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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.

MARCH 1, 2026

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

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TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

2 Corinthians 6:1-7:1

Luke 15:1-32

PC MEMBERS ON DUTY:

Tom Daw

Ani Khachian

Arek Ovanessian



REQUIEM SERVICE WILL NOT BE HELD TODAY

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Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The third Sunday of Great Lent is called the Sunday of the Lost Son, based on the Parable of the Lost Son from the Gospel of Luke. In the story, a man has two sons. The younger son asks his father for his share of the inheritance, which the father gives to him. The younger son then goes to a faraway country, where he spends all his money on reckless living. When a famine strikes and he has nothing left, he remembers his father's home and decides to return, feeling sorry for what he did. The father welcomes him back with joy. However, the older son, who had stayed and worked hard for his father, is upset. He feels it's unfair that his brother is being celebrated after wasting his inheritance. The father explains that they must celebrate because the younger son was lost but is now found, just as he was lost to sin but has returned.

The story represents how God welcomes back those who repent and return to Him, just as the father welcomed his son. The older son symbolizes people who think they are always righteous and may feel superior to others. The lesson warns us not to be prideful or self-righteous.

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Հայաստանյայց Առաքելական Սուրբ Եկեղեցին ապաշխարության և պահքի մի գեղեցիկ շրջան է սահմանել հավատացյալների համար, որի կիրակիներից յուրաքանչյուրն իր անվանումն ունի Աստվածաշնչի որևէ պատմությանը համապատասխան: Մեծ Պահքի երրորդ կիրակին կոչվում է Անառակի, ըստ Ղուկասի Ավետարանում հիշատակվող անառակ որդու մասին պատմող առակի մի մարդ իր կրտսեր որդու խնդրանքով ունեցվածքը բաժանում է երկու որդիների միջև: Կրտսեր որդին իր բաժինը վերցնելով գնում է հեռու երկիր, ապրում ցոփ ու շվայտ կյանքով, վատնում ամբողջ ունեցածը:

Այս դժվար դրության մեջ նա հիշում է հայրական տունը, զոջում կատարածի համար և վերադառնում: Հայրը, տեսնելով որդու զոջումը, ուրախությամբ ընդունում է նրան: Ավագ որդին դժգոհում է, որ ինքը միշտ հոր կողքին է եղել, սակայն նման պատվի երբեք չի արժանացել: Հայրը պատասխանում է, որ պետք է ուրախ լինել, քանի որ՝ ով մեռած էր, կենդանացավ: Ավագ, կրտսեր որդիներն արդար և մեղավոր հոգիներն են, և ինչպես հայրն է անառակ որդուն ընդունում, նույն կերպ էլ Աստված է իր գիրկն առնում զոջացող մեղավորին:

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

The reading is from the Second Epistle of Paul to Corinthians 6:1-7:1

As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, and now is the day of salvation. We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything. We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also.

The second reading is from the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Luke 15:1-32

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be

more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”



Invitation to the Annual Parish Assembly
Հրաւեր Տարեկան Ծխական Անդամական
Ժողովի
Sunday, March 1, 2026

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 due-paid members can take part in voting.

* *The binder of all reports and bios of nominees **will be emailed to the members** prior to the meeting.*

CLOSING OF ALTAR CURTAIN: The curtain of the Altar was closed on Sunday, February 15 on Poon Paregentan. It will remain closed throughout the forty days of Great Lent until it is reopened on March 29, on Palm Sunday. The closing of the curtain symbolizes the Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise. The entire church is in repentance during this time.

- During Lent the Divine Liturgy (Badarak) is celebrated with the Main Altar curtain closed.
- The Kiss of Peace is not given.
- Holy Communion is not given. In special circumstances, Holy Communion may be received by making arrangements with Der Hayr after the service.
- The Gospel is not kissed at the end of Divine Liturgy.
- Mas is distributed during Lent.
- Sunrise service will be offered at the end of the Liturgy, following the sermon

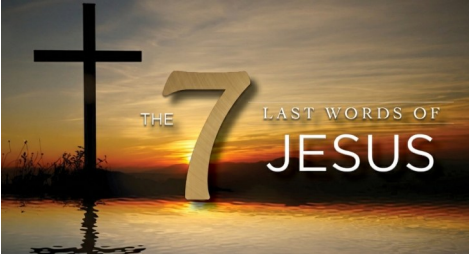
RECITING THE NICENE CREED IN ENGLISH

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.

March 1 - English
 8 - Armenian
 15 - English
 22 - Armenian
 29 - English

LENTEN SUNDAY SERMON SERIES



The Seven Words of Christ from the Cross

This Great Lent, we invite you to join us for a Sunday sermon series reflecting on the Seven Words of Christ from the Cross. Spoken in the final hours of our Lord's earthly life, these brief yet

powerful statements reveal the heart of Christ and the meaning of His saving work. Each Sunday of Great Lent will focus on one word spoken by Jesus from the Cross, helping us slow down, listen attentively, and prepare our hearts for the mystery and joy of Easter.

Series Schedule:

- Sunday 1: "Father, forgive them."
- Sunday 2: "Today you will be with Me in Paradise."
- Sunday 3: "Woman, behold your son... Behold your mother."
- Sunday 4: "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"
- Sunday 5: "I thirst."
- Sunday 6: "It is finished."

All are encouraged to attend and journey together through Great Lent as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Easter.

Lenten Series Presents on March 8:



"Creating in Diaspora: The Poetry of Tenny Arlen (1991–2015)" presented by Dr. Jesse Arlen

This talk will introduce readers to the life and poetry of Tenny Arlen, whose 2021 book of verse **Կիրքով ըսելու՝**

ինչն՝ ի հոս էմ (To Say with Passion: Why Am I Here?)

(Yerevan: ARI Literature Foundation) marked a watershed

moment in the Armenian literary tradition, being the first full-length volume of creative literature published in Armenian by an American-born writer. In 2025, a bilingual (English and Armenian) language edition was published, along with afterwords by Hagop Gulludjian and Arthur Ipek. This talk will reflect on the significance of this volume and some of its important themes, such as solitude, iconic seeing, and the transcendence and immanence of the ineffable realm of the spirit.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Today

Sunday of the Prodigal Son.
Morning Service & Divine Liturgy.
Fr. Mesrob Hovsepian celebrates the Divine Liturgy.
Sunrise service will be offered at the end of the Liturgy.
Annual Parish Assembly to be held after the services. The first session will take place in the sanctuary before the lunch break.

MARCH 7,
SATURDAY

Aida's Book Club at 11 am in the Atrium
"The Alice Network" by Kate Quinn

ACYOA Juniors' Lenten Retreat, 10:30-7:15pm

MARCH 8,
SUNDAY

Lenten Series presents:
Creating in Diaspora: The Poetry of Tenny Arlen (1991-2015) presented by Dr. Jesse Arlen
Lenten fellowship will be hosted by the Women's Guild.

"The Spear of Christ" documentary screening has been rescheduled to a later date. A new date and time will be announced soon.

MARCH 14,
SATURDAY

Women's Guild Lenten Retreat at St. Nersess Seminary

MARCH 15,
SUNDAY

Lenten Series presents:
"Women Creating Space for Faith" presented by Dr. Roberta Ervine
Lenten fellowship will be hosted by the Choir and Cultural Committee.

MARCH 27,
FRIDAY

Lenten Series presents:
Friday, Lenten Service - 6:30 pm / Lenten Dinner - 7:00 pm / Program - 7:30 pm
Presentation by Rev. Fr. Belson Paulose Kuria-kose. The Women's Guild will be hosted by the Armenian and Sunday Schools.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 21,
SATURDAY **Movie Night at 5pm.**
The flyer can be found in the narthex.

MARCH 28,
SATURDAY **Saintly Women's Day**
The flyer can be found in the narthex.

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

APRIL 5,
SUNDAY **Easter Sunday**

APRIL 12,
SUNDAY **St. Gregory Women's Guild General Membership Meeting after the Divine Liturgy**

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

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



GREAT LENTEN SERIES:



Dr. Jesse Arlen

March 8, 2026

Sunday, following the Liturgy

"Creating in Diaspora: The Poetry of Tenny Arlen (1991 -2015)" presented by Dr. Jesse Arlen



Dr. Roberta Ervine

March 15, 2026

Sunday, following the Liturgy

"Women Creating Space for Faith" presented by Dr. Roberta Ervine



Rev. Fr. Belson
Paulose Kuriakose

March 27, 2026

Friday, Lenten Service - 6:30 pm / Lenten

Dinner - 7:00 pm / Program - 7:30 pm

"Carrying the cross without losing the faith" presented by Rev. Fr. Belson Paulose Kuriakose