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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.

JUNE 22, 2025

FEAST OF THE HOLY ETCHMIADZIN
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TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Hebrew 9:1:10

John 10:22-30

PC MEMBERS ON DUTY:

Joanne Chitjian

George Krikorian

Annie Shalian



REQUIEM SERVICE WILL NOT BE OFFERED TODAY.

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

FEAST OF THE CATHEDRAL OF HOLY ETCHMIADZIN

One of the most celebrated feasts of the Armenian Church is the day when the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin was established, according to the inspired vision of St. Gregory the Illuminator. According to tradition, and hagiographic sources, following the declaration of Christianity as the Official Religion of Armenia in 301 AD, St. Gregory has a famous vision, wherein the Only Begotten Son of God – Jesus Christ, descends from Heaven, his face lit aglow, and with the strike of a golden hammer designates the site where the Mother Cathedral for the entire Armenian nation is to be founded. Hence, the name of the spiritual center for the Armenians, “Etchmiadzin”, means “the Descent of the Only Begotten” (Etch – descent, mi – only, dzin – begotten.) St. Gregory relayed the story about his vision to the Armenian King Tiridates, under whose royal auspices and support the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin was built. King Tiridates and Queen Ashkhen participated in the construction, as did the entire capital city of Vagharshapat by bringing stones from the biblical mountain of Ararat to lay the foundations. In the site marked by Christ, a Holy Altar of Descent was built. According of Patriarch Malachia Ormanian, from the days of her establishment, the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin has been the residence of the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians. Thus, it is the Mother See of the Armenian Church, and as such, her universal, spiritual and administrative headquarters. Another title bestowed upon the cathedral is “Catholic” – not to be confused with the Roman Catholic faith. Catholic is a Greek word meaning “Universal”. Theologically, the cathedral has been called “catholic” as a description of the catholicity (universality) of the Church. The feast of the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin is celebrated 64 days following Easter. A Divine Liturgy is celebrated, and during services, a special hymn is sung, written by the eighth century Catholicos Sahak of Dzorap, telling of St. Gregory’s vision and the Cathedral’s construction.

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Հայոց եկեղեցու մեծ տոներինց է Սբ. Գրիգոր Լուսավորչի տեսիլքով Կաթողիկե Սբ. Էջմիածնի հիմնադրման տոնը: Ըստ ավանդության Խոր Վիրապի բանտարկությունից դուրս գալուց հետո Սբ. Գրիգոր Լուսավորիչը տեսնում է նշանավոր տեսիլքը, ուր Միածինը, ողողված հրաշափառ լույսով, իջնում է երկնքից եւ ոսկե ուռով զարկում Սանդարամետի գետնափոր մեխյանը՝ ցույց տալով այն տեղը, ուր պետք է կառուցվեր հայոց սուրբ հավատի տաճարը: Այստեղից էլ առաջացել է «Էջմիածինե անունը, այսինքն՝ էջ՝ (գրաբար) իջավ Միածինը: Սբ. Գրիգոր Լուսավորիչն իր տեսիլքը պատմում է հայոց Տրդատ թագավորին: Արքայի հովանավորությամբ կառուցվում է Սբ. Էջմիածնի Աստվածածնին նվիրված Կաթողիկե Մայր Տաճարը: Քրիստոսի իջման տեղում էլ կառուցվում է Իջման Սբ. Սեղանը: Էջմիածնի կառուցման աշխատանքներին ժողովրդի հետ մասնակցել են նաև Տրդատ թագավորը եւ Աշխեն թագուհին: Կաթողիկե են անվանել զմերթ ունեցող բոլոր եկեղեցիներն ընդհանրապես,

համապատասխանում են Էջմիածնի Մայր Տաճարին, քանի որ այն արժանապատեհ է կեղեցի է, գմբեթավոր է ընդհանրական է բոլոր հավատացյալների համար:

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

The reading is from the First Epistle of Hebrews 9:1-10

Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand and the table with its consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered Ark of the Covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover. But we cannot discuss these things in detail now. When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still functioning. This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order.

The second reading is from the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John 10:22-30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

Pastoral Care, Home and Hospital Visits

Der Mesrob is always available and would like to visit homebound and hospitalized parishioners. If you or someone you know is ill, Hospitalized or homebound and would like to be visited, please call Der Mesrob directly at (804)-405-9399 to schedule the visit. Please note: when asked about your religion at a hospital, patients should list themselves as “Armenian Orthodox” or “Armenian” not “other”.



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.
- **PLEASE SANITIZE YOUR HAND(S) BEFORE RETURNING TO YOUR SEAT FROM THE RIGHT OR LEFT SIDE OF THE CHANCEL.**
-

Second Plate Collection will be done by the Women's Guild at the end of the Liturgy on Sunday, June 22, 2025

The collection will benefit Children of Armenia Sponsorship Program. Children of Armenia Sponsorship Program (CASP), is supported by the Women’s Guild of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (WGCC), to help and support vulnerable children in need until they reach the age of 18. Currently, 900 children are enrolled in CASP. Thanks to this program, and your generosity, a yearly stipend provides these children with clothing, school supplies and helps contribute to their food so that they can thrive. Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

The St. Gregory Women's Guild Thrift and Gift Shoppe will be closed until further notice as our manager, Adriane Keleshian Bonfiglio, recovers from shoulder surgery. We send Adriane our warmest wishes and prayers for a smooth and speedy recovery!

THE KISS OF PEACE

The GIVER says:

Christ is revealed amongst us.

Փրիստոս ի մէջ մեր յայտնեցաւ:

Kreesdos ee mech mer haydnetsav.

The RECEIVER says:

Blessed is the revelation of Christ.

Օրհնեալ է յայտնութիւնն Փրիստոսի:

Orhnyal eh haydnootyoonun Kreesdosee.

WHEN TAKING MAHS

The GIVER says:

May this be to you a share and portion of the Holy Sacrifice.

Մաս և բաժին եղիցի բեզ ի Սուրբ Պատարագէս:

Mahs yev pazheen yegheetsee kez ee Soorp

Badarakes.

The RECEIVER says:

My portion is God forever.

Բաժին իմ Աստուած յաւիտեան:

Pahjeen eem Asdvadz haveedyan.

THE PSALM OF DISMISSAL - PSALM 34

I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall be at all times in my mouth.

Օրհնեցից ըզՏէր յամենայն ժամ, յամենայն ժամ,

Օրհնութիւն նորա ի բերան իմ:

Orhnetseets uzDer hamenayn zham, hamenayn zham orhnootyoon nora ee peran eem.

When approaching the Holy Gospel at the end of the Divine Liturgy you say:

May the Lord remember all your sacrifices.

Յիշեսցէ Տէր զամենայն պատարագս քո.

Heeshestseh Der zamenayn Badarakes ko

The Priest answers:

May the Lord grant you according to your own heart, and fulfill all your desires. (Psalm 20:4)

Տացէ բեզ Տէր ըստ սրտի քում և զամենայն խորհուրդս քո ի բարիս նա կատարեսցէ:

Datseh kez Der usd srdee koom yev zamenayn

khoroortus koh ee pareaes na gadarestseh.

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.

Graduates of 2025!



If you know of any St. Gregory parishioners graduating from high school, college, or graduate school this spring, please notify the church office or Der Hayr by calling 914

-428-2595 or by email saintgregorychurchwp@gmail.com

Please share with us the student's name, school, special achievements, future plans, etc., so we may share our pride in their accomplishments with our entire parish in the Enlightener eNewsletter.

CHOIR APPRECIATION DAY
Sunday, June 22, 2025

Potluck Fellowship following the Divine Liturgy

A short program will be presented by members of our
Choir during the fellowship.

ST. GREGORY THE ENLIGHTENER ARMENIAN CHURCH

CHOIR DAY
Appreciation

SUNDAY, JUNE 22
12:30 PM

POTLUCK FELLOWSHIP

Performance by the
Choir Members

Free Will Donation

1131 North Street, White Plains, NY 10605

THE EASTERN DIOCESE OF
THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA
BISHOP MESROP PARSAMYAN, PRIMATE
REJOICES TO

WELCOME HIS BEATITUDE ARCHBISHOP SAHAK II MASHALIAN

FOR A SPECIAL CELEBRATION AT
ST. VARTAN CATHEDRAL
630 SECOND AVE. NEW YORK

SUNDAY JUNE, 29

PATRIARCHAL DIVINE LITURGY

10AM

PATRIARCH SAHAK WILL BE
THE CELEBRANT AND
DELIVER THE HOMILY

A CELEBRATORY BANQUET
WILL FOLLOW IN HAIK & ALICE
KAVOOKJIAN AUDITORIUM

ADMISSION: \$125 // YOUTH UNDER 14: \$50

THE ENTIRE
COMMUNITY IS INVITED
TO GREET PATRIARCH
SAHAK AND RECEIVE
HIS BLESSING.

THE 85TH
ARMENIAN
PATRIARCH OF
CONSTANTINOPI



MAKE BANQUET
RESERVATIONS BY
JUNE 20

ELIZABETH KHODABASH
718.451.6441
elizabethkhodabash@yahoo.com

ANI MINNETYAN
516.521.5396
animinnet@gmail.com

TALAR SESETYAN SARAFIAN
201.240.8541
Talar@sarafian1.com

Please note that the Divine Liturgy will NOT be celebrated at our church on Sunday, June 29, 2025.

We warmly encourage all our parishioners to attend the Divine Liturgy at St. Vartan Cathedral, where it will be celebrated by His Eminence Archbishop Sahak Mashalian, the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople. This is a rare and blessed opportunity to worship together with our broader Armenian community and receive the prayers and blessings of the Patriarch.

Details above.

However, our church will still be open Sunday morning:

- Morning Service will be offered from 10:30–11:00 AM.
 - The sanctuary will remain open for personal prayers and reflection.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY	<p>Morning Service & Divine Liturgy. Fr. Mesrob Hovsepian celebrates the Divine Liturgy.</p> <p>Choir Appreciation will take place following the Liturgy in the Tutak Hall. A short program will be presented by the members of our Choir during the Potluck Fellowship hour.</p>
JUNE 29, SUNDAY	<p>Divine Liturgy will NOT be celebrated at our church this Sunday. We warmly encourage all our parishioners to attend the Divine Liturgy at St. Vartan Cathedral, where it will be celebrated by His Eminence Archbishop Sahak Mashalian, the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople. Details inside. The church will still be open Sunday morning: Morning Service - 10:30-11:00 AM.</p>
JULY 20, SUNDAY	<p>Divine Liturgy will be celebrated by Rev. Fr. Ghevond Ajamian. Fr. Mesrob will be traveling to Armenia along with parish trip participants and will return on August 12.</p>
JULY 26 SATURDAY	<p>Aida's Book Group 11 am</p>
JULY 27, SUNDAY	<p>Guest celebrant: Divine Liturgy will be celebrated by Rev. Fr. Arshen Aypazian.</p>
AUGUST 3, SUNDAY	<p>Guest celebrant: Divine Liturgy will be celebrated by Rev. Fr. Arshen Aypazian.</p>
AUGUST 10, SUNDAY	<p>Guest celebrant: Divine Liturgy will be celebrated by Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian.</p>
AUGUST 17, SUNDAY	<p>Feast of the Assumption of St. Mary Blessing of Grapes service. All-American BBQ, Women's Guild.</p>
SEPTEMBER 21, SUNDAY	<p>Armenian Picnic Details to follow.</p>