

SAINT GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR, BINGHAMTON  
PASTOR'S REPORT

JANUARY 1, 1975 - DECEMBER 31, 1975

The following sacraments were administered during the year:

Baptism and Chrismation (2)

Stephen John Arakelian, April 12th  
Nova Anoush Kerjilian, August 3rd

Marriage (4)

Mary Ann Kaprielian to Ronald Wayne Jones, May 10th  
Carol Annette Garabedian to M. Paul Goulian, August 2nd  
Suzanne Lynne Bogdasarian to George John Grotheer Jr., October 11th  
Lisa Diane Janian to Charles Marc Talanian, November 8th

Ordination - Order of Clerk (10), October 4th

Michael Ketchoyian	Michael Medzigian
Kevork Papazian	Edward Ketchoyian
Paul Ketchoyian	Raymond Seraydarian
Hagop Injajigian	Peter Fattal
Gary Rejebian	Armen Dekmejian

Consecration (1)

Baptismal font - Godfather, Dr. Robert Bogdasarian, October 4th

Other sacramental and non-sacramental services:

January 5th, "Blessing of Water - Choor Orhnek" Godfather, Mark Ketchoyian

February 6th, "Vartanantz" - Badarak celebrated

May 8th, Ascension - Badarak celebrated

October 4th, "Blessing of Veils":

Pauline House	Elizabeth Garabedian
Nora Fattal	Vivian Rejebian
Andrea Medzigian	

Funeral (7)

Shooshanig Gozigian (Syracuse), January 21st  
Samuel Siragan Mosditchian (Upper Darby, Pa.), February 24th  
Paul Boghos Melkonian, May 7th  
Pergrouhi Jigarjian (Syracuse), May 22nd  
Anna Sarkisian, September 12th  
Martha Parnagian (Syracuse), October 17th  
Haroutiune Avedisian, November 22nd

### Visiting Clergy (2)

Very Rev. Fr. Mesrob Semerjian celebrated Badarak on August 24th, and presided at "Morning Service" on August 31st.

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian presided at the Regional Meeting, ordained 10 males to the "Order of Clerk", Consecrated the Baptismal Font, blessed the veils of five female choir members, celebrated Badarak, preached the sermon and met with Bishop Gerasimos of the Greek Archdiocese on October 4th - 5th.

### Other services:

January 12th - invited to and celebrated Eucharist in the Church of Our Saviour, Worcester, Ma.

May 4th - invited to and celebrated Eucharist in St. Gregory the Illuminator, Haverhill, Ma.

May 11th - Rotation in Eucharist celebration at St. Paul, Syracuse.

June 8th - Same

July 13th - Same

September 21st - Same

October 19th - Same (Educational Divine Liturgy)

November 16th - Same (Educational Divine Liturgy)

On November 9th, an Educational Divine Liturgy was celebrated here in Binghamton.

July 27th - invited to and celebrated Eucharist at Camp Nubar.

During my vacation I was guest celebrant at: St. Gregory the Enlightener, Pasadena, Ca., August 24th, St. John Cathedral, Hollywood, Ca., August 31st, and St. John Church, San Francisco, Ca., September 7th.

December 24th, Feast of St. Stephen, the Proto-deacon and First Martyr of the Church, was celebrated and a special Christmas Eve Vespers.

December 31st - invited to serve Matins (of the Armenian Church) and deliver the sermon for the elderly at House of the Good Shepherd, Binghamton.

Other Church related programs/activities:

January 5th - W.B.N.G. T.V. Channel 12, The Church Day, presented a half-hour program about our local Church, especially our Theophany and Epiphany celebration.

January 19th - Annual parish assembly.

February 6th - Special Vartanantz program following Badarak.

March 2nd - Youth Group Agapé.

April 13th - W.B.N.G. T.V. Channel 12, The Church Day, presented another half-hour program about our local Church, especially our Easter celebration.

April 30th - May 3rd - Clergy Conference and Diocesan Assembly

May 11th - Mother's Day, Grandmother's Recognition Day.

May 16th - Invited and lectured on Icons at St. Patrick School, Binghamton.

May 18th - Special Church School Graduation Service in Church.

May 31st - June 1st - Youth Group Retreat; Binghamton, Syracuse and Troy Youth Groups. Organized by Marion Rejebian and led by me.

July - August - Sports Night Activities.

September 13th - Annual Church Dance.

September 23rd - Adult Education Class, "Death."

October 21st - Adult Bible Study Class.

October 4th - Regional Meeting (with Syracuse.)

November 13th - Adult Bible Study Class.

November 26th - Parish participated in a Thanksgiving Food Basket for a needy family. Basket was given to the John Clark family, Port Crane.

December 18th - Adult Bible Study Class.

December 31st - New Year's Eve Party.

Items donated/given to the Church:

Marlite panelling and other materials for bathroom remodelling, plus calcium for melting snow, snow shovel, and nylon rope for ringing the bell	Mr. Nishan Ketchoyian
Two Ganteghs (vigil lamps)	Mr. Sarkis Tateosian
Cloth prnitch	In memory of: Vartanoosh (Kradjian) Dabanian by Mrs. Takoohi kalebjian
Easter Eggs	Mr. Harry Sarkisian and Mr. Naim Slilaty
Wedding Goblet and Saucer	In memory of: Paul (Boghos) Melkonian by Louise Mahakian
Paper and replenisher for copier	Anonymous
Gummed address labels	Dr. George Rejebian
Repair services of copier for 1975	Mr. Frank Whitney Jr.
New lighting fixtures for hall and classrooms	Anonymous

COMMENTS

Considering the fact that we, the Parish Council, did not exert ourselves in any real money making projects, we fared rather well financially with only a small deficit. The thinking is still

rather conservative when it comes to trying out new ideas for fund-raising and there is still more "talk than action." We did begin to visit parishoners seeking new and also larger pledges. I do hope that this project will continue and become more successful in '76. We have discussed some new money making projects; hopefully we will bring one or two to fruition. We have made a positive step in co-ordinating ~~our~~ our picnic and dance activities in advance and also in co-operation with St. Paul Church, Syracuse.

Overall I have seen an increase in the attendance on Sunday mornings, especially during this past summer when the increase was four to six fold.

There is an unfortunate lack of interest in Adult Education. I began a series of lectures on the Sacraments of our Church, and planned on discussing the similarities and diffenences of our Church with other Churches, but due to no participation the program was dropped. The same thing occurred in the latter part of this year with Bible Study Classes.

As I see it, the Youth Group remains the strongest organization in our Church, but Church school has improved greatly during the past year. Armenian school had a successful and well-attended semester in the fall. Women's Guild has continued to be strong and active, despite its reliance on a handful of women to plan and carry out its many activities. The choir continued to pose many problems throughout the year, but hopefully many of these problems

have been resolved. Lack of members and poor attendance at rehearsals persist, however, and are particularly disturbing.

Respectfully submitted this twentieth day of January, 1976.

*Father George (Kevork) Arakelian*

Father George (Kevork) Arakelian,  
Pastor