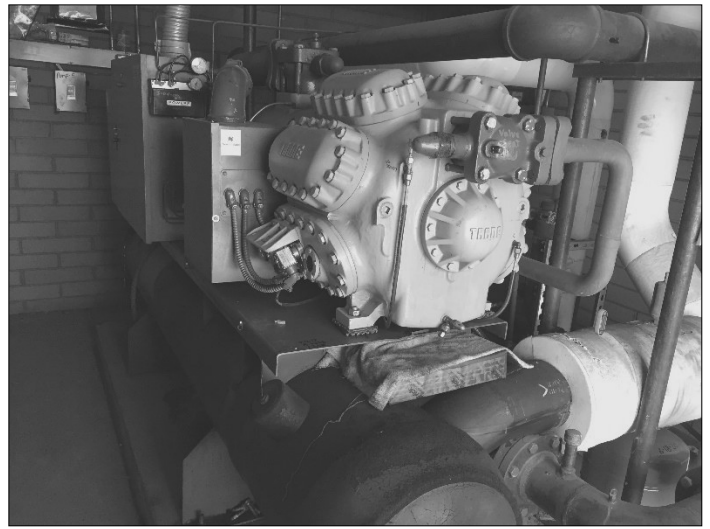


Dear Parishioners of St. Paul,

Unfortunately, we have bad news today. Our main air conditioning system for the church, hall, kitchen, and Sunday School rooms has finally died. Our current chiller system is 45 years old and was installed when the hall was first built. To give you a better idea, the average life of a chiller system of this size is probably around 35 years. We have been having problems with the chiller for many years and knew it was only a matter of time before this day would come.

This chiller system is very different from your home air conditioner. Most large buildings (like schools) use a large chiller system. The chiller cools water to around 42 degrees and sends it out to the church, halls, kitchen, and Sunday school rooms where the warm/hot air is passed through the cold water, cooled, and sent back to the building. The compressor for the chiller system looks like a large truck engine.

Here are a few pictures...



We have a few choices for repairs. We could purchase a re-built compressor which would cost us around \$64,000. The problem with a re-built is it would probably only last, at best, 10 years, and we would probably still experience problems with the older parts not being replaced. This model of chiller is no longer manufactured so parts are hard to find when it does break down. Our last option is to replace the 45-year-old system with a new system at a cost somewhere between \$250,000 and \$350,000. This is by far the most expensive piece of equipment we have on our church property.

This replacement will take some time. To design and plan for a new chiller will take a few months. The installation will take roughly another month, so you can see there is no immediate fix. The complications with the COVID-19 virus has made obtaining parts and equipment more difficult.

This project will be a huge undertaking and will require not only months of planning but also obtaining the necessary permissions from the parish.

Since the original construction of our church, we have never been called upon to raise this kind of money. Of course, we could go without air conditioning, but aren't sure how many people would want to attend church in 100 degrees. This is going to be a huge challenge. How will the St. Paul parish rise to the occasion? In the heat of summer, Der Hayr, your deacons, and choir members will be in church conducting services, most probably still live streaming, and at the same time praying for those that will come forward as heroes for St. Paul to be moved to donate. We will keep you updated on this project in the weeks to come.

ST. PAUL ARMENIAN CHURCH

News from our parish

Parish Council

With the continuing restrictions on the use of the St. Paul facilities, the parish is being severely impacted financially. Limited church services, no hall rentals, and the cancellation of primary fundraisers all have resulted in revenues approximately \$50,000 less than budgeted to date. This makes your contributions and support even more critical to help work through these challenging times. As an added convenience, you can make donations to the church online by visiting our website (www.stpaulfresno.com) or through Facebook ("St Paul Fresno").

Unfortunately, after a month of in-person church services, government-imposed restrictions (effective July 13), forced the church to once again suspend in-person church services until further notice. Sunday Badarak will continue via livestream on Facebook ("St Paul Fresno") and on the St. Paul website (www.stpaulfresno.com).

August would typically find St. Paul members busy preparing for the Annual Grape Blessing and Picnic at the California Armenian Home. Although the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the cancellation of traditional activities this year, there are plans to have the traditional Blessing of the Grapes at the conclusion of church services at St. Paul on Sunday, August 16. In addition, plans are continue with the Annual Grape Blessing Raffle, so please mail in your tickets and donations now, if you haven't already done so!

On Friday, August 7, the Drive-Thru Lunch Committee will be serving a delicious lunch. Everyone is strongly encouraged to support these monthly drive-thru lunches. Due to the fact that the two largest yearly fundraisers for the church, (the Annual Armenian Festival and the Grape Blessing Picnic), were cancelled this year, the drive-thru lunches have become a vital source of revenue for the church. Look for more info in the Dajar and order your meals today!

Please stay safe and healthy and remain hopeful that regular church services will resume again soon!

Thank You

*To Guluzar Ohannesian and Susanna Hagopian
for donating religious Armenian books to our
St. Paul Armenian Church library.*

Ladies Society

Ladies Society Chairlady, Melene Ouzounian's message this month is that God, the Heavenly Father, is with each and every one during this time of uncertainty. St. Paul parishioners believe that the Lord and Savior is with each person and will never let anyone down. All must remain strong because life has changed. Melene misses each of the Ladies Society members and has enjoyed her phone conversations with each of them. Never hesitate to call her if you need to talk. She will, once again, be calling each member soon and is looking forward to hopefully gathering together in the near future.

Many thanks to Der Yessai, the deacons and all those who have brought the beautiful services into the homes of faithful parishioners each Sunday and, once again, at church. Much appreciation to the Ladies Society members whose service months were June and July and packed mahs for these services. Hopefully, one day soon, Fellowship can be provided, once again, on Sundays following church services. Many thanks to Zar Der Mugardechian as well as Ladies Society members for the beautiful drive-thru lunches they have prepared.

Since all in-person meetings and events were cancelled, the Ladies Society Executive Board had a virtual meeting with the Ladies Society Central Council members, Surpazan and the Chapter Chairmen. Everyone shared what their respective groups had done to continue communication with their membership. Hopefully, there will be some news and direction to resume Ladies Society meetings and special events in the near future.

It is with great sadness to report the passing of long-time members, Eleanor Yazijian and Barbara Adishian. Prayers and sympathy are extended to their families for their loss. Melene and her family continue to be grateful for the many calls, cards, and memorial donations in memory of the passing of Mother, Grandmother, and Great grandmother, Mary Perch, and extends her wishes for all to remain well and safe until everyone can meet once again.

Men's Forum

Although Men's Forum is still in a 'holding pattern' in terms of planning their future activities, it can be reported that they are maintaining contact with the City of Fresno Community Coordinator, Maira Aguilar, from the Office of Independent Review. Ms. Aguilar has graciously offered to conduct a 'Zoom Virtual Meeting' for the members, but Men's Forum obviously prefers to wait until improved environmental health conditions allow them to resume their cherished dinner-meetings. Needless to say, there is no substitute for in-person camaraderie. It is gratifying to know that this presentation of a most relevant topic in today's society (community trust of law enforcement) will still be available for the benefit of the members as soon as conditions allow.

For now, Men's Forum hopes and prays that their members, families, and all members of the St. Paul parish, are able to persevere and remain healthy during these challenging times. It is comforting to know that through faith and devotion, everyone will be even stronger after this pandemic has passed.

Senior ACYO

The ACYO Seniors are continuing to stay in contact with each other during these difficult times. Many of their members log on each week for the ACYO Zoom sessions hosted by Central Council. Each week, the meetings are led by different parish council members throughout the Western Diocese and the group discusses a variety of topics.

It is hoped that everyone is remaining safe and doing their best to stay productive! If there are any inquiries about joining Senior ACYO, please call/text Chairwoman Suzy Ekmekchyan at (559)708-0799 or e-mail at fresnoacyo@gmail.com.

**** Find ACYO on Social Media ****

FACEBOOK: Fresno Acyo
INSTAGRAM: [st.paul_acyo](https://www.instagram.com/st.paul_acyo)

Junior ACYO

"God is the Strength of my heart and my portion forever." Psalms 73:26

During the month of July, the Junior ACYO members have been connecting through Zoom and beginning to resume their monthly meetings. The group recently baked choreg and simit and are planning on selling them for ten dollars a bag at the Grape Blessing Drive-Thru on August 16. The money will be placed in a fund for future use. Make sure to grab your choreg and simit before it's all gone!

The members are also a part of a project hosted by Central Council called "Our Church, Our Community". The chapter members sent in short videos explaining why church was more than just a building to them and why the friendships they have built are so meaningful. They also sent in pictures of ACYO from the past twenty years that will be compiled and presented as a dedication for the Anniversary of Enthronement of His Holiness, Catholicos Karekin II.

Central Council hosts Zoom meetings every other Friday to keep members across the Diocese in touch. If you would like to be part of these Zoom meetings, sign up on [acyowd.com](https://www.acyowd.com).

Most announcements are sent via GroupMe and e-mail; if you are a current ACYO member or would like to join ACYO, please contact Chairwoman Natalie Agazarian, at (559) 392-5106 or acyojuniors@gmail.com so that she may add you to the e-mail list and GroupMe.

Junior ACYO baking Choreg & Simit



Sunday School

Congratulations, once again, to the Sunday School High School graduates: Sara Beberian, Jonathan Chardukian, Grace Colarian, Thalia Colarian, Mary Iskenyan, and Mary Topoozian! May God guide their way in their continued education, careers, lives, and spiritual growth. The St. Paul Sunday School staff continues to pray for the good health of all children and adults in this world during this pandemic!

There were a few past Sunday School students not listed in the July Dajar article. They are as follows from the grades they were in:

(NOTE: If there are other names missing from the list, please contact Anton so he can update the registration list for the upcoming 2020/2021 school year)

Pre-K: Anahit Tashchian, K: Mkrtich Tashchian

2nd: Hugo Garabetyan, 3rd: Mateo Bogosyan, 4th: Anya Miktarian

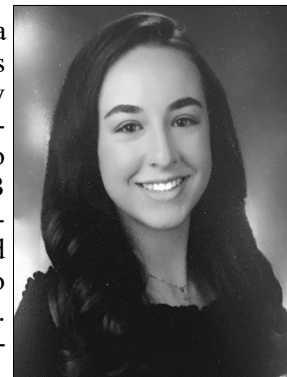
6th: Lilit Tashchian, 8th: Fiona Miktarian and Roxie Richburg

9th: Adrian Bogosyan, 10th: Sofia Miktarian and Sasha Richburg

With all the restrictions and concerns of staying well and safe, Sunday School hopes everyone is enjoying their summer vacations in the best way possible. It is still planned to have the first day of Sunday School on September 13th for the 2020/21 school year pending health concerns and directions from the Western Diocese. You will be notified as soon as the church receives confirmation. Most likely, social distancing and other restrictions will be required through the fall and winter months to ensure the safety of the students, teachers and parishioners.

Everyone is greatly missed during this unprecedented time. We must all remain positive and keep the faith.

Alison Mary Sahakian graduated from Bullard High School with a 4.26 GPA and a CSF Life Membership. During her time at Bullard High, she has taken six AP courses and has excelled in honors classes, as well as her first course at Fresno City College. Alison has been very involved on campus including serving as an AP Ambassador, working as a peer mentor, and participating in the following sports teams: cross country, track & field, tennis, and volleyball. She has also been a member of the composition cast, been in leadership for her senior year, and was Senior ASB Vice President. Outside of school, Alison has taken advantage of various community service opportunities such as Feed The People, Operation Clean Up, and volunteering at Bullards annual Blood Drive. She will be attending Fresno City College through the L.S. Peters Honors Program for two years in plans of transferring to a four-year university to study Biology. Her proud parents are Michael and Karen Sahakian and brother Anthony. Alison is the granddaughter of the late Harry and Mary Topoozian and the late Joe and Coe Sahakian.



Jenna Marie Chilingirian graduated with a Masters in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Oregon in June 2020. She was the 2018 recipient of The Wonderful Company Public Service Graduate Fellowship for San Joaquin Valley students and the 2020 recipient of the American Planning Association Outstanding Student for her cohort at the University of Oregon. Jenna is excited to return to the San Joaquin Valley to contribute to creating more efficient, accessible, and equitable land use policies and planning processes in many of our communities. She will begin her career as a planning practitioner in the private sector in Fresno in July 2020. Jenna is the daughter of Jonathan and Janet, sister to Jessica and Jillian, and granddaughter of Dodd Yahnian and the late Michelle Yahnian, and Diana Chilingirian and the late Avis Chilingirian.

On behalf of the Parish Priest and the entire family of St. Paul Armenian Church, we congratulate our remaining graduates of 2020. May God's richest blessings be with them on their Graduation and may He guide and grant them success in their future endeavors.



Pastor and Parish Council gradually acknowledge
the following donations.

May God bless you and your families.



In Memory of Karn Stunjian
Bob and Sara Der Matoian

In Memory of Barbara Bohigian
Beverly Achki

In Memory of Hermine Vartanian
Varouj and Lena Aldebarmakian
Arpine Ayvazian
Siranouche Krikorian
Ani Toroyan

In Memory of Mary Perch
Beverly Achki
Varouj and Lena Aldebarmakian
Yeran Devejian
Sandra Hotzakorgian

In Memory of Barbara Adishian
Shenora and George Adishian
Henry and Dorothy Kachadurian

In Memory of Michael Devejian
AGBU
Russell and Nina Adams
Shenora and George Adishian
Arman Aivazyan
Anahid Aivazyan
Varouj and Lena Aldebarmakian
Seth and Beverly Atamian

Jeannette Baker
Gerald and Nelda Baker
Bob and Sara Der Matoian
Zaven and Berjouhie Devejian
Mary Egoian
Mergeryos and Meline Gostanian
Paul and Margaret Hokokian
Micah Jendian
Artin and Armine Jibilian
Berj and Nelly Kalamkarian
Harutyun and Ofelia Khasoyan
Michael and Sue Kilijian
Ben and Clarice Krikorian
Siranouche Krikorian
Jackie Manoogian
Jack and Melene Ouzounian
Gaila and Gerald Peloian
Everett and Audrilee Myers

In Memory of Eleanor Yazijian
Mary Abaci
Mark Bowers
Janice Peters Chitjian
Sandra Hotzakorgian
Henry and Dorothy Kachadurian
Philip Kakligian
Ben and Clarice Krikorian
Bawanan Merzoian
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Dennis and Lucille Peters
Daniel Whitehurst

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Agnes and Bart Hagopian
Vicky Hagobian
Abraham Keshishyan
Beatriz Kismetoglu
Paul and Kathleen Mesple
Edwin Mouradian

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Barlow Der Mugrdechian
Janice Hallian
Lydia Issagholian
Robert and Christa Hancer
Nelly and Berj Kalamkarian
Onik and Agavni Mesropyan
Vartush Mesropyan
Jeanette Migirian
Judy Moordigian
Rosanna Rojas

40th Wedding Anniversary
Gerald and Tammy Chooljian

St. Paul Parish extends its sincere sympathy

July 27 - Azniv Papazyan survived by her daughter Anahit Grigoryan; sons Karo Papazyan and Vardan Papazyan; sisters Flora Hakopyan and Annik Hakopyan; granddaughters Marianna Papazyan, Anush Papazyan, and Melanie Grigoryan; grandsons deceased Noro Papazyan, Mkrtich Papazyan, and Hayk Papazyan

July 31 - Larisa Agabekyan survived by her husband Shant Bedoyan; mother Violeta Sarkisyan; daughter Violet Agabekyan; sisters Alisa Agabekyan, Zhenya Agabekyan, Amy Agabekyan, and Lusine Agabekyan; nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.



MAY GOD REST THEIR SOULS IN PEACE



Congratulations

to parents, Courtney and Jordan Sarabian, on the occasion of the birth of their son
"Vance Jordan Sarabian."

A donation was made to St. Paul Armenian Church from grandparents Tammy and Gerald Chooljian, Patti and David Sarabian and great-grandmothers Joyce Terzian and Virginia Sarabian.

The entire Chooljian, Sarabian, and Terzian families congratulate parents Courtney and Jordan on their bundle of joy "Vance Jordan Sarabian."

St. Paul BookStore and Gift Shop

The Bookstore is located in the foyer of Berberian Hall.

We have Armenian and English Bibles, Sacred and Secular Music CDs, books on The Armenian Genocide, Armenian history, and teachings, Armenian cooking, and much more! Beautiful gifts for all occasions!

The Bookstore is open Monday through Friday during church office hours from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

To visit the Bookstore, call the office at 559-226-6343.

A Home Blessing Service

is one of the most important traditions in the Armenian Orthodox Church.

The Priest visits the home and spreads good news of Christ's birth. He conducts a meaningful religious service by saying a prayer and blessing the bread, water, and salt.

To request a traditional Home Blessing, contact the church office at 559-226-6343.

You can also call the church office to schedule a

hospital visitation, graveside funeral or Sunday hokehankisd.

- IMPORTANT INFORMATION -



St. Paul Armenian Church services will be conducted behind closed doors without the participation of the faithful until further notice.



The St. Paul Armenian Church Office will remain open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you have any questions feel free to call the church office at 559-226-6343.



Stay connected and follow our "Facebook" page (St Paul Fresno) as we LIVE stream our Church Badarak each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.



The church is like my household. I know the church needs to pay water bills, gas, maintenance, the plants need pruning, salaries have to be paid, etc. If I come on Sunday and expect the doors to be open, if I expect my church to be there in 20 years so my grandchildren can have a place to worship in the Armenian Church, then I need to do my part now.

We contribute TODAY so we can survive TOMORROW!

Visit our website www.stpaulfresno.com. When on the page, select the yellow "Donate" button to be taken to the "Paypal" page to

**DONATE
ONLINE** 

You can also click on the "PayPal" button to be directed to the PayPal page.

This is safe, secure and easy way to donate online. You can make a one time donation or sign up to make a monthly donation.

We appreciate your kind support and contribution. May God bless you and your families.



WHY COOK? When You Can Drive-Thru



Friday, August 7th

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LUNCH COMMITTEE

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ST.PAUL ARMENAIN CHURCH
DRIVE THRU LUNCH**



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Խաղողօրհնէք

Feast of the Assumption of St. Mary
Grape Blessing

Կիրակի, Օգոստոս 16 / Sunday, August 16
St. Paul Armenian Church
(3767 N First St. Fresno CA 93726)

11:00 a.m. - *Blessing of the Grapes*
In the Courtyard with Limited Seating

The winners of the Annual Grape Blessing Raffle
will be drawn after the "Blessing of the Grape" ceremony.

The Blessing of the Grapes will take
place outside in the courtyard.

The "Grapes" will be distributed to
church parishioners by parish
council members in the courtyard.

Խաղողօրհնէքի արարողութիւնը
պիտի կատարուի Եկեղեցւոյ բակին
մէջ:

Ապա օրհնուած խաղողները
Ծխական Խորհուրդի անդամները
պիտի բաժնեն
հաւատացեալներուն:

For questions call the church office at 559.226.6343
Website: www.stpaulfresno.com Facebook: St. Paul Fresno



For more information about placing an ad in the "Dajar" call the Church office at 559-226-6343.



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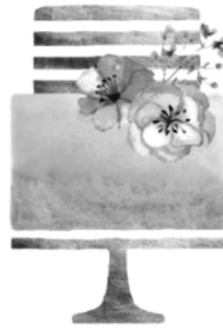
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