

# St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church Haverhill, MA

## Pastor's Report for 1996

(Revised February 16, 1997)

### Worship

Divine Liturgy was celebrated on a regular weekly basis preceded by an abbreviated morning service. His Eminence Archbishop Kude Nakashian was the guest celebrant on Sunday, October 27 (the Church Anniversary) and Reverend Father Mampre was the guest celebrant on November 3 (on an exchange basis). The *Jashou*-Midday Service was performed by our Deacons, Altar Servers and Choir Members on February 11, June 16 and October 20 while the pastor was on vacation.

### Holidays and Special Services

I celebrated Divine Liturgy on Armenian Christmas Eve and Easter Eve. Peace/Rest Hour Service was conducted on the five Fridays of Lent as was the Full Cycle of Holy Week Services. In March, I participated in the Women's Saint's Day Celebration hosted by Holy Cross Armenian Church of Lawrence, MA. In April, I participated in the Greater Haverhill Clergy Association Ecumenical Good Friday Service at Portland Street Baptist Church.

### Visiting Clergy

The following clergy have visited our parish this year to participate in a sacrament, program, function or meeting :

Most Reverend Archbishop Kude Nakashian  
Very Reverend Father Krikor Maksoudian  
Reverend Father Arsen Barsamian  
Reverend Father Gomidas Baghsarian  
Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian  
Reverend Father Mampre Kouzouian  
Reverend Father Vasken Kouzouian  
Reverend Father Zenob Nalbandian  
Reverend Father George Tsoukalas  
Reverend Father Marcus Crapsey  
Reverend Father John Sweeney  
Reverend Frank Graichen.  
Reverend Aram Marashlian  
Reverend Robert Swanson  
Deacon George Devejian

### Outside Participation

I have participated in services and/or programs at the following Armenian churches and sister churches:

Saint Vartan Armenian Cathedral - New York, NY  
Saint Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church - Binghamton, NY  
Holy Trinity Armenian Church - Cambridge, MA  
Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church - Chelmsford, MA  
St. John the Baptist Armenian Church- Greenfield, WI  
Holy Cross Armenian Church - Lawrence, MA  
St. Gregory Armenian Church- North Andover, MA  
St. Mark Armenian Church - Springfield, MA  
St. Peter Armenian Church - Watervliet, NY  
Armenian Church of Our Saviour - Worcester, MA  
Sts. Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church - Haverhill, MA  
First Congregational United Church of Christ - Haverhill, MA  
Portland Street Baptist Church

### Sacraments and Rites

Sacraments and other rites were performed for the following in 1996:

#### Baptisms

1/21 Amy Soroghan  
2/26 Harrison Denoncourt  
7/13 Anthony Kasparian  
12/1 Gabrielle Cole  
12/28 Luke Nicolosi

#### Weddings

4/11 Harry Alexanian and Joyce Howard  
6/9 Gary Dean and Lynn Alexanian  
7/13 Thomas Kasparian and Audrey Belfiore  
8/24 Michael Clarke and Debra Ozoonian

#### Funerals

2/23 Janis McSweeney  
3/2 Marie Aaronian  
4/26 Sarkis Arakelian  
4/30 Arthur Arakelian  
8/31 Mary Mooradian  
10/18 Ronald Hairian

#### Betrothals

8/11 Michael Clarke and Debra Ozoonian  
12/1 William Duquette and Susan Aaronian

	<b>Total</b>	<b>St Gregory</b>	<b>Other Churches</b>
Baptisms	9	5	4
Weddings	4	4	0
Funerals	13	6	7
Betrothals	2	2	0

Requiem and Grave Blessings were performed upon request.

## Diocesan Activities

Pontifical Visit

Diocesan Clergy Conference

Diocesan Assembly

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America - Sports Weekend

Armenian Church Choir Association of America - Annual Assembly

Elected to ACCAA Central Council

Lectured at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary Summer Conference

Taught Religion Classes at St Vartan Camp

## Pastoral Visitations

As part of my ministry I have made regular weekly visitations to Hale Hospital and on many occasions to parishioners at other area hospitals.

I ask parishioners to note that hospitals do not notify the church or pastor of a hospitalized parishioner. Therefore, it is requested that each parishioner inform the church office when they learn of a hospitalized church member.

I have visited parishioners in Haverhill area nursing homes during holiday seasons and upon request, to offer them Holy Communion.

On many occasions I have also visited the homes of the sick or elderly (shut-ins) who are not able to come the church to offer comfort and Holy Communion.

In addition, I have taken part in several family celebrations such as anniversaries, birthdays, and social gatherings at the request of our parishioners.

Also on January 6th Yn. Lana and I hosted our Annual Open House at the Parish House, which was attended by more than 75 parishioners and guests.

## Meetings

I have presided over and participated in parish-affiliated meetings whenever possible. These included Parish Council, Church Organizations and various standing and special committees. I also supported our organizations by attending their functions and programs whenever my schedule permitted.

I also attended meetings of the following organizations:

Diocesan Armenian Clergy Conference

New England Armenian Clergy Conference

Greater Haverhill Clergy Association

Pontifical Visit Steering Committee

Armenian Genocide Commemorative Committee of Merrimack Valley

## Liturgical Training Programs

During the course of the year I re-established an Acolytes Training Program with two new acolytes serving at the Holy Altar and reading the Epistle Lections during the Divine Liturgy. Preparations are being made to expand the program in 1997. Also, special sessions were held with Sub-deacon Herman Gennetian who was elevated to the Diaconate on December 8, 1996 at Sts. Vartantz Armenian Church in Chelmsford, MA.

### Office Administration

During the course of the year I have performed the following office and administrative functions. Some of these functions should be handled by volunteers or perhaps a part-time office employee should be considered.

Filing  
Typing  
Parish and Office Correspondence  
Coordinate Parish Mailings  
Purchase Office Supplies  
Sort and distribute mail  
Sunday Bulletin Preparation  
Yughakin Mailing for Easter and Christmas  
Maintain Mailing List, Church Records

### Appreciation

Thank you to the following individuals and groups who's help and dedication we could not do without.

- Former Parish Council Chairman, Zarty Chilingirian and present Chairman Albert Movsesian and all the members of the Parish Council
- Diocesan Delegate, Paul Tavitian
- The Deacons, Sub-deacons, Acolytes and Altar Servers
- Choir Director, Sue Kezerian and the Choir members
- Organists, Sylvia Tavitian and Virginia Tavitian
- All the ladies who prepared *Mas*
- Zaven Gostanian for attending the door at funerals
- Former Sunday School Superintendent Elaine Meuse and present Superintendent Yeretzgin Lana Kaishian and the Sunday School Staff and parents
- The members of our parish organizations: Ladies Aide Society, Mr. and Mrs. Club and (Young) Adults Group who contributed to the life of our parish
- Sarkis Arakelian for his service in the kitchen and his generous donations for the St. Gregory Community Connection
- The Loosavorich Staff Members
- The various Parish Committees for their dedication and hard work
- Bradford Flowers and Stephanotis Flowers for supplying the flowers and plants to adorn our Holy Altar
- Concord Printing for donating paper and supplies and services

Thank you to all who have worked so hard and lovingly in support of our church.

In this, my fourth year of service in the Holy Order of Priesthood, I express thanks to God for giving me the opportunity to serve Him through this Holy Church.

Respectfully Submitted,

*F. M. Sahag Kaishian*

Reverend Father Sahag Kaishian  
Pastor