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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.

DECEMBER 7, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

BAREKENDAN OF THE FAST OF ST. JAMES

ԲԱՐԵԿԵՆԴԱՆ Ս. ՅԱԿՈԲ ՄԾԲՆԱՅ ՀԱՅՐԱՊԵՏԻ ՏՕՆԻ ՊԱՀՔԻՆ

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

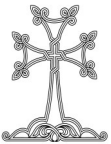
Luke 14:12-24

PC MEMBERS ON DUTY:

Tom Daw

Ani Khachian

Arek Ohanissian



REQUIEM SERVICE WILL BE HELD TODAY

*Please see page 4 of the bulletin for the
complete list of names.*

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

Conception of Mary by Anna

St. Mary is known in the Armenian Church as *Asdvadzamayr-Asdvadzadzin*, the “Mother of God” and the “Bearer of God”—a position doctrinally established at the Ecumenical Council of Ephesus in the 5th century. Her life of holiness and purity, and her graceful acceptance of the role to which God called her, as the mother of Jesus Christ, all make Mary one of the pre-eminent exemplars of the Christian faith, whose birth and very conception are occasions for celebration in the church. Only those aspects of St. Mary’s life, which are directly related to Christ are recorded in the Gospel. The remainder of her biography is attributed to tradition, which is found in ancient ecclesiastical literature. In all likelihood, Mary was born in Bethlehem or Nazareth, some 20 years before Christ’s nativity. Her parents, Joachim and Anna, were a devout couple whose earnest prayers for a child were answered with the birth of a daughter. Although Mary was born naturally, she is considered morally pure and immaculate. It is for this reason that the church celebrates not only her birth, but also her conception, which the Armenian and the Greek Orthodox churches observe on December 9, and the Roman Catholic Church celebrates on December 8. Mary’s purity is unquestioned. According to the teachings of the Armenian Church, at the time of the Annunciation, when the Holy Spirit entered Mary, she was cleansed of all original sin, as she was to be the vessel in which God manifest was to be incarnated. According to tradition, following the Ascension of Christ, Mary lived out the rest of her days in Jerusalem, cared for by St. John the Evangelist. She died in Jerusalem some 15 years after Christ’s Ascension and was buried in her family tomb in Gethsemane.

ՀՂՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ Ս. ԱՍՏՎԱԾԱԾԻՆԻ

Ս. Աննայի՝ Սուրբ Աստվածածնով հղիությունը նկարագրված չէ Աստվածաշունչ մատյանում: Այն մեզ է փոխանցվել Եկեղեցու Սրբազան ավանդության շնորհիվ: Սուրբ Կույսի ծնողները՝ Ս. Հովակիմն ու Ս. Աննան, երկար ժամանակ երեխա չէին ունենում, քանի որ վերջինս ամուլ էր: Մի օր, երբ Աննան իջնում է պարտեզ՝ աղոթելու, հանկարծ հայտնվում է Տիրոջ հրեշտակը և ավետում, որ ինքը զավակ է ունենալու, ում երանի են տալու բոլոր ազգերը: Աննան գոհություն է հայտնում Աստծուն, որ լսեց իր անաղորում աղոթքների ձայնն ու խղճաց իրեն: Նա խոստանում է իր զավակին Աստծուն նվիրել: Նույն այս տեսիլքը երևում է նաև Ս. Հովակիմին՝ հայտնելով բարի լուրը: Սուրբ Կույսի հայրը նույնպես փառք է տալիս Բարձրային այդ մեծ շնորհին արժանացնելու համար և իր ընտիր արջառներից ու ոչխարներից մատաղ է անում՝ բաժանելով աղքատներին: Բարեպաշտ ծնողների աղաչանքները լսելի են լինում և ծնվում է դուստր, ում անվանում են Մարիամ, այսինքն՝ լուսավորված: Նա էր այն ընտրյալ անոթը երկրիս վրա, ում Աստված իր առաքինությունների ու արժանիքների շնորհիվ պատվեց լինել Բանն Աստծու մայրը: Որպես մայր նա անհանգստացավ, տառապեց իր Որդու համար

սակայներբեր չերկնչեց ու չընդդիմացավ Աստծուն՝ քաջ գիտակցելով Բարձրյալից իրեն վստահված առաքելության կարևորությունը: Նա առաքինի, հավատավոր մոր, ընտանեկան սրբության պահապանի մարմնացումն է, որին որպես օրինակ պիտի ունենա ամեն մի հայ մայր, ամեն մի հայ աղջիկ, որ պատրաստվում է մայր դառնալ: Հայ եկեղեցին Ս.Աննայի՝ Սուրբ Աստվածածնով հղիության տոնը հաստատուն կերպով նշում է դեկտեմբերի 9-ին:

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

The first reading is from the 2nd Letter of Thessalonians 1:1-12

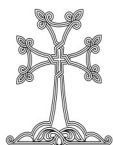
We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you. With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The second reading is from the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Luke 14:12-24

Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" Then Jesus said to him,

“Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for everything is ready now.’ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.’ Another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.’ Another said, ‘I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, ‘Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’ And the slave said, ‘Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.’ Then the master said to the slave, ‘Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.’”



REQUIEM SERVICE WILL BE HELD TODAY

**Baron Kapriel Madjarian (40 years) &
Azaduhi Madjarian**

Requested by: The Madjarian-Scalise Family

**Ann Devejian, Kevork Devejian, Martha Devejian,
Arakel & Arousiag Chorebanian, Ruby & Jacob Baboian**

*Requested by: Alicia Devejian Wood, Walter Wood,
Armen and Anna Wood*

**Gloria & Harry Kouzoujian, Vartouhy & Serope Kouzoujian,
Zabelle & Peter Ambariantz, George Ambariantz,
Beatrice & Osgan Kassapian**

Requested by: The Kouzoujian and Smaldone Families

**The departed souls who lost their lives in the earthquake that
took place in Armenia 37 years ago and its aftermath.**

**May God rest their souls in His eternal peace and presence
and grant their loved ones the comfort of the Holy Spirit.**



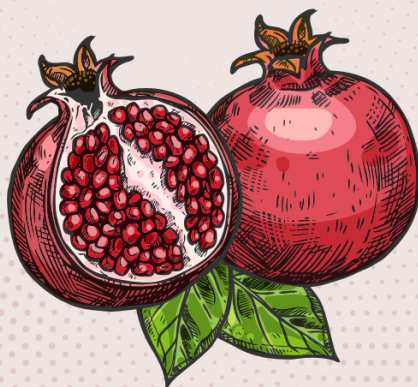
Fellowship Coffee Hour

We appreciate the generosity of the Madjarian-Scalise Family, the Devejian-Wood Family and the Kouzoujian and Smaldone Families for providing coffee hour refreshments today.

BLESSING OF POMEGRANATES

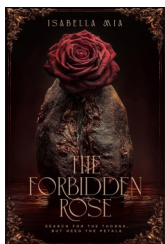
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025

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



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



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.

December 7 - English
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	Morning Service & Divine Liturgy. Fr. Mesrob Hovsepian celebrates the Divine Liturgy. Children's sermon will be delivered today. Join us for the fellowship coffee hour following the Liturgy.
DECEMBER 13, SATURDAY	Khachkar carving workshop—1:00-2:00pm. For ages 8-15. Ask Fr. Mesrob for details.
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	Morning Service & Divine Liturgy Blessing of Pomegranates Service to follow after the Liturgy. Havadamk—A Study of the Nicene Creed 12:45-1:30.
JANUARY 5, 2026 MONDAY	EVE OF THE NATIVITY AND THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST - J'RAKA- LOOYTZ 6:00pm - Scripture readings 6:30pm - Candlelight Divine Liturgy
JANUARY 6, 2026 TUESDAY	FEAST OF THE NATIVITY AND THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST Matins - 9:45am Christmas Badarak & Blessing of Water Service - 10:15am Potluck Luncheon
JANUARY 11, SUNDAY	FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE FEAST OF NATIVITY Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Water Service (Bilingual) Christmas Brunch - Hosted by Women's Guild