

✠ DAILY READINGS ✠

A P R I L	15	<b>Great Monday</b> <b>Morning:</b> Matthew 21:18-22:14 <b>Evening:</b> Genesis 1:1-3:24; Proverbs 1:1-9; Isaiah 40:1-8; Matthew 20:17-28
	16	<b>Great Tuesday</b> <b>Morning:</b> Mark 12:13-44 <b>Evening:</b> Genesis 6:9-9:17; Proverbs 9:1-10:6; Isaiah 40:9-17; Matthew 24:1-26:2
	17	<b>Great Wednesday</b> <b>Morning:</b> Mark 14:1-11 <b>Evening:</b> Genesis 18:1-19:30; Proverbs 1:10-19; Zechariah 11:11-14; Matthew 26:3-16
	18	<b>Great Thursday</b> <b>Morning:</b> John 12:27-43 <b>Office of Penitents:</b> Isaiah 60:20-22; Ezekiel 36:24-31; Hebrews 10:19-31; Luke 7:36-50 <b>Holy Eucharist:</b> Genesis 22:1-18; Isaiah 61:1-7; Acts 1:15-26; Mark 14:1-26; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32; Matthew 26:17-30 <b>Washing of the Feet:</b> Exodus 30:17-21; 1 Kings 7:38-40; 2 Chronicles 4:2-6; Isaiah 44:2-6; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4; 1 John 4:7-21; John 13:1-11; John 13:12-15
	19	<b>Great Friday</b> <b>Passion:</b> John 13:16-18:1; Luke 22:1-65; Mark 14:27-72; Matthew 26:31-56; Matthew 26:47-75; John 18:2-27; John 18:28-19:16 <b>Crucifixion:</b> Zechariah 11:11-14; Galatians 6:14-18; Isaiah 3:9-15; Philippians 2:5-11; Isaiah 50:4-9; Romans 5:6-11; Amos 8:9-12; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 2:11-18; Matthew 27:1-56; Isaiah 63:1-6; Hebrews 9:11-28; Mark 15:1-41; Jeremiah 11:18-12:8; Hebrews 10:19-31; Luke 22:66-23:49; Zechariah 14:5-11; 1 Timothy 6:13-16; John 19:17-37 <b>Burial:</b> Jeremiah 11:18-12:8; Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Wisdom 2:122; Zechariah 12:8-14; 1 Peter 3:17-20; Matthew 27:57-61
	20	<b>Great Saturday - Easter Eve</b> <b>Morning:</b> Matthew 27:62-66 <b>Easter Eve:</b> Genesis 1:1-3:24; Genesis 22:1-18; Exodus 12:1-24; Jonah 1:1-4:11; Exodus 13:24-15:21; Isaiah 60:1-13; Job 38:1-28; Joshua 1:1-9; 2 Kings 2:1-22; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Daniel 3:1-90. <b>Divine Liturgy:</b> 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Matthew 28:1-20.



## St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church

April 14, 2019

### Ծաղկազարդ - Palm Sunday

Morning Service 9:15 am      Divine Liturgy 10:15 am

Տ. Հրանդ Քհնյ. Գեորգեան, Հովիւ  
Rev. Fr. Hrant Kevorkian, Pastor

Godfather of the Opening of the Portal - Michael Kurkechian

19300 Ford Road, Dearborn, MI 48128

Phone: 313.336.6200

Church e-mail address: office@saintsarkis.org

St. Sarkis website: www.saintsarkis.org

After hours or in case of emergency please contact Der Hrant on his  
cell phone 857.318.9799.

**Today's Readings from the Holy Scripture**  
**The Epistle of St. Paul to the Philippians 4:4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**The Holy Gospel According to Matthew 20:29-21:17**

As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed Him. And two blind men sitting by the road, hearing that Jesus was passing by, cried out, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!"

The crowd sternly told them to be quiet, but they cried out all the more, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"

And Jesus stopped and called them, and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Lord, we want our eyes to be opened." Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes; and immediately they regained their sight and followed Him.

When they had approached Jerusalem and had come to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied there and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to Me. 'If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them.'" This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: 'Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold your king is coming to you, gentle and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" The disciples went and did just as Jesus had instructed them, and brought the donkey and the colt, and laid their coats on them; and He sat on the coats. Most of the crowd spread their coats in the road, and others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in the road.

The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest!"

When He had entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, "Who is this?" And the crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee."

And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves. And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer'; but you are making it a robber's den." And the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.

But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that He had done, and the children who were shouting in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became indignant and said to Him, "Do You hear what these children are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself?'" And He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

***Upcoming events— (please see e-news for more details)***

Palm Sunday, April 14	After church service. Palm Sunday Luncheon Saint Sarkis Ladies' Guild.
Palm Sunday, April 14	ARS Zabel Chapter Easter Basket sale.
Palm Sunday, April 14	After church service. Homenetmen bake sale.
Friday, April 19	After church service. Good Friday Fish Dinner. Sponsored by ARS Maro Chapter.
Easter Sunday, April 21	Easter Sunday. Fellowship Hour sponsored by Homenetmen.
Easter Sunday, April 21	After church service. ARS Maro Chapter choreg sale.
Wednesday, April 24	1:30 pm. Der Hrant provides the Invocation on the Michigan State House Floor in Lansing.
Wednesday, April 24	7:00 pm. Genocide Commemoration. Service at Saint Sarkis Armenian Church. Organized by the four Armenian churches of greater Detroit.
Saturday, April 27	Genocide Commemoration. Sponsored by the ACC of Detroit.
Sunday, April 28	After church service. St. Sarkis Sunday School Pancake Breakfast.
Saturday, May 4	7:30 pm. AYF Jrs. May Dance 2019. Lillian Arakelian Hall.
Sunday, May 5	1:00 pm. Hamazkayin presentation of Letter to Yerevan.
Friday, May 10	5:30 pm. Paint and Pour - a Mothers' Day Celebration sponsored by the ARS Sybille Chapter.
Saturday, May 11	ARS Tzolg Chapter 40th Annual Gala with Armenchik.
Monday, May 13	Take a Trip Back in Time to Zone 9. Bus Tour of the old Armenian neighborhood in Detroit. Sponsored by the St. Sarkis Ladies' Guild.
Sunday, July 28	Khanasor Picnic.
Saturday, August 10	Armenian Tigers Fan Night. Detroit Tigers vs. Kansas City Royals.
Saturday, October 18	Anniversary Gala celebrating 50 years of AGBU Alex and Marie Manoogian School.

Upcoming liturgical calendar	
April 14	Ծաղկազարդ. Palm Sunday.
April 20	Ճրագալոյս. Easter Eve.
April 21	Սուրբ Չափիկ. Easter Sunday.
April 22	Յիշատակ Մեռելոց. Remembrance of the Dead.
April 24	Հայկական Յեղասպանութեան Սուրբերու Տօն. Feast of the Armenian Holy Martyrs.
May 30	Համբարձում Ascension.
June 9	Հոգեգալուստ. Pentecost.

The Church office will be closed on Monday, April 22, In observance of the Easter Holiday.

In case of emergency, please contact Der Hrant on his cell phone at 857-318-9799.



**St. Sarkis Church Ladies' Guild**

**Palm Sunday DINNER**

**Sunday, April 14, 2019**

**1:00 p.m.**

**Lillian Arakelian Fellowship Hall**

**Adults: \$30.00**  
**Children (Ages 4 to 12): \$10.00**  
**Children: 3 and Under Free**

*Activities for the Kids*

**Special Performances by**



*Harry Hovakimian*  
Violinist



*Ani Patterson*  
Vocalist

**For reservations please call:**  
**Maria Arman 248. 706.9150**  
**Violet Gavoor 734. 464.3283**  
**or e-mail:**  
**ladiesguild@saintsarkis.org**

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE**  
**NO LATER THAN APRIL 8TH**

**Պօղոս Առաքեալի կողմէ Փիղիպպեցիներուն ԳրտածՆամակէն (4:4-7)**

Միշտ ուրախ եղէք Տիրոջմով դարձեալ կ'ըսեմ ուրախ եղէք: Բոլորին Հանդէպ աղփիս եղէք: Հուսով Տէրը կուգայ: Ուե՛հ բան թող չմտահոգէ ձեզ այլ միշտ ձեր աղօթքներուն եւ աղաչանքներուն մէջ գոհունակ սիրտով Աստուծով խնդրեցէք ինչ բանի որ կարիքը կը զգաք, եւ այն աստէն Աստուծոյ խաղաղութիւնը, որ միտքով կարելի չէ Հասկնալ, խաղաղ պիտի պահէ ձեր սիրտերն ու միտքերը, որոնք Քրիստոս Յիսուսի միացած են:

**Յիսուս Քրիստոսի Աւետարանէն Հաւ Մատթեոսի (20:29-21: 17)**

Երբ Յիսուս եւ իր աշակերտները Երիքովէն դուրս կ'ելլէին, մեծ բաղմունքին մը Հետեւեցաւ իրեն: Ճամբու եզերքին նստած երկու կոյրեր, երբ լսեցին որ Յիսուս կ'անցնի, սկսան աղաղակել:

-Ողորմէ՛ մեզի, Յիսուս, Դաւիթի՛ որդի:

-Ժողովուրդը սաստեց զանոնք որ լռեն, բայց անոնք աւելի բարձր ձայնով շարունակեցին աղաղակել:

-Ողորմէ՛ մեզի, Տէր, Դաւիթի՛ Որդի:

Յիսուս կանգ առաւ, իր մօտ կանչեց կոյրերը եւ Հարցուց.

-Ի՞նչ կ'ուզէք որ ընեմ ձեզի:

Անոնք պատասխանեցին.

-Տէր, թող մեր աչքերը բացուին:

Յիսուս գլխաց եւ անոնց աչքերուն դպաւ: Կոյրերը անմիջապէս սկսան տեսնել եւ Հետեւեցան Յիսուսի:

Երբ Երուսաղէմի մօտեցան եւ Հասան Բեթփաղէ, Չիթնեաց լեռան կողին, Յիսուս իր աշակերտներէն երկուքը դրկեց անոնց պատուիրելով.

-Գացէք սա դիմացի գիւղը եւ անմիջապէս Հոն կապուած է՛ք մը պիտի գտնէք իր աւանակին Հետ. քակեցէք եւ ինծի բերէք: Եւ եթէ մէկը առարկէ, ըսէք. «Տէրը պէտք ո՛ւնի», եւ անմիջապէս թող պիտի տայ ձեզի:

Ասիկա պատահեցաւ, որպէսզի իրականանայ ինչ որ «Տէրը ըսած էր մարգարէին բերանով»- «Երուսաղէմի ըսէք»-

Ահա թագաւորդ կուգայ. անիկա Հեզ է, նստած իշու մը աւանակին վրայ»:

Աշակերտները գացին եւ կատարեցին ինչ որ Յիսուս պատուիրեց իրենց: Բերին է՛ն ու աւանակը եւ իրենց վերարկունները անոնց վրայ դրին: Ապա Յիսուս նստաւ աւանակին վրայ: Ժողովուրդէն շատեր իրենց վերարկունները կը փռէին ճամբուն վրայ, ուրիշներ ծառերէն ոտներ կը կտրէին եւ կը տարածէին ճամբուն վրայ: Եւ ամբողջ բաղմունքինը, որ թափորին մէջ Յիսուսի առջեւէն կ'երթար կամ կը Հետեւէր իրեն, կ'աղաղակէր.

«Օրհնութիւն Դաւիթի Որդիին, օրհնեալ է ան՝ որ կուգայ Տիրոջ անունով: Օրհնութիւն Բարձրեալին»:

Երբ Յիսուս Երուսաղէմ մտաւ, ամբողջ քաղաքը դրդուեցաւ:

-Ո՛վ է ասիկա,- կը Հարցնէին քաղաքի բնակիչներուն:

Եւ ամբողջ կը պատասխանէր.

-Ասիկա Յիսուս մարգարէն է, Գալիլեայի Նազարէթ քաղաքէն:

Ապա Յիսուս տաճար մտաւ եւ դուրս վընտեց բոլոր անոնք, որոնք տաճարին շրջափակին մէջ առուծախ կ'ընէին. լուսնայափոխներուն սեղանները եւ աղանձեղաններուն աթոռները շրջեց եւ ըսաւ անոնց.

-Սուրբ գիրքերուն մէջ գրուած է. «Իմ տունս աղօթքի տուն պիտի կոչուի», մինչ դուք զայն աւազակներու որջի վերածած էք:

Տաճարին մէջ Յիսուսի մօտեցան կոյրեր ու կաղեր, եւ անիկա բժշկեց զանոնք:

Երբ աւագ քահանաները եւ Օրէնքի ուսուցիչները տեսան Յիսուսի կատարած հրաշքները եւ լսեցին աղաղակը մանուկներուն, որոնք տաճարին մէջ կը գոչէին.

«Օրհնութիւն Դաւիթի Որդիին», բարկացան եւ Յիսուսի ըսին.

-Կը լսէ՞ս ինչ կ'ըսեն ասոնք:

Յիսուս պատասխանեց.

-Այո, չէ՛ք կարգացած Սուրբ գիրքին սա խօսքը, թէ «Մանուկներու եւ կաթնկեր երեխաներու բերնով գովեստ Հիւսեցիր»:

Ապա Յիսուս զանոնք ձգելով քաղաքէն դուրս ելաւ՝ դէպի Բեթանին, եւ Հոն գիշերեց:

## Աւագ Շաբթուայ Ժամանակացոյց Ծաղկազարդի Կիրակի, Ապրիլ 14, 2019

Սուրբ Պատարագ .....Ժամը 10:00-ին  
Դոնքացեք .....Ժամը 11:45-ին  
Թափօր ..... Ժամը 12:15-ին

### Աւագ Երեքշաբթի, Ապրիլ 16, 2019

Տաաք Կուսանաց.....Ժամը 7:00-ին

### Աւագ Հինգշաբթի, Ապրիլ 18, 2019

Սուրբ Պատարագ .....Ժամը 5:00-ին  
Ոտնլուայ .....Ժամը 6:30-ին  
Խաւարում .....Ժամը 8:00-ին

### Աւագ Ուրբաթ, Ապրիլ 19, 2019

Կարգ Թաղման .....Ժամը 6:00-ին

### Աւագ Շաբաթ, Ապրիլ 20, 2019

Ընթերցուած Դանիէլ Մարգարէէն.....Ժամը 6:00-ին  
Ճրագալոյցի Ս. Պատարագ .....Ժամը 7:00-ին

### Յարութեան Զատիկ, Ապրիլ 21, 2019

Ժամերգութիւն .....Ժամը 9:15-ին  
Սուրբ Պատարագ .....Ժամը 10:00-ին

Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական Եկեղեցւոյ սովորութեան համաձայն,  
Քահանան տարին երկու անգամ Տունի Օրհնութիւն կը կատարէ, առաջինը՝  
Սուրբ Ծննդեան առթիւ, իսկ երկրորդը՝ Յարութեան Զատիկի առթիւ: Եթէ կը  
փափաքիք Քահանան այցելէ ձեզ եւ Տիրոջ Օրհնութիւնները բերէ ձեր տան՝  
անդամներուն, հացին, աղին եւ ջուրին վրայ, յաճեցէք հետաձայնել եւ  
ժամադրուիլ Տէր Հօր հետ:

On Great Thursday the Washing of the Feet is sponsored by  
Garabed and Hasmig Arslanian  
in honor of their grandchildren.

ՅԱՅ



Requiem service is not held on Palm Sunday or  
Easter Sunday. If you'd like to schedule prayers  
for the souls of your deceased loved ones, please  
contact the church  
office at 313-336-6200.



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A special offering plate will be passed in church this Sunday. This  
collection will be donated to the families of the fallen heroes of  
Artsakh, and to the reconstruction fund of Artsakh.  
Please donate generously.

ՅԱՅ



This Sunday Homenetmen is having a bake sale  
after church service in the lobby.  
Please do help support the Armenian youth by  
purchasing their delicious baked goods.

ՅԱՅ

This Sunday the ARS Zabel Chapter will be  
selling beautiful Easter Baskets after church in the  
office lobby. Please stop by and purchase a  
basket for the little one in your life and also help  
support another of our fine organizations in their  
fundraising.





«ՔՐԻՍՏՈՍ ՅԱՐԵԱՒ Ի ՄԵՌԵԼՈՑ,  
ՕՐՀՆԵԱԼ Է ՅԱՐՈՒԹԻՒՆՆ ՔՐԻՍՏՈՍԻ»

Միրելի Սուրբ Սարգիս Եկեղեցւոյ Ընտանիք՝

Անգամ մը եւս հասած ենք Ս. Յարութեան օրհնաբեր տօնին եւ  
ահաւասիկ բոլորիս առջեւ կը բացուի Բողոքինի Գանձանակը, որուն  
հասոյթը հին օրերուն կ'օգտագործուէր իւր գնելու՝ եկեղեցւոյ  
լապտերները վառ պահելու համար:

Ինչպէս բոլորս գիտենք, Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական Եկեղեցւոյ  
պահապանը միշտ եղած է ժողովուրդը ի նք: Ըլլա՛յ բարոյական,  
ըլլա՛յ տնտեսական գետնի վրայ, մեր ժողովուրդին շնորհիւ է որ  
այսօր Հայ Եկեղեցին իր կարեւոր ներդրումը կը բերէ իր բոլոր  
զաւակներուն: Առանց մեր ժողովուրդին գործօն մասնակցութեան  
եկեղեցւոյ կեանքին մէջ, այսօր եկեղեցին գոյութիւն պիտի չունենար:  
Ահաւասիկ առիթ մը՝ մեր առատաձեռնութիւնը ցուցաբերելու Ս.  
Սարգիս Եկեղեցւոյ առաւել պայծառացման ի խնդիր:

ՀՈՎԻԻ ԵՒ ՀՈԳԱԲԱՐՁՈՒԹԻՒՆ

**CHRIST IS RISEN!  
BLESSED IS THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST!**

Dear St. Sarkis Church family,

Once again we have come upon Holy Easter. As such, we are all invited to  
participate in the *Yughakin Offering*. *Yughakin* means "price of the oil." Many  
centuries ago, individuals made donations, in order to buy the oil necessary to  
maintain the lanterns in the local Armenian Churches.

As we all know, the keeper of the Armenian Apostolic Church has always  
been the people themselves. Whether the support is moral or financial, it is  
because of our people that the Armenian Church brings its important  
contribution to the lives of all of its children. Without our people's active  
participation in the life of the Church, we would have no church. So here we  
are, afforded another opportunity to show our generosity for the purpose of  
fostering the development of St. Sarkis Church.

PASTOR & BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## Religious Calendar for Palm Sunday the Holy Week and Holy Easter

### Palm Sunday, April 14, 2019

Divine Liturgy .....	10:00 a.m.
Service of <i>Terenpatsek</i> (Opening of the Portal) .....	11:45 a.m.
Great Procession .....	12:15 p.m.

### Holy Tuesday, April 16, 2019

Feast of the Ten Virgins .....	7:00 p.m.
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### Maundy Thursday, April 18, 2019

Divine Liturgy .....	5:00 p.m.
Washing of the Feet .....	6:30 p.m.
Tenebrae ( <i>Khavaroum</i> ) .....	8:00 p.m.

### Good Friday, April 19, 2019

Service of Entombment .....	6:00 p.m.
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### Holy Saturday, April 20, 2019

Reading of Scriptures .....	6:00 p.m.
Easter Eve Divine Liturgy .....	7:00 p.m.

### Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019

Morning Service .....	9:15 a.m.
Divine Liturgy .....	10:00 a.m.

Home Blessing is a tradition in the Armenian Church which is done twice a year: after  
Christmas and after Easter. During this visit, the Clergy would have the opportunity to  
personally congratulate the family on the feast and bring the blessings of God to the  
home, to the family members, to the bread, to the salt, and to the water of the house. If  
you wish to have your home blessed during the Easter season, please contact Rev. Fr.  
Hrant Kevorkian for an appointment at 857-318-9799.

## **HOLY WEEK IN THE ARMENIAN ORTHODOX TRADITION**

### **- Your Guide to Holy Week -**

From the very beginnings of the Christian Church, observations of the defining moment of world history, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, have had their place within the faith life and liturgical tradition of the Orthodox believers. Beginning as a weekly commemoration of that day's events and a Eucharistic gathering in his memory on Sunday or "The Lord's Day" (Kyriaki in Greek or Giragi in Armenian), by the fourth century developed into a yearly one also, commemorating all the events surrounding the last week of Christ's life on earth. Here is a brief summary of the Week as it is observed today in the Armenian Orthodox Church:

#### **REMEMBRANCE of the RESURRECTION OF LAZARUS**

The Gospel of John recounts how six days before the Feast of Passover, Jesus raised his friend Lazarus from the dead, in order to reveal God's unsurpassed glory and his compassion for all mankind. The Church sees this as a prefiguring of Christ's own resurrection and of the cleansing and renewal of all human beings through it. In the Eastern Tradition, the Saturday before Palm Sunday is referred to as "Lazarus Saturday," as the resurrection of Lazarus is commemorated this day.

#### **PALM SUNDAY**

Commemorated by Orthodox faithful as the Feast of the Triumphant Entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, Dzaghgazart ("decorated with flowers") is a dear and beloved feast day to the Armenian people. On that day we celebrate not the arrival of a triumphant, earthly king into Jerusalem (after all, the same people that hailed His entry would call for His death just a few days later), but of our heavenly king and bridegroom, come to invite all believers into the wedding banquet with Him. Following the solemn Divine Liturgy, during which palm branches are waved by the faithful, the Rite of the Opening of Gates (Tûrrnpatsék), performed from within and without the doors of the church, mystically foreshadows our joyful entry into the heavenly kingdom to which all believers are invited by Jesus Christ.

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Later in the evening the Rite of Burial (Gark Taghman) is also performed, this being also one of the more beloved services of the Armenian people. During this service a "tomb" is draped in black and decorated with candles and flowers, which the people bring as an offering to the crucified Lord of glory. During this service, a very beautiful and haunting rendition of the hymn "Soorp Asdvadz" is sung. The Worship of the Cross is performed once again, while kneeling. At the end of the service, the faithful are invited to approach and venerate the tomb, and to receive a flower. Truly, one should not miss out on this most moving service!

#### **GREAT & HOLY SATURDAY**

On Holy Saturday, in the evening, the Vigil Office of Lighting of Lamps (Jûrakalooyts) commences at sundown, the entry into Easter Sunday. During this service of scripture lessons, the faithful hear the prophecies, prescriptions proud heralding of Christ's resurrection. The crossing of the Israelites through the Red Sea, the taking up of Elijah in the Chariot of Fire, the story of Jonah the Prophet and the salvation of the Three Young Men in the Fiery Furnace are all among those readings which foreshadow mankind's salvation, the victory over death and the destruction of hell brought about by Christ's resurrection. The vigil readings give way immediately into the Vigil Divine Liturgy, the first to be celebrated in triumphant commemoration of Jesus' resurrection from among the dead. Here we first hear the joyous and life giving proclamation "Christ is risen from among the dead!"

#### **HOLY PASCHA**

On this day, the entire world rings out with the proclamation "Christ is risen from among the dead!" The faithful gather for solemn Divine Liturgy, bring the good news to all through their joy. After the Liturgy, it is customary to crack eggs and eat choreg made with the blessed butter from Holy Thursday. The celebration of Holy Pascha (Soorp Zadig) continues every day for forty days, and in light of the promises it brings, the faithful should attend church frequently during that time!

#### **PASCHA MONDAY/ REMEMBRANCE OF THE DEAD**

As with all the other major feast days of the Armenian Church calendar, the Second Day of Holy Pascha is set aside to honor and remember all the departed faithful. This is traditionally done by performing Divine Liturgy and Requiem service, and by blessing graves in the cemetery.

Prepared by Rev. Ft. Stepan Baljian, North Andover, Massachusetts.

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During this service, twelve young men beautifully portray the Apostles while the celebrant portrays Christ himself, taking off His outer robe and washing their feet as a sign of humility and servitude. During this time also, olive oil is blessed and used for the anointing of feet. The faithful are given a portion of this oil to bring to their homes at the conclusion of the service. Undoubtedly the most spiritually compelling and moving of all the Armenian Church's services is that of Tenebrae (Khavaroom), which is the festal vigil (Nocturnes & Matins) for Good Friday (liturgically part of Good Friday, but in actuality performed late on Holy Thursday). During this service, we keep vigil along with the Apostles, who did so while Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. They are represented by twelve candlesticks placed on the altar. During the vigil portion, six Gospel readings are read while interspersed with Psalms and hymns. Following each Gospel lesson, the candles are extinguished two by two, until the whole church is left in darkness. Then is sung a most beautiful and haunting poetic ode (dagh) about the sufferings of Christ, entitled "Where are you, my mother?" (Oor és mayr im). Customarily, during the reading of each Gospel lesson the faithful tie one or two knots on a string, which they will later tie around their wrist or bedpost, keeping the blessings of the Gospel with them until the Feast of the Ascension Christ forty days after Easter. At the conclusion of the service, the Worship of the Holy Cross (Khachi Ko Krisdos Yérgirbakanémk) is conducted on bended knee. Traditionally, Armenians have always attended Khavaroom in large numbers, with the seeming attitude "the longer and the later, the better!" While indeed, this important vigil service in many places throughout the world can be of great length, lasting into the late hours of the night, for practical purposes we have condensed much of it to a more suitable length.

#### **GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY**

Good Friday (as it is called in the West) commemorates the crucifixion and burial of Christ. In the afternoon, the Rite of Crucifixion (Gark Khachélootyán), a service of Psalms, hymns and readings commemorating the crucifixion, final hours and final sayings of Christ, is performed. The Worship of the Holy Cross is performed once again, but this time with all standing, as there is no liturgical kneeling allowed on Good Friday during the daytime.

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#### **GREAT & HOLY TUESDAY**

Each day of Holy Week commemorates a certain aspect of Christ's last days on earth following His entry into Jerusalem and prior to His death and resurrection, as they are recorded in the Gospels. Holy Monday commemorates the Withering of the Fig Tree by the side of the road (Matt. 21:18-22), Holy Wednesday the Anointing of Jesus at the house of Simon (Matt. 26:6-13). Yet, a most beloved tradition in the Armenian Church is Holy Tuesday's commemoration of Jesus' telling of the Parable of the Ten Virgins in the context of His discourse on the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the present age. He describes the heavenly kingdom as being like ten bridesmaids waiting with trimmed lanterns for a bridegroom, five being wise and five being foolish. The five wise bridesmaids brought along extra lamp oil to the wedding, figuring the bridegroom may be late in arriving. The foolish bridesmaids did not, and while they went out to buy more, the bridegroom arrived and took the five wise bridesmaids into the wedding banquet with him. During Vespers on this day, ten young girls bearing lit candles depict the Church as the wise and ready bridesmaids, while the faithful hear the scripture readings about God's plan to bring about an era of a renewed and sanctified earth by abolition of the present corrupt one.

#### **GREAT & HOLY THURSDAY**

Holy or "Maundy" (French mon + Dieu, "my Lord") Thursday is possibly the most significant day of the Christian Church's calendar, perhaps even more so than Easter Sunday or Christmas Day, at least judging by liturgical substance. It is, beyond a doubt the longest and weightiest liturgical day of the year, one very close to the hearts of the Armenian people throughout the centuries, and one that even in the time of Egeria the faithful waited for with great anticipation. Holy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper, passion and betrayal of our Lord. The central feature of Holy Thursday is the Holy Eucharist in commemoration of the Last Supper. Because of this, it also historically became the day when the penitents (those with an imposed excommunication because of a serious sin or crime) would officially be received back into good standing. Eventually, this extended to all members of the Church, and what evolved was a special service for this (Gark Abashkharoghats) performed in the morning. Following the Holy Eucharist of the Last Supper and communion of all the faithful is the Rite of Washing of Feet (Vodûnlûva). During this service, twelve young men beautifully portray the Apostles while the celebrant portrays Christ himself, taking off His outer robe and washing their feet as a sign of humility and servitude.

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