



ՍՈՒՐԲ 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.

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2026**

**FEAST OF THE HOLY CROSS OF VARAK**

**ՍԵՊՏԵՄԲԵՐ 27**

**ՎԱՐԱԳԱՅ Ս. ԽԱՉԻ ՏՕՆ**

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

*Galatians 6:14-18*

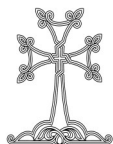
*Matthew 24:30-36*

**PC MEMBERS ON DUTY:**

*Tom Daw*

*Arek Ohanissian*

*Greg Sahagian*



**REQUIEM SERVICE WILL BE HELD TODAY**

**Bashar Issa (1 year)**

*Requested by: Lena Baroutjian and Family*

**Martha Samuelian (3 years)**

*Requested by: The Samuelian Family*

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

Our address: 1131 North Street, White Plains, NY 10605, [www.stgregorywp.com](http://www.stgregorywp.com)

Office hours: Tuesday-Friday 9a.m.-3p.m., Mondays closed.

Contact us: Office: (914) 428-2595, [saintgregorychurchwp@gmail.com](mailto:saintgregorychurchwp@gmail.com)

Fr. Mesrob: (804) 405-9399, [fr.mesrob@yahoo.com](mailto:fr.mesrob@yahoo.com)

## FEAST OF THE HOLY CROSS OF VARAK

All Christian Churches each year solemnly celebrate all feasts dedicated to the Holy Cross. The Armenian Apostolic Church, in difference to the other Christian Churches, celebrates another purely national feast dedicated to the Holy Cross, which is famous as the Holy Cross of Varague. The Armenian Church celebrates this feast two weeks after the Feast of Exaltation of the Holy Cross, that is - the Sunday during the period of September 25 - October 1. According to the historian Agathangelos, St. Hripsime and her companions, running away from the Roman Emperor Dioklethianos, who started persecutions against Christians, reach to Armenia and find shelter in Vagaharshapat. However, before reaching Vagharshapat they stop at the Mountain Varague, which is to the south-east from the Lake Van. Taking off from her neck the relic of the Lord's Wooden Cross, St. Hripsime gives it to the praying monks living on the mountain and asks them to preserve it in one of the caves. Thus, the sacred relic remains hidden till the seventh century. In 653 A. D. the monk Todik and his disciple Hovel pray at the Mountain Varague and ask God to show the place of the relic. Suddenly 12 bright columns appear around the mountain and the sign of the Cross is seen among the columns. For 12 days the bright columns remain visible even from distant sites. This joyful news spreads everywhere. Nerses the Creator Catholicos who was the Catholicos of All Armenians of that period, and Captain Vard, son the Knight Theodoros, learning about that miracle, go the Mountain Varague to personally witness it. With the support of the Armenian people the Pontiff builds a magnificent church, which in honor of the miracle is named Holy Cross Church. The Pontiff Nerses also writes the marvelous church hymn "By means of the most powerful sign", which is sung in the churches on the day of the feast. The sacred relic remains at the Mountain Varague till 1021 A. D. Later the Armenian King Senekerim Artsruni brings the relic to Sebastia. After the latter's death the relic is again transferred to its old place and remains there until 1651 A. D. when the relic is taken to Khoshab. In 1655 A. D. the relic is placed in the Church of Holy Godmother, in Van, which is renamed to Church of Holy Sign. The relic was preserved there till 1915 A. D.

### ՎԱՐԱԳԱ ՍՈՒՐԲ ԽԱՉԻ ՏՈՆ

Քրիստոնեական բոլոր եկեղեցիներն ամեն տարի մեծ հանդիսավորությամբ նշում են Խաչին նվիրված տոները: Բայց ի տարբերություն մյուս եկեղեցիների, Հայ Եկեղեցին ունի նաև Խաչին նվիրված զուտ ազգային մի տոն, որը հայտնի է Վարագա Սուրբ Խաչ անունով: Այն միշտ տոնում են Խաչվերացից երկու շաբաթ հետո, այսինքն՝ սեպտեմբերի 25-ից մինչև հոկտեմբերի 1-ը հանդիպող կիրակի օրը: Ազաթանգեղոս պատմիչի վկայության համաձայն՝ Հռիփսիմյանց կույսերը, փախչելով Դիոկղետիոնոս կայսեր հալածանքներից ու հետապնդումներից, գալիս են Հայաստան և ապաստանում Վաղարշապատի հնձաններում: Սակայն մինչև Վաղարշապատ հասնելը, նրանք բնակություն են

հաստատում Վանա լճից հարավ-արևելք ընկած Վարագա լեռան վրա: Սբ. Հռիփսիմեն իր կրծքին կախած Տիրոջ խաչափայտի սրբազան մասունքն ապահովության համար հանձնում է աղոթող ճգնավորներին և խնդրում, որ պահեն այն քարայրներից մեկում: Սուրբ մասունքն այդպես պահված մնում է մինչև 7-րդ դարը: 653 թվականին, երբ Թողիկ ճգնավորն իր Հովել աշակերտի հետ աղոթում էր Վարագա լեռան վրա և խնդրում, որ Աստված ողորմություն անի և ցույց տա Սբ. Խաչի տեղը, հանկարծ 12 լուսեղեն սյուներ են երևում լեռան շուրջը, իսկ նրանց միջև փայլում է լուսավոր Խաչի նշանը, որն իրենց հետ Հայոց աշխարհ էին բերել Տիրոջ սիրասուն կույսերը: 12 օր շարունակ լուսեղեն սյուները տեսանելի են լինում նաև հեռավոր վայրերից: Ուրախալի այս լուրը տարածվում է ամենուր:

## **TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS**

***The reading is from the Second Letter of Paul to Galatians 6:14-18***

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to the Israel of God. From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

***The second reading is from the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Matthew 24:30-36***

Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.” But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

## 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.**

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## 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.

September      27 - Armenian

October          4 - English

11 - Armenian

18 - English

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## 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”.

# A TASTE OF ARMENIAN HERITAGE

SUNDAY OCT. 18 | TUTAK HALL

PLEASE JOIN US AFTER COFFEE HOUR ♦ 12:30pm

**Cooking with Mari | Adults \$20 | Students \$10 | Kids 12&u Free**  
**Learn to prepare traditional dishes and the history behind them**



**Hosted by St. Gregory Cultural Committee**

**Kindly RSVP by Oct. 11th to [stgregoryculturalcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:stgregoryculturalcommittee@gmail.com)**



**MARI FIRKATIAN**, Professor of History at the University of Hartford, brings a unique perspective that combines historical scholarship with a passion for preserving and sharing cultural traditions through food. Join us and learn to prepare **STUFFED MUSSELS** and **YOGURT BARLEY SOUP!**

St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church, 1131 North St. White Plains, NY 10605 | 914-428-2595

## SENIORGEN MINISTRY

Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan has introduced a new ministry, **SeniorGen**, created to honor, support, and spiritually nurture older adults in the Armenian Church.

*The mission of SeniorGen is to help older adults live more **engaging, meaningful, and Spirit-filled lives** while creating a vibrant community that values the wisdom and experiences of seniors. The ministry also seeks to support their unique needs and strengthen **intergenerational connections within the church.***

### You're Invited!

**St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church** is excited to launch our **White Plains Chapter of the SeniorGen Ministry** on **Wednesday, October 7th.**

### DETAILS

**When:** First Wednesday of every month

**Beginning:** Wednesday, October 7

**Fee:** \$10, including lunch

**Time:** 11 AM

**Location:** Atrium

Each gathering will include:



### St. Gregory Women's Guild Presents

A morning at the Bruce  
Museum

**Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>,  
2026 at 11:00 am**



Join us for a fun and enriching morning exploring the newly renovated Bruce Museum, featuring fascinating exhibits in art, science and natural history.

After the tour, everyone is welcome to join us for lunch at the museum cafe.

Please note, lunch will be at individual expense

Free admission  
Free parking on premises

**RSVP to:**  
**Dawn Papalian**  
[dawn@papalian.com](mailto:dawn@papalian.com)  
**Call/Text: 310 850 - 6496**

**Bruce Museum**  
1 Museum Drive  
Greenwich, CT 06830



St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church  
cordially invites you to



## Primate's Visit & Ordination of Acolytes & Deacons

# 1

November, 2026

Following the Services:  
Luncheon will be  
served with a program

His Grace Bishop Mesrop Parsanyan  
Primate of the Eastern Diocese  
Celebrant and Officiant

Divine Liturgy & Ordination - 10:00am  
Luncheon & Program - 12:30pm

### Advanced reservations required

Kindly RSVP by October 25, 2026  
Contact the church office at:  
saintgregorychurchwp@gmail.com  
914-428-2595

\$25 | adults

\$12 | youth 6-14

Free | under 5

1131 North Street, White Plains, NY 10605 | [www.stgregorywp.com](http://www.stgregorywp.com)

NEXTGEN OF ST. GREGORY  
INVITES YOU TO

## ARMENIAN COOKING 101: LET'S MAKE MANTI!

Join us for a hands-on cooking  
lesson and learn how to **make**  
**manti**, a beloved, delicious  
Armenian dish!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH  
3PM

ST. GREGORY CHURCH KITCHEN  
1131 NORTH STREET  
WHITE PLAINS, NY

Please make your reservations by  
October 24th by emailing:  
[stgregorynextgen@gmail.com](mailto:stgregorynextgen@gmail.com)

\$20 per person

Designed for young adults ages 18-45

- Includes cooking materials, light bites & beverages

• **Advanced payment is encouraged**

- **Venmo:** @stgregorywp, cash or check
- **Checks:** Please make checks payable to: St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church + mail to St. Gregory
- Cash only at the door

SCAN FOR @STGREGORYWP VENMO



# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Today                   | <p><b>Morning Service &amp; Divine Liturgy.</b> Divine Liturgy will be celebrated by Rev. Fr. Mesrob Hovsepyan.</p> <p><b>Citizens Preparedness Corps Event</b> will be presented by New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) following the Liturgy.</p> <p><b>Specially prepared Harissa</b> will be served during Fellowship hour. Prepared food from the picnic will be available to purchase.</p> |
| OCTOBER 7,<br>WEDNESDAY | <p><b>First meeting of SeniorGen</b><br/><b>11 am in the Atrium—light lunch \$10 per person</b><br/><b>Please rsvp: Lauren Kayaian 917-887-4037</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| OCTOBER 18,<br>SUNDAY   | <p><b>A Taste of Armenian Heritage: An Interactive Cooking Event</b> with Cookbook Author and Historian, Prof. Mari Firkatian. Presented by the Cultural Committee. Details inside.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| OCTOBER 20,<br>TUESDAY  | <p><b>Women's Guild trip to the Bruce Museum</b><br/><b>View the flyer in the bulletin for more details.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| OCTOBER 31,<br>SATURDAY | <p><b>Women's Guild Retreat, "Sisters in Christ," from 12:00–4:00 PM at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary.</b> Hosted by the Women's Guild Central Council.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| NOVEMBER 1,<br>SUNDAY   | <p><b>Visit of His Grace Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan, Primate of the Eastern Diocese.</b> Details inside.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| NOVEMBER 7,<br>SATURDAY | <p><b>SAVE THE DATE: NextGen of St. Gregory invites young professionals to Armenian Cooking 101 event.</b> Details inside.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| NOVEMBER 15,<br>SUNDAY  | <p><b>Women's Guild Membership Meeting &amp; Elections.</b> Annie Ovanessian will be leading a spiritual discussion for this meeting</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |