

Sunday, December 19, 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



The City of Cambridge has issued an emergency order requiring that face masks or coverings be worn in indoor public places - this includes Houses of Worship. *The order took effect at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, September 3, 2021.* Holy Trinity Church and its members and friends will be required to abide by these new safety measures.

**Masks will be required
in the sanctuary and in all church complex buildings.**

When attending services in-person, please remember:

- Safety measures that will continue
- Pews will remain taped off to support distancing
- Masks will be made available if you need one
- Our cleaning protocols will remain in place
- Hand sanitizer will continue to be made available at the entrance of church and at the side altars
- Kiss of Peace will be conducted by bowing the head toward others without approaching or touching on another
- Confession will be done in place at your pew
- Holy Communion will continue to be distributed using safe practices

*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.*



From Today's Bible Reading

Luke 17:1-10 Jesus shares four critical teachings with his disciples (and us): 1. Sin will come – watch for those who carry it with them, 2. Be generous with your forgiveness, 3. The smallest seed of faith can empower you beyond your understanding, and 4. Doing all I tell you does not call for self-congratulations, for it is simply what you should be doing. *Reflection: Which of these four life guidelines speaks to you? Can you think of a specific experience?*

Hebrews 1:1-14 The early readers of Hebrews might have venerated angels to such a degree that the epistle writer felt it important to stress Jesus' sovereignty over them. In doing so, he lays out a compelling series of statements about who Jesus is. *Reflection: With pen in hand, read today's epistle reading. Underline or write out the words or phrases that describe Jesus. Begin a prayer with "Lord Jesus Christ, you who...Add all these descriptions and then your personal petitions."*

Isaiah 38:1-8 King Hezekiah, ill and at the point of death, prays for healing. God restores the King's health and pledges protection to Jerusalem. *Reflection: Hezekiah declares to God that he had "done what is good in Your eyes. (v 3)." In St. Nersess' famous "Wisdom" prayer, he asks God for the wisdom to "do what is good in Your sight." What do you do that might be good in His sight?*

Saturday, December 25 is the Feast of St. Stephen (and Christmas!)

Ordained (in an early ritual of laying on of hands) along with six others to serve the poor at the common table, St. Stephen was renowned for his dedication and faith. Acts 6-8:2 relates his story, culminating in a martyr's death by stoning and his burial. He is acknowledged by the Church as the first to die for his faith (protomartyr). The intensity and sincerity of St. Stephen's faith deeply impressed Saul, the infamous persecutor of Christians who witnessed Stephen's martyrdom. Upon his own conversion, he became Paul, zealous apostle to the Gentiles and one of the greatest missionaries of the Church. St. Stephen is the role model for altar servers, particularly deacons. During Badarak on this feast day, it is traditional in some places for all deacons serving at the altar to wear a liturgical crown, which is worn only by priests on all other days of the year, the crown here being a symbol of martyrdom. St. Stephen is often depicted holding a censer and a miniature church, as well as a martyr's palm branch and stones.

Department of Christian Education Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)
elisea@armeniandiocese.org



Readings of the Day:

Is. 38:1-8. Heb. 1:1-14. Lk. 17:1-10.

Today's Bible reading is from the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to St. Luke, chapter 17, vs. 1-10 and will be read by Ann Danielson.

December 19, 2021 Hokehankisd

- **Albert Oskoian, 40th Day & Ann Oskoian:** Requested by Diran, Judith Smith, Rachel, Renee & Robert Zahigian for uncle and aunt.
- **Margaret Eknoian, 1st Anniversary:** Requested by Alison Ekizian & Ty Edwards and Eve Edwards for aunt and great-aunt.
- **Margaret Danielson, 7th Anniversary:** Requested by Ed & Ann Danielson; June & Walter Hatfield and Family for mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.
- **Philip & Eva Nishanian Giarraputo:** Requested by Martha Anderson for parents.
- **Sarkis & Nuvart Hedison:** Requested by Diran, Judith Smith, Rachel, Renee & Robert Zahigian for grandfather, grandmother, great-grandfather and great-grandmother.
- **Charles & Alice Nahabedian:** Requested by Diran, Judith Smith, Rachel, Renee & Robert Zahigian for uncle and aunt.
- **Dr. Robert A. Smith, Hilda Smith, David Smith and Kristine Smith:** Requested by Judith Smith, Diran, Rachel, Renee & Robert Zahigian for mother, brother, sister-in-law, grandfather, grandmother, uncle and aunt.
- **Diran A. Zahigian & Zabelle Zahigian:** Requested by Diran, Judith Smith, Rachel, Renee & Robert Zahigian for father, mother, grandfather and grandmother.
- **Shumavon & Altoon Zahigian:** Requested by Diran, Judith Smith, Rachel, Renee & Robert Zahigian for grandfather, grandmother, great-grandfather and great-grandmother.
- **P. Florence Arabian:** From the Trust Fund established from the bequest from her estate.
- **Lousaper Shamlan:** From the Trust Fund established from the bequest from her estate.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Christmas is a season for both receiving and giving. In the Armenian Church, we have the beautiful custom of "Youghakin," "Gift Oil for the Lamp" offering to our Church. Help our Church lamps burn and never go out by making your gift and returning it in the Holy Trinity envelopes recently mailed to all our parishioners with the Christmas Bulletin.

CANDLES AND FLOWERS

On the occasion of Christmas those wishing to donate candles and/or flowers for the Holy Altars may call the Church Office, 617.354.0632.

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 **Nishan Tikijian and Ara Hollisian**; and 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 Der 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 11 am on Thursday will not be printed in the Sunday Bulletin but will be read from the altar by Der Vasken.*

*Please alert a Parish Council member on Sunday if you requested a Hokehankisd after 11 am on Thursday to ensure Der Vasken has the name of your loved one.**

Fellowship Hour

***You are all welcome to join us on Hollisian Plaza
following Church Services for Fellowship Hour
hosted by the Parish Council
and Diocesan Delegates.***

****Come check out out Mini Bazaar
being held during Fellowship Hour in the
Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall****

HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN CHURCH
SECOND ANNUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Christmas

**NATIVITY PAGEANT
& PARISH TREE LIGHTING**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, PAGEANT TO TAKE PLACE IN SANCTUARY

PAGEANT ~ 11:40 AM

TREE LIGHTING ~ 12:30 PM

JOIN US OUTDOORS ON HOLLISIAN PLAZA
FOR A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION TO
USHER IN THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EFFECT



COMPLIMENTARY EVENT FOR THE COMMUNITY

ENJOY HOT CHOCOLATE AND COOKIES

PERSONALIZE AN ORNAMENT TO PLACE ON THE PARISH CHRISTMAS TREE

Fr. Vasken Kouzouian, Pastor ~ Holy Trinity Armenian Church
145 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 ~ www.htaac.org ~ 617.354.0632



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2021
JOIN US IN THE SANCTUARY
MUSICAL PRELUDE- 4:30 PM
SERVICE- 5:00 PM**

**Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Greater Boston
Cambridge MA**



*We warmly invite all to
attend for prayers
and Christmas carols
in English*



Merry Christmas

The Practice of Youghakin

Twice a year parishioners receive special envelopes and are asked to donate “Youghakin,” but many know little about the practice. Youghakin is made up of two Armenian words: “yough” and “kin.” “Youghakin” literally means the price of oil or donation in lieu of oil.

In early days, prior to electricity, oil lamps and lanterns illuminated homes and worship places. Parishioners donated oil to keep the church lit. After the invention of electricity, as oil lamps were replaced with electrical lamps, the Armenian Apostolic Church continued asking members to bring symbolic contributions for the illumination of the church through the Youghakin program at Christmas and Easter.

The context of this practice is inner illumination rather than stewardship. When you send in your Youghakin envelope, you are not merely helping the church financially, but are helping centuries of Armenian faith shine. Light and faith are synonymous. According to the New Testament, whoever has faith is in light. Jesus says: “I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” [John 8:12]. Through Youghakin, you are in effect refueling the traditional symbolic lantern of faith which St. Gregory the Illuminator lit. According to legend, St. Gregory, after building the convent of St. Garabed in Moush, hung a lantern from the ceiling of the cathedral to encourage Armenians in their faith. He indicated that as long as the lantern was lit, the light of their faith would shine. The lantern stood as a symbol of their faith.

In the cathedral, there was believed to be a demon, tamed by the saint who punished him by forcing him to dust every day. When the saint was sleeping, the demon extinguished the lantern. The saint would awaken and light the lantern again, not knowing why the flame had died. This continued over several days. Finally, a frustrated St. Gregory took the lantern to the tomb of St. Garabed, fasted, prayed and cried for 40 days. At the end of the fasting, he found the lantern filled with his tears. He lit the lantern and hung it in its place and slept in the church. The demon was ready to blow at the wick, when suddenly the heavens rumbled. The saint awoke and caught the demon red-handed. Crippled by the saint’s cane, the demon never again dared to approach. From that day on, St. Gregory’s lantern has shone in our sanctuaries all over the world. The light is perpetual, the faith everlasting.

After hearing this story, which Armenian Christian will not come forward to refuel our lantern of faith? Youghakin is not about dollars, but about participating in the enlightenment of our faith and our spiritual home.

If you need light, first give light.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Morning Service - 9:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy - 10 a.m.

Services conclude - 12 Noon.

We urge our faithful to attend Church Services on time.



HOLY TRINITY CALENDAR

- TODAY** **Christmas Nativity Pageant;** Hollisian Plaza, 11:40am
 & Parish Tree Lighting; Hollisian Plaza, 12:30pm
 Fellowship Hour and the "Mini Bazaar";
 Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall
 Annual ACYOA Christmas Party; Youth Room, 12:30pm- 2:30pm.
- Fri, Dec 24** **Christmas Eve Service; Musical prelude at 4:30pm, followed by
prayers and Christmas Carols in English at 5pm; Sanctuary.**
- Sat, Dec 25** **Merry Christmas!**
- Mon, Dec 27** **Christmas Holiday Observed- *Office Closed***
- Sat, Jan 1** **Happy New Year!!**
- Wed, Jan 5** **Armenian Christmas Eve Evening Service, Church Sanctuary, 7pm;
Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy, Church Sanctuary 7:30pm**
- Thurs, Jan 6** **Armenian Christmas! Holy Nativity and Theophany;**
 Church Sanctuary
 Morning Service, 9am
 Divine Liturgy, 10am
 Blessing of the Water Service, 11:30am