Sunday, December 15, 2019
Celebrant: The Pastor
Homilist: His Beatitude, Archbishop Nourhan Manougian
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 17, vs. 1-10 and will be read by Ann Danielson.

WELCOME
On behalf of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church, the Pastor and Parish Council warmly welcome His Beatitude, Archbishop Nourhan Manougian, Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem and the Holy Land, to our parish. His Beatitude is presiding over this morning’s Divine Liturgy and will offer the message of the day.
A reception in honor of the Patriarch will take place in the Charles and Nevart Talianian Cultural Hall immediately following Church Services where our parishioners will have the opportunity to greet His Beatitude.

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. James, Bishop of Nisibis.
- Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent; the liturgical color for the Fourth Sunday is white representing peace.
- Monday, December 16, is the Feast of St. Ignatius of Antioch.
- Tuesday, December 17, is the Feast of Bishop Theopompas, Theonas the Martyr, and the Four Soldiers Basus, Eusebius, Eutyches, and Basilides.
- Thursday, December 19, is the Feast of the Virgins Indus, Domna, Clericus the Priest, and two myriads of Nicomedia.
- Saturday, December 21, is the Feast of Sts. Basil of Caesarea, Gregory of Nyssa, Sylvester of Rome, and Ephrem the Syrian.

TODAY’S HAPPENINGS
FELLOWSHIP HOUR
You are all welcome to join us following Church Services for Fellowship Hour in the Charles and Nevart Talianian Hall in honor of His Beatitude, Archbishop Nourhan Manougian, hosted today by the Parish Council and Diocesan Delegates.

FROM TODAY’S BIBLE READING
Luke 17:1-10 On the road to Jerusalem, Jesus continues to teach His disciples. Here He tells them to cause no one to sin and forgive those who have hurt them as often as they ask it. When the disciples ask Him to help strengthen their faith, Jesus assures them...
that the smallest amount of it can work miracles. Finally, He warns them not to be proud of their faithful acts, as they are simply doing what they should. Reflection: Jesus’ disciples asked Him to increase their faith (v. 5). Make this your prayer for the remaining days of Advent.

**Hebrews 1:1-14** Jesus is greater than the prophets and the angels; He is the Son of God, the radiance of God’s glory; with Him, God created the universe; He sits at the Father’s right hand. Reflection: The early readers of Hebrews might have venerated angels to such a degree that the epistle writer felt it important to stress Jesus’ sovereignty over them. What do you venerate more than Jesus? In what ways can you restore Jesus’ authority in your life?

**Isaiah 38:1-8** King Hezekiah, ill and at the point of death, prays for healing. God restores the King’s health and pledges protection to Jerusalem. Reflection: Hezekiah declares to God that he had “done what is good in Your eyes (v. 3).” In St. Nersess’ famous “Wisdom” prayer, he asks God for the wisdom to “do what is good in Your sight.” In what ways can you work towards this goal?

**December 22 is the Feast of St. Ephrem the Syrian**

Despite later hagiographies and internal evidence in his work, very little is known about St. Ephrem. He was born in Nisibis c.306 and raised by Christian parents. A protégé of Bishop James of Nisibis, he was ordained and served zealously in local ministry (once saving famine-plagued Edessans from starvation through his tireless efforts). When Nisibis was lost to the Persians in 363, Ephrem moved with many others to Edessa, then the center of Syrian Christianity. He lived only another decade, during which he wrote prolifically, producing a vast body of influential work: Biblical commentaries, apologetic treatises, philosophical works, and a great number of hymns and poems. His poetry was so highly esteemed that he has been cited as “the only poet-theologian to rank alongside Dante.” Armenians deeply revered St. Ephrem for his character and his writings. There are many volumes of his work translated from the Syriac (a dialect of Aramaic) into Greek and many in Armenian where more of his authentic work is to be found than in any other language.

**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 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:

- **Konrad Buchter**: requested by Christina Buchter for father
- **Margaret Danielson, 5th Anniversary**: requested by Ed & Ann Danielson and June & Walter Hatfield and Family for mother, grandmother and great-grandmother
- **Philip & Eva Nishanian Giarraputo**: requested by Martha Anderson for parents
- **Mary Yacubian**: requested by Harry Yacubian and Nancy Rotondi & Family for mother, grandmother and great-grandmother
- **P. Florence Arabian**: From her Trust Fund
- **Lousaper Shamlian**: From her Trust Fund

**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.

**EREVAN CHORAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CONCERT**

The Erevan Choral Society Christmas Holiday Concert will be held today 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.

**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.

**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 Kouyoukian 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 Talanian 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
Kinarik Nerkachyan, soprano
Giovanni Formisano, tenor

Father Vasken A. Kouyoukian, 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!
Armenian Christmas Eve Family Dinner

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

Sunday, January 5, 2019

Following the Juralakopts / 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 mezze and dessert
Child meal 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. Vadam A. Kousanian, Pastor
Holy Trinity Armenian Church – 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

FIRST WEDNESDAYS
A BREATH OF GOD

First Wednesday of Every Month • Johnson Hall • 6:45 pm – 7:30 pm

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..."

March 4, 2020
Quiet Times are Important Too

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

November 6, 2019
When the Storms of Life Come Calling

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

December 10, 2019*
Compassion: Putting Faith Into Action

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

*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?

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


HOLY TRINITY CALENDAR

**TODAY**
Divine Liturgy and Reception presided over by His Beatitude, Archbishop Nourhan Manougian;
Church Sanctuary, Divine Liturgy begins at 10am, Reception immediately following Church Services in the Charles and Nevart Talianian Cultural Hall

Christmas Concert of the Erevan Choral Society;
Church Sanctuary, 3pm

**Sun, Dec 22**
Christmas Family Service followed by the Sunday School Annual Christmas Pageant and Caroling;
Church Sanctuary, 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

**SAVE THE DATE**

**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;
Morning Service, 9am
Divine Liturgy, 10am
Blessing of the Water Service, 11:30am

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