

Sunday, January 2, 2022
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.

Christ was born and revealed!

Blessed is the revelation of Christ!



From Today's Bible Reading

Luke 22:24-30 At the Last Supper, on the very night Jesus would be arrested and taken to His death, the disciples are disputing who among them is the greatest. Jesus reminds them (oh, the endless patience of our Lord!) that they are not to be like the world where those in authority are considered important. Rather the greatest are those who serve humbly as He Himself was doing at their table. He commends them for being at His side; to such He promises a kingdom and a place at His table where they will dine seated on thrones (an image of the joyous fellowship possible in His presence) and judge the 12 tribes of Israel.(1 Cor 6:2-3). *Reflection: Greatness in the world is often perceived as lording it over others. Jesus teaches that greatness is in serving others rather than ourselves. Think of a time when you felt unappreciated. How might these verses inspire you to feel otherwise?*

Hebrews 13:18-25 The epistle writer asks for his readers' prayers. The Greek verb suggests a continuous activity, so we understand they have been praying and will continue. He is sure he has done his utmost for them, hoping their prayers will soon bring him face-to-face with these people whom he clearly loves. He himself prays that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, continue to guide them on their journey to spiritual maturity. *Reflection: Prayerfully read 13:20-22. Now pray this in your own words and address it to a specific person.*

Isaiah 51:15-52:3 God affirms his lordship over the people of Jerusalem, asking them to wake from their spiritual torpor and remember their harsh lesson of God's judgment ("cup of wrath"). He promises to take that cup from their hand and place it that of their enemies. Awake! He exhorts them for the third time, and be strong – they are now free of their chains and redeemed. *Reflection: What six things does Zion need to do (52:1-2) as they move from chained and drunken with God's wrath to being free? How might this translate to your own life?*

The Feast of Theophany: Thursday, January 6

The Armenian Church celebrates the birth and baptism of Christ on the feast of Asdvadzahaydnootyoon on January 6. Surprisingly to us today, the birth of Jesus was of minor interest to the Early Church. The nativity of Christ was not viewed as the "birthday" of Jesus Christ the same way we tend to view birthdays; rather, the reverent emphasis was on Christ's death and resurrection (beautifully demonstrated in Armenian miniatures where the baby Jesus is always shown with a cross embedded in His halo). Yet looking back at His birth from the perspective of His death, the nativity takes on deeper meaning, not as the birthday of a person, but as the coming of salvation into this world in Jesus Christ. Good News to us! *Reflection: Read the cherished Christmas story as told in Luke 2:1-20. What particular detail do you "treasure and ponder in your heart" (v.19)?*

Readings of the Day:

Is. 51:15-52:3. Heb. 13:18-25. Lk. 22:24-30.

Today's Bible reading is from the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to St. Luke, chapter 22, vs. 24-30 and will be read by Susan Derderian.

January 2, 2022 Hokehankisd

- **Warren Aylaian, 40th Day:** Requested by Lucy Aylaian, Diane Aylaian Herosian & Kurt Herosian and Julia & Gina Herosian, Janice Aylaian Sacco & Robert Sacco and Joseph Warren & Robert Sacco, Karen Ganjian DiFabbio and Family, Gregg Aylaian and Family and Debbie & Chris Munger and Family, Robert & Madeline Mardirosian, Andrea & David Barber and Family, Clare Green for husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend.

Charles & Alice Nahabedian, George & Catherine Nahabedian, Shumavon & Altoon Zahigian, Paul & Margaret Nahabedian, Diran & Zabelle Zahigian, Albert Oskoian: Requested by Robert Nahabedian, Claudine Louis, Delia and Rainier; Christine, Nicholas and Alyssa Sahagian.

- **Jane Talanian:** Requested by Charles & Ann Talanian, Christopher, Noel, Celina Jane and Charlie Joanne Talanian, Nevart Talanian and Gail & Richard O'Reilly for wife, mother, grandmother, daughter-in-law, and sister-in-law.

Today's Altar Flowers will be donated in memory of Jane Talanian by Charles & Ann Talanian, Christopher, Noel, Celina Jane and Charlie Joanne Talanian, Nevart Talanian and Gail & Richard O'Reilly



**The Pastor and Parish Council
wish you all a Happy New Year filled with the Grace of God.**

May the New Year bring Divine Blessings on our community.

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.**

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.



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 Sunday School.

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

HOLY TRINITY CALENDAR

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

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; and
- Holy Trinity's Facebook page,
www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityArmenianChurch