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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.

DECEMBER 24, 2023

FIFTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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Շնորհաւոր Նոր Տարի եւ Սուրբ Ծնունդ
Happy New Year & Merry Christmas!

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

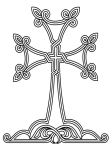
Hebrews 4:16-5:10

Luke 18:9-14

PC MEMBERS ON DUTY:

Arman Bedonian

Edik Eskandarian



REQUIEM SERVICE WILL NOT BE HELD TODAY.

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

Commemoration of St. Abgar, First Martyr of the Church and our first king to believe in Christ

According to the tradition, St. Abgar was the first Christian king of the 1st century, the son of the Parthian king Arshakunie Arsham. He was also called “senior man” as he was the wisest of all and a genius. Historian Moses of Khoronk, Assyrian historian Labubnia of Yedessia, Greek historians Procopis and Yeusebius, all have written about King Abgar. He built the city of Yedessia on the site where the Armenian army protected the fording of the river Euphrates from the Roman captain Casius. Later the king moved the royal palace and all idols from Nisibis to that city.

It is during the period of reign of king Abgar that Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, was born. And Abgar, who was incurable, becoming aware of the wonders worked by Christ, believed in Christ and by means of his delegates sent a letter-petition to Jerusalem, to the Savior, asking Him to come and heal him. In the response to the letter it was said, that Christ still had important things to do in Jerusalem, but He should send one of His disciples to the king to heal him. After the Ascension of the Savior, Apostle St. Thaddeus went to Yedessia, healed king Abgar as he was sick, preached the Gospel and appointed Adde, the silk-weaver, to be his successor. Jesus had sent his portrait to Abgar and it was kept for a long time in Yedessia, and later in the churches of various cities and towns. After that the king Abgar sent letters to the king Tiberius and the king Nerseh of Assyria, exhorting them to admit Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Savior. The king Abgar passed away probably in the first half of the 1st century.

Ս. Աբգար նախավկայի և Քրիստոսին հավատացող մեր անդրանիկ
թագավորի հիշատակության օր

Աբգար հայոց արքան աստվածասեր և մեծահավատ էր՝ ըստ մարմնի թագավորակից Քրիստոսին, որովհետև Քրիստոս ծնվեց Ս. Կույս Մարիամից Աբգարի թագավորության առաջին տարում և 30 տարի հետո մկրտվեց Հորդանան գետում Հովհաննեսից:

Աբգարը, լսելով նրա մասին, անմիջապես հավատաց Նրան՝ թողնելով կռապաշտությունը: Եվ քանզի թագավորը հիվանդ էր բորոտությամբ, և չկար բժշկության հնար, Աբգարն ուղարկեց Անանեին՝ իր փառավոր նախարարին՝ ապահունիների իշխանին, նրա հետ 10 պատվավոր մարդկանց՝ մեծագին ընծաներով և նվերներով: Նաև գրեց Հիսուսին իր հավատի խոստովանության նամակը և աղաչեց գալ՝ բժշկել նրան չարաչար ցավից և լինել իր հետ: Անանեի հետ ուղարկեց Հովհաննես անունով մի նկարչի, որ եթե չկամենա Հիսուսը գալ արքայի մոտ, նկարեն Նրա պատկերը և բերեն իրեն: Քրիստոսին հավատացող հեթանոս թագավորներից առաջինը և բոլոր քրիստոնյա թագավորների անդրանիկը՝ բարեպաշտ Աբգար թագավորը, իր կյանքը և թագավորությունը այսպես

կարգավորելուց հետո, առաքինի կյանքով ապրած և ալևորության հասած, հանգեց ի Քրիստոս և փոխադրվեց անանց թագավորություն դեկտեմբերի 31-ին:



ST. STEPHEN'S DAY

This Sunday, December 24th, our church will celebrate St. Stephen's Day (traditionally on December 25 or 26) – a day commemorating the life and sacrifice of St. Stephen, the first deacon and Christian martyr.

On this day we will also celebrate the humble service of our present deacons and they will don priestly crowns at the end of the liturgy. Please join Fr. Mesrob this Sunday as we thank our deacons for their service to our church on this special day.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

The first reading is from the Second Letter of Paul to Hebrews (4:16 -5:10)

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. And no one takes this honor on himself, but he receives it when called by God, just as Aaron was.

In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest, but God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father" and he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

The second reading is from the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Luke (18:9-14)

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates to run for Parish Council for the upcoming two year term.

If you are interested or would like more information please feel free to contact any of the committee members. We look forward to hearing from you and hope that you would consider serving your parish in these important roles.

Ann Daw 914-334-200 adaw2383@gmail.com

Lauren Kayaian 917-887-4027 teaticket67@netscape.net

Ellie Krolian 914-588-7047 ebkrolian@gmail.com

Pastoral Care, Home and Hospital Visits

Der Mesrob is always available and would like to visit homebound and hospitalized parishioners. If you or someone you know is ill, Hospitalized or homebound and would like to be visited, please call Der Mesrob directly at (804)-405-9399 to schedule the visit.

Please note: when asked about your religion at a hospital, patients should list themselves as “Armenian Orthodox” or “Armenian” not “other”.

BLESSING OF POMEGRANATES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

immediately following the Divine Liturgy



*Donations are welcomed to defray the cost of the
pomegranates*

St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church
1131 North Street, White Plains, NY 10605



Fellowship Coffee Hour

We appreciate the Parish Council members on duty for providing refreshments for fellowship hour today.

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.



FEAST OF THE NATIVITY AND THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

JANUARY 5, 2024

Reading of Holy Scriptures (bilingual) | 6:00-6:30pm

*Divine Liturgy of Light - J'rakalootzee Soorp Badarak
6:30-7:45pm*

JANUARY 6, 2024

Matins | 9:45-10:15am

*Christmas Badarak & Blessing of Water Service
10:15-12:15pm*

Christmas Potluck Lunch "Agape Meal" to follow

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK LUNCH

*We ask all attendants to kindly
contribute a dish to share for
8-10 people.*



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER IS NEEDED

We currently have an opening for a Sunday School teacher. Please contact Fr. Mesrob if you or someone you know would be interested to teach in our Sunday School.

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ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

JANUARY 7

12:30 PM

ARMENIAN
Christmas
BRUNCH

hosted and sponsored by

Women's Guild

Immediately following the

Divine Liturgy

Guest Speaker: Sarah Stites
Development Officer at Ayo!
(Fund for Armenian Relief)

Free Will Donations to benefit
Fuller Center for Housing Armenia

St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church
1131 North Street, White Plains, NY 10605

Women's Guild will be accepting free will donations towards the St. Gregory Fuller Center House #12, as well hosting Sarah Stites, who will be speaking about the history of the Artsakt conflict and the current unfolding humanitarian crisis.

Sarah works as part of the Fund for Armenian Relief's crowd funding initiative, "AYO!" She has lived in Armenia for the past six years and will offer first hand accounts of individuals displaced from their ancestral homeland.



O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
Come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.



Joy To The World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come.
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room;
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing.
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ.
While fields and floods, Rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy

No more let sin and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness.
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.



Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ the Savior, is born!
Christ the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.



We Wish You A Merry Christmas

We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas,
And a Happy New Year!

Good tidings we bring for you and your kin;
We wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Now bring us some figgy pudding,
Now bring us some figgy pudding,
Now bring us some figgy pudding,
And a cup of good cheer!

Good tidings we bring for you and your kin;
We wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We won't go until we get some
We won't go until we get some
We won't go until we get some So bring it out here!

Good tidings we bring for you and your kin;
We wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We all know that Santa's coming,
We all know that Santa's coming,
We all know that Santa's coming, And soon will be here.

Good tidings we bring for you and your kin;
We wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY	Fr. Mesrob Hovsepyan celebrates Morning Service & Divine Liturgy. Special service honoring the deacons of our church. Christmas Caroling immediately following the Liturgy. No Service in the evening on Western Christmas Eve.
DECEMBER 31, SUNDAY	Morning Service & Divine Liturgy New Year's Eve. Blessing of Pomegranates Service to follow after the Liturgy.
JANUARY 5, FRIDAY	EVE OF THE NATIVITY AND THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST - J'RAKA-LOOYTZ. Details inside.
JANUARY 6, SATURDAY	FEAST OF THE NATIVITY AND THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. Details inside.
JANUARY 7, SUNDAY	First Sunday After the Feast of Nativity Divine Liturgy & Requiem Service Christmas Brunch - Hosted by Women's Guild
JANUARY 13, SATURDAY	Armenian Breakfast to benefit Artsakh Refugees Hosted by the Armenian School—9:30 AM
JANUARY 15, MONDAY	Parish-Wide National Day of Service on MLK Day 10:30 am—Noon
JANUARY 28, SUNDAY	Annual Parish Assembly following the Liturgy
FEBRUARY 10, SATURDAY	Poon Paregetan Family Fun Night Hosted by the Armenian School 7 PM