

DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH (EASTERN)

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

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DEPARTMENT OF MISSION PARISHES

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The Sunday Bulletin of our Mission Parishes

Diocesan Mission Statement

The mission of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox 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 fellowship in Christ as expressed in the distinctive faith-experience of the Armenian people.

All the faithful of the Armenian Church are called to participate fully in this mission.

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS - November 2, 2014

Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry come to you. Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress. Incline your ear to me; answer me speedily in the day when I call.

(Psalm 102:1-2)

This Psalm can bring many visions to mind: a man suffering daily from chronic pain; an injured soldier trapped in a hospital far from home; a woman no longer able to recognize herself after chemotherapy treatments; a parent grieving over the death of a child.

Often life deals us more than we feel we can handle. And it is very easy to lose faith in situations like these. To find comfort in this otherwise depressing psalm takes some effort. Dark laments of "I wither like the grass" and "my enemies revile against me all day long" are intermingled with the psalmist cry for help. The pleas are not polite - suffering has consumed the writer that he demands attention from God. The only hope he still clings to is that God will hear his urgent pleas. He almost seems to be convincing himself that there is something greater.

Hope and faith are all that remain in desperate situations like these. Hope that God will carry those who are suffering to some better plane; faith that God who created the earth will not only endure for all time - but will help sustain us in our time.

As St. Paul wrote to the Romans: *and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.* (Romans 5.5)

Dei Veritas



The Bible Readings Prescribed for this Sunday

ISAIAH 22:15-24:

The prophet Isaiah condemns the government official for improper actions. There is no office too lofty and no principle too cherished that does not stand under the judgment of God. Like it or not, the Church of God is involved in the issues of the day and should be concerned with the whole of human existence, both personal and social.

EPHESIANS 1:1-14:

The Apostle Paul speaks of the purpose of Jesus' coming - to unite all in one, everything in heaven and on earth, through Jesus Christ with God the Father. The mystery of God's will is now revealed through the Son. We who have been baptized and sealed can enter into our heritage, which is oneness with God.



LUKE 8:17-21:

Jesus is preaching when told that His mother and brothers wanted Him. He answers by stating that those who fear the Word of God and obey it are His mother and brothers. Thus the mission of God creates a new order of relationships.



As a Christian community, we are called to offer our prayers for others as well as offer our own personal prayers. Each week in the Sunday Bulletin, special prayers are requested asking YOU to pause and to offer prayers for those who are in need.

Whether there is a celebration of Badarak in your community this week or not, you are asked to pray for and not to forget:

- The Hierarchal leaders of the Armenian Church, His Holiness, Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians; His Holiness; Aram I Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia; His Beatitude,

Archbishop Nourhan Manoogian, Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem; His Beatitude, Archbishop Mesrob Mutafyan, Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople; that the presence of God be with them always and that they be true to their positions of trust and sacredness;

- Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Diocesan Primate and the members of the Diocesan Council that they administer to the affairs of our Diocese with wisdom, prudence, and above all love of God;
- the clergy of the Armenian Church and the lay administrative leaders of our parishes and Mission Parishes, that they be true to their calling to serve Jesus Christ;
- the faithful of our Mission Parish communities, that the Holy Spirit received through our Baptism and Confirmation infect them with the love of God and the genuine desire to do His work in His Church;
- Archbishop Avak Assadourian, Primate, of Iraq, Archbishop Ardashir Nalbandian of Syria, Bishop Ashod Mnatzaganian, Primate of Egypt, our Armenian brothers and sisters as well as all Christians of the regions, that they be kept safe from the harm and violence which surrounds them each day;
- the recovery of good health, the healing of infirmities and the presence of God in the lives of those who are ill in the hospital or at home, especially for His Beatitude, Archbishop Mesrob Mutafyan, Armenian Patriarch of Turkey, and Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian, that they receive comfort and healing;
- for an end to the violence that has permeated into the fabric of our American life;
- the men and women who are serving in the armed forces of the United States, that they be kept safe and able to return to their families unharmed;
- for peace and prosperity in the homeland of Armenia, in Artsakh, in Javakh and throughout the world and among all people of all nations, especially in the Holy City of Jerusalem, in the Middle East and wherever the ravages of war rages;
- for those who are experiencing great difficulties due to the economic crisis in our country, that they not be forgotten by us;
- those who are experiencing personal, marital and emotional conflicts in their lives;
- those who generously offer their time, talents and financial resources in the building up of our Church;
- all those who are in need of our prayers.

Let us pray, DER, VOGHORMIA; LORD, HAVE MERCY.

Prayers for Your Life

With each issue of our Sunday Bulletin, we present to our faithful various prayers from our Sacred Tradition and Church Fathers to use, offer, learn, and to receive the comfort and benefit prayer brings.

Today you are also asked to offer your personal prayers for His Holiness, Karekin II, the Catholicos of All Armenians on the anniversary of his enthronement.



The following is taken from the Hayrabedagan Makgtank Patriarchal Litany for the Catholicos of All Armenians. Today the Armenian Church commemorates the Fourteenth Anniversary of the Enthronement of His Holiness, Karekin II, as Catholicos of All Armenians.

THE PRAYER ON THE DAY OF THE PONTIFF'S FEAST

Lord our God, benevolent and merciful, Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, through the intercession of Saints Thaddeus and Bartholomew the Apostles, who enlightened the land of Armenia in the heathen darkness of idolatry, and through the prayers of Saint Gregory the Enlightener, who like an Apostle converted our people, accept the requests of your people and keep firm and unshaken for many years in his great calling, Lord, Lord, *KAREKIN*, our Supreme Catholicos, whom you have chosen to be Patriarch and Primate of your Armenian nation.

Grant him grace to guide your people with humility and with orthodox teaching. Raise high in the world the staff of your anointed. Make him worthy to be a faithful and wise steward of your new covenant. Look with compassion upon your people, who have faith in You, and keep them safe and free from all evil, that rejecting from their hearts all worldly desires, they may live in righteousness, clothed with the holiness of your Christ, and may they become one flock with one shepherd, that together they may be counted worthy with all your saints, by the grace of your Only-Begotten, our Lord Jesus Christ, with whom you Almighty Father and the consubstantial Holy Spirit are befitting glory, power and honor, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.



Օրհնեգ Հայրապետական

*Ամեն Հայր սրտից բխած,
Լսիր այս ձայնն ով Աստուած,
Երկար կեանք տուր Հայրապետին,
Երկար օրեր Հայոց Հօր:*

*Տէր անսասան պահիր դու միշտ
քո իսկ հիմնած Մայր Աթոռ:*

Orhnek Hayrabadakan

*Amen hayie surdeetz pukhadz,
luseer ays tsayn ov Asdvadz.
Yergar gyank door Hayrabadean,
Yergar orer Hayots Hor.
Der ansasan baheer Too meeshd
Ko isg heemnadz Mayr Ator.*

Patriarchal Hymn

***O God, listen to the plea that pours forth from every Armenian heart.
Give long life to the Patriarch, many days to the Armenian father.
Ever keep unshaken the Holy See You yourself have established.***



This Saturday, the Armenian Church will commemorate the Feast of St. John Chrysostom. An article on St. John appears in our *eTsayn* publication.

NAME DAYS celebrated today: none



Back to Basics

As mentioned many times on these pages and on those of our *eTsayn* sister publication, the basic teachings of our Armenian Church have somehow become a lost memory for our faithful. While new methodologies in teaching should be explored, the core of what is to be taught and learned does not always necessarily need to change.

Here we will also ask 5 questions on the basic teachings and practices of our Armenian Church in the hope that they will provide an opportunity to strengthen one's practices and expressions of faith. The answers will appear at the end of the Sunday Bulletin. Keep Score. Today's questions take it up a notch. See how well you do.

ARMENIAN CHURCH HYE-Q

1. Which books make up the Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament?
2. Who wrote a revered prayer book called "Speaking to God from the Depths of My Heart"?
3. What is the date of the Council of Ephesus?
4. The Great commission tells us to _____ in the name of the Trinity?
5. On what feast day do we celebrate life as it was in Paradise?



Outreach

With the weather turning colder, it is vital that all people, adults and children, receive proper nourishment to prevent illnesses. We, as the Armenian people, following the Genocide were once referred to as “*the starving Armenians*”. We as Armenians, in memory of our Martyrs, should make it priority-one to help feed the hungry. Make a commitment to the local food banks or soup kitchens in your area by providing them with either nonperishable food items or a monetary contribution. Will your contribution make a difference? If you were very hungry and one person helped feed you, would it have made a difference in your life? No committees, no votes, no

discussions. Just do it!

Also, remember last winter when you put away your coat that didn't fit you any longer? How about donating it to a charity like the Salvation Army that will distribute it to someone who would otherwise be cold. Also children's coats that they have outgrown will also be very much appreciated. Like it says, - just do it!



Christmas Shopping

Also the month of November has arrived and we begin to think about our holiday shopping during these difficult economic times we need to purchase items of lasting quality, not just the latest fad that will disappear with the tinsel and wrappings the gifts came in. Perhaps this year you can add to your spiritual enrichment and for those whom you love with a quality purchase from our Diocesan bookstore. There are a variety of books, DVDs, CDs, and religious artifacts that offer one an opportunity to understand and develop their Armenian faith, culture and history. Go to www.armeniandiocese-ed.net and click on the site for the bookstore. Or you may call 212-686-0710 x 152. If Fr. Tateos can help with your selections or offer a suggestion, please feel free to contact him as well.



a thought for the week . . .

As we commemorate the feast of St. John Chrysostom this Saturday we offer his words written in his treatise *On the Priesthood*.

In his work, "*On the Priesthood*," St. John Chrysostom is engaged in a dialogue with his friend Basil, who had just accepted the call to the priesthood. St. John is seeking to explain to Basil the nature of the dignity of the priestly office, and so he turns to the Eucharist.

He speaks of the priest in his role as one who offers the Body and Blood of Christ to the Father in the Holy Eucharist. St. Chrysostom shows how the divine presence and condescension of Christ in the Holy Eucharist elevates immeasurably the dignity of the priestly office. The greatness of the office of the priest is shown by the greatness of the Sacrifice he offers.

The priest praying at the altar during the Liturgy, says St. Chrysostom, is the Elijah of the New Covenant, calling down not fire from Heaven, but calling down the Holy Spirit that by the grace of the sacrament the souls of the faithful may be enlightened. To despise the priestly office is to be "stark mad and senseless," for only one who did not understand the divine work the priest does in his role in the Eucharistic sacrifice would have no regard for the office of priest. What then is the magnitude of the gift of the priestly vocation, the superior dignity of the office of priest?

The dignity of a priest is a divine dignity, because the authority of the priest is as much greater than heaven is more precious than earth, and souls more precious than bodies. Since no one can enter into the Kingdom of Heaven except by being regenerated through the water of baptism, and eating the Flesh of the Lord and drinking His Blood, and since these holy sacraments are accomplished only by means of the holy hands of the priest, therefore the priestly office has an immeasurable dignity, because it is only through the office of priest that we are able to avoid the fires of hell and win the crown of heavenly glory. This is a noble and weighty responsibility.

Would you also learn from another miracle the exceeding sanctity of this office? Picture Elijah and the vast multitude standing around him, and the sacrifice laid upon the altar of stones, and all the rest of the people hushed into a deep silence while the prophet alone offers up prayer: then the sudden rush of fire from Heaven upon the sacrifice: these are marvelous things, charged with terror. Now then pass from this scene to the rites which are celebrated in the present day; they are not only marvelous to behold, but transcendent in terror. There stands the priest, not bringing down fire from Heaven, but the Holy Spirit: and he makes prolonged supplication, not that some flame sent down from on high may consume the offerings, but that grace descending on the sacrifice may thereby enlighten the souls of all, and render them more refulgent than silver purified by fire. Who can despise this most awful mystery, unless he is stark mad and senseless?

(*On the Priesthood*, Book III.4)



Are you Connected?

Parishioners are asked to send in or call in their e-mail addresses so that we will be able to send out our Sunday Bulletin and *eTsayn* newsletter electronically as well as other notices and announcements. Simply send your name and email address to: dertateos@armeniandiocese.org or call one of the Parish Council members of your community to give them the information.

We encourage you to visit your parish website for a listing of your parish activities, other Armenian Churches, various Orthodox Sites, other news agencies or a way to make a donation. Also, sign-up to receive the e-Newsletter from the Diocese which contains weekly news and information from our Diocese, Mission Parishes and well as our Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. Simply go to publicrelations@armeniandiocese.org and ask to receive the newsletter.

Holy Etchmiadzin: www.armenianchurch.org

Our Diocese: www.armenianchurch-ed.net

Western Diocese: www.armenianchurchwd.com

Nashville, TN: www.armenianchurchofnashville.org

Columbus, OH: www.ohioarmenians.us

Cape Cod, MA: www.armenianchurchcapecod.com

Atlanta, GA: www.armenianchurchofatlanta.org

Jacksonville, FL: www.armenianchurchjacksonville.com

Orlando, FL: www.stgarabedarmenianchurch.org

Austin, TX www.armenianchurchofaustin.org

Kansas City, MO www.KCArmenianChurch.com



ANSWERS TO THE ARMENIAN CHURCH HYE-Q

- Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiatics, Song of Songs, (Deuterocanonical: Wisdom of Solomon, Wisdom of Sirach).
- St. Gregory of Narek
- 431
- Baptize
- Poon Paregentan (Good Living or Joyous Living Day) the day before the start of Great Lent



received in der hayr's email box

