

Sunday, March 7, 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 Steward.**

**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. 56:1-57:21. Eph. 4:17-5:14. Lk.16:1-31.

Today's Bible reading is from the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to St. Luke, chapter 16, vs. 1-31 and will be read by Robert Dulgarian.

### **From Today's Bible Reading**

**Luke 16:1-31** See below for the Parable of the Steward (1-13). Today's reading also includes the renowned story of the unnamed rich man and Lazarus. The rich man ignores the poor and ailing Lazarus and after both have died, he sees that Lazarus is in heaven at Abraham's side. Lamenting his own torment far from God, he asks that Lazarus be sent to warn his brothers of what can happen when they live selfish lives. Abraham tells him they had already been well informed by the Law and the Prophets so nothing more could help. *Reflection: What do you think Jesus means when he says "No one can serve two masters" (13)? What "masters" pull you away from God? What makes it so difficult for people to be convinced of God's ways?*

**Ephesians 4:17-5:14** St. Paul notes that 'children of light' must set aside past behaviors, having become renewed in Christ and created to be like God in true holiness (vv.23-24). The way of love excludes all the vices we might have once considered acceptable. *Reflection: What specific ways does St. Paul cite as examples of "new self" behavior? (25: speak truthfully, 26: let go of anger quickly, 28: engage in useful work so we're able to help others, 29: speak to build others up, 31: do not be bitter, or angry or slander others, 5:1: imitate God, 2: live a life of love, 3: avoid sexual immorality or any kind of impurity or greed, 7: avoid the people who encourage you to behave immorally.) Of those listed, what one behavior do you need God's help with?*

**Isaiah 56:1-57:21** Isaiah shares God's exhortation to his people to maintain justice, do what is right, keep the holy day holy and welcome all people, even "outsiders," removing obstacles in their way. To these he promises joy and blessings. He rails against the selfishness and ignorance of Israel's leaders who seek their own gain with "mighty appetites." *Reflection: Why the importance of keeping the Sabbath holy? How do you dedicate the day to the Lord? Does your church family or your Sunday worship service present obstacles for someone of another background?*

### **Today is the Sunday of the Steward**

Stewards oversaw the finances and all the affairs of the house for wealthy families of ancient times. The steward in this parable (often translated as the "shrewd manager") is far-sighted about his own welfare. When his master accuses him of wasteful ways, demanding an accounting and threatening his dismissal, the steward reduces the moneys owed to his master by others so that they might employ him should it come to that (he was actually lowering his own built-in commission in every negotiation). He is commended by the master. Although a challenging parable, it is easier to understand when we see that Jesus is asking us to be as diligent and ambitious about our spiritual welfare as we are about our worldly security (8-9). *Reflection: What masters pull at you for allegiance?*

## **March 7, 2021 Hokehankisd**

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

- **Siranoosh (Sally) Martin, 40th Day:** Requested by Glenn & Karen (Barmakian) Herosian, Carly, Aria, and Alexis Herosian for mother and grandmother.
- **Dikran & Peprone Piranian, Alexandre & Dirouhie Piranian, Zabelle Piranian and Alex & Harriet Piranian:** Requested by Dorothy Piranian for parents, grandparents, aunt, brother & sister-in-law.
- **Small-Fry Azarian, 2nd Anniversary:** Requested by Holy Trinity Church.
- **Deacon Levon Terzian:** Requested by Holy Trinity Church.
- **Harry Kaprelian, Mihran, Elizabeth & Edward Berberian, Alyce Leister, and Karl Kaprelian:** From their Trust Fund established by Harry and Grace Kaprelian.
- **Hovannes & Venus Maream Nahigian, Rovina Shahbazian, Nahigian and Jeferian Families:** From the Trust Fund established by Venus Maream Nahigian.

\*Today's Altar Candles are donated in memory of Harry Kaprelian, Mihran, Elizabeth & Edward Berberian, Alyce Leister, and Karl Kaprelian from their Trust Fund established by Harry and Grace Kaprelian.\*



# 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.\*

### **Upcoming Sunday Feast Days**

*Today, 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 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**

*From the 24 Prayers of St. Nersess Shnorhali (The Graceful).*

**Son of God,  
True God,  
Who descended from the bosom of the Father,  
And took on flesh from the Holy Virgin Mary for our salvation,  
Who was crucified, buried and rose from the dead,  
And ascended with glory to the Father.  
I have sinned against heaven and before you.  
Remember me as you did the penitent thief when you come with your kingdom.  
Have mercy upon your creation,  
And on me, a manifold sinner.  
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.

### **Unaware of Prayer**

***Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Matthew 6:8***

I decide to pray during my morning walk around Castle Island, but twenty minutes in, my mind wanders. What do I need at the grocery store? I really need a haircut! I try to return to my prayer. Then I look out at the stretch of ocean. Blue! Look at those waves dancing in the sunlight. What a wonderful world! It's then I realize that God has been listening to me the entire time. He's been with me as I think about my family's needs. Perhaps he's reminding me that I think a little too much about vanity. He is definitely there as I marvel at his creation. What about you? Look back on your day. How are you speaking to God today without even knowing it?

# 6 Principles on Fasting

*This article was posted on the diocesan website Vemkar, and provides a concise understanding of the theological principal of fasting by Arpi Nakashian.*

## **1. Fasting is about reducing excess to make room for God:**

The point of fasting is to eliminate from our lives all manner of excess that distracts us from God's love for us. Such excesses could be food, alcohol, shopping, electronics, gambling and all other diversions. By fasting we trim these excesses from our lives so that we can more clearly perceive God in this world and among us.

## **2. Fasting is not about "Giving Up" anything:**

God does not want us to deprive ourselves of anything, especially when it may hurt us or affect our health. God does not expect us to sacrifice animals and perform sacrificial rituals as the Jewish people did before Christ. The ultimate sacrifice and the only one that counts is the death of Jesus Christ on the cross for us. Our eternal God sacrificed his only Son for us as a sign of his unconditional love for mortal humans. So, fasting is not about depriving ourselves from candy or anything else. It is rather the complete dedication of our lives to God, as St. Paul challenges us: "Present your bodies as a living sacrifice to God" (Romans 12:1).

## **3. Fasting alone will not make me a better Christian:**

Fasting is not about earning "brownie points" to get into heaven. No human being can achieve salvation on his or her own, whether through fasting or any other effort. Jesus Christ is the only door to salvation. Christ brought salvation with him into this world. All we have to do is accept it. We fast not to earn our way to God's favor, but to celebrate the fact that salvation has already been achieved for those who follow Christ. Fasting should assist us to refocus on our faith, aid us to recognize God's love for us, and inspire us to love one another.

## **4. An effective fast must be thoughtful and prayerful:**

Rather than ask, "What shall I give up this Lent?" we might better ask ourselves, "What is holding me back from devoting myself more wholeheartedly to the Lord? What am I overindulging in? What is sucking up time that I could better use for the sake of more Christian pursuits? How am I spending my money? What can I relinquish to simplify my life and make it more Christ-like?" Thoughtful and prayerful reflection on these questions will guide us to a more correct and edifying Lenten fast.

## **5. Fasting is a personal but not a private matter:**

Christ was very clear that we should keep our fasting practices to ourselves. And yet the fruits of fasting are interpersonal, because ultimately fasting is about healing God's community, the Church. Fr. Daniel writes, "Good, prayerful fasting should lead to an outgoing, compassionate spirit of reconciliation among the members of the church, which mends and strengthens that community and fosters communion with one another and thereby with Jesus Christ. So, while the details of my Lenten fast should be between God and me, my fasting is the business of the Church. To put it another way, my fasting affects you and your fasting affects me."

## **6. Happy Fasting:**

If we are fasting with the proper mindset, then it should lead us to a deeper, more meaningful and uplifting communion with the Creator. And that will bring us joy. As we trim the excess, we fill ourselves with hope and joy as we wait for the ultimate celebration.



**Read Bishop Daniel Findikyan's entire message to  
Diocesan leaders on the following page.**



## **Introducing Holy Etchmiadzin' ARTSAKH OUTREACH Mission**

**In a message to Diocesan leaders, Bishop Daniel Findikyan enlisted the support of the Eastern Diocese in a critical new mission of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. Called “Artsakh Outreach,” the humanitarian effort aims to deliver help to the large number of displaced families from Artsakh, who have been severely affected by the abrupt end to the fighting and Armenia’s acquiescence to the terms of the ceasefire. That help includes material relief and housing, but also social services and spiritual outreach to help families deal with the horrors of living through the war. No one who survived the conflict, whether soldier or civilian, is able to sleep peacefully at night in the aftermath. A committee operating under the auspices of His Holiness Karekin II, the Catholicos of All Armenians, is comprised of some 20 individuals from Armenia and major dioceses of the diaspora. Its Finance sub-committee has created guidelines for donations, budgets, and expenditures, to maintain a tight reign on where funds originate, how they are allocated, and how they are eventually spent. The controls allow for swift decision-making, efficient use of funds, and total visibility and accountability. “We can all be proud of the way the people of the Eastern Diocese stood tall in support of Artsakh and Armenia in the dark days of war last year. But Armenia and Artsakh still need our help,” says the Primate in his appeal to support Artsakh Outreach.**

***LEARN MORE at [ArtsakhOutreach.org](https://artsakhoutreach.org)***

***DONATE NOW to Artsakh Outreach***

***<https://artsakhoutreach.org/donate/>***

*In this holy season of Great Lent, I greet you in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am writing to inform our leadership about the effort currently underway to help displaced families from Artsakh: a mission of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin under the auspices of His Holiness Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians.*

*Called ARTSAKH OUTREACH, this critical mission of Holy Etchmiadzin aims to raise support throughout the worldwide Armenian Church, and deliver aid to our brothers and sisters in their time of need.*

*As we are all painfully aware, in the aftermath of the unprovoked war on Artsakh, Armenia is now a place of refuge for thousands of wounded soldiers, bereaved families, and displaced citizens of Artsakh—all in dire need of financial, spiritual, medical, and psychological support. Some 40,000 Armenians lost their homes in Artsakh, and have no place to return for the foreseeable future. Now settled in Armenia, these individuals and families are struggling with the basic necessities of life—all amid the devastation of a national economic crisis and the worldwide pandemic.*

*At my direction, the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America is working through ARTSAKH OUTREACH to come to the aid of our homeland and its people. I see this as an intrinsically Christian mission that we as a church should undertake as members of the Body of Christ, responsible to our fellow children of God. Of course, Holy Etchmiadzin is ideally placed to be effective and responsive in such an effort, and especially to ensure that its deep spiritual dimension remains paramount among our people.*

*In many ways, the establishment of this enterprise resembles the birth of our own Diocese's Fund for Armenian Relief some 30 years ago, in response to Armenia's earthquake crisis. I want to note that leaders from our Diocese have been involved with ARTSAKH OUTREACH from its inception. It is chaired by my predecessor as Primate of our Diocese, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian. Catholicos Karekin II has asked James Kalustian to assist in this global effort, and I have asked him to be our Diocese's liaison.*

*Our faithful should be aware that this will be a long term effort. Initially, the Mother See envisioned an outreach campaign that would last between three and nine months. But it has become clear that the need is far greater than anticipated, and must incorporate not only immediate material relief, but housing, counseling, and job training, among other things. The painful reality is that no one who survived the Artsakh war—whether soldier or civilian—did so without experiencing deep wounds of the spirit. The larger objective of ARTSAKH OUTREACH will be to enable the affected individuals and families to eventually stand on their own.*

*I strongly encourage our parishes and all of our faithful to support this effort. A secure, user-friendly website, [ArtsakhOutreach.org](https://ArtsakhOutreach.org), presents details of current and future projects, reports on progress, and promotional materials that you can adapt to the needs of local fundraising efforts.*


*Donors can make a one-time contribution in any amount, or “adopt” a family on a month-by-month basis. Donations provide food, shelter, basic necessities, and utilities—and can be made online or via check. Whatever avenue you choose, please know that every gift makes a difference in this time of need.*

*We can all be proud of the way the people of the Eastern Diocese stood tall in support of Artsakh and Armenia in the dark days of war last year. But Armenia and Artsakh still need our help. Let us give ARTSAKH OUTREACH our determined moral and material support, as we pray to our merciful Lord for its success.*

*With my prayers,  
Bishop DANIEL, Primate*



## HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY SCHOOL ~ 2021 LENTEN INITIATIVES

OUR 2021 LENTEN PROMISE  
**SPREADING GOD'S**  
*light*   
 -MATTHEW 5:16

THIS YEAR DURING GREAT LENT,  
 AS PART OF OUR LENTEN DISCIPLINE,  
 WE ENCOURAGE OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL FAMILIES AND STAFF  
 TO "SPREAD GOD'S LIGHT" WHEREVER WE GO!

♥  
 SPREAD LOVE  
 EVERYWHERE  
 YOU GO  
 LET NO ONE  
 EVER COME TO  
 YOU WITHOUT  
 LEAVING HAPPIER  
 -MOTHER TERESA  
 ♥

DER VASKEN HAS ENCOURAGED OUR PARISHIONERS TO  
 "LOOK FOR THE GOOD" IN 2021.  
 LET US SPEND THIS SEASON OF LENT NOT ONLY  
 "LOOKING FOR THE GOOD" BUT "BEING THE GOOD"!

♥  
 LET YOUR  
 PRESENCE  
 LIGHT NEW  
 LIGHT IN THE  
 HEARTS OF  
 PEOPLE  
 -MOTHER TERESA  
 ♥

LET US COMMIT TO SPREADING GOD'S LIGHT AND LOVE  
 SO THAT ALL THOSE WE ENCOUNTER  
 SEE GOD'S LIGHT AND LOVE THROUGH US!



## 2021 LENTEN DRIVE ADOPT AN ARTSAKH FAMILY

IN RECENT MONTHS, OUR ARMENIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN BOTH ARTSAKH AND ARMENIA LIVED THROUGH UNIMAGINABLE WAR AND HEARTACHE THAT LEFT MORE THAN 17,000 CHILDREN FATHERLESS OR HOMELESS.

FOR THIS YEAR'S LENTEN DRIVE, OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL HAS COMMITTED TO "ADOPTING" AN ARTSAKH FAMILY DISPLACED BY THE WAR. DETAILS ON OUR ADOPTED FAMILY WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE DURING THE LENTEN SEASON.

AS PART OF OUR LENTEN JOURNEY, WE ENCOURAGE OUR STUDENTS TO DONATE GENEROUSLY TO OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL LENTEN DRIVE. 100% OF PROCEEDS WILL GO DIRECTLY TO OUR "ADOPTED" FAMILY.

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		