

## HOME BLESSING: A POWERFUL ARMENIAN TRADITION

The blessing of the home is an Armenian tradition, associated with the holy days of the year. The purpose of this blessing is for the dedication or re-dedication, a reminder that the home reflects the Kingdom of God and is good and sacred.

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 soon after moving into a new home.

During this rich and evocative blessing, "the *Dnorhnek*", every member of the dwelling assembles with the priest to sanctify together four life-giving gifts.

**Bread and Nushkhar** are blessed as a potent symbol of God's greatest gift offered back to Him in the form of a humble loaf. The essential component 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).

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.



**Water** is the substance of which God created the world. It is also essential to life. God drew forth life from the formless waters (Genesis 1); we ourselves float in a liquid womb without which we quickly perish. In water or baptism we are "*washed clean*"; die in sin; and are born in Christ.

**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** 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).

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).

Հայոց Հայրապետական Կրօնական Կենտրոն



### St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church

January 6, 2020

### Feast of the Theophany and Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ

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Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Celebrant: Rev. Fr. Hrant Kevorkian, Pastor  
Godfather of the Cross: Berj Ourlian

19300 Ford Road, Dearborn, MI 48128  
Phone: 313.336.6200

Church e-mail address: [office@saintsarkis.org](mailto:office@saintsarkis.org)

St. Sarkis website: [www.saintsarkis.org](http://www.saintsarkis.org)

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

## The Epistle of Paul to Titus 2:11-15

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

## The Holy Gospel According to Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Home Blessing is a tradition in the Armenian Church which is done two times through the year, the first is after Christmas and the second is 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 on Christmas, please contact Rev. Fr. Hrant Kevorkian for an appointment on 857-318-9799.

## Պօլոս Առաքեալի Կտրվէ Տիտոսի Գրուած Նամակէն (2:1-15)

Որովհետեւ Աստուած իր շնորհքը յայտնեց՝ որպէսզի բոլոր մարդիկ փրկուին: Այդ շնորհքը մեզ կը մղէ որ անհաւատ կենցաղէ եւ աշխարհիկ ցանկութիւններէ հեռանանք, զճաստութեամբ, արդարութեամբ ու բարեպաշտութեամբ ապրինք այս աշխարհի մէջ, եւ յոյսով սպասենք այն երջանիկ օրուան, երբ մեր մեծ Աստուածն ու փրկիչը՝ Յիսուս Քրիստոս իր փառքով պիտի յայտնուի: Որովհետեւ քրիստոս իր անձը տուաւ մեզի համար, եւ մեզ մաքրելով իր սեփական ժողովուրդը դարձնէ, բարի •ործերու նախանձախնդիր:

Այս բաները սորվեցուր Հաւատացեալներու: Քաջալերէ զանոնք եւ ի հարկին յանդիմանէ հեղինակութիւնդ •ործածելով, այնպէս որ ոեւէ մէկը քեզ չարհամարհէ:

## Յիսուս Քրիստոսի Աւտարանէն Հաւ Մատթեոսի (1:18-25)

Այսպէս պատահեցաւ Յիսուս Քրիստոսի ծնունդը: Իր մայրը՝ Մարիամ, նշանուած էր Յովսէփի հետ, սակայն նախ քան ամուսնութիւնը Մարիամ յղի մնաց Սուրբ Հոփէն:

Յովսէփ անոր նշանածը արդար մարդ մը ըլլալուն չուզեց հանրութեան առջեւ խայտառակել զայն, այլ խորհեցաւ ըւելան ետ ընել իրենց նշանախօսութիւնը: Մինչ այս մասին կը մտածէր, ահա Տիրոջ Հրեշտակը երազի մը մէջ երեցաւ իրեն եւ ըսաւ.

Յովսէփ, Դաւիթի որդի, մի վախնար ամուսնանալու նշանածիդ՝ Մարիամի հետ, որովհետեւ իր մէջ յղացուածը Սուրբ Հոփէն է: Որդի մը պիտի ծնի եւ զայն պիտի կոչես Յիսուս, որովհետեւ անիկա իր ժողովուրդը իրենց մեղքերէն պիտի փրկէ:

Այս բոլորը պատահեցան, որպէսզի կատարուի այն ինչ որ Տէրը ըսաւ Եսայի մարտիրէին միջոցաւ.-

«Ահա կոյսը պիտի յղանայ եւ որդի մը ծնի, եւ զայն պիտի կոչեն Էմմանուէլ», որ կը նշանակէ Աստուած մեզի հետ:

Երբ Յովսէփ արթնցաւ, կատարեց ինչ որ Տիրոջ Հրեշտակը հրամայեց իրեն եւ ամուսնացաւ իր նշանածին՝ Մարիամին հետ. բայց չբարբերեցաւ անոր հետ, մինչեւ որ անդրանիկ զաւակը ծնաւ, եւ զայն Յիսուս կոչեց:

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 հեռաձայնել եւ ժամադրուիլ Տէր Հօր հետ:



Our heartfelt gratitude to all the following parishioners  
who contributed toward maintaining the  
tradition

of beautifying the sanctuary with Poinsettias  
during this holiday season.

Also many thanks to Rose Gerjekian for  
organizing this fundraising.

**Armenian Renaissance Association**

Khoren and Seta Achekian,  
Harout, Mano

Ned and Aroxie Apigian

George Arakelian

Shirley Avakian

In memory of Ardavast Avakian

Yervant and Mary Bedikian

Anthony and Roupina Carman,

Nayri, Vaughn

In memory of Ramela Carman

Virginia "Miss Dee" Deovletian

Armen Ektebaryan and Silva

Shiklanian

In memory of Hagop and Araxie

Shiklanian and Aram Ektebaryan

Violet Gavoor

In memory of Sonny Gavoor

Narses and Alice Gedigian

Jerry and Sandy Gerjekian

Karen Goulasarian

In memory of Shoushig Abrahamian

Kari Guido

In memory of Mike Guido and

Edwad and Margie Arvanigian

Lucy Gurganian

In memory of George Gurganian

**Susie Hadjirian**

In memory of Hovhanes and Rima  
Kizilian

Harold and Laura Sirabian

In memory of Neshan Sirabian,

Satanig Sirabian, Harry Sirabian,

Doris Sirabian.

The Kamar Family

Hachig and Christine Kazarian

Mitch and Rose Kehetian

Kaiser and Marguerite Krekorian

Dick and Rose Maloian

Ann Michaelian

In memory of Ara Michaelian and

Lori Michaelian Janigian

Alice Mouradian

Jeff and Lorig Noroyan

J.R. and Alice Patrick

In memory of Hovsep and Zabel

Panosian

Albert and Geno Sarkisian

Peter and Anne Sirian

Sally Tarpinian

Kegham Tazian

Terry and Anita Granger

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