

Ladies Guild

The next Ladies Guild meeting will be on Feb. 11th, at 9:00 in the Church Hall.

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.

Thank You

Susan and Peter Baghdasarian and everyone who helped during last night's Chef of the Month dinner. **Save the date for the next COTM Dinner, February 25th.**

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.....

Church Email

If you would like to be kept up to date on Church news, current affairs and events please provide your email address so that we can add you to the Church email list. Please rest assured that your email will only be used for Church communication.

NAC Food Pantry

Please bring non-perishable, unexpired food items, your donations will help serve our neighbors in need within our community. Thank you--God Bless you!

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.”

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to donate flowers for the altar either in memory of a loved one or for a special occasion, please see or call Lusiya at 508-476-2920.

SOORP ASDVADZADZIN ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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SUNDAY BULLETIN

January 29, 2017

True Believing

Celebrant Rev. Fr. Mikael Der Kosroffian

EPISTLE: 2 Timothy 2:15-19

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.”

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

- TODAY:** Is 62:1-11; 2 Tim 2:15-19; Jn 6:39-47 (Pg. 1657)
- Monday:** Prv 29:2-7; 2 Mc 6:18-7:42; Heb 11:32-40; Mt 5:17-20
- Tuesday:** Hos 10:12; Am 5:10-14; Mi 7:7-9; Rom 11:2-5; Lk 13:31-35
- Wednesday:** 1 Cor 7:25-35; Mt 19:13-26
- Thursday:** Prv 11:30-12:4; Hos 14:6-9; 2 Cor 4:6-14; Lk 12:2-10
- Friday:** 1 Cor 11:1-16; Mk 1:35-45
- Saturday:** Jer 17:7-8; Is 61:3-7; 2 Tim 1:6-14; Lk 11:29-32

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

HOW TO FOLLOW THE LITURGY

We have Liturgy Books in the pew racks, take one and follow along. The page number is illuminated on the wall. This way the Liturgy will become more meaningful to you as you worship.

Blessing of Home Service

It is the Armenian Church custom after Christmas for Der Hayr to bless our homes. If you would like to have the traditional service of the blessing of your home, please call Der Hayr direct at (774) 462-8041.

LENTEN LECTURE SERIES

The Lenten Lecture Program Series will begin on Friday, March 3rd, and continue for five consecutive Fridays. The program is presented by our Christian Education Committee (CEC). Lenten Services will begin at 6 p.m. followed by a light dinner then the lecture. Please join us and be a part of this new and exciting experience.

Winter Cancellations

Please tune in to WHDH Channel 7 for Church Service
And/or any other church event cancelations during the winter months.

True Believing

Today’s reading is from the Gospel of John 6:39-47, Jesus tells us “*For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life.*”

It’s important for us to understand what “believes” means. True believing is not simply agreeing to a few facts about Jesus, it is feeding on Him and coming to Him all the time. True believing is not about hearing the gospel and nodding our heads yes, and saying “Amen”. No, true believing is when we come to Jesus, our Savior – all the time.

The truth is, no matter how hard we try, we can’t. And there’s a reason why it’s so difficult to follow, to obey His rules to truly believe. That’s a problem we all face. Verse 44 Jesus said, “*No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them...* ”.

Why is that? Because we are not alive, spiritually alive. We have to be willing to learn from God in order to hear Him otherwise we cannot be spiritually alive, He can’t enable us to do anything and that can only mean one thing – we’re spiritually dead, because we really don’t want to come to Jesus - we prefer our hobbies, our habits, our lifestyles over Him, life is just fine without Him, because all is good, at least that’s what we like to think and *believe*.

Some will disagree but if we’re doing the same things day in and day out, being mechanical, repetitive and always searching for something to make us happy, then how can we say we are spiritually alive?

We can’t be spiritually alive if we refuse to believe. The Jews refused to believe even though they saw Jesus with their own eyes. It’s the same with us today, if Jesus came in person, things wouldn’t change because those who don’t believe will not believe.

How do I know, let’s say I don’t, but this is what Jesus said in verse 36 “*But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe.*”

That’s a problem for many because if we chose to believe, we have to obey His rules, we have to submit our free will to Him. So, whether we see Jesus with our own eyes or not, probably won’t make a difference because our hearts are deeply prejudiced against believing in and submitting to His will, causing us to be spiritually dead.

God can’t work in us or through us. But there’s good news, Jesus is at the door knocking. He’ll always be there knocking and waiting.

God gives everyone a chance, but He will not force Himself on anyone. One day you and I will come before God, can we honestly tell Him “God, I never had the chance to believe?”

“Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.”