Seventy Two Holy Disciples of Christ – October 3

Yesterday was the feast of the 72 disciples of Christ. While many are more familiar with the 12 disciples, in the Gospel of St. Luke, chapter 10, we read about the 72 who were sent out by Christ. He commissioned them, saying, ***"I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves."***

Recall the initial 12 disciples Jesus chose: Peter and his brother Andrew, James, and his brother John. They where all fishermen. He chose also Philip, Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew, the publican, James the son of Alphaeus, Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus, Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot. The Bible also speaks about the 70 (or 72) disciples, whom Jesus himself did not baptize, but his disciples did. Later the disciples would preach the kingdom of God, and perform miracles such as casting out of demons.

We are all disciples of Christ as we travel on our spiritual journey through life. We are all learning the message of Christ's love as we share in His ministry. It all begins with the first lesson given to us by our Lord: ***that we love one another***. "**By this,"** he tells us, ***"They will know you are my disciples."***

Look at today's Gospel passage (Mark 11:27-33). The Jews ask Jesus "By what authority is he teaching?" Jesus does not give them a straight answer. In fact, he refuses to answer their question, based on their inability to answer his request. Have you ever thought, why did Jesus go to all this trouble? Why didn't he just come straight out and say, "I'm the Son of God. I walked on water and gave the blind man sight, so believe me. I'm the One." He doesn't because he wants us to think. He wants us to be free to use the gifts that God has bestowed upon us. Keep love at the forefront of all that you do. Grow in faith and the Lord be with you. ……*adopted from the writings of Fr. Vazken Movsesian, California.*

The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom – Matthew 13:38

STS. VARTANANTZ ARMENIAN CHURCH
SUNDAY BULLETIN

October 4 - Fourth Sunday of the Holy Cross

Sts. Sahag and Hamazasb the Princes – Oct. 1
Seventy Two Holy Disciples of Christ – Oct. 3
Sts. Phocas the Patriarch and Irenaeus of Lyons – Oct. 5
Sts. Thekla and Barbara the Virgin – Oct. 6

He commissioned them, saying, ***"I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves."***

Divine Liturgy (Սուրբ Պատարագ)…10:00 a.m.
Requiem Service (Պաշտօն Հոգեհանգստեան)
Sermon (Քարոզ)

Բարի Գալուստ Սրբ Վարդանանց Եկեղեցի
Տեր Խաչատուր Քահանայ Քեսապլեան, Հովիւ
Welcome to Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church
Rev. Father Khachatur Kesablyan, Pastor

Scripture: Isaiah 17:7; II Corinthians 13:5-13; Mark 11:27-33.

Today's Gospel Reading: Mark 11:27-33 - The Authority of Jesus - They came again to Jerusalem. While Jesus was walking in the temple courts, the chief priests, the experts in the law and the elders came up to him and said, "By what authority are you doing these things? Or who gave you this authority to do these things?" Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one question. Answer me and I will tell you by what authority I do these things: John's baptism-was it from heaven or from men? Answer me." They discussed with one another, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Then why did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From men-'" (they feared the crowd, for they all considered John to be truly a prophet). So they answered Jesus, "We don't know." Then Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

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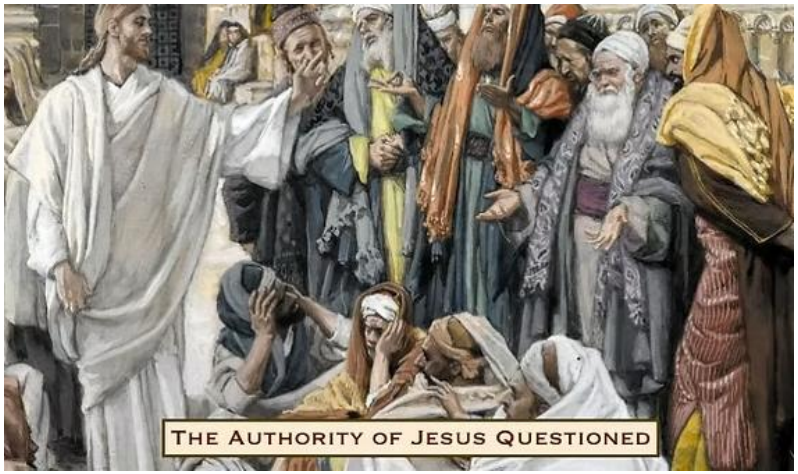


A Happy Name Day is extended to all parishioners having the names **Sahag, Sahagian, and Barbara**. Please greet all those bearing these names with the words – "A-noo-no-vut Abris – ", which means that with God's blessings you dedicate your life to the sacred mission of the church.

Church and Community Calendar

October 10 - Women's Guild Meeting. 11:00 a.m.

October 18 – "Volunteering in Armenia" – Narrated Slide Presentation by Joan Poladian following church services.

October 24- We're excited to introduce Little Saints, a ministry for families with young children
from Baptism through age four. This program offers families an opportunity to connect with one another and become part of our parish community before beginning Sunday School at age four. Each one-hour gathering will include: Open play and snacks, time to connect with other families, a special art project, and an opportunity to explore our sanctuary. Our first gathering will be Saturday, October 24, from 10:00–11:00 AM. See flyer for further details.

October 31 – Women's Guild Retreat at Saint Nersess Seminary. See flyer for details.

November 4 - Men's Club Dinner-Meeting. Lehmejune - Salad-Dessert. Games and Jokes. $20. 6:30 p.m. Guy: Email Dany to reserve, dbarooshian@gmail.com.

November 19 – Meat Prep for Food Festival.

November 21 -- Join us for the Saints Vartanantz Armenian Church Food Festival, 11AM to 6PM. Enjoy delicious lamb, chicken, and losh kebab dinners or a vegetarian platter, available for eat-in or take-out. Check out our country store featuring Armenian specialty foods and fresh desserts. Experience unique jewelry, gifts from Armenia, and church sanctuary tours. Don't forget to stick around for our backgammon tournament!

December 12 – Spectacular Annual Christmas Party featuring the fabulous Arslan, DJ and Saxaphonist. 5 p.m. See flyer for details.

Early October Feast Days

Saint Phocas the Patriarch – Bishop of Sinope (near Black Sea) responsible for mass conversion of pagans to Christianity. Martyred through extensive torture in 117 A.D.

Irenaeus of Lyons – 1st century doctor, pastor, and missionary, and Bishop of L yon who wrote extensively against Gnosticism, which was spreading throughout France.

Virgin Saint Thecla – a beautiful maiden who dedicated her life to Christ upon hearing preaching of St. Paul. Tortured for refusing to marry a wealthy baron and accepting a worldly life. Lions sent to devour her fragile body licked her feet.

Virgin Saint Barbara – daughter of rich heathen, Dioscorus of Heliopolis (305 A.D), who had three windows installed in a bathhouse as a sign of the Trinity. While her father tortured her, he was struck by lightning. Later martyred with Juliana

Virgin Saint Pelagia – a beautiful Christian maiden pursued by pagan Roman soldiers. Through herself out the window to preserve her virgin life.

Sts. Sahag and Hamazasp, the Princes

On Oct. 3, the Armenian Church commemorated the lives of brothers, Sahag and Hamazasp Ardzroonik, who together with other Armenian nobles revolted against Arab rule of Armenia in 786. When captured they were given the choice of renouncing the Christian religion or death. They refused and were tortured and put to death.

Proverb of Knowledge, 2:1-6.

My son, if you receive my words and treasure my commands, turning your ear to wisdom, inclining your heart to understanding; If you seek her like silver, and like hidden treasures search her out: Then will you understand the fear of the Lord; the knowledge of God you will find.

Saints Vartanantz Community Outreach helps Chelmsford Mothers' Club (CMC) - Last weekend the Chelmsford Mother's Club, a non-profit group of mothers with young children in Chelmsford the surrounding communities in the Greater Lowell, held their annual tag sale at the church complex. The CMC, with over 300 members, is a valuable resource for moms in search of a wide range of services dealing with child care and child well-fare. Complimentary us of the church facilities is one of many outreach programs provided to the general community.

Jewelry Item donations for Food Festival - Looking for a new home for your costume and other jewelry items. Please consider donating them to 76th Annual Food Festival Table. Please contact Armig Ferris for further information, aferris30@comcast.net**.**

***The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up.* – Mark Twain**

Saints Vartanantz Armenian Church's

LITTLE SAINTS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

10:00 - 11:00AM

180 OLD WESTFORD ROAD | CHELMSFORD, MA

Connecting families with children from Baptism to age four. Engage through open play, seasonal art activity and explore the church sanctuary.

For more information or to RSVP by October 20th please contact:
Mary Burnham: maryburnham2018@gmail.com
or Christina Misherfi: cglorighian@gmail.com

Psalm 37:5-6 "Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday."

A Great Opportunity to Study the Life and Teachings of St. Paul - Saint Nersess Seminary is most pleased to announce the its Fall 2026 Virtual Open Class: St. Paul: The Apostle Who Shaped the Church: A Journey Through His Life, Letters, and Theology. This special eight-week course will be taught by St. Nersess faculty member and seminary graduate Bishop Vahan Hovhanessian, Ph.D., offering participants an opportunity to explore the life, writings, and enduring influence of one of Christianity's most important apostles. Classes will meet via Zoom from September 17 through November 5 (Thursday evenings), 8:00 – 9:15 PM EST. All are welcome! Join and enjoy this wonderful opportunity to learn with Bishop Vahan the world of St. Paul and discover how his life, letters, and theology helped shape the early Church. To register, please either see link in the church's weekly eNewsletter or go to https://stnersess.edu/public-lectures.

The Burning of Incense - incense symbolizes our prayers, which are censed before God. King David expressed the same meaning in his Psalm: "Let my prayer come like incense before you; the lifting up of my hands, like the evening sacrifice" (Psalm 141:2). Our prayers mix with the incense, connecting the faithful with God, during the Divine Liturgy.

Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."
– Marcel Proust, Pleasures and Regrets

SAVE THE DATE!
October 31, 2026

WOMEN'S GUILD RETREAT

"Sisters in Christ"

Join us for a Women's Retreat designed to nurture your soul, ignite your passions, and surround you with a sisterhood of strength and support.

- Mindful workshops
- Heart-opening conversations

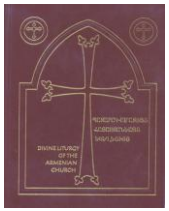
SATURDAY
OCTOBER 31, 2026

9:30am Registration and Continental Breakfast
1:00pm Lunch
4:00pm Retreat Ends
Cost for the retreat is $35.00
Dinner afterwards on our own

ST. NERSESS SEMINARY
486 Bedford Road
Armonk, NY 10504

Hosted by Women's Guild Central Council

Please contact Sandra Boroyan no later than October 4 to register for this highly inspiration retreat. sboroyan@comcast.net



Our Divine Liturgy books enables one to combine comprehension of our Divine Liturgy with its melodic hymnology, thus creating a most unique prayer experience. Page numbers are posted in front one the front wall of the sanctuary.

Requiem Service (Պաշտօն Հոգեհանգստեան)

† **Hamlet Suleymanyan (40th day - Karasoonk)**
requested by loving sister, Juliet Hazarian.

During the chanting of Der Voghormya (Lord Have Mercy), all the faithful are called upon to offer prayers for all loved ones asleep in Christ. Please also pray for:

Our Artsakh brothers and sisters forcibly removed from their historic Armenian homeland and experiencing many hardships, and the immediate release of some 90 Armenian hostages held captive in Azerbaijan.

That our Lord guide our path through life, that we be instruments of peace and love in this world.

Looking for a Daily Boost of Energy and Inspiration? - Welcome to the iLooys Blog! iLooys is the creation of Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan, the Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. In classical Armenian iLooys (ի Լոյս) means "Toward the Light". The mission of these short daily messages is to proclaim Jesus Christ as the light of the world and the source of new life. The messages utilize resources of Armenian Apostolic Orthodox tradition - art, architecture, poetry, philosophy, theology, and the lives of the saints - in order to explain and interpret the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Parishioners can receive our Primate's messages by signing up at https://www.ilooys.com/blog

Parishioners welcome to host Fellowship Hour following Sunday Church Services – Parishioners looking to mark a special occasion such as a requiem anniversary, birthday or wedding anniversary, or to celebrate some happy family event are invited to host a Fellowship (coffee) Hour following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Please contact Dave Kazanjian at d.kazan@verizon.net.

WHY IS OCTOBER "ARMENIAN CULTURAL MONTH"?

Fr. Krikor Maksoudian (adapted from his original Armenian essay by C. H. Zakian)

To Armenians in the United States, "Armenian Cultural Month" has been a feature of community life since 1942. But *how* and *when* did it begin? Surprisingly, Armenian Cultural Month originated in the Eastern Diocese, and this month marks its 82nd anniversary.

Credit for launching the observance goes to Archbishop Karekin Hovsepian: the late Primate of the Diocese (1939-1944), who went on to become the Catholicos of Cilicia (1945-1952). An Armenian intellectual figure of international reputation, a stirring orator, and one of the great churchmen of the 20th century, Hovsepian was responsible for many of the enduring developments of the Armenian Church in America. It was Archbishop Hovsepian who conceived of building a "national home" for the Armenians of America—an idea which would eventually evolve into the St. Vartan Cathedral project. Among his innovations was the official Diocesan publication, *Hayastanyaits Yegeghetsi*, which later prospered under the English title, *The Armenian Church*. An old edition of that publication reveals that Archbishop Hovsepian named October as a month for celebrating Armenian culture in an encyclical dated August 14, 1942.

In introducing the idea to the public, Archbishop Hovsepian emphasized that "culture" broadly understood—literature, language, music and art—had always found a welcoming home in the Armenian Church, alongside the church's mission to preach the Gospel of Christ to its people. Hovsepian noted that the church had been a "school" to the nation, encouraging literacy among the people and broadening their awareness of history and the larger world.

In the greatest expression of this "cultural" role, the written Armenian language had begun as a *sacred* undertaking of the church, to translate the Bible into Armenian. Indeed, October was chosen as the candidate for Armenian Cultural Month because it includes that most distinctive of Armenian holy days, the Feast of the Holy Translators, celebrated every year on the Saturday before the 5th Sunday after *Khatchveratz* (the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross).

Where is Srpazan Hayr (His Grace) Saying about that Compass?

Psychologists say that people need three things to be happy: something to do, something to love, and something to look forward to. There is wisdom in that. We need meaningful work, someone beyond ourselves to love, and hope that gives us a reason to rise each morning, believing that tomorrow can be. better. But these three things alone are not enough to be happy. We must also ask: Am I doing the right thing? Am I loving the right thing? Am I hoping for the right thing? We can spend our lives chasing success, recognition, comfort, or possessions, only to discover that they slowly begin to control us. We may spend years thinking, "When I finally reach that goal, I will be happy." Then we get there and realize that the heart is still searching.

Sometimes the problem is not that we are not moving, but that we are moving in the wrong direction. A ship may have strong engines, a good crew, and plenty of power, but if its compass is off, all that energy will only take it farther from where it needs to go. Our souls need a compass too.

Saint Paul writes, "This one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13–14). Paul's life was not easy, but it had direction. He knew where he was going and why. Notice that he says, "This one thing I do." His life was not scattered among a hundred competing purposes. Christ had become the compass of his soul. His work, his love, and his hope were all pointing in the same direction.

Many of us are tired because our hearts are being pulled in too many directions. We carry regrets from yesterday, demands from today, and anxieties about tomorrow. Saint Paul invites us to gather our scattered hearts and fix them again on Christ. So, true happiness is not merely having a full schedule, a strong affection, or an exciting future. It is knowing that what we do, what we love, and what we hope for are drawing us closer to God.

FAITH IN ACTION

The greatest act of stewardship the world has ever known was Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the Holy Cross

In Mark 10:45 Jesus declares:

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many".

Christian stewardship is our response to Christ's example, and it is not always easy. Sometimes it calls for sacrifice putting others before ourselves and giving generously, just as Jesus gave His life for us.

2026 Stewardship Pledge cars are located on a table in the vestibule. Alternately, parishioners can make their pledge on the church website, www.stsvartanantz.com

Joan Poladian to share Volunteer Experience in Armenia, October 18 -Several months ago, parishioner Joan Poladian returned from a most invigorating two-month volunteer opportunity in Armenia. On Sunday, October 18, following church services, Joan will offer a narrated slide presentation to discuss the details about her experience.

"I came home to serve. My volunteer experience in Vanadzor, Armenia"

Narrated Slide Presentation by Joan Poladian
Sunday, October 18, following church services

Come and hear parishioner Joan Poladian's remarkable 2026 volunteer experience in Vanadzor, Armenia.

Are You Receiving the
Saints Vartanantz Weekly eNewsletter??
If not, please go to the church's website, and sign up. It's free!! www.stsvartanantz.com

The Saints Vartanantz Food Festival is a magnificent opportunity to bring our community together to exercise a most rewarding ministry of service and fellowship.

Read what Paul tells the Galatians (5:22) when we are blessed with the Holy Spirit

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.