

ST. LEON'S ARMENIAN CHURCH, FAIR LAWN, NJ

CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



*Where is the newborn King of the Jews?
We observed his star at its rising*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 1992

Matins 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 10:15 am Blessing of Water 12:15 pm

followed by

CHURCH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND FAMILY DINNER

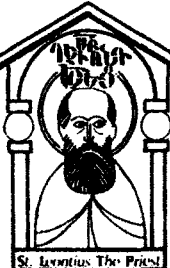
in the Abajian Hall

Donation: \$10.00 for adults \$5.00 for all students

DINNER BY RESERVATION ONLY
NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR

FOR RESERVATIONS PLEASE CALL

Eliz Tossounian 227-6603



St. Levantius The Priest

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Կրթական

Տ. Արշէն Բիւյ.
Այվազեան.
Հոգեւոր Հովիւ

The Rev. Father
Arshen Aivazian
Parish Priest

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THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

Christ is born: glorify him. Christ comes from heaven: go out to meet him. Christ descends to earth: let us be raised on high. Let all the world sing to the Lord: let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad, for his sake who was first in heaven and then on earth. Christ is here in the flesh; let us exult with fear and joy - with fear, because of our sins; with joy, because of the hope that he brings us.

St Gregory of Nazianzus

(329-389)

Monthly
Newsletter

IRADOO

of St. Leon
Armenian Church

St. Leon Armenian Church
12-61 Saddle River Road
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410
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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1991

VOLUME 40, No.5/6

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- ☆ Tue., Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Gala
- ☆ Sat., Jan. 4 - 5:00 pm Armenian Christmas Eve
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- ☆ February 14-17 ACYOA Jr.s Sports Weekend
- ☆ Sun., Feb. 23 Annual Parish Assembly

Attention all Lradoo reporters!

Please submit your articles for the next issue by January 15

Acting Editor: Fr. Arshen Aivazian

St. Leon The Priest

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The Rev. Father Arshen Aivazian Parish Priest

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Monthly Newsletter **LRADOO** of St. Leon Armenian Church

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH • 12-61 SADDLE RIVER ROAD • FAIR LAWN, N.J. 07410 • TEL: 791-2862

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Our new Parish Christian Education and Family Worship schedule and program is being implemented since September. At this stage of the life of the program, I think it will be useful to take a quick look at it in order to make our efforts more effective and more productive. First, I think, we must all agree

whether such a new approach was necessary. Before embarking on this project I tried to make the case for its need. The former schedule of simultaneously held Sunday School for children and Divine Liturgy long lost its effectiveness of providing the opportunity for Christian Education and Worship for every member of the community, the whole family, adults and children alike. This conclusion has been recognized for a long time by religious educators and many clergy. We do not need to look too far to see the truth of this sad reality. Our young people, many of them graduates of our Sunday Schools, are not in Church. Many of our young parents bring their children to Sunday School but only few remain to participate in the worship service of the community. It will not be an overstatement to say that the vast majority of our people who are in church are "unchurched", they lack the basic understanding of the teachings of the church, they were not nurtured by the church in their faith and therefore never learned what it is to be a Community of God. This does not necessarily mean that our people are "unbelievers" and that they do not care about their faith. Not at all. It only means that the faith they received at baptism, which was to have been nurtured within the Church Community, remained an infant and did not grow. The need for the nurture of our infant faith is an undeniable reality and something had to be done about it.

The ultimate purpose of Christian Community life is to study the Word of God and to worship Him together, and bear witness to Him in our lives. Our effort is indeed to refocus our personal commitment to the Gospel of Our Lord in a growing and worshipping community. I am very pleased and encouraged by the overwhelmingly positive reception of our new program. There are more young people in church, worshipping together, participating in the liturgy and sharing the Body and Blood of Our Lord. The message of the Gospel is being heard more loudly and more clearly and the mission of the Church is being refocused. If the comments from people on the pews is any evidence, more than 80% are positive. That does not mean that we have no problems and everything is running smoothly. Not at all. The process of adjustment has just begun and we all have to be patient with ourselves and with one another while we make our steady progress. Some parents still need to learn to remain in Church for the Divine Liturgy with their children after Church School classes are dismissed. Some of us have to get used to worshipping with the children in truly adhering to the words of our Lord that "whoever welcomes one such child for my sake welcomes me." (Matt.18:5) In short, we all have to rethink our often misaligned notions of what it means to be "The Church", the community of Christian believers.

And as we take our little steps toward that goal, let us continue to pray for the Lord's blessings on us and on our efforts.

THE PARISH COUNCIL CORNER



It is a busy time for our parish as we come to the end of the year and start closing the books, both literally and figuratively. As busy as the year has been, so has the last few weeks.

Our Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 24 was very successful in bringing together the

religious communities of our town. Over 500 people from the Christian and Jewish communities attended the service headed by their clergy and a combined children's choir provided the music. Once again our Women's Guild did a marvelous job in hosting the reception that followed.

In response to a directive from the Diocese we embarked on a clothing collection and fund raising campaign to help our brother and sisters in Armenia who are going through hard times this winter. Thanks to everyone's efforts our clothing collection drive ended very successfully and thousands of people in Armenia are a little warmer. Our fundraising drive is still going on and we hope that everyone will contribute to the fund to send food and other necessary items.

On Sunday, November 24, following the Divine Liturgy, more than 15 couples were in church to celebrate a service of thanksgiving on the occasion of their wedding anniversaries which they marked during the year. Der Hayr performed a special service of Blessing of Wine which the couples shared.

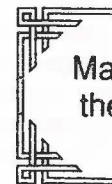
We welcome the newly formed Men's Fellowship as one of our Church Organizations. Its formation, it seems, was long overdue, judging from the successful start. We look forward to their contributions to our parish community life.

Our upcoming New Year's Eve Gala is a sellout. About 350 tickets were sold out within two weeks and we are looking forward to a wonderful time together.

Our new Christian Education and Family Worship Divine Liturgy program and schedule is progressing very satisfactorily. It is heartwarming to see adults and children learning and worshipping together.

See you all in church and have a happy New Year everyone.

Araxi Mouldjian, Corresponding Secretary



Many church members have enough religion to make them decent but not enough to make them dynamic.





FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Our Annual Parish Assembly is scheduled to be held on Sunday, February 23, following the Church Services. All organizations are asked to please submit their activities and financial reports by no later than January 15, in order to enable the church office to prepare the Annual Report Booklet on time. On the agenda this year is the election of three

Diocesan Delegates, five Parish Council members, Nominating and Auditing Committees. Our present Nominating Committee consists of Sarkis Bedevian, Dawn Hourdajian and Vikcen Jessourian, with Berdjouhi Parseghian as alternate. They are in the process of preparing a slate of candidates for the various vacancies. If you are interested in running for office or if you would like to nominate someone, please call Dawn Hourdajian at 447-2862. For your information, the Diocesan By-Laws specify that to run for office one has to be a member "in good standing" for at least one year, and for at least six months in order to vote.

CHOIR NOTES



The reconstructed 10th century Badarak is now in full use and the choir has quickly adapted to it with the help of rehearsals with Der Hayr.

You may have noted some new faces in the choir the past few months. We have welcome Harry Bargamian, Berj Manoogian and Brett Noorigian as members of the choir. We hope their participation will serve as a catalyst to attract others to join our Choir. Also, as Der Hayr has emphasized time and again, we welcome the participation of the congregation in the singing of parts assigned to the people.

Activities slated for 1992 will entail the purchase of some needed new robes and for us to fine-tune the singing of the Badarak. It is also planned to have our annual meeting for the purpose of electing new officers for 1993-94.

Leon Dourgarian, Chairman

CARE AND SHARE

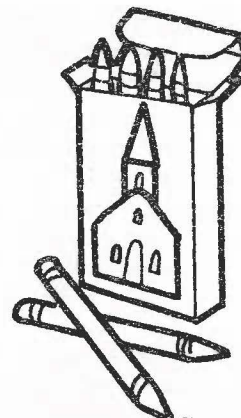


During our November meeting we had an informative presentation on financial planning. Our Annual Christmas Dinner and Social with husbands was very successful and indeed enjoyable. We are looking forward to our "Breakfast with Santa" on Friday, December 27 at 9:30 am in the Abajian Hall. If you have not made your reservations yet,

please do so as soon as you can. At the time this issue of the Lradoo reaches you our collection of gifts for the "Shelter our Sisters" would be concluded. We are looking forward to another successful drive. Merry Christmas and happy New Year to all!

Lisa Haledjian, Secretary

SUNDAY SCHOOL

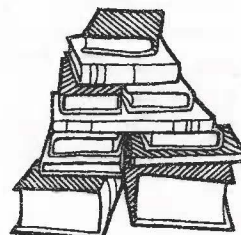


We want to commend our Church School parents for getting their children to class on time. This is essential to get the most of our 45 minute class session. We ask for your continued support and cooperation. We really want to encourage those who have not yet joined us in class or in church to do so. Discover the joy of worshipping as a family. The children are getting to participating in the Badarak and its wonderful to see them moving their lips and humming the songs.

Note your calendars that on Sunday, January 5, we will have our Annual Christmas Program and Dinner following church services. While a separate flyer has been made to all, we would like to remind everyone to make your reservations as soon as you can by calling Eliz Tossounian at 223-6603. No tickets will be sold at the door. Donation is \$10 for adults and \$5 for all students.

Linda Galgano, Assistant Superintendent

ARMENIAN SCHOOL



The Armenian School revived a Christmas tradition making tree ornaments by shaping their Armenian Initial in dough and individually decorating them in their own style. Each student made two - one to hang on our tree in the Church educational wing and one to take home for their family tree.

We are proud to announce that two classes achieved perfect attendance - first level, Emily Avedian's class, for the first quarter of the school year and 7th level, Claire Hamalian's class, for the month of November. They will have the honor of hanging the Perfect Attendance banner in their classrooms. The following students participated: Arek Mark, Gareen Hamalian, Vane Beddyan, David Jinivizian, Yahag Medzadourian, Arda Jesraly, Lena Jinivizian, Christine Royland, Loudine Naljian, Macrina Alvazian and Adam Tashjian.

We are looking forward to our Armenian School Christmas Party on Wednesday, January 8. Gaghan Baba will visit the students during the evening bearing gifts. a pot luck dinner for students and family will also be a part of our evening's celebration. A traditional anoushabour will be served.

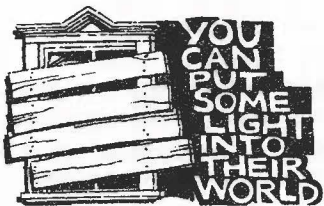
Barbara Boghosian, Secretary



PARISH OUTREACH

Probably the least known aspect of our parish life is the outreach program for the poor and the needy. While it is gratifying to see more and more people are getting involved in this most worthwhile effort, there are many more people in our parish who must be informed about it. It was only

three years ago, just about this time of year when Der Hayr initiated the establishment of our Charity Fund, with the purpose of creating a vehicle to help the ever growing number of the homeless and the needy in our communities. The response since then has been overwhelming. Mrs. Elsie Donigian and Mrs. Kora Zadigian coordinated our the program of providing occasional dinners and lunches to a homeless shelter. In a very short time we were able to make a commitment to provide a dinner once a month to residents at Eva's Shelter in Paterson, and to a men's shelter in Hackensack in the summer. In addition to these, we also participate with the other churches in Fair Lawn to provide dinner for a whole week to a family shelter in Englewood twice a year. Occasionally we are asked to cook and serve a meal on a Sunday afternoon to a walk-in shelter in Hackensack. Words cannot express the feeling of gratification one experiences when one meets the Lord in the personal encounter of the hungry and the poor. We extend an invitation to everyone to be a part of this effort. Please call Dovie Tilbian, our current coordinator, at 488-5394. We would like to acknowledge Katherine Ohnikian for donating the food in October and preparing and serving it with Andrea Halejian; Araxie Torosian for donating a turkey in November and to Rose Kirian and Florence Gulkasian for cooking and serving it; to Mr. & Mrs. Sahag Ozdemirci for donating the food in December and to Barbara Hovsepian for shopping and cooking it. Our thanks, of course to Elsie, Kora, and now Dovie for coordinating our outreach program.



CLOTHING DRIVE FOR ARMENIA

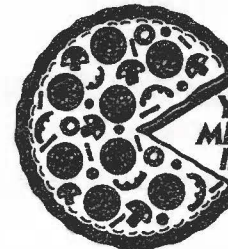
On very short notice and in very short time St. Leon's proved once again that when love, care and concern are the motivators all obstacles can be overcome. And thus it was during the two weeks before Thanksgiving.

The Diocese had sent directives to all parishes that there is an urgent need for winter clothing in some remote villages in Armenia. Within less than two weeks we collected more than 20,000 lbs of clothing. Our church served as the center of collection where all the collections from other metropolitan area churches were brought, sorted out, baled and trucked to the airport. Our thanks first and foremost to all the donors. But we would also like to thank a few people for specific tasks that they performed: to Grace Pinajian and Anne Kachigian -

for organizing the whole effort of sorting out, labeling and bagging the clothes with assistance from Care and Share mothers, Armenian School Board members and mothers, Women's Guild members and over 25 individual parishioners both from St. Leon's and St. Thomas; to Joseph and Ira Marootian of Marootian Trading Co. for baling the clothes; to The Treasure Island Company for providing their own trucks and drivers to pick up all the clothes from all the churches in the area and transporting them to the bale house and to the airport; to Richard Tomasian for providing the plastic bags; and last but not least to our custodian Minas Arakelian for working extra hard to get things done on time. Thank you all! Just think, as a direct result of your contributions and your labor hundreds of people in Armenia are a little warmer this winter.



Some of the volunteers who helped sort out and bag the clothes



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Friday, December 13 will go into the annals of our parish history as an important date. That evening more than 40 men of our parish met and formally announced the birth of a new organization for the men in our

parish. Dr. Berdj Feredjian, the originator of the whole idea and the chairman of its Ad Hoc Committee explained the main purpose and goals of the organization: Christian fellowship, community outreach, parish support and socialization. Bob Ishkanian presented the variety of activities being considered for the organization. With the support and cooperation of all the men present the organization was formally brought into being. Organizational by-laws will be prepared at a later date. For now a \$25.00 annual membership dues was adopted and it was decided to meet again on Friday, January 17 at 8 pm in the Community Center. Election of officers will be held at that meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting everyone enjoyed some refreshments and games. All men of the parish are invited to our next meeting on January 17.

George Sarkissians

Thanks!

very much to me. I hope to join you shortly.

I would like to thank St. Leon's Seniors and members of the Women's Guild for their telephone calls and get well wishes and prayers during my recent hospital stay. I'm home now and recuperating, and your kind words meant

Lucille Varjian

THANK YOU

On behalf of the Parish Council and the entire parish we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Berdj Feredjian, Project Chairman and Architect Thomas Ashbahian, for their untiring efforts in accomplishing the construction of the handicapped access ramp to the church. Without their relentless pursuit and professional expertise the project would not have been completed so successfully and in relatively such a short time.



Welcome to the Parish

NEW MEMBERS

- Bert and Rosemary Bedrosian
- Richard and Bonnie Malajian
- James and Priscilla Bashian

PARISH REGISTRY

BAPTISMS

- November 3 - Olivia Grace, daughter of James and Sandra Leitner
- November 17 - Ari, son of Aret and Rita Kartalyan
- December 1 - John Anthony, son of John and Ariene Sousa

ENGAGEMENT

- August 12 - Raffi Jessourian and Ariene Seraydarian

WEDDINGS

- November 2 - Linda Tamesian and George Kalfayan
- November 10 - Angela Cumella and John Rikers

FALLEN ASLEEP IN CHRIST

- October 24 - Azniv Chillingirian
- October 25 - Avedis Bonjouklian
- October 29 - James Bozian
- November 28 - Vincent Incecyan
- December 12 - Siranoush Takoushian
- December 13 - Florence Purpuse

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to Dr. Ralph Meyer and Dr. Knarig Khatchadurian Meyer or the death of their mother and mother-in-law Bertha Meyer, who died on November 1 in Mason City, Iowa.

DONATIONS

The Pastor and Parish Council gratefully acknowledge the following donations
Our thanks to the donors.

TO THE CHURCH

- Mr. & Mrs. Papken Simonyan \$ 25.00
- Mr. Gomidas Haroutunian 200.00
- Mr. & Mrs. Minas Arakelian 50.00
- Mr. & Mrs. Apraham Svadjian 50.00

On the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

- Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Bchakjian 50.00

On the occasion of their 20th wedding anniversary.

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF OHANNES JINIVIZIAN (Additional)

- Mr. & Mrs. Barkeve Jinivizian
- Mr. & Mrs. Jack Najarian

New Total: \$410.00

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF DR. NISHAN JOHNSON (Additional)

- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Nakashian
- Mr. & Mrs. Louis Sciala
- Mr. & Mrs. Alex Turnamian

New Total: \$765.00

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF ARCHIE MAROOTIAN

- Anita, Juna & Roxie Dellson
- Mr. & Mrs. Ara Kedson

Total: \$60.00

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF VERJIN ALDJIAN

- Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Eills
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fischbein
- Mrs. Ann & Nadine Aljian
- Mr. & Mrs. Steve Aprahamian
- Mrs. Gladys Aslanian
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard Aljian
- Mr. & Mrs. John Hovseplian
- Mr. & Mrs. Noubar Jessourian

Mr. & Mrs. Sebouh Jessourian	Chhregjdjian Family	
Mr. & Mrs. Rex Kachigian	Mr. & Mrs. George Ketigian	
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kallem	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Loughead	
Mrs. Verjin Kazanjian	Mr. & Mrs. Haig Markarian	
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Pinajian	Mrs. Harriet Sahagian	
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Saperjian	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Tomasian	
Mrs. Victoria Vezirian	Mr. & Mrs. John Voskian	
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Voskian	Mr. & Mrs. Sarkis Bedevian	
Mr. & Mrs. Armand Bogosian	Mrs. Dovie Tilbian	
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Kalpagian	Mr. & Mrs. Zaven Dadekian	
Mrs. Rose Mozian	Mr. & Mrs. Sarkis Gabrellian	
Dr. & Mrs. Edward Boghosian	Mrs. Sue Keosayian	
Mrs. Mary and Miss Annette Ohnikian		Total: \$1 005.00

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF AVEDIS BONJOUKLIAN

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Miraklian	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Mesropian	
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Entrup	Mrs. Saterig Miraklian	
Mr. Avedis Alashian	Mr. & Mrs. M. Asadorian	
Mr. & Mrs. L. Jerry Stepanian	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Parnagian	
Mr. & Mrs. S. Davagian	Fair Lawn Seniors Club	
		Total: \$370.00

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF AZNIV CHILINGIRIAN

Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Anderson	Mr. & Mrs. Dikran Bakallan	
Mrs. Kora Zadigian	Mrs. Edna Tungrian	
Mr. & Mrs. John Jerrahian	Mr. Jack Nakashian	
Mr. & Mrs. Sarkis Kachigian	Mrs. Anne Marootian	
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Pinajian	Mrs. Dovie Tilbian	
Mrs. Dorothy Karamian		Total: \$1 015.00

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF HELEN HAIG

Miss Virginia Holopikian	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kougasian
Mr. & Mrs. Masis Parseghian	Mr. & Mrs. Sarkis Bedevian

Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Parseghian	Mrs. Hazel Hartunian
Tracy A. Robinson	Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Ringel
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Ajamian	Edward Ajamian & Sandy
Burn Family	Mr. & Mrs. William Galese
Mr. & Mrs. John Chagachbanian	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Herdemian
Mr. & Mrs. Sebouh Jessourian	Mrs. Artemis Jesraly
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Kaye	Mr. & Mrs. George Keurian
Mr. & Mrs. Maxim Karafian	Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Ohnikian
Mr. & Mrs. Vahram Varjabedian	Mrs. Virginia Agnian

Total: \$785.00

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF JAMES BOZIAN

Mrs. Shake Bozian	Mr. Charles Bozian
Mr. & Mrs. John Nakashian	Mr. Jack Nakashian
Mr. & Mrs. Aram Mazoujian	Mrs. Edna Tungrian
Mrs. Florence Gulkasian	Mr. & Mrs. Vahe Ishkanian
Mr. & Mrs. Vahram Varjabedian	Mrs. Mary Boyajy
Mrs. Rose Chookazian	Mr. & Mrs. Sebouh Jessourian
Mr. & Mrs. James Noorigian	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ishkanian
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Burdman	Mr. & Mrs. Avedis Donellian
Mrs. Vivian Margossian	Mrs. Rose Kirian
Mr. & Mrs. John Deyirmenjian	Mr. & Mrs. Sarkis Bedevian
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Herdemian	Ms. Emma Tarakajian
Dr. & Mrs. John Voskian	Mr. Hagop Kasarjian
Mr. & Mrs. Zaven Halejian	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Malajian
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Malajian	Mrs. Florence Arzrouni
Mr. & Mrs. George Rovengo	

Total: \$1 010.00

Blessed are those who can give without remembering, and receive without forgetting.

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