

THE MARRIAGE SERVICE  
OF  
GREGORY S. SARKISIAN  
AND  
CATHLEEN R. GRACE

Saturday, October 14, 1978  
4:00 p.m.  
Holy Trinity Armenian Church  
Cheltenham, Pennsylvania

Officiating Clergy    The Rev. Fr. Arshen Aivazian  
Deacon                    Garbis Kelyan  
Organist                 Marian Kalentian  
Soloist                    Alice Meserlian

THE WEDDING PARTY

Maid of Honor            Laura Grace  
Bestman                    Jon Sarkisian

Bridesmaids              Donna Der Hagopian  
                                Mary Grace  
                                Elizabeth Carpino  
                                Sharon Hughes  
                                Barbara Plumley

Junior Bridesmaid        Shannon Gordon

Flowergirl

Ushers                     Glen Der Hagopian  
                                John Grace, Jr.  
                                Scott Kirby  
                                Harry Shabolian, Jr.  
                                John Nazarethian  
                                Robert Kangian

IF WE  
LOVE  
ONE  
ANOTHER



GOD LIVES IN US AND HIS LOVE  
HAS MADE PERFECT IN US



## The Wedding Service

Holy Matrimony is a Sacrament of the Armenian Church in which a man and a woman solemnly vow before Christ, the priest and the congregation to be true to each other for life. Their conjugal union is blessed by Christ through the Church.

The marriage ceremony of the Armenian Church is steeped in ritual and symbolism. Each of the acts performed during the ceremony has a special meaning and significance. After being blessed by the priest, rings are exchanged between the bride and the groom, giving expression to the fact that the spouses in marriage will constantly be complementing each other. Each will be enriched by the union. During the exchange of vows and later on in the service, the right hands of the bride and groom are joined to symbolize the "oneness" of the couple. The rite of crowning is the climax of the wedding service. The crowns are the signs of the glory and honor with which God crowns them during the Sacrament. The groom and the bride are crowned as the king and queen of their own little kingdom, the home, which they will rule with wisdom, justice and integrity. The rite of crowning is followed by the blessing of the "common cup", when a glass of wine is blessed in remembrance of the marriage at Cana of Galilee which was blessed by Christ's presence. The drinking of wine from the "common cup" serves to impress upon the couple that from that moment on they will share everything in life, joys as well as sorrows.

At the end of the service the priest blesses the couple, asking Christ to "protect them under the shadow of Thy holy and honorable cross in peace." Thus God's grace is imparted to them to live together in His love, mutually fulfilling and perfecting each other.

## The Order of the Service

### THE PROCESSIONAL

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: Aysor Yergnayinkin (*This day the Celestials*)

The Blessing of the Rings

The Exhortation

The Exchange of Vows

Hymn: Թւրախ Լըր Տօրք Եղեղհէտի (*Rejoice, O Holy Church*)

The Trisagion

The Litany of the Faithful

Reading from the Epistle to the Ephesians

The Gospel Reading

The Nicene Creed

The Crowning

The Prayer of Crowning

Hymn: Օվ Երանելի (*O Thou Blessed of All*)

Removal of the Crowns

Blessing of the Common Cup of Wine

Prayer of Dismissal

The Lord's Prayer

### THE RECESSIONAL