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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.

FEBRUARY 16, 2025
Sunday of Catechumens
Feast of the Lord's Presentation to the Temple -
Dyarnuntarach

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

2 Timothy 3:1-12

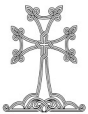
John 6:22-38

PC MEMBERS ON DUTY:

Chris Bonfiglio

Tom Daw

Betty Sagatelian-Ortiz



REQUIEM SERVICE WILL BE HELD TODAY
PLEASE SEE PAGE 5 FOR THE COMPLETE LIST

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

Sunday of Catechumens

Feast of the Lord's Presentation to the Temple -Dyarnuntarach

On February 14, the Armenian Church celebrated the Feast of the Lord's Presentation to the Temple. Dyarnuntarach, or Candle-mas as it is known in the West, symbolizes the presentation of the 40 day-old Christ Child to the Temple in Jerusalem.

In accordance with the Law of Moses, the infant Christ was brought to the Temple by Mary and Joseph and presented to God. A man named Simeon was there, to whom it had been revealed that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord. Simeon held the infant in his arms, blessed God, and said, "Lord, let your servant now depart in peace, for my eyes have seen your Salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people. A Light to lighten the Gentiles, and the Glory of Your people, Israel." (Luke 2:29-32)

In the tradition of the Church, Evening Services (Nakhatonak) are conducted on the night preceding the Feast Day. At the conclusion of the service, the priest lights a candle from the Holy Altar, and distributes the flame to all present. With great care, the faithful take the lit candles home to their families.



Commemoration of St. Sarkis on February 15

In Armenia, the Feast of St. Sarkis is celebrated not only through church rites and prayer but also through rich folk traditions. St. Sarkis the Captain is revered as the patron of youth, and many believe in his power to intercede in matters of the heart. The celebration of St.

Sarkis' feast is preceded by the Fast of the Catechumens, established by St. Gregory the Illuminator. On the eve of the feast, young people eat salty cookies in the hope of dreaming about their future spouse. According to tradition, their destined love will appear in their dreams to bring them water. Another custom involves placing a tray of gruel outside the door, believing that at dawn, St. Sarkis will leave his footprint upon it, symbolizing the fulfillment of their wishes.

The day of the feast is also marked by expressions of love, as couples exchange flowers, cards, and sweets. In churches dedicated to St. Sarkis, a solemn Divine Liturgy is held, bringing people together in prayer and celebration.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

The reading is from the Second Epistle of Paul to 2 Timothy (3:1-12)

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

The second reading is from the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John (6:22-38)

The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone. Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?” Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.” Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.” So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” “Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.” Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Invitation to the Annual Parish Assembly Հրավեր Տարեկան Ծիսական Անդամական Ժողովի

Your Pastor and Parish Council cordially invite you to attend the 52nd Annual Parish Assembly to be held after *Badarak* at 12:30pm.

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR



We greatly appreciate the generosity of the Kurkjian, Kooshakjian, Mkhitarian families for providing today's fellowship coffee hour refreshments.

Kitchen Fundraising Campaign Launched!

On Sunday, December 29, 2024, we officially launched our Kitchen Fundraising Campaign! We are thrilled to announce the launch of a \$250,000 fundraising campaign to support this important project. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our parishioners, we've already received substantial donations, including a remarkable matching gift of up to \$50,000 from Ed and Carmen Gulbenkian.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our sponsors and donors who have shown their commitment to this effort. With your continued support, we are confident in reaching our goal and seeing this dream become a reality. A special thanks to our Kitchen Fundraising Committee:

Rosalind Hewsenian (Chair), Arman Bedonian, Adriane Keleshian Bonfiglio, Joanne Chitjian, Meline Kasparian Longacre, Chris Bonfiglio (treasurer). Your generosity and dedication to our church community are truly inspiring. Together, we look forward to the completion of this transformative project.



REQUIEM SERVICE WILL BE HELD TODAY

Herman Kurkjian (40th day)
Requested by: The Kurkjian Family

Soorik Der Avakian, Khajak Zakarian, Haratune Der Avakian, Sister Lumiere, Avedis Zakarian, Rosa Zakarian, and Amalia Der Avakian
Requested by: The Der Avakian & Kooshakjian families

Valeree Mkhitarian (40th day)
Requested by: Luiza Mkhitarian & Family

May God rest their souls in His eternal peace and presence and grant their loved ones the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

ST. GREGORY ARMENIAN SCHOOL
PRESENTS.

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POON PARENTAN

family fun night

SATURDAY MARCH 1, 2025

6:30 TO 11 PM

MUSIC BY

GUYS AND DOLLS DJ
BETTY SAGATELIAN & CESAR ORTIZ

FOOD BY

MURAT CATERING

RAFFLE + CASH WINE BAR

ADULTS \$55 EARLY RSVP | \$65 AT THE DOOR
CHILDREN 5-10 YEARS \$25

TUTAK HALL
1131 NORTH STREET, WHITE PLAINS, NY 10605

RESERVE BY FEB 22 BY TEXT/CALL TO
MARIA BEDONIAN AT (914) 329-5352 OR EMAIL
STGREGORYARMENIANSCHOOLWP@GMAIL.COM

ST. GREGORY THE ENLIGHTENER ARMENIAN CHURCH
1131 North Street, White Plains, NY 10605

WOMEN'S GUILD

Invites you to

SAINTLY WOMEN'S DAY

Celebrating

ST. GAYANE - Honored Saint of 2025

❖ Saturday April 5, 2025,
2:00 – 4:00 PM

❖ Service in the sanctuary

❖ Light Refreshments & Tea

❖ \$40.00 per person. Donations
will go towards WGCC, St.
Gregory kitchen renovation
and LA fire victims.

❖ RSVP: Email, call or text

Dawn Papalian at dawn@papalian.com or 310-850-6496 by
March 31, 2025



St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church Armenia Awaits

Led by Fr. Mesrob Hovsepyan



JULY 14 - 28

\$2775/ PERSON

LAND PACKAGE ONLY
PLUS: AIRFARE
(AIRFARE NEEDS TO BE RESERVED
SEPARATELY)

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY

Fr. Mesrob Hovsepyan celebrates the Divine Liturgy this Sunday.
Sunday School is on break today and will resume classes on Sunday, February 23.

FEBRUARY 23,
SUNDAY

Morning Service & Divine Liturgy.
- Sunday School will have an interactive class.
- Women's Guild Dedication service following the Liturgy and before the Assembly
- ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY following the Women's Guild dedication service

MARCH 1,
SATURDAY

Poon Paregentan Family Fun Night
Details inside.

MARCH 2,
SUNDAY

Poon Paregentan
Great Lent begins on Monday, March 3
ACYOA Juniors meeting.

MARCH 14,
FRIDAY

Lenten Friday Prayer Service ONLY– 7:00pm.
First two Lenten Programs will be hosted on Sundays.

MARCH 16,
SUNDAY

Sunday of the Prodigal Son. Sunrise Service will be held at the end of the Liturgy.

First Potluck Lenten Lunch and Lenten Program following the Divine Liturgy (the first two Lenten programs this year will be hosted on Sundays).

PRESENTATION BY DR. ANI SHAHINIAN (Assistant Professor of the Grace & Paul Shahinian Lectureship in Armenian Christian Art & Culture at the St Nersess Armenian Seminary). Details to follow.

MARCH 28,
FRIDAY

Lenten Friday Prayer Service ONLY– 7:00pm.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 29, SATURDAY	Aida's Book Group—11 am The Gambler by William C. Rempel
MARCH 30, SUNDAY	Second Potluck Lenten Lunch and Lenten Program following the Divine Liturgy LECTURE BY ASYA DARBINYAN <i>Details to follow.</i>
APRIL 5, SATURDAY	SAINTLY WOMEN'S DAY TEA Sponsored by the Women's Guild, 2:00-4:00pm. <i>Details to follow.</i> ACYOA JUNIORS OVERNIGHT LENTEN RETREAT, APRIL 5-6. <i>Details to follow.</i>
APRIL 11, FRIDAY	Lenten Friday Evening Programs. 6:30pm - Lenten Service, 7:00pm - Lenten Dinner, 7:30pm - Program. Details to follow.
APRIL 13, SUNDAY	Palm Sunday, ACYOA Day. Details to follow.
APRIL 20, SUNDAY	EASTER SUNDAY EASTER BAKE SALE by ACYOA Juniors
APRIL 24, THURSDAY	110TH COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE FLAG RAISING CEREMONY - GREENWICH TOWN HALL - 9:00AM Details to follow. PRAYER SERVICE IN THE EVENING Details to follow.
APRIL 27, SUNDAY	INTERCESSORY PRAYER SERVICE 110TH COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE
MAY 4, SUNDAY	ANNUAL LIONEL GALSTAUN MEMORIAL CONCERT. <i>Details to follow.</i>