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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 8, 2024

BAREKENDAN OF THE FAST OF ST. JAMES

ԲԱՐԵԿԵՆԴԱՆ Ս. ՅԱԿՈՒԲ ՍԾԲԵԱՅ ՀԱՅՐԱՊԵՏԻ ՏՕՆԻ ՊԱՀՔԻՆ

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

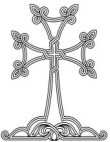
Luke 14:12-24

PC MEMBERS ON DUTY:

Arman Bedonian

Betty Sagatelian Ortiz

Sylvia Kruizenga



REQUIEM SERVICE WILL BE HELD TODAY

Elisa Khachian (40th day)

Requested by: The Khachian and Quinn Families

The departed souls who lost their lives in the earthquake that took place in Armenia 36 years ago and its aftermath.

May God rest her soul in His eternal peace and presence and grant her 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

Conception of St. Mary by Anna

St. Mary is known in the Armenian Church as *Asdvadzamayr-Asdvadzadzin*, the “Mother of God” and the “Bearer of God”—a position doctrinally established at the Ecumenical Council of Ephesus in the 5th century. Her life of holiness and purity, and her graceful acceptance of the role to which God called her, as the mother of Jesus Christ, all make Mary one of the pre-eminent exemplars of the Christian faith, whose birth and very conception are occasions for celebration in the church. Only those aspects of St. Mary’s life, which are directly related to Christ are recorded in the Gospel. The remainder of her biography is attributed to tradition, which is found in ancient ecclesiastical literature. In all likelihood, Mary was born in Bethlehem or Nazareth, some 20 years before Christ’s nativity. Her parents, Joachim and Anna, were a devout couple whose earnest prayers for a child were answered with the birth of a daughter. Although Mary was born naturally, she is considered morally pure and immaculate. It is for this reason that the church celebrates not only her birth, but also her conception, which the Armenian and the Greek Orthodox churches observe on December 9, and the Roman Catholic Church celebrates on December 8. Mary’s purity is unquestioned. According to the teachings of the Armenian Church, at the time of the Annunciation, when the Holy Spirit entered Mary, she was cleansed of all original sin, as she was to be the vessel in which God manifest was to be incarnated. According to tradition, following the Ascension of Christ, Mary lived out the rest of her days in Jerusalem, cared for by St. John the Evangelist. She died in Jerusalem some 15 years after Christ’s Ascension and was buried in her family tomb in Gethsemane.

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Ս. Աննայի՝ Սուրբ Աստվածածնով հղիությունը նկարագրված չէ Աստվածաշունչ մատյանում: Այն մեզ է փոխանցվել Եկեղեցու Սրբազան ավանդության շնորհիվ: Սուրբ Կույսի ծնողները՝ Ս. Հովակիմն ու Ս. Աննան, երկար ժամանակ երեխա չէին ունենում, քանի որ վերջինս ամուլ էր: Մի օր, երբ Աննան իջնում է պարտեզ՝ աղոթելու, հանկարծ հայտնվում է Տիրոջ հրեշտակը և ավետում, որ ինքը զավակ է ունենալու, ում երանի են տալու բոլոր ազգերը: Աննան գոհություն է հայտնում Աստծուն, որ լսեց իր անդադրում աղոթքների ձայնն ու խղճաց իրեն: Նա խոստանում է իր զավակին Աստծուն նվիրել: Նույն այս տեսիլքը երևում է նաև Ս. Հովակիմին՝ հայտնելով բարի լուրը: Սուրբ Կույսի հայրը նույնպես փառք է տալիս Բարձրային այդ մեծ շնորհին արժանացնելու համար և իր ընտիր արջառներից ու ոչխարներից մատաղ է անում՝ բաժանելով աղքատներին: Բարեպաշտ ծնողների աղաչանքները լսելի են լինում և ծնվում է դուստր, ում անվանում են Մարիամ, այսինքն՝ լուսավորված: Նա էր այն ընտրյալ անոթը երկրիս վրա, ում Աստված իր առաքինությունների ու արժանիքների շնորհիվ պատվեց լինել Բանն Աստծու մայրը:

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

The first reading is from the Second Letter of Paul to Thessalonians (1:1-12)

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you. With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The second reading is from the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Luke (14:12-24)

Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' But they all alike be-

gan to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.'"

Fellowship Coffee Hour



We greatly appreciate the generosity of the Hovnanian School and the Khachian & Quinn families for providing today's refreshments.



Hovnanian School has been around for almost 50 years, and offers childcare for infants and toddlers year-round, and school for ages 2 through 8th grade. They offer transportation services from Manhattan and Westchester.

Additionally, they have Camp Hovnanian for 6 weeks during the summer, which is offered for children from age 2 through 11.

THANK YOU

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 friendship and a deep sense of togetherness within our parish family. Thank you, Adriane, for your hard work, warm spirit, and commitment!



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.


 St. Gregory Men's Club

2024 COAT DRIVE





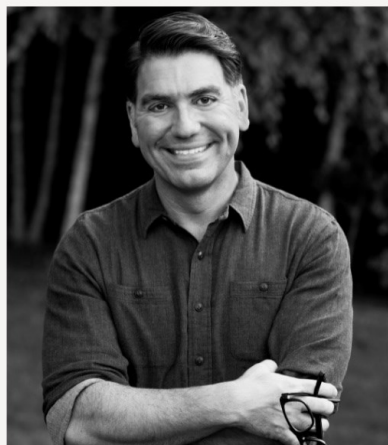

The St. Gregory Men's Club is sponsoring its' annual Coat Drive again this year. We are collecting & distributing winter coats, jackets, hats, scarves & gloves. These donations will be distributed to adult men & women in need of warm outer wear and Christian kindness.

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 Beginning **Saturday, December 7th 2024 thru Sunday January 5th, 2025** kindly leave your donation of **NEW or GENTLY USED (clean)** garments in designated area of St. Gregory Church Narthex
 Note: Most shelters accept **MENS & WOMAN** sizes only.
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The **St. Gregory Men's Club** is grateful for your support....
Whether it be small, medium or large in size!!

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



YOU'RE INVITED TO MEET

Michael Aram

Personal Appearance

Thursday, December 12
Neiman Marcus Paramus
Level Three

11AM

VIP Experience

Enjoy Champagne as Michael hosts a floral arranging class & vase signing.

Please contact your client advisor to reserve your space with a minimum purchase of a \$250 vase.

1:30PM to 3:30PM

Meet & Greet

Michael will sign Aram pieces purchased during the event.

Neiman Marcus



You're invited to our ✦

LUNCH WITH SANTA

SUNDAY
DECEMBER
22 | **12:30**
PM | ST. GREGORY'S
TUTAK HALL

All children are welcome to attend,
have lunch and pictures with Santa.

Organized by the Armenian School
and Sunday School

1131 North Street, White Plains, NY 10605

Project ♥ Linus

Service
PROJECT

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

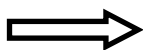
Please join fellow parishioners on this National Day of Service to create “no-sew” blankets for local children in need of comfort. St. Gregory will be partnering with Project Linus, a national not-for-profit that provides new hand-made blankets to children in need, to comfort youth in our community with 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!***

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY

Fr. Mesrob Hovsepyan celebrates the Divine Liturgy and will deliver the Children's Sermon. Fellowship coffee hour is sponsored by the Hovnanian School.



Armenian Dance lessons will begin in January. The dates to be announced.

DECEMBER 15,
SUNDAY

Narrated Divine Liturgy. The Liturgy will be interrupted in a few spots while the narration will be read explaining the meanings and theology. The Sunday School will hold a Poinsettia Sale after Badarak.

DECEMBER 22,
SUNDAY

Lunch with Santa.
Details inside.

JANUARY 4,
2025
SATURDAY

Eve of the Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ–J'rakalooytz
Details to follow.

JANUARY 5,
2025
SUNDAY

Feast of the Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Potluck Fellowship Hour to follow.
Please contact Lisa Kouzoujian 203-536-2622 to let her know what you will be bringing!
The celebration of the Feast of the Nativity and Theophany of our Lord (Armenian Christmas) will take place on January 4 & 5 because January 6th falls on a Monday in 2025.

JANUARY 19,
SUNDAY

His Grace, Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan, Primate of our Diocese, will preside over the Liturgy Fellowship Hour will be hosted by St. Gregory's Women's Guild

JANUARY 20,
MONDAY

**Project Linus–Third Annual Day of Service
10:30–12:30**

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. For students from 3rd grade to 8th grade and will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Vartan Cathedral.