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THE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH AT HYE POINTE

Rev. Fr. Vart Gyoalyan, Pastor – Տէր Վարդ քին. Գյոզալյան - Հովիվ

Dear Parishioners,

We hope and pray that my letter finds you well and in good health. We are so happy and excited to let you know that we are preparing to resume Holy Badarak on Sunday, June 14, 2020. We have made many changes to follow the Diocese, State and City regulations and recommendations to ensure our safety and our success will depend on your willingness to follow the guidelines below.

We recognize that not everyone will feel safe in coming to the Sanctuary, and that is perfectly normal. If you have an underlying condition or are over the age 60, please do not feel obligated to attend Holy Badarak. If you are not feeling well, please stay home.

Another change is our starting time. We will begin promptly at 9:30 am and will be shortened from our regular service. Everyone is to wear a face mask coming into the facility. We will NOT be providing facemasks, and if you fail to bring one, you will not be allowed inside the Sanctuary.

We also recognize on Sunday, that many of you request prayers or light candles. To request prayers or schedule a Hokehankists, you can either send an email to the church email address: armenianchurchathyepointe@verizon.net, or write up your prayer request and attach it to your donation to leave in the welcome plate. You can also do the same with donations to Hokehankists. Before and after lighting a candle you must sanitize your hands. There will be a hand sanitizer next to the candles.

We will not have bulletins for distribution, but the online bulletin will continue.

We are excited to be coming back together, but we must follow the guidelines to ensure that we are ALL safe. Unfortunately, we will continue this way for the foreseeable future, and when there are changes to how we celebrate Holy Badarak, we will let you know as soon as possible.

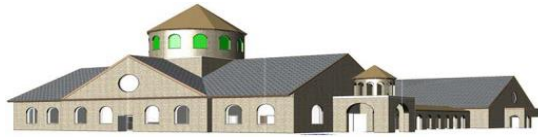
Attendance is strictly limited to the number of participants permitted by local regulations, or to allow adequate social distancing in any given church. Fortunately, we have a very large Hall, and we will arrange seating to accommodate up to 75 or more people.

Participants must sanitize their hands when entering and leaving. We will be setting up touchless stations throughout the facility.

Chairs will be marked with tape to designate individual seats to maximize the space between

1280 Boston Road, Haverhill, MA 01835

Tel: (978) 372-9227, Email: armenianchurchathyepointe@verizon.net, Web: www.hyepointearmenianchurch.org



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worshippers. Other areas will be roped off. Greeters will assure that social distancing is always maintained.

We will keep a record of all persons present in the church for a given service, with dates and phone numbers, for the purposes of contact-tracing in case of infection.

All participants must wear face masks.

Holy Communion will only be received by the celebrant, on behalf of all the faithful. “Mas” will be prepared in advance by one person, with mask, sanitized hands, and generally exercising extreme caution. The same person will place “mas” in individual packages and place it on each chair well before the start of the Badarak. At the time of Holy Communion, the priest will invite the faithful to consume the “mas” as their portion of, and participation in, the Badarak—as is the tradition of the Armenian Church for those unable to receive Holy Communion for any reason.

Due to the increased risk of infection from singing/chanting, there will be no choir or singing. The Deacons, wearing masks, will sing from a safe distance.

Worshippers can whisper along only as this will help to minimize any possible transmission of disease.

Participants must refrain from all contact with one another. The Kiss of Peace is to be conducted by bowing the head toward others, without approaching or touching them.

Instead of passing a collection plate, the faithful will be invited to make a free-will offering at the beginning and at the conclusion of the Holy Badarak in a plate designated for this purpose. Those taking care of the collection will exercise great caution in handling currency and checks.

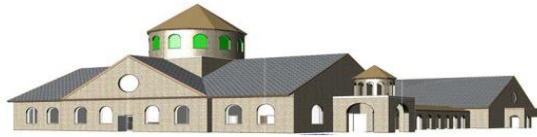
Pew Books will be NOT be available. Parishioners are encouraged to bring their own.

Signs regarding safety practices during the pandemic will be posted conspicuously in the area of the celebration, as well as in the church facilities. It is our expectation that people will obey and follow the signage.

Dismissal – Der Hayr will instruct parishioners in leaving the Sanctuary. Greeters will guide worshippers in departing the church to maintain social distancing, e.g. chair by-chair.

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Weather permitting, doors and windows will be open.

Greeters will guide worshippers in departing the church to maintain social distancing.

The entire church will be sanitized thoroughly after each Holy Badarak.

Traditional coffee hour/fellowship will NOT be held until further notice.

We are looking forward to see each of you and your family members soon. We are praying for you and your family members. May Christ our God Who Crowns His Saints with triumph and does the will of all who believe in Him, may look after you with love and kindness. We are asking Lord to hear our prayers by the intercession of the Holy Martyrs who gave their lives during the Armenian Genocide for faith and for the homeland. Amen.

Prayerfully and with blessings,
Fr. Vart Gyoalyan
Pastor

With best wishes
Scott Sahagian
PC Chair

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