

ԱՐԵՎ



AREV

Երեքամսեայ Տեղեկատու

Quarterly Newsletter

Աբ. Գրիգոր Լուսատորիչ Հայաստանեայ Առաքելական Եկեղեցի
St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church
Indian Orchard, Massachusetts

October, November, December 2025



Շնորհաւոր Նոր Տարի եւ Աբ. Ծնունդ

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND MERRY CHRISTMAS

AREV IS THE OFFICIAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF

St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church
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* * *

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 24 Edison Drive, Ludlow, MA 01056
 Tel: (413) 775-3186 (cell)
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CHURCH AREV STAFF & POLICY

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Contributors	Rev. Archpriest Bedros Shetilian Sue Lantzakis Liz Setian
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	
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V. Chairperson	Vartan Derounian (857) 236 5347
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* * *

N.R.A. Delegates	Ed Garibian (413) 218-6243
	Ardemis Babaeghian-Walen (413) 567-17754
ARS Chairperson	Sonia Arakelian (413) 567-6622

CHURCH SERVICES TABLE

BAPTISM		
Church Service	Members (Parents only):	\$100
	Non-Members:	\$200
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
<i>If some individuals find the financial services of the Priest a burden, please contact Der Bedros.</i>		

* * *

CHRISTMAS & EASTER HOME BLESSING

Services of the Priest	Honorarium
------------------------	------------

* * *

MEMORIAL DAY GRAVE BLESSING

Services of the Priest	Honorarium
------------------------	------------

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

SOMETHING IS HAPPENING - THERE IS A HOPE

I want to be sincere and not make false statements that everything is okay in our Church. We know that it is not. Our main problem and concern is our declining numbers. Our membership is down to 55, while it was 89 when I came here twenty years ago. Even more concerning is attendance at our services, especially Sunday Soorp Badarak. On an average Sunday, we have between 10 and 15 people, whereas when I first arrived that number was closer to 35-40. Some people are understandably upset by this reality. Some even ask, "Why are we keeping this Church?"

Once I was asked whether I get discouraged on Sundays when I see so few people in church. I answered honestly that, of course, it would be better to have more people present, but from a clergyman's and Holy Liturgy's point of view, it does not change anything. I celebrate Soorp Badarak with the same inspiration whether there are many people in the Church or only a few. That is how it should be.

However, this is only one side of our Church's current reality. Our Church is unique. Most likely, any other church in a similar situation would have already closed or would at least be on the path toward closing. Usually, this process begins with not having a permanent pastor. Once there is no pastor, people begin to look down on the Church, and more importantly, the Church loses its face and its center of gravity. A Church without a pastor is like a country without a president or an orchestra without a conductor. As a result, the process of closure accelerates. But this is not happening here, and that is what makes our Church unique.

There is a will and a strategic decision to continue until the very end, to try to improve and renew the Church. Whatever the reason for this approach, it

is according to God's will. I hope everyone understands this, whether they support keeping the Church doors open or not. This is happening because there is a mutual willingness – from both the Board of Trustees and myself – to stay and try until the very end. You never know what can happen.

A few decades ago, our Prelacy's church in North Andover, Massachusetts, St. Gregory, was in a similar situation. Then something happened, and today that Church is thriving again. We know why: many people moved their homes from Boston to that area as housing prices in Boston rose significantly. Our community is not as close to Boston as North Andover is. However, there is already discussion – and partial approval – of a bullet train from Boston to Springfield. If and when that happens, it will most likely bring new people from Eastern Massachusetts. We know this will happen, as there is an official decision; the only question is when.

As I said, keeping the Church doors open is pleasing to God. By doing so, we show resilience and hope. That is why we are holding our Capital Campaign – something we are doing for the first time in the history of St. Gregory. Capital Campaign funds come from capable donors, but regular contributions are also important. They show that this Church matters to everyone, not just to a few, and they express the quiet will of the community.

My family and I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope that 2026 will bring hope and happiness to all of you.

*Shnorhavor Nor Dari yev Soorp Dzenoont.
Krisdos Dzenav yev Haydnetsav.*

— Pastor —



COMMUNITY NEWS

Our Deepest Condolences:

To Ginny Remillard and family on the recent passing of her husband Gary Remillard.

May God illuminate his soul "Asdvadz hokeen lusavoreh"

Our Prayers to:

<input type="checkbox"/> Ann Garvey-Kalpakian	<input type="checkbox"/> Ted Sellarole
<input type="checkbox"/> Kaline Arakelian	<input type="checkbox"/> Angelique Mannings
<input type="checkbox"/> Viken Kebabjian	<input type="checkbox"/> Yervant Parnagian

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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



@armenian.st.gregorys

ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS

Dear Parishioners,

“I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”
(John 8:12)

As we come to the close of 2025, this passage from the Gospel of John feels more meaningful than ever for our Saint Gregory parish family. It has truly been quite a year—one filled with moments of joy, generosity, and success, but also marked by profound loss and deep concern for our Armenian homeland.

This past year, we mourned the passing of many cherished members of our community—individuals whose faith, love, and service helped shape the spiritual home we treasure today. At the same time, we watched with heavy hearts as tensions between church and state in Armenia deepened, reminding us of the ongoing challenges faced by our people and our faith.

Yet, even in moments of darkness, Christ calls us to walk in His light—and our community has done just that.

Together, we successfully carried out many of our annual traditions and initiatives that strengthen our bonds and reflect our shared values. Our ANNUAL FALL FOOD FESTIVAL and FATHER’S DAY PICNIC brought parishioners, families, and friends together in celebration and fellowship. We solemnly honored the ARMENIAN GENOCIDE through the flag-raising ceremony at Springfield City Hall, standing in partnership with Mayor Domenic Sarno, whose strong and public denouncement reaffirmed our collective commitment to remembrance and justice.

This year also marked a deeply moving first—the 3.3-MILE WALK HONORING SIMA AND DYLAN PARISEAU. Many parishioners walked together in love and remembrance, honoring the lives of Sima and Dylan and standing in solidarity with their family through shared grief and compassion.

In 2025, we also officially LAUNCHED OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN, a vital step toward securing the future of Saint Gregory’s. Alongside this effort, our parish website continues to grow as a central hub for our community—providing access to news, worship schedules, upcoming events, and important information, as well as serving as a secure and convenient online giving platform. I encourage everyone to explore the site, share it with others, and use it as a tool to stay connected and engaged with our parish family.

Looking ahead 2026 WILL BE A PIVOTAL YEAR for Saint Gregory’s. It will be a year in which we deepen our commitment to supporting one another. It will also be a critical year as we work together to fulfill our \$300,000 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GOAL, positioning our church to remain strong, vibrant, and sustainable for generations to come.

I am deeply grateful for the faith, generosity, and dedication of our parishioners, clergy, volunteers, and leadership. Your continued commitment ensures that Saint Gregory’s remains not only a place of worship, but a true spiritual home—one that reflects Christ’s light in all that we do.

May we enter the new year guided by hope, strengthened by faith, and united in love.

With gratitude and blessings,

— Board of Trustees —

ARMENIAN RELIEF SOCIETY NEWS

Our deepest sympathy to our ARS member Ginny Remillard and her family for their loss. *"adsvadz hokeen loosavoreh ungherouhi"*.

We recently had a meeting to discuss activities for the coming year, 2026.

We wish you all a happy and healthy New Year and a Merry Christmas!

— Sonia Arakelian —



IN MEMORY



Gary N. Remillard 1955 - 2025

GARY REMILLARD OBITUARY

Gary N. Remillard, 70, of Wilbraham, was Called Safely Home on Wednesday, December 3, 2025. He passed into Eternal Life at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston surrounded by the care and comfort of his loving family. He was born in Springfield on July 18, 1955, a beloved son of the late Normand J. and Rita (Picard) Remillard. He was raised in Springfield, graduated Springfield Trade High School and had moved to Wilbraham in 1987 where he lived the remainder of his life. He worked for many years restoring oriental rugs through his own business, Oriental Rug Restoration and had worked as a manager at Charles Yenian Oriental Rugs in Springfield for over 33 years. He later worked as the manager of Southgate Liquors in Agawam. He took pride in tending to his yard, his vegetable garden and cutting wood. His greatest joy for the past 18 years was spending time with his grandchildren. Above all, he loved spending time with family and many friends. He leaves his beloved wife and best friend, Virginia Y. (Yenian) Remillard; his three loving children, Nicole Y. Stephen and her husband, Robbie, of Wilbraham, Gregory N. Remillard and his

wife, Bonnie, of Springfield and Matthew Y. Remillard and his husband, Kevin Fraser, of Newburgh, NY; his four cherished grandchildren, Jonathan, Olivia and Aubrey Stephen and Haiden Remillard; his dear sister, Linda M. Remillard and her husband, Vin Fusaro, of Feeding Hills; his three dear brothers, Richard R. Remillard and his husband, Louis Ruggiero, Jr. of Holyoke, Raymond N. Remillard and his wife, Mary, of West Springfield and Robert P. Remillard and his wife, Ela, of Chicopee; his dear brother in law, Charles Yenian and his wife, Ann, of Wilbraham; and his many dear nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members and friends. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his dear brother, Mark M. Remillard who was Called Home on October 1, 2006. His family will receive friends on Wednesday, December 10, 2025 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m at the St. Pierre-Phaneuf Springfield Chapels, (413-737-1177), 7 Chapin Terrace, Springfield, MA 01107. His relatives and friends were invited to attend a Celebration of Life Service on Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 10 a.m. at the funeral home, (funeral home will open at 9 a.m.), followed by his burial at Springfield Street Cemetery, 1078 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030. His family requests that memorial donations be made in his memory to Blood Cancer United Donor Services, PO Box 22324, New York, NY 10087 or: www.bloodcancerunited.org. For more details and to leave his family condolence messages, please visit: www.stpierrephaneuf.com


REQUIEMS
OCTOBER 2025

For: Grace Barnagian

By: Naomi Noyes \$ 25

For: Lilik Kirakosyan, Alvard Kirakosyan

By: Der Hayr Shetilian, Yeretsgin
& Arpi \$ 50For: Gary Setian, Marie Setian, Takouhi
Shemligian, Sahag Sahagian

By: Harry & Liz Setian \$ 50

For: Gary Setian - 40th day of passing

By: Garo & Anahit Setian \$ 200

For: Mary Manoogian-mother, Margaret
Ulekian-aunt, Arpena Boghossian-aunt,
Keghisig Godosian-aunt, Diane Piligian-
niece

By: Liz Vartanian \$ 50

NOVEMBER 2025For: Great grandparents Esther & Levon
Deranian

By: Regan Deremian \$ 10

For: Lukas Noyes

By: Naomi Noyes \$ 25

For: Nancy Arakelian Riley
By: Gabriel & Simone Arakelian \$ 25

For: Alan Noyes, Gregory Barnagian

By: Naomi Noyes \$ 40

For: Takouhi Shelefian-20 yrs of passing; Hillary
Jefferson-5 yrs of passingBy: Tom, Ardemis & Alexandra
Walen \$ 100**DECEMBER 2025**

For: Hovhannes Shetilian, Shaké Shetilian

By: Der Hayr Shetilian, Yeretsgin
& Arpi \$ 50For: Richard Arakelian, 30th year of passing &
Archpriest Sahag Vertanesian

By: Sonia Arakelian \$ 100

For: Haig, Ardash, Ashalouys Arakelian,
Richard Arakelian and all deceased
members of Arakelian family

By: Gabriel & Simone Arakelian \$ 20

For: Gary Setian, Margarete Soukiasian;
Vart & Popken Hachigian

By: Yuri & Galia Akopian \$ 150

For: Archpriest Sahag Vertanesian-20 yrs of
passing, Alice Eskenian-1 yr of passing

By: Varoujan & Nora Santourian \$ 100

For: Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian-22 yrs of
passing & Gary Remillard

By: St. Gregory Armenian Church



~~~~~ GIFTS ~~~~

For: Gift to Church  
 By: Garo Setian & Family in memory  
       of father Gary Setian      \$ 250  
       Leon Charkoudian            \$ 700  
       Vartan & Grace Derounian    \$ 10

For: In Lieu of Flowers for Gary Setian  
 By: Dorothy Piligian            \$ 75  
       Mary Galiatsos            \$ 50  
       `` Lillian Avesian            \$ 100

For: In Lieu of Flowers for Nancy Riley  
 By: Haig Arakelian            \$ 200  
       Marie Langevin            \$ 150  
       Sue Lantzakis            \$ 50  
       Sue Sarkeesian            \$ 100  
       Sonia Arakelian            \$ 100  
       Tom & Ardemis Walen    \$ 50  
       Liz Vartanian            \$ 50  
       George & Sharon Flanagan    \$ 25  
       Peter & Sue Gotta            \$ 50  
       Riley Family            \$2000



**ST. STEPHEN, FIRST DEACON & FIRST MARTYR**



On Thursday, December 25, the Armenian Church commemorates St. Stephen, the first deacon and proto martyr. After Christ's ascension, the apostles went about spreading the Word. It soon became apparent that more people were needed to serve the growing church community. Seven worthy individuals were called upon to serve the Holy Altar and called "deacons" (*sarkavag*).

The most noteworthy of the seven was Stephen, described as a "man full of faith and the Holy Spirit" (*Acts 6:5*). The Feast of St. Stephen is a popular and important commemoration in the Armenian Church; it is a day to honor all deacons of the church.

Stephen became the first martyr of the Church and is therefore called the "proto martyr." The only information about his life and death is in the Book of Acts of the Apostles (*Acts 6:8 and 8:2*).

St Gregory Church Deacon, Bedros Setian, was honored on December 28<sup>th</sup>, during the service for St. Stephen.

**Sharagan to St. Stephen, from the liturgical canons of the Armenian Church, is sung during the service:**

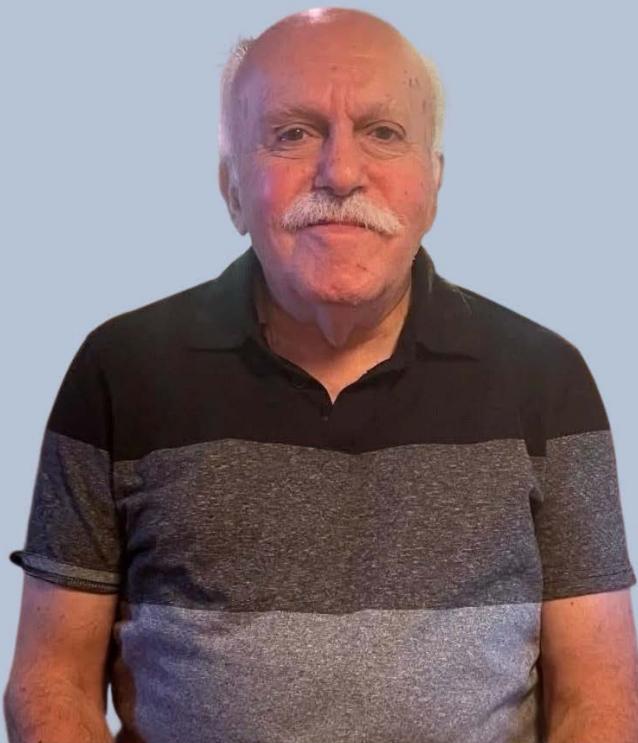
*You who were elected to serve, deserving of apostolic preaching, St. Stephen, intercede for us with Christ.*

*You who beseeched forgiveness for those who stoned you, St. Stephen, now ask for the pilgrims on your behalf to the One who Sits on the right hand of the Father.*

*You who became worthy of the first crown of martyrdom among all witnesses, intercede for us with the crowner of the saints.*

— reprinted from <https://armenianprelacy.org> —

PARISHIONER SPOTLIGHT



Vartan Derounian

A PILLAR OF FAITH & SERVICE:  
VARTAN DEROUNIAN

*“Vartan embodies what it truly means to live one’s faith. He serves with humility, love, and consistency, always placing the needs of the church and its people before his own. We are deeply blessed to have him as a leader and as a member of our parish family.” ---- Fr. Bedros Shetilian*

Every parish is blessed with individuals whose quiet dedication sustains the life of the church. At Saint Gregory, we are especially grateful for Vartan—an exceptional parishioner whose faith, service, and leadership have made a lasting impact on our community.

Vartan is a familiar and reassuring presence each Sunday. He attends church faithfully and lifts our worship through his strong voice as a

member of the choir, enriching our services with reverence and devotion. Beyond Sunday mornings, his commitment continues in countless ways that often happen behind the scenes.

As a valued member of the Board of Trustees, Vartan provides thoughtful guidance and steady leadership, helping to shape the future and long-term viability of our church. His care for Saint Gregory is evident not only in planning for all our events and participating on the Board, but also in action. Whether he is helping prepare the church for services, cleaning and maintaining our sacred space, baking food for festivals, assisting during parish events, or feeding fellow parishioners during coffee hour, Vartan is always ready to serve.

Vartan also leads by example through generosity and stewardship, giving freely of his time, talents, and resources. He brings his family to church, sharing his faith across generations and strengthening the bonds of our parish community. His energy, humility, and unwavering devotion inspire all who know him.

Through his leadership and service, Vartan has truly become a pillar of our church—one who embodies the spirit of faith in action. We thank him for all that he does and for the love he continues to show St. Gregory and its people.



## 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](http://www.saintgregoryarmenianchurch.org/donate-today)



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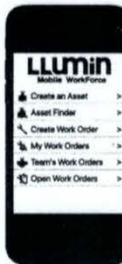
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October, November, December 2025

**St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church**  
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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

|          |         |    |                                                                     |
|----------|---------|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| JANUARY  | Sunday  | 4  | <i>Coffee hour by Retired Ladies' Guild members</i>                 |
|          | Monday  | 5  | ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE & DJERAKALOUS, 6:30PM                |
|          | Tuesday | 6  | ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS SOORP BADARAK, 10AM                              |
|          | Sunday  | 11 | <i>Coffee hour by Armenian Relief Society</i>                       |
|          | Sunday  | 18 | <i>Coffee hour by Board of Trustees</i>                             |
|          | Sunday  | 25 | <i>ANNUAL MEETING after Badarak</i>                                 |
| FEBRUARY | Sunday  | 1  | <i>Coffee hour by Retired Ladies' Guild members</i>                 |
|          | Sunday  | 8  | <i>Coffee hour by Armenian Relief Society</i>                       |
|          | Sunday  | 15 | LENT EVE (POON PAREGENTAN); <i>Coffee hour by Board of Trustees</i> |
|          | Sunday  | 22 | <i>Coffee hour by Men's Club</i>                                    |
| MARCH    | Sunday  | 1  | <i>Coffee hour by Retired Ladies' Guild members</i>                 |
|          | Sunday  | 8  | <i>Coffee hour by Armenian Relief Society</i>                       |
|          | Sunday  | 15 | <i>Coffee hour by Board of Trustees</i>                             |
|          | Sunday  | 22 | <i>Coffee hour by Men's Club</i>                                    |
|          | Sunday  | 29 | <i>PALM SUNDAY; Coffee hour by Community Members</i>                |

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