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WELCOME TO
**ST. GREGORY
THE ENLIGHTENER**
ARMENIAN CHURCH

FR. MESROB HOVSEPYAN, PASTOR

MORNING SERVICE: 9:45 A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY: 10:15 A.M.

**FEBRUARY 19, 2023
GREAT BAREKENDAN**

Փետրուար 19, Բոլն Բարեկենդան

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Matthew 6:1-21

Romans 13:11-14:25

PC MEMBERS ON DUTY:

Sylvia Kruizenga

Nectar Munro

Elizabeth Shaghalian Vranka



REQUIEM SERVICE REQUESTED FOR:

Puzant (Buzz) Sirabian (15 yrs.)

Requested by: The Sirabian and Mardikian Families

Soorik DerAvakian (5 yrs.)

By: Hoosik DerAvakian and Rebecca Kooshakjian

**May God rest their souls in His eternal peace and presence and grant
their loved ones the comfort of the Holy Spirit.**

Our address: 1131 North Street, White Plains, NY 10605, www.stgregorywp.com

Office hours: Tuesday-Friday 10a.m.-3p.m., Mondays closed.

EVE OF GREAT LENT OR GREAT BAREKENDAN

The Armenian Church has defined the period of Great Lent as a time of abstinence and repentance for the faithful. Each Sunday during this period is named after an event in the Holy Bible that contains the message of the day. According to the calendar, the days prior to weekly fasts, as well as Great Lent, are called Barekendan. The word Barekendan means “good living” or “good life”, as we are called to live cheerfully, joyfully, and to be happy on these days preceding fasting periods.

On these days of Barekendan, the angel’s words addressed to the prophet Elijah are fulfilled: “Arise and eat, otherwise the journey will be too great for you” (1 Kings 19:7). The Armenian Church thus allows her faithful to organize games, festivals, carnivals and large, plentiful meals to observe the feast, as it is followed by a period of fasting and abstinence.

The Eve of Great Lent, as Great Barekendan is also called, commemorates the human bliss, which Adam and Eve enjoyed in the Garden of Eden. It also symbolizes the heavenly right, according to which, mankind could eat all types of fruit, except the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Barekendan is the manifestation of the virtues of the soul, through which people can transform mourning to joy, and torment to peace. It is with this comprehension, with bowing of our souls, penitence, fasting and hope for mercy, that each Christian individual should take his first step on the long, 40 day journey of Great Lent, culminating with the Glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The period starting from the day following the Great Barekendan and lasting till the Feast of the Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ, is called Great Lent. In the period of the Great Lent, people, refraining from bodily pleasures and sins, get prepared for the Feast of the Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ by means of abstinence and repentance. Both spiritual and moral and bodily abstinence are considered to be important. Our church fathers have called the period of the Great Lent as “Karasnordats”, as the period of fasting lasts 40 days. This period of the Great Lent is also called “Salt and bread”, as in the past during the period of the Great Lent people have eaten only salt and bread.

ԲՈՒՆ ԲԱՐԵԿԵՆԴԱՆ

Մեծ պահքի բարեկենդանը կոչվում է Բուն Բարեկենդան, քանի որ նախորդում է ամենաերկար պահքին: Այն տևում է 48 օր՝ Բուն Բարեկենդանից մինչև Ս. Հարության Զատիկի տոնը: Պահքի շրջանում օգտագործում են բացառապես բուսական ծագում ունեցող սննդամթերք:

Պահքի ընթացքում հրաժարվում են ոչ միայն որոշակի կերակուրներից, այլև մոլի սովորություններից, շատախոսությունից, ստախոսությունից, հայիդյանքից և այլ մեղքերից: Կերակրից հրաժարվելն առանց մեղքից հետ կանգնելու անօգուտ է: «Լեռան քարոզում» Քրիստոս պահքի մասին ասում է. «Երբ ծոմ պահեք, տրտմերես մի լինեք կեղծավորների նման, որոնք իրենց երեսներն այլանդակում են, որպեսզի մարդկանց այնպես երևան, թե ծոմ են պահում, ճշմարիտ են ասում ձեզ, այդ իսկ է նրանց վարձը, այսինքն՝ մարդկանց երևալը և նրանցից գովվելը: Այլ երբ դու ծոմ պահես, օծի քո գլուխը և լվա քո երեսը, որպեսզի չերևաս մարդկանց ծոմ պահող, այլ քո Հորը՝ գաղտնաբար, և քո հայրը, որ տեսնում է, ինչ որ ծածուկ է, կհատուցի քեզ»:

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

The reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans (13:11-14:25)

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand. One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God." So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean. If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died. Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval. Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall. So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

The second reading is from the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Matthew (6:1-21)

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who

sees in secret will reward you. “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. “Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. “And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



Fellowship Coffee Hour

We appreciate the generosity of the Sirabian and Mardikian families for providing the refreshments for today's fellowship coffee hour.

If you would like to sign-up for a future date to host and sponsor refreshments for the fellowship coffee hour on Sunday, kindly contact coordinator: Adriane Keleshian Bonfiglio (914) 649-1072.

REALM—Church Management Platform

We are upgrading our church record keeping to allow us to engage more directly with our parishioners and to give parishioners access to church resources and allow them to connect to one another more easily. We will be using a cloud based solution called Realm that manages the over 500 names and profiles that are associated with our church. Realm's benefits are:

- ensures the church has your latest contact information - you go online and update your information;
- allows events such as concerts, Women's Guild luncheons, Men's Club dinners and special events like the St. Gregory Award Dinner and the New Year's Eve party to be managed and paid online with a check-in kiosk;
- stores Marriage and Baptism dates and information as a backup record keeping;
- allows you to pay membership dues and to make donations through your computer or mobile device and, if desired, set up payment plans and be assured that it appears in your Giving Statement;
- improves work life for our volunteers with a full church accounting systems and reporting package that is connected to the other modules of information; and
- has a dashboard of key metrics to ensure we have reached out to new guests, donors and those that have stopped coming (to assist where we can)

With Realm, you'll be able to connect with one another, keep your own information up to date, and manage your giving to the church all in one convenient place.

Scan the QR code below to sign up and download the app "REALM CONNECT". Realm is very easy to navigate, and we are excited about its potential benefits for our Church and parishioners.



CLOSING OF ALTAR CURTAIN: The curtain of the Altar will be closed on Saturday, February 18th, on the Eve of Poon Paregentan. It will remain closed throughout the forty days of Great Lent until it is reopened on April 2, on Palm Sunday. The closing of the curtain symbolizes the Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise. The entire church is in repentance during this time.

- During Lent the Divine Liturgy (Badarak) is celebrated with the Main Altar curtain closed.
- The Kiss of Peace is not given.
- Holy Communion is not given. In special circumstances, Holy Communion may be received by making arrangements with Der Hayr after the service.
- The Gospel is not kissed at the end of Divine Liturgy.
- Mas is distributed during Lent.

JOIN US FOR A
st. gregory's church youth
Lenten Retreat
March 18-19

**ENGAGE IN REFLECTION AND CONNECTION,
COLLABORATIVE DISCUSSION AND FELLOWSHIP
CHOREG BAKING LESSONS IN THE CHURCH KITCHEN
DINNER, S'MORES, GAMES, AND LOTS OF FUN!**

**STARTS SATURDAY, MARCH 18 AT 2PM AND ENDS AFTER BADARAK
ON SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023
SLEEPOVER IN THE KELESHIAN HALL**

**PLEASE RSVP TO
ANI COSTA AT ahc05@icloud.com
OR CHRIS PAHIGIAN AT christinepahigian@gmail.com
BY FEBRUARY 26, 2023**

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY	<p>Fr. Mesrob Hovsepyan celebrates the Divine Liturgy this Sunday.</p> <p>Poon Paregentan. The Liturgy will be celebrated with a closed curtain today.</p> <p>The second plate collection will be done following the sermon. All collected funds will be distributed by our Diocese equally to the Armenian Patriarchate under Patriarch Sahak, and the Armenian Diocese of Damascus under Bishop Armash, so they can utilize the aid directly where our people need it.</p> <p>Great Lent begins on Monday, Feb. 20</p> <p>Fellowship hour to follow after the service.</p>
FEBRUARY 26, SUNDAY	<p>ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY</p> <p>following the Badarak.</p>
MARCH 3, FRIDAY	<p>Lenten Friday Evening Programs.</p> <p>6:30pm - Lenten Service, 7:00pm - Lenten Dinner, 7:30pm - Program. Details inside.</p>
MARCH 17, FRIDAY	<p>Lenten Friday Evening Programs.</p> <p>6:30pm - Lenten Service, 7:00pm - Lenten Dinner, 7:30pm - Program. Details inside.</p>
MARCH 18, SATURDAY	<p>Women's Guild: Saintly Women's Day program & lunch. Details to follow.</p>
MARCH 18/19, SAT. & SUN.	<p>ACYOA Junior's Lenten Retreat.</p> <p>Details to follow.</p>
MARCH 31, FRIDAY	<p>Lenten Friday Evening Programs.</p> <p>6:30pm - Lenten Service, 7:00pm - Lenten Dinner, 7:30pm - Program. Details inside.</p>
APRIL 2, SUNDAY	<p>Palm Sunday, ACYOA Day.</p>



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 9,
SUNDAY

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 28,
FRIDAY

Evening Movie and Simple Supper
Sponsored by the St. Gregory Women's Guild
Details to follow.

APRIL 29,
SATURDAY

Book Discussion Group
11 am
Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

JUNE 5,
SUNDAY

SAVE THE DATE (DATE CHANGED): ORDINATION SUNDAY: SUB-DEACONATE & DEACONATE ORDINATION
Details will follow

LENTEN FRIDAY DINNERS AND PRESENTATIONS-2023

Food, Fellowship, and Spiritual Nourishment

Lenten Service - 6:30 pm / Lenten Dinner - 7:00 pm / Program - 7:30 pm

March 3

"Armenia in the Middle Ages" presented by Haig Keshishian

The Lenten Dinner is sponsored by
the Armenian and Sunday Schools



March 17

"Armenian Patriarchate in Constantinople"
presented by Very Rev. Fr. Harutyun Damadian

The Lenten Dinner is sponsored by the Choir and
Cultural Committee

March 31

"Armenians in the Holy Land"
presented by Arpi Nakashian

The dinner is sponsored by the Women's Guild

