**Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston**
Pastor, Father Vasken A. Kouzouian
145 Brattle Street • Cambridge, MA 02138 • 617.354.0632 • www.htaac.org

Sunday, December 8, 2019
Celebrant/Homilist: The Pastor
Morning Service: 9:00 a.m.; Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Readings of the Day:
Today’s Sermon is based on the Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 14, vs. 12-24 and will be read by Sonia Tashjian.

**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. Nicholas of Myra.
- Today is the Third Sunday of Advent. The liturgical color for this third Sunday of Advent is gold, representing love.

**Next Sunday, December 15, is the Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Today’s Happenings**

**Fellowship Hour**
You are all welcome to join us following Church Services for Fellowship Hour, hosted today by the Parish Council and Diocesan Delegates.

**From Today’s Bible Reading**

Luke 14:12-24 The Parable of the Great Banquet is Jesus’ response to the complacent faith of the lawyers and Pharisees. We learn that it is sadly foolish to be too busy for God. An egocentric faith puts us in danger of losing our place at His table. Reflection: What excuses did those invited give for declining to attend? What are the reasons you don’t make time for God?

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 Paul’s greeting to the Thessalonians expresses deep gratitude for their faith. Not only did they turn from pagan idols and serve “the living and true God,” but their exemplary faith- even in suffering- became an inspiring model for other believers. Reflection: What qualities does St. Paul mention (v.3) as having inspired the Thessalonians? How are these qualities reflected in your life?

Isaiah 37:14-38 After Hezekiah’s prayer for deliverance from the Assyrians, Isaiah conveys God’s comforting response: that the planned attack on Jerusalem will fail. Reflection: Hezekiah declares that other countries were laid waste along with their useless idols of
wood and stone (vv. 18-19). Consider your own “idols”- those things you value highly. Do they interfere with your relationship with God, with following His way? How, specifically?

December 14 is the Feast of St. James of Nisibis

St. James, a cousin of St. Gregory, was appointed bishop of Nisibis, Mesopotamia, in 308 A.D. Nisibis is the modern city of Nusaybin (in southwest Turkey on the border with Syria). He founded a theological school there, attended the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D., and was renowned for his pious and virtuous life. James is perhaps best known, however, for his divine vision on Mount Ararat, where he found the sacred relic of Noah’s Ark. According to tradition, while St. James preached in and around Nisibis, he heard that people doubted the story of Noah’s Ark. He was determined to provide his flock with evidence, so he set out for the peak of Mount Ararat to find the remains of the ark. During his arduous journey, an angel appeared to him in a vision and brought him a piece of the wood from Noah’s Ark. St. James prayed to God to produce a miracle at the place where he had the vision and immediately afterward a spring gushed forth, which exists to this day. The relic of Noah’s Ark received by St. James is currently in Holy Etchmiadzin

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.

Voghchooyun - 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 haidnootyunn 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:

- **The Victims of the 1988 Earthquake in Armenia**
- **Haig Arpiarian, Marina & Megerdich Tomasian, Dikranouhi & Edvard Arpiarian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun & Yn. Patty Dagley, Wally Sarges**: requested by Rose Arpiarian & Family for husband, father, grandfather, parents, grandparents, in-laws, cousins, brother-in-law, and uncle
- **Crosby Goshgarian, Sr. & Meline Goshgarian**: requested by Crosby Jr. & Flo Goshgarian & Family for parents, grandparents and great-grandparents
- **Vahran & Rose Sargavakian, Michael Sargavakian & Alice Bournazian**: requested by Adrienne & Charles Hamparian for parents, brother and sister

**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 Tuesday, December 10, from 6:45 pm to 7:30pm, in Adamian Hall. December’s theme is “Compassion: Putting Faith into Action.” 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.

**EREVAN CHORAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CONCERT**

The Erevan Choral Society Christmas Holiday Concert will be held on Sunday, December 15, at 3p.m., in the Church Sanctuary with Composer Konstantin Petrossian conducting. Featured will be Knarik Nerkararyan, soprano, and Giovanni Formisano, tenor.

You are warmly invited to attend this complimentary concert that is a gift to the community as we usher in the Christmas season. The reception following the concert in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY...**

**A COLLECTION OF DER VASKEN’S MOST LOVED SERMONS**

Available beginning December 6, 2019 at the Holy Trinity Annual Christmas Bazaar. Donation of $25: All proceeds from the sale of the book will support The Homeless People's Building of Vagharshapat, Armenia
Holy Trinity Armenian Church

Continuing a Year of Celebration

Please join us for a special Divine Liturgy and Reception presided over by His Beatitude, Archbishop Nourhan Manougian Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem honoring Fr. Vasken Kouzouian on his 25th Ordination Anniversary

Sunday, December 15, 2019

Divine Liturgy begins at 10 a.m.
Reception immediately following Church services in Charles and Nevart Talianian Cultural Hall
Erevan Choral Society Christmas Holiday Concert begins at 3 p.m. following the reception


Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Greater Boston Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra Cambridge MA

Christmas Holiday Concert

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019, 3:00 P.M.

COMPOSER KONSTANTIN PETROSSIAN
MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

FEATURING SOLOISTS
KNARIK NERKARYAN, SOPRANO
GIOVANNI FORMISANO, TENOR

FATHER VASKEN A. KOUZOUIAN, PASTOR
Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church 145 Brattle Street Cambridge MA

The public is warmly invited to attend this complimentary concert

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
FIRST WEDNESDAYS
A BREATH 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
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

- Candlelit Labyrinth Walk - Armenian Heritage Park, Sunday, December 8 from 4:30 pm - 5:30pm. On The Greenway, Boston: Meet & Greet. Walk the Candlelit Labyrinth. Tie a ribbon with your wish on the Wishing Tree. Enjoy hot chocolate & luscious cookies.


HOLY TRINITY CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues, Dec 10</td>
<td>First Wednesdays; “Compassion: Putting Faith into Action;”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Johnson Hall, 6:45pm - 7:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, Dec 15</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy and Reception presided over by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>His Beatitude, Archbishop Nourhan Manougian;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Church Sanctuary, Divine Liturgy begins at 10am,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reception immediately following Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Services in the Charles and Nevart Talian Cultural Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christmas Concert of the Erevan Choral Society;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Church Sanctuary, 3pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, Dec 22</td>
<td>Christmas Family Service followed by the Sunday School Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christmas Pageant and Caroling;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Church Sanctuary, following Church Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues, Dec 24</td>
<td>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Church Sanctuary, musical prelude begins at 4:30pm, followed by prayers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and Christmas Carols in English at 5pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STEWARDSHIP 2019

I LOVE MY CHURCH . . . GIVING IN GRATITUDE

The Stewardship 2019 program is underway. We ask that if you consider Holy Trinity Armenian Church - Your Church - please take a few minutes to fill out the pledge card and return it to the Church office. We depend on and thank you for your participation.

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