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Երեքամսեայ Տեղեկատու

Quarterly Newsletter

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

1st Quarter 2025



KRISDOS HARYAV I MERELOTS
CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD
HAPPY EASTER

AREV IS THE OFFICIAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF

St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church

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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

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson Tanya Garibian (413) 250-0059
V. Chairperson Vartan Derounian (857) 236 5347
Secretary Ardemis Babaeghian-Walen (413) 567-1775
Co-Treasurers Ed Garibian (413) 218-6243
Claudia Muradian-Brubach (413) 209-1439
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Steve Berian (413) 304-1093
Nick Panasian (413) 348-4039
Leo Vartanian (413) 567-1524

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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
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

★ ★ ★

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 ~

AGAIN, ABOUT RESURRECTION !

"Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him"; Romans: 6:8-9

We are approaching the great feast of the Resurrection of our Lord. Although we talk a lot about this topic, we must do it again and again.

If Jesus' story had ended with His crucifixion and burial, Christianity wouldn't exist. There is a similarity between Jesus' story and ours. But let us assume for a moment that Jesus really died and there is no Resurrection. I am saying this for people who don't believe in the Resurrection. Even in this case, Jesus is victorious, because His cause didn't die and Christianity became the largest religion. It is a fact. There is no other phenomenon that has impacted humanity as much as Christianity. This is also another fact difficult to deny. Coming to our nation, let us think of the Vartanants story and the martyrs who died that day. We lost the battle against Persia, the superpower at that time. Here, just as with Christianity, the cause did not die, because the purpose of that war was to re-convert Armenians from Christianity back to Zoroastrianism, and this plan failed. Just thirty years after the Vartanants battle (451 AD) in the Nvarsag Treaty of 484 AD, Persia guaranteed religious freedom in Armenia and granted general amnesty with permission to construct new churches. This time, the leader on our side was Vahan Mamigonian, St. Vartan's nephew. Amazing, the Roman Empire, a superpower, fought against Christianity and didn't succeed, and another superpower, the Persian Empire, fought against us and didn't succeed as well. This shows that as early as the fifth century and just one and a half centuries after Armenia became officially the first Christian nation, our ancestors understood very well what Christianity is all about. In their initial response to the Persian Emperor Shah Yazdegerd's (Hazgerd in Armenian) demand to renounce Christianity, Armenians explained that Christianity for Armenians is not like a dress that could be thrown

away, but like our skin, from which we cannot be separated.

Going back to Christianity, most scholars and historians agree that one of the main reasons that caused Christianity to spread is the martyrdom of the first Christians. They did not want to worship the Roman Emperor, who was considered a god that everyone in the Empire was obligated to worship. People saw that Christians were voluntarily ready to die, in huge numbers, rather than renounce Jesus. This happened constantly and for an extended time, which caused many to ask questions. People understood that there must be a reason for such dedication. That reason was not only a belief in the Resurrection, but also true knowledge of it. After His Resurrection, Jesus was seen by more than 500 of his followers. These people spread the word and kept the story going. It was real, people knew about it, and that is why these early Christians were not afraid of persecution and death. Little by little, the Christian faith spread and started reaching higher levels of society and nobility. Women also played a big role in this. Emperor Constantine's mother, Helena, who was a Christian, had an impact on the emperor's conversion, as well as King Dertad's sister Khosrovitookht in our case, who was a hidden Christian. The tradition says that Soorp Krikor Loosavorich (St. Gregory the Illuminator) was fed by angels during the time of his imprisonment in Khor Virab pit for fourteen years. Some scholars say that it was Khosrovitoukht who secretly sent people to feed Soorp Krikor.

Faith in Resurrection is also why our nation has chosen to sacrifice itself for Christ in crucial moments. When someone is faithful, it is much easier for such people to face death. We call this Hope in capital letters. We know about the three major Christian values as they were put together by St. Paul the Apostle: Faith, Hope, and Love. They interact with each other and enrich each other. Talking about hope, I am referring to the Hope of Resurrection, in other words, the hope for eternal

life in the presence of God, which is another way to describe what paradise is.

KRISDOS HARYAV I MERELOTS.
ORHYAL E HAROUTYOUNN KRISDOSI

Resurrection can have a wide understanding. It is not only relevant to the reality after this life, but it is something that we can exercise here on Earth: when we create a heaven-like environment, when we live in Faith, Hope, and Love.

CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD.
BLESSED IS THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST!

Happy Easter!

— Pastor —



COMMUNITY NEWS

Our Congratulations to our recently engaged couples:

- ☐ To Arine Fereshetian, daughter of Aram and Rita Fereshetian, and Armen Mkhitarian
- ☐ To Alexandra Walen, daughter of Tom and Ardemis Walen, and Jack Mucci

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.

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.

SAVE THE DATES

□ **April 24th, 6PM: BADARAK for the Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide, St. Gregory Armenian Church;** sponsored by the Armenian Churches of Hartford, New Britain and Springfield (St George – Holy Resurrection – St. Stephen’s – St. Mark – St. Gregory); Guest Celebrant Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Sabounjian; Guest Preacher: Rev. Fr. Voski Galstyan

Church website: <http://www.saintgregoryarmenianchurch.org>
@armenian.st.gregorys



ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS

As Christian Armenians, we strive to incorporate in our everyday lives compassionate actions that we believe would please the Lord. The Board of Trustee members not only aim to do that in our personal lives, but we are also dedicated to try to satisfy the Lord by enhancing our Church’s mission and goals.

As we approach another year - after experiencing the joyful season of Thanksgiving and Christmas - the Board acknowledges that our Church faces some challenges that we must focus on. These include increasing church attendance, increasing cultural connection among our younger generation, and the need to increase our finances without burdening our parishioners repeatedly. However, these challenges are not unique to our church; they reflect broader trends within Armenian churches both here and overseas.

That said, this year, the Saint Gregory Board will concentrate our efforts on the opportunities available to us, which are equally important.

This year we will be launching innovative outreach programs to connect with families living near our church grounds who do not currently attend services or participate in our events. We will personally invite them to join us in various formats (phone calls, direct mail, volunteer opportunities) and help unite our community. We will also be launching a special Stewardship campaign (details will be announced soon).

Moreover, thru digital platforms, we will try to involve our graduated Sunday school children (now young adults) who are often more inclined to connect through social media and online content!

Additionally, we want to encourage all our members to express their concerns and aspirations to us. The Board not only values our members’ personal experiences, but we also want to promote a culture that appreciates everyone’s input and collaboration.

We encourage all parishioners to actively engage in driving our church initiatives. True community spirit is built through shared dedication and effort. We urge everyone to step forward, whether by participating in church events, singing in the choir, volunteering time and skills, or simply initiating conversations about the church's importance in their lives.

Given this Easter season, this message is one of hope, faith and resolve amidst our challenges. It serves as a reminder that while obstacles may be present, they are matched by opportunities for growth and renewal. This is a message echoed by the Catholicos during his recent visit.

The responsibility lies with all of us to embrace these opportunities, cultivate a community grounded in faith and resilience, and ensure that the values of our Church continue to radiate brightly in the lives of all of us.

RENEWAL. FAITH. HOPE. LOVE.

— Der Hayr & Board of Trustees —



ARMENIAN RELIEF SOCIETY NEWS

On March 8th, in New York City, the Armenian Relief Society (ARS) of the Eastern USA, celebrated 115th years of hope, legacy and humanity. It has been a beacon of hope and resilience, while serving Armenian communities in the US and worldwide.

A “hokeehankist” was performed on the last Sunday of February to honor our deceased members.

— Sonia Arakelian —



CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Anonymous
Yuri & Galia Akopian
Gabriel & Simone Arakelian
Gail Aykanian Morin
Steve Berian
Helen Coulombe
Mike & Cheryl Deremian
Vartan & Grace Derounian
Zarouhi & Veken Kebabjian

Sue Lantzakis
Richard & Sonia Matulewicz
Judy Melikian
Serge & Tanya Minassian
Naomi Noyes
Nick Panasian
Michael Parnagian
Liz Plasse
Bedros Setian

Harry & Liz Setian
Susan Tarpinian
Leo & Elizabeth Vartanian
Joe & Sandra Villante
Tom & Ardemis Walen

Total \$2000



REQUIEMS

JANUARY 2025

For: Yeghia Shemligian-father, Shirley Setian-sister-in-law

For: Nishan Setian-Father, Arman Setian-brother, Marie Setian-sister-in-law, Sharon Kasparian-friend

By: Harry & Liz Setian
\$ 20

By: Harry & Liz Setian \$ 30

For: Deceased Clergy, Zarouhi Katmarian-grandmother

For: Nishan Setian-Father, Arman Setian-brother, Marie Setian-wife

By: Varoujan & Nora Santourian \$ 50

By: Gary Setian \$ 50

MARCH 2025

For: Hazaros Muradian & Andreica Muradian on 15th year of their passing

For: Alex Barnagian on 10th anniversary

By: Claudia Muradian-Brubach \$ 50

By: Naomi Noyes \$ 20

Mike/Sally Deremian \$ 20

FEBRUARY 2025

For: Deceased ARS Members

For: Zakar Manoogian-father, George Ulekian-uncle, Hagop Parakian-uncle

By: ARS Springfield Chapter \$100

By: Leo & Elizabeth Vartanian \$ 25

For: Negohos Vartanian- Father; Seranoosh Vartanian- Mother

For: Nishan Setian-Father, Arman Setian

By: Leo & Elizabeth Vartanian \$ 50

By: Lucy Tarpinian \$ 100

Dot Piligian, Marge & Jim Fuller, Rich & Kelli Piligian,

For: Greg Panasian on the 12th year of passing

Nancy & Ed Barmakian \$ 250

By: Nick Panasian \$ 25

PRAYERS

For: Esther/Levon Deremian

By: Mike/Sally Deremian \$ 20

GIFTS

For: Gift to Church

By: Mike/Sally Deremian \$ 100

Vartan/Grace Derounian \$ 100

Sue Tarpinian \$ 100

For: In Lieu of Flowers for Arax Charkoudian

By: Gary Setian \$100

Donna Durgarian Scagliarini \$100

Karen Bedrosian Richardson \$100

For: In Lieu of Flowers for Edward Lantzakis

By: Lucine/Art Zikos \$ 50

PARISHIONER SPOTLIGHT

The Board of Trustees would like to express our gratitude and recognize Naomi Barnagian Noyes, who leads us every Sunday with a delicious buffet of food during our fellowship gatherings after Badarak.

Week after week she continues to spoil us with delicious dishes. When she steps away from the Choir towards the end of the service you just know she is making her way to the kitchen to warm up the oven!

Naomi also sings in the church choir. She is performing solos with her lovely voice and is an asset to the choir.

We know this is a lot of effort not to mention all she does to help with events and food festivals too! She really does embody the community spirit our Church values.



Naomi Noyes in the Kitchen

Thank you Naomi for all you do!!



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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	Sunday	6	<i>Coffee hour by Retired Ladies' Guild members</i>
	Sunday	13	PALM SUNDAY; <i>Coffee hour by Armenian Relief Society</i>
	Thursday	17	WASHING OF THE FEET (7PM) & KHAVAROU (8PM)
	Friday	18	GOOD FRIDAY; EVENING SERVICE & ENTOMBMENT, 7PM
	Saturday	19	HOLY SATURDAY; EVENING SERVICE (6:30PM) & "DJERAKALOOYS" (7PM)
	Sunday	20	EASTER; <i>Easter Breakfast by Board of Trustees</i>
	Thursday	24	BADARAK FOR APRIL 24TH; 6PM
MAY	Sunday	27	<i>Coffee hour by Men's Club</i>
	Sunday	4	<i>Coffee hour by Retired Ladies' Guild members</i>
	Sunday	11	<i>Coffee hour by Armenian Relief Society</i>
	Sunday	18	<i>Coffee hour by Board of Trustees</i>
JUNE	Sunday	25	<i>Coffee hour by Men's Club</i>
	Sunday	1	<i>Coffee hour by Retired Ladies' Guild members</i>
	Sunday	8	PENTECOST; <i>Coffee hour by Armenian Relief Society</i>
	Sunday	15	FATHER'S DAY PICNIC
	Sunday	22	<i>Coffee hour by Board of Trustees</i>
	Sunday	29	<i>Coffee hour by Men's Club</i>

Please Remember St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church in Your Will