

# SAINT SARKIS ARMENIAN

## APOSTOLIC CHURCH

**January 8th, 2012**

7000 Park Rd., Charlotte, NC 28210

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Web: [www.saintsarkis.net](http://www.saintsarkis.net)

*Celebrant: Fr. Mampre Kouzouian*



**Chairperson**

**Vice Chair**

**Treasurer**

**Secretary**

**Asst. Secretary**

**Advisor**

**Advisor**

**Delegate**

**Lena Kupelian Neau**

**Raymond Bozoian**

**Kevin Janumyan**

**Donna Loutigian**

**Pierre Arbajian**

**Melkum Janumyan**

**Anna Apelian Martin**

**Sylvie Yessayan**

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### **Executive Staff:**

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**Acopian Hall Mgr**

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**Charlie Diman**

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## **Readings for Today:**

January 5<sup>th</sup> - Titus 2:11-15. Matthew 2: 1-12. Luke 2:8-14.

January 6<sup>th</sup> - Titus 2:11-15. Matthew 1:18-25.

## **Blessing of the Water (Chrorhnek) – Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, immediately following Badarak**

The Armenian Church celebrates the baptism of Jesus during Christmas with a special service known as the Blessing of the Waters. Godfather for this service will be Kevin Janumyan, since his son was baptized yesterday.

### **Feast of the Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.' And lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh."

(Matthew 2:1-11, RSV)

The Armenian Church celebrates the holy birth (Sourp Dznount) of Jesus Christ on January 6. In Armenian tradition, this feast day commemorates not only the birth of Christ, but also His baptism by John the Baptist. The latter is remembered through the "Blessing of Water" ceremony, which follows the Divine Liturgy on January 6.

On the eve of the Feast of the Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Jrakalouyts Divine Liturgy (the lighting of the lamps service) is celebrated in honor of the manifestation of Jesus as the Son of God (theophany). It is custom for the faithful to hold lit candles during this special service.

On the following day, the mystery of our Lord's baptism in the River Jordan is remembered in the ceremony of the Jurorhnek, or the "Blessing of Water."

In ancient times, this ceremony was celebrated by the riverside or sea shore, but, for various reasons, it was later confined to the interior of the churches. During the ceremony, the cross is dipped in water, recalling Christ's immersion in the Jordan River. Blessed oil, or Holy Chrism (Muron), is poured into the water from a dove-shaped container, symbolizing the appearance at the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove and the voice of the Father proclaiming to all that Jesus is His Son.

The Holy Chrism is prepared in Holy Etchmiadzin and is blessed by the Catholicos assisted by the bishops. Muron contains olive oil, balsam and the essence of forty different flowers and herbs. At the end of the ceremony, members of the congregation are given the blessed water to drink, thereby sharing in the life giving act of Christ. As water is essential to the life of the body, drinking the blessed water is a reminder that participation in the acts of Christ is essential for eternal life.

### **Why January 6?**

Even at the time of the Holy Apostles, the traditions in the Christian churches in the different parts of the world were not uniform. In fact, Christmas was probably not observed at all in the very early Church. Later, the mysteries of the birth and baptism of Jesus Christ began to be observed on January 6.

By the end of the 3rd century, Christmas in Rome was celebrated on December 25, which coincided with a major pagan feast. The Eastern churches, meanwhile, continued to observe Christmas on January 6. The Armenian Church has maintained that ancient tradition to this day, whereas the Greek-speaking Christian world switched to the Latin tradition at the end of the 4th century.

Armenian-American households may exchange Christmas gifts on December 25, since it is the custom in American society to do so. In some of our churches in the United States, it has become traditional to observe the feast of St. Stephen the Proto-Martyr on Christmas Eve (December 24), though that feast is movable and may not always fall on December 24. If possible, the faithful should fast during the seven-day period preceding January 6, and should inform their children that they are fasting as a way of preparation for Christmas. On the evening of January 5, families should attend church and participate in the celebration of the Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy. They should do the same on the morning of January 6.

## Church Etiquette

We must keep in mind that we need to adopt reverent behavior when coming to worship during Badarak Services. When entering the narthex, we are leaving the secular world behind us. As we enter the nave of the sanctuary, we enter a space of worship that is a forestate of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Conversation and speaking should be limited to essential communication. Casual conversation should not be held in church and **never** while in line to receive Holy Communion. Fellowship time follows services during the Coffee Hour.

Chewing gum is inappropriate.

## Voghchooyn – Kiss of Peace

(During the Divine Liturgy, when the Parish Council members pass  
The Kiss of Peace in Church)

*The person offering the Kiss of Peace should say:*

“Krisdos ee mech mer Haydnetsav”                      Christ is revealed amongst us

*The person receiving the Kiss of Peace should say:*

“Orhnial eh Haydnootyunn Krisdosee”                      Blessed is the revelation of Christ

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Baptism

On Saturday, Fr. Mampre baptized **Michael K Janumyan**, son of Kevin & Diana Janumyan, grandson of Melkum & Tatyana Janumyan and Rita Melkumyan. The godfather is Sergey Sarkisov.

Congratulations and best wishes to Michael, his parents, brother, grandparents, and godfather.

### Welcome

We would like to welcome **Rita Melkumyan**, who has come from Russia to visit her daughter, Diana Melkumyan Janumyan and her family.

Also welcome to **Sylva Semerciyan**, her husband David Caudrey and daughter Theodora Ani (9 months) visiting from England with Sylva’s parents, Mikhayel & Maro Semerciyan

### St. Sarkis Food Festival

The time has come for St. Sarkis to begin the tradition of an Annual Food Festival for the Greater Charlotte region.

The Parish Council has chosen "May" as the month to begin, but an exact date has not been set. We will need to help of "everyone" to make this a success. More information will follow.

## **New Year's Eve Celebration**

Acopian Hall was the place to be on December 31st!

With 106 in attendance St. Sarkis hosted our annual New Year's Eve Celebration.

We added a 50/50 raffle this year which was a big success.

189 raffle tickets were sold at \$10.00 each for a total collection of \$1,890.00.

### **The winners were:**

1st Prize Winner - Gohar Vardanian - \$472.00

2nd Prize Winner - Eliza Guluzian (sister of Levon Bagdasarian) - \$189.00

3rd Prize Winner - Hagop Gorgi, Gohar Vardanian, Arthur Yessayan - \$94.50

***Church = \$945.00***

## **St. Sarkis Ministries**

### **Women's Guild**

The next WG meeting will be Tuesday, January 10th. All women of the parish are welcome. The meeting starts at 10:00AM.

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

### **Badarak Collections: Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Plate – \$200

Candles – \$66

Year final stewardship information coming in the next bulletin.

### **Upcoming Badarak Services:**

|  |                             |                 |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012</b>                   | <b>Jashoo service</b>       | <b>11:00 am</b> |
| <b>Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012</b>                   | <b>Fr. Dajad Davidian</b>   | <b>10:15 am</b> |
| <b>Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012</b>                   | Deacon Ben Ritt-Najarian    | <b>10:30 am</b> |
| <b>Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012</b><br>(Saint Sarkis) | <b>Abp. Vicken Aykazian</b> | <b>10:15 am</b> |
| <b>Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012</b>                  | <b>Fr. Mampre Kouzouian</b> | <b>10:15 am</b> |
| <b>Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012</b>                  | <b>Fr. Dajad Davidian</b>   | <b>10:15 am</b> |
| <b>Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012</b>                  | <b>Fr. Dajad Davidian</b>   | <b>10:15 am</b> |
| <b>Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012</b>                      | <b>Jashoo service</b>       | <b>11:00 am</b> |
| <b>Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012</b>                     | <b>Fr. Mampre Kouzouian</b> | <b>10:15 am</b> |
| <b>Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012</b>                     | <b>TBD</b>                  | <b>10:15 am</b> |
| <b>Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012</b>                     | <b>Fr. Mampre Kouzouian</b> | <b>10:15 am</b> |
| <b>Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012</b>                      | <b>TBD</b>                  | <b>10:15 am</b> |
| <b>Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012</b>     | <b>HOLY WEEK</b>            |                 |