



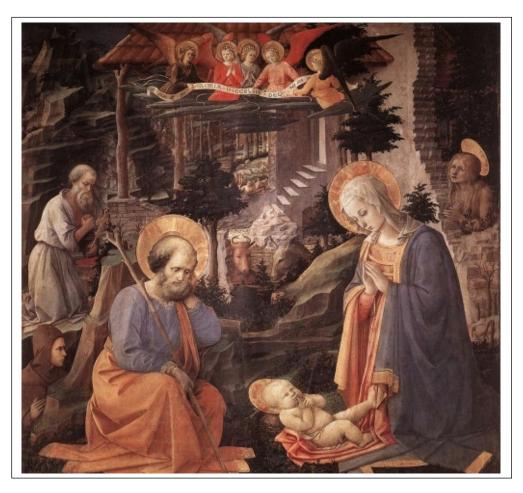


Երկամսեայ Տեղեկատաու

Bimonthly Newsletter

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

November – December 2024



Շնորհաւոր Նոր Տարի եւ Սբ. 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 e-mail: stgregorymass@yahoo.com website: http://www.saintgregoryarmenianchurch.org * * *

<u>PASTOR</u>: Rev. Archpriest Bedros Shetilian 24 Edison Drive, Ludlow, MA 01056 Tel: (413) 775-3186 (cell) e-mail: shetilian@gmail.com

CHURCH AREV STAFF & POLICY

Pastor & Editor-in-Chief

Rev. Fr. Bedros Shetilian Rev. Fr. Bedros Shetilian Sue Lantzakis

> Sonia Meregian Liz Setian

AREV Staff

Contributors

Ardemis Babaeghian-Walen

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

ALL ARTICLES ARE SUBJECT TO EDITING

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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ARF Chairperson	Gary Setian (413) 567-6514				
ARS Chairperson	Sonia Arakelian (413) 567-6622				

CHURCH SERVICES TABLE

		BAPTISM	
	Church Service N	Aembers (Parents only):	\$100
	Ν	Non-Members:	\$200
	Services of the Priest	Members:	\$125
		Non-Members:	\$150
		* * *	
		WEDDING	
	Church Service N	Aembers (Bride or Groom):	\$150
	Ν	Non-Members:	\$350
	Services of the Priest		\$200
	~	Non-Members:	\$250
	Services of the Deaco		\$ 50 \$ 50
	Services of the Soloist		\$ 50 \$ 50
	Services of the Organ	list (optional)	\$ 50
		* * *	
		FUNERAL	
	Church Service	Members:	\$ 0
		Non-Members:	*\$200
		fee charged if the church is nan	ned
	recipient of	in-lieu of flowers donations.	
	Services of the Priest	Members;	\$175
		Non-Members:	\$200
	0 0	nd the financial services of the H	Priest a
	burden, p	lease contact Der Bedros.	
		* * *	
	CHRISTMAS &	EASTER HOME BLESS	SING
	Services of the Priest	Honora	rium
		* * *	
	MEMORIAI	DAY GRAVE BLESSIN	IG
	Services of the Priest	Honora	
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	CHURC	CH HALL RENTAL	
	With Kitchen	Members:	\$150
	-	Non-Members:	\$250
	Without Kitchen	Members:	\$100

ADVERTISEMENT COST

Non-Members:

\$200

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



WHAT A YEAR !

We are closing in on the end of 2024. What a year for us! Very contrasting. We began on a high note with the celebration of the 90th anniversary of the Church. We had a great anniversary with an excellent turnout. This celebration was followed by a united Badarak with Diocese churches on the Feast of the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide in New Britain, CT marking another significant achievement. Additionally, on Genocide Day we held a commemoration near the City Hall of Springfield for the first time after many years, with St. Mark, which was also attended by the Mayor of Springfield. These events could be enough for 2024.

However, 2024 also brought unimaginable tragedy that hit the core of our community. Sima, the vice-chair of the BOT, and her son, Dylan, both of whom helped in the success of our Father's Day Picnic on June 16th were tragically killed the same night. Their loss is a profound and a deep sorrow for us all. May God rest in peace Sima and Dylan. Asdvadz hokinere loosavore. I will never forget the Badarak we had in our Church the following Sunday after the tragedy and before the funeral. Many people came, from out of town as well. The community came together spontaneously. It was not planned, but the tragedy brought people together. That showed something significant. The spirit of our community, which is the secret of its survival. Being a pastor now for almost twenty years, I can say that I know the community. It's unique to us that we are deeply attached to our roots as an Indian Orchard people. There is a big history here, an Armenian history with contrasts and advantages. The bottom line is the connection that our people, whether they are in town or out of town, have with the community and towards each other. These boundaries are deep and strong. I won't name them, but I know two communities in the Prelacy don't have it and they are in trouble. However, we should not take what we have for granted. We have to be aware of what we have and improve it. The key is Jesus. How much of a priority is Jesus for us? Here is the main question that we should answer. Are we Christians by words or do we mean it? If we have Jesus in our hearts, that automatically will result in the strengthening of our community. Having faith in Jesus brings patience, mutual respect, and love.

Another significant event was the visit of His Holiness Aram Vehapar to our community. The thing is, few Church leaders visit every single community of their jurisdictions, especially small communities like ours. We are among the few lucky ones. After becoming a Catholicos in 1995, that was the second time that Aram Vehapar visited our community. As a young priest, he visited our community as a substitute priest to serve Soorp Badarak when he went to Fordham University in NY in the 1970s. The visit itself created huge excitement, the sanctuary was cleaned and fixed, and the hall was renovated. Aram Vehapar is a great speaker. His presence, his words, and the way he conveys ideas are very effective. People were inspired and appreciated Vehapar's visit. The visit had a long-lasting and positive implication on our people. The visit of His Holiness had another significance for me and our community since I conducted a special concert honoring Vehapar in Lexington, MASS with the Springfield Symphony Orchestra. Right after the concert, Aram Vehapar extended his appreciation to me. Later, I heard from different sources that he talked highly about the concert in New England and the Midwest, where he continued and concluded his visit.

Despite being a difficult year, 2024 ended for me with a remarkable achievement, as recently I was granted the rank and the title of Archpriest – *Avak Kahana* by Aram Vehapar after an appeal from the Prelate Anoushavan Srpazan.

We are going forward; we have plans for the next year. There is no other way. Yes, we are fewer now, and we work hard to increase the numbers of attendance and membership as much as we can. That could happen with your support₂ and we are counting on you. I have no doubts, 2025 will be twenty years of my service here and I know you well. My family, Yeretsgin and Arpi and I would like to congratulate everyone, Happy New Year and Merry Christmas – Shenorhavor Nor Dari yev Soorp Dzenoont. May God bless you all.

— Pastor —

\frown COMMUNITY NEWS \land

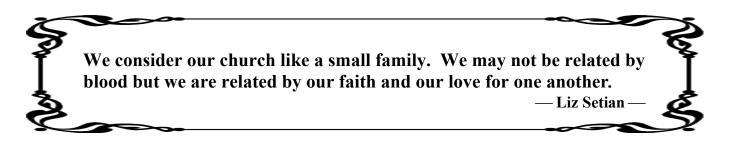
Our deepest condolences:

□ To Sue Lantzakis and family on the recent passing of husband, father and grandfather Edward Lantzakis.

May God illuminate his soul.

Prayers:

Our prayers for Arax Charkoudian who is currently in hospice.



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



ANNOUNCEMENTS M

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 AND BAPTISM PLANNING	HOUSE BLESSINGS
When planning any weddings or baptisms, please check with	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.

PLEASE NOTE: STARTING IN 2025 THIS NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED QUARTERLY. THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE PUBLISHED AT THE END OF MARCH 2025.



□ January 12: Armenian Christmas Celebration; Soorp Badarak followed by Water Blessing, followed by a Christmas Luncheon.

January 19: Annual Membership Meeting



✓ ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS // _____

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS

"Give your best and let God do the rest"Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy, Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian.

As 2024 draws to a close, we reflect on a year marked by both joyous celebrations and moments of deep sorrow. Our church community has demonstrated unwavering faith, resilience, hope, and unity throughout it all.

We express our sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed to keeping our church vibrant throughout the year. The celebration of our 90th Church anniversary was a significant success, and events such as our Father's Day picnic and Fall Festival were also very successful.

Additionally, the renovation of our Church Hall this year has beautified our space, making it more welcoming to the community. A particularly memorable occasion was the visit from Vehapar Aram I, which included a poignant service, dinner, and program. And our recent luncheon with Surpazan also underscored the need to embrace our local church and culture.

As we greet new members in our parish, we are hopeful for the future.

During this reflective period, we remember those we've lost and pray for God's protection over the Armenian community, especially in Aleppo, Lebanon, and Artsakh. As we enter the new year, let's embrace it with faith in health, peace, and prosperity for our church family.

With warmest wishes for a year of healing and hope.

— Board of Trustees —



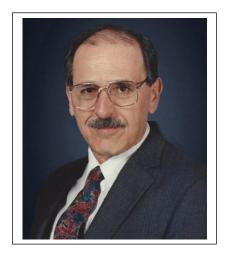
ARMENIAN RELIEF SOCIETY NEWS

We pray for good health for our *ungerouhis*; Margaret Garibian, Varteni Murphy, Ginny Remillard and Kaline Arakelian.

We plan to resume our meetings soon!

— Sonia Arakelian —

\frown IN MEMORY \land



Edward "Lefty" Lantzakis, 94, of Longmeadow, was Called Safely Home on December 1, 2024. He passed into Eternal Life at CareOne at Redstone in East Longmeadow after a brief illness.

He was born in Springfield on March 11, 1930, a beloved son of the late Nikiforos Lantzakis and Areanthe (Kourialidakis) Lantzakis. He was raised in Springfield, graduated in 1947 from Technical High School and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Western New England College. Prior to attending WNEC, he served honorably during the Korean Conflict in the U.S. Air Force.

Living in Longmeadow for much of his life, he worked at Pratt and Whitney Aircraft, developing and testing jet engines. A devoted husband and

EDWARD "LEFTY" LANTZAKIS OBITUARY

father, he was especially known for his devotion to both his immediate and extended family; actively caring for his sisters and sister-in-law in the later years of their respective lives. An avid crossword puzzler, he enjoyed caring for his yard and garden and was well known for his ability to craft solutions to everyday problems with creativity and ingenuity. Besides his parents, he was also predeceased by his loving brother, Mark Michael Lavne; his three loving sisters, Kaliopi Lantzaki, Helen Lantzaki, and Lula Lantzaki. He leaves his beloved wife of 62 years, Susan (Piligian); his two children, Mark Lantzakis and his wife, Rebecca, of Longmeadow and Maria Cruise and her husband, James, of Rutland, VT; his five cherished grandchildren, Brittany Leclerc and her husband, Andrew, and their children, Natalie and Hailey of Attleboro, Renee Cruise of Charlestown, MA, Matthew Lantzakis of Springfield, Rachel Cruise of Essex Junction, VT; and Ian Lantzakis and his wife Madison, of Cedar Rapids, IA.

Edward lay in Repose on Thursday, December 12, 2024 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. followed by a Funeral Service at 12 p.m. at Saint George Greek Orthodox

Cathedral, 2320 Main Street, Springfield, MA 01107. His burial with United States Air Force Military Honors followed the service at Oak Grove Cemetery, 426 Bay Street, Springfield, MA 01109. There were no visiting hours at the funeral home. His funeral arrangements were entrusted to the St. Pierre – Phaneuf Springfield Chapels, (413-737-1177), 7 Chapin Terrace, Springfield, MA 01107.

His family has requested that memorial donations be made in his memory to Saint George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 22 Saint George Road, Springfield, MA 01104 or to a <u>charity of the donor's</u> <u>choice</u>. For more details, please visit www.stpierrephaneuf.com

"May His Memory Be Eternal"



		\sim REG	QUIE	MS	\sim	
Nove	MBER 2024					
	-			For:	Richard Arakelian	
For:	Vart & Popken Hachigian, Mai	rgarite		By:	Sonia Arakelian	\$ 100
	Soukiasian, Marie Setian	0		v	Garo/Diane Chichekian	\$ 50
By:	Yuri & Galia Akopian	9	\$ 150		Hratch & Sonia Garabedian	\$ 20
For:	Alan Noyes, husband; Lukas Noyes, son;			For:	Aunt Takouhi Shelefian, friend Hillary	
	Gregory Barnagian, father				Jefferson	
By:	Naomi Noyes	S	\$ 45	By:	Tom, Ardemis & Alexandra	
					Walen	\$ 10
For:	Ohanes Shetilian on 25 th yr of p			-		
Shetilian on the 8 th yr of pas		e		For:	Richard, Haig, Arshalous, Ardashes &	
By:	y: Der Hayr Shetilian & Family \$50			D	deceased Arakelian family members	
D				By:	Gabriel/Simone Arakelian	\$ 20
DECE	MBER 2024					
For:	Rev. Arch. Sahag Vertanesian,	19 th yr of				
	passing, Alice Katmarian Esker		ng			
By:	Santourian, Vertanesian, Katm					
-	Nalbandian Families	9	5 50			
	<u> </u>		GIFTS	\sim	\sim	
For:	Gift to Church			For:	In Lieu of Flowers for Sima an	d Dylan
By:	Vartan & Grace Derounian	\$ 25			Pariseau	v
v	Steve Sherokey	\$ 20		By:	Beth Clark	\$ 20
	Anonymous	\$ 40		v	Gary Tarpinian & Family	\$500
	-				Diane & David Peligian	\$100
For:	In Lieu of Flowers for Edward	Lantzakis			Susan Peligian	\$200
By:	Leo/Mary Derderian	\$ 50			6	
v	Ed and Tanya Garibian	\$ 50				

2024 - St. Gregory Armenian Church Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to All from . Շնորհաւոր Նոր Տարի եւ Սուրբ Ծնունդ

Jim & Priscilla Altoonian & Family

Sonia Arakelian

Tom, Alexandra & Ardemis Babaeghian-Walen

Steve, Valerie & Will Berian

Dan Crespo

Vartan & Grace Derounian

Rita & Aram Fereshetian & Family

Ed & Tanya Garibian & Family

Razmik & Betty Ghazarian

Zarouhi & Veken Kebabjian

Susan Lantzakis & Family

Ariadne Matulewicz, Jason, Sara & Ani Gomez

Richard & Sonia Matulewicz

Naomi Noyes

Claudia Muradian-Brubach & Family

Nick Panasian & Linda Scibelli

Dorothy Piligian

Stepan & Susan Piligian & Family

Nora, Varoujan, Raffi & Shant Santourian

Shant, Christine & Tamar Sarkeesian

Bedros Setian

Gary, Garo, Anahid, Hunter & Lea Setian

Springfield Armenian Relief Society Chapter

Der Bedros, Yeretsgin Marineh & Arpie Shetilian

Leo & Elizabeth Vartanian

Arthur & Lucine Zikos & Family

Warm Greetings from Der Hayr & the Board of Trustees

DAVID THE PROPHET KING & HOLY APOSTLE JAMES



On Monday, December 23, the Armenian Church commemorates David the Prophet King and the Holy Apostle James the Brother of the Lord.

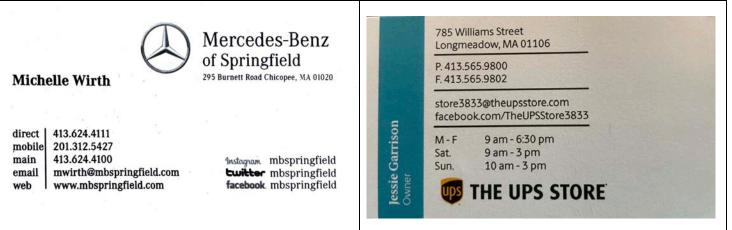
David was the youngest of eight brothers and was brought up to be a shepherd where he learned courage, tenderness, and caring. David became the second King of Israel. In the Bible, the name David belongs solely to him, which indicates the unique place he had as an ancestor and forerunner of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the New Testament there are more than 50 references to David, including the title given to Jesus-Son of David. David was a poet and is regarded as the author of the Book of Psalms.

James the Apostle is called "Brother of the Lord." Probably because of his close relationship with Jesus, he was granted a special appearance of the Lord after the Resurrection. He is believed to have been a first cousin of the Lord, or as some biblical scholars have suggested, a son of Joseph before his marriage to Mary. After the Ascension, while the other apostles scattered all over the world, James remained in Jerusalem where he served as the bishop and became a leading spokesman of the early church.

James, the brother of the Lord (Acts 12:17; 15:13; 21:18; Galatians 1:19), was not one of the twelve apostles, the first bishop of Jerusalem.

Reprinted from the Armenian Prelacy





November – December 2024



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Springfield, MA Permit No. 3

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 M					
JANUARY					
Sunday A	AM	5	MORNING SERVICE; Coffee hour by Retired Ladies' Guild members		
Sunday]	PM	5	ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE & DJERAKALOUS; 6:30 PM		
Mon	day	6	ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS SOORP BADARAK, 10:00 AM		
Sun	day 1	12	ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS SOORP BADARAK & WATER BLESSING; Christmas Luncheon		
			following Badarak		
Sun	day 1	19	ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING; Luncheon will be served		
Sun	day 2	26	Coffee hour by Armenian Relief Society		
FEBRUARY					
Sun	day	2	Coffee hour by Board of Trustees		
Sun	day	9	Coffee hour by Men's Club		
Sun	day 1	16	Coffee hour by Retired Ladies' Guild members		

Sunday 23 Coffee hour by Armenian Relief Society

Please Remember St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church in Your Will