## Sunday, February 28, 2021 Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston

**Father Vasken A. Kouzouian, Pastor** 145 Brattle Street Cambridge, MA 02138 617.354.0632

Celebrant: The Pastor
SUNDAY BULLETIN



Today is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son.

### **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 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. 54:11-55:13. 2 Cor. 6:1-7:1. Lk.15:1-32. Today's Bible reading is from the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to St. Luke, chapter 15, vs. 11-32 and will be read by Sona Tashjian.

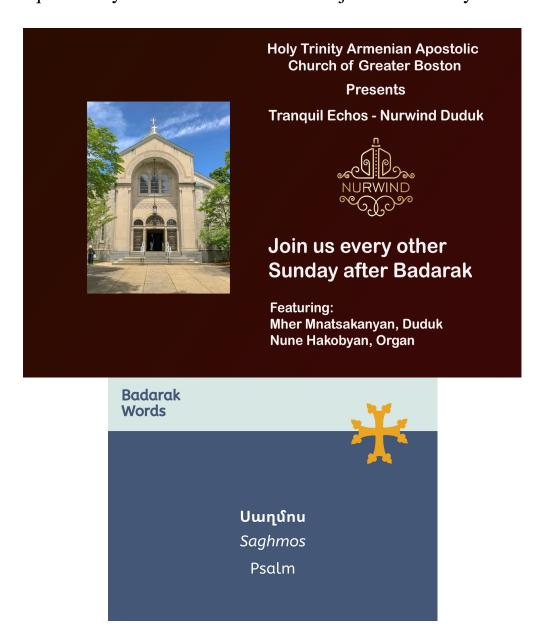
### From Today's Bible Reading

Luke 15:11- 32 And he said, "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired ser- vants." And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a dis- tance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. "Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and en- treated, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.

## February 28, 2021 Hokehankisd

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

- Gloria Mouradjian Salerno, 40th Day: Requested by Cynthia Salerno, Joseph Salerno, Robert & Lee Salerno and Family for mother and grandmother. Bogos Peligian for lifelong friend.
- Ann Talanian, 40th Day: Requested by Nancy Talanian and Fran Fortino, Deborah Talanian, Laurie & Anthony Travia, Jr. for mother.
- Kenovapen & Bedros Palandjian, Vergin & Kevork Aydjian, Anahid & Gabe Kashishian: Requested by Harutiun & Alice Palandjian and Family.



## **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 Santuary 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.\*

## **Upcoming Sunday Feast Days**

Today, 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



## Holy Trinity's Wednesday Lenten Services

- 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 Voghchooyn (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 LENT**

## Prayer of St. Nersess Shnorhali

Heavenly Father,

True God,

Who sent Your beloved Son to seek the lost sheep,
I have sinned against heaven and before You;
receive me as the prodigal son,
and clothe me with my former garment,
of which I was deprived by sin.

Have mercy upon Your creatures,
And upon me, a manifold sinner.

## **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.

**Isaiah 58:13-14** If you honor it by not following your ways, seeking your own interests, or speaking with malice - then you shall delight in the LORD.

We honor the Lord's Day by attending church. But what about the rest of the day? And what if you have to work on Sundays? Here, the prophet Isaiah gives us some tips. Start with personal interests. Are there any you could replace on Sunday with something you do for God or with your family? Then there's language. Okay, maybe you're not the swearing type. But we can refuse to accept hurtful demeaning language on Sundays. That means social media rants, snarky texts or movies with foul language. What a good example to set for our kids! Just thinking about a day like this sounds peaceful, doesn't it?

And in the end, isn't peace what God wants for us?

# First Wednesdays are back next week, March 3, 6:45pm-7:30pm.

Christ the Healer: Pride, Envy, Anger, Sloth.

To register please use this link



BREATH OF GOD

First Wednesday of Every Month • Johnson Hall or virtually via Zoom • 6:45pm - 7:30pm

Throughout the day, life hands us questions for which we seek answers. Each month, we discuss one of these life questions through the lens of our Christian Faith.

Below are the topics for this year. We warmly welcome you to join our series of conversations.

### October 7, 2020

What Does Hope Look Like in an Uncertain World.

#### November 4, 2020

I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me: An Honest Discussion About Race

#### \*December 9, 2020

What's Armenian About Christmas? \*2nd Wednesday

#### January 13, 2021

Christ the Healer: Blessing Water

### **February 3, 2021**

Christ the Healer: When We Feel Forgotten & Lost

#### March 3, 2021

Christ the Healer: Pride, Envy, Anger, Sloth...

#### \*April 14, 2021

Christ the Healer: When We Feel Like Giving Up \*2nd Wednesday

### May 5, 2021

Christ the Healer: Living For The

Other

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