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St. Stephen's Armenian
Apostolic Church

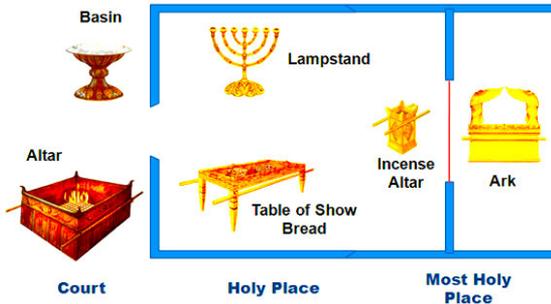
Sunday Bulletin

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

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Fourth Sunday after Nativity and Theophany Eve of the Arachavorats Fast

*“Greet the King, Christ, with a song of praise, all
the earth.” (Midday Hymn, Third Mode)*



This five-day “Fast of the Arachavorats” takes place three weeks before the start of the Great Fast. There are a variety of explanations for this fast, some more genuine than others.

1. Because it culminates with the Feast of St. Sarkis on Saturday, people mistakenly refer to this fast as the “Fast of St. Sarkis.” However, all fasts are to the Lord, not to saints (except to seek their intercession with the Lord), and the timing of this fast before the feast of St. Sarkis is purely coincidence.
2. Because this fast occurs in the third week preceding the Great Fast, there has been a conjecture that at one time the Great fast lasted ten weeks instead of seven. However, the Jubilee structure of the calendar contradicts this theory (the Great Fast, the Resurrection, the Coming of the Holy Spirit, and others are seven-week, fifty-day periods).
3. There is a story that St. Gregory the Illuminator, after emerging from the pit, ordered demon-possessed King Drtad and his household to abstain from food or drink for five days, so there is a conjecture that Gregory established this fast in memory of this event.

«ԶԹագաւորն Քրիստոս օրհնութեամբ երգով բարբերանեցէ՛ր,
ամենայն երկիր»: (Ճաշու Շարական ԳՁ)

4. This fasting period corresponds to a three-day “Fast of Jonah” observed by some of our sister churches. In our case, we are fasting for an entire week, observing not only the fast of Jonah (in the belly of the fish) but also the fast of Nineveh in sackcloth and ashes.

5. The title of this fast, *արաշավորք*, “arachavork,” a word replete in the Old Testament, refers to the “showbread,” a bread which has been presented on a special table, made using special flour, prepared for each Sabbath, restricted to the priests, and upon which and through which the Faces of God manifest the Divine Presence.

At this juncture in our lectionary calendar, we are reading John 6, in which Jesus proclaims that his Body and Blood are food and drink indeed, without which we would have no life.

This Old Testament “showbread,” the physical bread which was purported to show “the Faces of God,” is brought to perfection in the New Testament as Jesus shows Himself to be “the Bread of Life.” Jesus is the New “Showbread”, the “Face of God”, and the “Presence of God” around and in us—not restricted to priests but (through priests) given for forgiveness of sins and eternal life to all who partake.

Looking at the Biblical correlation of the word “arachavork” with the “showbread,” and considering our current church lections of John 6, it is logical that we fast from the Old Testament “showbread” in preparation to receive the New Testament “Bread of Life.” ☞

The Breath of God (ԱՍՏՈՒԱԾԱՇՈՒՆԶ)

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Blessed is he whom you have chosen and adopted; he shall dwell in your courts. ☞

A Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah 61:10-11 (NKJV)

10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth brings forth its bud, As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, So the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations. ☞

Alleluia! Alleluia!

We shall be filled with the good things of your house; your temple is holy. You are wonderful in righteousness. ☞

A Reading from the Second Epistle of Apostle Paul to Timothy 2:20-26 (NKJV)

20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver,

but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor.

21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

23 But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.

24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,

25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will. ☩

Stand up in the fear of God, and let us listen to the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 6:15-21 (NKJV)

15 Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.

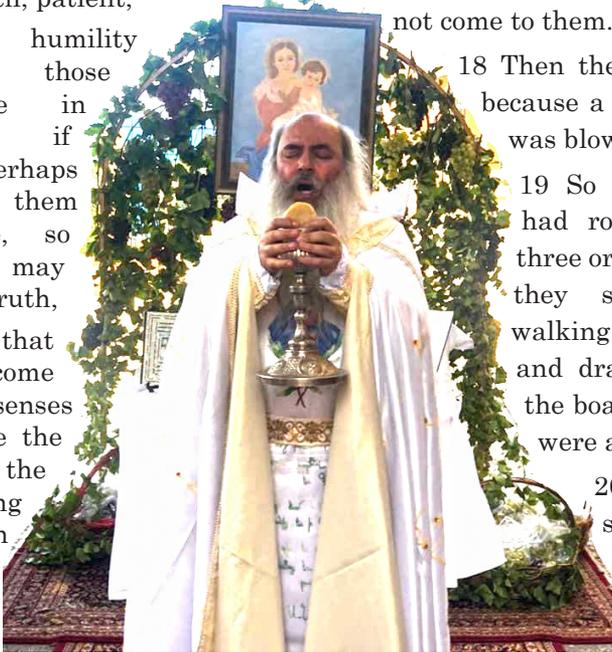
16 Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea,

17 got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them.

18 Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing.

19 So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid.

20 But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."



The Bread of Life

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Come and see the works of God, for they are more fearful in counsel than all the sons of men. ☩

21 Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going. ☩



Lebanon Relief

Tap here (<https://armenianprelacy.org/donate/lebanon-relief>) to sponsor a family or student in Lebanon.

Artsakh Relief

Tap here (<https://armenianprelacy.org/programs/orphans-fund>) to sponsor an orphan in Artsakh.

Genocide Memorial Survey

The CT Armenian Genocide committee would like your opinion on erecting an Armenian Genocide Memorial. Tap here (<https://tinyurl.com/4eeu7zw3>) to take the survey.

February

- 5 Sat. **ԲԿ**. Saint Gregory the Illuminator's Sons and Grandsons: Arisdages, Vrtanes, Hoosig, Krikoris, and Taniel
- 6 Sun. ԳԶ. Fourth Sunday after Nativity and Theophany.** Eve of the Fast of the Arachavork
- 7 Mon. **ԳԿ**. Day 1 of the Fast of the Arachavork
- 8 Tue. **ԴԶ**. Day 2 of the Fast of the Arachavork
- 9 Wed. **ԴԿ**. Day 3 of the Fast of the Arachavork
- 10 Thu. **ԱԶ**. Day 4 of the Fast of the Arachavork
- 11 Fri. **ԱԿ**. Day 5 of the Fast of the Arachavork: Commemoration of the Fast of Nineveh
- 12 Sat. **ԲԶ**. Sarkis the Warrior, His Son Mardiros, and 14 Soldiers

Der Voghormia (Տէր Ողորմեա)

- 1. A. K.
- 2. Aghavni & Garabed T.
- 3. Alexandra J.
- 4. Amy
- 5. Armen
- 6. Arsen & Alice G.
- 7. Avo S.
- 8. Boghos and Anjel
- 9. Bonnie C.
- 10. D. D.
- 11. Elijah J.
- 12. Emma & Garen (child)
- 13. Faltaous Family
- 14. Fr. Aram & Yn. Margaret
- 15. Francis G.
- 16. Gary B.
- 17. John D.
- 18. Karen & Peter
- 19. Lauren V.
- 20. Leslie R.
- 21. Margaret D.
- 22. Marianne G.
- 23. May S.
- 24. Michael P.
- 25. Miray ~ faith
- 26. Nancy S.
- 27. Nicholas D.
- 28. Paul O.
- 29. Peter B.
- 30. Peter
- 31. Richard Z.
- 32. Rita
- 33. Safa S.
- 34. Sylvia T.
- 35. Tim
- 36. Tim's wife and three kids
- 37. Yn. Louanne
- 38. Yn. Patricia

Fellowship Hour

While our fellowship hour continues, would those experiencing any cold symptoms kindly refrain until feeling better. Thank you.

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>