



ՍՈՒՐԵ 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 21, 2025
FIFTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
ՀԻՍՆԱԿԻ ՀԻՆԳԵՐՈՐԻ ԿԻՐԱԿԻ

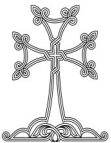
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Hebrews 4:16-5:10

Luke 18:9-14

PC MEMBERS ON DUTY:

Chris Bonfiglio
Joanne Chitjian
Ron Sanossian



REQUIEM SERVICE WILL BE HELD TODAY

Sandra Mikaelian Zerín (40th Day)
Requested by: Rosanne DeSalvo and Family

May God rest her soul in His eternal peace and presence and grant her 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

Commemoration of St. Abgar, First Martyr of the Church and our first king to believe in Christ

According to the tradition, St. Abgar was the first Christian king of the 1st century, the son of the Parthian king Arshakunie Arsham. He was also called “senior man” as he was the wisest of all and a genius. Historian Moses of Khoronk, Assyrian historian Labubnia of Yedessia, Greek historians Procopis and Yeusebius, all have written about King Abgar. He built the city of Yedessia on the site where the Armenian army protected the fording of the river Euphrates from the Roman captain Casius. Later the king moved the royal palace and all idols from Nisibis to that city.

It is during the period of reign of king Abgar that Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, was born. And Abgar, who was incurable, becoming aware of the wonders worked by Christ, believed in Christ and by means of his delegates sent a letter-petition to Jerusalem, to the Savior, asking Him to come and heal him. In the response to the letter it was said, that Christ still had important things to do in Jerusalem, but He should send one of His disciples to the king to heal him. After the Ascension of the Savior, Apostle St. Thaddeus went to Yedessia, healed king Abgar as he was sick, preached the Gospel and appointed Adde, the silk-weaver, to be his successor. Jesus had sent his portrait to Abgar and it was kept for a long time in Yedessia, and later in the churches of various cities and towns. After that the king Abgar sent letters to the king Tiberius and the king Nerseh of Assyria, exhorting them to admit Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Savior. The king Abgar passed away probably in the first half of the 1st century.

Ս. Աբգար նախավկայի և Քրիստոսին հավատացող մեր անդրանիկ թագավորի հիշատակության օր

Աբգար հայոց արքան աստվածասեր և մեծահավատ էր՝ ըստ մարմնի թագավորակից Քրիստոսին, որովհետև Քրիստոս ծնվեց Ս. Կույս Մարիամից Աբգարի թագավորության առաջին տարում և 30 տարի հետո մկրտվեց Հորդանան գետում Հովհաննեսից:

Աբգարը, լսելով նրա մասին, անմիջապես հավատաց Նրան՝ թողնելով կռապաշտությունը: Եվ քանզի թագավորը հիվանդ էր բորոտությամբ, և չկար բժշկության հնար, Աբգարն ուղարկեց Անանեին՝ իր փառավոր նախարարին՝ ապահունիների իշխանին, նրա հետ 10 պատվավոր մարդկանց՝ մեծագին ընծաներով և նվերներով: Նաև գրեց Հիսուսին իր հավատի խոստովանության նամակը և աղաչեց գալ՝ բժշկել նրան չարաչար ցավից և լինել իր հետ: Անանեի հետ ուղարկեց Հովհաննես անունով մի նկարչի, որ եթե չկամենա Հիսուսը գալ արքայի մոտ, նկարեն Նրա պատկերը և բերեն իրեն: Քրիստոսին հավատացող հեթանոս թագավորներից առաջինը և բոլոր քրիստոնյա թագավորների անդրանիկը՝ բարեպաշտ Աբգար թագավորը, իր կյանքը և թագավորությունը այսպես

կարգավորելուց հետո, առաքինի կյանքով ապրած և ալևորության հասած, հանգեց ի Քրիստոս և փոխադրվեց անանց թագավորություն դեկտեմբերի 31-ին:

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

The first reading is from the Second Letter of Paul to Hebrews 4:16-5:10

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. And no one takes this honor on himself, but he receives it when called by God, just as Aaron was. In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest, but God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father" and he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

The second reading is from the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Luke 18:9-14

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said,

‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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

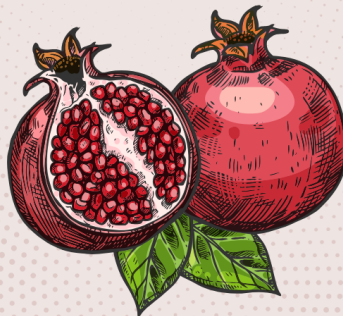


1131 North Street, White Plains, NY 10605

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 21 - English
 28 - Armenian
January 4 - English
 11 - Armenian
 18 - 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 Hovsepyan celebrates the Divine Liturgy. Join us for the “Christmas Story told by the Children of St. Gregory’s” & Lunch with Santa following the Liturgy.</p> <p>Holiday Poinsettia Fundraiser by Sunday School.</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>
JANUARY 17, SATURDAY	<p>Prayer For Healing With Orthodox Clergy Details to follow.</p>
JANUARY 19, MONDAY	<p>Project Linus—Fourth Annual Day Of Service 10:30–12:30. Details to follow.</p>
JANUARY 24, SATURDAY	<p>Aida's Book Club Our next book will be The Barbizon by Paulina Bren at 11am. As always, anyone is free to join us.</p>

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED

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

JUNE 6,
SUNDAY

HUYSER ENSEMBLE CONCERT
Details to follow.

Havadank

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