

February 2008



ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Տարուան մէջ, Քառասնորդաց շրջանը օրհնեալ շրջան մըն է բոլոր քրիստոնեաներուն համար:

Քառասնորդաց շրջանը դարձի շրջան մըն է դէպի գլխաւոր նշմարութիւնները: Ան մեզմէ կը պահանջէ որ դառնանք հաւատքի քաջ եւ հարագատ վկաներ, մեր նախնիներուն նման:

Քառասնորդաց շրջանը աստուածահաճոյ շրջան մըն է, որ մեզ կը հրաւիրէ հոգեւոր հրահանգներ կատարելու՝ աղօթք, ծումապահութիւն եւ ողորմութիւն, թափ տալով նաեւ խոնարհութեան հիմնական առաքինութեան:

Հարցում մը միշտ մտահոգած է հաւատացեալները, թէ արդեօք շատեր կամ միայն քիչեր պիտի փրկուին: Յիսուս այս հարցումին պատասխանեց ըսելով. «Ձանացէ՛ք մտնել նեղ դռնէն, որովհետեւ շատեր պիտի փորձեն մտնել անկէ եւ պիտի չկարենան» (Ղկ. 13,24): Բարեպաշտներուն ուղին՝ սկիզբը նեղ է, բայց հետզհետէ ան լայն քանապարհի կը վերածուի, որովհետեւ անոր մէջ հաւատացեալը կը գտնէ յոյս, շնորհք եւ սրտի խաղաղութիւն: Քառասնորդաց շրջանը մեզ նեղ դռնէն մտնելէն ետք՝ մեզ լաւապէս կը պատրաստէ մտնելու լայն քանապարհէն ներս:

Սուրբ Գրիգոր Նարեկացիէն կ'ըսէ. «Որդի կենդանի Աստուծոյ, երբ ողորմութեանդ փառքի անստուեր քանանչները ծագին,

մեղքերը կը հալին, դեւերը կը հալածուին, յանցանքները կը ջնջուին: Կապանքները կը խզուին, շղթաները կը խորտակուին, մեռեալները կը կենդանանան, վիրաւորները կը բուժուին, վերքերը կ'առողջանան: Ապականութիւնը կը վերցուի, տխրութիւնը տեղի կու տայ, հեծութիւնը կը նահանջէ, խաւարը կը փախչի, մէգը կը մեկնի: Մարախուղը կը ցնդի, մոռայր կը փարատի, աղջամուղջը կը սպառի, մութը կը վերնայ, գիշերը կ'անցնի: Տագնապը կը տարագրուի, չարիքները կը չքանան, յուսահատութիւնը կը հալածուի եւ քու ամենակարող ձեռքդ, ո՛վ Քաւիչ բոլորին, կը թագաւորէ:

Դու չեկար մարդոց հոգիները կորուստի մատնելու, այլ ազատելու, որովհետեւ դուն ես միայն սկիզբը ամէն ինչի եւ ամէն բանի մէջ եւ ամբողջ լրումով, ո՛վ Դուն որ բարձունքներու մէջ օրհնեալ'դ ես»:

Թո՛ղ Աստուածամայրը եւ մեր երկնային Մայրը, որ եղաւ հաւատարիմ աղախինը Տիրոջ, մեզի ընկերանայ Քառասնորդաց շրջանի հոգեւոր պայքարին մէջ Սատանայի եւ անոր փորձութիւններուն դէմ: Այս հոգեւոր պայքարը, եթէ յաջողութեամբ կատարենք եւ մեր սիրտերը Սուրբ Հոգիի շնորհներովը վերանորոգենք, պիտի հասնինք հոգեպէս աշխուժացած՝ մասնակցելու համար Սուրբ Յարութեան յաղթանակին եւ վայելելու անոր ուրախութիւնները:

Reflections during Lent

The first things that come to mind are charity, prayers and fasting.

These are the most important gestures that we, as Christians, must think of and to the best of our ability carry them out in humility and utmost privacy. True Charity and worship are not meant to be for show or to be publicized for our benefit. As children of God, Silence and humility, are two attributes that indicate our love and respect for others and not for the promotion of our own glory and self esteem nor it is for our material gains.

The publication and advertising of charitable acts for those who are needy, exposes the promotion of our limited hidden personal, commercial and social intentions.

The true follower of Christ and he who adheres to His teachings and whose left hand is unaware what the right hand does, does not seek personal gains nor does he seek the applause of an audience and neither any media publications, but only the spiritual gain and the appreciation of our God who knows our hearts.

The words of our Lord Jesus were indeed a big slap in the face of all those who proclaimed publicly their prayers and boasted their charitable acts.

To attain the Kingdom of God we must like the small grain that is planted deep in the ground, that grows and attains its salvation by its death, and despite its size, it remains alive and reaches its ultimate aim by illuminating all around it and inebriates humanity by the spirit of brotherhood.

Jesus had taught us how to pray and he also explained to us the need for prayers and its

benefits; and then He asked us to pray in a simple fashion and not by the use of repetitive and lengthy prayers. Prayer means thinking about the creator and to entering into a spiritual state with Him. It is also getting close to Him and having a spiritual dialogue with him.

The crowning glory of this theme is to unite with him, listen to His words and follow them meticulously.

Lourdes Apparitions 150th Anniversary

(February, 11, 1858)

The year 2008 is a special year in that it marks the 150th anniversary of the apparitions at Lourdes to a little girl called Bernadette Soubirous.

Church authorities have been preparing for this important event for many months; Pilgrims in their thousands will converge and flock from all over the world into Lourdes to participate in these special celebrations and prayers.

What is the message of Our Lady in Lourdes?

The apparitions of our Lady happened in the month of Lent, was this a coincidence? In her first apparition Our Lady asks Bernadette to pray for “penance and the conversion of sinners”

Is this an impossible request? Concerning penance, it may have many meanings but let us understand what our Lady is asking us to do; to be in tune with the penitent Christ. Penance does not mean little sacrifices. Penance means “I repent” The Mother of God shows us with much tenderness, the road we must take. Our journey during Lent must be: reparation for sin, in other words,

to expiate one's sins and the sins of others. The Holy Virgin asked Bernadette to walk on her knees and kiss the ground and drink at the spring and eat the bitter grass.

We can learn a big lesson from Mary's instructions to Bernadette, in fact it is a big hint that she gives us, for in order for us to convert sinners we must subdue our pride by walking on our knees in prayers in front of the Virgin Mary, albeit for a short distance.

Mary's unique message right through all the apparitions was that mankind must pray and repent for the conversion of sinners, and only in her last apparition Our lady declared "I am the Immaculate conception". Let us therefore in this Holy month of Lent and on the special occasion of the 150th anniversary of the apparitions at Lourdes, make a concerted effort to take heed of the instructions that the Virgin Mary has given us and reflect about the unique messages to mankind. Let us join the millions of pilgrims (who will be in Lourdes) in prayers during the

Holy month of Lent, to show our repentance in humility and let us pray for the conversion of all the sinners in the world.

Let us kneel before God so that we can stand upright before men.

Reconciliation

After all it is the month of lent and what a better opportunity for us all to make our peace with our God, our so called enemies, our neighbors, our friends; and how can we achieve that without opening our hearts and ask for forgiveness for all our sins from God; for there is no one amongst without sin, and how can we do this? Yes my friend,

we can do this by the simple act of confession to your priest who is the representative of our Lord Jesus Christ on this earth.

During the month of lent Fr. Parsegh will be available everyday to hear your confessions, and all you have to do is turn up to open up your hearts.

Khatchi Janabar Station of the Cross

We remind our Parishioners that Khatchi Janabar commences every Friday at 7.30 pm, Please take note and try to be on time.

Let us this time to walk in the footsteps of Jesus who died on our behalf on the cross, and we believe that there is no other better way in showing Him that we appreciate what he did for us, and in so doing we may be able to prepare ourselves for a truly Holy Easter.

First Holy Communion

In 2008, the first Holy Communion ceremony and mass will be held on April. Fr Parsegh has already commenced preparing the young so that they fully understand the meaning of the most holy sacrament, and so that they become worthy to receive the body and blood of Jesus our Savior.

It is therefore the responsibility of all our parishioners to ensure that all their young who are eligible to receive their first holy communion to approach or contact Fr. Parsegh to enroll them in these classes as soon as it is possible.

Holy Mass said in English?

Yes, Fr. Parsegh and his Church Council have decided to introduce Holy Mass in the English Language in our Parish.

As from March, 9th the Holy mass will said in the English language, that is every second Sunday of the month. This decision has been taken to ensure that our many young boys and girls who are not conversant in the Armenian language, can still attend Mass (in the Armenian rite with some beautiful traditional hymns), in our church. We cannot stress the importance of young blood in our church; the young are the future for our Parish and Church, without them we are doomed, there will be no one around to take over from the old generation, and if we as parents cannot get the message across to them, then let us ask ourselves, who will? So please remember the date and let us pray to our Lord, to make the young hear our call.

Sunday school

With great pleasure, we announce the commencement of our Sunday school for Kiddies; albeit in small numbers but we are confident the numbers will grow in due course; those who have missed our previous announcements can contact Fr. Parsegh to enroll in these classes; it is a great opportunity to introduce our young to the Armenian language, religion and other activities. As we have mentioned in our previous bulletins, the classes will be given during Holy Mass which means that the parents can attend Mass while their children are being taught language and religion. So for your children's sake and our community's sake do not neglect this opportunity, because these children are our future without them the future of our parish and community is indeed grim and its long term survival would be seriously in doubt.

Church Hall /Air Conditioning

You will be pleased to see that our efforts, to install new air conditioning units in our church hall, have borne fruit at last. Two new air conditioning units have already been installed and they are now operational. Donations received so far fall short of the total target of \$6000.00. The short fall is about \$3820.00;

Contributions towards this project would be very much welcome; so if you can afford to spare a few dollars please do so; after all, it is for the comfort of all the community.

Michink (Mid way of lent)

The Ladies Auxiliary, as per usual, are in the process of organizing the Michink on Tuesday February 26; Please secure your tickets as soon as possible by contacting, one of the members of the Ladies Auxiliary. Tickets are limited, so hurry and book your tickets in advance and don't forget to pass this message around; bring your family and friends.

Parishioners, don't forget that this is a once a year function, so please take advantage of it and socialize and pass some quality and fun time with your friends and parishioners. It's a good cause and your support is vital to the well being of our community. Remember Holy Mass at 11.00am.

Holy Week

Washing of the feet (Thursday, March, 20th) This year like every other year we will have the washing of the feet ceremony performed at our church, We are seeking the services of 12 children to participate in this ceremony, so all those interested for their

children to take part, please contact Fr Parsegh as soon as possible.

Good Friday, March 21st The burial of our Lord will take place during this ceremony and all those who wish to contribute wreaths or flowers for the cask of our Lord to ensure their delivery on Thursday. After the Good Friday ceremony we will be screening a special film but our friends and parishioners will still enjoy the traditional falafel which will be prepared by the our gallant and hard working Ladies auxiliary. So all are invited and let us this year like every other year get together like a big family show our love and respect to our Lord Jesus, so that we can also celebrate His Holy resurrection on Sunday, March 23rd.

Albert Shad (1914-2007)

We Salute and Honor the late Albert Shad who sadly passed away December, 26, 2007, at the ripe old age of 93. We wish to inform our parishioners that Albert Shad was one of the last survivors of the Armenian genocide of Mardin, perpetrated by the then rulers of the Ottoman Empire.

It is sufficient to say that his life time struggles and resilience had kept the old Armenian oak tree alive. Today his progeny is testimony to his lifetime achievements, we, as well his children will always remember Albert with respect, pride and honor. No doubt, that he is in the company of the millions of martyrs before him.

May his Soul rest in peace and May his progeny multiply for many generations to come.

Special Thanks

We wish to thank Mr & Mrs George Kashkourian, for donating the toys and gifts. May the good Lord recompense them a hundred fold and grant them a long and a happy life.

We wish to inform our parishioners that **Baby Rachelle** (*Importer / Wholesalers Soft Toys, Baby Gift Packs & Accessories, Gift Baskets Party Lines & Balloons Christening Gifts & Accessories*) is now open in 3/30 Artisan Road, Seven Hills. Our parishioners will receive a special discount on all purchases.

Prayers for every day

Take from us, O God, all pride and vanity, all boasting and forwardness, and give us the true courage that shows itself by gentleness; the true wisdom that shows itself by simplicity; and the true power that shows itself by modesty; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Charles Kingsley [1819-1875]

Wedding

30 September 2007 Samir Gergi & Amy Nichole Kainuko.

29 December 2007 Mardiros Hagob Tatian & Elizabeth Tleige.

02 February 2008 Jailton Andrew Di Vito & Maral Torossian.

Our heartfelt congratulations to the newly-weds and may the Lord grant them a long and a happy life together, and may they also be blessed with many healthy children.

Births

Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Bruce & Lucy Blacker (Boladian) for the Birth of their twins Patrick & Daniel on 01.02.2008; we pray that they may grow in the Christian faith and may they become valuable assets to the community and society at large.

Baptism

06.01.2008: Eva & Elena daughters of Alfred and Sona Baghoumian. Congratulation to the family and proud parents.

My Church - My Home

“And so I tell you Peter; you are a rock, and on this rock foundation I will build my Church.” [Matthew 16:18]

The church is the House of God [Tim 3:14] is the Temple of God [1Cor 3:16-17] [2Cor 6:16] and the Spouse of Christ [Eph 5:25-27-32]

It is the assembly of believers ***“When you come together as a church”*** [1Cor 11:18]

Also the union with Christ in the spirit makes members of the church.

“Our citizenship of heaven” [Phil 3:20]

From the first century, believers have gathered in Jesus’ name to consider one another, help one another, love one another, encourage one another, and do good work together [Heb 10:24-25]

We are all called to serve in different places and in different ways, and some labor quietly behind the scenes. Let us be willing to serve one another through love, knowing that ultimately we are serving the Lord.

“All of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility” [Peter 5:5]

Miracles are God’s daily work. Faith in God’s power that is with us, guards, protects, and helps us through the Holy Spirit. And how wonderful to witness the

power of love and warmth in our Church. We gather with God in His house, ***“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in the midst of them.”*** [Matt18:20]

We are eager to attend Sunday Mass as one body in Christ and give sign of peace to each other. Our humble Church became a blessed place, and a happy gathering centre, we share on the latest family news, health concerns, meet with friends and welcome new faces. We laugh together, and cry together.

Let’s not forget the special cup of coffee we drink together, the cheerful smile, the warm handshake, and the friendly pat on the back, these are all part of the social interaction we need as human beings.

Our Church became a family affair, a place where we consider how we can lift up, build up, and brighten up each other.

“Serve one another” [Gal 5:15] ***“bear one another’s burden”*** [Gal 6:2]

It’s rewarding to carry on good work with confidence, we must set good example to our young, and teach them to invest in the House of the Lord, that they always be rich and full with the spirit. Our young are the future, we must prepare them, and hand them the key to keep the door of our Lords House open for generations to follow.

In our Church we feel God’s hand in everything we do, leading us in the right path, and showering us with His daily blessings, and His unlimited gifts.

I am proud to call my CHURCH my HOME.

Gracious Lord. We thank you for your abundant love. Teach us to be kind at

heart, gentle with words, and generous with deeds. Amen.

Donation to the Church

\$ 200: Mr Joseph Halwagi, Anonymous.

\$ 150: Mr Isaac Assadourian. **\$ 100:** Mr Hovig Barsoumian. **\$ 50:** Mr & Mrs Michael Hennawi. **\$ 25:** Mrs Angela Philibossian,

Home Blessing

\$ 1200: Mr & Mrs Avedis Qasabian,

\$ 250: Mr & Mrs Ellie Aslanian,

\$ 200: Madfouni Family, Mr Victor Khatchadourian & Family,

\$ 150: Mr & Mrs Johannes Shirvanian, Mr & Mrs Eddy Nol, Mr Steve Khatchadourian & Family, Mr Ara Stamboulian & Family.

\$ 120: Mr & Mrs Antoine Menzagopian,

\$ 100: Mr Robert Madikian & Family, Mrs Victoria Manoukian & Family, Mrs Emily Hanoun & Family, Mr & Mrs Abdallah Wazir, Mr Bashir Babik & Family, Mr Zohrab Zeitounian & Family, Mr & Mrs Magar Opoyan, Mr Harout Zeitounian & Family, Mr & Mrs Antoine Kedsy, Mr & Mrs Hagop Guvlekjian, Mr Jack Diodati & Family, Mr & Mrs Isidor Der Matossian, Mr & Mrs Gabi Koussan, Mr George Jeghelian & Family, Anonymous, Mr Samir Wazir & Family, Mr Antoine Baghdisar & Family, Mr Antoine Baghdisar & Family, Atashian Family, Mr Gerard Ohanian & Family, Mr Jean Baltejian & Family, Mr Bedros Sinian, **\$ 60:** Mr Jack Simonian,

\$ 50: Mrs Alice Kalenderian, Mr Hagop Boyajian & Family, Mr Joseph Boladian & Family, Mr Khatchik Majarian & Family, Mr Charlie Majarian & Family, Mr Barkev Boyajian & Family, Mr Vicken Babkenian

& Family, Mr & Mrs Yousef Wazir, Mrs Alice Izmirilian, Madikian Family, Mr George Gharibian & Family, Mrs Aznif Kalenderian & Family, Mr & Mrs Sarkis Majarian, Mr Paul Kisso & Family,

Mr Simon Zeitounian & Family, Mr Vrej Tachjian & Family, Mr Jeano Oghelian & Family, Mr Tony Colossian & Family, Mrs Antoinette Halwagi, Mr Alphonse Diodati & Family, Mr Adel Halwagi & Family, Mrs Haiganoush Kalenderian & Family, Mr & Mrs Joseph Taza, Mr Albert Kisso & Family, Mr & Mrs Joseph Deodati, Mr & Mrs Alex Boladian, Mr Garo Antriassian & Family, Mrs Loucine Akelian & Family, Mr Sarkis Basil & Family, Mr Ohannes Manoukian & Family, Mr Mardiros Zeitounian & Family, Mr Tony Boladian & Family, Mr Tony Couzian, Mrs Siranoush Totonjian, Mrs Angel Torossian & Family, Mr & Mrs Sarkis Philibossian, Mr Minas Kahvejian & Family, Mrs Georgette Jeghelian, Mrs Angela Philibossian,

\$ 30: Mrs Aida Hango Zada, **\$ 25:** Mrs Koulina Bezdikian,

\$ 20: Mr Antoine Hanoun & Family, Mr Khatchik Markarian & Family, Mr & Mrs Jack Yedelian,

Donation for /Air Conditioning in the Church Hall

\$ 500: Mr & Mrs Zohrab Zeitounian & Family, **\$ 300:** Mr & Mrs Avedis Qasabian.

\$ 200: Mrs & Mrs Eddy Nol. **\$ 150:** Mrs Beatrice Bedan. **\$ 100:** Mr & Mrs Mardiros Zeitounian, Mrs Gladys Zeitounian, Mr & Mrs Simon Zeitounian, Mr & Mrs Nerces Barsoumian, Mr & Mrs Paul Kisso, Mr & Mrs Garo Tcherkezian, Mr & Mrs Antoine

Kedsi, **\$ 50:** Mr & Mrs Khatchik Majarian, Mr & Mrs George Kilzi, Mrs Emily Hanoun & Family, Mrs & Mrs Sarkis Majarian, Mrs Alice Izmirilian, **\$ 20:** Mr Jack Simonian,

In lieu of Flowers for the late

Albert Shad

\$ 100: Mr Edward – Sam Schidiac,

\$ 50: Mr & Mrs Garo Tcherkezian, Mr & Mrs Abdallah Wazir, Mr & Mrs Sarkis Majarian, Mr & Mrs Harout Boladian, Mr &

Mrs Harout Asmar, Mr & Mrs Albert Mansour, Mr & Mrs Avedis Qasabian, Mr & Mrs Alfred Batikha, Mr Sherif Helou, **\$ 40:** P & C Azrak, **\$ 20:** Mr & Mrs Khatchik Majarian, Mr Tony Khawam,

In lieu of flowers for the late

George Sarkis

\$ 100: Mr George Shad, **\$ 60:** Mrs Yvonne Sarkis & Family. **\$ 50:** Mr & Mrs Raffi Babkenian, Mrs Georgette Sioufi,

Աւագ Ս. Շաբթուան Արարողութիւնները 2008

EASTER PROGRAM AT THE CHERCH 2008

مواعيد احتفالات أسبوع الآلام وعيد الفصح المجيد 2008

Sunday 16 th :	Շաղկազարդ Ուռ Օրհնէք Palm Sunday, Blessing of the palms and Mass عيد الشعانين	at 11.00 am
Thursday 20 th :	Ոտնլուայ եւ Ս. Պատարագ Washing of the feet and Mass غسيل الأرجل والقداس الالهي	at 6.00 pm
Friday 21 st :	Խաչելութիւն եւ Թաղում Internment Ceremony رتبة جناز السيد المسيح	at 6.00 pm
Saturday 22 nd :	Ճրագալոյց Ս. Զատիկի Easter Vigil Mass قداس سبت النور	at 6.00 pm
Sunday 23 rd :	ՏՕՆ ՅԱՐՈՒԹԵԱՆ Տ.Ս.Յ.Ք Easter Sunday HOLY RESURECTION Mass قداس عيد القيامة	at 11.00 am
Monday 24 th :	Գերեզմանատուն Եւ Ս. Պատարագ «Or Merelotz» Prayers for the dead & Mass بركة المقابر ومن ثم القداس في الكنيسة	at 09.30 am and 11.00 am

Our sincere gratitude to ROMAN PRINTING for the printing of this Bulletin since its inception