

LOOYS

ARMENIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY RESURRECTION



Fall 2022



A Message from Fr. Haroutiun

I am always struck every year at the way that the Holiday Season markedly changes the mood of people around me. I think we all have had the experience of noticing a gentler, friendlier, and more inviting demeanor in a family member, neighbor, or friend as we enter mid-November.

Even just the anticipation of the Thanksgiving holiday itself can radically change the way people interact in day-to-day life.

This shift in perspective brought about by a day dedicated to giving thanks for the gift of our blessed nation is in concert with the attitude a Christian ought to hold every day as their baseline.

Our very celebration of the Holy Badarak is essentially a weekly thanksgiving meal. We gather together with church family around a table where we feast upon bread and wine that has been mystically transformed into the very Body and Blood of Jesus Christ himself.

We call this meal “the eucharist,” which comes from the Greek word *eucharistia* simply meaning “thanksgiving.”

I think that we often mistakenly think that we come to Church because God expects us to say thank you for the gifts He has given us; that the Lord is so insecure that, although He is the creator of all that exists, He needs our praise as affirmation.

The Armenian language may help to clarify this. The word in Armenian for “giving thanks” is the verb *kohanal*, which literally means to be satisfied, content, or pleased.

It is not something we give to others; it is an internal state of being. So when, for example, during the hymn *Hamenaynee* we sing the phrase *kohanamk uzken Der*, we are not saying that we give thanks to the Lord for the gifts in our lives, but rather simply that “we are satisfied by you, Lord.”

Essentially, the thanksgiving we offer to God during the liturgy is not an obligatory thank you for all of the “stuff” in our lives, but rather it is the natural reaction of gratitude for the Lord himself; it is the acknowledgment that simply being in his presence is enough to brighten our day, to bring joy into our lives, and to satisfy our deepest longing.

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In trying to think about what makes the Thanksgiving holiday so special, it becomes readily apparent that nothing particularly extraordinary is taking place. We simply gather around a table and eat a large meal.

But I think that the thankfulness experienced on this day is connected with the *kohapanootyoon* of the Holy Badarak. We are not thankful on this day because of the gift of turkey or pumpkin pie.

Our thankfulness on Thanksgiving Day comes from the indescribable experience that simply being in the presence of those we love while partaking of a meal together is enough to fulfill the deepest desires of the heart. What else could we want out of life than this?

I know that for many of us, gathering around the Thanksgiving table is not the idyllic experience I have described. And likewise, perhaps the Holy Badarak is not currently feeding your soul in the way its hymns proclaim.

However, just like building, and repairing, relationships with your family can transform your experience around the Thanksgiving table, likewise building, and in some cases repairing, our relationship with our Lord will indeed transform what may seem at first to be a boring, outdated, and meaningless ritual into an invaluable opportunity to sing of our satisfaction — to simply sit in the Lord's presence and allow him to fill our souls with peace, to strengthen our bodies to fight life's challenges for another day, and to guide our hearts toward his love.

May your celebration of Thanksgiving this year be a reminder of the incredible gift of our weekly thanksgiving celebration, the Eucharistic meal, and may we come to live the words of its hymns when we sing them; may we become profoundly satisfied in the depths of our soul simply by standing in His presence.



Sunday School News

Written by Debbie Maljanian-Kerr

Our ACHR Sunday School is once again back in session after our summer break. We finished our year out last May with fun and games outside and refreshments with all of our students in attendance.

We continue to meet on alternate Sundays and will break for Christmas after our planned December 18, 2022 Holiday program. More information regarding the program will be shared in the coming weeks.

As our Sunday School participation has been consistent, we have been able to break into two classes, with Christina Davootian as the “elementary aged” teacher, assisted by Lindsey Magarian. Thank you ladies for stepping up! The older students are in the second class with Debbie Maljanian-Kerr. We are excited to continue to grow our Sunday School family!

Our first Sunday School meeting this year once again commenced with student participation in the celebration of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Each student decorated their own cross with flowers and fragrant basil for the procession in the Sanctuary. We are so proud of the multiple recitations of “Der Voghormia” chanted enthusiastically by our students and the coordinated efforts to move in unison around the church.

Our appreciation is extended to Der Hayr for inviting us to participate, and to the teachers for prompting and supervising the event.

The students have already developed a sense of camaraderie and we appreciate the support of the families that have encouraged attendance.



Latest News and Updates from Women's Guild

Written by Adrienne Damian

Can you believe that our Women's Guild has been busy with activities since September? We started off by having a luncheon on September 18th after Badarak, had a social outing of Mini Golf & Ice Cream in Farmington, CT, and had a meeting on September 25th about upcoming events at our church.

October was a quieter month for preparation for November events beginning with our Holiday Fair on Saturday, November 19 from 9-3 PM. A Red Cross Blood Drive is taking place on Saturday, November 26 from 9-2 PM. This allows us to assist our community in adding blood to the already short blood supply. To conclude November, there will be Requiem Service for all the deceased Women's Guild members of our parish.

December 4th will begin with a Women's Guild meeting. All women of the church are invited to attend and participate. Discussion will center around our Holiday fair, voting in new Officers, the December NBHS Madrigal Concert social hour, and other ideas and events presented for discussion for the new year.

Last but not least, we would like to thank Gail Onanian for undertaking the Holiday Fair event; her passion and due diligence in contacting church members, getting Committee Chairs, soliciting donations shows how much she cares for our parish and its people. We also thank all the women who baked, participated in the Yelanchee and Tabouli workshops, and those who assisted in making this event a success. All in all, this has been a very successful and busy year for us all! Let's look forward to the new year with the same momentum.

ACYOA takes part in Habitat for Humanities Project

On Saturday, October 29, members of the ACYOA from the Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection (New Britain, CT) and St. Mark Armenian Church (Springfield, MA) attended a build day with Habitat for Humanity of North Central Connecticut. The ACYOA went to work on a historic rehab project in Hartford, CT.

At the build day, the ACYOA team learned a lot. They helped to do a variety of tasks both inside and outside of the historic home. Some of the things they mastered during the day were mixing and pouring concrete to fill in some parts of the basement, as well as securing wood paneling for the floors. They also did some light roofing on a shed in the backyard.

Thank you to Der Haroutiun Sabounjian, Yn. Lucine Sabounjian, Michael Connors, Jordan Pare, Ani Jermakian, Talene Jermakian and Liz Kalfayan, for attending the build day. Their volunteer service has gone a long way towards helping a family's dream of becoming a homeowner, closer to a possibility.

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes. It was founded with the conviction that everyone should have a decent, simple, durable and affordable place to be able to live in safety. At Habitat for Humanity of North Central Connecticut 90% of the labor on the homes in their service area, are completed by dedicated volunteers, like the ACYOA! Their time and effort have made a huge difference in the lives of local families and the community.



Latest News from the Parish Council

Written by Gary Hovhanessian

Your Parish Council meets on a monthly basis and as you know the business they conduct is ongoing. High on the regular list of agenda items is church maintenance. The catch basin at the entrance of the parking lot has been re-designed and repaired. Our air conditioning and heating system has been maintained and in fine working order. Our parking lot has been resealed and painted and parking lot lines striped.

Each and every council member has contributed in one way or another to the ongoing maintenance of our building. And, along with maintaining our building is the cleaning of our building. Diane Roy has volunteered to head up and coordinate the regular cleaning of our church sanctuary. Thank you, Diane, for volunteering your time.

We also thank Gail Onanian for her idea of the translation concept of the great words above our Altar. After much deliberation, the Parish Council decided to put these same words in English over the doors as you depart the church sanctuary — ***This I Command You To Love One Another.*** Such a simple rule to be followed by all. Leading the way from the Parish Council coordinating this project from beginning to end was Harry DerAsadourian. Thank you again Gail and thank you Harry.

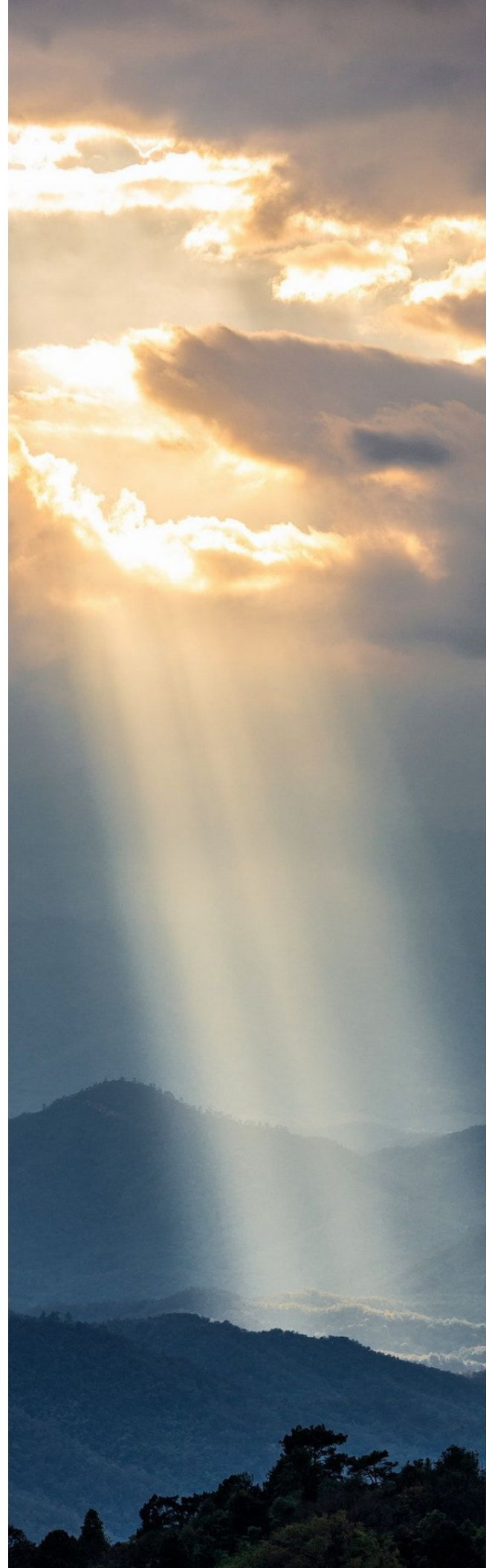
Take a Seat!

Our parish was offered cloth covered chairs from our sister parish, St Leon's in Fairlawn, New Jersey. Could we use them? Could we store them? Or, were they just going to be a burden to us? The Council decided to *go for it* and Council member Paul Marrotolo volunteered his time to drive to New Jersey to pick up the chairs.

What's on the Agenda?

Ongoing maintenance and fun social events from organizations of our church are all being endorsed by our Parish Council — Holiday Fair, Blood Drive, Madrigal Singers, Football Sunday, Christmas Eve Dinner (Jan. 5) are just a few. And, even looking beyond to our annual Parish Assembly (Feb 5, 2023) and beyond. Don't just stand back and watch! Get involved, volunteer, be part of the fun!

Our nominating committee will be looking to fill our ballot for our upcoming annual elections. When called upon, **just say yes!**





Praying for the Recovery of our Primate

Months ago, Father Haroutiun had contacted our newly elected and beloved Primate, Very Rev. Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan. The plan was for him to preside over our 81st Anniversary Banquet. The unfortunate accident left our Primate with many injuries to recover from and we pray for his continued recovery.

Joining us to celebrate that day was our beloved Vicar General, Very Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian, who always enjoys his visits to our parish. Also joining us our head table were Rev. Fr. Garabed and Yn. Maro Telfeyan.

We thank not only the banquet committee members (Jane DerAsadourian, Ellen Hovhanessian, Diane Roy, Darlene Simonian) but also Emcee Gerard Roy and Godfather donation coordinator John Abrahamian and banquet finance coordinator, Peter Bagdigian for their diligence and tireless work.

Many names go without mention for the donations of centerpiece flowers, seasonal candies, open bar, and anniversary cake. We thank those for their generosity. We also thank the many who donated to our annual Godfather of the Day Banquet donations.

Annual Festival a Success!

As you know, we held our *to-go* meals in place of our church festival in 2020 and 2021. But, the decision during the springtime was to go **all-out** for our 2022 Annual Summer Church Festival. We knew we still had some skepticism, but the plan was to move forward step by step and hopefully we were looking at the pandemic in the rear view mirror.

Were our parishioners ready? Were we going to get the support of the local community? Well, if you attended, you know the answers to those questions. We had a much larger crowd than expected and we appreciate the support of each and every one who attended and supported this event.

It is difficult to thank individuals because so many people took one step or the other to make this both a social and financial success. Live music, dancing, a new Hye Line vendor, our usual outstanding food prepared by our hard working kitchen help. With the unusual circumstances of the past couple years, we can only look forward to making our festival bigger and better next year. Thank you again to all who worked so hard for the success of our festival.

You Learn Something New Each and Every Day!

How much enjoyment did we get while watching Father Haroutiun with our Sunday School children on November 6? When I got home from church, I actually watched **again** on Facebook the wonderful lesson taught. "PourVar, PourVar, PourVar" the significance of the shape of the censor, the fact that the smoke rises to Heaven above, the triangular chains that represent Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And, how much fun was it to watch the enthusiasm of our Sunday School members. If you missed the lesson, look back on Facebook and you will sincerely appreciate what happened this past Sunday in our sanctuary.

Kitchen Prep Tables

Step by step and at this point with anonymous donations, we have acquired two brand new, stainless steel prep tables for our kitchen. Again, our kitchen enhancement is a step by step matter and the goal is to move forward and make improvements one step at a time.

What's Happening on Wednesdays?

When I get the chance to or when I have some business that needs my attention, I usually take a ride over to our church on Wednesdays. It's so great to pull in and see a bunch of cars in the parking lot.

It's great to walk in and see our parishioners and friends from St. George (in Hartford) and St. Stephen's (in New Britain) along with clergy playing tavloo, cards, and enjoying fellowship and friendship. It's a wonderful sight to see. If you are of the age group and have time, you should stop in.





News from the Eastern Diocese and around the world

Information courtesy of the Eastern Diocese eNewsletter

The Aftermath of War, Two Years Later

This week of November 10 marked a very solemn milestone in the modern history of the Armenian people. It was two years ago, on November 9, 2020, that the Artsakh war ended, after 44 days of brutal conflict, initiated through an unprovoked surprise attack on our homeland.

Even two years later, the terrible realities of the war—the loss of land, the displacement of our countrymen, the tragedy of Armenian P.O.W.'s and M.I.A.'s, and (worst of all) the loss of countless precious lives among our courageous soldiers and civilians—remain deeply painful.

Adding to that pain, we have seen in recent months that despite the great costs Armenians have borne, the 2020 ceasefire was inconclusive, leaving Artsakh—and now Armenia itself—vulnerable to attack and desecration by an increasingly hostile enemy.

We are aware, of course, that our people are not strangers to distress and affliction: struggling against hostility, and persevering against the odds, are hallmarks of Armenian history. Our ancestors knew all too well that at such times, the purposes of God may be very hard to discern. But He has not sustained us through the past centuries only to see us fracture and fragment. The Armenian people are called to live in the spirit of unity. And in that spirit, we must ask our Father in Heaven to reveal His will for us.

Now, the passage of a second year since that heartbreaking day is a moment to offer such prayers again. Today, we ask our merciful Lord to console all of our people: in Armenia and Artsakh; in America and around the world. We pray as one people that the Lord Jesus Christ will remember, and honor, every sacrifice made in those 44 days of struggle, and in the two years since the war—for every single one was made in His name. We ask our risen

Lord to lead us on the difficult and uncertain path that lies ahead.

Most of all, we ask Him to bless and protect Armenia, Artsakh, and His Armenian Church and people, now and always.

Building Hope in Armenia's Sisian Region

Two years ago, following the devastating war in Artsakh, FAR launched "Support for Artsakh's Displaced": a project in support of Artsakh refugees (like the young person pictured here) who relocated to Armenia's Sisian region, on the republic's eastern border.

On September 13, 2022, the Azeri army launched a brutal attack along the eastern border of Armenia. Their aggression was unprovoked, and took the precious lives of young Armenian soldiers, both men and women, as well as civilians. The destruction of civilian infrastructure was shocking.

This latest incursion by Azeri forces into Armenia has prompted new concerns about the vulnerability of Sisian itself, and the possibility of another onslaught.

In response, FAR is increasing its commitment to the Sisian region, planning new initiatives to help the people there—refugees from Artsakh and longtime citizens alike—in this tense, uncertain time.

FAR's proposal includes initiatives in education, health, and business development, among other things, to help our people in Sisian find strength and sustenance, as they continue rebuilding their lives on their land.

You can review FAR's proposal, and support FAR's ongoing work, [by clicking here](#).

Catholicos Visits Jermuk, Presides at Supreme Spiritual Council Meeting

On November 5, His Holiness Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, paid a visit to Jermuk, on Armenia's eastern border: one of the sites of the hostile Azeri incursion last September.

There, the Catholicos met with soldiers defending the border, visited military and civilian wounded in a local hospital, and prayed with worshippers assembled for badarak. He placed special blessings on the local children (as pictured above).

[Click here to view photos](#) of Catholicos Karekin II's heartwarming sojourn among the people of Jermuk.

Earlier that week, His Holiness Karekin II presided over the latest gathering of the Supreme Spiritual Council, which convened November 1-4.

The meeting at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin brought together bishops and archbishops from Armenia and diaspora jurisdictions, including Patriarch of Constantinople Archbishop Sahak Mashalian, and Pontifical Legate of Western Europe Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, who co-chaired the sessions.

The council discussed administrative, canonical, and national issues concerning the worldwide Armenian Church, with special emphasis on the aftermath of the Artsakh war and pandemic, and the church-sponsored efforts to alleviate distress and suffering related to these.

Council members noted with satisfaction that the restoration of the Mother Cathedral is nearing its final stage, with ceremonies for its reopening slated for 2023.

The Supreme Spiritual Council also issued a statement on the post-war situation in Armenia and Artsakh.

The council condemned ongoing Azeri aggression, and addressed matters of territorial integrity and sovereignty, the justice of Artsakh's right to self-determination, the mission of the Armenian Church in the present situation, and the peaceful settlement of the Karabagh conflict.

Click the following links to [read more](#) about the meeting, [view photos](#), and [watch a video](#).





Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection

Articles for the *Loos* must be electronically submitted according to the submission schedule available from the Parish Council. You may email your article to our editor, Dn. Matthew Cannata, at matthewcannata@gmail.com. Consistent with established guidelines, editors only publish material submitted by ACHR Organizations or those that receive approval from the Parish Council.

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