



SOORP ASDVADZADZIN

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
OF WHITINSVILLE





E-Newsletter January 3, 2025

Armenian Christmas Schedule:

Join Us for Prayer & Worship

Sunday Services, January 5, 2025

Morning Service: 10:00

Evening Service: 4:00

Christmas Eve Vigil Readings 4:30

Badarak / Divine Liturgy 5:00

Fellowship & Rereshments 6:30

January 6, 2025

Morning Service: 9:00

Badarak / Divine Liturgy: 10:00

Blessing of the Water Service: 12:00

Christmas Celebration Luncheon

Let us celebrate & greet each other, saying:

***“Krisdos Dznav Yev Haydnetsav, Orhnyal eh Haydnootyounuhn
Krisdosee!”***

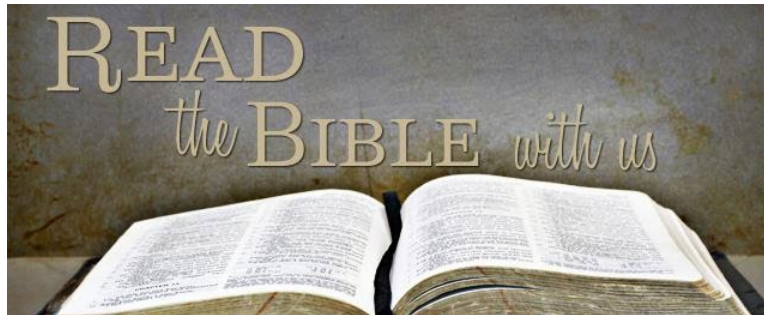
“Christ is Born and Revealed...Blessed is the Revelation of Christ!”

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Lord, please keep watch over your faithful people, strengthen those fleeing persecution, and protect the holy soil of Armenia.

**With your peace, Christ our savior, which surpasses all understanding and speech, defend us and keep us fearless of all evil. Make us equal to your true worshipers, who worship you in spirit and in truth; for to the most-holy Trinity is befitting glory, dominion, and honor, now and always.
Amen.**

Let's Read the Bible! Readings of the week



Monday, January 6:
Feast of the Nativity and Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ
Titus 2:11-15; Matthew 1:18-25
Blessing of Water: 1 Corinthians 10:1-4; Matthew 3:1-17

Tuesday, January 7:

Second Day of Nativity

Acts 6:8-8:2; John 12:24-26

Wednesday, January 8:

Third Day of Nativity

Hebrews 1:1-12; Matthew 2:13-23

Thursday, January 9:

Fourth Day of Nativity

Galatians 4:1-7; Luke 1:26-38

Friday, January 10:

Fifth Day of Nativity

Hebrews 12:18-27; Luke 1:39-56

Saturday, January 11:

Sixth Day of Nativity

1 Thessalonians 4:12-17; John 11:1-46

SUNDAY BIBLE READING

Bible Readings for Sunday, January 5, 2025

Eve of the Nativity and Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ

TITUS 2:11-15

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO

MATTHEW 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

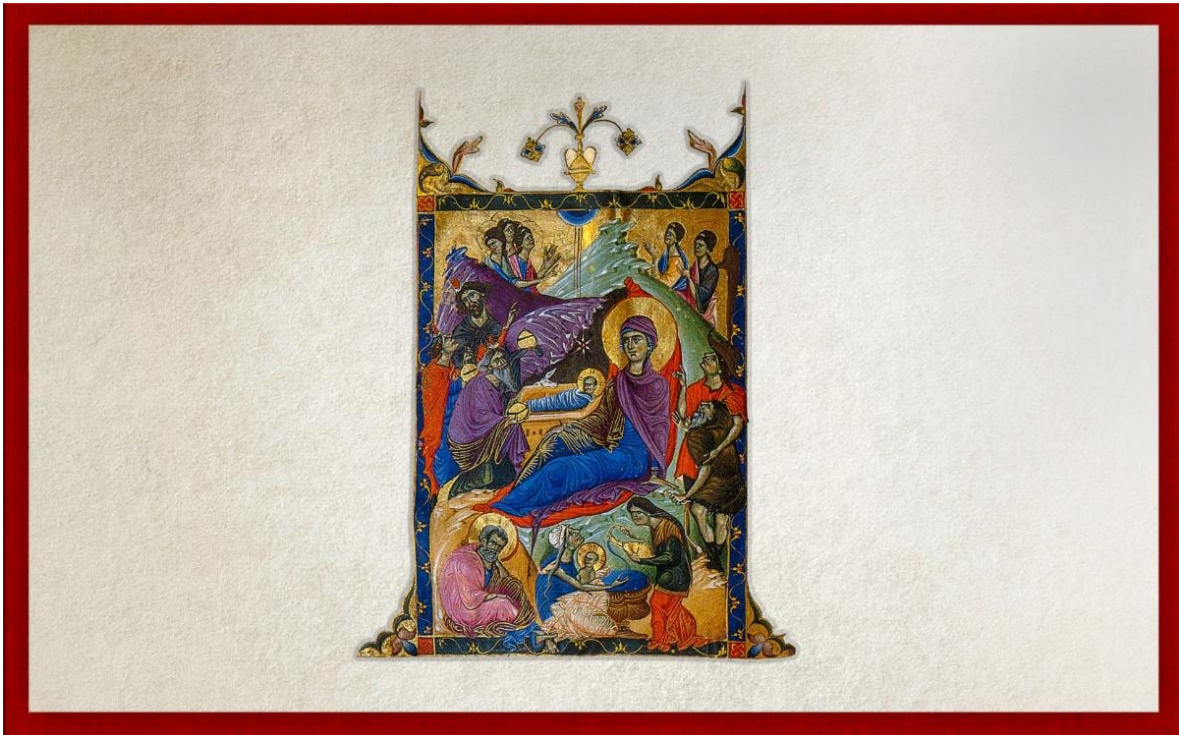
"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR AND NEWS FROM PRELACY CROSSROADS

CHRIST IS BORN AND REVEALED BLESSED IS THE REVELATION OF CHRIST



Bethlehem is an invitation to turn to Christ with renewed faith. In other words, from darkness to light, from evil to good, from death to life.

Turning to Christ means confessing our sins and turning away from the world.

Turning to Christ means accepting Christ as our only hope and savior, the meaning and purpose of our life.

Turning to Christ means to love others like us and to take care of the sick and the needy.

Indeed, by turning to Christ, we will realize that without the enlightening presence of Christ, the life we live, the glory we have created and the wealth we have accumulated are empty and meaningless. By turning to Christ, we will realize what it means to be a person created in the image of God, with God-given gifts and obligations.

By turning to Christ, our hearts will be purified, our souls will be happy and the path of our life will be illuminated.

Man is powerless without the renewed presence of Christ.

Let us turn to Christ in our pain and joy.

Let us turn to Christ in the uncertainty, anxiety and despair surrounding our lives.

Let us turn to Christ with the firm faith that Christ, who came to the world to be with sinful, sick, anxious, abandoned, and needy people, is waiting to be with us and to become the leader, support, and savior of our lives.

(An excerpt from the pontifical message of His Holiness Catholicos Aram I)

MEMORIAL DAY

Tuesday, January 7, the day after Christmas, is Memorial Day. As is the custom in the Armenian Church, the day after each of the five great tabernacle feasts is a memorial day. Traditionally, the Divine Liturgy is celebrated on this day and afterwards the faithful go to the cemetery to honor the memory of their loved ones, communicate the great news of the Birth of Our Lord to them, and have their graves blessed.



STS. BASIL (THE GREAT) AND HIS BROTHER GREGORY OF NYSSA, SYLVESTER THE PATRIARCH OF ROME, AND FATHER EPHREM THE SYRIAN



This Saturday, January 4, the Armenian Church commemorates the Holy Fathers Basil, Gregory of Nyssa, Sylvester of Rome, and Ephrem the Syrian.

St. Basil “the Great” was an intellectual and exceptional leader who helped spread Christianity. At the age of 26 he gave up his wealth and became a monk, and dedicated his life in service of the people, which he did by establishing hospitals, hostels, and public kitchens to distribute food to the needy. He was a talented writer and many of his prayers are still used in the Armenian Church and other Eastern churches.

St. Gregory of Nyssa was the younger brother of Basil, and friend of Gregory of Nazianzus. He was educated in Athens and influenced by the writings of Origen and Plato. He was a professor of Rhetoric, but became disillusioned with his life as a teacher and became a priest. He served as Bishop of Nyssa and Archbishop of Sebastia.

St. Sylvester served as the Bishop of Rome during the era of Constantine for more than twenty years. During the time of his service many great churches were built. He took part in the negotiations concerning Arianism at the Council of Nicaea.

St. Ephrem the Syrian lived in Mesopotamia (Syria) during his entire life. He was baptized at age 18 and he served under St. James of Nisibis. He visited St. Basil at Caesarea and upon his return he helped counter the famine during the winter of 372-73. He distributed food and money to the poor and needy. Let's note that, during the "Prayer with the People" hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the Prelacy clergy also reads from the prayers of St. Ephrem the Syrian among others.



Baptism-Chrismation: The Foundation of Our Life in Christ

A 6-part Biblical, Historical, and Theological Study



on Wednesday evenings
January 22 to February 26, 2025
7:30-8:30 pm (EST)

Presented by
Archdeacon Shant Kazanjian
Director of Christian Education
Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church

Click here to Register

You will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

For information, contact the Prelacy office at 212-689-7810, shant@armenianprelacy.org

*Որք միանգամ ի Քրիստոս մկրտեցարուք, պճրիստոս պզեցեալ էք.
As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.*

Գաղատացիներուն | Galatians 3:27

[Click Here to Register](#)

FOR BREAD AND HOPE TOGETHER WITH ARTSAKH ARMENIANS



A hundred thousand 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.

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

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

*Holy Nativity and Theophany
of Our Lord Jesus Christ*



*Happy New Year
and Merry Christmas*

*An Invitation to a Joint
Nativity Eve Service
Sunday, January 5, 2025*

Joint Badarak with Holy Trinity Church of Worcester
and Soorp Asdvadzadzin Church at
315 Church St., Whitinsville, MA


Christmas Vigil Readings at 4:30 PM
Divine Liturgy/ Badarak at 5:00 PM

Celebrant: Very Rev. Father Ardag Arabian

Christmas Performance by the Children of Holy Trinity and
Soorp Asdvadzadzin Church immediately following Badarak.

Fellowship / Refreshments in the Church Hall.

May this year bring good health
and success in every step you take
for the glory of God.



Krisdos Dznav yev Hydnetav
Ohrnyal eh Haydnootyounn Krisdosi





Home Blessing: An Armenian Custom



Throughout history, Armenian Christians have considered the home to be a sacred place: the tranquil sanctuary of the family, where habits of virtue, pious traditions, and life-affirming customs are passed from one generation to another. Under one roof, members of a household achieve a unity of spirit and assume responsibility for the larger life of the community. They break bread and share life's joys and sorrows.

Above all, the home is where one's faith in God is first kindled, and where that faith finds some of the most profound occasions for action. God's presence makes every family home a "Little Church" (in Greek, *ecclesia*), where His love and blessings permeate every corner.

Through a special ceremony of the Armenian Church, we ask God to bless our homes on occasions like the Nativity and Resurrection of Christ, as well as on the joyous occasion of moving into a new home. It's called the "Dounohrnek", or Home Blessing service.

During a Home Blessing, the priest takes with him wafer and incense. He blesses bread, water, and salt: three fundamental elements essential for

human life. The priest asks God not to lessen these three gifts, without which life becomes impossible or imperfect.

The bread, water, and salt are symbols of God's infinite goodness and care. Bread, which symbolically represents the Word of God, grants life to all those who taste it.

Salt seasons our food, making it delicious and edible. Metaphorically, salt represents man in this world with his words and deeds; Christ said, "You are the salt of the earth." Man's life should be seasoned with wisdom, moderation, or a sense of sufficiency.

Finally, Water, the essential element of life, represents cleanliness. Through the water of baptism we are cleansed, renewed in Christ, and united with our God.

Alongside the bread, salt, and water offered on a tray by the homedwellers, the priest places the wafer stamped with a crucifix and designs of grapes and wheat. The wafer signifies the presence of Christ in the home. The members of the family can either distribute the wafer among themselves or keep it in a jar along with flour, salt, or rice.

During a Home Blessing, it is customary to burn incense, symbolizing the burning of our souls with our Lord's love. In his prayer the Psalmist said: "Let my prayer be counted as incense before Thee."

In the prayer of the Home Blessing the priest first asks for purity and abundance of the three gifts. Then he blesses the home and all its inhabitants, asks God to keep them away from visible and invisible enemies, and prays that God will protect them and grant them health of soul and body.

The Home Blessing is a meaningful religious service that can bring the entire family together in holiness. Through this ceremony faith is replenished and strengthened, and the presence of our Lord is felt.

The beautiful tradition of the Home Blessing was once an annual routine for every Armenian Christian family. In modern times it had fallen into disuse, but has regained momentum in recent years, as more than ever

before, families feel a need to acknowledge the presence Christ in their homes and lives.

Prepare for the service by placing a glass of water, a small dish of salt, and a slice of bread on a tray. The priest will bring incense, charcoal, and incense burner and whatever else he needs with him.

Please contact Der Hayr (774-462-8041 or der.mikaeldk@gmail.com) to schedule the service for your home.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY (AM & PM)



ALL ARE WELCOME!

BIBLE STUDY RESUMES JANUARY 14, 2025

**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.**



**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.**

SOORP ASDVADZADZIN CHURCH MINISTRY

The war in Artsakh may be over...



...But the work has just begun.

Donate Today!

Help relief efforts in Artsakh & Armenia

Regroup. Rebuild. Reclaim.



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 and the families from Artsakh who have recently been forced to relocated by Azerbaijan to Armenia.

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. In addition to the families we have "adopted", we have started to help several families from Artsakh who are now living in villages in Armenia.

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](#)



faithful steward

with little • with much • with all

Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.
- 1 Corinthians 4:2 -

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, or by mailing a check to the church - or the best way - In Person on Sundays. Thank you!***



CHRISTMAS
OFFERING

CHRISTMAS OFFERING - "YOUGHAKIN"

It is a tradition of the Armenian Church to offer a gift to the Church under the name of "Youghakin", or oil offering, which in return would keep the lanterns illuminated, and ultimately the doors open to the Church. At this season of Christ's birth, let us observe and continue the custom of Youghakin. For our church community to remain vibrant, every individual's gift matters. Your contribution, in any amount, will help ensure that the lights will continue to shine brightly at Soorp Asdvadzadzin Church. Please use the envelope from our Christmas mailing for your heartfelt and much appreciated "Youghakin" donation. Thank you!

***Celebrating a special occasion?
Honoring a loved one?***

Say it with Altar Flowers and/or Candles



Altar Flowers & Candles for the Christmas Season are donated by Joe & Margo Montecalvo in memory of their parents.



Almas & Archie Boghosian



Libera & Francesco Montecalvo

**Christmas Wreaths and plant at the Khatchkar are donated by
Jim & Priscilla Altoonian.**

**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 Altar Flowers or Candles during 2025,
Please call the church office at 508-234-3677 or email us
at soorpasdvadzadin@gmail.com**

**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>

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

HOKEHANKIST / REQUIEM SERVICE



In Memory of:

Krikor George Marashian

Requested by:

**George and Peggy Marashian
Helene Marashian**



In Memory of:

Kirkor & Pauline Ovian

Requested by:

Gregory Kajoian and Family

O Christ God, grant rest and mercy to the souls of those who are at rest.

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: soorpasdvadzadin@gmail.com or Office: 508-234-3677



+ Hospital + Visitations

If someone you know is hospitalized, in a Nursing Home or at home, we ask that you **PLEASE** notify the Church Office.

All calls are kept confidential

Hospitals and Nursing Homes do not notify the Church when parishioners are admitted.

**Email: der.mikaeldk@gmail.com or soorpasdvadzadin@gmail.com
Mobile: 774-462-8041**

FROM OUR ARCHIVES...



Ladies Guild Christmas Party 2017

**Do YOU sing or play the organ? Do you know someone who does?
Then why not contribute your talents to beautify our Sunday
worship experience at Soorp Asdvadzadin Church?
Please contact Der Mikael for more information.**

A Little Humor to Start Your Weekend.....



Online Donations

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=1798>

OR Scan the QR Codes Below:

UNIPAY

All these Available For You Online...

Donations
Event Payments
Membership
Stewardship



QR Code for Donations



QR Code for Payment Center

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please save these dates and support our church.

2025

January 5 — Morning Service - 10:00 AM.

January 5 — Joint Armenian Christmas Eve Badarak w/Holy Trinity Church.

Fellowship

January 6 — Armenian Christmas Divine Liturgy and Luncheon.

January 11 — Ladies Guild Christmas Party.

January 14 — Bible Study (AM & PM).

January 21 — Bible Study (AM & PM).

January 28 — Bible Study (AM & PM).

February 1 — Ladies Guild Meeting.

February 4 — Bible Study (AM & PM).

February 11 — Bible Study (AM & PM).

February 18 — Bible Study (AM & PM).

February 23 — General Membership Meeting.

February 25 — Bible Study (AM & PM).

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 | www.armenianchurchofwhit.org