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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.

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE OCTAVE OF THEOPHANY

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TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

2 Timothy 3:1-12

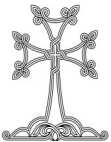
John 6:22-38

PC MEMBERS ON DUTY:

George Krikorian

Ron Sanossian

Annie Shalian



REQUIEM SERVICE WILL BE HELD TODAY

Please see page 6 of the bulletin for a complete list.

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

ST. SARKIS PATRON SAINT OF YOUTH AND LOVE

In Armenia, the Feast of St. Sarkis is celebrated not only through church services and prayer, but also through many popular folk traditions. St. Sarkis the Captain is known as the patron saint of young people, and many miracles are believed to happen through his intercession. On this day, young men and women pray to St. Sarkis, asking him to carry their prayers to God. He is especially known as the saint who fulfills hopes and longings for love.

There are many legends about St. Sarkis, and one of the most well-known is the story of the poor bard Gharib and his beloved Shah-Sanam. Shah-Sanam was the daughter of a very wealthy man, and although she and Gharib loved each other deeply, her father opposed their marriage because Gharib was poor. He wanted his daughter to marry a rich man instead.

Determined to prove himself, Gharib left for distant lands to earn money and build a future. Before leaving, he asked Shah-Sanam to promise that she would wait for him for seven years. He told her that if he was even one day late, she could marry according to her father's wishes. Those seven years were extremely hard for Gharib. He had no news of his beloved and could not see her, yet he never lost hope. He worked day and night, dreaming of the day they would reunite, start a family, and spend their lives together.

After seven long years, Gharib finally earned enough and began his journey home. Along the way, he faced countless obstacles and hardships, and at times it seemed impossible for him to reach Shah-Sanam in time. In desperation, he prayed sincerely to St. Sarkis for help. Hearing his heartfelt prayer, St. Sarkis appeared on a white horse, lifted Gharib onto its back, and in an instant carried him to Shah-Sanam. Witnessing Gharib's determination, faith, and the true love between the two, Shah-Sanam's father finally gave his blessing to their marriage.

The Feast of St. Sarkis is preceded by the Fast of the Catechumens, established by St. Gregory the Illuminator. On the eve of the feast, young people eat salty cookies and believe that the person they see in their dreams afterward will be their future spouse. On the night before the feast, many people place a tray of gruel at their doorway, believing that St. Sarkis will pass by at dawn and leave a footprint in it, symbolizing the fulfillment of their wishes.

On this occasion, people in love exchange cards, flowers, or sweets. On the feast day itself, a Divine Liturgy is celebrated in all churches dedicated to St. Sarkis, followed by a special ceremony in which young people receive a blessing.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

The first reading is from the First Letter of 2 Timothy 3:1-12

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people. They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these teachers oppose the truth. They are men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.

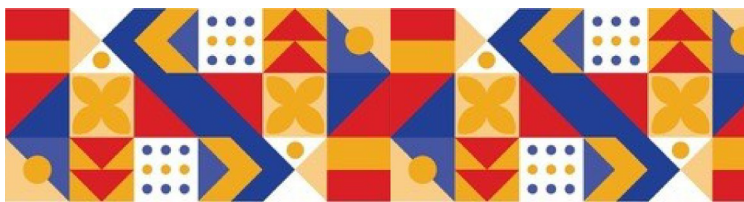
You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings— what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

The second reading is from the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John 6:22-38

The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone. Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?” Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.” Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.” So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” “Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.



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ST. GREGORY THE ENLIGHTENER ARMENIAN SCHOOL

INVITES YOU TO

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POON PAREGENTAN

Armenian Mardi Gras

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2026 – 6:30PM

\$55.00/ADULTS, \$25.00/CHILDREN [AGES 5-12]

TUTAK HALL

1131 NORTH STREET, WHITE PLAINS, NY 10605

**DELICIOUS FOOD | MUSIC BY GUYS AND DOLLS
FAMILY ATMOSPHERE | RAFFLE | CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES**

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BEFORE FEBRUARY 1ST
BY TEXTING OR CALLING**

**MARIA BEDONIAN AT (914)329-5352, MARGRIT HAMPARSOUMIAN AT (914) 261-3738
OR EMAILING STGREGORYARMENIANSCHOOLWP@GMAIL.COM**



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.
- Sanitize your hand before returning to your seat from the right side of the chancel.

S Y U N I K

LANDSCAPE OF ENDURANCE

EXHIBITION



WALKTHROUGH AND Q/A
Feb. 08, 2026 | 5:00 pm



T E D & N U N E S T U D I O

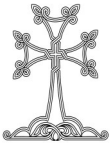
45 MAIN ST. HASTINGS ON HUDSON, NY

WWW.TEDANDNUNE.COM | 914.693.0649 | NUNE@TEDANDNUNE.COM

RECITING THE NICENE CREED IN ENGLISH

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.

February 1 - English
 8 - Armenian
 15 - English



REQUIEM SERVICE WILL BE HELD TODAY

Luiza Mikaelyan (40th Day)

*Requested by: The Hovakimian Family and
the Harutunian Family*

Violet Sirabian (40th Day)

Requested by: Stephen Sirabian and Family

George Watts (6 years)

Dr. Arthur Yesian (18 years)

*Requested by: Vera Watts, and DiBenedetto
and Yesian Families*

**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 Hovakimian and the Sirabian families for providing the refreshments for today's fellowship coffee hour.

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MARCH 1, 2026

Invitation to the Annual Parish Assembly Հրավեր Տարեկան Ծիսական Անդամական Ժողովի

Your Pastor and Parish Council cordially invite you to attend the 53rd Annual Parish Assembly to be held after *Badarak* at 12:30pm.

All our parishioners are invited to join us.
Only dues paid members can take part in voting.

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

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY **Morning Service & Divine Liturgy.**
Fr. Mesrob Hovsepian celebrates the Divine Liturgy.
Children's sermon will be delivered at the end of the service.
Join us for the fellowship coffee hour following the Liturgy.

FEBRUARY 7,
SATURDAY **Poon Paregentan Family Fun Night**
See the flyer for details.

FEBRUARY 15,
SUNDAY **Poon Paregentan**
Great Lent begins on Monday, February 16

MARCH 1,
SUNDAY **Annual Parish Assembly to be held after Badarak**

MARCH 7,
SATURDAY **Aida's Book Club at 11 am in the Atrium**
"The Alice Network" by Kate Quinn

MARCH 14,
SATURDAY **Women's Guild Lenten Retreat at St. Nersess Seminary**

MARCH 28,
SATURDAY **Saintly Women's Day**
Details to follow

MARCH 29,
SUNDAY **Palm Sunday, ACYOA Day**
Details to follow.

APRIL 5,
SUNDAY **Easter Sunday**

APRIL 19,
SUNDAY **LIONEL GALSTAUN MEMORIAL CONCERT**
Details to follow.

MAY 31,
SUNDAY **Cultural Committee Event**
Details to follow.

JUNE 6,
SUNDAY **Huyser Ensemble Concert**
Details to follow.