

ԳՐԱԳ



JRAK

2025



Ս. Ստեփանոս Հայ. Առաքելական Եկեղեցի Մեծագոյն Պոսթրնի  
St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church of Greater Boston

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# ՄՐԱԳ – JRAK

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# THE EVOLUTION OF OUR LOGO THROUGH THE DECADES

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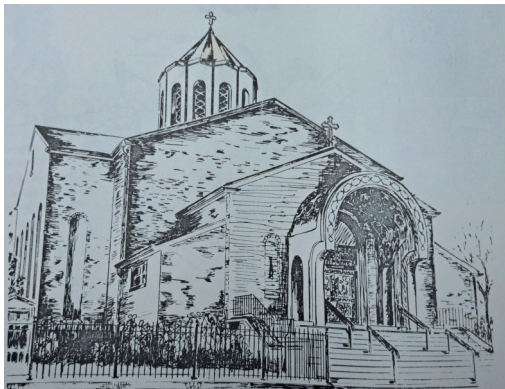
ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH  
OF GREATER BOSTON

We've got a new look!

We are excited to share that we have revamped and modernized our church logo and letterhead. You'll see our new imagery on official documents, social media, announcements and activity information flyers!

Though our logo is updated, our core mission, values, and traditions still stand. A testament to it is the fact that our designer is a young member of our community who holds our church, community and culture dearly.

A special thank you to Alek Surenian, who elegantly designed a logo that stays true to our roots while presenting a fresh symbol of our dear St. Stephen's.



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear St. Stephen's Family,

While this is the second edition of the Jrak since I was installed as your pastor, 2025 was my first full year at Soorp Stepanos. Our first partial year together was exhilarating, with many important activities occurring in 2024; but this past year has been nothing short of a delight as well, and today we present to you this yearbook – a labor of love from our editorial team for your family to reminisce and preserve.

We travelled these twelve months guided by His Holiness's pontifical declaration for 2025 as THE YEAR OF THE REVITALIZATION OF TRADITIONS: *“As part of the efforts aimed at reorganizing and strengthening the Diaspora, alongside language and culture, and in our endeavors to firmly preserve the Armenian identity, we consider the imperative of renewing and revitalizing our religious and national traditions to be of great importance.”* You will witness in the next pages how, together, we tried to live up to that calling, and with God's grace, saw it bear fruit.



Our students visiting church on the occasion of Vartanants

Some highlights:

We launched our journey with a new logo – same identity, same mission and passion, upgraded look! (page 1)

It was an honor as Pastor and the Board of Trustees, alongside all our community, to celebrate Der Antranig's retirement in May. Der Hayr continues to serve as our Pastor Emeritus; we pray for his continued health, as well as for Yerezgin Cheryl. (page 4)

We were also fortunate to celebrate His Holiness Aram I's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pontificate during his trip to New York; Anoushavan Spazan's 40 years of service in the Eastern Prelacy; and the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordinations of Hayr Ardag and your Pastor. (page 8-9)

This year we had the privilege to be the host parish of the National Representatives Assembly of our Prelacy in May. During the assembly, according to a new tradition of our Prelate, all the clergy gathered at the graveside of one of our deceased brothers to offer a requiem prayer – former pastor of our church, Der Torkom and Yerezgin Zevart. (centerfold)



Hokehankisd for former pastor of our church, Der Torkom and Yerezgin

We are blessed to be living in such an august corner of the world, but Boston is also an aged city, and so are our church buildings, some of them over a century old. And because of a conflation of a few urgent repairs, we reached out to you with an appeal. Your response was overwhelming! We reached and surpassed our goal, and for that we are forever grateful. (page 69)

Revitalizing our traditions was a worthwhile endeavor, and we wanted to spread them further than our inner circle, to include non-Armenians. And with the co-sponsorship of all the local Armenian churches, we were fortunate to witness the Orchestra without Borders perform a sold-out concert on the masterpieces of great Armenian composers, to an audience of diverse backgrounds. (page 29)



Komitas through the interpretation of famous local musicians

Life is beautiful! But sometimes, tragedy knocks too close to home. We are reminded of our calling to remain steadfast in hope, and to aid all those in need of our presence and comfort. (page 34)

My ecumenical meetings carry me to different places around the globe, and our faithful are always eager to learn more and share in the experience. This year it took me to Johannesburg. Fair warning, winter in South Africa is not to be taken lightly. (page 22)

### PASTOR'S MESSAGE (Cont.)



Safari sightings through Hayr Hrant's lenses

I take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers: all those in leadership roles in our Church and School boards, our Danders, our choir, Altar Corps, Ladies Guild, Bazaar and Picnic Committees, countless sub-committees, alongside our industrious school faculty and staff, and generous benefactors. Our "Island" is also home to many of our sister organizations, with a common gathering spot at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center and The Hairenik building. Stretching out from the Island, Boston is also home to a unique array of Armenian institutions - religious, cultural, educational - all dedicated to the same mission. Together we continue to preserve and revitalize all the wealth that Armenianness has to offer to our future generations and the world. (pages 20)

Our Varjarans are a jewel in our community, and one of the greatest blessings is walking down Artsakh Street, witnessing our children arriving to their second home. Recently, during pickup, some of them noticed I was coming out of the office, and ran with glee towards their pastor declaring, "Guys, it's The Hayr Soorp!" What generous and celestial souls to treat a common chap as worthy of stardom.



Matthew 19.14



Young and old, hand in hand, delicately removing the old tiles from our altar before renovations begin, to preserve these sacred squares

You have heard whispers of joy, and you will soon witness the unveiling of our Elementary School expansion project, which — with God's grace and your support - will be crowned with success, further cementing this Island as our Little Armenia in America. (see pages 44-68 for more info about our three schools)

As we turn the final page on the past year and this yearbook, we look forward with enthusiasm and conviction. His Holiness has dedicated 2026 as the YEAR OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL. We will be guided by this principal not solely for twelve months, but as a unique opportunity to replenish in the graces of the Holy Spirit, and continue walking in Christ's footsteps every day.

Finally, our Church was built in 1956, and consecrated in 1957. We look forward together to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary soon! In the interim, let us keep one another in mutual prayer, and let us pray for all of his creation: "May His Kingdom come on earth."



A Religion Class lesson at SSAES



The church: a microcosm of God's Kingdom

## A CELEBRATION OF SERVICE: HONORING DER ANTRANIG BALJIAN



Under the auspices of His Eminence Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian, Prelate, the community of St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church of Greater Boston gathered together on the evening of Saturday, May 3, to pay tribute to Der Antranig Baljian in a Celebration of Service, marking his nearly 50 years of service to the Armenian Church, with nearly three decades at St. Stephen's.

After an opening prayer, Master of Ceremonies Tamar Kanarian (who is also a member of the Prelacy Executive Committee) kicked off the evening's program with her personal reflections of working with Der Hayr through the years, and how his support and mentorship influenced her service to the Church. Other speakers included Chair of the Board Dn. John Daghlian; Chair of the Ladies Guild Becky Megerdichian; and the principals of the church-affiliated schools: Dr. Garine Palandjian, St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School; Mayda Melkonian, Saturday School; and Nayiri Baljian Bell, daughter of Der Antranig, on behalf of the Sunday School. The reading of the Pontifical Letter of Benediction was done by Der Stephan Baljian, son of Der Antranig and pastor of St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church of Merrimack Valley.

The Honorable David K. Muradian, Jr., a Massachusetts State Representative representing the 9<sup>th</sup> district of Worcester, MA, and cousin of Der Antranig, offered a citation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives congratulating Der Hayr on his years of service.

Nishan Baljian, grandson of Der Antranig, provided a lovely piano interlude, including a piece from Aram Khachaturian's Album for Children.

With Der Antranig having celebrated his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday a few days before the event, the crowd serenaded Der Hayr with a chorus of 'Happy Birthday,' after which he had some assistance blowing out his birthday candles from his two granddaughters, Dalita and Mariam.

Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Tahanian, pastor of St. Stephen's, offered his gratitude to Der Antranig on behalf of everyone present for his continued service as Pastor Emeritus, and presented Der Antranig with a very special present – a framed piece of the Church's original wooden altar tile, constructed in 1956. The tile was one that was directly under Der Antranig's feet as he celebrated thousands of Badaraks and Sacraments through the years, and included a Bible quote from Psalm 37:23: "The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him." Other gifts were presented to Der Antranig and Yerezgin Cheryl on behalf of the Board of Trustees by Chair of the event and Vice Chair of the Board Sonya Hagopian and Dn. John Daghlian.

Principal remarks were given by Srpazan Anoushavan, who reflected on their time spent together at the Seminary, and their decades-long friendship. He presented Der Antranig with a replica of a famous illuminated manuscript of Nareg - a collection of prayers and reflections - considered one of the most important works in Armenian literature with significant spiritual meaning for Armenians.

The evening concluded with the singing of Giligia and a closing prayer.

It was a joyous celebration for all as the community packed the hotel ballroom to show their love and appreciation to Der Antranig and Yerezgin Cheryl. It was the stated intent of the event committee to donate all proceeds to the Church. That evening it was announced that due to the generosity of the sponsors, donors and those in attendance, more than \$40,000 will be donated to the St. Stephen's Endowment Fund in honor of Der Antranig.

### *Celebration of Service Steering Committee*

**Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Tahanian, Pastor**  
**Sonya Hagopian, Chair**  
**John Aftandilian**  
**John Aharonian**  
**Silva Bahlavouni**  
**John Daghlian**  
**Tim Enright**  
**Steven Guveyan**  
**Astor Guzelian**  
**Noushig Hagopian**  
**Lucy Hoosian**  
**Tamar Kanarian**  
**Armen Knaian**  
**Angelique Ourfalian**  
**Richard Piligian**  
**Sonia Vartanian**

## A CELEBRATION OF SERVICE: REMARKS OF DER ANTRANIG BALJIAN

Your Eminence, Archbishop Anoushavan  
 Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Tahanian  
 Dear Clergy Brothers in Christ  
 Beloved Yeretzgin, Sisters  
 Members of the Executive Council  
 St. Stephen's Board of Trustees

Dear friends and family, today is a special day. A day of honor and praise. And so, it will be. Yet, Jesus told his followers "... when you have done everything you were told to do, [you] should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"

Today I stand before you an unworthy servant, for I have done what was entrusted me. And I am here to honor all of you, to thank you: all of you, who have been with me through thick and thin; who have supported me, looked after me, taken care of me, touched my heart on numerous occasions and made me feel like the most fortunate person on Earth. Most of the time, anyway.

I wish I could thank everyone personally; every parishioner, every Board member, choir member, Ladies Guild member and volunteer worker both here and in Indian Orchard, my first assigned parish. But obviously that would be impossible; so I am going to do the next best thing: I am going to say thank you to all who are here today and hope my message of gratitude and humble thanks will reach all those who could not be with us here this evening. So, thank you, all of you; May the Lord bless and watch over you always!

I do have to thank and acknowledge some people personally. I offer my deepest thanks to my family. Yeretzgin has stood with me for 50 years as a helpmate, a loving partner in ministry who kept the ship afloat when I was engaged in ministering to others.

Thank you to my children and their spouses and my grandchildren for the joy they have given me watching them grow and warming my heart.

I would like to thank our beloved Catholicos, His Holiness Aram I, for his fatherly guidance over the past many years.

I cannot help but express my appreciation to Archbishop Hrant Khachadourian of Blessed Memory who set me on this path to priesthood, sending me to study in Antelias as well as to H.H. Karekin I of Blessed Memory who married Yeretzgin and me and ordained me into this life of service. Also, to His Eminence Archbishop Mesrob of Blessed Memory and His Eminence Archbishop Oshagan for their mentorship and wisdom.

My deepest gratitude goes to our current Prelate Anoushavan Srpazan who watched over me as a young humble deacon, helped educate me in the seminary, and who for more than 40 years has had my back here in the US as a fellow Pastor, Vicar General and now as Prelate. Thank you so much, Srpazan, not only for your guidance, but also for your love and friendship.

The latest example of this was Srpazan's recent request for me to give a lecture this morning at a Deacons' Seminar being held in Worcester. At first, I felt a bit put upon, but having spent the

whole week working on my presentation. I realized in the end that this task, which I so enjoyed, was meant to take my mind off this evening's event so I would not be a nervous wreck. And it worked. Because of this assignment I didn't have time to worry or even think too much about this evening until a few hours ago.

I am eternally grateful to the wonderful pastors and clergymen from my youth who inspired me to undertake this journey of service: The late Rev. Fr. Movses Shrikian; Rev. Fr. Moushegh Der Kalousdian; Rev. Fr. Khachadour Guiragossian; Rev. Fr. Arsen Simeonians; Rev. Fr. Torkom Hagopian; my dear mentor and predecessor and, later in life, Rev. Fr. Arshag Daghlian, whom I considered my Father Confessor. To Hayr Hrant, our Pastor and Dn. John Daghlian, the chairman of our Board of Trustees, and all the current members of the Board, for your support during my final months as pastor and for planning this wonderful event, with special thanks to Sonya Hagopian and her committee for doing all the hard work in making this a very memorable occasion.

There is another special person I must thank, and that is our church's capable and dedicated administrative assistant, Mrs. Silva Bahlavouni. I could write a treatise on the ways she has helped me be successful. Instead, I am just going to say: "Thank you, Silva."

To the faithful parishioners of St. Gregory's in Indian Orchard and St. Stephen's, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you and be your shepherd. The months and years have flown by, but I will always remember the support you showed to me in prayer and in service to your church and community.

To my dear family and friends who are here today... although pastoral obligations often took precedence over my availability for being with you as much as I should have been, please know that I love you all dearly.

My retirement as pastor was pretty easy, my retirement from serving, not so much. For the past five decades, I have done nothing but serve. But that's not why it's difficult. You see, many years ago, when I was still in middle school, and I decided I was going to serve as an Armenian priest, it wasn't because I was asked or invited to do so, it was because I was called to do so.

Service has no expiration date, especially for clergy, for as we are called to serve, we serve until we are called home.

General Douglas McArthur famously once said... "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away." Likewise, old priests... we serve as we can until we fade away, always praying for our people and serving as we are called to do. Being retired for a priest means being tired again and again in service to God.

Many have said they will miss me, but I am not going anywhere and as long as I am able, I will be in church on Sunday mornings because St. Stephen's is still my church; not because I am the Pastor and the church belongs to me, but rather because I belong to the church; this is my parish and I will be here and serve until I can no longer do so.

Once again, thank you. I ask you all to continue praying for me.

# A CELEBRATION OF SERVICE - PHOTOS



## A CELEBRATION OF SERVICE: SPONSORS

### GOLD

*Bell and Baljian Families  
Guzelian Family*

### SILVER

In Memory of Norair Arslanian  
Robert A. Semonian Charitable Trust  
*Leon Semonian and Paul Semonian, Trustees*

### BRONZE

Knights of Vartan - Ararat Lodge #1  
*Our dearest brother and past Commander, Der Antranig, From your brothers of Knights of Vartan-Ararat Lodge #1, we wanted to thank you for years of dedication and service to our brotherhood and local community. May you continue to be a strong pillar for us to build on.*

Houry and Avedis Boyamian  
Armen and Esther Chakmakjian  
Deacon James M. Kalustian  
Christian and Taline Kebabjian  
Gary and Hasmig Mardiros

### ILLUMINATOR

St. Stephen's Armenian Saturday School  
Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church  
Paul Bedrosian  
Giragosian Funeral Home  
Jean-Jacques and Nicole Hajjar  
Jelalian Family  
Krafian Family  
Walter and Deanne Nahabedian  
In memory of our parents and grandparents – Tutelian Family

### GUARDIAN

ARS Cambridge Shushi Chapter  
ARS Watertown Leola Sassouni Chapter  
AYF Greater Boston Nejdeh Chapter  
Soorp Asdvadzadzin Church of Whitinsville  
St. James Armenian Apostolic Church  
*Congratulations on your retirement and your life of service*  
Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church  
Der Arakel and Yeretzgin Natasha Aljalian  
*With gratitude for your long and fruitful ministry*  
Krista and John Aftandilian  
Robert and Carine Avakian

Dr. and Mrs. David and Nora Hackett

Hoosian and Moorachian Families  
In loving memory of Sharon Lee Kasparian  
*The Kasparian Family*  
Vrej and Vana Melkonian and Family  
Angelique and Missak Ourfalian and Family  
Sarkis and Seta Ourfalian  
Richard and Kelli Piligian  
Dr. and Mrs. Donald Shushan  
Larry and Vanessa Ovian

### ANGEL

ARF Sardarabad Gomideh  
ACAA Endowment Fund  
John, Karen and Kirk Aharonian and Peter and Alyssa Murphy  
Armen and Silva Bahlavouni  
Daghlian Family  
In loving memory of Peter Felegian  
*Marian, Lucy and Knar Felegian and Family*  
Steven Guveyan  
Mary Ishkanian  
Mary Ann and Edward Kazanjian  
Anoush and Armen Knaian  
Rene and Hossep Melkeshian  
Leo and Mary Sarkissian  
Joshua, Diana and Aline Tevekelian  
Allan Tutunjian, Ronald and Robin Tutunjian Hines  
Laura Yardumian

### STEWARD

Aroxie and Ned Apigian  
Isabelle Azablar  
Tamar Boghosian  
Anna Demurjian  
Leo and Mary Derderian  
Satenik Der Manuelian  
George and Dorothy Elanjian  
Christopher Hajjian  
Ada Hamparian  
Juliette Hatzadourian  
Vrej and Anna Kandoian  
Takouhie Kefeyan  
Janet Lorden  
Seta Manjikian  
Jack and Christine Mardoian  
Steven Sookikian  
Garbis and Sona Zerdelian

Thank you all for your generosity on this momentous occasion. Proceeds of this evening were directed to the St. Stephen's Church Endowment Fund in honor of Der Antranig.

## ANNIVERSARIES OF ORDINATIONS - 40TH & 15TH

On Sunday, June 1, following the National Representatives Assembly, our parish was also honored to host a special anniversary Divine Liturgy and celebration to mark a number of special occasions.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood for Hayr Ardag Arabian, pastor of Holy Trinity (Worcester), and our very own Hayr Hrant. Both were classmates at the Armenian Theological Seminary in Bikfaya, Lebanon, and were ordained as apeghas (the first of three Vartabed ranks) of the Cilician brotherhood on June 6, 2010.

We were also honored to have with us His Eminence Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian, who just last year marked his 40 years of service to the Eastern Prelacy. Srpazan presided over the Divine Liturgy celebrated by Hayr Ardag. Hayr Hrant offered the homily, focused on the ideal of service that we are called to from God. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve alongside, and celebrate, with such a dedicated spiritual father and brother. This year also marks the 30th anniversary of the enthronement of His Holiness Aram I. Hayr Hrant referenced one of our Catholicos' speeches where he had stated that the life of a clergyman of the

Holy See of Cilicia can be summed up in three words: service, service, service.

Following requiem services, with the participation of the Homenetmen Scouts and AYF Members, a blessing of the tricolor flag took place to remember the anniversary of the First Republic of Armenia, outside on the church steps. The faithful in unison prayed for the continued growth and strength of our homeland and sang Mer Hairenik.

At the conclusion of the flag raising, Srpazan addressed the crowd with inspiring words of commitment to our homeland and nation. He also commended the parishes of Holy Trinity and St. Stephen's for continually being at the service of their congregations. The Homenetmen Scouts ended the gathering with the closure ceremony of their Panagoom that was held that weekend.

A lovely fellowship celebration took place in the church hall graciously co-hosted with our brothers and sisters of Holy Trinity. A special presentation of gifts and cake took place following lunch. May God continue to bless our clergy and grant them a long and healthy life and strong ministry.



# 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENTHRONEMENT OF HIS HOLINESS ARAM I

From November 13-16, the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church celebrated the 30th anniversary of the enthronement of His Holiness Aram I as Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia. On the heels of his Western Prelacy Pontifical Visit, Aram Vehapar had a celebratory four-days in the metro-New York area where he was greeted by the faithful as they paid tribute to his service to Church and Nation.

During his short visit, His Holiness's remarkable and dedicated service was celebrated with a variety of programs, beginning with a special concert at Carnegie Hall with renowned soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian; a conference with Eastern Prelacy clergy; and a cultural program at Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church in New Jersey. Hayr Hrant was a guest speaker, who presented Aram Vehapar's work in the ecumenical movement, humanitarian service, and leading in our emerging technological society. Hayr Soorp recounted Vehapar's upbringing that influenced his vocation and mission in the Armenian church, community, and global Christendom.

The following day, Vehapar dedicated the morning to meet with young adults of the surrounding communities, which took place at St. Illuminator's Armenian Apostolic Cathedral in New York City. The conversation was moderated by Ms. Tamar Kanarian, who also serves as the secretary of the Executive Council of the

Eastern Prelacy. After recounting her personal memories and reflections of Vehapar and his commitment to youth, Tamar navigated a question and answer session of timely and relevant topics.

Last, the festivities culminated with an Episcopal Divine Liturgy at St. Sarkis Church Armenian Apostolic in Douglaston, New York, where Aram Vehapar delivered the homily. Following Badarak, a celebratory banquet took place where more than 150 gathered to mark this milestone with a program full of reflections, artistry, and video recounting His Holiness's service and impact over the last 30 years.

Before departing for Boston, alongside Hayr Hrant and Tamar, Michael Guzelian, chair of St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School Board and Sonya Hagopian, vice chair of the Board of Trustees, had a private audience with His Holiness and His Eminence Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian to brief them on the status of the expansion project for St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School. Aram Vehapar is a strong advocate for Armenian education and appreciated the update in our endeavors to expand the footprint of our school.

On behalf of the parish and community, we pray to almighty God that He grant Vehapar a long, healthy, and prosperous life.



## DYARNUNTARACH FESTIVITIES ON ARTSAKH STREET

As 2025 is the Year of the Revitalization of Traditions, we held a special Dyarnuntarach ceremony—the feast of the presentation of the baby Jesus to the temple. Our families brought forth their young children to be blessed on the altar.

The congregation then proceeded outside where we lit a bonfire on Arstakh Street: a pre-Christian Armenian tradition that has been passed down to us, as a symbol of the true light, warmth and fire—Christ himself.

To also mark the celebration of St. Sarkis, we had a special blessing for our young adults and couples, rekindling their love and commitment through the intercession of the Armenian patron saint of love.

Parishioners were then treated to a tasty lunch and sweets, thanks in part to the Meguerditchian family and both Cambridge and Watertown ARS chapters.

It was truly a glorious afternoon of faith, fellowship and tradition and we look forward to many more opportunities as the year progresses!

Be revitalized! Keep our traditions alive!



# LENTEN SEASON THAT INSPIRES

We look back on the Lenten Season of 2025, 40 days where we gathered for weekly Hsgoom - evening services. We were treated with reflections from individuals on a variety of topics. It was a meaningful and touching season, and a worthwhile opportunity to pray and contemplate together as pilgrims leading up to Holy Week.

**Hsgoom**  
 Evening Lenten Services  
**Wednesdays, 7pm**  
*with participation of St. Stephen's Saturday School and special guest speakers*

**March 12**  
 Hayr Hrant Tahanian - How to Navigate Great Lent

**March 19**  
 Ruben Kiredjian - Mentoring as a Christian

**March 26**  
 Hagop Ketchedjian - True Fasting

**April 2**  
 Nayiri Baljian Bell - Loving Thy Neighbor

**April 9**  
 Der Antranig Baljian - Preparing to Enter the Gates




## HOLY WEEK

This year's Holy Week began with our beloved tradition of Srpazan celebrating Badarak, followed by a series of inspiring services and remembrances—including the Service of the Ten Maidens, the Washing of the Feet, and Khavaroum (Tenebrae).

Because the Easter dates coincided this year, our Good Friday remembrance concluded with a special moment of prayer and unity on Artsakh Street as we joined our neighbors from the Archangels Greek Orthodox Church and their "Epitafios" procession, led by their Pastor, Rev. Fr. Athanasios Nenes.

Our Jrakalooyts service, illuminated by the lantern, carried the light of the risen Christ into our homes, and the week came to a joyful close with the celebration of Easter Sunday.



HOLY WEEK (Cont.)



## ORDINATION SERVICES

On Sunday May 4, an ordination of deacons, stole bearers and acolytes took place during the Divine Liturgy, which was celebrated by His Eminence Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian, Prelate.

Ordinations are meaningful services filled with symbolism, which grant great responsibility to dedicated servants of the church.

During the ordination of acolytes—*tbir*—the candidates knelt in front of *Srpazan* as he first cut their hair, as a symbol of their dedication to the service of the church. Progressively, they received the different ranks granted to acolytes: The book of Psalms—to chant in church; a broom—to clean God’s temple; a key—to open God’s house; a lectionary—to recite the readings; a candle—to light the temple; and a cup—to serve on the altar. We congratulate our newly-ordained altar-servers: John Diran Gengozian, Zaven Bell, Patrick Parsegh Mulvey, Josephine Keumurian, Hrag Tokadjian, Alik Arakelian.

Our choir acolytes ordained were: Karen Aykanian Demirjian, Yn. Cheryl Depoian Baljian, Nayiri Baljian Bell, Tamar Kanarian, Vanessa Ovian, Tahleen Ovian Shamlian, Steven Shamlian, Sona Aslanian, Sossy Aposhian Nercessian, Maida Khatchadorian Bedoyian, Jilda Balian, Taline Sarian, Alina Nalbandian, Tamara Tokadjian, Mariam Stepanyan.

During the ordination of stole bearers—*ooragir*—the candidates, former acolytes, were granted the special permission to serve on the altar with additional responsibilities. We congratulate our newly ordained stole bearers: Arek Hamalian, Aram Stepanian, Avedis Bell.

Finally, our church was blessed to ordain two servants to the diaconate. During the ceremony that occurs midway within the Liturgy, the candidates knelt in the chancel (*tas*), as our pastor and their sponsor (*khardavilag*) Hayr Hrant led them up the altar on their knees. He then presented the candidates to *Srpazan*, who examined their character, dedication, and aptitudes. Then, they turned to the congregation raising their arms for the soul stirring hymn “*Asdvadzayin*,” during which the clergy sing asking God to send his grace upon the candidates: “Divine and heavenly grace that always fulfills the needs of the sacred ministry of the Apostolic Church calls Hagop and David from acolytes to the diaconate, according to their testimony and the testimony of all the people.” Subsequently, they received the different ranks granted to deacons, with which they will continue to serve on the altar and alongside the clergy. We congratulate our newly ordained deacons: Hagop Ketchedjian and Tavit Toramanian.

This was a fitting event in a weekend when our community also celebrated Der Antranig Baljian's retirement.



ORDINATION SERVICES (Cont.)



## 2025 RENOVATION - RESTORATION - IMPROVEMENTS

In 2025, the Board of Trustees undertook much needed renovation, restoration, and renewal projects to improve and maintain our church infrastructure. Maintaining our physical structures is a crucial part of sustaining and growing our parish community and life.

### New Vestment Cabinet

On Sunday, March 9, a new vestment cabinet, donated by the Tutunjian family in loving memory of Philip Sahag Tutunjian and Sahag and Vera (Kayarian) Tutunjian, was blessed and unveiled in the baptismal room. This new cabinet holds and organizes numerous clergy vestments in a manner respectful to the care required of these ornate garments. We are so fortunate to have vestments from three clergy (Der Torkom, Der Antranig, Hayr Hrant) that add to the richness of our church history and its preservation.

Many thanks to Jiro Iskenderian and New England Cabinets for the assembly and installation of the vestment cabinet and the volunteers who helped organize and inventory the many vestments, altar materials, and hand sewn gifts that adorn our church and augment its beauty.

May the good Lord bless the Tutunjian family and the memory of their loved ones.

### Consecration of New Vestments, Chalice Veils, Chalice, and Wedding Goblet

In loving memory of their parents and grandparents, the family of Archpriest Der Torkom and Yeretzgin Zevart Hagopian, former pastor of St. Stephen's, donated new liturgical garbs.

To unveil the new vestment, following a Sunday Badarak, our parishioners witnessed the special consecration ceremony of new

liturgical vestments: a Badaraki Uzkezd (liturgical garb) to be used by our pastor, a Verargu (cassock) to be used by our deacon and priestly candidate Hagop, and two Sugihi Dzadzgots (chalice veils).

The sermon followed where Hayr Soorp described the biblical foundation of the ornate liturgical garbs (Ephesians 6). He enumerated each item and explained its meaning, while Dn. Hagop modeled them, assisted by our deacons, mirroring the way a priest prepares for Badarak. Subdeacon Avo, the grandson of our Pastor Emeritus, also helped with the modeling, to showcase the difference between the work and liturgical cassocks.

It was meaningful for the family of a dedicated priest and yeretzgin to support the recruitment of new clergy and wish Deacon Hagop the best in his pursuit of the priesthood. We thank the Hagopian Family not only for their generous donation, but their continued involvement and dedication to our church and community.

During a church clean-up in September in a storage cabinet behind the altar, a rare item was found, a silver chalice that dates back to 1965 but was damaged and needed to be reconstructed. Richard & Kelli Piligian graciously donated the cost of having the chalice repaired and polished to its original glory. The Holy Chalice is currently used every Sunday for Holy Badarak.

Der Antranig & Yeretzgin Cheryl Baljian graciously donated a new silver goblet that is used only during the sacrament of the Wedding. The goblet is used to serve the wedding party wine; this is symbolism of the wine that was served at the wedding of Cana when Jesus turned plain water into wine.



## 2025 RENOVATION - RESTORATION - IMPROVEMENTS (CONT.)

### New Boiler for Parish Office Building

This spring, the Parish Office building received a new boiler system thanks to the generosity of the Markarian Family and Metro Energy - M&T Oil Co.

A new heating system was desperately needed to support our 125 year old structure and 70 year old boiler. We are grateful to the Markarians for endowing us with a new and highly efficient system that will become a continuous blessing - by reducing energy costs and taking better care of our beautiful planet entrusted to our stewardship by God.

### New Security System, Resurfaced Driveway, and Church Insulation

In an effort to safeguard our church property and our parishioners, the Board took efforts to install a state-of-the-art security system with new cameras and locks. They also resurfaced the church driveway, making that area more level and safe for our volunteers to cross. Our church was also properly reinsulated. The projects were covered at no cost to the church through grants and other funding.



### Renovated Altar

The wooden altar flooring that has faithfully served our parish for nearly 70 years was renovated thanks to the generous donation of Mr. and Mrs. Hagop and Sossy Nercessian. Sadly, Hagop passed away before witnessing the completion of the Altar.

On Sunday, April 13, 2025, His Eminence Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian blessed the newly renovated altar and tas during the Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy. Our community thanks the Nercessian family. May God bless them and their lifelong commitment to God's glory.

We would also like to thank all those that had a part to play in the timely and successful realization of the project, and specifically Mr. and Mrs. Hratch and Ani Belekian for their continued maintenance and donation of a new oriental rug for the tas. May our good Lord bless the Belekians and their lifelong dedication to the beauty of Armenian tapestry.



IN MEMORY OF HAGOP NERCESSIAN



# 2025 COMMEMORATION EVENTS IN HONOR OF THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### The Daughters and Knights of Vartan Hold Fundraiser to Support St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School

On March 13, The Knights Of Vartan Ararat Lodge 1 & Daughters of Vartan Arpie Otyag 9 Boston hosted a hands-on session in making Armenian string cheese. This was a great way to learn and pass on the traditions of our culture. Our heartfelt thanks to Arpie Otyag 9 for organizing this event to benefit the SSAES building expansion project.



### Homenetmen Regional Meeting

On March 15, while holding its regional meeting in Watertown, Hayr Soorp paid a visit with members as they deliberated on organizational mission and work, and wished them the very best in their endeavors as they continue to serve our communities with the invaluable sporting and scouting spirit.

### “Artsakh Is Ours” Book Presentation

On May 14, hosted by the Armenian Relief Society Eastern Region, Hayr Hrant attended a special book blessing ceremony for the book "Artsakh Is Ours" written by Nayiri Mgrditchian. The book is focused on educating and inspiring young readers about the rich history, culture, and landmarks of Artsakh to not only connect with the history of Artsakh but also appreciate the beauty of its landscapes and the significance of its cultural landmarks.

Hayr Soorp offered words of reverence and hope for the future of Artsakh and its preservation in the hearts of the Armenian diaspora. He expressed the importance of passing on the stories and history of Artsakh to future generations, ensuring that its legacy remains strong in the collective memory of the Armenian people.



COMMUNITY EVENTS (Cont.)

**Prelate and Hayr Soorp Attend 91st Annual AYF Olympic Opening Ceremonies**

On Sunday, August 31, His Eminence Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian, Prelate, and Hayr Hrant attended the opening ceremonies of the annual AYF Olympics hosted by the Greater Boston Nejdeh Chapter. The ceremonies took place at Leary Field in Waltham with the participation of community and central organization representatives.

Congratulations to our youth and its supporters on hosting these games. It was a successful weekend of sporting competition and cultural spirit.



**Hayr Soorp Offers Invocation at NASSR's 70th Anniversary**

On Saturday, October 4, the National Association of Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) held its 70th Anniversary Gala, "Building the Future of Armenian Studies," at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston.

Supporters, academic leaders, students and special guests from across the country gathered to celebrate this milestone.

Hayr Hrant offered the invocation and congratulatory remarks, where he noted how NAASR was a unique organization: "There is only one NAASR. We can attest that it is indeed irreplaceable."

With the generosity of donors, a successful endowment fund was launched that evening, that will secure NASSR's mission into the future.

**Prelate Joins Humanitarians at Ellis Island for the Aurora Prize**

On Thursday, November 6, representing His Holiness Catholicos Aram I and His Eminence Archbishop Anoushavan, Prelate, Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Tahanian, pastor of St. Stephen's Church of Watertown, MA, attended the 10th anniversary celebration of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative in New York. Humanitarians from around the world gathered on Ellis Island to mark this momentous occasion and to honor extraordinary people who risk their lives to save others through the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity.

The 2025 Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity was awarded to Dr. Jamal Eltaeb, a doctor from Sudan who operates one of the few remaining hospitals in the country, providing medical care to wounded and displaced people. Since its founding in 2015 on behalf of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide, Aurora has grown into a global force for good, helping more than 3.5 million people across 63 countries and funding 517 humanitarian projects focused on urgent needs such as emergency response, medical care, and education.



## COMMUNITY EVENTS (Cont.)



Notable scientist, philanthropist, and humanitarian Nour Afeyan, co-founder of Aurora (alongside Vartan Gregorian and Ruben Vardanyan), reflected on a single act of kindness by German soldiers who saved his grandfather from the death marches and made it possible for his family not only to survive but to thrive. In keeping with Aurora’s core mission, guests were encouraged to live as humanitarians, helping others in need. Although Armenians are not among the wealthiest nations, Afeyan remarked, their history and convictions compel them to be humanitarians.

Hayr Hrant reflected on the journey to Ellis Island—where guests first boarded a ferry from New York, passed the Statue of Liberty, and reached the island, which served as the main immigration processing station for over half a century. Retracing the steps of those refugees helps one grasp the voyage that brought countless souls fleeing death to the hope of new life, and the consolation they felt when they gazed at Lady Liberty, also known as the “Mother of Exiles.”

## ECUMENICAL EVENTS

As the Ecumenical Officer of the Eastern Prelacy and a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, Hayr Soorp regularly attends and participates in local, regional and international meetings and events.



### The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

On Tuesday, January 21st, 2025, an ecumenical prayer was held at the Bethany Chapel of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, graciously hosted by H.E. Archbishop Richard Henning.

The gathering provided an intimate opportunity for Christian leaders from the New England area to spend time together in fellowship, prayer and witness.

V. Rev. Father Hrant Tahanian, pastor of St. Stephen’s participated in the prayer, and conveyed the warm greetings of our prelate, H.E. Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian.

### Hayr Hrant in South Africa

In June, Hayr Hrant traveled to Johannesburg, South Africa for the Central Committee meeting of the World Council of Churches, representing the Armenian Church, Holy See of Cilicia. More than 300 committee members, advisors, and guests from across the world participated in this meeting. (Pictured next page)

The World Council of Churches inspires worldwide fellowship of churches to work together for unity, justice, and peace. It is a fellowship of 352 churches from more than 120 countries, representing more than 580 million Christians worldwide. Members of the Central Committee are gathered to review current work and address challenges the churches are facing.

As part of these meetings, guests are immersed in the culture of the host county. In addition to the sounds and treats of South Africa, participants visited the historic Apartheid Museum, where they learned first hand the country's rich past, deep suffering, and the success in overcoming apartheid.

For more information about the work of the central committee and the WCC, please visit <https://oikoumene.org>.

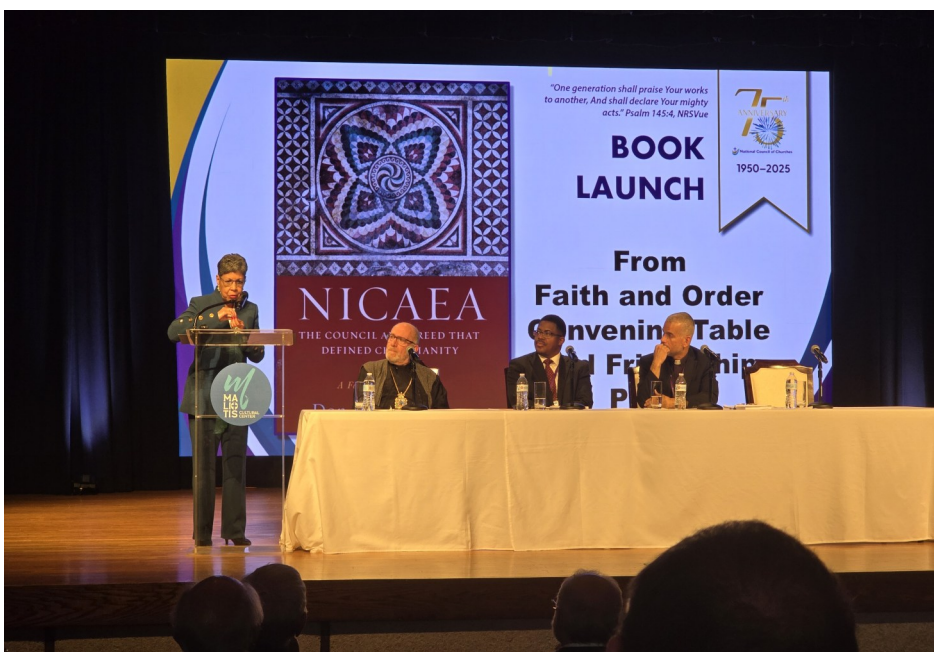
### ECUMENICAL EVENTS (Cont.)



### Hayr Hrant Attends National Council of Churches Meeting in Boston

From October 13-15, Hayr Hrant, in his capacity as Ecumenical Officer of the Eastern Prelacy, attended various sessions and activities on the occasion of the general meeting of the National Council of Churches.

On Tuesday, October 14, with His Eminence Archbishop Anoushavan, Prelate, he attended the installation of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America as the new chair of the board of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, at Hellenic College–Holy Cross in Brookline, MA.



# LADIES GUILD NEWS

Becky Megerdichian, Chair



The Ladies have been busy with helping the church and having fun. We started the fiscal year off in September 2024 with Havak Cafe.

In October we helped with the Pontifical Visit.

In December the Ladies enjoyed a Traditional English Tea, what a delightful time. At Christmas time we co-hosted the Sunday School Pageant. It was a joyful afternoon.

Chinese Brush Painting, led by Vartoush Varadian, was a wonderful day with great food prepared by Jean Harr and her team of many of the Ladies. We had another Havak Cafe and made the special dish of *Heriseh/Keshkeg*.

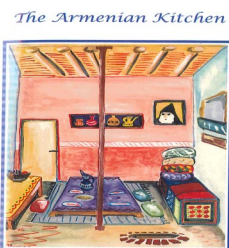
For Palm Sunday the Ladies held its annual bake sale. Thank you to all for supporting the Ladies Guild at Easter. In May, the Ladies did a terrific job making delicious Armenian food for the National Representative Assembly held in Watertown.

On a summer Friday we hosted a Trivia Night. All participants had an enjoyable evening with each other and meeting new people. In July we helped the Board of Trustees and Sunday School celebrate the Vartavar Festival, a fun and wet time.

We ended the year with a special celebration acknowledging our past Guild chairs.

The Ladies Guild is here to help everyone.

Always pray to have eyes that see the best in people, a heart that forgives the worst, a mind that forgets the bad and a soul that never loses faith in God.



## The Perfect Gift for any Occasion! The Armenian Kitchen Cookbook

Our Ladies Guild Cookbook is \$20 and can be purchased from the Church Office. If you wish to have the cookbook mailed to you please mail a \$24 check payable to St. Stephen's Ladies Guild.

## SUMMER PICNICS

This year, we hosted three picnics with our famous and delicious meals. Our first picnic was held on July 6 at Camp Haiastan, where we were pleased to welcome families from across the country to begin the camping season in Franklin, MA. Our second picnic was held on church grounds on a beautiful summer day where we celebrated the Feast of the Assumption and held our second annual Watertown Water Fight!

The third was a *Welcome Back to School* picnic for all of our school students, preceded by a special Badarak celebrating the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross (Khatchverats). The traditional antasdan procession was held at the end of Badarak, where the four corners of the church and all elements of our planet were blessed. Children and adults alike enjoyed getting sprinkled by water from basil bunches by Hayr Hrant and Der Antranig. Following communion and a flag blessing to mark the second independence of the Republic of Armenia, all were treated to a festive picnic organized by parents, Boards, and volunteers representing each of the schools. It was a great afternoon to kick off another great academic year!

We thank God for days like this when we are able to bring members of our community at large together. Indeed, many of the students come from the broader community, numerous Armenian churches within greater Boston and across New England. We are humbled to be entrusted with this mission and promise to continue serving our nation and community.

For the spiritual upbringing of our children and our future, we encourage all families to register their children in the Sunday School of their respective church, as well as prioritize Armenian education - either through the Elementary School or Saturday School.

Looking forward to more fun and fellowship next year!



SUMMER PICNICS (Cont.)



## ST. STEPHEN'S 69TH ANNUAL BAZAAR

The 69th annual St. Stephen's Bazaar was held on November 7th and 8th in the church hall. Months of baking, crafting, cooking, and soliciting donations of grocery and auction items by a dedicated group of volunteers resulted in a large, successful bazaar for the church and its parishioners and guests. The hall was filled with booths for delicious pastries (choreg, simit, khadaif, boreg), gourmet food items (manti, yalanchi, tel baner), and a country store and gift shop that looked as professional as a display from Macy's. The menu featured hot dinners that were both delicious and plentiful: kebabs (beef, chicken, lamb, and losh), as well as kufteh (the first time served hot since pre-Covid), and the famous St. Stephen's extravaganza which includes all four kebab meats in one platter with pilaf and salad. Church volunteers served 1,655 dinners over two days, and the amount of baked goods and gourmet food sold - made with love - was enormous: 450 lbs. of manti, 750 dozen choreg, and an endless supply of specialty Armenian dessert trays. The large, heated outdoor tent gave us extra space and allowed us take advantage of the weather (and gave kids a safe space in which to run around).

The on-line Bazaar auction took place from November 7th to December 15th. Sports tickets, jewelry, artwork, hotel stays, and restaurant gift cards were among the items successfully auctioned. The winners of the annual St. Stephen's Bazaar Raffle were announced on December 21st. Winners who shared \$10,000 in prizes were: Nairi Markarian (\$5,000); Meline Arslanian (\$1,000); Paul Bedrosian (\$1,000); Greg Kolligian (\$1,000); Avedis Boyamian (\$500); Vahn J. Khachadorian (\$500); Sandra Narinian (\$500); and Joanne Wortman (\$500).

The Bazaar Committee would like to thank the dozens of businesses, families, and individuals who helped sponsor the bazaar. Your generosity and support helped make it a great success! The hard work paid off with great attendance, fantastic fellowship, and wonderful memories. Your help, donations, enthusiasm, patience, and Christian spirit resulted in one of the most successful bazaars we have had. Special thanks to the St. Stephen's Ladies Guild, the Baking group, the Gourmet cooking group, and the cleanup crew that returned the church hall back to normal Saturday night and deserved all the ice cream sundaes it consumed after cleanup!

Here's to the 70th annual Bazaar in 2026!

John Aharonian & Steve Guveyan—2025 Bazaar Co-Chairs

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS & SPONSORS!

Aegean Restaurant  
 Krista and John Aftandilian  
 Karen and John Aharonian  
 Ani Catering and Cafe  
 Armenian American Social Club  
 Armenian Museum of America  
 Meline Arslanian  
 Sona and Charlie Aslanian  
 Mary Azizian and Family  
 Barmakian Brothers Jewelers  
 Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home  
 Ani and Hratch Belekian and Family  
 Belles Burgers & Ice Cream  
 Bigelow Tea  
 BJ's Wholesale Club  
 Boghosian Raisin Packing Co.  
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 Boyajian, Inc.  
 BRAG Jewelers  
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 Julie and John Campos  
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 Citizen Works Restaurant  
 City Works  
 Megan Christopher  
 Karen Costner  
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Sharon and David DeMarco  
 Demos Watertown  
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 Donahue's Bar and Grill  
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 Eastern Clothing Company  
 Fiorella's Express  
 Gagat Glass  
 The Gift Shop at Ebb Tide  
 Giragosian Funeral Home  
 Harry & Katrina Glorikian  
 Gourmet Nuts and Food  
 Green Tangerine Spa & Salon  
 Susan and Michael Guzelian  
 Gyumri Bakery  
 Dr. and Mrs. Alan Haroian  
 Henry's House of Coffee  
 Robin and Ron Hines  
 Jake & Joe's Restaurant  
 James Kalustian  
 Vahan Khachadorian  
 Anoush and Armen Knaian  
 Law offices of Mitchell Garabedian  
 Leavitt Corporation  
 Legal Seafood  
 Levant Foods  
 Lexington Shoe & Luggage Repair  
 Peter Markarian  
 Market Basket

Marriott Residence Inn, Watertown  
 Massis Bakery, Inc.  
 Mem Tea Imports  
 Shoghig and John Merian  
 Metro Energy  
 NAASR  
 Deanne and Walter Nahabedian  
 Robin and Robert Najarian  
 New Balance Factory Store  
 Noor Mediterranean Grill  
 Not Your Average Joes Restaurant  
 Olive Garden Restaurant  
 Pastene  
 Frank Pepe's Pizzeria  
 PGA Superstore  
 Kelli and Rich Piligian  
 Pine Oaks Golf Course  
 Red Lentil Restaurant  
 Roche Brothers  
 Rothstein Corp.  
 Sarah Sahagian  
 Star Market  
 Sophia's Greek Pantry  
 Stop & Shop  
 Sweet Basil  
 Thermoil Inc.  
 Barbara Tutelian  
 Vartus Varadian  
 Venus Wafers, Inc.  
 Watertown Savings Bank  
 Joanne E. Wortman

Annual Church Bazaar (Cont.)



## CELESTIAL FANTASIES: MUSIC OF THE ARMENIAN HIGHLANDS AND DIASPORA

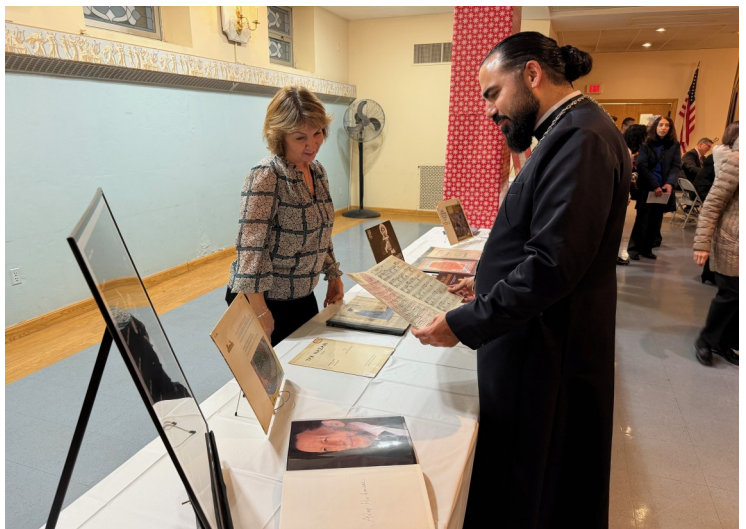
On Friday, December 12, our church sanctuary was filled with the harmonious sounds of our homeland and diaspora, thanks to the Orchestra Without Borders and its conductor Luca Antonucci. With the full support of all the Greater Boston Armenian churches, more than 300 people — Armenian and non-Armenian — joined together to hear the richness of our musical culture.

Following welcome and introductory remarks by Hayr Hrant, the program began featuring the works of Hovhaness, Arutiunian, and Komitas. Readings in Armenian and English of some of the lyrics were offered by the clergy and members of the community (translations by Tamar Panossian). Sayat Nova Dance Company of Boston treated guests to their artistry as they accompanied two songs with angelic movements.

Antonucci described growing up in Watertown and being exposed to Armenian culture from a young age and having a vision to one day offer a worthy performance to its great composers — part of the inception of this event. Hayr Hrant recollected the providential meeting between him and Luca's mother, and how a happenstance encounter of cultures and religion can indeed generate beautiful outcomes. Hayr Hrant also touched upon the genocide and how these three titans of Armenian music were each effected in their own way, but through their perseverance and our continued preservation of their music we can overwhelm the forces of death. He also offered a prayer for the end of all crimes against humanity.

The evening concluded with a spirited fellowship in the church hall where an archival display of the composers was featured thanks to the National Association of Armenian Studies and Research.

As Aram I has declared 2025 as the Year of the Revitalization of our Traditions, let us not forget our rich classical Armenian sounds and the important role it plays in preserving our roots from generation to generation. Furthermore, as Armenians we know that our art is stellar, but the highest form of praise is when others appreciate it. And we were honored on this evening witnessing others dedicating their time and passion to Komitas, Hovhaness and Arutiunian. The concert can be viewed on our YouTube channel.



CELESTIAL FANTASIES: MUSIC OF THE ARMENIAN HIGHLANDS AND DIASPORA



## SACRAMENTS

### BAPTISMS

**ARENI OURFALIAN**, daughter of Alex & Narine Ourfalian, was baptized on February 8, 2025. Her Godparents were Kevork Ourfalian & Talene Bagdasarian.

**ELLA MARIE JOREKJIAN**, daughter of Harout & Mariebelle (Elkhoury) Jorekjian, was baptized on April 26, 2025. Her Godparents were Peter Elkhoury & Lea Jorekjian.

**ISABEL MARGARET MARKARIAN**, daughter of Daniel & Ashlyn (Mcdonagh) Markarian, was baptized on April 26, 2025. Her Godparents were Anthony Baumeister & Michaela Mcfeely.

**MILA SHABANIAN**, daughter of John & Gacia (Karageozian) Shabanian was baptized on April 27, 2025. Her Godparents were Kyle Deckert & Ashlee Shabanian.

**ISIAH SHANT DAVIS**, son of Justin & Christine Sossy (Takadjian) Davis, was baptized on May 11, 2025. His Godparents were Shant Takadjian & Liza Sobremonte.

**JACOB ARAM MAJARIAN**, son of Hagop & Tiana (Deiulio) Majarian, was baptized on May 18, 2025. His Godparents were Joe Alain Stepanian & Jenna Nestico.

**HARPER VARADIAN CARLIC**, daughter of Scott & Song (Varadian) Carlic, was baptized on May 18, 2025. Her Godparents were Christopher Lamb & Nevart Varadian.

**RAZMIK SARKIS BRILLANT**, son of Richard & Dzovag (Kassabian) Brilliant, was baptized on July 19, 2025. His Godparents were Paul Kassabian & Alik Arzoumanian.

**PRASANNA RAJASEKARAN**, son of Raja & Bharathi Rajasekaran, was baptized on August 5, 2025. His Godparents were Hachig Chilingirian & Johanna Chilingirian.

**GEORGE ANDREW KOUYOUMJIAN**, son of Harry & Silvi Sanja (Ogli) Kouyoumjian, was baptized on August 9, 2025. His Godparents were Gregory Khachadourian & Natalie Kouyoumjian.

**KAI OHAN REYES**, son of Marbin & Lorig (Balanian) Reyes, was baptized on August 23, 2025. His Godparents were Rudis J. Reyes & Gislene Dornelas De Souza.

**LILIT YOUSOUFIAN**, daughter of Garo & Christina Lucy Youssoufian, was baptized on September 13, 2025. Her Godparents were Aleksan & Natalie Gevorgyan.

**NISHAN YOUSOUFIAN**, son of Garo & Christina Lucy Youssoufian, was baptized on September 13, 2025. His Godparents were Armen Hagop & Deanna Arpi Youssoufian.

**VIVIENNE BILLY KEFALIS**, daughter of Thomas & Liana (Manassah) Kefalis, was baptized on October 11, 2025. Her Godparents were Andrew Kefalis & Alina Sullivan.

**VICTORIA ARMINE FROUNJIAN**, daughter of Mark & Theresa (Young) Frounjian, was baptized on October 12, 2025. Her Godparents were Sahag & Taline Frounjian.

**VAHAN MATTHIAS NAVIEN**, son of Timothy & Araz (Havan) Navien, was baptized on October 19, 2025. His Godparents were Hagop Kouchakdjian & Nareh Dakessian.

**REMINGTON SMITH BRIDGEMAN**, son of Rashad & Alexia (Smith) Bridgeman, was baptized on December 14, 2025. His Godparents were Aram Smith & Anastasia Goulopoulos.

**ZAVEN KHOUREN AROUYAN**, son of Hovannes & Kimberley Arouyan, was baptized on December 14, 2025. His Godparents were Shant Arouyan & Brenna Roche.

We extend our congratulations to the newly baptized,  
their parents and godparents.

Pastor & Board of Trustees

## WEDDINGS

**GACIA KARAGEOZIAN**, daughter of Zaven & Yeghsapet (Khanjian) Karageozian was wed to **JOHN SHABANIAN**, son of Aaron & Cheryl (Bedrosian) Shabanian, on April 27, 2025. Best Man and Maid of Honor were Kyle Deckart & Ashlee Shabanian.

**ANI KHACHATOURIAN**, daughter of Armen & Bella (Janian) Kachatourian was wed to **SEVAG KHATCHADOURIAN**, son of Levon & Shake (Minassian) Khatchadourian, on May 10, 2025. Best Man and Maid of Honor were Vicken Khatchadourian & Nairi Tcholakian.

**TALINE NICOLE MEGERDICHIAN**, daughter of Stephen & Sosie (Almasian) Megerdichian was wed to **THOMAS EDWARD CAMPBELL II**, son of David & Jennifer (Amaral) Campbell, on May 11, 2025. Best Man and Maid of Honor were Eric Broce & Kathryn Brewer-Barry.

**ELIZABETH TOROSYAN**, daughter of Oksen & Talin (Menetyan) Torosyan was wed to **SEVAG MINAS ZOBOYAN**, son of Nishan & Margueritte (Agopian) Zoboyan, on May 24, 2025. Best Man and Maid of Honor were Harout Nishan Zoboyan & Natalie Gulian.

**SABINE ARSLANIAN**, daughter of Raffi & Nadine (Tabourian) Arslanian was wed to **ALEK FESTEKGIAN**, son of Raffi & Nina (Metrebian) Festekjian, on June 14, 2025. Best Man and Maid of Honor were Aram Festekjian & Kristina Gilklad.

**NATALIE OURFALIAN**, daughter of Missak & Angelique (Melkeshian) Ourfalian was wed to **ARMEN AVAKIAN**, son of Moses & Rita (Tekneyan) Avakian, on July 12, 2025. Best Man and Maid of Honor were Avedis Avakian & Ani Ourfalian.

**ANAHIS KECHEJIAN**, daughter of Steven & Linda (Antranigian) Kechejian was wed to **PRASANNA RAJASEKARAN**, son of B. & Deveraj Rajasekaran, on July 21, 2025. Best Man and Maid of Honor were Antranig Kechejian & Ani Chilingirian Jierjian.

**NYREE KHOJIAN**, daughter of Joseph & Souzi (Tashjian) Khojian was wed to **JOSEPH DAVENPORT**, son of Theodore & Donna (McEachern) Davenport, on August 30 2025. Best Man and Maid of Honor were Theodore Davenport & Natalee Stacey.

**DIANA KRMZIAN**, daughter of Armen & Susanna (Deirmenjian) Krmzian was wed to **RAFFI BADRIKIAN**, son of Arshag & Shoghig (Demirdjian) Badrikian, on September 7, 2025. Best Man and Maid of Honor were Vrej Badrikian & Elizabeth Krmzian.

**ASHLEE NOEL SHABANIAN**, daughter of Aaron & Cheryl (Bedrosian) Shabanian was wed to **KYLE THOMAS DECKERT**, son of Arthur & Kathleen (Livingston) Deckert, on September 13, 2025. Best Man and Maid of Honor were Bryan McIver & Tiffany Shabanian.

**ANI AROYIAN**, daughter of Harout & Eunice (Bohne) Aroyian was wed to **ROSDOM MKRTSCHJAN**, son of John & Taline (Dzadourian) Mkrtschjan, on September 13, 2025. Best Man and Maid of Honor were Nareg Mkrtschjan & Michelle and Rachel Aftandilian.

**TALEEN LACHINIAN**, daughter of Garo & Meline (Haratunian) Lachinian was wed to **ARDA CAM**, son of Hayk & Ankim (Cekem) Cam, on October 5, 2025. Best Man and Maid of Honor were Karabet Cekem & Valerie Montoya.

**SIMA BILANIAN**, daughter of Hagop & Houri (Hekimian) Bilanian was wed to **THOMAS RICHARD**, son of Stephen & Jean (Baima) Richard, on October 25, 2025. Best Man and Maid of Honor were Nicholas Richard & Vanessa Bennett.

**MACKENZIE SKOWYRA**, daughter of James & Katherine (Kaneb) Skowyra was wed to **MKRTICH MINASYAN**, son of Stepan & Astgik (Manukian) Minasyan, on December 6, 2025. Best Man and Maid of Honor were Minas Minasyan & Rebecca Stalnecker.

On this happy occasion, we wholeheartedly congratulate the newly married couples, wishing them a happy and healthy life together.

Pastor & Board of Trustees



Many of our Church's young couples presented themselves at our altar last year for the sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

In preparation for the big day, Hayr Soorp facilitated a discussion and exploration of the Armenian wedding ceremony, answering their questions and guiding them on how to best prepare spiritually for such an important moment in their lives. This was a fruitful time where everyone got to connect not only with their Pastor and Church, but with each other.

We pray for the newlyweds as well as all those who have taken their vows at St. Stephen's. May God strengthen their union and provide an abundance of love.

## FUNERALS

**LOUSINE ARAXIE SARKISSIAN**  
January 2, 2025

**RONALD CHARLES DILBARIAN**  
January 3, 2025

**ANNA AZADIAN**  
January 15, 2025

**MARY (BOGOIAN) ALEMIAN**  
January 16, 2025

**MARYAM (SAHAKIAN) DAOUDIAN**  
January 23, 2025

**ANAHID KEIKIAN**  
February 22, 2025

**KARLEN ASATRYAN**  
March 7, 2025

**GEORGE NOUBAR KADERIAN**  
March 19, 2025

**BARKYOHİ DIRWARTANIAN**  
April 16, 2025

**MAURICE OURFALIAN**  
April 23, 2025

**VIKKI BERBERIAN**  
May 1, 2025

**LINDA-JEAN (GEARY) GHAZARIAN**  
May 7, 2025

**ROSALIE KIZIRIAN**  
May 21, 2025

**HILDA M. TOPJIAN**  
May 23, 2025

**ARMBASOON "OFIK" EBRAHIMI**  
May 30, 2025

**VERKIN CHERIAN**  
June 12, 2025

**HAGOP JACK NERCESSIAN**  
June 20, 2025

**MARIAN (KULUDJIAN) FELEGIAN**  
June 24, 2025

**KELAM S. DERDERIAN**  
May 7, 2025

**NANCY J. DERDERIAN**  
May 18, 2025

**MAKROUHI TERZIAN**  
July 28, 2025

**MARY KESHISHIAN**  
August 20, 2025

**LORIK GERIAN**  
September 18, 2025

**EDIK GHZLJEH MOVSESIYAN**  
October 15, 2025

**ALBERT VICKEN HAYTAYAN**  
October 20, 2025

**ARMENUI (DOLKHANIAN) CHAPARIAN**  
October 28, 2025

**ELIZA (BOGOSIAN) BEZIDJIAN**  
October 30, 2025

**BARBARA LOUISE BALJIAN**  
October 31, 2025

**ARIK KHATCHATOURIAN**  
November 6, 2025

**NAZARET NALBANDIAN**  
November 12, 2025

**SOSIE TERLEMEZIAN ROBINSON**  
December 2, 2025

**JOHN M. JACK HAJIAN JR.**  
December 17, 2025

*May the comfort of the Holy Spirit be with  
the families of all the deceased.*

Pastor and Board of Trustees

## WHEN TRAGEDY STRIKES CLOSE TO HOME



ARIE ORCHANIAN



ANIE MANOUSHAGIAN

Human beings traditionally greet the New Year by bidding farewell to the old one. We lay past experiences to rest, mature from their lessons, and step forward with hope as the calendar resets. Sometimes, though, turning the page is nearly impossible—especially when tragedy strikes close to home.

The greater Boston Armenian community is painfully aware that such a tragedy struck at its very heart on December 23rd, 2025. It happened just as our schools were closing for Christmas break; just as families were preparing to celebrate the New Year and Christmas; a sudden and unexpected multi-vehicle car accident, on the corner of Bigelow Avenue and Mount Auburn Street. Many of the passengers in and around the crash were Armenian: members from the various surrounding church communities, but part of the one, united Armenian family. Most knew each other, some were even coworkers. If Watertown is the little Armenia of the East, then Bigelow and Mt. Auburn are its epicenter.

The outcome was heartbreaking. A few were physically injured, most severely John Orchanian and Anna Kupelian. Thankfully, they have since almost fully recovered. They, and many more were deeply and emotionally traumatized, at the sight of what had transpired.

In John's vehicle, two lives were instantly lost: his son, 32-year-old Arie Orchanian, and sister, 80-year-old Anie Manoushagian.

John's wife is Digin Maral Orchanian, exemplary member of Armenian Memorial Church, and dedicated Preschool Director of St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School. Anie and Arie were very active and well known in their church. But Digin Maral is a familiar face to the broader community as she has cared for most of our children.

When concerned bystanders on the scene started to contact their loved ones and share the news, everyone was in disbelief. How could life be so fragile? And until this day, even after 40 days of mourning, the dust hasn't settled. We are left asking: how does one handle such loss and grief? If it weighed so heavily on us as a community, how much more unbearable is it for those closest to the tragedy?

No two people's situation is ever the same. Some are born into great comfort, others into even greater hardship. Some carry generational pain, others generational wealth. Physical shoes may fit many—but life's shoe fits only one specific individual.

On one hand, as an Armenian, I carry the generational trauma of the genocide; and on the other, I cannot disregard how I have been blessed in my own life. My recent ancestors were stripped from their loved ones, while I grew up knowing all four of my grandparents, and living within a ten-minute vicinity of all. I had realized early in my childhood that this was significant, because some of my classmates didn't have a single grandparent around. Furthermore, though they were in a faraway country, even two of my great-grandparents were alive during my childhood. Yet more difficult than not having is losing what we once had.

Even the youngest understand loss instinctively. I was reminded of this fact a day prior to the tragedy that struck. I had driven from Boston to Montreal to spend time with my family, and my first stop upon arrival was my sister's home. No doubt I missed my sibling and brother-in-law, but my three nieces were the reason I didn't head straight home to rest after the long drive. We spent a few hours catching-up, playing hide-and-seek, and trying not to mix the Play-Doh with the Legos.

Finally, I stood up to leave—hadn't yet said any goodbyes, just strolled to the foyer. My two-year-old niece ran after me and fiercely articulated “no Dayday” (which is Turkish for uncle. Despite the trauma of the genocide, many words have still endured in modern Armenian use). Her older sisters, twelve and ten, tried to comfort her by explaining that Dayday would return the next day. She wasn't having it; she gave them a toddler stare down and advanced closer to the door. She picked up her pink boots and sat on the floor next to me trying to put them on. I hadn't yet put on my boots or coat, but my heart melted then and there. She knew her uncle well because we had spent so many vacations together and were often video calling, but the physical separation had already taken a toll on her young consciousness.

...

Arie Orchanian was—and always will be—Digin Maral's baby boy. Tragically, he put on his shoes for the next life far too early. In the natural order of things, parents wish to be buried by their children, never the opposite. When such cataclysmic reversals occur, we struggle to comprehend them. Some speak of fate. Others suggest they were essential to the fabric of heaven. Some yet offer the notion that they might have been too good for this world. These thoughts may comfort the mind for some, but they remain assumptions—attempts to soothe pain rather than establish certainty.

There are, however, two truths we know for certain. First: The pain of losing a child is unbearable. There is nothing unchristian about embracing sorrow. Look at Christ Himself. Jesus not only believed in the resurrection—He was the resurrectioner (for lack of the English equivalent to յարնուցումը, ‘harootsanogh’). And

## WHEN TRAGEDY STRIKES CLOSE TO HOME (Cont.)

yet, standing before Lazarus' tomb, omniscient of the fact that a few moments later he would command him back into life...the resurrectioner wept. He cried—not as one without hope, but as one who loved deeply.

Second: As visceral and as real as sorrow is, so too is the fulfillment of the promise of resurrection. For Lazarus, it was immediate—what we all would wish for. But for most of us, reunion will come later: either when we ourselves depart this life, or when Christ returns—whichever comes first.

Until then, we are alive. And though no one else fully comprehends the shoes in which we walk, we still have the ability to put them on, both the metaphorical and physical. And that, in itself, is an immeasurable blessing. With benediction comes duty. Our calling is to help neighbors who are struggling with their own shoes: those who cannot wear them by themselves because of illness, or those for whom even the simplest tasks have become impossible because of a serious tragedy. What blessed life indeed when we are in such a state as to be capable of comforting others!  
...

A burning question lingers: If Jesus wept, how can a mother not?

A mother, of all creatures, who has the God-given power to give life—hence creating an unbreakable bond; yet does not possess the power to resurrect—rendering the separation unbearable!

Even with the resurrection affirmed beyond a doubt, how does one endure this rupture until that day...?

As I ponder on these questions during the coldest time of the year, I am reminded of a remarkable phenomenon in nature. In astronomy, Apsis refers to the nearest and farthest point in a planet's orbit around its star. Aphelion is the farthest point. Perihelion is the closest.

An incorrect assumption that sometimes regrettably makes social media rounds is that winter is cold because the Earth is farthest from the sun. It sounds intuitive—but it is incorrect. The fluctuation in distance, about three million miles, is not insignificant (~3.5%), but has only a minor effect on the weather. The true cause of the seasons as we all remember from high school physics is the Earth's axial tilt (23.4 degrees).

More surprising still: Aphelion does not occur in the winter, but in summer—around July. What occurs in winter, in January, is Perihelion—when the Earth is closest to the sun.

God is teaching us a profound lesson through the stars: his warmth is closest when it feels coldest—when we need Him most. Christ, the light and warmth of this world, is in the Perihelion of our lives when we are entering a harsh winter, or worst still, an ice age.

So, as the Orchanian family, and all who carry heavy tragedies, walk through their wintertide—through the loss of the warmth of a loved one's presence—God promises to draw nearer: to those who mourn, and simultaneously in the presence of their deceased loved ones.

And as we remember that this tragedy occurred on the winter solstice—the shortest and darkest day of the year—we are reminded that from that very moment onward, light, though slowly and almost unnoticeably, begins to return to our lives.

Each day that passes brings us closer to that fateful day when we will be moments away from embracing our lost loved ones; as close as Lazarus was when Jesus stood in front of his tomb. And even at that moment, seconds before reunion, we may opt to weep one last time, out of grief...but surely in that instant, moreover out of joy!

V. Rev. Fr. Hrant Tahanian  
(First published in the Armenian Weekly – January 28, 2026)



## Christmas Message

## THE GIFT OF KINGS?



One of the most interesting elements of the Christmas story is the visit of the three kings. Now, I have written about them before in the context of describing the various elements of the Christmas Story. But recently I was prompted to dig more deeply into this narrative since there are many aspects of the visit of these kings which, though we all take for granted, are not part of the scriptural narrative found in the Gospel of Matthew. So, I thought it may be interesting to highlight some of the things we don't really "know."

**Who were they?**

Today they are often called the Three Kings. Yet in the Bible they are not called kings at all, but rather, "Magi." This word is the plural of the Latin word *Magus* taken from Greek μάγος (magos), which is the word used in the original Greek text of the Gospel of Matthew. The Greek word is derived from an Old Persian word referring to the Iranian priestly caste of Zoroastrianism. Within this tradition, priests paid particular attention to the stars and gained an international reputation for astrology, which was at that time highly regarded as a science. Their religious practices and astrological abilities caused derivatives of the term Magi to be applied to the occult in general and led to the English term magic.

If you remember your history, Armenians were also of the Zoroastrian religion before converting to Christianity and so we have our own word – derived as well from the ancient Persian – by which we call the wise men: *Mogk*, (singular *Mog*) the term that our ancestors used for Zoroastrian priests. The word Magi is traditionally translated as Wise Men in most versions of the Bible.

Many scholars believe that the fact these men were later called kings is linked to Old Testament prophecies that describe the Messiah being worshipped by kings for example, Psalm 72:10-11, reads, "The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts, the kings of Arabia and Sheba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay Him homage; all nations shall serve Him." Early church leaders likely reinterpreted Matthew considering these prophecies and elevated the Magi to "Kings," a term which became widely accepted by at least 500 A.D. in the Armenian Church, where they are often identified as *Mogk Takavork*: Magi Kings.

**How many were there and what were their names?**

While we celebrate the visitation of THREE Magi, the Bible does not actually stipulate a number. Over the centuries, various numbers have been given as to how many Magi visited Jesus. An extreme example is a list given by Michael the Syrian in his 12<sup>th</sup> century chronicle which names eleven Magi. But three has become the traditional number most likely because of the number of the gifts that were presented to Jesus.

This leads us to their names. None are recorded in the biblical narrative, yet we know them today as Caspar, Balthasar and Melchior, with some minor variations in spelling. (In Armenian they are called Gaspar, Baghdasar and Melkon.) These names first appear in a Latin translation of a lost Greek manuscript composed around A.D. 500. Interestingly, while the Eastern Orthodox and Roman

Catholic churches also use these names, other churches in the past have identified the Magi differently. For example, among Syrian Christians, they were called Larvandad, Gushnasaph, and Hormisdas, in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church: Hor, Karsudan, and Basanater, and in the Persian Nestorian Church: Hormizd, Yezdigerd and Perozadh.

**Where did they come from?**

While all of this is an interesting peek into how traditions form within the church, we must not let differences in these traditions cause us to doubt the basic truth of this beautiful and moving Bible narrative. We may not know the names, ranks, numbers or origins of the Magi, but we know for certain that resourceful, learned, wise and powerful men came to bow down before Jesus after having seen a bright star moving across the heavens. They followed this star to Bethlehem and fell and worshipped at Jesus' feet, acknowledging him as Savior and Lord and King.

And these Wise Men did not seek Jesus only to worship Him. They also brought Him gifts fit for a King: Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. Yet they knew that these gifts were nothing in comparison to this great gift that God had just given to the world. The Wise Men gave their gifts to Jesus to show they had accepted His gift of life and salvation. Today, perhaps we cannot give physical gifts to Jesus, yet we can surely give Him the gift He seeks most: the gift of our selves. If we bow before him in prayer and present ourselves as the greatest and most valuable gift we can give, then He will joyously accept that precious gift and always keep it – us! – close to His heart. We are thus assured that no matter how dark the world around us may seem, we will always walk in the light of His love and the blessings of His Grace.

During this most blessed of seasons, let us reflect for a moment on the wondrous work that God accomplished through the birth of His only son among us. Let his humble beginnings inspire us to seek not that which is self-serving but rather that which humbles us and exalts Him. I invite you all to act on what is in your hearts by accepting God's great gift to you. I invite you to follow the example of the Wise Men who sought Jesus and worshipped and adored Him and gave Him gifts fit for a king. Scripture exhorts us to seek Him with all our heart. Seek Him in faith for "...God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil. 2:9-11) For, "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, **you will be saved.**" (Romans 10:9)

May the light of the Savior shine always in your lives and dispel the darkness which seeks to overcome us. May that light shine always in you and through you as a beacon for others and may the God of comfort take away your pain and sorrow and replace it with comfort and hope.

Rev. Archpriest Antranig Baljian  
Christmas 2025

## A TRIP TO THE SPIRITUAL CENTER OF THE ARMENIAN DIASPORA

By Deacon Hagop Ketchedjian



*With Very Rev. Fr. Stepanos Pashayan*

Before I speak about my trip to the Armenian Catholicosate in Lebanon, I should first introduce myself. I am the newly ordained Deacon Hagop Ketchedjian, one of the Altar Servers at St. Stephen's, or more identifiably, "The tall young man on the *khoran*." I am 21 years old and am currently studying Computer Science at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Outside of school, I help Hayr Hrant and Der Antranig with sacraments (baptisms, funerals, weddings, etc.) along with other church and office duties throughout the year. Something else you should know about me is that I am one of the few candidates for priesthood in the Eastern Prelacy. As I write this, I am quickly planning to become a Der Hayr (married priest) within the Eastern Prelacy, hopefully sometime in the near future. My calling to the priesthood was a more silent one; God did not show me through a vision, revelation, or directly speak to me that I should become a priest. Instead, I simply connected so well with the church that I cannot imagine being without it and deeply desire to serve the church in its fullness by becoming a Priest. With the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian, the Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy; the hospitality of Very Rev. Fr. Barouyr Shernezian, together with the administrative staff of the Theological Seminary; and the help of Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Tahanian, I was sent to Lebanon from May 26 to June 26. The exact mission of this trip was simply to maintain my connection to the Armenian Theological Seminary (Tbrevank) in Bikfaya, to keep in touch with my seminarian friends, and to familiarize myself with the daily prayer hours which are conducted at the seminary. Upon arrival, the Seminarians were studying for their final exams and preparing for the graduation ceremony, in which I was able to participate. Along with the graduation preparation, I was focused on learning the prayer hours and absorbing as much as I could at the seminary with things which I could not easily get access to in the United States. The Seminary has a unique community and atmosphere, with around 40 teenage students devoted to the Armenian Church and Nation through their

surprisingly rigorous coursework in around 20 different subjects. I dedicated my time at the Tbrevank to learning liturgics and Classical Armenian—because this was one of the few Armenian churches where daily prayer hours are conducted—meaning it was the best environment to learn traditional liturgics to later bring back with me, along with classical Armenian. Once the academic year of the Tbrevank had come to an end, they began renovations during the summer break. This meant that the students who were staying at the seminary during the summer break had to move to the Catholicosate in Antelias. I spent 10 days living at the Catholicosate, amongst the Catholicos, Bishops/Srpazans, Vartabeds, etc. It was truly a surreal experience just walking to lunch and seeing the Clergy conducting their duties while waving at you from across the courtyard. Daily prayer services were also conducted in the Cathedral, with the leadership of Very Rev. Fr. Stepanos Pashayan, who also allowed me to record the prayer services in the Cathedral, and helped me learn the prayer hours in their fullness. I am incredibly grateful, first and foremost to God, to His Eminence Anoushavan Srpazan, to Hayr Stepanos, to Hayr Hrant, and to Hayr Barouyr, for giving me such an opportunity, but also helping to make the most of this priceless opportunity of visiting the spiritual center of the Armenian Diaspora.

Ես՝ Յակոբ Սարկաւազ Քէչէճեան, Ս. Ստեփանոս եկեղեցոյ սարկաւագներէն եւ Արեւելեան Ամերիկայի Թեմի Քահանայութեան թեկնածուներէն մէկն եմ: Այժմ 21 տարեկան եմ եւ եկեղեցական կեանքին մէջ կը մասնակցիմ մկրտութիւններու, թաղումներու, պսակներու եւ այլ արարողութիւններու: Աստուծոյ ծառայելու կոչումով ուրախութեամբ կը պատրաստուիմ Տէր Հայր (ամուսնացեալ քահանայ) դառնալ: Մայիս 26-էն մինչեւ Յունիս 26, 2025, Գերշ. Ս. Անուշաւան Արքեպիսկոպոսի օրհնութեամբ եւ Գերապ. Ս. Պարոյր Օ. Վարդապետ Շերէնզեանի հիւրընկալութեամբ այցելեցի Մեծի Տանն Կիլիկիոյ Դպրեվանքը ուր ժամերգութիւններու մասնակցեցայ, Գրաբար սորվեցայ, եւ ընդհանուր Դպրեվանքին կեանքին միացայ: Թէեւ սաները իրենց քննութիւններով կը պատրաստուէին, եւ միտքս կեդրոնացուցի աղօթքներուն եւ ծէսերուն վրայ: Դպրեվանքը ունի յատուկ մթնոլորտ մը, ուր պատանիներ նուիրումով կը սորվին ծառայել Հայ Եկեղեցոյ եւ Հայ Ազգին: Յետոյ տեղափոխուեցայ Անթիլիաս Մեծի Տանն Կիլիկիոյ Կաթողիկոսարան, ուր տասը օր անցուցի եպիսկոպոսներու եւ վարդապետներու հետ, եւ ականատես եղայ Մայրավանքին հոգեւոր կեանքին: Շնորհակալ եմ նախ Աստուծոյ, ապա Սրբազան Առաջնորդին, Հայր Ստեփանոսին, Հայր Հրանդին եւ Հայր Պարոյր Վարդապետներուն, որ այս անգնահատելի փորձառութեան հնարաւորութիւնը տուին ինձի:

# A TRIP TO THE SPIRITUAL CENTER OF THE ARMENIAN DIASPORA (Cont.) By Deacon Hagop Ketchedjian



- 1 - The seminary's administrative staff along with Dcn. Hagop
- 2 - Dcn. Hagop with the deacons of Holy Resurrection Church in Jounieh, Lebanon
- 3 - Dcn. Hagop with newly called/ordained Fr. Tavit Asayan outside the Catholicosate Cathedral
- 4 - Dcn. Hagop chanting the Gospel reading during a prayer hour (Jamerkutyun)
- 5 - Seminarians sing for H.H. Aram I & Cilician priesthood at ordination banquet of Fr. Movses, Fr. Abraham, and Fr. Tavit
- 6 - Seminarians singing at their graduation (Hantes)

PRELACY NEWS

SAINT GREGORY OF DATEV INSTITUTE



On Sunday, July 13, the Prelacy’s St. Gregory of Datev Institute joyfully concluded its 39th annual weeklong Summer Program for youth ages 13-18 with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy (Soorp Badarak). It was followed by a graduation ceremony and festive luncheon, graciously hosted by the Pastor, Very Rev. Fr. Vache Balekjian, and the Board of Trustees of Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church in Ridgefield, New Jersey.

Held at Shiloh Bible Camp and Retreat Center in Hewitt, New Jersey, this year’s program brought together 58 students and 19 instructors and staff members. The Datev Institute offers a structured four-year curriculum, with one week of sessions each summer totaling approximately 20 hours of instruction per year. The four-year curriculum covers essential aspects of the Christian faith, including Holy Scripture, the feasts and sacraments, the Nicene Creeds, Armenian church history and saints, prayer, worship, and contemporary moral and ethical issues facing today’s youth.

But the program is much more than just a classroom experience. Each day included sports and recreational activities, as well as morning and evening church services. Instruction, fellowship, and

prayer—these three core elements of the program are designed to foster strong friendships, promote a healthy community, and deepen faith, character, and Armenian Christian identity.

Upon completing the four-year program, some students choose to return for postgraduate-level classes, continuing their journey of faith formation. All five levels of study are conducted simultaneously.

This year’s enrollment consisted of 23 students in Level 1; 15 in Level 2; 6 in Level 3; 10 in Level 4; and 4 in postgraduate classes.

This year’s instructors and counselors were: Very Rev. Fr. Boghos Tinkjian (Director), Very Rev. Fr. Vache Balekjian, Rev. Fr. Sarkis Aktavoukian, Rev. Fr. Stephan Baljian, Rev. Fr. Taniel Manjikian, Rev. Fr. Vahan Kouyoumdjian, MD, Archdeacon Shant Kazanjian, Dn. Garabed Balian, Yn. Maggie Kouyoumdjian (also served as counselor), Nayiri Baljian Bell and Anoosh Kouyoumdjian (also served as counselor).

The counselors included: Dn. Harout Takvorian, Dn. Hovig Chapanian, Dn. Hagop Ketchedjian, Nishan Kouyoumdjian, Taleen Lakissian, Tamar Lakissian, Anna Tekeyan, and Marina Tekeyan.

PRELACY NEWS

PRELACY'S MAN OF THE YEAR—ASTOR GUZELIAN



The 2025 National Representatives Assembly came with many meetings, activities, and services, and an opportunity for delegates and community members alike to come together in Christian fellowship and the common goal of strengthening and growing our churches and faith.

On its first official evening of the NRA, evening dinner took place in our church hall to welcome delegates, guests, and community members to our community. What made this dinner special was that our own Astor Guzelian was being honored with the Eastern Prelacy's Man of the Year Award; a prestigious recognition of service, dedication, and commitment to the community.

Over a delicious dinner at the hands of our Ladies Guild, a touching program took place with opening remarks by Sonya Hagopian, vice chair of the Board of Trustees, followed by Col. Aram Sarafian, chairman of the Executive Council. Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Tahanian, pastor of St. Stephen's, thanked the Ladies Guild for their tireless work in the organization of the banquet and the Board of Trustees for their support to organize the Assembly, while acknowledging the presence of the delegates from different churches.

When time came to honor and acknowledge this year's Man of the Year, Hayr Hrant introduced the speakers who brought testimony from different generations about Mr. Guzelian, who has been a pillar and staunch supporter of both our church and the Prelacy for the past seven decades and whose parents, Mihran and Makrouhie, were among the founders of our church. Hayr Hrant, Charles Arslanian, Lucy Hoosian and Aram Ouligian offered words filled with admiration and praise for a man who has been a model of dedication and sacrifice for St. Stephen's. They recalled Mr. Guzelian's words that his father had expressed the common preoccupation, "Who will come after us?," but

generation after generation that worry has been overcome to this day, and his own grandchildren today are an active presence at the church.

Archbishop Anoushavan spoke highly of Mr. Guzelian as the godfather of St. Stephen's Church and praised his enormous contribution to its prosperity, as well as his continuing assistance and cooperation with the Prelacy.

Mr. Guzelian could not be present due to unforeseen circumstances, but his son Michael, a delegate to the National Representative Assembly, delivered an emotive message on his behalf.

**Reflections from speakers:**

"On behalf of the next generation of St. Stephen's Church, I thank you for your example and the trust you place in us. Your leadership is one of diplomacy, generosity, and respect for all. You listen with deep interest and desire to understand without judgment. During difficult discussions where things sometimes get heated, your passion is fueled not by personal interest or gain, but solely by a desire to achieve the best outcome for church and community."

- *Lucy Hoosian*

"If there is one refrain that I have heard over and over, it's GO ASK ASTOR. His encyclopedic memory of our church's history, its people, and community affairs is both remarkable and invaluable to anyone looking for information. Oh, and by the way, Astor is a huge Patriot and Celtic fan. So if you want to know why the Celtics lost on a given night, go ask Astor."

- *Charlie Aslanian*

"He is the Ultimate Role Model. His influence is the blueprint for your own career and life, inspiring you to balance professional ambition with unwavering family loyalty."

- *Aram Ouligian*

PRELACY NEWS

PRELACY'S MAN OF THE YEAR—ASTOR GUZELIAN (Cont.)



## PRELACY NEWS

## ST. STEPHEN'S HOSTS EASTERN PRELACY NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES ASSEMBLY



From May 28-May 31, St Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church of Greater Boston hosted clergy, delegates, and guests for the annual National Representatives Assembly (NRA) of the Eastern Prelacy. With the presence and leadership of His Eminence, Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian, Religious and Lay Councils, nearly 100 attendees examined and deliberated the past work of the Executive Council and established new initiatives for the coming year.

Before the start of the meeting of the NRA, Prelacy clergy gathered at St. Stephen's church hall for the Clergy Conference, which included special presentations and reflections.

Prior to the start of the Clergy Conference, they paid a visit to the gravesite of Rev. Archpriest Torkom Hagopian, former pastor of St. Stephen's Church. A beautiful prayer service took place where Der Torkom and Yeretzgin Zevart were remembered and honored. This visit was the start of a new tradition: to pay respects and offer prayers to deceased clergy in the city where future Assemblies gather.

The Assembly convened on Thursday with opening remarks and messages from Hayr Hrant Tahanian and John Daghlian, chair of the Board of Trustees. Later that evening, a special Divine Liturgy on the occasion of Hamparstoum took place. Der Taniel Manjikian, pastor of St. Gregory the Illuminator of Granite City, was the preacher and homilist. Our choir showcased their voices in a Gomidas Badarak - unique to our parish in the Prelacy - with the additional participation of clergy voices.

Over the course of those four days, attendees were treated to the exceptional hospitality of our parish. A special Assembly Dinner

took place on Thursday evening in our church hall, where a family style dinner was served over great fellowship. A special presentation took place to bestow the Prelacy's Man of the Year award to Mr. Astor Guzelian.

On Friday evening, we hosted a New England-style clambake on our Church grounds, thanks to our volunteer culinary team. The weather was in our favor and delegates were able to enjoy some local cuisine. In the spirit of 2025 being the Year of the Revitalization of Traditions, we took a moment to remember the ascension of Jesus Christ in a special presentation where attendees presented their personal belongings in a pot, after which each participant picked something from the pot, and a Bible verse was recited to remind them of God's continued blessings.

This has been touted as one of the best Assemblies. We have to thank the organizing team of: John Aftandilian, Armen Chakmakjian, Houry Daghlian, John Daghlian, Michael Guzelian, Sonya Hagopian, Lucy Hoosian, John Jerikian, Tamar Kanarian, Hossep Melkeshian, and Vartan Soukiassian.

Our heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation goes to our Ladies Guild. Ahead of the NRA, they worked tirelessly for months planning, baking, and cooking lunch and dinner for our guests. Their love of service and church was apparent among all attendees and we could not have done this without them.

Special thanks to our transportation team who arranged all transport services for delegates to and from the airport, hotel, and church.

PRELACY NEWS

ST. STEPHEN'S HOSTS EASTERN PRELACY  
NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES ASSEMBLY (Cont.)



## HOUSE BLESSING OF OUR SCHOOL “DENORHNEK / VARJARANORHNEK”

A special house blessing of our school was offered by the clergy of our Greater Boston community, on the steps of the ACEC in Watertown. The clergy also prayed for the protection of all schools in the United States and around the world so they can be, as intended, safe havens for the children.

A house blessing is a core tradition of our people, performed on multiple occasions, in particular after Christmas, Easter, or the building or renovating of a home. The Armenian word for house blessing is Denorhnek (Տնօրհնէք), or in this case a Varjaranorhnek (Վարժարանօրհնէք). When Hayr Hrant explained how our Varjarans are our second homes, one of our students eagerly asked, "I thought the Church was our second home?" The studious 5th grader gave everyone a laugh. Fortunately for Hayr Soorp, he came up with a quick rejoinder: "The Church is indeed our home, our eternal home."

The blessing was attended by 2nd - 5th grade students, the principals of our three schools, their respective boards, and ACEC leadership. The Watertown Police Department was also present, and we thanked and blessed them as well, as they continue to protect and serve our local communities.

Hayr Soorp also visited our preschool and kindergarten students where they engaged in short lessons and songs.

May all Armenian children around the diaspora be blessed with a Varjaran, and may all students from Armenia to all countries remain protected under God's grace.



# HOUSE BLESSING OF OUR SCHOOL (Cont.) “DENORHNEK / VARJARANORHNEK”



## ST. STEPHEN'S WELCOMES ARMENIAN STUDENTS FROM CALIFORNIA

It is always a blessing when students from Armenian Diasporan schools visit and learn from one another. This past school year, two sister schools, on their annual school sponsored trips to Boston, made sure to pass through Watertown to visit key Armenian landmarks, especially our St. Stephen's Church and Elementary School.

First, we welcomed the eighth-grade class of Holy Martyrs Ferrahian Middle and High School, located in Encino, CA. Hayr Hrant offered them a visit of the church where he shared a rich historical background on the greater Boston Armenian community, and the deep-rooted presence and contributions of Armenians in the area, highlighting the development of our church as a spiritual and cultural center for generations. He emphasized the importance of maintaining these traditions by not only attending church services regularly but also by actively participating in community events.

After visiting church, St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School (SSAES) Head of School Dr. Garine Palandjian welcomed the students and guided them on an engaging tour of the "island,"

highlighting the future site of the SSAES building and our neighboring Armenian institutions and organizations. Students were treated to an immersive afternoon, learning about the importance of staying connected to their roots by actively participating in Armenian organizations and community life.

We also welcomed seventh- and eighth-grade students from St. Gregory A. & M. Hovsepian School, located in Pasadena, CA. Accompanied by their Principal, Mr. Shahe Mankerian, Hovsepian students also had the opportunity to visit with Hayr Soorp in church, where he spoke about the history of our community and led students in a prayer.

Students were then treated to a special presentation by SSAES Principal Emerita, Houry Boyamian, about her father Karnig Panian's memoir, *Goodbye Antoura*, that is part of their 7th and 8th grade curriculum.

Wishing all of our students much success, and we look forward to reconnecting with them in the upcoming academic year.



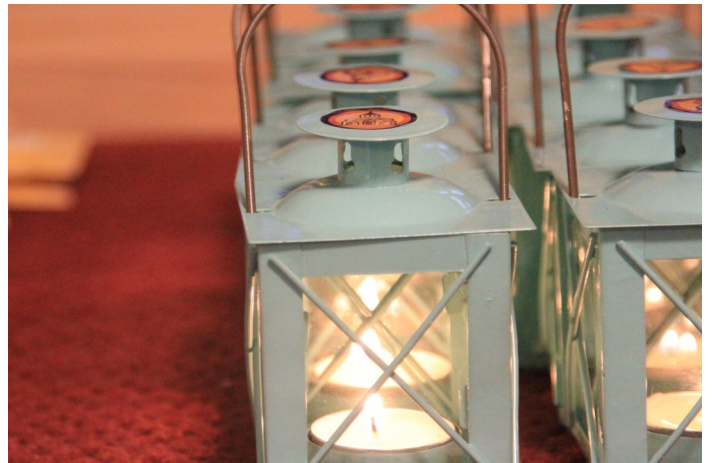
## VARTANANTS LEARNING DAY WITH OUR SCHOOLS

On the occasion of the year of the revitalization of traditions, the church opened its doors during the celebration of St. Vartanants to our students from all three schools for a special convening, so they could learn more about this moment in our history.

Hayr Soorp took our students on a historical journey back in time, and they discovered together the importance of figures like St. Vartan, reminding us of the dedication and sacrifice of the heroines and heroes of our nation. With our SSAES students, Mrs. Nayiri Baljian Bell, religion teacher and Sunday School principal, reviewed with our grades 2-5 the significance of the Battle of Avarayr in defending our faith, and the Biblical significance of the story. Our Saturday School students were engaged in the historical lesson and performed poems and songs to mark the occasion.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS  
Nayiri Baljian Bell, Principal



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

### Nayiri Baljian Bell, Principal

The Sunday School celebrated another wonderful year in 2025, helping the children of our parish grow in their faith and deepen their understanding of the Armenian Church. We are grateful to our dedicated staff who generously share their time and talents, and to our families whose commitment to Christian education makes this ministry thrive.

#### **Congratulations 2025 Graduates and Rose Krikorian Sunday School Award Winners**

The 2024–2025 Sunday School year concluded joyfully on May 18, 2025. Highlights included:

- Distribution of **eight preschool and kindergarten Bibles** and **eight Holy Bibles** to our Grade 3 class.
- Presentation of **24 good attendance awards** to students with five or fewer absences.
- Celebration of **seven graduating seniors**: Lori Avakian, John Diran Gengozian, Mark Guzelian, Haig Guzelian, Alex Kebabdjian, Zaven Kouchakdjian and Karina Smith.
- Recognition of **honorary graduates Ara and Gregory Kaladjian**, who began volunteering with Sunday School in 11th grade.

Each graduate received a book and a framed Bible verse chosen especially for them. We pray that God will bless these beloved graduates as they continue to walk faithfully with Him.

Thanks to the generous bequest of Rose Krikorian, the Sunday School established the **Rose Krikorian Sunday School Award**. Now in its fourth year, this \$1000 award honors graduating seniors who complete an application and fulfill service requirements to the church. The 2025 recipients were Lori Avakian, John Diran Gengozian, Haig Guzelian, Mark Guzelian and Karina Smith.

#### **Back to School with Many New Faces**

Our 2025-2026 school year kicked off on September 14. To date this school year, we have welcomed 14 new students and families. The Sunday School continues to grow and it's never too late to enroll your child or grandchild in Sunday School. For more information, please reach out to our Director, Nayiri Baljian Bell by email at [ststephensundayschool@gmail.com](mailto:ststephensundayschool@gmail.com).

#### **Caring for the World Around Us**

Living out St. Paul's call to "Bear one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2), our Sunday School joyfully engaged in service this year:

- Continued support of **three orphans** through the Prelacy's Orphan Sponsorship Program.
- Sponsored the **annual Lenten Food Drive**, collecting a record-breaking **1200 items and \$200** for the Watertown Food Pantry.
- Held a special collection for the **Red Cross**, raising \$150 for Hurricane Melissa relief in Jamaica and the Caribbean.
- Packed **10 shoeboxes** of toys and supplies through **Operation Christmas Child**.
- Raised funds for **Armenian Sunday School students in Lebanon**, at the request of His Eminence Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian.

#### **St. Stephen's Service and Engagement**

Once again this year, Sunday School emphasized participation in worship:

- In March, we rejoiced at the ordination and elevation of several students who began altar service through our altar rotation program.
  - ◊ **Acolytes (tbir)**: Zaven Bell, Josephine Keumeurian, Patrick Mulvey
  - ◊ **Stole bearers (ooragir)**: Avedis Bell and (graduate) Aram Stepanian
- In October, Deacon Hagop Ketechedjian led a workshop for new students interested in candle-bearing during Divine Liturgy.

Beyond worship, Sunday School hosted cherished parish traditions:

- **Christmas and Easter Communion Breakfasts** for students of our three parish schools.
- A lively **Paregentan costume party**, honoring the Armenian tradition with costumes and masks.

On a special note, our students and families supported the Church's renovation appeal by hosting a **bake and craft sale in October**, raising \$745! We extend heartfelt thanks to **8th grader Gigi Isahagian**, who donated proceeds from her beautiful handmade crafts.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS (Cont.)

## STUDENT VOICES: SUNDAY SCHOOL IS WHERE FAITH TAKES ROOT AND IDENTITY IS NURTURED



*Applicants for the Rose Krikorian Sunday School Award are asked to submit a series of small reflections on the impact of Sunday School. This year's award recipients shared heartfelt reflections on how Sunday School shaped their lives. Their words reveal a common thread: faith, identity, and service intertwined in ways that will guide them into adulthood.*

### FAITH AT THE CENTER:

“Sunday School has most importantly taught me about God...the importance of faith in the Lord, loving your neighbor, and trying to live your life the way God would want it. To me, that means staying close to God by reading the Bible and praying daily, as well as forgiving [others].” – MG

“Throughout my Sunday School journey, I constantly found myself learning new things about my faith and I was always deepening my understanding of it. Whether it was learning about God and His purpose for us, learning how to read and analyze the Bible, or finding out how to live my life according to my faith, I always felt like I was gaining from being at Sunday School.” – HG

### ARMENIAN CHRISTIAN IDENTITY:

“My participation in the Armenian Church has helped to shape my identity both religiously and culturally. I have learned the importance of Christianity and following my faith in the context of my Armenian background.” – LA

“I love everything about being Armenian, from the food, culture, and people to the rich and vast history. I have made many lifelong bonds and friendships in the Armenian community. Being Armenian has been a blessing for me. However, I believe Christianity, rooted in my Armenian heritage, has played the most important role in shaping my life.” – JDG

### SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP:

“One of the biggest takeaways has been understanding the meaning of servant leadership. Watching my Sunday School teachers care for every student and seeing our pastor, the acolytes, and choir give their time and energy taught me that being a leader means being someone who serves others with humility.” – KS

“In general, being a positive role model is so important to me, but being a positive role model for my young Sunday School students has been truly an honor. I am so mindful of the impact I can play in the children’s lives even if they just spend two hours a week with me.” – LA

### LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO THE ARMENIAN CHURCH:

“After I graduate college, hopefully, I can come back to Boston and stay involved at St. Stephen's possibly as a deacon, trustee, or even treasurer, applying my economics and business education. If I end up elsewhere, I will make sure to find my place in the nearest Armenian church. I'm committed to being a lifelong member of the Armenian Church, regularly attending services and helping the community however I can.” – JDG

“St. Stephen's Sunday School has been one of the most consistent and formative experiences in my life. It's where I learned how to live out my faith—not just through prayer or tradition, but through action and attitude. Even as I move into this new stage of life, my commitment to the Armenian Church will never end. I want to stay involved in the church community that has shaped me, both as a person and as a Christian.” –KS



# ST. STEPHEN'S SATURDAY SCHOOL PHOTOS





### ST. STEPHEN'S SATURDAY SCHOOL PHOTOS (Cont.)





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**ԼՈՒՐԵՐ Ա. ՍՏԵՓԱՆՈՍ ՇԱԲԱԹՕՐԵԱՅ ՀԱՅ ԴՊՐՈՅԷՆ**  
**Յունուար - Դեկտեմբեր, 2025**  
**Մայրա Մնկրոննան՝ Տնօրէնուհի**

Դպրոցի 88-րդ տարեշրջանի (2024-2025) վերամուտի օրն էր Սեպտեմբեր 7, 2024: Տարեշրջանը իր աւարտին հասաւ Յունիս 14, 2025-ին ամավերջի հանդէսով եւ 12րդ դասարանի շրջանաւարտներու վկայականներու բաշխումով: Դպրոցի աշակերտութեան թիւն էր 95: Դպրոցը հոգաց 6 սաներու տարեթոշակը:

Ինչպէս գիտէք, ԱՄՆի Արեւելեան ափին միակ դպրոցն է, որ ունի Մանկամտուրէն Տասներկրորդ դասարան: Ունինք նաեւ առցանց դասաժամ եւ յատուկ խօսակցութեան դասարան անգլիախօս աշակերտներուն համար:

Դպրոցի ժամերն են Շաբաթ առաւօտեան 9:30–12:30 կ.է.:

Այս տարեշրջանին տասնըմէկերորդ եւ տասներկրորդ դասարաններու աշակերտները Ազգային Ուսումնական Խորհուրդի՝ Միամանթօ Լսարանի միջոցաւ արձանագրուեցան Հայ Համացանցային Համալսարան, Երեւան, Հայաստան: Հեռավար տեսակապի միջոցաւ ընթացող դասընթացքը մեկնարկեց Սեպտեմբեր 6, 2025-ին:

Դպրոցի դասընթացքը կ'ընդգրկէ հայերէն, գրականութիւն, հայոց պատմութիւն, հայ երգն ու պարը: Կ'օգտագործենք նոր եւ արդի դասագրքեր եւ աշխատանքային տետրակներ:

Մրտի մեծ գոհունակութեամբ կ'ըսեմ որ Տնօրէնուհիին պատրաստած դպրոցի <Շողեր> տարեգիրքի Ա. թիւը լոյս տեսած էր 22 տարիներ առաջ, 2002– 2003 տարեշրջանին եւ մինչեւ օրս լոյս կը տեսնէ եւ հանդէսի օրը կը բաժնուի բոլորին:

Միջնակարգի եւ երկրորդականի կարգ մը աշակերտներ եկեղեցական եւ ազգային տօներու առթիւ կը մասնակցին եկեղեցական արարողութիւններու:

Այս տարեշրջանին շարունակեցինք յատուկ ծրագիրը Մանկապարտեզի եւ Մանկամտուրի երեխաներուն առաջին պահուան համար, որ կը վարէ Տիկ. Թէնի Արելեան Հաճար: Գլխաւոր միտքը Խաղի հաճոյքի ճամբով լեզուին դռները պարզել երեխաներուն մօտ: Բացայայտօրէն <Սորվիլ>ը իրար հետ խնդալով, երգելով, վազելով եւ բաժնելով կ'ընթանայ:

Իսկ մեր ուսուցիչներէն երեք տիկիներն՝ Նայիրի Մանճիկեան, Երան Մանճիկեան եւ Միլվա Կոտիկեան շարունակեցին իրենց մասնակցութիւնը Ազգային Ուսումնական Խորհուրդի նախաձեռնութեամբ ուսուցիչներու վերաորակաւորման մանկավարժական առցանց ծրագրին, որուն նպատակն է զանազան մասնագէտներու ուղեկցութեամբ վերապատրաստել ուսուցիչները:

Կիսամեայ քննութիւններ տեղի ունեցան Յունուար 25-ին եւ ամավերջի քննութիւնները Մայիս 17/24, 2025-ին: Ծնողական հանդիպում տեղի ունեցաւ Փետրուար 8-ին կիսամեայ քննութենէն ետք, քննարկելու աշակերտներուն վարքն ու բարքը, ուսումնական վիճակը եւ բարելաման միջոցները:

Մարտ 1-ին, Սրբոց Վարդանանց Տօնին առթիւ, դասաւանդութիւնները դադարեցան ժամը 11:45ին, ապա ուղուեցանք դէպի Սբ. Ստեփանոս եկեղեցի, ուր մանկամտուրէն տասներորդ դասարաններու աշակերտները օրուան պատշաճ կարճ յայտագիր մը ներկայացուցին, ապա Գեր. Տ. Հրանդ Ծ. Վրդ. Թահանեան խօսեցաւ Վարդանանց Պատերազմի մասին:

Ինչպէս ամէն տարի, այս տարի եւս դպրոցը իր մասնակցութիւնը բերաւ եկեղեցական արարողութիւններուն: Ճրագալոյցի եւ Խթման երեկոներուն (Յունուար 5 եւ Ապրիլ 19) Սուրբ Գիրքէն ընթերցումներ կատարեցին ընտրուած խումբ մը աշակերտ-աշակերտուհիներ: Մեծ Պահքի շրջանին Մարտ 5 – Ապրիլ 9, Չորեքշաբթի երեկոները հսկումի արարողութիւններուն դարձեալ մասնակցեցան զանազան դասարաններէ ընտրուած խումբ մը աշակերտներ:

Ծաղկազարդի նախօրեային, Շաբաթ Ապրիլ 12-ին, աշակերտները սորվեցան արմաւենիի ճիւղերով խաչ պատրաստել:

Հինգշաբթի Ապրիլ 17, 2025-ին Ունլուայի արարողութեան մեր դպրոցէն իրենց մասնակցութիւնը բերին չորս մանչեր:

Սուրբ Ծննդեան եւ Սուրբ Յարութեան տօներուն առթիւ Յունուար 4-ի, ինչպէս նաեւ Ապրիլ 19-ի Շաբաթ առաւօտները, ուսուցչական կազմը եւ աշակերտները Սուրբ հաղորդութիւն ստացան, ապա ներկայ գտնուեցան նախաճաշի հիւրասիրութեան, պատրաստուած կիրակնօրեայ վարժարանի անձնակազմին կողմէ: Կը գնահատենք եւ շնորհակալութիւն կը յայտնենք իրենց:

Ապրիլ ամսուան ընթացքին վեցերորդ, եօթներորդ եւ ութերորդ դասարաններու կարգ մը աշակերտներ մասնակցեցան Հայ Օգնութեան Միութեան Արեւելեան ԱՄՆ-ի Շրջանային Վարչութեան կազմակերպած շարադրութեան մրցումին: Հետեւեալ աշակերտները մասնակցեցան եւ նկատի ունենալով որ ՀՕՄի 115-ամեակն է, ՀՕՄի Շրջանային վարչութեան որոշումով բոլոր մասնակցողները գնահատականներ ստացան: 6րդ Դասարանէն - Հայերէն - Յովհաննէս Պալճեան, Անգլերէն - Յուլեր Սէրայտարեան, Հրակ Թոգաճեան, Նարեկ Տուրէնճեան, Գաթալիսա Մալիպեան եւ Փաթրիք Մալվի: 7րդ Դասարանէն - Հայերէն - Շանթ Ունճեան-Ֆարրէլլ, Վանա Գոճանեան, Մարիա Իլիատիս եւ Ռեմի Հաճար: Անգլերէն-Սարին Սէրայտարեան: 8րդ Դասարանէն- Հայերէն-Լիաննա Իսկէնտէրեան եւ Նշան Պալճեան:

Ուրբաթ Ապրիլ 25, 2025-ի առաւօտեան, Նահանգապետարանին մէջ Հայոց Ցեղասպանութեան ոգեկոչման հանդիսութեան, խումբ մը աշակերտ-աշակերտուհիներ Սբ. Ստեփանոս Ամենօրեայ եւ Էրեբունի շաբաթօրեայ վարժարաններու աշակերտներուն հետ, մասնակցեցան սոյն հանդիսութեան երգելով Ամերիկայի եւ Հայաստանի Օրհներգները:



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Ք Ր Գ Գ Ե Ե

**ԼՈՒՐԵՐ Ա. ՍՏԵՓԱՆՈՍ ՇԱԲԱԹՕՐԵԱՅ ՀԱՅ ԴՊՐՈՅԷՆ**  
**Յունուար - Դեկտեմբեր, 2025**  
**Մայտա Մելքոնեան՝ Տնօրէնուհի**

Շաբաթ Ապրիլ 26-ին Հայոց պատմութեան պահը նուիրուած էր Հայոց Յեղասպանութեան զոհերու յիշատակին:

Շաբաթ Մայիս 31-ին նշեցինք Հայաստանի Առաջին անկախութեան 107 – ամեակը:

Տարուան ընթացքին աշակերտներուն մօտ հայ գիրքի հանդէպ իրենց հետաքրքրութիւնն ու սէրը ամրապնդելու միտումով, հրաւիրած էինք մանկական գիրքերու հեղինակներ՝ Անի Նալպանտեան, Մեղրիկ ՏէրՎարդանեան, Թալին Պատրիկեան, ինչպէս նաեւ Նայիրի Մկրտիչեան:

Մայիս 24-ին, ընդունեցինք Արցախահայ Նինա Շահվերտեան, որ սահիկներու ցուցադրութեամբ խօսեցաւ Արցախի շրջապատման, Արցախահայութեան բռնի տեղահանման եւ Արցախի շրջապատման օրերուն Արցախահայերու դիմագրաւած ծանր պայմաններուն եւ անոնց դիմադրողական ոգիին մասին:

**Ամավերջի Հանդէս եւ Մրցանակներ**

Յունիս 14-ին երեկոյեան տեղի ունեցաւ դպրոցի ամավերջի հանդէսը. ներկայ էին Տէր Արտակ Ծ. Վարդապետ Արապեան, Տէր Անդրանիկ Աւագ Քնյ. Պալճեան եւ Տէր Ստեփան Պալճեան:

Հանդէսին անգամ մը եւս աշակերտները երգեցին դպրոցի Հիմնը, խօսք՝ Մայտա Մելքոնեանի եւ երաժշտութիւն՝ Մարինէ Մարգարեանի:

11-րդ դասարանի աշակերտները ստացան հաստատագիր մասնակցութեան՝ Ազգային Ուսումնական Խորհուրդի Սիամանթօ Լսարանի, Մբ. Ստեփանոս Շաբաթօրեայ Հայ Դպրոցի, համագործակցութեամբ, Հայ Համացանցային Համալսարանի Սեպտեմբեր 2024 – Մայիս 2025 դասընթացքին, հետեւելով հայոց լեզուի, երաժշտութեան, արուեստի, ճարտարապետութեան եւ պատմութեան նիւթերուն:

Հայոց Յեղասպանութեան 110-ամեակի առթիւ հանդէսը նուիրուած էր Կոմիտաս վարդապետին:

Այս տարուան Տասներկրորդ դասարանի մեր շրջանաւարտներն են Զաւէն Քուչաքճեան եւ Կրէկրի Փափագեան:

**Մրցանակներ**

**Իւրաքանչիւր շրջանաւարտ դպրոցի վկայականին կողքին ստացաւ հետեւեալները,-**

Սիամանթօ Լսարանի վկայական եւ նշանակը:  
Հայ Համացանցային Համալսարանի դասընթացքներուն հետեւելու հաստատագիր: Խնամակալ Մարմինի կողմէ Աւետարան:

Ազգային Ուսումնական Խորհուրդի կողմէ <Արցախը Մերն է> գիրքը եւ անոր ընկերակցող յատուկ խաղը:

ՀՕՄի Ամերիկայի Արեւելեան Շրջանի Շրջանային վարչութեան կողմէ <Արցախ>ի յատուկ որմնագոյ մը:

Հայր Հրանդ Ծ. Վարդապետ Թահանեանի կողմէ <Կիպրիանոս> աղօթագիրքը :

Շրջանաւարտ Զաւէն Քուչաքճեան ստացաւ- Մբ. Ստեփանոս Շաբաթօրեայ, Ռօզ Գրիգորեան Կրթա- նպաստը՝ \$500.00 (հինգ հարիւր տոլար):

Շրջանաւարտ Կրէկրի Փափագեան ստացաւ- ՀՕՄ-ի Լեօլա Սասունի եւ Շուշի մասնաճիւղերու տրա- մադրած կրթանպաստը՝ \$500.00 (հինգ հարիւր տոլար):

Ինչպէս նաեւ Խնամակալ Մարմնի կողմէ Տիկ. Յասմիկ Մարտիրոս ծաղկեփունջով մը գնահատեց տնօրէնուհին իր տարած աշխատանքին համար:

Հանդէսէն ետք, ծնողական յանձնախումբի կազմակերպ- ութեամբ, հիւրասիրութիւն պատրաստուած էր ի պատիւ շրջանաւարտներուն եւ Ուսուցչական Կազմին: Ներկայ գտնուեցան Հոգեւոր Հայրերը, ինչպէս նաեւ մարմնի եւ ծնողական յանձնախումբի անդամները, ուսուցչական կազմը եւ շրջանաւարտներուն ծնողները: Բարձր կը գնահատենք տարուած աշխատանքը:

**Ձեռնարկներ ի նպաստ դպրոցին**

Կիրակի Յունուար 26-ին տեղի ունեցաւ դպրոցի տարեկան ճաշկերոյթը եկեղեցւոյ ներքնասրահին մէջ: Գեղարուեստ- ական յայտագրին մասնակցեցան դպրոցի աշակերտները ներկայացնելով քանի մը խմբային երգեր: Ապա կարգ մը աշակերտներ անհատաբար, գեղեցիկ կերպով ներկայա- ցուցին իրենց տաղանդները, ստեղծելով հաճելի մթնոլորտ մը: Օրուան յայտագիրը ճիշտացուց երգիչ պրն. Մարտո Գեորգեանը գեղեցիկ երգերով :

Մայրերու տօնին առթիւ Ծնողական Յանձնախումբը կազմակերպած էր վիճակահանութիւն, պատրաստելով արժեքաւոր նուէրներ: Շաբաթ Մայիս 10-ին, առաւօտեան աղօթքէն ետք երեք աշակերտներ կատարեցին վիճակա- հանութիւնը:

**ՎԵՐԱՄՈՒՏ 2025-2026**

Մբ. Ստեփանոս Շաբաթօրեայ Հայ Դպրոցի 89րդ տարեշրջանի (2025-2026) վերամուտի օրն էր Շաբաթ, Սեպտեմբեր 6, 2025: Ներկայիս Դպրոցի աշակերտութեան թիւն է 94:

Վերամուտի առաւօտեան Տէր Ստեփան Քնյ. Պալճեան ներկայ էր եւ իր օրհնութիւնն ու բարեմաղթանքները փոխանցեց բոլորիս: Իսկ արձակման պահուն Գերա- պատիւ Տէր Հրանդ Ծ. Վարդապետ Թահանեան խօսեցաւ աշակերտներուն, յաջող տարի մը մաղթեց եւ աղօթքով փակեցինք դպրոցի վերամուտի օրը:

Տասներկրորդ եւ տասներկրորդ դասարաններու աշա- կերտները Ազգային Ուսումնական Խորհուրդի՝ Սիամանթօ Լսարանի վարիչ տնօրէնին միջոցաւ Արձանագրուեցան





**ST. STEPHEN'S SATURDAY SCHOOL**  
**January - December, 2025**  
**Mayda Melkonian, Principal**

St. Stephen's Armenian Saturday School resumed its 88<sup>th</sup> academic year on Sept. 7, 2024, with the enrollment of 95 students. A year-end graduation ceremony on June 8, 2025 marked the conclusion of this academic year. The school sponsored 6 students, whose parents were not able to pay their tuition.

It's worth mentioning that St. Stephen's Armenian Saturday School is the only one on the east coast that has classes from nursery to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. We offer Zoom class as well as special class for conversation.

The school hours are 9:30 am – 12:30 pm . We registered 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students with AVC (Armenian Virtual College) based in Armenia through ANEC's Siamanto Auditory. Classes started Sept. 16, 2024 virtually and were held every Saturday from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm.

Saturday School curriculum consists of Armenian language, history, as well as Armenian songs and dances. The students learn their forefathers' language, history, culture and traditions through newly published textbooks and workbooks.

It is the 22<sup>nd</sup> year that the “*SHOGHER*”, a year book, prepared by the principal, is published and distributed to the students the day of the *Hantes*.

Middle and high school students, during religious feasts, are always prepared to participate in various church ceremonies.

This academic year we continued the special program for the kindergarten and nursery students, implemented by Mrs. Teni Apelian Hajjar. The core idea behind the child-centered creative play is that play leads to joy and joy leads to expression. Saturday morning curriculum for these classes begins with this idea in mind. Folk songs and rituals, which connect us to our ancient and beautiful past, are at the center of our games. Explicit “teaching” is replaced by experiencing together, laughing, singing, running and sharing, which places words and their meaning much further into the self.

Three teachers, Nayiri Manjikian, Yeran Manjikian and Silva Kotikian, participated in “Teachers' Training” Seminars held throughout the year (almost 50 hours) virtually. This program is conducted by ANEC.

The midterm and final exams were administered on January 25 and May 17/24, 2025. The midterm exams were followed by a parent-teacher conference, which was held on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

The month of February is usually the time during which we commemorate St. Vartanants. This year on Saturday March 1, 2025, we went to St. Stephen's Church, where Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Tahanian greeted the students and spoke to them about St. Vartanants. Nursery through 10<sup>th</sup> grade students presented songs and recitations dedicated to St. Vartanants.

On January 5, Armenian Christmas Eve, and April 19, Easter Eve, selected group of students from different grades contributed to the church services by reading from the Holy Bible.

On Wednesdays during Lent, a group of students participated in the evening services at St. Stephen's church. They read “In faith I confess” and sang “Nayatz Seerov.”

For Palm Sunday, on April 12, the students learned how to make a cross with palm branches.

On Thursday April 17, four students participated in the “Washing of The Feet” ceremony.

On Saturday January 4 and April 19, our students and the teaching staff, along with St. Stephen's Elementary and Sunday School students, received Holy Communion at the church. After the services breakfast was served in the church hall by Sunday School. Please accept our heartfelt thanks.

On Friday April 25, 2025 a group of students from SSAES, Saturday School, and Erebound Saturday School attended the Armenian Genocide Commemoration held at The State House, where they participated in the program by singing the American and the Armenian national anthems.

During April, our students from grades 6, 7 and 8 participated in the essay contest organized by ARS Eastern USA Regional Board. On the occasion of ARS' 115th Anniversary of its establishment, the ARS EUSA Board decided to award all who participated.



**ST. STEPHEN'S SATURDAY SCHOOL**  
**January - December, 2025**  
**Mayda Melkonian, Principal**

The following students participated:

**Grade 6**

Armenian—Hovannes Baljian

English—Tsoler Seradarian, Hrag Tokajian, Nareg Dukendjian, Catalina Salibiab and Patrick Malvi.

**Grade 7**

Armenian - Shanj Ounjian Farrell, Vana Kojanian, Maria Iliadis, and Remy Hajjar.

English – Sarine Seradarian.

**Grade 8**

Armenian – Lianna Iskenderian and Nishan Baljian.

Saturday April 26, the history hour was dedicated to the Armenian Genocide.

Saturday May 31, we marked the 107<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence of the First Republic of Armenia.

To strengthen the students' interest and love for Armenian books, we invited children's books authors, who presented their books and did art work with them.

On May 24, Nina Shahvertyan from Artsakh visited the school and talked to students in grades 6 through 10. She presented a slide show about the life of Artsakh Armenians during the blockade, their strong will, and the forced displacement of the Armenians of Artsakh.

**2024 -2025 Year End Graduation Exercises and Awards**

The year-end graduation ceremony was held on June 14, 2025, at ACEC. Very Rev. Fr. Ardag Arabian, Rev. Archpriest Antranig Baljian and Fr. Stepan Baljian were present.

After delivering the welcoming remarks, the principal invited the students to sing our national anthem, “Mer Hairenik,” followed by, for the first time, the school anthem, words by Mayda Melkonian and music by Marine Marcarian .

The principal then invited 11<sup>th</sup> grade students to receive their AVC Course Completion Certificate.

The graduates delivered their remarks, thanking the principal and the teachers for all their dedication and hard work.

Our 12th grade graduates this academic year were Gregory Papazian and Zaven Kouchakdjian. We extend our congratulations and best wishes to the graduates and their families.

**Awards**

In addition to the school diploma, the following awards were presented at the graduation to each graduate from:

Siamanto Auditory: Diploma and the badge.

AVC: Certificate of course completion.

The school Board: “The New Testament.”

On behalf of Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Tahanian, Very Rev. Fr. Ardag Arabian presented the book “Gibrianos.”

ANEC: the book “Artsakh Is Ours” and the corresponding puzzle.

ARS EUSA Regional Board: Artsakh poster

Zaven Kouchakdjian was awarded St. Stephen's Saturday School “Rose Krikorian Scholarship Fund:” \$500.00 Scholarship.

Gregory Papazian was awarded ARS Leola Sassouni and Shushi Chapters \$ 500.00 scholarship.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Hasmig Mardiros presented a beautiful bouquet of flowers to the principal.

After the program was over a reception was hosted by our Parents' Committee members.

**Fundraising Events**

On Sunday January 26, the annual Luncheon and Talent Show was held in the Church Hall. Some of our talented students danced, sang, and others played piano and violin, and clarinet. We enjoyed beautiful songs presented by our students. The event was very successful and the talent show was highly praised by all present.

The Parents' Committee also planned on having a Mother's Day raffle as a fund raising event. The raffle drawing was held on Saturday May 10, after morning assembly.

We thank the Parents' Committee members, who, along with the School Board members, worked very hard for the success of these fundraising events. We extend special thanks to all our supporters.

**Start of the Academic Year 2025-2026**

St. Stephen's Armenian Saturday School resumed its 89<sup>th</sup> Academic Year (2025-2026) on Saturday Sept.6, 2025 with the enrollment of 94 students.

At the morning assembly, Rev. Fr. Stepan Baljian welcomed the students and wished them a successful year. At dismissal we assembled in the hallway, where Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Tahanian addressed the students, wishing them a successful and productive year and gave his blessing to all.



**ST. STEPHEN'S SATURDAY SCHOOL**  
**January - December, 2025**  
**Mayda Melkonian, Principal**

11th and 12th grade registration was held late August. We then registered them with AVC (Armenian Virtual College) based in Armenia through ANEC Siamanto Auditory. Classes started September 6, 2025 virtually. It is held every Saturday from 10:30am - 12:30pm.

The school's Board consists of church and ARS representatives:

Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Tahanian	President
Mrs. Hasmig Mardiros	Chair
Ms. Mary Arabian	Treasurer
Mrs. Lisa Setrakian	Secretary
Mrs. Tamar Berejikian	Advisor
Mrs. Heghig Margossian	Advisor
Mr. Hovsep Melkeshian	Advisor
Mrs. Angelique Ourfalian	Church Representative

**2024 - 2025 Saturday School Staff**

Mrs. Mayda Melkonian	Principal
Mrs. Norma Damirjian	2nd grade
Siamanto Auditory teachers	11th & 12th grades
Mrs. Ani Keledjian	1st grade
Mr. Sarkis Karageozian	9th & 10th grades
Mrs. Nayiri Manjikian	Kindergarten
Mrs. Elizabeth Aghpalian	8th grade
Mrs. Aline Sarkisian	Nursery
Mrs. Yeran Manjikian	7th grade
Mrs. Azadouhi Dukenjian	Music
Mrs. Matilda Davoudian	6th grade
Mrs. Adriana Donoyan	Conversation Class
Mrs. Siran Tamakian	5th grade
Ms. Ojeny Kavlakian	Zoom Class
Ms. Narine Abrimian	3rd & 4th grades
Mrs. Teni Hajjar	Volunteer (N&KG)
Ms. Vartine Kechedjian	3rd & 4th T.Aide

Substitute teachers are Mrs. Vera Iskenderian, Mrs. Nartouhi Abrimian, Mrs. Silva Kotikian, and Ms. Vana Keledjian.

On September 20, students in grades 6 through 10 along with their teachers visited NAASR, where they enjoyed a special program prepared for them. After that they toured the building and the library.

BACK TO SCHOOL, Sunday Sept. 21 — Khatchverats, independence and picnic: students, families and faculty of St.

Stephen's Elementary, Saturday, and Sunday schools enjoyed an amazing day of prayer, food and fun on September 21, 2025.

After the Badarak, the Boards of the schools and church hosted an exciting afternoon on Artsakh Street and church grounds with lunch and activities. We thank our dedicated leadership and volunteers who helped make this new annual tradition a reality. Looking forward to more fun and fellowship next year!

October is the month when Armenians celebrate the Armenian culture and the invention of the alphabet. The students learned about Mesrob Mashdots, the founder of the alphabet, the translators and much more.

On October 25 in the presence of some of our parents, we gathered in the hall where Nursery through 10th grade students presented poems and songs giving tribute to the founder of the alphabet, the holy translators, and The Golden Age. Some classes also presented their art works as well.

Students learned Christmas poems and songs in preparation for the Christmas Party, held on Saturday Dec. 20, 2025.

On January 4, 2025, students received Holy Communion. As in previous years, on January 5, 2025, a select group of students read from the bible at the church Christmas Eve service.

We deeply appreciate the teachers and the students for their work and effort.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and heartfelt thanks to Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Tahanian, Rev. Fr. Antranig Baljian, the church Board of Trustees, school Board members, ANEC, the Armenian Relief Society, the A.C.E.C. Board, the Parents' Committee, Sunday School, our wonderful and dedicated teachers, and every individual and organization that supports and contributes to the success of the school.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our generous donors:

Armenian Relief Society Leola Sassouni Chapter	\$1,500
Armenian Relief Society Shushi Chapter	\$1,000
Mrs. Margrit Atinizian	\$1,000
Paul Bedrosian	\$500
Ketchedjian Family	\$500
Bedrossian Family	\$200
Mr. Ruben Ghazaryants	\$100



# ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PHOTOS



Faculty and Staff



Mother's Day



5th grade students in Armenia



Honoring Digin Tirouhi Bazarbashian (far right)



5th grade students in Armenia



Trunk & Treat - PTO



# ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PHOTOS (Cont.)





# Ս. ՄՏԵՓԱՆՈՍ ԱԶԳԱՅԻՆ ՎԱՐՄԱՐԱՆ Յունուար - Դեկտեմբեր, 2025 Կարինե Փայանճեան՝ Տնօրէնուհի

Մք. Ստեփանոս Ազգ. Վարժարանը յաջողութեամբ ամբողջացուց իր 40-րդ տարեշրջանը, շնորհիւ իր կարող եւ նուիրուած ուսուցիչներուն, հոգաձու խնամակալութեան, անխոնջ ծնողական մարմնին եւ յանձնառու ծնողներու: Դպրոցը ոչ միայն կը ծառայէ իբրեւ ուսումնական հաստատութիւն, այլ նաեւ իբրեւ մշակութային եւ հոգեւոր կեդրոն շրջանի հայութեան համար:

### Ուսումնական Հանգրուաններ

Յունիս 12-ին եւ 13-ին տեղի ունեցան Մանկապարտէզի եւ Նախակրթարանի Աւարտական Հանդէսները նուիրուած՝ Մեր Աւանդութիւններու Վերակենդանացման:

Մանկապարտէզի Շրջանաւարտներն են. - Աբելեան Ալեք, Պապ Միքայէլեան Շանթ, Տէրեան Անուշ, Էթիէմէզեան Արեգ, Ղազարեանց Լուսինէ, Կրահամ Տաթև, Յակոբեան Լեւոն, Քեպապճեան Լիօ, Խրլոբեան Անժելին, Գրիգորեան Նարթալի, Մարտիրոսեան Դալար, Մելիքեան Հենրի, Մելքոնեան Անահիտ, Ներսէսեան Թալին, Ներկարեան Լիլի, Նիուբեան Պելամի, Նթասիոս Սթեֆանիա, Օհաննէսեան Վինսընթ, Թումարսի Կարօ:

Նախակրթարանի Շրջանաւարտներն են. - Ճուլիան Գարպունարի, Վիգէն Կարապետեան, Լոկըն Քեպապճեան, Նարթալի Խալարեան, Նարա Մելքոնեան, Սոֆիա Մանճիկեան, Արի Նարկիզեան, Բաֆֆի Բանեան, Սամսոն Սաիտ, Թինօ Թամպուրիին:

### Ուսումնական Ծրագիրը Ճոխացնող ձեռնարկներ

Սկսելով Ղաբամա շինելէն մինչեւ Սարտարապատ հասնիլը, մեր աշակերտները սուգուած են հարուստ ուսումնական միջավայրի մը մէջ, ուր հայ մշակոյթը ներկայութիւն է եւ ոչ թէ անցեալին պատկանող բան մը: Այսպէս տարուան ընթացքին, իրար կը յաջորդեն Մայրերու Տօնը, Հայ Մաշկոյթի Տօնակատարութիւնը եւ այլ ձեռնարկներ:

-Ապրիլ ամսուն, Երկար տարիներու նախկին Տնօրէնուհի՝ Տիկին Հուրի Պոյամեան Իր հօրը Անթուրայի Որբանոցի Յուշերը ներկայացուց Ե. Կարգի աշակերտներուն:

-Ապրիլին, մեր աշակերտները մասնակցեցան Մասաչուսեցի Նահանգային Տան մէջ, Յեղասպանութեան 110-րդ Տարեդարձի Ոգեկոչման, երգելով զոյգ քայլերգները:

Նոյն ամսուն, Գ., Դ. եւ Ե. Կարգերու աշակերտները, այցելեցին Հայկական Ժառանգութեան Պարտէզը, Պոսթընի մէջ: Անոնք նաեւ ներկայ եղան Արշիլ Կորքիի Ուաթըրթաուն գալուն Հարիւրամեակի Յուցահանդէսին, Սովսէսեան Գեղարուեստի Կեդրոնին մէջ, Ուաթըրթաուն:

-Մայիսին, Հայաստանի Կիներու Լա Քրոս Խումբը մեր դպրոցը այցելեց եւ մեր աշակերտներուն սորվեցուց այս խաղը:

-Իսկ Հոկտեմբերին, Հայաստանէն պատանի երաժիշտներ ելոյթ ունեցան մեր աշակերտներուն համար, որուն յաջորդեց հարց ու պատասխան:

-Հոկտեմբերին նաեւ, մեր 2008-ի շրջանաւարտներէն Մեղրի Տէր Վարդանեան Քարաճլեան իր գիրքերը կարդաց մանկապարտէզէն մինչեւ Բ. Կարգի աշակերտներուն:

### Վերամուտ – 2005-2026 Տարեշրջան

Ամառուայ ընթացքին կարեւոր նորոգութիւններ կատարուեցան Հայ Մշակութային եւ Կրթական Կեդրոնին մէջ, շէնքիմուտքը օժտելով նոր դուռերով, նոր աստիճաններով եւ անվտանգութեան համակարգով: Ոչ միայն դասարանները ներկուեցան, այլ նաեւ դպրոցը օրհնուեցաւ Վարժարանի օրհնէքով:

Խնամակալութեան ատենապետ՝ Պրն. Մայքըլ Կիզէլեան, յայտնեց, որ իւրաքանչիւր վերամուտ նոր էջ մը կը բանայ աշակերտներու կեանքին մէջ: Մեր պարտականութիւնն է, իբրեւ ուսուցիչ, ծնողք եւ համայնք նպաստելու աշակերտներուն, որ յայտնաբերեն իրենց լման կարողականութիւնը:

Բացման օրը, խօսք առին ոչ միայն դպրոցի ղեկավարներըն եւ համայնքի անդամները, այլ նաեւ շրջանաւարտներէն Նարեկ Ստեփանեանը (2012), որ ընդգծեց Հայ Դպրոցի կաւետր դերը համայնքի կեանքէն ներս:

Այս տարի իմաստալից նոր սովորութիւն մը որդեգրուեցաւ: Իւրաքանչիւր Ա. Դասարանի աշակերտ ծաղիկ մը եւ քաջալերանքի խօսքեր ստացաւ Ե. Դասարանի աշակերտէ մը, այս տարի Սամուէլ Պարսումեանէն:

Վերամուտին վերսկսաւ նաեւ Երաժշտութիւն եւ Շարժում 18 ամսու մինչեւ 2 տարեկան 9 ամսու փոքրերու ծրագիրը Տիկին Մարօ Առաքելեանի ղեկավարութեամբ:

### Ծնողա-Ուսուցչական Մարմին

Ծնողա-Ուսուցչական Մարմինը գլխաւորութեամբ Դոկտ. Քրիսթինա Մարտիրոսիան, կազմակերպեց զանազան ձեռնարկներ, ինչպէս Գոհաբանութեան Աւանդական Ճաշը, Պարենահաւաք, Ծննդեան Խրախճանք, Շարժապատկերի Երեկոյ, Ամառնային Պարահանդէս, Գիրքերու Վաճառք, որոնք բոլորն ալ նպաստեցին, որ դպրոցի համայնքը զօրանայ եւ նաեւ ամուր կապեր հաստատէ տեղւոյն գաղութին հետ:



# Ս. ՍՏԵՓԱՆՈՍ ԱԶԳԱՅԻՆ ՎԱՐՄԱՐԱՆ Յունուար - Դեկտեմբեր, 2025 Կարինէ Փայանճեան՝ Տնօրէնուհի

## Շրջանաւարտներ

Կարգ մը ձեռնարկներ կազմակերպուեցան, Դպրոցի Շրջանաւարտից Միութեան հիմը դնելու նպատակով: Այս ձեռնարկները առիթը ստեղծեցին աւելի մօտիկ կապեր հաստատելու շրջանաւարտներու միջեւ:

Այս տարի ուրախ ենք յայտնելու, որ 19 շրջանաւարտներ, որոնք կը ներկայացնեն դպրոցի ծնողներու (16,5 %), արձանագրած են իրենց 23 զուակները, որոնք կը ներկայացնեն մեր աշակերտութեան (15,3 %):

-Յունիսին, տեղի ունեցաւ Շրջանաւարտներու Առաջին Հանդիպումը, կազմակերպութեամբ Դպրոցի Խնամակալութեան փոխատենապետ եւ երկու շրջանաւարտներու ծնողք՝ Թալին Քէպաճեանի, որ իր տան մէջ Նախաճաշի հրաւիրեց շրջանաւարտները, զիրենք իրարու մօտ բերելով:

-Օգոստոսին, տեղի ունեցաւ Շրջանաւարտներու Երեկոյ մը, Հայ Կեդրոնի բակին մէջ, Անուշ Ըլլայի ընթրիքի ժամանակ, որու ընթացքին շրջանաւարտներուն իր պատգամը տուաւ մեր Եկեղեցւոյ Հովիւ, Գերապատիւ Ծայրագոյն Վարդապետ Հայր Հրանդ Թահանեան:

-Օգոստոսի վերջաւորութեան, մեծ թիւով խանդավառ

Շրջանաւարտներ մասնակցեցան Դպրոցի ի նպաստ կազմակերպուած Տարեկան Կօլֆի Մրցոյթին:

-Նոյեմբերին, խումբ մը շրջանաւարտներ, որոնք մաս կը կազմեն Հայ Երիտասարդական Միութեան Նժդէհ մասնաճիւղին, Գոհաբանութեան շաբաթավերջին Ընտանեկան Ձեռնարկ մը կազմակերպեցին ի նպաստ մեր դպրոցին:

-Դեկտեմբերին, մեր շրջանաւարտներէն՝ Սօնիա Ուրֆալեան (2011) խօսք առաւ մեր Ծննդեան Համերգին:

-Շրջանաւարտները իրենց առաջին ժողովը ունեցան առաջնորդութեամբ Խնամակալութեան Անդամ եւ նախկին աշակերտ Արփի Եուսուֆեանի: Քանի մը ամիսէ անոնք պիտի նշանակեն իրենց վարչութիւնը եւ սկսին իրենց գործունէութեան:

## Ապագային Նայելով

Մբ. Ստեփանոս Ազգային Վարժարանը կը շարունակէ աճիլ, հետեւաբար կը մտածէ ընդարձակել իր վարչական կազմը: Հիմնուելով Նիւ Ինկլընտի Անկախ Վարժարաններու թելադրութեան վրայ, դպրոցը պաշտօնի պիտի հրաւիրէ Փոխ Տնօրէն մը, որ պիտի հոգայ ուսուցիչներուն, աշակերտներուն եւ ծնողներուն օրէ օր աճող պէտքերուն:





## ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

January - December 2025

Garine Palandjian, Head of School

St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School (SSAES) successfully completed its 40th academic year, thanks to the efforts of a highly competent and dedicated teaching staff, passionate Board, tireless PTO, and engaged families. Through individualized instruction, specialist teachers' support, and best practices in teaching, SSAES strives to provide a positive learning environment for our students. The school continues to serve not just as a place of learning, but as a cultural and spiritual hub for the local Armenian-American community. The start of 2025 underscored the school's deep-rooted values — education, tradition, faith, and unity.

### Academic Milestones and Extracurricular Adventures

Graduation ceremonies were held on June 12 (Kindergarten) and June 13 (Grade 5) in the presence of an enthusiastic crowd of faculty, staff, parents, and friends of the school. Both programs were dedicated to the *Year of the Revitalization of Traditions*. This theme was embedded through the selection of songs, poems, and traditional Armenian dances performed by our students across the grades.

Kindergarten graduates: Alec Apelian, Shant Babb-Mikaelian, Anoosh Derian, Arek Etyemezian, Lucineh Ghazarians, Datev Graham, Levon Hakobyan, Leo Keababjian, Angeline Kherlopian, Nathalie Krikorian, Talar Mardirosian, Henry Melikyan, Anahid Melkounian, Taleen Nercessian, Lily Nergaryan, Bellamie Niukian, Stefania Ntasios, Vincent Ohannessian, and Garo Tomarci.

5th grade Graduates: Julian Carunari, Vicken Garabedian, Logan Keababjian, Natalie Khalarian, Nara Melkonian, Sophia Manjikian, Ari Nerkezian, Raffi Panian, Samson Said, and Tino Tamburrini.

We congratulate all of our 5th grade graduates as they move on to their middle schools, and we wish them continued success in their endeavors.

### Cultural and Academic Enrichment

From making ghapama, to standing at the steps of Sardarabad, SSAES students are immersed in a rich learning environment where culture is alive and not just a thing of the past. Students continue to honor historical traditions, such as preschoolers baking bread. Cultural enrichment was on full display in preschool, when students presented artwork, songs, and poems for our mothers and grandmothers in honor of Mother's Day and in elementary school during the Armenian Cultural Month Talent Show. And, Principal Emerita Houry Boyamian returned to present her father's memoir, *Goodbye Antoura*, to the fifth-grade class.

Throughout the school year, our students are engaged in various opportunities to honor Armenian traditions enriching the academic experiences beyond the classroom. In April, our students performed the Armenian and American national anthems for the 110th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide commemoration event at the Massachusetts State House. Additionally, our third, fourth, and fifth grade students visited the Armenian Heritage Park

to honor Armenian Genocide Survivors who rebuilt their lives in the United States, followed by a visit to the Mosesian Center for the Arts to visit the Arshile Gorky's 100th anniversary in Watertown. In May, the new generation of Armenian youth - our elementary students - met the first women's lacrosse team for the Republic of Armenia who taught them how to play the game using their lacrosse equipment. Just this past October, elementary students enjoyed a performance by young musicians from Armenia as part of the Music for the Future Foundation program. During this visit, the youth performed a few musical pieces by Gomidas and also engaged in a question and answer session with students. Also in October, children's book author and alumna Meghri Der Vartanian Karajelian (2008) returned to school for a special *K-2 Story Time with Meghri* fundraiser.

### Bright start to the 2025-2026 school year

Following extensive summer renovations by the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center (ACEC), the school building received not only physical upgrades—including new entry doors, stone steps, a state-of-the-art security system, and refreshed classrooms — but also a spiritual blessing. In true Armenian tradition, a *Varjaranorhnek* (Վարժարանօրհնէք), or school blessing, was performed to consecrate both the physical space and the school year ahead, as well as the school community it serves.

As noted by Mr. Michael Guzelian, SSAES Chairman of the Board, "Each new school year is a fresh chapter in the story of our children's growth. As we open our doors once again, let us remember that every lesson, every smile, and every kind word can shape a future. Together—as educators, families, and our Armenian community—we have the privilege and the responsibility to help our students discover their potential."

When students filled the hallways in September for the 41st year, laughter and excitement echoed through the newly refreshed classrooms—proof that while the school evolves with the times, its heart remains the same: Armenian, proud, and connected across generations. The elementary school opening day assembly, a long-standing tradition at SSAES, began with prayer, followed by the Armenian and American national anthems. Teachers, families, and students filled the courtyard with anticipation and pride.

The ceremony included brief remarks from school leadership and community members, celebrating the beginning of a new chapter while reflecting on the school's enduring mission. Alumnus Nareg Stepanian (2012) returned to offer words of encouragement to our students. We were grateful to welcome both Nareg and his father, Nelson Stepanian, a former school board member. Now an accomplished young professional, Nareg shared reflections from his days at SSAES and emphasized the importance of Armenian education: "Armenian school is the bedrock of our community's strength. It is where our language, traditions, and values take root and are passed on with pride. This foundation nurtures the spirit of our diaspora and keeps us connected across generations."



## ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

January - December 2025

Garine Palandjian, Head of School

Tradition plays a central role at SSAES, connecting generations of students and families. This year, a meaningful new custom was introduced: a symbolic passing of the torch from the fifth-grade class to the incoming first graders—last year's "dzagheeg" (kindergarten) students. Each first-grader was presented with a flower, accompanied by words of encouragement delivered by fifth-grader Samuel Barsoumian. The gesture emphasized mentorship, community, and growth, while bridging the journey from early learning to elementary school maturity.

SSAES's *Manoug and Me* program also started off the new school year auspiciously with two groups of 18 months - 2.9 year old students. *Manoug and Me* students enjoy group play and learn physical coordination to Mrs. Maro Arakelian's weekly music and movement sessions. Maro Arakelian, founder and instructor of *Manoug and Me* says, "Music has a remarkable ability to captivate children, and studies show it can strongly support their language development by introducing new vocabulary, strengthening their sense of rhythm, and enhancing their listening skills." These sessions give our future students the opportunity to learn the hallways of the Afeyan Building, where many of them will continue their journey with St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School for the next 8 years of their lives.

### Parent-Teacher Organization: Building Community

Our Parent-Teacher Organization, guided by Dr. Christina Mardiros, organized a range of vibrant activities such as our annual Trunk or Treat, Thanksgiving Luncheon, Fall Community Food Drive, Christmas Party, Movie Night, Hye Hoops, 5K FunRun, Daddy and Me, and the Summer Soiree event—all of which helped build strong connections among students, families, and staff. Their commitment to hosting book fairs and coordinating charitable drives also enriched our sense of community. Together, these events not only helped students stay connected to their heritage but also strengthened the relationship between our school and the wider community.

### Alumni Engagement

As SSAES looks to the future, it continues to honor its past. Throughout 2025, several alumni meet-ups were organized to lay the groundwork for the upcoming SSAES Alumni Association. These events reconnected former classmates and strengthened ties between past and present students.

SSAES is fortunate to have our alumni remain actively engaged in our community. This year, we have been delighted to welcome many of them back for gatherings, school events, and special initiatives that highlight the strength of our extended SSAES family. Of importance, we are very pleased with the upward trend of alumni returning to SSAES, including 19 alumni (16.5% of families) who enrolled 23 children (15.3% of students) at SSAES for the 2025-2026 school year.

In June, we held a kickoff alumni gathering at the home of an alumni family and school board member, Taline Kebabdjian. Alumni enjoyed a casual brunch and the opportunity to reconnect with one another, celebrating each other's accomplishments and wishing each other well as several were moving into high school and onto higher education in other parts of the U.S. Alumni Night at Cafe Anoushella in the ACEC courtyard brought alumni together again in early August. Blessed by the presence of Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Tahanian, who delivered inspiring remarks and welcomed our alumni, the program included an opportunity to reminisce about their favorite memory as a student. Alumni shared their cherished memories, which included such moments as the Armenia Trip and hantes performances and their favorite teachers.

At the end of August, many enthusiastic alumni teed off in support of the school at the annual SSAES golf tournament. And, in November, a group of alumni, who are current AYF members, hosted a family friendly *Brewery Bash* over the Thanksgiving weekend in Watertown to benefit SSAES. Special thanks to Greater Boston AYF Nejdeh Chapter Executive, all SSAES graduates: Gregory Cormier (2013), Anoush Krafian (2011), Berj Chekijian (2014), Ani Aroyian (2010), and Sam Sagherian (2012), as well as the *Brewery Bash* Planning Committee: Anoush Krafian, Berj Chekijian, Adi Guzelian (2011), Ani Ouligian (2010), Melanie Aftandilian (2009), Haig Megerdichian, and Koko Iskenderian (2017) nearly all of whom are SSAES Alumni - for organizing this event. To close 2025, Alumna Sonia Ourfalian (2011) will address our current students, families, and community members at the upcoming annual December Christmas Concert. Alumni continued involvement and contributions showcase the strong and lasting spirit of our community.

The Alumni Committee held its first meeting, led by Board Member and Alumna Arpi Youssoufian. Over the next few months, the Alumni will appoint leadership to launch the SSAES Alumni Association. Through 2026, as the Alumni Association fully mobilizes, the school looks forward to their leadership, regular alumni engagement activities, and further enriching our school community.

### Looking Ahead: Strengthening Leadership

As SSAES continues to grow, it also looks to strengthen its administrative leadership. In line with the 2023 AISNE (Association of Independent Schools in New England) recommendations, the school will be expanding its leadership team with the addition of an Assistant Head of School. This new position will play a vital role in the daily operations of SSAES, offering support to teachers, students, and families, and ensuring that the school remains responsive to the evolving needs of its community.



## ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GENERAL DONATIONS

### In Memory of Margaret Abrahamian

*Total Donations – \$100*

Ara & Talish Tachjian

### In Memory of Armen Barooshian

*Total Donations – \$2,925*

Olivia Arensbach  
Mary Barooshian  
Hooshere Bezdikian  
Doreen Bilezikian  
Jeffrey & Nancy Bilezikian  
John & Sophie Bilezikian  
Deron Charkoudian  
Ronald & Maria Collins  
Anita Darmanian  
Eileen Franklin  
Christian & Talin Kebabjian  
Mark & Roselore Kebabjian  
John & Rosaemary Koch  
Mark & Deborah Lowre  
Maurice & Maxine Marcus  
Stephen & Susan Pauker  
Mark & Veronica Sagherian  
Robert & Stephanie Talanian

### In Memory of Hilda Bel Guamer

*Total Donations – \$300*

Raffi & Mari Zargarian

### In Memory of Kelam & Nancy Derderian

*Total Donations – \$100*

Jack & Christine Mardoian

### In Memory of Sossy Derian

*Total Donations – \$50*

Robin Miller & Bob Levine

### In Memory of Maryam Doudian

*Total Donations – \$50*

Mayda & Harton Gigian

### In Memory of Roubina Doudikian-Papazian & Sedik Doudikian

*Total Donations – \$200*

Suzi Saroukhanians

### In Memory of Marian Felegian

*Total Donations – \$1100*

Karnig & Karen Durgarian  
Neil & Renee Ferraro  
Karekin & Esperanza Jelalian  
Sam & Lucine Kapreilian  
Jack & Christine Mardoian  
Rev. Fr. Krikor & Yn. Sabounjian  
Rev Fr. Aram & Yn. Margaret Stepanian  
Robert & Shooshan Tutunjian  
Michael & Lisa Zeytoonian

### In Memory of Dzaghganoush Gazarian

*Total Donations – \$100*

Hon. Sarkis & Ardemis Teshoian

### In Memory of George Nubar Kaderian

*Total Donations – \$1,910*

John & Krista Aftandilian  
Sona Aslanian  
Hooshere Bezdikian  
Antranik & Marion Boudakian

Seta & Raymond Davidian  
Fotini Dionisopoulos  
Carole A. Dipema  
Eric & Amy Guzelian  
Jack & Zabel Hatem  
Alex & Carol Khalarian  
Paul & Janet Khalarian  
Roupen & Annie Kiredjian  
Louis & Elenne Najarian  
Yingfang Ni  
Walter Vartanian

### In Memory of Steven Kavak

*Total Donations – \$500*

Kapriel & Margrit Chavushian

### In Memory of Rosalie Kizirian

*Total Donations – \$985*

Tom & Sally Gengozian  
Eric & Amy Guzelian  
Gail Guzelian & Ron Iverson  
Michael & Susan Guzelian  
Carl & Valerie Narsasian  
Richard Shahtanian  
Tara Zorian

### In Memory of Maro & Digran Meguerdichian

*Total Donations – \$2,425*

Nancy Adams  
Elizabeth Derderian  
Victor & Nancy Ganjian  
Michael & Susan Guzelian  
John & Deta Kaleshian  
Chrstian & Taline Kebabjian  
Ara & Heather Krafian  
Jeffrey & Suzy Naroian  
Hagop & Sossy Necessian  
Wayne & Susan Parseghian  
Laurie Russell  
Shahan & Salpi Stepanian  
Sosi Toomajanian

### In Memory of Hagop Necessian

*Total Donations – 4,560*

John & Krista Aftandilian  
Saboo & Caroline Aghababayan  
Raffi & Houry Aposhian  
Sarah Burghardt  
Berj & Annie Chekijian  
Nvard Dedeian  
Sylvia Dedeian  
Paula DiChiappari  
Michael & Susan Guzelian  
Amir Hassanabadi  
Nevart Kaderian  
Moses & Shogher Kasparian  
Levon & Shake Khatchadourian  
Vicken & Ani Khatchadourian  
Alex & Carol Khalarian  
Paul & Janet Khalarian  
Michael & Hasmik Kouchakdjian  
Arto & Ani Kurkjian  
Sonia Mikaelian  
Carl & Valerie Narsasian  
Berge & Vera Ounjian

Seta Necessian  
Garine Palandjian  
Araxie Poladian  
Gulnar Sahagian  
Zareh & Hasmig Samurkashian  
Virginia Shahinian  
Hermine Shusda  
Aram & Margaret Stepanian  
Lilya Stepanyan  
Robin Swartout  
Ara & Talish Tachjian  
Antranik & Zvart Tahmassian  
Ani Tahmassian  
Armine Tahmassian  
Noune Tahmassian-Morse

### In Memory of Nerkez Nerkezian

*Total Donations – \$100*

Katherine Savelyev

### In Memory of Seeran Salibian

*Total Donations – \$50*

Taline Voskeritchian

### In Memory of Hilda Topjian

*Total Donations – \$700*

Brenda Blatt  
Victor & Nancy Ganjian  
Takouhie Keumurian  
Michael & Hasmik Kouchakdjian  
Ani Tahmassian  
Antranik & Zvart Tahmassian  
Haig Toomajanian

### In Memory of Garo Ozcan

*Total Donations – \$500*

Kapriel and Margrit Chavushian

### Levon & Anahid Barsoumian Scholarship Fund

*Total Donations – \$8,000*

### Araxi Poladian Scholarship Fund

*Total Donations – \$500*

Araxi Poladian

### Grants

Armenian Youth Foundation \$9,500

### General Donations

Golf Tournament Donation \$20,000  
Babikyan Family \$9,000  
Watertown Savings  
Customer Choice Awards \$1,500  
Sevag & Ani Khatchadourian \$1,000  
Nayiri Arzoumanian \$500  
Laura Yardumian \$20

### Building Fund Donations

Estate of  
Loretta Gelanian \$18,000  
Michele Kolligian \$5,000  
Maro Meguerditchian \$5,000  
Sira Cormier \$500  
Meline & Christine Papazian \$500  
George Elajanian \$200



## ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND DONATIONS Nov. 2024 – Oct. 2025

Carol Babikyan	\$5,000	Gail Guzelian & Ron Iverson	\$500	Saro Derian	\$100
Hovig & Anita Chitilian	\$5,000	Simon & Mary Lou Essajanian	\$300	John M. Hajian, Jr.	\$100
Dina Apovian	\$1,000	Beatrice Bilezikian	\$250	Tamar Hamparian	\$100
Charles & Sona Aslanian	\$1,000	Frieda Bilezikian	\$250	Lucy Hoosian	\$100
Armen Barooshian	\$1,000	Astor & Lucy Guzelian	\$250	Armen & Anoush Knaian	\$100
Antranig Berberian	\$1,000	David & Nora Hackett	\$250	Lois Kolgian	\$100
Avedis & Houry Boyamian	\$1,000	Garen & Jacklin Kotikian	\$250	Armen & Christine Kourkounian	\$100
Hagop & Aida Dakessian	\$1,000	Mihran & Alyssa Yenikomshian	\$250	Andrew Magliozzi	\$100
Ryan Farias	\$1,000	Lena Guebenlian	\$200	Sharistan Melkonian	\$100
Michael & Susan Guzelian	\$1,000	Stephen & Christine Kanarian	\$200	Evelyn Petrossian	\$100
Marl Tashjian	\$1,000	Sarkis & Seta Ourfalian	\$200	John & Debra Saryan	\$100
Robert & Shooshan Tutunjian	\$1,000	Harry Kalajian	\$150	David & Heidi Shamlian	\$100
John Aftandilian		Sosi Toomajanian	\$150	Joyce Yeremian	\$100
& Krista Aslanian	\$500	Ned & Aroxie Apigian	\$100	John & Lisa Baboian	\$50
Edward Bedrosian	\$500	Leona Arsenian	\$100	Arpine Festekdjian-Fereshetian	\$50
Thomas Gengozian		Zabel Hajian Azablar	\$100	Edward & Ida Babroud	\$25
& Sally Vanerian	\$500	Paul Boyajian	\$100	Paul Davis	\$25

**WE EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO ALL OUR DONORS**





# JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

ENROLLMENT IS OPEN FOR THE 2026-2027 ACADEMIC YEAR AT ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL

*Elementary only : January 16, 2026*

*Preschool only: January 30 and March 18, 2026*

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to Register for an Open House.



*For more information please contact:*

For Preschool: Mrs. Maral Orchanian; morchanian@ssaes.org, 617-923-0501  
 For Elementary: Dr. Garine Palandjian; garine\_palandjian@ssaes.org, 617-926-6979

### What parents say about SSAES ...

- "You can't replace the connections these kids form with each other."
- "Filled with so much love and the teachers are absolutely AMAZING! It is a truly magical place and there is nothing like it!"

### Quality Bilingual Education

- Low student/teacher ratios
- After school programs
- Early Education and Care licensed
- AISNE accredited
- Experienced, licensed, and certified faculty



**St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School**  
 Ս. Ստեփանոս Ազգային Վարժարան



VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
 SSAES.ORG

# MANOUG AND ME

## MUSIC & MOVEMENT PROGRAM

FOR CHILDREN 18 MONTHS  
TO 2.9 YEARS OLD



**DEVELOP YOUR CHILD'S LISTENING & ARMENIAN LANGUAGE SKILLS THROUGH OUR ENGAGING & INTERACTIVE MUSICAL EXPERIENCE.**

You'll see improvement in their physical coordination, ability to take direction from an instructor during group-play, and a growing love for music.

Each child must be accompanied by an adult. Come sing and dance with us!



**To register please contact the school office:**

(617) 926-6979; [school@ssaes.org](mailto:school@ssaes.org)

Registration Fee: \$130

2026 classes are Monday mornings 9am - 9:45am

Sessions: March 9, 16, 23, 30; April 6, 13, 27;

May 4, 11, 18



**St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School**

Ս. Ստեփանոս Ազգային Վարժարան

*St. Stephen's Armenian Preschool, 46 Elton Avenue, Watertown, MA 02472*

## 2025 APPEAL

In June, the Board of Trustees launched the 2025 Renovation Appeal to help realize much needed maintenance, renovation, and restoration of many fixtures on our church property.

The bedrock of our community for over 70 years, the church has served as the spiritual and cultural home to thousands. It is a place of prayer, comfort, community, and for many, a second home, but like our own homes, requires care and maintenance. Through the appeal, and Hayr Hrant's consistent "Two Cents" messaging that all donations, even at the humblest of levels are important, funds were raised to make repairs and renovations to the Parish House, church office, church stairs, kitchen, and heating and cooling systems.

Thanks to your support and generosity, we overwhelmingly reached our goal to cover these much needed repairs without disturbing our operating funds. Repairs to the front church steps have started, kitchen needs are being addressed, and delayed renovations in the Parish House will begin soon. Though needs persist, the community's collective efforts have delivered the support we need to address the most vital and time sensitive of them. Hayr Hrant and the Board of Trustees extend their deepest thanks and gratitude to all donors who supported this effort.

**\$50,000 and up**

Vahan Khachadoorian

**\$25,000 and up**

Nevart Kaderian

Thomas J. Khachadoorian

Naomi Khederian-Bahtiarian

**\$10,000 - \$24,999**

Pamela Avedisian

James &amp; Nayiri Bell

John &amp; Zovig Boyajian

Leslie &amp; Alan Jelalian

*(In honor of their parents, Al & Mary)*

Stephen Karoghlanian Jr.

Gary &amp; Hasmig Mardiros

**\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Anonymous

Anonymous

Michael &amp; Susan Guzelian

Nancy D. Guzelian Charitable Fund

**\$2,500 - \$4,999**

John &amp; Karen Aharonian

Anonymous

Leona Arsenian

Avedis &amp; Houry Boyamian

Nadia Karnik

Sossy Nercessian

Dr. Robert &amp; Rosine Patterson

**\$1,000 - \$2,499**

Jason &amp; Lucy Amello

*(In loving memory of Lily Petrossian)*

Anonymous

Anonymous

Meline Arslanian &amp; Family

Dr. Chris Azadian

Richard Babayan &amp; Sonya Nersessian

Rev. &amp; Mrs. Antranig Baljian

Daghlian Family

John Bejakian

Mark Bejakian

Hagop &amp; Judy Dostoomian

Kirk &amp; Larain Doursounian

Shawn &amp; Melanie Flanagan

Debra Garabedian

Eric &amp; Amy Guzelian

Ruth E. Hagopian

Christopher Hajian

Haratunian &amp; Lachinian Families

*(In honor of the wedding of Taleen**Lachinian & Arda Cam)*

John &amp; Debra Haroian

John &amp; Jean Harr

Ron Iverson &amp; Gail Guzelian

John &amp; Seta Kaleshian

John &amp; Alice Karnikyan

Sirvart Keumurian &amp; Family

Armen &amp; Anoush Knaian

Ara &amp; Heather Krafian

Silva Markarian

Zella Marootian

*(In loving memory of parents,**grandparents- Zaven & Zaroohi**Cherchian)*

Ara Berj Marootian

Sylvia Massmanian

Charles &amp; Hripsime Minasian

Walter &amp; Dianne Nahabedian

Robert &amp; Robin Najarian

Berj Najarian

Berj &amp; Marilyn Nercessian

Missak &amp; Angie Ourfalian

Larry &amp; Vanessa Ovia

Richard &amp; Kelli Piligian &amp; Family

Steven &amp; Tahleen Shamlan

Dr. &amp; Mrs. A. Donald &amp; Betty Shushan

Allan G. Tutunjian

Edward &amp; Nancy Tutunjian

Robert S. &amp; Shooshan Tutunjian

Ronald &amp; Robin Tutunjian – Hines

Ashkhen &amp; Shoushig Vanerian

Ani Yessaillian

Gary &amp; Lina Yessaillian

**\$500 - \$999**

Anto &amp; Lisa Aboyan

John &amp; Krista Aftandilian

Paul &amp; Sema Arakelian

Zabelle Hajian Azablar

Aida Badrikian

Jilda Balian &amp; Timothy Mulvey

Avedis &amp; Carmen Barmakian

Jack &amp; Rita Bejakian

Samuel &amp; Aida Bejakian

Haig &amp; Meline Berberian

Chaglassian Family

*(In memory of Dr. John Chaglassian's**5<sup>th</sup> year passing)*

Anna Demurjian

Carl &amp; Armenne Derderian

Noushig Hagopian &amp; Tim Enright

Jack Hajian

Ada Hamparian

Lucy Hoosian

Mary Ishkanian

Stephen P. &amp; Christine Kanarian

Mr. &amp; Mrs. Andrew Kasparian

Chris &amp; Taline Kebabjian

Steven &amp; Linda Kechejian

Anahis Kechejian &amp;

Prasanna V. Rajasekaran

Joseph &amp; Azniv Keikian

Mher Ketchedjian

Peter &amp; Rebecca Massmanian

Vrej &amp; Vana Melkonian

Rose Hoosian Moorachian

Sandra Narinian

Seta Nercessian

Mark &amp; Veronica Sagherian

Sarah Sahagian

Yeghsa Sarkissian

St. Stephen's Sunday School

Valerie M. Wise – Tucker

Barbara Tutelian

**\$0 - \$499**

Kevork &amp; Endza Abdalian

Dr. &amp; Mrs. Sevak Abrahamian

Robert Aghababian

## 2025 APPEAL (CONT.)

Peter & Elizabeth Alemian	George & Dorothy Elanjian	Yeprem & Mayda Melkonian
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Almasian	Simon & Lucine Essajanian	Rafi & Hasmig Melkounian
Anonymous	Arpine Fereshetian	Mrs. Ossanna Merjikian
Ned & Aroxie Apigian	Steven & Soseh Ghazarian	Natalie Kantarjian Minassian
Mary Azizian & Family	Vasken & Nora Halibian	Diane Merian
K. Edward & Ida Babroudi	Dr. & Mrs. Alan Haroian & Family	Vasken & Silva Momjian
Sarkis & Elizabeth Badrikian	Zabel Hoosian	Michael & Kerry Najarian Jr.
Levon H. Balian	Garbis & Seta Jaklian	Carl & Valerie Narsasian
Silva Barsoumian	William & Cerise Jalelian-Keim	Meher & Nanor Nerkizian
Shoghig Basmajian	Avak & Christine Kahvejian	Haig & Marina Papazian
Dr. Levon & Deanna Bastajian	John & Seta Kaleshian	Lillian Tutelian & Ronald Paratore
Garo Bazarbachian	Vartan Keshishian	Evelyn Petrossian
Ishkhan & Anahit Bazarian	Dn. Hagop Ketchedjian	Araxie Poladian
Avo Bazarian	Vatche & Marine Ketchedjian & Family	Regina Pusantian
Mrs. Elisa Bezidjian	Djano Kheremian	Carlo Sarkissian
Kenneth & Diane (Kalousdian) Biagiotti	Nevart Kouyoumjian	Golandoom Shabanian
Tamar Boghosian	Arsen & Margo Kozelian	Hermine Sislian
Steven & Nyeri Azablar-Ceragno	Dr. Shavarsh & Anahid Majarian	<i>(In loving memory of</i>
John & Julie Compas	Shahe & Zovig Majarian	<i>Very Rev. Fr. Hampartzoum Keshishian)</i>
The Costner Family	Aram & Hasmig Manoukian	Steven R. Sookikian
Betty Tutelian DaSilva	Marootian Children	Barbara Talanian
Satenik Der Manuelian	<i>(In Honor of Zella Marootian's birthday</i>	Apraham & Asdghig Tashjian
Mary Jane Demirjian	<i>from Edward Jr., George, Ara, Alex &amp;</i>	Joshua & Diana Tevekelian
Leo & Mary Derderian	<i>Beth Ann Marootian)</i>	Susan Tikiryan
Bedros & Arevik Der Vartanian	Jack & Christine Mardoian	Alice Vartanian
Hasmig Der Vartanian	Bedros Martayan	Ani Zargarian
Susan Dikramanjan	Zareh & Hasmig (Yeghiayan) Maserejian	Alec & Judy Zarifian
Ashod & Arline Dostoomian	Mrs. Flora Matossian	Jack & Linda Zarzatian, Jr.
Mary Doursounian	Anna Medzorian	Garbis & Sonia Zerdelian

## TWO CENTS: HAYR SOORP'S JUNE MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH COMMUNITY ABOUT THE APPEAL

Dear Faithful,

An interesting fact about the English language is that many of its expressions have a Biblical root, even though they are used more often than not without that prior knowledge. One such expression is “my two cents,” a way to give a humble opinion in a conversation. It derives from the story of The Widow’s Offering that is found in the gospels of Mark (12) and Luke (21): *“Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, ‘Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything — all she had to live on.’”*

The story’s intention, of course, is not to discourage generous and wealthy donors. Jesus encourages those who have been blessed with much to give generously: “Who then is the faithful and wise manager...whom the master finds doing well when he returns. Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions...From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked” (Luke 12). Our church has known many such donors. Very recently we were able to renovate our cupola and our altar, as well as many other urgent needs, thanks to the generosity of our dedicated members.

Rather, the lesson behind the story is to encourage everyone, whether they have very little or a lot, that their “every 2 cents,” no matter how humble, goes a long way. And so dear friends, on behalf of our Board of Trustees, who have been entrusted and elected by you to care for our church, and on behalf of every member, as well as every individual who sets foot in Soorp Stepanos, I would like to thank you for everything you’ve done in the past to support our home, whether it be a financial donation, volunteer work, prayers in support, and your love and dedication.

And in closing, I would like to encourage you to give according to your ability, so that together we may reach this goal. Blessings to you and your loved ones.

# MEMORIAL DONATIONS



## IN MEMORY OF DIKRAN MEGUERDITCHIAN

Total \$6,345.00

Maro Meguerditchian  
 Armen & Sylvie Meguerditchian & Family  
 John & Krista Aftandilian  
 Mr. & Mrs. George & Louise Arthur  
 Daniel Avedikian  
 Zabelle Hajian Azablar  
 Mrs. Hasmig Chaglassian  
 Armen & Esther Chakmakjian & Family  
 Ara & Tsolig Chamlian  
 Carl & Armenne Derderian  
 Elizabeth Derderian  
 Akop Eremyan  
 Michael & Susan Guzelian

Mr. & Mrs. Jean-Jacques & Nicole Hajjar  
 Mr. & Mrs. Roger & Teni Hajjar  
 David Hamparian  
 Adrine Hampartzoumian  
 Charles & Cathy Kalivas  
 Lucine Kapreillian  
 Sailwa Karahbit  
 Ara & Heather Krafian & Family  
 Adina Lambert  
 Hrayr & Yeran Manjikian  
 Seta Manjikian  
 Vartan & Nayiri Manjikian & Family  
 Jeffrey & Suzy Naroian

Carmella Navarra  
 Seta Nercessian  
 Sossy Nercessian  
 Dr. & Mrs. Harry Z. Papazian  
 Shant Parseghian  
 Wayne & Susan Parseghian  
 Laurie Russell  
 Mr. & Mrs. Zaven & Varso Sarkissian  
 Sosi Toomajanian, Vartan &  
 Raffi Chilingaryan  
 Haig Toomajanian  
 Alec Zareh & Judy Zarifian & Family  
 Garbis & Sonia Zerdelian

## IN MEMORY OF BARKEV KALIGIAN

Total \$1,425.00

Dr. & Mrs. Sevak Abrahamian  
 Claire S. Alemian  
 Mrs. Isabel Avedikian  
 Jano & Arpy Avedissian  
 Zabelle Hajian Azablar  
 Malcolm & Lori Barsamian  
 Vahan Basmajian  
 Karin Berberian

Karen Demirjian  
 Leo & Mary Derderian  
 Edward & Tanya Garibian  
 Astor & Lucy Guzelian  
 Eric & Amy Guzelian  
 Michael & Susan Guzelian  
 Lucy Hoosian  
 Stephen Karoghlanian Jr.

Khajag & Ardemis Mgrdichian  
 George & Rose Moorachian & Family  
 Robert Smith  
 Pearl Teague  
 Raffi Toroyan  
 Robert S. & Shooshan Tutunjian

## IN MEMORY OF EDWART KHATCHATOURIAN

Total \$2,275.00

John & Krista Aftandilian  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jason & Lucy Amello  
 Edward & Ida Babroudi  
 Christine Bolzan

Susie Eminian  
 Freya & Jeff Hurwitz  
 Robert & Caryl Hurwitz  
 Jacobs, Verella & Kerr, P.C.

Scott & Julie Meadows  
 Robert Smith  
 Gadia Yaghoumianse  
 Raffi & Mari Zargarian

**IN MEMORY OF MISAK KEIKIAN**

Total \$515.00

Mr. Levon Balian  
Krikor & Annie Keikian  
Joseph & Azniv Keikian & Family

Paul & Janet Khalarian  
Sima Mancilikli  
Mr. & Mrs. Roupén & Sossy Sarkissian

Garbis Sepetjian

**IN MEMORY OF JEANNE NAHABEDIAN**

Total \$343.00

Jack & Susan Giragosian & Family  
John & Alice Karnikyan  
St. Stephen's Ladies Guild

Robert & Becky Megerdichian  
Pledgeling Foundation  
Allan G. Tutunjian

Kevin & Maureen Woodbury  
Nancy Young & Family

**IN MEMORY OF LOUSINE ARAXIE SARKISSIAN**

Total \$1,945.00

Vahe & Nartoohi Abrimian  
Hermine Artarian  
Very Rev. Ghazar Bedrossian  
Garbis Bedrossian  
Krikor & Salpi Boyadjian  
Ankin Cam  
Elizabeth Danielyan  
Pascal Gebeyan  
Nerses & Araxi Ghazarian & Family  
Mrs. Shake Hagopian

Mr. & Mrs. Samig & Varteni Jarian  
Marcel & Anni Karian  
Hovanes & Rita Kassabian  
Mr. & Mrs. Sarkis & Ani Kassabian  
Chris & Taline Kebabdjian  
Joseph & Azniv Keikian & Family  
George Kelly  
Mrs. Mary Keshishian  
Louisa Kheremian  
Marie Kunigenas

Aram & Hasmig Manoukian  
Mclean Hospital Nb2 Steff  
Anna Melkonian  
Mrs. Zabel Melkonian  
Melkon & Angela Melkonian  
Moundjian Family  
Seta Najarian  
Scott & Pauline Ritvo  
Yeghsa Sarkissian

**IN MEMORY OF MARO MEGUERDITCHIAN**

Total \$2,650.00

Armen & Sylvie Meguerditchian & Family  
Charles & Sona Aslanian  
Colleen Avedikian  
Zabelle Hajian Azablar  
Armen & Esther Chakmakjian & Family

Carl & Armenne Derderian  
John Jurus  
Lucine Kapreillian  
Hrayr & Yeran Manjikian  
Carmella Navarra

Seta Nercessian  
Sossy Nercessian  
Mr. & Mrs. Zaven & Varso Sarkissian  
Haig Toomajanian  
Garbis & Sonia Zerdelian

**IN MEMORY OF ANNA AZADIAN**

Total \$2,745.00

Dr. Chris Azadian  
Debra Garabedian  
Gary Garabedian & Irina Amirbekyan  
Harry Azadian  
Dorothy Azadian Mckinnon  
Vladimir & Alla Belubekian

Armen & Esther Chakmakjian & Family  
Rosa M. Contos  
Arpie Highgas  
Jane Jamgotchian  
Louise Kassabian  
Mary T. Keenan

Carl & Valerie Narsasian  
Jodie Nosiglia  
Teresa Scenna  
Mayreen T. Stephens

**IN MEMORY OF ANAHID KEIKIAN**

Total \$380.00

Knarig Aboyan  
Joseph & Azniv Keikian

Krikor & Annie Keikian & Family  
Paul & Janet Khalarian

Sima Mancilikian  
Garbis Sepetjian

**IN MEMORY OF MARY (BOGOIAN) ALEMIAN**

Total \$2,225.00

Peter & Elizabeth Alemian  
 Andrew Alemian  
 Gregory Degermajian & Kathy R. Wall  
 John & Karen Aharonian  
 Malcolm & Lori Barsamian  
 Theodore Bohigian & Suzanne Z. Jarosik  
 Tamar Boghosian  
 Peter Bogoian  
 Walter, Martin & Susan Demoorjian  
 Leo & Mary Derderian  
 Varsenig Dostourian Cotter  
 Carol Enterline

Michael & Susan Guzelian  
 John & Debra Haroian  
 Sarkis Kaleshian & Family  
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen P. Kanarian  
 John & Alice Karnikyan  
 Edward & Mary Ann Kazanjian  
 Armen & Christine Kourkounian  
 St. Stephen's Ladies Guild  
 Betsy & Bill Micucci  
 Michael & Kerry Najarian Jr.  
 Robert & Robin Najarian  
 Stephen Najarian

Carl & Valerie Narsasian  
 Michael Muller & Sarah Bogoian  
 Larry & Vanessa Ovian  
 Dr. & Mrs. John & Debbie Saryan  
 Barbara Tutelian  
 Allan G. Tutunjian  
 Ronald & Robin Tutunjian - Hines  
 Michael & Armenie Varadian  
 David Winterhalter  
 Mr. & Mrs. Gary & Lina Yessaillian  
 Ani Yessaillian

**IN MEMORY OF MARYAM (SAHAKIAN) DAUDIAN**

Total \$2,545.00

Hratch & Matilda Daoudian & Family  
 Altan & Rita Marash & Family  
 Krikor & Arsho Jarkezian & Family  
 Hermine Artarian  
 Azizian & Yacuzzi Family  
 Aida Badrikian  
 Arshag & Shoghig Badrikian  
 Sarkis & Elizabeth Badrikian  
 Armen & Silva Bahlavouni

Hratch & Ani Belekian & Family  
 Levon & Zepur Belekian  
 Sebouh & Caroline Daoudian  
 Leo & Mary Derderian  
 Krikor Frounjian  
 Shake Hagopian  
 Josephine  
 Ardak Karamanokian  
 George Karamanokian

Nevart Kouyoumjian  
 St. Stephen's Ladies Guild  
 Flora Matossian  
 Hagop Sahagian  
 Ardemis Salatikian  
 Alfred Tierouz & Salpi Bayramian  
 Yeghsa Sarkissian  
 Avedis & Zepur Sarkissian  
 Vany Tashjian

**IN MEMORY OF KARLEN ASATRYAN**

Total \$580.00

Jano & Arpy Avedissian  
 Razmik & Maral Banosian  
 Ara & Brenda Barsoumian  
 Hagop & Silva Gebeshian

Dikran & Anne Hagopian  
 Hovaness & Ani Janessian  
 Garbis & Zovig Kojanian  
 Azniv Santouryan

Zabel Santouryan  
 Vartan & Hourig Soukiasian  
 Seta Takvoryan

**IN MEMORY OF GEORGE NOUBAR KADERIAN**

Total \$1,890.00

John & Krista Aftandilian  
 John & Karen Aharonian  
 Charles & Sona Aslanian  
 Zabelle Hajian Azablar  
 Hratch & Ani Belekian & Family  
 Raymond & Lucille Bombardiere  
 Armen & Esther Chakmakjian & Family  
 Larry & Denise Dale  
 Ashod & Arline Dostoomian

Mark & Karen Ewen  
 Andrew & Alice Guzelian  
 Eric & Amy Guzelian  
 Lucy Hoosian  
 John, Aoife & Harry Katsos  
 Manoug & Aida Kaynakian  
 John & Tamara Kefeyan & Family  
 Chris & Holly Khachadoorian-  
 Elia & Family

Sirvart Keumurian & Family  
 Andre & Kristen Markarian  
 George & Rose Moorachian & Family  
 Carl & Valerie Narsasian  
 Berj & Marilyn Nercessian  
 Sossy Nercessian  
 Sarkis Sarkisian

**IN MEMORY OF MARY KESHISHIAN**

Total \$755.00

Knarig Aboyan  
 Vekan & Leeza Anserlian & Daughters  
 Robert & Marlene Gebeyan

Krikor & Annie Keikian  
 Linda Marsoubian & Family  
 Harry & Sonia Mikaelian

Seta Najarian  
 Brian & Tina Perera  
 Mark & Veronica Sagherian

**IN MEMORY OF BARKYOHİ DIRWARTANIAN**

Total \$677.00

George & Susanna Aroush  
Hovig & Ani Aroush  
Ohannes & Ani Aroush

Nerses & Lina Garabet  
Bedros & Vartouhi Kehyeian  
Khachadourian

Vasken & Silva Momjian  
Dikran & Tamar Tatarian  
Edward & Nancy Tutunjian

**IN MEMORY OF MAURICE MINAS OURFALIAN**

Total \$420.00

Stephen & Nektar Ashchian  
Mardi, Paul Santos, Peter & Sophie  
Balgochian  
Debra Boyajian

Stephen & Maral Dulgarian & Family  
Aghop & Alice Kessissian  
Aram & Hasmig Manoukian  
Hasmig Momdjian

Avedis Pistoftzian  
Archalouys Sarkissian

**IN MEMORY OF ROSALIE KIZIRIAN**

Total \$2,550.00

Eric & Amy Guzelian & Family  
John & Krista Aftandilian  
Charles & Sona Aslanian  
Isabel Avedikian  
Raymond & Seta Davidian  
George Demirjian  
Ann Der Marderosian  
Greg & Tanya Garrian

Andrew & Alice Guzelian  
Astor & Lucy Guzelian  
Michael & Susan Guzelian  
Lucy Hoosian  
Shea Johnson  
Maureen & John Kent  
Armen & Anoush Knaian  
Stephen & Sosie Megerdichian

Walter & Deanne Nahabedian  
Jerry & Joan Parker  
Elane Pietila  
Matthew Smith  
St. Stephen's Ladies Guild  
Gregory J. & Sonia Vartanian  
Garbis & Sonia Zerdelian

**IN MEMORY OF HILDA M. TOPJIAN**

Total \$4,795.00

Ara Topjian  
Raffi, Jody, Tylor & Victoria Topjian  
Knarig Aboyan  
Kohar Gumusyan Allen  
Meline Arslanian  
Zabelle Hajian Azablar  
Queenie Aykanian  
Hratch & Ani Belekian & Family  
Tamar Boghosian  
Steven & Nyeri Azablar-Ceragno  
Hasmig Chaglassian  
Ara & Tsofig Chamlian  
Daghlian Family  
Arpine Donabedian

Arpine Fereshetian  
Ruth E. Hagopian  
Christopher Hajian  
Jack Hajian  
Martin & Juliette Hatzadourian  
Nevart Kaderian  
John & Seta Kaleshian  
Krikor & Annie Keikian  
Mrs. Sirvart Keumurian & Family  
Aracse Kurkjian & Family  
Arlene MacNevin  
Craig MacNevin & Kelly Marales  
Mr. & Mrs. Rayan MacNevin & Family  
Armen & Sylvie Meguerditchian

Diana Minasian & Family  
Berj & Marilyn Nercessian  
Seta Nercessian  
Sossy Nercessian & Family  
Garo & Salpi Ostayan  
Berge & Vera Ounjian  
Armand Paboojian  
Harry & Hripsime Parsekian  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert & Rosine Patterson  
Archalouys Sarkissian  
Virginia Shahinian  
Elizabeth Topjian  
Nadia Ucuzian  
Garbis & Sonia Zerdelian

**IN MEMORY OF VERKIN CHERIAN**

Total \$780.00

Knarig Aboyan  
Jano & Arpy Avedissian  
Dianne Dechellis  
Hagop & Silva Gebeshian  
Seta Donigian Janessian

Holy Cross Church  
Hovaness & Ani Janessian  
Arto & Ani Kurkjian  
Harry & Sonia Mikaelian  
Barbara Najarian

Meher & Nanor Nerkizian  
Aline & Rami Said  
June Yacubian  
Nazareth & Alice Yessayan

**IN MEMORY OF HAGOP JACK NERCESSIAN**

Total \$4,105.00

Berj & Marilyn Nercessian  
 Knarig Aboyan  
 Amg Family Dental  
 Anonymous  
 Charles & Sona Aslanian  
 Zabelle Hajian Azablar  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ohan & Mary Balanian  
 Marie & Frank Bassett  
 Zador & Mayda Bedoyan  
 Hratch & Ani Belekian & Family  
 Steven & Nyeri Azablar-Ceragno  
 Hasmig Chaglassian  
 Ara & Tsolig Chamlian  
 Daghlian Family  
 Vatche & Maral Der Torossian  
 Mary Doursounian  
 Mr. & Mrs. George Esserian  
 Luda Esserian

Elizabeth Ganjian  
 Nerses & Araxi Ghazarian & Family  
 Michael & Susan Guzelian  
 Christopher Hajian  
 Jack Hajian  
 Joseph Harrington  
 Martin & Juliette Hatzadourian  
 Holy Cross Church  
 Sonia Iskandarian  
 John & Seta Kaleshian  
 Edward & Mary Ann Kazanjian  
 Mrs. Sirvart Keumurian & Family  
 Arace Kurkjian & Family  
 Arlene MacNevin  
 Craig MacNevin  
 Mr. & Mrs. Rayan MacNevin & Family  
 Kelly Marales  
 Seta Manjikian

Armen & Sylvie Meguerditchian  
 Diana Minasian & Family  
 Al Nardizzi  
 Carmella Navarra  
 Garo & Salpi Ostayan  
 Armand Paboojian  
 Wayne & Susan Parseghian  
 Harry & Hripsime Parsekian  
 Archalouys Sarkissian  
 St. Stephen's Church Choir  
 Lilya Stepanyan  
 Seta Takvoryan  
 Elizabeth Topjian  
 Nadia Ucuzian  
 Kegham & Rubina Varjabedian  
 Garbis & Sonia Zerdelian

**IN MEMORY OF MARIAN (KULUDJIAN) FELEGIAN**

Total \$2,140.00

Knar Felegian & Family  
 Lucine Felegian & Family  
 John & Karen Aharonian  
 Charles & Sona Aslanian  
 Christopher & Vartouhie Dagg  
 Kim & Ray Dandurart  
 Richard & Karen Diranian  
 Alice Endrigian  
 Maryann Hodak

Ara & Aline Jelalian  
 George & Bernadette Karaian  
 Edward & Mary Ann Kazanjian  
 Greg Kolligian Jr.  
 Kenneth Kutzer & Donna Partamian-Kutzer  
 Lucille Manuelian  
 Bill & Karen Martin  
 Anna Mushmushian  
 Walter & Deanne Nahabedian

Daniel Shadbegian  
 Diane Shadbegian  
 St. Stephen's Ladies Guild  
 Diana K. Topjian  
 Armen & Lisa Tutunjian  
 Michael & Joelle Tutunjian  
 Richard & Eleanor Vanetzian

**IN MEMORY OF KELAM S. & NANCY J. DERDERIAN**

Total \$705.00

John & Krista Aftandilian  
 Zabelle Hajian Azablar

Martita Barsotti  
 Armen & Anoush Knaian

St. Stephen's Ladies Guild

**IN MEMORY OF MAKROUHI TERZIAN**

Total \$1,125.00

Zabelle Hajian Azablar  
 Sara Bodach  
 Anna Demurjian  
 Kimberly Driscoll

Robert & Paula Harrop  
 Ariane Liazos  
 Cortney Lollar  
 Mike Manasselian

Diane Messiqua  
 Laura Terzian & Bill Okerman & Family  
 Yvonne Ou  
 Zarouhi Sarkisian

**IN MEMORY OF LORIK GERIAN**

Total \$925.00

Manijeh Aidinejad  
 Aramais Andonian & Alvart Badalian  
 Amirkhani Family  
 Mrs. Mary Azizian & Family

Edward & Ida Babroudi  
 Edmond & Salpi Der Stepanian  
 Vahe & Maria Ghahraman  
 Ruben Ghazaryans

Raffi & Nanor Karagozian  
 Kegham & Rubina Varjabedian  
 Dr. George Vosgerichian & Silva Sedrakian

**IN MEMORY OF NERKIZ NERKIZIAN**

Total \$995.00

Robert & Maryanne (Hazerjian) Borzakian  
Yenok & Alice Ajoyan  
Madlen Altounjian  
Bernard & Lucy Ashbahian  
Hagop & Houri Bilanian  
Cheryl Kaladjian

Garbis & Marie Kaladjian  
Marcel & Anni Karian  
Hovanes & Rita Kassabian  
Kehyeian & Kanbourian Families  
Vartan & Nayiri Manjikian & Family  
Avedis & Hilda Merdkhanian & Family

Garo & Meghri Nerkizian  
Meher & Nanor Nerkizian  
Nikolaou Family  
Archalouys Sarkissian

**IN MEMORY OF ALBERT VICKEN HAYTAYAN**

Total \$525.00

Estepan & Annie Anteryassian  
Loucine Balian  
Krikor J. Gennetian

Vahan & Patti Gurekian  
Jamie Tamburrini  
Vahe Tokatlian & Family

Garo & Aida Yavshaoglu

**IN MEMORY OF ARMENUI (DOLKHANIAN) CHAPARIAN**

Total \$945.00

Sona Ashjian  
Charles & Sona Aslanian  
Edward & Ida Babroudi  
Arman & Aghavni Chitchian  
Debbie Cincotta & Dave Zanco

Arthur, Silva & Tadeh Der Stepanian  
Sheila Donovan  
Rebecca Hayrapetian  
Kathryn Lantigua  
Eric & Taline Markarian

Dr. Martha N. Martents  
Anna Nazarian  
Sayat Nova Dance Co.  
Mary Soukiasian

**IN MEMORY OF ARIK KHATCHATOURIAN**

Total \$840.00

Jason & Lucy Amello  
Edward & Ida Babroudi

Scott & Julie Meadows

Raffi & Mari Zargarian

**IN MEMORY OF NAZARET NALBANDIAN**

Total \$1,435.00

Anahid Nalbandian  
Alina & Darren Nalbandian-Brown  
& Daughters  
Garabet & Hermine Artinian  
Zabelle Hajian Azablar  
Sarkis & Elizabeth Badrikian  
Juliet Balian  
Tamar Boghosian  
Karen Demirjian  
Vartan & Grace Derounian

Alek Dogramacian  
Christopher Hajian  
Martin & Juliett Hatzadourian  
Lucy Hoosian  
Zabel Hoosian  
Edward & Mary Ann Kazanjian  
Zarouhe & Veken Keababjian  
Miridjan & Nevart Manavian  
Gary & Hasmig Mardiros  
Aurelian Vartan Mardirosian

George & Rose Moorachian & Family  
Sossy Nercessian  
Mrs. Araxie Poladian  
Yeghsa Sarkissian  
John Scobie & Marie Balian  
Kari & Kevork Simonian  
Allan G. Tutunjian  
Ashkhen & Shoushig Vanerian

**IN MEMORY OF SOSIE TERLEMEZIAN ROBINSON**

Total \$750.00

John & Julie Campos  
Donna Donovan

Joan & Alson Drevins & Family  
Evan & Barbara Semerjian

Paul Terlemezian

**IN MEMORY OF BARBARA LOUISE BALJIAN**

Total \$4,460.00

Rev. Archpriest Antranig & Yn. Arpineh Baljian	Leo & Mary Derderian Arpine Donabedian	Seta Necessian Sossy, Armen, Shahan, Ani & Taline Necessian
Rev. Fr. Stephan Yn. Alice Baljian & Children	Gary & Melanie Donoian Ojik Gregorian	Hagop & Valentine Papazian & Family
James & Nayiri Bell & Children	Eric & Amy Guzelian	Dorothy Piligian
The Afarian's	Michael & Susan Guzelian	Richard & Kelli Piligian & Family
John & Krista Aftandilian	Shake Hagopian	Vahe & Talar Restikian & Sons
John & Karen Aharonian	Christopher Hajian	Col. & Mrs. George Rustigian
Mary Arabian	John & Jean Harr	Robert Rustigian
Charles & Sona Aslanian	Lucy Hoosian	Yeghsa Sarkissian
Robert & Carine Avakian	Armen & Sossy Jeknavorian	Dr. & Mrs. John & Debbie Saryan
Isabel Avedikian	John & Alice Karnikyan	James Sookiasian
Zabelle Hajian Azablar	Edward & Mary Ann Kazanjian	St. Stephen's Ladies Guild
Sarkis & Elizabeth Badrikian	Zarouhe & Veken Keababjian	Rev. Archpriest Aram Yn. Margarite Stepanian
Armen & Silva Bahlavouni	Armen & Anoush Knaian	Krikor & Silva Tchobanian
David & Marie-Louise Bean & Family	Marie Kouyoumjian	Mr. & Mrs. Pasquale Totaro
John & Barbara Berberian	Judi Malootian	Barbara Tutelian
Mrs. Tamar Boghosian	Jack & Christine Mardoian	Allan G. Tutunjian
Avedis & Houry Boyamian	Silva Markarian	Ronald & Robin Tutunjian - Hines
Armen & Esther Chakmakjian & Family	Zella Marootian	Anne Zartarian
Myriam D'Ergan Jones	Stephen & Sosie Megerdichian	Charlene Zartarian
Daghlian Family	Rafi & Hasmig Melkounian	Garbis & Sonia Zerdelian
Karen Demirjian	Walter & Deanne Nahabedian	
Anna Demurjian	Berj & Marilyn Necessian	

**IN MEMORY OF JOHN M. JACK HAJIAN JR.**

Total \$15,225.00

Christopher Hajian	Joseph & Gloria Distefano & Family	Yeprem & Mayda Melkonian
Sevag & Aline Melkonian & Children	Sarkis & Kim Duhanyan	Anahid Nalbandian & Family
John & Karen Aharonian	Hagop & Silva Gebeshian	Berj & Marilyn Necessian
Sona Ashjian	Michael & Susan Guzelian	Seta Necessian
Zabelle Hajian Azablar	Lindsey Hagopian	Sossy Necessian
Zareh & Vicky Babikian	Lucy Hoosian	Jack Palanjian & Family
Armen & Lusine Baghsarian & Family	Mr. & Mrs. Raffi & Nina Hovagimian	Harry & Hripsime Parsekian
Armen & Silva Bahlavouni	Seta Donigian Janessian	Sarah Sahagian
Edward & Nancy Barsamian	John & Seta Kaleshian	Richard Tarvezian & Talene Tarvezian Choly
Erin Baumgartner	Maral Kassarjian	Ara Topjian
Paul Bedrosian	Mr. & Mrs. Vatche Kassarjian	Allan G. Tutunjian
Mrs. Hasmig Chaglassian	Mrs. Sirvart Keumurian & Family	Ronald & Robin Tutunjian - Hines
Ara & Tsolig Chamlian	Joe & Ann Kibarian	Vahe, Noushig, Arly & Pateil Tuysuzian
Steven & Nyeri Ceragno	Maree Kiledjian	Bedig & Sonig Vartzbedian
Hachik & Johanna Chilingirian	Yervant & Knar Kiledjian	Garbis & Sonia Zerdelian
Jean Barsamian Clark	Aracse Kurkjian & Family	
Houry Daghlilian	Mrs. Flora Matossian	
Karen Demirjian	Vrej & Vana Melkonian	

**IN MEMORY OF AVEDIS BALAKIAN**

Total 635.00

Council of Armenian Executives	John & Jean Harr	Gabriel & Clara Tahanian
Leo & Mary Derderian	Seta Iskandarian	Barbara Tutelian
Stewart & Carolyn N. Goff	Aram Janoyan	Betty Tutelian Dasilva

## RECENT &amp; ADDITIONAL MEMORIAL DONATIONS

**IN MEMORY OF NAZARET  
KURUMLIAN****Total \$140.00**Mrs. Madlen Altounjian  
Krikor & Suna Cinar  
George Khajadourian**In Memory of DIKRAN BEURKLIAN****Total \$450.00**Mardi Balgochian, Peter & Sophie  
Balgochian, Paul Santos  
Konstantin Druzhenko & Janet  
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Garabedian**In Memory of MARTIK PETROSSIAN****Total \$300.00**

Evelyn Petrossian

**In Memory of HRAYR NAZARIAN****Total \$200.00**

Anna Nazarian

**In Memory of EDWARD MERJIKIAN****Total \$100.00**

Mrs. Ossanna Merjikian

**In Memory of OFIK ABRAHIMI****Total \$140.00**Edward & Ida Babroudi  
Anna Nazarian**In Memory of HOVANNES KAHVEJIAN****Total \$50.00**

John &amp; Ardemis Jerikian

**In Memory of GEORGE MISAKIAN****Total \$20.00**

Carl &amp; Valerie Narsasian

**In Memory of KAY ARAKELIAN****Total \$1,000.00**

Mark &amp; Brenda Schelzi

**In Memory of ANTRANIK THOMAS****Total \$100.00**

George Zavaro

**In Memory of HRATCH KESHISHIAN****Total \$25.00**

Shanika Sarkis

**In Memory of KHOREN COREY TEVAN****Total \$25.00**

Hratch &amp; Ani Belekian &amp; Family

**In Memory of LEON DARAKJIAN****Total \$100.00**

Anahid Mirzaian

**In Memory of SARKIS ZERDELIAN****Total \$200.00**

Dzovig Lilly Zerdelian

**In Memory of JAMES MURRAY****Total \$25.00**

John &amp; Jean Harr

**In Memory of VASKEN BASMAJIAN****Total \$200.00**

Shoghig &amp; Vasken Jr. Basmajian

**In Memory of LUCILLE DERDERIAN  
HAMPARIAN****Total \$350.00**Carl & Armene Derderian & Family  
Charles & Sona Aslanian & Family  
Dr. Louis & Mrs. Elenne Najarian**In Memory of LUCY MOUGHALIAN  
GRAVEL****Total \$50.00**

Miridjan &amp; Nevart Manavian

**In Memory of LINDA GHAZARIAN****Total \$200.00**Seta Manjikian  
Shahan & Salpi Stepanian**In Memory of SIRAN SALIBIAN****Total \$250.00**Rev. Fr. Antranig & Yn. Arpineh Baljian  
Harry & Hripsime Parsekian**In Memory of GARY HAGOPIAN****Total \$500.00**Ruth Hagopian  
Anna Demurjian  
Queenie, Robin & David Raphaelian  
Allan G. Tutunjian**MADAGH****Total \$3,160.00**Ned & Aroxie Apigian  
Zabelle Hajian Azablar  
Stephan Baljian  
Hratch & Ani Belekian & Family  
*(In memory of Belekian Family)*Kenneth & Diane Biagiotti  
Avedis & Houry Boyamian  
Karen CostnerDania & Maral Derderian  
Dorothy Esperian*(In memory of Leo & Mary Esperian)*

Varoujan &amp; Elizabeth Garabedian

Diana Hachikian

Jack Hajian

Ada Hamparian

John &amp; Debra Haroian

John &amp; Jean Harr

Martin &amp; Juliette Hatzadourian

Lucy Hoosian

Mary Ishkanian

*(In memory of William Ishkanian  
& Avedis Aghjayan)*

John &amp; Ardemis Jerikian

John &amp; Seta Kaleshian

John &amp; Alice Karnikyan

Steven &amp; Linda Kechejian &amp; Family

Takouhie Keumurian

*(In loving memory of newly  
deceased, late Mr. Jack G. Keumurian)*

Vahan Khachadoorian

Armen &amp; Anoush Knaian

Arsen &amp; Margo Kozelian

Shahe &amp; Zovig Majarian

Shavarsh &amp; Anahid Majarian

Zella Marootian

*(In memory of Haigoohi Atamian,  
Berjoohi Aghamalian & Vartoohi Ata-  
mian)*

Flora Matossian

Hossep &amp; Rene Melkeshian

Ossanna Merjikian

Walter &amp; Deanne Nahabedian

Carl &amp; Valerie Narsasian

Sossy Nercessian

Haig &amp; Marina Papazian

Evelyn Petrossian

Sarah Sahagian

Yeghsa Sarkissian

James &amp; Carol Tateossian

Joshua &amp; Diana Tevekelian

Ashkhen &amp; Shoushig Vanerian

Valerie M. Wise - Tucker

Rima Sen Yousefian - Zeroonian



**2025 CHRISTMAS YOUGHAKIN & POINSETTIA**  
**Total \$8,870.00**



**2025 Christmas Youghakin**

Kevoork & Endza Abdalian  
 John & Krista Aftandilian  
 John & Karen Aharonian  
 Selma Apovian  
 Paul & Sema Arakelian  
 Alan & Nevart Asadoorian & Family  
 Isabel Avedikian  
 Zabelle Hajian Azablar  
 Mary Azizian & Family  
 Michael & Kay Barsamian  
 Shoghig Basmajian  
 Vahan Basmajian  
 Elisa Bezdjian  
 Kenneth & Diane Biagiotti  
 John & Zovig Boyajian  
 Avedis & Houry Boyamian  
 Karen Costner  
 David & Sharon Demarco  
 Anna Demurjian  
*(In memory of Ara Demurjian & Dr. Varant Hagopian)*  
 Satenik Der Manuelian  
 Leo & Mary Derderian  
 Mary Doursounian  
 Dorothy Esperian  
 Arpine Fereshetian  
 Sarkis Gennetian  
 Thomas Gengozian & Sally Vanerian  
 Ruben Ghazaryans  
 Diana Hachikian  
 Antranig & Peggy Hagopian  
 Noushig Hagopian & Tim Enright & Family  
 Jack Hajian  
 Ada Hamparian  
 John & Debra Haroian  
 John & Jean Harr  
 Lucy Hoosian  
 Mary Ishkanian  
 Ron Iverson & Gail Guzelian & Family  
 Karekin & Esperanza Jelalian  
 John & Ardemis Jerikian  
 Nevart Kaderian  
 John & Seta Kaleshian  
 Vrej & Anna Kandoyan  
 John & Alice Karnikyan  
 Andrew Kasparian  
 Steven & Linda Kechejian & Family  
 Takouhie Kefeyan  
 William & Cerise Jalelian-Keim  
 Sirvart Keumurian & Family  
 Naomi Khederian-Bahtiarian  
 Louisa Kheremian  
 Roupen & Annie Kiredjian  
 Armen & Anoush Knaian

Jacques Sarkis Kouchakdjian  
 Gerard & Janet Lorden  
 Varu John & Armine Mahdasian & Family  
 Shavarsh & Anahid Majarian  
 Nairi Makarian  
 Gary & Hasmig Mardiros  
 Zella Marootian  
 Anna Medzorjian  
 Stephen & Sosie Megerdichian  
 Hossep & Rene Melkeshian  
 Vrej & Vana Melkonian  
 Ossanna Merjikian  
 Varouj & Alice Minassian  
 Walter & Dianne Nahabedian  
 Carl & Valerie Narsasian  
 Seta Nercessian  
 Nazareth Ohannessian  
 Wayne & Susan Parseghian  
 Evelyn Petrossian  
 Regina Pusantian  
 Sarah Sahagian  
 Leo & Mary Beth Sarkissian  
 Yeghsa Sarkissian  
 Sarkis & Shoushan Stepanian  
 Barbara Talanian  
 Lucy Talanian & Family  
 Adrienne Tanashian  
 James & Carol Tateossian  
 Elizabeth Topjian  
 Valerie M. Wise - Tucker  
 Allan G. Tutunjian  
 Ashkhen & Shoushig Vanerian  
 Kegham & Rubina Varjabedian  
 Joanne E. Wortman  
 Dzovig Lilly Zerdelian  
 Rima Sen Yousefian-Zeroonian  
 Nishan & Margueritte Zoboyan & Family

**2025 Poinsettias**

Mary Arabian  
*(In memory of Harout Arabian)*  
 Paul & Sema Arakelian  
*(In memory of Roseanne & Shant Chebookjian)*  
 Isabel Avedikian  
*(In memory of Teriz Enokian, Nevart Janigian & Verjin Avedikian)*  
 Mary Azizian & Family  
*(In memory of Husband Chris Azizian & Grandson Royce Whitaker)*  
 Hratch & Ani Belekian & Family  
 Kohar Berberian  
*(In memory of Vartan, Sona, Ani, Kevoork & Dirouhi Berberian)*

Kenneth & Diane (Kalousdian) Biagiotti  
*(In memory of Kalousdian, Miktarian, Echmalian, & Der Sarkisian Family Members)*  
 Laraine Bogosian  
*(In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bogosian)*  
 John & Zovig Boyajian  
 Steven & Nyeri Azablar-Ceragno  
*(In memory of Varoujan Azablar & Aram-Anoush Azablar)*  
 Karen Costner  
*(In memory of Mane Khachadoorian)*  
 Satenik Der Manuelian  
*(In memory of Vahe Der Manuelian)*  
 Dorothy Esperian  
*(IMO Leo & Mary Esperian)*  
 Varoujan & Elizabeth Garabedian  
 Elizabeth Garabedian  
 Shake Hagopian  
*(In memory of Vahram & Krisdapor Hagopian)*  
 Marie Kouyoumjian  
 Lorden Family  
 Shahe & Zovig Majarian  
*(In memory of Hagop & Hranoush Majarian)*  
 Flora Matossian  
*(In memory of Husband Haroutune Matossian)*  
 Vrej & Vana Melkonian  
*(In memory of Dzovig + Shaghig Hajian Palanjan)*  
 Walter & Dianne Nahabedian  
*(In memory of Nahabedian & Yavanian Families)*  
 Sarah Sahagian  
 Sarkis & Shoushan Stepanian  
*(In memory of Nalbandian & Stepanian Families)*  
 Joshua, Diana, & Aline Teveklian  
 Valerie M. Wise - Tucker  
*(In memory of Victoria Tucker)*



**2025 EASTER YOUGHAKIN & EASTER LILIES**  
**Total \$7,460.00**



**2025 Easter Youghakin**

John & Karen Aharonian  
 Ned & Aroxie Apigian  
 Isabel Avedikian  
 Zabelle Hajian Azablar  
 Mary Azizian & Family  
 Naomi Khederian-Bahtarian  
 Levon Bastajian  
 Hratch & Ani Belekian & Family  
 Kenneth & Diane Biagiotti  
 John & Zovig Boyajian  
 Avedis & Houry Boyamian  
 Anna Demurjian  
*(In memory of Garabed & Ovsanna  
 (Sararle) Hagopian)*  
 Satenik Der Manuelian  
 Leo & Mary Derderian  
 Dorothy Esperian  
 Arpine Fereshetian  
 Thomas Gengozian & Sally Vanerian  
 Ruben Ghazaryans  
 Diana Hachikian  
 Noushig Hagopian & Tim Enright  
 & Family  
 Ruth E. Hagopian  
 Ada Hamparian  
 John & Debra Haroian  
 John & Jean Harr  
 John & Ardemis Jerikian  
 Nevart Kaderian  
 John & Seta Kaleshian  
 Richard & Athena Kanarian  
 Stephen P. Kanarian  
 John & Alice Karnikyan  
 Steven & Linda Kechejian & Family  
 Serge & Lara Kechichian  
 William & Cerise Jalelian-Keim  
 Sirvart Keumurian & Family  
 Armen & Anoush Knaian  
 Jacques Sarkis Kouchakdjian  
 Gerard & Janet Lorden  
 Varu John & Armine Mahdasian & Family  
 Shavarsh & Anahid Majarian  
 Nairi Makarian  
 Seta Manjikian  
 Jack & Christine Mardoian  
 Zella Marootian  
*(In memory of Edward Marootian)*  
 Stephen & Sosie Megerdichian  
 Vrej & Vana Melkonian  
 Ossanna Merjikian  
 Charles & Hripsime Minasian  
 Varouj & Alice Minassian  
 Walter & Deanne Nahabedian  
 Algis & Varso Nakutis

Anahid Nalbandian & Family  
 Carl & Valerie Narsasian  
 Seta Nercessian  
 Sossy Nercessian  
 Nazareth Ohannessian  
 Larry & Vanessa Ovian  
 Haig & Marina Papazian  
 Dr. Robert & Rosine Patterson  
 Evelyn Petrossian  
 Sarah Sahagian  
 Leo & Mary Beth Sarkissian  
 Yeghsa Sarkissian  
 James & Carol Tateossian  
 Valerie M. Wise - Tucker  
 Barbara Tutelian  
 Allan G. Tutunjian  
 Ashkhen & Shoushig Vanerian  
 Kegham & Rubina Varjabedian  
 Joanne E. Wortman  
 Ani Yessaillian  
 Rima Sen Yousefian-Zeroonian  
 Nishan & Margueritte Zoboyan & Family

**2025 Easter Lillies**

Anonymous  
*(In memory of Bedros & Marie Zartarian)*  
 Aroxie Madoian Apigian  
*(In memory of Hagop & Arshalous  
 Madoian)*  
 Isabel Avedikian  
*(In memory of Teriz Enokian, Nevart  
 Janigian & Verjin Avedikian)*  
 Mary Azizian & Family  
*(In memory of Chris Azizian &  
 Grandson, Royce Whitaker)*  
 Hratch & Ani Belekian & Family  
 Kohar Berberian  
*(In memory of Vartan, Sona, Ani,  
 Kevork & Dirouhi Berberian)*  
 Kenneth & Diane (Kalousdian) Biagiotti  
*(In memory of Kalousdian & Miktarian  
 Deceased Family Members)*  
 Laraine Bogosian  
*(In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Paul J.  
 Bogosian)*  
 John & Zovig Boyajian  
 The Costner Family  
*(In memory of Marie Khachadoorian)*

David, Sharon, Anthony & Isabella  
 DeMarco  
*(In memory of Kirk & Lehart  
 Aharonian)*  
 Satenik Der Manuelian  
*(In memory of Der Manuelian &  
 Shahvevdian Families)*  
 George & Dorothy Elanjian  
*(In memory of Harmoush Marsubian,  
 John & Mary Giderian, &  
 Sloane Elanjian)*  
 Dorothy Esperian  
*(In memory of Leo & Mary Esperian)*  
 Ruth E. Hagopian  
 John & Jean Harr  
 Mary Ishkanian  
*(In memory of Avedis Aghjayan &  
 William Ishkanian)*  
 Sarah Janigian  
*(In memory of Ana & Paul Janigian,  
 Louise & John Janigian,  
 Nevart & George Janigian,  
 Pearl & George Wortman)*  
 Sirvart Keumurian & Family  
*(In memory of Charles Keumurian)*  
 Arsen & Margo Kozelian  
 Janet Lorden  
 Seta Manjikian  
*(In memory of Satenik Manjikian)*  
 Sonya Merian  
*(In memory of Sarafian & Merian  
 Families)*  
 Walter & Deanne Nahabedian  
*(In memory of Boghos Paul &  
 Makrouhi Nahabedian)*  
 Hagop & Sossy Nercessian  
 Sarah M. Sahagian  
 Dr. & Mrs. A. D. Shushan  
*(In memory of Helen Shushan)*  
 Joanne E. Wortman  
*(In memory of The Janigian Family)*

## DONATIONS

## IN KIND DONATIONS

Ourfalian Family/Massis Bakery  
*(Making Mas that is distributed after Divine Liturgy  
 In loving memory of their parents, Kevork & Sonya  
 Ourfalian)*

Wagon Wheel Nursery & Farmstand, Lexington, MA  
*(Sweet Basil donated on the occasion of the Feast  
 of the Exaltation of The Holy Cross)*

Brookline Oriental Rug Company, The Belekian Family  
 generously donated two oriental rugs for the altar and  
 cleaned our existing altar rugs.

## PALM &amp; EASTER SUNDAY

Kachadurian Family \$500  
*(On the occasion of the Resurrection of  
 Lazarus and Palm Sunday, donation towards  
 the Tulips in loving memory of their parents,  
 Ghazaros & Lucine Kachadurian)*

Vahan Khachadoorian \$300  
*(Donation for the palms in loving  
 memory of sister, Rosemary Khachadoorian,  
 and parents, Ohannes & Nazan Khachadoorian)*

Nadia Ann Karnik \$500  
*(Donation for the Easter Eggs, in loving  
 memory of her parents, Harry & Anahid Karnik)*

ON THE OCCASION OF THE ASSUMPTION  
OF THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Adour & Nancy Tutunjian  
*(Donated all the grapes for our annual picnics)*

From the Hagopian children, grandchildren & \$500  
 great - grand children  
*(In loving memory of Rev. Archpriest Torkom  
 & Yeretzgin Zevart Hagopian)*

Nazareth & Mayda Aroyan \$150  
*(Donation for the Madagh meat)*

Nairi A. Makarian \$100  
*(Towards the grapes, in memory of all  
 Makarian & Haroutunian deceased  
 family members)*

Zella Marootian *(For the grapes)* \$25

Ankeen Merzikian \$100

## DONATIONS TO JRAK

Ojik Gregorian & Family \$50  
 Lucy Hoosian \$100

## BUY A SHINGLE

Ara Berj Marootian \$1,000

## ENDOWMENT FUND

Anonymous \$10,000  
 John & Alice Karnikyan \$5,000  
 Stephen Karoghlanian Jr. \$15,000  
 John Jade & Shoghig Merian \$1,000

## ALTAR RENOVATIONS

Mary Arabian \$1,500  
 Armen Festekjian \$280  
 Sarkis & Zarmineh Karakozian \$50

## TITHE

Carl Haroian \$600

## DONATIONS TO PLATE &amp; CANDLES

Peter Chobanian \$50  
 Nevart Kaderian \$100  
 Rafi & Hasmig Melkounian \$120

## FAITH -IN-ACTION

Christmas Eve Service Collection & Plate \$4,483  
 Sheerag Berejiklian \$1,470  
 Allan G. Tutunjian \$300

## SECOND PLATE COLLECTION

California Fires \$3,575  
 Nerses Shnorhali Orphan Camp, Prelacy \$1,536  
 Armenian Theological Seminary, Lebanon \$1,157

## BAZAAR DONATIONS

Sandra Narinian \$500  
*(Donated 2025 Bazaar Raffle winnings)*

Joanne E. Wortman \$200  
*(Donated part of 2025 Bazaar Raffle winnings)*

## STUDENT CARE PACKAGE MAILING

Zella Marootian \$100

## ORPHAN FUND

Yasha Kishipour \$662

## OFFICE RENOVATIONS (WATER HEATER)

Metro Energy—New Water Heater \$15,000  
 Sheerag Berejiklian \$100

## DONATIONS (Cont.)

<b>GENERAL DONATIONS</b>		Harry & Katrina Glorikian	\$500
St. Stephen's Ladies Guild	\$20,000	Arthur & Connie Gutierrez	\$1,000
Anonymous	\$2,500	<i>(In honor of Ara Krafian's retirement)</i>	
Anonymous	\$500	Andrew & Alice Guzelian	\$2,000
Anonymous	\$200	Mrs. Mary Ishkanian	\$250
Kevork & Endza Abdalian	\$200	Sarkis & Zarmineh Karakozian	\$100
<i>On the happy occasion of their daughter Lori's engagement to Erik Solamani)</i>		<i>(On the happy occasion of their grandson Aram, being the Godfather for water blessing on Armenian Christmas, 2025)</i>	
Sebouh & Leeza Arakelian	\$100	Nadia Ann Karnik	\$2,500
<i>(On the happy occasion of their son Alik's ordination)</i>		Raffy & Annie Kassardjian	\$100
Lisa Arcenian	\$50	Charles & Agnes Kazarian	\$200
Mrs. Leona Arsenian	\$900	Krikor & Mari Khachadourian	\$30
Arpi Avakian	\$30	<i>(On the happy occasion of their daughter Mayda's ordination)</i>	
AYF Nejdeh Jr. Chapter	\$1,000	Vicken & Ani Khatchadourian	\$75
Rev. & Mrs. Antranig Baljian	\$1,000	Diana Krmzian	\$20
<i>(On the happy occasion of Der Antranig's Retirement)</i>		Stepan Manjikian	\$50
George & Vaneh Barmakian	\$100	Avedis & Hilda Merdkhanian	\$50
<i>(Baby Avo's 40 day blessing &amp; dedication to the church)</i>		<i>(Baby Aroura's 40 day blessing &amp; dedication to the church)</i>	
Shoghig Basmajian	\$100	Darren & Alina Nalbandian-Brown	\$360
Katia Bejakian	\$105	Garo & Meghri Nerkizian	\$100
Sheerag Berejiklian	\$180	<i>(Baby Olivia's 40 Day Blessing &amp; dedication to the church)</i>	
Rashad & Alexia Brideman	\$25	Dimitri & Kristen Petrosian	\$100
<i>(On the happy occasion of their son Remington's baptism)</i>		<i>(Baby Colette's 40 day blessing &amp; dedication to the church)</i>	
Gini Devaraj & Veena Chengalaidu	\$51	Thomas Gengozian & Sally Vanerian	\$300
Dr. & Mrs. Hovig Chitilian	\$3,000	<i>(On the happy occasion of their son John Diran's ordination)</i>	
David & Sira Cormier	\$400	Leo & Mary Beth Sarkissian	\$300
<i>(On the happy occasion of their daughter Alexis's engagement to Aren)</i>		Yeghsa Sarkissian <i>(3 School Picnic)</i>	\$10
Dikran & Darlene Dakessian	\$376	Yeghsa Sarkissian <i>(Blessing of white cord)</i>	\$20
<i>(Company matching)</i>		Mary Soukiasian	\$50
Mr. & Mrs. Viken Dakessian	\$400		
<i>(On the happy occasion of their son Aren's engagement to Alexis)</i>			

The Pastor, Board of Trustees and all affiliated bodies are grateful to all those who have generously contributed to the efforts and mission of our parish.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### CONTACT

St. Stephen's Office and Mailing Address  
38 Elton Avenue, Watertown, MA 02472  
Phone: 617-924-7562  
Email: office@soorstepanos.org  
Website: soorpstepanos.org

St. Stephen's Church  
1 Artsakh Street, Watertown, MA 02472

### OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday–Friday 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.  
(Wednesdays and Fridays by appointment only)

### SUNDAY CHURCH SCHEDULE

Divine Liturgy — 10:00 A.M.

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

Fourth Sunday of each month at 11:30, during the school year.

### SACRAMENTS

For information and to schedule sacraments, please call the church office.

### REQUIEM

For Requiem Service, please call the church office by 3 P.M. on the Wednesday prior to the Sunday that the requiem is to be held. Donations may be made by credit card, by mail, at the church office, or on Sundays in church.

### HALL RENTALS

If you are interested in renting the church hall for a private function, please contact the church office.

### ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOLS

Visit our website for more information about St. Stephen's Sunday, Saturday, and Nursery and Elementary schools.

### LADIES' GUILD

Individuals of all ages who are interested in serving the church are invited to join the Ladies Guild. Please contact the office for more information.

### VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Our parishioners and members offer a wealth of talents, professional expertise, and experience. Sharing your unique abilities with the church to advance its efforts provides a source of wealth that goes beyond the financial and can further the mission and advancement of our church community.

Consider being a Sunday School teacher, bazaar gourmet and pastry volunteer, event organizer, choir member, and more. Send us an email at office@soorpstepanos.org

### HOME VISITS

We understand that it may be difficult for all of our parishioners to participate in Sunday services. If you are in failing health, or are unable to get to church because of a disability, please call the office to arrange for a pastoral visit.

### HOME BLESSINGS

Traditionally, home blessings are done yearly during the Christmas season. For more information and to schedule, please contact the office.

### HOSPITAL VISITS

We encourage all parishioners to inform us of any immediate family member, relative, or church parishioner who is in the hospital and wishes to be visited. These visits can help to lift the spirit of the patient and offer support and guidance.

ՃՐԱԳի այս թիւը լման տարեկոչանի մը գործունէութիւնն ու ստացած նուիրատուութեանց արձանագրութիւնները կը ներկայացնէ: Միշտ կը ջանանք մեր լաւագոյնը կատարել, սակայն մոռացում կամ սխալ արձանագրութիւններ կրնան պատահիլ, մասնաւոր ապախի խճողուած թիւի մը պարագային: Կանխաւ ձեր ներողամտութիւնը կը խնդրենք որնէ վրիպումի կամ թերացումի համար: Եթէ սխալ մը նկատուի, հաճեցէք եկեղեցւոյ գրասենեակը տեղեկ պահել, որպէսզի արագորեն յաջորդ թիւին մէջ: ԽՄԲԱԳՐԱԿԱՆ ԿԱԶՄ

This issue of JRAK covers an entire year's worth of activity and donations. Although we try our best in preparing this newsletter, inadvertent errors are bound to occur, especially in such a packed issue. Please accept our apologies in advance for any mistakes or errors and inform the church office so the correct information can be printed in the next issue.

EDITORIAL BOARD

## WAYS TO GIVE

St. Stephen's is a not-for-profit organization whose operations are supported by donations, events and volunteers. Your generosity helps to keep our doors open and bring to fruition all the amazing work you just read through in this issue.

There are various ways to share your philanthropy. Please visit [www.soorpstepanos.org/giving](http://www.soorpstepanos.org/giving) to learn more.



*In Lieu of Flower, Memorial, Weekly Plate/Candle, Faith in Action, Youghakin, Madagh, or General Donations can be made by scanning the code.*

### BECOME A DUES-PAYING MEMBER OF ST. STEPHEN'S

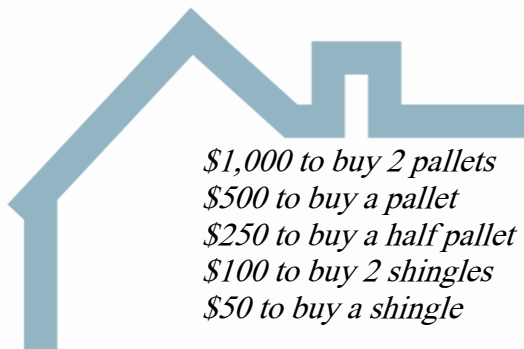
For less than 55 cents a day, you can become a dues-paying member of St. Stephen's — a way to show your moral and financial commitment to your church. If you are not currently a member of our church, we invite you to consider becoming one.

Visit [soorpstepanos.org/membership-and-volunteering](http://soorpstepanos.org/membership-and-volunteering) to learn more and sign up.

### BUY A SHINGLE

Our "Buy a Shingle" campaign continues to help us retire the mortgage on the "The Pink House."

Consider helping us in this endeavor through the suggested donation options below. Please donate online or send checks to St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church Attn: "Buy a Shingle"



### PEW DEDICATION

As we approach the Church's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, consider dedicating a pew in memory of a loved one.

A brass dedication plaque will be placed at each location on a pew.

Those interested may contact the church office.



### LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

If you are interested in other donation options that might be more appropriate to your interest, such as substantial cash donations, appreciated stock or mutual funds from a taxable account, funds from a Qualified Charitable Distribution, securities, will, living trust, or endowment fund, please visit our website above or contact the church office for questions and guidance.

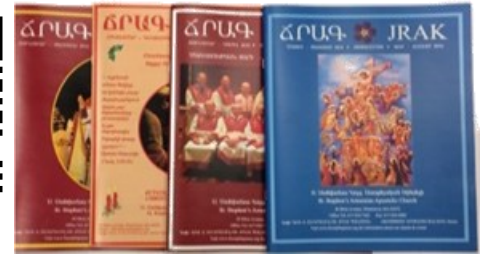
# LET'S CONNECT

## BY PRINT - KEEP THE JRAK LIT!

Love reading the JRAK? In this digital age, many appreciate this traditional print piece—but it does come with some costs. Donations to support the production are greatly appreciated. Please consider being a sponsor at the levels listed below.

Scan the code to make a donation! Those who contribute will be acknowledged in next year's issue.

- Diamond** \$5,000 - (Full issue sponsor, full page ad)
- Platinum** \$1,000 - (Section sponsor, quarter page ad)
- Gold** \$100 - (Listed)




## THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

**WEEKLY E-BULLETIN** Our weekly email e-newsletter is just one of the ways to stay in touch with us! In addition to liturgical information, requiems, and bible readings, it is a great way to stay current on parish activity, announcements, events and community news. Scan the code to subscribe to our list.



And be sure to follow us on social media: e-bulletin, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.




Join us Sundays for worship  
Church: 1 Artsakh Street  
Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am  
www.soorstepanos.org

Pastor: Very Rev. Father Hrant Tahanian  
Office & Mailing: 38 Elton Avenue  
Watertown, MA 02472  
617-924-7562

E-bulletin: January 30, 2026

Program  
February 1, 2026  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF NATIVITY**  
Very Rev. Fr. Hrant Tahanian, Pastor  
Rev. Archpriest Antranig Baljian, Pastor Emeritus

2026 - Year of Spiritual Renewal



His Holiness Catholicos Aram I has proclaimed 2026 the Year of Spiritual Renewal, in line with a tradition established early in his pontificate. Warning against the performative tendencies in modern life, His Holiness has identified factors that have been eroding the spiritual life among the Armenian faithful.

In his proclamation, the Catholicos notes that our church has become rite-centered, driven by national concerns that often overshadow its religious mission, leading to the marginalization of spiritual life.

As a remedy, His Holiness prescribes familiarity with the Bible and religious literature in general, as well as a fuller understanding of the Divine Liturgy by the faithful.

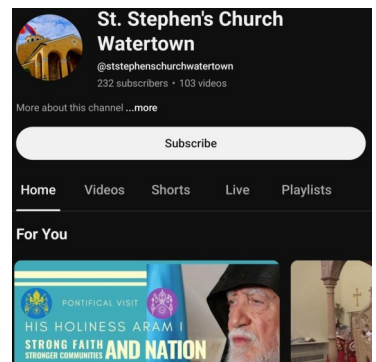
[Click here to read the full text of the pontifical proclamation.](#)



### St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church (Watertown, MA)

2.3K followers • 21 following

Located in the heart of Watertown, St. Stephen's serves the largest Armenian community on the East Coast. Its jurisdiction falls under the Eastern Prelacy and Holy See of Cilicia.



ST. STEPHEN'S  
ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH  
OF GREATER BOSTON  
38 Elton Avenue  
Watertown, MA 02472

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