

# ST. GREGORY

## THE ENLIGHTENER

**ARMENIAN CHURCH** 

FR. MESROB HOVSEPYAN, PASTOR

MORNING SERVICE: 9:45 A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY: 10:15 A.M.

### SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 BAREKENDAN OF THE FAST OF THE HOLY CROS OF VARAK ԲԱՐԵԿԵՆԴԱՆ ՎԱՐԱԳԱՅ Ս. ԽԱՉԻ

#### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Mark 10:1-12

#### PC MEMBERS ON DUTY:

Edik Eskandarian Gayane Manukyan Elizabeth Shaghalian Vranka





### REQUIEM SERVICE WILL NOT BE OFFERED TODAY.

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

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### Eve of the Fast of the Holy Cross of Varague

This is the Sunday preceding the week prior to the feast of the Appearance of the Holy Cross on Mount Varague, lasting from Monday to Friday. Being hidden by St. Hripisime on Mount Varague, the relic of the Lord's Wooden Cross was found by a miracle in the 7th century and the Armenian Apostolic Church established another purely national feast dedicated to the Holy Cross, which is famous as the Holy Cross of Varague.

### Բարեկենդան Վարագա Սուրբ Խաչին

Այս կիրակին նախորդում է պահքին, որը նվիրված է Վարագա լեռան վրա Սուրբ խաչափայտի մասունքը գտնելուն։ Ավանդույթի համաձայն՝ տեսիլքով նրանց երևում է Սբ. Աստվածածինը և պատվիրում մեկնել Արարատյան երկիր՝ Հայաստան։ Կույսերը գալիս են Վաղարշապատ։ Ճանապարհին, Վարագա լեռան մոտով անցնելիս, Հռիփսիմեն Սբ. խաչափայտից մի մասունք, որը ժառանգաբար էր ստացել եւ միշտ կրում էր իր պարանոցին, ամփոփում է հայոց հողում։ Այդ մասունքը հրաշքով գտնվում է 7-րդ դարում, որից հետո Հայ Առաքելական Եկեղեցին խաչի տոների շարքում սկսում է տոնել նաև Վարագա խաչի տոնը։



#### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

### The first reading is from the Second Letter of Paul to Corinthians (9:6-15)

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

### The second reading is from the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Mark (10:1-12)

Our Lord Jesus Christ: And he left there and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan, and crowds gathered to him again; and again, as his custom was, he taught them.

And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce, and to put her away." But Jesus said to them, "For your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one." So they are no longer two but one. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder."

### Solemn, Sorrowful Days for Our Homeland

"We awoke this morning to news that weighs heavily on our hearts," wrote Diocesan Primate Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan in a solemn message on the morning of September 19.

The Primate sent his message to the faithful of the Eastern Diocese as news broke of yet another large-scale mili-



tary attack on Artsakh, this time resulting in the shelling of peaceful communities, and the targeting of Artsakh's capital city, Stepanakert.

"In times like this, we turn to our faith for strength and guidance," Fr. Mesrop continued. "The people of Artsakh, our brothers and sisters, need our prayers now. As the Psalms assure us: 'The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves those crushed in spirit' (Psalm 34:18)."

What followed were tense hours for Armenians across the world. By midweek the attack had ended in a ceasefire; but it came at great cost to the Armenians of Artsakh, with painful casualties among soldiers and civilians, the disarming of Artsakh's defense forces, and a desperate reality emerging for future life there. Earlier today, at the **Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin**, His Holiness Karekin II addressed these grave developments in a special message marking the 32nd anniversary of the Republic of Armenia's independence. "As we welcome this anniversary, we are in the midst of great anxieties and worries, and the pain of new losses," he said. "Today, our people in Artsakh are facing a dire, existential threat. A century after the Armenian Genocide, under the eyes of the civilized world, our people are once again tasting the bitterness of genocide."

His Holiness concluded: "In this sorrowful time, let us all follow the example of our ancestors who overcame the storms of history, and find strength of spirit in the words of the Psalmist: 'Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. For thou art with me, Lord: thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me' (Psalm 23:4)."



### 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





Come join us for delicious traditional Armenian food and wine.

**24** N

SEPTEMBER 12PM - 5PM

LIVE ARMENIAN MUSIC, RAFFLES, FUN ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND SO MUCH MORE

### **MORE INFO**

reach us at 914-428-2595 saintgregorychurchwp@gmail.com www.stgregorywp.com



1131 NORTH STREET, WHITE PLAINS, NY 10605



### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY

Fr. Mesrob Hovsepyan celebrates the Divine Liturgy on this Sunday.

Due to the rainy forecast for today, our picnic and activities will be held indoors so everyone can stay dry! Dinners, meze, desserts and drinks will be in Tutak Hall. You won't want to miss Armenian music performed by our very own Deacons and Arpi as they take the grand Tutak Hall stage! HEK Hall will be the Kids Zone, with lots of activities for the youth, including cornhole competitions, face painting, cotton candy, popcorn and MINI GOLF! A nine-hole mini golf course will be set up in HEK Hall for all ages to play–12:00–5:00pm

### SEPTEMBER 30, SATURDAY

Apple Picking – Armenian School, 10:30–1:30pm.

#### OCTOBER 14, SATURDAY

The faithful of our Diocese will welcome our newly -ordained Primate back home. The new Bishop Mesrop will celebrate his first episcopal badarak at St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral in New York, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

The entire public is invited to witness this joyous occasion, when our Primate will officially greet his people as our new bishop. A reception, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Berge and Vera Setrakian, will follow in Haik and Alice Kavookjian Auditorium.

### OCTOBER 21, SATURDAY

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

### 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. Details to follow.