

Sunday, February 21, 2021
Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston

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Celebrant: The Pastor

SUNDAY BULLETIN



Today is The Sunday of Expulsion.

Please Note:

Due to the resurgence of positive COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts, the Pastor and Parish Council of Holy Trinity issue the following for immediate implementation: From the moment one enters the Vestibule, and throughout the celebration of the Badarak, Masks covering the Mouth and Nose are to be worn and not removed until one has left the Church Complex.

This is for the safety of all our parishioners.

Please see the last page of this Sunday Bulletin for further requirements.

Please feel free to contact our office at 617.354.0632 if you have any questions or concerns.

We are grateful for your trust and loyalty to our Holy Trinity community.

Readings of the Day:

Is. 33:2-22. Rom. 12:1-13:10. Mt. 5:17-48

Today's Bible reading is from the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew, chapter 5, vs. 17-48 and will be read by Robert Dulgarian.

From Today's Bible Reading

Matthew 5:17-48 Having just proclaimed the Beatitudes -- an astounding list of promised blessings -- Jesus clarifies that these do not replace the Law, but rather fulfill it, bringing it to completion. Sins such as murder and adultery begin in the heart; honor, justice and commitment need to be taken seriously. *Reflection: Jesus asks us to be completely reconciled with others before we honor God at the altar (23-24). What might this prompt us to do before we receive Holy Communion? (Consider those we have hurt and heal our differences.)*

Romans 12:1-13:10 A beautiful companion reading to Jesus' teachings about the Law, St. Paul asserts that the Torah is no longer the norm for conduct, rather it is love that must guide our behavior; love is the true "fulfillment of the law." (13:10) *Reflection: In verses 12:9-21, which two commands are the easiest for you to keep? Which two the hardest? For primary/elementary grades: Read 12: 9-21 from a children's Bible. Make mini-posters by choosing a simple phrase from this reading for children to illustrate. (Be happy! Share with others! Pray!)*

Isaiah 33:2-22 In the shadow of Israel's enemy Assyria, Isaiah pleads for God's power and presence, trusting that he will appear in all his majesty as lawgiver, judge and king. *Reflection: What qualities of God in vv 2 and 3 are reflected in the titles given to him in v. 22? (God is gracious, strong, a source of salvation and terrifyingly great power; these qualities are reflected in his title of judge, lawgiver and king).*

Today is the Sunday of the Expulsion

This Sunday invokes the loss of happiness as Adam and Eve are driven out of Paradise. The day's hymn recounts how the forbidden fruit tasted of sin and death. Our ancestors knew they had made a mistake after eating the fruit, for they were ashamed of their nakedness and foolishly tried to cover themselves and hide from God. The notion that they were wiser than God in deciding to eat the fruit of the "knowledge of good and evil" is at the heart of every sinful thought or action to this day. We often experience this in daily life. And when we do something we're not proud of, facing God is indeed difficult. Expulsion Sunday reminds us of our original exile from God's presence but an exile that His loving mercy will not let us endure forever. Great Lent is a unique opportunity to ponder God's absence even as we seek Him in 40 days of prayer and reflection. *Read Genesis 3. In verses 1-5, the serpent undermines Eve's trust in God; what erodes your trust in God?*

February 21, 2021 Hokehankisd

We have all been asked to pray during the Divine Liturgy for the souls of:

- **Elizabeth Boghosian, 5th Anniversary:** Requested by Ruth Boghosian for mother.
- **Yn. Nuvart Kouzouian, 14th Anniversary:** Requested by Fr. Mampre A. Kouzouian, Fr. Vasken, Yn. Arpi & Alina Kouzouian, Susan and Oscar Derderian and Arpie Kouzouian for wife, mother and grandmother.
- **Edna A. Ayvazian and Bedros & Nvat Ayvazian:** From the Trust Fund established by Edna A. Ayvazian.

Today's Altar Flowers will be donated in memory of Elizabeth Boghosian by her daughter, Ruth Boghosian.

Today's Altar Flowers will be donated in memory of Yn. Nuvart Kouzouian by her family.



Upcoming Sunday Feast Days

Today, February 21 – Sunday of Expulsion

February 28 – Sunday of the Prodigal Son

March 7 – Sunday of the Steward

March 14 – Sunday of the Judge

March 21 - Sunday of the Advent

March 28 – Palm Sunday

April 4 – Easter Sunday

REQUIRED

Holy Trinity Divine Liturgy Reservation Form

The Governor has revised social distancing guidelines, calling for a maximum 40% capacity in houses of worship. Although this expands our ability to seat the faithful, we want to ensure your comfort and safety during Badarak.

Attendance will continue to be by reservation only.

To make a reservation, please register online or contact the Church Office at 617.354.0632 by Friday at noon.

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 Martin Kalustian; for the good health of all those who suffer from illness in their own private way; and for those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

Der Vasken offers a weekly Hokehankisd Service.

Please note that if you would like Father Vasken to offer your prayer request during his silent prayers at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, please fill out the Prayer Request cards that have been removed from the pews when the pandemic restrictions began, and are located on the table in the Narthex (the Church Sanctuary lobby).

Please contact the church office with any questions.

Requests submitted after noon on Thursday will not be printed in the Sunday Bulletin but will be read from the altar by Der Vasken on Sunday.



Holy Trinity's Wednesday Lenten Services

- February 24, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
- March 3, 2021 at 6 p.m. (First Wednesdays begins at 6:45pm.)
- March 10, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
- March 17, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
- March 24, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

GREAT LENT

Great Lent which began on Monday, February 15, and ends on Friday, March 26, is the 40-day period of spiritual preparation that leads to the greatest feast of the Church - Easter. It is a time for focused spiritual disciplines, prayer, reading the Bible, service, giving, fasting and living a simpler life.

Throughout Lent

- *We do not receive or pass the Voghchooyh (Kiss of Peace).*
- *Holy Communion is not administered. Those in need of Holy Communion may see the Celebrant following the Badarak.*
 - *Mahs is distributed to the faithful regularly.*
- *We do not approach the Celebrant at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy to kiss the Gospel.*

During this Great Lent, Bishop Daniel is inviting all of the faithful of the Eastern Diocese to join together in prayer during these trying times. As a result, the Diocese has provided a ten-minute daily prayer rule as a way for our faithful to join together in prayer as the Body of Christ.

Great Lent is a time for inner reflection and conversion, an opportunity to reprioritize and reorient ourselves toward God from whom we continually drift and turn our backs.

This year, Great Lent has particular meaning, as the faithful of the Armenian Church have experienced a time of great pain, suffering, injustice, and loss.

Where is our hope? What can we do?

Surely, we can do what our Armenian Christian ancestors have always done during times of trial and hopelessness. Like them, we can confidently turn to God in prayer, not as a last resort, but as a primary and immediate expression of dependence on God.

What you will find below is a communal opportunity for the faithful of the Eastern Diocese to pray together, to unite our concerns as one, to build up the Body of Christ.

All of these prayers are taken from the sacred tradition of the Armenian Church, most of them from the treasury of blessing we call the Zhamakeerk.

We urge all faithful through the duration of Great Lent to find ten minutes each day, preferably at a designated time and location, and read this prayer rule aloud from beginning to end. You can do this alone, with your family, or with a friend. It is also suggested to create a prayerful environment by setting up a Cross, khachkar, icon, candle, and incense.

Keep in mind, this prayer rule is a starting point, a daily prayer rule that should ideally create a habit of prayer, where praise, repentance, and reorienting ourselves toward God becomes a natural and regular part of our lives.

May the Lord hear our prayers and have mercy on us.

Start Praying Today!



PRAYER FOR GREAT LENT

With a pure heart and strong faith, let us stand together in prayer in the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, recalling his magnificent deeds, his infinite grace, his patience on the life-giving ✠ Cross, the wellspring of his liberating blood, and the like— which he endured at this hour for us sinners. Contemplating all of this, let us purify ourselves of all sinful thoughts, words and deeds, and in awe of God, let us apply ourselves to doing what is holy. Let us not delay in confessing our sins to him and asking for forgiveness of our sins, lest we be lost in impenitence for eternal perdition. Instead, while we still have time, let us do what is good in this life, having as role models all the saints and martyrs, who, from the beginning were pleasing to the Lord, the Savior of all. By their prayers and intercession, may the loving God grant us whatever is pleasing to him, and always consider and do whatever is helpful for us. And let us share in the indescribable gifts that Jesus Christ, the true God, promised to all those who love him. Lord, raise us to life and have mercy on us. Amen.

A Weekly Lenten Reflection

Each week, you'll find a verse and a short reflection here. We invite you to take the time to read and reflect, whether alone or with your family. This time is meant to deepen your experience of Lent so that you can experience Easter with more joy, peace and hope.

“You belong to this world, but I do not belong to this world.” John 8:23

The world we belong to can fill up pretty quickly, leaving us with little time for prayer.

Leslie Odom Jr., who brilliantly played Aaron Burr in the megahit Hamilton on Broadway, describes a moment on stage during every live performance in which he bowed his head and said a silent prayer for his unborn daughter. Over the course of the show's run, Odom estimates he prayed “over 500 times.” (if you're curious, it happened during the “Dear Theodosia” number.) Imagine stepping out of an intense, physically and emotionally demanding job in front of thousands of people, and stepping into God's presence. There are opportunities all around us – at work, home, school, in the car, at rest in the midst of pressure. Look for them today. Let us all take a moment to bow our heads at least once a day and offer a prayer for someone we love...

Our Sanctuary Doors are Open on Sunday!

General Guidelines	Arrival at Church	During Divine Liturgy
<p>Livestreams will continue every Sunday beginning at 10:00 AM. We encourage parishioners to utilize this option, especially during the summer when wearing a mask in Church may be uncomfortable.</p> <p>Please do not congregate before or after Church services. Upon arrival, please proceed to be seated and on departure please proceed directly to your car.</p> <p>Bathroom facilities and the Sanctuary will be sanitized on a regular basis following mandated guidelines and regulations.</p> <p>We ask for your patience and cooperation during this time, especially as we adapt to new procedures and guidelines.</p>	<p>Please wear a facemask at all times upon arrival and throughout the service.</p> <p>Please use hand sanitizer prior to entering the Sanctuary.</p> <p>Seating in the Sanctuary will be limited in order to adhere to social distancing directives from local, state and diocesan sources. Please be flexible as you are ushered to your seat; you may not be able sit in your usual pew.</p> <p>Please enter only through the main doors. If you are in need of special assistance, the door at <i>Dorian Way</i> will be available for those with special needs.</p> <p>Please follow Parish Council guidance for seating and wait to be ushered in and seated.</p>	<p>You may place your offering in baskets upon arrival or exit. New offering baskets with long poles will be utilized during services.</p> <p>Pew books and Bibles have been removed from the Sanctuary.</p> <p>The Kiss of Peace will be conducted by bowing the head toward others, without approaching or touching one another.</p> <p>Holy Communion will not be administered for the time being. Packets of <i>mahs</i> will be distributed as parishioners enter the Sanctuary. <i>Mahs</i> will be packaged and distributed by gloved hands.</p> <p>Please follow Parish Council guidance for departure and wait to be ushered out of the Sanctuary after Badarak.</p>

Please stay home if you are feeling ill or are part of our vulnerable population