

January 2016

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**

Gary Hovhanessian
Arthur Simonian Jr.
John Maljanian Jr.
David Abrahamian
Matthew Cannata
Charles Hovsepian
Robbin Demircan

Chairman
Vice - Chairman
Treasurer
Asst. Treasurer
Advisor
Advisor

### **Parish Council Emeritus**

John Maljanian Sr. **Executive Director** 

### **Diocesan Delegate**

Adrienne Damian

### **Cemetery Custodians**

Peter Bagdigian Emil Mosey, Assistant

### **Looys Staff**

Reverend Fr. Kapriel Mouradjian Matthew Cannata Emil Mosey

### **Sunday School**

Roxie Maljanian Superintendent

#### ACYOA Jrs.

Mary Connors
Gary Hovhanessian

### **Breakfast Club**

Sylvia Simonian

#### Chair

### Choir

Adrienne Damian
Yn. Patricia Buttero
Susan Sagherian

Director
Asst. Director
Organist

### **Hye Angels**

Shannon Bagdigian

### Chair

### Sandwich Fund

Henrietta Kallajian Chair

### **Seniors Coordinators**

Queenie Hovhanessian Chair Yn. Patricia Buttero Gail Onanian

### **Sons and Daughters**

John Paul Abrahamian

### Women's Guild

Adrienne Damian Chair

# Primate's Christmas Message

... He inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem of Judea," they told him; "for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah. For from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" (Matthew 2:3-6)

TO BETHLEHEM THEY WENT, these wise men from the East, bearing gifts to an infant born to be king. Not just a king—the kind people had known from time immemorial—but the King: the one, true ruler of earth and heaven. The colorful details about the wise men—that they were three in number, representing the fullness of the human family—come to us by way of pious Christian tradition. But Scripture is explicit about the gifts they brought to the newborn Christ: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Taken as symbols, those gifts mark the outlines of Jesus' later ministry: gold for his divine kingship; frankincense for his holiness; myrrh for his anointing and burial. Coming as they do in his infancy, the gifts are a kind of anticipation of Christ's mission: they reveal his identity, and what he was meant to be.

There is no record of what became of the wise men's gifts. But it is interesting that one of them is mentioned in the accounts of Christ's crucifixion and burial. St. John's Gospel states that myrrh was used to embalm our Lord's dead body when he was brought down from the cross. And myrrh was quite likely among the elements carried by the oil-bearing women—the yughaperitz ganaykh—when they approached Christ's tomb on the Sunday of his resurrection.

Might it have been the same gift the wise men brought years earlier? That would lend a lovely symmetry to the story of Christ's life as told through the four gospels and the Holy Tradition: three glorious wise men from the distant East offer precious gifts when they witness Jesus' humble infancy; three humble women from Christ's immediate circle carry one of those gifts to his tomb—where they witness something vastly more glorious than anything ever seen before.

Naturally, gift-giving holds a special place in our celebration of the Lord's nativity. At their best, the Christmas gifts we bestow on loved ones share the character of the gifts borne by the wise men. They speak to the identity of the recipient—perhaps anticipating or inspiring some larger purpose in his or her life. In rare cases, a gift can be something we carry with us through-out our days, which lends meaning, purpose, a sense of completion to our lives.

Surely that is the case for the greatest of gifts, which God lovingly bestowed on every human being: the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, born for our sake more than two thousand years ago, and carried onward through time in his mystical body, the Church.

# Primate's Christmas Message cont...

We Armenians have long carried that gift in our hearts. That precious burden has inspired us to great heights of spiritual achievement, but has also exposed us to peril at the hands of others—much as the Holy Family, protecting the infant Jesus, was exposed to murderous danger as it fled into Egypt.

For us, the past year was dedicated to the memory of those brave, beautiful ancestors who likewise carried Christ in their hearts; who protected that faith and refused to relinquish it; and whose destruction a century ago became a holy sacrifice in witness to our Lord. Hereafter our church will remember them among the saints, as the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide. In God's kingdom they hear our prayers for intercession and pray for us in turn.

But here on earth, the great gift they bore—the gift for which they lived and sacrificed—now rests in our hands. This unshakeable faith in Christ is their legacy to us. Like the most precious of gifts, it reveals something profound about us: our identity, our purpose, what we were meant to be. And just as importantly, it is a gift to carry with us throughout our days, to guide and complete the journey through life.

As we leave behind the milestone anniversary of 2015, and step forward into a new year, we should reflect that even the most worthy legacy has to be freshly appreciated—freshly appropriated—by those who inherit it. This is the idea our Diocese will explore in 2016, under the theme "Legacy of Our Martyrs: A Gift to Carry Forward." Our aim will be to help the current generation feel the vital connection with the great gift of faith we have inherited. With the Holy Martyrs so vividly present in our consciousness, we will affirm the obligation of each succeeding generation to renew the gift that has that made our people exemplary—allowed us to survive, and prosper.

We note that as they entered Bethlehem, the wise men carried not only material items, but also a deep faith in God's promise of a messiah who would bring peace and justice, redemption and salvation to mankind. Of all the gifts laid before our Lord, surely this is the one that pleased him most. Indeed, this defiantly hopeful faith is precisely what distinguished our Holy Martyrs a century ago. In this Christmas season, it falls to us to embrace their legacy anew, as we kneel before the infant Jesus, and repeat the beautiful words spoken by countless generations of our people:

Krisdos dzunav yev haydnetzav! Orhnyal eh haydnootiunun Krisdosee! Christ is born and revealed! Blessed is the revelation of Christ!

#### With prayers,

† Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate January 2016

## 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.

# **Parish News**

### There was an oversight...

As sometimes occurs, some papers were stuck together and we didn't publish the list below of those who generously supported our Church Anniversary in September.

Vatche Der Assadourian Sarah Sansone Samara Brakhia Sophie Elia Shannon Bagdigian Guy & Darlene Simonian Community Mental Health Affiliates Gerard & Diane Roy Lori & Mark Kashgegian Tim & Laurie Davidian-Smith Victoria Kazanjian

### Sarah Yagoobian Scholarship Award

The 2015 Sarah Yagoobian Scholarship will be awarded on Sunday, February 5, 2016 immediately after church. Applications are available from the church office and are due back on Sunday, January 17th.

### Save the Date for our Annual Assembly!

Our Annual Assembly will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2016. Please make every effort to attend and participate!

The word 'liturgy', from ancient Greek, literally means "the work of the people."

See you at work in the pews on Sundays:)

# **Sunday School**

#### Shunorhavor Nor Dari yev Soorp Dznoont (Happy New Year & Holy Birth)!



Once again, we write this article after a successful Christmas Program on December 13, not threatened by snow but an abnormally sunny day. The theme of this program was "Mary, Did You Know?", a repeat by popular demand of the 2013 program with several added touches.

Jeanne Abrahamian capably directed with the CD in the background and Sue Sagherian accompanying on the organ upstairs when needed. We had 100% student attendance, with family, grads and parishioners happily filling the audience.

The Parents' committee invited all to their delicious luncheon, which followed in the auditorium. Each year, they add special items along with two beautiful centerpieces donated by Robbin Demircan. Thank you to all committee members who put a true sparkle to the day. We are sorry our group photographer did not get a group picture this year. We hope to continue this beautiful tradition of celebrating Christmas with our church family as well as with our own families.

Congratulations to our three churches in receiving second prize at the Wadsworth Atheneum Christmas Tree Event. Among many trees that were on display, this was truly an accomplishment. Thank you all for your participation, donations and encouragements. A local person, purchased this Armenian themed tree—so you may again be seeing it.



Although the New Year just began, a reminder for your calendars - February 7 is Poon Paregentan (Day of Happy Living). That's right, Lent and Easter (March 27) are early this year. Our students will be having a Talent Show/Game Day on that Sunday, during class time.

Co-Chairs of the event are Sarah Kallajian and Diane Roy. Assisting them is Melanie Kallajian, Kimberly McLauren and Elise Marottolo. On January 10, a sign-up sheet for performers will be posted on our bulletin board.

See you all on January 3, when classes resume. Hope you are all enjoying your two-week vacation!



Our Sunday School students prepare for their Christmas Program, which was held on December 13. Speaking is Superintendent Roxie Maljanian.

# **Christmas Liturgy Schedule**

### Tuesday, January 5

Reading of Sacred Scriptures at 6:30

Jrakalooyts Badarak /Candlelight Liturgy at 7:00

### Wednesday, January 6

Epiphany Divine Liturgy & Blessing of the Waters at 10:45 am A luncheon will follow for all sponsored by Fr. Kapriel & Yn. Diane

### Sunday, January 10

Divine Liturgy followed by Blessing of the Waters Mr. Richard Kallajian, serving as Godfather of the Cross



# **Parish Registry**

Requiem Services were offered for the soul of Mr. Paul Der Boghosian

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Requested by Carol Der Boghosian, Greg and Zachary Der Boghosian, Cynthia Kasparian and Lisa Kasparian.

Funeral Services were offered for the soul of Mr. Craig Simonian

May Almighty God provide comfort through the Holy Spirit to the families and illumine their souls in His Heavenly Kingdom. Amen.

### In Lieu of Flowers

### Mr. Paul Boghosian

Aris Derderian Klaus & Mollie Schleehauf Joyce Lucca; to St. Vartan Camp Edward Atamian; to St. Vartan Camp George & Dorothy Mekenian Jon & Charlene Simonian Alice Kasparian Mark & Elizabeth Derderian George & Sylvia Migridichian Mr. & Mrs. Richard Derderian Linda & Robert Karpiej Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Kalemkerian **Araxie Kasparian** Harry & Janice Mazadoorian Baggy & Queenie Hovhanessian Lori Driscoll

#### Oscar Mooradian

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kallajian

### Naomi Abadjian

Adrienne Damian
Arthur & Lucy Simonian
Michelle Mc Connell
Marcia G. Magee
Hartford Assoc. of Insurance Women, Inc.
Maria Kozikowski
Cal Kounaris

### **Donations**

#### Church

Rose Sadoian Levon Vatian Fr. Kapriel Mouradjian John Maljanian, Sr.

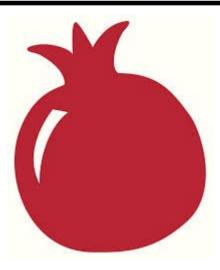
#### **Steward Donations**

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Abadjian Mr. & Mrs. Donald Azarigian

#### Altar flowers

Christmas Poinsettias (8) were donated by Carol Der Boghosian in memory of her father Paul Der Boghosian for the glory of God.

## Blessing of the Pomegranates (Noor)



### By Order of His Holiness, Karekin II,

a new Annual Tradition has been instituted within the Armenian Church for the Blessing of the Noor, as this fruit is considered by many faiths traditions to be the fruit of the tree of knowledge and a symbol of abundance and life.

Be with us on Sunday, January 24 and please bring pomegranates with you to church for blessing.

## Dear Readers...



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 achrlooys@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.



# executive press

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#### ARMENIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY RESURRECTION

1910 Stanley Street - New Britain, CT 06053

### **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 January		
Friday	1	New Years Day!!
Saturday	2	Remembrance of the Holy Fathers, Basil, Gregory of Nissa, Sylvester of Rome, and Ephrem of Syria
Tuesday	5	Eve of the Nativity & Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ (please see enclosed church schedule)
Wednesday	6	Feast of the Nativity & Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ & luncheon to follow (please see enclosed church schedule)
Thursday	7	Hishadag Merelots/Remembrance of the Deceased
Wednesday	13	Feast of the Naming of our Lord Jesus Christ
Thursday	14	Feast of the Birth of St. John the Forerunner
Friday	22	Remembrance of the Prophet Jonah
Sunday	24	Blessing of the Pomegranates (please see inside article to bring your Noors for blessing!)

#### Items / Articles for this issue submitted by:

Fr. Kapriel Mouradjian, John Maljanian, Roxie Maljanian,.

Articles for the *Looys* 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 achrlooys@gmail.com. Consistent with established guidelines, editors only publish material submitted by ACHR Organizations or those that receive approval from the Parish Council.

Looys 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.