

DIVINE LITURGY NOTES

Kiss of Peace: May be exchanged with a simple bow to the left then the right shoulder of the other person whole placing your right hand over your heart or with a kiss on each cheek in the same way.

Giver: "Krisdos ee mech mer haydnetzav"
(Christ is revealed among us)

Receiver: "Orhnial eh haydnootyoonun Krisdosee"
(Blessed is the revelation of Christ)

Kissing the Gospel: At the end of the Service everyone should proceed to the front of the Church to kiss the Gospels Book as our final expression of witness before leaving to return to the world of our daily lives and say to the Priest: "May the Lord remember you in all your sacrifices." (Divine Liturgies) To which he will respond: "May God grant you according to your heart."

Mas: That "part and potion" of the Holy Sacrifice which is taken and given to those who were unable to receive Holy Communion, so that they too might share in the love and union of our family in Christ



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DECEMBER 7, 2008 - CHRISTMAS ADVENT

ADVENT is the period before Christmas during which we are called to prepare ourselves for the coming of our Lord in His Birth and Baptism. It is a time of prayer & reflection, fasting and doing good deeds. Although we should be doing all these at all times, Advent, as well as Great Lent, is the time during which we make an extra effort to make these a part of our daily lives.

There are six Sunday during Advent, from Nov. 26th to Jan. 6th (when the Armenian Church celebrates the Birth and Baptism of our Lord). Each Sunday has a designated color which signifies the Christian virtue or value we are to strive for in our lives. Six colored candles are placed around a wreath with one large candle in the middle. The wreath represents the eternal nature of God, Who is without beginning or end. Each Sunday a colored candle is lit along with those which were lit previously.

- The first Sunday is Green signifying Faith.
- The second Sunday is Blue signifying Hope.
- The third Sunday is Gold signifying Love.
- The fourth Sunday is White signifying Peace.
- The fifth Sunday is Purple signifying Repentance.
- The sixth Sunday is Red signifying Holy Communion.

On Christmas Day (Jan. 6th) the center candle is lit signifying Christ. "...for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ...Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is well pleased. (Luke 2:11&14).

Let us take the time during this Advent Season to truly prepare ourselves for Christ. For if we take Christ out of Christmas we are left only with ----- mass. - Merely A Show.

TODAY'S BIBLE READINGS: Isaiah 37:14-38
2Thessalonians 1:1-12
Luke 14:12-24

Gospel Reading

(Luke 14:12-24)

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.' "

Epistle Reading

(2Thessalonians 1:1-12)

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of everyone of you for one another is increasing. Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring. This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, and is intended to make you worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering. For it is indeed just of God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to the afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, separated from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes to be glorified by his saints and to be marveled at on that day among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Commentary

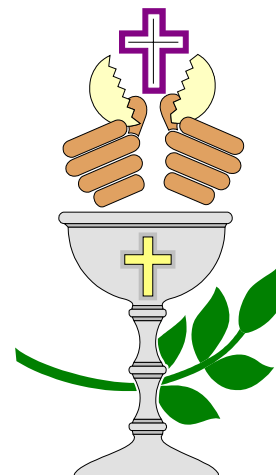
The story of God's compassion toward the poor appears only in Luke. To share hospitality with the needy is to imitate God's love which welcomes the lowly into the banquet of His Kingdom. "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God" is an inspirational, although little-known beatitude. The purpose of life is to join in the sharing of "bread in the Kingdom of God," a partaking of the eternal love of God. The parable of the "great dinner" exemplifies God's Kingdom, imaged in the ministry of Christ and later in the Church. The Kingdom is filled with outcasts and Gentiles, while the unresponsive privileged guests shut themselves out with their "excuses." "Compel the people" indicates that God's plan is to fill His messianic banquet, and that even with refusals and excuses, His desire to fill His "House" will not be frustrated. We will all be called to the "great dinner;" we will all be called to share in the eternal Kingdom of God. If we are called today, how many of us are ready to participate? How many of us will "shut ourselves out" because of our many excuses. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

***O Come Let Us Adore Him
Christ, The Lord!***

Find the Jesus in you.

Let us all pray to our Lord that, through ***His Love***, our Parish will continue to grow as a true Armenian Christian community, dedicated to the service of God.
God bless the Armenian Church of the Holy Translators.



PRAYER OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION

(To be read by everyone receiving Holy Communion immediately after the Priest's absolution, before approaching the Chalice)

I believe, O Lord, and I confess that You are in truth the Christ, the Son of the Living God who came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief.

Also, I believe that what I am now to receive is truly Your immaculate Body and precious Blood.

O Son of God, receive me today as a partaker of Your mystical supper. For I shall not betray Your Mysteries to Your enemies, nor like Judas will I give You a kiss.

But like the thief will I confess You and say,
Remember me O Lord when You come into Your Kingdom. Amen.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Wed Dec. 10 Wednesday Evening Discussions - Fellowship Hall - 7:00PM
- Thu. Dec. 11 Parish Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall - 7:00PM
- Wed Dec. 17 Wednesday Evening Discussions - Fellowship Hall - 7:00PM
- Sun. Dec. 21 Annual Christmas Pageant - Immediately following Church.
- Wed. Dec. 24 American Christmas Eve Service (English) - 4:00PM
- Tues. Dec. 25 Western Christmas

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- Mon. Jan. 5 Evening Prayer - 5:30PM
Divine Liturgy - 6:00PM
Community Dinner - 7:30PM
- Tues. Jan 6 Theophany (*Feast of the Birth and Revelation of our Lord*)
Divine Liturgy - 10:00AM
Blessing of the Water
- Sun. Jan 25 Annual Parish Assembly
- Sun. Feb. 22 Poon Paregentan - Family Fun Day
- Mon. Feb. 23 First Day of Great Lent

We thank the following people who serve our Lord through the Worship Service.

Altar Servers: Nick Durgarian, Arthur Sabounjian
Jeffrey Hyde, Christopher Seifel, Michael Tutunjian
Craig Johnson, Mark Torrice, Nicko Voskanian,
Ara Bablouzian, Daniel Hyde and Michael Sabounjian.

Reader: Tahleen Seifel

Candle Holders: Sara Murphy and Anais Merian

Greeters: Erik Johnson, Pierre Johnson, Kurt Seifel and Joe Kasparian.

Organist: Reine Sayegh,

Choir members: Who lead us all in singing

Donations:

Coffee Fellowship: The Ferraro Family

Altar Candles/Altar Flowers: Sign up at Fellowship.

Prayer List

One of our most fundamental Christian responsibilities is to pray. There is truly great power in prayer. During this Divine Liturgy and throughout this next week your prayers are requested:

For the spiritual growth of the Armenian Church of the Holy Translators,

For desirable peace, justice and compassion in the world;

For the sick, homeless, hungry, the poor and disabled;

For those in mourning, lonely or depressed;

For those experiencing emotional, physical or spiritual difficulties;

For those experiencing family, employment or financial difficulties;

For the increase of love and understanding among us all;

For us all to gain a personal relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ;

And especially for good health for:

Sona Balayan (Jirair's and Maral's Mother)

Rev. Fr. Antranig Baljian

Diane Bliss (Laurie Bejoian's Friend)

Melanie Davidian (Susan Ciaffi's Cousin)

Greg Der Ananian (Paul & Priscilla's Son)

Mary Dostoomian (Sarkis Sarkisian's Sister)

Rose Garabedian Gentile (Roz Malone's Friend)

Linda Gomis (Renee Ferraro's Mother)

Vivian Karaian (Lucine's & Knar's Aunt)

Heather Kassabian

Terry Kazanjian (Janet Shemligan's Friend)

Susan Lewis (Laurie Bejoian's Friend)

Judy Manoogian (Liana Harotian's aunt)

Dr. John Manuelian (Lucine's & Knar's Uncle)

Linda Minassian

Lawrence Murphy (Patrick Murphy's Father)

Kerry Rogers (Lori Kashgegian's Sister)

Alma Sahagian

Antranig Sahagian (Susan Piligian's Father)

Sonia Sahagian (Susan Piligian's Mother)

Dannielle Seifel

Paul Stepanian

Mary Vartanian (Lisa Seferian's Grandmother)

Yeretzgin Patty Dagley

Yeretzgin Rosemary Davidian



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Everyone Prays at Holy Etchmiadzin an hour-long documentary is slated to air on the national ABC television network affiliate stations WCVB and WMUR in the Boston area TODAY, starting at 1:00PM. The Eastern Diocese co-produced this beautiful film which conveys the inspiring majesty of our Mother See. The film details the history and spiritual heritage of the Armenian Church, with a particular focus on the efforts of the modern Armenian Church to foster Christian unity and interfaith dialogue.

Parish Cookbooks: Members of the Cookbook Committee will be available at Coffee Fellowship for you to purchase our own Parish Cookbook. The cost is \$20.00.

Wednesday Evening Discussion Group (“Alpha Group”): We have resumed our Wednesday evening discussion nights from 7:00-8:30PM, in the Fellowship Hall. We will explore our Lord’s “Sermon on the Mount,” which dramatically changed the moral compass of humanity. We encourage everyone to attend.

Adult Fellowship Christmas Party: Thursday, December 11, 12:30 p.m. in the Church Fellowship Hall. Menu: *KHEEMA with all the trimmings* Please bring a wrapped \$10 gift or food item for a Yankee Swap. Admission: \$10. ***For reservations, call Shirley Yergatian at (508) 668-0680 by Dec. 8th Everyone is welcome.***

Social Outreach Initiative: We are looking for volunteers to join Der Krikor and Shakeh Johnson to help develop and coordinate an outreach program for our Parish which will focus on assistance to our local MetroWest community, our own parishioners and the greater Armenian community at large. If you have any interest please contact Shakeh Johnson or Der Krikor.

Laptop Computers Needed: In GOOD working condition that you would be willing to donate to equip the classrooms to support interactive CD learning for both Armenian and Sunday schools. Please contact Seta Abrahamian at seta@abrahamian.info if you are able to donate a laptop.

Membership Dues/Stewardship: We are nearing the end of the 2008 fiscal year. Anyone who has not renewed his/her dues or fulfilled their stewardship obligation, please see Parkoohi Voskanian. ***All membership due must be paid by December 31st.***

Schedule for Divine Liturgy Servers will be prepared soon through the end of December and will be emailed by metroblast.. Copies will also be available on the sign-up table at Fellowship. If you have any conflicts contact Lucine Seifel.

Fellowship Sign-up: Volunteers are needed to sponsor and work at our Coffee Fellowship Hours after Church as well as make donations toward the expense of the Altar Flowers and Candles. A sign-up sheet is available at the Fellowship.

Please inform Der Krikor of anyone who may be sick at home, hospitalized or my simply want to talk so that he can make arrangements for visitation.

BEFORE BADARAK - WE PREPARE OURSELVES

We prepare ourselves for the Divine Liturgy both physically and spiritually. The custom of the Armenian Church is to fast from all food and drink from the time we wake up on Sunday morning until we have received Holy Communion. Fasting helps us to focus our minds and hearts on the spiritual nourishment we will receive in Holy Communion. Exceptions are made, of course, for young children and for those who, for health reasons, must eat in the morning. They may have a light breakfast and still come forward for Holy Communion. Spiritual preparation for the Badarak is by means of prayer. Participation in Badarak itself is part of this spiritual preparation. Therefore, it is important to be at Badarak from the beginning.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sun. Dec. 28 10th-12th Grade Teen Ministry Class

8-12 YEAR OLD YOUTH GROUP

ee Lisa Seferian for more information

ACYOA NEWS

Sun. Dec. 21 Joint Christmas Social with the ACYOA Srs. - Sabounjian Home
Ice Skating: Lorrington Arena - 1:00PM
Social and Yankee Grab: 4:00PM

ARMENIAN LANGUAGE NEWS

*Register your child for Armenian Language Classes.
Classes from 9:00AM - 9:50AM beginning Sunday, September 14th*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH CORNER– December

Salvation Army: Volunteers are needed **December 30, Jan 29, Feb.26, March 26, April 23, May 28, and June 25** to help prepare and serve food at the Salvation Army across the street. ***Shakeh Johnson*** has once again volunteered to be the Coordinator of the Soup Kitchen outreach from our Parish. If you can help please contact Shakeh. **Also, if anyone in the congregation would like to help with additional outreach efforts, or has some ideas that they would like to share, please see Der Krikor.**