

ՍՈՒՐԵ ԳՐԻԳՈՐ ԼՈՒՍԱՒՈՐԻՉ

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

FR. MESROB HOVSEPYAN, PASTOR

MORNING SERVICE: 9:45 A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY: 10:15 A.M.

OCTOBER 1, 2023
FEAST OF THE HOLY CROSS OF VARAK
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TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Galatians 6:14-18

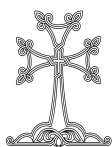
Matthew 24:30-36

PC MEMBERS ON DUTY:

Chris Bonfiglio

Tom Daw

Janet Ozsolak



Requiem Service Requested for:

**Dr. Avedis Hovhanessian and Deramyr Seta Kragian
Hovhanessian**

Requested by: Dr. Simon & Annie Ovanessian, Fr. Vahan Hovhanessian,
Sarah and Mark Howel, Silva Hovhanessian

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 9a.m.-3p.m., Mondays closed.

Contact us: Office: (914) 428-2595, saintgregorychurchwp@gmail.com

Fr. Mesrob: (804) 405-9399, fr.mesrob@yahoo.com

FEAST OF THE HOLY CROSS OF VARAGUE

All Christian Churches each year solemnly celebrate all feasts dedicated to the Holy Cross. The Armenian Apostolic Church, in difference to the other Christian Churches, celebrates another purely national feast dedicated to the Holy Cross, which is famous as the Holy Cross of Varague. The Armenian Church celebrates this feast two weeks after the Feast of Exaltation of the Holy Cross, that is - the Sunday during the period of September 25 - October 1. According to the historian Agathangelos, St. Hripsime and her companions, running away from the Roman Emperor Dioklethianos, who started persecutions against Christians, reach to Armenia and find shelter in Vagaharshapat. However, before reaching Vagharshapat they stop at the Mountain Varague, which is to the south-east from the Lake Van. Taking off from her neck the relic of the Lord's Wooden Cross, St. Hripsime gives it to the praying monks living on the mountain and asks them to preserve it in one of the caves. Thus, the sacred relic remains hidden till the seventh century. In 653 A. D. the monk Todik and his disciple Hovel pray at the Mountain Varague and ask God to show the place of the relic. Suddenly 12 bright columns appear around the mountain and the sign of the Cross is seen among the columns. For 12 days the bright columns remain visible even from distant sites. This joyful news spreads everywhere. Nerses the Creator Catholicos who was the Catholicos of All Armenians of that period, and Captain Vard, son the Knight Theodoros, learning about that miracle, go the Mountain Varague to personally witness it. With the support of the Armenian people the Pontiff builds a magnificent church, which in honor of the miracle is named Holy Cross Church. The Pontiff Nerses also writes the marvelous church hymn "By means of the most powerful sign", which is sung in the churches on the day of the feast. The sacred relic remains at the Mountain Varague till 1021 A. D. Later the Armenian King Senekerim Artsrouni brings the relic to Sebastia. After the latter's death the relic is again transferred to its old place and remains there until 1651 A. D. when the relic is taken to Khoshab. In 1655 A. D. the relic is placed in the Church of Holy Godmother, in Van, which is renamed to Church of Holy Sign. The relic was preserved there till 1915 A. D.

ՎԱՐԱԳԱ ՍՈՒՐԲ ԽԱՉԻ ՏՈՆ

Քրիստոնեական բոլոր եկեղեցիներն ամեն տարի մեծ հանդիսավորությամբ նշում են Խաչին նվիրված տոները: Բայց ի տարբերություն մյուս եկեղեցիների, Հայ Եկեղեցին ունի նաև Խաչին նվիրված զուտ ազգային մի տոն, որը հայտնի է Վարագա Սուրբ Խաչ անունով: Այն միշտ տոնում են Խաչվերացից երկու շաբաթ հետո, այսինքն՝ սեպտեմբերի 25-ից մինչև հոկտեմբերի 1-ը հանդիպող կիրակի օրը: Ազաթանգեղոս պատմիչի վկայության համաձայն՝ Հռիփսիմյանց կույսերը, փախչելով Դիոկլետիոնոս կայսեր հալածանքներից ու հետապնդումներից, գալիս են Հայաստան և ապաստանում Վաղարշապատի հնձաններում: Սակայն մինչև Վաղարշապատ հասնելը,

նրանք բնակություն են հաստատում Վանա լճից հարավ-արևելք ընկած Վարազա լեռան վրա: Մբ. Հռիփսիմեն իր կրծքին կախած Տիրոջ խաչափայտի սրբազան մասունքն ապահովության համար հանձնում է աղոթող ճգնավորներին և խնդրում, որ պահեն այն քարայրներից մեկում: Սուրբ մասունքն այդպես պահված մնում է մինչև 7-րդ դարը: 653 թվականին, երբ Թողիկ ճգնավորն իր Հովել աշակերտի հետ աղոթում էր Վարազա լեռան վրա և խնդրում, որ Աստված ողորմություն անի և ցույց տա Մբ. Խաչի տեղը, հանկարծ 12 լուսեղեն պուներ են երևում լեռան շուրջը, իսկ նրանց միջև փայլում է լուսավոր Խաչի նշանը, որն իրենց հետ Հայոց աշխարհ էին բերել Տիրոջ սիրասուն կույսերը: 12 օր շարունակ լուսեղեն պուները տեսանելի են լինում նաև հեռավոր վայրերից: Ուրախալի այս լուրը տարածվում է ամենուր: Սրբազան այդ մասունքը մինչև 1021 թվականը մնում է Վարազա վանքում, որը Սենեքերիմ Արծրունին տեղափոխում է Սեբաստիա: Նրա մահից հետո մասունքը նորից փոխադրում են նախկին վայրը, որտեղից 1651 թվականին գերեվարվում է Խոշաբ: Սակայն 1655 թվականին ազատվելով՝ զետեղվում է Վանի Մբ. Տիրամոր եկեղեցում, որն այնուհետև վերանվանվում է Մբ. Նշան, ուր և պահվում էր մինչև 1915 թվականը:

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

The first reading is from the Letter of Paul to Galatians (6:14-18)

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to the Israel of God. From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

The second reading is from the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Matthew (24:30-36)

Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.” But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church

WOMEN'S GUILD

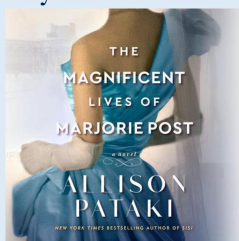
Aida's Book Club

Invites you to a

BOOK DISCUSSION

The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post

By Allison Pataki



SATURDAY 10/28/2023 – 11 AM at Tutak Hall

1131 North Street, White Plains, NY 10605

Bestselling and acclaimed author Allison Pataki has crafted an intimate portrait of a larger-than-life woman, a powerful story of one woman falling in love with her own voice and embracing her own power while shaping history in the process.

RSVP: Ellie Krolan (914) 588-7047 cbkrolian@gmail.com



Fellowship Coffee Hour

We appreciate the generosity of the Ovanessian family and Parish Council member for providing the refreshments for today's fellowship coffee hour. Today's Harisa is made by Yn. Ruzanna.

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 Church

INVITES YOU TO ATTEND ITS

Celebratory Anniversary Banquet

Presided over by
His Grace, Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan, Primate

Honoring Our Past Parish Council Chairs

Saturday, October 21, 2023
Cocktail Hour 6:30 pm
Banquet 7:30 pm

BRAE BURN COUNTRY CLUB | 39 BRAE BURN DRIVE | PURCHASE, NEW YORK

FEAST OF THE HOLY CROSS OF VARAK

OCTOBER 1, 2023

MORNING SERVICE - 9:45AM | DIVINE LITURGY - 10:15AM

Traditional Harisa will be served during the
fellowship hour



*Harisa (keshkek) is a special Armenian dish,
made with grained wheat and chicken.*

*According to tradition, St. Gregory the
Enlightener was offering a meal of love and
charity to the poor people.*

He advised: "Harekh sah! Stir it!"

*Thus, the name of the dish came from
St. Gregory's own words.*

*In Armenia it is made for the celebration of
the Musa Dagh resistance that took place
in Musaler (Musa Mountain) and is held at
the end of September.*

THE KISS OF PEACE

The GIVER says:

Christ is revealed amongst us.

*Քրիստոս ի մէջ մեր յայտնեցաւ:
Kreesdos ee mech mer haydnetsav.*

The RECEIVER says:

Blessed is the revelation of Christ.

*Օրհնեալ է յայտնութիւնն Քրիստոսի:
Orhnyal eh haydnootyoonun Kreesdosee.*

WHEN TAKING MAHS

The GIVER says:

*May this be to you a share and portion of the Holy
Sacrifice.*

*Մաս և բաժին եղիցի քեզ ի Սուրբ Պատարագէ:
Mahs yev pazheen yegheetsee kez ee Soorp
Badarakes.*

The RECEIVER says:

My portion is God forever.

*Բաժին իմ Աստուած յաւիտեան:
Pahjeen eem Asdvadz haveedyan.*

THE PSALM OF DISMISSAL - PSALM 34

*I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall be at all
times in my mouth.*

*Օրհնեցից ըզՏէր յամենայն ժամ, յամենայն ժամ,
Օրհնութիւն նորա ի բերան իմ:*

*Orhnetseets uzDer hamenayn zham, hamenayn zham
orhnootyoon nora ee peran eem.*

When approaching the Holy Gospel at the end of the Divine Liturgy you say:

May the Lord remember all your sacrifices.

*Յիշեցէ Տէր զամենայն պատարագս քո.
Heeshestseh Der zamenayn Badarakus ko*

The Priest answers:

*May the Lord grant you according to your own heart,
and fulfill all your desires. (Psalm 20:4)*

*Տացէ քեզ Տէր ըստ սրտի քում և զամենայն խորհուրդս քո
ի բարիս նա կատարեցէ:*

*Datseh kez Der usd srdee koom yev zamenayn
khorhoortus koh ee parees na gadarestseh.*

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Stewardship is about our **VALUES**, about **FAITH**, about **GIVING**, about **GRATITUDE**, **THANKFULNESS** and **GENEROSITY**.

Stewardship is grounded in the fact that all human life and experience is a gift, a gift from God, a gift which requires a response of faithful service.

Your annual contribution is the backbone of the church's operational budget.

Your participation as a steward is an expression of your appreciation for our spiritual legacy and cultural heritage.

Above all, through your generous giving, you offer your gift of love to Christ to continue His ministry through our Church.

Your donation makes a **BIG** difference in sustaining our Church which:

- † is a place where we feel the presence of God and the warmth of His love.
- † helps us find a sense of inner peace and provides comfort in our time of need.
- † is a place to share our joys and sorrows.
- † provides a place for our children to experience their Armenian Christian heritage.
- † sustains our common bond as Armenian Christians.
- † represents centuries of tradition.

WHAT WE DO WITH YOUR HELP

Worship Services
Spiritual Programs
Educational Programs
Cultural Programs
Youth Ministry
Church operational expenses
Church maintenance



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY

Fr. Mesrob Hovsepyan celebrates the Divine Liturgy. Children's Sermon will be delivered today.

Join us today for Fellowship Coffee Hour after Badarak–Harisa will be served in honor of the annual Musa Dagh commemoration.

ACYOA Juniors meeting–12:30pm.

OCTOBER 14,
SATURDAY

First Episcopal Divine Liturgy of Bishop Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan at St. Vartan Cathedral

Bus trip to St. Vartan Cathedral to attend our Primate's first Episcopal Divine Liturgy. We encourage you to join us on this special day! There are limited seat available on the bus. The sign up sheet can be found in the Tutak Hall or ask Der Mesrob.

The round trip bus will be departing from the church at 9:00 am sharp and be leave St. Vartan at 3pm. The Divine Liturgy starts at 10:30 AM.

OCTOBER 21,
SATURDAY

SAVE THE DATE: 25th & 50th ANNIVERSARY GALA BANQUET at Brae Burn Country Club.

OCTOBER 28,
SATURDAY

**Aida's Book Club
Beginning at 11am in Tutak Hall**

OCTOBER 28,
SATURDAY

**Trunk or Treat
All children and youth are invited to join!
1:30–2:30 in the church parking lot.
Organized by the ACYOA Jr's**

OCTOBER 29,
SUNDAY

Farewell luncheon for John & Anita Wolohojian after the Liturgy. Details to follow.

NOVEMBER 19,
SUDNAY

**“Stone & Candle. Armenian Monasteries”
Ted Andreasian and Nune Karamyan
Book Presentation and Signing
12:30 pm at Tutak Hall**