

LOOYS

ARMENIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY RESURRECTION



WINTER 2022



Fr. Haroutiun's Christmas Message 2021

A message from Fr. Haroutiun Sabounjian, Pastor

One of the most important but hardest skills to learn as a pastor is how to empathize with people's suffering rather than trying to fix it. When offering pastoral counseling, it is so easy to fall into the trap of not really listening to what the individual is trying to express and instead jump to offering a half-baked solution to their problem.

Empathy, more than anything else, is what people seek when they are dealing with a crisis. The capacity to insert yourself into someone else's suffering, to come and sit in the darkness with them, is the most powerful support you can offer in times of turmoil.

The entire story of the Bible is one of the loving Creator addressing the suffering of his creation. The brokenness that entered into the world from man's choice to reject God is the driving force behind the entire biblical narrative. In seeing this brokenness, God could have done a number of things. He could have simply done nothing and let human disobedience bear its natural consequences. He could have tried to fix things by intervening in human history, while remaining distant and seated on his heavenly throne.

But instead, the boundless Creator of all that exists chose to do something shocking. He chose to fully empathize with the suffering of his creation by entering into it; by becoming one of us and experiencing it himself.

In the Eucharist prayer of the Divine Liturgy, we find this mystery described in a profound way through the proclamation that Christ "traveled through all of

the passions of our human life without sin and came to the world-saving cross which was the occasion of our redemption."

Rather than trying to save mankind from afar, the Immortal God became mortal, the Boundless Being became confined, the Source of Life accepted all of the passions of human life, all of the suffering, all of the vulnerability and injustice, and ultimately accepted death in order to conquer it.

The story of Christmas, the story of God's revelation to us through his birth and baptism, is one of total and uncompromising empathy. This empathetic, total self-giving should be the driving force behind the Christmas spirit of generosity.

When we do our Christmas shopping for loved ones, when we donate to or volunteer for charitable organizations, when we go out of our way this Christmas season to give of ourselves to others, may we be reminded of, inspired by, and able to share the unspeakable empathy of the God who cared for us so much, that he became like us, sat with us in our deepest darkness, and brought us out of it into his eternal light.

Kreesdos dzunav yev haydnetsav.
Christ is born and revealed!

Sunday School News

Written by Debbie Maljanian-Kerr

A lot has happened since our Fall *Looy's* publication. The Sunday School continues to meet bi-weekly in a safe and engaging environment. We have 11 registered students ranging in age from 4-13, meeting first for assembly, followed by a structured classroom learning experience.

We have made an effort to be present in the sanctuary so that students may take Confession and Communion on those days. They are learning about the Bible, Sacraments, the life of Jesus and our Armenian Christian heritage.

For Halloween, Der Hayr did a special children's sermon on vestments and explained the significance of his "costume." We followed up with paper Der Hayr dolls and vested our own while reviewing the lesson shared by Fr. Haroutiun.

The students worked hard for three weeks preparing for the presentation of our short Christmas play. Parents worked hard to ensure the children were in attendance and practiced lines. We should be so proud of them all for giving 100 percent, especially during such challenging times. We are grateful for their efforts and dedication that resulted in a successful event.

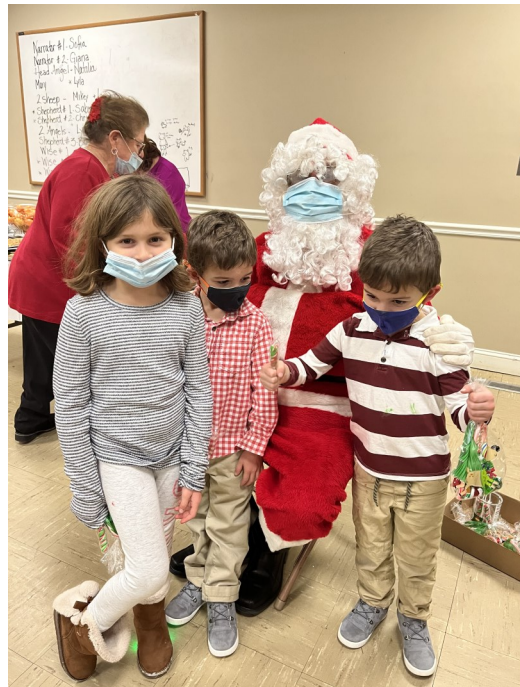
We would like to express appreciation for all who were able to be present and participate in our Sunday School pageant on December 19, 2021. What a joyful experience for our students, families and congregation to celebrate the Christmas season together.

Special thanks to our accompanists, Susan Sagherian and Jordan Pare, and our carol directors Adrienne Damian and Yn. Patricia Buttero. The bountiful refreshments were provided by the families of the students and the extended Hovhanessian families and allowed for wonderful and festive fellowship.

Our visitor from the North Pole brought treats for the children and posed for photos with the children, deacons and even Fr. Haroutiun and Yn. Lucine.

Check out the photos on the Sunday School board! We are back in session for the New Year and will continue our bi-weekly meetings until mid May. Thank you to all who continue to support our growing program.

Thank you to Christine and Donald Azarigian for their donation to the Sunday School.



Latest News and Updates from Women's Guild

Written by Adrienne Damian

All the women in our parish were invited to attend a Women's Guild brainstorming session on Saturday, January 15. Over a dozen women came out in the bone-chilling weather; those who could not attend, gave their feedback to someone else to speak on their behalf. The brainstorming session was very successful. A list of various activities were thrown out on the table and from those activities, our women chose activities which were not only for our community and fundraising, but for socializing and service to our church. After a break from lunch donated by Dian Erikian and Adrienne Damian, the list was finalized and those passionate about a specific activity volunteered to become an Organizer. The list of events is as follows:

Date	Event	Organizer
January 30 - February 20	Pet Drive	Betty Surabian
March 18	Mid-Lenten Dinner	
April 9	Bake Sale	Marry Connors/Hasmig Cannata
April 10 (Palm Sunday)	ACYOA Luncheon	ACYOA
April 17 (Easter)	Coffee Hour (Choreg, Eggs)	Jane & Annie DerAsadourian and Yn. Lucine
April 17 (Easter)	Passing plate in Sanctuary as Service to the Church	Adrienne Damian
May	Jeans/Clothing Drive	Yn. Lucine/ACYOA
May/June	Chair Yoga after WG meeting	Adrienne/Jeannie
June	Movie Night	
September	Field trip to Seminary	
October	WG/Nomination Committee	Board of Directors
October/November	Church Anniversary Banquet	
October/November	Blood Drive	Dian Erikian/Hasmig Cannata
November 19	Holiday Fair/Pie-Bread Sale/Crafts	
November/December	WG Officer Elections	
December 15	NBHS Madrigal Concert	Yn. Patricia
December	Pot Luck	

If one or two of you are interested in organizing any one of the events above without an organizer, please contact Adrienne Damian at adamian2@comcast.net or Dian Erikian at derikian1@gmail.com.

Knitting/Crocheting Community Projects

Do you have an interest in knitting or crocheting or learning how to knit or crochet for community projects i.e. hats for the homeless? Please contact Adrienne Damian at adamian2@comcast.net if interested.



Christmas Greeting and Yughakin Donations

As has been our yearly tradition, this year once again we have provided the opportunity for our parishioners to offer a Christmas Greeting to the entire parish through our Weekly Newsletter and our quarterly periodical, the *Loos*.

The Yughakin Offering is a special offering made twice a year at Christmas & Easter to help defray the operational costs of our Parish. Yughakin was the price for the oil used to light the lamps of the Church. Though we no longer need oil to light the sanctuary, we still have many operational costs and this offering made during these two feasts is another way for us to show our commitment to Christ's Holy Church.

Below is listed those who submitted Christmas Greetings and those who made Yughakin Donations. This list includes those who submitted greetings and donations through January 9, 2021.

John & Jeanne Abrahamian

Mary Abrahamian

Anonymous

Anonymous

Richard Arzoomanian

Donald & Chris Azarigan

Robert & Katherine Azarigan

Art Bagdasarian

Peter Bagdigian

Yn. Patricia Buttero

Hasmig & Joseph Cannata

Thomas & Mary Connors and Family

Adrienne Damian

Harry & Jane DerAsadourian

Anthony & Christine Parnagian Esposito

& Angela Parnagian

Laurie Rose George

James & Amy Gregory

Gary & Ellen Hovhanessian

Berj & Henrietta Kallajian

Gary & Deb Kerr

Caryn Ashekian LaPointe & Family

John & Rose Maljanian

John & Roxie Maljanian

Harry & Janice Mazadoorian;

Beth Mazadoorian & Wilson Keithline

and Margaret and Catherine;

Lynne Mazadoorian & John Lockhart

Rose Mosey

Gail Onanian

Paré Family

Melanie & Richard Picard

The Roy Family

Fr. Haroutiun & Yn. Lucine Sabounjian

Sharon

Alice Shimshidian

Julia & Stephan Shimshidian

George & Lois Simonian

Art & Sylvia Simonian

Guy & Darlene Simonian

Lucy & Mark Simonian

Laurie Davidian-Smith and Tim Smith

Linda Soukiasian & Sonia Ohanian

Elizabeth Surabian

Manusak Terdjanian

Mariam Terdjanian

Charles Vartanian





In Lieu of Flowers Susan DerMargosian

Peter Bagdigian
Charles Vartanian
Harry & Janice DerAsadourian
Ohanian, Soukiasian, & Pare Families
John & Jeannie Abrahamian
Gail Onanian
Margaret Litteral
Gregg & Melanie Kallajian & Family
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kallajian & Family
Berj & Henrietta Kallajian
Susan Sagherian
Yn. Patricia Buttero
Carol Hougas
Ruth & Wil Swisher
Charles Hovsepian
Mariam Terdjanian
Manusak Terdjanian
Debbie & Gary Kerr & Family
Beverly Guerra
Lucy & Mark Simonian
Mr. and Mrs. John Haboian
Susan Shabazian
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Connors & Family
Kathleen Johnson
Harry & Janice Mazadoorian
Eleanor & Harry Demirjian
Robert & Julia Nattrass & Victoria Galazan
John & Roxie Maljanian
Karen & Steven Omartian
Arthur & Sylvia Simonian
Shamiram George
Evelyn Pampuro
Mr. & Mrs. John Maljanian Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ferland
ACHR Women's Guild
Mary Carlino
Guy and Darlene Simonian
Elizabeth Surabian
DerMargosian & Jermakian Families
Arthur Bagdasarian
John & Darlene Chiloyan
George & Lois Simonian
Jennie Garabedian
Vatche DerAsadourian
Michael & Armen Slusarz
Ray & Sandra Colli
Anna Garabedian
Abrahamian & Roy Families
Donna & Peter Scaglierini

Ronda, Mark, & Jacob Belmjian
James & Cheryl Grasso
Angela Queral Karekian

In Lieu of Flowers Margaret Onanian

Gail Onanian
Laurie & Mark Kashkegian
Peter Bagdigian
Yn. Patricia Buttero
Lucy Simonian
Victoria Rogers
Mary Abrahamian
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kallajian
James & Cheryl Grasso

In Lieu of Flowers Queenie Hovhanessian *Additional since last issue*

Arthur and Sylvia Simonian

In Lieu of Flowers Mary Donahue

Arthur and Sylvia Simonian

Poinsettia Donations December/January

Adrienne Damian
Hasmig Cannata
Gail Onanian
Mary Connors
Elisa Griego
Gary Hovhanessian
Der Haroutiun Sabounjian
Adrienne Z.
Dn. Matthew Cannata
Harry DerAsadourian
Siranoush Kalfayan
Mary Abrahamian

Congratulations to our graduates!

Submitted by Betty Surabian

Congratulations to the following who have graduated from their respective school levels!

High School Graduates

Lily Roy

Lauren Simonian

Associate Degrees

Ani LaPointe

Nicholas Maynard

College Graduates

Elizabeth Kalfayan

Emily Kallajian

David Marottolo

Sam Roy

Lynne Mazadoorian awarded ED D Degree

Lynne Mazadoorian was awarded a Ed D degree (Doctor of Education) in Higher Education Management by the University of Georgia Dec 17, 2021.

Lynne is Assistant Vice President in University Advising at Rochester Institute of Technology.

She is the daughter of Atty and Mrs. Harry Mazadoorian and the grand daughter of the late Nigoghos and Yegsa Mazadoorian, long-time members of the ACHR.

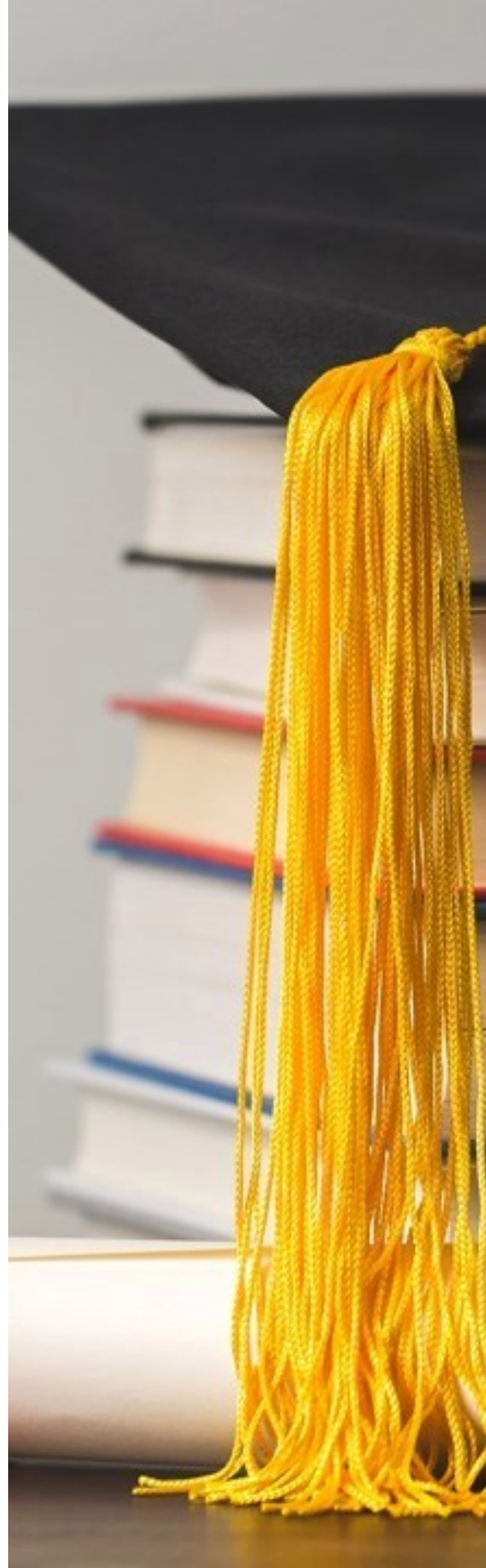
Lynne is married to Atty John Lockhart and they reside in Avon NY.

Tammy Bagdigian graduates from University of Bridgeport

We congratulate Tammy Bagdigian who graduated from the University of Bridgeport School of Chiropractic on December 11, 2021.

Her achievements during her time there include graduating Cum Laude, receiving the Richard E. Vincent Doctor of Chiropractic Student Leadership Award, receiving student research and student clinics awards, and all of this while serving as class president.

We will keep her in our prayers as she continues her work at the McNicholas Family Chiropractic practice in Southington.





2021 Anniversary Banquet

Godfather List

David Abrahamian
Greg Abrahamian
John and Jeanne Abrahamian
Mary Abrahamian in memory of Gregory
Miss Lee Abrahamian
Donald and Chris Azarigian
Peter Bagdigian Jr.
Yn. Patricia Buttero
Tom and Mary Connors and Family
Adrienne Damian
Harry and Jane DerAsadourian
Vatche DerAsadourian
Charlotte and Albert Grella in memory of Queenie Hovhanessian
John & Carolyn Haboian
Peter & Nancy Hansen
Carol Hougas in memory of Harry
Gary and Ellen Hovhanessian
Hayley Hovhanessian
Berj and Henrietta Kallajian
Gregg & Melanie Kallajian & Family
Michael & Sarah Kallajian & Family
Gary and Debra Kerr
Lori and Mark Kashgegian
John and Rose Maljanian
John and Roxie Maljanian
Atty. Harry and Janice Mazadoorian
Rose Mosey
Julie and Robert Nattrass
Gail Onanian
Gerard, Diane, Jack, Sam and Lily Roy
Rev. Haroutiun and Yn. Lucine Sabounjian
Susan Sagherian
Arthur and Sylvia Simonian and family
Guy & Darlene Simonian
Jon & Charlene Simonian
Lucy Simonian and Mark
Tim and Lori Davidian Smith
Charles Vartanian

Other Donations

Hasmig, Joe and Alyssa Cannata
Michael and Caryn LaPointe & Family
Marottolo & Griego Family
Sonia Ohanian
Elizabeth Surabian

Mystery Photo

Can you identify what group is represented in this photo? Who are the people shown? *Answer is below the photo.*



Answer: ACHR Sunday School outing in Walnut Hill Park. 1940's.

Top row: Arthur Bagdasarian Sr.

Next row down: Mary Abrahamian, Ara Bagdasarian, Sam Hougas, Charles Mazadoorian, Roxie Maljanian

Next row down: Henrietta Kallajian, Ruth Swisher, Arthur Bagdasarian Jr,

Foreground: Harry Mazadoorian

Note from Mary Abrahamian

I have been a choir member since the 1940s, when we were at 11 Erwin Place, but since 2019, I have been unable to participate. I can vividly recall in the 1960s or early 1970s, singing in the choir loft, under the direction of Sarah Yagoobian, with both Lucy Simonian and Samuel Hougas were the organists.

Vividly coming to my mind is when a young girl in her early teens would join us older members to participate. I thought how wonderful, that a young girl would get up early on a Sunday morning to do this. As you might guess, this girl was Adrienne (Mosey) Damian, who has risen to great admirable heights at Holy Resurrection.

Choir Directors, Diocesan Delegate, Women's Guild Chairman, and recipient of the St. Vartan Award. God bless Adrienne and her family, and may he grant her many more year years of devotion to God and her church.

Thank You from Betty Surabian

On behalf of the Women's Guild, I would like to thank our generous donors for the dog food, blankets, towels and toys for the dogs at the Animal Control facility in New Britain. The officers at the facility were impressed with our donations and appreciated all that was given for the dogs.

We had such positive feedback regarding this project, that we may consider doing it again in the future.





News from the Eastern Diocese and around the world

Information courtesy of the Eastern Diocese eNewsletter

Outnumbered, Defeated- But Never Forgotten

Every year on the Thursday preceding Great Lent, Armenians throughout the world commemorate the anniversary of the Battle of Avarayr (A.D. 451). The armed forces of Armenia confronted the Persian Empire, which aimed to convert the world's first Christian nation to Zoroastrianism.

Armenia's soldiers fighting under the leadership of St. Vartan Mamigonian are known as the Vartanank, and their day of remembrance is Vartanantz (February 24).

On the field of Avarayr, outnumbered Armenian fighters faced a mighty Persian army. St. Vartan and his companions saw a military defeat; but their unyielding commitment to defend their faith ultimately thwarted the Persians, and ensured that Christianity would endure in Armenia.

The Feast of Sts. Vartanantz on Thursday, February 24 was observed in parishes across the Eastern Diocese.

Two days prior to Vartanantz, the Armenian Church remembers the sacrifice of St. Leontius (Ghevont) the priest and his companions. St. Ghevont is one of the great exemplars of the Armenian priesthood, remembered for his rare courage and resolution at the Battle of Avarayr. Click here to learn more about St. Ghevont and his companions.

In observance of Ghevontiantz Day, the clergy of the Eastern Diocese held regional gatherings at St. Leon Church in Fair Lawn, NJ; Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church in Providence, RI; and St. Mesrob Church in Racine, WI.

40 Days of Lent: Resources for Great Fast

Great Lent is the church's annual season for inner reflection and conversion; a time for the faithful to reorient themselves towards God.

In anticipation of the start of the season (on February 28) the Eastern Diocese's digital ministries platform, VEMKAR, has announced online resources to use during the 40 days of Lent. The multimedia lessons, study-guides, and activities can be used by individuals and families at home, or in the larger parish setting. They include:

- A printable booklet by Bishop Daniel: "Giving It Up? Fasting During Great Lent in the Armenian Church."
- Lenten discussion activities for all age groups (children, youth & young adults, adults).
- A printable daily Prayer Rule for Lent.
- Videos, activities, and other multimedia resources.

Please utilize these materials to enrich your relationship with God, and Build Up the Body of Christ throughout our Diocese.

[Click this link](#) to access the 40 Days of Lent section on the VEMKAR website—and be sure to share the link with others!

In Winter's Darkness, the Light of Christ

To passersby on New York City's Second Avenue, the sights and sounds outside St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral on the evening of Sunday, February 13, emanated a mysterious, captivating, aura.

As the cathedral marked the Eve of the Feast of Christ's Presentation to the Temple, Diocesan clergy chanted sharagans as they exited the bronze doors and descended onto the plaza. Joined by altar servers carrying banners, the procession formed two parallel rows facing a firepit containing split pieces of firewood.

Diocesan Primate Bishop Daniel moved forward to ignite the flame—symbolic of the Light of Jesus Christ. In a matter of seconds, the firelight bathed the entire plaza. The faces of surrounding worshipers, who had braved the frigid night air to attend the service, all bore witness to its warm, orange glow.

As is the tradition each year on this date, the two-part service of prayer and light, celebrating the eve of the Feast of the Lord's Presentation to the Temple (Dyarnuntarach), began with a brief "anticipatory service" inside the cathedral sanctuary, where Bishop Daniel, joined by cathedral vicar Fr. Davit Karamyan and other clergy, participated in the recitation of prayers.

Later, standing before the firelight on the plaza, the Primate spoke about the inner and outer darkness plaguing so many people in the present day, and the Light of Christ that provides peace and hope for the troubled heart.

Click the following links to:

- [READ](#) more about the service.
- [VIEW](#) photos.
- [WATCH](#) a recording of Bishop Daniel's remarks.

Through FAR, an Artsakh Family Receives a Place to Call Home

Violeta Poghosyan, her husband, and their nine children are among the six families who received the gift of a house through the Fund for Armenian Relief's "Support for Artsakh's Displaced" project.

The project aims to help the most vulnerable of the Artsakh war's victims, through shelter and housing, emergency relief, cash assistance, economic empowerment, and healthcare services. It targets those living in the Sisian Region of Armenia's Syunik Province, where 140 families have remained since the war's ceasefire as they continue to cope with the hardships of displacement and integration.

The Poghosyans were forced to flee their home village in Artsakh and sought refuge at Violeta's parents' home in Sisian. But sharing a small house with a mud floor and a leaky roof was never a sustainable solution. They dreamed of having a roof over their heads with separate rooms for the children and some land where they could grow crops.

"We are so blessed to have this great gift. Thank you so much for making this happen," Violeta said. "I couldn't believe it was ours until I signed the contract, was handed the keys, and spent the first night there. When we received the gift, our hearts were full of joy."

[Read more on FAR's blog](#)





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.

Loos is the official publication of the Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection, New Britain, CT. Your donations help support our efforts to offset the costs of publication.

