



THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF ATLANTA

P.O. BOX 415
RIVERDALE, GA. 30272

March 13, 1994

The Armenian Church Of Atlanta proudly announces the upcoming visit of The Very Rev. Fr. Haygazoun Najarian, Vicar-General of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, to celebrate Divine Liturgy on **EASTER SUNDAY, April 3, 1994**. The entire faithful Armenian community and friends are invited to attend this special celebration.

SOLEMN DIVINE LITURGY

celebrant

THE VERY REV. FR. HAYGAZOUN NAJARIAN, Vicar-General
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 1994, AT 4:00 P. M.
EPIPHANY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
2030 OLD ALABAMA ROAD
ROSWELL, GA.

FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY
BEEF TENDERLOIN DINNER WILL BE SERVED
IN THE CHURCH HALL

*** We will have an **EASTER EGG HUNT** for the children ***
*** Please bring your **EASTER BASKETS** ***

*** **TRADITIONAL EASTER EGG CRACKING CONTEST** ***

For additional information, Please call:
Talin Major at 447-9647 or Nancy DiBoyan at 996-8493

LENT

For the Armenian Church, Lent began this year on Monday, February 14. During this 40 days, the veil of the Altar is covered in black and the singing of the Liturgy is more somber and recitative. When you attend Church Service, please join the Choir in reciting the Choir's portion of the Liturgy. We urge our parishioners to devote a certain time each day to read the Bible with their families.

HOW TO OBSERVE LENT

All spiritual leaders and prophets at the dawn of their ministry have had an unavoidable period of preparation, entering the seclusion of a desert or climbing to the heights of a mountain, away from the daily world, to reach self-appraisal and attain the knowledge of God and His truth. Christ, too, according to the Gospel tradition, had his 40-day period of seclusion and penitence, during which he overcame temptations of Satan, and then went to the river Jordan to be washed and cleansed.

Following the example of the Lord, Christian churches regarded the concept of penitence as a precondition for salvation, and assigned special days for that purpose. The Armenian church also appropriated a 40-day period of penitence, which falls during Lent, beginning February 14 this year. All the hymns, scripture readings and services held during Lent, invite the Armenians to repentance and to strive for a better Christian life.

Our church fathers wisely realized that so many of us were caught up in daily problems, anxiety, anger, greed, worry, all of which interfered with our spiritual life. There is, therefore, a way during Lent to allow ourselves a chance to renew our inner souls and bring our feelings, our deeds, and our behavior face to face with God. The purpose of penance is to cleanse our sinful minds and souls, and renew our inner world. Penance is the means to raise human beings from their sins and to try to become better Christians. Our main enemy which threatens our lives is the inside man. While external means remain helpless, the internal enemy turns to be predominant. Therefore, internal means are needed, such as penance and repentance, which have to be practiced to subdue that inner evil in us.

The Armenian Church has established an excellent pattern to follow. Each Sunday in Lent gives a different message, step by step, and completes the cycle through devotion and prayer, by reading lengthy passages from the Bible, and pondering, going into our inner selves and coming out again as a new person, seeing the Light and the Way and the Truth: CHRIST THE LORD.

In the Armenian Church, Lent heralds a period of abstention from meat and dairy products. Fasting was once looked on solely as a means of atonement and the "cleaning of one's mind of evil thought", today many regard it as a way of cleaning the body as well. Observing the "40 Days of Lent" may do us more good than we imagine.

PAST EVENTS

On Sunday, February 6, 1994, The Very Rev. Fr. Haygazoun Najarian celebrated Divine Liturgy and over 65 faithful Armenians were in attendance for Hayr Soorp's first visit to Atlanta. After the church service, council members of the Atlanta Armenian Church served a delicious Armenian style chicken-kebab dinner to 60 parishioners and guests. Chairman, Simeon DiBoyan welcomed everyone and introduced The Very Rev. Fr. H. Najarian, who spoke of the meaning of St. Vartanantz Day, followed by a question and answer time. The topic was not only interesting but very informative for many of us but, especially for the large number of young adults who were present. Mr. DiBoyan continued the program by asking Karmen Kamciyan to sing - her vocal selection was enjoyed by all.

The Armenian Church of Atlanta Parish Council would like to formally extend their sincere thanks to the following individuals for their generous donations and help for making the dinner such a success: **Simeon & Nancy DiBoyan, Filyan Dido, Zarouhi Dido, Jim Dunning, Kathy Kalajian, Karmen Kamciyan, Joyce Keyfer, Talin Keyfer, Harry Khachadourian, Talin Major, Luna and Shahe Markarian, Levon & Norma Messerlian, and Ani Tashciyan.** Also, many thanks to our choir members for their dedication and diligent work.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 3, 1994 : EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES
MAY 15, 1994 : MOTHER'S DAY CHURCH SERVICES & PICNIC
MAY 22, 1994 : TENNESSEE AQUARIUM TRIP

CASP/ CHILDREN OF ARMENIA SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

CASP/ Children of Armenia Sponsorship Program is a project of the Women's Guild Central Council, organized under the auspices of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. Their purpose is to aid orphaned Armenian children who have lost one or both parents.

As of December 31, 1993 a total of 660 children are being sponsored through CASP, and many more sponsors are needed. So, please help an Armenian child by being a sponsor.

For a \$200.00 contribution, you will receive the name, brief biography and picture of the child you are caring for. Your contribution is tax deductible. There are several sponsors in Atlanta now, but more sponsors are needed.

For an application and information, please call Talin Major at 447-9647 or Nancy DiBoyan at 996-8493.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

As always, it was heartwarming to see so many of you in church on Sunday, February 6, 1994 for The Very Rev. Fr. Haygazoun Najarian's, Vicar-General of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, first visit to Atlanta. It indeed was exhilarating to have such a substantial number of children and young adults in attendance during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and the delicious dinner following. I would like to thank each and every one of you, who helped to make this day such an enjoyable one. Hayr Soorp was impressed and pleased with our sincere commitment to provide the Atlanta Armenian community with church services and activities.

The Armenian Church of Atlanta, a mission parish, was started by a group of Armenians in the community, who wanted more religious worship for their children, families and the community on a continual basis. The Parish Council is encouraged with your support and your desire for us to continue with our mission. Our goal is to build an Armenian Church in Atlanta. This very worthwhile goal can be achieved by Armenians of Atlanta joining hands and working together side by side to plan and build the first Armenian Church in Georgia.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you in church Easter Sunday.

Simeon DiBoyan
Chairman
Armenian Church of Atlanta