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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.

JANUARY 21, 2024
BAREKENDAN OF THE FAST OF CATECHUMENS
ՅՈՒՆՈՒԱՐ 21, 2024

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

2 Timothy 2:15-26

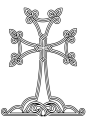
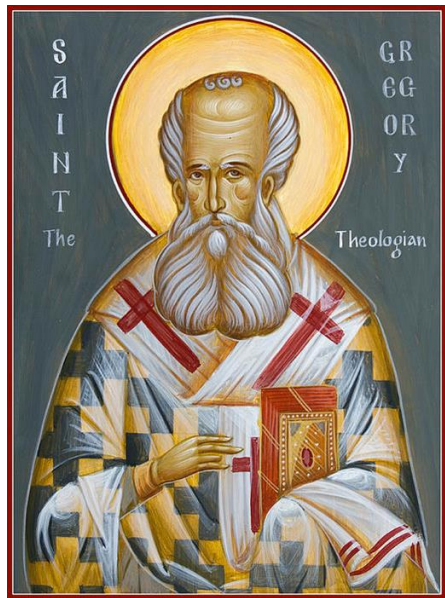
John 6:31-47

PC MEMBERS ON DUTY:

Chris Bonfiglio

Sylvia Kruizenga

Arek Ohanissian



REQUIEM SERVICE WILL NOT BE OFFERED 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

Eve of the Fast of Catechumens

The Fast of Catechumens is unique to the Armenian Church. It begins three weeks before the Great Lent. In ancient times people could eat only bread and salt during the fast of Catechumens. On those days it was not allowed to celebrate Divine Liturgy either. The meaning of the Fast of Catechumens is the purification of the five human senses from pagan impurity. In the ancient Church there was a custom to fast during five days before baptism. St. Gregory the Illuminator ordered King Tiridates and others to fast for five days before baptism in order to be freed from evil and it is also the reason Catechumens is called “fast of salvation” from evil. According to the tradition, the fasting of Catechumens was initiated by St. Gregory the illuminator in memory of the above-mentioned practice.

There are two explanations regarding the name of this feast. It is called the fast of Catechumens: 1. As the precursor of the Great Lent, and 2. As the first Armenian fast. On the fifth day of the fasting of Catechumens, on Friday, the remembrance day of the Prophet Jonah is celebrated, but it is celebrated not as the feast of Prophet Jonah, but as the memory of an example of great repentance and abstinence which Jonah urged. Incorrectly at times, the fasting of Catechumens was called the fast of St. Sarkis, because the Armenian Church celebrates the feast of St. Sarkis on Saturday following the fast. During the Middle Ages the Byzantine and the Georgian Churches blamed the Armenian Church for relating the fasting of Catechumens to St. Sarkis, to whom they ascribed sorcery. According to the testimonies of Armenian medieval writers, Greek and Latin Churches also had the fasting of Catechumens in ancient times.

Ս. Աթանաս և Ս. Կյուրեղ հայրապետների հիշատակության օր

Ս. Աթանաս և Ս. Կյուրեղ հայրապետներն Ընդհանրական Եկեղեցու ամենակարկառուն գործիչներից են, ովքեր իրենց ողջ կյանքն ապրեցին հանուն քրիստոնեական հավատի ուղղափառության հաստատման ու տարածման՝ ընդդեմ մոլար ըմբռնումների և ուսմունքների: Ս. Կյուրեղ Ալեքսանդրացի հայրապետն Ալեքսանդրյան աստվածաբանական դպրոցի փայլուն ներկայացուցիչներից մեկն է: Ծնվել է 380 թվականին, Թեոփիլոս պատրիարքի եղբորորդին է, որին հաջորդել է 412 թվականին: Կ. Պոլսի պատրիարք Նեստորի դեմ պայքարել է ուղղափառ դավանանքի համար, որի պատճառով էլ Թեոդորոս Բ կայսրը 431 թվականին Եփեսոսում հրավիրել է երրորդ տիեզերական ժողովը: Ժողովի ընթացքում Նեստորի ուսմունքը դատապարտվել է, իսկ Մարիամի համար ընդունվել է «Աստվածածին» անվանումը: Կյուրեղի նշանավոր բանաձևը՝ «Մի բնութիւն Բանին մարմնացելոյ», դարձել է Հայ Առաքելական Եկեղեցու՝ Քրիստոսի բնության վարդապետության հիմնաքարը:

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

The first reading is from the First Letter of Paul to 2 Timothy (2:15-26)

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth. Avoid profane chatter, for it will lead people into more and more impiety, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have swerved from the truth by claiming that the resurrection has already taken place. They are upsetting the faith of some. But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who calls on the name of the Lord turn away from wickedness." In a large house there are utensils not only of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for special use, some for ordinary. All who cleanse themselves of the things I have mentioned will become special utensils, dedicated and useful to the owner of the house, ready for every good work. Shun youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. Have nothing to do with stupid and senseless controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kindly to everyone, an apt teacher, patient, correcting opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant that they will repent and come to know the truth, and that they may escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

The second reading is from the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John (6:15-21)

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward they were going.

PRE SUPER BOWL WEEKEND

Fun & Fellowship Night hosted by



St. Gregory Men's Club

Saturday, February 3rd, 2024 6:30pm

1131 North Street – White Plains, NY

Mezze & Tailgate refreshments

Soft drinks, Coffee/Tea, Desserts

\$30. per person (Adults 18+ please)

BYOB wine/beer/liquor



Poker Tables! Tavloo! Chess!

Super Bowl Fundraiser POOL \$25./box



Prepaid reservations appreciated before January 28th

Checks payable to: St. Gregory Men's Club

Reservation Name: _____

Number Attending: _____ @ \$30.pp \$ _____

Questions? Contact Chris Bonfiglio (914)707-2152 Email: JChrisBonfiglio@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".

ALL COLLEGE GRADUATES AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
ARE WELCOMED TO JOIN

Calling all Young Professionals

You are invited for the first gathering at

Medi Bistro February 3

21+ Older

7-10PM

\$50 P/PERSON

Includes
appetizers, kebab,
dessert, tea, coffee
and soft drinks!

Location

MEDI BISTRO
50 Main St,
White Plains, NY

Indoor
garage/parking
available

Organized by St. Gregory the Enlightener
Armenian Church

A chance to connect with like-minded individuals,
forge new friendships, enjoy food and drink and
exchange thoughts and ideas. Your presence will
make this special!

Rsvp

RSVP Required by February 1
Nadia.Basil23@gmail.com
Subject Line: "Medi RSVP"

Payment

\$50 per person through any of below methods:

- Zelle - sgechurchtreasurer@gmail.com
- Church website
<https://stgregorywp.com/donate/>
- PayPal (QR below)



POON PAREGENTAN

Family Fun Night

Hosted by
ST. GREGORY ARMENIAN SCHOOL



Delicious food • DJ Harout • Cash Wine Bar

Saturday | **6:30 PM –** | **Tutak**
02/10/2024 | **11:00 PM** | **Hall**

1131 North Street, White Plains, NY 10605

\$50.00/Adults, \$20.00/[Ages 5-10]

MAKE RESERVATIONS BY FEBRUARY 1ST
VIA TEXT/CALL to MARIA BEDONIAN: (914)329-5352
OR EMAIL stgregoryarmenianschoolwp@gmail.com

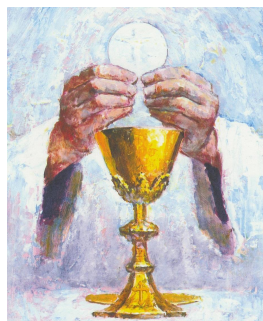


Fellowship Coffee Hour

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 coordina-

tor: Adriane Keleshian Bonfiglio (914) 649-1072.



Holy Communion Distribution Guidelines

While we still haven't gone back to "previous normal" the Holy Communion will be distributed with some adjustments.

As parishioners approach to receive Holy Communion:

- Sanitize your hands in the chancel.
 - Place your right hand in the left hand and extend it to the celebrant.
 - The celebrant will place the Holy Communion in your palm.
 - Consume it in front of the celebrant **WITHOUT TOUCHING THE COMMUNION** with other fingers.
 - Wash your palm with the help of a deacon or a parishioner.
- Return to your seat from the right side of the chancel.

Invitation to the Annual Parish Assembly Sunday, January 28, 2024



You Pastor and Parish Council cordially invite you to attend the 51st Annual Parish Assembly to be held after Badarak at 12:30pm.

All our parishioners are invited to join us; only dues-paid members can take part in voting.

The binder of all reports and bios of nominees will be emailed to the members prior to the meeting. Please call the office to request a printed binder with all the reports and bios to be postal mailed to you prior to the meeting.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY	Fr. Mesrob Hovsepyan celebrates the Divine Liturgy. <i>Please join us for Fellowship hour after Badarak.</i>
JANUARY 28, SUNDAY	Morning Service–9:45, Divine Liturgy–10:15am Annual Parish Assembly following the Liturgy
FEBRUARY 3 SATURDAY	Pre Super Bowl Weekend– His & Hers Game Night Social, Fun & Fellowship sponsored by the St Gregory's Men's Club 6:30 PM. Details on the flyer.
FEBRUARY 3 SATURDAY	SAVE THE DATE: YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GATHERING (21 & older) – Medi Bistro (White Plains) Details inside.
FEBRUARY 10, SATURDAY	Poon Paregetan Family Fun Night Hosted by the Armenian School 7 PM
FEBRUARY 11, SUNDAY	Last Sunday to receive communion before the Great Lent. The next Sunday the Liturgy will be celebrated with closed curtain.
FEBRUARY 18, SUNDAY	Poon Paregetan – GREAT BAREKENDAN Liturgy will be celebrated with closed curtain Lent begins on Monday.
MARCH 24, SUNDAY	PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 31, SUNDAY	EASTER SUNDAY
MAY 5, SUNDAY	Lionel Galstaun Memorial Concert Details to follow