

Sunday, December 17, 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



Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

The liturgical color for this fourth Sunday of Advent is white, representing peace.

Divine Liturgy Book

**Let us recite together the Nicene Creed, The Profession of our Faith,
on page 18 and 19 of the maroon book.**

Kiss of Peace

The person giving the greeting says:

Krisdos ee mech mer haydnetzav

(Christ is revealed among us)

The person receiving the greeting says:

Orhnyal eh haidnootyunn Krisdosee

(Blessed is the revelation of Christ)

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?*

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.

DIVINE LITURGY

Deacons: Gregory Krikorian, Armen Skenderian, George Stepaniants

Sub-Deacons: Oscar Derderian III, Gregory Dorian, Stephen Hollisian,
Edward Khachatryan, Kevork Atinizian, Mark Torosian

Altar Server: Arek Gulbankian

Organist: Nune Hakobyan

Choir Members and Soloists: Victoria Avetisyan, Sdn. Robert Dulgarian, Arpie Kouzouian,
Yeghishe Manucharyan, Ani Ross Grubb

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

Doris Najarian DiCiero, Armen Demirjian, Stella Baldwin

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.

Mini Bazaar After Church Services Today!

Come to the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall

and get a few last minute items before Christmas!

Nuts and goodies from the Country Store

Pastry Booth

Take & Bake *1/4 trays of cream and nut kadayif including a container of syrup for each- \$25 each; *1 tray of paklava; *6 pack of Bourma- \$6 each

Please contact Marilyn Takvorian at Mtak717@outlook.com or 978-818-9098 for pastry

December 17, 2023 Hokehankisd

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

Margaret Danielson, 9th Anniversary: Requested by Ed & Ann Danielson, 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



Fellowship Hour

You are all welcome to join us in Johnson Hall following Church Services for Fellowship Hour hosted by Holy Trinity's Parish Council and Diocesan Delegates.



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 you

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

*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service*

Sunday, December 24, 2023

*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 www.htaac.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.

First Wednesday of every month in
Johnson Hall or virtual on Zoom

6:45pm - 7:45pm

February 7, 2024

How We Worship

November 1, 2023

Why Does God Allow
Suffering?

March 6, 2024

Who Can You Trust?

December 6, 2023

Why Do People Feel
Lonely at Christmas?

April 3, 2024

Prayer: A Part of Life

January 3, 2024

Fear Does Not Stop Death,
It Stops Life

May 8, 2024*

The Kiss of Peace –
What's It All About?

*Second Wednesday

TLC



Trinity Ladies Circle Presents

LEARN TO MAKE MEZZE NIGHT!

Save The Date!

Thursday, January 25th - 7pm in Johnson Hall

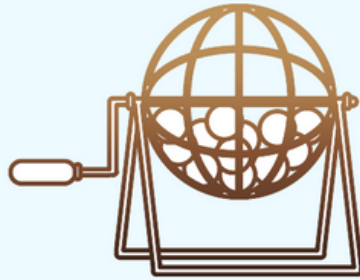
Join us for an evening of learning and fun!

We will make 2 delicious Armenian mezze dishes and get instruction on how to assemble a Mediterranean style charcuterie board

More details to follow!

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Holy Trinity Church's 1000 Club



The 1000 Club is a monthly cash raffle with proceeds supporting Holy Trinity Armenian Church.



A one year membership costs just \$60.00! As a 1000 Club member, you choose one available number from 000 to 999. Each month 12 numbers are drawn to award prizes from \$50 to \$1,000 with a total of \$2,000 awarded in cash prizes to the 12 winners.

You can also give a 1000 Club Membership as a gift for graduations, birthdays, and much more!

Interested in learning more
about the 1000 Club?
Contact the church office at
617.354.0632 for information!



If you would like to join us as a dues-paying member for 2023, you can join by calling the Church office or going to www.htaac.org/donations/membership/.

Your support, in this our 100th Anniversary year, makes a difference!

**Adult membership is \$200/person for the year
and a young adult membership (ages 18-24) is just \$25/person.**

The Holy Trinity Membership/Stewardship program provides necessary funding for our ministries.

**By becoming a member, you make a difference through your commitment to our shared faith,
values, beliefs, and community.**

**If you have questions about your membership status,
please contact the Church office at 617.354.0632.**



Holy Trinity Armenian Church

Grow Our Community, Become a Member!

Visit www.htaac.org or call the office at 617-354-0632

*"But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the Word
and understands it, who indeed bears fruit..." Matthew 13:23*

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Morning Service - 9 a.m.

Divine Liturgy - 10 a.m.

Services conclude - 12 p.m.

We urge our faithful to attend Church Services on time.

HOLY TRINITY CALENDAR

Sat, Dec 16

11th Annual ACYOA Juniors Christmas Ball;
Charles & Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 8pm- 10-30pm

TODAY

Christmas Pageant Presentation; Holy Trinity Armenian Church
Christmas Tree Lighting; Hollisian Plaza, after Church Services
Mini Bazaar; Charles & Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall,
following Church Services

Sun, Dec 24

Christmas Eve Service in English;
Musical prelude begins at 4:30pm, Service begins at 5:00pm,

Mon, Jan 1

Happy New Year!
Church Office is closed

Wed, Jan 3

First Wednesdays,
“Fear Does Not Stop at Death, It Stops at Life.”;
Johnson Hall or virtual on Zoom, 6:45pm- 7:45pm

Fri, Jan 5

Jrakalouyts - Armenian Christmas Eve!
Evening Service, 4:30pm
Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy, 5pm
Followed by Wine & Cheese Fellowship, Johnson Hall

Sat, Jan 6

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

Sun, Jan 7

Morning Service, 9am
Divine Liturgy, 10am
Blessing of the Water Service, 11:30am