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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 22, 2024
FIFTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
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TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Hebrews 4:16-5:10

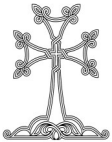
Luke 18:9-14

PC MEMBERS ON DUTY:

Arman Bedonian

Janet Ozsolak

Ron Sanossian



REQUIEM SERVICE WILL BE HELD TODAY

Vera and Norair Hartunian, and Mariam Hartunian

Requested by: The Hartunian and Yazujian families

Marine Abelyan

Requested by: Arsenyan family

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

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:

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.”



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.

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.

Seeking a Nanny for a Loving Family in Our Parish

A new family in our parish is looking for a caring and experienced nanny to provide attentive care for their sweet 6-month-old baby girl. The position begins on **January 1, 2025**, with the following schedule:

- **Days:** Monday—Thursday
- **Hours:** 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM

If you or someone you know is interested in this wonderful opportunity to support one of our parish families, please reach out to Masis Parseghian, masis.par@gmail.com or 201-693-2325 for more details.

Fellowship Coffee Hour



We greatly appreciate the generosity of the Parish Council members on duty for providing today's refreshments.

The Parish Council and Fr. Mesrob extend their heartfelt gratitude to Adriane Keleshian Bonfiglio for her exemplary dedication as Fellowship Refreshment Coordinator since 2022. Adriane's efforts have enriched our community, transforming Coffee Hour into a cherished time for fellowship, connection, and hospitality. Alongside the spiritual nourishment of weekly Badarak, Coffee Hour fosters peace, friendship, and a deep sense of togetherness within our parish family. Thank you, Adriane, for your hard work, warm spirit, and commitment!

Project ♥ Linus

Service PROJECT

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Please join fellow parishioners on this National Day of Service to create “no-sew” blankets for local children in need of comfort. St. Gregory will be partnering with Project Linus, a national not-for-profit that provides new hand-made blankets to children in need, to comfort youth in our community with gifts of blankets lovingly created by our volunteers. This is a wonderful project for all generations – ages 5 to 100 welcome! Instruction, supplies and refreshments will be provided.

***Please help us make our third
National Day of Service project a success!***



Kindly RSVP to
saintgregorychurchwp@gmail.com
by January 9
so we can properly plan for the day

Parish Council



St. Gregory Men's Club

2024 COAT DRIVE

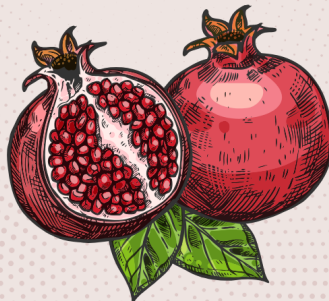
Now Through January 5th!

This year, the St. Gregory Men's Club, will once again be sponsoring a men and women's coat drive for donations to local shelters. We have been donating primarily to the White Plains Ecumenical Kitchen. It's here where people facing food insecurity are also being offered a warm coat for the winter. Men's Coats in particular are needed. There is a coat rack in the church Narthex to bring your donations. (on hangers if possible). As a reminder, there is also a food donation box for non-perishable food items. *Thank you for your generosity!*

BLESSING OF POMEGRANATES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024

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

ST. GREGORY THE ENLIGHTENER
ARMENIAN CHURCH
1131 NORTH STREET
WHITE PLAINS, NY 10605



Join us for a fun
and social event;
connect with the
Young Professional of
our community.
Friends are welcome.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

21+ event

Social

JANUARY 11, 2025
6:00-8:30PM

Enjoy Armenian & European Music vibes and
learn Armenian and ballroom dance basics
with our professional instructors

RSVP by Jan. 3rd to Arsen Yelegen at
ayelegen92@gmail.com | 914-227-3978



Armenian Dance Instructors
**HARUT & SIMONE
BARSUMIAN**



Ballroom Dance Instructor
ARSEN SARGSYAN

\$45 p/p
Includes dinner,
drinks, wine &
1 raffle ticket



Venmo: @stgregorywp
Cash at the door

JANUARY 25,
SATURDAY

CHILDREN'S DAY AT THE DIOCESE

A special Children's Day event to bring together all the youth in faith and service. This gathering will provide a meaningful experience for students from 3rd grade to 8th grade and will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Vartan Cathedral.

We are planning to have a bus trip to the Diocese. Please ask Der Mesrob to sign up your children to travel with us.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY	<p>Fr. Mesrob Hovsepyan celebrates the Divine Liturgy. Join us for Lunch with Santa today! Lunch with Santa following the Liturgy. Details inside.</p>
DECEMBER 29, SUNDAY	<p>Blessing of Pomegranates service at the end of the Liturgy. Donations are welcomed to defray the cost of the pomegranates.</p> <p>Following the Divine Liturgy during the fellowship coffee hour, the official launch of the Kitchen Fundraising Campaign will be announced, and the members of the Fundraising Committee will be introduced.</p>
JANUARY 4, 2025 SATURDAY	<p>Eve of the Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ—J'arakalootz Reading of Holy Scriptures - 6:00-6:30 pm. Divine Liturgy of Light - <i>J'arakalootzee Soorp Badarak</i> 6:30-7:45 pm</p>
JANUARY 5, 2025 SUNDAY	<p>Feast of the Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Morning Service - 9:45am. Christmas Badarak & Blessing of Water Service - 10:15am</p> <p>Potluck Fellowship Hour to follow. Please contact Lisa Kouzoujian 203-536-2622 to let her know what you will be bringing!</p>
JANUARY 11, SATURDAY	<p>Young Professionals Social—6:00-8:30pm. The flyer can be found inside.</p>
JANUARY 19, SUNDAY	<p>EPISCOPAL DIVINE LITURGY - His Grace, Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan, Primate of our Diocese, will celebrate the Liturgy. New Year Parish Brunch will be hosted by St. Gregory's Women's Guild.</p>
JANUARY 20, MONDAY	<p>Project Linus—Third Annual Day of Service 10:30–12:30</p>