

AVEDIS ԱԻԵՏԻՍ

St. Hagop Armenian Church

The Good News | Summer 2025

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On Church Growth

Pastor's Desk: The Shoe Must Never Tell the Foot How Big it Should Grow

As St. Hagop Church continues to grow slowly and steadily in numbers, I have been reflecting on a bit of wisdom from church growth guru Rick Warren; 'The shoe must never tell the foot how big it should grow.' It seems obvious that church growth is not totally in our hands, but often we don't act like it's true. We the leaders of this church talk a lot about church growth at our monthly parish council meetings, and our entire Diocese deliberates on it annually at our annual assemblies, which St. Hagop's delegation recently returned from. These are always important conversations to have, as long as we remember that 'the shoe must never tell the foot how big it should grow.' In planning for church growth, our growth, we must always remember that growth is never a direct goal in Christian life, but only the indirect result of something greater still.

All of the reading for the seven Sundays of Eastertide are from the book of Acts, and outline beautifully how the early church came together after Jesus' Easter resurrection. But it is only in the very last words of the last assigned passage, after nine chapters of dogged faith, conflict and divine intervention that we read the humble words 'it (the church) increased in numbers;' almost as if an afterthought.

It seems that in the early church, and arguably in all healthy churches since then, growth is the last thing that happens, always a result of something else. What is growth a result of? Well that's in the same passage from Acts, but easy to overlook because it's so simple; and seems to have little to do with church growth. The writer of Acts says that the new church increased in numbers by 'Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit.' If you are looking for a ten step recipe for church growth, that's not what we have here. What we do have is the belief that numerical church growth is only a result of spiritual growth, the capacity of individuals and communities to believe. Somehow there is an intimacy with God, a fear and comfort, a tough love, which first increases the presence of God within us, and only then results in an increase of numbers around us.

So what does it mean to live in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit? Well let's start with the harder one, fear of the Lord. Living in fear of the Lord is a tough idea for modern people to accept. If God is a loving God, why do we need to be afraid of Him? And why would it ever be a positive virtue to be afraid of anyone or anything? Be that as it may, the truth is that we modern people tend to be afraid of a lot of things. We fear not having enough resources and that others will steal away our lifestyle. We are afraid we will not measure up to the standards of others. We are afraid of getting old, of sickness and of death. These fears have always existed, but somehow our modern post-religious society seems to be defenseless against them. Our faith says that this is no coincidence. It seems that when people no longer fear God, they begin to fear everything. That's because, as our scriptures remind us, fear has one proper object and that should be God. If we just fear falling short of our special calling from our awesome God, we will fear nothing else.

This priority for and focus on God is the first step in an 'increase in numbers' as a parish, Diocese and world church, but it is not the last. Once we deepen our commitment to God, we find that our ways are not his ways. Try as we might to increase our own personal faith and the numbers of faithful in our church-and try we must-we still can accomplish nothing on our own. And indeed, God has not left us alone, but with a powerful force for life and good which fills in whatever is lacking within us and around us. This powerful force is the Holy Spirit which Jesus promised to his disciples and to us. 'And I will pray the Father,' says Jesus, 'and he will give you another helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.' (Jn 14:16-17) In this way, we are not only aimed in fear and faith toward God, we rely on his power to bring us close to Him. This may make our church great in numbers, but it will certainly make it great in the eyes of God; and thereby blessed.

I suppose our ancestors knew about the fear of God and the comfort of the Holy Spirit as the formula for true growth. The Holy Translators would have translated the Proverb; 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,' (Pr 9:10) as one of their first texts. And surely our ancestors knew very early on that the honorific 'first Christian nation,' had less to do with our numbers and more to do with our capacity to believe and to witness, come what may, by the grace of the Holy Spirit. So let us continue as they did to live life boldly as individuals and as a church body, fearing in God alone and trusting with great confidence in the Power of the Holy Spirit, which animates and increases, fulfills and perfects all things. This may very likely result in increased numbers before God, but the shoe must never tell the foot how big it should grow. God's provision is always sufficient and so often abundant, now and always; amen.

Parish Council Chair's Message by David Kazarian

My view of the parish council members, in my very few months as chairman, I'm impressed. At my business when we have quarterly meetings, I ask a question at the start of each meeting "why are we here". I asked that of the parish council in April. The answers were "we take care of the business of the church". I've always felt the parish council should handle the business needs of the church, while the priest takes care of the spiritual needs of the church. But sometimes (many times) our Parish priest is very involved in the business needs of the church. I feel that takes away from his availability to serve the spiritual needs of the church but somehow Der Hovnan does a wonderful balancing act doing both. I agreed to serve as chairman of the parish council to try to tackle more of the business needs of the church freeing up Fr Hovnan. This is not a simple task because he's at the church every day, so when the fire inspectors (as an example) comes in, it's Der Hovnan that must walk them around. That's only one example there are many more. So, I'm going to make the effort to have the parish council ease the business burden of Father Hovnan. Easy for me to say, but more difficult to make it happen! Having said that, let me explain what the parish council you elected has been doing, in the service of our parish. While there are not enough pages in this document to explain everything, I'll give you a sample of our activities.

Each month, we watch your funds, the money you contribute, to make sure it's working for us. Our most recent meeting we decided to move some funds into interest bearing instruments. We're blessed with parishioners that are generous, so our operating account had more cash than we felt necessary for operations. That cash gains no interest hence the movement of funds.

We've been working on a project that I feel has been needed for several years. We're working on the creation of a member directory. There were several proposals presented, and we haven't yet decided which proposal we'll accept but in the spirit of keeping the church's involvement at a minimum and no financial risk, we had a presentation by a gentleman from Universal Church directories. The man's name is Rich Jones and he is a former minister that used this company for his church. He told me he was so impressed he went to work for the company. What he presented was as follows: They will come in and take family portraits of our parishioners. Each person that sits for a portrait will receive one free portrait. There will be an opportunity for the individual or family to purchase additional portraits, picture frames, etc. After the pictures have been taken by the company, they will ask for your street address, phone number and email if you have one to publish in the directory. Of course, they will only publish what you'd like to see in the directory. The company will then publish the membership book at no cost to us, with pictures in the front and names and addresses in the back. Then you can buy more portraits or simply keep the one free portrait. There is no obligation to purchase at all. We have not, as of April determined if we're going to use this company, but it appears to be the best choice for St Hagop Armenian Church in my opinion. If no one buys a portrait, there is no financial obligation, but we get our membership directory. If many people buy, we can have a fancier directory. The company does all the printing of names and addresses as well as the photo and then publishes them into the directory. They will even offer outreach to invite people to come and sit for the portrait for the directory. There was a concern about privacy and our records. Rich Jones (the representative for the company) assured me that they do not sell phone lists or use our information in any way other than to print the directory. So, this company offers a plan that gives the church no financial exposure, they do most of the work, and we have an opportunity to have family portraits. This has not been finalized, we are discussing what direction we want to take, as there are other proposals that have been offered. We also have an offer in from Colorcraft Church Directories and are exploring the possibilities of making another in-house directory as St. Hagop did for its last directory. Your parish council is reviewing all proposals.

During our deliberations we reviewed audio systems for the church and church hall. The church hall had a broken amplifier that has been repaired; however, the church sound system was more complex. I have difficulty hearing, and in church I find it very difficult to understand Father Hovnan even when he's speaking English! Our sound system is antiquated and purchased long ago. We are blessed to have a parishioner (Mark Keshishian) that is an audio engineer, and he has suggested a much-refined system. The newer system would even be capable of broadcasting to hearing aids for those of us that use them. The new format would even have our old speakers in the choir loft. While not

inexpensive, the new system would make it possible for individuals to hear the service better! Mark has done great work at reviewing various systems and when the system is installed people with difficulty hearing (like me) should have less trouble and have satisfaction in that they will be able to hear the Badarak and Fr Hovnan's inspirational sermons.

There was much discussion about sponsoring a young lady from Armenia (Gayane Voskanyan) that was born without one of the bones in her leg and requires surgery. Through the efforts of many from our church, the Shriners hospital has agreed to perform necessary (and very expensive) surgery for the young girl who is the daughter of a priest. The cost for the surgery is zero. We are still discussing the details but through the efforts of many from our church this will happen, and a young lady that would have had a leg removed in Armenia, may possibly save the leg! This is a monumental feat that we are working on, more details to follow in later months when details are available. As I mentioned, Shriners is subsidizing all medical expenses for the surgery, so the cost is zero. St. Hagop is assisting with non-medical costs (lodging, food visas), for the several month stay. **Donations are welcome** to augment St. Hagop's donor designated funds for this great cause.

You have seen, in our newsletter the work Henry Mullen and Bobby Maslar are doing to spruce up the grounds around the church. I personally have been involved in this project in the past and will be there this year when, at the direction of Henry and Bobby we will be spreading mulch around the bushes. We discussed the logistics of the undertaking and Father Hovnan rallied the team to make sure it happens.

That gives you an idea of the many things the parish council works on monthly. I would be happy to discuss our activities and accept volunteers for help in many of our programs.



Our 2025 Parish Council

Back row from left: Mark Assad (youth ministries), Stepan Aghekyan (vice-treasurer), Suzanna Hovhannisian (secretary), Hayley Hovhanessian (events liaison), Chuck Begian (treasurer), Raelene Pullen (vice-chair), Bobby Maslar (sexton)

Front row from left: David Kazarian (chairman), Fr. Hovnan Demerjian (pastor/president) & Sargis Knyazyan (vice-secretary). Thanks to our alternate Sason Demirjian, who took this photo.

Photos from an Active Winter & Spring Season at St. Hagop!



CPR Training



Fit Fest-Field Day



Women's Guild Spring Luncheon

Photos from an Active Winter & Spring Season at St. Hagop!



Annual Parish Assembly



Thursday Bible Study-April



Palm Sunday Bake Sale



Palm Sunday Clean Up

Photos from an Active Winter & Spring Season at St. Hagop!



Holy Thursday-Votnlva



Holy Thursday-Khavaroom



Easter Eve Worship



Easter Sunday

Upcoming Events



Join the St. Hagop Talent Show-Sun. May 11th!

Be a part of our Annual Talent Show! Whether you're 3, 30, or 103, everyone has a song to play or sing, a story or poem to tell, a dance to perform or a skit to present. Your selection can be funny, serious or somewhere in between; on your own or with a group. The show will take place in the Shahnasarian Hall during coffee hour after church on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11, 2025. Each person/group will have up to three minutes to perform. To participate, please email events@stthagopfl.org or speak to Yn. Anna by no later than May 5th.

Farewell to Our Beloved Louise & Haig!

Sunday May 11th will also be the last official day that Louise Yardumian will be leading our choir before moving to be near her grandchildren in Arizona. Though Louise will be back for a few special occasions, we will take the opportunity to express our appreciation in words on Sunday May 11th, as well as dedicating our Mother's Day Talent Show to her. Join us in bidding Louise and Haig a fond farewell; a couple who has served St. Hagop over decades with great faith and dedication!



Discipleship Opportunities for Youth

St. Hagop Campership Applications



St. Hagop will offer 50% tuition scholarships to participants of Diocesan camp programs (St. Vartan, Hye Camps & St. Nersess) who regularly attend worship/Sunday School at St. Hagop and whose families are stewards. If you fit these criteria, visit our website to find campership applications and more information on each program. Contact Fr. Hovnan with any questions.

Armenian Church Summer Camps/Conferences



Each year hundreds of young Armenians come together at St. Vartan Camp in NY, Hye Camp in IL and St. Nersess Conferences in NY. All programs allow youth to gather with Armenians from across the nation, grow in their faith & culture and have fun. Check out www.stnersess.edu and www.diocesansummercamps.org for camp and conference times and more information. Fr. Hovnan had planned to attend St. Vartan Camp Session C, but it was again cancelled this year due to low attendance as of 04/22/25. Session A & B are still open.

Diocesan Scholarship Applications

Applications for Diocesan scholarships are now available online. Application deadline for 2025-26 academic year is May 19th. Each year the Diocese awards college scholarships to promising youth. The Diocese seeks students who are active in local parishes and leadership roles in their communities (recommendation required by pastor). For application, visit www.armenianchurch.us/scholarships, contact person: Maria at (212) 686-0710 ext. 136 or mariab@armeniandiocese.org.



Mission Armenia Update

MISSION ARMENIA-LATEST FUNDED PROJECTS

St. Hagop's "Mission Armenia" ministry continues its support of various worthy causes in Armenia, focusing on direct aid and faith-based projects. The Mission Armenia committee met in April and presented three projects to the Parish Council, below are details on the approved projects.

Medpacks for Armenian Servicemen - \$1,000

Direct Contact - Shawnt Ohanian

Advanced Medpack Project provides first aid kits to Armenian servicemembers. This year's Medpack deliveries will be made in the Syunik region. Our support will cover the expenses for 10 Medpacks.

Retreat for Displaced Artsakh Women - \$1,500

Direct Contact- Yn. Anna Demerjian

The Stepanavan Information Center, a local NGO, has been actively working to empower displaced Artsakh women currently residing in Stepanavan, through psychosocial support, community engagement, and capacity-building initiatives. Ongoing needs assessments reveal that many of them express a strong desire to explore Armenia, alleviate stress, build local and social connections, and develop a deeper connection with their new surroundings. This project proposes a series of guided retreats and excursions to religious, cultural, and natural sites across Armenia as a means of psychosocial therapy and community integration for 25 women from Artsakh.

SOAR Transitional Center in Gyumri - \$500

Direct Contact- Suzanna Hovhannisian

The SOAR transitional center is a residential setting for older teenage girls who have outgrown the traditional orphanage but who are not yet ready for independent living. They attend college, and by assisting with the handcraft business they learn essential life skills, support themselves and prepare themselves for independent living. By supporting these orphan teens, we help them not only acquire professional lifelong skills to become self-sufficient, confident, emotionally and socially adapted, but also receive quality handcrafts made with Love from Armenia.

St. Hagop's Work with Fr. Mambre & Gayane Voskanyan of St. Sargis Church

On a family trip to Armenia in 2021, Fr. Hovnan met Fr. Mambre Voskanyan, the pastor of St. Sargis Church in Stepanavan, Armenia-along with his daughter Gayane-for the first time. Yn. Anna's mother Madlena had met Fr. Mambre a year or two earlier and was impressed by the young priest's faithfulness and hard work. So were other people from Stepanavan that Fr. Hovnan & Yn. Anna keep in touch with from time to time.

At about the same time, our Diocese was collecting money from Diocesan parishes at the request of Etchmiadzin; so that they in turn could better support pastors in the typically under-resourced regions of Armenia. St. Hagop made a general donation alongside the other parishes of our Diocese, but was inspired also to offer help more directly, and



hoped to establish a long-term partnership with a pastor and parish that-God willing-could be a mission partner over the long term.

Fr. Hovnan kept in touch with Fr. Mambre from time to time and helped personally with small projects. As an example, Fr. Mambre's gas furnace did not work that Fall, and Stepanavan Winters are cold! It just so happened that his furnace was a 1980s American made furnace (installed as part of FAR earthquake aid). Fr. Hovnan purchased spare parts in America, had them shipped to Armenia and Fr. Mambre fixed the furnace in time for Winter! After our Parish Council heard about Fr. Mambre's good work at St. Sargis Church for the youth of Stepanavan, they decided to offer modest funds to help enhance St. Sargis' youth program.



When Fr. Hovnan first met Fr. Mambre's daughter Gayane, she was still small, but her birth defect was noticeable. Gayane was diagnosed with a rare birth defect bilateral fibular hemimelia (missing or short fibula), particularly severe in her right leg. Good pediatric orthopedic doctors in Armenia correctly diagnosed her problem, but hospital technology in Armenia could only provide one treatment: amputation.

Fr. Mambre investigated whether alternative treatment in the United States or Europe was available. Though far from simple, in the West her condition can be treated with ankle reconstruction as the first major surgery, and typically successive surgeries as a teen until age of bony maturity (these follow up surgeries could possibly be done in Armenia if necessary). Not surprisingly though, the cost of these surgeries are enormous.

Therefore, in the Summer of 2024, Frs. Hovnan and Mambre applied to Shriners Children's Hospital, taking one last shot at saving Gayane's leg. After much prayer, and a very long application process, Gayane was preliminarily accepted for the ankle reconstruction surgery at Shriners Children's Hospital in St. Louis! The first appointment is scheduled for July 9th of this year, with an anticipated stay of 3-6 months.

Shriners Hospital will sponsor all medical costs for Gayane's surgery and recovery. However, in order to be finally accepted for surgery, sponsors had to be found to cover all non-medical costs (lodging, food, air travel, etc.). The St. Hagop Parish Council, in its March 2025 meeting, agreed to be the non-medical sponsor for Fr. Mambre & Gayane. Subsequently, the Diocese has agreed to sponsor the air travel portion, and we have also involved nearby Holy Virgin Mary and Shoghagat Armenian Church of Belleville, IL to be part of the care team.

Please keep Fr. Mambre & Gayane in your prayers and stay tuned for updates and calls for assistance. Donations are welcome to augment donor designated funds for this blessed ministry! We hope that parishioners of St. Hagop may even get a chance to meet Fr. Mambre & Gayane if they can travel to St. Hagop at the end of their recovery. If not, those who travel to Armenia can always stop in and say hello at St. Sargis Church in Stepanavan, Armenia!



St. Hagop Community Businesses-Paid Advertisements

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Calling All Piano Players-Opportunity to Grow & Serve Our Church



The terrific worship experience at St. Hagop is in large part due to the leadership that Louise Yardumian has provided in playing the organ, singing and leading our choir with faith and professionalism. Louise would like to pass on what she knows to an up and coming piano/organ player and help continue our legacy of inspiring worship.

St. Hagop is looking for musicians who have a basic foundation of piano playing and reading music to learn the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Louise will provide what mentorship she can virtually. Subsidized lessons and sponsorship to attend St. Nersess Youth Choir Workshop will be considered for young players with dedicated commitment. Please let Fr. Hovnan know if you or someone you know might be interested in this opportunity to serve the church and grow in musical talent.

Vemkar Topical Booklets

You may have noticed various booklets in the narthex of our church this past year. These booklets, published by our Diocese, form the Vemkar Topical Series, which delve into various facets of our Christian faith; its beliefs, practices, and traditions. Several new booklets were published this month, adding to the existing collection. You may pick up a copy in our narthex (while supplies last) or download a copy online at www.vemkar.us/vemkar-topical-series-other-publications/

Topics Include: Depression, Raising Saints, An Introduction to Faith in the Armenian Church, etc.

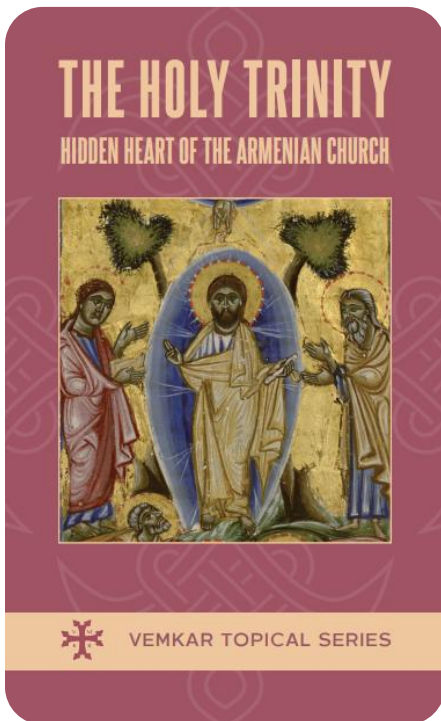
Whether you have been a devoted Christian for years or are simply curious about the faith, this series is tailored to meet your needs. Our church's hope for these books is to not only inform and educate but inspire you on your personal spiritual journey.

Recently, Fr. Hovnan authored a booklet for the series. Included below is the introduction to his booklet which you may find in the narthex as well as online.

The Holy Trinity: Hidden Heart of the Armenian Church

By Fr. Hovnan Demerjian

INTRODUCTION



As I began the work of gathering materials for this booklet on the Holy Trinity, I crossed myself and prayed almost inaudibly; ‘hanoon hor, yev vortvo yev hogvooyrn srpoy, amen...In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, amen.’ I do this often, as perhaps do you, in times of both trial and thanksgiving; before I approach the hospice bed of a parishioner, and before my daughter’s piano recital. Somehow this shortest of prayers contains great power in connecting the depths of God to the significance of our lives.

The purpose of this booklet is to reveal the hidden and expansive theology behind this trinitarian prayer, which takes just five seconds to say, yet outlines the entire creed of the Armenian Church and reveals the shape of God’s love for you and me. Hidden in plain sight, we will uncover God’s threefold nature in our Sunday Worship, Sacraments and Scripture and highlight their significance.

Most importantly, and contrary to popular depictions of the Trinity as abstract and irrelevant, I hope to show how the Trinity offers life-long lessons for Armenian Church faithful in learning to love as God does. For in the lavish

love of the Father, the harmony of the Son and the intimacy of the Spirit, we recover the lost secret of true love, that fallen humanity may come to know again by participation in the trinitarian grace of God.

2025 Stewardship Pledge Updated on April 20th 2025

In prayerful consideration and my commitment to

My/Our Stewardship: _____

\$ _____, given ()

Yes, please issue me offering envs

I/we wish to support St. Hagop

Signature: _____

Name(s): _____

Phone/Email: _____



So far we have been blessed with **107** pledges totaling **\$171,915** for 2025! Our goal is for all to participate regardless of amount! We invite you to mail in your pledge card or make an online pledge for 2025, it is not too late!

Thank you for your support and commitment to St. Hagop! Those who have submitted a pledge by 04/20/25 are identified below.

Ann Abajian, Andreas Aghamianz, Stepan & Naira Aghekyan, Richard & Diane Aginian, George & Joan Agnacion, Karen Anjoorian, Andrew & Theresa Anusbigian, John & Susan Arsenaault, Patrick & Gail Aslanian Compton, Vicky & Pauline Atamian Gilgan, Grace Austin, Zara & Harris Babayan Boyiadzis, Bagrad & Tatiana Badalyan, Arsen & Mary Bayandrian, Charles and Lisa Begian, Michael Boucher, Jacob Bournazian, Arman & Lucy Calikyan, Arthur Danielyan, Robert & Janet Davidian, Fr. Hovnan & Yn. Anna Demerjian, Kenneth & Karen Demerjian, Jean-Jacques & Hasmig Demerjian, Raffi & Tanya Demerjian, Dn. Kevork & Marisol Demirjian, Sason & Patricia Demirjian, Nick & Lizzy Diganci, Armand & Rebecca Dikranian, Robert & Lori Dorian, Leilani Doty, Araxi Dulgeroff, Art & Adrienne Ekizian, Gregory & Alysia Ekizian, John & Victoria Franks, Martha-Anne Garabedian, Scott & Mallory Guinand, Naira, Karine & Kamo Gyularyan, Gregory & Gina Hagopian, Teresa Haidarian, Berge & Tamar Hajian, Joseph & Pamela Hajinian Brinker, Hayley Hovhanessian, Gregory & Stephanie Hovsepian, David & Darwin Jamgochian, Richard & Christina Kachadurian, George & Debra Kamajian, Edward Kapreilian, Sam and Beatrice Kapreilian, Ashot & Jemma Karapetyan, Harry & Beverly Karim, Florence Kazanjian, David & Nancy Kazarian, Lilian Kazarian, Tigran & Ashley Kesayan, Hannelore Keshishian, Armen Kevorkian, Sargis & Susanna Knyazyan, Diana Kotchounian, Sophia Kugeares, Chau Luong, Ann Mahdessian, Richard & Linda Maslar, Jeff & Araksya Mekenyan Sprecher, Karen Minassian, Robert Mirak, Richard & Susan Mougalian, Victoria Mouradian, Henry Mullen, Bejan & Rebekah Nouri, Shawnt Ohanian, Mirella Ovanessian, Gregory & Christine Parseghian, Gregory & Stefanie Parseghian, Christina Paylan, Paula & Louis Pelosi, Keri Pinner, Pehlivanian Family Foundation, Hayka & Richard Poghosyan, Scott & Raelene Pullen, Ira & Annette Ross, Arsen & Varduhi Sahakyan, Alex & Carolyn Saharian, Michael Saharian, Stephen Saharian, Michael Sarafian, Tanya Sarafian, Gayle Sarkisian, Leon & Sharon Sarkisian, Chuck & Kathy Sarkisian, Chris & Carol Sassouni, Yates & Alexis Sayers, Stepan & Seta Serpekian, Michael & Jean Shahnasarian, John & Kelly Shamsey, Robert & Christina Shamsey, Jamie & Leana Stevens, Ken and Katharine Talanian, Johnathon Tehlirian, Andrei Trapizonian, Grygorii Trapizonian, Matthieu & Denise van Veen, James & Lusine Vardanyan Roesch, Tim & Adrienne Vartanian Milewski, Terry & Carolyn Waidley, James & Cathy Wilson, Haig & Lorraine Yaghoobian, Haig & Louise Yardumian, Armen & Srbuhi Zakaryan

Livestream St. Hagop Worship Services, Sermons & Special Events

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Office Hours: 9 am-5 pm Monday - Friday

Worship Hours: Sunday 10:30am – 12:30pm

Sunday School Hours: Sunday 11:00am – 12:30pm

Fellowship Time in Shahnasarian Hall – 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Contact Information

7020 90th Ave. North
Pinellas Park, FL 33782
P: 727-545-0380
E-mail: office@stthagopfl.org
www.stthagopfl.org

Newsletter Team:

Editor

The Rev. Fr. Hovnan Demerjian

Contributors

David Kazarian, Teresa Haidarian

Avedis Newsletter is a publication of St. Hagop Armenian Church in Pinellas Park, Florida.

Submissions are welcomed and should be sent to the church office. All text should be in electronic format, preferably Word. Editorial board reserves the right to modify or reject any submissions. All material must be received no later than the published deadlines below:

| Next Issue | Submission |
|------------|-------------|
| Fall 2025 | August 15th |

It costs over \$2,000 to print and send each issue of Avedis. We would like to communicate as often as possible with our parishioners. Will you help defray some of the costs? Please send your check memo: Avedis Newsletter 1/2 issue (\$1000); 1/4 issue (\$500) or other (\$) amount.

The *Avedis* is grateful to accept business ads, which help us, pay for our newsletter and help you reach your customers. Please email us at info@stthagopfl.org if you are interested. Make checks payable to St. Hagop Armenian Church.

Rates are per issue:
\$50 for a business card,
\$150 for a half page and \$300 for a full page

Parish Council

President

Rev. Fr. Hovnan Demerjian
727-545-0380
fr.hovnan@stthagopfl.org

Chair

David Kazarian
813-264-9310
david@InfuserveAmerica.com

Vice-Chair

Raelene Ohanesian Pullen
563-505-0534
raelene.pullen@gmail.com

Treasurer

Chuck Begian
813-739-9293
chuckbegian@gmail.com

Vice-Treasurer

Stepan Aghekyan
727-919-0899
StepanAghekyan@gmail.com

Secretary

Suzanna Hovhannisian
727-871-5348
gotdreamhome@gmail.com

Vice-Secretary

Sargis Knyazyan
707-342-2600
sknyazyan@gmail.com

Sexton (buildings & grounds)

Bobby Maslar
727-481-0021
rjmas726@tampabay.rr.com

Youth Ministries

Mark Assad
727-387-9360
markjosephassad@icloud.com

Events Liaison

Hayley Hovhanessian
860-690-0164
hayhov711@aol.com

Alternate

Sason Demirjian
516-551-2074
sasoni@yahoo.com

Organizations

Sunday School
SundaySchool@stthagopfl.org

Women's Guild
Co-Chair – Lucy Calikyan
lucyclivr@gmail.com

Co-Chair – Rita Keshishian
rita_keshishian@hotmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

****Divine Liturgy takes place every Sunday from 10:30-12:30. Sunday School takes place every Sunday at 11am. Fellowship in Shahnasarian Hall to follow immediately after service**

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| Sun. May 4th | Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship | 10:30AM-1:30PM |
| Sun. May 11th | Divine Liturgy/Sunday School St. Hagop Talent Show, Mother's Day Fellowship, Farewell to Louise & Haig Yardumian | 10:30AM-12:30PM 12:30 PM-2:00PM |
| Tue. May 13th | Parish Council Meeting | 6:00 PM-8:00 PM |
| Sun. May 18th | Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship | 10:30AM-1:30PM |
| Sun. May 25th | Divine Liturgy/ Sunday School/Fellowship Last Day of Sunday School | 10:30AM-1:30PM |
| Sun. June 1st | Divine Liturgy & Fellowship | 10:30AM-1:30PM |
| Sun. June 8th | Divine Liturgy (Pentecost) & Fellowship | 10:30AM-1:30PM |
| Tue. June 10th | Parish Council Meeting | 6:00 PM-8:00 PM |
| Sun. June 15th | Divine Liturgy & Fellowship-Father's Day | 10:30AM-1:30PM |
| Sun. June 22nd | Jashoo Divine Liturgy & Fellowship Dn. Kevork Demirjian Leads Worship (Fr. Hovnan Away) | 10:30AM-1:30PM |
| Sun. June 29th | Divine Liturgy & Fellowship Dn. Kevork Demirjian Leads Worship (Fr. Hovnan Away) | 10:30AM-1:30PM |
| Sun. July 6th | Divine Liturgy & Fellowship | 10:30AM-1:30PM |
| Tue. July 8th | Parish Council Meeting | 6:00 PM-8:00 PM |
| Sun. July 13th | Divine Liturgy & Fellowship | 10:30AM-1:30PM |
| Sun. July 20st | Divine Liturgy & Fellowship | 10:30AM-1:30PM |
| Sun. July 27th | Divine Liturgy (Vardavar/Transfiguration) & Fellowship | 10:30AM-1:30PM |
| Sun. August 3rd | Divine Liturgy & Fellowship | 10:30AM-1:30PM |
| Thurs. August 7th | St. Hagop Bible Study & Fellowship Resumes | 6:30PM-8:00PM |
| Sun. August 10th | Divine Liturgy & Fellowship | 10:30AM-1:30PM |
| Tue. August 12th | Parish Council Meeting | 6:00 PM-8:00 PM |
| Sun. August 17th | Divine Liturgy (Asdvadzadzeen/Assumption of Mary) Blessing of Grapes & Special Fellowship | 10:30AM-1:30PM |
| Thurs. August 21st | St. Hagop Bible Study & Fellowship | 6:30PM-8:00PM |
| Sun. August 24th | Divine Liturgy & Fellowship | 10:30AM-1:30PM |
| Sun. August 31st | Divine Liturgy & Fellowship | 10:30AM-1:30PM |
| Thurs. September 4th | St. Hagop Bible Study & Fellowship | 6:30PM-8:00PM |
| Sun. September 7th | Divine Liturgy & Fellowship Registration/1 st Day of Sunday School | 10:30AM-1:30PM 11:00 AM-12:00 |
| Sun. September 9th | Parish Council Meeting | 6:00 PM-8:00 PM |
| Sun. September 14th | Divine Liturgy (Khachverats/Exaltation of Cross)/Sunday School Blessing of the World & Special Fellowship | 10:30AM-1:30PM |

Please note that by, no Requiem Services may be held on the following major feast days of the church;
(Christmas, Palm Sunday/Easter, Pentecost, Transfiguration & Exaltation of the Cross)



St. Hagop Armenian Church

7020 90th Avenue North
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782
727-545-0380

info@sthagopfl.org
www.sthagopfl.org