



SOORP ASDVADZADZIN

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
OF WHITINSVILLE



E-Newsletter January 17, 2025

Join Us for Prayer & Worship this Sunday

Morning Service: 9:00

Badarak / Divine Liturgy 10:00

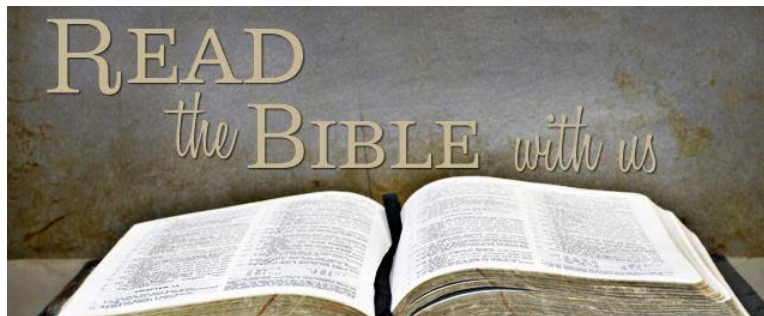
PRAYER OF THE WEEK

In faith I confess and bow down to you, Father and Son and Holy Spirit, uncreated and immortal nature, creator of angels, of men, and of all things. Have mercy upon your creatures, and upon me, great sinner that I am.

Lord, please keep watch over your faithful people, strengthen those fleeing persecution, and protect the holy soil of Armenia. Preserve the spirit of Artsakh in our hearts; console those who grieve; deliver your faithful children from conflict, and bestow your peace on all mankind. Amen.

Let's Read the Bible!

Readings of the week



Monday, January 20:

St. Theodosius the King

Wisdom 6:2-10; Jeremiah 45:1-2; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 7:1-10

Tuesday, January 21:

Proverbs 14:1-6; Zec 8:4-5; Isaiah 60:8-9; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 9:44-48

Wednesday, January 22:

1 Timothy 5:17 - 6:5; John 3:22-36

Thursday, January 23:

St. Vahan of Goghtn

Proverbs 7:1-7; Ezekiel 12:17-19; Romans 8:12-27; Luke 9:23-27

Friday, January 24:

2 Timothy 2:3-14; John 5:31-47

Saturday, January 25:

Holy Fathers Athanasius and Cyril

Proverbs 11:2-11; Isaiah 61:3-7; Hebrews 13:7-9; John 16:33 - 17:8

SUNDAY BIBLE READING

Bible Readings for Sunday, January 19, 2025

First Sunday after the Octave of Theophany

1 TIMOTHY 1:1-11

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope, To Timothy, my loyal child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I urge you, as I did when I was on my way to Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus so that you may instruct certain people not to teach any different doctrine, and not to occupy themselves with myths and endless genealogies that promote speculations rather than the divine training that is known by faith. But the aim of such instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith. Some people have deviated from these and turned to meaningless talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make assertions.

Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it legitimately. This means understanding that the law is laid down not for the innocent but for the lawless and disobedient, for the godless and sinful, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their father or mother, for murderers,

fornicators, sodomites, slave traders, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to the sound teaching that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO

JOHN 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR AND NEWS FROM PRELACY CROSSROADS

**HIS HOLINESS ARAM I DECLARES 2025
THE YEAR OF THE REVITALIZATION OF TRADITIONS**



REVITALIZATION OF TRADITIONS

What do we understand by the term “tradition”? In general, tradition encompasses the beliefs, values, ideals, goals, visions, lifestyles, ways of thinking, practices, and customs associated with a particular nation, religion, or organization, as well as their transmission from generation to generation.

As it is closely tied to the life and historical process of a given nation, religion, or organization, tradition plays a decisive role in safeguarding its identity, protecting its integrity, strengthening its existence, and ensuring its continuity.

Therefore, nations and religions have always been zealous about preserving their traditions intact as they consider them essential for the strengthening and developing self-knowledge and self-assertion, independent existence, and self-expression. (Excerpt from the declaration of HH Aram I)

The Declaration of the Year of Revitalization and Traditions will be read in all Prelacy Churches this Sunday.

ASSISTANCE TO ALEPPO ARMENIANS CONTINUES



After the Syrian change of government, we are pleased to report that His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, has successfully transferred the assistance of the three Prelacies of North America to the Armenian community authorities in Aleppo, who have managed the distribution. Notwithstanding this, the economic crisis remains severe. Therefore, we ask you to continue supporting our brothers and sisters to ease their daily struggles.

Prayerfully,

ARCHBISHOP ANOUSHAVAN
Prelate



Thursday, January 16: Sts. Peter the Patriarch, Bishop Blaise and Deacon Absalom.

Saturday, January 18: Sts. Anthony, Tryphon, Barsama, and Onouphrius the Hermits.

Monday, January 20: Sts. Theodosius the King and the Holy Children of Ephesus.

Tuesday, January 21: Giragos and his mother Julita, and the Martyrs Gordius, Polyeuctus, and Grigoris.

**STS. THEODOSIUS THE KING AND THE SEVEN CHILDREN
OF EPHESUS**



On Saturday, January 20, the Armenian Church commemorates Theodosius, the Roman emperor who put an end to the last of paganism and the Arian heresy in the empire. He was recognized as a “just and mighty Christian emperor,” and was called “the Great.” During his reign, he devoted considerable time and energy to the establishment of the universal and orthodox faith. He is also remembered for his pious behavior. When Ambrose, the Bishop of Milan, forbade his entry into the cathedral as punishment for the massacre he had ordered in Thessalonica, the king obeyed and only after repenting for eight months he walked into the church, taking part in the holy liturgy.

The legend of the Seven Children of Ephesus dates back to the 3rd century A.D. during the rule of Emperor Decius, who persecuted Christians. Seven youths, all children of notable men, secretly got baptized and were named Maximian, Marcian, Jamblichus, Dionysius, Constantine, Antonius, and John. When they were exposed as Christians, they fled Ephesus in 250 and hid in a cave outside the city walls and fell asleep for a century and a half. An earthquake opened the cave and awakened them in 389 during the reign of Theodosius. When people became aware of that divine miracle, the king and the residents of Ephesus met the persecuted Christians with great respect and honor. The seven young men returned to the cave, where they passed away and were entombed, with the site becoming a shrine.

VERY REV. BAROUYR SHERNEZIAN REFLECTS ON THE CHRISTMAS DATE DILEMMA



In his article “The Christmas Date Dilemma and the Call for Ecumenical Unity,” Very Rev. Fr. Barouyr Shernezian, dean of the Armenian Theological Seminary of the Great House of Cilicia, reflects on the diverse traditions surrounding the celebration of Christmas and their

impact on Christian unity. He highlights how Armenians and other Eastern Christians, who observe Christmas on January 6 or 7, often feel disconnected from the broader December 25 festivities. Citing historical, theological, and even scientific perspectives—such as Anania of Shirag’s contributions—Fr. Shernezian calls for greater ecumenical understanding and mutual respect among Christian traditions to foster unity amid these differences.

[Click Here to Read the Article](#)



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 պղեցեալ 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

Ladies Guild Christmas Party



The Ladies Guild Christmas party was held on January 11th at the home of Stephen and Michella Brudner. The snow didn't stop most of the ladies from attending as they were greeted at the front door by Bella and Zoe. Current and future Ladies Guild members gathered to celebrate, fellowship, eat, reminisce and of course have their traditional Christmas Yankee Swap. A great time was had by all!



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.

Special Collection for California Fire Victims

From January 12 to February 2, the Offering received during this time period will be forwarded to the Western Prelacy to help the victims of the wildfires.

**Please Give From the Heart.
Thank You!**

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY (AM & PM)



ALL ARE WELCOME!

Join us as we learn from the life of Paul the Apostle

**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.**

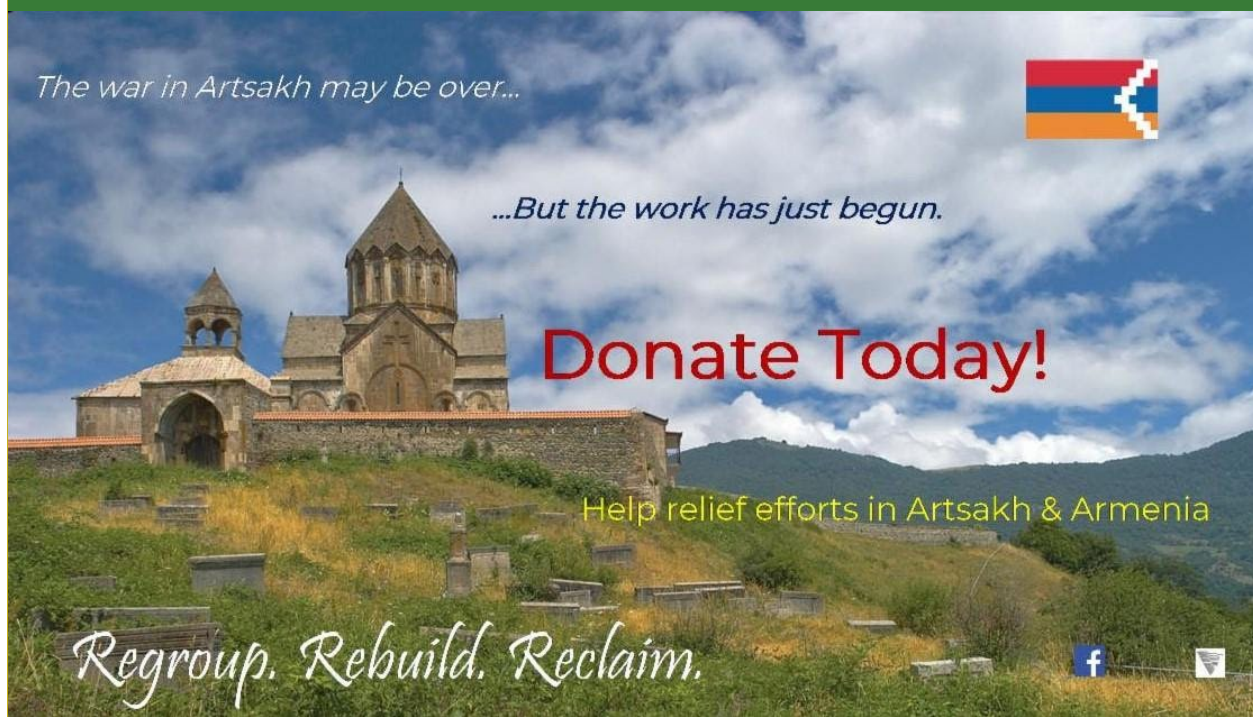
**The Bible promotes FAITH.
We learn of prayer in the Bible which counteracts unbelief.
Bible study teaches us to fight against sin and the Word is a
safeguard.**

**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



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.**

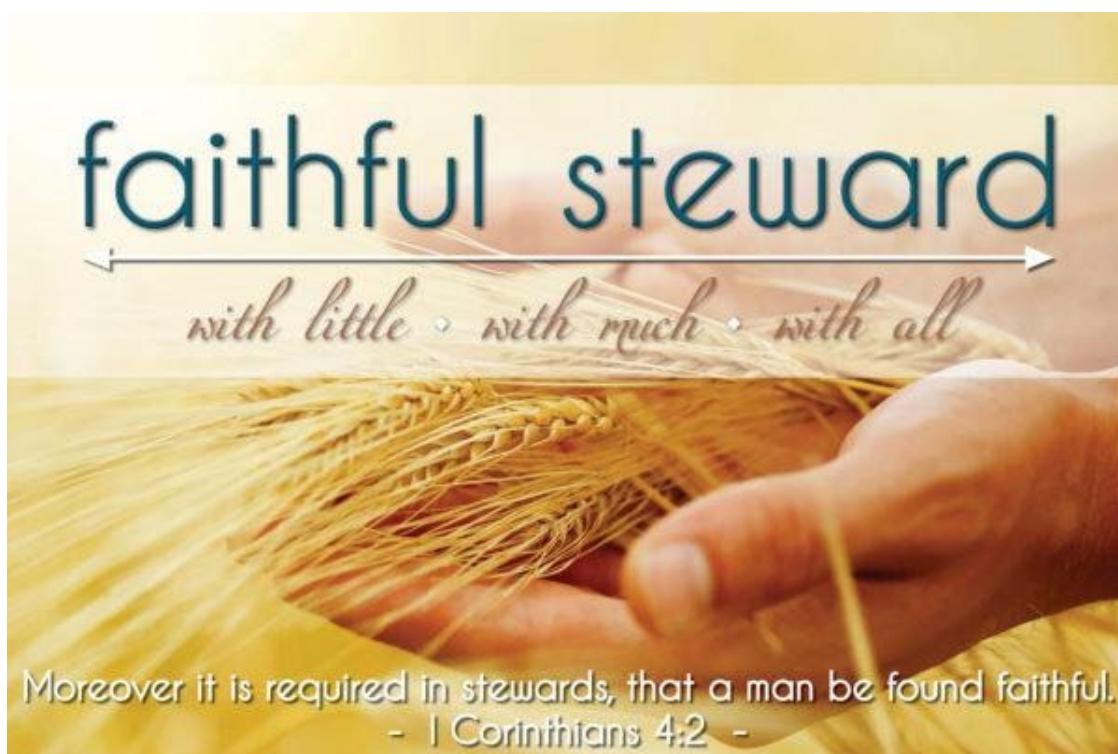
Your secure donation will help to continue our humanitarian assistance in Armenia.

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](#)



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 - "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 month of January are donated by Der Mikael and Levon Der Kosrofian in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of their arrival in Whitinsville (1/12/1975).



**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

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: soorpasdvardzadin@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 soorpasdvardzadin@gmail.com
Mobile: 774-462-8041**

FROM OUR ARCHIVES...



Raffi Samkiranian - 1989

**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 Asdvadzadzin 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 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