

Sunday, December 28, 2025

Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston

Father Vasken A. Kouzouian, Pastor

145 Brattle Street Cambridge, MA 02138 617.354.0632

SUNDAY BULLETIN



Today is the 6th Sunday of Advent.

The liturgical color for this sixth Sunday of Advent is red, representing Holy Communion.

Shnorhavor Nor Daree yev Soorp Dznoont!

*The Pastor and Parish Council wish you all a Happy
New Year filled with the Grace of God.*

*May the New Year bring Divine Blessings on our
community.*

DIVINE LITURGY

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

Sub-Deacons: Kevork Atinian, 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: Suzanne Ekchian and Caroline 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 Parish Council and Diocesan Delegates.

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.**

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?*

Thursday, 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.

December 28, 2025 Hokehankisd

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

Peter and Isabel Talanian: Requested by Joyce Talanian, Diane and Ron Krueger and Family for Parents, Grandparents and Great-Grandparents

Yeretzgin Nuvart Kouzouian, Oskian & Ovsanna Kouzouian, Teshkho Kouzouian, Sarkis Kouzouian, Areknaz Parikian, Asadour, Baritza & Shake Parikian, Azniv & Khajag

Baladouni, and Hovsep & Hripsime Vartanesian: From the Trust Fund established by Fr. Mampre & Yn. Nuvart Kouzouian

Samuel O. & Elsie V. Minassian: From the Samuel O. & Elsie V. Minassian Family Trust Fund

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are donated for the glory of God and the edification of our Altar by:
Albert Zouranjian

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and best wishes to Ari Atinizian & Anita Tomasian
who received the sacrament of matrimony on December 20.

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

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 (WCWB) 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

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.

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.



TMU DINNER MEETING

January 12, 2026 ~ Johnson Hall



**Mezze 5:45pm
Dinner 6:45pm**

All Welcome

**Losh Kebab or Kheyma 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**

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

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

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

Jan 12

TMU Dinner Meeting;

Johnson Hall, Mezze 5:45pm Dinner 6:45pm

Sat, Jan 24

“The Taste of Armenian Heritage”; 6pm-9pm