AVEDIS UPPSPU

St. Hagop Armenian Church

The Good News | Winter/Spring 2026

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What Winter Whispers About God

Pastor's Desk: What Winter Whispers About God

The woods are lovely, dark and deep, But I have promises to keep, And miles to go before I sleep, And miles to go before I sleep.

These are the last lines of 'Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening,' by Robert Frost which I know by heart because it's a favorite Winter book of ours. The poem itself-along with illustrations-actually makes you feel the calm and peace of Winter. Now I wish to invite you to imaginatively feel the calm, quiet peace of Winter, because it is deeply connected to the Christmas arrival of the Prince of Peace to the world. It does take a certain effort to disconnect and prayerfully reflect in this busy holiday season, but doing so will bring priceless gifts of the season. If it helps to pretend that your home is a big snow globe, I want you to shake it up and watch the slow, quiet snowfall! If you are originally from a Northern climate, you likely still feel in your bones the connection between Winter Snow and Christmas. Unlike a noisy Florida thunderstorm or hurricane, which announces itself boldly, snow comes softly and unassuming-and surprises us the next morning with its quiet, dazzling beauty. No coincidence, this is exactly how Jesus came to the world. The Son of God could have taken the world by storm, with the power of a hurricane, but instead He came quietly like the winter snow falling softly in the night-what beauty there will be when we wake from our slumber! Our church calendar and Scriptures know of the hidden blessing of quiet and rest this time of year, let's now work to uncover it.

To do so, especially in Florida, we must use our imagination. First, yes, it's typically in the 70s for Christmas. But that is not the main problem. The main problem with finding the quiet peace of Christmas is our love affair with noise, busyness and flash. My neighbors are into this type of Christmas, their lawn is full of giant blow ups, blaring all night Christmas songs. It has gotten so much, that lines of cars enter neighborhood to see it! It makes me wonder what it is that makes us fill every quiet place with noise, every dark night with led lights, every free hour with toil? How do we not see the irony of blaring Silent Night, all night, from a twenty-foot inflatable snowman? Silent night? Holy Night? Where? Now, it's easy for me to judge my neighbor, but if I am honest, I have my own ways of spoiling the silent, dark peace of Advent and Christmas, I suspect you do too. Many of us work so much in this season, there is no time for a silent holy night to greet our Savior. Many of us scroll and click so much on our phones and screens, that we leave not a moment of reflection, to pray and give thanks.

There is a different, better way however, outlined by our church calendar, scriptures and the Christmas example of the Son of man. If we meditate and practice this way of peace and rest, we will become peaceful and rested. First our sacred calendar guides us. The great feasts of our Church-Christmas & Easter-are preceded by long fasts; quiet, reduced consumption, less of us and more of God. Our church calendar mirrors the sacred calendar of nature, creation. As Advent finishes and this year ends, the days get shorter and the nights get longer. Creation itself is urging us to slow down, to pull back on our ambitions and our anxieties, to let go and let God lead us into a New Year.

This periodic rest and peace, daily, weekly and yearly is called Sabbath in our scriptures. We have reduced Sabbath to surface conversations about taking Sunday off. We forget that keeping Sabbath is a serious thing, it acknowledges God as the owner of our time, and we as renters. Not giving back to God the time we borrow from him-in worship and restis no spiritual misdemeanor, it's more like a felony, it's a commandment as important for our well-being as the othersdon't lie, don't steal and don't kill. Our culture has lost all sense of Sabbath, and it can't be a coincidence that the longer hours we work and the longer we stay connected to screens and stimulus-the higher the rates of attention deficit in kids and the higher rates of anxiety, isolation and despair in all of us. Rest helps us be at peace with ourselves, our loved ones and God, who Himself rested and commands us to rest, so that we remember who we are and to whom we belong before we get back to work pursuing our vocations again!

Finally, it is not just our calendars and Scripture that urge us to find silence, stillness and rest at this time of year. It is the Christmas arrival of our Lord Jesus Christ himself. Jesus did indeed come to us quietly and humbly. He was the son of a peasant girl, born in a stable, welcomed by shepherds. The world expected different, but not the prophet Isaiah. 700 years before Jesus' birth, Isaiah wrote that the powerful King and Savior of the world would paradoxically "not shout or cry out" nor so much as bend a damaged reed or extinguish a flickering flame. Instead, He came gently, to draw us to Himself and reconcile us with God. He came quietly so we'd find words to sing his praise. He was born low, so that all people and all things might be raised up in Him.

So then, let's turn down those lights and turn down that noise long enough to appreciate the silent, peaceful snowfall of this season, if not outside than inside our hearts. Let's unplug from our toil and ambition, our screens and notifications so that in the peaceful calm of this season we hear the still small voice of God and welcome the Prince of Peace, Our Savior, the first and greatest gift of the Christmas season, now and always; amen.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year | Kristos Tsnav Yev Haydnetsav!

Parish Council Chair's Message by David Kazarian

When I last wrote in the Avedis I stated I was impressed with the composition of our parish council. I can honestly report that your parish council is like a well-oiled machine and I remain impressed with the work that's accomplished. Our last meeting had a full agenda and I thought we'd work well into the evening, but the efficiency of the council pushed us through the agenda in what I consider record time. While the meeting lasted longer than usual, the accomplishments were much greater than normal. Under the skilled guidance of Raelene Pullen we navigated through the complicated details of the "taste of Armenia" event. I must say I'm impressed with the level of work and energy of Raelene pulling this event together. Having done something similar it in the past, I know how much work is required and Raelene attacked the task as though she's done this hundreds of times before. When you see someone skilled performing a task they make it look easy and Raelene certainly made it look easier than I know it is. You can see her enthusiasm and energy and it's like a conductor of a grand orchestra bringing all the instruments together to create beautiful music. The whole council has given Raelene advice, council, and hard work to see this event happen. Sason even volunteered to come to my home and make Tourshi for the event (well, I may have volunteered him, but he wasn't unwilling). We've spent a great deal of time on 'Taste of Armenia', I'm looking forward to it and know it will be fantastic.

But Raelene isn't the only one with the energy and commitment to our church. When I arrived at the meeting I saw Sason's car at the hall, but I didn't see him. While I was talking to Father Hovnan, Sason was working with the amplifier installing it, so our sound system in the hall will be fully functional again. He and Bobby Maslar are our building maintenance team, and they do an excellent job. Things you may not notice, but if they weren't fixed they would be problematic. Sarkis brought his enthusiasm to Senior lunches like Stepan did with Sunday School. Chuck Begian watches the church's money as though it was his own, making sure the church's accounting is explained to the council and properly monitored. (I can't mention our churches finances without the observation that Jean Shahnasarian skillfully manages the details of our finances on a monthly basis). Mark Assad has used his knowledge of real estate to help us navigate the sale of non-performing property we've had in the past as well as keeping a close eye on youth ministries. And without Suzanna Hovhannisian we wouldn't have a record of our deliberations. When I think of Suzanna it reminds me of something Pierre Abadjian said when we spoke about the service at our church. Pierre said "it's the music"! that is the thing that makes the Badarak wonderful. Suzanna is the personification of that music. AND her work with children in the Sunday school is incredible.

We at St Hagop Armenian Church have been blessed with several extraordinary parish councils in the past, with extraordinary people and that's what makes our church great. In my business I've often said that I want people to work with that know more than I do, have different talents and knowledge. That's what makes our company excel. And I hope our parish council makes Father Hovnan proud (I'm sure it does). Incidentally, if you have any interest in being a part of the team (the parish council) speak to Father Hovnan or someone on the council. We have an incredible parish with amazing people and if you'd like to share your talent with our team let us know!

Now that I've told you why I'm impressed with the people I work with on our parish council I'd like to tell you some of the things we've done or are working on, in addition to "Taste of Armenia" which I mentioned already. Another task to which we've devoted time is our membership directory. Why the directory? We have a wonderful group of people in our parish, some old some new. A membership directory with parishioner's phone numbers and email addresses will allow better communication, fostering deeper fellowship and connection (especially for new members) streamlining pastoral care, aiding ministry planning and improving engagement through features like event coordination and easy access to homebound members. Remember the hurricane? I must have received more than a dozen calls from people wanting Zvart Jambazian's phone number. And I'll bet when I call her and tell her about the directory, she'll want her current phone number in it and will want a directory for herself. With a directory it will be easier to volunteer or join a bible study group or even offer support (like meals) by providing contact information. When people can't attend church, the directory facilitates connection to our church family. When we have new members, it can help to get to know them and even help new members feel like they belong. Putting names with faces is important for me! Don't be left out.

We've had our pictures taken for the directory, those of you who participated experienced the wonderful photographer and will have your pictures in the directory. Those of you who didn't will have an opportunity the next time we do a directory. To make sure we have your opt-in and to ensure our information is accurate, the council will be reaching out to you by various methods concerning the directory. If you don't hear from us, call and give us your current information to be in the directory. If you don't know who to call, call me at 727-692-3992. If you get a recording leave your information, name, address, phone, email.

The parish council also reviewed our stewardship program. Why do we have the program? Its purpose is the funding of the church. My cousin Lillian many times will ask me "how much was in the collection plate?" I remember one day I told her \$3,400 and she said "Wow that's good". I told her it was about half of what it costs to keep the church and hall going. That's why we have stewardship, and this is one of the ways we fund our church.

One of our past projects was to care for a priest's daughter from Armenia to treat a congenital leg problem. It's interesting to note after the Priest came with his daughter for her care, and he served the church in Illinois, the parish loved him so much, they have now asked him to become their parish priest. That was something that WE had a hand in, and it just grew to something wonderful. Our church has influence in our diocese! Stewardship that was started at St Hagop Armenian Church is not influencing others to copy our lead. I'm proud of the work we've done and continue to do. I think the Armenian community is blessed to have such hard-working people at our church.

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









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



Santa Claus Visit



Christmas Presentation



Advent Candlelight



Advent Candlelight

'Waiting on God with Faith That Moves' Advent Reflection of Andrei Trapizonian

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths." (Proverbs 3:5–6)



Advent is a season of waiting. But the waiting Scripture teaches us is not passive or idle. Biblical waiting is active trust. There is a phrase many of us have heard — sometimes even from those outside the faith — "God helps those who help themselves." It is true that this phrase does not appear word-for-word in Scripture. And yet, in my estimation, its meaning reflects something deeply biblical.

Christ tells us that [we are known by our fruits]. St. James reminds us that faith without works is dead. So trusting God does not mean doing nothing. It means aligning our actions, discipline, and effort with His will. If cleansing the heart were easy, it would not require vigilance. If resisting temptation were simple, it would not demand effort. If loving our neighbor were automatic, Christ would not command it.

Helping ourselves means choosing obedience and perseverance, even when the path is long. I experienced this very clearly during the two years I worked toward the opportunity to study in the United States back in 2015. There was daily effort, constant preparation, repeated rejection, on top of all other challenges life brought on my family and me at the time. And still, on a larger

scale, waiting with faith that God's way was possible, even when it seemed unlikely, was what truly kept me going.

Action and trust were not opposites. They walked together. In many ways, this is captured in a fitting story from my school years in Ukraine that has stayed with me. During a flood, an elderly woman remained trapped in her home, praying continuously for God to save her. Three times, a small boat stopped at her window. Three times, men urged her to come with them to safety. Each time she refused, saying, "God will save me." Eventually, she drowned. When she stood before God and asked why He had not saved her, God answered: "I sent you three boats."

This story reminds us that God often answers our prayers through people, opportunities, and means. The struggle is not whether God acts — it is whether we discern how He is acting. And discernment grows through effort, prayer, humility, and faithfulness. That is how we learn not to rely on our own insight, but on God's. Christ Himself says: "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened." (Matthew 7:7–8, NRSV) Ask. Search. Knock. Each requires movement.

I've come to realize that often, before receiving what we ask for, we must grow into being ready to receive it. I, just as you, pray for direction, a vocation, healing, love, stability — but then ask myself, have I shown, through my actions, that I am prepared to steward what I am asking for? Scripture teaches that God's plan is better than ours. And yet, we are still called to take steps within that plan. But effort alone is not enough either. Walking with God also requires patience. Through uncertainty and setbacks.

That kind of patience I encountered deeply while navigating years of immigration struggles, loneliness, cultural isolation, and limited resources. There was constant uncertainty about what came next, often paired with sickness and anxiety. There were moments of being misaligned with the program I was studying while still committing to finishing it; being unable to take the Bar exam as my visa was running out; and moments that felt like several steps back, including pursuing yet another degree when earlier plans pointed elsewhere. Add to this limited travel, the risk involved in any major move, and the frustration of not yet being able to relocate where I desired to — and patience became a daily discipline rather than an abstract idea.

At the time, I may not have fully grasped that I was trusting God; yet through deep prayer, the counsel of those closest to me, and perseverance through frustration and falls, patience still bore fruit. It allowed me to gain new experiences,

explore life in the United States, gradually turn loneliness into an ability to enjoy solitude, and once again re-shape my goals and ambitions. With each challenge or setback, another opportunity quietly followed.

That journey continues in many ways. But today — being in Florida, part of a church community that truly feels like home at St. Hagop, with my father here, surrounded by new and meaningful friendships, having recently received permanent residence, and even being able to visit Armenia and spend time with my mother for the first time in years — it is clear to me that patience, when paired with action and rooted in faith, is not passive at all.

I continue to work on this even now; patience remains one of the hardest virtues for me personally. What helps is recognizing that patience shapes humility — not a humility that weakens resolve, but one that quiets anxiety and steadies the heart. The one that helps keep restraint in my reactions, in grappling with what it means to live [in this world but being not of this world], and in relationships with those I love.

I've had to learn that not all of us think, process, or move through life in the same way. That loving faithfully often means slowing down what feels like electricity inside — choosing understanding over impulse, empathy over reaction. Patience is difficult. But it is a cornerstone of humility, and humility is a cornerstone of faith.

So Advent teaches us this: Waiting on God does not mean standing still. It means walking forward in obedience... acting with faith...discerning His presence...and enduring with patience. Trusting Him fully. Acknowledging Him in all our ways. And allowing Him — in His time — to make our paths straight.

Աստուած առաջ, մենք՝ ետեւէն։ Asdvadz aratch, menk ghetevits (yedevén). Amen.

New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance-Last Chance to Purchase Tickets!



Last Chance to Purchase tickets! All payments must be received by December 30th!

We invite you to join friends and family of St. Hagop Armenian Church in the Shahnasarian Hall for a New Year's Eve celebration!

You can make ticket purchases online by visiting:

www.sthagopfl.org/product/new-years-tickets-25-26/

You may also pay by check made out to St. Hagop, memo: 'New Years,' but check must arrive in the mail by Dec. 30th!

Please contact Lusine Sahakyan at <u>events@sthagopfl.org</u> with questions.

Where: Shahnasarian Hall 7020 90th Ave, Pinellas Park, FL

When: Wednesday, December 31st

Doors Open: 6PM | Dinner: 7PM | Dance: 8PM-1AM

Tickets: \$85/adult, \$40/youth ages 6-15.

All payments must be received by December 30th. Tickets not sold at the door.

Taste of Armenia Tampa Bay-Sunday, January 18th from Noon-6PM!!!



ALL ARE WELCOME! **ADMISSION IS** FREE!

TAMPA BAY | JANUARY 18, 2026

JANUARY 2026

NOON -6:00PM

7020 90TH AVENUE N. PINELLAS PARK, FL 33782

Please join your St. Hagop Armenian Church Family as we gather together in a CELEBRATION of the Armenian Culture!

Come HUNGRY! Enjoy Shish Kebab, DELICIOUS homemade Armenian Foods, and Pastries, prepared by our own St. Hagop Women's Guild. Enjoy Children's Performances. Shop at Vernissage. Participate in a Tayloo Tournament.

DANCE to LIVE Traditional Armenian Music Performed by THE HYE VIBES FROM CHICAGO!



Purchase a \$100 Raffle Ticket for your 1-in-200 chance to WIN cash prizes in the BIG Raffle! Win one of 5 BIG MONEY Prizes. TOP PRIZE pays \$5,000! You need not be present to win.

For Information about sponsorship, volunteering, securing a booth at the Bazaar, or to purchase a \$100 Raffle Ticket by phone or mail . . . please call Raelene at 813.421.4319

Presenting Sponsor: Michael & Jean Shahnasarian

Entertainment Sponsor: David & Nancy Kazarian

Family Sponsors:

John & Susan Arsenault, Robert & Victoria Kaprelian, Scott & Raelene Ohanesian Pullen

Sponsors listed as of 12/10/2025



St. Hagop Armenian Church Սուրբ Յակոբ Հայց. Եկեղեցի Tampa Bay-St. Petersburg, FL

Generations Connect: Our Seniors Fellowship Welcomes Everyone!



What began in 2025 as the Parish Council's vision for a Seniors Fellowship at St. Hagop Church has quickly blossomed into one of our most treasured traditions, a truly multigenerational gathering for the entire church family. Over the past year, this fellowship has created meaningful connections, bringing together our seniors, middle-aged adults, and even our youngest parishioners. We share delicious Armenian and homemade dishes, enjoy games, and build community across the generations, creating laughter and lasting memories.

New This Year: The Story & Legacy Segment

We are excited to introduce a Story & Legacy component to each gathering. This special segment will feature one or two attendees sharing their pre-prepared stories about their life, family history, and settlement in the Tampa Bay area. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn

from and honor the experiences of our community members. We are delighted that Sarkis and Susanna Knyazyan will be sharing their story for our very first presentation!

Join Our Next Gathering

We warmly invite parishioners of all ages to join us!

- When: Every 3rd Wednesday of the month, 12:00 PM 3:00 PM.
- Starting Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2026.

Your presence and participation are what make this such a vibrant community. Donations are gratefully accepted and help us sustain this wonderful tradition. For any questions or to volunteer to share your story, please contact Sarkis Knyazyan at sknyazyan@gmail.com.

St. Hagop Community Businesses-Paid Advertisements



www.gulftobay.1stClassRealEstate.com

BUY. SELL. INVEST







Leon Sarkisian's Stewardship Testimony-Sunday, November 2nd



It's a blessing to stand before you here at St. Hagop — our spiritual home, our community, and a living reminder of the faith our ancestors carried through generations and across oceans.— and later, those who built this church here in Pinellas County — that did so through sacrifice and devotion. They gave not from abundance, but from faith. They knew that to keep the light of Christ burning, someone had to tend the flame. They built St. Hagop so their children — and we here today — could worship in the light of Christ. Now, it's our turn to keep that light burning.

We gather this morning beneath the holy gaze of the Cross, surrounded by the prayers of our ancestors and the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today, I speak about a sacred calling — the calling of stewardship. It's a word we hear often, but its true meaning runs deep. Stewardship isn't just about giving money — it's about giving ourselves back to God. Our time, our talents, our love, and yes, our treasures — all are gifts He first gave to us.

In the Armenian tradition, stewardship is not a task of obligation, but a sacred trust. It is our response to the love of God — the love that gave us life, faith, family, and this holy Church that shelters our souls. Every candle lit here, every child taught, every sharagan sang, every prayer offered — all depend on

the hearts of good stewards. Stewardship means saying, "Lord, I am grateful. I will serve. I will help."

Scripture reminds us: "To whom much is given, much will be required." (Luke 12:48) And we have been given much — faith, family, health, and this sacred home. So let us each give something back, not out of duty, but out of gratitude. When we support St. Hagop, we aren't just maintaining a church building. We're sustaining a faith, a heritage, and a community that keeps the Armenian spirit alive right here in Pinellas County.

Our Church Fathers teach us that everything in our hands — our time, our talents, our possessions — are not truly ours, but God's gifts, placed in our care for a short while, we are reminded that "When we care for others, we imitate the generosity of God Himself." And St. Nerses Shnorhali, our beloved Saint and Catholicos, prayed: "Lord, make me worthy to serve Your holy will, and may my heart be filled with love for Your house."

This is stewardship — to love God enough to serve Him with what we have and who we are. When we give, we are not simply supporting a building of stone and wood. We are preserving the faith of our ancestors — those who built churches under persecution, who lit candles in caves, and who whispered prayers that carried our nation through centuries. We stand on their shoulders today, and now it is our turn to be faithful stewards.

To be a steward is to recognize that everything we have — every blessing, every breath — comes from God. And so, when we offer our time, our service, and our resources to His Church, we are merely returning a small part of what He has already given.

When we speak of stewardship, it's easy to think about donations or financial giving. But in our Armenian faith, stewardship is far greater than that. It is about how we care for everything that God has entrusted to us — our time, our talents, our treasures, and our hearts. If we each give from the heart, this church will not only stand — it will thrive. Because stewardship is not about what we have to give — it is about what we choose to give back to God.

We are the stewards of St. Hagop's future. We are the ones called to protect and nurture this sacred space so that our children and grandchildren will always have a place to pray in Armenian, to hear the hymns of our faith, and to feel the warmth of this community. So today, as we leave this holy place, let us each ask ourselves: What gift of time, talent, or treasure can I return to God through St. Hagop? How can I help this church continue to be a beacon of faith in our community?

We have been given so much. We live in a place of peace and opportunity. We have this beautiful sanctuary, these pews filled with love, and a spiritual family that supports us through every joy and every sorrow.

When we give to St. Hagop, we are not just supporting a building — we are strengthening a legacy. We are saying, "Yes, Lord, I am thankful. Yes, Lord, I will serve." Stewardship means recognizing those blessings — and then giving back with open hearts. It means volunteering, supporting parish life, helping a neighbor, teaching the next generation, and yes, contributing to the church that gives us so much.

Let us renew our promise with a strong generosity to care for this sacred house — to keep its doors open, its altar shining, and its faith alive in the hearts of our children. Let us give not from duty, but from devotion; not from guilt, but from gratitude. When it is time to make next year's pledge, let's give.

May our hearts & wallets be generous, our hands be willing, and our faith be strong — so that St. Hagop continues to shine for generations to come. ++May we give generously, serve faithfully, and live gratefully, so that St. Hagop remains the shining light of Armenian faith here in Florida for generations to come. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Armenian Christmas & Blessing of Waters- January 10th & IIth (Observed)



2026 Christmas Worship Schedule

Saturday, Jan. 10th—Armenian Christmas Eve Jrakalooyts (Observed)

Armenian Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy 6:30 PM

Sunday, Jan. 11th—Armenian Christmas (Observed)

Armenian Christmas Divine Liturgy 10:30AM Blessing of Waters Service & Fellowship 12:30 PM Godfather of the Blessing of Waters: Dn. Kevork & Marisol Demirjian

Monday & Tuesday, Jan. 5th & 6th—Armenian Christmas (No Services)

No Services at St. Hagop-Church Open for Individual Prayer Jan. 6th 9AM-5PM

(no requiem services are allowed on January 11th, requiems may be requested for the next Sunday January 18th)

Annual Parish Assembly-Sunday Feb. 8th



If you or someone you know feels called and qualified to run for office at our upcoming parish assembly, please contact nominating committee members Alysia Ekizian, Arsen Sahakyan or Tanya Sarafian. They will share elected officers' duties and ask for biographical information to publish for the election. We invite all parishioners to participate in our annual assembly on Sunday Feb. 8th at 12:30pm; we value your input!

A Great Start for 2026 Pledge Stewardship!

So far, we have been blessed with **58** pledges totaling **\$122,950** for stewardship 2026! Your stewardship makes a difference for our church, and also for you! We invite you to mail in your pledge card or to submit online, we hope to have all pledges in by the New Year!

In prayerful consideration of my stewardship of God's resources and my commitment to St. Hagop's mission and programs: My/Our Stewardship Pledge for 2026 is: \$	Please mail this pledge card to church office, or bring to offe plate by Stewardship Sunda November 30, 2025. No payr need accompany this form We that 2026 pledge monies be paid the end of the 2026 calendar y Payments may be made on
Signature:	May the Lord Remember All Your Office Յիջեսցէ Տէր Զումնեորի Պատարագո Քո Stewardship Pledge Card

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to St. Hagop! Those who have submitted a pledge by 12/15/25 to support St. Hagop are identified below.

Stepan & Naria Aghekyan, George & Joan Agnacian, Vaagn Andikyan, John & Susan Arsenault, Vicky & Pauline Atamian Gilgan, Naira Avagyan Mangasar, Bagrad & Tatiana Badalyan, Levon & Kristina Fandunyan Bagdasarov, Charles & Lisa Begian, Michael Boucher, Evan & Grace Austin Carpenter, Fr. Hovnan & Yn. Anna Demerjian, Kenneth & Karen Demerjian, Jean-Jacques & Hasmig Demerjian, Raffi & Tanya Demerjian, Kevork & Marisol Demirjian, Sason & Patricia Demirjian, Leilani Doty, Araxi Dulgeroff, Art & Adrienne Ekizian, John & Victoria Franks, Martha-Anne Garabedian, Berge & Tamar Hajian, Joseph & Pamela Hajinian Brinker, Robina Hovsepian, Richard & Christina Kachadurian, Dr. George & Debra Kamajian, Edward Kapreilian, Sam Kapreilian, Harry & Beverly Karim, Hannelore Keshishian, Missak & Zevart Keshishian, Sargis & Susanna Knyazyan, Chau Luong, Ann Mahdessian, Jeff & Araksya Mekenyan Sprecher, Victoria Mouradian, Gregory & Christine Parseghian, Gregory & Stefanie Parseghian, Arsen & Varduhi Sahakyan, Alex Saharian, Leon & Sharon Sarkisian, Chuck & Kathy Sarkisian, Chris & Carol Sassouni, Yates & Alexis Sayers, Stepan & Seta Serpekian, Michael & Jean Shahnasarian, John & Kelly Shamsey, Robert & Christina Shamsey, James & Leana Stevens, Andrei Trapizonian, Grygorii Trapizonian, Ida Varadian, Carolyn & Terry Waidley, James & Cathy Wilson, Haig Yaghoobian & Dr. Haig & Louise Yardumian, Armen & Srbuhi Zakaryan

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

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The Rev. Fr. Hovnan Demerjian

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David Kazarian, Andrei Trapizonian, Leon Sarkisian, 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	
Summer 2026	April 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 <u>info@sthagopfl.org</u> 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

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Treasurer

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Vice-Secretary

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Co-Sexton (buildings & grounds)

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Organizations

Sunday School SundaySchool@sthagopfl.org

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

Co-Chair – Rita Keshishian rita keshishian@hotmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wed. Dec. 31st	New Year's Eve Dinner Dance	6:00PM-1:00AM
Sun. Jan. 4th	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
Tues. Jan. 6th	Armenian Christmas - No Services- Church open for prayers	10AM-4PM
Sat. Jan. 10 th	Divine Liturgy/Armenian Christmas Eve (Observed)	6:30-8:00 PM
Sun. Jan. 11 th	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Armenian Christmas (Observed) Blessing of the Waters-Godfather: Dn. Kevork & Marisol Demirjian Special Armenian Christmas Fellowship	10:30AM-12:15PM 12:15PM-12:30PM 12:30PM-2:00PM
Tues. Jan. 13th	Parish Council Meeting	6:00-8:00 PM
Sun. Jan 18 th	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School Taste of Armenia Tampa Bay	10:30AM-12:00PM 12:00PM-6:00PM
Wed. Jan. 21st	St. Hagop Seniors' Fellowship	12:00PM-3:00PM
Sun. Jan. 25 th	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
Sun. Feb. 1st	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
Sun. Feb. 8 th	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship Annual Parish Assembly Super Bowl Watch Party	10:30AM-12:30PM 12:30PM-2:00PM 6:00PM-10:00PM
Tues. Feb. 10 th	Parish Council Meeting	6:00-8:00 PM
Sun. Feb. 15 th	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship-Poon Paregentan	10:30AM-1:30PM
Mon. Feb. 16 th	Great Lent Begins	
Wed. Feb. 18 th	St. Hagop Seniors' Fellowship	12:00PM-3:00PM
Sun. Feb. 22 nd	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
Sun. March 1st	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
Sun. March 8 th	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
Tues. March 10th	Parish Council Meeting	6:00-8:00 PM
Sun. March 15 th	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
Wed. March 18th	St. Hagop Seniors' Fellowship	12:00PM-3:00PM
Sun. March 22 nd	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
Sun. March 29 th	Divine Liturgy-Palm Sunday/Sunday School/Fellowship Women's Guild Bake Sale	10:30AM-1:30PM 12:00PM-1:30PM
Thurs. April 2 nd	Washing of the Feet/Votnlva Service Vigil/Khavaroom Service	7:00 PM 8:00 PM
Fri. April 3 rd	Burial Service (Good Friday)	7:00 PM
Sat. April 4th	Easter Eve/Jragalooyts Divine Liturgy	7:00 PM
Sun. April 5 th	Divine Liturgy-Easter Sunday Special Fellowship in Hall/Easter Egg Hunt	10:30AM-12:15PM 12:15PM-2:00PM
Sun. April 12 th	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
Tues. April 14th	Parish Council Meeting	6:00-8:00 PM
Wed. April 15 th	St. Hagop Seniors' Fellowship	12:00PM-3:00PM
Thurs. April 16th	Parish Council Virtual Meeting With Primate	7:00-8:30 PM
Sun. April 19th	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship	10:30AM-1:30PM
Sun. April 26 th	Divine Liturgy/Sunday School/Fellowship Martyrs of Armenian Genocide Service	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)



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