

ԱՐԵՎ



AREV

Երկամսեայ Տեղեկատու

Bimonthly Newsletter

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St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church
Indian Orchard, Massachusetts

September – October 2024



OCTOBER 7, 2024

CATHOLICOS ARAM I OF THE GREAT
HOUSE OF CILICIA AT ST. GREGORY

*Left: Archbishop Kegham Khacherian, Prelate of the Western Prelacy
Right: Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian, Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy*

AREV IS THE OFFICIAL BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church
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* * *

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

* * *

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>
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MEMORIAL DAY GRAVE BLESSING

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

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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

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* * *

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 Ardemis Babaeghian-Walen (413) 567-1775

ARF Chairperson Gary Setian (413) 567-6514

ARS Chairperson Sonia Arakelian (413) 567-6622

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

THE VISIT OF ARAM VEHAPAR TO ST. GREGORY

His Holiness became a Catholicos in 1995, and in 1997 he visited the US for the first time as a Pontiff during which he visited our community. After twenty-seven years, he is visiting us again and every single community of the Prelacy no matter the size of the community and capabilities. This tradition of a Church leader visiting every single parish is common to the Catholicosate of Cilicia and the Prelacy. Not every Church does it. We have the privilege, but we should not take this for granted and should appreciate His Holiness' effort, especially during a time when there is a war going on in Lebanon, where His Holiness is based, and the Holy See of the Catholicosate of Cilicia is located.

I have been following His Holiness since he became a catholicos in 1995 and had the honor to meet him a few times, and when I attended the seminary of the Holy See of Cilicia I had the chance to know him better. He taught us "Introduction to Theology". And of course, I continued to follow him after becoming a priest and moving to the US. I could see how he met with dignitaries who visited him, what he said, and what he did. I can certainly say that besides being a spiritual leader His Holiness is a strategic thinker. I keep saying that if the leaders of Armenia, both the current government and the old one, had listened to him, Armenia would have been in a much better position regarding its security and international status. It was not a coincidence that between 1991-2005, His Holiness was elected for two terms of seven years each, as the Moderator of the Central and Executive Committees of the World Council of Churches headquartered in Geneva and that is the highest position in that organization, an organization similar to the United Nations when it comes to Churches.

Dear friends,

We are grateful you are here today. Some of you are actively involved in our Church, some show up occasionally, and some come less. You have listened to His Holiness's words: how powerful and inspirational they are. I very much hope that today, a historical moment for our Church, the visit of His

Holiness will be a turning point for many of us. The Church is the Body of Jesus Christ as St. Paul the Apostle said. The body means a concrete presence in the world, not just words, prayers and rituals. That means through its service and actions the Church is a place where God talks and acts through His people, the Church community of believers who act according to the teachings of the Bible. The Church is a place where God and man meet. We will meet God sooner or later, but it is much better and wiser to meet God while we are still here. That's why the Church is important. It is crucial that we understand coming to Church, and being connected to God is a top priority not only for Eternity but for our and our families' well-being here in the world. We know the famous saying: "When there is no God everything is possible". That's why it is important to live under God, one Nation under God as written in the Pledge of Allegiance.

We live in the Great country of the US, we enjoy the prosperity, we exercise democracy and have the freedom that many in the world dream of. We are proud Americans, but we are also and should be proud Armenians. When Charles Aznavour, our great compatriot was asked about how he feels, is he an Armenian or a French? His answer was as genius as himself: "I am a one hundred percent French and a one hundred percent Armenian". Please pay attention, he didn't say fifty percent French and fifty percent Armenian. Yes, we are hundred percent American, and we are hundred percent Armenian. As Armenians we are honored to be a part of a great nation, the first Christian nation with a great history and culture. The Armenian Apostolic Church is the most natural, authentic place where we Armenians can exercise and nurture our faith and commitment to Jesus Christ and also it is a place where we can preserve our national identity. I hope that the visit of His Holiness today and the aftermath of the visit and these ideas will trigger some thoughts in you, especially for those who don't come regularly to Church. After all, life is something more than consuming and living only for our everyday needs.

Personally, for me, the visit of His Holiness brings the privilege of conducting a concert with our local Springfield Symphony Orchestra in His Holiness' honor this coming Saturday in Lexington, Massachusetts.

few months ago, your visit gives the family and us hope and helps us greatly in our healing process. We believe that your visit will have long-lasting implications. We are greatly honored by your visit.

Welcome your Holiness!

Your Holiness,
You are visiting us in a time when we need that most. After the horrible tragedy that happened just

— Pastor —



COMMUNITY NEWS

Our deepest condolences:

- To the Charkoudian and Bilezikian Families on the recent passing of Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian.

May God illuminate her soul.

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.

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 413-543-4763 or call his cell phone 413-775-3186 and he will be happy to bless your home.

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



@armenian.st.gregorys

SAVE THE DATE

Armenian Food Festival

NOVEMBER 2, 2024

12 PM - 5 PM

Saint Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church
135 Goodwin Street
Indian Orchard, MA



DINE IN OR TAKE OUT

*Delicious Armenian Meals ~ Homemade Pastries
Raffle ~ Specialty Gourmet Food ~ Entertainment*



saintgregoryarmenianchurch.org



ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS



Church youth welcoming the Vehapar with bread and salt.

Left to right: Archbishop Tanielian of the Eastern Prelacy, His Holiness Aram I, Archbishop Khacherian of the Western Prelacy, Father Bedros Shetilian (St. Gregory pastor). Foreground: Tamar Sarkeesian, Reagan (Mike & Sally Deremian’s granddaughter) and Raffi Arakelian.

The Saint Gregory Armenian Community of Indian Orchard had the incredible honor of welcoming His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia to Saint Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church on October 7th.

This visit was part of his three-week pontifical tour of the Eastern Prelacy of the United States.

Saint Gregory Church was among the first visits after his Badarak service at Saint Vartanantz Church in Rhode Island.

His visit centered on the theme “Strong Faith, Stronger Communities and Nation,” underscoring His Holiness’s commitment to initiatives for solidarity, renewal, and rejuvenation to strengthen

diaspora communities.

The event held special significance for the community, as it had been many years since the last pontifical visit.

It was also a timely occasion as our community continues to heal from a difficult year of loss.

Our parishioners and esteemed guests gathered for the “Hrashapar” Service and “Achahampouyr”, followed by a celebratory banquet in honor of Vehapar in the Church Hall.



Banquet at St. Gregory church

Tanya Garibian (BOT chair) Aram Sarafian (Chairman, Easter Prelacy Executive Council), Archbishop Tanielian, His Holiness Aram I, Archbishop Khacherian, Fr. Bedros Shetilian and Very Rev. Fr. Sarkis Abrahamian

His Holiness delivered an impactful message of faith, unity, and community, focusing on fostering spiritual renewal and communal strength within the Saint Gregory community and among Armenians throughout the Eastern region.

He encouraged the faithful to remain close to the church, emphasizing God’s love and extending sincere commendations to our church community.



Fr. Bedros Shetilian conducting the Springfield Symphony during the Vehapar concert.

His Holiness was particularly pleased to see many young adults present, including a student fellowship from UMass.

The presence of His Holiness was made even more special by the company of His Eminence Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy and other distinguished guests.

Additionally, an exceptional concert - held on Saturday October 12th - conducted by Der Hayr Bedros Shetilian and talented musicians from the Springfield Symphony Orchestra paid tribute to Catholicos Aram I through stiring melodies.

Der Hayr, a recent Grand Prix winner at the Global Genius Music Competition, conducted a beautiful performance featuring renowned violinist Sargis Karapetyan as a soloist, blending classical and traditional Armenian music that mesmerized the audience at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library.

Let us appreciate the abundant blessings bestowed upon us by Vehapar Der.

May his spiritual guidance ignite renewed faith, love, and hope in us. The strength of our community rests on these virtues, enabling us to move forward united and optimistic about the future of our church.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who contributed to this exceptional visit.

The dedication, support, and love of this community are truly inspiring.

— Board of Trustees —



Members of St. Gregory Church at the Vehapar Concert.



ARMENIAN RELIEF SOCIETY NEWS

We pray for good health for our *ungerouhis* who are ill. We recently lost a long-time member of our chapter, Sonia Meregian. *Adsvadz Hokeen Loosavore.*

We are always looking for new ARS members. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Sonia Arakelian (413-567-6622).

— Sonia Arakelian —



IN MEMORY

BETHEL BILEZIKIAN CHARKOUDIAN OBITUARY



Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian of Newton, MA passed away peacefully at her home on September 21, 2024 surrounded by loving family. Bethel was known for her creative spirit, dynamic

energy, and her deep commitment to family, friends, and community. She was tirelessly dedicated to helping people of all walks of life, and was a cherished pillar of the Massachusetts Armenian community. Notably, in working with the Armenian Library Museum of America (ALMA), she conducted countless oral history interviews that will preserve the legacy and stories of Armenian genocide survivors for generations to come.

Born on October 31, 1940, Bethel proudly embraced being a Halloween baby. The daughter of the late Peter and Lucille (Jenny) Vartanian Bilezikian, she was a lifelong resident of Newton. Bethel was an alumna of Newton High School, Radcliffe College, and Yale and Columbia Graduate Schools. She served as an English teacher and guidance counselor in Newton and in Boston Public Schools. She was the beloved wife and life partner to Levon

Charkoudian; and loving mother to Nisha, Lorig, Deron, and Karoun. Bethel was grandmother to Aline, Raffi, Dylan, Vivian, Josie, Cecile, and Jack; great-grandmother to RJ and Lydia; and mother in-law to Meghan and John. Her generous spirit lives on in all of them. She is survived by her sister Martha McCool of La Quinta, CA, and her brother James Bilezikian of Jacksonville, FL.

Bethel celebrated her heritage and creative passion for stories and photos on her blog <https://marashgirl.blogspot.com> which we invite you to visit in her memory.

Funeral Services were held at Grace Episcopal Church, 76 Eldredge Street, Newton on Saturday, September 28th at 11am. Visiting hours at Giragosian Funeral Home, 576 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown were held on Friday September 27 from 6-8 pm. Graveside services were held at Newton Cemetery followed by a Hokeejash (luncheon) at 2pm on Saturday.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Bethel's memory to the Armenian Museum of America, 65 Main Street, Watertown, MA 02472, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), 31 W. Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652 or Armenia Tree Project, 400 West Cummings Park, Suite 3725, Woburn, MA 01801.

❧ REQUIEMS ❧

September 2024

For: Sonia Meregian on 40 days of passing
 By: Harry/Margo Derderian \$ 25
 Ed/Cynthia Messikian \$ 50
 Harry & Liz Setian \$ 25
 Sonia Arakelian \$ 20
 Leo & Elizabeth Vartanian \$ 50
 Tanya & Ed Garibian \$100

For: Mike Merigian 40-day
 By: Harry & Margo Derderian \$ 50
 For: Grace Barnagian, Ester Deremiian, Carl Kasabian
 By: Naomi Noyes \$ 45
 October 2024

For: Bishop Nerses Setian-brother, Jackie Setian-brother, Marie Setian-mother
 By: Gary Setian \$ 50
 For: Bishop Nerses Setian-Brother, Esther Sahagian-grandmother
 By: Harry & Liz Setian \$ 20

For: Mary Manoogian-mother, Margaret Ulkian-aunt, Arpena Boghossian-Aunt, Keghesig Godoshian-Aunt, Diane Piligian-Niece
 By: Leo & Elizabeth Vartanian \$ 50

❧ GIFTS ❧

September 2024

For: Gift to Church
 By: Naomi Noyes \$ 20

October 2024

For: Gift to Church asking for Prayers
 By: Anonymous \$ 20



HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago. One day I saw a sign that read, "Heaven's Grocery Store". As I got a little closer the door came open wide and when I came to myself, I was standing inside. I saw a host of ANGELS. They were standing everywhere. One handed me a basket and said, "My Child, shop with care!" Everything a Christian needed was in that grocery store. And all you couldn't carry; you could come back the next day for more. First, I got some PATIENCE: LOVE was in the same row. Further down was UNDERSTANDING: you need that everywhere you go. I got a box or two of WISDOM, a bag or two of FAITH. I just couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST, for it was all over the place. I stopped to get some STRENGTH and COURAGE to help me run this race. By then my basket was getting full, but I remembered I needed some GRACE. I didn't forget SALVATION; for SALVATION was free, so I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me. Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill, for I thought I had everything to do my MASTER's will. As I went up the aisle, I saw PRAYER; and I just had to put that in, for I knew when I stepped outside, I would run right into sin. PEACE and JOY were plentiful; they were last on the shelf. SONG and PRAISES were hanging near, so I just helped myself. Then I said to the ANGEL, "Now, how much do I owe". He smiled and said, "Just take them everywhere you go". Again, I smiled and said, "How much do I really owe". He smiled again and said, My CHILD JESUS PAID YOUR BILL A LONG TIME AGO".

"AND WHATEVER YOU ASK IN PRAYER, YOU WILL RECEIVE, IF YOU HAVE FAITH" (Matthew 21:22)

MORE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PONTIFICAL VISIT



Waiting for Vehapar's arrival at St. Gregory



Vehapar with St. Gregory youth and UMASS students



*At the banquet.
Archbishop Tanielian of the Eastern Prelacy, His Holiness
Aram I, Archbishop Khacherian of the Western Prelacy,
Father Bedros Shetilian (St. Gregory pastor)*



*Der Bedros Shetilian and the Springfield Symphony
Orchestra.*



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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** 

NOVEMBER

- Saturday 2** ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL AT ST. GREGORY CHURCH
- Sunday 3** Coffee hour by Retired Ladies' Guild members
- Sunday 10** Coffee hour by Armenian Relief Society
- Sunday 17** Coffee hour by Board of Trustees
- Sunday 24** 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT; Coffee hour by Men's Club

DECEMBER

- Sunday 1** Coffee hour by Retired Ladies' Guild members
- Sunday 8** Coffee hour by Armenian Relief Society
- Sunday 15** Coffee hour by Board of Trustees
- Sunday 22** Coffee hour by Men's Club
- Sunday 29** Coffee hour by Members of the Community

JANUARY

- Sunday 5** ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS EVE
- Monday 6** ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS

Please Remember St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church in Your Will