

St. James Armenian Church

Sunday, January 8, 2012

Holy Badarak 10:30 a.m.
to include Blessing of the Water

followed by

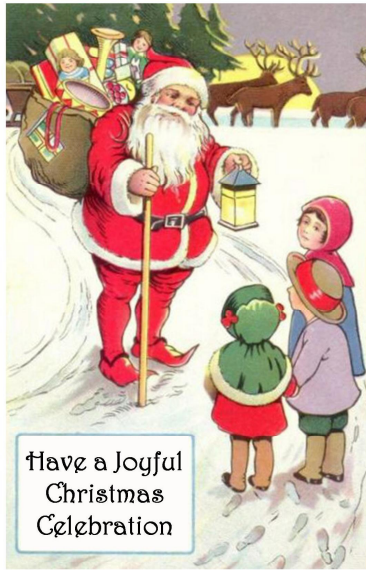
Christmas Lunch

hosted by the Women's Guild

Don't miss the special visit from Santa!

Pork · Christmas Pilav
Roasted Vegetables · Salad
Coffee & Dessert

\$15 per person with reservation
\$20 per person at the door
Free for kids age 12 & under



Have a Joyful
Christmas
Celebration

If you would like to sponsor the lunch,
please phone 762-4164.

RSVP BY JANUARY 5. PAYMENT WITH RESERVATION IS ENCOURAGED

Please mail your check with this form.
Make checks payable to Women's Guild of St. James Armenian Church.

Name: _____ Phone number: _____

Total number attending: _____ Amount enclosed (see price above): \$ _____

Or make your reservation by emailing lucy.grey@comcast.net or by phoning (804)762-4164. *Thank you!*

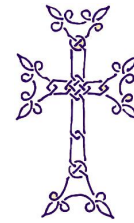
St. James Armenian Church | 834 Pepper Ave | Richmond, VA 23226 | (804) 282-3818 | www.stjamesva.org

Armenian Church
Hye-O

A game of questions
and answers to hone
your knowledge in:

B Bible
PW Prayer & Worship
CY Church Year
S Sacraments
HS History and Saints
OW In Other Words

B Hebrew
PW We cross ourselves
CY The cross of Christ
S Chrismation (*Troshm*) and Holy Orders, Ordination
(*Tzernadrootium yev Odzoom*)
HS Sts. Thaddeus and Bartholomew
OW *Khach*



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ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH
834 PEPPER AVENUE, RICHMOND, VA 23226
REV. FR. MESROB HOVSEPYAN, PASTOR

St. James Sunday Bulletin

Welcome to St. James Armenian Church!
The morning service starts at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays
and is followed by Badarak (Divine Liturgy) at 10:30 a.m.

January 1, 2012

Զ ԿՈՒՐԱԿ ՅԻՍՆԱԿԱՅ Sixth Sunday of Advent

Շնորհաւոր Նոր Տարի
եւ Նորը Օտուկ

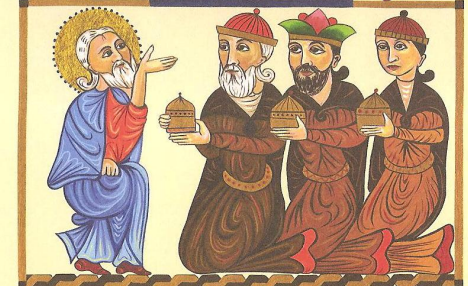
Happy New Year &
Merry Christmas!

Dear Friends,

In the coming year, may
God bestow His blessings
on you, shine the light of
His love unto your homes
and grant health and hap-
piness to you and your
loved ones.

May the joyous announce-
ment of Christ's birth re-
sound in our hearts
throughout the coming
year!

Շնորհաւոր Նոր Տարի եւ Նորը Օտուկ



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Today there will be no Requiem Service after Badarak.

The Origin and Meaning of the Christmas Tree

The Christmas tree is one of the most popular and cherished Christmas customs. Each year, 35-40 million live trees are purchased and decorated in the United States alone. But when, where, and how did this custom begin? What is the origin of the Christmas tree? What does it mean?

There is scholarly consensus that the Christmas tree originated in Germany. Indeed, the earliest record of an evergreen tree being used and decorated (but without lights) for Christmas is 1521 in the German region of Alsace.

From the mid-seventeenth century the Christmas tree slowly grew in popularity and use. However, it was not until the beginning of the 19th century that the use of the Christmas tree grew into the general German custom that it is today. Also at this time it spread to the Slavic people of eastern Europe. The Christmas tree was probably first used in America about 1700 when the first wave of German immigration settled in western Pennsylvania.

The evergreens have been a symbol of rebirth from ancient times. Bringing greenery into one's home, often at the time of the winter solstice, symbolized life in the midst of death in many cultures.

Another custom was to be found in the homes of Christians on Dec. 24 since the late Middle Ages. A large candle called the "Christmas light," symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world, was lit on Christmas Eve. This tradition is reflected during the *J'rakaylootzee Soorp Badarak* on the Eve of the Armenian Christmas (January 5th).

For many Christians the Christmas tree still retains the symbolism of the Paradise tree. The tree reminds us of the tree in Eden by which Adam and Eve were overcome and which thrust them into sin. But more importantly, the tree reminds us of the tree by which our sin was overcome, namely the tree upon which Christ Jesus was crucified. For example, Paul writes in Galatians 3:13, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree" (quoting Deut. 21:23). And Peter writes, "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed." Therefore, the Christmas tree is a wonderful symbol and reminder of our salvation and forgiveness through Jesus Christ!

- B** In which language was the Old Testament written?
- PW** When the priest turns from the altar and blesses us, we respond with this action.
- CY** What did Heraclius, the ruler of the Eastern Roman Empire, recover from the Persians in 629?
- S** Name two sacraments in which holy myrron is used.
- HS** Name the two apostles who evangelized Armenia.
- OW** What is the Armenian word for cross?

The answers can be found on the last page of the bulletin.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

Today	Divine Liturgy. Armenia/Sunday School is on break.
January 5, Thursday	Eve of the Nativity and Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ 5:00 p.m. - Evening Service and Reading the Messianic Prophecies 5:30 p.m. - Divine Liturgy of Light - J'rakaylootzee Soorp Badarak
January 6, Friday	Feast of the Nativity and Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ 10:00 a.m. - Morning Service 10:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy
January 8, Sunday	Commemoration of the Baptism of our Lord [Requiem Services are not offered on this day] 10:00 a.m. - Morning Service 10:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Water service Followed by Christmas Luncheon (flyer in the back)
January 20, Friday	Hovhannes Tumanyan Puppet State Theatre of Yerevan <i>presents</i> 2 puppet shows & concert. <i>The flyer can be found in Narthex.</i>



Order Your Tile

If you would like to purchase the tile made on the occasion of the 55th Anniversary of St. James, ask Leiza Bouroujian or Parish Council members for details. It can be a nice Christmas present.

4x4 Tile \$10 6x6 Tile \$15



Today's Scripture Readings

Isaiah 51:15-52:3, Hebrews 13:18-25, Luke 22:24-30

*Today, please take a moment to remember in your prayers
Zadig Setian, Barkev Baronian, Kachi Dedian, Isabelle
Vranian, Paris Dedeian, Annie Bickers, Zabel Ghazarian,
Katie Ralcewicz (for healing and continued improvement),
as well as all the sick and recovering members
of our community.
May God touch his faithful servants with His healing hand,
and grant them a good health & recovery.*