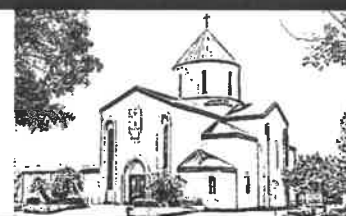


DAJAR SUKUR

Monthly Newsletter of St. Paul Armenian Church

February 2025 Volume 85 No. 2

Fr. Yessai Bedros, Parish Priest



The Stone Cutter

There was once a stone cutter who was dissatisfied with himself and with his position in life. One day he passed a wealthy merchant's house. Through the open gateway, he saw many fine possessions and important visitors. "How powerful that merchant must be!" thought the stone cutter. He became very envious and wished that he could be like the merchant. To his great surprise, he suddenly became the merchant, enjoying more luxuries and power than he had ever imagined, but envied and detested by those less wealthy than himself. Soon a high official passed by, carried in a sedan chair, accompanied by attendants and escorted by soldiers beating gongs. Everyone, no matter how wealthy, had to bow low before the procession. "How powerful that official is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be a high official!" Then he became the high official, carried everywhere in his embroidered sedan chair, feared and hated by the people all around. It was a hot summer day, so the official felt very uncomfortable in the sticky sedan chair. He looked up at the sun. It shone proudly in the sky, unaffected by his presence. "How powerful the sun is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be the sun!" Then he became the sun, shining fiercely down on everyone, scorching the fields, cursed by the farmers and laborers. But a huge black cloud moved between him and the earth, so that his light could no longer shine on everything below. "How powerful that storm cloud is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be a cloud!"

Then he became the cloud, flooding the fields and villages, shouted at by everyone. But soon he found that he was being pushed away by some great force, and realized that it was the wind. "How powerful it is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be the wind!"

Then he became the wind, blowing tiles off the roofs of houses, uprooting trees, feared and hated by all below him. But after a while, he ran up against something that would not move, no matter how forcefully he blew against it - a huge, towering rock. "How powerful that rock is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be a rock!"

Then he became the rock, more powerful than anything else on earth. But as he stood there, he heard the sound of a hammer pounding a chisel into the hard surface, and felt himself being changed. "What could be more powerful than I, the rock?" he thought.

He looked down and saw far below him the figure of a stone cutter.

Author Unknown

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR CHURCH

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Saturday School: Margarit Dumanyan
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Athletics: Tim Kuckenbaker
559-470-3306 tim_kbaker@gmail.com

Choir: Roza Pashayan
559-307-1035

Avaks: Dn. Allan Jendian
559-313-7483 ayjendian@gmail.com

K.E.F. (Keeping. Everyone. Faithful.)
559-226-6343 stpaul.kefclub@gmail.com

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info@stpaulfresno.com

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Morning Services - 9:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy - 10:00 a.m.

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FACEBOOK / INSTAGRAM

News from our parish



Sunday, February 2 will be the Annual Parish Assembly. All eligible members should have received the annual Assembly Book with information for the Assembly, and we encourage your participation. To be eligible to participate in the Assembly, you must have paid your annual dues by December 31, 2024. If you are unable to participate in person, an option to participate via Zoom is available.

The Annual Parish Assembly will include the discussion of strategic planning that we will be undertaking to help plan for the future of our Parish, as well as financial and facility issues and our annual elections. This year we will be electing five members to the Parish Council; as outgoing members Charles Garabedian, Anton Kismetian, and Jeanette Migirian have completed their terms on the council and Jeff Markarian and Vartush Mesropyan are running for re-election.

Thank you to everyone who attended the annual Jurakalouyts (Christmas Eve) Dinner on Sunday, January 5. We had a large increase in attendance this year with close to 200 people enjoying one of our Parish's most popular events. Many thanks to Yeretsgin Vartine and her committee for all of your hard work and making this annual event so successful!

On Saturday, March 1st, the ACYO Juniors will be hosting a Poon Paregentan dinner and dance at the Haig Berberian Hall. This will be a great celebration as we prepare to enter the Lenten season. Tickets can be purchased on Sundays after church or by calling (559) 290-6474.

Annual statements of contributions will be mailed that will list your contributions to the Church in 2024. Please keep this information with your income tax records, and contact the church office if you have any questions or note any errors on your annual contribution statement.

Upon receiving your 2025 Pledge Form, we urge you to complete and return it to the Church at your earliest convenience as the annual pledge forms help us to plan the Church finances for the year.



LADIES SOCIETY

Love is in the air; we love our Ladies at St. Paul Armenian Church! We are hardworking and fun loving and always want to get the “Job” done. This month is special because we are hosting our Men’s Forum for a fun evening at the “Fair” on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., at the St. Paul Haig Berberian Hall. Our monthly dinner will be transformed to an enchanting evening with ‘The Front Line-Barber Shop Quartet’ and a delicious dinner of specialties you might find at the Fair! Be sure to join us with your friends and family for a delightful evening. The cost is \$20/person and you can call Diane Messerlian for your reservations at 559-301-2515 or email her at dianerose09@yahoo.com.

Also, please be sure to make your reservations to join us for our annual “Sip, Savor, and Shop” event coming up soon (see attached flyer). You won’t want to miss our fun activities!

If you have any questions or would like to become a member of The Ladies Society, please contact Darlene at 559-301-8027. We’ll see you in church!

Men’s Forum

The new year for Men’s Forum began with over thirty members and guests on hand for the first Dinner-Meeting of the year on the evening of Wednesday, January 15, at the St. Paul Minor Hall. Those fortunate enough to attend enjoyed a delicious beef kebab dinner provided by The Ark Mediterranean Grill. For the second time in three years, our Secretary-Treasurer, Jeff Markarian, C.P.A., provided an informative program regarding changes in the new tax law and planning for personal financial retirement. Jeff was assisted by Anton Kismetian, who coordinated the on-screen display graphics for the presentation. A question and answer session followed from an appreciative audience.

For the month of February, there will not be a regularly scheduled Dinner-Meeting. Instead, Forum members will be invited by the Ladies Society to share in a special Pre-Valentine’s Day event to be held on Wednesday evening, Feb. 12, at the St. Paul Haig Berberian Hall. This promises to be a fun event as Chairlady, Darlene Chardukian, and her committee are planning a special ‘picnic-style’ dinner, featuring Polish Sausage hot dogs, chili, chips, three salads (potato, macaroni, and broccoli), apple pie, and root beer floats. Entertainment will be provided by the ‘Front Line Barber Shop Quartet’ of Fresno. An announcement flyer will be forthcoming.

We strongly encourage our members to attend the Sunday, Feb. 2, Annual St. Paul Parish Assembly, following the Sunday Badarak and luncheon. There will be important ideas and plans to be discussed that will impact the future of the St. Paul Armenian Church Parish.

Senior ACYO

“Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we ask you to pray for us. Pray that the Lord’s message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes, just as when it came to you.” 2 Thessalonians 3:1

Happy beginning of the year everyone! The Senior ACYO will hold their next general meeting on February 9, 2025 following Badarak. Please feel free to join us and bring any new ideas you are interested in for future Senior ACYO activities.

***If you have any questions or would like to join Senior ACYO, please contact Mariam Iskenyan, at (559) 776-7404 or Der Yessai at (559) 691-7931 or by Instagram @st.paul_acyo.**

Junior ACYO

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.” Exodus 20:12

We thank God for keeping our families and members safe! For the month of January, several of our members attended the ACYO Convention 2025 at Holy Apostles Tujunga. We presented our achievements throughout last year and our goals for the new year. We all had a great time and cannot wait until Convention 2026.

During this time, we also planned, and now are happy to announce, St. Paul ACYO Juniors Poon Paregentan Dinner and Dance on March 1st, 2025. More information regarding tickets and time are posted on our social media. We will also have a ticket booth during Fellowship and if you are unable to join us there, you can always call (559)290-6474. We can’t wait to see you there!

If you are interested in joining St. Paul Junior ACYO, our next meeting will be on February 16, 2025, and you are welcome to join us after church! If you have any questions regarding St. Paul Juniors ACYO, please contact our Chairman Keghart Bedros at (559)290-6474 or stpauljuniors@gmail.com! Follow us on Instagram: [st.paul_acyo](#) and Facebook: Fresno Acyo!

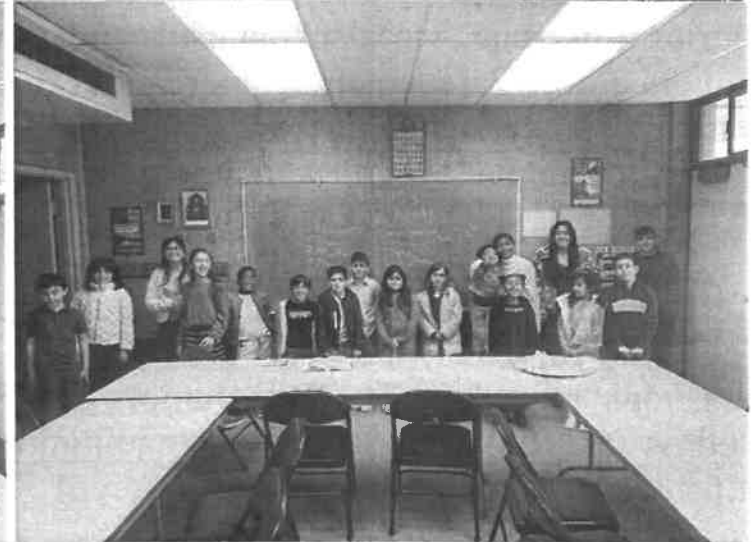


Sunday School would like to thank all parents and students for the wonderful Nativity play on January 5th! We also want to say thanks to everyone for bringing the kids and participating/supporting our Sunday School program! Special thanks to the families that helped to bring goodies for Fellowship for both Sunday School and Junior ACYO!

We will continue assembly and class lessons in February and then begin Lent on March 3rd.

Many Thanks!

Superintendent Anton and Teachers Maral, Marina, and Darlene



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

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Following Families:**

12-30-2024 - Resmik Danielyan - survived by family & friends.

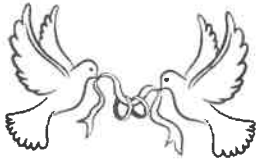
MAY GOD REST THEIR SOULS IN PEACE



Baptism

January 5, 2025 - Levon Sargsyan, Aida Sargsyan & Khachik Monte Sargsyan: Received the Sacraments of Baptism. Congratulations to the parents, Arman & Satenik Papikian -Sargsyan and the entire Sargsyan and Papikian families.

Congratulations on this wonderful milestone!



Wedding

Congratulations to **Narek Khatchikian & Sara Beberian** who were married on Saturday, January 18, 2025.

We congratulate their parents, Garo & Noune Khatchikian, Gregory & Tracy Beberian and the entire Khatchikian and Beberian families.

May the Lord continue to bless them and their loved ones as they start their new journey of life together.



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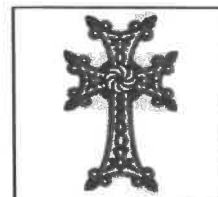
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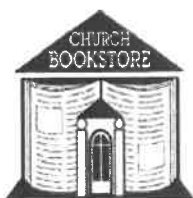
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