

Sunday, January 7, 2024  
**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!**

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

**Today's Bible reading is from the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to  
St. Matthew, chapter 18, vs. 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).*

### **Armenian Christmas and The Feast of Theophany: Was on Saturday, 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...

*Department of Christian Education, Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern)*

# **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

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## **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.\**

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## **Fellowship Hour**

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

# Blessing of the 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 Cross - Arek Gulbankian**

## **A prayer from the Morning Service of the Armenian Church:**

“Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ, only-begotten Son of God, our Peace & Our Life, Who was sent from the Father -- Give me your Peace, which You granted to Your holy Apostles by breathing into them Your life-giving & all-powerful Holy Spirit. So that having calmed down from all worldly anxiety, like the Apostles, I also may become a temple & a Home for Your Divine Grace. And giving thanks, I will glorify You, together with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, O Christ our God, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.”

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## **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**

**Karen Anderson in memory of Irene Kolligian**

### **Altar Candles**

**In memory of Hovsep Vartanesian & Oskian Kouzouian, by Oscar Derderian, III  
& Alina O. Kouzouian, for Great-Grandfathers**

**Michael & Elaine Markarian in memory of the Takvorian & Markarian Families**

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## **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.**

# Thankyou

*as of 1/5/24*

**To all who made a Youghakin donation**

Vahan Mahdasian

Michelle Kolligian

Arlene & Carmelo Terrasi

*In memory of Araxie Harry - Grandmother of Arlene Terrasi and David Der Vattanian Families*

James Kalustian

*In memory of Martin & Mimi Kalustian*

Cynthia Kazanjian

Ann & Edmond Danielson

Robert Nahigian

Walter Vartanian

*In memory of Anne R. Vartanian & Regina A. Najarian*

Zella Maroogian & Ara Berj Marootian

*In memory of Kevork, Nevart, Edward K Marootian*

Merritt Agabian

Diane & Gerrard Coste

Sylvia Carter

John & Karen Aharonian

Nancy Moscofian

Gayle Yapchaian

Michael Yapchaian



# Holy Trinity Armenian Church CLOTHING DRIVE



3,481 Pounds of Humanitarian Aid Traveled to



Holy Trinity Armenian Church  
Cambridge MA

JFK  
New York

Iceland

Belgium

Armenia

Men's Coats 116

206 Women's Coats

Children's Coats 125



425+ Volunteer hours



Different Volunteers 75

(helped sort, inventory, and package clothing)

Hats, scarves, gloves & mittens



477

600 Pairs of socks



Sweaters

200+

\$32,700

Raised to help fund the shipment of items and the purchase of additional items in Armenia for the displaced families

2500+ Pieces of Additional Clothings

(tops, bottoms, PJs, sweatshirts, sweatpants)

Men's Footwear 30



51 Women's Footwear

Children's Footwear 64



**TMU**  
*Trinity Men's Union*

All Welcome!

**January 8, 2024**

Mezze: 6:30pm  
Dinner: 7:00pm

***Strategies For College Services***

- ✓ Standardized Test Preparation:  
semi-private with 3 students or less
- ✓ Summer College Essay Writing  
Workshop
- ✓ Preparing For Life After College:  
Professional Job Search Program
- ✓ Resume building, social media,  
interview prep, job search, etc.

**Losh Kebab or Kheyma meal  
\$20 & Cash Bar**

*Cash or check only. Sorry we do not have the availability to  
accept credit cards at our meetings.*

**Please RSVP by calling the office  
at 617.354.0632  
or email [tmu@htaac.org](mailto:tmu@htaac.org)**

**Strategies**  
For  
**College**

**Guest Speaker**  
**Todd Weaver**

*President of Strategies For College, Inc.*

He will be speaking about how his company helps college bound students navigate the maze of readying and applying to colleges.

Todd Weaver is an Independent Educational Counselor who specializes in integrating the college selection process within cost management parameters for the families he works with. Todd received his B.A. in Political Science from Vanderbilt University in 1990 and his M.B.A. from Northeastern University in 1997, where he worked in the Financial Aid department.



*Holy Trinity Armenian Church 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 ~ [www.htaac.org](http://www.htaac.org)*



TLC



*Trinity Ladies Circle Presents*

# LEARN TO MAKE MEZZE NIGHT!

***Save The Date!***

Thursday, January 25th - 7pm in Johnson Hall

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**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!**



# HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN CHURCH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Sunday  
March 3, 2024

The Pastor and Parish Council cordially invite all dues-paying members of the Holy Trinity Church to its Annual Parish Assembly. The Assembly will take place in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall immediately following church services. A light lunch will be available.

*(Invitations and Sample Ballots will be mailed. Annual Reports will be made available a week prior to the assembly. Please ask a Parish Council member.)*

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



## **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.

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## **HOLY TRINITY CALENDAR**

**TODAY**

**Morning Service, 9am**

**Divine Liturgy, 10am**

**Blessing of the Water Service, 11:30am**

**Mon, Jan 8**

**TMU Dinner Meeting - Guest Speaker: Todd Weaver**

Johnson Hall, Mezze at 6:30pm Dinner at 7pm

**Thurs, Jan 25**

**Learn To Make Mezze Night!**

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

**Wed, Feb 7**

**First Wednesdays, "How We Worship";**

Johnson Hall or virtual on Zoom, 6:45pm- 7:45pm

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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