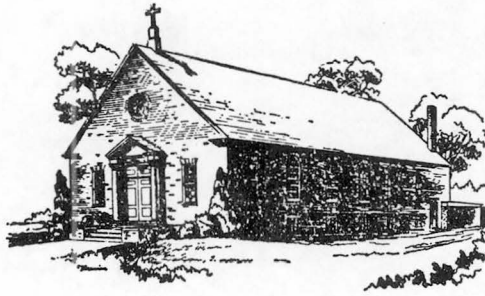


• St. James  
• Armenian Church  
834 PEPPER AVENUE  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23226  
PHONE 282-3818



REV. FR. ARSEN BARSAMIAN  
PASTOR

RES. 705 WESTRIVER DRIVE 23229  
RES. PHONE 282-4173  
STUDY PHONE 282-3818

March 25, 1982

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10016

Dear Surpasan Hayr:

Hope this letter finds you in the best of health.

You had requested from us a photograph or negative of the "Profile of St. Vartan Schulptured by Nature" near Chermoog, which we had used as the cover to our flyer for Vartanantz Day.

I am sorry to say that we have neither the negative nor the photograph. I am sending you another copy of the flyer.

Sincerely

*Virginia Greene*  
Virginia Greene



The profile of St. Vartan sculptured by  
nature near Chermoog, Armenia  
(story on back cover)

P R O G R A M

- Invocation.....Bishop Papken Varjabedian
- Master of Ceremonies &  
Opening Remarks.....John Mardigian  
(Commander, Knights of Vartan-Antranig Lodge)
- Recitation.....Tigran Amirkhanian
- Song.....Yeretsgin Araxi Manoukian
- Guest Speaker.....Bishop Papken Varjabedian
- Benediction.....Bishop Papken Varjabedian
- 

Յ Ա Յ Տ Ա Գ Ի Ր

- Բացման Աղօթք - Տ. Բաբգէն Եպս. Վարժապետեան
- Սեղանապետութիւն - Ճան Մարտիկեան, Սպառապետ  
Վարդանանց Ասպետութեան Անդրանիկ Դահլիճ
- Արտասանութիւն - Տիգրան Ամիրխանեան
- Երգ - Երէցկին Մանուկեան
- Բանախօս - Տ. Բաբգէն Եպս. Վարժապետեան
- Փակման Աղօթք - Տ. Բաբգէն Եպս. Վարժապետեան



VARTANANTZ DAY  
Celebration

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1982

ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH - RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Worship Services 10:30 a.m. Dinner-Program 12:30 p.m.

Divine Liturgy Services and Program Speaker

BISHOP PAPKEN VARJABEDIAN

Primate's Legate - Washington, D.C.

Dinner Sponsor

Knights of Vartan-Antranig Lodge

**ՎԱՐԴԱՆԱՆՑ ՏՕՆԱԿԱՏԱՐՈՒԹԻՒՆ**

Կիրակի, 21 փետրուար 1982

Սուրբ Յակոբ Հայաստանեյց Եկեղեցի

Սուրբ Պատարագ - 10:30

Ճաշ-Ցայտագիր - 12:30

Սուրբ Պատարագի Մատուցման Հանդիսացողն  
Է

Ցայտագրի Ատենախօսն

Տ. Բաբգէն Եպիսկոպոս Վարժապետեան  
Առաջնորդ Սրբազան Հօր Պատուէրակ  
Ռեաշինկըն Մայրաքաղաք

Ճաշի Բարերար: Վարդանանց Ասպետութիւն  
Անդրանիկ ԴՆԸԸԸ

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COVER PICTURE**

In the fifth century, Armenia had become a battlefield between Byzantium and Persia. The Armenian people were living under intolerable conditions, especially in the eastern area, which was under the yoke of the Persian Sasanid Dynasty. When, however, the Persian Shah determined to convert them to Zoroastrianism, the long-suffering attitude of the Armenians changed to anger and resistance.

That is why, in May 451, the Armenian people--peasants and clergy, lords and soldiers, men and women--revolted and, under the leadership of General Vartan Mamigonian and with the blessings of Hovsep Catholicos, went into battle against the Persians with the slogan: "For the sake of Faith and our people."

The battle between the Armenian and Persian armies took place on the shores of the River Deghmond, in the field of Avarayr. The Persian army was twice the size of the Armenian contingent and much better armed. It was an unequal battle but the Armenians, fortified with their faith, fought until Vartan and 1036 brave men died heroically in the field. By his martyrdom, Vartan symbolized the strong Christian faith, freedom, and patriotism of the Armenian people. Vartan was subsequently canonized by the Armenian Church as a preserver of the faith.

The cover picture represents an interesting phenomenon of nature in the context of the history and myth surrounding Vartan. One can see in the picture that the invisible hand of Providence has distinctly carved out the face of St. Vartan in a cliff on the side of a mountain that is located not far from the battlefield of Avarayr some four kilometers from the town of Chermoog in Armenia. The people in that area tell the following tale about the statue:

After the battle of Avarayr, the Armenians were mourning and in despair. The great General Vartan, the defender of the faith and the fatherland, was no more. One Sunday, all the people of the province knelt and prayed to God to bring St. Vartan back to life. God heard the request of His people and, in front of their eyes, formed the statue of St. Vartan on a huge cliff. After witnessing this miracle, the people were consoled and regained their vigor and faith in the future convinced that the spirit of Vartan would lead them forever.

March 11, 1982

The Reverend Father Arsen Barsamian  
Pastor, St. James Armenian Church  
834 Pepper Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia

Dear Father Arsen:

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian has received the program of the Vartanantz Day celebration at the St. James Armenian Church of Richmond, Virginia, and would appreciate it if you will send to the Diocese the photograph or negative of the "Profile of St. Vartan Sculptured by Nature" near Chermog, Armenia, which is appearing on the first page of your program/

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Terzibashian  
Secretary to the Primate