

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
PARISH REPORTS - 2021

February 20, 2022



St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church
4125 Fessenden St. NW, Washington, DC 20016
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ST. MARY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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Rev. Father Hovsep Karapetyan, Pastor

Տէր Յովսէփ Քհնյ. Կարապետեան, Հովիւ

February 1, 2022

INVITATION LETTER TO THE PARISH ASSEMBLY – 2022

Dear Dues Paying Member,

Our Annual Parish Assembly this year will be held on Sunday, February 20, 2022 at 12:00 pm, with an alternate date of February 27, 2022 at 12:00 pm. Due to the COVID-19 crisis the meeting will take place at the church sanctuary.

If you are not comfortable attending in person, you may attend virtually via a Zoom meeting. If you are a dues-paying member and would like to attend the February 20 meeting via Zoom, please send your name, phone number, and email address to the office stmarychurchdc@gmail.com by February 15. The dues-paying members attending the meeting virtually will vote anonymously via Zoom. If there are two voting members in one household attending virtually, each one must pre-register with the office. To vote, each member must log in to the meeting via a separate device, such as a computer, tablet, or cell phone.

With prayers,

Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan,
Pastor

Mrs. Shoghig Sahakyan
Parish Council Chairlady

**Annual Parish Assembly
St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church
Washington, DC**

February 20, 2022

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Verification of Eligible Voters and Call for Quorum
3. Election of Chairman and Secretary of the Day
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Approval of the Minutes of 2020 Parish Assembly
6. Nominating Committee Report and Floor Nominations
7. Pastor's Report
8. Parish Council Report
9. Vote on the Ballot
10. Operating Fund Report - 2020 Expenses
11. Pastor's MOU
12. Review and Adoption of the 2021 Budget
13. Other Treasury Report (Restricted Funds and ACEF)
14. Questions and Acceptance of Organizational Reports (a representative will be present to answer questions)
15. Diocesan Delegates' Report
16. Auditing Committee Report
17. Investment Committee Report
18. Announcements of Elections Results
19. New Business
20. Motion to Adjourn and Benediction

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Church services on February 20, 2022:
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM Holy Badarak
12:00 Noon Meeting
2. Please submit your proposals, resolutions, and bylaws amendments in writing prior to the Assembly, to be placed on the agenda of the meeting. Please contact Mrs. Shoghig Sahakyan (sshoghig@gmail.com), Parish Council Chairlady. The proposals or the resolutions may be related to:
 - a. The overall mission or the activities of the church;
 - b. The specific issues concerning the auxiliary organizations' activities and their mission;
 - c. The specific issues related to the Diocese.
3. You don't have to be a dues-paying/voting member to attend the Parish Assembly.
4. Voting members! To be eligible to vote, please make sure you have paid your membership dues for the year 2022. All dues must have been paid by December 31st in order to be eligible to vote.
5. If you have delinquent dues for 2021, to restore your voting membership privilege, you must submit your dues both for the years 2020 and 2021. The annual dues are \$250 per person, 18 and over, and \$100 for senior citizens and students.
6. For election, nominations can be made from the floor. Please secure the prior consent of the nominee. Please call one of the Nominating Committee members and volunteer or suggest your nomination.

The Nominating Committee would like to express our appreciation to everyone that has volunteered to put their names forward in service to our Church. It was our goal to find the most talented and dedicated members to volunteer so that the Ballot and upcoming Church Committees would reflect the diversity of our Parish.

Please feel free to contact a member of the Nominating Committee if you have any questions regarding the Ballot or Parish Assembly Election procedures.

The Nominating Committee

Eric Ashbaian
Sara Arabian
Ani Armani

(eric.ashbahian@gmail.com) - (301) 928-0156
(arabiansa@gmail.com) - (301) 928-0156
(anian3@hotmail.com) - (301) 500-8075

**St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church
2021 Standing Committee List**

Parish Council (2 year term, limit 3 consecutive terms)

Ara Avedisian (2021)*	-- elected 2018, 2020
Mark Krikorian (2021)	-- elected 2016, 2018, 2020
Rick Nishanian (2021)*	-- elected 2020
Shoghig Sahakian (2021)*	-- elected 2020
Hratch Semerjian (2021)*	-- elected 2020
Bob George (2022)*	-- elected 2021
Jack Guiragossian (2022)*	-- elected 2021
Catherine Sahakian(2022)*	-- elected 2021
Artur Sivaslian (2022)	-- elected 2017, 2019, 2021

Nominating Committee (1 year term, limit 2 consecutive terms)

Sara Arabian (2021)*	-- elected 2021
Ani Armani (2021)*	-- elected 2021
Eric Ashbahian (2021)*	-- elected 2021

Auditing Committee (3 year term)

Vladimir Shekoyan (2021)
Edvik Alexandrian (2022)
George Guiragossian (2023)

Diocesan Delegates (4 year term)

Eric Ashbahian (2024)
Onnik Sivaslian (2024)
Sarine Zenian (2024)

Investment Committee (3 year term)

Sarine Zenian (2021)
Michael Sahakian (2022)
David Sayian (2023)

WED Scholarship Committee (5 year term)

Patricia Yeghissian (2021)
Sophia Shahverdian-Hawit (2022)
Rebecca Bagdasarian (2023)
Zaven Kalayjian (2024)
Anna Seferian (2025)

year is the last full year of the term (some terms continue into Feb due to election schedule), * **denotes may run again**

**St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church
2022 Preliminary DRAFT Ballot**

Parish Council: (2 Yr Term, 8 People required to run)

Shoghig Sahakyan
Rick Nishanian
Svetlana Hovhanissyan
John Assadourian
Mark Bettis
Edita Kalayjian
Sean McClure
Onnik Sivaslian

Nominating Committee: (1 Yr term, 5 people required to run)

Hripsime Sivaslian
Eric Ashbahian
Mark Krikorian
Zaven Kalayjian
Becky Bagdassarian

Auditing Committee: (3 Yr term, 2 people required to run)

Christian Ohanian
Greg Maniougian

Investment Committee: (3 Yr term, 2 people required to run)

Sarine Zenian
Wright Sigmund

WED Scholarship: (5 Yr term, 2 people required to run)

Vivian George
Eric Ashbahian

Chairperson of the Day: (1 day only during assembly)

Avedis Seferian
Bob George

Secretary of the Day: (1 day only during the assembly)

Beverly Sivaslian
Becky Bagdassarian

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly
St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church, Washington DC**

February 21, 2021

Opening:

Der Hayr Hovsep Karapetyan opened the meeting with a prayer. He acknowledged this is an unusual year, with some people joining the meeting online via Zoom and the meeting being held in the sanctuary (although he shared that it had been held in the sanctuary in the past). He continued by praying for the parishioners that we lost this year due to the pandemic or otherwise. The Parish Assembly was called to order by Parish Council Member Onnik Sivaslian at 12:42pm.

Verification of Quorum: The Nominating Committee verified the presence of 56 dues-paying members (31 in-person and 25 on Zoom), where 50 were required for a quorum. Therefore, a quorum was confirmed.

Election of Chairman and Secretary of the Day: The ballot for the officers of the day was presented and voted on by eligible voters in-person and online and then were returned and counted. The Chairperson of the day was **Avedis Seferian**. The secretary of the day was **Beverly Sivaslian**.

Avedis Seferian addressed the Assembly to talk about how challenging this past year had been for everyone – for the St. Mary community, the United States, and Armenia/Artsakh. He asked for patience and understanding during the meeting conducted in this new hybrid model. He acknowledged the hard work from the Nominating Committee that went into making this format possible. He pointed out that the reports in the written materials booklet sent to the parishioners in advance would not be presented orally as in the past since those reports were to have been read and questions submitted before the meeting.

Adoption of Agenda: A motion was made by **Sarine Zenian** to adopt the agenda as presented in the booklet. The motion was seconded by **Ara Avedisian** and passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2020 Parish Assembly: The 2020 Parish Assembly Minutes were reviewed. Comments or corrections were requested. There was a question from a member attending via Zoom about the WED Committee's principal amount, with a response directing him to the appropriate page and line number in the report.

Mark Krikorian made a motion to adopt the minutes, which **Zaven Kalayjian** seconded. The motion to adopt the minutes was unanimously approved both from in-person and from Zoom participants.

Nominating Committee Report and Floor Nominations: The Assembly reviewed the ballot. **Becky Bagdasarian** read the names on the ballot. **Catherine Sahakian** was added to the ballot as a candidate for **Parish Council**. **Ani Armani** was added as a candidate for the **Nominating Committee**. **Shoghig Sahakian** was added as a candidate for the **Diocesan Delegates**. **Raffi Karahisar** was added as a candidate for the **Investment Committee**. **Anna Seferian** was added as a candidate for the **WED Scholarship Committee**. The Chairperson confirmed there were no other floor nominations for the ballot.

Vote on the Ballot: The Nominating Committee distributed final ballots to the parishioners. Attendees on Zoom voted through a Zoom poll. A member on Zoom asked if the names had already been added to the ballot, and it was confirmed that the names were all updated on the ballot. After voting was complete, the Nominating Committee retired to count the votes. The Assembly was informed that because the ballots would need to be counted from in-person and Zoom attendees, the winners would not be announced at the end of the meeting; instead, an email announcing the election results will be sent within days.

Pastor's Report: Der Hayr's report was reviewed. A motion to accept the clergy's report was made by Mark Krikorian. Artur Sivaslian seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Parish Council Report: There being no questions from the floor or on Zoom, a motion to accept the Parish Council report was made by **Mark Krikorian**, which **Onnik Sivaslian** seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Onnik Sivaslian asked for a few words from the Parish Council Chairperson. **Ara Avedesian** talked about how this was the parish's 88th annual Assembly. He talked about how he got married at St. Mary's and had both of his kids baptized there. He talked about this being his Parish Family. He acknowledged the difficulty with the pandemic. He recognized the members of the **Parish Council** and **Der Hayr Hovsep Karapetyan**. He pointed out some of the Parish Council's accomplishments during the previous year. This included **Vartan Kasparian** doing the spiritual paintings in the sanctuary, painting the walls downstairs, finishing the side entrance, adding new signage, replacing damaged bricks, improved landscaping, and finishing the new roof. He mentioned that the Parish Council was currently pursuing a fundraiser to have approximately 300 bricks laid in front of the Khatchkar. He encouraged people to participate in this good cause and said more information could be found on the church website. He also mentioned the future plans to renovate the kitchen and the Parish Council's desire to make this an all-inclusive effort. He encouraged people to share their ideas, wants, needs. A committee will be formed for this, and he asked for participation.

He expressed deep gratitude for everyone who came forward to help support the Parish family.

He expressed gratitude to Der Hayr for everything that he did for the parish in the difficult times of the pandemic, as well as to **Edita Kalayjian** for her singing during services. He recognized the **Women's Guild** for doing fundraisers to raise money for Artsakh. He spoke of their creating lunches, creating dinners, buying boots and supplies for the army during the emotional times of the past year, and of the need to move forward for the sake of the Parish family. He thanked **Mark and Dariush** for doing the camera work so that people could attend services from home and for the work done by the **Avak Society and the Knights of Vartan** to serve the military. Additionally, he mentioned how the **Gift Shop** helped with the fundraising as well. He expressed thanks to the family and encouraged people to come back to attending service in the sanctuary. The Chairperson thanked past and present Parish Council members for their service.

Operating Fund Report: With no questions posed online nor on Zoom, a motion to accept the Operating Fund report was made by Mark Krikorian and seconded by Aline Guiragossian. The motion passed with overwhelming support, with only one vote (via Zoom) against it. **Onnik Sivaslian** shared some information about the operating fund, mentioning it was a challenging year as treasurer without Jack Guiragossian, whom he relied on so much. He pointed out how dependent the church is on just a couple of sources. In particular, he mentioned that 1/3rd of the money comes from the bazaar. He asked members to come forward and be a part of the bazaar fundraising efforts and said that instead of thinking about volunteering for the bazaar, it should be looked at like an obligation to help the church.

Pastor's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): The floor was opened for questions/comments. There was a question (via Zoom) about the service increment increase and why this was done. Onnik Sivaslian explained that this amount came directly from the diocesan guidelines. A motion to accept the MOU was made by **Mark Krikorian** and seconded by **Sarine Zenian**. The motion passed with overwhelming support, with only one vote (via Zoom) against it.

2021 Budget: With no questions about the budget from the floor or on Zoom, a motion to accept the 2021 Budget was made by **Ara Avedesian** and seconded by **Aline Guiragossian** and passed with unanimous approval.

Other Treasury Reports (Restricted Funds and ACEF): The floor was opened for questions/comments. There was a question via Zoom on the maintenance increases, requesting an explanation. **Onnik Sivaslian** said that the church maintenance fund was used for the replacement of the roof and gutters, although most of the

money came from the insurance company. He indicated the section of the report where the details of the expenses and income were noted and mentioned the church was left with a surplus of about \$2000 after that. A motion to accept the Treasury Reports was made by **Ara Sahakian**, seconded by **Sarine Zenian**, and passed unanimously.

Organizational Reports: The floor was opened for questions/comments on the remaining organizational reports presented in the booklet, with the reminder that there would not be individual oral presentations for any of them.

A question from Zoom referenced the various fund available to the church, noting there was a lot of money and asking what it was for.

Onnik Sivaslian discussed the funds available and noted that some of them were restricted funds that can only be used for certain needs. **ACEF** is an example of a restricted fund that has several million dollars, but the church only gets \$16,000 from that fund for operational expenses (only 4.5%). This amount is already in the operating budget. The other big amount is the \$2.1 million, which is the church's investment money. Some of that money is restricted as well. In total, the church has \$4.4 million in funds, but much of that money is restricted.

Hratch Semerjian commented that the \$1.7 million in **ACEF** and \$2.1 million investment funds are endowed funds. They are not meant to be for everyday operating uses. He said it should make the parish feel good that such funds are available, as they could be called upon in an emergency situation, but that doesn't replace the need to raise money for projects because this money can't be drawn upon for ordinary use.

A motion to accept the Organizational Reports was made by **Ara Avedesian**, seconded by **Shoghig Sahakyan**, and passed unanimously.

Diocesan Delegates Report: The floor was opened for questions/comments. **Zaven Kalyajian** asked for an update about the air rights of St. Vartan's Cathedral.

Onnik Sivaslian stated that there was no in-person delegates meeting. There was a Zoom meeting in September and in January. So far, there is nothing going on regarding air rights. Everything is on hold. They need money for maintenance and repairs as well as the administrative buildings. There are Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3 plans. The need is \$25 million. It is over 50 years old, and a lot of it is falling apart. The next meeting will be in May 2021, at which time a status update will be sought. There was a comment made that these repairs are overdue. **Hratch Semerjian** wanted more clarification about the first part of the report. He made a comment about the fact that nothing happened between the diocesan assembly meeting and this parish assembly meeting. He also felt that the minutes of the parish assembly need to be shared sooner than one year afterward. He proposed an informational meeting after one Sunday service to hear from the diocesan delegates and have the minutes from the diocesan Assembly shared. Since he was making this proposal in the form of a motion, the Chairperson asked him to wait until the New Business portion of the meeting and submit it then. He shared one more comment. He noted that \$1.8 million was raised for Artsakh and mentioned that when he had asked how much money would be going to the soldiers and the families in Artsakh, he had been told that some of the money was going to go Etchmiadzin. He was wondering why a third of the money raised should go to Etchmiadzin and inquired whether this had come up at the Diocesan Assembly.

Onnik Sivaslian stated that this year was very different. He said that usually, the reports come out at the end of the year. The prior diocesan meeting was mainly informational. He was hoping that a full report on the St. Vartan's cathedral would be shared since several companies made bids.

About the donations – 34 different parishes contributed \$1.8 million. No one questioned why part of the money was going to Etchmiadzin. This figure was just presented to them. **Der Hayr** clarified that the money sent to Etchmiadzin helped out over there too. The diocesan platform distributed money to other social services to the people. Part of the money was sent to the clergy, who helped out on the front line.

Question from Zoom – What is the status of selling the cathedral’s air rights and administration building. The answer is that it is on hold.

A motion to accept the Diocesan Delegates Report was made by **Ara Avedesian** and seconded by **Artur Sivaslian**. The motion passed with overwhelming support, with only one vote (via Zoom) against it.

Auditing Committee: The floor opened for questions/comments. **Hratch Semerjian** commented that he served on the auditing committee and many organizations in the past, and such well-written reports were never submitted. He felt that things are much better now, with much more accountability everyone knowing how the money is being spent. He hoped that everyone felt that the funds were being appropriately managed.

A motion to accept the Auditing Committee’s report was made by **Hratch Semerjian** and seconded by **Mark Krikorian**. It passed unanimously.

Investment Committee: The floor opened for questions/comments. **Mark Krikorian** stated that ACEF is not money that St. Mary controls. The diocese controls that for St. Mary. The investment committee manages the money that St. Mary has direct control over and that the report in question covers just that money. A motion to accept the Investment Committee’s report was made by **Mark Krikorian** and seconded by **Shoghig Sahakyan**. It passed unanimously.

Announcement of Election Results: The Assembly was reminded that the results would be announced by email in the coming days.

Old/New Business:

First New Business: **Hratch Semerjian** re-submitted his motion that an informational meeting should be organized by the Parish Council to report on the Diocesan Assembly in June. The motion was seconded by **Dean Shahinian** on Zoom. **Zaven Kalayjian** spoke in favor of this motion, saying similar motions had been proposed and approved before. So this is something that has been done in the past. He mentioned that this was an excellent idea. **Ara Avadesian** stated that the alternate is to share the information via email. **Der Hayr** mentioned that both could be done.

Sarine Zenian stated that it depends on when we get the minutes since this sometimes takes a while to get those minutes.

Zaven Kalayjian suggested that we should meet before the meeting and then also meet after the meeting.

Hratch Semerjian spoke of the need to have this parish assembly meeting serve as the pre-meeting to the Diocesan Assembly to allow the parish to talk through those issues and present the diocesan delegates with instructions.

Ara Avadesian stated that parish members should feel comfortable reaching out to the Diocesan representatives.

Sarine Zenian said that the parish assembly needs to be used to make motions because it took time to formally draw up the motions for the Diocesan Assembly and suggested a motion to add an item to the Parish assembly for the future to discuss the Diocesan assembly.

A motion to accept a new way of sharing the Diocesan assembly minutes was made by **Mark Krikorian** and seconded by **Shoghig Sahakyan**. It passed unanimously.

Second New Business: **Dean Shahinian** proposed an indoor church elevator. The motion proposed asks to have two people serve on a committee to evaluate a church elevator.

Comment: the outdoor elevator does not look good from the outside.

Artur Sivaslian stated that last year two new chair lifts were installed at the cost of \$10,000, one going up and one going down with remote controls, and they work. Not many people have used them since attendance has been low. He felt the elevator study is a good idea but suggested it should be done in conjunction with a study on expanding the school building and adding an elevator. This proposed amendment to the motion on the floor (to add to the indoor elevator study a study about the new school building) received a comment online in support, but there was another comment wanting the two studies to be kept separate.

Ara Avedisian made the point that the chair lifts work, and the community needs to be aware that they are there. There was a comment online that the outdoor elevator can only be used by someone calling to use it, and a further comment that the elevator can only be used individually, the same thing with the chair lift.

Clara Andonian spoke in support of the motion by **Dean Shahinian** and mentioned that he was going to pay for the study.

Dean Shahinian said that the chair lift is suitable for people who can get out of their wheelchair, but if someone is immobile, then the chair lifts will not work for them.

Ara Avedisian asked **Dean Shahinian** to present his study to the Parish Council. He said that the Council could invite Dean to the next meeting to discuss.

Note that the motion is not mandated to build this indoor elevator – just a study to see the feasibility and the cost.

Zaven Kalayjian requested moving to a vote on this. A motion for the Parish Council to create a committee to study the need for a new indoor elevator was made by **Dean Shahinian** and seconded by **Greg Manougian**. It was unanimously approved.

Third New Business: **Ara Avedisian** brought up the kitchen renovation as being one of the main focuses of the Parish Council for the upcoming year. The committee will come together to discuss this further in the next Parish Council Meeting.

The Nominating Committee and Becky Bagdasarian provided a further explanation as to why the results of the election are not being shared at the meeting, saying that the Zoom poll results needed to be verified after the meeting was over to make sure that no one voted for more than they were allowed to. Since this cannot be done without ending the meeting, the results could not be finalized before the meeting was over.

Onnik Sivaslian asked what would be done if there was a tie, and **Becky Bagdasarian** said that they would distribute a ballot to someone who did not yet vote and have them vote.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by **Hratch Semerjian**, seconded by **Mark Krikorian**, and passed unanimously.

Der Hayr ended the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Der Hovsep Karapetyan
Pastor

Mrs. Beverly Sivaslian
Secretary

Mr. Avedias Seferian
Chairman

CLERGY REPORT – 2021

Parish Assembly – February 20, 2022

As we embarked on 2021, we sought to balance the ever growing challenges of the pandemic with our desire to fulfill the mission of our Church. Despite these challenges, and with God's grace, we never had interrupted services and we were able to adapt events to fit within safe protocols so that we could continue to fellowship, worship and gather as a community. Thanks goes to the many dedicated parishioners and friends who, despite the difficult circumstances, devoted their time, energy, and resources for the prosperity of our Church and Glory of God.

Below is a detail report of all the activities and events of the year 2021.

SACRAMENTS & SERVICES - 2021	Number
<i>Sacraments and Services continue to be performed. The totals reflect Services performed in 2020.</i>	
Badaraks	65
Ministry Meetings	19
Baptisms	12
Engagements	2
Weddings	7
Funerals	26
Requiems (Hokehankists)	76
Home Blessings	8
Visitations	28
Pre-Marital, Baptismal Counseling/Meetings	24

SOCIAL MEDIA/ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION
<p>Constant Contact: Church's main electronic communication platform. Over 144 electronic communications sent in 2021, including Weekly E-Bulletins, Monthly E-Newsletters, Funeral and special event announcements. We now have 1312 active email addresses in our contacts with an average 45% open rate.</p> <p>Facebook: Our Page continues to be updated with events and announcements. It has been followed and liked by over 2,500 people.</p> <p>Instagram: Was added this year as one of the tools of the social media to promote St. Mary's events and activities. So far we have 66 followers.</p> <p>YouTube Channel: Our Sunday Badarak and other events on YouTube and get average 50 to 75views.</p>
<p>SmugMug: www.stmaryaac.smugmug.com This is our Church's main portal for all our event pictures. This year we had a record high view of 125, 814, and contains event photos since 2007.</p> <p>Website: www.stmaryaac.org Our website has been updated and now is fully manageable by our church office staff.</p>

FEASTS & OUTREACH	
<p><i>Below is the list of spiritual activities and feasts celebrated as the focal point of our community life. Special emphasis was made to increase opportunities for spiritual education and worship. In 2021 due to the pandemic we did our best to utilize Zoom, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and other social media platforms to broadcast special celebrations, feasts and activities of our Church.</i></p>	
Eve and Feast of the Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ celebrated.	January 5

Feast of Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ	January 6
Lenten Worship services and Spiritual discussions entitled "Living the Gospel of Christ: James: Message of Living Faith." Concentrating on different essential topics in the Letter of James.	February/March/April
14th Anniversary of Hrant Dink Assassination was commemorated with the Hokehankist prayer for his soul	January 24
Poon Parekedan Commemoration	February 22
Palm Sunday and Holy Week Celebration including: Washing of the Feet Service, The Service commemorating the Betrayal and Passion of Our Lord, Holy Friday Service of Crucifixion and Entombment, Easter Eve Badarak, and Celebration of the Feast of Resurrection of Our Lord.	March 28- April 3
April 24 Commemoration Day. In keeping with the annual tradition, there was a Wreath-laying Ceremony at the Armenian Embassy Khatchkar on April 24. The ceremony was preceded by a special prayer service of the Intercession of the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide. A special commemoration took place at St. Mary Church. The day began with the Holy Badarak, which was followed by a special service commemorating the Holy Martyrs in front of the Khatchkar on the Church plaza.	April 24
Hampartzoom/Ascension Day Celebration prayer service	May 13
The feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God was observed at St. Mary on August 15 with the visit of the Primate of Eastern Diocese H. E. Bishop Daniel Findikyan. Following the Badarak a special service of the Blessing of Grapes, Madagh, and Consecration of the New Icons took place.	August 15
The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross was celebrated at St. Mary Armenian Church on September 13, with an Antasdan Service immediately following the Divine Liturgy and followed by festive meals-to-go event.	September 12
St. Mary Church celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Independence of our Homeland with a special prayer of thanksgiving for the Republic of Armenia, which took place after the Badarak.	September 25
The ACYOA Juniors organized an event bringing their service and donating food to the local food bank.	September 19
Special prayer for the Catholicos was offered at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy to mark the 22 nd anniversary of His Holiness, and to pray for his health and prosperity.	November 7
One year anniversary of the 44 day war was marked with the commemoration of the mattered soldiers and freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives protecting the homeland during the 2020 Artsakh war.	November 9
Shnorhali Schoool students participated in the Holy Badarak and Communion. During the fall semester they have been learning about Badarak during 9:30am Badark Education Services. The opportunity to worship and participate in the Liturgy was enthusiastically welcomed by students and parents alike.	November 14
St. Mary's 89 th anniversary and the celebration of the 50 th anniversary of the priestly ordination of H. E. Abp. Vicken Aykazian took place with the Badarak celebration by Srpazan. Following the Liturgy an extravagant	December 12

luncheon and eloquent program was organized by the St. Mary Parish Council. Special guests in attendance were H. E. Lilit Makunts, Mr. Jim Winkler, Rev. Mark Morozowich, Rev. Stefanos Alexapoulos, Dr. Robin Darling Young, and Mr. Bryan Ardouny.

CULTURAL EVENTS, EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES & CHARITY EVENTS

Cultural and educational activities remain an important part of our community life through which we celebrate our rich heritage and history.

Nativity Festive Luncheon hosted by Ararat Avak Society.	January 10
Zoom Virtual Coffee Hour	January 31
Daughters of Vartan and St. Mary Gift Store Carry-Out Luncheon	January 25
ACYOA Junior's Social Event	February 6
Shnorhali School beginning of year parent-teacher Zoom meeting	February 7
Poon Paregentan Dinner organized by Women's Guild	February 20
Annual Parish Assembly	February 21
Women's Guild Mid Lenten Luncheon	March 14
ACYOA Church clean-up and smores event	March 21
Women's Guild Palm Sunday bake sale	March 28
Avak Society Easter Sunday Carry-Out Luncheon	April 7
ACYOA Event to raise funds for Artsakh FAR project.	April 7
Avak Society and Gift Shop joint event	May 2
ACYOA lawn games and Sr. High Grad Social	May15
Shnorhali School Year End Hantes	May 29
Shnorhali School Graduation	May 30
Armenian Food Festival	June 1-3
Book Presentation and Signing by Tatul Hakobyan	July 11

2 nd Annual Father's Day Celebration	June 20
Avak Society Lahmajun carry-out meal	July 18
1 st Annual Garden Wine and Cheese	September 24
ACYOA Juniors Fall Kick-off Event	October 2
73 rd Annual Armenian Food Festival	October 1-3
IFS visit and presentation at St. Mary	October 4
An Evening of Armenian life in Istanbul	October 30
Thanksgiving Smoked Brisket Fundraiser	November 23
ACYOA Juniors Christmas Party	December 11
ACYOA Winter Coat drive and FAR AYO Christmas Wishlist drive	November- December
Annual Christmas bake sale	December 18

In this difficult and challenging year for all of us I would like to express my appreciation to everyone who contributed, volunteered, and organized so many activities and events to support our church. I would like to express my special thanks to everyone who contributed and responded to our fundraising, yughakin, candlelight and special needs donations requests.

Our gratitude to our Primate Bishop Daniel Findikyan. Special appreciation to Archbishop Vicken Aykazian for his support and leadership in times of need to our Parish and community as Ecumenical Director and Legate of the Eastern Diocese. Our sincere appreciation to Yn. Anahit Kalayjian for her continued assistance and guidance during times of need.

Special appreciation to our dedicated Deacons and Altar Servants Dn. Vartkess Keshishian, Dn. Mark Krikorian, Dn. Jack Guiragossian, Dn. George Guiragossian, Dn. Garegin Vardanyan, Dn. Zaven Kalayjian, Sub-Deacons Simon Kumkumian and Edwin Tilimian; Nareg Seferian; our Deacon's Ministry under the leadership of Dn. Mark Krikorian, devoted team of "Mahs Bakers" Lola Pickering, Gulbahar Ozkayan, and Takuhi Ozbenian, our Choir under the leadership of Mrs. Edita Kalayjian and Dr. Hratch Semerjian, our Ushers under the leadership of Mrs. Anna Seferian, our Parish Office Administrators Mrs. Anie Armani. Our gratitude to Mr. Raffi Sahakian, building and facilities manager. Special appreciation to our fundraising planning Advisor Ms. Dolores Rogers. Our gratitude to the Parish Council under the leadership of Mrs. Shoghig Sahakian, Diocesan Delegates Mr. Eric Ashbahian, Ms. Sarine Zenian and Mr. Onnik Sivaslian, the Women's Guild under the leadership of Mrs. Nadya Chubukian, our Gift Store committee members Mr. Raffi Sahakyan, Mrs. Aline Guiragossian, Mrs. Takouhi Hallajian Mrs. Malvina Brown, Mrs. Ani Armani and Mrs. Shoghig Sahakyan and Margie Satian; the Ararat Avak Society under the leadership of Mrs. Takuhi Hallajian, Mrs. Marie Shafakian and Mrs. Eva Shafakian, the WED Educational Fund Scholarship Committee under the leadership of Mr. Zaven Kalayjian, the Shnorhali School Teachers and Staff under the leadership of Mrs. Nunik Nishanian, the Sunday School Teachers and Staff under the leadership of Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan, our Jr. ACYOA under the leadership of Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan and Ms. Rebecca Baghdasarian. Special appreciation to Knights and Daughters of Vartan for their support and assistance to our church.

In conclusion, I would also like us all to remember and pay our respects to all of our dedicated members whom we lost this year. May God rest their souls in peace. I pray that the upcoming year will hold many successful accomplishments and be a year of peace and prosperity for our Parish and our families.

Prayerfully,
Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan, Pastor

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT 2021

The accomplishments of Parish Council in 2021 are summarized in 1 sentence: Glory and thanks to our Heavenly Father for meeting our needs. As promised in Philippians 4:19 “My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

The year began with the continuation of COVID challenges. The Annual Parish Assembly was held on February 21st, 2021 in a hybrid format; in person and via Zoom.

Parish Council managed to host several events despite challenges on many levels and raised the much needed funds to sustain the Operating Fund of our church. We could not have accomplished that without the support of our parish, the generosity of individuals as well as business community, and dedicated volunteers.

A major item on the agenda for 2021 was the renovation of the church kitchen. After much research and deliberation, we were able to get the plan off the ground with an expected date of completion in early 2022. The project included replacement of the refrigerator, freezer unit, warmer and steam table. Other minor but important projects were installment of hand-rail by the side entrance of the church and making the necessary maintenance on the exterior elevator.

Parish Council members participated in Lenten Services and Discussions by sharing their perspectives and understanding.

Spring and Fall Food Festivals were successful, despite being held as carry-out events. The presence of several vendors around the side entrance of the church attracted many individuals who were passing by. Musical entertainment by Mihran Kochyan and his company added much needed cheer to our 73rd Fall Food Festival.

This year's Cultural Month was celebrated with a presentation led by Dr. Hratch Semerjian about “Bolsahay” Armenian Life in Istanbul and its rich culture from churches to schools. The participants were treated to delicacies unique to the Bolsahay community.

The year ended on a high note in December we celebrated St. Mary's 89th Anniversary honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Priestly Ordination of His Eminence Abp. Vicken Aykazian. Distinguished guests were invited to share their reflections of His Eminence.

Parish Council members were present and available every Sunday during and after church services. We made new connections and rekindled old friendships. We are grateful to all our volunteers who have come forward without any hesitation to share their talents and time.

We are blessed to have Father Hovsep, our spiritual leader and Yn. Jennifer without whom we would not have been able to accomplish all that God had planned for us in 2021.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Parish Council,

Shoghig M. Sahakyan
Chairlady

119TH DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY - HIGHLIGHTS

The 119th Diocesan Assembly (virtual) was held over numerous independent sessions from May to December via zoom. The sessions consisted of a general session and three breakout sessions.

The general session focused on the Bishop's message and the Diocesan Council report

The Bishop expressed how excited he was for more Churches to begin reopening **following COVID**. **The Bishop's main initiative for this year is "Building up the Body of Christ"** which focuses on how bring people physically back to the Church after COVID. A standing committee has been working on this over the past year and have specifically focused their efforts on how to make the Church truly Christ centered by reexamining everything we do on a Diocesan level, Parish level and personal level. The Diocesan Council has no clear 5-year plan of action with respect to the Bishop's initiative but fully supports it. The Bishop also touched on the further development of the vemkar.us online platform which he sees as being an electronic connection between the Church and people as it is capable of touching people all over the world.

The Bishop then focused on how the Diocese is in a period of transition. Some of the changes during this period of transition comprise:

A) Consolidation of departments as employees touch on each area. This change is also reflected in the budget in a manner where funds may be placed in other departments that work together on an issue.

B) The Diocese will be appointing a full time Director of Ministries which will work on the "Building up the Body of Christ" initiative and will be directed at all levels of ministries

C) Developing a group of 40-50 people to be on the ground working with parishes so that the Bishop's convictions can be balanced with what is being said in the Parishes

The first breakout session focused on Questions for the Diocesan Staff

The Diocesan staff presented all of the Diocesan ministry informal reports. The highlights consisted of:

- FAR working with and directly supporting (i.e. supplying PPE) healthcare professionals working with COVID
- The Zohrab Info Center has an interim director (current grad student) working remotely
- ACYOS Srs members decreased while retreat/camp numbers increased and
- There will be no camp this year at the Ararat Youth and Conference Center, but the location may be rented to other organizations

The second breakout session focused on Facilities Development Status and Dues to Stewardship Pilot Program

Facilities Development Status

A committee was established in 2020 to review the physical status of the Cathedral and determine its financial security. It was noted that the **NYC real estate market dropped 30%** during COVID which greatly impacts the ability to monetize the facility. The committee identified two options moving forward:

A) *Develop the property for a different use* (approximate timing 2 years for permits and 2-3 years to build)

- Zoning analysis
- Program and space evaluation by an architect
- Committee Review
- Valuation Report to determine what the market dictates
- Financial Impact report
- Engage Engineering consultants
- Development income and expense projection
- Request proposals

B) Capital campaign and Rental Income

- Raise 25 million for repair and restoration to bring building up to code
- Rent out 2 office floors and hall (could generate up to 1-1.5 million/year)
- Need to do further investigation to determine if bringing in paying tenant will change tax obligations of church (Currently don't have to pay property tax)
- Put some money aside as rainy-day fund to maintain facilities in a timely manner

Dues to Stewardship Pilot Program

The dues to stewardship pilot program began in seven parishes of different sizes. In the pilot program, membership is based on stewardship (people giving what they can of money/time). The assessment formation for each church is frozen as of right now but will be redone. It was stated that if a parish was interested in the stewardship pilot program the Parish Assembly would have to pass it first and then brought to the Diocese for approval.

The results/benefits of pilot were as follows:

- A) some gave less, some gave same, ALOT gave more
- B) it made people feel more inclusive
- C) it encouraged for people to give more for younger people
- D) It increases the number of leadership positions as more people will be considered members
- E) people paid earlier the normal dues (which is usually in Dec)
- F) several people who hadn't paid dues before became stewards

Stewardship Pilot Program statistics (Detroit Parish)

- 2019 - 644 dues paying members brought in approx. \$207,000
- 2020 - 690 stewards brought in approx. \$242,000
- 2021 - 36 family units brought in approx. \$116,000 (as of June)

How does a sample parish make the conversion?

- Built a trustful environment [education based]
- Flow of information about the program from Pastor down to parishioners
- Define different ministries (sample church did 12)
- Fourth quarter of the year is pledge season

It was stated that it would take at least 6 months preparation for a Church to make the transition from dues to stewardship successful.

The third breakout session focused on the financials

The Diocese made a profit in 2020. While the income was down in 2020 due to the effects of Covid, the cost of operating the Diocese was also lower. From the profit, the Diocesan Council established a "Board Restricted Capital Improvement Reserve" of \$560,000 (\$225,000 cathedral capital improvement reserve, \$335,000 general building capital improvement reserve). Annual appeal for 2022 is suggested to be raised to \$1,500,000 which would account for projects costs and allow for the introduction of new ministries.

Sincerely submitted,

Ohannes Sivaslian, Sarine Zenian and Eric Ashbahian

BOARD OF STEWARDS YEAR 2021 REPORT

Since 1995 Ushers have assisted in preparing the sanctuary for Sunday services, assisting parishioners and Parish Council members with various tasks, before, during, and after Badarak, including:

- ensuring mas is prepared in a timely fashion;
- ensuring adequate number of candles are present;
- providing assistance to parishioners in arriving to their seat;
- ensure church is left in proper condition following the service;
- change the front sign message in a timely fashion.
-

Ushers are also present at other events such as weddings and funerals. Ushers were present at the services during Easter, Holy Week, New Year's Eve Service, as well as Armenian Christmas services.

We have wonderful volunteers that make up the ushers group. They are: Sara Arabian, Garbis Chubukian, Rouzanna Oganissian, Anna Seferian, Arlin Diratsuyan

Respectfully submitted,

Garbis Chubukian

2021 ST. MARY CHOIR REPORT

2021 was a year of transition for the choir. Early in the year, when vaccines were not yet available to the general population under 65 years old, the choir had a small but faithful presence as our Director Edita Dolunts Kalayjian and Organist Karine Muradyan and just a few others provided the choir part of our Badarak. As the year progressed and the vaccine became more available, more members of the choir started participating again. Now, there are about 8-10 "regulars" and a few others who come now and then.

We are very grateful to both Edita and Karine for their constant presence and direction and also to Hratch Semerjian, our Director Emeritus who leads us in Edita's absence.

After many years as the Choir Secretary, Roxanne Paul told the choir that that she would be stepping down, since she was just elected to the Women's Guild Executive Committee.

Roxanne sent an email to all on the choir listserv asking if they wanted to remain on the listserv or not, since the list contained many inactive members. Those who wanted to remain on the listserv were kept; those who did not respond or said they wished to be taken off were removed. An election was held in December and choir member Ted Xakellis was elected to the position of Secretary. In early January, Roxanne send Ted an Excel spreadsheet of the remaining members and their email addresses.

Because of Covid, our usual other choir activities were very limited in 2021. However, on December 30 th , several choir members along with Der Hovsep, Yn. Jennifer and their two sons travelled to Paul and Lucy Murad's house in Vienna, Virginia to sing Christmas carols to them.

Becky Bagdasarian provided the lyrics sheets and the choir regaled the Murads and their daughter Andrea with Christmas carols while standing outside their doorway. (Sadly, Paul has since succumbed to cancer.)

Respectfully submitted,
Roxanne Nersesian Paul
Choir Secretary in 2021

2021 FOOD FESTIVAL REPORT

In 2021, the Parish Council sponsored two carry-out food festivals:

- 1) The Spring Food Festival was held on May 21st, 22nd, 23rd (Friday through Sunday);
- 2) The Fall Food Festival was held on October 1st, 2nd, 3rd (Friday through Sunday),

although preparations and purchases commenced much earlier in both cases, the latter due to the new norm of the “on-line orders” dictated by the pandemic.

The net proceeds from the two festivals were as follows:

2021 Spring Food Festival Net Income: \$15,880.91

2021 Fall Food Festival Net Income: \$21,772.60

The total Festival Net Income for 2021: \$37,653.51

Although this sum may seem rather modest compared to some of our more recent pre-pandemic figures, it is still a very impressive total, considering the limited scope of the events and the trying circumstances.

Suffice it to say that the money raised through the above activities has gone long ways into meeting our church’s financial well-being through these unprecedented times. Thank you all, for your overwhelming support!

For a more detailed description of the financials, please refer to the Festival Financial Reports appearing elsewhere in this report.

Respectfully submitted,
Raffi Karahisar, Treasurer

2021 St. Mary Food Festivals Financial Report

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Respectfully submitted,
Raffi Karahisar, Treasurer

ACYOA JUNIORS 2021 REPORT

The ACYOA Juniors teen group had a productive and fun year as we continued on our mission to witness and reach out to the Armenian youth of the greater D.C. community. Here are the events that the Juniors held over the past year:

Feb – Fire Pit Night – The teens met at the church, for a time of fellowship, a short devotional, and s'mores. The students also sent Valentine's cards, with hand written notes, to senior citizens.

Mar – Lenten Day of Service – The teens gathered to clean and beautify the Church. They also made bracelets which they sold on Palm and Easter Sunday to raise money for Artsakh. Afterwards, they gathered around the fire pits outside the church for s'mores, and participate in a short devotional.

May – Graduation Party – The teens met at Ft Reno Park on a Saturday afternoon for pizza a celebration of the accomplishments of our Sr High graduates. The students brought food donations to the event for the local food bank.

Sep – Lawn Games – The teens met at Ft Reno Park on a Saturday afternoon for pizza, lawn games, and a devotional. The students brought food donations to the event for the local food bank.

Oct – Fall Fire Pit Night - The teens met at the church, around the fire pits, for a time of fellowship, a short devotional, and roasted hotdogs and s'mores. Students participated in a no-carve pumpkin decorating competition as well.

Nov – Coat Drive – The ACYOA Jr sponsored a coat drive for needy people in the metro area via the Share the Warmth DC campaign. They publicized the event with flyers and a video, collecting 42 coats from the parish community. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnPmFjVMLgc>

Dec – Christmas Party - The teens held a Christmas Party at the home of the Sahakian family. They shared a pot luck meal, participated in a devotional, as well as a white elephant gift exchange. They also collected \$110 for the Fund For Armenian Relief's AYO Christmas Wishlist project.

Fall-Winter Meetings: On the first Sunday of each month the teens met after badarak for pizza, a devotional, and a general membership meeting. At the October meeting the teens elected the following officers:

Chairperson: Julie Tilimian
Vice Chairperson: Hovsep Seferian
Secretary: Shant Festekjian
Treasurer: Andre Alexandrian
At-Large Member: Ani Mkrtchyan

Ongoing Service to the Parish – In addition to serving on the alter and singing in the choir, there are a number of Juniors who serve as teacher aides for the Shnorhali School. In September a group of Juniors also spent the morning assembling student backpacks, full of supplies for the Shnorhali school. The juniors also volunteered at the Spring and Fall food festivals, and served food at the December Anniversary banquet.

Thanks go out to the parishioners who helped host and organize events this year including, Mike & Catherine Sahakian, Monica Emmerson, and Lori Madhock. Special thanks to Zaven Kalayjian and Patricia Yeghissian, who have provided spiritual enrichment for the teens via Bible studies and devotionals.

The ACYOA Juniors looks forward to continuing their programming into the New Year. To be included on the email listserv for the Junior please email your contact information to stmaryyouthdc@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Yeretzkin Jennifer Karapetyan

Rebecca Bagdasarian

**ST. MARY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
THE ARARAT AVAK SOCIETY
2021 REPORT**

In 2021, the pandemic continued to prevent the Ararat Avak Society from hosting their usual repertoire of events. However, it did not prevent them from organizing successful Carry-Out Luncheons and baked goods events, as well as continuing their support through donations to various organizations.

The following lists what the Ararat Avak Society has accomplished during the year: Easter Carry-Out Luncheon, Easter Egg Sale, Middle Eastern Cuisine Carry-Out Luncheon organized alongside the St. Mary Gift Shop, Father's Day Choreg Sale, Lahmajun Carry-Out Luncheon, and Dolma Carry-Out Luncheon. Each Luncheon and event included a delicious, wholesome, homemade meal and baked goods enjoyed by everyone. Furthermore, donations were made to the Armenian Youth Center Golf for Kids Golf Tournament for the fourth year in a row, and the Children of Artsakh.

It is important to recognize those who have supported the Society's mission throughout the year with their generous donations: Dean Shahinian (Monetary Donation), Nadia Carson (Monetary Donation - In Memory of Sahak Shafakian – CA), Margie Satian (Monetary Donation), Mari Shafakian (Donation of Easter Choregs and Father's Day Choregs - In Memory of Mardiros Shafakian), Mr. & Mrs. Raffi Sahakyan (Monetary Donation – In Memory of Nubar Sahakyan), Takuhi Hallajian (Donation of Easter Eggs - Children of Artsakh), Mr. & Mrs. Manoug Habibian (Monetary Donation), Rober Matikyan (Monetary Donation).

Further, the Ararat Avak Society would like to acknowledge and express their gratitude to those who have notably dedicated their time in supporting and volunteering during our events, as well as outside of events: Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan, Vartan Karapetyan, Clara Andonian, Ani Armani, Malvina Brown, Ani Dilanian, Arlin Diratsuyan, Aline Guiragossian, Charlie Habibian, Talin Habibian, Artin Hallajian, Arda Herbert, Berj Kalayjian, Kevork and Varti Marachelian, Judy Markarian, Alexandra Olson, Aline Orfali, Shoghig Sahakyan, John and Roxanne Schweitzer, Ani Simsek, and Seta Sivaslian.

The Ararat Avak Society thrives on the support of its members and St. Mary Armenian Church to continue to serve its senior citizen community with festive luncheons and cultural events. Such a mission could not be possible without the support and guidance of Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan and Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan. It is with their blessings that the Society can grow, serve, and maintain the solidarity that brings its members together. For that, we wish to extend our sincerest gratitude to them from the bottom of our hearts.

The Ararat Avak Society would also like to give a special recognition to Mrs. Clara Andonian for her dedication towards the mission. She has provided unwavering support at every Luncheon and event by volunteering all her time, and most importantly, taking the time to personally handwrite and mail every greeting card for various occasions on behalf of the Ararat Avak Society. We express thanks to Mrs. Clara Andonian for her tireless devotion over the years.

We continue to pray and hope for better days ahead. For the 2022 calendar year, the Ararat Avak Society plans to continue to provide exciting luncheons, host cultural events, and make donations to various Armenian outreach organizations to expand their mission. To do so, the Ararat Avak Society gladly offers volunteer opportunities to support its efforts. Volunteers are welcomed to assist in set-up and clean-up of Luncheons and other fundraising events. Volunteers are also needed to drive our attendees to and from events when needed. Furthermore, the Ararat Avak Society accepts luncheon sponsors throughout the year for those who wish to sponsor a luncheon to honor the memory of their loved ones. Those who wish to volunteer during events, shuttle our participants, sponsor a lunch, and/or donate in support of the Ararat Avak Society's mission are encouraged to contact the committee at 301.219.4041.

The Ararat Avak Society would like to remind everyone that all are welcome to our events. The Society thanks you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you all in 2022!

Respectfully,

Mrs. Takuhi Hallajian, Mrs. Mari Shafakian, Mrs. Eva Shafakian, Mrs. Margie Satian, Mr. Raffi Sahakyan Co-Chairpersons

The Ararat Avak Society of St. Mary

SHNORHALI SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR

Who We Are

The Shnorhali School is the primary educational organization within St. Mary, aimed at instilling and teaching the love of God, pride in our Armenian language, national identity, and culture. The goal of the school is to teach Armenian language and basics of culture in order to help our children and families live authentic Armenian Christian lives and become active members of our community. The school is comprised of two curriculums: one dedicated to Christian Education and the other to Armenian Language and Culture. This uniquely unified program provides school children from K-12 an excellent opportunity to learn about their Armenian Christian heritage.

2021-2022 Overview

After the COVID break the Shnorhali School – renovated, substantively transformed and reorganized - opened its doors to the children in our Armenian community. September 12 marked the beginning of the new academic year with newly developed comprehensive curriculum and interesting programs. This year's registration was

enhanced with a knowledge-testing phase, which, thanks to the school administration and academic staff turned into a small celebration of knowledge for children, parents, and teachers. In a friendly environment filled with excitement and anticipation, children met with their teachers, demonstrated their prior knowledge of the Armenian language, history, and culture, and started the process of studying at an appropriate educational level.

Academics:

School's academic curriculum is created to serve the needs and demands of our community. School administration and teachers developed this specialized curriculum coupled with an individualized approach to gain the best learning experience and results for our children.

For grades K-8, the school offers both Eastern and Western Armenian, in addition to religion and Armenian History/Culture. For grades 9-12 the school offers a religion class and an opportunity to earn community service hours as a volunteer. Extra-curricular options are available and will be announced later.

The school utilizes a new structured Armenian curriculum, where each grade (K-8) covers set materials, which should be mastered before moving to the next level. The admission to the school is done with an Armenian placement test to find out the best educational level for the student. If a student's test placement does not match his public-school grade, the principal will discuss options with the parents.

In addition to existing resources and textbooks, each week Armenian teachers are developing individual lesson plans, history chapters to include important historical events, and cultural segments, to teach students about famous Armenian artists, composers, poets, heroes, and scientists. The academic year is partitioned into 4 quarters and at the end of each quarter, students are taking end of quarter tests. At the end of each quarter, the parents are being provided with an academic report card and participate in the end-of-quarter parents' meetings.

The school also offers Padarag Education and a Junior Kindergarten class for 4-year-olds, who are potty trained. Currently, the school has 53 students.

Time/Place:

The bell schedule was modified this year to accommodate a new family tradition, where the children have an opportunity to actively lead and participate in the special service in the sanctuary.

The bell schedule is as follows:

- **9:30-9:50** Special Morning Padarag Education in the sanctuary
- **10:00-11:00** Armenian Language Class
- **11:00- 12:00** Religion
- **12:00-12:30** Lunch
- **12:30-2:00** Armenian History/Culture and Language

Senior Kindergarten and Junior Kindergarten classes finish at noon.

Administration

The table below lists our Administrative team by position.

Name	Position
Der Hovsep Karapetyan	Pastor
Nunik Nishanian	Shnorhali School Principal
Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan	Head of Religion Program
Vladimir Shekoyan	Treasurer

Teaching Staff

Maintaining the quality and stability of our teaching staff is of utmost importance. For the month of August, the school administration, teachers and interested parents planned numerous virtual and in person meetings to discuss our students' educational requirements and develop a curriculum to best accommodate our needs. The school administration plans and implements frequent meetings with teachers for professional development, team building and for academic planning purposes.

Grade	Teacher
Junior Kindergarten	Anna Mkhitarian
Senior Kindergarten	Anna Cerqueira
1 st Grade level	Susanna Avakyan
2 nd Grade level	Karine Yenoqyan
3 rd Grade level	Erna Stepanyan
4 th Grade level	Marianna Manucharyan
5 th Grade level	Sona Avetisyan, Haykaram Nahapetyan
6 th Grade level	Anahit Sargsyan
7 th and 8 th Grade level	Alvard Semirjyan
Western Armenian	Jermen Hallajian

Schonrhali school is also proud with a group of dedicated parishoners, who serve as religion teachers in our Sunday School and help with planning and implementing the morning Padarag Education for students.

Religion Teachers	Padarag Education Coordinators and Educators
Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan - Superintendent	Becky Baghdasarian
Eric Ashbahian	Hratch Semerjian
Mike Sahakian	Mark Krikorian
Greg Kumkumian	Edita Kalayjian
Yervand Khoranian	
Bob George	
Becky Baghdasarian	
Nicolette Blackwell	

Special Events

Thanks to the dedication and ingenuity of our Armenian language teacher staff and school administration, the school has planned and organized several events. We implemented Back to School fun socializing event focusing on the Armenian language, heritage, and culture as well as arts, crafts, and dance skills building, which was a great opportunity for parents to engage with school activities, and students to mingle together. Students competed on how fast they could guess answers to the multiple-choice jeopardy style “Me, My Homeland and My Church” quick knowledge capture game. This was especially an important event for some of our students who may be shy to engage or may not speak Armenian as week to share that sense of belonging. And hopefully develop more interest in learning Armenian.

Shnorhali School received a \$2,000 Grant from The Armenian Youth Center Golf Fore Kids Charity Fundraiser to obtain educational materials, posters, placard, and personalized school supplies for students to motivate students, decrease the risk of COVID transmission due to sharing, and minimize financial stress on individual families. School students and their parents had created Armenian theme pins during their Back-to-School Fun event to gift all participants as a token of appreciation. A couple of Shnorhali students participated in the event to present their school during the event and to help spreading an awareness about Armenian culture and heritage.

School received another grant from the Armenian Business Network to purchase new teacher desks and chairs to substitute severely emaciated furniture in the classrooms. In addition, the classrooms have been furnished with air purifiers to reduce the amount of airborne pollutants, and improve air quality.

The school participated in the Armenian Art & Food Festival in the historic Old Town of Alexandria and performed a program which included Armenian dances, songs, and poetry recitals. Students also participated in the Church’s Anniversary event in December, presenting a compilation of small poems featuring the importance of God in our lives.

Shnorhali School students were among the participants of the Armenian Culture Celebration event hold on January 29th at the Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC. Students presented a beautiful program showcasing short Christian-themed plays, including the story of the pious shoemaker and God. Students also performed Armenian poems, songs, and dances. The event served as an excellent opportunity for our children to present the Armenian culture to an American and international audience.

School administration is working closely with teachers and Parent volunteers on planning and implementing several more educational and cultural events by the end of the academic year. These events will include a commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, a fun program to celebrate the Easter, Jeopardy style educational competition among students, Talent show, a field trip and an end-of-year Handess.

Respectfully submitted,
Nunik Nishanian, Shnorhali School Principal

Shnorhali School Religious Education 2021 Report

The Sunday School got off to a successful start in 2021, as the Shnorhali School returned to in-person learning. Under the leadership of our Principal, Nunik Nishanian, there have been many positive changes and programs implemented for the school.

One of the new programs we have incorporated includes a 9:30am Badarak Family Worship & Educational Service. During this time, students and parents learn about the different parts of our Divine Liturgy with a focus on making learning accessible and relevant. We have seen an incredible response to this program and

plan on continuing to make improvements in the future. Special appreciation goes to Becky Bagdasarian, Fr. Hovsep, Deacon Mark Krikorian and Choir Leader Edita Kalayjian for bringing their participation.

Special appreciation goes to the teachers who continue to dedicate their time and talent to our youth. Special thanks to Nicolette Blackwell, Chris, Michael Sahakian, Dr. Greg Kumkumian, Eric Ashbaian, Becky Bagdasarian, Zaven Kalayjian and our teen volunteer Mariam Karapetyan. Each of these individuals continue to play an instrumental role in the education of the children of our parish – May Our Lord bless you for your continued service!

We currently have teaching openings in our younger grades. We have open positions in our youngest 2 classes (Pre-K and K). If anyone is interested in volunteering for an hour on a Saturday morning, please contact Yn. Jennifer at ynjennifer@gmail.com. Training and resources are provided for interested volunteers.

The Sunday School would also like to give our deepest sympathy to those teachers who have passed away and are no longer with us. Specifically, Mr. Paul Murad, who taught our older teen class for many years. May he rest in peace and may the comfort of Our Lord be upon us as we remember all of those members who devoted their time, effort and talents to educating the children of our Church.

Teachers and Curriculum

The teachers of the Sunday School continue to help our children discover and live authentic Christian lives through the teachings of Christ and within the fold of the Armenian Church. We continue to utilize the Diocesan curriculum and Vemkar resources for all instruction.

Staff for 2018-2019 School year:

Name	Position
OPEN	Pre-K/Kindergarten
Nicolette Blackwell	1st grade
Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan	2nd/3rd
Greg Kumkumian/Mike Sahakian	4th/5th grade
Eric Ashbaian/Rebecca Bagdasarian	Middle School (6th-8th grades)
Zaven Kalayjian, Robert George, David Sayian, Patricia Yeghissian	High School

Respectfully submitted by,

Yn. Jennifer Karapetyan

WED FUND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE 2021 REPORT

The Willian Ervant Docter (WED) Education Fund was established at St. Mary Armenian Church in 1998, thanks to the generosity of the late parishioner William Docter. Over the years, the Fund has provided financial support to qualified Armenian Americans pursuing studies or training in the US or Canada. Since its inception, the fund has disbursed

approximately \$996,500 to 487 worthy candidates out of a total of 896 applicants. Individual grants range from \$500 to a maximum of \$5,000.

Each year, the total amount of scholarship moneys available is based on a formula that takes into account a fixed percentage (usually 4.5%) of the total value of the WED assets, which are held under the management of the Armenian Church Endowment Fund (ACEF) during the previous twelve-quarter period. In 2021, the net amount available for disbursement was \$40,500.

This year, the WED Education Scholarship Committee met on July 15, 2021 to review applications and select awardees. Twenty three (23) applications were considered, and fifteen (15) scholarships were given. Scholarships awardees were selected based on high academic promise, financial need, and involvement in the Armenian community.

- **Of the awards given**
 - Two (2) were for \$1,000
 - Six (6) were for \$2,500
 - One (1) was for \$3,000
 - Two (2) was for \$3,250
 - Four (4) were for \$3,500
- **Of the applicants:**
 - 11 were graduate students
 - 12 were undergraduates
- **Of the awardees**
 - Eight (8) were graduate students and seven (7) were undergraduates
 - Fields of study included: Medicine, Theater, Pharmacology, Architecture, Political Science, Law, and Engineering.

This year, the Scholarship Committee consisted of Tamar Sivaslian, Sophia Shahverdian Hawit, Becky Bagdasarian, Vivian George, and Zaven Kalayjian. The scholarship applications review was conducted via an on-line video conference.



The Committee was ably assisted by the WED Office Manager and St. Mary Secretary, Ani Armani, and the WED Treasurer, Mr. Zakar Shahverdian.

Respectfully submitted,
Dn. Zaven Kalayjian, Chairman

WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT 2021

During 2020, COVID challenged the world to learn and adapt to a "New Normal". The Women's Guild took that challenge head on and started 2021 with renewed energy and determination. They spent most of January reimagining and planning for their events of 2021.

The Women's Guild's first event was a Paragentan Carry Out in February. After a week postponement due to a winter storm, the Paragentan Carry Out was a huge success. The delectable menu which included brisket proved to be a fan favorite with the Women's Guild receiving raving reviews afterwards. There were phone calls and emails requesting the recipes and/or complimenting the menu for several weeks after the event.

In March, the Women's Guild held its annual Mid-Lenten Luncheon and Palm Sunday Bake Sale, but again both were carry out events. The Mid-Lenten Luncheon offered many delicious options with platters and a la carte items. The Palm Sunday Bake Sale, with many new menu items, emerged as the most successful event for the year. The Women's Guild wishes to thank all its members and volunteers who generously donated baked goods and/or ingredients to this very popular event.

The months of April and May kept the Women's Guild busy with workshops in preparation for the Spring Food Festival. On May 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, the Women's Guild worked tirelessly in the kitchen, on the registers, and as food runners to help make the Spring Food Festival a great success. With the first half of the year behind them, the Women's Guild headed into their summer break.

In September the Women's Guild was exhilarated to hold its first general meeting since the beginning of COVID. With over 20 members in attendance, it was wonderful to hear the laughter and excitement of all the women as they shared stories and caught up in each other's lives. The day brought squeals of happiness for those announcing weddings and babies, and tears of sadness for those announcing the devastating loss of loved ones. September was also a month filled with workshops in preparation for the Fall Food Festival.

October got off to a fast start with the Fall Food Festival. October 1st thru the 3rd the Women's Guild, again, worked incessantly to help ensure yet another successful food festival for our church and community. With no other events planned for October, the Women's Guild began preparing for their upcoming elections.

On November 13th, the Women's Guild was finally able to hold its elections for a new executive committee after a year postponement due to COVID. With a quorum in place a new five-member executive committee was voted in. The Women's Guild congratulates its new committee, wishes them great success and looks forward to working with them.

The Women's Guild wishes to extend their gratitude to Der Hayr for his guidance and leadership. Der Hayr's faith and patience has taught the Women's Guild to always see the positive and reinforced our belief to always work for the greater good. To our members and volunteers, we thank you for your infinite love of our church and community. Without you and your hard work and dedication, none of our successes would have been possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nadya Chubukian

ST. MARY'S GIFT SHOP REPORT 2021

St. Mary's Gift shop (GS) ended yet another successful year with God's Grace, Der Hovsep's immeasurable support and the dedication of the committee members and numerous volunteers.

The committee members for the year 2021 were: Raffi Sahakyan, Aline Guiragossian, Ani Armani, Malvina Brown, Shoghig Sahakyan and Takuhi Hallajian.

Total of 12 events were hosted by the GS committee singlehandedly and jointly with other church organizations throughout the year. Despite the many challenges on all fronts, 2021 was the most financially profitable year for the Gift Shop and ultimately for our church. The inventory expanded from dried fruits to jams to coffee, to chocolate and more. The Gift Shop was open on every Sunday after church services.

In January, Armenian Christmas Luncheon Carry-out Edition was an overwhelming success due to the hard work and dedication of all the volunteers along with our generous and supportive church community. The duo brothers team Aret and Raffi Sahakyan spearheaded this event and offered their time and culinary talents preparing extraordinary dishes. The next event was held jointly with the Daughters of Vartan.

In February and March, the Gift Shop committee joined two events with the Women's Guild. In April and May, the Gift Shop committee joined Ararat Avak Society's events.

In June, during spring Food Festival carry-out event, the GS joined an array of vendors lined-up outside and around the church. Furthermore, 2nd Annual Father's Day carry-out event was hosted by the GS committee. In July, the GS committee joined Ararat Avak Society's Armenian Lahmajun Carry-Out event. Another joint event was held in September on the occasion of Khatchveratz.

Fall Food Festival was held in October. The GS committee was hard at work both inside the store and outside vendor stand. Towards the end of the month, The GS committee participated in Alexandria, VA Armenian Arts & Food Festival.

In November, the GS Committee participated jointly in the Annual Rummage Sale event preceding the final event of the year Christmas Bake Sale.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who came at different times and supported the efforts of the GS committee; namely Yn. Jennifer, Alexandra Olson, Aline Orfali, Anna Seferian, Annie Jamgocian, Arline Diratsuyan, Berj Kalayjian, Clara Andonian, Eva Shafakian, Mari Shafakian, Margie Satian, Nelli Janoyan, Roxanne Kumkumian Schweitzer along with her family, and Mark Krikorian. Special thanks to Joyce Nalchayan Boghosian and her son Armen who volunteered their photographic talents and time for a special 2-hour Take a Picture with Santa session. Last but not least we are grateful for all our parish and community supporters who were instrumental in raising the funds through their repeated purchases from the store.

We look forward to seeing you all in 2022!

Respectfully submitted:
Raffi Sahakyan, Treasurer

AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR ST. MARY ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2021

The Auditing Committee members, for year 2021, were Mr. Vladimir Shekoyan, Mr. George Guiragossian, and Mr. Edvik Alexandrian. The year-end financial reports, the supporting bank statements and other financial documentation were reviewed by the committee members for the following organizations and/or accounts:

- The Parish Council Operating Account
- The Parish Council Restricted Account
- Women's Guild
- Investment Committee
- Shnorhali School
- Avak Society
- Choir
- Gift Shop
- ACYOA Juniors
- ACYOA Seniors
- WED Educational Fund
- Bazaar Committee

The Parish Council Operating and Restricted Account Reports also included sub-reports for the Lazarian Fund, the Armenian Church Endowment Fund (ACEF), the WED and the ACEP.

This year, like the year before, the auditing process was affected by the Corona Virus pandemic. The financial reports, records, bank statements, and credit card statements had to be reviewed mostly on-line.

Similar to the previous years, the auditing work was divided between committee members for better effectiveness. Bank on-line records and statements, credit card (Square) reports, Excel spreadsheets, QuickBooks reports, and occasionally paper records were used to verify beginning and end-of-year balances, and to spot check expenditures and deposits. Based on the above, it is concluded that the audited Financial Reports were in order, and they represent the financial position of their respective organizations.

Respectfully submitted,

Edvik Alexandrian