

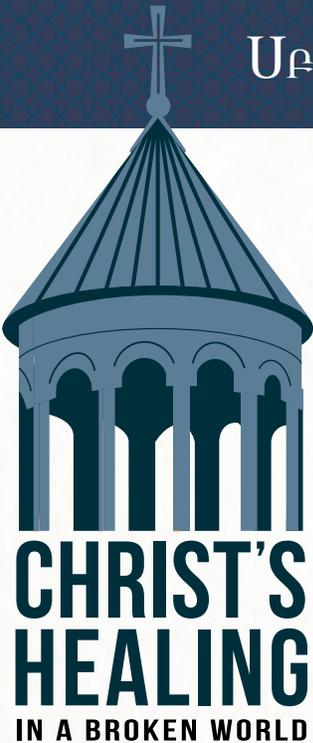


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LOOYS NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2019 ԳԱՐՈՒՆ

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ST. JAMES PREPARES TO HOST THE 117TH DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

Next month, clergy and delegates from throughout the Diocese will arrive to the area as we prepare to host the 117th Clergy Conference and Diocesan Assembly. Preparations are well underway, as we begin the week of events with the Annual Clergy Conference for Eastern Diocesan clergy from April 29 – May 2, held at the Babson Executive Conference Center. Then, from May 2-May 4, Diocesan Delegates will join the clergy for the annual

Diocesan Assembly. The Assembly includes diocesan business meetings and workshops. The Eastern Diocesan Women's Guild General Assembly will also convene from May 1 – May 4 at the Burlington Marriott. Our Diocesan Primate, the V. Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, will preside over the week-long events, including the Divine Liturgy to conclude the week on Sunday, May 5th.

THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ARE OPEN FOR ST. JAMES PARISHIONERS TO ATTEND

FRIDAY, MAY 3 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY GALA BANQUET

Honoring

**ARMENIAN CHURCH MEMBERS OF THE YEAR
ST. JAMES PARISHIONERS**

Edward, of blessed memory, and Nancy Guleserian and family - daughter Kristine and son Michael

FRIEND OF THE ARMENIANS

Dr. Helen Evans, Curator of Byzantine Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, and Curator for last year's *ARMENIA! Exhibit*

Celebration Ballroom at the
BOSTON MARRIOTT BURLINGTON

7PM Cocktail Hour / 8PM Banquet and Program

\$125 per person. Tickets are available online at www.stjameswatertown.org or in the church office.

SATURDAY, MAY 4 WOMEN OF WONDER (WOW) APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Sponsored by the Women's Guild Central Council
Honoring St. James Parishioners

Ruth Harutunian and Hripsime Parsekian
For Their Many Years of Dedication and Service

BOSTON MARRIOTT BURLINGTON | 12 NOON
\$50 per person. Tickets are available online at www.stjameswatertown.org or in the church office.

SUNDAY, MAY 5 SPECIAL FELLOWSHIP

Welcoming Delegates to St. James
following Divine Liturgy

ALL ARE WELCOME





COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET

On the occasion of this memorable event, and in keeping with tradition, our St. James parish will publish a Commemorative Booklet, which will be distributed at the Gala Banquet on May 3. We invite you to be part of our commemorative booklet, supporting our church's efforts and welcoming clergy and delegates to our parish and community. Donations may be made online at www.stjameswatertown.org or in our church office.

\$10,000+	HONORARY ASSEMBLY CHAIR	Special Full-page listing Four complimentary Gala Banquet tickets Four complimentary "A Taste of Watertown" tickets
\$5,000+	GUARDIAN	Full-page listing Two complimentary Gala Banquet tickets Two complimentary "A Taste of Watertown" tickets
\$2,500+	PILLAR	Half-page listing Four complimentary "A Taste of Watertown" tickets
\$1,000	BENEFACTOR	One-Third page listing Two complimentary "A Taste of Watertown" tickets
\$500	SPONSOR	Quarter-page listing
\$250	PATRON	Column listing
\$100+	DONOR	Column listing
\$50+	FRIEND	Column listing

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!

We welcome parishioners to be a part of this wonderful event. There are many opportunities to be a part of this weekend. We welcome volunteers for events, to assist with hospitality and registration, the commemorative booklet, and many more opportunities.

Please email info@stthagop.com if you can join us in planning this exciting Diocesan event!



WITH GRATITUDE

We gratefully acknowledge a donation of \$5,000 from **HARRY AND HRIPSIME PARSEKIAN**. This donation was used for the purchase of a new snow blower for our Church grounds, as well as new books for the St. James Sunday School. We express our deep gratitude for their continued generosity.

We gratefully acknowledge the gift of the revised, expanded edition of Prayers for Healing, a recent publication of the Eastern Diocese. **CAROL BABIKYAN** generously donated several hundred copies of this prayer book to St. James in loving memory of Jirair Babikyan. The books will be distributed to our guests of the 117th Diocesan Assembly, and to our St. James parishioners.

BLESSING OF CHILDREN SERVICE



Our sanctuary was filled with the sounds of young children on Sunday, February 10th, as families of children who were baptized at St. James in 2018 arrived to participate in the Blessing of Children Service. This annual tradition takes place on the occasion of the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord to the Temple. According to Biblical tradition, it was a custom in the Armenian Church for parents to bring their newly-born babies to the Temple of the Lord to

present the child to God. Children who were recently baptized at St. James were invited to attend. Each child received a special gift to take home, including an Armenian wooden cross, a t-shirt reading "I'm a St. James Kid," and two Diocesan books "Armenian Prayers for Children" and "When I Go To Church." We pray that God protect all our children, and their families, always guiding them in His loving care.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School started off 2019 by our families joining in our church's celebration of the Feast of the Nativity and Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ, or Armenian Christmas. On Sunday morning, our Sunday School Student Sehbu Parsekian served as the Godfather of the Blessing of Water Service in Remembrance of our Lord's Baptism following Divine Liturgy.

Our Sunday School families joined in our parish's food drive to help Watertown's two food pantries which had a critical need for food. We thank our students and families for their generosity!

Our Sunday School students learned about the Miracles of Christ during the January Youth Sermon. Fr. Arakel included a demonstration illustrating Christ's first miracle of turning water into wine at the Wedding at Cana. He invited students to help him turn clear water into red "wine." (A few of the students may have figured out how he did it!) It is always a joy to have our students participating so meaningfully in the Divine Liturgy, hearing them talk with Der Arakel and share their thoughts!

On February 3, Super Bowl Sunday, our students and teachers got into the Patriots spirit by donning their Patriots apparel!

Sunday School celebrated Poon Paregentan, a genuine day of good living, with a fun and festive Carnival! Students, families and parishioners enjoyed carnival food, a carnival fairway with games, and a prize booth where children and

youth enjoyed redeeming tickets for prizes. The day also featured the traditional, annual sing-a-long of Armenian traditional songs. Special thanks to Sandy Raphalian, Garo Yavshayan, Hagop Alabachian, our Sunday School parent volunteers, and our ACYOA Juniors for volunteering their time to ensure a wonderful and enjoyable Carnival!

On Sunday, March 17, our 4th grade students held their traditional *nushkhar* (bread prepared for Holy Communion) making session with Fr. Arakel. Together with teacher Linda Sahagian and assistant teacher Ani Ganjian, the class eagerly learned about how *nushkhar* are made, their symbolism and significance, and even got to make some themselves. Thank you to Leslie Cristello and Sandy Raphalian for assisting with the annual lesson!

With Lent upon us, the Sunday School has begun its Lenten activities. Lenten Calendars have been sent home to help families focus on the true meaning of Lent, as we prepare ourselves for Holy Easter. If you have not yet received a calendar, please stop into the Youth Office. This year, the Eastern Diocesan Lenten Drive, in which our Sunday School will again participate, will focus on battling childhood malnutrition in Armenia. Students are also preparing for the annual Easter Basket project and Lenten project. As Lent draws to a close, our Sunday School students will again take part in the Holy Week services throughout the week, and the Easter Communion Breakfast which will be held on Saturday, April 20!





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ST. JAMES EREBUNI ARMENIAN SCHOOL

It has been a busy season for our school! On Saturday, March 23rd, children gathered in St. James Keljik hall for Erebuni School's Movie Day! Children brought pillows and sleeping bags to watch the movie, Mary Poppins Returns. They enjoyed a traditional Armenian Harisa lunch along with pizza and popcorn. All proceeds went to City of Smile, to help children with cancer in Armenia.

CLASSROOM NEWS

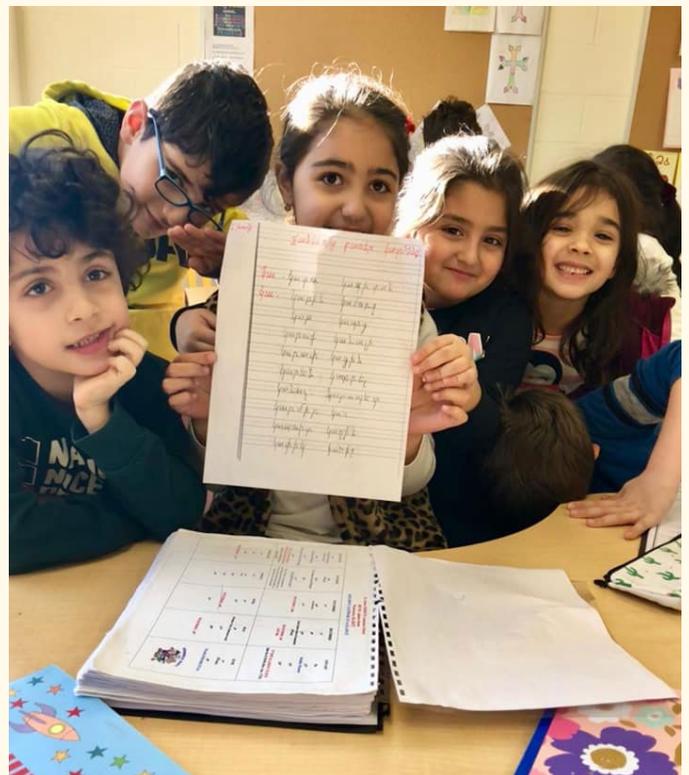
PRESCHOOL 1: Teacher Luiza Sargsyan taught students about colors, numbers and shapes. At the same time, they learned new words for animals, modes of transportation and the four seasons.

PRESCHOOL 2: Teacher Alina Khudaverdyan taught the students the names of the winter months, and about the changes in nature during winter. At the end of each lesson, students play games to help develop their memory and mobility. The class ended January with a winter tree project.

KINDERGARTEN 1: Teacher Armine Sargsyan reviewed the alphabet with the students, and they all played a game to help remember the alphabet and new vocabulary. They also practiced exercises where they filled in missing letters in words to help reinforce their skills.

KINDERGARTEN 2: Teacher Hripsime Mkrtychyan worked with students on analyzing sounds, and rehearsed a play entitled "The Wolf and 7 Children." The purpose of "sound-letter analysis" is to introduce the students to letters and syllables. The Play helped to develop the children's vocabulary and expression of different emotions. The students use didactic games to make learning fun, and the play helped become a vehicle through which the students developed speech, vocabulary, writing, emotions and logic.

Please save the date for our year-end Handes (Recital) which will be held on Saturday, June 15, 2019.





ACYOA NEWS

Last month, our ACYOA Juniors participated in a Lenten Retreat together with the Holy Trinity ACYOA Juniors. The retreat, held at the Grotonwood Camp in Groton, MA, was led by our Youth Minister Maria Derderian and Holy Trinity Youth Director Yn. Arpi Kouzouian. The retreat's theme focused on the communities in our lives, including our ultimate Community in Christ – the Church. Participants enjoyed the beautiful surroundings as they joined in discussions, bible study, and group building activities. Additional winter activities included a bowling night, service at Hye Café, and preparations for our annual Palm Sunday Youth Day Banquet, as we celebrate ACYOA Day. Plans are also underway for our annual Hye M'rtsoom Sports Weekend, as we prepare to welcome ACYOA Juniors from throughout the Diocese to St. James.

Our ACYOA Seniors have had an active season, most recently planning a 4-week Lenten Discussion Series together with the Holy Trinity ACYOA Seniors, gathering weekly to discuss the theme "Not Good Enough: Seeking Perfection in God's Eyes." Additional fellowship events are planned in the coming months, including participation in the ACYOA General Assembly & National Sports Weekend in Milwaukee, hosted by the St. Mesrob ACYOA Seniors of Racine, WI.

SEEKING HYE M'RTSOOM HOST FAMILIES

Each year, during Memorial Day Weekend (May 24-27), our ACYOA Juniors host the annual "Hye M'rtsoom," which brings over 200 youth from throughout the Diocese to St. James for a weekend of sports, fellowship, and fun.

This effort wouldn't be possible without the support of our parishioners!

If you are able to host guests, or have a friend or relative who could be a host family, let us know! Our guests stay with host families and enjoy a weekend of sports competitions & fellowship. Beds are not needed (the youth bring sleeping bags), and the size of the home does not matter. The only meals that need to be provided are breakfast and a light dinner on Saturday. **If you would like to support Hye M'rtsoom as a host family or volunteer, please contact Youth Minister Maria Derderian at mderderian@stgop.com.** It is a fun way to support our youth as they come together within the Church and make life-long friendships and memories. Thank you for supporting our youth!



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

ԱԻԱԳ ՇԱԲԱԹ ԵՒ ՍՈՒՐԲ ՉԱՏԻԿ ԺԱՄԱՆԱԿԱՑՈՅՑ WORSHIP SCHEDULE

ԱՊՐԻԼ 14, ԾԱՂԿԱԶԱՐԴ – ԵՐԻՏԱՍԱՐԴԱՅ ՕՐ

ժամերգություն – Առաւօտեան ժամը 8:00

Դռնբացէքի Արարողություն – Առաւօտեան ժամը 9:30

Սուրբ Պատարագ – Առաւօտեան ժամը 10:00

Երիտասարդաց Օրոյայ Ճաշ եւ Յայտագիր – Կէսօրոյայ ժամը 12:30

APRIL 14 PALM SUNDAY – YOUTH DAY

Morning Service – 8:00 A.M.

Opening of Sanctuary Curtain (Turnpatzek) – 9:30 A.M.

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 A.M.

Youth Day Palm Sunday Banquet – 12:30 P.M.

ԱՊՐԻԼ 16, ԱԻԱԳ ԵՐԵՔՇԱԲԹԻ

ՅԻՇԱՏԱԿ ՏԱՆԸ ԿՈՒՍԱՆԱՅ

ժամերգություն (Կիրակնօրեայ Վարժարան) – Երեկոյեան ժամը 7:00

APRIL 16 GREAT AND HOLY TUESDAY

REMEMBRANCE OF THE TEN MAIDENS

Vespers Service (Sunday School Students) – 7:00 P.M.

ԱՊՐԻԼ 18, ԱԻԱԳ ԴԻՆԳՇԱԲԹԻ

ՅԻՇԱՏԱԿ ԸՆԹՐԵՑ ՏԵՍՈՒ ՄԵՐՈՅ ՅԻՍՈՒՍԻ ՔՐԻՍՏՈՍԻ

ժամերգություն – Առաւօտեան ժամը 8:30

Սուրբ Պատարագ, Զաղորդություն եւ Նախաճաշ Տիկնանց

Կազմակերպութեանց – Առաւօտեան ժամը 9:30

ԿԱՐԳ ՈՏԵԼՈՒՅԻ

(Կիրակնօրեայ Վարժարան) – Երեկոյեան ժամը 6:30

ԿԱՐԳ ԽԱՌԱՐՄԱՆ – Երեկոյեան ժամը 9:00

APRIL 18 GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY

REMEMBRANCE OF THE LAST SUPPER

Morning Service – 8:30 A.M.

Divine Liturgy, Women's Guild Holy Communion and

Breakfast – 9:30 A.M.

WASHING OF FEET SERVICE (*Vodunluva*)

(Sunday School Students) – 6:30 P.M.

REMEMBRANCE OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

(*Khavaroom*) – 9:00 P.M.

ԱՊՐԻԼ 19, ԱԻԱԳ ՈՒՐԲԱԾ

ԿԱՐԳ ԽԱԶԵԼՈՒԹԵԱՆ ՏԵՍՈՒ ՄԵՐՈՅ ՅԻՍՈՒՍԻ ՔՐԻՍՏՈՍԻ

Կէսօրոյայ ժամը 1:00

ԿԱՐԳ ԹԱՐՄԱՆ ՏԵՍՈՒ ՄԵՐՈՅ ՅԻՍՈՒՍԻ ՔՐԻՍՏՈՍԻ

Երեկոյեան ժամը 7:00

APRIL 19 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

REMEMBRANCE OF THE CRUCIFIXION OF

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST – 1:00 P.M.

REMEMBRANCE OF THE BURIAL OF

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST – 7:00 P.M.

ԱՊՐԻԼ 20, ԱԻԱԳ ՇԱԲԱԹ – ՃՐԱԳԱԼՈՅՑ ՉԱՏԻԿ

Զաղորդություն եւ Նախաճաշ Մանկանց – Առաւօտեան ժամը 9:00

Սբ. Գրոց Ընթերցում

(Շաբաթօրեայ Վարժարան) – Երեկոյեան ժամը 6:00

Ճրագալոյցի՝ Խթման Սուրբ Պատարագ – Երեկոյեան ժամը 7:00

APRIL 20 GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY

Children's Holy Communion and Breakfast – 9:00 A.M.

Reading of Holy Scriptures

(*Armenian School Students*) – 6:00 P.M.

EASTER EVE DIVINE LITURGY (*Jurakalooytz*) – 7:00 P.M.

Տնօրինէք եւ ապա հիւրասիրություն

Home Blessing and Reception to follow.

ԱՊՐԻԼ 21, ՍՈՒՐԲ ՉԱՏԻԿ

ժամերգություն եւ Անդաստան – Առաւօտեան ժամը 8:00

Սուրբ Պատարագ – Առաւօտեան ժամը 10:00

APRIL 21 HOLY EASTER SUNDAY

Morning Service – 8:00 A.M.

Blessing of the Four Corners of the World (*Antasdan*)

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 A.M.

HOLY WEEK

A PRELUDE TO EASTER

The Armenian Church calls the final week of Christ's life on earth **GREAT WEEK** or **HOLY WEEK** (*Avak Shapat*). During this time, we share in His teachings, His suffering, His death, and His resurrection.

HOLY MONDAY is dedicated to the creation of Heaven and Earth, the foundation for Christ's Second Creation. Christ condemns the fig tree that did not bear fruit (as Israel failed to bring forth the fruits of repentance) and teaches that faith can have the strength to move mountains, overcoming despair and even death.

The parable of the Wise and Foolish Maidens (Matthew 25:1-13) is the focus of **HOLY TUESDAY**. Ten maidens waited for their bridegroom (in the custom of that time and place, the bridegroom would fetch the bride from her parents' home to bring her to his own). Five of the women foolishly took their lamps with no extra oil and when the bridegroom was delayed, could not go out and meet him. The wise maidens went prepared and joined him in the marriage feast. Similarly, we must pray and wait, in a state of perpetual preparation to receive Christ.

In the reading for **HOLY WEDNESDAY** (Matthew 26:6-13), a fallen woman anoints Christ with costly oil and kisses his feet. The apostles chastise her for wasting oil that could have been sold to help the poor, but Christ defends her action, perceiving her deed as one of devotion, and knowing that this anointing anticipates His upcoming death and burial.

The morning liturgy service on **HOLY THURSDAY** marks the institution of the New Covenant: Holy Communion, which Christ established at the Last Supper. During a Passover meal, Christ broke and distributed unleavened bread and shared the wine with His apostles, identifying these as elements His Body and Blood. Through this sacrament, mankind participates in the Kingdom of God.

Another episode at the Last Supper is recalled during the evening service on **HOLY THURSDAY**. "The Washing of the Feet" ceremony commemorates how Christ washed the feet of His apostles, setting an example of humility and love. The priest, in turn, washes the feet of twelve church members, usually young men.

On Holy Thursday, an all-night vigil is kept in memory of the last sleepless night of our Lord on earth. This service is called *Khavaroom* (Darkness). Before He was arrested, Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane and endured in solitude the agony of His impending death. Six sets of laments are chanted, each followed by a Gospel reading depicting Christ's betrayal, imprisonment, torture, trial, sentence, and crucifixion. Twelve lit candles, 11 white and 1 black (representing Judas), are extinguished in pairs.

HOLY FRIDAY is the most solemn and sad day of the Christian calendar. The Crucifixion Service, usually held at midday, recalls the suffering, execution, and death of our Lord, memorialized amid readings from the psalms. In the evening, a white tomb is placed in the chancel of the church for the Entombment or Burial Service. The tomb is adorned with flowers and during the service is taken in procession around the church. As the faithful leave the church they approach the tomb, kiss the Gospel book, and take a flower in remembrance.

On **HOLY SATURDAY**, also known as the Easter Vigil, the mystery of salvation in the Resurrection of Christ is celebrated. The church is dark, its lights are dim. Then the great verses from Isaiah 60 are read: "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you"—at which point the lights are suddenly turned on. The dramatic, joyful candle-lighting ceremony is called *Jrakalouytz*.

Finally, **EASTER SUNDAY** celebrates the joy of the Resurrection and the promise of salvation for all humanity. Armenian Christians around the world exchange the Easter greeting: *Krisdos haryav ee merelotz! Orhnyal eh harootiunun Krisdosee!* Christ is risen from the dead! Blessed is the resurrection of Christ!

Easter Sunday is followed by a period of 40 days, during which time there are no saints' days or fasting days. This period, dedicated to the glory of Christ's Resurrection and to the 40 days He spent on earth after His Resurrection, leads up to Ascension Day, commemorating our Lord's entry into heaven.

Source: Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church

EASTER OFFERING

YUGHAKIN

During this Lenten period as we prepare for the glory of Christ's Resurrection, we ask our parishioners to remember St. James during this holiest of seasons. It is customary in the Armenian Church to provide Yughakin (meaning "price of oil")

especially around the feasts of Christmas and Easter. In early times, each local church community would donate money towards the purchase of oil, which would keep the lanterns burning in the church. Of course, today we do not have oil-burning lanterns; however, we do have other essential operating expenses. As we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, let us remember and continue in the custom of Yughakin, so we can keep our "oil-burning lanterns" always burning and our doors always open at St. James. You may contribute online.

WWW.STJAMESWATERTOWN.ORG/SUPPORT-US



HOME BLESSING

Throughout history, Armenian Christians have considered the home to be a sacred place: the tranquil sanctuary of the family, where habits of virtue, pious traditions, and life-affirming customs are passed from one generation to another. Under one roof, members of a household achieve a unity of spirit and assume responsibility for the larger life of the community. They break bread and share life's joys and sorrows.

Above all, the home is where one's faith in God is first kindled, and where that faith finds some of the most profound occasions for action. God's presence makes every family home a "Little Church" (in Greek, *ecclesia*), where His love and blessings permeate every corner.

Through a special ceremony of the Armenian Church, we ask God to bless our homes on occasions like the Nativity and Resurrection of Christ, as well as on the joyous occasion of moving into a new home. It's called the *Dounohrnek*, or Home Blessing service.

AN ARMENIAN CUSTOM

During a Home Blessing, the priest takes with him wafer and incense. He blesses bread, water, and salt: three fundamental elements essential for human life. The priest asks God not to lessen these three gifts, without which life becomes impossible or imperfect.

The bread, water, and salt are symbols of God's infinite goodness and care. Bread, which symbolically represents the Word of God, grants life to all those who taste it. Salt seasons our food, making it delicious and edible. Metaphorically, salt represents man in this world with his words and deeds; Christ said, "You are the salt of the earth." Man's life should be seasoned with wisdom, moderation, or a sense of sufficiency. Finally, Water, the essential element of life, represents cleanliness. Through the water of baptism we are cleansed, renewed in Christ, and united with our God.

Alongside the bread, salt, and water offered on a tray by the home-dwellers, the priest places the wafer stamped with a crucifix and designs of grapes and wheat. The wafer signifies the presence of Christ in the home. The members of the family can either distribute the wafer among themselves or keep it in a jar along with flour, salt, or rice.

During a Home Blessing, it is customary to burn incense, symbolizing the burning of our souls with our Lord's love. In his prayer the Psalmist said: "Let my prayer be counted as incense before Thee."

In the prayer of the Home Blessing the priest first asks for purity and abundance of the three gifts. Then he blesses the home and all its inhabitants, asks God to keep them away from visible and invisible enemies, and prays that God will protect them and grant them health of soul and body.

According to Armenian Church tradition, the homes of the faithful are blessed by the priest during the forty days after Christmas and Easter. Families who wish to have their homes blessed by Fr. Arakel are asked to call the church office at (617) 923-8860 or e-mail info@stthagop.com.



REAL LIFE. REAL ISSUES.

FOUR SESSION BIOETHICS COURSE

This March, St. James reestablished our education/Bible Study programs with a new course: "Real Life. Real Issues." The course was led by Fr. Arakel and by Yn. Natasha, who is currently a fellow at the Harvard Medical School Center for Bioethics. The four-session course discussed perspectives on real-life issues from greater bioethics and theological ethics perspectives, and explored the teachings of the Armenian Church and other faiths on these matters.

The class explored many topics, including organ donation, euthanasia and physician-aided dying, suicide, and suffering, and concluding with a discussion on April 8th (rescheduled due to the weather) on the Beginning of Life, including termination of pregnancy, genetic editing, and embryonic research.

These real-life issues and challenges arise in life, and our faithful have often not considered and are not prepared to address them. The discussions were well attended, with 50-60 attendees at each session, learning together and exploring these areas. The sessions were very well-received and additional sessions will be held in the future.

ST. JAMES MEN'S CLUB

The St. James Men's Club meets the first Monday evening of every month except July and August. At each meeting, we have an outstanding speaker and a complete dinner, consisting of full mezza, losh kebab, kheyma, pilaf, salad and dessert. Ladies are also welcome.



On Monday, April 1st we held our April meeting featuring a "Father, Daughter, and Son" theme, where families gathered together. The guest speaker for the evening was Steven Biondolillo, a pioneer in the fields of public health and human services marketing, and peer-to-peer special event fundraising. His presentation topic was entitled "Rethinking Teambuilding." Biondolillo discussed teambuilding trends, explaining the shortcomings of "typical team builders," and offered a powerful yet basic solution to the challenge of building teams.

20TH ANNUAL OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2019
OAKLEY COUNTRY CLUB – WATERTOWN, MA

Rain or Shine – Scramble Format
Raffle, Silent Auction, Live Auction

Following the Tournament – Cocktails,
Appetizers and Banquet Dinner at Oakley Country Club



Our next Men's Club meeting will be held on Monday, May 6th. Our guest speaker will be Dick Flavin, an American poet known as the poet laureate of the Boston Red Sox. He is also the team's public address announcer and a former journalist, TV commentator, and playwright.

Our guest speaker for the June 3rd meeting will be Michael Zildjian, Watertown native and author of *Zilosophy On Golf*, observations on the parallels between life and golf. His presentation topic will be "Armenian Leadership in the Modern World."

Save the date for our 20th Annual St. James Open Golf Tournament which will be held on Monday, August 19 at Oakley Country Club in Watertown.

We welcome new members. For more information, please contact mensclub@stthagop.com.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. JAMES

JOIN US A FEW HOURS A MONTH AND HELP SUPPORT THE FINANCIAL STABILITY OF OUR PARISH!

Tuesday night BINGO is a decades old tradition at St. James, with dedicated volunteers lovingly giving their time each week for the good of our parish! Since its inception in the 1970s, Bingo has contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to help offset operating expenses at St. James. BINGO is crucial to the financial viability and security of St. James. BINGO accounts for 15% of our total income to the church, putting over \$100,000 a year into the parish budget.

■ Volunteers help on the floor, help acknowledge winners, call back numbers, and assist in other ways, as needed.

■ The time commitment is flexible: Tuesday evening, a minimum of two hours. Once a month or every week. We welcome your involvement! It's easy and fun!

■ The only requirements are that you be 18 or older, have a friendly smile and love to welcome people. For more information, please call the church office or e-mail info@stthagop.com.

WOMEN'S GUILD

The St. James Women's Guild is busy preparing for Easter and the Annual Diocesan Assembly to be hosted by our Parish from April 29 to May 5!

On Sunday, February 17th, over 40 members and friends gathered after church to enjoy a lunch, business meeting and simit making session for the Annual Easter Bake Sale. Elected to be our 2019 delegates to the Annual Women's Guild Assembly were Karen Bejian and Ruth Harutunian, who with Chair, Nancy Kassabian will attend the sessions on May 3-5! It was also announced that our two longstanding, dedicated members, Hripsime Parsekian and Ruth Harutunian will be honored at the Women of Wonder Luncheon to be held as a culmination of the Assembly on May 4 at the Burlington Marriott. This is open to all and tickets can be obtained through the website stjameswatertown.org. Over 1,000 simit were made that day! Thank you to Sandy Raphaelian, Gail Boroyan and Janice Kavjian for coordinating the day! We also thank Ruth Harutunian for coordinating the choereg making sessions. Our delicious choereg will be sold on Easter Sunday after church and used during the Assembly for dinners and brunches! Thank you also, to Hripsime Parsekian for coordinating the manti making sessions for the clergy dinner. We appreciate the many women who were involved in the St. James coordinating committee and all the volunteers who worked hard to help during the baking/cooking sessions.

On Saturday, March 30th several members attended the Sainly Women's Day luncheon hosted by the Providence Women's Guild. Members enjoyed a presentation by guest speaker Dr. Fotini M. Dionisopoulos, a faithful communicant of the Armenian Church. All proceeds from the luncheon went to the Children of Armenia Sponsorship Program and Vanadzor Old Age Home in Armenia.

We are a very busy group whose goal is to provide, support and model for others. Anyone can join in!

*Hope to see you! In Fellowship,
Nancy Kassabian*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MAY 4 – WOMEN OF WONDER LUNCHEON
APRIL 21- EASTER BAKE SALE



SCHOLARSHIPS

ST. JAMES SCHOLARSHIPS

St. James has a number of scholarships available for the 2019-2020 academic year for those enrolled in, or high school graduates who have been accepted to, a college or post-high technical and vocational program. At least one parent of the student must be a dues-paid member of St. James for a period of more than one year, and if an applicant is 18 years of age or older, the student applying for a scholarship must also be a dues-paid member of St. James. The applicant must be attending school or a training/vocational program full-time during the regular academic year. Award recipients must be present to accept their award on Sunday, June 16th. Candidates must write to the church to obtain an application form. Please send a letter of interest requesting an application to the Scholarship Committee at info@stthagop.com. Completed applications must be received no later than May 24, 2019.

DIOCESAN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications for Diocesan scholarships are now available online. The application deadline for the 2019-20 academic year is May 17, 2019. Each year the Diocese awards scholarships to promising youth who are headed to college. The Diocese seeks students who are active in their local parishes and have assumed leadership roles in their communities. To be eligible, applicants must be U.S. citizens enrolled in four-year undergraduate programs. Access the scholarship application online: www.armenianchurch.us/scholarships/. Completed applications must be received no later than May 17, 2019.

ST. NERSESS SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Full scholarships are available for our parish youth to attend this summer's St. Nersess Deacons' Training and High School Conferences. These scholarships are generously given by Carol Babikyan and Family, in loving memory of Jirair Hagop Babikyan. To request a scholarship, please contact Youth Minister Maria Derderian at mderderian@stthagop.com.



2019 MEMBERSHIP

We encourage you to become a 2019 dues-paid member of St. James, or renew your existing membership for this year. Membership gives you a voice in our parish decision-making and leadership and is a sign of your love and commitment to St. James. **Your membership MAKES A DIFFERENCE!** We thank returning members, and welcome all who are new this year!

Our goal is to have 100% participation – to have all parishioners become dues-paid members.

ANNUAL APPEAL

If you are able, please consider adding an Annual Appeal donation to your membership dues to support all our ministries and programs at St. James. **EVERY INDIVIDUAL AND EVERY DONATION COUNTS** – regardless of amount! No donation is too small! Each one is gratefully accepted and appreciated!

WAYS TO GIVE

ONLINE: Visit WWW.STJAMESWATERTOWN.ORG/SUPPORT-US
Recurring and weekly/monthly payments are also available for your convenience

IN PERSON: stop by the church office during the week or fill out a membership card on Sunday

MAIL: send in a membership card with your payment

PHONE: call us at 617.923.8860

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF ST. JAMES



DIOCESAN SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS

All youth are encouraged to participate in our Diocesan Summer Programs. These programs provide an enriching and positive environment for our youth to form strong bonds with one another, while growing in faith. Please contact Youth Minister Maria Derderian at mderderian@sthagop.com with any questions or for more information. Need-based financial assistance is available.

ST. VARTAN CAMP provides an environment for young Armenian-American Christians to grow and flourish as they learn about and develop a deeper understanding of their Armenian faith and culture, overlooking the scenic Catskill Mountains in Greenville, NY. Open to campers ages 8-15. CITs - ages 16 & 17. Staff, ages 18+. Registration is now open. Program Dates - Staff Training: June 26-29; Session A: June 30

- July 13; Session B: July 14 - 27; Session C: July 28 - August 10. Visit www.diocesansummercamps.org for more information and to register online.

ST. NERSESS SUMMER CONFERENCES - Held at the St. Nersess campus in Armonk, NY. Opportunities for Adults, High School and college students to explore their faith and heritage in a safe, fun, unique environment. Find out more and register online at www.stnersess.edu.

[NEW] Adult Conference: June 6-9,
Deacons' Training: June 28 - July 7,
High School: July 26 - August 4.
College Winter Conference: January 2-6, 2020



In Lieu of Flowers

The following donations have been received with appreciation by St. James Armenian Apostolic Church. May God bless the souls of our dearly departed and give comfort to their families.

CHARLES H. HOVASAPIAN
January 3, 2019

Marjorie Ibsen
Total: \$10

ELLIOT VANETZIAN
January 17, 2019

Mary & John Cherkerzian
Janet Demers
Judy Mills
Frank Nahigian
Diane Devlin
Ronald Ohanian
Jack & Audrey Pilibosian
Prof. & Mrs. Martin L. Saradjian & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Al Tashian
Total: \$375

MARY KAZIZIAN
January 18, 2019

Marie Kouyoumjian
George & Seta Manjikian
Dale Richardson
Seta & Aram Takvoryan
Hamid Zahiri
Total: \$190

ASHKHEN (PARTAMIAN) RAPHAELIAN
January 23, 2019

Hovig & Houri Ajemian
Colleen Clinton
Vasken Dilsizian
Emily Monahan
Nazely Sanentz & Family
Ari Stamatiou
Total: \$575

LUCY GOSHGARIAN
January 30, 2019

Harry & Hripsime Parsekian
Total: \$30

JIRAIR BABIKYAN
January 31, 2019

Carol Babikyan and Family
Margrit Babikyan
Cynthia Aghamian
Armand & Helen Andreassian
Nishan & Margrit Atinizian
Alice & Harry Avakian
Michael & Florence Bahtirian
Paul Bedrosian
Sunny Boghosian
Gail Boroyan
Edward W. Brewster
Raytheon
Karen Dederyan
Maria Derderian

Victor & Elizabeth Ganjian
Anne Garabedian
Mark, Melissa & Eva Giragosian
Silvia & Bedros Glorighian
Gail Haroutunian
Ruth Harutunian
Carol Hoyen
Shirley & Cody Hudson
Sandra Jurigian
Leon W. Kachadorian
Krikor & Nancy Kassabian
Edward K. & Nirva Kazanjian & Family
Jack & Takouhie Keumurian
John & Brenda Khederian
Kelsey & Rowland Kingman
Martha Martents
Alice K. Mellian
Miriam Norigian
Harry & Hripsime Parsekian
Jack & Audrey Pilibosian
Herman & Laura Purutyian
Sandy & Bob Raphalian
Linda Sahagian
Kenneth & Diane Samuelian
Krikor & Araxy Shaboian
David & Heidi Shamlian
Simmons Family
Society of Istanbul Armenians of Boston
St. James Choir
St. James Womens' Guild
Stanley & Lori Tagarelis
Denise Takvorian

Hacig & Tacuhi Takvorian
Richard & Ann Tarvezian
Andrew, Talene & Theodore Tarvezian Choly
Keane Family
Hagop & Nadia Ucuzyan
Garo & Aida Yavshayan
Joyce Yeremian
Natalie A. Zakarian
Total: \$3,948

ADDITIONAL IN LIEU DONATIONS
As of March 14, 2019

EDWARD PATAPANIAN
August 4, 2018
Linda Keljik
New Total: \$12,412

JACK ACKMAKJIAN
November 7, 2018
Mr. & Mrs. Nerses Zeytoonian
New Total: \$1,015

ELIZ VANERIAN DILSIZIAN
December 12, 2018
Carol Babikyan
New Total: \$2,196

UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL 16 – 20: Holy Week Services

APRIL 20: Children's Easter Communion Breakfast

APRIL 21: Easter – Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord

APRIL 24: Armenian Genocide Commemoration at Armenian Heritage Park. 7-9 pm. Buses will be available from Watertown. Reserve your spot before April 22 at bostonagcc@gmail.com

APRIL 29 TO MAY 5: St. James Hosts the 117th Annual Diocesan Assembly & Clergy Conference

MAY 24-27: ACYOA Juniors host Hye M'rtsoom ACYOA Juniors Sports Weekend

JUNE 2: Sunday School Graduation

JUNE 9: St. James Armenian Festival - Annual Picnic

JUNE 28 TO JULY 10: St. James Pilgrimage to Armenia

JULY 28: 2nd Annual Vartavar Celebration – Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord

AUGUST 18: Feast of the Assumption of Mary & Blessing of Grapes Service

SEPTEMBER 15: Homecoming Sunday – Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

OCTOBER 18-19: St. James 72nd Annual Bazaar

Օրհնեցէք զՏէր յերկինս: Ալէլուիա:
Օրհնեցէք զնա ի բարձունս: Ալէլուիա:

SACRAMENTS



BAPTISMS & CHRISMATIONS

You have been baptized in Christ. Alleluia.

Mya Dermugerdichian

March 9, 2019

Daughter of Mshag and Remma Dermugerdichian

Godparents: Vigen Sarkisov and Tamar Sakadjian



WEDDING

And the two shall become one.

**Benjamin Anton Andreas Pietrancosta
and Nanor Lara Taghlian**

February 7, 2019

Best man: Remon Karian

Maid of Honor: Genevieve Karian



FUNERALS

May Christ our God shed His Eternal Light upon the souls of our dearly departed.

May God bless the souls of the deceased and comfort the members of their families.

Alice (Baharian) Seferian

February 7, 2019

Avedis Cinar

February 22, 2019

Harold Harutunian

February 27, 2019

Phyllis Halloun

March 16, 2019

Perkia (Khachadourian)

Kalandjian

February 9, 2019

Virginia Keljikian

February 23, 2019

Mary Adourian

March 9, 2019

ARMENIAN FESTIVAL ANNUAL PICNIC SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2019

DELICIOUS ARMENIAN FOOD!

Shish, Losh and Chicken Kebab! Kheyma
Hummus, Eetch and delicious vegetarian options!

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES!

Moon Bounce, Balloons, Face Painting, And More!

LIVE ARMENIAN MUSIC!

FUN FOR ALL AGES!

Armenian Music & Dancing!
Raffle! Armenian Vendor!

JOIN US ON THE ST. JAMES GROUNDS! RAIN OR SHINE!

PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTORY

WORSHIP HOURS

Sunday Morning Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

ՊԱՇՏՊԱՌՆԵՔԻ ԺԱՄԵՐԸ

Կիրակի Առաւօտեան Ժամերգութիւն - 8:30
Կիրակի Սուրբ Պատարագ - 10:00

CHURCH OFFICE

Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday
Office closed Saturday and Sunday
Phone: (617) 923-8860; Fax: (617) 926-5503
E-mail: info@stthagop.com
www.stjameswatertown.org

PASTOR

Rev. Fr. Arakel Aljalian
Rectory: 6 Langdon Ave., Watertown, MA 02472
E-mail: derarakel@stthagop.com
H: (617) 923-8990

ASSOC. PASTOR EMERITUS

Rev. Fr. Arsen Barsamian
183 Mt Auburn St #34, Watertown, MA 02472
H: (617) 924-0318

PARISH COUNCIL

Rev. Fr. Arakel Aljalian, Pastor/President
Michael Bahtarian
Sharon Bazarian McDermott
Robert Berberian
Gail Boroyan
Khachig Degirmenci
Janice Kavjian
Ed Kazanjian
Aracse Kurkjian
Steven Parnagian
Linda Sahagian
Garoy Yavshayan

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Peter Babigian
Edward Brewster
Karen Dederyan
Tom Gengozian
Herman Purutyanyan
Michael Yapchaian

OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Annie Kalaydjian, Administrative Assistant
Joanna Doherty, Bookkeeper
Tina Panian, Executive Assistant
Sharon DeMarco, Assistant Bookkeeper

FACILITIES MANAGER (EXT. 18)

Michael V. Mamishian
Email: mvmamishian@stthagop.com

YOUTH MINISTER (EXT. 19)

Maria Derderian
Email: mderderian@stthagop.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL (EXT. 19)

Yn. Natasha Aljalian and Laura Purutyanyan
Email: aljalian@comcast.net
Email: lbpurutyanyan@me.com

CHILD CARE CENTER (EXT. 22)

ST. JAMES EREBUNI ARMENIAN SCHOOL (EXT. 21)

Armine Manukyan, Principal
E-mail: erebuniarmenianschool@gmail.com
www.stjameserebunischool.org

LOOYS EDITORIAL BOARD

Fr. Arakel Aljalian, St. James Office Staff,
Yn. Natasha Aljalian, Maria Derderian, and Tina Panian

PASTORAL CARE: HOME AND HOSPITAL CLERGY VISITS

The clergy are always available and would like to visit homebound and hospitalized parishioners. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized and would like to be visited, please call the church office at (617) 923-8860. Please note: when asked about your religion at a hospital, patients should list themselves as "Armenian Orthodox" or "Armenian" not "other."

REQUIEM SERVICE/HOKEHANKISD

Arrangements for Requiem Service, Altar Flowers and Candles should be made through the church office by Thursday at noon. In accordance with the canons of the Armenian Church, Requiem Services may not be performed on the five major feast days: Armenian Christmas, Easter, The Feast of the Transfiguration, The Feast of the Assumption of the Mother of God, and The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

BAPTISMS AND CHRISMATIONS

All baptisms must be scheduled at least two months in advance by calling the church office. According to the Armenian Church canons, a Baptism may only be performed once in a person's lifetime, provided such Baptism has been performed in a Christian Church and in the name of the Holy Trinity.

At least one of the godparents must be a member of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church.

WEDDINGS

Parishioners should contact the church office at least eight months in advance. A couple must contact St. James to confirm the availability of the Pastor and sanctuary prior to making any other arrangements.

All weddings must follow the Canons of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church and the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In accordance with Diocesan discipline mandated by the Primate, all Sacraments must be performed in the church sanctuary.

The couple must meet with the Pastor at least once for pre-marital preparation and counseling. Weddings cannot be performed during Great Lent or Holy Week, or on the five major feast days: Armenian Christmas, Holy Easter, The Feast of the Transfiguration, The Feast of the Assumption of the Mother of God, and The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

FUNERALS

Families should make arrangements with the funeral director of their choice, who will contact the church office to arrange the funeral service. Generally, St. James coordinates funerals with Bedrosian Funeral Home and Giragosian Funeral Home; both are located in Watertown and are familiar with our Church traditions.

Funerals may not be performed on religious holidays, major feast days, Saturdays after 3:00 p.m., or on Sundays.

ST. JAMES ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

465 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown, MA 02472

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