



ՍՈՒՐԲ ԳՐԻԳՈՐ ԼՈՒՍԱՒՈՐԻՉ

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 14, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

BAREKENDAN OF THE FAST OF ST. JAMES

ԲԱՐԵԿԵՆԴԱՆ Ա. ՅԱԿՈԲ ՍԾԲԵԱՅ ՀԱՅՐԱՊԵՏԻ ՏՕՒԻ ՊԱՀՔԻՆ

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Hebrews 1:1-14

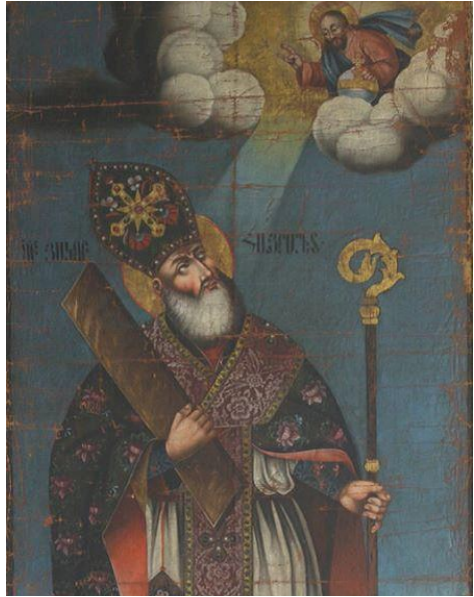
Luke 17:1-10

PC MEMBERS ON DUTY:

Arman Bedonian

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

Commemoration of the Pontiff St. James of Nisibis, Hermit St. Maruge and Bishop Melitus

Pontiff St. James of Nisibis is one of the authoritative and beloved saints of the Universal Church. He deserved the epithet “Thaumaturge (Wonderworker) for the numerous miracles relating to his name. According to hagiographical sources St. James was from a Parthian dynasty and the nephew of St. Gregory the Illuminator. When the family members of Anak the Parthian were killed, nurses secretly fled to Caesaria taking with them baby Suren and James, where they were educated in Christian spirit. Soon after, baby James and his sister Sakden were taken to Persia and for a while lived in the royal palace. However, James refused a safe and well-to-do life and became a hermit. He left for Nisibis where he met hermit St. Maruge, who was famous for leading a life befitting saints. Learning from the hermit Maruge that many people despite their conversion to true faith were skeptic and suspicious about the existence of Noah’s Ark, James decided to climb the mountain in order to see the Ark and bring a piece of it back. Despite his unwavering willpower he couldn’t reach the peak and after long suffering, he had a short nap. The angel visited him in his dream and put a piece of the Ark under his head. According to the tradition in the place where St. James had lain down there appeared a cold stream having healing and miraculous qualities. Later, a church bearing the saint’s name was built beside a nearby stream. The piece of the Ark, to this day, is kept in the museum of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. He is one of the clergymen who participated in the Nicene Council in 325. After the death of the Bishop of Nisibis, God appeared to Maruge and told him that St. James was the deserving candidate for the Bishop of Nisibis. St. James passed away in 350, after leading the flock for a long time. Bishop St. Melitus was born in Melitene, Armenia Minor. In 358 he was the Bishop of Sebastia. In 360 he ascended the throne of Antioch. He struggled against the Arians. In 381 he presided over the Second Ecumenical Council convened in Constantinople but unfortunately passed away before the end of the Council.

Ս. Հակոբ Մծբնա Հայրապետի, Մարուգե ճգնավորի և Մելիտոս եպիսկոպոսի հիշատակության օր Ս. Հակոբ Մծբնա Հայրապետն Ընդհանրական Եկեղեցու հեղինակավոր և սիրված սրբերից է: Կատարած բազում հրաշքների շնորհիվ նրան կոչել են նաև «Մքանչելագործ»: Վարքագրական աղբյուրների համաձայն՝ Մբ. Հակոբը պարթևական տոհմից էր և մեր առաջին Հայրապետ Մբ. Գրիգոր Լուսավորչի հորաքրոջ որդին: Երբ Անակ Պարթևի տոհմը բնաջնջվել է, դայակները մանուկ Սուրենին և Հակոբին փախցրել են Կեսարիա, ուր նրանք դաստիարակվել են քրիստոնեական ոգով: Շատ չանցած, մանուկ Հակոբն իր քրոջ Սակդենի հետ տեղափոխվում են Պարսկաստան և որոշ ժամանակ ապրում

արքունիքում: Սակայն Հակոբը թողել է այդ ճոխ կյանքը՝ դարձել ճգնավոր: Հետո գնացել է Մծբին՝ հանդիպել Մարուգե ճգնավորին, որն հռչակված էր սրբակենցաղությամբ: Նրանից լսելով, որ մարդկանցից շատերը թեպետ հավատքի են եկել, բայց թերահավատ են և կասկածում են Նոյյան տապանի գոյությանը, որոշել է բարձրանալ լեռը՝ տապանը տեսնել և մի մասնիկ բերել: Հակառակ անկոտորում կամքին՝ չի կարողացել հասնել Արարատի գագաթը և երկար տանջվելուց հետո նիքիել: Երազում հրեշտակն այցելել է նրան և տապանից մի մասունք դրել գլխատակին: Ըստ ավանդության, Մբ. Հակոբի պառկած տեղում սառնորակ աղբյուր է բխել, բուժիչ և հրաշագործ հասկություններ ունեցել, իսկ աղբյուրի կողքին հետագայում արբի անունով եկեղեցի է կառուցվել: Նոյյան տապանի այդ մասունքը ցայսօր պահվում է Մայր Աթոռ Մբ. Էջմիածնում: Լինելով ժամանակի պատկառելի անձնավորություններից մեկը՝ մասնակցել է 325 թվականի Նիկիայի Տիեզերաժողովին: Իր կյանքի ընթացքում բազմաթիվ հրաշքներ է գործել: Մծբինի եպիսկոպոսի մահից հետո Աստված Մարուգեին հայտնել է, որ Հակոբն է լինելու աթոռի արժանի հետնորդը: Երկար տարիներ իր հոտը հովվելուց հետո մահացել է 350 թվականին

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

The first reading is from the 2nd Letter of Paul to Hebrews 1:1-14

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

The second reading is from the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Luke 17:1-10

Jesus said to his disciples: "Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come, but woe to anyone through whom they come. It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble. So watch yourselves. "If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying 'I repent,' you must forgive them." The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" He replied, "If

you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you. "Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? Won't he rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'

Make a Meaningful Difference in Our Church Community by Offering Your Service!

We are seeking parishioners who would like to be nominated to serve on the Parish Council. Those nominated may be elected at the Annual Parish Assembly in March 2026.

For parishioners looking for a meaningful way to become more involved in the heart and life of the church, serving on the Parish Council offers a wonderful opportunity. Parish Council members play an active role in welcoming newcomers and longtime parishioners on their scheduled Sundays, assisting with elements of the Badarak, and preparing refreshments for Fellowship Hour gatherings.

In addition to Sunday responsibilities, members participate in monthly board meetings. Through these meetings, they gain a deeper understanding of the many committees and ministries that help the church community thrive. Council members are supported and guided as they learn how we fulfill our ministry as a Church community.

Those who feel called to share their time, talent, and warm presence are encouraged to consider this meaningful role. Your involvement helps sustain the spirit and rhythm of our parish community.

The Nominating Committee will be reaching out to parishioners in January. Anyone interested in being placed on the ballot is invited to contact the committee directly.

Ann Daw-914-334-2004 / adaw2383@gmail.com

Lauren Kayaian-914-723-7159 / teaticket67@netscape.net

Ellie Krolian-914-588-7047 / ebkrolian@gmail.com

Elise Meneshian Clifford- 914-428-2595 /

saintgregorychurchwp@gmail.com



You're invited to our



A CHRISTMAS STORY
TOLD BY THE CHILDREN OF
ST. GREGORY'S &
LUNCH WITH SANTA

SUNDAY
DECEMBER

21

12:30
PM

ST. GREGORY'S
TUTAK HALL

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

Organized by the Sunday School

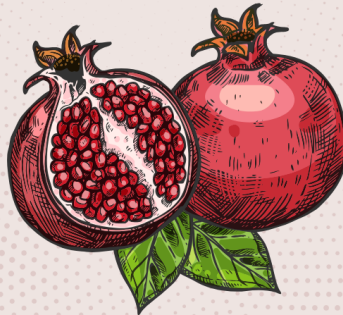


1131 North Street, White Plains, NY 10605

BLESSING OF POMEGRANATES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025

immediately following the Divine Liturgy



*Donations are welcomed to defray the cost of the
pomegranates*

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

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.

December 14 - Armenian

21 - English

28 - Armenian

January 4 - English



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	<p>Morning Service & Divine Liturgy. Fr. Mesrob Hovsepian celebrates the Divine Liturgy. Join us for the fellowship coffee hour following the Liturgy.</p> <p>Havadamk-A Study of the Nicene Creed, 12:45pm. Holiday Poinsettia Fundraiser by Sunday School. ACYOA Juniors Outing, 1:45pm</p>
DECEMBER 20, SATURDAY	<p>Christmas by the Armenian School students Details to follow.</p>
DECEMBER 21, SUNDAY	<p>A Christmas Story told by the Children of St. Gregory's & Lunch with Santa following the Liturgy. Details to follow.</p>
DECEMBER 28, SUNDAY	<p>Morning Service & Divine Liturgy Blessing of Pomegranates Service to follow after the Liturgy. Havadamk-A Study of the Nicene Creed, 12:45-1:30.</p>
JANUARY 5, 2026 MONDAY	<p>EVE OF THE NATIVITY AND THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST - J'RAKA-LOOYTZ 6:00pm - Scripture readings 6:30pm - Candlelight Divine Liturgy</p>
JANUARY 6, 2026 TUESDAY	<p>FEAST OF THE NATIVITY AND THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST Matins - 9:45am Christmas Badarak & Blessing of Water Service - 10:15am Potluck Luncheon</p>
JANUARY 11, SUNDAY	<p>FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE FEAST OF NATIVITY Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Water Service (Bilingual) Christmas Brunch - Hosted by Women's Guild</p>

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED

JANUARY 17,
SATURDAY

Prayer For Healing With Orthodox Clergy
Details to follow.

JANUARY 19,
MONDAY

Project Linus—Fourth Annual Day Of Service
10:30–12:30. Details to follow.

JANUARY 24,
SATURDAY

Aida's Book Club
Our next book will be [The Barbizon](#) by Paulina Bren at 11am. As always, anyone is free to join us.

FEBRUARY 7,
SATURDAY

SAVE THE DATE:
Poon Paregentan Family Fun Night
Details to follow.

FEBRUARY 15,
SUNDAY

Poon Paregentan
Great Lent begins on Monday, February 16

MARCH 1,
SUNDAY

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
following the Badarak.

MARCH 29,
SUNDAY

Palm Sunday, ACYOA Day.
Details to follow.

APRIL 5,
SUNDAY

EASTER SUNDAY

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

SAVE THE DATE
POON PAREGENTAN
FAMILY FUN NIGHT
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 07, 2026

St. Gregory Armenian School's Annual Fundraiser

Look for details in the coming weeks