

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. For details, please see Alice or Joanne.

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.....

SOORP ASDVADZADZIN ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
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SUNDAY BULLETIN

October 9, 2016

THE WIDOW'S OFFERING

Celebrant Rev. Fr. Mikael Der Kosroffian

EPISTLE: Galatians 2:1-10

Then after fourteen years, I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also. I went in response to a revelation and, meeting privately with those esteemed as leaders, I presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. I wanted to be sure I was not running and had not been running my race in vain. Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek. This matter arose because some false believers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves. We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

As for those who were held in high esteem—whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism—they added nothing to my message. On the contrary, they recognized that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised. For God, who was at work in Peter as an apostle to the circumcised, was also at work in me as an apostle to the Gentiles. James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised. All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.

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

TODAY: Is 19:1-11; Gal 2:1-10; Mk 12:35-44
Monday: Jer 33:14-22; Is 18:7; Heb 10:32-36; Lk 10:21-24
Tuesday: Zec 8:1-3; Acts 9:1-22; Lk 9:1-6
Wednesday: Gal 2:11-20; Mk 13:14-23
Thursday: Is 33:2-6; Acts 17:16-34; 2 Thes 1:1-12; Lk 10:1-7
Friday: Gal 2:20-3:12; Mk 13:24-37
Saturday: Wis 9:13-10:2; Ez 1:3-11; Zec 6:1-8; Eph 4:7-13; Lk 6:13-19

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

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.

The Widow's Offering

We've all heard the story of “the widow and the two pennies.” Yes, on the surface it's about giving money, stewardship, but it goes much deeper.

After the strenuous debates with the rabbis and the teachers, Jesus once more entered the temple, which was His routine custom. One of the qualities of Jesus, which so many of us overlook was, besides being a good listener, He was a good observer. Mark writes in Chapter 12:

“Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents...”

In this incident, Jesus wants to teach us that loving and worshiping God is more than the giving of our hard earned money. It is not in *how much* we give, rather *how willingly, generously and cheerfully* we give, not with resentment, or giving for the sake of prestige or acknowledgment, like the teachers of the law were looking for.

The other lesson for us to learn here is that in giving, the widow expressed her unconditional love for God. She “Out of her poverty put in *all she had* to live on.” The rich gave their leftovers, which did not cost them much. But as for the widow, after she gave her two pennies she had nothing to live on. Giving does not begin to be real giving until it hurts.

Jesus was very impressed with the woman. The Scribes should have been the true example for all to look up to, but this poor widow, who was most likely looked over by everyone else, is noticed, and held in high esteem by God. Why? Because of the amount she gave? No!

So what was the value of her offering? The value was total commitment. She put it all in. It was a step of faith, a commitment of faith on the widow's part. This was a great act of faith, because what she gave was her total trust to God. She wasn't worried that she would have no money for food. Actually, it doesn't seem like she was worried about anything. She put her complete trust in God. He would take care of her. That's the commitment this widow made.

God measures giving not by what we give, but by what we keep for ourselves. He measures the gift by the sacrifice involved. That is why Jesus valued the widow's gift. She sacrificed her well-being in order to show her love for God—just like Jesus showed his love for us by dying on the cross to save us. Sometimes we forget, and today's message is a reminder, this widow loved God with all her heart, her mind, her soul and her strength.

If we want to see God blessings in our Church, then we have to have the love and the commitment that the widow had. If we choose to hide from God then we leave Him no choice but to hold back from us, both in Church and at home.