

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston

Father Vasken A. Kouzouian, Pastor

145 Brattle Street Cambridge, MA 02138 617.354.0632

SUNDAY BULLETIN

Celebrant: His Grace, Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan, Primate

We also, warmly welcome

His Eminence, Abp. Vicken Aykazian, Diocesan Legate and Ecumenical Officer



Merry Christmas!

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)

DIVINE LITURGY

Deacons: Gregory Krikorian, Armen Skenderian, Oscar Derderian III, Gregory Dorian, Robert Dulgarian, Stephen Hollisian, Harry Lang, Mark Torosian

Sub-Deacons: Kevork Atinizian, Edward Khachatrian

Altar Server: Arek Gulbankian

Organist: Nune Hakobyan

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

Church Greeters: Alina Kouzouian and Suzanne Ekchian

Prayer Requests

Your prayers are requested for the protection and prosperity of our homeland the Republic of Armenia and its people, as well as our home of the United States of America.

Your prayers are also requested for

Zaven Ovian, Zarouhi Sarkisian, Joyce & John Davagian

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 invited to join us in Johnson Hall following Church Services for Fellowship Hour hosted by the family of Gouregn Manoukian.

Mini Bazaar After Church Services

Come to Johnson Hall and get a few last minute items before Christmas!

Readings of the Day: Is. 40:18-31. Heb. 4:16-5:10. Lk. 18:9-14.

Today's Bible reading is from the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to St. Luke, chapter 18, vs. 9-14 and will be read by Robert Dulgarian.

From Today's Bible Reading

Luke 18:9-14 Jesus preached tirelessly against self-righteousness, the enemy of spiritual progress. In this famous parable, the Pharisee looks upon himself as deserving of God's favor since he does all the "right things." Prideful, he has only contempt for the tax collector, who prays in humility, openly dependent on God's grace. Reversing people's expectations, it is the unpopular tax collector whose prayer is heard and whose faith is honored by God. *Reflection: In what ways might you be replacing a true relationship with God with religious "habits."*

Hebrews 4:16-5:10 As the ultimate High Priest, Jesus is the source of salvation to those who come to God through Him. *Reflection: The writer refers to Jesus' "reverent submission" (NIV) to the Father in v. 7. In today's world where being in charge of your life and "taking control" are so touted, what does the term "reverent submission" mean to you?*

Isaiah 40:18-31 In a series of rhetorical questions reminiscent of God speaking to Job from the whirlwind (Job 38-41), we are reminded of the greatness of the eternal God, the Creator of all. *Reflection: What "idols" (v. 19) in today's world seem powerful to you? How much do you depend on them?*

Thursday, December 25 is Christmas Day and the Feast of St. Stephen

Stephen was a devout believer who, along with six others, was ordained to serve the poor at the common table. Acts 6-8:2 relates his story, culminating in his death by stoning and his burial. He is acknowledged by the Church as the first to die for his faith (protomartyr). The intensity and sincerity of St. Stephen's faith deeply impressed Saul, the infamous persecutor of Christians. Upon his own conversion, he became Paul, zealous apostle to the Gentiles and one of the greatest missionaries of the Church. St. Stephen is the role model for altar servers, particularly deacons. During Badarak on this feast day, it is traditional in some places for all deacons serving at the altar to wear a liturgical crown, which is worn only by priests on all other days



December 21, 2025 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

Robert Papian, 2nd Anniversary: Requested by Nana Papyan, Irina Surbnshanyan, Sergey Babayan for father and brother-in-law

Narine Surbnshanyan: Requested by Nana Papyan, Irina Surbnshanyan, Sergey Babayan for mother, sister and sister-in-law

Avet Surbnshanyan: Requested by Nana Papyan, Irina Surbnshanyan, Sergey Babayan for grandfather, father and father-in-law

Karine Manukyan: Requested by Nana Papyan, Irina Surbnshanyan, Sergey Babayan for aunt, sister and sister-in-law

Sally Zartar Avakian, 9th Anniversary; Robert Avakian, 13th Anniversary:
Requested by Bob, Carine and Marian for parents

Eva Nishanian & Philip Giarraputo: Requested by Martha Anderson for parents

Boghos & Arpeny Jamgotchian: Requested by Jane Jamgotchian, Paul & Deborah Jamgotchian for parents

Gouregn Manoukian: Requested by Shoushanik Manoukian, Arman Manoukian and Family, Armine, Michael and David, and Sona Manoukian and Family, Anna, Diana and Ellen for husband, father and grandfather

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

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and best wishes to Ani Atinizian & Anita Tomasian who received the sacrament of matrimony yesterday, December 20.

We pray that Almighty God may bless and keep them under the protection of the Holy Cross.



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 will help with the needs of the Holy Trinity Church Choir.



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.

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.

Today!

*Joy
To The World*

Holy Trinity
Armenian Church

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PAGEANT**

Sunday, December 21, 2025 ~ 11:40am

Please join us as our Sunday School presents,
“The Story of Christmas: A Stained-Glass Pilgrimage”

*We invite the whole congregation to please join in the singing of the
Christmas carols during the pageant to support and inspire our students*



We welcome **His Grace
Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan**
as the celebrant for
Badarak on this day

Holy Trinity Armenian Church

*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service*

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

*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*

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TMU DINNER MEETING

January 12, 2026 ~ Johnson Hall



Mezze 5:45pm
Dinner 6:45pm
All Welcome

Losh Kebab or Kheyima Meal
\$25
Cash bar is available

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

◀ **SPEAKER**

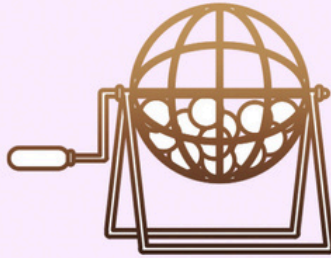
Voted as one of the top 10 WWII history museums in the world by National Geographic, the American Heritage Museum in Hudson, Massachusetts is one of the nation's most extraordinary collections of military vehicles, aircraft, and artifacts chronicling America's military history from the Revolutionary War through today. Hunter Chaney, Director of Marketing, Communications and Education, will tell the colorful story of how the American Heritage Museum was created and the educational programs it currently offers.

RSVP is highly encouraged



email tmu@htaac.org (preferred)
or all the office at 617.354.0632

Holy Trinity Church's 1000 Club



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



1000 Club members 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.

A one year membership costs just \$60.00!

1000 Club Memberships make great gifts for graduations, birthdays, or any occasion!

Interested in learning
more about the
1000 Club?

Contact the church
office at 617.354.0632
for information!





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.

We warmly welcome you to join our ongoing conversation.

Wednesday, October 1, 2025 When Life Gives You Lemons	Sunday, February 8, 2026 Seeking God in Times of Stress & Anxiety
Tuesday, November 11, 2025 The Power of Forgiveness	Sunday, March 8, 2026 The Joy & Impact of Serving Others
NO LIVING THE WORD DISCUSSIONS IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER	Wednesday, April 8, 2026 Jesus Spoke Seven Last Words From the Cross
Sunday, January 11, 2026 Loneliness vs. Being Alone	Wednesday, May 6, 2026 Trusting God in Hard Times

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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
 - Holy Trinity's website, www.htaac.org
- Holy Trinity's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityArmenianChurch



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

Celebrant: His Grace, Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan, Primate

Sunday School Christmas Pageant; Church Sanctuary

Mini Bazaar; Johnson Hall, immediately following Church Services

Wed, Dec 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service;

Holy Trinity Church Sanctuary;

Musical Prelude at 4:30pm, Service at 5pm- 5:45pm

Thurs, Dec 25

Merry Christmas! (*Church Office is closed*)

Thurs, Jan 1

Happy New Year (*Church Office is closed*)

Mon, Jan 5

Armenian Christmas Eve- Jrakalouyts

Holy Trinity Church Sanctuary;

Readings from the Book of Daniel at 4:30pm and Badarak at 5:00pm- 6:30pm,

Johnson Hall, Wine & Cheese Fellowship at 6:30pm- 7pm

Tues, Jan 6

Armenian Christmas- Holy Nativity and Theophany

Holy Trinity Church Sanctuary;

Morning Service at 9am Divine Liturgy at 10am

Sun, Jan 11

Blessing of the Water

Holy Trinity Church Sanctuary;

Morning Service at 9am

Divine Liturgy at 10am

Blessing of the Water Service at 11:30am

Living the World- Monthly Bible discussion

“Loneliness vs. Being Alone”; Johnson Hall, 12:30pm

Sat, Jan 24

“The Taste of Armenian Heritage”