

St. Vartan Armenian Apostolic Church of Mississauga, Canada
P.O.Box 53010, 5100 Erin Mills Pkwy, Mississauga L5M 5A7
Vol. 1 No. 20 Sunday, July 27, 2008

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For free email subscription or to send comments: anijan2@gmail.com

Welcome to St. Vartan Armenian Church

Welcome to our Soorp Badarak this afternoon. Thank you for taking the time to pray and worship with us. We believe that you will feel God's love and spirit among us, as we come together as a community to give him glory.

Divine Liturgy @ 1 p.m. with Celebrant
Very Rev. Fr. Hayrik
Hovhannisyan.

Sunday School @ 1:30 p.m.
No Sunday School today.

Read About

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Meet our pastor
Very Rev. Fr. Hayrik Hovhannisyan
905-916-1886
stvartan@hotmail.com

Next Service

We hope to see you at our *next* Soorp Badarak at **1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24, 2008** with Celebrant Very Rev. Fr. Hayrik Hovhannisyan.

Immediately after Soorp Badarak today, everyone is invited to the Church Hall for refreshments.

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Did You Know?

St. Vartan has its own website with news and worship information. Check it out!

www.stvartan.ca

Requiem services (hokehankist) can be requested

for the next church service by calling Very Rev. Fr. Hayrik Hovhannisyán. A requiem may be requested following the death of a loved one, 40 days after their death (karasoonk), the yearly anniversary, name day, birthday or Father's/Mother's Day.



When you are in Church

Let the peace of this place surround you as you sit or kneel quietly. Let the hurry and worry of your life fall away. You are God's child. He loves you and cares for you, and he is here with you now and always. Speak to him thoughtfully; give yourself time for him to bring things to mind.

A New Song, Jan Karon, 1999, p. 93.

Websites to Visit

News Stories and Photos on

Holy Etchmiadzin Website
www.armenianchurch.org

Canadian Diocese Website
www.armenianchurch.ca

Thank you, Lord, for the blessings and the challenges you have for me. Give me patience, Father, for all that lies ahead. Amen.

BRING SOMEONE WHO NEEDS A RIDE TO CHURCH

Are You On Our Mailing List?

Have you moved or are you planning a move? The Parish Council needs your help to keep its mailing list up-to-date. Sign up to receive church news by email. Clipboards are at the church entrance doors.



After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid."

Matthew 17:2



Not Rain Again?!

A Tremendous Show of Support for St. Vartan's Annual Summertime Picnic

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our picnic last Sunday at Fogoler's Country Club in Oakville. The dark gray skies and persistent and heavy downpour didn't dampen your spirits, and we thank you for turning out despite the very wet weather.

More than 100 faithful came to eat barbecued luleh kebab, chicken breast and veggie kebabs, perfectly grilled by our own Super Chefs Sahag Seropian and Loris Dumanian. These two hardy souls could be seen under a dripping golf umbrella, engulfed by the smoke of the barbecue, yet undeterred from their duties.

Rain racing down the blue tarp

Bravo also to all the volunteers under the outdoor patio tarp who endured the constant cool deluge of rain racing down the blue tarp onto their backs as they served our faithful generous portions of delicious homemade Armenian foods. God bless you for your sense of humour and your wonderful spirit despite the undeniably uncomfortable circumstances.

We thank our talented Gadar Petizian for entertaining our children in the busy clubhouse, our Past Parish Council Chair Julia Dumanian for looking after the lottery, and our Choir Director Sarkis Hamboyan for coordinating the highly competitive Tavloo Tournament. The luck-loaded winner was Aramik Moosakhanian of Mississauga. He's the man to beat at Tavloo next year! This year's picnic was organized by Berge and Ani Shalvardjian, and held once again thanks to the tremendous support of the St. Vartan community.



Enjoy the rest of your summer, especially those cherished sunny days. Hopefully, we'll have one of them at *next* year's summertime picnic!

*Lord, I only
want to
listen.
Amen.*

Remember to Turn Off Your Cell Phone

Please turn off your cell phone when you are at church, out of courtesy for your fellow faithful and respect for the holiness of the Soorp Badarak.

Are You God's Wife?

The following is an eye-witness account from New York City, on a cold day in December, some years ago. A little boy, about 10 years old, was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, barefooted, peering through the window, and shivering with cold.

A lady approached the young boy and said, "My, but you're in such deep thought staring in that window!"

"I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes," was the boy's reply.

The lady took him by the hand, went into the store, and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her.

She took the little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with the towel. By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes.

She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him. She patted him on the head and said, "No doubt, you will be more comfortable now."



As she turned to go, the astonished child caught her by the hand, and looking up into her face, with tears in his eyes, asked her, "Are you God's wife?"

Hierarchical Sees of the Armenian Church

The Armenian Church has four hierarchical sees. In order of supremacy, they are:

- **Holy Etchmiadzin** was founded in 301 A.D. and is the Mother See and seat of the Catholicos of All Armenians who is elected by a conclave of clergy and laity from the dioceses under its jurisdiction. During successive centuries, the Catholicosate moved to wherever the central secular authority was located at the time—to cities such as Tvin, Ani, Van, Hromgla, and Sis. In 1441, the seat of the Catholicosate of All Armenians returned back to its original place in Holy Etchmiadzin.

- **Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia** began in 1446 as a separate entity, with its jurisdiction being mainly in Cilicia. In 1921, in the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide, the last Catholicos, Sahak Khabaian, left Cilicia once and for all. In 1929, through the agreement of the Catholicos of All Armenians Khoren V, and the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Abp. Torkom Koushagian, a new jurisdiction was agreed upon for the seat of the Great House of Cilicia – Syria, Lebanon and Cyprus.

- **Patriarchate of Jerusalem** was founded in 638 A.D. It is subordinate to Holy Etchmiadzin. The Patriarch is elected by the brotherhood of Sts.



James (named for the disciples James and the brother of Our Lord, first Bishop of Jerusalem, whose heads are buried in the chapel of the Armenian Cathedral). The Armenian presence in the Holy Land began with Tigran the Great (95-55 B.C.) and increased during the life of Christ and thereafter, with frequent pilgrimages to Jerusalem and Mount Sinai, as well as numerous monastic communities. The Patriarchate has jurisdiction over Armenian Churches and sacred sites throughout the Holy Land, including the Holy Sepulcher (where Jesus was crucified), Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem (where Jesus was born), the Mount of Olives (where Jesus ascended into heaven 40 days after Easter), and the Garden of Gethsemane (where Jesus was arrested while praying on Holy Thursday after the Last Supper and where the Tomb of

St. Mary is located, from which she was taken up into heaven at Assumption)...*Cont'd on p. 8.*

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of peace in our lives, and for the abundant blessings which you have given us, in numbers too great to count or even to recognize. Amen.

Prayer of the Celebrant During Divine Liturgy

Lord our God, save your people and bless your inheritance, and preserve the fullness of your Church. Sanctify those who have come to greet in love the beauty of your house. Glorify us by your divine power and forsake not us who have put our trust in you. You who have taught us all to pray in common and with one accord and have promised to grant the requests of two or three agreeing together in your name, fulfill now the petitions of your servants as may be expedient for them, granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. For you are God beneficent and you love mankind, and to you is befitting glory, dominion and honor, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Hierarchical Sees of the Armenian Church

Cont'd from p. 5. The Armenian presence in the Holy Land is very ancient. There are hundreds of Armenian holy places, pilgrimage routes and monasteries from the Sinai to north of the Sea of Galilee. Armenians have had an honored place in the Holy Land, from the apostolic period, through the Arab, Saracen and Crusaders times and into the modern era.

- **Patriarchate of Constantinople** was founded in 1461 and is subordinate to Holy Etchmiadzin. The Patriarch is elected by the brotherhood of the Patriarchate and has jurisdiction over the Armenian faithful, churches, schools, monasteries and holy places in Turkey and

The Holy Cross is venerated and honored by the Armenian Church and its life-giving power is remembered on holy days.

Western Armenia and Crete. Under the Ottoman Empire, with its *millet* (ethno-religious community) governance system, the Patriarch had religious and temporal responsibility for the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire. The Patriarch's role was formalized under the Armenian Constitution in the Ottoman Empire (1863), which created a National Assembly to assist in governing the millet.

Visions of Heaven on Earth

We look for visions of heaven and we never dream that, all the time, God is in the commonplace things and people around us.

Oswald Chambers

Christian heroes have demonstrated strong faith and have been the visible love of the invisible God in the world. In this issue and coming issues, we will look at some of the saints of the Armenian Church who overcame obstacles and served God, often sacrificing their lives.

St. Santookht (1st Century) Daughter of the Armenian King Sanadroog, Santookht became a follower of the charismatic preacher Thaddeus. She converted to Christianity—along with other family members—and when her father discovered what he considered her treachery, he threw her into prison, where her faithfulness inspired many guards to convert as well. Exasperated, the King is said to have offered his daughter the choice between a crown and a sword--life as a royal princess, or death by public execution. She chose death at the tender age of 18, perhaps younger, and became the first Christian martyr of the Armenian Church.

Outstanding qualities: Powerful faith, courage, determination, willingness to take a stand for her faith.

The Armenian Church remembers Saints Thaddeus and Santookht in early summer, along with the other saints who founded our church.

Summer 2008 Schedule

1 p.m. Sunday, July 27

Soorp Badarak

1 p.m. Sunday, August 24

Soorp Badarak

1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 14

Soorp Badarak

There will be many times when we are afraid. We can never be overwhelmed, if we greet these times with prayer.

Remember the Armenian Church and its servants in your prayers.

*Dear Heavenly Father
Surround us with your loving care. Protect us from all danger and bring us safely to our journey's end. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

Gifts to the Church in Lieu of Flowers

In Memory of

KOHAR BAGHDASARIAN

Mr. Nerzig Yelegen
Mr & Mrs. G. Arslanian
Mr & Mrs. Serop Waswassarian
Mr & Mrs. Greg Chitilian
Mrs. Seta MacLennan
Mr & Mrs. Kevork Tutundjian
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Mr. & Mrs. V. Proudian
Mr. & Mrs. G. Dorna
Dr. & Mrs. Berdj Artinian
Mrs. Zovig Kheir
Mr. Andre Mirzayan
Mrs. Anjel Bagh
Mr. and Mrs. Roger and Nadia Elgner

The Church gratefully acknowledges these gifts in memory of Kohar Baghdasarian. May God enlighten her soul and comfort her loved ones.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Our Father, we thank you mightily for the beauty of the sky and for the awe and wonder in all the gifts of your creation. We ask your generous blessings upon every person in this sanctuary, and we pray that each of us be made able by your grace to know your guidance, your love and your mercy today and every day. For those who are ill, we pray for your healing care, giving wisdom to those attending to them, and for strength and encouragement through this difficult period. Dear Lord, thank you for hearing our heartfelt prayers. In the name of Jesus Christ, our blessed Saviour. Amen.

Gifts to the Church in Lieu of Flowers

In Memory of
ROSE AZADIAN

Mr. and Mrs. Dikran and Anahid Cicek
Mr. and Mrs. Dikran and Rosa Ohanyan
Mr. Stepan Keuleyan
Dr & Mrs. Benohanian & family
Sonia Kondakjian
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The Church gratefully acknowledges these gifts in memory of Rose Azadian. May God enlighten her soul and comfort her loved ones.



Light a
candle in
celebration
of God's
love for
you.

What Are You Focused On Right Now?

A good shoe is a shoe you don't notice... The perfect church service would be one we were almost unaware of; our attention would have been totally on God. Thinking about worship is a different thing from worshipping.



St. Athanasius of Alexandria *Born 296 AD; Died 373 AD*

St. Athanasius of Alexandria, Egypt was a theologian, the Bishop of Alexandria and a noted Egyptian leader of the 4th century. He lived in the chief centre of learning of the Roman Empire at the time, and was present at the council of bishops from all over the Christian world, held in 325 AD in Nicea. St. Athanasius held the view that the Son was fully God, co-equal and co-eternal with the father. He is best remembered for his arguments against Arius and his doctrine that Christ is of a distinct substance from the Father.

Revered as a saint

The Oriental Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Eastern Catholic churches all revere St. Athanasius as a saint. He was banished and persecuted by Emperor Constantine I and his son, as well as Emperor Julian. During this time, he wrote several works challenging the then popular doctrines of Arianism, which stated that the Son was a lesser entity than the Father. St. Athanasius believed that he held onto the “tradition, teaching and faith proclaimed by the apostles and guarded by the fathers.” He reaffirmed the terms of the Nicene Creed.

During his exiles, he spent time with the Desert Fathers—monks and hermits who lived in remote areas of Egypt. St. Athanasius is also the first person to identify the same 27 books of the New Testament that are in use today.

From the writings of Athanasius:

We were made “in the likeness of God.” But in course of time that image has become obscured, like a face on a very old portrait, dimmed with dust and dirt. When a portrait is spoiled the only way to renew it is for the Subject to come back to the studio and sit for the artist all over again. That is why Christ came—to make it possible for the divine image in man to be recreated. We were made in God’s likeness; we are remade in the likeness of his Son. To bring about this re-creation, Christ still comes to men and lives among them. In a special way he comes to his church, his “body,” to show us what the “image of God” is really like. What a responsibility the Church has, to be Christ’s “body,” showing him to those who are unwilling or unable to see him in providence, or in creation! Through the Word of God lived out in the Body of Christ they can come to the Father, and themselves be made again “in the likeness of God.”