**WELCOME**

We welcome those who are visiting our Church. The Pastor and the Parish Council would like to invite you to make the Holy Trinity Church your spiritual home. You are cordially invited to take part in the Service and activities of our Church. If you would like to be placed on our mailing list, please sign our Guest Book located in the Vestibule.

**FEAST DAYS**

- Yesterday was the Feast of St. Abkar, the First Christian King.
- Today is the fifth Sunday of Advent. **The liturgical color for the fifth Sunday of Advent is purple representing forgiveness.**
- Monday, December 23, is the Feast of St. David the Prophet-king and the Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord.
- Tuesday, December 24, is the Feast of St. Stephen the Protodeacon and First Martyr.
- Thursday, December 26, is the Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul.
- Saturday, December 28, is the Feast of the Holy Apostles James and John, “Sons of Thunder,” and it is the Barekendan of the Fast of Nativity.

**TODAY’S HAPPENINGS**

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR**

You are all welcome to join us following Church Services for Fellowship Hour in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Hall hosted today by the Parish Council and Diocesan Delegates.

**CHRISTMAS FAMILY SERVICE/ SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

A Christmas Family Service celebrating the birth of Christ (Western Calendar) is being held in our Church this morning. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the Sunday School will present its annual Christmas Pageant with caroling. You are asked to join in the Christmas caroling; see program in this bulletin for verses that will be sung.

*To help reduce printing costs, please drop off the Christmas Carol pamphlet on the table in the Vestibule.*

**MINI BAZAAR**

Following Church Services, there will be a Mini Bazaar in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall.

**ACYOA JUNIORS**

Following Church Services, the ACYOA Juniors will have their Annual Christmas Party held in the Youth Room from 12:30-2:30pm.
FROM TODAY'S BIBLE READING

Luke 18:9-14  Jesus preached tirelessly against self-righteousness, the enemy of spiritual progress. In this famous parable, the Pharisee looks upon himself as deserving of God’s favor since he does all the “right things.” Prideful, he has only contempt for the tax collector, who prays in humility, openly dependent on God’s grace. Reversing people’s expectations, it is the unpopular tax collector whose prayer is heard and whose faith is honored by God. Reflection: In what ways might you be replacing a true relationship with God with religious “habits.”

Hebrews 4:16-5:10  As the ultimate High Priest, Jesus is the source of salvation to those who come to God through Him. Reflection: The writer refers to Jesus’ “reverent submission” (NIV) to the Father in v. 7. In today’s world where being in charge of your life and “taking control” are so touted, what does the term “reverent submission” mean to you?

Isaiah 40:18-31  In a series of rhetorical questions reminiscent of God speaking to Job from the whirlwind (Job 38-41), we are reminded of the greatness of the eternal God, the Creator of all. Reflection: What “idols” (v. 19) in today’s world seem powerful to you? How much do you depend on them?

Tuesday, December 24 is the Feast of St. Stephen.

Stephen was a devout believer who, along with six others, was ordained to serve the poor at the common table. Acts 6:8-2 relates his story, culminating in his death by stoning and his burial. He is acknowledged by the Church as the first to die for his faith (protomartyr). The intensity and sincerity of St. Stephen’s faith deeply impressed Saul, the infamous persecutor of Christians. Upon his own conversion, he became Paul, zealous apostle to the Gentiles and one of the greatest missionaries of the Church. St. Stephen is the role model for altar servers, particularly deacons. His feast day is celebrated on December 25 (if the date falls on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday; otherwise it is celebrated on December 26). During Badarak on this feast day, it is traditional in some places for all deacons serving at the altar to wear a liturgical crown, which is worn only by priests on all other days of the year, the crown being in this instance a symbol of martyrdom.

Department of Christian Education, Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern)

PARTICIPATION IN THE DIVINE LITURGY

Please use the Divine Liturgy books that are found in the pew racks. These books contain the Armenian text as well as the English transliteration and translation in the second section.

For your convenience, the applicable page number in the burgundy Divine Liturgy book is located above both the right and left doors by the Altar leading to the Vestry and Baptistry. When the light shows green, the congregation stands; when the light shows red, the congregation kneels; and when green and red lights are off, you may be seated. If assistance is needed, please ask a member of the Parish Council.

Parishioners are also encouraged to sing with the Choir, whose real purpose is to lead the congregation in singing the hymns. Also join in the recitation of the Creed which is found on pages 18 and 19 of the second section.

VOGHCHOOYN - KISS OF PEACE

During the Divine Liturgy, when the Parish Council members pass the Kiss of Peace in Church, the response from the receiver should be “Orhnyal eh haidnooytunn Krisdosee” (Blessed is the revelation of Christ). When you give the Voghchooyn, please say “Krisdos e mech mer haydnetsav” (Christ is revealed amongst us).

CONFESSION AND HOLY COMMUNION

Those faithful who feel spiritually prepared to receive our Lord in the sacrament of Holy Communion are asked to bring their pew books with them to the General Confession and, together with the deacon, are asked to read the confession aloud. The essence to this sacrament lies with the individual(s) offering his or her own confession through the priest to God. In addition to reading the text of the confession, each participant must recall his or her own sins, truly seek God’s forgiveness, and make a commitment to the Lord
to strive not to sin anymore. The English confession may be found on page 48 in the burgundy Divine Liturgy book and on page x in the blue Divine Liturgy book found in the pew racks. We urge our parishioners to come forward for confession and Holy Communion through the center aisle.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Your prayers are requested to have mercy on our countrymen in Artsakh, to strengthen them in defense of their homeland, and to grant consolation to the suffering and grieving. Your prayers are also requested for Queenie Samourian and Martin Kalustian; for the good health of all those who suffer from illness in their own private way; and for those who mourn the loss of a loved one. Please note that if you would like Fr. Vasken to offer your prayer request during his silent prayers at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy next Sunday, please fill out the Prayer Request card located in the pew box and place it in the offering plate as it passes.

**REQUIEM SERVICE**

We have all been asked to pray during the Divine Liturgy for the souls of:

- Archbishop Ghevont Tourian
- Boghos & Arpenny Jamgotchian: requested by Jane Jamgotchian and Paul Jamgotchian for parents
- George, Takohi, Vahan, Sooren & Mary Daniels: From the Trust Fund established by Sooren & Mary Daniels
- Maushegh & Shenorik Gelenian, Laura C. Gelenian, and Ara A. Gelenian: From the Trust Fund established by Alice Gelenian for parents, niece & brother

**FIRST WEDNESDAYS...A Breath of God**

Fr. Vasken invites you to join him for the third year of this well-received program that began in October. The next session will be held on Wednesday, January 8, from 6:45 pm to 7:30pm, in Adamian Hall. January's theme is “Facing our Giants... We all have our Goliaths”. Our Christian Faith has much to say about the issues we deal with every day in the modern world. Join us as we look at many of these issues from the lens of our time-tested faith.

**ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY DINNER**

On Sunday, January 5, 2020 the Sunday School is sponsoring an Armenian Christmas Eve Family Dinner following Church Services. All are welcome. A Donation of $15 for adults and $8 for children under 8 for a roast beef dinner including mezze and desert. A children's meal option of chicken fingers and french fries is available. Please RSVP by Thursday, January 2, to the Church office, 617-354-0632 or reserve online at [www.htaac.org](http://www.htaac.org). Advance payment is required.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

Christmas is a season for both receiving and giving. In the Armenian Church, we have the beautiful custom of “Youghakin,” “Gift Oil for the Lamp” offering to our Church. Help our Church lamps burn and never go out by making your gift and returning it in the Holy Trinity envelopes recently mailed to all our parishioners with the Christmas Bulletin.

**CANDLES AND FLOWERS**

On the occasion of Christmas those wishing to donate candles and/or flowers for the Holy Altars may call the Church Office, 617.354.0632.

**TRINITY CHRISTMAS MINI BAZAAR**

Following Church Services in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, the mini bazaar will offer tourshi, cookies, dried fruit, nuts, chocolate, candy, and mezze items.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Join us at Holy Trinity Armenian Church on Tuesday, December 24, 2019.

Prelude begins 4:30 p.m.
Service Begins 5:00 p.m.
Prayers & Christmas Carols are in English.

Armenian Christmas Eve Family Dinner

Please join us as we celebrate Armenian Christmas as a Church family.

Sunday, January 5, 2019

Following the Jukavots / Candlelight Divine Liturgy

Divine Liturgy: 4:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve Dinner: 6:15 p.m.

Open to all

Donation: $15 adults, $8 children under 12

Delicious Roast Beef dinner, including meze and dessert
Children’s menu option available: Chicken Fingers & French fries

Please RSVP by Thursday, January 2, to the Church Office, 617.354.0632 or reserve online at www.htaac.org
Advance payment required, payable to Holy Trinity Armenian Church

Sponsored by and all proceeds benefit The Holy Trinity Sunday School

Fr. Vahagn A. Acopian, Pastor
Holy Trinity Armenian Church - 454 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA 02138
FIRST WEDNESDAYS
A BREATHE OF GOD

First Wednesday of Every Month • Johnson Hall • 6:45pm - 7:30pm
Throughout the day, life hands us questions for which we seek answers. Each month, we discuss one of these life questions through the lens of our Christian Faith.

Below are the topics for this year. We warmly welcome you to join our ongoing conversations.

October 2, 2019
To Forgive & Be Forgiven
"...as we forgive those who trespass against us..."

November 6, 2019
When the Storms of Life Come Calling

December 10, 2019
Compassion: Putting Faith into Action
+ 2nd Tuesday, Adamian Hall

January 8, 2020
Facing Our Giants...
We all have our Goliaths

February 5, 2020
Do Christians Relate to the Modern World?

March 4, 2020
Quiet Times are Important Too

April 1, 2020
Is There More to Heaven & Hell than Angels, Harps, and Fiery Furnaces?

May 6, 2020
"Judge Not..." says the Lord, ...Yet,
People Judge Me Everyday

June 3, 2020
Where is God...When Bad Things Happen?

Holy Trinity Armenian Church • 145 Brattle Street Cambridge, MA 02138

Journey to ARMENIA

Holy Trinity Armenian Church
Our 6th Parish Pilgrimage to Armenia
Led by Fr. Vasken Kouzouian, Pastor
July 24-August 4, 2020

Featuring visits to:
Etchmiadzin-Verevan & Armenian Genocide Memorial - Khor Virap & Noravank - Lake Sevan & Dilijan - Garni & Geghard - Lori and Gyumri

Far Centers

Trip Includes:
Round-trip airfare from BOS; Full transportation and transfers in Armenia as specified in itinerary; Breakfast and Lunch/Dinner according to the itinerary; Marriott Hotel accommodation (Double occupancy); Entrance fee to all sightseeing destinations; Tour Guide (English).

Cost per person (based on double occupancy): $2,995
Space is limited.

For more information, contact:
Office@harac.org or 617-354-0632
or SIMATours@gmail.com (610) 359-7521
For Your Information

- We have available personal receivers for the hearing impaired that will enhance your hearing ability during the Badarak and sermon. For assistance, please see a Parish Council member in the Vestibule.
- A Reminder - to access our handicap Church entrance, follow the Dorian walkway from either the parking lot or to the right of the main doors of the church.
- If you know of someone ill or in need of a visit from our Pastor, please contact the Church Office, 617.354.0632 or by email, office@htaac.org.
- There are copies of The Little Golden Bible Storybook, When I Go to Church, and Bible story picture books available in the Vestibule for the youngest members of our congregation to quietly enjoy during Church Services. We kindly ask that you return them to the Vestibule at the conclusion of Church Services.

Community News


- Armenian Women’s Fellowship on Saturday, January 11, 2020 from 10am- 12 Noon. St. Stephen’s Armenian Apostolic Church, Watertown, MA. With Speakers, Rev. Father Archpriest Aram Stepanian and Rev. Father Stephan Baljian.

HOLY TRINITY CALENDAR

TODAY
Christmas Family Service followed by the Sunday School Annual Christmas Pageant and Caroling;
Church Sanctuary, following Church Services
Trinity Christmas Mini Bazaar;
Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, following Church Services

Tues, Dec 24
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service;
Church Sanctuary, musical prelude begins at 4:30pm, followed by prayers and Christmas Carols in English at 5pm

Wed, Dec 25
MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Sun, Jan 5
Armenian Christmas Eve Family Dinner; sponsored by the Sunday School following Church Services and open to all.

Mon, Jan 6
Armenian Christmas Holy Nativity and Theophany;
Church Sanctuary
Morning Service, 9am
Divine Liturgy, 10am
Blessing of the Water Service, 11:30am

Sun, Jan 12
Church Sanctuary
Morning Service, 9am
Divine Liturgy, 10am
Blessing of the Water Service, 11:45am

Follow us at www.htaac.org,
www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityArmenianChurch