

Sunday, January 4, 2026

Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston

Father Vasken A. Kouzouian, Pastor

145 Brattle Street Cambridge, MA 02138 617.354.0632

SUNDAY BULLETIN



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 Greeter: 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 Sunday School.

Readings of the Day: Isaiah 51:15-52:3. Heb. 13:18-25. Lk. 22:24-30.

**Today's Bible reading is from the Gospel of Jesus Christ
according to St. Luke, chapter 22, vs. 24-30.**

From Today's Bible Reading

Luke 22:24-30 At the Last Supper - the eve of Jesus' death (!) - 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 Him -- who will be exalted. *Reflection: Is being a servant of Christ just signing up for a job at church or is it a mindset, where each day you make yourself available to Christ and ask Him to use you in His service in whatever way He chooses? Prayerfully imagine how this might play out in your life.*

Hebrews 13:18-25 The writer ends his epistle with a benediction, praying that God "equip them with everything good for doing His will, and work in them what is pleasing to Him." (v.21) *Reflection: What a beautiful and timeless prayer! In what areas of your life do you need special help from God 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 rouse herself from hopelessness and defeat. *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 (think of each command as it applies to your life)?*

The Feast of Theophany: Tuesday, 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. *Reflection: Think back on Advent and your Christmas preparations. Were you once again caught up in the extraneous secular hubbub? Make concrete plans to do things differently next year, focusing more on prayer, service, Scripture reading, and simpler living (less spending and more charity).*

January 4, 2026 Hokehankisd

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

William Bacon: Requested by Janice Bacon-Zega, William, Danielle, Karina & William Bacon, Alexander, Katerina, Benjamin & Emilia Bacon, Sonia Zorian, Linda Bacon, Richard & Sarah Cormier for Husband, Father, Grandfather, Son in-law, Brother, Uncle



Hokehankisd Requests can now be made online!

*Go to the Online Donations page at www.htaac.org
to make your requests and donate digitally.*

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



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 - Youghakin

A second collection will be held on Sunday, Jan 11th for Youghakin.

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.

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

"A TASTE OF ARMENIAN HERITAGE"

Holy Trinity Armenian Church

Saturday, January 24, 2026 • 6 PM - 9 PM



Armenian regions share stories and food: Marash, Yerevan, Artsakh, Van, Kharpert, Sepastia, Bolis, Dickrangert, Ainteb, Berejig, Ourfa, Jerusalem, Gyumri

AN ELEGANT CULTURAL GATHERING



Slide
Presentation
& Loop on
Big Screen



Dance
Presentation
in Taraz with
"Shourch Bar"



Art Exhibit
of Taraz
Paintings



Interactive
Map — Pin
Your Heritage



Regional
Trivia &
Factoids

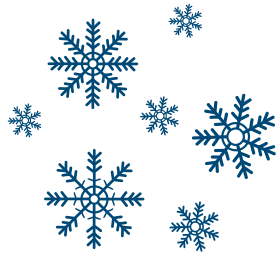
TICKET INFORMATION

PRICE: \$50 per ticket

PAID IN ADVANCE ONLY (No tickets sold at door)

ADDRESS: 145 Brattle St, Cambridge, MA

This event is a fundraiser for the Church



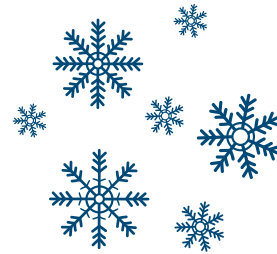
WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

TOMORROW

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”

Talanian Hall, 6pm- 9pm