

E-Newsletter December 6, 2024

Sunday Services, December 8, 2024 Join Us for Prayer & Worship

Morning Service: 9:00 Badarak / Divine Liturgy 10:00

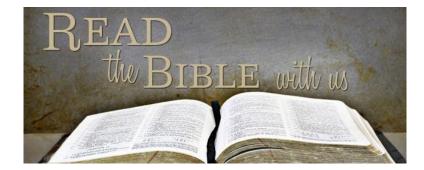
PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Lord, please keep watch over your faithful people, strengthen those in captivity, and protect the holy soil of Armenia—now and always. Foil every aggressor against our homeland. Defend the innocent and voiceless, Lord. Preserve the name and spirit of Artsakh in our hearts, forever. Console all those who grieve, and remember those who sacrificed their very lives in your Name. Deliver your faithful children from conflict, and bestow your peace on all mankind.

Let us hold the holy Mother-of-God and all the saints as intercessors with the Father in Heaven, that He may be pleased to have mercy and compassion on us, His creatures, and save us.

Almighty Lord, our God, save us and have mercy on us. Amen.

Let's Read the Bible! Readings of the week



Monday, December 9: Feast of the Conception of the Holy Mother-of-God Song 6:3-8; Malachi 3:1-2; Galatians 3:24-29; Luke 1:39-56

Tuesday, December 10:

Sts. Cornelius the Centurion and Polycarp Bishop of Smyrna

Wisdom 1:1-7; Jeremiah 16:16-21; Acts 1:12-14; Mark 6:6-13

Wednesday, December 11: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-6; Luke 14:25-27

Thursday, December 12: St. Eustratius the Martyr

Proverbs 1:1-9; Nahum 2:1-7; Romans 5:1-5; Matthew 5:1-12

Friday, December 13: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18; Luke 15:1-7

Saturday, December 14:

St. James, Bishop of Nisibis

Wisdom 7:12-20; Isaiah 44:1-5; Hebrews 13:17-21; John 9:39-10:10

SUNDAY BIBLE READINGS

Bible Readings for Sunday, December 8, 2024 Paregentan of the Fast of St. James

2 THESSALONIANS 1:1-12

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring.

This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, and is intended to make you worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering. For it is indeed just of God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to the afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, separated from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes to be glorified by his saints and to be marveled at on that day among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO

LUKE 14:12-24

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets. Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.'

So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.'"

LITURGICAL CALENDAR AND NEWS FROM PRELACY CROSSROADS

MESSAGE FROM HIS HOLINESS CATHOLICOS ARAM I TO THE ARMENIANS OF ALEPPO



From the Catholicosate in Antelias, we extend our fatherly and warm greetings to the beloved sons and daughters of our people in Aleppo.

Once again, Aleppo finds itself in crisis. Over the past decades, this historic city—renowned for its coexistence of diverse cultures, religions, and nations in the Middle East—has endured various tribulations. The Armenian community of Aleppo has also borne the heavy consequences of these crises.

Aleppo has always held a central place in the annals of Armenian history, serving as a beacon in economic, cultural, religious, and national spheres. With its churches, cultural, educational, and social centers, and its distinctly Armenian atmosphere, Aleppo has been a radiant presence, especially within the life of the Diaspora. Leaders, educators, intellectuals, clergy, and community activists—from Lebanon to Yerevan, from European cities to the Atlantic shores—trace their profound roots back to Aleppo.

Today, the Armenian community of Aleppo is not alone in its distress. We all stand beside it through prayer, love, and solidarity. For our people, Aleppo is not merely a relic of the past, celebrated for its glorious days, significant achievements, and pivotal role. Aleppo remains everpresent and is also our future. The strength of a nation lies in its collective faith, its unified will to confront challenges, and its shared hope in shaping the future. This is the conviction of the Armenian community of Aleppo. We witnessed and affirmed this when, nearly ten years ago, during days of turmoil, we visited Aleppo and stood with our people. We saw and testified to this spirit when, during the days of the earthquake, we walked alongside our compatriots through the Armenian-populated streets of Aleppo. Despair and uncertainty have no place in the life of Aleppo's Armenians.

We have always stood and will continue to stand with Syria. We do not forget that Syria was the first country to welcome the survivors of the Armenian Genocide onto its soil. Therefore, our people's bond with Syria must remain steadfast.

We express our profound appreciation to the Prelate and the National Authorities, to all our organizations dedicated to the welfare of our community, and to our young men and women who tirelessly serve our people day and night with utmost devotion. We warmly commend the unwavering determination of Aleppo's Armenians to face the current crisis with unity and effort.

We pray that God protects the Armenian community of Aleppo from all dangers. May love and peace arch over the life of the Syrian people.

With fatherly warm love,

Prayerfully,

ARAM I

Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia

December 2, 2024

Antelias

PRELATE'S APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE TO ALEPPO ARMENIANS



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Following the inspiring and energetic pontifical visit of our beloved Catholicos Aram I to our Prelacy New England and Midwest churches, I was prepared to address joyfully the Advent season, when Io! we were informed of the devastating news that our brothers and sisters in Aleppo, Syria, were subject to an unexpected political situation of terror and uncertainty.

Families have been ordered not to leave their homes. Normal life of working and schooling has come to a halt. Residents cannot even withdraw money from their bank accounts for living expenses. Thus, after the devastating earthquake in 2023, this catastrophic storm of desolation threatens our beloved ones in Aleppo.

Upon the request of His Holiness Catholicos Aram I, our Prelacies in North America have launched a fundraiser to reach out to the needy and save them from the prospects of famine and misery.

With a broken heart, I appeal to your understanding and generosity to help our suffering fellow Armenians in Aleppo and bring them much needed relief in this desperate situation.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Anoushavan Prelate



Saturday, December 7: Saints Nicholas of Myra, the Wonderworker.

Monday, December 9: Feast of the Conception of the Virgin Mary.

Tuesday, Decmber 12: Sts. Cornelius the Centurion, Simeon the relative of Christ, Bishop Polycarp of Smyrna, and the Martyrs who perished in the East.

Thursday, December 15: St. Eustratius the Martyr.

FEAST OF THE CONCEPTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY



Monday, December 9, is the Feast of the Conception of the Holy Virgin Mary. This is one of the eight feast days devoted to the Holy Virgin in the Armenian Church's liturgical calendar.

St. Mary is known in the Armenian Church as Asdvadzamayr-Asdvadzadzin, the "Mother of God" and the "Bearer of God"-a position doctrinally established at the Ecumenical Council of Ephesus in the 5th century.

Her life of holiness and purity, and her graceful acceptance of the role to which God called her, as the mother of Jesus Christ, all make Mary one of the pre-eminent exemplars of the Christian faith, whose birth and very conception are occasions for celebration in the church.

Only those aspects of St. Mary's life, which are directly related to Christ are recorded in the Gospel. The remainder of her biography is attributed to tradition, which is found in ancient ecclesiastical literature.

In all likelihood, Mary was born in Bethlehem or Nazareth. Her parents, Joachim and Anna, were a devout couple whose earnest prayers for a child were answered with the birth of a daughter.

Although Mary was born naturally, she is considered morally pure and immaculate. It is for this reason that the church celebrates not only her birth, but also her conception, which the Armenian and the Greek Orthodox churches observe on December 9, and the Roman Catholic Church celebrates the feast on December 8.

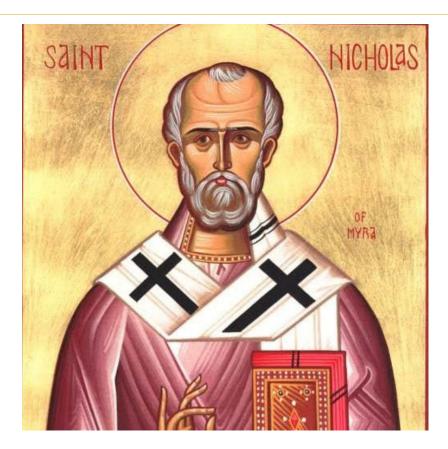
The concept of Mary's moral purity later developed into the question of her Immaculate Conception (from Anna), a doctrine adopted by the Roman Catholic Church in 1854. The Armenian Church, however, does not accept this, as only Christ was immaculately conceived.

However, Mary's purity is unquestioned. According to the teachings of the Armenian Church, at the time of the Annunciation, when the Holy Spirit entered Mary, she was cleansed of all original sin, as she was to be the vessel in which God manifest was to be incarnated.

According to tradition, following the Ascension of Christ, Mary lived out the rest of her days in Jerusalem, cared for by St. John the Evangelist. She died in Jerusalem some 15 years after Christ's Ascension and was buried in her family tomb in Gethsemane.

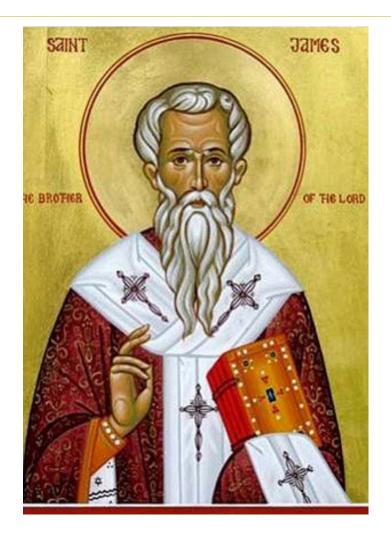
Bible readings for this feast day are as follows: Song of Songs 6:3-8; Malachi 3:1-2; Galatians 3:24-29; Luke 1:39-56.

ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA, THE WONDERWORKER



This Saturday, December 7, the Armenian Church remembers St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, a fourth century Bishop of Myra, Lycia in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey). He was a defender of orthodoxy and because of many miracles attributed to his intercession he is called "the Wonderworker." He was a secret and generous giver of gifts and some believe him to be the model for Santa Claus.

EVE OF THE FAST OF ST. JAMES



This Sunday (December 8) is the eve (paregentan) of the Fast of St. James (Hagop) of Nisibus. This five-day fast, Monday to Friday, leads us to the Feast of St. James, which is next Saturday. Traditionally the entire fifty-day period of Advent was a period of fasting, similar to Great Lent. In modern times, three week-long (Monday to Friday) fasts are observed during Advent: Fast of Advent (Hisnagats Bahk), Fast of St. James (Sourp Hagopee Bahk), and the Fast of the Nativity (Dznuntyan Bahk).

THE SEASON OF ADVENT



ADVENT IN ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

"Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand." (James 5:8)

This Sunday, December 8, is the third Sunday of Advent. Advent means "coming"—the coming of Christ. It is the 50-day period during which we prepare to celebrate the Nativity and Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In the Armenian Church, Advent lasts approximately two weeks longer than it in the Western churches, hence the Armenian word for the season: Hisnag, "a 50-day period." It is a time for us to think of the why of Christmas—why the greeting cards, the decorations, the gifts, the family gatherings? A time to look within our hearts to see if there is anything that stands between us and the Good News of Jesus' birth.

During Advent, we can rededicate ourselves to Christ through our actions, thoughts, and prayers. This is a good time for us to improve our habits and offer them as gifts to God. Perhaps Advent can also be an occasion to discover God's gifts all around us. We need to have an open heart to receive Christ—God's greatest gift of all! We complain that Christmas is too "commercial," but there is a way to live out the real "reason for the season."

There are six Sundays in this season and each Sunday has a specific message:

Advent Week 1 (November 24): "Fight Against Greed" (Luke 12:13-31) Advent Week 2 (December 1): "Repent" (Luke 13:1-9) Advent Week 3 (December 8): "Be Charitable" (Luke 14:12-24) Advent Week 4 (December 15): "Be Forgiving" (Luke 17:1-10) Advent Week 5 (December 22): "Be Humble" (Luke 18:9-14) Advent Week 6 (December 29): "Invest Your Talents." (Luke 22:24-30)

WISHING EVERYONE A BLESSED ADVENT SEASON

TOGETHER WITH ARTSAKH ARMENIANS PRELACY'S STEADFAST SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES IN ARMENIA



Tens of thousands of Armenians from Artsakh have been forcibly expelled from their ancestral territory following the criminal policies of the Azerbaijani state and relocated to Armenia proper. While they are trying to solve their primary needs of housing, food, and other urgent issues, they also rely on the continuous help of the Diaspora. The Eastern Prelacy is providing monthly assistance to 30-35 families from Artsakh through the Hope and Light NGO.

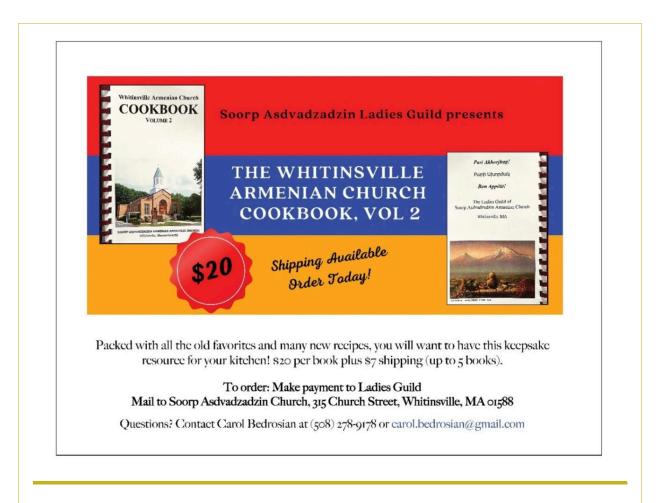
You can make your donations to the Eastern Prelacy fundraiser Together with Artsakh Armenians by clicking the kink bekow.

When donating online, please note that the company that handles the secure management of our website donations asks the donors to donate an extra amount for processing fees. This allows the Prelacy to receive the net amount of your gift without any charges. However, if the extra amount they suggest seems too high to you, please note that not only is the amount not a requirement, but there is a down arrow right next to the suggested amount. If you click on it, the drop-down menu will give you options for lesser amounts or even 0. You can always choose not to donate any extra amount.

CLICK HERE TO DONATE

SOORP ASDVADZADZIN CHURCH NEWS





The Day Has Arrived

Countless hours of hard work, ingredients too many to count, aching backs, and so many smiling faces of the members of the Ladies Guild, the Board of Trustees and friends of Soorp Asdvadzadzin Church which all come together and bring to life our annual Bazaar.

The day has arrived for everyone to enjoy the fruits of their labor, not that it's a day of rest, but a day for all of us to see others smiling as they line up to purchase their favorite foods from the bake table and the newly named Market Place followed by a delicious meal of either Shish, Losh or Chicken Kebab or a Kheyma sandwich topped off with one of our delicous desserts.

Here are some pictures of the work from behind the scenes. Complete story and more pictures next week. We look forward to seeing you tomorrow morning!



Above I-r: Christine, Joyce, Claire and Margo making Bourma.

Below I-r: Dona, ann. Betty, Zarouhi, bobby, christing and Dan spreading Lahmajoun mix.



I - r: Joanne, Karen and Sue preparing the Yalanchi mix.



Above I-r: David, Peter, Rick, George, Jeffrey, Rich and Bill cutting lamb.

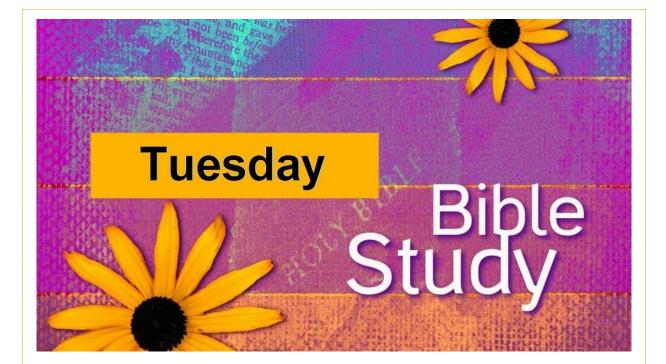
Below I-r: Bob and Betty-Jean cutting the chicken.





I-r: Claire, Ann, Priscilla, Lisa, Karen, Mary & Margo making the Yalanchi.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY (AM & PM)



Bible Study Study of the Gospel of John Resumes on December 9

ALL ARE WELCOME!

The Bible promotes INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT. When we study, we learn the greatest piece of literature known to man.

The Bible promotes GROWTH. Those who desire to grow in their character must learn first of God.

The Bible promotes FAITH. We learn of prayer in the Bible which counteracts unbelief. Bible study teaches us to fight against sin and the Word is a safeguard.

The Bible promotes WISDOM.

Set a time for studying the Word. Be intentional. Study the Word prayerfully. Rely on the Bible's teachings and ask questions.



Fellowship Hour this Sunday is hosted by Yn. Susana & Family

If you and your family would like to host a Sunday Fellowship following Church Services, please call the Church Office at 508-234-3677 or sign up on the board downstairs.

Christmas Tree Lighting

Merry Christmas

Decorating and Lighting of our Christmas Tree will take place this Sunday, Dec. 8, during Fellowship. Please bring an ornament that's special to you and your family to place on the tree.

(Ornament will be returned to you at the end of the season)

Soorp Asdvadzadzin Church Celebrates



The most wonderful time of the year is Here! We continue with the beautiful tradition of our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on **December 24 at 6pm.** This is a very spiritually moving service as we all join together in singing Christmas Carols and reading Scriptures that recount the foretelling and the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We know that families look forward all year to being a part of this special Christmas Eve service, just as we do.





ARMENIANS of WHITINSVILLE

Going on a treasure hunt...

Once there was and was not a time when Armenian entrepreneurs' businesses were a ubiquitous part of our everyday lives in Whitinsville. From cutting our hair to repairing our shoes, from selling us candy and filling our cavities, these original and first-generation Armenians' stories are meant to be told – and you can help!

Look through your albums and shoeboxes, ask your friends and family members.... your photos can help our Armenians of Whitinsville website share stories about these businesses in our Community section. The following is not an exhaustive list – we welcome any photos/anecdotes about these Armenian Whitinsville businesses and others you remember:

Archie's Shoe Repair	Mooradian Cleaning
ARF Rosdom Club on Church Street	Mose's Barber Shop
Aunt Mary's	Dr. Noroian Dentist, Baker Building, 2nd floor
Cappy's Variety Store	Oscar Muradian's Dry Cleaning
Chick's Barber Shop	Phase II Art Gallery and Gift Shop
Cookie Kazarian's Grocery Store	Punjab's
Gracie's Travel	Sam and Arco-Whitinsville Public Market
Hnchag Club on East Street	Sam's Shoe Repair
Horan's Barber Shop	Seropian Bowling Alley and Sanitary Barber
Irene's Children's Shop	Shop
Julie's Hair Salon	Serop's Market (Paulie's) on East Street
Jundanian Law Office	Sippy's Eggs
Kalian's Supermarket (formerly Star Market)	Varky's Dry Cleaning
Lilian Malkasian's Tailor Shop	

If you have a photo or story to share, simply write to us at <u>info@armeniansofwhitinsville.org</u>. We will scan your photo and return it to you. And we continue to welcome more families to add their stories and collections to the website.

SOORP ASDVADZADZIN CHURCH MINISTRY



What Can We Do?

Soorp Asdvadzadzin Church of Whitinsville is committed to helping in any way we can. We have undertaken a new humanitarian effort to provide fresh food, groceries, and toiletries to the families who have either lost a soldier to the Artsakh war, or families who have a wounded hero who cannot work to support their family.

The program is simple. We order Groceries online from the supermarket in Armenia, which are paid for here in the United States. The groceries are delivered the next day to the families. We have "adopted" 15 families and God willing we will be adding more families as our ministry grows. Response to our AGM (Armenian Grocery Ministry) has been extremely positive and we hope to continue this work for as long as it is needed.

Der Mikael and The Board of Trustees urge you to donate generously to the following organizations.

For those who would like to mail a contribution via check, please make the check payable to Armenian Apostolic

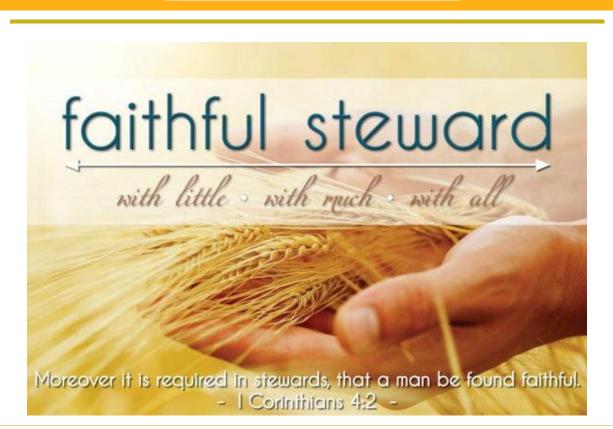
Church with "Armenian Grocery Ministry" or "AGM" in the memo. Mail to: 315 Church St., Whitinsville, MA 01588 or via the UniBank link at the bottom of page.

Your secure donation will help to continue our humanitarian assistance in Armenia.

St. Nerses the Great Charitable Fund

On the ground in Armenia, the Eastern Prelacy sees small moments and individual stories as more than just numbers and words but knows that for each person they represent an entire world. Supporting the hope of this world are the individual sponsors who through their donation change the lives of Armenia and Artsakh's children in a dramatic and positive way.

Click Here: Orphan's Fund - Armenian Prelacy to Donate



SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH WITH WEEKLY OFFERINGS

These are challenging times for all of us. The church is committed to supporting you in your spiritual and material needs, but it is a group effort. If you are able, please consider continuing to contribute to the church so that she can continue in her mission. Your Sunday offerings and Stewardship can be done online by using the UniBank link at the bottom of this page, via our Facebook page or by mailing a check to the church - or the best way - In Person on Sundays. Thank you!

EVENTS



GATHERING

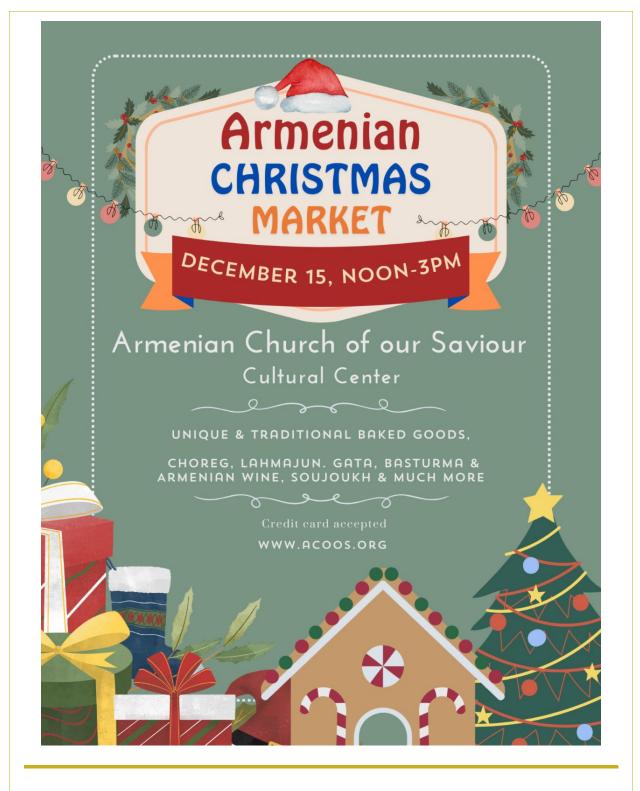
ARMENIAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

ALL ARE WELCOME DINNER, MUSIC & FUN

(Inganized by:

ACOOS MEN'S CLUB & KNIGHTS & DAUGHTERS OF VARTAN

RSVP BY DECEMBER 13 TO CHUCK SHARIGIAN - 774-261-0108 OR CHAZZ2404@YAHOO.COM COST: \$25



Celebrating a special occasion? Honoring a loved one?

Say it with Altar Flowers and/or Candles



If you would like to donate Flowers or Candles for the Christmas Season, Please contact Lusiya Thibault at 774-280-2471 or call the church office at 508-234-3677 or email us at <u>soorpasdvadzadin@gmail.com</u>

> Donations can also be mailed to: Armenian Apostolic Church 315 Church St. Whitinsville, MA 01588

You may also donate using the UniBank link below:

https://unipaygold.unibank.com/CustomerInfo.aspx?Customerid=1798

Donation for the Incense has been made by Harry and Pamela Ohannesian

In Loving Memory of:

Paul and Nora Ohannesian



If you would like to donate Flowers or Candles for our Altar in 2025, Please call the church office at 508-234-3677 or email us at <u>soorpasdvadzadin@gmail.com</u> Donations can also be mailed to: Armenian Apostolic Church 315 Church St. Whitinsville, MA 01588

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https://unipaygold.unibank.com/CustomerInfo.aspx?Customerid=1798

Monthly Donations for Altar Flowers \$125.00 Monthly Donation for Altar Candles \$75.00 Monthly Donation for Incense \$25.00

Lighting Candles and Prayer Requests

Lighting a candle is a way of extending one's prayer and showing solidarity with the person on whose behalf the prayer is offered.

If you cannot attend church but would like for Der Hayr to light a candle and offer silent



prayers for you or a loved one, please email your requests to der.mikaeldk@gmail.com

Visitation & Holy Communion



If you or someone you know is homebound and would like to have a visit and receive Holy Communion, we ask that you PLEASE notify Der Hayr personally, at 774-462-8041 or through the Church Office: Email: soorpasdvadzadzin@gmail.com or Office: 508-234-3677



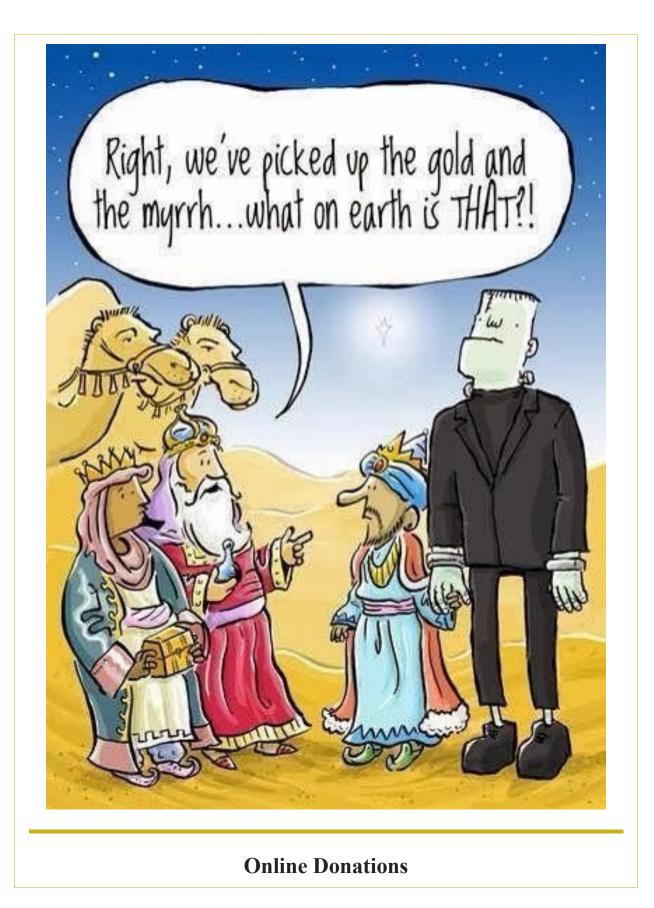
Email: der.mikaeldk@gmail.com or soorpasdvadzadzin@gmail.c om Mobile: 774-462-8041

FROM OUR ARCHIVES...



Joanne & Alice - Office Staff 2007

A Little Humor to Start Your Weekend.



For your convenience, St. Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church is now accepting online ACH/Electronic Check and Credit Card donations and payments. This is an easy and secure way to make your donations for Events, or for Stewardship, Membership and Requiem Services.

Electronic Check:

You will need to provide your bank's routing number and your bank account number to pay by this method. A helpful image is available during the payment process to assist in locating this information.

Credit Card:

We accept MasterCard, Visa, American Express, and Discover.



To make a payment or a donation, please visit:

https://unipaygold.unibank.com/CustomerInfo.aspx?Customerid=1 798

OR Scan the QR Codes Below:



All these Available For You Online...

Donations Event Donations Membership Stewardship





QR Code for Donations

QR Code for Payment Center

Do YOU sing or play the organ? Do you know someone who sings or plays the organ? Then why not contribute your talents to beautify our Sunday worship experience at Soorp Asdvadzadzin Church? Please contact Deacon Jeffrey Kalousdian for more information at katama@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS Please save these dates and support our church.

December 7 — Annual Church Bazaar. December 14 — Christmas Concert Church of the Martyrs - Worcester. December 20 — Christmas Service Church of Our Savior - Worcester. December 24 — Christmas Eve Candle Light Service & Singing of Carols.

2025

January 5 — Morning Service.

January 5 — Joint Armenian Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy.

January 6 — Armenian Christmas Divine Liturgy and Luncheon.

January 11 — Ladies Guild Christmas Party.

ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR E-NEWS LETTER?

Please send your inquiries and comments to soorpasdvadzadzin@gmail.com

Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church | 508-234-3677 | 315 Church St., Whitinsville, MA 01588 | <u>www.armenianchurchofwhit.org</u>