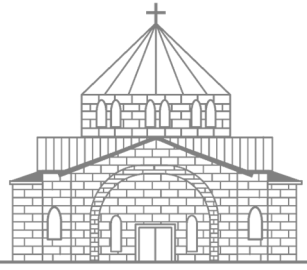


*Քրիստոս Ծնաւ եւ Յայտնեցաւ
Օրհնեալ է Յայտնութիւնն Քրիստոսի*



*Christ is born and revealed among us
Blessed is the revelation of Christ*



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.

JANUARY 6, 2026

**FEAST OF THE NATIVITY AND THEOPHANY
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

ՅՈՒՆՈՒԱՐԻ 6, 2026

**ՏՕՆ ՍՈՒՐԵ ԾՆՆՂԵԱՆ ԵՒ ԱՍՏՈՒԱԾՅԱՏՆՈՒԹԵԱՆ
ՏԵԱՐՆ ԱՄԵՐՈՅ ՅԻՍՈՒՍԻ ՔՐԻՍՏՈՍԻ**

*Christ is born and revealed!
Blessed is His revelation!*

Wishing you health, happiness and
success in all your good works.

May our Lord guide us to keep our families
strong with faith, generous in hope and
reinforced with love.



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

***The first reading is from the Second Letter of Paul to Titus 2:11-15
Hebrews 13:18-25***

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Declare these things; exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one look down on you.

The second reading is from the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Luke 18:9-14 Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

**THE BLESSING OF WATER (JURORHNEK):
A LIVING TRADITION OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH**

The Blessing of Water, known in Armenian as **Jurorhnek**, commemorates the baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ in the River Jordan and stands at the heart of the Armenian Church's celebration of Theophany. Through this sacred service, the Church proclaims that Christ entered the waters not because He needed purification, but to sanctify all creation and to open the way for humanity's spiritual rebirth.

According to Armenian tradition, the first Water Blessing service was conducted by **St. Gregory the Illuminator** at the River Aratsani. The Armenian historian **Agathangelos** records that during the mass baptism of Armenians, a great miracle occurred: the waters of the river stopped flowing and turned back, a radiant light appeared over the waters, and the sign of the Holy Cross remained visible until the end of the service. From its very beginning, the Water Blessing was understood not merely as a ritual, but as a manifestation of God's living power.

Historical testimonies continue through the centuries. In the 11th century, Armenian sources record that **Catholicos Petros Getadardz** celebrated the Water Blessing at the invitation of the Byzantine Emperor Basil, at a river flowing through Trebizond. During this service, as the Catholicos blessed the waters with the Cross and poured Holy Oil into them, witnesses testified to a great light shining from his hand and from the oil itself. Some even report that the waters stopped and flowed backward, earning Catholicos Petros the title *Getadardz*, "the one who turns the course of the river."

Another vivid account comes from the 13th century, when a European monk, **Canonicus Willebrandt**, visited the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia. He describes in great detail how Armenians prepared for Theophany with days of penance and fasting, celebrated the Divine Liturgy on the eve of the feast, and then processed together—king, nobles, clergy, and people—to the riverbank the following morning. There, the Armenian Catholicos immersed a large cross into the river, after which the faithful sprinkled themselves with the blessed water and continued the celebration.

These accounts reveal that the Water Blessing was traditionally celebrated outdoors, by rivers or seashores. Over time, due to practical challenges and later restrictions under Islamic rule with-

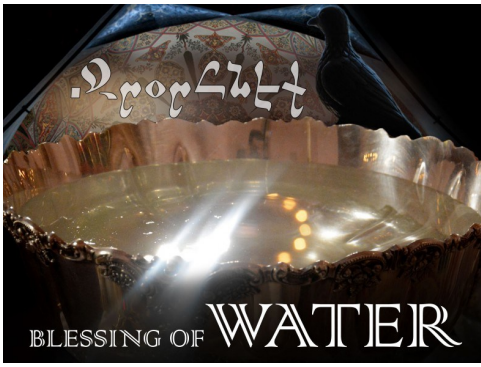
in the Ottoman Empire, the service was moved indoors and celebrated within church sanctuaries. Today, the ancient outdoor practice is preserved most fully in Jerusalem, where the Armenian Patriarch leads clergy and faithful to the Jordan River itself to bless the waters on Theophany.

Liturgically, the Water Blessing is associated with the **Ninth Hour** of the day, a time rich with theological meaning in Armenian tradition. Just as humanity's fall is connected during this hour, so too is humanity's salvation through the Cross and Christ's descent into the river Jordan. Following the Divine Liturgy, the celebrant proceeds to the water with the Holy Cross, the Gospel, and the Holy Chrism (*Muron*), singing the hymn "Light of Light" (*Looye ee Looso*). The service includes multiple Scriptural readings that emphasize water as the source of both physical life and spiritual rebirth.

Central to the ceremony are the prayers invoking the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the waters, asking that they become a source of healing for souls and bodies and a means of renewal for the faithful. The prayer attributed to **St. Basil of Caesarea** recalls the entire history of salvation—from creation, to the fall, to Christ's coming into the world to restore humanity. The Baptism of Christ is proclaimed as the moment when He entered the waters to defeat the power of evil and to sanctify creation itself. The service concludes with the immersion of the Holy Cross into the water and the pouring of Holy Chrism from a dove-shaped vessel, symbolizing the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus.

At the conclusion of the service, following the final blessing and dismissal, the faithful approach the bema in an orderly manner. They venerate and kiss the Holy Cross, which the Godfather holds with a towel, and receive their portion of the blessed water, so that, as the prayer proclaims, "*we may be worthy of Your help and may be received, healed, blessed, and sanctified by You.*" The faithful drink the blessed water—or take it to members of their household who were unable to attend—"for the building-up of homes, for the healing of the sick, for the salvation of souls and bodies, and to be useful for fulfilling all needs," as prayed in the tradition of St. Basil of Caesarea.

Through the Blessing of Water, the Armenian Church proclaims that creation is restored, humanity is renewed, and the life-giving light of Christ continues to flow into the world.



GODFATHER OF THE CROSS

For the Blessing of the Water Service commemorating the Baptism of our Lord today the very special privilege of serving as “Godfather of the Cross” has been extended to **Charles Khachian**. In this

capacity, **Sevak** will have the responsibility of bearing the Holy Cross after it has been submerged into the blessed Holy Water, and welcoming the faithful to kiss the cross as they receive their portion of blessed water at the end of the service.

ՏՆՕՐՆԵՔ / CHRISTMAS HOME BLESSING



From the earliest times, the home was a sacred place, the center of family and ritual life. It is the most basic of all social structures, where we are born and live many years, a place where great family events transpire. Here we break bread, share joys and sorrows, pray, celebrate, worship. Here God is present in the loving relationships that transcend fragile human existence. Every family is a miniature of a “Little Church–Ecclesia” and in this “Little Church” the inexhaustible love and the very generous blessing of God permeate.

According to the sacred traditions of the Armenian Church, God’s blessing is asked for homes on different occasions, like on the Nativity and the Resurrection of Christ, as well as on the joyous occasion of moving into a new home.

Today, more than ever, we need the presence and blessing of the Lord in our homes and lives. The revival of this centuries old custom will certainly bring us close to our Lord.

Schedule your Home Blessing with Der Hayr: direct (804) 405-9399, church office (914) 428-2595, email: fr.mesrob@yahoo.com.

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 5 - Armenian
 6- English
 11 - Armenian
 18 - English
 25 - Armenian
February 1 - 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.



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.

Havadamk

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

Project ♥ Linus

Service
PROJECT

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Please join fellow parishioners on this National Day of Service to create "no-sew" blankets for local children in need of comfort. St. Gregory will be partnering with Project Linus, a national not-for-profit that provides new hand-made blankets to children in need, to comfort youth in our community with gifts of blankets lovingly created by our volunteers. This is a wonderful project for all generations – ages 5 to 100 welcome! Instruction, supplies and refreshments will be provided.

***Please help us make our fourth
National Day of Service project a success!***



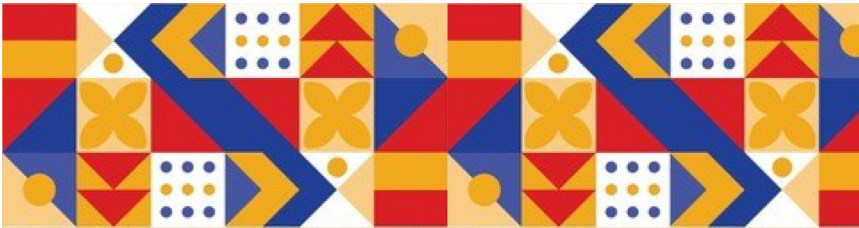
Kindly, RSVP to
saintgregorychwrchwp@gmail.com
by January 11
so we can properly plan for the day

Parish Council



Holy Communion Distribution Guidelines

- 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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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

CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

As we begin a New Year we wish to update some of the vessels of the church and get a new set of deacon's robes and stoles (red color). Below is the list of the items that we wish to order from Armenia.

Donations will need to be made to St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church. Memo: *item name*

Poorvar (Censer) - 2
\$350 / each



Tapanak - Incense case - 2
\$250 / each



Deacon's Robes (Red) - 13
\$200 / each (\$2600 total)



Deacon's Stoles (Red) - 10
\$80 / each (\$800 total)



Aghavni - Dove Vessel for Holy Muron
Sterling Silver
\$2000



Butnots - Vessel for anointing
Sterling Silver
\$1000



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY

**FEAST OF THE NATIVITY AND THEOPHANY
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

Morning Service & Divine Liturgy.

Fr. Mesrob Hovsepian celebrates the Divine Liturgy.

Christmas Badarak & Blessing of Water Service -
10:15am. Potluck Fellowship.

JANUARY 11,
SUNDAY

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE FEAST OF
NATIVITY**

Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Water Service (Bilingual)
Christmas Brunch - Hosted by Women's Guild

JAUNARY 17,
SATURDAY

***Prayer For Healing With Orthodox Clergy
followed by potluck dinner—6:00pm.***

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

JUNE 6,
SUNDAY

HUYSER ENSEMBLE CONCERT

Details to follow.