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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.

MARCH 2, 2025
GREAT BAREKENDAN
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TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Romans 13:11-14:25

Matthew 6:1-21

PC MEMBERS ON DUTY:

Arman Bedonian

Joanne Chitjian

Arek Ohanissian



REQUIEM SERVICE WILL BE HELD TODAY

Mariam Konlian (1 year)

Requested by: The Konlian Families

Hasmik Gasparyan

Requested by: Ofelya Gasparyan

**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

EVE OF GREAT LENT OR GREAT BAREKENDAN

The Armenian Church has defined the period of Great Lent as a time of abstinence and repentance for the faithful. Each Sunday during this period is named after an event in the Holy Bible that contains the message of the day. According to the calendar, the days prior to weekly fasts, as well as Great Lent, are called Barekendan. The word Barekendan means “good living” or “good life”, as we are called to live cheerfully, joyfully, and to be happy on these days preceding fasting periods.

On these days of Barekendan, the angel’s words addressed to the prophet Elijah are fulfilled: “Arise and eat, otherwise the journey will be too great for you” (1 Kings 19:7). The Armenian Church thus allows her faithful to organize games, festivals, carnivals and large, plentiful meals to observe the feast, as it is followed by a period of fasting and abstinence.

The Eve of Great Lent, as Great Barekendan is also called, commemorates the human bliss, which Adam and Eve enjoyed in the Garden of Eden. It also symbolizes the heavenly right, according to which, mankind could eat all types of fruit, except the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Barekendan is the manifestation of the virtues of the soul, through which people can transform mourning to joy, and torment to peace. It is with this comprehension, with bowing of our souls, penitence, fasting and hope for mercy, that each Christian individual should take his first step on the long, 40 day journey of Great Lent, culminating with the Glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The period starting from the day following the Great Barekendan and lasting till the Feast of the Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ, is called Great Lent. In the period of the Great Lent, people, refraining from bodily pleasures and sins, get prepared for the Feast of the Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ by means of abstinence and repentance. Both spiritual and moral and bodily abstinence are considered to be important. Our church fathers have called the period of the Great Lent as “Karasnordats”, as the period of fasting lasts 40 days. This period of the Great Lent is also called “Salt and bread”, as in the past during the period of the Great Lent people have eaten only salt and bread.

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Մեծ պահքի բարեկենդանը կոչվում է Բուն Բարեկենդան, քանի որ նախորդում է ամենաերկար պահքին: Այն տևում է 48 օր՝ Բուն Բարեկենդանից մինչև Ս. Հարության Չատիկի տոնը: Պահքի շրջանում օգտագործում են բացառապես բուսական ծագում ունեցող սննդամթերք:

Պահքի ընթացքում հրաժարվում են ոչ միայն որոշակի կերակուրներից, այլև մոլի սովորություններից, շատախոսությունից, ստախոսությունից, հայհոյանքից և այլ մեղքերից: Կերակրից հրաժարվելն առանց մեղքից հետ կանգնելու անօգուտ է: «Լեռան քարոզում» Քրիստոս պահքի մասին ասում է. «Երբ ծոմ պահեք, տրտմերես մի լինեք կեղծավորների նման, որոնք իրենց երեսներն այլանդակում են, որպեսզի մարդկանց այնպես երևան, թե ծոմ են պահում, ճշմարիտ եմ ասում ձեզ, այդ իսկ է նրանց վարձը, այսինքն՝ մարդկանց երևալը և նրանցից գովվելը: Այլ երբ դու ծոմ պահես, օծի քո գլուխը և լվա քո երեսը, որպեսզի չերևաս մարդկանց ծոմ պահող, այլ քո Հորը՝ զաղոնաբար, և քո հայրը, որ տեսնում է, ինչ որ ծածուկ է, կհատուցի քեզ»:

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

The reading is from the Epistle of Paul to Romans 13:11-14:25

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each one of us will be held accountable. Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother or sister. I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who considers it unclean. If your brother or sister is distressed by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. Do not let what you eat cause the ruin of one for whom Christ died. So do not let your good be slandered. For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

The second reading is from the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Matthew 6:1-21

Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the gentiles do, for they think that

they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

“Pray, then, in this way: Our Father in heaven, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.

“For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.



FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR

We greatly appreciate the generosity of the Konlian and Gasparyan families for providing today's fellowship coffee hour refreshments.

CLOSING OF ALTAR CURTAIN: The curtain of the Altar was closed on Saturday, March 1st, on the Eve of Poon Paregentan. It will remain closed throughout the forty days of Great Lent until it is reopened on April 13, on Palm Sunday. The closing of the curtain symbolizes the Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise. The entire church is in repentance during this time.

- During Lent the Divine Liturgy (Badarak) is celebrated with the Main Altar curtain closed.
- The Kiss of Peace is not given.
- Holy Communion is not given. In special circumstances, Holy Communion may be received by making arrangements with Der Hayr after the service.
- The Gospel is not kissed at the end of Divine Liturgy.
- Mas is distributed during Lent.
- Sunrise service will be offered at the end of the Liturgy, following the sermon

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

WOMEN'S GUILD

Invites you to

Season of Reflection: A Lenten Retreat
Led by Dn. Yervant Kutchukian
Spiritual Director, St. Nersess Seminary

Join us at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary

- Saturday, March 22, 2025, Noon to 4 PM
- Lenten Lunch and refreshments served
- Lenten Service following retreat
- \$25 per person. Proceeds will benefit AYO

RSVP: Email or call Lisa Kouzoujian at
Lisa.Kouzoujian@gmail.com or 203-536-2622
by March 15, 2025

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
**22nd Annual Lionel Galstaun
Memorial Concert**

STEPHANIE KELEDJIAN
SOPRANO

ACCOMPANIED BY
MAESTRO VAGHARSHAK OHANYAN

SUNDAY
MAY 4, 2025

COMPLIMENTARY LUNCHEON SPONSORED
BY THE CULTURAL COMMITTEE
FOLLOWING THE CHURCH SERVICE

PERFORMANCE
IN THE SANCTUARY
1:30 PM



JOIN US TO SUPPORT OUR YOUNG ARMENIAN ARTISTS!

RSVP 4/26 at stgregoryculturalcommittee@gmail.com or call at 914 428 2595

1131 North Street, White Plains, NY 10605

*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)

804-405-9399

frmesrob@gmail.com

1131 North St.,
White Plains, NY 10605



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY *Poon Paregentan: Morning Service & Divine Liturgy.*
Fr. Mesrob Hovsepian celebrates the Divine Liturgy this Sunday.
Great Lent begins on Monday, March 3
ACYOA Juniors outing event.

**MARCH 9,
SUNDAY**

Project Linus after the Divine Liturgy

**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. TITLE: “GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES”: DISCIPLESHIP AND MARTYRDOM IN ARMENIAN CHRISTINANITY”.

**MARCH 22,
SATURDAY**

SEASON OF REFLECTION: A LENTEN RETREAT BY WOMEN’S GUILD

The Women’s Guild invites you to attend a program—Season of Reflection: A Lenten Retreat at St. Nersess Seminary. More information on the flyer in the bulletin.

**MARCH 28,
FRIDAY**

Lenten Friday Prayer Service ONLY– 7:00pm.

**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. TITLE: ARMENIAN GENOCIDE 110: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 5, SATURDAY	SAINTLY WOMEN'S DAY TEA <i>Sponsored by the Women's Guild, 2:00-4:00pm.</i> <i>Details to follow.</i>
	ACYOA JUNIORS OVERNIGHT LENTEN RE-TREAT, 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. <i>Details to follow.</i>
APRIL 13, SUNDAY	Palm Sunday, ACYOA Day. <i>Details to follow.</i>
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 <i>Details to follow.</i> PRAYER SERVICE IN THE EVENING <i>Details to follow.</i>
APRIL 26, SATURDAY	Armenian School Talent Show. <i>Details to follow.</i>
APRIL 27, SUNDAY	INTERCESSORY PRAYER SERVICE 110TH COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE
MAY 4, SUNDAY	ANNUAL LIONEL GALSTAUN MEMORIAL CONCERT. <i>The flyer can be found inside.</i>
JUNE 22, SUNDAY	CHOIR APPRECIATION DAY. <i>Details to follow.</i>