

Sunday, December 24, 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 Fifth Sunday of Advent.

The liturgical color for this fifth Sunday of Advent is purple, representing forgiveness

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. 41:4-14. Heb. 7:11-25. Lk. 19:12-28.

Today's Bible reading is from the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to St. Luke, chapter 2, vs. 8-14 and will be read by Susan Derderian.

From Today's Bible Reading

Luke 22:24-30 At the Last Supper, 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 Jesus Himself -- who will be exalted. *Reflection: How does Christian leadership differ from the world's version of leadership? What would it mean to apply Jesus' view of "greatness" to your life?*

Hebrews 13:18-25 In the prayerful closing verses of this epistle, the writer asks God to "equip us with everything good for doing His will and work in us what is pleasing to Him" (v. 21). What a beautiful and timeless prayer! *Reflection: In what ways does God need to equip you 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 remember God's saving acts in the past and even now. *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?*

Monday, January 1, is New Years' Day

People have always celebrated the end of a year with festivities that exuberantly bid the past year farewell and welcome in the new. While the West inherited January 1 from the Romans (the Armenians adopted this in the 18th century), the Armenian "gaghant" was actually the first day of the old Armenian month of Navasart, which was in August at harvest time. New Year's Eve and Day were a time of gifts and good wishes as well in the traditional Armenian family, marked by visits, tables of fresh and dried fruits, nuts, seasonal breads (dareen for example, which means year in Armenian), gifts – often apples with coins, signifying hidden new life – and new clothes for a new year. In some parts of the Armenian world, elders would go door to door dispensing gifts to the needy on New Year's Eve.

On this first day of a new year, honor the Lord. For at the end of time, He will declare from His victorious throne "Behold, I am making everything new! (Rev 21:5) and even now yearns to "renew you in His image, to bring you to a full knowledge of Himself" (Colossians 3:10). End this day and all those that follow by writing words of gratitude and prayer in a journal.

DIVINE LITURGY

Deacons: Gregory Krikorian, Armen Skenderian, George Stepaniants

Sub-Deacons: Oscar Derderian III, Gregory Dorian, Stephen Hollisian,
Edward Khachatrian, 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.



December 24, 2023 Hokehankisd

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

His Eminence, Archbishop Ghevont Tourian: Requested by the Diocese

Queenie Antonucci, 40th Day: Requested by Joseph Antonucci, Bob & Ellen and Bobby Antonucci, Laura & David Feng, Matt Feng and Bella Feng for wife, mother, mother-law and grandmother

Elise Harrison, 40th Day: Requested by Christa & Ed Poznysz, Renee Foley, Allison & Aidan Foley, Paul and Fred Harrison

Sasnayk Musluyan, 50th Anniversary; the Musluyan and Sarafian Families: Requested by Fr. Vasken, Yn. Arpi and Alina Kouzouian for brother and uncle

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

ALTAR CANDLES

Today's Altar candles are donated for the glory of God and the edification of our Altar in honor of Lucia Zevart Hollisian's baptism yesterday by her grandmother, June Hollisian.

Congratulations

*Congratulations to Lucia Zevart Hollisian, the daughter of Christopher & Sixx Hollisian, who was baptized yesterday in our Church.

We welcome Lucia into our Christian family of the Holy Trinity Church and pray that Almighty God may keep her under His loving care.*

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

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!



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

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.**



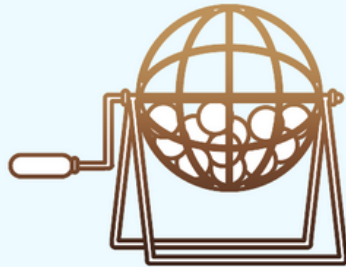
Holy Trinity Armenian Church

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*

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!

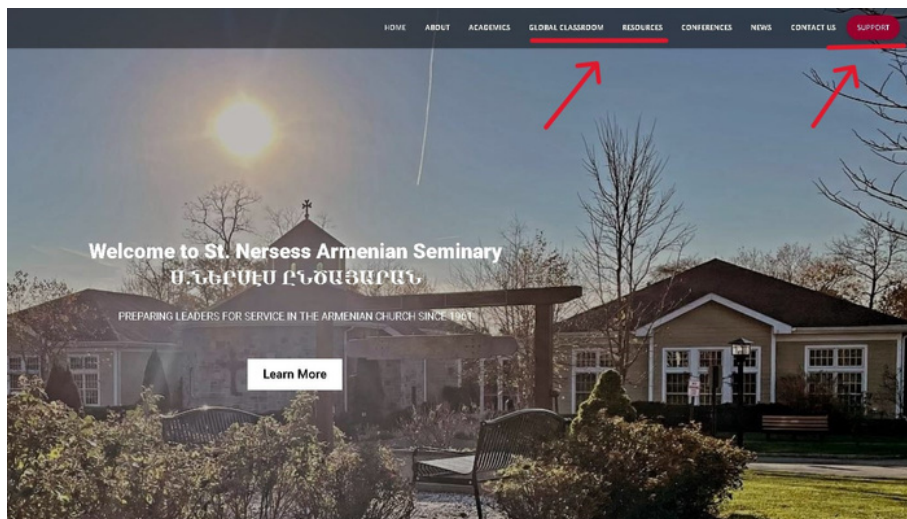


St. Nersess Armenian Seminary

St. Nersess Seminary provides free resources to anyone with access to a computer or smartphone!

A few simple clicks through the seminary website will reveal educational recorded lectures and other resources of interest. Stay up-to-date with the latest seminary announcements by adding your name to receive newsletters by email.

Donations to their Christmas Appeal will also be appreciated.



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

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

Sun, Dec 24

Christmas Eve Service in English;

Church Sanctuary,

Musical prelude begins at 4:30pm, Service begins at 5:00pm

Mon, Dec 25

Merry Christmas!!!!

Church office is closed

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

Thurs, Jan 25

Learn To Make Mezze Night!

Presented by the Trinity’s Ladies Circle; Johnson Hall, 7pm