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ST. ILLUMINATOR'S ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CATHEDRAL
NEW YORK, NY

E-NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2013

REV. FR. MESROB LAKISSIAN, PASTOR



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ST. ILLUMINATOR CATHEDRAL'S WEEKLY NEWS

“History of Armenia: past, present, future” series of Seminars concluded



Dr. Artur Martirosyan

It was with great joy and jubilation that 33 out of over 60 participants received a memento Historical Atlas of Armenia, donated by His Eminence Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, Prelate, and a Certificate of Perfect Attendance of the 8 seminars titled “History of Armenia: Past, Present, Future”, signed by Ambassador of Armenia to UN Mr. Garen Nazarian, Dr. Artur Martirosyan, facilitator of the seminar, and Rev. Fr. Mesrob Lakissian, Pastor.

It was obvious that attendants, through their commitment felt the importance of discovering their historical roots, how Armenians fit in world history, as well as going forward with a beneficial and renewed sense of enriched identity.

It is important to mention that the participants came from every age group as well as diverse country origins, including one very committed non Armenian with a thirst for knowledge of Armenian history. The presentations so interesting that series mostly ran out of time and many continued the discussions afterwards.

As Armenians, we need to know our history, how we survived the tests of time, learn to appreciate our culture and reinforce our unique and rich identity.

Rev. Fr. Mesrob Lakissian expressed heartfelt thanks to H. E. Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, Prelate, Ambassador Garen Nazarian, the sponsor of this seminar Mr. Andreias Marderosian, Dr. Artur Martirosyan and Mr. Onnik Kasparian for making 5,000 pages of class copies.

By Harry Milian





Rev. Lakissian, Onnik Kasparian and Dr. Artur Martirosyan



Dr. Artur Martirosyan, Ms. Alice Movsessian and Fr. Lakissian



THIRTY THREE OF THESE CERTIFICATES HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THE SEMINAR ATTENDEES

BRUNCH & TALENT SHOW

On Sunday, June 30, St. Illuminator Cathedral's Ladies Guild hosted Brunch and Talent Show highlighting the musical potential of local Armenian youth.

The program, under the auspices of Rev. Fr. Mesrob Lakissian, featured the newly-formed "Hayer" Band.

The group of six musicians is directed by Samvel Nersisyan and features brass, woodwind, percussion, and string instruments. The group presented a mixture of Armenian folk and contemporary pieces. The crowd was enthused by the band's performance and even joined along by clapping to the songs.

At the conclusion of the event, the Ladies Guild offered a brunch, during which various audience members were so inspired by the performance that they donated in various amounts to the band. The donors, Ms. Verginia Hekimian, Ms. Roza and Ms. Lily Markarian, contributed a total of \$2,650.00. The band graciously accepted the support and announced in order to continue building this success, they invite interested young Armenians to join the band.

By Sossi Essajanian



*Members of "Hayer" Band
Mariam Nersisyan, Sargis Nersisyan,
Bedros Hovhannesian, Anthony Degoian, Tigran Degoian, Nicholas Degoian*



Degoian Brothers



Sargis Nersisyan



Bedros Hovhannesian



Rev. Fr. Mesrob Lakissian with Armine Vardanyan, pianist, Samvel Nersisyan, musical director and members of "Hayer" Band



Ms. Virginia Hekimian donated \$2,000.00 to the Band, in memory of her beloved brother Harold Edward Hekimian



Markarian family donated \$650.00 to the Band



Ms. Meline Najarian, Chairlady of the Ladies Guild welcoming the audience



Ladies Guild getting ready to serve

SACRAMENTS



NOAH JAMES AMOS DUMITRU, son of Mr. & Mrs. Michael and Jessica Dumitru, was baptized on Saturday, June 29, 2013 at the St. Illuminator's Armenian Apostolic Cathedral. Mr. Armand Magardician and Ms. Madeleine Magardician were godparents. We extend our congratulations to the newly baptized Noah and his entire family.



Armand Magardician, Michael & Jessica Dumitru with baby Noah, Madeleine Magardician and Rev. Fr. Mesrob Lakissian

W E D D I N G



ARMEN GARO and SEDA AZARIAN were united in the Holy Matrimony at the St. Illuminator's Cathedral on June 30th, 2013. William Manzo and Arminae Reames were Best Man and Matron of Honor.

We congratulate newlywed couple and their families.



H. G. Bishop Anoushavan Tanielian, Mr. William Manzo, Mr. and Mrs. Armen and Seda Garo, Mrs. Arminae Reames and Rev. Fr. Mesrob Lakissian

2013

ՀԱՅ ՄՕՐ ՏԱՐԻ

THE YEAR OF THE ARMENIAN MOTHER



ՄՏԱԾՈՒՄՆԵՐ ՄԱՅՐԵՐՈՒ ՄԱՍԻՆ

- Մայրական սերը մշտապես աղբիւր է:
- Մարդկային սիրոյ աղբիւրը մայրական սերն է:
- Մէկը կրնայ լքել իր մագիստրոս հայրը, բայց երբեք իր մութացկան մայրը:
- Մայրերու բռունցքներէն ոսկորներ չեն ջարդուած:

“There never was a woman like her. She was gentle as a dove and brave as a lioness.

The memory of my mother and her teachings were, after all, the only capital I had to start life with, and on that capital I have made my way”.

Andrew Jackson

FEAST OF TRANSFIGURATION (VARTAVAR)



This Sunday, July 7, the Armenian Church observes one of its five major feasts, the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ (*Aylakerputiunm / Vartavar*). This Feast is observed fourteen weeks after Easter, and therefore can fall between June 28 and August 1. It commemorates an episode in the New Testament recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Peter. (See today's Bible reading for the text from the Gospel according to St. Matthew).

The Transfiguration took place on the "holy mountain" (believed to be Mt. Tabor) where Jesus went with John, James and Peter to pray. As He was praying, "His face shone like the sun and His garments became white as light." The Patriarch Moses and Prophet Elijah appeared at His side. It was at this moment that His appearance was "transfigured"

revealing himself as God to His disciples as a voice from above said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him."

The pre-Christian festival, *Vartavar* (Festival of Roses), was joined with this new Christian holiday. Armenians would decorate the temple of the goddess of Asdghig (goddess of love, beauty, fertility, and water) with roses, release doves, and engage in water games on this pre-Christian holiday. St. Gregory the Illuminator combined *Vartavar* with Transfiguration. The fifth century historian Yeghishe wrote the prayer that is read in the church on this feast: "O Lord, bless the harvest of this year and defend from all the perils, and may Your right hand, O Lord, protect us for the whole year."

Vartavar became a traditional day of pilgrimage to churches named in honor of St. John the Baptist. The most popular destination was the Monastery of Sourp Garabed of Moush, founded by Gregory the Illuminator in the province of Taron near Moush. (Garabed means Forerunner, referring to John the Baptist). The monastery was large and expansive and built like a fortress in the mountains. More than one thousand pilgrims could be accommodated. After 1915 the complex ceased to exist. The monastery was destroyed by the Turkish army, and the ravages of time, weather and scavengers completed its destruction. The once large and thriving Armenian monastery is now a mass of stone and rubble.

This Sunday is the name day for those named Vartkes, Vartavar, Vart, Vartouhi, Alvirt, Sevart, Nevart, Lousvart, Baidzar, Vartanoush, Vartiter, Varvar.

SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2013

ՎԱՐԴԱՎԱՌ

ԱԲԵՏԱՐԱՆ ԸՍՏ ՄԱՏԹԵՈՍԻ (16:13 -17:13)

Վեց օր ետք, Յիսուս իր հետ առաւ Պետրոսը, Յակոբոս եւ Յովհաննէս եղբայրները եւ զանոնք բարձր լեռ մը հանեց, ուր առանձին էին: Հոն այլակերպեցաւ անոնց դիմաց. իր դէմքը արեւու նման լուսաւոր դարձաւ եւ հագուստները լոյսի նման ճերմակ եղան: Եւ ահա երեւցան Մովսէսն ու Եղիան, որոնք կը խօսէին Յիսուսի հետ: Պետրոս ըսաւ Յիսուսին. - Տէ՛ր, ի՛նչ լաւ կ'ըլլայ որ հոս մնանք. եթէ կ'ուզես՝ երեք վրաններ շինենք, մէկը քեզի, մէկը Մովսէսի եւ միւսը Եղիայի համար: Մինչ Պետրոս կը խօսէր, ահա լուսաւոր ամպ մը ծածկեց զիրենք. ամպին մէջէն ձայն մը լսուեցաւ, որ կ'ըսէր.- Այս է իմ սիրելի Որդիս, որուն ես հաճեցայ. անոր մտիկ ըրէք: Երբ աշակերտները լսեցին ասիկա, սարսափահար՝ երեսի վրայ գետին ինկան: Յիսուս մօտենալով՝ դպաւ անոնց եւ ըսաւ.- Ոտքի ելէք, մի՛ վախնաք: Աշակերտները իրենց աչքերը վեր բարձրացուցին եւ Յիսուսէ զատ մարդ չտեսան:

ՃԸ. ԸՆԹԵՐՑՈՒՄ

Իմաս. 7: 25 - 8 : 4

Զք. 14 : 16 - 21

Ա. Յովհ. 1 : 1 - 7

TRANSFIGURATION

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (16:13 -17:13)

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them. And his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, - "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." While he said still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, - "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am pleased; listen to Him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them saying, - "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

BIBLE READINGS

Wis. 7: 25 - 8 : 4

Zec. 14 : 16 - 21

1 Jn. 1 : 1 – 7



ԱՐՄԵՆԱՅԻՆ ԱՌԻՍՏՈՆՈՐԴԱՐԱՆ

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June 27, 2013

Rev. Fr. Mesrob Lakissian, Pastor
Board of Trustees
St. Illuminator's Arm. Apost. Cathedral
221 E. 27th Street
New York, NY 10016

Dear Pastor and Board Members,

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of \$250.00 for assistance to the victims of the tornadoes that devastated vast areas of Oklahoma. As many as 26 tornadoes hit Oklahoma within a few days, and then on May 20 an enormous mile-wide tornado with winds up to 200 mph, ripped through areas of the state, causing widespread destruction and injury.

I am grateful to our parishes for responding to my appeal to offer a special plate collection on Sunday, May 26, specifically for Oklahoma relief. The total amount collected from all of our parishes will be forwarded to the American Red Cross for this purpose.

Please extend my thanks to your parishioners for their generosity. We pray that Almighty God will comfort the many families who lost loved ones as well as all of their worldly possessions.

Prayerfully,

ARCHBISHOP OSHAGAN
Prelate
Eastern United States of America



Sunday, August 18, 2013

**FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
BLESSING OF THE GRAPES & LUNCHEON**

Sunday, September 15, 2013

**FEAST OF EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
DIVINE LITURGY, BLESSING OF THE HARVEST (ԱՆԴՈՍՏԱՆ), MADAGH
BOOK PRESENTATION “ONE CHURCH ONE NATION” by HRAIR HAWK KHATCHERIAN**

Saturday, September 21, 2013

**St. Illuminator Cathedral’s
“HUYSER” Music Ensemble presents
THE SOUND OF FREEDOM
Celebration of Independence
*Details to follow...***

September 5 to October 3, 2013

“A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO MODERN ARMENIAN LITERATURE,” a series of five seminars presented on Thursdays, 7 pm to 8:30pm, at St. Illuminator’s Cathedral. Sponsored by the Armenian National Education Committee (ANEC) and the St. Illuminator’s Cathedral. Presented by Vartan Matiossian, Ph.D.

Saturday, October 5, 2013, from 2pm to 6pm

**Symposium “ARMENIAN WOMEN AS ARTISTS AND MOTHERS”
Sponsored by the Armenian National Education Committee (ANEC) at the St. Illuminator Cathedral’s John Pashalian Hall, on the year of the Mother of the Armenian Family.
Lecturers: Melissa Bilal (Columbia University), Jennifer Manoukian (Columbia University) and Vartan Matiossian (ANEC)**