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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.

JANUARY 4, 2026
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
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Շնորհաւոր Նոր Տարի և Սուրբ Ծնունդ
Happy New Year & Merry Christmas!

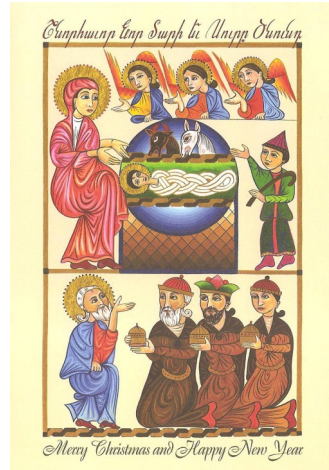
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Hebrews 13:18-25

Luke 22:24-30

PC MEMBERS ON DUTY:

Tom Daw
Arman Bedonian
Ron Sanossian



REQUIEM SERVICE WILL NOT BE HELD 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

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NEW YEAR TRADITIONS: ARMENIAN NEW YEAR

Presently all Christian churches celebrate the New Year on January 1. The word "January" means "birth". Before Christ's coming to the world mankind was the captive of hell and constrained by eternal death. Being born in January Christ destroyed the hell, saved the mankind from eternal death and leads to the Kingdom of Heaven. That's why January became the months' beginning. January 1 is the first day of the first month of the year of birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. According to the folk tradition on January 1 people decorate the New Year tree symbolizing the Tree of Life of Eden.

The ancient Armenians had been celebrating the coming of the New Year on the 21st of March. That date is not only the first day of the spring, but also the birthday of the mythical god **Vahagn**, in whom believed the pagan Armenians about 10 thousand years ago. On this day the Armenians prepared huge feasts to welcome and celebrate the zenith of the nature.

During the 18th Century, January 1st was accepted as a beginning of the New Year. In spite of this change, Armenians in many regions of the country, like Suni, Artzah and Udik, continued to celebrate New Year on **Navasard**. Gradually at the end of the 20th century all Armenians adopted the 1st of January as the official first day of the New Year.

In Armenia it was a custom that on New Year's Eve, children gathered in -groups and went around their village, singing songs and greeting the New Year by singing to their neighbors. They usually received lots of fruits as present.

Within the family, it was a custom for the family members to exchange presents. Children in the family would go to their father, who had the presents hidden in his coat, and after kissing their father's hand everyone would receive their present.

Parts of the traditional New Year's meal like various dried fruits, raisins, different kinds of nuts, **gahin** and others would have been previously prepared. The most important among the pastries was the **Darin**, which was representing the New Year. Darin is a big flat bread, which has a coin hidden in it. The person who found the piece with the coin in it was considered the 'lucky' member of the family for the New Year. But the most remarkable meal is the **dolma**, which is prepared with rice and grape leaves.

And there was no New Year celebrated without **Kata**, which is made of wheat flour, butter, milk and sugar, as well as the **Anush Abur** which is a sweet soup made of wheat, kernels and dried fruits.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

The first reading is from the Second Letter of Paul to Hebrews 13:18-25

Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way. I particularly urge you to pray so that I may be restored to you soon.

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great ***Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing*** his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Brothers and sisters, I urge you to bear with my word of exhortation, for in fact I have written to you quite briefly.

I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been released. If he arrives soon, I will come with him to see you.

Greet all your leaders and all the Lord's people. Those from Italy send you their greetings. Grace be with you all.

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

A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

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

Pastoral Care, Home and Hospital Visits

Der Mesrob is always available and would like to visit homebound and hospitalized parishioners. If you or someone you know is ill, Hospitalized or homebound and would like to be visited, please call Der Mesrob directly at (804)-405-9399 to schedule the visit.

Please note: when asked about your religion at a hospital, patients should list themselves as “Armenian Orthodox” or “Armenian” not “other”.



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.
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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



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.

January 4 - English
 6 - Armenian
 11 - English
 18 - Armenian
 25 - English
February 1 - Armenian



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.
Join us for the fellowship coffee hour following the Liturgy.

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

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

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED

MARCH 1,
SUNDAY

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
following the Badarak.

MARCH 29,
SUNDAY

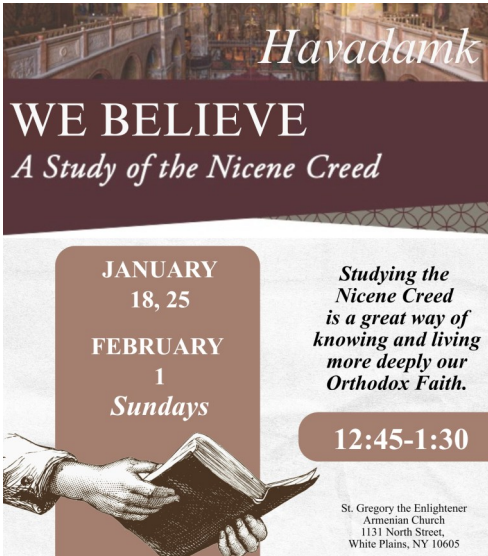
Palm Sunday, ACYOA Day.
Details to follow.

APRIL 5,
SUNDAY

EASTER SUNDAY

JUNE 6,
SUNDAY

HUYSER ENSEMBLE CONCERT
Details to follow.



Havadank
WE BELIEVE
A Study of the Nicene Creed

JANUARY
18, 25
FEBRUARY
1
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



ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATION

ARMENIAN
CHRISTMAS BRUNCH



SUNDAY, JANUARY 11TH, 2026

12:30 PM

Hosted and sponsored by the
Women's Guild



Immediately following the Divine
Liturgy

**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.