

ԱՐԵՒ



AREV

Երկամսեայ Տեղեկատու

**Bimonthly Newsletter**

Մր. Գրիգոր Լուսաւորիչ Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական Եկեղեցի  
**St. Gregory The Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church**  
**Indian Orchard - Massachusetts**

November – December 2022



**Շնորհակալոր Լոր Տարի և Սուրբ Ծնունդ**

Happy New Year and Merry Christmas

**AREV** IS THE OFFICIAL BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church  
P.O. Box 51064, 135 Goodwin Street  
Indian Orchard, MA 01151

Tel: (413) 543-4763; Fax: (413) 543-4799  
e-mail: stgregorymass@yahoo.com

★ ★ ★

**PASTOR:** Rev. Fr. Bedros Shetilian  
24 Edison Drive, Ludlow, MA 01056  
Tel: (413) 775-3186 (cell)  
e-mail: shetilian@gmail.com

**CHURCH SERVICES TABLE**

**BAPTISM**

Church Service	Members (Parents only):	\$100
	Non-Members:	\$200
Services of the Priest	Members:	\$125
	Non-Members:	\$150

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**WEDDING**

Church Service	Members (Bride or Groom):	\$150
	Non-Members:	\$350
Services of the Priest	Members:	\$200
	Non-Members:	\$250
Services of the Deacon (optional)		\$ 50
Services of the Soloist (optional)		\$ 50
Services of the Organist (optional)		\$ 50

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**FUNERAL**

Church Service	Members:	\$ 0
	Non-Members:	*\$200

*\*There will be no fee charged if the church is named recipient of in-lieu of flowers donations.*

Services of the Priest	Members;	\$175
	Non-Members:	\$200

*If some individuals find the services of the Priest a burden, they should contact Der Bedros.*

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**CHRISTMAS & EASTER HOME**

**BLESSING**

Services of the Priest	<i>Honorarium</i>
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**MEMORIAL DAY GRAVE BLESSING**

Services of the Priest	<i>Honorarium</i>
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**CHURCH AREV STAFF & POLICY**

Pastor & Editor-in-Chief	Rev. Fr. Bedros Shetilian
Secretary	Elizabeth Vartanian
Contributors	Rev. Fr. Bedros Shetilian Liz Setian Sonia Meregian Sue Lantzakis
Office Staff	Elizabeth Vartanian Ardemis Babaeghian-Walen

*The deadline to submit to Arev, is the 15<sup>th</sup> of every even month, (Feb., April, June, August, October, December).*

**ALL ARTICLES ARE SUBJECT TO EDITING**

**CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Chairperson	Tanya Garibian (413) 567-2948
V. Chairperson	Sima Pariseau (413) 262-7251
Secretary	Nora Santourian (413) 596-9920
Co-Treasurers	Ed Garibian (413) 218-6243 Claudia Muradian-Brubach (413) 566-5006
Advisors	Ardemis Babaeghian-Walen (413) 567-1775 Rita Fereshetian (413) 530-9058 Leo Vartanian (413) 567-1524
Alternate	Ginny Remillart (413) 599-1803

★ ★ ★

N.R.A. Delegates	Ed Garibian (413) 218-6243 Ardemis Babaeghian-Walen (413) 567-1775
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Ladies Guild Chairpersons	Sue Lantzakis (413) 567-8755 Sonia Meregian (413) 525-8811
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ARF Chairperson	Gary Setian (413) 567-6514
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ARS Chairperson	Sonia Arakelian (413) 567-6622
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**CHURCH HALL RENTAL**

With Kitchen	Members:	\$150
	Non-Members:	\$250
Without Kitchen	Members:	\$100
	Non-Members:	\$200

**ADVERTISEMENT COST**

The advertisement page contains business card size spaces.  
Each space costs \$150 annually or \$25 per issue.

**A MEMBER IS A PERSON WHO HAS PAID HIS/HER DUES IN FULL FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS**

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

WHY DO ARMENIANS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS ON JANUARY 6?

“Armenian Christmas,” as it is popularly called, is a culmination of celebrations of events related to Christ’s Incarnation. Theophany or Epiphany (or *Astvadz-a-haytnootyoon* in Armenian) means “revelation of God,” which is the central theme of the Christmas Season in the Armenian Church. During the “Armenian Christmas” season, the major events that are celebrated are the Nativity of Christ in Bethlehem and His Baptism in the River Jordan. The day of this major feast in the Armenian Church is January 6<sup>th</sup>. A ceremony called “Blessing of Water” is conducted in the Armenian Church to commemorate Christ’s Baptism.

It is frequently asked as to why Armenians do not celebrate Christmas on December 25<sup>th</sup> with the rest of the world. Obviously, the exact date of Christ’s birth has not been historically established—it is neither recorded in the Gospels. However, historically, all Christian churches celebrated Christ’s birth on January 6<sup>th</sup> until the fourth century.

According to Roman Catholic sources, the date was changed from January 6<sup>th</sup> to December 25<sup>th</sup> in order to override a pagan feast dedicated to the birth of the Sun, which was celebrated on December 25<sup>th</sup>. At the time Christians used to continue their observance of these pagan festivities. In order to undermine and subdue this pagan practice, the church hierarchy designated December 25<sup>th</sup> as the official date of Christmas and January 6<sup>th</sup> as the feast of Epiphany. However, Armenia was not affected by this change for the simple fact that there were no such

pagan practices in Armenia, on that date, and the fact that the Armenian Church was not a satellite of the Roman Church. Thus, remaining faithful to the traditions of their forefathers, Armenians have continued to celebrate Christmas on January 6<sup>th</sup> until today.

**In the Holy Land: January 19<sup>th</sup>:**

In the Holy Land, the Orthodox churches use the old, Julian calendar—which has a difference of 13 days with the Gregorian (or “Western”) calendar in use today—to determine the date of the religious feasts. Accordingly, the Armenians celebrate Christmas on January 19<sup>th</sup> and the Greek Orthodox celebrate on January 6<sup>th</sup>. On the day before Armenian Christmas, January 18<sup>th</sup>, the Armenian Patriarch together with the clergy and the faithful, travels from Jerusalem to the city of Bethlehem, to the Church of Nativity of Christ, where elaborate and colorful ceremonies take place. Outside, in the large square of the Church of Nativity, the Patriarch and his entourage are greeted by the Mayor of Bethlehem and City officials. A procession led by Armenian scouts and their band, advance the Patriarch into the Church of Nativity, while priests, seminarians and the faithful join in the singing of Armenian Christmas hymns. Afterwards, church services and ceremonies are conducted in the Cathedral of Nativity all night long and until the next day, January 19<sup>th</sup>.

Source: <https://armenianchurch.org.uk/why-do-armenians-celebrate-christmas-on-january-6th/>

—Pastor—



**COMMUNITY NEWS**

Anyone interested in submitting community news, please call Liz Setian at (413) 596-3411



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ST. GREGORY MEMORIAL GARDEN**



Persons wishing to remember their loved ones, should consider an engraved brick in our Memorial Garden. The name or names of the individual(s) you wish to remember will be engraved on the brick and placed in the Garden Walkway. The cost is \$150 for each brick. Interested parties should contact Harry Setian (413-596-3411) and provide an exact written description of what is to be placed on the brick.

**WEDDING AND BAPTISM PLANNING**  
*When planning any weddings or baptisms, please check with Der Hayr first to confirm his availability before making other arrangements. Thank you.*

**HOUSE BLESSINGS**  
*It is a tradition to have a house blessing once a year. Those wishing to do so, please contact Der Bedros at the church office 413-543-4764 or call his cell phone 413-775-3186 and he will be happy to bless your home.*



## ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS

We would like to thank everyone in the community for their unconditional support for our Church this year. So many of you have played a critical role in caring for and supporting the vision and mission of St. Gregory. Some of this year's highlights include:

*Website* - Our church will finally enter the 21st Century with a new website. The website is scheduled to launch soon. Website domain name was secured as [saintgregoryarmenianchurch.org](http://saintgregoryarmenianchurch.org). The website will allow us to reach more people, raise online donations, promote the Church calendar, allow volunteer sign ups, send in prayer requests, review past Arev newsletters, pay for membership dues, watch Badarak services and so much more. We will have one central place to go for information and it will allow us to streamline communications and help people stay connected – near and far - with the Church real-time.

Thanks to Ed Garibian, we recently changed all our light bulbs to LED, long lasting energy efficient lighting. The project included the entire replacement of all the old lighting fixtures in the Church Hall. The cost for the project was over \$17K, but the Church received everything at no-cost through a federal grant with an estimated annual energy saving of \$5000-6000.

We held a number of events this year too, including; Father's Day Picnic, Name Day Celebration, April 24th Genocide Campaign and the Fall Food Festival.

We also opened a Thrift shop (with the suggestion and vision of Ginny Remillard) to help grow our presence in the community through service and to raise funds for our Church. We have had an overwhelming show of support.

So many of you have played a vital role this year to move us forward by serving, volunteering, praying, giving, leading, cleaning, singing, baking, hauling items and much more. Thank you to Claudia Muradian-Brubach for her PR expertise, Ardemis Babaeghian Walen and Nora Santourian for all their hard work on the Arev, Vartan Derounian for regularly singing in the choir and helping lead our dessert/food efforts during our events, Haig Arakelian and his sons for providing live music for all our events, Dianne Benson, Ginny Remillard, and Nora Santourian for all their hard work with the Thrift Shop, Ladies Guild members, the entire Setian family, Der Hayr and Yeretsgin. Thank you to all!

Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

—Board of Trustees—



### LADIES' GUILD NEWS

The Guild will have our first 2023 meeting on March 12. The discussion will be our Lenten Luncheon which will take place on March 26. Also we will have a celebration of Armen Tashians 101 birthday. The Guild will look forward to seeing our Church Family on that Sunday.

—Susan Lantzakis—  
—Sonia Meregian—



November – December 2022

## A.R.S. NEWS

**Our Springfield “Ararat” chapter made donations to two very important humanitarian causes; the “Amanor” children’s charity and meals for the needy of Lebanon and Syria.**

**The A.R.S. will be having a Requiem Service for its deceased members on Sunday, February 26. Details to follow. Please join us afterwards for a memorial coffee hour in the church hall.**

**We wish you all a happy and healthy New Year!**

**—Sonia Arakelian—**



## THRIFT SHOP NEWS

**The St. Gregory Thrift Shop, since its inception on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 has accomplished a great deal for the church and the community:**

- **A welcomed addition of a place in the Indian Orchard-Springfield communities to shop for quality items at affordable prices was established.**
- **The church hall is full of activity, bringing visitors from many towns in the area, who are very happy about treasures they are leaving with...and returning to shop!**
- **Our parishioners and neighbors are participating in supporting our church with giving quality goods for sale; and also buying merchandise.**
- **Since October 15<sup>th</sup>, we have raised over \$2,000 to keep our church moving forward. All proceeds from sales support our church.**

**Our sincere appreciation goes to all of you who have contributed quality items; and to the active volunteers who have been spending hours collecting items, sorting through goods, categorizing, displaying and working many hours to run the Shop!**

**Please keep the goods coming and spread the word to bring in customers. We are open for business every Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**A reminder: We are only accepting almost new items for sale.**

**If you have any questions regarding items that would be appropriate to donate call us.**

**If you can volunteer time to work in the Thrift Shop, please call us:**

**Ginny – 413-599-1803**

**Nora – 413-596-9920**

**Claudia – 413-566-5006**

**Thank you all for helping our church!**





REQUIEMS

November 2022

December 2022

FOR: Vartanoosh-Rose Derderian , &  
Hayrabad Derderian  
BY: Mike & Marion Merigian,  
Harry & Margo Derderian  
& Families \$75

FOR: Haig Arakelian, Arshalouys & Ardashes  
Arakelian, Richard Arakelian, deceased  
Arakelian family members & Ara  
Zaratsian  
BY: Gabe & Simone Arakelian \$??

FOR: John Vartanian  
BY: Sandra Vartanian \$50

FOR: Richard Arakelian, 27 yrs of passing,  
Chichekian & Arakelian Families, Alicia  
Hanna  
BY: Sonia Arakelian \$100

GIFTS

November 2022

FOR: Gift to Church  
BY: Anonymous \$40

FOR: Gift to Church  
BY: Elmas Merigian \$50



SOME TIDBITS . . .

A RIDDLE

What is greater than God,  
More evil than the devil,  
The Poor have it  
The rich need it,  
And if you eat it,  
You will die?

Answer: Nothing

—Liz Setian—

## WHERE DID MADZOOM COME FROM?

It is interesting to note that the word *mazoon* appears to mean “rain-making clouds” in Arabic, and an Armenian eye would be surprised to note that the name “Mazoon” belongs to a dairy company from Oman and that they sell yogurt with their name on it.

But that is where the connection between Arabic *mazoon* and the Armenian word մզճՈՂՆԱ (*madzoon*), our name for yogurt—a word of Turkish origin—ends. The root of *madzoon* is the Classical Armenian verb մզճԱՆԻԼ (*madzanil*), which means “to glue, to join, to adhere, to condense” and was derived from the Proto-Indo-European root \* m(e)hǵ (“to knead, fashion, fit”). This root, incidentally, is the source for a series of well-known English words such as “make,” “macerate,” “amass,” “mass,” “mason,” “magma,” and others.

Authors like Grigor Magistros (eleventh century) and Hovhannes Erznkatsi (thirteenth century) had already given the correct explanation to the meaning of *madzanil*.



Rose & Sarkis Colombosian

Incidentally, if you come across Greek *masoni*, Russian *matzoni* and *matzun*, Turkish dialectal forms *mazun* and *mazin*, and especially Georgian *matsoni*, rest assured that all these have been borrowed from Armenian.

The origins of “madzoon” are disputed: Central Asia, Mesopotamia, Armenia are among the candidates. Armenian immigrants to the United States started selling “madzoon” in the 1910s, and the most famous case was that of the couple Sarkis and Rose Colombosian, who started Colombo and Sons Creamery in Andover, Massachusetts, in 1929. They originally delivered “madzoon” under the Armenian name, but then they changed it to “yogurt” for commercial reasons, since the name was well-known beyond the Armenian realm. The Colombo brand was the creator of the “fruit on the bottom” and existed successfully for eight decades. After the company was sold to General Mills in 1993, the brand was discontinued in 2010.

No doubt that “madzoon” has crossed borders. You may go to *madzoon.net* and find out that “Madzoon” (Armenian for yogurt) is... the finest Greek style yogurt available in the Philippines at the most affordable price. From Armenia with Love!”

—reprinted from the Armenian Prelacy—



**Mercedes-Benz**  
of Springfield

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**Michelle Wirth**

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mobile | 201.312.5427  
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web | www.mbspringfield.com

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### CONSIDER ADVERTISING YOUR BUSINESS IN OUR NEWSLETTER

Each business-card-size space costs \$150 annually (\$25 per issue). Please include a copy of the business card or ‘image’ of your ad and enclose a check for \$150 per space requested. Checks are payable to **St. Gregory Armenian Church** and add a memo for **AREV Ad**. Mail to:

St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church  
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*Thank you for advertising and helping to defray our printing costs.*



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**James K Riley**  
owner/manager



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**WORSHIP HOURS**

**Divine Liturgy 10:00 am - 12:00 noon**

**Visitors are warmly welcomed to come and join us in worship.  
Coffee/fellowship hour is served every Sunday after the Badarak.**

**CHURCH CALENDAR**

**JANUARY**

- Sunday 1 Coffee hour by Ladies' Guild**
- Sunday 8 ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON by Board of Trustees & Community Members**
- Sunday 15 Coffee hour by Armenian Relief Society**
- Sunday 22 Coffee hour by Board of Trustees**
- Sunday 29 Coffee hour by Men's Club**

**FEBRUARY**

- Sunday 5 Coffee hour by Ladies' Guild**
- Sunday 12 Coffee hour by Board of Trustees**
- Sunday 19 Coffee hour by Men's Club**
- Sunday 26 A.R.S. Requiem Service followed by Coffee hours – All Welcome.**

**PLEASE NOTE: ST GREGORY THRIFT SHOP IS OPEN EVERY SATURDAY 9:30AM TO 12:30PM**

**Please Remember St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church in Your Will**