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Երեքամսեայ Տեղեկատու

Quarterly Newsletter

Սբ. Գրիգոր Լուսավորիչ Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական Եկեղեցի
St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church
Indian Orchard, Massachusetts

Third Quarter 2025



US – ARMENIA – AZERBAIJAN DEAL
SIGNING AT THE WHITE HOUSE
AUGUST 8, 2025

AREV IS THE OFFICIAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF

St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church

P.O. Box 51064, 135 Goodwin Street

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★ ★ ★

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*The deadline to submit to Arev, is the 15th of
March, June, September and December.*

ALL ARTICLES ARE SUBJECT TO EDITING

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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 financial services of the Priest a
burden, please contact Der Bedros.*

★ ★ ★

CHRISTMAS & EASTER HOME BLESSING

Services of the Priest	Honorarium
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MEMORIAL DAY GRAVE BLESSING

Services of the Priest	Honorarium
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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.

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

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

ARMENIA AND GOD'S WILL

What happened in Washington on August 8 of this year may have a historical and crucial impact on Armenia. Since the 2020 Second Artsakh War, Armenia has been under constant threat from Azerbaijan. In 2021, Azerbaijan took over some near-border strategic territories the size of the city of Yerevan. Most tragically in 2023, Artsakh was ethnically cleansed of its Armenian population, where Armenians have been living for at least the past 3,000 years. All of this happened because Armenia's so-called ally, Russia, let Armenia down. Russia is a deeply corrupt country, and what happened is that Azeris, over the years, put billions of dollars into buying Russian officials. There is a saying in Russia, now used by nationally oriented Russian experts and circles who are not happy with Russia's policies in the South Caucasus: "All the rugs in the Russian foreign ministry are gifts from Azerbaijan." The other reason is that Russia is so weakened that it needs Turkey in order to avoid sanctions. For instance, when it comes to diesel supplies alone, in 2024 Turkey bought 42 percent of its needs from Russia with big discounts.

In September of 2022, Azerbaijan attacked Armenia itself, specifically the Jermouk region, which, if this attack were successful, would cut Armenia in half, resulting in a de facto loss of Armenia's reliability as a functioning state. Again, Russia did not intervene, making various excuses. There is a security agreement between Armenia and Russia from 1998, and Armenia is a member of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) led by Russia, where, like NATO, any attack on a member country should trigger military assistance from other members. There is also a Russian base in Armenia. However, here is the important moment: something happened on the third day of Azeri aggression on Jermuk, when only 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) remained before the city's fall. Suddenly, a ceasefire took place, which has been in effect until today. It was indicated by high Armenian officials and prominent experts that this ceasefire was a result of US interference and pressure on Azerbaijan, some even said an ultimatum. This was

a turning point and a historic moment. This was a first indication, although not very clear at the time, that the US wouldn't allow the occupation of Armenia. This ceasefire was followed by a historical, unplanned, and urgent visit by the Speaker of the House of Representatives at the time, Nancy Pelosi, and a congressional delegation to Armenia.

Coming to the current administration, there were some concerns, primarily because the US did not do much to stop the war in 2020. Aliyev looked happy with Trump's second election, saying that Azerbaijan will be better off with Republicans than Democrats. Azerbaijan even tried to use its ally Israel in order to gain US support. However, something changed. In addition to our lobbying traditional organizations, different people and groups started working with Trump and his team. One of them, Rev. Joel Tenney, visited our church at my invitation in 2023. Most of these people and groups are Evangelical non-Armenian Christians who understood the severity of Armenia's situation and wanted to help the First Christian Nation. Some Armenians were instrumental in this, like Tufenkjian in New York. One of these groups is called "Save Armenia," which, according to one of its members Dr. Alveda King (Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s niece) put a letter in front of Trump about Armenia. Trump responded positively. That led to Trump signing documents with Pashinyan and Aliyev on August 8 in the White House. Officially, the documents are about a future peace treaty between Armenia and Azerbaijan. They are also about the route that will connect Azerbaijan to Nakhichevan. But in reality, this is about stopping Azerbaijan's aggression against Armenia. I do not believe in one word or signature by Azerbaijan, but I know that as long as the US is involved, no one will dare to attack Armenia.

Many experts were talking about the possibility of war this past spring or fall, where Azerbaijan would occupy a big portion of the southern Armenian region of Syunik, with the excuse that it needed the

route to Nakhichevan, and Armenia is blocking it. Now, according to the Washington agreements, that route will be controlled by an American company, where Armenia's consent is needed for any decisions. This is a much better outcome for Armenia. By Armenia's suggestion, the route will be called the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity, the acronym for which is TRIPP. It is apparent that politics is also involved. Armenia's appeal allowed the US to enter the Caucasus. Our alliance with Russia did not work, and I will be happier to see Armenia become an ally of the US and the West in general. Wherever there is support from the local population, the US has showed that it is a trustworthy ally. There are many examples: Western Europe and Japan after World WWII, South Korea, Taiwan, Kuwait, etc. We must take into consideration that the US built one of its largest embassies in the world in Armenia. I believe that being an ally to the US and the West will bring security and prosperity to Armenia, and we Armenian-Americans should be proud of that and support it.

I also believe that the Democrats, if they come to power in the future, will continue the same policy as the Republicans, since Democrats have also shown that they care about Armenia. Having said that, we must know how to work with both sides, and it seems that we are doing. The goal is to make US policies toward Armenia permanent and solid, no matter who is in power here in Washington. There are many indications that we can achieve this goal.

As far as Artsakh is concerned, it is true that the West and the US did not do much in 2023 when Artsakh was cleansed of its Armenian population. Sadly, the reason is that Artsakh Armenians and officials are one-sidedly Russian-oriented. They held rallies with Putin's picture and the Russian flag. The president of Artsakh, Arayik Haroutyunian, refused to meet with the US and France envoys after the war in 2020, since there was no Russian representative with them. In addition, Haroutyunian called to give the Russian forces in Artsakh an international status, when there was a suggestion from the West to put in international peacekeeping forces, including Russians. Despite all this, Russia did not help.

For me, in conclusion, here is the most important part. Many non-Armenian scholars questioned how our nation survived despite the enormous challenges that it faced. Usually, we Armenians complain about losing our lands – after all, current day Armenia is only 10 percent of the territory of historic Armenia. However, non-Armenians emphasize more that it is a miracle that we still exist, that another nation with the same hardship we went through would have already disappeared. Usually, we refer to our spirit and heroism, and also to our culture as the reason for our existence. This is all true. However, there is another metaphysical reality that goes far beyond our imagination: God's will. God wants us to be here as a nation. God interferes in history, and we often cannot know when or how, but we know that God works through His people. God won't let His people down, although we have had many falls. Morale in Armenia now is not in good shape. There is a division, loss of integrity, and a deep crisis in the Church. However, after the last five years of turmoil, we know now that, at least for some years, we have secured Armenia's borders. We have to make this security permanent, as I previously pointed out. The fact that there is a strong Christian presence in the current administration and that Christians had a big role in convincing the US to get involved is proof of God's presence in this deal. It's better to rely on God than on people. Politics comes and goes, but God won't. The priority should always be our commitment to God and to the task of being the First Christian Nation. There is still a long way to go. Actually, this is not a treaty, but a pre-signed agreement. Nevertheless, it is a good start. We also need a strong army. Others won't help us if we do not help ourselves first. This is not about Pashinyan, it is about Armenia. Governments come and go, but our nation and motherland will be there until the end of time. That is God's will. That is how I take what happened in Washington on August 8.

May God bless the USA.

May God bless Armenia.

— Pastor —

COMMUNITY NEWS

We welcome back those in our community who visited Armenia this summer.

Our Prayers go to Ginny & Gary Remillard for good health.

Our Deepest Condolences:

- ☐ To the family of Richard Matulewicz on his recent passing.
- ☐ To the Setian and Klenakis families on the recent passing of Gary Setian.
- ☐ To the family of Nancy (Arakelian) Riley on her recent passing.
- ☐ To parents, Tamara (Tarpinian) & Robert Jachym, and grandson of our beloved, late parishioner Harry Tarpinian, for the tragic loss of Eric Tarpinian-Jachym.

May God illuminate their souls

“Asdvadz hokineruh lusavoreh”

Please submit community news to Liz Setian at (413) 596-3411.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

FREE
ADMISSION

OCTOBER 11, 2025

12 PM - 7 PM

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Specialty Gourmet Food ~ Entertainment



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sponsorship visit our website



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 Bedros Setian (413-552-6336) and provide an exact written description of what is to be placed on the brick.

WEDDING / BAPTISM PLANNING	<i>When planning any weddings or baptisms, please check with Der Hayr first to confirm his availability before making other arrangements. Thank you.</i>
HOUSE BLESSINGS	<i>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 413-543-4763 or call his cell phone 413-775-3186 and he will be happy to bless your home.</i>

Church website: [@armenian.st.gregorys](http://www.saintgregoryarmenianchurch.org)



ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS

Dear Parishioners,

As we enter this fall season, our parish stands at an important crossroads—one that calls on each of us to reflect on the blessings we’ve received from St. Gregory Church and to continue to commit ourselves to its future.

This year, under the guidance of the Eastern Prelacy, 2025 has been declared “The Year of the Revitalization of Traditions”. As part of the efforts aimed at reorganizing and strengthening the Diaspora—alongside language and culture—we are called to renew and preserve our spiritual and national identity. St. Gregory has always been a vital part of this mission here in greater Springfield. For generations, our parish has been the soul of Armenian life in this community, shaping us into more grounded, purposeful, and compassionate people.

Launch of Our Capital Campaign

This fall, St. Gregory will launch a Capital Campaign to ensure the vitality of our parish for today and tomorrow. Like many small parishes, we face the challenges of economic pressures and generational transitions. Without continued support, our ability to provide the spiritual, cultural, and community services that define our mission may be at risk. Each of us is a steward of this church. By sharing our

time, talents, and treasure, we can make a lasting difference. Together, we can safeguard the legacy entrusted to us and build a promising future for generations to come.

Parish Life and Upcoming Events

- ***Father's Day Picnic Success:*** In June, we gathered for a beautiful Father's Day picnic. The joy, fellowship, and laughter shared that day remind us of the strength we find in community.
- ***Honoring Our Pillars:*** We also mourned the loss of several beloved members—pillars of our parish family—whose devotion and example will remain in our hearts: Leo Vartanian, Richard Matulewicz, Varteni Murphy, Gary Setian and Nancy Riley. May their memory be eternal.
- ***Fall Festival – October 11, 2025:*** Our much-loved Armenian Food Festival is just around the corner! We invite you to join us on Saturday, October 11 for a day filled with heritage, food, and fellowship. Volunteers are needed—especially for baking desserts and helping staff the event. Your participation is vital to making this festival a success.
- ***Recruitment Initiative:*** Based on feedback from our parish survey, we are finalizing a new church recruitment effort to welcome and engage more families in the life of our parish.

Representing St. Gregory at the NRA

St. Gregory was well represented at the National Representative Assembly (NRA) of the Eastern Prelacy, held in Watertown from May 29–31. Delegates Ed Garibian and Ardemis Babaeghian Walen were present along with Der Hayr and Board Chair Tanya Garibian ensuring that the voice of our parish was part of the broader discussions that guide our Prelacy's mission.

In these challenging times, we are reminded that small parishes like ours are the heart and soul of Armenian life in America. Let us continue to honor our traditions, celebrate our faith, and build a future worthy of the legacy entrusted to us.

— Board of Trustees —



**Some go to church just for a walk;
Some go there to laugh and talk;
Some go there for observation;
Some go there for speculation;
Some go there to sleep and nod;
WE SHOULD GO THERE TO WORSHIP GOD.**

— Charles Spurgeon —

IN MEMORY



Richard Matulewicz 1942 - 2025

RICHARD MATULEWICZ OBITUARY

Richard F. Matulewicz, 82, passed away July 4, 2025. Born in Enfield, CT, to Thomas and Mary (Arvantely) Matulewicz, he grew up in Enfield before moving Longmeadow, MA. Richard was a chemical engineer in the pulp and paper industry for 39 years before retiring in 2005. He was for 59 years the beloved husband of Sonia (Soultanian) Matulewicz. Father of Ariadne "Ari" Matulewicz (husband Dr. Jason Gomez) and the late Sara Mary Matulewicz. "Papou" to Sara and Ani who were the loves of his life. He was the brother of the late William Matulewicz. Visitation took place at Carpenter-Jenks Funeral Home, 659 East Greenwich Ave., West Warwick, RI on Thursday, July 10, 2025, from 12:00 – 2:00 PM immediately followed by a prayer service at 2 PM. Memorial donations may be made in his name to Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church (Providence, RI) or to St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church (Indian Orchard, MA).

In Lieu of Flowers Donations:

Jim & Priscilla Altoonian
Nancy & Henry Boroyan
Gary & Melanie Donotian
Doreen DiGiacomo
Ed & Tanya Garibian
Marjory & Albert Gomez
Mel Harutunian & Garo
Lachinian
Cheryl Harabedian-Helle &
Family
Sue Lantzakis

Judy Melikian
Brian & Kristen (Cavros)
Marriott
John & Linda McGann
Arlene Meregian
Mary & David Minassian
Helen & Andrew Pastor &
Diana Malkonian
Matt & Lisa Natcharian
Harry & Eugenia Paraghamian
Marie Pratt

Liz Vartanian
Ani Vosbikian & Roger Legrand
Andrea Vosbikian
Aren Vosbikian Holmes
Tom & Ardemis Walen
Jim, Moe, Emma & Taylor Winkler

TOTAL \$2750



Gary Setian 1938 - 2025

CHARLES "GARY" SETIAN OBITUARY

The family of Charles "Gary" Setian sadly announces his passing on Sunday July 6th in Las Vegas, Nevada. Born in Springfield Massachusetts, on April 4, 1938 to Nishan and Mari Setian, Gary grew up in Indian Orchard with his siblings Armen, Harry, Lucy and Jack.

In 1955, at the age of seventeen, while attending Technical High School in Springfield, Gary was in a drafting class when one of his teachers mentioned there was an open position with "Springfield Gas Light Company" as a junior draftsman. Gary said he was interested and began working for the company. He continued working there while attending night school, receiving his B.S. degree from Western New England University in Mechanical Engineering.

His career with the company which later became "Bay State Gas" continued in various positions and capacities for 39 years until his retirement in 1995 as the Sr Vice-President of Operations. Among his

career highlights: designing and building the LNG facilities in Ludlow, Easton and Marshfield; serving as Chairman of the N.E. Gas Association's Operations School and Operating Division; serving as Chairman of the Massachusetts Natural Gas Council, Mass. Gas Distribution Code Committee, Mass. Committee on Corrosion; and receiving the 1994 Distinguished Service Award from the New England Gas Association.

He was an active member of St. Gregory's Armenian Apostolic Church of Indian Orchard serving on the executive council. He was also a chapter president of the Armenian Youth Federation, and a multi-year volunteer at GLENDI for St. George's Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Springfield. Soon after retiring, Gary and his wife Marie lived for much of the year in Las Vegas, NV to be closer to their grandchildren and, during this time, Gary became a founding member of St. Garabed's Armenian Apostolic Church in Las Vegas.

Gary remained active in the gas industry after his retirement serving both as an expert witness in several major gas litigation cases across the country and bringing his knowledge of natural gas development to Armenia, the country his father immigrated from back in 1915. Between 1997 and 2000, Gary traveled to Armenia 15 times providing technical expertise and training for USAID's Armenia and Georgia Natural Gas Sector Reform Program. Being able to utilize his skills to assist the country of his ancestors was something he truly took joy in.

He also took great joy in his hobbies: fishing, dancing, and collecting ancient Armenian coins. He was a member of the Vermont trout club and shared his collection of Armenian coins with younger individuals through the Armenian National Education Committee, distributing coins to Armenian school students who performed well in Armenian studies. These coins would include some dating back to the Cilician Kingdom and the dynasty of King Levon V in 1375.

Gary's love of dancing was witnessed by many as he would often be seen at parties and events dancing with the love of his life, his wife Marie. The two married in 1962 and were together for 58 years until her passing in 2021. Gary is survived by two sons: Haig and Garo Setian, Garo's wife, Anahit Setian and two grandchildren, Hunter and Lea Setian, in addition to his brother Harry and his wife Liz, his sister Lucy Tarpinian, sister-in-law Sandra Deshayes, brother-in-law John Klenakis and his wife Annie, brother-in-law Tony Klenakis and his wife Norma. He was pre-deceased by his brothers Armen and Jack and a half-brother, Bishop Nerses M. Setian.

Gary was a loving grandfather to Hunter and Lea. Soon after Marie's passing, Hunter moved in with Gary and taught him how to play "Settlers of Catan." This game became a place of bonding between Gary, Garo and Hunter during Gary's later years where the three shared many adventures together.

Gary's Funeral was held on Saturday, September 20th with visitation from 9-9:45 AM at St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church, 135 Goodwin St., Indian Orchard, followed by a Service at 9:45am. Burial followed in Oak Grove Cemetery, Springfield. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church or charity of your choice.

In Lieu of Flowers Donations:

Sonia Arakelian	Brian & Kristen (Cavros)	Mari Tarpinian
Haig Arakelian	Marriott	Susan Tarpinian
Harry & Margo Derderian	Claudia Muradian-Brubach	Liz Vartanian
Vartan & Grace Derounian	Naomi Noyes	Ardemis & Tom Walen
Edward Dzielenski	Nick Panasian	Arthur & Lucine Zikos
Ed & Tanya Garibian	Stepan & Susan Piligian	
Calliope Hoffman	Varoujan & Nora Santourian	TOTAL \$2,300
Zarouhi Kebabjian	Christine Sarkeesian	
Susan Lantzakis	Harry & Liz Setian	

NANCY (ARAKELIAN) RILEY OBITUARY



Nancy Riley 1935 - 2025

The Family of Nancy Sona (Arakelian) Riley sadly announces her passing on Wednesday September 24th in Sarasota, FL. Born in West Springfield, MA to parents Ardashes and Arshalouis Arakelian, Armenian immigrants from Turkey and France respectively, she grew up in W. Springfield with her sisters, Rose (Terzian), and Zari (Hanna), and brothers, Gabe, and Richard, as first generation Americans.

Shortly after high school, Nancy attended Mansfield Beauty Academy in New York to become a hair stylist. She loved her profession and working to help people look their very best. Her career covered over fifty years. She also loved helping and caring for the elderly. She was a member of the

VNA (Visiting Nurses Association) in the 1980's and helped as much as she could and as much as her strength would allow during that time.

Nancy married Richard David Riley in 1963 and went on to have four sons, Michael, Richard, Robert, and James. Her children were the love of her life. Nancy was a caring soul, and she cared for so many people all her life. That was her calling we believe. She also loved singing and dancing. She was a member of the St. Gregory's Armenian Church choir, and the Golden Blue Ribbon Singers out of the W. Springfield Senior Center. She would tour and perform at many retirement homes and Soldier's Homes in the area. She gave her heart in everything she did.

Her friendly disposition and kindness to everyone will be greatly missed by her family, friends, and anyone who knew her. Nancy is survived by her four sons, ten grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. Nancy's visiting hours were held Thursday, October 2nd between 6 and 8 pm at Ratell Funeral Home, Indian Orchard, MA. Wake service at 7:45. Her funeral services were held at St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church, 135 Goodwin St., Indian Orchard on Friday October 3rd at 11:00 am. Burial followed at Oak Grove Cemetery, Springfield. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to St. Gregory Apostolic Church or the charity of your choice.



REQUIEMS

July 2025

For: Leo Vartanian - 40 days
By: Arthur/Lucine Zikos \$ 25

For: In memory of Lucas Noyes Birthday
By: Naomi Noyes \$ 20

For: Serop Andekian
By: Varoujan/Nora Santourian \$ 30

For: Paul Piligian
By: Susan Lantzakis \$ 50

SEPTEMBER 2025

For: Cousins Hugo Soormeyan, Kevork Babaeghian, Sylvia Devletian & Aram
By: Tom, Ardemis, Alexandra Walen \$100

For: brother, Bishop Nerses Setian; grandmother, Esther Sahagian, bother, Jackie Setian
By: Harry/Liz Setian \$ 20

~ GIFTS ~

For: In Lieu of Flowers for Leo Vartanian
By: Judy Melikian \$ 50
Steve & Linda Vosbikian \$ 50



PARISHIONER SPOTLIGHT



Susan Lantzakis, Liz Setian and Liz Vartanian prepare for the Father's Day picnic.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR UPCOMING CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

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enfieldmidas@att.net

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P.O. Box 51064, 135 Goodwin Street
Indian Orchard, MA 01151

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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.

Fellowship hour is held every Sunday after the Divine Liturgy (*Badarak*).

CHURCH CALENDAR

OCTOBER	Sunday	5	<i>Coffee hour by Retired Ladies' Guild members</i>
	Saturday	11	ST. GREGORY FALL FESTIVAL, 12PM-7PM
	Sunday	12	<i>Coffee hour by Armenian Relief Society</i>
	Sunday	19	<i>Coffee hour by Board of Trustees</i>
	Sunday	28	<i>Coffee hour by Men's Club</i>
NOVEMBER	Sunday	2	<i>Coffee hour by Retired Ladies' Guild members</i>
	Sunday	9	<i>Coffee hour by Armenian Relief Society</i>
	Sunday	16	<i>Coffee hour by Board of Trustees</i>
	Sunday	23	1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT; <i>Coffee hour by Men's Club</i>
	Sunday	30	<i>Coffee hour by Community Members</i>
DECEMBER	Sunday	7	<i>Coffee hour by Retired Ladies' Guild members</i>
	Sunday	14	<i>Coffee hour by Armenian Relief Society</i>
	Sunday	21	AMERICAN CHRISTMAS CAROLS after <i>Badarak</i>; <i>Coffee hour by Board of Trustees</i>
	Thursday	25	CHRISTMAS DAY
	Sunday	28	<i>Coffee hour by Men's Club</i>

Please Remember St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church in Your Will
