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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.

NOVEMBER 23, 2025
First Sunday of Advent
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TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Luke 12:13-31

PC MEMBERS ON DUTY:

Chris Bonfiglio

Joanne Chitjian

Ron Sanossian



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

Thanksgiving Day

Although Thanksgiving Day does not appear on the calendar of the Armenian Church, and although it is a civil holiday, nevertheless, there are good reasons which make it necessary that we should observe it even in our churches. One of the main reasons for this is that the origin and aim of Thanksgiving Day is religious. Another reason is that it is an American holiday, and we, as American citizens, have to observe it, not only by taking the day off but also by attending a church service. The story of the first Thanksgiving in Plymouth does not need telling as I assume it is familiar to all of us. But mention must be made of the aims and purpose for which this holiday was established. George Washington has put it like this: "As a day of public Thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God."

The expression of gratitude to God for His bounty, when He has supplied the necessary means and resources to satisfy the most primary human needs, is an idea which is by no means exclusively Christian; it belongs almost to all faiths. Nevertheless, in the Christian religion, following the personal example of our Savior, the obligation of thanksgiving has been emphasized from the very beginning.

The Epistles of St. Paul almost invariably start with expressions of thanksgiving like this: "I give thanks to my God always, who has blessed us with every blessing in Christ".

On this Day of Thanksgiving let us give hearty thanks to God for all visible and invisible gifts through which He has blessed us as a church and community. Most of all, however, let us praise God and give thanks for those good people, who have shown particular interest for their church, and those who have given not only from their material goods, but from their precious time and talent, doing big or small deeds voluntarily in their parish.

May God bless them and increase their number for the further benefit and progress of the Church and for the greater glory of His Holy name, which is blessed now, forever and ever, Amen.

Excerpts from Archbishop Shnork Kaloustian "Saints and Sacraments of the Armenian Church"1996

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

The first reading is from the 1st Letter of Thessalonians 1:1-10

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

The second reading is from the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Luke 9:43-50

Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

Join the Saint Gregory Women's Guild
as we give thanks and celebrate the
season with food, fellowship, and
gratitude at our **Thanksgiving
Luncheon**

Date: Sunday, November 23rd, 2025
Time: Immediately following Badarak
Location: Tutak Hall

\$25 for adults; Children 5 to 12 years old \$15; Children 5
and under - free

Bring your appetite and your thankful heart!
Delicious food and a warm community await.
Families and friends are welcome! Don't forget to visit
our bake sale for homemade treats to take home.

Please RSVP by November 15th, 2025:
Alicia Wood
awood@wcv3.com
Call/Text: (203) 246 - 7420

You are cordially invited to
attend an **Advent by
Candlelight Tea**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 2025
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Hosted by the St Gregory Women's Guild
1131 North Street - White Plains, NY 10605

\$40. pp

*Includes canapés, refreshments & holiday
entertainment*

Checks payable to St. Gregory Women's Guild

**Advanced reservations
required for proper
planning**

Please RSVP by 11/30:
Dawn Papalian
dawn@papalian.com
Cell/Text: (310) 850 -
6496

BUS TRIP TO THE DIOCESE

We are planning a bus field trip to the Diocese and encourage all children of our community (grades K to 5) join us for a fun day of activities.

The bus will be leaving from St. Gregory the Enlightener Arm. Church on Dec. 6th at 9:30am and should be back before 3:30pm.

RSVP by NOVEMBER 20, 2025

The bus trip is free and sponsored by our Parish Council.

Please contact Fr. Mesrob to register your child(ren) or grandchild(ren).



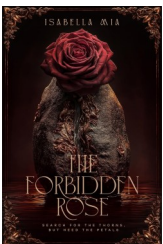
CHRISTMAS
WITH THE BISHOP
ST. VARTAN CATHEDRAL

DECEMBER 6, 2025
11AM-2PM
.....

Join Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan for a joyful Christmas celebration made just for kids!

AGES K-5TH GRADE
FUN PROGRAM & ACTIVITY
LUNCH INCLUDED
FREE ADMISSION

RSVP **SCAN**



The Forbidden Rose

by Isabella Mia

We extend our warm congratulations to **Isabella Mia Ortiz** on the publication of her new book, *The Forbidden Rose*.

For more information you can find the book on Amazon and on www.isbellamiaproductions.com.



Havadamk

WE BELIEVE

A Study of the Nicene Creed

NOVEMBER

~~9, 16~~

DECEMBER

14, 28

JANUARY

18

Sundays

*Studying the
Nicene Creed
is a great way of
knowing and living
more deeply our
Orthodox Faith.*

12:45-1:30

St. Gregory the Enlightener
Armenian Church
1131 North Street,
White Plains, NY 10605



**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.



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.**

RECITING THE NICENE CREED IN ENGLISH

The **Nicene Creed** is one of the most important parts of our Divine Liturgy. In it, we proclaim the core of our Christian faith—our beliefs, our theology, and the truths handed down to us from the early Church. By reciting the Creed, we unite our voices with generations of faithful who have confessed these same teachings throughout the centuries.

To deepen our understanding and strengthen our communal prayer, we will begin **reciting the Nicene Creed in English every other Sunday** during the Divine Liturgy. This will allow all parishioners to fully participate, reflect more deeply on the meaning of the words, and grow together in the faith we profess.



During the recitation of the Nicene Creed in the Armenian Church, members place their **palms together with fingers closed and the right thumb folded over the left.**

This posture is a symbol of:

- Professing the Christian faith.
- Showing unity as the body of Christ.
- Singleness of heart and the upward elevation of the soul in prayer.

This specific hand position is used on only a few occasions during the Divine Liturgy (Badarak), including the recitation of the Nicene Creed, the singing of the Angelic Hymn, and the elevation of the Gospel book.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY

Morning Service & Divine Liturgy.

Fr. Mesrob Hovsepyan celebrates the Divine Liturgy.

Thanksgiving Brunch sponsored by the Women's Guild. Bake Sale! Details inside.

Today the St. Gregory Women's Guild holds a bake sale featuring a variety of homemade treats to take home. The Guild will also be collecting donations to support the Ecumenical Emergency Food Pantry, an organization dedicated to alleviating hunger in White Plains and the surrounding communities. A free-will donation basket will be available.

In addition, the ACYOA Juniors will be selling the sweet soujuk with walnuts that they prepared last week, as a fundraiser in support of their organization.

DECEMBER 6,
SATURDAY

Bus trip to Diocese, 9:30-2pm. Details inside.

The Women's Guild Advent by Candlelight Tea.
2:00-4:00pm.

DECEMBER 13,
SUNDAY

Khachkar curving workshop-1:00pm.
Details to follow.

DECEMBER 14,
SUNDAY

Havadamk-A Study of the Nicene Creed
12:45-1:30.

DECEMBER 20,
SATURDAY

Christmas by the Armenian School students
Details to follow.

DECEMBER 21,
SUNDAY

Lunch with Santa following the Liturgy.
Details to follow.

DECEMBER 28,
SUNDAY

Havadamk-A Study of the Nicene Creed
12:45-1:30.