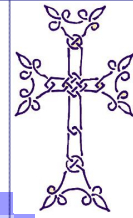


*Today, please take a moment to remember in your prayers
Isabel Vartanian, Pam Little, Margaret Butler, Isabelle
Vranian, Annie Bickers, Katie Ralcewicz
(for healing and continued improvement),
as well as all the sick and recovering members
of our community.
May God touch his faithful servants with His healing hand,
and grant them a good health & recovery.*



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ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH

834 PEPPER AVENUE, RICHMOND, VA 23226

REV. FR. MESROB HOVSEPYAN, PASTOR

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St. James Sunday Bulletin

Welcome to St. James Armenian Church!

Witnessing through faith, heritage, and hospitality.

*The morning service starts at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays
and is followed by Badarak (Divine Liturgy) at 10:30 a.m.*

Today's Scripture Readings



Isaiah 65:22-25. Galatians 6:14-18. Matthew 24:30-36

September 28, 2014

Գ ԿԻՐԱԿԷ ԶԱՆԻ Ս. ԽԱՇԻ: ՏՈՒ ՎԱՐԱԶԱՅ ՍՐԲՈՂ ԽԱՇԻՆ
Third Sunday after the Holy Cross:
Feast of the Holy Cross of Varak

*Today's Altar flowers are donated to the glory of God
in loving memory of Evgenia Mkrtchan
by Karapetyan Family.*



Holy Cross monastery of Varag, in Van

**Armenian Church
Hye-Q**

*A game of questions
and answers to hone
your knowledge in:*

B Bible
PW Prayer & Worship
CY Church Year
S Sacraments
HS History and Saints
OW In Other Words

B Matthew and Revelation
PW The Synaxis and the Holy Sacrifice (*Eucharist*)
CY Assumption of the Holy Mother of God, *Verapok-hoomun*
S Every seven years
HS Sepastea
OW *Heen Gdagaran*

Requiem Service was requested for the soul of:

Evgenia Mkrtchan

By: Karen & Nouneh Karapetyan & family

May God rest her souls in His eternal peace and presence...

ՏՈՒ ՎԱՐԱԳԱՂ ՍՈՒՐԻ ԽԱՅԻ Feast of the Holy Cross of Varak

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Cross of Varak. The Cross of Varak takes its name after a mountain named Varak in Van, in the province of Vasbouragan, in the heartland of historic Armenia, today in Eastern Turkey (Asia Minor).

The Cross of Varak is a relic of our Lord's wooden Cross, upon which He was crucified and which was discovered on Mt. Varak in the 7th century, where the relic was concealed, earlier, in the 4th century, by St. Hripsimeh, the young virgin or nun. She hid this holy relic of the Cross in a crevice of a rock on Mt. Varak to keep it safe from her persecutors while she was fleeing with her companions from the advances of the Emperor of the Roman Empire, Diocletion.

The Cross remained hidden among the rocks of Mt. Varak for 300 years. Tradition tells us that in the year 650 A.D. a hermit named Thodik, while praying on Mt. Varak, saw a vision of a luminous Cross with light radiating around it; this luminous vision indicated to him the place where the Cross was hidden; and thus the relic of the true Cross was discovered miraculously, hence the name "the Cross of Varak."

The Catholicos of the time, St. Nersess the Builder, hastened to Mt. Varak and verified the authenticity of the miracle of the relic and proclaimed the discovery of the true Cross of Christ as a feast day, naming it the Holy Cross of Varak. This is the historical sketch of the feast. As you see, the Holy Cross of Varak is genuinely an Armenian feast day dedicated to the Holy Cross of Christ.

In a symbolic way it is the Cross of the Armenian people. No other church has any nationalized feast day of the Cross. Later the Monastery of Varak was built on that spot and became a great center of learning and cultural activity, until the time of the Genocide.

B Name the first and last books of the New Testament.

PW What are the two major parts of the Liturgy?

CY Name the feast dedicated to St. Mary which is one of the five major feast days of the Armenian Church.

S How often is holy muron prepared?

HS In what city were 40 soldiers martyred?

OW What is the Armenian word for the Old Testament?

PARTICIPATING IN THE DIVINE LITURGY

WHEN TO MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS: The sign of the cross is made when entering the Church and these occasions during the Divine Liturgy: (1) after each instance of bowing; (2) when doxology (*Park Hor...*), that is to say, "Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" is being said or sung; (3) when the Sacred name of our Lord is being solemnly invoked (*Heessos Krisdos*); (4) at the beginning of the reading of the Gospel; (5) when peace or blessing is being offered by the priest with the words "Peace unto all" (*Khaghaghootune Amenetsoon*); (6) when the priest or deacon swing the censor toward your direction; (7) when the sacred and the central words of the Divine Liturgy are being spoken ("Take, eat, this is My Body..." and "Drink you all, this is My Blood."); (8) when receiving Holy communion; and (9) when kissing the Gospel and leaving the Church.

Response when Kissing the Cross (during the procession):

The faithful say:

Hee-shes-cheer yev zeez a-rra-chee an-mah Karinn As-doo-dzo.

Remember me before the immortal Lamb of God.

The priest says:

Hee-shyal lee-cheer a-rra-chee an-mah ka-rinn As-doo-dzo.

You shall be remembered before the immortal Lamb of God.

Response for the Kiss of Peace: The Giver says:

Christ is revealed amongst us. / *Kreesdos ee mech mer haydnetsav.*

The Receiver says:

Blessed is the revelation of Christ. / *Orhnyal eh haydootyoonun Kreesdosee.*

Response when kissing the Holy Gospel (end of the Divine Liturgy):

The faithful say:

Heeshestzeh Der zamenaym Badarakus koh.

May the Lord remember all your offerings.

The Priest answers:

Datseh kez Der usd srdee koom yev zamenayn khorhoortus koh ee parees na gadarsestseh.

May the Lord grant you according to your own heart, and fulfill all your counsel in goodness. (Psalm 20:4)

When taking *Mahs*, the Giver says:

Mahs yev pazheen yegheet-see kez ee Soorp Badarakes.

Մաս եւ բաժին եղիցի քեզ ի Սուրբ Պատարագէս:

May this be to you a share and portion of the Holy Sacrifice.

The Receiver says:

Pahjeen eem Asdvadz haveedyan. / God is my portion forever.

comes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away till all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.”

And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. And he said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another, commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”



Calendar of Upcoming Events

<i>Today</i>	First Day of Armenian/Sunday School. Farewell Badarak by Der Mesrob Hovsepyan at the conclusion of his Pastorate at St. James
<i>October 9, Thursday</i>	AVAK Fall Harvest Luncheon, church hall 12:00 pm
<i>October 25, Saturday</i>	ARS Casino Night at the Wellesley Community Center on Lauderdale Road, benefiting the Armenian-Syrian Relief Fund and other ARS projects around the world.
<i>November 2, Sunday</i>	Divine Liturgy: Guest celebrant Rev. Fr. Arshen Aivazian
<i>November 6, Thursday</i>	AVAK BINGO Luncheon, church hall 12:00 pm
<i>November 16, Sunday</i>	Divine Liturgy: Guest celebrant Rev. Fr. Arshen Aivazian Women's Guild: Book presentation by an Armenian Author, Nancy Krikorian immediately after the service.
<i>December 6, Saturday</i>	Women's Guild Christmas Party <i>details to follow</i>
<i>December 11, Thursday</i>	AVAK Christmas Luncheon, church hall 12:00 pm
<i>December 14, Sunday</i>	Divine Liturgy: Guest celebrant Rev. Fr. Mambre Kouzouian

It is time for “Farewell”

Dear parishioners and friends,

The month of September was the time to turn the final page of the chapter of my pastoral ministry here at St. James.

For the past seven years, driven by my love for the Lord, commitment to witnessing to His Gospel and serving His people through the Armenian Church, I worked together with the Parish Council and its various auxiliaries, to continue building up a community bonded in its Armenian traditions and united in Christian faith. We shared together the joys of Baptisms as children and adults became the members of our church; we cheered together celebrating the creation of new families in the sacrament of Matrimony; we mourned together as we bid farewell to beloved members of our community. All these and the countless events bonded us as a family of believers in Christ.

It takes more people than the priest to keep the church active and vibrant. Our parish is blessed to have so many faithful parishioners who continue to give generously their time, talent, and treasures for continued growth of our parish. While it would be difficult to mention each person who has contributed in some capacity to our parish's continued growth and success, I wish to acknowledge and extend my thanks to all the organizations and committee members who led the various church organizations and everyone who helped us create educational, social, and spiritual events.

You all remind me of the words of St. Paul, “I always give thanks to my God for you” (1 Cor. 1:4).

As I move on to my next assignment in the vineyard of the Lord, it is my prayer that St. James continues its fruitful journey on the path of the Lord in the Greater Richmond area with the constant support of all the community members. Rest assured you will remain in my prayers, and I hope we will remain in your prayers as well. No matter how far we may be from each other, know that I will be just a phone call away. We will continue being united in prayer and communion with the Lord.

I pray for God's blessing upon each of you and your families. May God bless you.

Farewell!

*Truly yours in Christ,
Rev. Fr. Mesrob Hovsepian*

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

**The reading is from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians
(6:14 18)**

But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God.

Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (24:30 36)

Our Lord Jesus Christ says:

“Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory; and he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch be-