



## St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church

Sunday, January 8, 2012

Morning Service 10:00 AM    Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM

Today's Readings from the Holy Scripture

Պօղոս Առաքելի Կողմէ Եբրայեցիներուն Գրուած Նամակէն (13:18-25)

Յիսուս Քրիստոսի Աւետարանէն Ըստ Ղուկասի (22:24-30)

Hebrews 1:1-12

The Gospel According to: Matthew 2:13-23



*“Set your affection on things above, not on things on earth...”*

*COLOSSIANS 3:2 KJV*

**S. Տարգմանիկոսի Կրօնական, Տաղա**

**Rev. Fr. Daron Stepanian, Pastor**

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**St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church**

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Fr. Daron's E-mail address: [hayrig@yahoo.com](mailto:hayrig@yahoo.com)

St. Sarkis's Website: <http://www.saintsarkis.org>

**Pastor Emeritus**  
Archpriest Dr. Gorun Shrikian

**Altar Servers**  
*Deacons:* Manouk Derovakimian & Antranig Karadolian

*Sub Deacon:* Dr. Jeff Noroyan

*Stole Bearer:* Aaron Broglin, Tommy Gerjekian & Khatchig Kafafian

*Acolytes:* Kegham Tazian

*Bible Reader:* Yervant Bedikian

**Choir Master**  
Navasart Mardoyan

**Organists**  
Helen Membreian Movsesian  
Nancy Der Stepanian

*“I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.”*  
*I CORINTHIANS 14:15*



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**Ողջոյն Ա. Պատարագի – Voghchooyn Soorp Badaraki – The Kiss of Peace**

Քրիստոս ի մէջ մեր յայտնեցաւ - Օրհնեալ է յայտնութիւնն Քրիստոսի  
“*Krisdos ee méch mér haydnetsav. - Orhnyal é haydnootyoonun Krisdosi.*”  
“Christ is revealed among us. - Blessed is the revelation of Christ.”



## Hebrews 1:1-12

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom also He made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So He became as much superior to the angels as the name He has inherited is superior to theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are My Son; today I have become Your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be My Son"? And again, when God brings His firstborn into the world, He says, "Let all God's angels worship Him."

In speaking of the angels He says, "He makes His angels spirits, and His servants flames of fire." But about the Son He says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, Your God, has set you above Your companions by anointing You with the oil of joy." He also says, "In the beginning, Lord, You laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But You remain the same, and Your years will never end."

## Matthew 2:13-23

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the Child and His mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the Child to kill Him."

So he got up, took the child and His mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the Child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the Child's life are dead." So he got up, took the Child and His mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that He would be called a Nazarene.



### **Saints and Feasts of the Week**

Second Day of the Nativity	January 7 <sup>th</sup>
Eighth Day of the Nativity and Naming of Our Lord Jesus Christ	January 13 <sup>th</sup>
Birth of St. John the Forerunner	January 14 <sup>th</sup>

"Let us hold the holy Mother of God and all the Saints as intercessors with the Father in Heaven, that He may be pleased to have mercy and compassion on us, His creatures, and save us, Almighty Lord, our God, save us and have mercy on us."

*The Divine Liturgy*



**Հոդեհանդիսս – HOKEHANKISD**

**HARRY M. KALAJIAN**                      **40 DAYS**  
Sarkis & Virginia Kojian and Family  
Ann & Krikor Krikorian  
Albert & Geno Sarkisian

**HAIG GRIGORIAN**                      **40 DAYS**  
Areknza Karian-Mudge

**GARY SOLAKIAN**                      **40 DAYS**  
Cheryl Solakian & Nicole  
Alice Solakian  
Chris & Michelle Solakian  
Laura, Steve & Alison McKenery  
Violet & Marty Madrien  
Mark Dirasian & Patricia Dirasian  
Erica & Craig Mason  
Phyl & Charles Karibian  
Karla & Mike Darragh and Family  
Dona Karibian  
Dorothy Kachadourian  
John Arpajian & Lisa Arpajian  
Mary Mardoian  
Mitch & Rose Kehetian  
Grace & John Kulegian  
Janet & Michael Haroian  
Karen Kehetian  
Randy & Sharon Broglin and Family  
Peter & Anne Sirian and Family  
Aram & Violet Gavoor

**ALICE ALTOUNIAN**                      **1 YEAR**  
Lew & Sharon Smith  
Seta & Anahid Mesrobian

**ANDREW ALTOUNIAN**                      **16 YEARS**

**ALICE ALTOUNIAN**                      **1 YEAR**  
James, Shirley & Lauren Bruno

**ROBERT PARSAGHIAN**  
Mrs. Mary Parsaghian  
Paul & Diane Changelian and Family  
Garry, Patti & Gregory Javizian

**Altar Candles**

Altar candles are lit in memory of husband and brother Harry Kalajian by wife Vaughn Kalajian & family and sister Virginia Kojian & family.

**Coffee Hour**

Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by Mitch & Rose Kehetian, in loving memory of Gary Solakian.



OAKLAND COMMUNITY CHORUS PRESENTS

**George Frederic Handel's**

**Messiah**

**Frederic DeHaven**, Conductor; Orchestra and Guest Soloists

**Saturday, January 14, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Armenian Congregational Church** ■ 26210 W. Twelve Mile Road ■ Southfield, MI 48034

**Call church office to R.S.V.P: 248.352.0680**



## **GLORY TO YOUR REVELATION, LORD**

During these joyful holidays, the greatest commemoration is God's revelation to humankind through the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. God's love with His perfection and warmth brought us closer to God; God visited us so His pure and graceful love would become contagious and spread to those who are human beings like us. We no longer ask, "Who is my neighbor?" (Luke 19:29); the revelation of Jesus, our God, once and for all established the commandment that we must express our love of God by loving our neighbor.

God's revelation was the greatest news the world received since the creation up to the birth of Jesus. It was greater than any discovery or invention by humans, incomparable and even unfathomable to the human mind and comprehension. Currently in our everyday lives we enjoy using new inventions and concepts that are introduced. The true Christian regards these to be the manifestation of the creative spirit given to them by God; the same strength with which God created the universe and humans. He gave to us His grace enabling us to continue his creation in this world. All wisdom and power belong to Him. God gave that power to humans so that on the eighth day of creation humans should make worthy the grace and power that belong to God and which weave the glory of God. It is with this understanding that we must look at our own creation in the "likeness of God" (Genesis 1:26). We must praise God; give Him our thanks for His boundless creative power and for his good grace.

On the occasion of the birth and revelation of Christ, when the celebrations bring spiritual joy to all of us, it is necessary to reflect on what God gave us with His revelation. Was it an ordinary visit that ended with His ascension, or a new way of life that is an inseparable part of our nature, from our birth until our unification with Him in the Kingdom prepared for Christians?

First, God revealed to us His love. The Apostle John very clearly defines God's nature when he says, "God is love," (1 John 4:8). That is the embodiment of Supreme Power. God was incarnated so that Christians would be like Him and find the way and the secret that leads to the road to humanity's deification. We will find that road when we honor that commandment—the first and greatest—that Christ reminded us of: "Love your Lord God with all your heart and soul, with your entire mind, all your power" (Mark 12:30-31). The second command is a continuation: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Only then will we be filled with the grace that will make us God-like.

Second, God's revelation to humankind is a reminder of the freedom He gave to us. It is a freedom that raises humans above mere mechanical created beings, and who are able to recognize and select that which leads to the road worthy of salvation. Freedom is not anarchy, but rather it is that condition when by respecting others we can cleanse our souls, especially by remaining free of the chains of sin, and the threat of the death of the soul. The first man, Adam, was unable to utilize this freedom in its proper manner. The opposite of freedom is disobedience to God's will. Freedom's reward is eternal life, while the wages of disobedience and sinfulness is death (Romans 6:23). Christ was revealed to give us life, abundant life (John 10:10).

Third, trust in God's intervention and role in our lives. Humility and modesty are expected virtues of Christians and prods us to attribute all our discoveries and inventions to God's wisdom—His image that is within us. Otherwise, arrogance and boasting distance us from that feeling of modesty, and instead of recognizing God as the source of our grace, talent and ability, we attribute our accomplishments solely to ourselves, only to our skill and ability, and our material brain. Self-confidence in human ability, and modern-day humanism and secularism, has greatly distanced us from God. They have removed us from the spiritual inner world of faith. Creating new idols on stages and screens turn us bankrupt of moral and family values and holiness. As Christians we cannot perceive the world, and their new invention, without recognizing God's will and power. As Christians we cannot attribute purely to our own ability the things we create, invent, and discover, since for Christians the source of everything is God Himself. The revelation of Christ reminds us of God's eternal presence, accomplishment, and ability. Christians cannot forget that they bear the image of God that was given to them when God formed man of dust from the ground, and gave His breath of life, creating a living being, a creative being (Genesis 2:7).

On the occasion of the great holy day of God's revelation, let us praise our Lord's graceful visitation—His revelation from the modest manger. May His grace spread into our homes so that we will be strengthened in His love, emancipated from sin, and be worthy of our freedom.

Christ is Born and Revealed.

Glory to Your Revelation, Lord.

ARCHBISHOP OSHAGAN, Prelate  
Armenian Apostolic Church of America  
Eastern Prelacy

## HOME BLESSING: A POWERFUL ARMENIAN TRADITION



The home is not blessed to make it holy since all that God created is good and holy. It is rather for the purpose of dedication or rededication, a reminder that the home reflects the Kingdom.

Decades ago in Armenian villages, the *dzookh*--which has come to be the word for "parish" but which literally means "smoke"--was defined by groups of chimneys or homes. In this way two or three village priests would divide the care of the flock in a town. They would bless the homes of families in their jurisdiction.

Traditional times of the year for Armenian homes to be blessed are Eastertide (the fifty days following Easter). Christmastide (until February 14, The Feast of the Presentation), and after having moved into a new home. A rich and evocative blessing, the *Dnorhnek* has practically fallen into disuse along with many other blessing rituals, chiefly because the world is no longer popularly perceived as sacred and in need of repeated prayer and anointing.

This perception is indeed perplexing considering that there has arguably never been a time when God's blessings were more needed!

At a home blessing, every member of the dwelling assembles with the priest to sanctify together four life-giving gifts.

### Bread



Bread is blessed as a potent symbol of God's greatest gift offered back to him in the form of a humble loaf. The staff of life is the vital spiritual food of Holy Communion, where it represents the ultimate convergence of the sacred and the profane. *"This is the bread which came down from heaven... whoever eats this bread shall live forever"* (John 6:58)

### Water

The symbol of chaos out of which God created the world is also essential to life. God drew forth life from the formless waters (Genesis I); we ourselves float in a liquid womb; without water we quickly perish; and in the water or baptism we are *"washed clean."* die to sin, and are born in Christ.



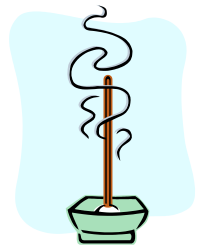
### Salt



Salt is an important, universal household staple. Salt seasons and purifies. *"You shall present (rams) before the Lord, and the priest shall sprinkle salt upon them and offer them to the Lord as a burnt offering"* (Ezekiel 43:24). A newborn baby in biblical times would be rubbed with salt. Christ called His disciples the *"salt of the earth."*

### Incense

Incense is an ancient symbol of prayers rising to God as well as of the individual soul burning with the love of God. *"May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice"* (Psalm 141: 2).



### Nushkhar

It is a custom in some communities for the priest to bring with him a *nushkhar*, the round flat wafer of blessed bread stamped with a crucifix or plain cross and designs of grapes and wheat. Traditionally, this is placed in a container where salt, rice, wheat or flour (or other household staples) is stored as a symbol of the presence of God's blessing.

The Armenian home blessing service gathers these gifts and all who live in the home to be cleansed, blessed, and bestowed the protection of the Cross-, of the Word (Scripture) and of the Holy Trinity. In this beautiful ritual, *"Old things pass away; behold, all things become new"* (2 Corinthians 5: 17).

**ORGANIST**

The Board of Trustees is seeking an organist who will play on Sundays during the Divine Liturgy. We do pay a stipend and are looking for someone who can play either full time or part time. If you are interested, or know of someone who is, please contact any Board of Trustee member, Der Hayr or the church secretary at 313-336-6200.

Pastor and Board of Trustees

**REMINDER**

Please be advised that donations (checks or cash) in the Sunday collection baskets are considered as Plate Gifts. Parishioners who want their donations tracked are kindly asked to use an envelope and specify their gift.

Pastor & Board of Trustees

**CANDLES**

Dear Parishioners,  
When lighting candles for your loved ones, please be mindful of the cost and make your donations accordingly.

Pastor & Board of Trustees

**VISITS TO THE SICK**

If someone in your family is ill, at home, in a hospital or a nursing home, please call the church office or the pastor, Rev. Fr. Daron Stepanian to schedule a spiritual visit.

**A SPIRITUAL VISIT**

If you would like a visit by your spiritual father, please call the church office or the pastor, Rev. Fr. Daron Stepanian to schedule a visit.

**HOME BLESSING**

If you would like to have your home blessed, please call the church office or the pastor, Rev. Fr. Daron Stepanian to schedule the visit.

**GRAVE BLESSING**

If you would like to have a grave blessing for your deceased, please call the church office or the pastor, Rev. Fr. Daron Stepanian to schedule.

**Office: 313-336-6200 / Cell: 313-673-7997**

**† DAILY READINGS †**

<b>J A N U A R Y</b>	<b>9</b>	Galatians 4:1-7; Luke 1:26-38
	<b>10</b>	Hebrews 12:18-27; Luke 1:39-56
	<b>11</b>	1 Thessalonians 4:12-17; John 11:1-46
	<b>12</b>	Romans 1:1-7; Luke 2:1-7
	<b>13</b>	Colossians 2:8-15; Luke 2:21
	<b>14</b>	Proverbs 8:4-11; Malachi 4:5-7; Isaiah 40:3-5; Acts 13:25-33; Luke 1:57-80