elders of Ephesus, recalling his missionary activities, serving the Lord with humility. He tells of his future plans and then warns them that they must guard and keep safe the flock, protecting it from external dangers, ever vigilant against those who will come to destroy rather than build.

I JOHN 3:2-6:

Men's sins can be forgiven by Our Christ, if we turn to become Christ-like. The righteous will be revealed like Him – pure, loving, obedient in keeping God's commandments. The unrighteous, likewise, will be revealed for what they are.

JOHN 9:39-10:10:

The only parable found in John emphasizes the love of the true shepherd Jesus who is willing to lay down His life for us. He calls us by name to follow him but some remain more confident in themselves than the love of Christ.



CHURCH ETIQUETTE

Lighting Candles

Lighting candles is an important part of Orthodox worship. We light them as we pray, making an offering to accompany our prayers. Orthodox typically light candles when coming into the church - and that is usually the best time to light them, but there are times when candles should not be lit. It is not proper to light candles during the Epistle or Gospel readings, during the Little or Great Entrances, the sermon, and most of the times when the faithful are standing. If you find yourself arriving to church after the Liturgy has begun, a good rule of thumb to remember is - if everyone is standing, wait until they are sitting to light a candle (unless they are sitting for the sermon, of course). Other than that it is probably all right to light a candle.

Church Website: www.ststepanos.org

We hope you will enjoy its new format as we continue to give you information for the church's events and chronicle life within our Saint Stepanos Armenian Church's community in Long Branch, NJ.

Please feel free to share your comments, suggestions and ideas regarding our updated Website.

Enjoy !



The Bible study that will be held on Monday, June 9th at 7:00 p.m. at the Church, will review John, Chapter 9 and 10.

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

EASTER HOME BLESSINGS

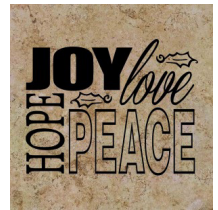
Father Daniel would like to visit your home and bring to you the blessings of God. Please contact him at 732-229-3661 to schedule a convenient for you time for your home blessing.

SAVE THE DATE

**On Saturday, June 7 at 7 p.m. at St. Stepanos Armenian Church
Celebrating Feast of The Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ
at St. Stepanos with the evening of Armenian folk and classical songs
Performed by Anna Mehrabyan.**

The official Ascension Day is on May 29. This is the most loved holiday for young people in Armenia. In some areas the celebrations turn into folk festival with music, dances, and games. Our concert is dedicated to the festive spirit of Hambartzum with its promise of hope, joy and love. Suggested Donations - \$15.00 per person. Students - \$10.00 Children under 10 - free

All proceeds from this event will support St. Stepanos Church's future cultural events. Light snacks and beverages will be served by our WG after the concert at Kevork and Sirvart Hovnanian hall.



June 21-22, Father's Day Picnic and Garage Sale after Badarak
We will also celebrate the Man of the Year
We are looking for clean like new clothing, vintage jewelry, bike, tools, stereo, DVD players, Kitchenware. Please contact Robina Lahham at 732-567-6460 * 732-276-6964 or email RobinaLahham@yahoo.com



July 26, 2014 - One Day Summer Camp
Bible Adventure: "Jonah and The Big Fish".
All our children at age 7 and more are invited.
Suggested Donations – \$10.00. Please sign up not later than July 14th.
More details to follow.

REQUIEM SERVICE / ՀՈԳԵՀԱՆԳԻՍ

40-Day Service
Requested in loving memory of:
† Isabel Bedrosian

Requested by:
Karen Bedrosian-Richardson
Robert Bedrosian

DER VOGHORMYA / A SPECIAL PRAYER
at the altar today is for the healing and health of **Trudy Takakjian, Iris Ganimian, Annette Serabian, Dorthy Othchy and Joan Yates.**

Please offer your prayers for our Armenian brothers and sisters in Syria. In this hour of need, please remember them in your prayers.