

HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN CHURCH OF GREATER BOSTON

Pastor, Father Vasken A. Kouzouian

145 Brattle Street • Cambridge, MA 02138 • 617.354.0632 • www.htaac.org

SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2017

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Celebrant/ Homilist: The Rev. Fr. Mampre A. Kouzouian

Morning Service: 9:00 a.m.; Divine Liturgy: 9:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Readings of the Day:

Wis. 7:25-8:4. Zec. 14:16-21. 1 Jn. 1:1-7. Mt. 16:13-17:13.

WELCOME

We welcome our former Pastor, Fr. Mampre A. Kouzouian, who is celebrating today's Divine Liturgy. Our Pastor is serving as Director of St. Vartan Camp from July 23 to August 5.

We also welcome those who are visiting our church. The Pastor and the Parish Council would like to invite you to make the Holy Trinity Church your spiritual home. You are cordially invited to take part in the Service and activities of our church. If you would like to be placed on our mailing list, please sign our *Guest Book* located in the Vestibule.

BIBLE READING

Today's Bible reading will be from the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew, chapter 17, vs. 1-9 [page 611], and will be read by Sona Tashjian.

FEAST DAYS

- Yesterday was the Remembrance of the Old Tabernacle and Feast of the Holy Church, the New Tabernacle.
- Today is the **Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord**, a major Feast Day of the Armenian Church; therefore, Requiem Service (Hokehankisd) will not be held. Requests for Requiem Service will be conducted next Sunday, July 30.
- Monday, July 24, is the Remembrance of the Dead.
- Next Thursday, July 27, is the Feast of St. Isaiah the Prophet.
- Next Saturday, July 29, is the Feast of Sts. Thaddeus, Apostle of Armenia, and Sandukht, the Virgin.

TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Vartavar was one of the great pagan feasts of the Armenian people before Christianity. At this Feast of Vartavar, the people of Armenia decorated

the temple of the Goddess Asdghig with roses and flowers. For this reason, the feast was called Vartavar, which is popularly thought to mean bright with roses.

On this occasion, people let pigeons fly in the air and sprinkled water on each other. However, the practice of sprinkling water on each other has been handed down to us so that even today in some places this is still the custom. St. Gregory the Enlightener, in order to replace this heathen custom of Vartavar, united it with the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord.

The Transfiguration of Jesus Christ happened on the Mount of Tabor where Jesus had gone with Peter, James, and John, His Disciples, to pray. As He was praying, suddenly His countenance was altered, and His raiment was white and glistening - He was transfigured. And there stood talking with Him, were two men who were Moses and Elijah representing the Law and the Prophets of the Old Testament which were fulfilled by the presence of Christ in His glory in their midst.

The Feast of Transfiguration is celebrated in the Armenian Church as one of the Five Great Feasts of the Church. It occurs between June 28 and August 1, on one of the Sundays adjusted from the date of Easter each year.

CONGRATULATIONS

On the Feast of Vartavar, Transfiguration of Our Lord, we wish to congratulate all of our parishioners whose name is Vartouhi, Vartiter, Vartanoush, Vartar, or Vartenie.

PARTICIPATION IN THE DIVINE LITURGY

Please use the Divine Liturgy books that are found in the pew racks. These books contain the Armenian text as well as the English transliteration and translation in the second section.

For your convenience, the applicable page number in the burgundy Divine Liturgy book is located above both the right and left doors by the Altar leading to the Vestry and Baptistry. When the light shows green, the congregation stands; when the light shows red, the congregation kneels; and when green and red lights are off, you may be seated. If assistance is needed, please ask a member of the Parish Council.

Parishioners are also encouraged to sing with the Choir, whose real purpose is to lead the congregation in singing the hymns. Also join in the recitation of the Creed which is found on pages 18 and 19 of the second section.

VOGHCHOOYN - KISS OF PEACE

During the Divine Liturgy, when the Parish Council members pass the Kiss of Peace in church, the response from the receiver should be “Orhnyal eh haidnootyunn Krisdosee” (Blessed is the revelation of Christ). When you give the Voghchooyn, please say “Krisdos e mech mer haydnetsav” (Christ is revealed amongst us).

CONFESSION AND HOLY COMMUNION

Those faithful who feel spiritually prepared to receive our Lord in the sacrament of Holy Communion are asked **to bring their pew books with them to the General Confession and, together with the deacon, are asked to read the confession aloud.** The essence to this sacrament lies with the individual(s) offering his or her own confession through the priest to God. In addition to reading the text of the confession, each participant must recall his or her own sins, truly seek God’s forgiveness, and make a commitment to the Lord to strive not to sin anymore. The English confession may be found on page 48 in the burgundy Divine Liturgy book and on page x in the blue Divine Liturgy book found in the pew racks. We urge our parishioners to come forward for confession and Holy Communion through the center aisle.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Your prayers are requested to have mercy on our countrymen in Artsakh, to strengthen them in defense of their homeland, and to grant consolation to the suffering and grieving.

Your prayers are also requested for Lucie Aghdamlian and Queenie Samourian; for the good health of all those who suffer from illness in their own private way; and for those who mourn the loss of a loved one.

Please note that if you would like Fr. Vasken to offer your prayer request during his silent prayers at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy next Sunday, please fill out the **Prayer Request card** located in the pew box and place it in the offering plate as it passes.

ALTAR CANDLES

Today’s Altar candles are donated for the edification of our Altar by Elise Harrison in memory of father, Mardiros Kasabian Harrison, brother, Harry Harrison, and sister, Rose Harrison.

TODAY’S CALENDAR

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

You are all welcome to join us for Fellowship Hour in Johnson Hall following church services.

2017 TRINITY KIDS’ PLACE

Monday, August 7 to Friday, August 11
Monday, August 14 to Friday, August 18

We are pleased to again be offering a two-week option. Children, ages 3 through 9, can attend either one week or the full two weeks. Hours are 9:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Cost is \$150 per child for one week and \$250 for two weeks. An extended day option (1:30 p.m. until 3 p.m.) is available for \$10 per day per child. This year’s theme is “Celebrating Our God-Given Gifts.” Daily activities include story time, visit with Der Vasken, musical expression, Armenian language & culture, an arts and crafts corner and recreation.

Registration has been extended to July 30. For further information, contact Yeretzgin Arpi Kouzouian, youth@htaac.org.

BRING HOME “THE PROMISE” AND BENEFIT ARMENIAN GENOCIDE EDUCATION IN THE U.S.

Purchase your copy today using the unique links below and Survival Pictures will donate 100% of its proceeds to benefit Armenian Genocide education initiatives in the U.S.

We are asking for your support in purchasing the Blu-ray/DVD and digital downloads of *The Promise* through the following two unique links to Amazon and iTunes that have been created specifically so that all sales and downloads can be tracked and proceeds redirected to the designated Armenian charities.

Amazon: thepromisetoact.org/genocideeducationamazon

iTunes: thepromisetoact.org/genocideeducationitunes

Please note: **Purchases made directly from Amazon or iTunes without use of the above unique URLs (links), WILL NOT** benefit Armenian Genocide education.

STEWARDSHIP 2017

LEGACY OF OUR MARTYRS - A GIFT TO CARRY FORWARD

Have YOU Made YOUR Pledge?

This year's Stewardship Program is focused on "carrying the gift of our sainted martyrs forward" - the gift to actively live the faith of our ancestors through our church - Holy Trinity Armenian Church.

You can now contribute online at www.htaac.org/donations/.

We depend on and thank you for your participation.

It is only with your support that we will be able to continue to "Carry the Gift Forward."

For Your Information . . .

- We have available personal receivers for the hearing impaired that will enhance your hearing ability during the Badarak and sermon. For assistance, please see a Parish Council member in the Vestibule.
- A Reminder - to access our handicap church entrance, follow the Dorian walkway from either the parking lot or to the right of the main doors of the church.
- If you know of someone ill or in need of a visit from our Pastor, please contact the church office, 617.354.0632 or by email, office@htaac.org.
- There are copies of The Little Golden Bible Storybook, When I Go to Church, and Bible story picture books available in the Vestibule for the youngest members of our congregation to quietly enjoy during church services. We kindly ask that you return them to the Vestibule at the conclusion of church services.
- Save the Date

Sunday, August 20, 12-5pm - Armenian Apostolic Church at Hye Pointe Annual Picnic, 1280 Boston Road, Bradford, MA; Rt. 125, Haverhill/North Andover line; for more information, call 978.372.9227; www.hypointearmenianchurch.org

CALENDAR

- Sun, Jul 23 **Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ**
- Aug 7-11 & **Trinity Kids' Place**
Aug 14-18
- Sun, Aug 13 **Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God**
Blessing of Grapes Service
- Sun, Sep 10 **Registration and Opening of our Sunday School**
Armenian School Registration
Trinity Festival
- Sun, Sep 17 **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**
First Day of Classes for our Armenian School

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www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityArmenianChurch

SUMMER SCHEDULE

MORNING SERVICE - 9:00 A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY - 9:45 A.M.; SERVICES CONCLUDE - 11:30 A.M.

WE URGE OUR FAITHFUL TO ATTEND CHURCH SERVICES ON TIME.

Photo Gallery Available on our Website

Photos of church events and activities are available online on our website at <http://htaac.smugmug.com/> (Under Quick Links, Photo Gallery). A photo collage is also available under "Parish News" with their respective articles.

Take time to look through our website (www.htaac.org) where you can also find Der Vasken's sermons, the Sunday Bulletins, copies of *Dajar*, and the church calendar which keeps us abreast of upcoming activities and programs.