

Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church Presents:

Greater Worcester Armenian Chorale Christmas Concert

Featuring Traditional Yuletide Music in Armenian and English

Today, after Badarak

Luncheon Before Concert: Chicken, Pilav, Salad and Dessert - \$10 Donation

SEE BILL or JEFF FOR TICKETS

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Please mark your calendars, the annual Parish Meeting will be held on February 26th following Badarak. The agenda will be mailed out soon.

Bible Study

Every Monday from 6 – 7 p.m. “Sermon Discussion Session”. A question and discussion oriented chat group based on Sundays sermon and beyond. Together we share and learn how to apply Christian principles to our everyday lives. If you have questions or would like to discuss the sermon or just sit in, please join us!

Clothing Swap

The Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church in Whitinsville will host a clothing swap on Saturday, January 14, 2017 from 9-11am. Whether you're looking to clean your closets or update your wardrobe, this is the event for you! We accept gently used (no rips or stains please) men's, women's and kid's clothing, shoes and accessories. You don't have to donate anything to take something home and you don't have to take something home in order to donate. Everything is free and open to the public. Donations can be dropped off on Friday, January 13 from 6-7pm or the morning of the swap. Use the driveway between Domino's Pizza and the law office and come in the back door. For more information, please email edalynne@hotmail.com or call Christine at 508-234-8131.

MEMORIAL PLAQUES

If you would like to have the name(s) of your loved one(s) engraved on a brass plaque to be displayed on our Memorial Board in the foyer, Please call the Church office at 508-234-3677 or speak with a Board member.

Hokehankisd (Requiem Service)

The Armenian Church instructs the faithful not to forget their loved ones who are fallen asleep in Christ. The Scripture says,

“The memory of the righteous will be a blessing (Proverbs 10:7)

Hokehankisd takes place at the end of Badarak, during which special prayers are said on behalf of the souls who are fallen asleep in Christ Jesus. The church advises us to request Hokehankisd 7 & 40 days after a person is deceased and thereafter annually.

If you and your family would like to host the Sunday Fellowship following Church Services, please call the Church Office at 508-234-3677 or sign up on the board downstairs to reserve a specific Sunday in 2017, in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion or Just Because.....

SOORP ASDVADZADZIN ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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SUNDAY BULLETIN

January 8, 2017

Renewal

Celebrant Rev. Fr. Mikael Der Kosroffian

EPISTLE: Hebrews 1:1-12

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

The Son Superior to Angels for to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire." But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy." He also says, "In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end."

The order of the Readings for this week is as follows:

TODAY: Hebrews 1:1-12; Matthew 2:13-23
Monday: Galatians 4:1-7; Luke 1:26-38
Tuesday: Hebrews 12:18-27; Luke 1:39-56
Wednesday: 1 Thesalonians 4:12-17; John 11:1-46
Thursday: Romans 1:1-7; Luke 2:1-7
Friday: Col 2:8-15; Luke 2:21
Saturday: Prv 8:4-11; Mal 4:5-7; Is 40:3-5; Acts 13:25-33; Luke 1:57-80

We Welcome Visitors and Hope You Enjoy Worshipping with Us. Please sign the *Guest Book* in the foyer. If there is anything we can do for you, let us know or fill in the welcome cards in the pew racks in front of you and leave in the office or foyer.

Do you want to have God pleasing faith? You cannot unless you give time to read the Bible, because "... **FAITH COMES FROM HEARING THE MESSAGE AND THE MESSAGE IS HEARD THROUGH THE WORD OF CHRIST.**" Romans 10:17

Dismissal

At the end of the Divine Liturgy, the faithful come forward towards the altar and kiss the Holy Gospel, saying:

"May the Lord be mindful of your sacrifices and accept your supplications."

The Celebrant Responds:

"May the Lord grant to you according to your heart and fulfill all your wishes."

Renewal

Today, we are going to read from the Gospel of Matthew 3:1-17, which tells about John the Baptist and the baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Obviously, Birth is necessary to begin a life and in the Armenian Church, baptism is necessary so that a child can start a "new life" as a child of God. It's not a conscious act of faith. But it is through baptism that a new Christian is brought into the life of the Church and the hope of salvation. The Armenian understanding of baptism draws upon the evidence of Scripture and Tradition to baptize infants—who are pledged to a life in Christ by godparents and the community—as well as adults.

Some parents bring their newborns to church on a Sunday to get them baptized, because it's the right thing to do, it's tradition and then they are never seen again, or maybe a few of times a year. Even some who want to be baptized as adults, face a similar challenge. What happens after the baptism? Being baptized shouldn't be the end for any of us. It doesn't mean we're "in" and that's it. One of the most important things we can learn from Jesus' baptism is that this is not an ending, but a beginning of a new life on Earth!

This is the beginning of the story of the rest of Jesus' life; and it begins with a baptism. After Jesus was baptized, the Spirit of God descended like a dove and rested on him, and then a voice from heaven said, "*This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.*"

Keep in mind that Jesus did not need purification. He did it to wash away humanity's sin. His baptism was necessary to fulfill God's righteous plan of salvation. He affirmed John's ministry, and He was revealed - in public, by the Father and the Holy Spirit to be Christ, God's beloved Son.

Yet, what does it mean for us to be baptized and to actually live out our baptisms? Remember, it's a renewed life we're supposed to be living and if we take our baptisms seriously, then we can never be satisfied with the way things are, when we see something wrong, we need to work for what is right! That's what Jesus did.

Baptism is the sign that we are called and claimed by God. And the children of God are in the world, but never "of" the world. The children of God tell the truth in a world that lies. Children of God give in a world that takes and love in a world that hates.

When we are baptized, we are incorporated into this community called the "Body of Christ." And sometimes it seems like a completely crazy community to be a part of because it's so totally different from the rest of the world. The baptized community doesn't seek success or security; instead, they make sacrifices...Every Single Day.

When the world tells us "An eye for an eye," Jesus tells us "love everybody," when the world tells us to "Take care of yourself," He tells us to take care of the disadvantaged first. Jesus expects all of us to be people of value and not people of success. Amen.