



St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church



ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Very Reverend Father Aren JebejianPresident / fraren04@aol.com
- Charles DemirjianChairman / cdemirjian@aol.com
- Gregory TootooianVice Chairman
- Michelle BabikianTreasurer / michelle811@aol.com
- Nancy BerberianAssistant Treasurer/berberian@prodigy.net
- Dr. Rose CatchaturianSecretary/ prruse@aol.com
- Craig KoresianAdvisor/ ckor88@msn.com
- Talin HazarianAdvisor / talin_raffi@comcast.net
- George NahabedianDiocesan Delegate/ gpnaha@sbcglobal.net

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 2008**
- Saturday, January 5**.....Eve of the Feast of the Nativity and Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ
Rev. Fr. Vahram Hazarian, Guest Celebrant
 - Sunday, January 6**.....Christmas Day - Feast of the Navitiy and Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ
Luncheon following services hosted by Women's Guild
 - Monday, January 7**.....Remembrance of the Deceased "Merrelotz"
 - Saturday, February 2**.....Poon Paregentan Dance
 - Sunday, February 3**.....13th Annual Super Bowl Party
 - Sunday, February 10**.....Annual Parish Assembly

LOOSAVORICH STAFF

Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian
Editor-In-Chief

Dn. Artur Petrosyan
Editor

Pauline Nahabedian
Staff Member

Dear Reader,

We are very enthusiastic in bringing you a bulletin that will keep you informed on the various activities of our parish.

The Loosavorich staff recognizes parishioners who make contributions to the newspaper. Those wishing to make donations or sponsor the cost of printing the newsletter, please send your donations to the attention of Dn. Artur Petrosyan or Pauline Nahabedian in care of the church. We also are open to your suggestions. Feel free to share your ideas and thoughts with us and make your newspaper more enjoyable for you. We appreciate your support and help.

Thank you.

Vol. 2/ Issue #3
Winter 2007-2008

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE OF ARCHBISHOP KHAJAG BARSAMIAN

Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

“These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your heart. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” Deuteronomy 6:6-7

As we celebrate the glorious birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, we would do well to remember God’s wish for us all at this and every time of the year: that these sacred realities be carried in our hearts and talked about and cherished as a family.

Indeed, the Holy Family around the manger is the ultimate model for our own. How timely and especially significant is the Christmas event in this, the Diocesan Year of Church and Home: Mary and earthly father Joseph huddled over the miraculous Holy Child, bathed by the light of the brilliant star, and kept company by reverent shepherds and magi. This is the Home for all homes to emulate. For even in the most modest of circumstances, even in that rustic Bethlehem cave where animals were sheltered for the winter, God should be the center of our attention, our love, our hopes.

The founder of our Diocese, the extraordinary Catholicos who so endeared himself to his people that he became known as Khrimian Hayrig (and remembered this year in the 100th anniversary of his passing), was prescient about the role of the Armenian family. He observed that “If a people progresses, it takes its first step from the family home and if we want to inherit heaven after earth by keeping our faith and church, then the altar that maintains these holy traditions incorruptible and whole is the family.”

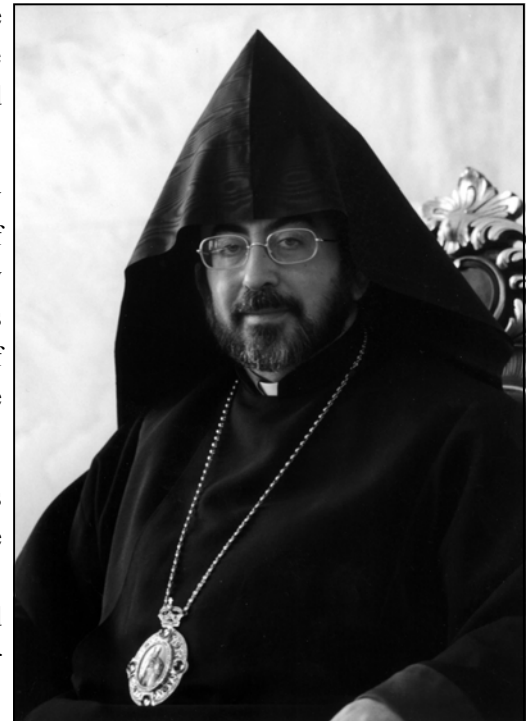
In the coming months, our Diocese will continue to promote the home blessings that bring priest and family together in a ritual that reaffirms the home’s sanctity, and our Diocesan departments will issue online and print resources for practicing the sacred traditions of the Armenian faith at home. These are all designed to reinforce God’s command to grow faithful through the vivifying routines of family life. And by that let us understand that every household is capable of acting as a family whether it consists of parents and children, or grown older siblings living together, or a single person united to others through church and community.

Our Vehapar, His Holiness Karekin II, emphasized this goal wherever he went during his recent historic visit to our Diocese. With every family he welcomed to the chalice, every baby he stopped to bless, every eager crowd of young and old whose hearts he touched with faith-filled zeal, he would always reflect: “The Armenian family is holy because it was through the very paradigm of family that God created life. With this gift, He knew that in family life, through the virtues of faith, hope and love, people could grow best, and be further ennobled as they move towards what is Good and what is Perfect. We need to strengthen and support the Armenian family - which is in every way a microcosm of church and homeland - as the primary nurturer of spiritual values.”

But let us return to the humble setting of Bethlehem of more than 2000 years ago to consider again that it is in family that our true humanity and innate holiness are achieved. Let us close our eyes and open our hearts as we imagine the radiant face of the Child, the loving proximity of His mother and earthly father, and the angelic presence that is in every home founded upon love and dedicated to the Lord. Let our souls echo with the exultant words of greeting:

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

With prayers,
Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate



January 2008

1001 Stories

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. If this is true, then what is a Pontifical visit worth? In my mind amongst many other things, it goes one better, it is worth 1001 stories. I'm sure that in SOME way, we were all touched by the recent visit of His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians.

There were many events planned throughout our diocese for this historic visit. One would have to be living under the proverbial "rock" in order to have not been affected in some way by this visit. Whether we thought the visit was worthwhile or not, or whether the money spent was worth it, or whether we had the unique opportunity to personally meet His Holiness, it was an occasion to be touched by our Spiritual Leader. His Holiness represents the sum total of who we are as Armenian Christians.

He is Armenian, he is faithful, he is at times joyful, he is at times sad, he is human, he is the representation of holiness, he is at times frustrated, he is at times the decision maker, he is sometimes the follower, he is...who we are. He is one who understands the human condition. And what is it worth to be able to meet or be touched by this person who embodies all that the Armenian Church is? Can one put a price tag on the effect he has had on hundreds, if not thousands of children throughout our diocese? Can anyone deny the fulfillment of an elder person who has only dreamed to personally gaze upon the Supreme Pontiff? Is it possible to summarize the effect this visit has had on the welfare and growth of the faithful of the Armenian Church here in the United States? I'm not sure that a few mere words can describe what this visit meant to the many who were touched by the spiritual head of the Armenian Church. The benefits are endless.

So what do we do now? His Holiness is back in Armenia. Our lives are back to "normal", and life goes on...or does it? Does life go on as it was? I suppose in many ways it does, however if nothing has changed, then why did he come to see us in the first place? The reality is a simple matter of black and white. Either we were affected by this man of God, or we were not. If we were affected, then there should be some small positive change in our lives. This change may be so small that we may not even be able to detect it, however it is there in our subconscious planted as a small mustard seed within our souls.

"Then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from

that moment." (Matt. 9: 20-22)

During the many encounters with His Holiness we would approach him and indeed many were blessed by him. Did we approach thinking that just touching him or his vestments would be a holy or life-changing experience? The above parable reminds us that without faith, real faith, nothing will happen by merely touching some fabric. It begins from within.

So for many, the Pontifical Visit of His Holiness Karekin II, was truly a life-changing experience, for others it was simply another event to attend (or not). Still for others, it stirred a faith experience which for many, may have been in hibernation.

As I had the honor of traveling with His Holiness to a number of cities, I was witness to hundreds of these stories which evoke a certain pride in our unique faith experience as Armenian Christians. I saw the smiles, the tears and joy at seeing the Supreme Pontiff of the Armenian Church. The experiences I witnessed were amazing. People would turn to one-another as if to say, "Did you see that? He blessed me".

The stories are almost endless. His Holiness is now back at the Mother See, and our lives continue. The entire experience was all for naught unless we share our stories with one-another. We must share the stories with not only our family members but also our friends and co-workers. Through the telling of our stories, the experience will be told in the oral history which will unfold in the coming years.

Until today there are still those who tell stories about the visit of His Holiness Vasken I, or Karekin I of blessed memory. Continue to tell the stories of your faith experience with your loved ones so that the pontifical visit will continue to live on in 1001 ways.

*Fr. Aren Jebejian
Pastor*



FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL'S DESK

Wow! A lot has happened in the last few months. Here's the skinny to bring everyone up to speed:

Vehapar's visit. In October, we were blessed with a visit from His Holiness Karekin II. His Holiness spent most of the month of October visiting different communities in the Eastern Diocese, including the Chicago area on October 23 and 24. St. Gregory the Illuminator was pleased to host His Holiness and the rest of the Armenian community for a blessing of our new doors (if you haven't seen them, you are going to be amazed at how they transform the church!) and an informal question and answer session. His Holiness also bestowed a blessing upon . Heghna Paloian as a genocide survivor, performed a home blessing at the Ipjian home in Evanston and a Hrashapar service hosted at Saints Peter & Paul Greek Church. You can review Verapar's entire visit of the Chicago area and the rest of the Diocese at www.pontificalvisit.org. Here is summary of the answers Verapar gave to two of the most commonly asked questions in the community:

Q1. Why does his Holiness insist on the Badarak being performed in Armenian?

A1. The issue of language in the Badarak was addressed at a convention of Bishops and it was determined that certain portions of the service, such as the recitation of the creed, the readings and the sermon, should be allowed in English but the formal portion of the Badarak should remain in Armenian for three main reasons: (i) to learn the language of the Badarak takes only 30 hours of study, (ii) maintaining the service in Armenian promotes an identity among the Armenian people throughout the world and enables an Armenian (including Vehapar) from any country to go to an Armenian church in any other country and be a part of the Badarak, (iv) maintaining the service in Armenian honors the historical significance of the Armenian church and promotes the view the Armenian church is an institution that operates over a perspective spanning centuries, not merely years or decades and (iv) in the end, you don't really need to know Armenian to pray to god; even if you don't understand the language, you can come to church and worship god, whether it be as part of the service or in your own mind and way as the priest performs the Badarak.

Q2. A recent sociological survey commissioned by the Eastern Diocese revealed several issues with the health of the Armenian religion in the US. What can Vehapar recommend do or encourage Khajag Srpazan to do to address those concerns?

A2. The most important thing to promote the Armenian religion and participation is to welcome people to the community and encourage them in friendly ways to attend. The desire to worship and the desire to be part of the community must come from within, but the existing community must open its arms and its hearts to those who come, welcoming them and, without

judging them, encourage them to become a regular part of the community.

Hayr Aren's Sabbatical. By the time this is printed, Hayr Aren will have started his one-year sabbatical. For the members of our community who were not aware of Hayr Aren's temporary departure, Verapar has begun his program to call back, one at a time, each member of the Brotherhood of Holy Etcmiadzin for one year of service to the Holy See. Hayr Aren has been selected as the first member of the Brotherhood in the United States to perform his year of service, which is both an honor to him and to St. Gregory's. We know Hayr Soorp will have a wonderful experience in Armenia, where his ministry will continue to grow. While we await his return, Hayr Aren will continue to keep abreast of events at St. Gregory's and will be available by email and, once he is established, phone call. If all goes well, we should also be able to establish a free internet video service so that we can see and talk to him essentially free of charge whenever we want (subject to the 8 hour time difference!). Stay tuned for installments from Hayr Soorp's travel log.

Hayr Dajad. While Hayr Aren is away, we are blessed to have Hayr Dajad as our visiting priest. Hayr Dajad has been studying and serving in Cleveland over the past year, and prior to that served in the Albany, New York community. Hayr Dajad has already started serving at St. Gregory's, so on your next visit, please be sure to extend him your warmest welcome. Hayr Dajad can be reached at Hayr Aren's old cell phone number while Hayr Aren is in Armenia (773-457-4122).

Charles Demirjian
Parish Council Chairman

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR THE YEAR 2007?

In order to be eligible to vote at the 2008 Parish Assembly, all registered members must pay their 2007 dues by December 31, 2007.

New members must be registered and their dues paid six months prior to the Parish Assembly Meeting held on Sunday, February 10, 2008.

Very Reverend Father Dajad Tsaturyan (baptismal name Mher Tsaturyan) is a member of the Brotherhood of the Holy Etchmiadzin.



Fr. Dajad was born in Armavir, Armenia on December 5, 1975. Upon graduating from a local High School, in 1993 he entered to the Theological Seminary of the Diocese of Shirak and completed his classes in 1996. The same year he applied for the Kevorkian Theological Seminary at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin which he graduated already as a deacon in 2002. Fr. Dajad was ordained Deacon on December 25, 2001, at the St. Gregory the Illuminator Mother Cathedral located in the capital of Armenia, Yerevan.

Upon defending his thesis, 'The Language of 'Textual Excerpt' by Gregory of Khlat in View of Historical Evolution of the Armenian Language,' Dn. Mher was ordained into the Order of Priesthood of the Armenian Apostolic Church as a celibate priest by Archbishop Barkev Mardirosyan and was given the name Reverend Fr. Dajad. As we know on February 27 the Armenian Church celebrates the Feast of the Sts. Vartanants, warriors who became martyrs for their religion, and since the ordination of our beloved Hayr Dajad happened on that very day, he received the name of one of those many bold martyrs—Dajad. Based on the interpretation of St. Nersess the Graceful, Dajad means 'a temple and place of dwelling of the Holy Trinity.'



Prior to his departure for Egypt, where he studied Arabic for two years and got acquainted with monastic life of the Coptic Church, by the invitation of Pope Shenouda III, Head of the Coptic Orthodox Church, Fr. Dajad worked at the Holy See as

a secretary at the Vehapar's office.

In 2005, he came to the United States to improve his English language skills and further his theological education by the invitation of Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern). After advancing in English at Albany University, Albany, NY, Fr. Dajad first took classes in Theological Studies at St. Bernard's Theological School, Albany, NY, then he continued to pursue his education (MA in Theology) at John Carroll Catholic Jesuit University, Cleveland, OH.

By the order of Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, upon Fr. Aren's departure for Armenia to continue his service at the Holy Etchmiadzin, Fr. Dajad moved to Chicago to be the interim Pastor of the St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church parish. In the meantime, he will continue his education at North Park University taking classes in Biblical Studies.



"I thank God for bringing me into this parish which, in a short time period, has already shown to me how much they appreciate my presence among them and I am not a stranger, but I am a part of their Family. It is a big honor for me and I am looking forward to learning from them and sharing with them my knowledge," said Fr. Dajad during his interview.

Even though Fr. Dajad has been at St. Gregory's only few months, he is already very active in such activities as creating Junior Choir, teaching Bible classes, supervising Sunday School activities, visiting our parishioners at hospitals and nursing homes. *"By learning our spiritual songs, our children will not only have a better idea, a better understanding about their faith and unique Church, but also they will come to realize that they are an essential part of the Christian Family. Without our children there is no future for our Church,"* said Hayr Dajad.

Fr. Aren, Parish Council and the members of St. Gregory Family welcome Fr. Dajad to their Home and wish him a successful and fruitful year in his god-pleasing journey.

Welcome Hayr Dajad and may God be your helper!

From the Editor

ԽՈՐՀՈՒՐԴ ՄԵԾ ԵՒ ԱՔԱՆՉԵԼԻ

Նախամարդը՝ Աստծո արարչագործության պսակն ու կատարելատիպը, ըստ արժանվույն չորստերելով իրեն ընծայված երկնառաք պարգևների հանդեպ, նախանձողի դրդմամբ հակվելով չարին, արտաքսվեց երանարժան վիճակից, գրկվեց Աստվածապարգևի շնորհներից եւ Աստծո հետ անմիջական հաղորդակցությունից: Մակայն, բազմագույս Աստված երբեք մեզ՝ հողեղեն արարածներին, չթողեց բախտի քմահաճույքին, այլ մարգարեների միջոցով զգուշության ու զգոնության հրավիրեց՝ ցույց տալով Իր Հայրական գորովագութ սերը: Եւ քանի որ մատուցվող անցավոր զոհաբերություններով ո՛չ մեր մեղքերին թողություն կլիներ, ո՛չ էլ մեզ՝ Աստծո շնորհներին միավորություն, ուստի սահմանված ժամանակի լրմանը, հանուն մեր հոգու փրկության, Աստված Իր Միածին Որդուն աշխարհ ուղարկեց. «Քանի որ Աստված այնքան սիրեց աշխարհը, որ մինչեւ իսկ Իր Միածին Որդուն տվեց» (Հովհ. 3:16):

Ամենակալ Տերը՝ Արարիչը երկնքի և երկրի, ողջ մարդկությանը հայտնի դարձրեց այն «մեծ եւ սքանչելի Խորհուրդը», որ ծածկել էր բոլոր արարածներից, նույնիսկ երկնային հրեղեններից՝ հրեշտակներից: Այս էր այդ ծածուկ խորհուրդը. Բանն Աստված, նույն Ինքը՝ Աստծո Միածին Որդին՝ Հիսուս Քրիստոս, մարմնացավ ու մարդացավ և դրանով իսկ հնարավորություն տվեց, որպեսզի մարդը վերագտնի իր աստվածաստեղծ ու աստվածանման բնությունը և աստվածապարզ և առաքելությունը, որպեսզի մարդու մեջ վերստին ծնեցնի Աստծուն:

Աստծո Մերը, Քրիստոսի մարդեղությանը կատարելապես արտահայտված, իջավ երկնքից և մարդու երաշտացած հոգու մեջ վերստին ցանեց աստվածության ցողը և վերանորոգեց մարդու կյանքը՝ այն դարձյալ դնելով Աստծո հետ հաղորդության և առաջնորդելով դեպի երջանկություն: Արարչից հեռացած, իր աստվածատիպ պատկերին անհավատարիմ դարձած մարդը Քրիստոսի մարդեղությանը վերադարձավ Աստծուն:

Բանն Աստված պարզապես միայն շմարդացավ, այլև հոժարակամ խոնարհվեց չարչարանքների ու մահվան առաջ. Նա, Ով Օրհնությունն է, ընդունեց անեծքը, Կյանքը ճաշակեց մահը, բոլորիս Պաշտելին և Տերն Ինքն իբրև ծառա ու սպասավոր դարձավ բոլորիս համար. երկնային Վարդապետը խոնարհվեց ու լվաց Իր աշակերտների ոտքերը: Մա նշանակում էր, որ Երկինքն իջել էր համ-

բուրելու երկիրը և Իր հաշտության ձեռքն էր մեկնել Իրենից հեռացածներին: «Քրիստոսի մարդեղությունը... հանդիպումն է Աստուծոյ և մարդուն...: Երկինքին էջքը երկրի վրայ ու երկրին երկնայնացումը հոգեկան կեանքի ուժեղ թափանցումովը անոր մեջ, ինչպես արեգակի շողին թափանցումը խոր մթութեան մեջ՝ գիշերին ցերեկի փոխակերպումով» (Գարեգին Ա Ամենայն Հայոց Կաթողիկոս):

Հիսուս Քրիստոս Իր Սուրբ Ծննդյամբ եկավ ու հաստատեց մեզ համար այնքան թանկ ու նվիրական սրբազան «Խորհուրդ խորինը»՝ իբրև ճշմարիտ զոհաբերություն Իր Մարմնի եւ Արյան. աստվածային գերագույն սիրո արտահայտություն, որը մատուցվեց որպես անուշահոտ պատարագ Աստծուն հանուն ողջ մարդկության: Իր իսկ Մարմնի եւ Արյան պատարագումով Քրիստոս դարձավ միակ միջնորդն ու հաշտարարը Աստծո եւ մարդկության միջեւ, որով էլ Հայր Աստված ցույց տվեց համայն աշխարհին, որ հենց Իր Որդուն է վերապահված ահեղ դատաստանի իրավունքը: Ո՛չ Հայր Աստված՝ ճշմարտության եւ արդարության կողմնակիցը, ո՛չ էլ Սուրբ Հոգին Աստված՝ ողորմած ու մարդասեր Տերը, չստանձնեցին դատաստանը, այլ միայն Որդին Աստված Իր վրա վերցրեց այդ պարտականությունը:

Լինելով երկրորդ Անձը Հոր եւ Սուրբ Հոգու միջեւ՝ Բանն Աստված հանդես եկավ միջնորդ ու հաշտարար համայն մարդկության: Մարդն ինքը մենակ չէր կարող վճարել իր մեղքերի պարտքերը, որովհետեւ դրանք անթիվ ու անհամար

էին: Իսկ եթե Աստված Ինքը մենակ ստանձներ այդ ամենը, ապա դա էլ ճիշտ չէր լինի, որովհետեւ Աստված պարտական չէ մեր մեղքերի փոխարեն Ինքը պատասխան տալու: Հետեւաբար, անհրաժեշտ էր, որ Աստված մարդանար, որպեսզի Աստծո մարդացումով եւ մարդու աստվածացումով Որդին Աստված կարողանար վճարել մեր իսկ մեղքերի պարտքերը, «քանզի մեկ Աստված կա եւ մեկ միջնորդ՝ Աստծո եւ մարդկանց միջեւ՝ Հիսուս Քրիստոս» (1 Տիմ. 2:5):

Արդ, «Մեր-Աստուած սիրոյ Իր բնութեան մղումով խոնարհեցաւ դէպի մարդը, եղա՛ւ մարդ, ապրեցաւ մարդկօրէն՝ մարդը իր հարազատ բնութեան մեջ վերականգնելու և անոր կոչումին ուղիղ գացող ճամբան բանալու համար անոր ոտքերուն առջև, ուրիշ խօսքով՝ աստուածապատկեր մարդը «աստվածակերպ» կեանքին մեջ ապրեցնելու համար Ինք որպէս Աստուած ապրեցաւ «մարդակերպ» կեանքը» (Գարեգին Ա):

Անանուն



Our Sunday School

On September 16, the “school bell” rang to welcome the children of St. Gregory back to Sunday School. Currently, our membership totals 25, with plenty of room for new members. Enrollment is open all year long. Greeting the children were the faithful teachers, Mr. Guy Adami, Mr. Charles Demirjian, Mrs. Edie Johns, and Mrs. Kenarr Chiodo who anticipate and are preparing for a very busy year.

The Diocesan theme, “Year of Church and Home: One in Spirit,” will continue to influence the curriculum. During one Sunday, the children shared information about their ancestry and created three dimensional family trees. The children were encouraged to take the tree home and seek the help of their family to attach additional “leaves” to the tree, representative of other relatives, including their godmother and godfather. Weekly, parents will be asked to follow-up classroom activities with reviews, coaching, and lots of praise and encouragement.

The third annual Fall Harvest Festival, in October, was not only fun, but altruistic. To emphasize the autumnal season’s aspect of gathering crops and sharing the bounty, the children kneaded bread and baked cookies which they then contributed to the Fellowship Hour coffee table. Needless to say, there were no “leftovers.”

The Vehapar’s visit in October was much anticipated by the students. They had endless questions to ask about his significance and what they should expect when he came to our church. On the big day, a good number of the children were ready and waiting to convey their greetings: Asdvadz Oknagan, Vehapar Der!”

Each holding an orange-colored rose and a red carnation tied with a blue ribbon, they impatiently waited at curbside for Vehapar’s arrival. Kudos to the following children who commemorated the occasion with their presence: Charles and Sarah Babikian, Francesca Chiodo, Evelyn and Simon Demirjian, Reno George, Ani Ipjian, Claudia and Harutyun Johns, Mason Karian, Kyle Paklaian, and Tony Olea. (Ani Ipjian later again greeted the Vehapar when he visited her grandmother’s home in Evanston. Did you catch Ani on television? What a trouper!)

November concluded rather sadly when the children bade temporary farewell to Fr. Aren, on his departure to Etchmiadzin. On Children’s Sermon Sunday, they presented Fr. Aren with several mementos for him to remember them by: a colorful string of clay beads—each bead created by a Sunday School student and engraved with his/her initials; several handscreened silk squares, designed and colored by the students, to be used by Fr. Aren to hold the cross during Badarak; and a calendar with photos of the Sunday School children and their activities in the past year or so.



The children also took the opportunity to welcome Fr. Dajad and learn more about him. We greatly miss Fr. Aren, but we know we are blessed to have, in his place, Fr. Dajad.

Mary Kazarian
Sunday School Superintendent

Our Sunday School children were deeply moved by His Holiness' Visit. The following Sunday, Kyle Paklaian (13) was assisting with the 2nd and 3rd grade class and shared how moved he was by His Holiness' presence in our church and in the blessing he received. The younger children drew pictures and told stories about what our Catholicos' visit meant to them. The children struggled a little to put their feelings in words. They sensed something very kind, powerful, good and loving. Roy Panthier cherished the special blessing his family received. Others, even children who hadn't been present when the doors were blessed, were very happy that OUR beautiful (shiny, sparkly, Armenian) doors had been blessed by our Catholicos. One student had been so powerfully impressed on that day that he told us he saw God. He worried at first that his classmates (2nd and 3rd graders) would think it was strange. Of course, they didn't. It was undeniable that the Holy Spirit WAS powerfully present in St. Gregory that day.

He blessed our sparkly doors.
By Happy



Marutyan Johns
I think he is important because he is kind.

VEHAPAR'S VISIT THROUGH CHILDREN'S EYES



By Edie Johns


When he came it made me feel good. Because I was happy and a lot of other people were happy. He blessed the shiny doors.




he Bast are ds.
Reno
My dad proteted our Vehapar. I was happy.




I saw somebody special. Here's what happened: When he offered us questions I saw God.




Charles
When he came it made me happy.
gledab okmoyne Vehapar Der



sheh
he madBlest me our Armyingoo Doors
it mad me Fell good



I like Vehapar because he blessed my Mom for having carsen. He took a picter of me, mom and my sisters



By Roy Panthier

NAIRI CHOIR

By Georgette L. Mrofcza, Choir Director

Changes

There's a George Benson (Jazz Guitarist) song I love, "Everything Must Change." The words go on to say, "Nothing stays the same—that's the way of life." Those words certainly ring true these days at St. Gregory! Through many tears we said "Adieu" to The Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian on Sunday, November 18, 2007 who has been "recalled" to Holy Etchmiadzin by His Holiness Karekin II. I think we all have had reservations about this turn of events in our church, but as last Sunday approached, I felt most people were coming to grips with the upcoming changes. First of all I believe we are truly happy for Fr. Aren that he was chosen to serve the Holy See. We pray it will go beyond all his expectations, that the Lord will keep him safe and return him to us rested and with new found inspirations. In the meantime, how blessed are we to welcome the Very Rev. Dajad Tsaturian! I am sure some of us were wondering what our new Hayr Soorp would be like. Would he just be here to perform Holy Badarak and the necessary sacraments—or would he truly be our spiritual leader. There is no secret to that anymore. Anyone who heard his first sermon can attest to where his heart and priorities lie. Moving forward, Hayr Soorp has already reinstated our choir rehearsal schedule and we will be practicing for Christmas and related feasts days every other Tuesday beginning November 27, 2007! We look forward to his guidance and direction and welcome anyone who would like to join us. There are a lot of you out there (I can feel this) who want to sing. In fact, I see you singing on Sundays—some of you have even gathered yourselves near the choir on Sundays! That is so wonderful. After all, the choir only is meant to lead the congregation in worship—everyone is encouraged to participate. We are only too happy to have you join us. Anyone who wants to play the organ is welcome to!! No kidding!!

Sad Changes

So far this year, the Nairi Choir has lost 2 of its beloved choir members- Mr. Sarkis Gircik on April 22, and Mr. Garo Dadian on August 10. They have left such a void in the pews and in the hearts of all, especially the choir members. We think of them every Sunday-everytime we sing certain songs that were their "solos". We express our deepest sympathies to their families and pray to one day be rejoined in a heavenly choir – maybe even directed by our beloved director Dr. Hampar Yazijian.

Visit from His Holiness Karekin II

I needed to write something about His Holiness's visit which recently took place. Something about how the Nairi Choir practiced with the other choirs who came together and sang the

Grashapar Service on Wednesday, October 31, 2007 under the direction of Dn. Rubik Mailian, Choir Director of St. John's Armenian Church in Detroit, MI. Sadly, for me, I was not in attendance at this most auspicious occasion. I cannot report on the particular events as they occurred. However, after much contemplation, I find I may have something to say about this after all. His Holiness Karekin II's Visit may in some ways parallel the "visit" from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This may seem a stretch to you, but not to me. What remains after His Holiness's visit is much excitement! People were so touched by this gentle man—they speak of it today—his warmth—his obvious affection towards the children—his availability to all the people—his caring for his flock. Not all of us were blessed to be on this earth when Jesus lived here—but we Christians still are excited that He came. That He taught us. That He shared His love. That He gave His life. As we enter the Advent season, may we be inspired and renewed by this wonderful gift. Wishing you a joyous Christmas!



We should all be looking out for one another, support one another, encourage one another. Laugh together even argue together, as long as you still respect each other at the end of the day.

Kids komer

Three Trees

One upon a time, there were three trees growing together on the top of a hill. One day as they began a conversation, they started talking about their dreams and hopes. One of them said, "I wish to become a treasury box. They would decorate me with beautiful stones and everyone would admire me." The other tree said, "I wish to become a gorgeous sailboat and carry kings and queens on the oceans to far corners of the world." The last one said, "I wish to grow so much so I would become the tallest and strongest tree in the forest. By looking at me and admiring my branches, everyone would raise their eyes into the sky where God is and would see how close I am to Him."

One day woodcutters came to the forest and saw those three trees. One of them looked at the first tree and said, "Indeed, this is strong wood and I can sell this to a carpenter." For the second another woodcutter said, "This wood is very strong and firm and I can sell it to a boat builder." The third was scared because it knew that if it was cut off its dream would never come true. The third woodcutter said, "Let me first cut down this tree and I will later decide what I can do with it."

When the first tree was sold to a carpenter, the last made a wooden box out of it. When the box got old, they put the old box into a cave and filled it with grass for the cattle. The dream of becoming a treasury box vanished. The second tree was made into a small fishing boat and its dream of becoming a gorgeous royal sailboat vanished as well. The third tree was cut down and stored waiting for the woodcutter's decision. Years passed and the trees forgot about their dreams.

One day, a man and a woman stopped at the cave for the night. The woman was pregnant and was close to delivering her baby. She bore a son who was laid in the box full of dry grass. The tree understood that it was honored to have the Treasure of treasures of all times.

Years later, a group of people were on that fishing boat made by the second tree. One of them was sleeping since he was tired. Suddenly, a big storm came and everyone was scared. When the man who was sleeping woke up, he commanded the sea saying, "Calm down." The storm immediately stopped and the sea was calm. Then the tree understood that he was honored to travel the King of kings.

At last, someone came to take the third tree. The passers by were teasing Him who was carrying the cross. When they stopped, they nailed the Man on the cross and stood it on the top of a hill and left Him there to die. On the Sunday morning the tree understood that it became so strong and it stood on the top of the hill so close to God that it was able to carry the Son of God who was crucified on it.

Each one of those three trees received whatever they dreamed for, but not the way they imagined it.

When things don't happen the way that you want them to be, remember that God always thinks about you. If you trust Him, He will fill your life with graces. We know that the ways of God are not our ways, but His way are always the best.

WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS

Our ladies, once again, outdid themselves baking and preparing all the goodies for the pastry table at our Annual Fest. DELICIOUS!

On Friday, October 5, ten Guild members had a fun evening at 'Tony'N Tina's' wedding. It was a night of music and laughter. Everyone participated in the 'wedding'—ceremony, dinner and reception. There was even a wedding cake! It was a great night.

The Guild sponsored a Manti Dinner and Bingo Night in the cultural hall on Friday, November 16. A delightful table was prepared by our members under the Chairmanship of Nancy Berberian. The manti was something everyone was waiting for and they were not disappointed. Nancy also baked a wonderful pumpkin cake for dessert. Besides the bingo games (numbers called comically by the one and only Gary Abezetian), Guild members and parishioners dug deep into their archives and brought old pictures for all to see and take. So many fond memories. Proceeds for this evening went to Karekin II Habitat for Humanity Fund.

Congrats to our new officers for 2008 -

Chairman—**Raelene Ohanessian**
Vice Chairman—**Sylva Karachorlu**
Treasurer—**Nancy Berberian**
Assistant Treasurer—**Violet Koresian**
Recording Secretary—**Diane Abezetian**
Corresponding Secretary—**Victoria Kaprelian**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!!!

VEHAPAR'S VISIT & CONSECRATION

On October 24, 2007, the parish of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church of Chicago was blessed to have His Holiness, Karekin II, in their midst. While a crowd of 200 people plus gathered outside the church and the Nairi Choir singing 'Amen Alleluia,' and with the assistance of His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian, Father Tavit Boyajian, Father Yeprem Kelegian, Father Garabed Kochakian, the Vehapar consecrated our new bronze doors. The doors signified the conversion of Armenia, King Drtad, His royal family, the nobility and Royal Army of Armenia in the late third century to Christianity. The door on the right is a lifesize figure of St. Gregory the Illuminator and the door on the left of King Drtad.

The doors were a brainchild of **Nicholas Berberian** and **Dr. Vahe Karachorlu**. With the assistance of Father Aren, the Berberian and Karachorlu families and Arttig Art Construction Co., they worked dilligently for a number of months to put this most magnificent project together.

The parishioners and Parish Council thank both families for this most generous gift to the parish.



OF DOORS



ST. GREGORY RECEIVES A 'NEW' CHALICE

Fr. Aren and Parish Council on behalf of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church would like to thank Leona Mirza for donating an Armenian Chalice to St. Gregory's.

Last fall there was an announcement on ebay that an Armenian chalice was up for bid. It was described as "one of a kind hand made solid high grade silver footed beaker that came from the Armenian Quarter in Jerusalem. Was made for monastery ceremonies dated to the 17c. Extremely rare have stunning silver work with Eastern motives. The inside and beaker lips were gilded with high grade gold but only small parts left gilded".

We were fortunate to win the bid for the chalice and had it shipped to the United States. A young woman wanted to sell this chalice. She revealed that her grandmother had brought it out of Turkey at the time of the Armenian genocide. The young woman's grandmother died several years ago and now her mother also passed on. She did not say the exact location where the chalice had been originally.

Hagop Dirilen meticulously refinished the chalice. It was consecrated at St. Gregory the Illuminator Church in Chicago on Sunday, November 11, 2007 and used for communion the following Sunday.

Leona Mirza



Original Chalice



Refinished Chalice

NEWS NEWS NEWS

Our fall began with a "wrap up" meeting of our Annual Fest. Our two day picnic was a resounding success. Great thanks goes out to co-chair Craig Koresian and Armen Zakarian. Also, to all of those

who baked, barbecued, sold raffle tickets, cleaned, chopped, skewered, etc. It was a team effort.

On October 21st, new vestments - donated by the Dadian family in memory of Garo Dadian - were blessed. He is missed everyday - but these vestments will have him with us always.

THEN—Preparation within our parish began for the "Pontifical Visit" of His Holiness Karekin II. Beautiful new altar cloths were made by Sella Gircik with the help of Helen Babikian. Sella also cleaned and polished the candle holders along with Rose Tootooian. Our Women's Guild put together a wonderful "Chicago Style" luncheon following the consecration of our new church doors. Everyone was invited to stay and enjoy the lunch and the afternoon question and answer in the church with His Holiness. Our Nairi Choir participated (we were nine strong) in the Hrshapar Service in the evening. Hats off to Violet Koresian for all her hard work during this time. You can always count on her.

It is always nice to hear from our readers. Here is a note that we wanted to pass on to you from Paul Nersesian of Holy Virgin Mary & Shoghagat Armenian Church in Belleville, IL. - "We would like to thank you for sending us the LOOSAVORICH NEWSLETTER on a regular basis. We enjoy reading all of the many things your parish does and what's going on with our fellow Armenian parishes. We also get a chance to read about people who have ties with our church but live in the Chicagoland area. Reading through your newsletter, we can see many familiar names - and it's nice to know they are doing well." Thank you for your kind words.

St. Gregory's Anniversary Luncheon was a wonderful afternoon spent with friends and good food. Our thanks to Raelene Ohanessian, Vickie Kaprelian and Mary Martin for their generous donation of this luncheon along with their culinary talents!

Great Job!

Happy 50th anniversary to Dr. Vahe and Silva Karachorlu. May you have many, many more happy years together.

On Sunday, December 9th, St. Gregory held its Annual Christmas Party at Costa's Greek Restaurant. It was an evening of family and friends (65 in all) gathering together to break bread and enjoy the festivities of the holiday season. The food was wonderful and the entertainment hilarious. Once again, Vito Zatto did not disappoint the group - the comedian sang and danced a little with the help of several members of the crowd. Our thanks go out to Georgette and John Mrofcza, Arnold and Dorothy Koresian and George and Pauline Nahabedian for putting together a great party. There were door prizes donated by the committee along with a little gift for everyone - a holiday cheese spreader. At each place setting there was a Christmas card composed by Georgette that read as follows:

SHNORHAVOR NOR DARI YEV SOORP DZUNOUNT!

Welcome to St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church's Annual Christmas Party. We are thrilled you have chosen to join us at the fabulous Costa's Greek Restaurant for an evening of good food, warm friendship and hysterical laughter... there WILL be hysterical laughter! Please accept this little Christmas favor as a reminder to "spread" the true meaning of Christmas.

*JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!!
MERRY CHRISTMAS!!*

SEE YOU ALL NEXT YEAR!!!

DONATIONS

Sincere sympathy is extended by the Pastor and Parish Council to the family members of our departed parishioners. May God illuminate their souls and grant them eternal peace. Grateful acknowledgement is expressed to those who made the following donations in loving memory of their family members and friends.

IN MEMORY OF KHATOUN BOYRAZIAN

TO THE CHURCH

Lucy Akmakjian,
Armen Derderian
Garo & Janette Evran
Krikor & Angele Gosgarian
Dr. Vahe & Silva Karachorlu
Sarkis & Victoria Karnouzian
Peter & Helen Klujian
John & Loosin Serbekian.

Total: \$380.00

IN MEMORY OF MARY DEMIRJIAN

George and Pauline Nahabedian
Naomi Nahabedian
Nishan & Helen Babikian
Mary Kazarian
Arnold & Dorothy Koresian
Violet Koresian

Total: \$225

IN MEMORY OF MATHEW KLUJIAN, SR.

TO THE BUILDING FUND

Mr. & Mrs. Garrick Abezetician
Martin Abezetician
Sam and Jo Carol Abezetician
Peter & Christine Aznavoorian
Helen & Nishan Babikian
Michelle Babikian
Charlotte Bader
Nancy and Nick Berberian
Virginia B. Bogosian
Emily O. Burton & Dominic J. Vacca
Jack & Glenna Cholakian
Grace Couyoumjian
John and Mary Dadian
Deborah & Ralph DerAsadourian
Eleanor Gedigian
Charles & Annette Frankian
Michael & Brook Fullager
Eleanor Gedigian
Kegham and Ann Giragosian
Sella Gircik
Kirkor & Angele Gosgarian
William and Beatrice Green
Alice & Ernest Gregorian
Martin Hamparzomian
Dr. Hrach and Mrs. Sandra Hitik

John & Mary Ipjian
Robert & Victoria Kaprelian
Robert Kaffka Assoc., Inc.
Dr. Vahe & Mrs. Silva Karachorlu
Kaz Kazarian
Marge Kazarian
Violet Koresian
Helen Kuefner
John and Sadie Marcantonio
A. A. Mekjian
Jack & Helen Mekjian
Katherine Mekjian
Alice, Melanie & Kevin Mikaelian
Samuel K. Mirakian
Mr. & Mrs. George Nahabedian
Naomi Nahabedian
John & Lucine Nersessian
Anna Marie Norehad
Joyce Obenhoff
Harry & Shirley Paloian
Charles & Janet Paloian
Ara & Katherine Pedian
Mr. & Mrs. Haig Pedian
Thomas J. Perraud/Linda Lou Pedian
Jane E. Petkus
Robert & Sylvia Raubolt
Paul & Deborah Simonian
John & Betty Tarpinian
Mariam Tatosian
Oscar Tatosian, Sevak Alaverdyan & Sarkis Tatosian
Noubar & Hourig Tcheurekdjian
Sonia S. Toundian
Rose Tootooian
F. M. Vacca
S. L. Vacca
Armen & Linda Zakarian
Rose Zakarian
Anonymous
Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Koresian
Nairi Choir
Philip and Mary Battle

Total: \$4,500

IN MEMORY OF ARLINE BECKER

Dr. Seta Sultanian
Charles & Annette Frankian

Total: \$150

IN MEMORY OF KIRA SIMONIAN

Martin Abezetician
Garrick & Diane Abezetician
Sam & Jo Carol Abezetician
Elaine Bilowich
Sue Caldwell
Ken Faulhaber
Elizabeth P. Hoyle
Jack K. Jay
Robert & Victoria Kaprelian
Arlene S. Kura
Eileen & Herbert Lange
Don Lussky
George & Margaret Opas
Dr. & Mrs. Robert M. Phillips
Jane E. Rohrbein
Gerald & Patricia Schorr
Gladys Simonian
Clare Toffenetti
Judith E. Wittmus
Anonymous

Total: \$875

IN MEMORY OF MARI LEYLEK

Agop & Seta Adourian
Mrs. Kinrik Anlek
Mr. & Mrs. Hamparsum Avokyan
Simon & Filor Bagamyan
Mesiya & Takuhi Bagamyan
Ohannes & Makruhi Batar
Santuhi Batar
Vartan & Ani Batar
Levon & Ayda Bayindiryan
Hayko & Janet Sari/Coban
Haykanos & Donik Calukyan
Clemson University, Clemson, S. C.
Arsen & Karen Demerdjian
Dynamex, Dallas, TX
Sami & Madlen Dulkadir
Samuel Discioglu
Mr. & Mrs. Garo Findik
Ms. Eleni Fosses
Artin Hitik
Garbis & Silva Kurcku
Dr. Vahe & Silva Karachorlu
Paylor Karagoz
Mary Kazarian
Violet Koresian
Setrak & Ani Konu
Christian EG & Donna Prziirembel
Dr. Seta Sultanian
Norayr Tapucu
Sarkis & Sundyl Tashjian
Mrs. Takuhi Utas & Hovsep Utas

Total: \$1,745

DONATIONS

IN MEMORY OF MARYAM DIRILEN
TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FUND

A&A Jewelry Mfg. & Casting LLC
 Nick & Nevaart Adourian
 Aram & Tilda Agajanian
 Shahan & Sibil Alexanian
 Bedros & Marta Alexanian
 George Aslanian
 Sarkis & Maral Balian
 Philip & Mary Battle
 Levon & Ayda Bayindiryan
 Nick & Nancy Berberian
 Kay Berberian
 Karney & Jill Boyajian
 Sarkis & Alice Boyajian
 Ohannes & Regina Boz
 Arto Caliskan
 Coskun & Naringul Caliskan
 Olga & Carlos Chiong
 Ralph & Deborah DerAsadourian
 Claire and Bedros Dokmecian
 Mari Dokmecian, Holland
 Sami & Madlen Dulkadir
 Arshaluis Elmayan
 Artin Hitik
 Dr. Hrach & Mrs. Sandra Hitik
 Shnorik Hitik
 Robert & Victoria Kaprelian
 Dr. Vahe & Mrs. Silva Karachorlu
 Violet Koresian
 Anayit Z. Koroglyuan
 Garabed & Firansuyi Kurtjian
 Isahak & Nergis Kurtjian
 Varujan & Anna Kurtjian
 Vasaliki Vina Lukidis
 Benjamin Manoyan
 Simon Manoyan
 Vartuyi Manoyan
 Armand & Nadia Mirijanian
 Yetvart Ozartun
 Bedros & Zabel Panosyan
 Vartan & Hayganus Paylan
 Fehmi & Sevim Saman
 John Saman
 Aram & Seta Semerdjian
 Kevork & Annette Sultanian
 Sylvia Sultanian
 Oscar & Margaret Stepanian
 Norayr Tapucu
 Mariam Tatosian
 Gary & Aylin Topalian
 Sarkis and Ani Tokat
 Vartikes & Silva Tokat
 Sevan & Rose Zulikyan
 Avedis & Ankine Yazicioglu
 Total: \$4,105

NAIRI CHOIR

Helen & Nishan Babikian,
 Michelle Babikian
 Arnold & Dorothy Koresian
 Violet Koresian
 John & Georgette Mrofca
 Naomi Nahabedian.

Total: \$150.00

JOHN GARO DADIAN
FOR THE BUILDING FUND

CM Team
 % Marilynn G. Vanella
 Kitwit/Reyes, AJV
 AJF, Brown & Momem, Inc.
 Garrick & Diane Abezetian
 Martin Abezetian
 Jerry & Bernadine Akgulian
 Ardmore Associates
 Arthur Aznavoorian
 Charles and Dawn Barsamian
 Philip and Mary Battle
 John & Kenarr Chiodo
 James & Suellen Daum
 Levon & Margorie Demerdjian
 Ralph & Debra DerAsadourian
 Judith H. Dirindin
 Hagop & Ani Dirilen
 Yn. Maireni Donikian
 Brian J. Eckert
 Larry & Wendy Farsakian
 Mark J. Fary – Rosemarie S. Andolino
 Erick & Kay Fischer
 Jody & Julie Flynn
 Charles & Annette Frankian
 Rudy & Terri Girolamo
 Mary Hagopian
 Robert & Linda Hill
 Dr. Hrach & Mrs. Sandra Hitik
 George & Patty Jack
 Robert & Victoria Kaprelian
 Edward & Susan Kargenian
 Harold & Gloria Kargenian
 Dr. Vahe & Mrs. Silva Karachorlu
 Arden & Tammy Karian
 Marge & Takouhi Kazarian
 Mathew & Susu Klujian
 Mr. Paul & Dr. Susan Mardoian
 Sophie Mardoian
 Jacob Matiosian
 Harry & Jean Missirlian
 Nahabedian Restaurant Group, LLC
 Sibyl Noyin
 John & Loretta Page
 John & Shooshan Paklaian
 Charles & Janet Paloian

Harry & Shirley Paloian
 James & Julia Poladian
 Gary & Sona Rejebian
 Mohinderjit Saini/Harvinder K. Saini
 Hugo and Margaret Sarkesian
 Paul & Deborah Simonian
 Linda Hill and Brenda Sorensen
 Michael Tootooian
 Rose Tootooian
 Hosep Utas
 Agnes Vartabedian
 George & Cassandra Vickas
 Nancy L. Weiss
 Armen & Linda Zakarian

NAIRI CHOIR

Michelle Babikian
 Nishan and Helen Babikian,
 Robert & Victoria M. Kaprelian
 Violet Koresian
 John & Sadie Marcantonio
 John and Georgette Mrofca
 George and Pauline Nahabedian
 Naomi Nahabedian

Total: \$375

MARGARET MELIKIAN

Mary Kazarian
 Violet Koresian
 Peter & Lucy E. Megrdechian
 Isabelle Vahratian
 Angel Maral Vahratian
 Friends of St. George Armenian Church,
 Waukegan, IL
 Arnold & Dorothy Koresian

Total: \$315.00

IN MEMORY OF DOLORES MROFCZA

Michelle Babikian
 Helen & Nishan Babikian
 Mary Hagopian
 Mathew & Susu Klujian
 Arnold & Dorothy Koresian

Total: \$175

IN HONOR OF MARY HAGOPIAN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

DONATIONS TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Arnold & Dorothy Koresian
 Violet Koresian

GENERAL DONATION TO ST. GREGORY

Gerald & Josephone Walsdorf

TWO PEW BOOKS

Bower Family, Michael, Sandy, Brette & Brook

IN LIEU OF GRAPE DONATIONS FOR THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Varoujan & Yeranuhi Caliskan in memory of Caliskan and Yildiz Families;
 J. Gerald Demirjian in memory of Mary Demirjian;
 Jacqueline Goodrich in memory of Lucy Erkiletian;
 Shnorik Hitik in memory of deceased members of the Hitik Family;
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kaprelian in memory of Zarouhi Mirakian, Magar and Armenouhi Kaprelian and Pana Khouri;
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kaprelian in honor of Mary Martin & Ed Paprigian;
 Karachorlu Family in memory of Imasdouhi Karachorlu;
 Takouhi & Margie Kazarian in memory & honor of all their loved ones;
 Migirdic Kendiroglu in memory of Hagop Kendiroglu;
 Violet Koresian in memory of the deceased members of the Koresian Family;
 Simon Manoyan in memory of Hayganus and Simon Manoyan;
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Paloian in memory of Michael;
 Charles and Janet Paloian in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Elmas Hagopian;
 Cynthia Panthier in memory of her parents John & Rose Paklaian;
 Lincoln S. Tamraz in memory of Alice & Thomas S. Tamraz;
 Rose and Paul Ruestow in memory of Edward Ruestow, Seth & Celia Catchatourian;
 Joyce Markarian Williamson in memory of Jerry V. & Deloris Markarian, Sr

Total: \$630

“GIFT OF LOVE” DONATIONS FOR THE 43RD ANNIVERSARY OF ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN CHURCH

Garry, Diane, Marty & Jess Abezethian
 Martin Abezethian
 Antoinette & Eshaya Abraham
 Arthur Aznavoorian
 Helen & Nishan Babikian
 Michelle Babikian
 Philip & Mary Battle
 Nick & Nancy Berberian
 Jack & Glenna Cholakian
 J. Gerald Demirjian
 Vahe & Pat Derian
 Ralph & Deborah DerAsadourian
 Narbey Donigian

Ray & Rita Gallivan
 Jacob and Louis Hagopian
 Kirkor & Angele Gosgaryan
 George & Kohar Havelka
 Diane Kachigian
 Robert & Victoria Kaprelian
 Dr. & Mrs. Vahe Karachorlu
 Harold & Gloria Kargenian
 Arden & Tammy Karian
 Mary Kazarian
 Nicole & Tim Kersten
 Rhonda Kodjayan
 Violet Koresian
 Craig Koresian
 Arnold & Dorothy Koresian
 Helen Kuefner
 Siva & Mary Martin
 Beatrice Mossler
 George & Pauline Nahabedian
 Mark & Helen Nahabedian
 Naomi Nahabedian
 Isabell Nahabedian
 Harry & Shirley Paloian
 Haig & Agnes Pedian
 Drs. Paul & Rose Ruestow
 Arthur Sahagian
 Gladys Simonian
 Lincoln Tamraz
 Gregory Tootooian
 Michael Tootooian
 Agnes Vartabedian
 Nancy L. Weiss
 Armen & Linda Zakarian

Total: \$7,315

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PARISHIONERS FOR THEIR DONATIONS TO HELP BEAUTIFY OUR CHURCH:

Garrick & Diane Abezethian
 Martin Abezethian
 Paul M. Andrews
 Robert E. Kalenian
 Mary Kazarian
 Violet Koresian
 Beatrice Mossler
 Charles & Janet Paloian
 Harry & Shirley Paloian
 Martin & Gerri Paloian
 Charles & Rose Prestigiacomo
 Drs. Paul & Rose Ruestow
 Harry Seraydarian
 Gladys Simonian
 Lincoln S. Tamraz
 Rose Tootooian

Total: \$1,600



DONATIONS TO THE LOOSAVORICH

Martin Abezethian
 Mr. and Mrs. Greg Aprahamian
 Betty Balian
 Myra Bedrosian
 Mary Hagopian
 Maryanne Johnson (Iowa)
 Mary Kalenian
 Mr. and Mrs. Matt Klujian
 Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Koresian
 Beatrice Mossler
 Mr. and Mrs. Harry Paloian
 Harry Seraydarian
 Mr. and Mrs. Sam Sommese
 Lincoln Tamraz
 Nancy Weiss

Total—\$580

*May God grant you according to your hearts.
 Thank You!*

Keep in Your Prayers

“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.” Matt 21:22

Denise Abezethian
 Marty Hamparzomian
 Mary Kerridan
 Grace Klujian
 Mary Poulsen
 Mary Sommese
 Agnes Vartabedian

May God touch them with His healing hand and grant them good health and strong spirit.

Sandy's Corner

I was thinking of the holidays and what recipe would be good to print. Everyone has a favorite or traditional family recipe they make every Thanksgiving and Christmas. Besides who am I to compete with the food channel and

the many recipe websites such as:

- www.epicurious.com
- www.america'sstestkitchen.com
- www.cookinglight.com
- www.livingwell.com
- www.foodnetwork.com
- www.recipezaar.com (very good)
- www.diabeticrecipes.com
- www.therecipebox.com
- www.foodgeeks.com

Then there is the countless magazines with food advertisers imparting their favorite recipe for their product.

So I have decided to give you a recipe I copied while visiting my cousin, Elly, in Providence. It is framed and hangs on a wall in her kitchen and perfectly fits her and Vinnie's marriage.

Recipe for a Happy Marriage

Take two happy people --
One male and one female
And separate them from the parents.

Add the following ingredients in generous proportions:
Faith, Love, Acceptance, Respect, Communication, Patience, Kindness, Gentleness, Self-control, Commitment, Hope, and Truth.

Mix together then thoroughly sift in daily life. Strain out jealously, arrogance, selfishness, provocation and accounting of wrongs. Bake in the trial and tribulations of life for fifty years and celebrate when golden.

Recipe for Friendship

- 1 cup loyalty
- 2 cups kindness
- 3 teaspoons forgiveness
- 5 tablespoons time for each other
- 4 gallons honesty
- 1 cup faith

Combine all ingredients with love and affection, and mix carefully. Stir well, and should you notice any lumps or flaws, handle gently and overlook as often as possible. Sweeten generously with a firm belief in each other and keep warm with a caring heart and a watchful eye. Never serve hot or cold, just room temperature. Let stand for a lifetime of special memories.

WEDDINGS

October 29, 2007

Dana Lynn Zakarian and Geoffrey Collins Miller

Best Man: George Hollis Miller

Maid of Honor: Dawn Elizabeth Zakarian

Matron of Honor: Jenna Armine Libertini

Officiated by Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian assisted

We wish the happy couple many years of wedded bliss together with God's blessings. May God be protector of their holy unity.

BAPTISMS

August 19, 2007

Jack Gregory Wittmus, son of Jon and Krista Wittmus

Godfather: Jeffrey Wittmus

Godmother: Tracy Kistenfeger

September 23, 2007

Katherine Mary Terzian, daughter of Haroutioun and Nina Terzian

Godfather: Roman Tchelak

Godmother: Nora Terzian

"For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Gal. 3:27). Alleluia

NEW ARRIVALS

October 18, 2007

Olivia Grace Dadian, daughter of John and Jeri Ellen Dadian, Marietta, Georgia

"I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love forever and ever." (Psalm 52:8)

FUNERALS

Truly, truly, I say to

you, unless a grain of

wheat falls into the

earth and dies, it re-

mains alone; but if it

dies, it bears much

fruit.

- John 12:24

August 10, 2007

John Garo Dadian, Jr.

October, 20, 2007

Maryam Dirilen

November 29, 2007

Babkeen George Zakarian

May their souls rest in eternal peace.

Born in a manger at Christmas as a gift from the Father above, an infant whose name was called Jesus brought mankind the gift of God's love.

- Helen Steiner Rice

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 2008 – EVE OF THE NATIVITY AND THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Rev. Fr. Vahram Hazarian, Guest Celebrant

Traditional Christmas Readings

7:00 p.m.

Jrakalouyts - Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy

7:30 p.m.

Refreshments will be served following church services.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2008 – FEAST OF THE NATIVITY AND BAPTISM OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Very Rev. Fr. Dajad Tsaturian, Celebrant

Morning Service

9:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy

10:30 a.m.

Blessing of the Water Service

11:30 a.m.

- Sunday School Christmas Pageant

- A Christmas Family Dinner will be hosted by the Women’s Guild following services.

Please RSVP to the Church Office by Wednesday, January 2, 2008.

MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2008 – REMEMBRANCE OF THE DECEASED “Merrelotz”

Requiem Service “*Merrelotz Hokehankisd*”

11:00 a.m.

HOME BLESSING

Dear Friends:

As was the tradition of the early church, the Apostles would go from home to home proclaiming the good news of Christ’s Birth. In the Armenian Church, it is customary to have the pastor make home visitations during the 40 days after Christmas and Easter. Families who wish to have their homes blessed during Christmastide may call the Church office (773-637-1711) to make arrangements.

Donation to the Loosavorich

Name _____

\$ _____

Address _____



I Do not Wish to Receive Future Publication

I Wish to Receive Future Publications