

Today instead of the sermon the **Encyclical/Kondak of His Holiness Karekin II** will be read on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Adana massacres in all the parishes of the Armenian Church.

An **encyclical** was originally a circular letter sent to all the churches of a particular area in the ancient Christian church. At that time, the word could be used for a letter sent out by any bishop. The word comes from Latin encycilia meaning "general" or "encircling", which is also the origin of the word "encyclopedia". The Armenian Church generally only uses this term for the Encyclicals/Kondaks of the Catholicos of all Armenians which conveys the message on His Holiness Karekin II to all the parishioners of the Armenian Church.

We would like to THANK Servart Zurnacian for sewing the new Cross on the curtain. Also, for donating the flowers for the Burial Service on Holy Friday and for the Eastern Luncheon.



Our THANKS also to Ann Markarian, Joyce Soghoian, and Pam Little for donating the Easter Lilies.

Der Hayr and Yn. Ruzanna  
joyfully invite You to share with them  
the Christening of their daughter

**NARÉ HOVSEPYAN**

today after Badarak.

Godparents: Karen and Nouné Karapetian.

All are welcome for light lunch after the ceremony.

**Home Blessing** is a beautiful tradition of the Armenian Church which is performed on different occasions: on the Nativity and Holy Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ as well as on the occasion of moving to a new home.

Schedule your Easter Home Blessing with Der Hayr by calling the church office or (804) 405-9399.



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ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH

834 PEPPER AVENUE, RICHMOND, VA 23226

REV. FR. MESROB HOVSEPYAN, PASTOR

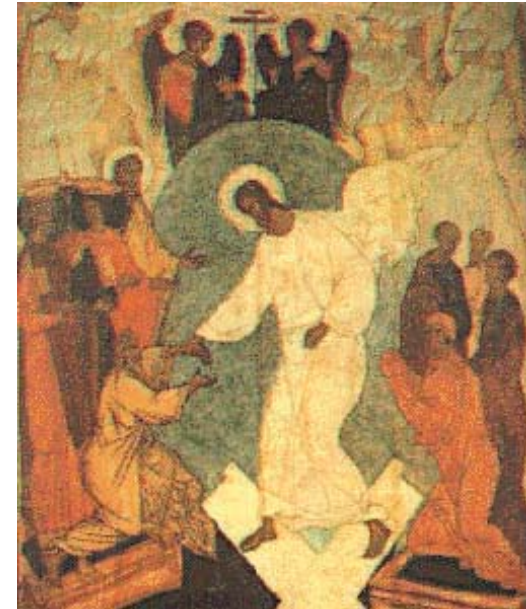
## St. James Sunday Bulletin

Welcome to St. James Armenian Church!

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

April 19, 2009

Ո. ՕՐ ԶԱՏԿԻ: ԿՐԿՆԱՉԱՏԻԿ (Նոր Կիրակի)  
Eight Day after Easter. New Sunday (Octave of Easter)



Requiem Service was requested for the souls of:

Arshalouse Garabedian

By Hasmig Schein, Christine and Alex

The victims of Adana Massacres (100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

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

**ՏՆՕՐՀՆԷՔ**  
**HOME BLESSING**

From the earliest times, the home was a sacred place, the hearth, the center of family and ritual life. It is the most basic of all social structures, where we are born and live many years, a place where great family events transpire. Here we break bread, share joys and sorrows, pray, celebrate, worship. Here God is present in the loving relationships that transcend fragile human existence. Family love is all-accepting, all-forgiving and lasts a life time, reflecting - however partially - the abundant love of God. Every family is a miniature of a “Little Church—Ecclesia” and in this “Little Church” the inexhaustible love and the very generous blessing of God permeate.

According to the sacred traditions of the Armenian Church, God’s blessing is asked for homes on different occasions, like on the Nativity and the Resurrection of Christ, as well as on the joyous occasion of moving into a new home. 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. For Home Blessing the priest takes with him wafer (nushkhar) and incense. He blesses the bread (which symbolically represents the Word of God), the water (which is the most essential element of life and figuratively represents cleanness) and the salt (which seasons and purifies). These three fundamental elements are essential life-giving gifts for human life. The priest asks from the Omnipotent God not to lessen these three gifts without which life would be impossible.

The priest places also the wafer (nushkhar) stamped with a crucifix on the tray which symbolizes the presence of Christ in the home. The members of the family can either distribute the wafer among themselves or keep it in a jar along with flour, salt or rice.

During Home Blessing it is customary to burn incense which symbolizes the burning of our souls with our Lord’s love. In the prayer the priest then asks for purity and abundance of the three gifts, blesses the home and all its dwellers, and asks God to keep them away from visible and invisible enemies, and protect them under His powerful right hand, granting them health of soul and body.

Today, more than ever, we need the presence and blessing of the Lord in our homes and lives. The revival of this centuries old custom will certainly bring us close to our Lord. Family members are encouraged to take part in the ceremony to make it more meaningful.

**This week's Armenian words:**

|          |          |         |
|----------|----------|---------|
| Tadasdan | Դատաստան | Jugment |
| Hatz     | Հաց      | Bread   |
| Choor    | Ջուր     | Water   |
| Agh      | Աղ       | Salt    |
| Khoong   | Խոնկ     | Incense |

# Calendar of Upcoming Events

- April 22, Wednesday** Trip to Washington, DC. ANCA’s Annual Armenian Genocide Observance on Capitol Hill. For details call Melanie Kerneklian (804) 784-4002 or Florence Soghoian (804) 266-3770.
- April 23 & 24** National Public Radio (88.9) will broadcast the 94th anniversary commemoration announcement throughout each day.
- April 24, Friday** 7:00 p.m. The Education Center invites you to special Ecumenical Requiem Service for the repose of souls of the individual family members who were victims of the 1915 Genocide.
- April 26, Sunday** Batarak and Hokehankist for victims of the Armenian Genocide as well as of all the genocides of the 20th century. Following Sunday's church service and a light lunch, Taniel Koushakjian, Director of Grassroots for the Armenian Assembly of America and Nick Bazarian will be the guest speakers.
- May 8, Friday** 6:30 p.m. Spring Dance. RSVP by May 5.
- May 17, Sunday** Women's Guild General Meeting.
- June 6, Saturday** Women’s Guild will host a guest speaker Rev. Ginna Dalton (details will follow).
- June 14, Sunday** **SUB-DIACONATE ORDINATION: His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese** will be ordaining two of our church’s acolytes to the order of subdiaconate: Johnny Chadoian and Kevork Ozbalik, who have been faithfully serving at the altar, granting them special privileges and the right to wear the deacon’s stole (*ourar*). Lunch will be served after the service, RSVP by June 8<sup>th</sup> (*details will follow*).



**Today's Scripture Readings**

**Acts 5:34-6:7, James 3:1-12, John 1:1-17.**

**PRAYER REQUEST:**

*Please make your prayers for the quick recovery of Nubar Ozbalik who had surgery during the last week. As well as for all those who need our prayers in difficult moments of their life.*