

Sunday, December 26, 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 19:12-28** Nearing Jerusalem to face His last days, Jesus tells a cautionary tale about a man who goes to a distant country to be crowned king and entrusts his servants with money to “put to work.” Upon his return, he commends those who have increased the sum through wise investment and curses the one who simply hoarded it, afraid of the master. He takes this and awards it to the servant who did the most with his money, vowing that “to the one who has, more will be given and for the one who has nothing, even this will be taken away.” *Reflection: The Parable of the Ten Minas drives home some powerful points: all that we have is God’s, He gives us complete freedom in its use, He asks that until He returns, we use it wisely and well. But we’re accountable! – no excuses for being lax or timid. What are your gifts and assets? How are you using them? As He would want?*

**Hebrews 7:11-25** The epistle writer describes the breakthrough priesthood of Jesus, which unlike that of Aaron and his line, is eternal and bears a new and different covenant. This priesthood is compared with that of Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18-20; Psalm 110:4), the king and high priest from Salem who offered bread and wine and his blessing to Abram. With the character of his priesthood, the symbolic elements of Holy Communion, his kingship over Salem (“peace”), Abram’s reverence, and his blessing, Melchizedek is seen as a Christ-like figure. *Reflection: What would you want to ask of Jesus as priest?*

**Isaiah 41: 4-14** God commands the distant nations to be ready to meet his judgment, reminding them that He is the source and overseer of history, the first and the last. To lowly and humble Israel (41:14) whom He has chosen and upheld, He pledges protection. *Reflection: Read and re-read verse 13. Imagine God’s hand in yours as He whispers in your ear “Do not be afraid; I will help you.” Draw on this image throughout the day, especially at difficult moments.*

### **Monday, December 27: Holy Apostles Peter and Paul**

These saints were the most influential of the first followers and apostles. Called by Jesus to leave his fishing boat and become a “fisher of men,” Peter was always named first whenever the Gospels listed the Twelve. He was one of Jesus’ closest disciples (along with James and John); they alone were with Him at the Transfiguration and accompanied Him as He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. It was Peter who asked to walk on water to prove the strength of his faith and it was he who first boldly acknowledged Jesus as the Christ (Luke 9:20). Peter denied Jesus three times the night of His arrest and yet the Book of Acts describes his evangelizing work and leadership in the Early Church as powerful and prolific. Once the disciples opened their ministry to all people and not just Jewish converts, St. Paul takes center stage in the Book of Acts. A witness to Stephen’s stoning, Paul experiences conversion on the road to Damascus where Christ appears to him (Acts 9) and is transformed from Christian persecutor to world-renowned apostle. St. Paul proceeded to take Christ’s message of salvation throughout the Roman Empire, penning the most important epistles in the New Testament.

## **Readings of the Day:**

Is. 41:4-14. Heb. 7:11-25. Lk. 19:12-28.

Today's Bible reading is from the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to St. Luke, chapter 19, vs. 12-28 and will be read by Cathy Minassian.

## **December 26, 2021 Hokehankisd**

- **Archbishop Ghevont Tourian, former Primate, Diocese of the Armenian Church**
- **Elsie V. Minassian, 40th Day:** Requested by Catherine Minassian, David Minassian, Diana & Gerald Stulc, Richard & Tricia Minassian for mother; Alexan and Evan Stulc, Micaela, Jarod and Jacob Minassian for grandmother.
- **Samuel O. Minassian, Samuel A. Minassian:** Requested by Catherine Minassian, David Minassian, Diana & Gerald Stulc, Richard & Tricia Minassian for father and brother; Alexan and Evan Stulc, Micaela, Jarod and Jacob Minassian for grandfather and uncle.
- **Adrushan Musluyan, Sasnayk Musluyan:** Requested by Yn. Arpi, Fr. Vasken & Alina Kouzouian for father, brother, grandfather and uncle; Fr. Mampre A. Kouzouian, Susan Derderian, Arpie Kouzouian and Oscar Derderian III.
- **Emilie Stulc:** Requested by Gerald & Diana Stulc for mother; Alexan and Evan Stulc for grandmother; Catherine Minassian, David Minassian, Richard & Tricia Minassian, Micaela, Jarod and Jacob Minassian for khenamee.
- **George, Takoohi, Vahan, Sooren & Mary Daniels:** From the Trust Fund established by Sooren & Mary Daniels.
- **Maushegh & Shenorik Gelenian, Laura C. Gelenian, and Ara A. Gelenian:** From the Trust Fund established by Alice Gelenian for parents, niece & brother.
- **Yeretzgin Nuvart Kouzouian, Oskian & Ovsanna Kouzouian, Teshkho Kouzouian, Sarkis Kouzouian, Areknaz Parikian, Asadour, Baritza & Shake Parikian, Azniv & Khajag Baladouni, and Hovsep & Hripsime Vartanesian:** From the Trust Fund established by Fr. Mampre & Yn. Nuvart Kouzouian.



# 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.*

# **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.\**

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## **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.





# FIRST WEDNESDAYS

A BREATH OF GOD

First Wednesday of every month • Johnson Hall or virtual on zoom • 6:45pm - 7:45pm

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 ongoing conversation.

**October 6, 2021**

Imagine a world  
without love

**February 2, 2022**

Celebrate Human Rights  
Everyday

**November 3, 2021**

Prayer is like a knock on  
the door

**March 2, 2022**

Is Life Unfair?

**December 8, 2021\***

How Can We Experience  
God's Guidance?

\*Second Wednesday

**April 6, 2022**

The Chalice of: Life, Hope of  
Resurrection, & Forgiveness . . .

**January 12, 2022\***

The Seed That Bears Fruit

\*Second Wednesday

**May 4, 2022**

Even In the Hills & Valleys  
. . .We Are Not Alone

# **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.



## **Fellowship Hour**

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

## **IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER**

If severe inclement weather affects Sunday School and Armenian School classes, Church Services, Sunday activities or activities and programs during the week, this information will appear in the following media:

- On TV Channels 4 (WBZ) and CBSBoston.com, Channel 5 (WCVB) and TheBostonChannel.com, Channels 7 and 56, as well as their websites;
- Church's answering machine at 617.354.0632;
- An Email "Alert" sent to parishioners through the Constant Contact software program;
- Holy Trinity's website, [www.htaac.org](http://www.htaac.org); and
- Holy Trinity's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityArmenianChurch](http://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityArmenianChurch)



# **HOLY TRINITY CALENDAR**

- Mon, Dec 27**      **Christmas holiday observed- *office closed***
- Wed, Dec 29**      **Parish Council Meeting; Johnson Hall, 6:30pm**
- Sat, Jan 1**      **Happy New Year!!**
- Mon, Jan 3**      **New Year holiday observed- *office closed***
- 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**