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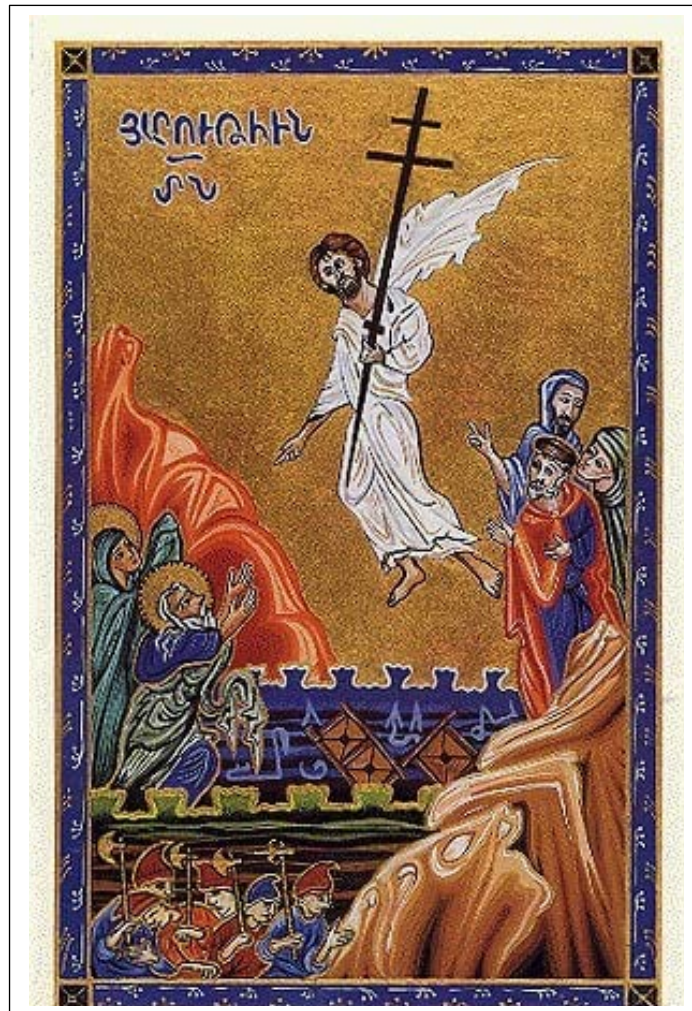
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Երկամսեայ Տեղեկատու

Quarterly Newsletter

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

January --- March 2026



ՔՐԻՍՏՈՍ ՅԱՐԵԱՒ Ի ՄԵՌԵԼՈՅ, ՕՐՀԵԱԼ Է ՅԱՐՈՒԹԻՒՆՆ ՔՐԻՍՏՈՍԻ
CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, BLESSED IS THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

AREV IS THE OFFICIAL QUARTLERLY NEWSLETTER OF

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

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* * *

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CHURCH AREV STAFF & POLICY

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Contributors Rev. Archpriest Bedros Shetilian
Sue Lantzakis
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AREV Staff Ardemis Babaeghian-Walen

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

ALL ARTICLES ARE SUBJECT TO EDITING

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson Tanya Garibian (413) 250-0059

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* * *

N.R.A. (National Representatives Assembly) DELEGATES

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Claudia Muradian-Brubach (413) 209-1439

ARS CHAIRPERSON Nora Santourian (413) 596-9920

CHURCH SERVICES TABLE

BAPTISM

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

* * *

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

* * *

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	<i>Honorarium</i>
------------------------	-------------------

* * *

MEMORIAL DAY GRAVE BLESSING

Services of the Priest	<i>Honorarium</i>
------------------------	-------------------

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 ~

WHY IS EASTER SO CRUCIAL?

Easter is the most important feast in the Church's calendar, and naturally, it should be for any individual who considers himself a Christian, not only a churchgoer, but someone who has a vibrant and living faith and connection to Christ, someone whose lifestyle is based on Christian values. Even though socially there is more attention to Christmas, especially in the West, because of the time of the year and Christmas's proximity to the new year, make no mistake, Resurrection of Our Lord is the primary thing. Why? The Resurrection of Christ is what makes Christianity the religion that we know today. If there were no Resurrection, there wouldn't be a religion known as Christianity with the largest following and a long history, and its huge implications. We know that right after Jesus' arrest, the disciples were scattered and fearful and disoriented. If Jesus' story ended with his burial, if Jesus was not resurrected, most likely they would go back to their previous lives, and that would have been the end of the story. At that time in Judea, there were many who declared themselves prophets and Messiahs, and all disappeared.

After Jesus' Resurrection, the disciples and other followers saw the resurrected Jesus, touched him, talked to him, ate with him, and that is why everything changed. They were not scared anymore, and they were back to their missions and more actively than ever before. In the Book of Acts, we see that despite real-life threats, the disciples are spreading the Good News of Jesus. The story of Stephen, the first martyr, is another strong indication of that narrative. According to St. Paul, after His Resurrection, Jesus appeared not only to His disciples but to more than 500 people. These were His followers, and Saint Stephen was one of them for sure. For them, the Resurrection was an unquestionable fact, and they knew that if they gave their lives for Jesus, they

would also be resurrected and go to heaven, a place much better than the world itself.

Having said that, I would like to mention that many times I emphasized in my sermons that Jesus didn't do His ministry for a show and to be glorified as the founder of the largest religion. No, He didn't need that. He was already in Glory in Heaven with the Father and Holy Spirit. He did His ministry because there was a plan, and the culmination of that plan was the Resurrection. Without this belief, there is no Christianity. Our faith should be based on this belief. We are a Church, a traditional, ancient church; we are a community. For traditional Churches collective prayers and services are crucial. We need the Church in order to remain in Orthodoxy (true faith), to know what faith is and what it is about, and to prevent misinterpretations of the Bible, which can lead to heresy. However, in the end, Christianity is an individual religion; it is more about each of us than about a general understanding of humanity. A personal connection to Jesus through the Holy Spirit, based on Orthodoxy is so important. Each of us should individually believe that Jesus came and was resurrected for him personally. Each one of us should believe in Jesus as the perfect God and perfect man - the Godman - and in His Resurrection. If we can achieve that, we can be certain that we've got much closer to God, Amen.

Happy Easter!

*Krisdos Haryav I Merelots,
Orhyal E Harutyunn Krisdosi*

**Christ is Risen from the Dead,
Blessed is the Resurrection of Christ.**

— Pastor —

~ COMMUNITY NEWS ~

Our Deepest Condolences:

- To Gabriel Arakelian and family on the recent passing of his wife Simone Arakelian.
- To Mari Tarpinian-Recor and families on the recent passing of husband Rick Recor.

May God illuminate their souls "Asdvadz hokineruh lusavoreh"

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

HOME BLESSING

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.



For Home Blessing the priest takes with him wafer and incense. He blesses the bread, the water and the salt. These three fundamental elements are essential life-giving gifts for human life. The priest asks from the Omnipotent God not to lessen these three gifts without which life becomes impossible or imperfect.

The bread, the water and the salt are symbols of God's infinite goodness and care. The bread, which symbolically represents the Word of God, grants life to all those who taste it. The salt seasons our food and makes it delicious and edible. Christ said, "You are the salt of the earth." Man's life should be seasoned with wisdom, moderation or sense of sufficiency. Finally, water which is the most essential element of life, figuratively represents cleanliness. It's through water that we are cleansed by baptism, renewed in Christ, and united with Him.

The priest also places a wafer stamped with a crucifix and designs of grapes and wheat on the tray with the bread salt and water. The wafer is the presence of Christ in the home.

During Home Blessing it is customary to burn incense which symbolizes the burning of our souls with our Lord's love. In his supplication the Psalmist says, "Let my prayer be counted as incense before Thee."

Home Blessing is a meaningful religious service that brings the entire family together in oneness and holiness, and blesses them. Through this ceremony everyone's faith is replenished and strengthened and the Lord's presence is felt.

Those wishing to have a home blessing, please contact Der Bedros at the church office 413-543-4763 or via cell phone 413-775-3186 and he will be happy to bless your home.

Church website: <http://www.saintgregoryarmenianchurch.org>



Instagram

@armenian.st.gregorys

ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS

Dear Parishioners,

As we welcome the arrival of spring, we are reminded of the promise of renewal, hope, and brighter days ahead. The changing season reflects the spirit of our faith journey, especially as we move through this sacred time of Great Lent and look forward to the joy of Palm Sunday and the celebration of Easter.

It has been a particularly busy and meaningful season, filled with worship, reflection, and community gatherings. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in and supported these events. In particular, we are deeply grateful to our ARS Committee and ARS president Nora Santourian for hosting a delicious and truly wonderful Lenten Luncheon—it was a beautiful expression of fellowship and service and the food was delicious!

At the same time, we pause with heavy hearts to remember those we have recently lost, including Simone Arakelian, Rick Recor, Gary Remillard, Nancy Riley, and Gary Setian. May their memories be eternal, and may their families find comfort in faith and community during this difficult time

I am also pleased to share that we are closing out our capital campaign fundraiser, which successfully raised over \$150,000. This fundraiser will help replenish our depleted building fund and safeguard the future of Saint Gregory Church. Your generosity ensures that our church will continue to serve as a spiritual home for generations to come. To honor this incredible support, we will soon be installing donor memorial plaques in our newly renovated vestibule as a lasting tribute to those who have contributed so generously. Thank you to each and every one of you—your continued support is sincerely appreciated. If you are interested in a memorial plaque, please email us at stgregorymass@yahoo.com or visit our website www.saintgregoryarmenianchurch.org/capitalcampaign.

Looking ahead, we invite you to join us on April 1st at 6:00 PM for a special prayer service and fellowship with His Eminence Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian. We also look forward to celebrating Easter together as a united parish family.

Additionally, please mark your calendars for April 24 at 12:30 PM, when we will gather for the 111th Armenian Genocide Commemoration. Once again, we will join Mayor Dominic Sarno on the City steps, alongside united clergy and community leaders, to honor the cherished memory of the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

As we reflect on all that we have accomplished together, we must also acknowledge an important concern—the decline in regular Sunday attendance. The strength of our church lies in the active participation of its parishioners. Attending church services is truly the glue that holds our community together, fostering faith, connection, and continuity. We encourage each of you to make Sunday worship a priority and to invite family, friends, and neighbors to join us. Together, we can strengthen and grow our beloved Saint Gregory Church.

Thank you for your continued faith, commitment, and support. May this spring season bring renewed hope and blessings to you and your loved ones.

111th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide

Armenian
Genocide
Commemoration

Friday, April 24 2026
Springfield City Hall
Springfield, MA
12:30PM

Honoring the memory of 1.5 million lives lost.



— Board of Trustees —

ARMENIAN RELIEF SOCIETY "ARARAT" CHAPTER NEWS



The Springfield "Ararat" Chapter of the ARS held its Annual Memorial Service for all passed members of the Springfield and Indian Orchard Chapters on February 22nd, 2026 followed by a coffee hour. Many relatives and friends of our deceased members participated in remembering and honoring those who we will always remember (please see listing below).



Honoring the ARS deceased; L to R: Rita Fereshetian, Naomi Noyes, Yeretgin Marineh Shetilian, Nora Santourian, Sonia Arakelian



Lenten luncheon: L to R: Sonia Arakelian, Yeretgin Marineh Shetilian, Naomi Noyes, Der Bedros Shetilian, Nora Santourian, Rita Fereshetian, Ginny Remillard

On March 15th, our current members hosted a Lenten Luncheon at St. Gregory Church. An extensive menu was presented which was very much enjoyed by



our guests. I would like to thank our member chefs: Sonia Arakelian, Yeretgin Marineh Shetilian, Ginny Remillard, Naomi Noyes, and Rita Fereshetian, for going beyond expectations in their preparations. Special thanks go to Cedar's Food Mart & Grille for sponsoring this event. Thanks also to church members Vartan Derounian, Zarouhi Keabajian and Liz Setian for making delicious goods!

We pray for all those who are not well and a special get well to Margaret Garibian, Kaline Arakelian and Harry Setian.

— Nora Vertanesian Santourian, Chair —

Supporters

In Memory of:

Harry & Margo Derderian	Vartanoosh & Haiganoosh Derderian, Marion Merigian	\$ 75
Baline Vartanian	Rose Vartanian	\$ 20
Kristen Marriott	Salpie Cavros	\$200
Serge, Tanya, Arianna & Sophia Minassian	Sonia Meregian	\$ 50
Susan Lantzakis	Sima Piligian	\$ 25
Elizabeth Vartanian	Seranoosh Vartanian	\$ 25
Helen Coulombe	Betsy Atanian; Helen (Haiganoosh) Derderian	\$ 50
Dot Piligian	Seranoush Vartanian	\$ 35

continued on next page

Supporters

In Memory of:

Hasmig Samurkashian	Mary Garibian	\$100
John & Linda McGann	Nevart Harotian; Beatrice Piligian	\$ 50
Joe & Sandra Villante	Nevart Harotian; Beatrice Piligian	\$ 50
Virginia Remillard	Verjin (Virginia) Yenian	\$ 25
Rita Fereshetian	Harout Timordjian	\$ 25
Nora & Varoujan Santourian	Yeretsgin Armenouhi Vertanesian; Zarouhi Katmarians; Maro Minassian & all deceased ARS friends	\$ 50
Christine Sarkeesian	Arshalouys Arakelian	\$ 50
Garo, Anahid, Hunter, Lea Setian	Gary Setian	\$200
Haig Aram Arakelian & family	Arshalouys Arakelian	\$200
Kaline Arakelian	Mari Holasian	\$ 10
Naomi Noyes	Grace Barnagian; Esther Deremian	\$ 15



~ IN MEMORY ~

SIMONE (KROKIDAS) ARAKELIAN OBITUARY



Simone Arakelian 1942 - 2025

Simone Asimo (Krokidas) Arakelian, 83, of Enfield, beloved wife for 59 years of Gabriel Arakelian, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

She leaves to celebrate her life, her children, Charles Garo Arakelian and Seta Marangoudakis and her husband Peter; grandchildren, Sophia and Melina; sister, Attorney Maria J. Krokidas Bullen and her husband Bruce Bullen; nieces and nephews, Alexandra Bullen Coutts, Christine Sarkeesian, George Bullen, Haig Arakelian, John Bullen, John Krokidas, and Stephanie Krokidas; as well as other relatives and friends.

Her family received friends on Thursday, February 5th at Carmon Funeral Home, Windsor, CT. Her Funeral Service was held on Friday, February 6th at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Hartford, CT. Burial followed in the Massachusetts State Veterans Cemetery in

Agawam.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Simone's memory to Camp Haiastan, P.O. Box C, Franklin, MA 02038. To read the full obituary, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Yuri/Galia Akopian
Sonia Arakelian
Gabriel/Simone Arakelian
Steve Berian
Helen/George Coulombe
Mike/Sally Deremian
Vartan/Grace Derounian
Aram/Rita Fereshetian

Margaret/Jim Fuller
Vekan/Zarouhi Kebabjian
Susan Lantzakis
Charles MacGowan
Sonia Matulewicz
Naomi Noyes
Stepan/Susan Piligian
David/Joyce Plasse

Robert Riley
Harry/Liz Setian
Bedros Setian
Susan Tarpinian
Tom/Ardemis Walen
Arthur/Lucine Zikos

TOTAL \$1,955



REQUIEMS

January 2026

For: Jack Hajian 40th day of passing
By: Ellen/Christopher Hajian \$ 300
For: Nancy Riley & Arakelian Family
By: Gabriel/Simone Arakelian \$ 50
For: Gary Setian, Rich Matulewicz
By: Gabriel/Simone Arakelian \$ 50
For: Parents Hazaros/Andreca Muradian
By: Claudia Muradian-Brubach \$ 60

FEBRUARY 2026

For: Yeghia Shemligian-father, Shirley Setian-sister-in-law
By: Harry/Liz Setian \$ 25
For: Deceased ARS members
By: ARS Springfield Chapter \$ 100

MARCH 2026

For: Alex Barnagian, Beatrice Kasabian
By: Naomi Noyes \$ 20



GIFTS

OCTOBER 2025

For: In Lieu of flowers for Nancy Riley
By: Rose Terzian \$200

FEBRUARY 2026

For: Gift to Church for the AREV publication
By: ARS Springfield Chapter \$ 25

PARISHIONER SPOTLIGHT

SUE LANTZAKIS

This month, we are honored to shine our parishioner spotlight on Sue Lantzakis, a devoted and long-standing member of Saint Gregory Armenian Church.

Sue's dedication to our church community is evident in all that she does. She is a tireless supporter of our events and traditions, lending her time and energy to everything from the Fall Festival and Father's Day picnic to many other special gatherings throughout the year. Many of us eagerly look forward to her delicious spinach boreg, a beloved favorite that sells out every year at the Fall Festival.

Sue is often among the very first to arrive when help is needed—whether it's preparing vegetables for tourshi or assisting in the kitchen before major events—and she is just as often one of the last to leave, ensuring everything is completed with care.

Her commitment goes beyond events. Sue recently took the initiative to clean and reorganize the entire church kitchen, thoughtfully labeling and arranging everything for the benefit of all who use it. She is always ready to lend a hand, whether in the kitchen or helping to maintain the church hall—whatever is needed, Sue is there.



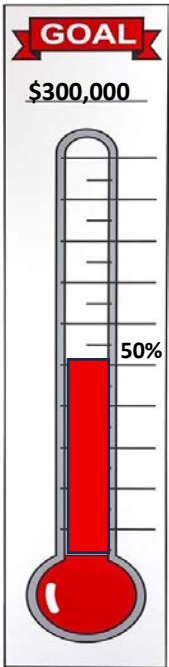
Beyond her hard work, Sue brings warmth and kindness to our community. She greets everyone with a smile and takes a genuine interest in how others are doing, making each person feel seen and valued.

Sue's faithful commitment to Sunday services and her deep care for the future of our church reflect her unwavering devotion. She truly is a light within our parish community, and we are grateful for all that she contributes.

Thank you, Sue, for your generosity, spirit, and love for Saint Gregory Armenian Church.



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



**To make an online donation to our Church,
please scan the QR code or visit**

www.saintgregoryarmenianchurch.org/donate-today



If you would like to sponsor the next issue of the Arev,
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stgregorymass@yahoo.com

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enfieldmidas@att.net

January --- March 2026

St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church
P.O. Box 51064, 135 Goodwin Street
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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

APRIL	Wednesday	1	HOLY WEDNESDAY; <i>Service & Fellowship 6PM; <u>Presided over by the Prelate Anoushavan Srpazan</u></i>
	Thursday	2	HOLY THURSDAY; <i>Washing of the Feet 7PM; Khavaroum 8PM</i>
	Friday	3	GOOD FRIDAY; <i>Evening srvc. & Entombment (Taghoum) 7PM</i>
	Saturday	4	HOLY SATURDAY; <i>Evening srvc. 6:30PM; Djerakaloos Badarak 7PM</i>
	Sunday	5	EASTER; <i>Easter Breakfast following Badarak</i>
	Sunday	12	<i>Coffee hour by Armenian Relief Society</i>
	Sunday	19	<i>Coffee hour by Board of Trustees</i>
	Sunday	26	<i>Coffee hour by Men's Club</i>
MAY	Sunday	3	<i>Coffee hour by Retired Ladies' Guild members</i>
	Sunday	10	<i>Coffee hour by Armenian Relief Society</i>
	Sunday	17	<i>Coffee hour by Board of Trustees</i>
	Sunday	24	<i>Coffee hour by Men's Club</i>
	Sunday	31	<i>Coffee hour by Community Members</i>
JUNE	Sunday	7	<i>Coffee hour by Retired Ladies' Guild members</i>
	Sunday	14	<i>Coffee hour by Armenian Relief Society</i>
	Sunday	21	FATHER'S DAY PICNIC
	Sunday	28	<i>Coffee hour by Men's Club</i>

Please Remember St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church in Your Will