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ST. SARKIS ARMENIAN CHURCH
300 NINTH STREET
NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

December 18, 1954

The Most Reverend Mampre Calfayan
Archbishop of the North American
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Avenue
New York 16, New York

Most Reverend Sir:

Attached, herewith, is a copy of
the first annual report of St. Sarkis Armenian
Church of Niagara Falls, New York, presented at
the Preliminary Parish Meeting on November 7, 1954
for your information.

We are also enclosing some publicity
released in our only local newspaper, the Niagara
Falls Gazette during the past year which may be of
interest to your public relations director.

We have the honor to remain with high
respect, Your Excellency's humble servants

Rev. Khoren Mamigonian

The Rev. Khoren Mamigonian

Leo Dardarian

Leo Dardarian, Parish Council President

Alice Mooradian

(Miss) Alice Mooradian, Secretary



ST. SARKIS ARMENIAN CHURCH
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NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

THE REV. KHOREN MAMIGONIAN, PARISH PRIEST

OFFICERS - 1954

PARISH COUNCIL

Leo Dardarian, President
Paul Ghougasian, Vice-President
Miss Alice Mooradian, Secretary
Mrs. Michael Kerkorian, Co-Secretary
Samuel Tarpinian, Treasurer
Deran Hanesian, Co-Treasurer
Philip Kartalian, Adviser

BUILDING FUND COMMITTEE

Michael Kerkorian, President
John Avdoian, Vice-President
Kerrigan Sarkissian, Secretary
Leo Dardarian, Treasurer
John Tatoian
Samuel Tarpinian
Paul Ghougasian

CHURCH CHOIR

Shahen Bedrosian, President
Arsen Avdoian, Vice-President
Angela Tarpinian (Miss), Recording Secretary
Miss Varsen Garabedian, Corresponding Secretary
Miss Margaret Avdoian, Treasurer
Miss Alice Mooradian, Adviser
Samuel Tarpinian, Adviser

LADIES AUXILIARY

Mrs. Varvar Jamgochian, President
Mrs. Alice Gazigian, Vice-Pres.
Mrs. Sara Ghougasian, Treasurer
Mrs. Michael Kerkorian, Co-Treasurer
Mrs. Mary Tatoian, Secretary
Mrs. Queen Nazarian, Co-Secretary
Mrs. Altoon Mooradian, Adviser

MR. AND MRS. CLUB

Robert Kazeangin, President
Edmund Fadel, Vice-President
Mrs. Marilyn Panosian, Secretary
Mrs. Margaret Barbato, Treasurer

Gregory Tatoian, Deacon, Assistant to the Rev. Mamigonian
Miss Varsen Garabedian, Organist

ST. SARKIS ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
300 NINTH STREET
NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

A N N U A L R E P O R T - 1954

To the Members and Friends of

ST. SARKIS ARMENIAN CHURCH

of Niagara Falls, New York

This first annual report of St. Sarkis Armenian Church covers only the period from January 17, 1954, the date of the appointment of the first Parish Council by the Archbishop, Tiran Nersoyan, through October 31, 1954, with the exception of the financial report which covers a nine month period ending September 30, 1954. The annual report would usually cover a twelve month period but in accordance with the recommendation of the Rev. Khoren Mamigonian to the Parish Council, the report was prepared for the period indicated for presentation to the first Preliminary Parish Assembly on November 7, 1954.

As the church brings to a close its first year, it is mindful of the many members and friends who participated in program. It is grateful to the various subordinate organizations within the church, the committees, members, and friends who have given their time, services, support, and who have administered its affairs.

The purpose of this report is to give a picture of St. Sarkis Armenian Church in 1954, made possible by material furnished by the executive officers of the Parish Council, Building Committee, Ladies Auxiliary, Church Choir, and the Mr. and Mrs. Club.

During the year, an effort has been made to keep abreast of the church movement and to promote a better understanding of the church ritual, program and policy, and to work to the Glory of God and for the development of the spiritual and religious life of our members.

Following is a summarization of the activities of the Parish Council, Building Committee, Ladies Auxiliary, Church Choir, and the Mr. and Mrs. Club:

PARISH COUNCIL:

On January 17, 1954, Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, primate of the Armenian Church of America, celebrated the Divine Liturgy, and later met with the members of St. Sarkis Church in the church hall to outline church plans for the future. The Parish Council members were appointed by the Archbishop for the year 1954 after the parishioners indicated their nominees from the floor. Although St. Sarkis Church was blessed and consecrated on September 20, 1953, formal membership was not established until the meeting of January 17, 1954, and one year hence in January, 1955, the procedure will be to elect the Parish Council from the membership.

On February 21, 1954, St. Vardan was honored with special services and evening program. The battle of Vardan was fought in 451 A.D. as the first battle for Christianity by any nation in history.

PARISH COUNCIL (continued)

The Parish Council meetings and attendance were as follows:

Feb. 10, 1954 (with Building Committee)	11
Feb. 17, 1954	7
Feb. 24, 1954	7
Feb. 26, 1954 (joint meeting with executive committees of Ladies Auxiliary and Church Choir)	14
March 17, 1954	10
July 7, 1954 (joint meeting with Building Committee, executive committees of the Ladies Auxiliary, Choir, Mr. & Mrs. Group)	18
Aug. 16, 1954 (joint meeting with church groups and membership)	65
Sept. 15, 1954	7
Sept. 22, 1954	7
Sept. 29, 1954	8
Oct. 5, 1954	7
Oct. 15, 1954	8
Oct. 29, 1954 (joint meeting with church groups)	25

The joint meetings were sponsored by the Parish Council in order to keep the subordinate groups posted on church plans and to discuss any problems confronting them. The total number of meetings held were thirteen with an attendance of 194.

Various problems and program development were discussed at the Parish Council meetings such as enrollment of members, pension fund for the Rev. Mamigonian, plans for celebration of special days in the church calendar, constitution and by-laws, development of the Sunday church school, calendar of church events and participation in them, donations for the use of church and hall, plans for the annual church picnic, financial receipts and disbursements, building maintenance and care, church grounds, financial problems, cooperation with activities of the church groups, etc.

Michael Kerkorian, president of the Building Committee, presided at the open general meeting of August 16, 1954 when a report prepared by Samuel Tarpinian, Parish Council treasurer, was presented including the financial activities of St. Sarkis Church from 1946 through Dec. 31, 1953 showing summary of receipts and disbursements, balance sheet, list of contributors, campaign letters, and contributions from American friends. The report was audited by Samuel J. Mooradian, public accountant. A complete copy of the report was mailed to all contributors prior to the meeting with questions concerning it discussed at the meeting.

The annual church picnic, sponsored by the Parish Council and in cooperation with the Building Committee, Ladies Auxiliary, Church Choir and Mr. and Mrs. Group, was held on August 29, 1954 at Swiezy's Grove picnic grounds featuring Yervant Grgigian's band of Detroit. The picnic, under the able leadership of Samuel Tarpinian and Paul Ghougasian, proved successful. The net profit from the picnic was \$798.93. Mr. Tarpinian submitted a written report indicating receipts and disbursements to all the church groups.

We welcomed the return of Gregory Tatoian from four years of study at the Antelias Seminary in Lebanon. We are proud of Mr. Tatoian who offered his services to the church and is now assisting the Rev. Mamigonian. Mr. Tatoian has been most helpful with his guidance and enthusiasm.

In accordance with the by-laws of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, the Parish Council members are custodians of the properties of the church and hall, together with the Parish Priest, be in charge of the conduct of the affairs of the Parish. In conjunction with the Building Committee they are responsible for church properties.

The Parish Council made specific plans with the Rev. Mamigonian for the Preliminary Parish Assembly to be held Nov. 7, 1954 at which time nominating and auditing committees will be elected as well as a Diocesan delegate. Annual reports will be presented and plans made for the Annual Parish Assembly. The plans were discussed with the executive officers of the church organizations at the meeting called by the Parish Council on Oct. 29, 1954.

There are many names (for instance, Mr. Geragos Najarian) which deserve special mention for making this church a success but are too numerous to record in this report. We all know and God knows who they are.

BUILDING FUND COMMITTEE

The purpose, duties and powers of the Armenian Church Building Fund:

That it shall have the unrestrained power to regulate, exercise, and control the Armenian Church Building Fund of Niagara Falls (Armenian Apostolic Church Inc. of Niagara Falls) for the purpose outlined in the Constitution and issues thereafter to sustain the continuance of Religious and Educational institution. Further, it shall in consultation with the Parish Council arrange for the promotion of such events to provide finances for the obligations of the church.

The Armenian Church Building Fund (Armenian Apostolic Church Inc. of Niagara Falls) shall not usurp the administrative powers of the Parish Council as outlined in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.

As owners of record the Armenian Church Building Fund shall have the right of physical accounting of its properties as administered by the Parish Council of the Armenian Church and shall demand and receive reports concerning all phases of the obligations and other issues that are pertinent to the Armenian Church Building Fund (Armenian Apostolic Church Inc. of Niagara Falls, N.Y.).

In short, the Armenian Church Building Fund is the overseer and Custodian of all church properties and other physical assets and guarantors of the Mortgage.

The Building Fund committee cooperated and participated in the St. Sarkis anniversary in January, 1954 and the annual church picnic in August, 1954. A total of five meetings took place with an approximate attendance of seven at each meeting.

The finances of the Armenian Church Building Fund is a monthly property income of \$340.00 which is deposited to the account of the Armenian Apostolic Church Inc. The Parish Council uses these funds to pay the mortgage. A total of such funds received to date, Oct. 16, 1954, for 1954 is \$3,060.00.

LADIES AUXILIARY

The purpose of the Ladies Auxiliary is to promote interest and participation in the spiritual and religious life of the church, to inaugurate fund raising activities for the benefit of the church, and to take care of the altar and vestments.

The members of the Ladies Auxiliary have worked faithfully and diligently to promote the development of the church. During 1954, they sponsored the New Year's day party, the Lenten dinner, the Father's Day celebration, and held a series of card parties. They cooperated with the various events of the church such as the annual picnic, dinners in memory of the departed, attended joint meetings with the subordinate groups of the church to discuss church problems and plans, participated in the Church Choir, took care of the altar and vestments, and in general readily gave service wherever needed. A member of the Auxiliary assisted the Rev. Mamigonian in membership visitations.

The Ladies Auxiliary has a membership of 39 and as of October 31, 1954 held 12 meetings during 1954. Two members of the Auxiliary serve on the Parish Council.

The total income from activities sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary was \$427.47, less disbursements of \$325.67, leaving a balance of cash on hand of \$101.80 as of Oct. 29, 1954. \$300.00 from the total income of \$427.47 was given to the Church.

CHURCH CHOIR

The purpose of the Church Choir is to promote interest of the young people in the spiritual and religious life of the church, to inaugurate fund raising activities for the benefit of the church, to specifically stimulate interest in participation in the Church Choir, and to afford an opportunity for the young people in the community to meet in social activities.

As of Oct. 19, 1954 the Church Choir had 18 active members. They met 13 times, not including the number of times some of the members met for Choir rehearsal.

The enthusiasm and spirit of our young people is most encouraging. They conduct meetings and activities with good planning. At two of their meetings the history of the Armenian Church was presented. A member of the Church Choir serves on the Parish Council. The executive committee of the Church Choir has met with the executive committees of the other subordinate groups to discuss church plans.

The Choir sponsored such events as the Jingle Bell Hop, Mardi Gras Dance, Blossom Bounce Dance, Mothers' Day Tea Party, Summer Cruise Dance, and cooperated with the Annual Picnic and other events of the Church. As of Oct. 19, 1954, there was an approximate attendance of 553 at the sponsored events.

The financial report of the Church Choir as of Oct. 19, 1954 is as follows:

Total Receipts.....	\$1,243.40	
Total Disbursements		
Donation to Church	\$550.00	
Expenses	<u>489.77</u>	<u>1,039.77</u>
Cash On Hand	\$	203.63

MR. AND MRS. CLUB

The most recently organized of the church groups is the Mr. and Mrs. Club, which, although the newest of the groups, has been enthusiastic and active in their church interest.

The purpose of the Mr. and Mrs. Club is to stimulate interest in the spiritual and religious life of the church, particularly in the development of the Church Sunday School, to sponsor fund raising activities for the benefit of the church school, and to establish a nursery during church services.

The Mrs. and Mrs. Club has twelve active members. They met twice a month with an approximate total of 16 meetings, with attendance of approximately 12 members at each meeting. Members of the executive committee met with the executive committees of the church groups to make church plans.

Two successful projects of the Mrs. and Mrs. Club were the Card Party and Children's Fashion Show on April 30, 1954 and the Fall Festival on Oct. 9, 1954.

The financial report of the Mrs. and Mrs. Club is as follows:

Total Income.....	\$987.85
Total Disbursements.....	<u>463.62</u>
Balance as of Oct. 20, 1954	\$524.23

In addition to the sponsored events, Mr. and Mrs. Club has cooperated in the various activities of the church.

PUBLICITY:

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A total of ~~22~~ articles concerning church services and activities were released in the Niagara Falls Gazette from January 25, 1954 to October 25, 1954. Also spot announcements on church activities were made over Radio Stations WHLD and WJL. Following are the dates and headlines of articles released:

Jan. 25, 1954	Armenian Church to Honor St. Sarkis with Program; Archbishop Meets Group
Feb. 15, 1954	Church Choir Plans Mardi Gras Dance
Feb. 20, 1954	Church at Falls Plans services to honor Saint - Battle Fought 1,500 Years Ago to be Commemorated at St. Sarkis
Feb. 22, 1954	Dardarian Heads Parish Council
March 13, 1954	Services to be Held
March 22, 1954	Avdoian to Head Dance Committee
April 3, 1954	Special Lenten Service Planned at St. Sarkis
April 26, 1954	Childrens Summer Fashion Show Set
May 1, 1954	Youngsters Model Latest Play Clothes
May 8, 1954	Special Services Set by St. Sarkis Church
May 10, 1954	Choir Completes Plans for Dance
May 17, 1954	St. Sarkis Church Choir Holds Dance
May 29, 1954	St. Sarkis Plans Memorial Rites for Kevoir VI
July 10, 1954	Memorial Church Services Listed (for the late Mrs. Satenig Sarkissian)
August 21, 1954	St. Sarkis Plans Week's Activities
August 25, 1954	Mr. Avdoian Head of St. Sarkis Dance
August 31, 1954	Armenian Church Youth to Meet
Oct. 8, 1954	School to Benefit from Fall Festival
Oct. 11, 1954	300 Guests Attend Festival at Church
Oct. 16, 1954	Special Services will Highlight Anniversary of St. Sarkis Church
Oct. 22, 1954	Game, Dance Night Committee Named
Oct. 25, 1954	Fete is Planned for Festival Unit
Oct. 25, 1954	Armenian Church Groups to Map Assembly Plans

(The secretary of the Parish Council wrote the publicity material.)

FINANCIAL REPORT * Statement of Receipts and Expenditures for the Nine
Months Ended September 30, 1954, of St. Sarkis Armenian Church

RECEIPTS

Rental of investment property	\$3,060.00
Church affairs (picnics, etc.)	1,917.60
Church services, marriages, etc.	981.54
Kitchen income	605.65
Subsidiary organizations	850.00
Membership dues	579.00
Donations	361.00
Sale of religious pamphlets, calendars, etc.	32.00
Miscellaneous receipts	8.60
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 8,395.39</u>

EXPENDITURES

Payment of bank mortgage:	
Principal	\$2,163.65
Interest	<u>1,560.55</u>
Buildings & equipment	\$3,724.20
Church supplies	3,107.61
Salaries	745.90
Telephone, light, gas and water	627.00
Church affairs (picnics.)	498.62
Taxes on investment property	407.92
Kitchen expenditures	296.95
Office expense	234.14
Purchase of religious pamphlets, calendars, etc.	76.77
Property insurance	42.50
Building maintenance	184.36
Miscellaneous expenditures	8.00
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 9,960.97</u>

Reconciliation

Bank Balance, Jan. 1, 1954	\$ 2,931.18	Bank Balance, Sept. 30, 1954	\$1,362.01
Add: Receipts as above	<u>8,395.39</u>	Cash on hand, Sept. 30, 1954	<u>3.59</u>
	11,326.57		
Less: Expenditures as above	<u>9,960.97</u>		
Balance Sept. 30, 1954	\$ 1,365.60	Balance, September 30, 1954	\$1,365.60

CHURCH SERVICES

The full report concerning the church services, baptisms, marriages, funerals, and specific activities pertaining to the church itself is prepared by the Rev. Mamigonian, parish priest. Following is a general summarization of church services. Services were not held every Sunday inasmuch as the Rev. Mamigonian serves on an itinerant basis.

Jan. 17, 1954	Soorp Badarak - Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan
Jan. 31, 1954	Memorial Services - the Late Peter Kazarian
Feb. 21, 1954	Badarak and St. Vardan celebration
March 14, 1954	Arevakal
March 28, 1954	Lenten Feast - Auspices Ladies Auxiliary
April 4, 1954	Avak
April 15, 16, 17, 18-1954	Avak Celebration
May 30, 1954	Memorial Servides and Cemetary Visitation
June 13, 1954	Memorial Services - the Late Kevork VI, Catholicos of Armenians who died on May 9, 1954, at Etchmiadzin, Holy See of the Armenian Church.
July 11, 1954	Memorial Services - the Late Mrs. Satenig Sarkissian
July 25, 1954	Soorp Badarak - Vartavari Arteev
August 22, 1954	Soorp Badarak
Sept. 19, 1954	Soorp Badarak
Oct. 17, 1954	Soorp Badarak
Oct. 24, 1954	Servives - Gregory Tatoian, deacon, recently returned from four years study at Antelias, Lebanon
Oct. 31, 1954	Services - Gregory Tatoian

MEMBERSHIP:

On January 17, 1954 when Archbishop Nersoyan presided at a meeting in the church hall the first attempt was made to establish membership in the church. Since then spasmodic efforts have been made to stimulate interest in church membership, with prospective membership visitations by the Rev. Mamigonian. On Oct. 31, 1954 there were approximately 85 members enrolled in the church.

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER CHURCH GROUPS:

Several members of St. Sarkis Church co-operated with St. Peter's Episcopal Church in their fifth annual bazaar on Oct. 27-28, 1954, with Armenian food and cash donated by a few members personally, for the food booth. An oriental room was also featured by the Armenian friends. The secretary of St. Sarkis Parish Council did the overall publicity for the entire bazaar.

The Department of Religious Education of the Niagara Falls Council of Churches requested the use of the church hall once a week on Tuesday afternoon for an hour for week-day religious education. Many of the churches in the city co-operate with the program. The Parish Council voted to grant permission for the use of the hall but to date the Department of Religious Education has not found it necessary to use the hall as the enrollment has not warranted it.

BY-LAWS OF THE DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA:

Copies of the by-laws of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America were distributed to the church groups for circulation among the members to acquaint them with church policy and procedure. All members were urged to acquaint themselves with the content of the by-laws.

CONCLUSION:

The St. Sarkis Parish Council expresses its sincere appreciation to the Rev. Mamigonian, the Building Fund Committee, the Ladies Auxiliary, the Church Choir, the Mr. and Mrs. Club, and all the members and friends of the church for their loyal support and efforts in building up the life of the church. Without the co-operation and understanding of every member of St. Sarkis Church and its friends, this Church would not be possible. We have come through our first year together with some trials and tribulations with Christian love and a will to be proud of our religious and spiritual heritage. God bless you and continue to inspire you in your noble services for St. Sarkis Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Khoren Mamigonian

The Rev. Khoren Mamigonian
Parish Pastor

Leo Dardarian

Leo Dardarian, President Parish Council

Alice Mooradian
Alice Mooradian, Secretary

