Armenian church celebrates 45th year in Lawrence

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Archbishop Manoogian

LAWRENCE — His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese, will be the celebrant of the day as Holy Cross Armenian Apostolic Church celebrates its 45th anniversary Sunday at 10 a.m.

Very Rev. Manoogian will celebrate the Badarak (Divine Liturgy), assisted by Rt. Rev. Vazken Keshishian, pastor of the church, and will bless a painting of the Crucifixion to be hung in the church. He also will give a sermon. Following the service, a banquet will be held in the church hall commemorating the anniversary. Mayor John J. Buckley will be honored as "Friend of the Armenians" by Father Kenhishian, and other visiting clergy will be received.

Built in 1931, Holy Cross Church has been a landmark in the city for all of its 45 years, serving as a home for the more than 200 Armenian families in the area.

In an effort to create more interest in its identity, the church is planning a series of monthly lectures on the achievements of Armenians in this country, a bazier, and a youth dance.