

Save the Date!!!

God willing, we will be celebrating the 59th Anniversary of our Church this year. On October 30th H.E. Archbishop Oshagan will celebrate the Divine Liturgy and ordain Raffi Samkiranian to the rank of Deacon. Following the service, we will have a banquet at Pleasant Valley Country Club. Stay tuned for more details.

5th Annual Benefit Dance

Saturday, October 29th from 7pm – Midnight. See Flyer for more Info.

Annual Church Bazaar

Saturday, December 3, 10am-4:30 p.m. Pleasant Street Christian Reform Church Hall, 25 Cross Street, Whitinsville; dinners served at 11:30.

The Ladies Guild is helping the Department of Children & Family Services again after collecting and donating 50 backpacks and supplies for children! Since winter is right around the corner, the Ladies Guild will be collecting pajamas until Sunday November 27th. Pajamas are needed for boys and girls, sizes infant to middle school age. Any questions, please contact Susan Baghdasarian at susanbaghdasarian@yahoo.com or 508-409-8350.

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.

The Blackstone Valley CROP Hunger Walk is Saturday, October 15. The three-mile walk will begin at Trinity Church next to the Whitinsville Town Common and end at the Uxbridge Town Common. Registration will begin at 8:30 am at Trinity Church on Linwood Ave., Whitinsville. Refreshments will be served at the end of the Walk at the Community House, next to the Uxbridge Congregational Church.

THE NORTH POLE POST OFFICE

Will open for business again this year at the Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church Bazaar Sat. December 3rd... We have to be ready!!! From now until Sunday November 22nd. Donations will be collected from the congregation, the community, your families, friends and businesses (hairdressers, gift cards, etc.) Items should be for women or house and home. The donated items should be a minimum value of \$5.00. One or more items of higher value would be fantastic. Do not wrap items, we will take care of that to hide the value of each item. If it would be easier for you to give a donation -- cash or check – we will take care of the shopping for the items. Thank you in advance for your help, watch the bulletin and church email for updates.

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 memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion or Just Because.....

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SUNDAY BULLETIN

October 2, 2016

THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS CHRIST

Celebrant Rev. Fr. Mikael Der Kosroffian

EPISTLE: 2 Corinthians 13:5-13

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test. Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong—not so that people will see that we have stood the test but so that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is that you may be fully restored. This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority—the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down.

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All God's people here send their greetings.

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

TODAY: Is 17:7-14; 2 Cor 13:5-13; Mk 11:27-33
Monday: Prv 27:1-6; Is 43:16-21; 2 Cor 11:21-29; Mk 6:45-56
Tuesday: Song 8:14; Is 61:9-11; 1 Pt 5:8-11; Lk 12:32-40
Wednesday: Gal 1:1-10; Mk 12:1-12
Thursday: Prv 4:20-27; Jer 15:19-20; 1 Cor 12:1-7; Mt 9:35-10:7
Friday: Gal 1:11-24; Mk 12:18-34
Saturday: Wis 8:7-10; Am 5:10-14; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Mt 7:6-12

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, please let us know or fill in the welcome cards that are 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. Join us every Monday 6 – 7 pm for our Sermon Discussion session.

HOW TO FOLLOW THE DIVINE LITURGY

We have Liturgy Books in the pew racks, please follow along using the illuminated paging system on the wall. This way the Liturgy will be more meaningful to 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."

The Authority of Jesus Christ

Today's reading is from the Gospel of Mark 11:27-33, Jesus' authority is challenged by the so called teachers of the law, the elders and the chief priests. They wanted to know by whose authority Jesus was doing these things.

Why do you suppose they challenged His authority? Many of them had witnessed the miracles that Jesus performed, so why ask?

There's a couple of reasons why they did that and those same reasons exist today. First, they saw and didn't want to believe – if they did, they would have to change their ways – why change when you can have it your way?

There was a reason why Jesus asked if John's baptism was from heaven or from man. He knew that their question of Him was a set-up, their intention was to make Jesus defenseless - to open Him up for accusations.

It was a very clever move on their part to discredit Jesus but those teachers of the law, those chief priests and elders forgot who they were dealing with. God.

We also forget who we are dealing with. We can accept it, we can deny it, we can fight it, we can argue it. The truth has been revealed and it will be revealed.... then what? What do you do when it's too late?

Having five children, I've heard this phrase too often and I'm sure that most of you have as well. When children are upset with one another or even their parents, the famous words come out, *"You're not the boss of me"*.

That's what the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders were saying to Jesus. "Who do you think you are? You have no power over us, you can't tell us what to do."

Aren't we telling God the same thing today when we refuse Him?

Another reason Jesus referred to John was to remind them of what happened at His own baptism. Matthew chapter 3: "16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, *"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."*

So the Baptism of John was significant, not for itself but because of what it signaled. This is by what authority Jesus did all things.

These teachers of the law faked ignorance, pretending that they don't know. And Jesus sees through their answer, and says, *"Then I won't tell you where I get my authority."* They already had the answer but they refused to believe it.

Today, we know by what authority Jesus did all of those things. If we continue to refuse to accept Him, then how are we any different? He has given us all the answers necessary to make the right choices, but because we don't like His answers we ignore it all.

Let's not be like the Pharisees, they really didn't love God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength. If they truly loved God in this way, they wouldn't have to ask where Christ's authority came from. They opposed Jesus and lost the opportunity of a lifetime.

The Word of God will carry us, it will give us strength and it will feed us spiritually.
