

**Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church Presents:**

Greater Worcester Armenian Chorale Christmas Concert

Featuring Traditional Yuletide Music in Armenian and English

**Sunday, January 8 at 12:30 PM**

Luncheon Before Concert: Chicken, Pilav, Salad and Dessert - \$10 Donation

**SEE BILL or JEFF FOR TICKETS/MORE INFORMATION**

**ALTER FLOWERS**

for the Christmas Season were donated by

Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Yergatian, Mr. & Mrs. George Khoury,

Mr. & Mrs. Nishan Ovian, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Montecalvo, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Hebert

**Bible Study**

Every Monday from 6 – 7 p.m. “Sermon Discussion Session”. A question and discussion oriented chat group based on Sundays sermon and beyond. Together we share and learn how to apply Christian principles to our everyday lives. If you have questions or would like to discuss the sermon or just sit in, please join us!

Der Hayr, the Board of Trustees and the Soorp Asdvadzadzin community wish to extend their condolences to the family of Charles & Sally Ovian, who passed away in a tragic car accident. Please keep Sandra, Cina & Michael and their family, Jeffrey, Matthew and Rose Marie and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

**Clothing Swap**

The Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church in Whitinsville will host a clothing swap on Saturday, January 14, 2017 from 9-11am. Whether you're looking to clean your closets or update your wardrobe, this is the event for you! We accept gently used (no rips or stains please) men's, women's and kid's clothing, shoes and accessories. You don't have to donate anything to take something home and you don't have to take something home in order to donate. Everything is free and open to the public. Donations can be dropped off on Friday, January 13 from 6-7pm or the morning of the swap. Use the driveway between Domino's Pizza and the law office and come in the back door. For more information, please email edalynne@hotmail.com or call Christine at 508-234-8131.

Do you want to have God pleasing faith? You cannot unless you give time to read the Bible, because “.... **FAITH COMES FROM HEARING THE MESSAGE AND THE MESSAGE IS HEARD THROUGH THE WORD OF CHRIST.**” Romans 10:17

*We Welcome Visitors and Hope You Enjoy Worshipping with Us.* Please sign the *Guest Book* in the foyer. If there is anything we can do for you, let us know or fill in the welcome cards in the pew racks in front of you and leave in the office or foyer.

**If you and your family would like to host the Sunday Fellowship** following Church Services, please call the Church Office at 508-234-3677 or sign up on the board downstairs to reserve a specific Sunday in 2017, in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion or Just Because.....

**SOORP ASDVADZADZIN ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH**

315 Church Street, Whitinsville, MA

Tel. /Fax: 508-234-3677

Pastor Der Kosroffian – Cellular: 774-462-8041; home: 508-234-0911

E-mail [der.mikaeldk@gmail.com](mailto:der.mikaeldk@gmail.com) ~ [www.armenianchurchofwhit.org](http://www.armenianchurchofwhit.org)



**SUNDAY BULLETIN**

*January 1, 2017*

**Who Is The Greatest?**

*Celebrant Rev. Fr. Mikael Der Kosroffian*

**EPISTLE: Hebrews 13:18-25**

Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way. I particularly urge you to pray so that I may be restored to you soon.

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Brothers, I urge you to bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written you only a short letter. I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been released. If he arrives soon, I will come with him to see you.

Greet all your leaders and all God's people. Those from Italy send you their greetings. Grace be with you all.

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***The order of the Readings for this week is as follows:***

**TODAY:**     **Isaiah 51:15-52:3; Hebrews 13:18-25; Luke 22:24-30**  
**Monday:**    Hebrews 7:26-8:13; Luke 20:1-8  
**Tuesday:**    Hebrews 10:1-18; Luke 20:9-18  
**Wednesday:** Hebrews 12:5-17; Luke 20:41-21:4  
**Thursday:**   Titus 2:11-15; Matthew 2:1-12; Dismissal: Luke 2:8-14  
**Friday:**     Titus 2:1-15; Mt 1:18-25; Blessing Water: 1Cor. 10:1-4; Mt 3:1-17  
**Saturday:**   Acts 6:8-8:2; John 12:24-26

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***Armenian Christmas Eve (Juraklooy)***  
***Thursday, January 5, 2017***

<b><i>Evening Service</i></b>	<b><i>6:00 P.M.</i></b>
<b><i>Reading of the Book of Daniel</i></b>	<b><i>6:30 P.M.</i></b>
<b><i>Divine Liturgy</i></b>	<b><i>6:45 P.M.</i></b>

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***Armenian Christmas Day ~ Theophany***  
***Friday, January 6, 2017***

<b><i>Morning Service</i></b>	<b><i>9:30 A.M.</i></b>
<b><i>Divine Liturgy</i></b>	<b><i>10:00 A.M.</i></b>
<b><i>Sermon</i></b>	<b><i>11:00 A.M.</i></b>
<b><i>Blessing of the Water Service</i></b>	<b><i>12:00 noon</i></b>

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***Godfather of the Cross: Charles Whittlesey***

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***Der Hayr & the Board of Trustees wish everyone A Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2017 and A Merry Armenian Christmas***  
***Shnorhavor Nor Dari Yev Soorp Dznount***  
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**Who is the Greatest?**

Welcome to the first Sunday of 2017! This morning's Gospel reading is a great way to start out this new year. We are always making New Year's Resolutions and usually finding it hard to maintain but hopefully with prayer, hard work and a goal to grow closer to our Lord Jesus, we will fulfill His plans for us.

Today, Jesus is teaching us about humility in the Gospel of Luke 22:24-30. Jesus' Disciples were disputing as to which one of them would be considered the greatest. This wasn't the first time though, in Luke 9:46 they were at it again, "***An Argument started among them as to which of them would be the greatest.***"

This sin, pride, has been around since the beginning. Ambition, self-esteem, and self-conceit are planted deeply at the bottom of the hearts of all us. There are so many people who imagine that they are humble, but can't bear to see a friend, a peer, a relative be more honored and favored than themselves. God has blessed each one of us with a different talent so we shouldn't be worrying about why someone else has more of something than we do. He has given us as much as we are able to handle.

Of course, not everyone is that way, but the measure of envy and jealousy in the world is obviously proof of how popular pride is. On the outside we're smiling yet on the inside, secretly, we think that we deserve the best because we are better than the person in front of us.

We have to learn to take pleasure in the prosperity of others, and to be happy with the lowest place for ourselves. Celebrate with those who are doing well in life and comfort those who aren't. The rule given to the Philippians by Paul should be a reminder and the rule for all of us to live by today, "***Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.***"

And this is how Jesus responded to His Disciples, He said "***Kings like to throw their weight around and people in authority like to give themselves fancy titles. It's not going to be that way with you. Let the senior among you become like the junior; let the leader act the part of the servant.***" Of course we would all like to be in a position of authority but look at what Jesus said of himself, "***But I've taken my place among you as the one who serves.***"

Jesus isn't looking for the person who has fame, and title, or self-esteem. It isn't the person who has hundreds of men and women working for them, it isn't the world leaders. It's the person who cares about others more than themselves. It is the person who is kind, gentle, and thoughtful towards others. Always lending a helping hand, with a heart that can feel for others. It's the person who tends to the broken-hearted, to befriend the friendless, to cheer up those who are saddened, and to care for the poor, the orphans and the widows. This is the great person in the eyes of God.

Therefore, let's all work harder to be compassionate, kind and humble servants in 2017, following in the footsteps of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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