

Sunday, December 18, 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**



***Please note:***

***Holy Communion will be distributed using enhanced safety practices.  
Approach the altar, make sign of the cross, present the back of your  
hand, Holy Communion will be placed on the back of your hand.  
we ask that the faithful consume their portion of the  
Holy Communion at the altar.***

## 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 Sona Tashjian.

### From Today's Bible Reading

**Luke 17:1-10** On the road to Jerusalem, Jesus continues to teach His disciples. Here He tells them to cause no one to sin and forgive those who have hurt them as often as they ask it. When the disciples ask Him to help strengthen their faith, Jesus assures them that the smallest amount of it can work miracles. Finally, He warns them not to be proud of their faithful acts, as they are simply doing what they should. *Reflection: Jesus' disciples asked Him to increase their faith (v. 5). Make this your prayer for the remaining days of Advent.*

**Hebrews 1:1-14** Jesus is greater than the prophets and the angels; He is the Son of God, the radiance of God's glory; with Him, God created the universe; He sits at the Father's right hand. *Reflection: 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. What do you venerate more than Jesus? In what ways can you restore Jesus' authority in your life?*

**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." In what ways can you work towards this goal?*

### December 31 is the Feast of St. Ephrem the Syrian

Despite later hagiographies and internal evidence in his work, very little is known about St. Ephrem. He was born in Nisibis c.306 and raised by Christian parents. A protégé of Bishop James of Nisibis, he was ordained and served zealously in local ministry (once saving famine-plagued Edessans from starvation through his tireless efforts). When Nisibis was lost to the Persians in 363, Ephrem moved with many others to Edessa, then the center of Syrian Christianity. He lived only another decade, during which he wrote prolifically, producing a vast body of influential work: Biblical commentaries, apologetic treatises, philosophical works, and a great number of hymns and poems. His poetry was so highly esteemed that he has been cited as "the only poet-theologian to rank alongside Dante." Armenians deeply revered St. Ephrem for his character and his writings. There are many volumes of his work translated from the Syriac (a dialect of Aramaic) into Greek and many in Armenian where more of his authentic work is to be found than in any other language.

## **December 18, 2022 Hokehankisd**

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

- **Emma Toomajian, 5th Anniversary:** Requested by Kenneth & Gail Toomajian for mother.
- **Margaret Danielson, 8th Anniversary:** Requested by Ed & Ann Danielson and June & Walter Hatfield and Family for mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.
- **Philip & Eva Nishanian Giarraputo:** Requested by Martha Anderson for parents.
- **A. Richard & Sarah Goolkasian, Baldazar & Takoohy Goolkasian, Hampartzoom & Verkin Sarkisian:** Requested by Goolkasian, Kalajian and Yacubian Families for parents, grandparents and great-grandparents.
- **P. Florence Arabian:** From her Trust Fund
- **Lousaper Shamlan:** From her Trust Fund



## **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 **The Very Rev. Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan, Primate, Deacon James M. Kalustian, John Armen Demirjian, Monica Edwards, Ara Hollisian, Nishan Tikijian** 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 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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## **\*GRADUATES FOR WINTER DAJAR\***

If you know of any Holy Trinity parishioner who graduated from high school, college or graduate school in Spring or Summer 2022 or who will graduate in Winter 2022/23, please ask him/her to send a high-quality photograph and short bio (student's and parents' names, school, special achievements and honors, future plans, etc.) to Ani Ross Grubb (anirossgrubb@gmail.com) so that we can include it in the next issue of Dajar and share the news of this accomplishment with our entire Church family.

Submission deadline is December 20, 2022.





## 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.



## **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.**

HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN CHURCH  
THIRD ANNUAL  
*Christmas*  
NATIVITY PAGEANT  
&  
PARISH TREE LIGHTING  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022

PAGEANT WILL BE HELD INDOORS IN THE SANCTUARY

**PAGEANT PRESENTATION - 11:40 AM**

**TREE LIGHTING - FOLLOWING PAGEANT PRESENTATION**



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS COMMUNITY CELEBRATION  
TO USHER IN THE CHRISTMAS SEASON!

*TREE DONATED BY RICHARD AND KAREN DIRANIAN*

Fr. Vasken Kouzouian, Pastor ~ Holy Trinity Armenian Church  
145 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 ~ [www.htaac.org](http://www.htaac.org) ~ 617.354.0632





**Sunday, December 18**

Holy Trinity Armenian Church

*Pre-Christmas*

# ***Yalanchi Luncheon***

Charles & Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall 12:30pm

**A complementary  
Yalanchi and chicken meal**

*(First come first serve)*

Underwritten by Gregory A. Kolligian, Jr. & Crystal Mazza



## ***Join us for the Mini Bazaar!***

Charles & Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall





**Holy Trinity Armenian Church**

*Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service*

*Saturday, December 24, 2022*

*Join us in the Sanctuary  
Musical prelude- 4:30pm  
Service- 5:00pm to 5:45pm*



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

*Fr. Vasken Kouzouian, Pastor ~ Holy Trinity Armenian Church 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA 02138  
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# *Armenian Christmas Eve Dinner*

*The Women of Holy Trinity and the Trinity Mens Union (TMU)  
Cordially Invite you to join us on*

**Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 6:30 PM**

*Immediately following Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy*

**Delicious Prime Beef Tenderloin Dinner**

*with Appetizer and Dessert*

*Limited Cash Bar Available*

*Dinner by advance reservations only*

*\$50 per person*

*Please RSVP by January 2, 2023*



**Make Reservations by  
emailing [office@htaac.org](mailto:office@htaac.org) or call 617-354-0632**

**Mail payments to:**

**Holy Trinity Armenian Church  
145 Brattle Street – Cambridge, MA 02138**

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HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN SCHOOL  
PRESENTS

**Our Annual Christmas  
Performance**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023 AT 12:30 PM

Fr. Vasken Kouzouian,  
Holy Trinity Armenian Church

145 Brattle St, Cambridge MA 02138  
[www.htac.org](http://www.htac.org) | (617) 354 - 0632



## 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.

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## HOLY TRINITY CALENDAR

**TODAY**

**Christmas Pageant Presentation;** Holy Trinity Armenian Church  
**Christmas Tree Lighting;** Hollisian Plaza, after Church Services  
**Pre- Christmas Chicken and Yalanchi Supper,**  
**Underwritten by Gregory A. Kolligian, Jr. & Crystal Mazza,**  
Johnson Hall, 12:30pm  
**Mini Bazaar;** Charles & Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall

**Sat, Dec 24**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service;** Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Musical Prelude, 4:30pm- Service, 5:00pm- 5:45pm  
(Prayers and Christmas Carols in English)

**Sun, Dec 25**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**Sun, Jan 1**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**Wed, Jan 4**

**First Wednesdays, "Is Your Home Built On Sand Or Rock?";**  
Johnson Hall, 6:45pm- 7:45pm

**Thu, Jan 5**

**Jrakalouyts - Armenian Christmas Eve!**  
Church Sanctuary  
**Evening Service,** 4:30pm  
**Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy,** 5pm  
**Prime Beef Tenderloin Dinner,** 6:30pm

**Fri, Jan 6**

**Armenian Christmas!**  
**Holy Nativity and Theophany;** Church Sanctuary,  
**Morning Service,** 9am  
**Divine Liturgy,** 10am

**Sun, Jan 8**

**Blessing of the Water Service;** Church Sanctuary, 11:30am