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St. Stephen's Armenian
Apostolic Church

Sunday Bulletin

167 Tremont St • New Britain, CT 06051
Տէր Կարապետ Թէլֆէան, Հոգևոր Հովիւ

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Eleventh Sunday of the Holy Cross

Presentation of the Mother of God to the Temple

Eve of the Fast of Advent

*“He who is mighty has done great things for me, And
holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who
fear Him From generation to generation.”*

—St. Mary the Mother of God



Today the Armenian Apostolic Church celebrates four feasts at the same time: the **Resurrection** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Eleventh week of the **Holy Cross**, the Feast of the Presentation of the **Holy Mother of God** to the Temple, and the Eve of the Fast of **Nativity/Theophany**. Wow! What an opportunity it is to say “good bye” to trials and tribulations and to become spiritually newborn babies, with fresh new fath, hope, and love of our Heavenly Father.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ demonstrates that our **souls are eternal** and that our bodies will be **raised again** by God, just as he raised the daughter of Jairus, the son of the Widow of Nain, and Lazarus, Jesus’s own friend, from the dead. The Holy Resurrection would not be possible without the Holy Cross. And the Cross and the Resurrection would not be possible without the Birth of Christ and without the obedience of his Blessed Virgin Mother, Saint Mary. So we celebrate all of these things together on this day.

Seasonally speaking, today is the Eve of the great fast which begins tomorrow, Monday, and continues until the Feast of Nativity and Theophany which we celebrate on January 6. The fasting period is a time of preparation to receive the Lord Jesus Christ, when we will say **“Blessed is the Revelation of Christ.”** ☪

«Հգօրն Աստուած ինծի Համար մեծամեծ գործեր կատարեց. սուրբ է
անունը անոր: Բոլոր ժամանակներուն մէջ ողորմութեամբ ան կը նայի
աստուածավախ մարդոց վրայ»:

—Սր. Մարիամ Աստուածածին

The Breath of God (ԱՍՏՈՒԱԾԱՇՈՒՆԶ)

A Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah 29:11-20 (NKJV)

11 The whole vision has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one who is literate, saying, "Read this, please." And he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed."

12 Then the book is delivered to one who is illiterate, saying, "Read this, please." And he says, "I am not literate."

13 Therefore the Lord said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,

14 Therefore, behold, I will again do a marvelous work Among this people, A marvelous work and a wonder; For the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, And the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden."

15 Woe to those who seek deep to hide their counsel far from the LORD, And their works are in the dark; They say, "Who sees us?" and, "Who knows us?"

16 Surely you have things turned around! Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay; For shall the thing made say of him who made it, "He did not make me"? Or shall the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?

17 Is it not yet a very little while Till Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, And the fruitful field be esteemed as a forest?

18 In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, And the eyes of the

blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness.

19 The humble also shall increase their joy in the LORD, And the poor among men shall rejoice In the Holy One of Israel.

20 For the terrible one is brought to nothing, The scornful one is consumed, And all who watch for iniquity are cut off. ☩

A Reading from the Epistle of Apostle Paul to the Philippians 4:8-23 (NKJV)

8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.

11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

14 Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress.

15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.

16 For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities.

17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.

18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

20 Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you.

22 All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household.

23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. ☩

Alleluia! Alleluia!

All shall speak of the might of thy awesome wonders: and we will declare your greatness.

Stand up in the fear of God, and let us listen to the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 11:1-13 (NKJV)

1 Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

2 So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

4 And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one."

5 And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves;

6 'for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him';

7 "and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'?"

8 "I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.

9 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

10 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

11 "If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish?

12 "Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?"

13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" ☩



Hokehankist (Հոգեհանգիստ)

- 1. Haygaz Boyajian
- 2. Verkine Boyajian
- 3. Nevart Boyajian
- 4. Hagop Semerdjian
- 5. All the faithful of the Boyajian, Simonian, and Semerdjian families who are at rest
Requested by Knarig Semerdjian, Nevart Semerdjian Bentley, and Aram Semerdjian

- 6. Rose Kalajian
- 7. Diroohi "Doreena" Avakian
- 8. Lillian "Lee" Avakian
Requested by Knarig Semerdjian and Richard Arzoomanian

- 9. Vaghinag Azizian (+Nov 19, 1998)
Requested by his daughter Yn. Maro
Lunch will be served.

Weekly Services

- Sun 9:30am Morning Praise
 - Sun 10:30am Divine Liturgy
 - Wed 5pm Evening Praise
 - Sat 10am Midday Praise
 - Sat 10:30am Christian Teaching
 - Sat 5pm Evening Praise
- Details: <https://armenianprayer.com>**

November

- 20 Sat. All Saints, Old, New, Known, and Unknown
- 21 Sun. Eleventh Sunday after Holy Cross, Presentation of the Holy Mother of God to the Temple, and Eve of the Fast of Advent**
- 22 Mon. Fast of Advent
- 23 Tue. Fast of Advent
- 24 Wed. Fast of Advent
- 25 Thu. Fast of Advent (USA Thanksgiving)
- 26 Fri. Fast of Advent
- 27 Sat. Gregory the Wonderworker, Nicholas the Bishop, and Myron the Bishop
- 28 Sun. First Sunday of Advent (Luke 12.13-31, "Have my brother divide the inheritance")**

Der Voghormia (Տէր Ողորմեա)

- 1. Levon Asdourian
- 2. David Bagdasarian
- 3. Rita † Bagdasarian
- 4. Elizabeth Dagesian
- 5. Elijah Johnson
- 6. Gregory Kaolian
- 7. Michael Papelian
- 8. John Seretny, Sr.
- 9. May Shaaban

PARISH TOWN HALL MEETING

December 5, 2021 after Badarak. This special meeting is **only to bring everyone up to date on the status of our parish** and not for elections (which will take place next year at our annual meeting). Lunch served.

Orphans of Martyred Fathers

THE CHILDREN OF MARTYRED FATHERS NEED US

"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world." (James 1:27)

New lists of war orphans are coming to us through the St. Nerses the Great Organization office in Yerevan. Currently, 71 orphans from fathers who made the ultimate sacrifice during the war in Artsakh are registered in the waiting list of the St. Nerses the Great Organization in Yerevan, along with 11 other orphans with heartbreaking stories. We appeal to the generosity of our fellow Armenians to sponsor one or more of them.

All Prelacy Churches will be taking special collections for this purpose on November 21 and 28. Let us all band together and attend and give generously. May God bless and reward every contribution and act of kindness to our orphans of martyred fathers.

Tap here (<https://armenianprelacy.org/programs/orphans-fund>) for online sponsorship of minors up to the age of 18.

Tap here (<https://armenianprelacy.org/college-sponsorship-form>) for online sponsorship of orphans who become students at a higher education institution upon turning 18. ☕