

EASTER MESSAGE
OF HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP HOVNAN DERDERIAN
“Glory to Your Miraculous Resurrection, Lord.”

The Mystery of Christ's Resurrection is beyond the limits of human comprehension and logic. Christ's Resurrection can only be felt and lived solely through faith. Faith is the key to immerse in the transparency of the Resurrection and comprehend its influence in the life of humanity, especially throughout various historical periods of our nation.

The Resurrection is the purest expression of Christ's limitless and unconditional love, the assurance His true promise, with which light overcame darkness, hope prevailed over uncertainty, life defeated death, and good prevailed over evil.

The Resurrection of Christ is the greatest testament to our faith, the framework of the validity of our creed, the undeniable truth of Christ's divinity for the non-believers and skeptics, and lastly the anchor of our spiritual identity.

In these times, when the chaos of the world is overwhelming, some have resorted to unknowingly pose the following question: “Where is the Resurrected Lord?” Why didn't God save us from the merciless coronavirus pandemic, why didn't He send signs of the 44-day Artsakh War, why didn't He resolve the differences between Russia and the Ukraine, a war between brother countries that may well turn into a global conflict and result in World War III?

The righteous Job also resorted to asking such questions, when he lost everything despite being pious and God-loving. Like others, Job also experienced feelings of hopelessness. However, when listening to Job's complaints, God answered him *“Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?” (JOB 40:8)*. Hearing this Job regretted his actions and repented by saying *“I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You” (JOB 42:5)*.

Let us not be naive like those who attempted to console Job through empty and wearisome explanations, being the cause of his temptation. The answers to the “Whys” rest in the Cross and the Crucified, the precious blood that He shed in sacrificing Himself for the salvation of humanity. The All Benevolent God does not wish death upon the sinful. The evil and the devastation that occurs in of the world are not His will nor does He command them. They are the result of our free will. St. James the Apostle says it rightfully *“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone” (JAMES 1:13)*.

Therefore, such doubts and questions which may arise from our human condition ought to be answered in our partaking in Christ's sufferings, as God demonstrated His salvific power, which ultimately culminated with His Glorious and Victorious Resurrection. It is for this reason that during Holy Week, when we sing “To Your Cross, Christ” (*Khachi ko Krisdos*), we praise and signify Christ's betrayal, passion, burial, and resurrection.

As did our ancestors, we too must live our lives embracing the sunrise of Christ's Resurrection, realizing that the temptations of life are impermanent and temporary. The mystery of Christ's Victorious Resurrection ought to reside in the hearts of our people in Armenia and the Diaspora if we wish to heal our pain and diminish our sufferings. Comfort and consolation is derived from God. At times of doubt, sorrow and great pain, like Job, we bow before His Might. We regret and furthermore, we repent. It is only then that we will become worthy of seeing the Resurrected Lord.

Today, the Armenian Apostolic Holy Church exhorts her faithful to renew their spiritual lives with the mystery of the Resurrection. Our Church commands us to relinquish slanderous discourse, destructive criticism, unsuitable complaints, the relay of self-responsibility on others. Our Church instructs us to express our God-loving nature by demonstrating keenness, care, and love for another, just as God loves us all. We rest assured that our spiritual reawakening and national strength is conditioned upon the realization of these aforementioned exhortations.

The Feast of the Resurrection becomes meaningful when our people embrace a spirit of forgiveness, welcome humility, rely on wholehearted faith signified epitomized by the Christian spirit. How can we become God-loving, if we cannot uphold these virtues? How shall we stand before the power and the glory of the Resurrected Lord, if we are unable to value our God-given gifts of our Homeland, our Holy Etchmiadzin, our language and our culture?

For us, the year 2022 is of great significance as we celebrate the 95th anniversary of the establishment of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America. We have dedicated this year as the year of “The Armenian Christian Family.” These occasions oblige us to celebrate the milestone anniversary with feelings of gratitude, emphasizing that the strength of our Diocese is conditioned upon the vivacity of the Armenian Christian family.

When we reflect on these two occasions, the light shines upon the path to an everlasting life.

Therefore, may our souls gaze upon that light wherein our salvation and the salvation of our nation is derived. Let us welcome and embrace Christ's Resurrection proclaiming “Christ is risen from the dead. Blessed is the Resurrection of Christ.”

Saint Paul Puzzle Pieces

“Der, voghormia; Der, voghormia, Der, voghormia; Der, voghormia.” “Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.”

Ann Attoian has always loved to sing. She shared her passion for music and sharagans for over 66 years by singing in our choir.



Ann's father, George Chilpighian, lost his family in the Genocide as a young boy. At the age of 10 or so, he decided to escape from Turkey and flee to America. He boarded a ship and stowed himself aboard, trying not to attract attention. When the journey was completed, he found he was in Bagdad. He realized quickly that he had boarded the wrong ship! George was not a young man that gave up easily, and he soon boarded a different ship, and this time he picked the right one. At 13 years old, he landed at Ellis Island on the shores of the United States. Ann's mother, Esther Avedisian, also lost her family in the Genocide at a young age. As a young girl, Esther escaped the tragedies in Turkey by immigrating to France. As fate would have it, Ann's father was shown a picture of Esther when she was about 19 years old. George thought she was beautiful and letters were exchanged. George found himself getting on another boat and meeting her in Marcel, France, where they were married in 1928. He took his new bride back to America, and they began their new life together in Lowell, Massachusetts.

Ann was the first of four children born to George and Esther, and she was born on January 14, 1929. Her sister Rose was born in 1931, Violet in 1933, and her brother Peter arrived in 1938. Ann's childhood was filled with many fond memories of winters and snow. She and her siblings loved ice skating, skiing, tobogganing, and sledding. Ann's Saturdays were spent at the church, learning to read and write Armenian. Her dad George, however, was not so fond of the snow. Many of his "Hghetzi" relatives lived in sunny California and encouraged him to move west. When Ann was 13 years old, her family packed up their brand new Hudson motor car with their belongings and drove across the country to Fresno, California.

Ann graduated from Fresno Tech High School in 1946. Soon after, she met a dashing young man named Fred Attoian. They fell in love and quickly made plans to be married. They tied the knot at St. Paul when our church was on Fulton Street, in 1947. Ann joined our church and quickly became involved in the Junior Ladies Society, the Paula's Guild, and the choir. Their marriage was blessed with three children, Rosie, Fred Junior, and Richard.



As Ann and Fred raised their family, they stayed close to the church and were very involved. When Yeretsgeen Dulgarian decided to entertain the parish with musical theater, she chose Ann for the lead. Ann loved to cook, and loved to throw parties. She also tried her hand at sewing and baking. She became famous for pineapple upside-down cakes and would bake them often for friends and family. After her children were grown, she and Fred enjoyed traveling to many countries as well as in the states. Fred was retired Navy, and they made it a point to attend the yearly reunions which were held all over the world. Ann has always been social, and her vibrant personality made her a natural volunteer for Kaiser at the information desk for over 25 years. At 90 years old, she finally decided she was ready to retire.

Ann has always loved being a part of the church family at St. Paul. She was a Baking Angel, helping to make the Mas for over 40 years, she sang in the choir for 66 years, and sang at weddings, church functions, and funerals. She was on the Ladies Society Executive Board for many years and has loved serving her parish. Ann is grateful for these past 93 years and feels greatly blessed by her three children, 6 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren.

Thank you, Ann, for being an amazing and lively piece of our St. Paul Puzzle for the last 75 years!!

News from our parish



Another term of office has come to an end and a newly elected Parish Council has stepped up.

We want to thank the outgoing members of the Parish Council, Isabel Bishop, Dn. Hagop Iskenyan, Zaven Devejian, and most especially Jeff Markarian who has been leading the council these past few years. Their dedication to our church is deeply appreciated.

We also wish to welcome our new members to the Parish Council, Debbie Adishian-Astone, Sergio La Porta, Margarit Dumanyan, and Ted Mooradian.

April will be a busy month for our church. We appear to be heading to an almost COVID-free Easter. It's been three years and memories fade quickly, so what will a COVID-free Easter look like this year? Many of us will remember Easter Sundays where we had to add chairs in the narthex because the church was too full, even with extra chairs on the sides. Will our parishioners feel that pull that will draw them back to their roots, back to the birthplace of their soul?

Holy Week will begin on Palm Sunday. During that week we will have many moving services that will follow the path of Christ from his entry into Jerusalem to his ultimate resurrection. Please plan on joining us during the Holy Week as we make our way towards the Sunday of Resurrection.

The St. Paul Parish Council wishes everyone a joyous Easter. May we all rejoice together and proclaim "Christ has risen from the Dead" – "Blessed is the Resurrection of Christ".





After two years of suspended monthly dinner-meetings due to COVID Pandemic, we are delighted to announce a joint dinner event with the St. Paul Ladies Society, scheduled for Wednesday evening, April 20th, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Plans are for a picnic-style barbeque, featuring hamburgers and hot dogs. More details, including the after-dinner program, will be announced in the forthcoming flyer. Needless to say, we are looking forward to a long awaited event such as this one. Hopefully, we will be inspired to resume our regularly scheduled monthly dinner-meetings this coming May.

We were saddened to learn of the passing in February of Sue Kilijian, beloved wife of our long-time member Mike Kilijian. We extend our deepest heart-felt sympathies, thoughts, and prayers to Mike and his family.

It should be noted that Men's Forum will not be hosting Sunday Fellowship in April, since the 2nd Sunday is also Palm Sunday. We do encourage our members to attend the Palm Sunday Champagne Brunch after church service, graciously hosted by the St. Paul Ladies Society.

On behalf of the St. Paul Men's Forum, we wish all St. Paul parishioners and their families a very happy and safe Easter.



**LADIES
SOCIETY**



As we end our Lenten Journey to the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we reflect about things we have done to bring us closer to God. It might be the things we gave up, or our extra prayers.

Join us during Holy Week activities. We will have a potluck following Badarak on Thursday, April 14, 2022.

Our thoughts turn to our dear ladies of our parish, sisters in Christ. We will be recognizing and celebrating our long-time members at our June 22, 2022, luncheon. Mark your calendars and join us for lunch.

Coming up is our joint Dinner/Picnic with our Men's Forum on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. We will have a fun picnic and program.

Call Annette Moushigian- 559-906-2114, for your reservations.



Thanks to Teachers Marina, Maral and Darlene and Assistant Teacher Sara Beberian for the March Lenten Enrichment activities! We are all looking forward to Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter.

Following is the Sunday School Schedule for the month of April:

- Sunday, April 3rd - No class/lessons (all families attend church service together with fellow Sunday School Family)
- Sunday, April 10th—Palm Sunday lessons starting at 10:45 a.m. followed by church attendance for Antasdan
- Sunday, April 17th—Easter Sunday No SS class/lessons – attend church with family
- Sunday, April 24th—Special Genocide Assembly gathering in courtyard at 10:45 a.m. and class/lessons

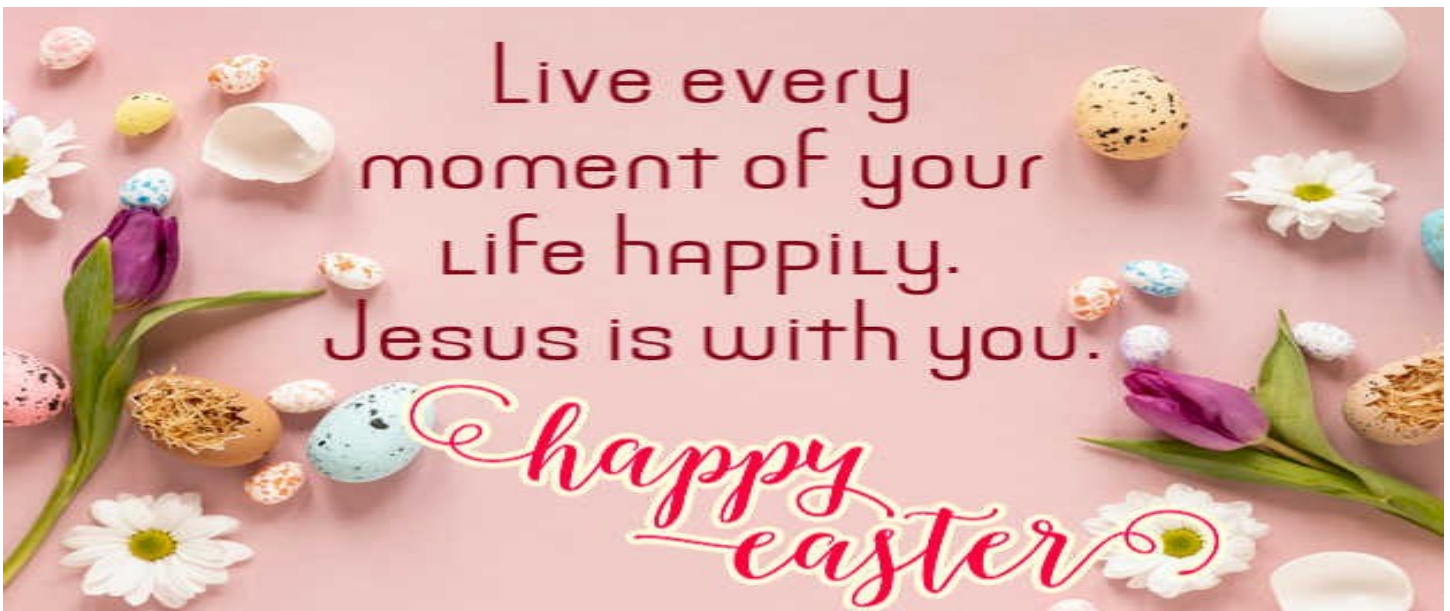


ACYO Junior

John 11:25-26: "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?'"

March was filled with planning for the Juniors. They have been planning the Easter celebration as well as many fundraiser activities. The plan is to have an Easter Bunny, egg hunt, and various other activities. They will also be selling baskets and simit/choreg as a fundraising event. Stay tuned for more details regarding this event. There were also two meetings this month, one on the 6th to discuss ideas and another on the 27th to finalize details for the Easter celebration. The Juniors will also be hosting a Fellowship on April 24th. Please bring some goodies to help commemorate those who have become martyrs.

If you have any questions or would like to join ACYO Juniors, please contact chairman Erik Barsegian at stpauljuniors@gmail.com or (559) 269-3592.



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.



***LET'S ALWAYS PRAY AND SHARE
GOD'S LOVE TOGETHER***



We pray for all the parishioners who are sick and recovering from being ill.

May the Lord watch over you and strengthen you.

**If you know anyone that needs a prayer, contact the church office
and provide their full name.**

***Jack Bedoian, Tigran Vartabedian,
Haygouhi Mikayelian***

Pastor and Parish Council
gratefully acknowledge the following donations
May God bless you and you families

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In memory of Betty Apkarian

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In Memory of Paul Mooradian

Jacqueline Manoogian
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Elsie Bedrosian

In Memory of Sue Mardigian

Manzell—Kilijian

Ann Attoian

In Memory of Jack Tozlian

Bart & Agnes Hagopian
Ann Attoian
Richard Attoian

Thank You!



St. Paul Parish extends its sincere sympathy

February 26, 2022—Maritsa Melkonyan, is survived by her beloved husband Tigran Melkonyan, son Hovanes Melkonyan and his wife Susana Hovhannisian, son, Samvel Melkonyan and his wife Anush Dolukhanyan, grandkids, Monica, Erik, Tigran and Levon, brother, Qerob Demirchyan and sister Gohar Demirchyan, and many loving nieces and nephews, relatives and friends.

March 13, 2022—Agop Garayan, he is survived by son, Oganess Garayan, daughters, Margaret Pagaryan & Anit Atryan, 7 grandchildren & 7 great grandchildren.

March 13, 2022—Melikset Hovakimyan, he is survived by his beloved wife Mareta Nazaryan, son Armen Hovakimyan, daughters Lusine Gragoossians & Ovsanna Hovakimyan.



MAY GOD REST THEIR SOULS IN PEACE



Palm Sunday Champagne Brunch

**New Revised
Date**



*April 10 - Following Church Services
Haig Berberian Hall
Hosted by St. Paul Ladies Society*

Prices:

Adults - \$25 & Children 11 yrs and younger - \$10
Reservation Deadline is April 3

Menu:

Soujook and Eggs, French Toast Casserole, Ham, Tri-Tip Roast, Pilaf, Yalanchi, Cheese Boreg,
Torshi, Salads, Choreg and Cheese, Fruit, Dessert, Mimosas, Ice Tea, Coffee

(Cut and include with payment)

Name/Last Name _____ Phone _____

Reserve _____ Tickets \$25 per adult
Reserve _____ Tickets \$10 per child 11 yrs and younger

My payment for a total of \$ _____ is enclosed

Make checks payable to St. Paul Ladies Society
Seating by reserved tables of eight. We would like to be seated with the following people:

NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR

Mail to:

Palm Sunday Champagne Brunch
St. Paul Armenian Church - 3767 N. First St. Fresno, CA 93726

St. Paul Armenian Church JR. ACYO

**invites you on Easter Sunday April 17
following Badarak in the courtyard for**



Easter Bunny—Easter Photo Booth
Music—Egg Cracking—Face Painting
Popcorn and Cotton Candy Machine

Easter Baskets, Choreg and Simit
will be available for purchase.

For questions contact Erik Barsegian at 559-269-3592



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Hosted by Sevag Tateosian and airing on **CMAC**
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