

Sunday, January 8, 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**



*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:

Ti. 2:11-15. Mt. 1:18-25

## From Today's Bible Reading

**Matthew 1:18-25** As Joseph contemplates quietly divorcing the now pregnant Mary, an angel appears to him in a dream, revealing God's plan of salvation, a fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies. He does as the angel commanded, marrying Mary and naming their son Jesus. *Reflection: Matthew alludes to Isaiah's prophecy that the Savior would be known as Immanuel, meaning "God with us" (v. 23). How have you experienced Jesus as "Immanuel"?*

**Titus 2: 11-15** The writer reminds us that God's grace brought salvation to all people through Jesus Christ; therefore all should live godly lives in hopeful expectation of His return. *Reflection: Think of specific ways in your life that you can say "no! to ungodliness and worldly passions" (v.11).*

## **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. Good News to you and us...

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

## **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, 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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## **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.

## **SECOND PLATE COLLECTION**

We wish to inform our faithful that two plates will be circulated in our Church today. The first one is the regular Church offering, and the second plate is for your special offering (Youghakin). In the Armenian Church, we have the beautiful custom of “Youghakin,” “Gift Oil for the Lamp” offering to your Church. Help our church lamps burn and never go out by making your gift.

## **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.**

# **Armenian Christmas Altar Flowers and Candles**

The Altar flowers and candles for Armenian Christmas are donated for the glory of God and the edification of our Altar by:

## **Altar Flowers and Candles**

- Joan E. Kolligian in memory of grandparents, Elmas & Bagdasar Garabedian
- Nancy R. Kolligian in memory of grandparents, Mary & John D. Avedisian and Araxie & Mgrdich Kolligian
- Sylvia L. Carter in memory of parents, Loris & Marguerite Serabian
- George W. Haroutunian in memory of K. Shirley Spencer
- Michael & Elaine Markarian in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Haig Takvorian, Mr. & Mrs. Markar Markarian, Gregory Takvorian
- From the Trust Fund established by Sooren & Mary Daniels in memory of George, Takoohi, Vahan, Sooren & Mary Daniels
- From the Trust Fund established by Charles G. Sahagian in memory of Sarkis & Araxie Sahagian, Virginia Sahagian, Sukeaus & John Sahagian, and Charles G. Sahagian
- From the Trust Fund established by Elizabeth and Isabel Toomajian in memory of John, Aghavni, Elizabeth, Henry & Isabel Toomajian

## **Altar Flowers**

- John and Garineh Goshdigian in memory of Violet Goshdigian
- Walter G. Vartanian in memory of Anne R. Vartanian, Regina A. Najarian
- Lucie & Antranik Aghdamlian
- From the Major Robert Zaven Zartarian and Rose M. Chacran Zartarian Trust Fund in memory of Major Robert Zaven Zartarian and Levon, Louise Aznev & Virginia Louise Zartarian

## **Altar Candles**

- A. Bruce and Kate Janarian in memory of Aram & Esther Jaranian
- Judy Shagoury in memory of Charles A. Shagoury, Albert & Marion Talanian, Janice Talanian



### *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.



## **BLESSING OF WATER - “CHURORHNEK”**



The Feast of Theophany in the Armenian Church is a celebration not only of Christ's birth, but also of His baptism. The Blessing of Water (Churorhnek), which always follows the Divine Liturgy on this feast day, is a commemoration of that baptism. In ancient times, this ceremony was celebrated at the riverside or seashore, but for various reasons, it was later confined to the interior of the churches. During the ceremony, a cross is dipped in water, recalling Christ's immersion in the Jordan River. Blessed oil or holy chrism (muron) is poured into the water from a dove-shaped vessel, symbolizing the appearance of the Holy Spirit at the baptism in the form of a dove and the voice of the Father proclaiming to all that Jesus is His Son. The holy chrism is prepared in Holy Etchmiadzin and is consecrated by the Catholicos. At the end of the service, members of the congregation are given the blessed water to drink, thereby sharing in the life-giving baptismal act of Christ. As water is essential to the life of the body, drinking the blessed water is a reminder that participation in the acts of Christ's life is essential for eternal life.

### **GODFATHER OF THE HOLY CROSS**

Van Teager, son of Daniel and Maria Mahdasian Teager and grandson of Sossy Mahdasian and Shushan Teager, will have the honor to serve as Godfather of the Holy Cross during the Blessing of the Water Service in remembrance of the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

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](http://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

**The Gregory Hintlian Memorial Golf Tournament  
Committee is already at work on the 2023 event!  
Please make note the date change this year. The  
tournament will be held on *Monday, July 10, 2023*  
at Marlborough Country Club.  
**SAVE THE DATE!!****

Save the Date  
**THE 2023  
GREGORY HINTLIAN  
MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

*Sponsored by Holy Trinity Armenian Church*

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**MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023**

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**MARLBOROUGH COUNTRY CLUB**



## 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**

**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

**Sun, Feb 12**

**Annual Parish Assembly;**

Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 12:15 pm

*(Sun, March 5 - snow date)*

**Mon, Feb 13**

**TMU Dinner Meeting, *featuring members of the Cambridge Police***

***Department to speak and answer questions about current scams and personal safety (PLEASE RSVP- ALL WELCOME, \$20 for the last losh***

***kebab and kheyima meal before Lent begins;*** Johnson Hall, 6:30pm

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