

Sunday, January 1, 2023
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



Krisdos Dzunav Yev Haydnetzav.

Orhnial eh Haydnootiunun Krisdosee.

Christ was born and revealed! Blessed is the revelation of Christ!

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:

Isaiah 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.

From Today's Bible Reading

Luke 22:24-30 At the Last Supper - the eve of Jesus' death (!) - the disciples argue over who will be considered the greatest. Jesus turns their thinking upside down by saying that it will be the one who serves most humbly -- in imitation of Him -- who will be exalted. *Reflection: Is being a servant of Christ just signing up for a job at church or is it a mindset, where each day you make yourself available to Christ and ask Him to use you in His service in whatever way He chooses? Prayerfully imagine how this might play out in your life.*

Hebrews 13:18-25 The writer ends his epistle with a benediction, praying that God "equip them with everything good for doing His will, and work in them what is pleasing to Him." (v.21) *Reflection: What a beautiful and timeless prayer! In what areas of your life do you need special help from God so that you may indeed (in the words of St. Nersess Shnorhali) "think, speak and do that which pleases" Him?*

Isaiah 51:15-52:3 God's anger will be turned to Jerusalem's enemies and He will redeem Israel. The words "awake, awake" are repeated, calling Israel to rouse herself from hopelessness and defeat. *Reflection: In vv 52:1-2, God calls upon Jerusalem and its citizens to "awake, clothe yourself with strength, put on garments of splendor, shake off your dust, rise up, sit enthroned, and free the chains from your neck." How might these reflect your own spiritual state and what you might need to do (think of each command as it applies to your life)?*

The Feast of Theophany: Friday, January 6

While much of the Christian world celebrates the birth of Christ on December 25, 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 little 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. *Reflection: Think back on Advent and your Christmas preparations. Were you once again caught up in the extraneous secular hubbub? Make concrete plans to do things differently next year, focusing more on prayer, service, Scripture reading, and simpler living (less spending and more charity).*

January 1, 2023 Hokehankisd

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

- **His Eminence, Archbishop Vatche Hovsepien:** Requested by seminary classmates Fr. Mampre Kouzouian and Fr. Karekin Kasparian
- **His Eminence, Archbishop Ghevont Tourian:** Requested by the Diocese
- **Samuel O. & Elsie V. Minassian:** Requested by Cathy Minassian, Gerald & Diana Stulc, Alexan Stulc, Evan Stulc, David Minassian, Richard & Tricia Minassian, Micaela Minassian, Jacob Minassian and Jarod Minassian for parents and grandparents
- **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.



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, Isabelle Talanian**

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.

Fellowship Hour

You are all welcome to join us following Church Services for Fellowship Hour hosted by the Sunday School.

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
- Holy Trinity's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityArmenianChurch
- A Text "Alert" sent to parishioners that are signed up for our Constant Contact texting program



***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 for Artsakh

In this state of unbearable pain, we appeal to you, O Lord, to hasten to our aid in your divine mercy and love.

Dispel our deep sorrow; heal our wounded spirits; pull us back from the error of hopelessness and despair. Help us to find strength and refuge in your loving arms, and to unite our nation under the warm and caring wings of your Holy Church. Grant us the humility and wisdom to accept the things we can no longer change; and give us courage to effect needful change where we still can.

In a time of unrest and turmoil in our homeland of Armenia and Artsakh, give our people the peace you granted to all your followers: breathe into us, too, your life-giving Holy Spirit, so that we too may find peace from worldly commotion, worry, and fear. Help us to work together in love, directing our sincere efforts toward the recovery of our society. Guide us in rebuilding our broken homes, and heal our wounded families who lost loved ones during these days.

Remember with love, Lord, as our Creator, the souls of our heroic soldiers and brave civilians who sacrificed their lives in your name. Remember them, bless them, and receive them into your Kingdom. Comfort their loved ones by the grace of your Holy Spirit.

We are humble, Lord, and you are our glory; your very name is wondrous, triumphant, and holy. Surrounded by the great cloud of our newly martyred witnesses to you, we praise you along with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always, and unto the ages and ages. Amen.

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.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Gregory Manukyan, the son of Elen Galayjian and Edgar Manukyan, who was baptized on Friday in our Church. We welcome Gregory into our Christian family of the Holy Trinity Church and pray that Almighty God may keep him under His loving care.

Congratulations to Araz Daniel Orfaly, the son of Alexis Orfaly and Nicole Derse, who will be baptized on Tuesday in our Church. We welcome Araz into our Christian family of the Holy Trinity Church and pray that Almighty God may keep him under His loving care.



Trinity Men's Union (TMU) Looking for Speakers!

TMU is looking for speakers for our monthly meetings. In January, we would love to have a CPA talk about tax matters - new tax laws, inheritance taxes and what the average person should be aware of this tax season.

If you can speak at our January meeting please contact John Marsoobian at 781-223-3664.

February and March speakers are being confirmed currently and we will let you know about those speakers.

If you are a church member and would like to speak at a future meeting, please let us know. Speaking is 30-45 minutes typically with Q+A at end. If you know of someone that would like to speak please let John know.

Finally, our meetings are open to anyone in our parish and also feel free to bring a friend along. And of course women are always welcome.

Come and enjoy a meal and fellowship on the 2nd Monday night of every month starting at 6:30pm.



Armenian Christmas Eve Dinner

*Holy Trinity Armenian Church
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 or call 617-354-0632**

Mail payments to:

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

SPEAKER SERIES



Trinity Talks

JOIN US FOR MONTHLY
PRESENTATIONS LED BY OUR
PARISHIONERS AS THEY SHARE UNIQUE
EXPERIENCES AND PERSPECTIVES

January 8, 2023 12-12:30pm

Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall



THIS MONTH'S TOPIC

**CITY OF SMILE:
SUPPORTING
CHILDREN WITH
CANCER IN ARMENIA**

SPEAKER:

**Cynthia Kazanjian &
Yelena Bisharyan**

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**Cheese & Cheese and Spinach
Spiral Boreg with salad**

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Are **you** interested in leading a talk to fellow parishioners?
Contact the church office at **office@htaac.org**



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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 | (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 5, 2022

What Kinds of Seeds Do
We Sow In Life?

February 1, 2023

Why Are Some Accepted &
Others Rejected?

November 2, 2022

Why Neighbors Matter . . .

March 1, 2023

Vanity vs. Humility

December 7, 2022

We Seek Forgiveness, But
Do We Offer It To Others?

April 12, 2023*

Will There Be Mustard
In Heaven?

*Second Wednesday

January 4, 2023

Is Your Home Built On
Sand Or Rock?

May 10, 2023*

Crumbs That Fall
From The Table . . .

*Second Wednesday

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

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

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

Trinity Talks, City of Smile; Charles & Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 12:00pm

Armenian School Hantes; Charles & Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 12:30pm

Mon, Jan 9

TMU Dinner Meeting; Johnson Hall, 6:30pm