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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.

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2024**  
**FEAST OF THE HOLY CROSS OF VARAK**  
**ՎԱՐԱԳՄԱՅ Ս. ԽԱՉԻ**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

*Galatians 6:14-18*

*Matthew 24:30-36*

PC MEMBERS ON DUTY:

*Tom Daw*

*Sylvia Kruizenga*

*Janet Ozsolak*



**REQUIEM SERVICE WILL BE OFFERED TODAY**

***Hagop & Sylviagene Meneshian***  
***Ava Augusta Hingson, 4 years***

*Requested by: Dicron Meneshian and Elise Meneshian*  
*Hingson Clifford*

***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](http://www.stgregorywp.com)

Office hours: Tuesday-Friday 9a.m.-3p.m., Mondays closed.

Contact us: Office: (914) 428-2595, [saintgregorychurchwp@gmail.com](mailto:saintgregorychurchwp@gmail.com)  
Fr. Mesrob: (804) 405-9399, [fr.mesrob@yahoo.com](mailto: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 Diokletianos, 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 southeast 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 սև 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: Ագաթանգեղոս պատմիչի վկայության համաձայն Հռիփսիմյանց կույսերը, փախչելով Դիոկղետիոնոս կայսեր հալածանքներից ու հետապնդումներից, գալիս են Հայաստան և ապաստանում Վաղարշապատի հնձաններում: Սակայն մինչև Վաղարշապատ հասնելը նրանք բնակություն են հաստատում Վանա լճից հարավ-արևելք ընկած Վարագա լեռան վրա: Մբ. Հռիփսիմենն 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 Վարագա 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 Վարագա վանքում, որը Մենեքերիմ Արծրունին տեղափոխում է Սեբաստիա: Նրա մահից հետո մասունքը նորից փոխադրում են նախկին վայրը, որտեղից 1651 թվականին գերեվարվում է Խոշար: Սակայն 1655 թվականին ազատվելով գետեղվում է Վանի Մբ. Տիրամոր եկեղեցում, որն այնուհետև վերանվանվում է Մբ. Նշան, ուր և պահվում էր մինչև 1915 թվականը:

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## 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.

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### **Fellowship Coffee Hour**

We appreciate the generosity of the Women’s Guild and Men’s Club members for providing the refreshments for today’s Memorial fellowship

gathering.

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.

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**Today, please take a moment to remember in your prayers all the sick and recovering members of our community.**

**May God touch His faithful servants with His healing hand, and grant them good health & recovery.**

Please inform Der Hayr if you have friends or family who are suffering any physical or spiritual distress and are in need of prayer, and he will add them to his prayer list where they will be remembered. We all need prayer – both to say for others and to be said for us.



## **Holy Communion Distribution Guidelines**

As parishioners approach to receive Holy Communion:

- 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.
  - Sanitize your hand before returning to your seat from the right side of the chancel.
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## **THE WOMEN'S GUILD**

**CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A**

### **TEA WITH THE PRIMATE HIS GRACE BISHOP MESROP PARSAMYAN**

**at St. Vartan Cathedral**

**630 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10016**

**Wednesday October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 at 12:00 PM**

**There will be a tour of the Diocese and the new construction**

**RSVP by October 9<sup>th</sup> to Dawn Papalian at 310-850-6496**

**We will meet at our church to car pool**

**Please RSVP so we know how many cars we will need**

ST. GREGORY THE ENLIGHTENER ARMENIAN CHURCH

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BLESSING OF WATER

Join us for a special Blessing of Water service on

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2024**

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, will bless and consecrate the new Holy Muron. The Holy Oil or Holy Muron is used in all sacramental anointing services of the Armenian Church as a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Muron will be distributed to the pastors of our Diocese at St. Vartan Cathedral on October 4<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday, October 6, all parishes in our Diocese will hold a special Blessing of Water service using the newly consecrated Holy Muron.

We invite everyone to join us and be filled with the abundant graces of the Holy Spirit as we partake in the blessed Holy Water. May we kindle the divine warmth of the Holy Muron in our hearts each day through our prayers and virtuous Christian lives.

**Morning Service | 9:45am**

**Divine Liturgy | 10:15am**

**Blessing of Water | 11:45am**

1131 North Street  
White Plains, NY 10605

Cultural Committee of  
St. Gregory the Enlightener  
Armenian Church

**EARLY RECORDINGS OF  
ARMENIAN CLASSICS**

presented by musician & composer

**ARA  
DINKJIAN**



**Sunday, October 6, 2024**

**12:30pm**

Light lunch will be served after  
Badarak

**1:30pm**

Presentation

**Adults:**

**\$20 in advance/\$25 at door**

**Children 12 & Under: \$10**



1131 North Street,  
White Plains NY, 10605

RSVP by 9/30 at [stgregoryculturalcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:stgregoryculturalcommittee@gmail.com) or call at 914 428 2595

# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY **Fr. Mesrob Hovsepian celebrates the Divine Liturgy.**

**Join us after Badarak for a Memorial Fellowship Gathering and Light Buffet**

OCTOBER 4,  
FRIDAY

**Service of the Reception of Holy Muron** at St. Vartan Cathedral, 6:00 pm.

OCTOBER 6,  
SUNDAY

**Blessing of the Water service with the new Holy Muron received from Armenia, following the Divine Liturgy.**

**“Early Recordings of Armenian Classics” presented by musician & composer Ara Dinkjian—12:30pm lunch, 1:30pm presentation.**  
**Organized by Cultural Committee**

OCTOBER 23,  
WEDNESDAY

**Tea with the Primate at St. Vartan Cathedral**  
RSVP: Dawn Papalian by Oct. 9 (310)-850-6496  
for car pool sign up

NOVEMBER 10,  
SUNDAY

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**ST. GREGORY AWARD LUNCHEON**

This year St. Gregory Award recipients will be **Deacon Simon and Annie Ovanessian.**

We congratulate them and express our appreciation for their dedication to our parish.

*The details will follow.*

DECEMBER 4,  
WEDNESDAY

**St. Gregory Women's Guild Christmas Luncheon at the Bronxville Field Club.** *Details will follow.*