



# The Apostle Առաքյալ



*One who is sent forth having been entrusted with a special mission.*

Newsletter of St. Sahag Armenian Church

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**March-April 2008**



## From the Pastor

*And he who sat upon the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Revelations 21:5*

When I first realized I would be spending the winter in Minnesota I figured, "I'm from a northern Midwestern state; I'll be able to handle it - no problem." I didn't realize how much snow would come and how long it would stay on the ground. I also didn't anticipate the downward drop of the thermometer's mercury to so many digits below zero. I like winter sports and I even enjoy driving on snow, however after several months of snow and cold, I look forward to the warmer days of spring. Last week, while with my family in Massachusetts, the weather was warm enough that I actually had the pleasant experience of driving my car with the windows open; something I did not expect to be able to do for at least another month or two. The experience was brief. Upon my return to Minnesota, the airline pilot announced that the temperature at the Minneapolis - St. Paul International Airport was zero degrees. Still, I took my breezy experience as a foreshadowing of more good weather and other good things to come.

The early warm spell also gave me instance to consider the early arrival of Easter this year. According to the calendar specialists, this will be the earliest Easter that we will experience in our lifetime. The imminent arrival of Holy Week and Easter gives us all the opportunity to ponder the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for us through His passion in the garden of Gethsemane, His

arrest by the Jewish and Roman authorities, His torments, His death on the cross and His burial in a newly hewn tomb.

The arrival of Easter gives us the opportunity to consider Christ's victory over death through His marvelous and glorious resurrection from the dead. It also gives us cause to hope for our own resurrection and transformed life in the presence of Our Lord.

This year, St. Sahag Armenian Church will have the opportunity to perform all the major Holy Week services. I hope all of our faithful will make it a priority to experience Holy Week and Easter to the fullest. I encourage you to read the biblical accounts of the last days of Christ's earthly ministry. Attend the special services that are offered, and participate in them to the extent that you are able. Contemplate Our Lord's sacrifices and rejoice in His making all things new.

May God bless you during this holy season and always.

*Kreesdos Haryav ee merelots!*

*Christ has risen from the dead!*

*Orhnyal eh Harootyoonun Kreesdosee!*

*Blessed is the resurrection of Christ!*

With blessings,

Der Sahak Kaishian

Visiting Pastor

## GREAT NEWS FROM THE PARISH ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS!

by Steve Scallen

Four new members of the Parish Council have been elected. They are all talented, fresh, new faces in parish governance. They are the new leadership of St. Sahag Armenian Church.

We are meeting and setting priorities for this year. Our challenge is to maintain and improve our programs, liturgies, and the participation in them. The past year has brought us so much progress – increased attendance, choir performance, acolytes, deacons, sunday school, Armenian School, ACYOA, a full-time priest and contributions to pay the bills. The most encouraging news is that there are now families with children and many young adults involved in the parish and its activities. This is what we wanted to happen. It is a sign of growth and the vigor of our church and the Armenian community.

Your council is anxious to hear from all of you about your concerns, your hopes and any problems you feel need work. The council members are:

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## ST. SAHAG CALENDAR

<p>March 15-23 <b>HOLY WEEK</b></p> <p>March 16 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> Turunpatsek – <i>Opening of Doors Ceremony</i> 12:15 p.m.</p> <p>March 16 Women’s Guild meeting 1:00 p.m. Parish Council Discussion Session 12:30 p.m.</p> <p>March 20 <b>HOLY THURSDAY</b> Vodunluva - <i>Washing of Feet</i> 7:00 p.m. Khavaroom 8:00 p.m. <i>Commemoration of the Betrayal</i></p> <p>March 21 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> Khachelootyoon – Crucifixion 12:00 p.m. Taghoom - <i>Burial</i> 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>March 22 <b>HOLY SATURDAY</b> Jurakaloos and Badarak 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>March 23 <b>HOLY EASTER</b></p> <p>March 30 Parish Council Meeting 12:30 p.m. ACYOA Meeting 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>April 13 <b>Divine Liturgy</b> 10:30 a.m. His Eminence Abp. Khajag Barsamian, Celebrant Ordination of Acolytes – Sub-deacon 12:00 p.m. <b>Consecration 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Banquet</b> 1:00 p.m. Anniversary Concert</p> <p>April 24 Martyrs’ Day</p> <p>April 26 Martyrs’ Day Observance and Concert</p>
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*Dear parishioners and friends of St. Sahag Armenian Church,*

*You are cordially invited to attend the Fifth Anniversary Celebration of the Consecration of St. Sahag Armenian Church on Sunday, April 13, 2008. His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, will preside at the day’s events. His Eminence will celebrate the Divine Liturgy. An ordination of acolytes and a sub-deacon follows at the conclusion of the Badarak. There will be a banquet and program in the Ararat Hall followed by a musical tribute featuring several talented members of our church community.*

*If you have not received an invitation in the mail, please contact Anniversary Committee Chairman, Chris Kibarian at 617-388-1085. Banquet tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children between the ages of 6-12. Children 5 and under are free of charge.*

*We look forward to seeing you at this milestone event in the life of our church.*

*Chris Kibarian, Chairman  
5th Anniversary Celebration*



### CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

**ACYOA:** Harut Khatryan, Co-Chairman  
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Ben Rith-Najarian, Co-Chairman  
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**CHURCH CHOIR:** Beatrice Ohanessian, Director  
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**SCHOOL OF MUSIC:** Stepan Khachatryan, Director  
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**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Katie Toghramadjian, Superintendent  
avokatie@msn.com 763-795-0049

**WOMEN’S GUILD:** Michele Byfield Stead, Chair  
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### COMMITTEES

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ACOM	Cynthia Erickson	cynthia.erickson@minnmicro.com 651-917-1818

If you are interested in any of the church committees, you’re always welcome! To find out more, just call the church office at 651-603-1940 or email: saintsahag@aol.com. You will be contacted....and THANK YOU!

## ST. SAHAG SUNDAY SCHOOL

by Katie Toghramadjian

The inaugural session of St. Sahag's Sunday School Program is well underway. Our purpose for this semester is for our youth to strengthen their connections with the Church and Its teachings, their heritage and their peers in the Armenian Community.

The Sunday School program for children ages 2-6 is led by Margaret Boyer with assistance from her daughter, Emma Kashian, with special assistance from Houry Kizirian and Gohar Kibarian. This program focuses on teaching the very young of our parish about the Armenian faith through the teaching of prayers, Bible stories, and songs. A favorite weekly activity has been creating pages in a Story Bible that each child is making. They have learned about the Creation Story, The Garden of Eden, and Noah's Ark. Children are escorted from class to join in the last half of the weekly church service. This is an opportunity for the young children to learn how to participate with respect and reverence during the community celebration. Speaking to Der Sahak this past Sunday, Isabel Toghramadjian, age four, stated with glee, "I love Sunday School!"

The program for children ages 7-14 is led by Michele Goodspeed. This program has focused on discussing the Lenten Season currently being

observed. These students helped to plan and host the Poon Parengentan Carnival held during Fellowship on February 3 to mark the beginning of Lent. The students are learning the Lord's Prayer in English and Armenian and discussing its significance and meaning. Student, Hagop Toghramadjian, states, "We aren't just memorizing the words; we talk about their meaning. Michele lets us ask questions and helps us to find the answers."

Since most of the children in the older program are also preparing for Ordination as Acolytes, the focus of the weekly classes is being shifted to accommodate service at the Altar and to prepare them for their Ordination into this level of Church Service on April 13.



## WOMEN'S GUILD

by Michele Byfield Stead

What is the Women's Guild? What do they do? These might be some questions newcomers to the church may have – especially those who aren't familiar with how groups like this work. The Women's Guild is an organization within the church that provides support to the parish in many different ways. The "Guild" here at St. Sahag is simply an organization that provides a method to disperse information and to get people together and unite toward a common goal. That goal changes as we grow. Without a defined group that organizes the gathering of ideas and the making of plans, things just don't get done. Last year we provided a monthly luncheon for the parish, cooked for over 140 people a lamb dinner, many members volunteered their time and talent for the Catholicos visit in October, and the "Guild" provided the food for Fall Voski Ashoon and hosted a well organized Children's Fair in November. In 2007 we had 21 members of both women and men.

2008 is just beginning. I invite all members – both women AND men to join our ranks and participate as you are able. This year we will attempt to start meeting on a more regular basis on the third Sunday of every month (when we provide the monthly luncheon for the parish). This meeting should be brief – about 45 minutes maximum. We will discuss upcoming events and touch base on the planning of those activities.

The Women's Guild executive committee is truly grateful for the tireless dedication, devotion, enthusiasm and energy each and every volunteer brings to our activities. I personally have been enriched through my own participation in the Guild. Being able to get together in a smaller group allows us to get to know each other better and we are all enhanced by the experience – each one of us gets to share another daughter (or son), a mother (or father), or a grandmother (or grandfather) – what other group can you join that gives you that?!



### ST. SAHAG'S FIRST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

by Houry Kizirian

On Sunday December 16, 2007 the children of St. Sahag Armenian Church presented a beautiful Christmas Pageant called *The Story of Christmas*. Each child was assigned a specific role to help create this magical moment.

- ♦ **Ani Bailey** played the role of the **Virgin Mary**
- ♦ **Thomas Toghramadjiann**, as **Joseph**
- ♦ **Alexander Kardashian, Kjell Sandstrom,** and **Max Ylitalo** were the **three kings**
- ♦ **Makayla Gunesen** and **Sophia Gunesen** brightened the stage as the **graceful angels**
- ♦ **Raffy Toghramadjian** as **Angel Gabriel,**
- ♦ **Haik Kibarian, and Isobel Toghramadjian** were our **shepherds**
- ♦ **Maddy Stead, Hagop Toghramadjian** and **Andrew Ylitalo** vividly narrated a joyous version of the world's most popular Christmas story.

With the help of all these children, the spirit of Christmas touched the hearts of everyone. Working with these talented children and seeing them perform was truly a wonderful experience for me. With only one rehearsal prior to the performance, these children were able to put together the very first Christmas pageant at St. Sahag Armenian Church. We look forward to our next Christmas pageant.



Happy  
Spring!



The Apostle  
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