

ՍՈՒՐԲ ԱՍՏՓԱՆՈՍ
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ԱՌԱՔԵԼԱԿԱՆ
ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ



**SAINT STEPANOS
ARMENIAN
APOSTOLIC
CHURCH**

27 Յուլիս 2014

ԿԻՐԱԿՆՕՐԵԱՅ ԹԵՐԹԻԿ

July 27, 2014

SUNDAY BULLETIN

ԱՅԼԱԿԵՐՊՈՒԹԵԱՆ ՏՕՆ

Վարդավառ

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Church Website: www.ststepanos.org

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

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

Rev. Fr. Daniel Karadjian - Pastor

Տ Դանիէլ Բինյ. Գարաճեան - Հոգեւոր Հովիւ

ՊԱՅԾԱՌԱԿԵՐՊՈՒԹԻՒՆ



Ս. Ծննդեան եւ Աստուածայայտնութեան տաղաարներուն կը տօնենք մեր Տիրոջ Յիսուս Քրիստոսի մարդեղութիւնը, Սուրբ Զատիկին՝ Անոր մեռելներէն յարութիւնը, իսկ Այլակերպութեան կամ Պայծառակերպութեան տաղաարին կը տօնենք մեր Տիրոջ Աստուածութիւնը, որովհետեւ մեր Տէրը Իր պայծառակերպութեամբ տեսանելի կերպով ցոյց տուաւ Իր Աստուածային փառքը:

Քրիստոսի Պայծառակերպութեան մասին կը վկայեն Մատթէոս (17: 1-13) Մարկոս (9: 1-12) եւ Դուկաս (9: 28-36) անտարանիչները:

Օր մը Յիսուս իր հետ առաւ Պետրոս, Յակոբոս եւ անոր եղբայրը Յովհաննէսը եւ ելան բարձր թափոր լեռը: Երբ հասան զագաթը,

Քրիստոս աղօթեց եւ իր աշակերտներուն առջեւ այլակերպուեցաւ: Յիսուսի երեսը արեւի պէս կը փայլէր եւ Անոր զգեստները լոյսի պէս սպիտակ դարձած էին: Աշակերտներուն առջեւ երեւեցան նաեւ Մովսէս եւ Եղիա, որոնք կը խօսէին Քրիստոսի հետ Իր մօտակայ չարչարանքներուն եւ խաչելութեան մասին:

Պետրոս հիացած կատարումներուն վրայ, անբացատրելի երանութեան մէջ կ'ապրէր: Ուրախ ձայնով ըսաւ. «Տէր լաւ է այստեղ մնանք. եթէ ուզես երեք տաղաար շինենք, մէկը քեզի, մէկը Մովսէսի եւ մէկը Եղիայի»: Ան չէր ուզեր, որ վերջ գտնէին այդ երանելի պահերը:

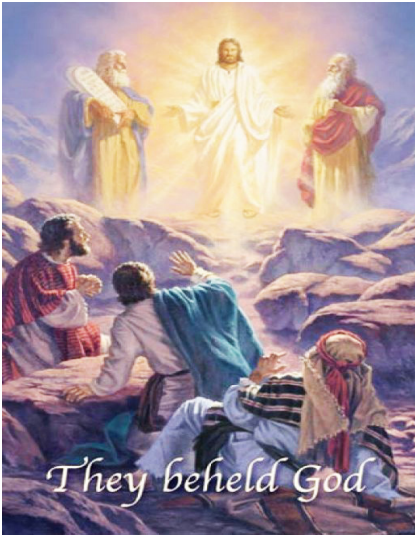
Այդ պահուն լուսատր ամպ մը հովանի եղաւ անոնց վրայ. ձայն մը լսուեցաւ ամպին մէջէն որ կ'ըսէր. «Այդ է իմ սիրելի որդիս, որուն հաճեցայ, անոր մօտիկ ըրէք»: Աշակերտները մեծ վախով իրենց երեսներուն վրայ ինկան: Յիսուս մօտենալով դպաւ անոնց եւ ըսաւ. «Ոտքի ելէք եւ մի վախճաք»: Իրենց աչքերը վեր առին եւ այս անգամ բացի Յիսուսէն ոչ ոք տեսան (Մատթէոս 17:1-13):

Հայ եկեղեցին Քրիստոսի Պայծառակերպութիւնը կը տօնէ Զատիկէն 98 օր հետոյ, Յունիսի 28-էն մինչեւ Օգոստոսի 1-ին: Հայաստանյայց եկեղեցին այս տօնը կը կոչէ նաեւ Այլակերպութեան տօն կամ Վարդավառ: Վերջինս հին հայկական տօնի անուանումն մըն է:

Տիրոջ Պայծառակերպութեան տոնին միմյանց վրա ջուր լցնելու ավանդույթը 5000 տարվա պատմություն ունի, որի վերաբերյալ կա մի հին ավանդույթ, որ թերեւս սկզբնավորվել է ջրհեղեղը վերապրած մարդկության միջավայրում: Վարդավառի տոնը կապվում է Ջրհեղեղի եւ Նոյի տապանից իջնելու հետ, իսկ միմյանց վրա ջուր ցանելը, աղավնի բաց թողնելը դիտվում է իբրև Ջրհեղեղն ու նրանից ազատվելը հիշատակող կամ խորհրդարանող արարողություն: Իսկ ազգագրագետների մեկնաբանությամբ, հեթանոսական Հայաստանում Վարդավառը կապված է եղել գեղեցկության եւ սիրո ստովածուհի Աստղիկի եւ Վահագն աստծո սիրո պատմության հետ: Վարդեր նվիրելով եւ ջուր լցնելով՝ Աստղիկը սեր էր տարածում ողջ Հայաստանում, իսկ Վահագնը, մշտապես պայքարելով չարի դեմ, պաշտպանում էր այդ սերը:



<http://www.asparez.am>



The Feast of the Transfiguration is one of the five principal feasts of the Armenian Church, so named because of Christ's luminous appearance. In Armenia it is also known as Vartavar (the Festival of Roses) after the old pagan feast, which it replaced. The feast marks Christ's appearance with a resplendent countenance to three of His disciples, Peter, John, and James, on the holy mountain of Galilee, also known as Mount Tabor.

The Bible tells us that when Jesus was considering going to Jerusalem, he spoke with his disciples of the torture that was in store for Him and of the end of His life on earth. Jesus wanted His disciples to be prepared for the coming events. His disciples, however, did not believe that Jesus could possibly face such tribulations and Peter adamantly said none of Jesus' predictions would come true, and Jesus admonished his disciples. About a week later, Jesus had his miraculous Transfiguration.

He went up Tabor Mountain with three of His disciples — Simon Peter, James, and John Zebedee — to pray as the other tired disciples remained at the bottom of the mountain. It was there that Jesus began to assume a new appearance. The three disciples were amazed when they saw His new radiant being. Though it was nighttime, the disciples saw light coming from the sun in the sky.

Among the light they saw two other men — said to be Moses and Elijah — speaking to Jesus about His remaining time left on earth and the sacrifice He would soon make. Then a cloud came upon the group. The voice of God was heard, saying the same phrase he said when Jesus was baptized, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to Him!" (Luke 9:35). After the Transfiguration, Jesus asked His disciples not to talk about it until His coming Resurrection. This scene can be found in four different places in the New Testament: Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:11-7; Luke 9:29-36; and Peter II 1:17-18.

In the Armenian calendar, the feast takes place on the 14th Sunday after Easter — 98 days later— so it is movable within an interval of 35 days, from June 28 to August 1. The Orthodox and Catholic churches observe the feast of Transfiguration on a fixed day, August 6.

The central importance of the transfiguration becomes clearer in the context of Jesus' entire life and mission. Just before going to Mount Tabor, Jesus revealed to the disciples his Father's plan for the salvation of humanity, which would necessitate his torturous death but end in his glorious victory. The transfiguration was Christ's inspiration and glory in anticipation of fulfilling his Father's plan.

All feast days should have immediate relevance to our lives. At the Feast of the Transfiguration it is not enough to believe in the historical accuracy of something that happened 2000 years ago. Rather, that same Christ, who is still as present as He was on that high mountain, should fill our hearts. The Feast of the Transfiguration is OUR time to be transfigured into better, more gentle, more peaceful and loving Christians. A time to rejoice in the knowledge of His Divinity which is the means of our redemption.



Question: Why do we call the feast of the Transfiguration "Vardavar" in Armenian?

Answer: We compare the Lord to a rose (Vard). Before it opens, the rose lies hidden within its bud. In the same way the brightness of the Lord's divinity lay hidden within him before the Transfiguration. And in the same way that the rose appears clearly once the bud opens, on this day our Lord's divinity appeared clearly to everyone.

A rose grows amid thorns. In the same way, our Lord appeared amid the Jews, who crucified Him. The rose emits a sweet fragrance; in the same way the sweet fragrance of our Lord's Transfiguration put his disciples into a deep sleep.

Our ancestors called this feast Vardavar because while the rose is still a bud, it gives no hint of its beauty or its fragrance, but when the time is ripe, it is moved by its own sweetness to unfurl and make people happy with its color and fragrance. In the same way Christ was conceived in the Virgin's womb and developed there like a

bud. Then his birth was revealed by stars and angels to the magi and the shepherds, and when he reached full maturity he was revealed to human beings by means of his miracles and wonders.

The Lord was concealed behind the “veil” of his body like a bud. Today it opened and revealed the glory of His Father, and through its wafting fragrance, it revealed His divinity.

A rose has three qualities: redness, whiteness, and fragrance — these signify the Trinity. In the mystery of Christ’s incarnation, red corresponds to the blood He spilled on the cross; white corresponds to His innocence; and fragrance signifies the Spirit, which He breathed into the disciples saying, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” (John 20:22) It reminds us also of this verse: “My beloved is white and red, the best among ten thousand.” (Song of Songs 5:10)

On this day the Apostles were set up as teachers of the entire world. The Lord taught the disciples to be like Moses and Elijah in patience and poverty.

MIDDAY READINGS ASCRIBED FOR THIS SUNDAY:

Wisdom 7:25-8:4; Zechariah 14:16-21; 1 John 1:1-7; Matthew 16:13-17:13.

WISDOM 7:25-8:4;

Wisdom is identified by the author with the spirit of God by transferring the functions of the spirit to Wisdom. He recalls God’s earlier dealings with the just and the wicked in Egypt at the time of the Exodus.

ZECHARIAH 14:16-21:

The Festival seems to speak of the final joyful re-gathering and restoration of Israel as well as of the ingathering of the nations. All the nations will observe the great feast

I JOHN 1:1-7:

Authorship of this letter and the Fourth gospel are attributed to the same person. This can be easily detected by comparing today’s reading with the “Prologue” of the Gospel of John (1:1-18). Living witnesses, i.e., the Apostles, have in these final days experienced the revelation of God, which has existed from the beginning. The joy that Christ promised and bestowed on His apostles comes from fellowship with God that may be possessed by the entire Church.

MATTHEW 17:1-13:

The narrative of the Transfiguration, wherein is described a vision of Jesus in heavenly glory as the Messiah of God. Moses and Elijah, the great men of the religion of Israel, appear with Christ as a fulfillment of the Old Testament Law and Prophecies.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following people on their Birthdays this month: 07/09/-Hachik Givelekian, 07/12/-Eliza Yezdanian; Max Manfre, 07/13/-Nanor Terjanian; Nargis Buchakjian 07/14/-Peter Haytaian; Christine Vartanian, 07/16/-Arthur Tadevosyan, 07/18/-Rose Surenian, 07/24/-Debora Maturo; George Kazanjian, 07/25/-Michael Luter, 07/27/-Jivan Tadevosyan, 7/30/Mariya Arzumanyants; Anton Kalajian, 07/31/-David Housepian.

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 !

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.

P·A·R·I·S·H
NEWS

On July 18th to the 20th Marie and John Haytaian attended the first ever Sunday School Superintendents Summit in Dover, MA. Seventeen parishes were represented and there were 28 participants since many parishes have co-superintendents. The Summit was hosted by the Diocesan Department of Christian Education and its Director Elise Antreassian.

The purpose of the Summit was to discuss the state of affairs of our Sunday Schools and interact on what we are doing. This resulted in some very interesting approaches and activities that all of the Sunday Schools can benefit from and use in their school year. We also discussed our roles as leaders (are we leaders or managers?) and lastly and most significantly our collective vision going forward.



Please
NOTE

that the letter dated July 2014 which was sent from the office of the Pastor to our dues paying members was just a humble reminder. In fact, "Dues for the current year must be paid by December 31 in order to remain a member in good standing. However, in order for a member to participate and vote in the parish assembly, the dues must be paid six months before the assembly" (see paragraph

7 of the by-laws) Bill Casey - Diocesan Department of Finance.

Thanks to all our members who have already sent in their dues.



On Sunday August 17, 2014 at 1:00PM, after the church services, Saint Stepanos Armenian Church and the Armenian American Social club will held a Flag-Raising Ceremony and dedication of the newly erected flagpoles on the Church's ground.

The Bible study that will be held on **Monday, August 26 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Church, We will be finishing the Book of John and we will move into the Book of Acts.



Today the Altar Flowers in dedication to the Feast of Transfiguration of our Lord are donated by Yester Garabedian and her family.

Fellowship hour: will be hosted by the W Guild. Please contact Mary Ann Tutunjian at 732-776- 8333, if you would like to sponsor a fellowship hour. We thank our Women's Guild for their donation of \$50 on the occasion of 40 days memorial service of Mary Poosikian.



St. Stepanos Armenian Church is excited to invite you to join us in our first "Yerebuni" **Armenian Music Summer Festival Concert on Saturday, August 23, 2014 at 6:30PM.**

The concert will showcase the talent of young Armenian musicians from our region. All artists are between the ages of 7 and 20 and will perform one piece by an Armenian composer and one other piece of their choosing. Tickets \$10 @ the Door.



Want to improve your English? The Parish Council of St. Stepanos Armenian Church invites you to come and try a free ESL class Sunday July 27, 2014 at 11 AM – 1 PM* in our Sunday School with ESL instructor Roberta Ervine

Ձեր անգլերէնը զօրացնելու պէտքը կը զգա՞ք Սուրբ Ստեփանոս Հայոց Եկեղեցիի հոգաբարցութիւնը ձեզ կը հրաւիրէ ձրիօրէն մասնակցելու Անգլերէն լեզուի դասընթացքի՝ Կիրակի Յուլիս 27, 2014 կ.ա. 11-կ.ե. 1-ին ուսուցիչ՝ Ռոպերթա Էրվին



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

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