



ՍՈՒՐԵ ԳՐԻԳՈՐ ԼՈՒՍԱՎՈՐԻՉ

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

FR. MESROB HOVSEPYAN, PASTOR

MORNING SERVICE: 9:45 A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY: 10:15 A.M.

MARCH 12, 2023
SUNDAY OF THE UNJUST STEWARD
ՄԱՐՏ 12, ՏՆՏԵՍԻ ԿԻՒՐԱԿԻ

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Ephesians 4:17-5:14

Luke-16:1-31

PC MEMBERS ON DUTY:

Nectar Munro

Sylvia Kruizenga

Tom Daw



REQUIEM SERVICE WILL NOT BE OFFERED TODAY

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

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

Contact us: Office: (914) 428-2595, saintgregorychurchwp@gmail.com
Fr. Mesrob: (804) 405-9399, fr.mesrob@yahoo.com

SUNDAY OF THE UNJUST STEWARD

The fourth Sunday of the period of Great Lent is called the Sunday of the Steward, and the message of the day teaches us with the parable of the unjust steward. This parable is mentioned only in the Gospel of St. Luke. In the parable, a wealthy man learns that the steward of his house is squandering his possessions. The rich man calls the steward, asking for an accounting, having decided to release him from employment. The steward, realizing that he may soon be without work, begins to act accordingly so that in the near future, others may accept him into their homes. The steward calls those men who have debts to his employer, and he relieves them of a portion of their debts. Following this act, the wealthy man praises the steward for his contrivance. At first glance, it seems as though there is a great contradiction in this commendation. But the unjust steward grants back to the debtors, only that which he had added to the debt originally for his own gain. Thus, the wealthy man is not injured by the actions of his steward. The master praises the steward for resigning himself from the gains that the steward would have realized in these transactions. Thus, high praise is given to resignation, or abstinence, which is one of the foundations of Great Lent. Lent teaches mankind about the ability we each have to resign ourselves from all forms of temptation, the beginning of which is self-control and self-denial. Christ says, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me". This parable admonishes every one of us that the journey towards salvation must include self-control and resignation. The allegorical meaning of the parable is in the wealthy man symbolizing God, and the unjust steward symbolizing the sinner. For an extended period of time, the sinner carelessly wastes the graces granted by God, until God calls him for an accounting of his life. The unjust steward symbolizes all who, upon regretting their actions, forgive those who have sinned against them, and become seekers of righteousness and the just.

ՏՆՏԵՍԻ ԿԻՐԱԿԻ

Մեծ Պահքի չորրորդ կիրակին կոչվում է Տնտեսի՝ ըստ այդ օրվա խորհուրդը բացատրող անիրավ տնտեսի առակի: Առակի բովանդակությունը հետևյալն է. մի մեծահարուստ իմանում է, որ տնտեսը վատնում է իր ունեցվածքը, կանչում է նրան և հաշիվ պահանջում, որոշում հեռացնել աշխատանքից: Հասկանալով, որ կարող է անգործ մնալ, տնտեսը խորամանկության է դիմում: Նա կանչում է տիրոջ պարտապաններին, նրանց շնորհում իրենց պարտքի մի մասը: Եվ այս ամենից հետո տերը գովում է տնտեսին՝ հնարամտությամբ վարվելու համար: Առաջին հայացքից թվում է, թե հակասություն կա այս գովեստի մեջ:

Բայց անիրավ տնտեսը պարտապաններին շնորհում է այն, ինչն ավելիով գրել էր իր օգտին՝ պարտքի շնորհումով ոչ մի վնաս չպատճառելով իր տիրոջը: Տերը գովում է տնտեսին՝ ասելով թե որքան երանելի կլինենք, եթե նույն ժրաջանությունը, որը դրսևորում ենք մեր նյութական կարիքների բավարարման համար, առավել ցուցաբերենք մեր հոգևոր կարիքների համար:

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

The second reading is from the Ephesians (4:17-5:14)

Now this I affirm and insist on in the Lord: you must no longer live as the Gentiles live, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance and hardness of heart. They have lost all sensitivity and have abandoned themselves to licentiousness, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. That is not the way you learned Christ! For surely you have heard about him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus. You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The reading is from the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Luke 16:1-31

Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’” The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’ “So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ “Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied. “The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’ “Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’ “A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied. “He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

“The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own? “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God’s sight. The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing their way into it. It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the least stroke of a pen to drop out of the Law.

Sunrise Hour - Arevakal

The Sunrise Service is an early morning service that is unique to the Armenian Church during the Lenten season. It seems to have developed around the 7-8th century in the Armenian monasteries. St. Nersess Shnorhali (d. 1173) vastly reformed the service, adding new hymns and prayers, and probably melodies as well. Sunrise Service will be conducted during Lent on Sunday mornings at the end of the Divine Liturgy, before the sermon.

**“Full of Grace”: Honoring the Legacy of St. Nersess Shnorhali
850th anniversary of St. Nersess Shnorhali’s death**

Eight hundred fifty years after his death, his influence is still felt every day in the Armenian Church.

The soaring hymns that praise God, the sensitive prayers that beg His forgiveness, the policies of mercy and outreach that guide the operations of the church—all bear the mark of St. Nersess Shnorhali (1102-1173).

His title *Shnorhali* means “full of grace”—and the divine gifts that flowed from Nersess Pahlavuni left behind a legacy of devotional poetry and music unparalleled in Christian history. In his later years, when he ascended to the throne of Catholicos, Nersess revitalized the church’s charitable ministry, and conceived an ambitious plan to make peace among the fractured centers of Christendom. But these were also years of solitude and struggle, as his hopes for a more unified church were opposed from without and within.

This year marks the 850th anniversary of St. Nersess Shnorhali’s death, and the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin has launched a year-long commemoration of his life and work. In a Pontifical Encyclical issued this week, **His Holiness Karekin II**, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, called on the worldwide Armenian Church to honor the saint’s legacy throughout 2023.

“*Shnorhali*’s entire life was focused on the glorification of God, and the urgent mission of leading the hearts of the people to Him,” the Catholicos wrote. “We invite our entire church to commemorate *Shnorhali*’s eternal memory during this 850th anniversary year. Through conferences, publications, and celebrations, as well as in national and ecumenical circles, let us appreciate anew the eternally relevant message of this great teacher of the Christian faith, and benefactor of our national-religious life.”

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	<i>Fr. Mesrob Hovsepyan celebrates the Divine Liturgy this Sunday. The Liturgy is celebrated with a closed curtain. Sunrise Service will be performed following the sermon.</i>
MARCH 17, FRIDAY	<i>Lenten Friday Evening Programs. 6:30pm - Lenten Service, 7:00pm - Lenten Dinner, 7:30pm - Program. See the flyer in the bulletin.</i>
MARCH 18, SATURDAY	<i>Women's Guild: Sainly Women's Day program & lunch. See the flyer in the bulletin.</i>
MARCH 18/19, SAT. & SUN.	<i>ACYOA Junior's Lenten Retreat-2pm.</i>
MARCH 25 SATURDAY	<i>Camp Nubar Information Presentation for Campers and Parents in Tutak Hall at 10 am</i> <i>St. Gregory Armenian School Open House for Parents and Children currently enrolled or wanting to become enrolled - 11 am</i>
MARCH 31, FRIDAY	<i>Lenten Friday Evening Programs. 6:30pm - Lenten Service, 7:00pm - Lenten Dinner, 7:30pm - Program. See the flyer in the bulletin.</i>
APRIL 2, SUNDAY	<i>Palm Sunday, ACYOA Day Luncheon. Details to follow.</i>
APRIL 9, SUNDAY	<i>EASTER SUNDAY - Feast of the Glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Bake Sale organized by the ACYOA Jr's following the church service.</i>
APRIL 28, FRIDAY	<i>Evening Movie and Simple Supper Sponsored by the St. Gregory Women's Guild Details to follow.</i>



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 29, SATURDAY	Book Discussion Group 11:00 am Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus
MAY 21 SUNDAY	Armenian School Hantes & Graduation 1:00 pm
JUNE 5, SUNDAY	SAVE THE DATE (DATE CHANGED): ORDINATION SUNDAY: SUB-DEACONATE & DEACONATE ORDINATION <i>Details will follow</i>
SEPTEMBER 24, SUNDAY	FAMILY FAIR AND ANNUAL PICNIC
OCTOBER 21, SATURDAY	SAVE THE DATE: 25th Anniversary of St. Gregory & 50th Anniversary of the community–Banquet



Fellowship Coffee Hour

We appreciate the generosity of the Parish Council members on duty 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.

St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian School

Invites you to its

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, March 25, 2023 - 11:00 AM
1131 North Street, White Plains, NY 10605

For parents of existing students
Come and observe classroom and enrichment activities

For parents of prospective students
Bring your school-aged children, ages 3 - 13, to be introduced to classrooms, teachers and classmates