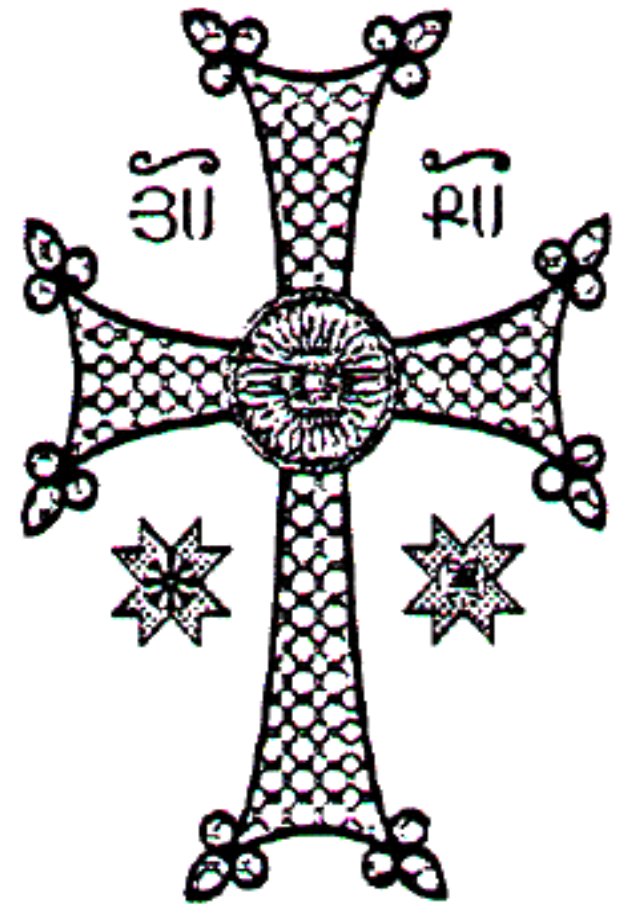


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April
2016



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Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection
1910 Stanley Street - New Britain, CT, 06053
Rev. Fr. Kapriel Mouradjian, Pastor



Church Directory

Rev. Fr. Kapriel Mouradjian - Pastor
Phone/Fax: (860) 223-7875
1910 Stanley Street - New Britain, CT 06053

Parish Council

Arthur Simonian Jr.	Chairman
Robin Haboian-Demircan	Vice - Chairman
John Maljanian Jr.	Treasurer
David Abrahamian	Asst. Treasurer
Guy Simonian	Secretary
Ellen Hovhanessian	Advisor
Tim Smith	Advisor

Parish Council Emeritus

John Maljanian Sr.	Executive Director
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Diocesan Delegate

Adrienne Damian

Cemetery Custodians

Peter Bagdigian
Emil Mosey, Assistant

Loos Staff

Reverend Fr. Kapriel Mouradjian
Matthew Cannata
Emil Mosey

Sunday School

Roxie Maljanian	Superintendent
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ACYOA Jrs.

Mary Connors
Gary Hovhanessian

Breakfast Club

Sylvia Simonian	Chair
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Choir

Adrienne Damian	Director
Yn. Patricia Buttero	Asst. Director
Susan Sagherian	Organist

Hye Angels

Shannon Bagdigian	Chair
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Sandwich Fund

Henrietta Kallajian	Chair
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Seniors Coordinators

Queenie Hovhanessian	Chair
Yn. Patricia Buttero	
Gail Onanian	

Sons and Daughters

John Paul Abrahamian

Women's Guild

Adrienne Damian	Chair
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Easter Message of Archbishop Khajag Barsamian

Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

Ordinary Saints

Peter was sitting in the outdoor courtyard when a maid came up to him and said, "You too were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before everyone, saying, "I don't know what you mean." ... After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them: your accent betrays you." Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know the man!" Immediately the cock crowed—and Peter remembered the saying of Jesus: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." He went outside, and wept bitterly. (MATTHEW 26:69-75)

EASTER IS OUR GREAT STORY OF VICTORY, our assurance of triumph. In the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's love for mankind won the contest against man's age-old enemies, Sin and Death. The faithful are promised to share in that victory.

But to read the gospels, one is struck by the aura of failure that overhangs the figures in the resurrection story. Consider the situation of the disciple Peter. In a supreme moment of decision, he denies even knowing Jesus, the teacher he has followed for three years. It's a failure of discipleship—and worse, of friendship. Yet Peter is clearly not a venal or evil man; in many ways he merely does what anyone else would do in the same situation. Peter's failure merely proves how ordinary he is.

The all-too-ordinary disciple has plenty of company in the Easter story. Along with Peter's denial, we witness the tearful despair of Mary Magdalene outside the tomb; the discouragement of the disciples on the road to Emmaus; the skepticism of Thomas; the terror of the main body of disciples hiding out in the upper room. We are tempted to ask: *What are these stories doing in the Gospel at all?*

Scripture offers no direct answer to this question; but it does lead us to an observation. The great Easter message of hope, redemption, and new life was Christ's gift to the world. But to carry it forward into the world, Jesus entrusted his gift to messengers like these: the flawed and fearful, the discouraged and doubtful. Ordinary people, whose only distinction was that they had borne witness to something beyond understanding.

How remarkable it is to realize that these were the earliest Christian saints! For eventually, Peter & the rest became martyrs for Christ. They were individuals of no special distinction. But in light of our Lord's resurrection they found the inner strength to stand with him, and not to deny him, in the end. "Saint" is the name we give to such people.

Sainthood has been a subject of renewed interest in the Armenian Church lately. In the month following Easter, we will mark the anniversary of the canonization of the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide: the first Armenian saints to have been acknowledged in hundreds of years. The canonization was a great milestone for our nation; but like all weighty moral undertakings, it did not occur without questions. Good and serious people questioned whether it was possible to acknowledge such a large company of people as saints of the church. Indeed, one can say with certainty that the vast majority of Genocide martyrs—people we now regard as saints—were flawed or otherwise unremarkable in their lives, apart from the circumstances of their sainthood.

Primate's Easter Message ctd...

But now, after a year of living in the consciousness of these “new” saints, and with Easter again before us, perhaps we can find guidance in the Gospel account of those who witnessed the resurrection.

The saints are indeed ordinary people. But far from being an obstacle to our understanding, the very ordinariness of the saints is what makes them examples—permits them to be aspirational figures for us. If they were superhuman beings with seamlessly virtuous lives, we might admire them; but we would have a ready excuse, an alibi, for failing to live up to their example. Realizing that they were ordinary people—men and women just like us—places the responsibility to live saintly lives directly on our shoulders.

This is surely one of the great moral revolutions Christianity brought into the world. To the imperial pagan world of Christ's time, heroes were the offspring of gods—an unattainable distinction. The spectacle of heroic suffering—tragedy—was meant to make men tremble, while encouraging them to rest satisfied that, as mortals, they were beneath the notice of the careless pagan divinities.

Contrast this with the Christian saints, who have arisen from every station of life, and often are not even recognized as special until some moment of crisis. Their stories are meant to expose the deceit and injustice underlying the world around them—and to disrupt our own self-satisfied appraisal of the world around us. Their suffering is heroic not because it defies unfeeling gods, but because it imitates the experience of God's Son—who lived, felt and suffered alongside his children, out of love for them.

The miracle of Easter is the gift that all the saints embraced. However ordinary their lives may have been, carrying Christ's resurrection in their hearts magnified them. When their moment of decision came—whether in the Apostolic Age, in 1915, or even today—they refused to deny their Lord.

It falls to us to accept our own role in this drama. As the Easter story shows, Christ entrusted his message of faith, love, and redemption to people no different from us. Carrying it forward has been the work of dozens, hundreds, millions of faithful individuals—our own ancestors among them. That gift now rests in our hands, and whether it continues to be carried forward through another century is largely up to us. Let that thought guide us this Easter, as we greet Christ's resurrection for the first time in the company of our sainted Genocide Martyrs, and affirm with them the truth of those immortal words:

**Krisdos haryav ee merelotz! Orhnyal eh harootiunun Krisdosee!
Christ is risen from the dead! Blessed is the resurrection of Christ!**

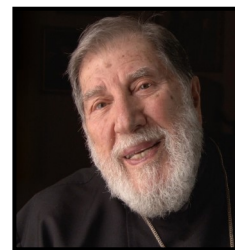
Mission of the Armenian Church



The mission of the Armenian Apostolic Church is to preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and to proclaim its message of salvation. This mission is realized through Worship, Education, Witness, Service, and common life in Christ as expressed in the distinctive faith - experience of the Armenian people.

All members of the Armenian Church - both clergy and lay - are called to participate fully in this mission.

In Memoriam: Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian (1925-2016)



On March 22 and 23, St. Vartan Cathedral was the setting for the Wake Service and Funeral Liturgy of His Eminence Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian, the former Primate of the United Kingdom, and a long-serving pastor among the churches of the Eastern Diocese.

He lived to find himself the eldest clergyman of episcopal rank in the Armenian Church, and was a true spiritual father to his people. He passed away peacefully in his sleep at the age of 90.

Archbishop Gizirian answered the call of our Lord as a young man, inspired by the examples of holiness he saw among such great figures as Catholicos Karekin Hovsepian, Patriarch Shnork Kaloustian, and Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan. In turn, Yeghishe Srpazan became an example of holiness to subsequent generations, through his faithful, humble, loving service to God.

His preaching conveyed authority; yet his personal example was one of humility and quiet grace. He was a leader of great inner strength and conviction; yet his greatest strength was the tender com-pas-sion- he showed to all—a quality that made him beloved wherever he served.

In Yeghishe Srpazan, one perceived those remarkable qualities exemplified by our Lord's earliest followers: the apostles who illuminated the world, including our homeland, with the Light of Christ.

As a teacher, a pastor to many parishes in the Eastern Diocese, and as Diocesan Primate of the United Kingdom, Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian touched the lives of countless people. Our Diocese—indeed, our entire church—was blessed to have had his holy example before us. His noble spirit will linger in our community, and in our hearts. *May Almighty God accept & illumine the soul of this, His worthy Servant. Amen.*

Parish News

Submitted by Fr. Kapriel Mouradjian

Poorvar donations

Our Pastor & Parish Council would like to thank Sonia Ohanian and Yn. Patricia Buttero for each donating one of our new poorvars (censers) used during Divine Liturgy. They were donated in memory of Paul Ohanian, Fr. Michael Buttero and Peter & Margaret Bagdigian, respectively. May God bless all who care for His Holy Church.

Sarah Yagoobian Scholarship 2016

Applications are available in the Parish Council office, and should be submitted by Sunday, May 15. The award presentation will be made on Sunday, June 12.

Thank You!

We would like to thank the following for their extra efforts and donations towards the overall welfare of our parish and property.



- Art Simonian for donating a new doorbell and nighttime spotlight for the entrance to the Pastor’s Office. Also assisting in the installations were Chucky & Sharon Vartanian, Mark Simonian, Guy Simonian and Steven Mosey.
- Art Simonian and Peter Bagdigian for their repairs to the Sanctuary door hinge.
- Breakfast Club for their donation of a new 100 cup coffee percolator.

Parish Registry

Requiem Services were offered for the souls of:

Aramast Mahtesian

Requested by Fr. Kapriel, Yn. Diane and family.

Paul Ohanian (10th yr.), Oscar, Charles & Violet Mooradian

Requested by the Ohanian, Pare & Soukiassian families.

May almighty God enlighten their souls



Sunday School

Submitted by Roxie Maljanian

As of this writing, Holy Week has not yet begun, but our students have been preparing themselves for Palm Sunday services, Holy Thursday participation, and of course Easter. On Palm Sunday, they will be making their traditional palm crosses with blessed palms to share with family and friends at home.

A reminder to all that their Diocesan Lenten Offerings are to be returned on Easter. The results will be in the May *Loos*, along with our Easter activities. Photos of all students as a group will be taken on both Palm Sunday and Easter.

During April and May, during the Assembly, students will resume learning Badarak songs in English. Several have been practiced with the help of our new CD, the first one being “ORHNESEETS UZ DER” /” I WILL PRAISE THE LORD.” This is a familiar song to all at the end of Badarak. Maybe, they can surprise the choir before long!

After an April 10 staff meeting, a definite plan for our last day of Sunday School will be presented which is June 5. Tentative plans are to attend a New Britain Bees baseball game as a group. This is after our morning activities at assembly presenting gifts for good attendance and altar flower doors, etc.

Fortunately, this new professional team in New Britain is their first year with our community and do have a home game in town on June 5. Tickets are very reasonable and will be open to other members of our church. Details will be posted on April 17 after our meeting.

We hope that all have had a meaningful Easter!

Think about this...
“If I love until it hurts,
then there is no hurt, but only more love...



Sunday, April 10th, 2016

Divine Liturgy

Guest Celebrant & Preacher

Very Reverend Fr. Daniel Findikyan

Following Fellowship, Fr. Daniel will offer his presentation
"From Victims to Victors"



Sunday, April 17th, 2016

Narrated Divine Liturgy

This is a special day for all who wish to begin to understand or perhaps need a refresher on the Armenian Liturgy.

During the service, Narrators will explain in English what is happening and why. Services will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. with the vesting of the Priest in front of the congregation, instead of in the Vestry.

For your understanding and your spiritual health, please join us!

Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection
1910 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06053/860-223-7875
Reverend Fr. Kapriel Mouradjian, Pastor



Sunday, April 17 - 10:00 AM

Join us as we will offer another
Narrated Divine Liturgy



Submitted by Elizabeth Kalfayan

ACYOA is a big part of people’s lives, starting with the Juniors and extending all the way to seniors who are in college or have already graduated from college. It is just so hard to leave because the friends we make at the retreats, sports weekends and camp are the friends we remember forever.

As you may have noticed, the group has participated and held many events. We started out the year strong with hosting a luncheon in celebration of Armenian Christmas. Approximately 60 parishioners enjoyed a Lahmajoun luncheon. In February, ACYOA Members Megan, Michael, Elizabeth, Emily, Lauren, and Arben “took in” our Annual Parish Assembly meeting. No rest for our ACYOA! March may have come in like a lamb but we are even busier.

Emily, Michael and I attended the Annual ACYOA Jr.’s Lenten Retreat. 52 teens came together to gain a greater understanding of Lent, prayer, our heritage and to enjoy a weekend with old and new friends. This year’s retreat included our sister parishes from the New York/New Jersey Area as well as Connecticut, Providence and Massachusetts. The retreat took place at Camp Washington in Lakeside, Connecticut, which is run by the Episcopal Church of Connecticut.

This year’s theme was about prayer and the various types of prayers, including intercessory prayer. We caught up with old friends and made new ones. We are looking forward to seeing them again at Hye M’rtsoom in May.

On Palm Sunday, which is also ACYOA Day, we held a luncheon that featured baked potatoes and all the fixings (chili, butter, sour cream, bacon bits, cheese chives and even broccoli!) along with Armenian vegetables and salad. Dessert was prepared by our resident baker Emily Kallajian. Entertainment was provided by our own ACYOA members. We thank those parishioners who attended and hope that anyone who didn’t attend will do next year.



Written by Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan

As the founder of ACYOA, Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan's poem is ever-fitting for a Palm Sunday reflection as we celebrate the organization's 70th anniversary across the Diocese. To this day, the poem speaks to the founder's enormous enthusiasm for young people and encourages new readers to become more involved with the youth of the Armenian Church.

WHO is going to fill the ranks of our clergy, when our growing flock is being left unattended because of the lack of trained, devout and competent priests?

WHO is going to fill the ranks of our church school teachers, when our children are being starved of the knowledge and inspiration of our Faith?

WHO is going to fill the ranks of workers with and for our young people in the community, when they are drifting away from the fold into the confused, aimless and sinful world of self-defeating pleasure-hunters, bigoted hate-mongers and ignorant soul-wreckers?

WHO is going to come forward and speak and write words of wisdom, charity, integrity, honesty, decency, hope and courage inspired by the Word of God and imbued with His saving grace?

WHO is going to make our Armenian-Christian cultural heritage of past achievements live and flourish in this age, so that it can enrich the impoverished life of our Church and Community?

WHO is going to see visions of a bright future for our people and for our country and for mankind and devote his efforts and even his life with youthful vigor to the pursuit of goals that would be signposts on the path of our destiny?

WHO is going to enlist in the army of fighters for God and His kingdom in our Community, in America and in the world?

YOU, the youth of the Church.

So wake up from your slumber and get going forward and upward.
And the Lord Christ be with you.

The Breakfast Club

Submitted by Sylvia Simonian

On Saturday, March 26, The Breakfast Club did it again! We are able to accomplish such success every year due to the fantastic group of people who devote their time and positive energy in making our event such a great success from year to year.

On behalf of The Breakfast Club, I'd like to thank the following people for their most generous donations - some not only with raffle gifts but also with their time! In no specific order, thank you to:

Peter Bagdigian
Lucy Simonian
Manusak Terdjanian
Henrietta & Berj Kallajian
Diane & Gerard Roy
Melanie & Greg Kallajian
Arthur & Sylvia Simonian
Guy & Darlene Simonian
Amy Gregory

Robin Haboian- Demircan
Debbie Kerr
Susie Sagherian
Karlin Asataurian
Sarah Kalfayan
Sarah Swisher Grigerick
Serop Terdjanian
Ryan Terdjanian
Gary Hovhanessian

Also, a special shout out to our Junior Breakfast Club committee members; Megan Simonian, Anna Kallajian, Lauren Simonian and Olivia Demircan. We are very proud of these young ladies and the leadership, organizational, and artistic skills they bring forward! We are already looking forward to next year!

SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2017!



Donations

Church

Fr. Kapriel Mouradjian
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Gregory
Mr. and Mrs. Ara Shimshidian
Levon and Diane Vatian
Donald and Chris Azarigian

Looys

Eleanor Egazarian

In Lieu of Flowers - Craig Simonian

Serop and Ryan Terdjanian
Terdjanian Family
Beth Mazadoorian & Wilson Keithline
Total as of April 1, 2016: \$5,116

Sandwich Fund

Eleanor Egazarian
Walter and Carol Burkard
Mrs. Irene Mouradjian
Ohanian, Pare and Soukiassin Families
In memory of Paul Ohanian

Holy Week in the Armenian Church

The week of March 21 served as Holy Week for Christians around the world. It provided a time (Monday-Saturday morning) to reflect on how our Lord fulfilled His and the Old Testament promise to enter Jerusalem. Upon His entry, He was hailed and cheered, and soon those very same people turned against Him. In Armenian, we refer to this week as Avak Shapat, *avak* meaning senior, for this is the most important week in the life of a Christian.

Our parish joined Armenian communities around the world in commemorating Holy Thursday, Friday and Saturday readings, then in the evening, lighting our Sanctuaries with only candles, proclaiming His Glorious and Triumphant Resurrection. Holy Easter Sunday liturgy brought many old and familiar faces to our Sanctuary for which we are grateful. It's our continued hope and prayer that many of our friends and family will participate more with us in the life of the church as we go forward.

Christ is Risen from the Dead/Blessed is the Resurrection of Christ



News from the Eastern Diocese

Easter at St. Vartan Cathedral

Morning clouds gave way to afternoon sunshine on Easter Sunday, as worshippers spilled onto the plaza of New York's St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral for the traditional "Release of Doves" ceremony.

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), celebrated the Divine Liturgy and delivered the Easter homily on Sunday, March 27. As many as 2,000 people took part in the day's events at the cathedral, greeting one another with the joyous words, "Krisdos haryav ee merelotz! Orhnyal eh harootiunun Krisdosee!"

"The great Easter message of hope, redemption, and new life was Christ's gift to the world. But to carry it forward into the world, Jesus gave his gift to messengers who were all-too-human," Archbishop Barsamian said. "Think of the fearful disciples in the Upper Room; the denial of Peter; "doubting" Thomas; the tearful Mary Magdalen. The gospel shows us that these and others were all just ordinary people."

He went on to speak of the Armenian people who found themselves the targets of one of the greatest crimes against humanity, the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

"In many ways, they too started as ordinary people," the Primate said. "But the ordinary nature of our sainted Martyrs is what makes them examples for us today. Realizing that they were men and women just like us places the responsibility to live saintly lives directly on our shoulders."

After the Divine Liturgy, the Primate led a procession to the cathedral plaza, where 12 doves were released, symbolizing the dispatching of the 12 apostles.

Renowned Armenian-American artist Michael Aram was the godfather of this year's doves ceremony, jointly with church benefactor Sandra Shahinian Leitner.

Mr. Aram's sculpture "Migrations"—honoring the victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide—was installed on the cathedral plaza last fall, as part of the 100th anniversary commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.



President of Armenia Visits Boston

Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian took part in the events this week welcoming Armenia's President Serzh Sargsyan to Boston. President Sargsyan visited the city to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Armenia's independence.

The Primate took part in a March 29 wreath-laying program held at Boston's Armenian Heritage Park; and the official welcoming ceremony at the Massachusetts State House involving Governor Charles Baker, offering invocatory prayers at various venues.

In remarks during the week, the Primate spoke of the legions of Armenian-Americans who have traveled to the homeland over the past 25 years, who "return with a renewed commitment to the great dream and opportunity of a free Armenia. As long as that cause endures, Mr. President, this community will continue to guide and support Armenia, to ensure that our one-and-only independent homeland will be a sign of hope to all future generations of our people."

President Sargsyan—who is in the U.S. to participate in the Fourth Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, DC—also visited Boston's Old North Church, met scholars at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and gave a lecture at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Cleveland, OH prepares for Annual Clergy & Diocesan meetings

The annual gathering of the Eastern Diocese will convene April 28 through 30, 2016, in Cleveland, OH. The St. Gregory of Narek Church of Richmond Heights, OH, will host the Assembly, bringing together several hundred Armenian Church leaders from throughout the Eastern Diocese.

Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian will preside over all the events.

Prior to the Assembly, clergy from across the Diocese will meet for their annual Clergy Conference and retreat, April 25-28. The Diocesan Women's Guild General Assembly also convenes during the week.

A highlight of the gathering will be the annual awards banquet, on the evening of Friday, April 29. At that time, AGBU president Berge Setrakian will be honored for his longtime leadership of the community as the Diocese's 2016 "Armenian Church Member of the Year." Honored as this year's "Friend of the Armenians" will be scholar Taner Akçam, author of *A Shameful Act: The Armenian Genocide and the Question of Turkish Responsibility*.

Scenes from Holy Week

Pictures courtesy of Yn. Patricia Buttero



In The Church...

When you are attending the church service, let your apparel be appropriate and modest. Abstain from adornments and flashy clothing which are not suitable in a church setting, where a spirit of concentration and meditation is required as a precondition to participate in a communal prayer.

As you enter the church, it is appropriate to cross yourself. It is also an age long Armenian tradition, just as it is customary in Eastern Orthodox and Catholic churches too, to light a candle as a way of placing yourself in a contemplative mood.

The lighting of the candle is also a symbol of the sacrifice of the self and the radiance of Christian's love . Just as the candle burns and is consumed to spread light, so must every Christian man and woman live to radiate love, light and warmth. It is a genuine Armenian custom of piety to light the candle in front of an anointed picture of a Saint, to pose for a moment, and breathe a prayer of self-dedication and to prepare oneself spiritually to participate in the church service.

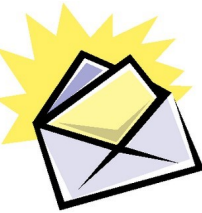


Dear Readers...

Like everywhere else that we receive information from, we will increasingly be relying on e-mail to keep you informed as to the life of our church. This will allow us to keep you better informed and will provide you with better quality publications.

If you receive updates via e-mail, we thank you. If you do not, may we please receive yours...? We do not give lists out and we very rarely forward "stuff" to you. Please send your name and e-mail address to achrupdates@gmail.com

Looys Submissions



We are enthusiastic in bringing you a monthly newsletter that will keep you informed on the life of our parish. We recognize that you, our parishioners and friends, contribute much to our parish life and to the *Looys*, and for this we're very grateful.

Feel free to send to the editor your announcements and contributions related to the life of our Diocese and our parish to achrlooy@gmail.com. Those wishing to make donations or sponsor the cost of printing this newsletter may do so to the attention of the *Looys* staff.

We're certainly open to suggestions and thoughts that can make our *Looys*, your *Looys* a more enjoyable source of information.

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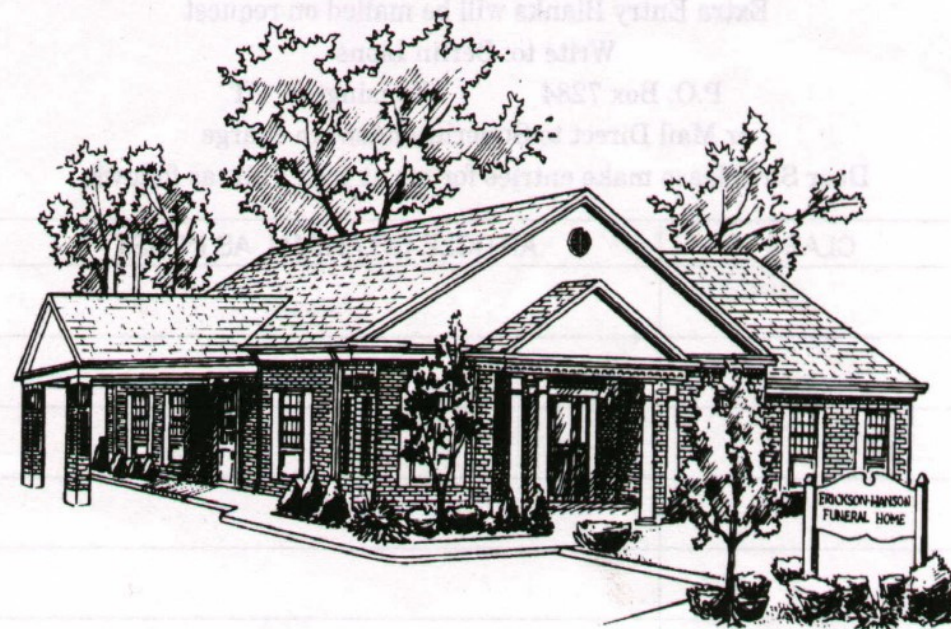
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Liturgical Service Schedule

Morning Services are offered at 9:15 and Divine Liturgy at 10:15. Fr. Kapriel is available to accommodate your requests for both weekday and weekend Requiem Services, Home Blessings and Visitations. Please call Der Hayr at 860-223-7875 for your pastoral needs.

Upcoming Events for the month of April

Thursday	7	Annunciation to the Virgin Mary
Sunday	10	Sunday of the World Church/Green Sunday Guest Celebrant & Preacher; Very Rev. Daniel Findikyan Presentation to follow (pls see flyer inside)
Sunday	17	Red Sunday Narrated Divine Liturgy (pls see flyer inside)
Saturday	23	State Capitol activities for the Holy Martyrs @11:00
Sunday	24	Feast of the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide
Thursday	28	48th Consecration Anniv. of St. Vartan Cathedral

Articles for the *Loos* must be electronically submitted according to the submission schedule available from the Parish Council. You may email your article to our graphics editor, Matthew Cannata, at achrloos@gmail.com.

Consistent with established guidelines, editors only publish material submitted by ACHR Organizations or those that receive approval from the Parish Council.

***Loos* is the official publication of the Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection, New Britain, CT. Your donations help support our efforts to offset the costs of publication.**