

*"It is the Lord who gives wisdom: from him comes knowledge and understanding."
Proverbs 2:6.*



Sunday School

Executive Board: Barbara Hovsepian, Superintendent; Katherine Ohnikian, Treasurer; Ruth Bedevian, Rec. Secretary; Eliz Tossounian, Corresponding Secretary.

Sunday School Teachers: Peter Bedevian, Nancy Burdman, Nancy Goree, Janet Hamalian, Leon Hoguegian, Barbara Hovsepian, Suzanne Jerrahian, S. Rex Kachigian, Lori Kalemkerian, Rose Najarian, Donna Ray, Connie Tashjian, Varsen Torosian, Nancy Torosian, Lorraine Varjabedian.

Substitutes: Berjouhi Feredjian, Rosalie Hojegian, Araxie Moumdjian, Mary Ann Mozian, Andrea Tilbian.

**Mr. and Mrs. Zaven Dadekian
Susan, Robert and Stephen**

"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6



Armenian School

Executive Board: Der Paree Metjian, President; Rose Najarian, Chairman; Evelyn Kalpagian, Co-Chairman; Varsen Torosian, Co-Chairman; Maria Dellakian, Treasurer; Marion Bandazian, Recording Secretary; Gloria Zoraian, Corresponding Secretary; Barbara Boghosian, Publicity; Anna Malkasian, Hospitality; Zabelle Kaprelian, Costumes and Properties.

Armenian School Teachers: Angel Baghdasarian, Ani Baghdasarian, Maral Baghdasarian, Sirvard Galstian, Anais Kradjian, Satenig Loughead, Ani Maybalian, Hermine Menakian, Araxie Moumdjian, Takouhy Soutanian. Yerezgin Angel Metjian, Song Instructor; Linda Nersesian, Dance Instructor.

**Mr. and Mrs. Henri Dimidjian
Englewood Cliffs, N.J.**

"Give her credit for all she does. She deserves the respect of everyone."

Proverbs 31:31



Women's Guild

1st row (l. to r.): Helen Mazoujian, Florence Grunstra, Advisor; Olga Chongoushian, Chairman; Rev. Paree Metjian, President; Dorothy Karamian, Lucy Chagachbanian, Asst. Treasurer; Arpine Holopikian, Elizabeth Hachigian. **2nd row:** Alice Yasmajian, Anne Marootian, Treasurer; Shirley Johnson, Charlotte Dishian, Florence Gulkasian, Siranoush Boyajian. **3rd row:** Nevart Sahatjian, Maritza Giragosian, Honorary Chairman; Lucy Bedrosian, Anne Kachigian, Rose Kirian, Siran Gabrellian, Berjoughie Varjabedian, Margaret Jerrahian. **4th row:** Asdine Sagatelian, Marge Tfank, Dovie Tilbian, Agnes Voskian, Takouhy Soultanian, Rose Najarian. **5th row:** Grace Pinajian, Araxie Moumdjian, Rose Chookazian, Emma Tarakajian, Katherine Ohnikian, Gloria Tomasian, Eliz Tossounian, Isabelle Kaprelian. **6th row:** Virginia Holopikian, Mary Dabbakian, Arpie Vartanesian, Ruth Bedevian, Violet Voskian. **7th row:** Sirvard Galstian, Seta Jessourian, Ann Aginian, Satenig Loughead, Anita Jessourian, Blanda Yilanjian, Seta Boudoughian. **Not Pictured:** Dorothy Karamian, Corresponding Secretary; Margaret Simonian, Recording Secretary; Edna Tungrian, Vice-Chairman.

Due to the large membership of this organization, we regret we are unable to list the names of all members not pictured.

Mr. and Mrs. Sarkis Gabrellian

"Show me a man who does a good job, and I will show you a man who is better than most and worthy of the company of kings."

Proverbs 22:29



Men's Club

1st row (l. to r.): Robert Buchakian, Rev. Paree Metjian, President; Arthur Ohnikian, Chairman; Sarkis Soultanian. **2nd row:** Steven Kachigian, Sebouh Jessourian, Executive Board; S. Rex Kachigian, Liaison; John Chagachbanian, Zaven Dadekian. **3rd row:** Joseph Bedrosian, Noubar Jessourian, Alfred A. Voskian, Sarkis Gabrellian. **4th row:** John Voskian, Hiag Changoushian, Haroutune P. Boyadjian, Leon Hovsepian, Jack Loughead, Treasurer. **5th row:** Edward Tfank, Richard Tomasian, Executive Board; Sarkis Bedevian, Charles Boyajian. **Not Pictured:** Joseph Basralian, Peter Jesraly, Sr., Al Jibilian, Nishan Johnson, Gabriel Kaprelian, Mirjan Kirian, Aram Mazoujian, John Nakashian, James Noorigian, Charles Pinajian, Ed Torosian, Jacques Tossounian, Tony Tungrian, Vahram Varjabedian, Harry Zoraian.

Compliments of Hekemian & Company, Inc.

"... Do your best to add goodness to your faith; to your goodness add knowledge." II Peter 1:5



A.C.Y.O.A.

1st row (l. to r.): Linda Loughead, Richard Soutanian, Tina Demirdjian, Taline Jessourian. *2nd row:* Sue Chagachbanian, Rev. Parea Metjian, President, Richard Ohnikian. *3rd row:* Steven Tomasian, Treasurer; Vicken Jessourian, Steven Dadekian, Robert Ohnikian, Robert Koseyan. *4th row:* Deidre Ekmekjian, Secretary; Peter Bedevian, Chairman; Gary Soutanian, Vice-Chairman; Lynda Chagachbanian, Publicity. **Not Pictured:** Roger Voskian, Sargeant of Arms.

Due to the large membership of this organization we regret we are unable to list the names of all members not pictured.

Mr. and Mrs. Noubar Jessourian and Family

"The one thing I do, is to forget what is behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead. So I run straight toward the goal in order to win the prize." Philippians 3:14

Senior Boys Basketball Team

1st row (l. to r.): Gary Soutanian, Steven Dadekian, Mark Loughead. *2nd row:* Coach Charles Boyajian, Asst. Coach Gary Koseyan, Steven Tomasian, Paul Kapoian, Raffi Jessourian, Rev. Parea Metjian. *3rd row:* Vicken Jessourian, Robert Koseyan, Richard Ohnikian, George Kachajian, Roger Voskian, Robert Ohnikian.



Junior Boys Basketball Team

1st row (l. to r.): Ed Kalpagian, Armen Varjabedian, Gregg Najarian, Chris Demirdjian. *2nd row:* Wayne Rallo, Coach; Aret Cakirian, Joseph Tashjian, Rich Soutanian, Robert Koseyan; Assistant Coach.

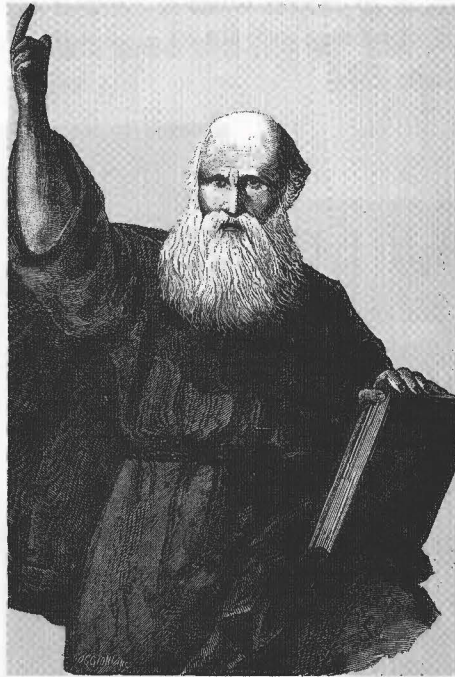


Girls Basketball Team

1st row (l. to r.): Lisa Vartabedian, Lynda Chagachbanian, Deidre Ekmekjian, Taline Jessourian. *2nd row:* Asst. Coach Vicken Jessourian, Susan Chagachbanian, Laura Kouyoumjian, Lisa Ekmekjian, Laura Simonyan, Linda Loughead, Coach Robert Ohnikian, Rev. Parea Metjian.



Dr. and Mrs. Harout Mekhjian



SOORP GHEVONT

At the dawn of the 5th century, Armenia was an independent nation. Its people had invented an alphabet, translated the Holy Bible and established their first university. It was during this era, known as the Golden Age of Literature, that a promising young man was ordained a priest. His name was Father Ghevont. He emerged as the most enlightened leader after the deaths of the great illuminators, St. Sahag and St. Mesrob. The St. Leon parish is honored to be the only church in America that bears his name.

In 432 AD, King Ardashes was deposed, exiled and jailed in Persia. The Persians were determined to destroy the Christianity of Armenia and establish their religion of fire-worship. The Persians delivered an official ultimatum. Father Ghevont, chief spokesman, drafted a firm and dignified refusal. The Persians were enraged. Battle was inevitable. The eloquence of Father Ghevont inspired General Vartan Mamigonian to take command to defend the Armenian Christian religion and homeland.

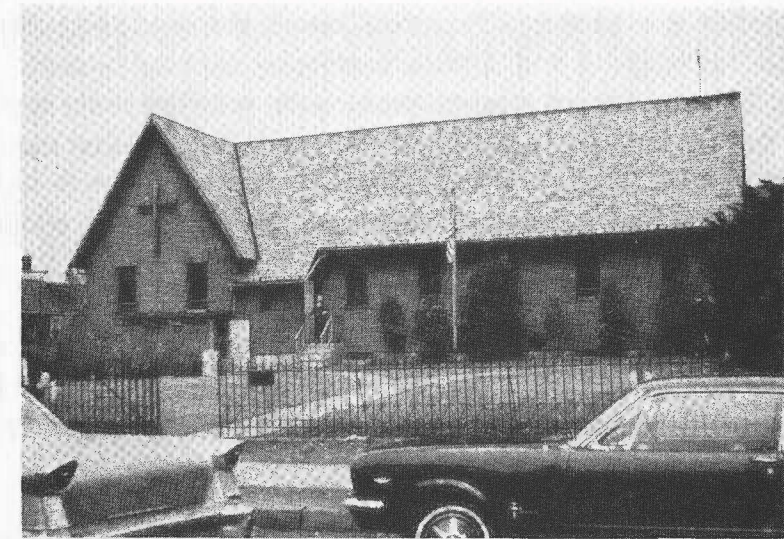
The Battle of Avarair in 451 AD represents the first military battle fought in the defense of Christendom in the history of the world.

On the eve of the battle, Father Ghevont stressed the supreme sacrifice of Jesus, before offering the sacrament of Holy Communion. During the ensuing battle, General Vartan was killed and the Armenian forces collapsed. Father Ghevont walked through the battlefield, administering last rites to the dying. He and other surviving clergy were captured, subjected to unbearable tortures and finally put to death by the sword.

St. Ghevont's courageous spirit, patriotism and devotion to the Armenian Church have been a source of pride and inspiration for fifteen centuries.

St. Ghevont is the patron saint of the Armenian clergy and is remembered two days before Vartanantz Day when St. Vartan and the spiritual victory of the Battle of Avarair are commemorated.

"Faith, Love and Service"
Women's Guild of St. Leon Armenian Church



HISTORY OF ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH

Before the turn of the 20th century, Armenians began to flee the persecution of the Ottoman Empire. Some settled in Paterson, the busy hub of the silk weaving industry. They arrived in small numbers with little money, fortified by an ancient heritage.

In those days there were no parkways, no turnpikes. The roads were long, which led from Paterson to Passaic County to Holy Cross Armenian Church, Union City. Between the years 1906 and 1930, Armenians made the journey by horsecar and trolley car to Holy Cross, the "mother" church in the New World of New Jersey, to worship, to wed and to baptize their children.

So it was that the "Paterson Church," later to be consecrated St. Leon Armenian Church, became the healthy offspring of the parent.

The Armenians of Paterson rented halls and churches for occasional visiting clergy to celebrate liturgy and to administer the sacraments. Deacons also did their best to serve the community. By the late 1920's, the Armenians of Paterson desired their own church and pastor. Under the spiritual direction of the late Mampre Vartabed Calfayan, who later became Primate, a decision was made to purchase land for future use as a church site. The year was 1929. The project had to be abandoned because of the Depression.

It was not until 1932 that a special meeting was held, presided over by the late Primate, Archbishop Ghevont Tourian. A fund raising committee was formed to purchase a church for the Armenians of Paterson whose number was exceeding 500. In that same year, St. Luke Episcopal Church on Bloomfield Avenue, Paterson, was purchased for \$6,000. Despite a severe, world-wide depression, the entire mortgage was paid within two years.

In service to our beloved church
Sarkis, Ruth, Peter, Debra and Peggy Bedevian

The congregation was to spend the next 33 years in this modest church, which offered a center for religious and cultural continuity. Annual bazaars, hantesses, Armenian and Sunday School classes, and youth activities were organized and conducted in the basement hall. During those years, the children cultivated their values. The church fathers and lay leaders faced the decision to build a larger church with a community center and educational facilities. The second generation helped to meet this challenge.

In 1958, through the efforts of the parish council and the help of the late Haroutune Nakashian, three acres of land were purchased on Saddle River Road in Fair Lawn. The original plan was to erect a much needed community center and to follow it with the building of a new church.

In January 1963, during the pastorate of the newly ordained Reverend Carnig Hallajian, priorities were reversed. The parish assembly created an executive building committee and authorized to build a church. Under the General Chairmanship of E. George Dabagian, construction of the new church began in March 1965. On September 19, 1965 Archbishop Sion Manoogian, Primate, consecrated the newly erected St. Leon Armenian Church in Fair Lawn.

In the 16 years since the Consecration, the parish has continued to thrive. During the past decade Armenians leaving the political unrest of the Middle East have found a spiritual home to bridge the gap to life in the United States. They, in turn, have been a welcome impetus to the Armenian cultural life of St. Leon parish. The Church is the custodian of our heritage, which is being ingrained in yet another generation of parishioners.

The challenge was again presented to a modest people, small in numbers, but groomed in faith, hard work, and sacrifice. On February 3, 1980 the parish assembly created an executive building committee to plan an expansion project with Zaven Dadekian serving as General Chairman. On June 6, 1980, a special parish assembly authorized the Building Committee to proceed with construction of the long awaited St. Leon Armenian Church Community Center along with the conversion of the existing hall into an Educational Wing.

On November 9, 1980 Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate, blessed the site of the proposed Community Center. Contracts were signed with Joseph A. Natoli Construction Co., Pinebrook, N.J. on December 9, 1980. Following the plans of Thomas Ashbahian, project architect with the firm of Mario B. Cammarano, Ridgewood, N.J., the construction was begun and completed on schedule.

It has been said that one generation travels on the achievements of another. So it has been witnessed by some of us here today, who have journeyed the historic and glorious years beginning in the 1920's. We offer humble prayers that this Community Center will inspire everyone. May the fellowship of the Holy Spirit remain with us and continue to illuminate our path of posterity.

Congratulations
H. K. Nakashian and Sons
John and Karnig Nakashian

HISTORIC DATES — ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH

September 1928	Ladies Aid Society founded (now called Women's Guild).
1932	"Paterson Church" purchased (on Bloomfield Avenue).
April 22, 1934	Armenian School officially founded.
October 5, 1941	Consecration of St. Leon Armenian Church in Paterson by Archbishop Karekin Hovsepian, Primate.
May 1, 1949	Sunday School officially founded.
February 1950	Shenork Vartabed Kaloustian (now Patriarch of Armenians in Turkey) organized ACYOA.
February 1954	Testimonial Dinner for Archbishop Mampre Calfayan.
May 22, 1960	Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebration of the founding of the Parish.
September 22, 1963	Ground-blessing of Fair Lawn Church site by Archbishop Sion Manoogian, Primate.
April 10, 1965	Blessing of the Foundation Stones by Archbishop Sion Manoogian, Primate.
September 19, 1965	Consecration of St. Leon Armenian Church, Fair Lawn, by Archbishop Sion Manoogian, Primate.
January 1966	Men's Club organized.
November 1969	Boys' Basketball Team organized.
June 28, 1970	Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the Ordination of Rev. Carnig Hallajian, Pastor.
January 23, 1972	Ordination of Deacons and Acolytes by Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate.
December 1, 1973	Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebration of the Ordination of Rev. Arten Ashjian, Pastor.
February 9, 1975	Burning of the mortgage.
October 5, 1975	Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the Consecration of Fair Lawn Church.
November 19, 1975	Founding of Senior Citizen Center.
June 26, 1976	Annual Vacation Bible School established.
April 17, 1977	Ordination of seventeen acolytes by Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate.
April 29, 1979	Celebration of Fiftieth Anniversary of Women's Guild.
November 1979	Girls' Basketball Team organized.
May 3, 1980	Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the Ordination of Rev. Patee Metjian, Pastor.
November 9, 1980	Ground Blessing of Community Center and Ordination of Deacons by Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate.

A Friend

Dinnebeil Construction Company, Ramsey, N.J.

PASTORS OF ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH

1936-1938	Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Kavookjian*
1939-1941	Archbishop Mampre Calfayan*
1941-1947	Rev. Fr. Vahan Jelalian*
1948-1951	Patriarch Senork Kaloustian
1951-1952	Rev. Fr. Arten Ashjian
1953-1954	Archbishop Mampre Calfayan*
1955-1957	Rev. Fr. Vartan Der Assadourian
1958-1972	Rev. Fr. Carnig Hallajian
1972-1975	Rev. Fr. Arten Ashjian
1975-	Rev. Fr. Patee Metjian

*Deceased

ST. LEON PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMEN

1941-1947	Sahag Avedisian
1948	Ohaness Bejian
1949	Mihran Noorigian
1950-1953	Zaven Marootian
1954-1956	Albert Mardrossian
1957	Zaven Marootian
1958-1959	John Nakashian
1960-1964	Andrew Tilbian
1965	Paul Hachigian
1966	James Boyajian
1967	Paul Hachigian
1968-1969	Alfred A. Voskian
1970	Charles Pinajian
1971-1972	Zaven Dadekian
1973	Jon Najarian
1974	S. Rex Kachigian
1975	E. George Dabagian
1976	Jon Najarian
1977	Martin Kapoian
1978-1980	Charles Pinajian
1981	Sarkis Soutanian



Banquet Committee

1st row (l. to r.): Suzanne Jerrahian, Anne Kachigian, Rev. Patee Metjian, President; S. Rex Kachigian, General Chairman. *2nd row:* Carol Ashbahian, Lynn Pinajian, Dovie Tilbian, Ruth Bedevian. *3rd row:* Grace Pinajian, Andrea Tilbian, Agnes Voskian, Steven Kachigian. *4th row:* Noubar Jessourian, Alfred A. Voskian, Sarkis Gabrellian. *5th row:* Richard Tomasian, Sarkis Bedevian. *Not pictured:* Lucy Dabagian, Richard Dabagian, Susan Dadekian, Mirjan Kirian, Charles Pinajian.

PROGRAM

DEDICATION

PROCESSIONAL

NATIONAL ANTHEM.....Sung by Assembly
Piano Accompanist - Lucy Dabagian

INVOCATION.....His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian

TOAST

DINNER

WELCOME.....S. Rex Kachigian
Banquet Chairman

GREETINGS.....Honorable Florence Dobrow
Mayor of Fair Lawn

GREETINGS.....Honorable Marge Roukema
Congresswoman, House of Representatives

SOLOIST.....Lili Chookasian
*Metropolitan Opera Star
Accompanied by Armen Boyajian*

REMARKS.....Zaven Dadekian
Chairman, Building Committee

REMARKS.....Sarkis Soultanian
Chairman, Parish Council

FINANCIAL REPORT.....Sarkis Bedevian
Fund Raising Co-Chairman

PIANIST.....Armen Boyajian

SOLOIST.....Lili Chookasian
*Metropolitan Opera Star
Accompanied by Armen Boyajian*

MESSAGE.....The Reverend Father Patee Metjian
Pastor, St. Leon Armenian Church

ADDRESS AND
BENEDICTION.....His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

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for the Typeset and Mechanicals of the Booklet

Mr. and Mrs. John Nakashian
for the Floral Centerpieces

George Paroonagian
for the Montage and Photography

And all parishioners and friends who are faithful givers of their time,
talent and treasure for the growth of St. Leon Armenian Church
and for the Glory of God.

To accomplish great things
We must not only act
but also dream
not only plan
but also believe.

~ Anatole France