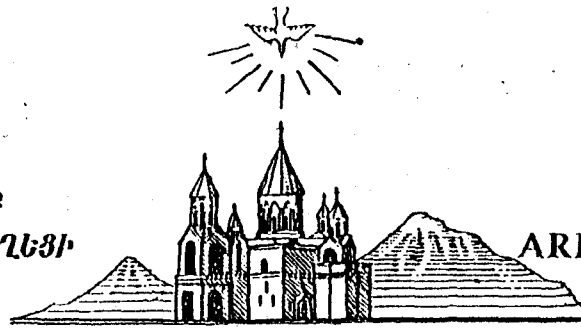


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SAINT JAMES
ARMENIAN CHURCH

V. REV. FR. NAREG BERBERIAN

The Easter Message of The Very Reverend
Father Nareg Berberian

Easter brings a special opportunity to engage in a tradition as memorable and old as the Holy Scriptures themselves. We can reenact, we can therefore be part of a long line of faithful grateful followers of Christ. Easter Yughakin means more than Easter Offering. The word YUGHAKIN actually means "Price of Oil." It is a reminder of the Mark (14:3-9) and Matthew (26:6-13) story that tells of the time when Jesus was having dinner in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, when a woman came in with an alabaster jar of pure and costly ointment. She broke the jar and poured the ointment over the head of Jesus. Some who were present were indignant. "For what purpose is this waste? Ointment like this could have been sold for more than three denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they were angry with her. But Jesus said, "Let her alone, why do you trouble her? This beautiful thing she has done for me. As for the poor, you can do good to them whenever you wish. The poor you will always have with you. You will not always have me. She has done what was in her power to do. She anointed my body for burial. Truly, I assure you, wherever throughout the whole world this Gospel is proclaimed, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

The woman poured out all of her best and was praised and blessed for eternity. How can we do less. Easter Yughakin is an expression of our gratitude for the privilege of worshiping together to greet the resurrection of Our Lord. Just as spring blooms a new life hopefully our hearts bloom with the resurrection to pour out our sense of humility and gratefulness through generous giving to Christ's Church. The Church is Christ's presence on earth to give to the Church is to reenact the anointing of Christ again. And to do so causes us to be blessed.

We praise God for this spring of 1996 and thank for all the hope and promise this season of Easter brings to our lives.

With prayers,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Nareg Berberian". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Nareg Berberian
Pastor