

February 26, 2017

Dear Parishioners and Faithful,

This past year has been an eventful and memorable year for our entire community. We continue to grow in leaps and bounds with families calling every week with plans to move to Dallas and local communities familiarizing themselves with our community. Our contact list has grown from approximately 379 emails to 581 emails with about 40% of recipients opening and reading our weekly announcements.

We have also worked with parishioners to establish a Welcoming Ministry who help meet the needs of new comers; greeting and introducing them to other parishioners, while collecting their contact information. We have hired a secretary, Kristine DeGuzman, who is currently working on updating our contact information for our parishioners, deleting duplicates and those who have moved away, while also imputing new families that come on a weekly basis.

This past year, 2016, was a year full of memorable events for our St. Sarkis community. Perhaps the highlight of this year's events was the Groundbreaking for our new church and community center and the Blessing of the Cornerstones by His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian.

We have maintained our relationships with our sister Oriental Orthodox Churches by partaking in an ecumenical Divine Liturgy at St. Michael's Ethiopian Orthodox Church. The youth of the Indian Orthodox Church visited me throughout Lent and participated in private confessions, while also visiting our parish during Divine Liturgy. We have established a new relationship with the North Texas Orthodox Mission (NTOM), through attending their meetings and even volunteering our hall and sanctuary for a lecture series.

This past summer I directed one summer conference at the new St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in Armonk, NY. This year again I will be directing two High School Summer Conferences and will be leading a pilgrimage to Armenia in June with 25 pilgrims from our parish.

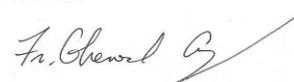
Listed below is a summary of sacraments for the past year.

**Summary of Sacraments – January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016**

Baptisms –	9	40 Day Dedications –	3
Chrismations –	2	Weddings –	7
Funerals –	3	Grave Blessings –	5

This coming year will be another momentous year full of events. Construction for our new church and complex will begin shortly. As a community, we are comprised of many families, but we make up one family: the Body of Christ. This is not to say we have finished our mission, for there is still much to do, but we are on the right path. Since we are expanding and blossoming, let us look at each other, not as new comers or even strangers, but as family members, remembering our Lord's words, "*My family are those who hear the word of God and do it*" (Luke 8:21).

Prayerfully,



Rev. Fr. Ghevond Ajamian