



# SOORP ASDVADZADZIN

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH  
OF WHITINSVILLE



**E-Newsletter: Friday, February 7, 2025**

**Join Us for Prayer & Worship this Sunday**

**Morning Service: 9:00**

**Badarak / Divine Liturgy 10:00**

## PRAYER OF THE WEEK

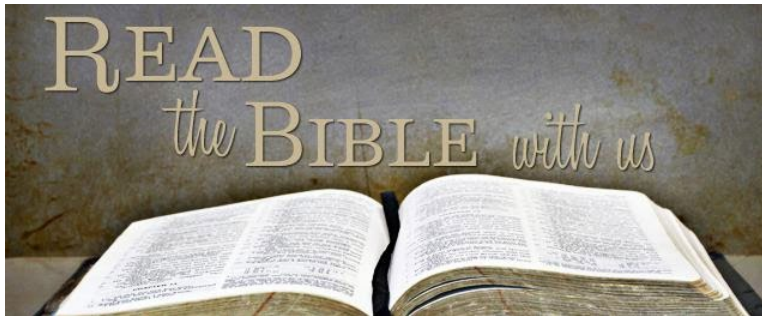
**In faith I confess and bow down to you, Father and Son and Holy Spirit, uncreated and immortal nature, creator of angels, of men, and of all things. Have mercy upon your creatures, and upon me, great sinner that I am.**

**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.**

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## Let's Read the Bible! Readings of the week



**Monday, February 10:**  
No Readings

**Tuesday, February 11:**  
No Readings

**Wednesday, February 12:**  
No Readings

**Thursday, February 13:**  
**Remembrance of the Prophet Jonah**  
Jonah 1:1-4:11

**Friday, February 14:**  
**Presentation of the Lord to the Temple**  
Nocturns: Matthew 5:17-20; Mark 13:32-37; Luke 12:49-59; John 1:1-17.  
Matins: Leviticus 12:6-8; Proverbs 8:22-34; Ezekiel 44:1-2; Malachi 3:1-4; Galatians 3:24-29; Luke 2:22-40.  
Badarak: Isaiah 24:21-25:8; Acts 7:47-50; Galatians 4:1-7; Luke 2:41-52

**Saturday, February 15:**  
**St. Sarkis the Warrior**  
Proverbs 3:13-17; Isaiah 41:1-3; Ephesians 6:10-17; Luke 21:10-19

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**SUNDAY BIBLE READING**  
**Bible Readings for Sunday, February 9, 2025**  
**Paregentan of the Fast of Catechumens**

**2 TIMOTHY 2:15-26**

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth. Avoid profane chatter, for it will lead people into more and more impiety, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have swerved from the truth, saying resurrection has already occurred. They are upsetting the faith of some. But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who calls on the name of the Lord turn away from wickedness."

In a large house there are utensils not only of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for special use, some for ordinary. All who cleanse themselves of the things I have mentioned will become special utensils, dedicated and useful to the owner of the house, ready for every good work.

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## **THE HOLY GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO**

### **JOHN 6:15-21**

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

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## **LITURGICAL CALENDAR AND NEWS FROM PRELACY CROSSROADS**

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**PRELACY'S NEW ST. SAHAG AND ST. MESROB  
INSTITUTE WILL SOON START ONLINE CLASSES**



## SAINTS SAHAG AND MESROB INSTITUTE

The Eastern Prelacy invites you to join the St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Institute an online educational initiative designed to reinforce the teachings of the Armenian Apostolic Church for the next generation of leaders within the Armenian Church and Community.

Rooted in faith and tradition, this comprehensive 19-week program offers an opportunity for spiritual growth and theological exploration.

The sessions will take place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings  
February 18 to June 27, 2025  
7:00-9:00 pm (EST)

### **Session Highlights:**

Topic 1: Biblical Studies

Topic 2: Moral Theology

Topic 3: Armenian Church Hymnology

Topic 4: Armenian Liturgical Theology

Topic 5: Armenian Systematic Theology

Topic 6: Armenian Church History

Topic 7: General Church History

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**For information and enrollment visit [www.SaintsSahagandMesrob.com](http://www.SaintsSahagandMesrob.com)**

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Dear Prelacy parishioners and friends,

We are pleased to inform you that the Religious and Executive Councils of the Eastern Prelacy have established the Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Institute to contribute to the development of Christian education in the Armenian community.

This online course, which will start on February 18, will include subjects such as an introduction to the Bible, the history of the Armenian Church, theology, liturgy, music, and pastoral theology. For registration, please [click here](#).


These subjects will be taught by qualified instructors, including Father Paul Tarazi, a Bible specialist and former professor at St. Vladimir's and Holy Cross seminaries; Dr. Michael Papazian, Professor of Religion and Philosophy at Berry University; Dr. George Leylegian, a specialist in the liturgy of the Armenian Church; as well as clergy members of the Eastern Prelacy.

We are confident that our community will appreciate this initiative through their participation, providing us with the opportunity to develop future, innovative programs for the growth and strengthening of our faith and identity.

Prayerfully,

ARCHBISHOP ANOUSHAVAN  
Prelate

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## FEASTS OF THE WEEK

**Thursday, February 6:** Sts. Sophia and her three daughters — Pistis, Elpis, and Agapi.

**Saturday, February 8:** Sons and grandsons of St. Gregory our Illuminator: Sts. Aristakes, Vrtanes, Housik, Grigoris, and Daniel.

**SONS AND GRANDSONS OF ST. GREGORY**



The Armenian Church collectively remembers the sons and grandsons of St. Gregory the Illuminator this Saturday, February 8, namely, Saints Aristakes, Vrtanes, Housik, Grigoris, as well as Daniel, who was not related, but was a distinguished and beloved student. All of them continued the work of St. Gregory, preaching the word of Christ at great personal peril.

Gregory had two sons, Aristakes and Vrtanes. Aristakes, the younger son, succeeded Gregory as Catholicos. He represented the Armenian Church at the first ecumenical council of Nicaea in 325. It was at this council that the Nicene Creed, recited to this day during the Divine Liturgy, was written and adopted. Aristakes was martyred around 333 and Vrtanes—at this time over 70 years old—was called upon to become Catholicos and served eight years until his death. Vrtanes had two sons, Grigoris and Housik. Grigoris preached in Georgia and Caucasian Albania (now in present-day Azerbaijan), where he was martyred. Housik was called upon to assume the catholicosal throne. He was martyred in 347. Daniel is included with the sons and grandsons because of his special close relationship with the family. He was chosen to succeed Housik as Catholicos, but never actually served as he too was martyred one year later, in 348.

St. Nerses and St. Sahak were the great-grandchildren of St. Gregory the Illuminator, and the Armenian Church observes their feasts on separate occasions.

[Click Here to Ready the Prelacy E-Newsletter Crossroads](#)



## **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](mailto:shant@armenianprelacy.org)

*Որք միանգամ ի Քրիստոս մկրտեցարուք, սքրիստոս 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](#)

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## **SOORP ASDVADZADZIN CHURCH NEWS**

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***Year of Revitalizing our Traditions***

Holy Trinity and SoorpAsdvadzadzin  
Armenian Apostolic Churches  
Celebration of Dyarnuntarach



on the Occasion of the  
Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord  
at 40 Days to the Temple

Thursday, February 13, 2023, at 6:00 PM  
St. Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church  
315 Church St., Whitinsville, MA



Presided by Very Rev. Fr. Ardag Arabian

Following the Evening Service the Presentation of the  
Children will take place, as well as the procession  
outside and the lighting of the traditional bonfire.  
The Whitinsville and Worcester Communities are  
invited to attend this special service.

Fellowship & Refreshments Following the Service.

**FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF  
THE LORD TO THE TEMPLE**

On February 14, the Armenian Church celebrates the Feast of the Lord's Presentation to the Temple. Dyarnuntarach, which means "going forward to the Lord", symbolizes the presentation of the 40 day-old Christ Child to the Temple in Jerusalem. In accordance with the Law of Moses, the infant Christ was brought to the Temple by Mary and Joseph and presented to God. This was the first introduction of Jesus into the house of God. A man named Simeon was there, to whom it had been revealed that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord. Simeon held the infant in his arms, blessed God, and said, "*Lord, let your servant now depart in peace, for my eyes have seen your Salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people. A Light to lighten the Gentiles, and the Glory of Your people, Israel.*" (Luke 2:29-32).

Some pre-Christian Armenian customs have been incorporated with the feast, including one of the most popular. In the tradition of the Church, Evening Services (Nakhadonag) are conducted on the night preceding the Feast Day (Feb. 13). At the conclusion of the service, the priest lights a candle from the Holy Altar, and distributes the flame to all present, after which, they proceed outside to light a bonfire using a flame from the church. People gather around the fire and the young men leap over the flames (***We will Not be leaping over the flames***). The light of the bonfire is symbolic of Christ, the light of our lives.

**On Thursday, February 13**, the clergy, parishioners and friends of Holy Trinity and Soorp Asdvadzadzin Church will be celebrating Dyarnuntarach on the eve of this feast day. We invite you to join us for the Evening Service with the presentation of the children followed by the procession out to the fire pit to light the bonfire, after which everyone is invited to join us in the church hall for fellowship.



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**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](mailto:der.mikaeldk@gmail.com)) to schedule the service for your home.

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## **Men's Club of Soorp Asdvadzadzin Church**

Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church of Whitinsville Men's Club dinners will be served on the 3rd Thursday of each month (September through June) in the church hall.

All men of the community who wish to attend are welcome to join us and enjoy a great meal along with the camaraderie of their friends.

Mezza/Drinks from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm followed by dinner. A brief business meeting follows.

Dinners are \$25.00/person All Inclusive.

**The next Men's Club Meeting will take place on Thursday, February 20; RSVP requested (use contact info below).**

Contact Peter Bedrosian for more information at 774-462-8077 or via email at [bedrozip@hotmail.com](mailto:bedrozip@hotmail.com)

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SOORP ASDVADZADZIN CHURCH  
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Following the Divine Liturgy

(A Light Lunch will be served prior to the meeting.)

We Encourage All Our Members to Attend

*Your Voice Matters!*

*Your Membership Matters!*

Put your faith in action by sharing your unique gifts toward building a giving, caring, and supporting community that perpetuates our rich, unique Armenian heritage for future generations.

In accordance with the Prelacy By-Laws, a Parishioner must have paid his/her 2024 Membership Dues to participate in voting.

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**TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY (AM & PM)**



**Tuesday**

**Bible  
Study**

**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.**

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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](#)



### **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!***

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

***Say it with Altar Flowers and/or Candles***



**If you would like to donate Altar Flowers or Candles for February,  
Please contact Yeva Der Kosroffian at 508-514-863 or via email  
[yevaderk23@gmail.com](mailto:yevaderk23@gmail.com) or you may call the church office  
at 508-234-3677 or email us at [soorpasdvadzadin@gmail.com](mailto: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

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## HOKEHANKIST / REQUIEM SERVICE



**In Memory of:**

*Lusiya Samkiranian*  
*Azadouhi Harootunian*

**Requested by:**

**Ann Samkiranian**  
**Lusiya Thibault**  
**Raffi and Armine Samkiranian and Family**  
**Elizabeth Telian**  
**Vartan and Olga Telian and Family**  
**Aram Telian**  
**Simon Telian**

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**Lighting Candles and Prayer Requests**

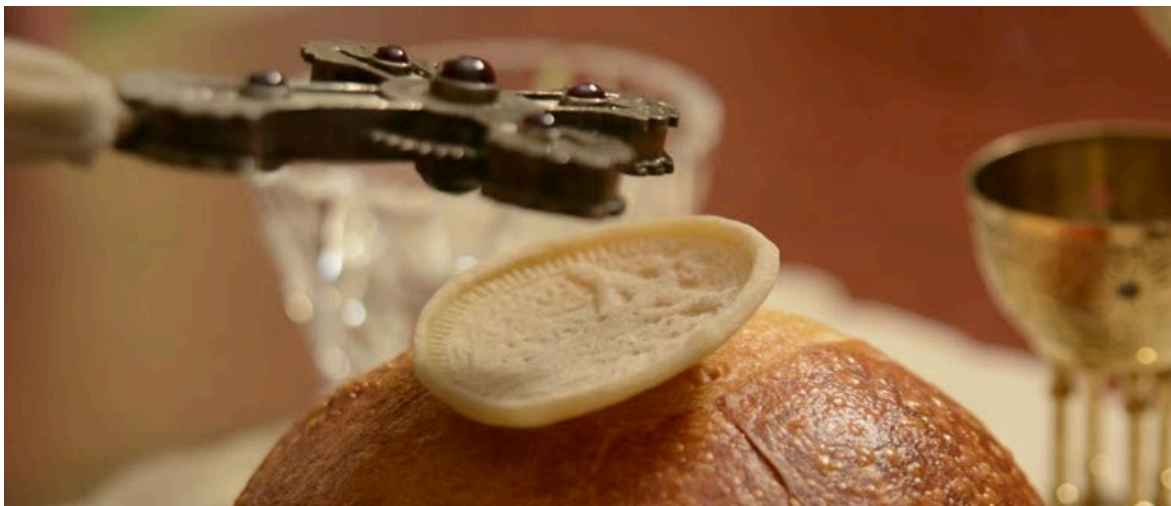
Lighting a candle is a way of extending one's prayer and showing solidarity with the person on whose behalf the prayer is offered.



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](mailto:der.mikaeldk@gmail.com)

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## 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: [soorpasdvdzdzin@gmail.com](mailto:soorpasdvdzdzin@gmail.com) or Office: 508-234-3677**

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# + 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](mailto:der.mikaeldk@gmail.com) or [soorpasvdzadzin@gmail.com](mailto:soorpasvdzadzin@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 774-462-8041

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**FROM OUR ARCHIVES...**



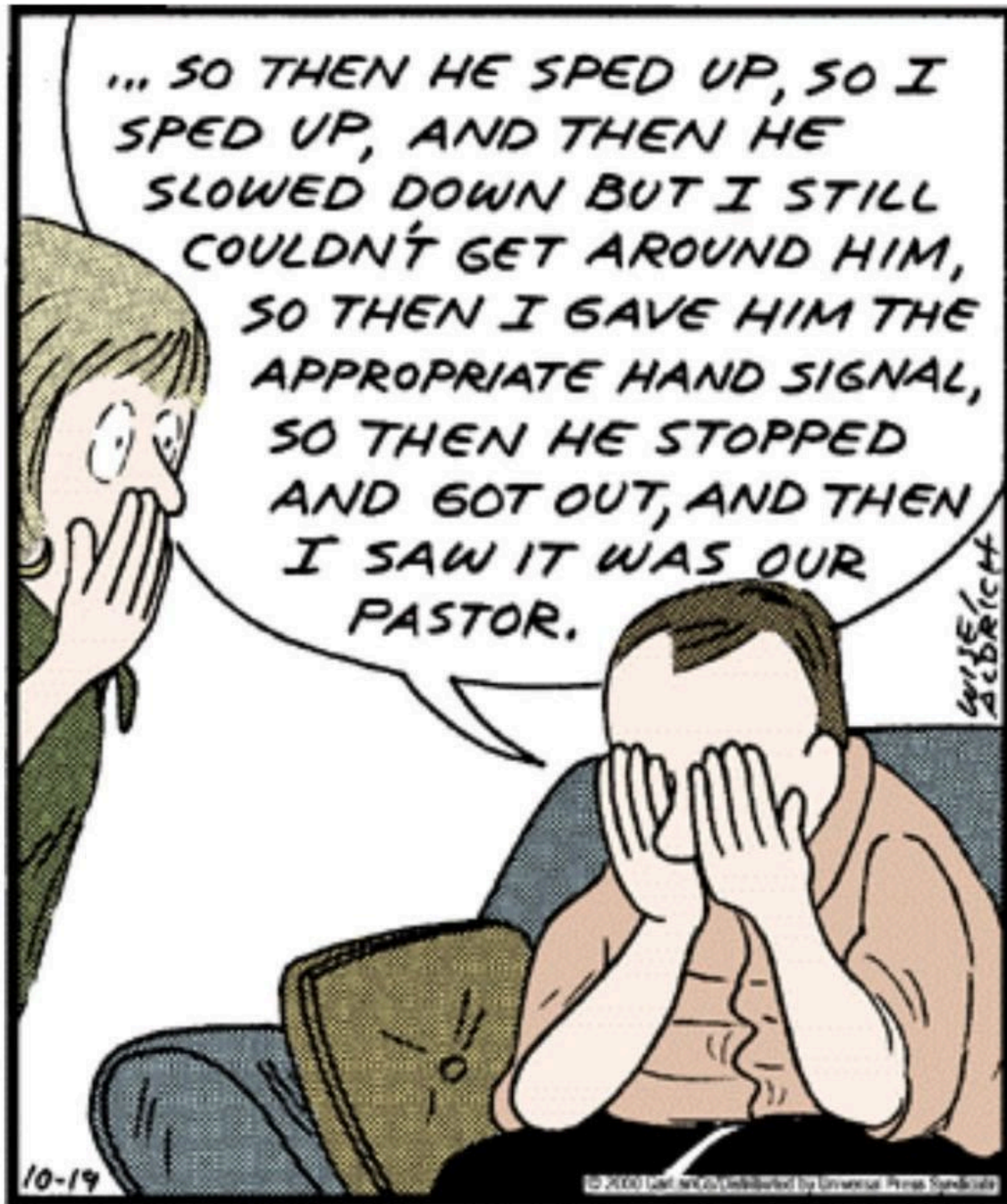
**Presentation of the Children During the Celebration of  
Dyarnuntarach- February 2023**

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**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.**

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***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

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## 2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please save these dates and support our church.

February 11 — Bible Study (AM & PM).

February 12 — Peace of Bread.

February 13 — Presentation of the Lord to the Temple Service & Fellowship.

February 18 — Bible Study (AM & PM).

February 20 — Men's Club Dinner/Meeting.

February 23 — General Membership Meeting.

February 25 — Bible Study (AM & PM).

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### ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR E-NEWS LETTER?

Please send your inquiries and comments to [soorpasdvadzadzin@gmail.com](mailto:soorpasdvadzadzin@gmail.com)

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Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church | 508-234-3677 |  
315 Church St., Whitinsville, MA 01588 | [www.armenianchurchofwhit.org](http://www.armenianchurchofwhit.org)