

# LOOYS

ARMENIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY RESURRECTION



Winter/Spring 2023



## Fr. Haroutiun's Easter Message 2023

*"Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." (Revelation 19:9)*

Our modern culture tends to underestimate the power that traditions hold in retaining and transmitting wisdom of the past; quite often doing so sub-consciously. Last year, after our Holy Week celebrations had concluded, I spoke with many parishioners about their post-church Easter festivities. It was remarkable to me that the majority of families I spoke with all shared a tradition of cooking shish kebab as their Easter dinner.

While celebrating separately, our individual families had inadvertently shared a common Easter meal, centered around the Armenian culinary delicacy of skewered lamb. Was it a happy coincidence or a sub-conscious materialization of a collective memory from the ancient past?

We will never know; but even families who did not do so intentionally did in fact center the day around one of the most powerful symbols of the Easter season.

In the Armenian Church, we have two ways of referring to the celebration of Easter. The first is more of a description than a name, simply calling it *Don Harootyan Dyarun Mero Heesoosee Kreesdosee*, which means the Feast of the *Haroutiun* (Resurrection) of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For some reason, this particular name for the feast has grown on me more and more over the past two years...

The second, more commonly used name for the feast is *Zadeeg*, which means Passover. We might be surprised, or even scandalized, by learning this fact. Why would the Armenian Church's (and all Orthodox Church's) name for our most important feast be "Passover," the name of an ancient Jewish feast no longer celebrated by Christians? This connection is no mistake, but rather, whenever we celebrate the resurrection of Christ, we are called to celebrate the fulfillment of the Jewish feast of Passover.

So what is this feast of Passover that Christ has fulfilled through his resurrection? The historical event upon which this Jewish feast is based comes from the book of Exodus. The Israelites had been in slavery to the Egyptians for 400 years, and as part of God's plan, Moses was chosen to lead the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt to the promised land; a land flowing with milk and honey. As part of this process, Moses performed ten miraculous signs (commonly referred to as plagues) to try to persuade the pharaoh to let the Israelites free for a three-day journey into the wilderness to worship the Lord their God.

In Exodus 12, we hear about how, after being unsuccessful in his persuasion by performing the first nine signs, Moses was instructed by God to have



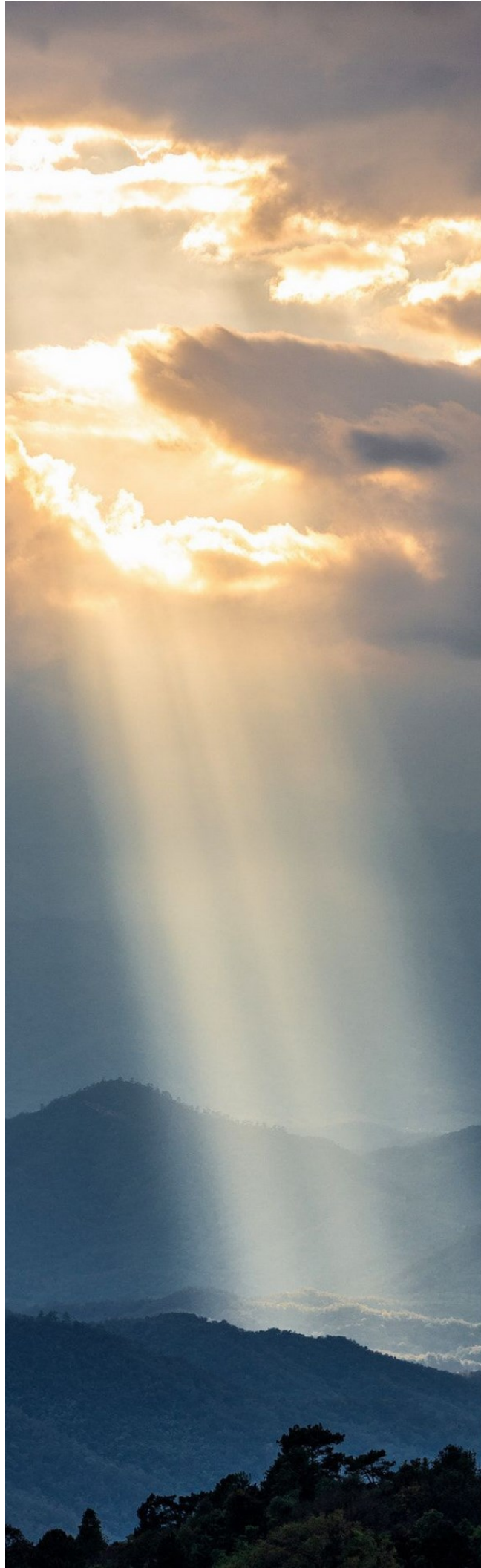
the Israelites engage in a rather unusual ritual. They were to take a spotless, male lamb, and once it had been sacrificed, the blood of this lamb was to be smeared on the wooden doorposts of their homes. Then, they were to consume this lamb in a meal with unleavened bread. The purpose of this ritual was that, on the night when they were instructed to perform it, the angel of death was to travel through the land of Egypt and kill the first-born son in every home; but the homes with the blood of the lamb on their doorposts would be “passed over.” This tenth sign was the sign that finally got Pharaoh to release the Israelites from slavery, and led to the beginning of their journey that brought them into the promised land.

We might at first think that this story has no relevance to the story of Easter. And yet, John the Baptist himself points us in this direction when he points to Jesus and boldly proclaims, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29) When we realize that Jesus came into this world to become the Passover lamb, it becomes clear that the story of the Passover was fulfilled in the passion of Christ. Jesus Christ, the spotless, male Lamb of God, was sacrificed, and his blood was smeared on the wooden posts of the cross.

We are called to participate in this sacrifice every Sunday in a ritual called the *Soorp Badarak* (Holy Sacrifice) during which we consume a meal of unleavened bread, which we believe truly becomes the Lamb of God himself. We hold the faith that through partaking in this ritual, we also will be released from slavery to sin, and the angel of death, though he may hold us in his grasp for a time, will ultimately pass over us as well. Through the Passover of Easter Sunday, we too begin our journey of escaping the enemies of sin and death, and of walking toward the promised land of eternal life.

Within a local, unspoken, Armenian tradition lies the hidden mysteries of the feast of *Zadeeg*. If you happen to find yourself eating a shish kebab dinner this Easter Sunday, or even if you do not, perhaps pause for just a moment, and offer your gratitude to the true Passover Lamb, our Lord Jesus Christ, who on this feast of Passover has saved us from the angel of death and from slavery to the deepest brokenness of our sin, inviting us to dine with him at the everlasting “marriage supper of the Lamb” in his Heavenly Kingdom.

**Christ is risen from the dead! To you and to us, good news.**



# HOLY BADARAK

## Feast of St. Gregory the Illuminator's Commitment to the Pit

Join us for this unique opportunity to celebrate an open-curtain Badarak with the reception of Holy Communion as we celebrate one of the church's important feasts during Great Lent. Badarak will be celebrated on of the side altar dedicated St. Gregory.



Armenian Church of the  
Holy Resurrection



Saturday, March 25, 2023  
10AM





### Praying the Book of Psalms

Last year, our reader ministry embarked on a truly wonderful spiritual exercise: praying through the entire Book of Psalms. This was primarily a spiritual discipline and opportunity to enter God's Word in a meaningful way for all who partook, but has also provided an incredible resource for us as we now have access to a video recording entire psalter being prayed by our parishioners.

This Lenten Season, we are calling on each one of us to pray along with our reader ministers through the Book of Psalms over an 8 week period. To do so, you will only need to commit a half hour once per week. All ancient Christians have viewed the psalms as the beating heart of their worship.

We encourage you all to commit to this spiritual discipline as part of your Lenten journey; to discover the incredible beauty of the psalter and the way it can truly bring you into God's presence in unimaginable ways.

[Click here to pray with our ACHR Reader Ministers](#)

## Holy Week Schedule

### Palm Sunday - Sunday, April 2

Turnpatsek (Opening of the Doors)	10:00 AM
<i>Soorp Badarak</i> (Divine Liturgy)	10:15 AM
Community Luncheon (Hosted by ACYOA)	12:00 PM

### Holy Thursday - Thursday, April 6

<i>Soorp Badarak</i> (Divine Liturgy)	11:00 AM
Vodunluva (Washing of the Feet Service)	6:00 PM
Khavaroom (Betrayal Service)	7:00 PM

### Good Friday - Friday, April 7

Khachelootyan Gark (Cruxifixion Service)	12:00 PM
Taghman Gark (Burial Service)	6:00 PM

### Holy Saturday - Saturday, April 8

Reading of the Prophecies	3:30 PM
<i>Soorp Badarak</i> (Divine Liturgy)	4:15 PM
Community Dinner	6:00 PM

### Easter - Sunday, April 9

Gark Yooghapereets (Order of the Oil-Bearing Women)	9:30 AM
<i>Soorp Badarak</i> (Divine Liturgy)	10:00 AM

# EASTER BAKE SALE

Sponsored by  
The Women's Guild of the Armenian Church  
of the Holy Resurrection

**Saturday – APRIL 1, 2023**  
**10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**  
**Abrahamian Auditorium**  
**1910 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT**

## Armenian–American Delicacies

Boereg/Eetch/Paklava/Kurabia/Khadayif/Cheoreg/Simit/Nazook  
Gatnabour/Nazook/Armenian Nutmeg Cake/String Cheese  
& More



For questions, please contact Adrienne Damian  
at (860) 919-5469 or [adamian2@comcast.net](mailto:adamian2@comcast.net)



# Sunday School News

Written by Debbie Maljanian-Kerr

It's hard to believe we are past the halfway point in our ACHR Sunday school calendar year. There have been many exciting celebrations for our students since the last publication of the *Loos*.

We continue to meet in two separate classes and each has added two new students. We welcomed Lucine and Kapriel Garabettian (with father Sevan and grandparents Sona and Hratch) to the younger class. The older class has welcomed the addition of Katelyn and Emma Copeland (parents Mona and Justin), bringing our total enrollment to 18 amazing students.

Our Christmas pageant in the sanctuary offered delightful presentations by each class, followed by a fellowship hour in the auditorium. Our sincere thanks to the extended Hovhannessian family for co-sponsoring with the teachers and Sunday school families. We enjoyed singing carols with Yeretzgin Patrica directing and a visit from Gagant Baba near the end.

To begin our Lenten season, we had a Poon Paregentan celebration with a pancake breakfast and a lively game of Bingo. It's has been exciting to see the group of students develop friendships and work and grow together as part of our church family. We look forward to our class days and appreciate the commitment of our families and teachers that have brought us all together.

Our students have been learning about our Armenian traditions and faith, the Bible and significant Saints and leaders of the church. We are so proud of their recitation of the Lord's Prayer and singing of Soorp Asdvadz, and are in awe of how far they have come in such a short time. We will be working towards spending more time in the church and learning about the badarak.

We look forward to our last few sessions and will finish our year mid May with an end of year celebration. Thank you to Der Hayr for sharing his ideas and time with our teachers and students.

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





## Latest News from the Parish Council

*Written by Gary Hovhanessian*

Party, party, party! We kicked off the New Year on January 1 with a football party hosted by our Brothers and Sisters group.

Our guest celebrant, Hayr Simeon Odabashian, was ready to leave early to head back to New York but forced himself to stay. That was a good decision so we didn't have to tackle him to stay! We watched the Patriots and the Dolphins are some other fringe games .....the New York Giants and the Colts, etc .....played some tavloo and filled in our football squares for a chance to win lottery tickets.

A few days later, on January 5, we were celebrating again .....this time celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Hayr Haroutiun performed the traditional home blessing ceremony after our church service.

On the occasion of Father Haroutiun's brother's wedding, we were blessed on January 22 by having another guest celebrant, Father Harutyun Damadyan, who also offered a wonderful sermon that day.

### **Annual Parish Assembly, Parties, and More!**

On February 5, our Parish Council hosted a very successful Annual Parish Assembly. I would like to thank outgoing Parish Council member, Deacon Matthew Cannata for his years of dedication and service on the Parish Council. Matt's duties and responsibilities with our parish are not over as we know. Matt serves in many different capacities — our veteran Deacon on the Altar and his years of assisting with the Looys production just to name a few.

Also, on February 5th, even though it was a day of annual parish business, it was also a day of education to our children. Father Haroutiun gathered the Sunday School children in front of the Altar area and taught them about the significance of our Holy Communion, as well as the markings on the nushkar, which include the cross & other symbols. You could tell the children sincerely appreciated the education and knowledge.







And then the next party..... Poon Paregentan, which is the celebrated the day before we embark on our Lenten journey, which include 40 days of fasting and sacrifices in the Lenten season. This included much fun by our Sunday School throughout the morning and for the adults, Tavloo tournaments and more fun!

Our Women's Guild also hosted a wonderful community dinner.

Besides all the parties, our Parish Council has been diligently working on many important issues. All of a sudden our hour long meetings became a two hour meeting after the Parish Assembly. Lots on the calendar, lots to look forward to in our future.

### **Mark Your Calendars!**

The festival date has been set — August 20, 2023. The date of the Five Church Dance has also been set to November 25, 2023.

And, coming up just after the Easter Holiday is a day trip to St. Nersess Seminary. We (the Parish Council) also have a virtual meeting with our Primate upcoming soon (March 30) and our Banquet date and visit from our beloved Primate has been set also (October 22).

## **Save The Date!**

### **Friday, March 17**

Lenten Dinner hosted by the ACHR Women's Guild (6 PM)

### **Saturday, March 18**

Badarak Discussion Group (10:00 AM - 11:30 AM)

### **Saturday, April 1**

Easter Bake Sale hosted by Women's Guild (10:00 AM-3:00 PM)

### **Sunday, April 2**

Palm Sunday Luncheon hosted by ACYOA & Presentation by Christine Beylerian, ACYOA Central Council Vice-Chairman

### **Saturday, April 8**

Easter Eve Community Dinner (details to follow)

### **Sunday, April 9**

Easter Sunday

### **Sunday, April 23**

Soup Cookoff hosted by the Women's Guild (12 PM)

### **Sunday, April 30**

Parish Pilgrimage to St. Nersess Seminary (details to follow)

### **Saturday, May 27**

Chair Yoga with Jeanne Abrahamian hosted by the Women's Guild (11 AM)

# Sunday Soup Cook Off

## (No Charge)

Sponsored by

The Women's Guild of the Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection

## Sunday, APRIL 23, 2023



Cooks willing to participate (maximum of 12) should:

1. Contact Paula Pare to participate in the competition at (860) 306-4810 or [daizzyp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:daizzyp@sbcglobal.net) with your soup choice *no later than Sunday, April 16.*
2. Create index cards of your soup recipe for distribution.
3. Make 8-cups of your favorite soup, place it in a crockpot or a pan and bring it to church on 4/23/23.

Participants will:

4. Sample soups and vote for your favorite soup.

The Committee will:

5. Reveal the cooks of each soup.
6. Announce the soup with the greatest number votes.
7. Present prize to the winner with the greatest number of votes.

**COME JOIN IN THE FUN AND  
BRING YOUR TASTE BUDS WITH YOU!**





## News from the Eastern Diocese and around the world

*Information courtesy of the Eastern Diocese eNewsletter*

### **Announcements from the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin**

Last week at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, the Supreme Spiritual Council concluded its winter meeting, presided over by His Holiness Karekin II, the Catholicos of All Armenians. With its adjournment on March 3, the Council released its report, which includes announcements that will be greeted as welcome news to the entire Armenian Church—and especially to the faithful of the Eastern Diocese.

First, the re-opening of the Mother Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin, following its extensive restoration, will take place in the autumn of this year. Celebratory ceremonies on September 30 through October 3, at the Mother See in Armenia, will culminate in the Blessing of the Holy Muron. This will be the first time the Muron Blessing has taken place since 2015.

Second, on October 8, His Holiness Karekin II will lead an Episcopal Consecration service, wherein the Catholicos will ordain several new bishops for the Armenian Church.

The Eastern Diocese is very happy to announce that our Primate, Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan, will be consecrated as a bishop on that occasion. We greet this joyous news with gratitude to His Holiness, prayerful enthusiasm for our Diocese, and loving congratulations to Fr. Mesrop.

Finally, on Saturday, October 14, the faithful of our Diocese will be able to welcome our newly-ordained Primate back home, when he celebrates his first episcopal badarak at St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral in New York.

With these dates now officially confirmed by the Holy See, the Diocese will be organizing a pilgrimage to Armenia, so its faithful can take part in the historic, holy ceremonies in the fall. And arrangements are being made for faithful throughout the Diocese to come as pilgrims to St. Vartan Cathedral in New York, for the joyous episcopal badarak on October 14.

Details on these events will be announced in the near future. Until then, we offer prayers of thanks to our Lord, for guiding us to these bright developments, and for shining His holy light on our people always.

### **“Full of Grace”: Honoring the Legacy of St. Nersess Shnorhali**

Eight hundred fifty years after his death, his influence is still felt every day in the Armenian Church.

The soaring hymns that praise God, the sensitive prayers that beg His forgiveness, the policies of mercy and outreach that guide the operations of the church—all bear the mark of St. Nersess Shnorhali.

His title Shnorhali means “full of grace”—and the divine gifts that flowed from Nersess Pahlavuni left behind a legacy of devotional poetry and music unparalleled in Christian history.

In his later years, when he ascended to the throne of Catholicos, Nersess revitalized the church’s charitable ministry, and conceived an ambitious plan to make peace among the fractured centers of Christendom. But these were also years of solitude and struggle, as his hopes for a more unified church were opposed from without and within.

This year marks the 850th anniversary of St. Nersess Shnorhali’s death, and the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin has launched a year-long commemoration of his life and work. In a Pontifical Encyclical issued this week, His Holiness Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, called on the worldwide Armenian Church to honor the saint’s legacy throughout 2023.

“Shnorhali’s entire life was focused on the glorification of God, and the urgent mission of leading the hearts of the people to Him,” the Catholicos wrote. “We invite our entire church to commemorate Shnorhali’s eternal memory during this 850th anniversary year.

Through conferences, publications, and celebrations, as well as in national and ecumenical circles, let us appreciate anew the eternally relevant message of this great teacher of the Christian faith, and benefac-

tor of our national-religious life.”

A number of commemorative events will be taking place at the Mother See in Armenia. Also, the Armenian and Roman Catholic churches are collaborating on a major international conference, to take place in Rome this autumn.

The Eastern Diocese and its parishes will also mark the anniversary; look for details in the coming weeks. In the meantime, watch an episode of “Living Voices”—the Eastern Diocese’s video series exploring great figures of the Armenian Church—that brings to life the story of St. Nersess through dramatic re-enactments and stirring narration.

[Read his Holiness’ Encyclical in English](#)  
[Read His Holiness’ Encyclical in Armenian](#)  
[Watch “Living Voices: St. Nersess Shnorhali”](#)

### **Primate Visits New England for Clergy Lenten Retreat**

Diocesan Primate Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan was in New England this week, presiding over the latest Lenten Regional Clergy Retreat, which met at Betania II Catholic Evangelization Center in Medway, MA, from March 6 to 8.

Clergy from the surrounding region—representing parishes in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island—were joined by pastors from Minnesota, Florida, and Ohio for the gathering.





Under the theme of “Deepening Our Prayer,” the Primate opened the retreat with a reflection on a prayer by St. Nersess Shnorhali. Fr. David Poirier, a member of the Friars of the Atonement, led sessions on prayer life, reflecting on the Lord’s Prayer and liturgical prayer.

Diocesan clergy also enjoyed an evening of fellowship at the nearby Holy Translators Church (Framingham, MA) hosted by Fr. Krikor Sabounjian.

While in New England, the Primate looked in on the construction of Hye Pointe Church, and received a tour from parish pastor Fr. Vart Gyozyan. Fr. Mesrop was impressed at the progress, and said that he is looking forward to consecrating Hye Pointe's sanctuary in the near future.

He also took the opportunity to spend time with a dedicated senior clergymen of our Diocese, Fr. Arsen Barsamian. Fr. Mesrop visited Fr. Arsen in the company of Diocesan Vicar Fr. Simeon Odabashian and Fr. Arakel Aljalian, pastor of St. James Church in Watertown, MA.

“Der Arsen's contributions have been invaluable to our Diocese, and to the parishes he served in South Milwaukee, Waukegan, Richmond and Watertown,” the Primate said.

“In our meeting, we reminisced about good times of the past, and shared some laughs. We also talked about how we can continue to support and care for our senior priests, who have given so much to our community,” he added.



Holy Resurrection Armenian Church Women's Guild Presents

# **CHAIR YOGA**

**with**

**JEANNE ABRAHAMIAN**

**Certified Yoga Instructor**



**Date: Saturday, May 27, 2023**

**Place: 1910 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT**

**Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Cost: \$10.00**

*Lunch will be provided.*

**Open to all men, women and young adults!**

**Please wear comfortable clothing.**

Please RSVP to:

Adrienne Damian at [adamian2@comcast.net](mailto:adamian2@comcast.net) or

(860) 919-5469 *no later than May 20<sup>th</sup>*

*to get a headcount for lunch*





## Fr. Haroutiun's Christmas Message 2023

*"And opening their treasures, they offered him badaraks of gold, frankincense and myrrh." -Mt 2:11*

One of the most iconic scenes of the nativity narratives throughout the gospels is the dramatic journey of three wisemen from the east to offer Christ the new-born king gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Beyond the cinematic qualities of the account, the bright and unusual star, Herod's insidious plot, and the angelic warning in a dream, this story offers us the opportunity to reflect on how we might choose to respond to the coming of the Savior.

The single verse in the gospel according to Matthew that describes the giving of gifts from the wisemen to the infant King of the Universe packs within it much to contemplate. The first, and perhaps most obvious, is the choice of gifts offered to a recipient too young to even acknowledge them.

What would you choose to give to a new-born infant? I would probably quickly rush to the store to buy a crib or a stroller. I certainly would not think to make an offering of precious metals and tree sap.

In really looking at this story, we realize that the gifts the wisemen bring are not for Jesus' use, but rather for the benefit of the on-lookers; of Mary and Joseph and millions of Christians ever since who have read this incredible tale. These gifts serve as revelations to

the world of who this child truly is. The ancient world would have quickly recognized that each of these gifts corresponds with part of Christ's identity.

The gold is offered to Christ as royalty, as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The frankincense is offered to Christ as God, to whom incense-scented prayer ought regularly be offered. And finally, the myrrh, a resin used to anoint the bodies of the newly-departed, is offered to Christ who came for the sole purpose of dying; for the purpose of dying that we might live.

The idea that each of the offerings of the wisemen reveals something new and important about who Christ is becomes even more striking when we discover that the word the Armenian bible uses for these gifts is *badarak*, meaning sacrifice, which is the very same word we use for the eucharistic meal of the Divine Liturgy.

When the wisemen offer their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, they are offering the very first *badarak* to Jesus Christ newly-born into this world.



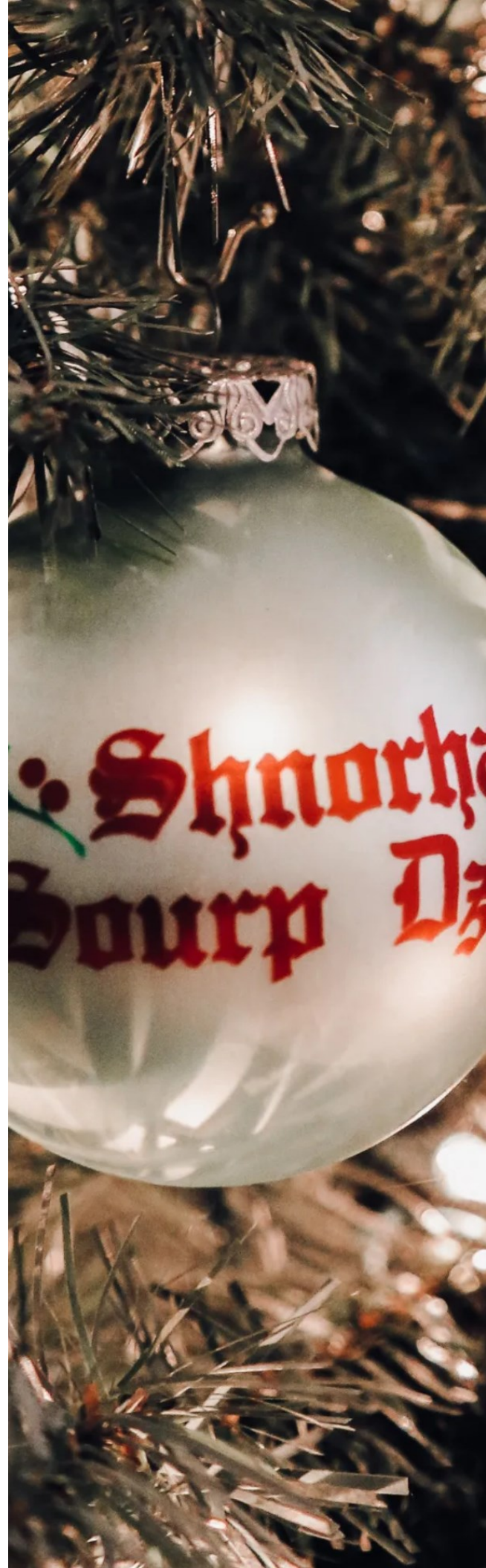
This *badarak* did not consist of bread and wine, but of various gifts that revealed to the world who this child would become and how, by his birth, everything had changed forever.

This Christmas season, I invite you to consider which gift you are being called to bring to the celebration of Christ's birth; which *badarak* you personally are able to offer as an expression of who Christ is and your appreciation for him in your life.

Just like the wisemen, you have been given unique gifts, talents, perspectives and life experiences that empower you to reveal to the Church and to the world at large who Christ is in your life and the ways his love has the ability to permeate our deepest scars and transform us even in our darkest moments.

Let us all prayerfully discern these *badaraks* that only we uniquely can offer to Christ, which have the potential to reveal his love to others in magnificent and desperately-needed ways.

Do not keep these *badaraks* to yourself, but rather be like the wisemen who offered them to Christ for the benefit of us all. By us each bringing these God-given gifts and offering them back to him, while also sharing them with each other, we will offer a true chorus of praise proclaiming, "Christ is born and revealed. Blessed is the revelation of Christ. To you and to us, great news!"







## 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](mailto: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.

