

Bergen County, N.J.

THE RECORD, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1977

Armenian celebration

Archbishop Torkom Manogian, primate of the Armenian Church of America, will preside at the celebration of the Feast of St. Ghevont in the St. Leon Armenian Church in Fair Lawn on Feb. 15.

Members of the Assyrian, Coptic, and Ethiopian Orthodox Churches will gather with members of the Armenian Church for the celebration. The four churches belong to the Conference of Oriental Churches, which was organized by Manogian two years ago, and of which he is the chairman.

St. Ghevont Day commemorates the martyrdom of those clergymen who perished in 451 A. D. with Vartan Mamigonian (St. Vartan), in a battle to preserve religious freedom. At that time, a

portion of Armenia was under the rule of the Persian Empire, whose leaders attempted to force the Armenians to convert from the Christian faith to Zoroastrianism.

Vartan Mamigonian was the commander of Armenian troops who fought the Persians at Avarayr. Although the Armenian troops lost the battle, the Persians were so taken aback by this show of resistance that their attempts at conversion were halted. The Armenians continued their struggle and, in 484, the Persians agreed to allow the Armenians freedom of religion and speech.

For further details on the celebration, contact The Rev. Patee Metjian of the St. Leon Armenian Church.

Archbishop Manoogian to visit Fair Lawn

FAIR LAWN — His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, will consecrate two icons, ordain two men as deacons, and bless the ground for St. Leon Armenian Church's planned community center during a visit here, Nov. 8-9. St. Leon Church is located at 12-61 Saddle River Road.

Archbishop Manoogian is the spiritual leader for Armenians living in Canada and the United States, excluding California. The diocese is the world's largest, with headquarters in New York City.

The Archbishop will arrive Saturday, Nov. 8, in time to consecrate two paintings in the church. The icons are by artist Lucy Janjigian of Franklin Lakes.

Sunday morning, Archbishop Manoogian will celebrate Divine Liturgy (Mass), assisted by the Reverend Father Parea Metjian, pastor of St. Leon Church. Incorporated into the service will be the ordination of Shavrash Torosian of Fair Lawn, and Hagop Demerdjian of Waldwick, as deacons. The Diocesan Gomidas Choir will sing during Divine Liturgy.

Following the ceremony, the Archbishop will bless the spot where the community center will be built. The center, to be constructed on church property, will help fill the needs of the growing local Armenian community. It will contain seating capacity for 300, a lobby, stage and kitchen. When the building is completed in May 1981, the

present church hall will be converted into an educational center complete with classrooms.

A celebration banquet will take place Sunday evening at the Woodcliff Lake Hilton Inn.



Archbishop Torkom Manoogian