



# SOORP ASDVADZADZIN

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH  
OF WHITINSVILLE



**E-Newsletter: Friday, May 2, 2025**

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

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

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## PRAYER OF THE WEEK

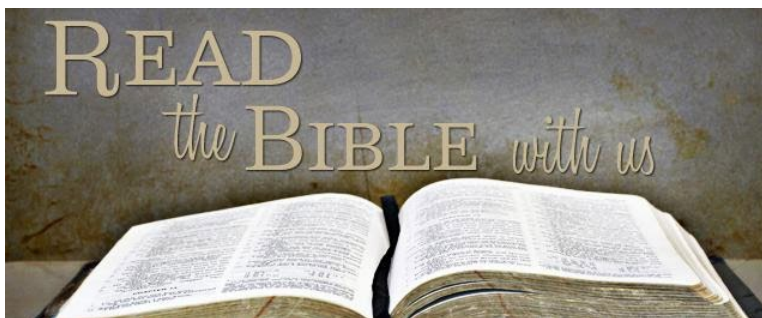
**I glorify you, God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and give thanks to him who has kept me in peace this night, to him who has led me from darkness to light, from death to life, from ignorance to the knowledge of his truth. Lord, please keep watch over your faithful people, strengthen those fleeing persecution, 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. Amen.**

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## Let's Read the Bible!

### Readings of the week



#### **Monday, May 5:**

Acts 9:32-43; 1 Peter 2:11-17; John 3:13-21

#### **Tuesday, May 6:**

Acts 10:1-23; 1 Peter 2:18-25; John 3:22-36

**Wednesday, May 7:**

Acts 10:24-48; 1 Peter 3:1-9; John 4:1-23

**Thursday, May 8:**

Acts 11:1-26; 1 Peter 3:10-22; John 4:24-42

**Friday, May 9:**

Acts 11:27 - 12:24; 1 Peter 4:1-11; John 4:43-54

**Saturday, May 10:**

Acts 12:25 - 13:15; 1 Peter 4:12-19; John 5:1-18

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**SUNDAY BIBLE READING**

**Bible Readings for Sunday, May 4, 2025**

**Sunday of the World Church (Green Sunday)**

**1 PETER 2:1-10**

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone,

a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,  
“The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,”

and “A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.”  
They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people;  
once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

### **JOHN 2:23 - 3:12**

When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to testify about anyone; for he himself knew what was in everyone.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I

tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

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

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**GREEN SUNDAY, SUNDAY OF THE WORLD CHURCH**



Easter Sunday is followed by a period of fifty days (Hinoonk). This period from the Resurrection to Pentecost (Hokekaloost) is dedicated to the glorification of the Resurrection. Each of the seven Sundays of Hinoonk has a special name. This Sunday, May 4, is Green Sunday (Ganach Giragi), also called Sunday of the World Church (Ashkharhamadoor), that commemorates the establishment in Jerusalem of the first Christian church where Christ met with the Apostles in the upper room.

Green Sunday most probably originates in an ancient holiday celebrating spring. Our forefathers, seeing mother earth bloom after long winter months, glorified the Creator with an act of thanksgiving and celebrated by decorating the church and themselves with greenery. The reawakening of nature is symbolic of the Resurrection. Green is the color of life, freshness, and promise. After a barren winter and with the Resurrection we are filled with hope, life, and love.

Green Sunday is the perfect time for us to remember and strengthen our obligations as good stewards of the earth and caretakers of the gifts given to us by God.



*You nations, made worthy to be called to give glory to Christ our God, come, sing to the Lord a new song, rejoice and praise his name with a new praise with the voice of Joy. O Christ, we who believe in you with true confession bless the mystery of your divine, life-giving economy glorifying your wonderful and awesome name, O Lord, Lord great over all the earth. Holy Church, bride initiated into the heavenly mystery, rejoice to the glory of the all-Holy Trinity who has adorned you with all its gifts and who is to crown you with glory the divine light with all his saints.*

(Canon of Green Sunday, Sunday of the World Church, according to the Liturgical Canons of the Armenian Church)

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### **ON GENOCIDE MEMORIAL DAY, ARCHBISHOP ANOUSHAVAN WARNS AGAINST THE SINS OF FORGETTING**



On Sunday, April 27, a joint Divine Liturgy was celebrated on the occasion of Genocide Memorial Day at the St. Vartan Cathedral of New York. His Grace Bishop Mesrop, Primate, celebrated the Divine Liturgy and His Eminence Archbishop Anoushavan, Prelate, delivered the sermon. Rev. Fr Mesrob Lakissian, Pastor of St. Illuminator's Cathedral, also participated in the service.

After the Divine Liturgy, the audience marched from St. Vartan Cathedral to Times Square to participate in the traditional genocide commemoration.

In his sermon, Archbishop Anoushavan said:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am grateful to the Almighty Lord, that in the footsteps of the former Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian and the former Prelate Archbishop Oshagan Cholyan, who established a tradition of offering a joint, Holy Badarak on the centennial anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, here, on the 110th anniversary, with my spiritual Brother, His Grace Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan, again we are offering the Holy Badarak to the glory of the Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ, and in honor of our one and half million martyrs.

We are here for Remembrance and Thanksgiving, as well as for Commitment.

a) We are here to remember and invoke the martyrdom of our parents and grandparents. We are here also to thank the Almighty Lord because after being uprooted from our five-thousand-year-old ancestral lands, but led by His Providential care, we were welcomed and hosted in different countries, and particularly to the United States. We are thankful that as former sojourners, now we are well established citizens in respectful hosting countries. We are thankful that as a distinct nation, we are part and parcel of the larger family of nations.

b) We are here also to renew our commitment to raising our voice for justice and our rights. We learn from the Holy Scripture that the Almighty Source of Life called upon Cain for accountability, asking him, "Cain, where is Abel, your brother?" Upon the denial of the latter, the Righteous God gave the verdict (Gen 4:8-12). Hence, it is not only divinely ordained, but it is our bounden duty to demand accountability from the executioners for the extermination of almost half of our nation.

In recent years, we hear more often that it is time to forgive, to forget and to move on. As Christians, truly it is our duty to forgive, as Jesus Himself commanded that we must do so not only once or seven times, but



seventy times seven times (Mt )18:21-22. Unfortunately, as Cain denied assuming responsibility for his audacious action by saying, “Am I my brother’s keeper?”, likewise the perpetrators of the unprecedented Genocide not only ask for forgiveness, but deny and distort the crime, and moreover, their descendants continue their so-called unaccomplished misdeeds. Actually, we all witnessed that the end of the twentieth century and the beginning of the twenty-first have been marked by a string of genocidal acts against Armenians, from the Sumgait, Kirovabad, Baku, and Maragha pogroms and the uprooting of 300,000 Armenians from Azerbaijan, followed by the cultural genocide in Nakhichevan and, most recently, the forced deportation of 120,000 Armenians from Artsakh, preceded by a nine-month-long inhumane blockade. Finally, Azerbaijan, which was created barely a century ago, shamelessly declares that historic Armenia should be deemed “Western Azerbaijan.”

My dear brothers and sisters, to forget the Armenian Genocide means nothing less than escapism from reality. It means willingly to ignore our conscious commitment, and to become self-content in our selfish comfort zone. It means that in our daily lives, at any time, whenever we personally become victims of any ill-behavior or crime, we should forget and not appeal to the court. When we say that everything is okay, and that we should move on, then we are encouraging chaos and anarchy over order, darkness over light, and death over life.

God Himself says, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay” (Deut. 32:35 and Romans 12:19). Therefore, let us turn the 110th anniversary’s irreversible opportunity, collectively and with determined positive commitment, into the pursuit of justice and righteousness, and through our bitter experience, let us support all the minorities who are the victims of contemporary atrocities in the four corners of the world.

May the Lord lead us from morn to morn (Psalm 45/46.5) to welcome and greet a brighter future for our nation and for all mankind. Amen.

[Click Here to Read the Prelacy'S E-Newsletter Crossroads](#)

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**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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# SAVE THE DATE



## ST. GREGORY OF DATEV INSTITUTE



**July 6-13, 2025**

**The Summer Program will take place at**

**Shiloh Bible Camp & Retreat Center**

**753 Burnt Meadow Road**

**Hewitt, NJ 07421**

One of the most popular programs of the Armenian Prelacy is the St. Gregory of Datev Institute Summer Program for youth ages 13-18, affectionately called "Datev". Sponsored and organized by the Prelacy's Christian Education Department, the St. Gregory of Datev Institute offers

a unique faith-based program for our youth in a wholesome and nurturing environment with three-pronged objectives: Christian education and formation, prayer and worship, and fellowship and recreational activities.

The comprehensive Christian educational program is completed in four years, one week each summer. Those who complete the program are offered the option to return for post-graduate classes. Each year, the students receive about 20 hours of instruction. The curriculum includes the Bible, the sacraments of the Armenian Church with emphasis on the Divine Liturgy (Soorp Badarak), Armenian Church feasts and saints, Armenian Church creeds and theology, prayer and worship, as well as discussions on contemporary moral and ethical issues.

The daily life of the students at Datev is framed by 20-30 minute morning and evening prayers. Every morning the students assemble at the chapel for the Aravodyan or the Arevakal service according to the tradition of the Armenian church, and at the close of the day, before retiring to their rooms, the students once again gather for the Compline (Husgoom) service.

The daily schedule of the Program is tempered by afternoon sports and recreational activities, as well as with special excursions, all aiming to foster positive and lasting friendships among the students.

For more information, please contact Deacon Shant Kazanjian, Director of Christian Education at the Eastern Prelacy:

**Tel: (212) 689-7810**

**Email: [shant@armenianprelacy.org](mailto:shant@armenianprelacy.org).**

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## **SOORP ASDVADZADZIN CHURCH NEWS**

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### **SACRAMENTS BAPTISM**





**Easton Joseph Meyers**, son of Zack Meyers & Jacqueline Derderian was baptized on Sunday, April 25, 2025. Godparents are Chris Biuso and Erin Eknoian. Congratulations to the Derderian and Meyers Families!

**We dedicate this prayer of Naregatzì on Holy Chrism to the newly baptized child.**

*"For those who present themselves to be anointed with this oil, let them be like a bride, as for a glorious wedding, beautifully arrayed in holy splendor, their souls adorned with happiness." (Nareg 93: X)*



## Birth Announcements



### Rita Mae Seibold

Congratulations to Alison and Bill Seibold on the birth of their daughter.

Rita was born on Friday, April 18. She is Bill & Alison's fourth child, may God continue to shower them with His love and blessings.

Congratulations to the Amorello, Seibold, and Cronin Families!

### Emma Marie DePasquale

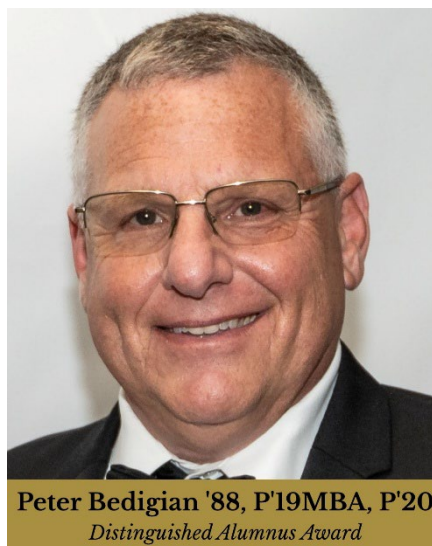
Congratulations to Michael Depasquale and Meg O'Connor on the birth of their daughter.

Emma was born on Wednesday, April 23. She is Michael and Meg's first born. We wish the new family the very best as they begin their new journey, may God continue to shower them with His love and blessings.

Congratulations to the DePasquale, O'Connor and Torosian Families.



## Peter Bedigian Recognized with the Distinguished Alumnus Award at Bryant University.



Peter Bedigian '88, P'19MBA, P'20  
*Distinguished Alumnus Award*

Peter Bedigian '88, P'19MBA, P'20 exemplifies the belief that a business is only as good as its people. As President and CEO of Omni Control Technology, Inc., Peter has lived by this concept for over three decades, a mindset attributed to his time at Bryant.

While at Bryant, Peter majored in Business Management and minored in Criminal Justice, where he honed his resource management skills. In his role, he expertly brings together the right people for the job and ensures they have the proper support and resources to excel. He also makes sure that the experts take the lead in their own fields.

*"I remember a professor saying, 'I'm the professor, but I'm not the smartest person in the room. We will learn from each other this semester,'"* he says. Peter recalls his professor's insights that profoundly influenced his leadership style: collaboration and respect for diverse expertise are crucial in any setting.

In 1992, while serving as a part-time police officer, Peter founded Omni as a small business with just three employees. Since then, he has transformed the company into a globally recognized enterprise. In 2016,

Peter led Omni through a major acquisition by NIBE, a publicly traded Swedish company recognized worldwide for sustainable energy solutions. As a part of the acquisition, Peter continues to lead Omni today. Now part of NIBE's worldwide footprint, Omni has continued to grow and has become a leader in automation.

Omni specializes in designing and producing advanced automation solutions. Their technology, including control panels, streamlines operations for different commercial and industrial applications. For example, their technology is used by Amazon to direct different elements of their fulfillment process and by Gillette to control the machines that make razor blade cartridges.

Some of his fondest memories have included working alongside his family. Both of his parents and his two children have held roles at Omni. His father, one of his first employees, retired from the company at the age of 90 in 2020.

Developing his team, he says, is incredibly rewarding. By focusing on learning from his employees, identifying their strengths, and aiding them in overcoming challenges, Peter has created a culture at Omni that prioritizes professional success and nurtures personal growth.

"It's all about the team with me," he says.

Der Hayr, The Board of Trustees, The Ladies Guild and the entire family of Soorp Asdvadzadzin Church congratulate Peter for receiving this prestigious award.

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**April 24 Commemoration at the State House**





Everyone was looking forward to Holy Saturday. After the Morning Prayer Service, the children and families received Holy Communion. Following the service everyone gathered in the church hall for a delicious breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes and hash browns prepared by Vernon Yergatian, Matthew Porter and George Khoury.







**Whitinsville & Worcester Communities Commemorate  
the 110th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide**





On April 24, members of Church of Our Savior, Holy Trinity Church and Church of the Martyrs joined Soorp Asdvadzadzin Church to commemorate the 110th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide with a prayer service which began at the Khatchkar with a procession led by the clergy into the sanctuary.

Following the service, Very Rev. Fr. Ardag Arabian, Pastor of Holy Trinity Church delivered a very powerful and moving message. The service concluded with the singing of "Der Voghormia" and everyone was invited to the church hall for a light meal which was prepared by the ladies of the Worcester and Whitinsville communities, and fellowship.

***The service and Hayr Soorp's message can be viewed on our FB page.***













## LADIES GUILD TEA PARTY



You are Invited to Join  
the Ladies Guild for a

# Tea Party



Saturday, May 10  
12-2pm

Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Church  
315 Church Street, Whitinsville, MA

**Tickets: \$25**

RSVP: Susana DerKosrobian  
(781) 281-4445 or [susanadk25@yahoo.com](mailto:susanadk25@yahoo.com)





# ARS



## PAINT NIGHT



WITH TALAR



Talar Aprahamian is a health teacher at WPS who loves exploring the world of art in her free time. She has enjoyed working with various art forms over the years and is excited to share her creations with you. Talar is also a proud member of the ARS Worcester Knar chapter!

FRIDAY, MAY 30 | 6 PM - 8 PM

HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH  
635 GROVE ST. WORCESTER, MA

RSVP

Marilyn (508) 868-1398

\$30 TICKET

Light Refreshments & Material  
Will Be Provided



## See you there!

HOSTED BY ARS KNAR CHAPTER



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



**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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## **Church Membership**

**We wish to welcome you to join our Church family by becoming a dues-paying member. Anyone reaching the age of eighteen (18) is eligible to become a member entitling them to participate in the governing process of our Church allowing its members to vote and hold office.**

**The vitality of our church rests in your hands. Being part of our Church community offers another home - a home of worship, love, and togetherness. Therefore your active participation in the life of our Church will keep our community vibrant.**

**Your time, treasures, and talents are greatly appreciated as we strengthen our faith and dedication to the Armenian Church and its traditions. For more information on how to become a dues-paying member, please call the church office, see a member of the Board of Trustees or email [soorpasdvardzadin@gmail.com](mailto:soorpasdvardzadin@gmail.com)**

**Your financial support through Annual Membership Dues and Stewardship helps to provide the resources needed to maintain our facilities and grow our outreach. It is through your support that our Church is able to fulfill its mission.**

**With joy let us participate in caring for our spiritual home that is always here for us.**

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**INVESTING IN OUR ARMENIAN YOUTH**

**SAVE THE DATE  
HIGHLIGHTS TALENT  
JUNE 7, 2025**

**Saturday, June 7th, 2025 @ 6 pm  
First Baptist Church ~ Gordon Hall,  
111 Park Ave Worcester, MA**

**Enjoy a delicious buffet!**

**CALLING ALL TALENTED PERFORMERS AGES 4-99!**

**\*\*Individual and group acts welcome  
OR join the Armenian Youth Chorus \*\***

**Talent Coordinator: Linda Bullock (508) 353-9257 [lindajbullock@charter.net](mailto:lindajbullock@charter.net)  
Other Questions: Linda Bogosian (508) 826-8660 [lindajbogolian@gmail.com](mailto:lindajbogolian@gmail.com)**

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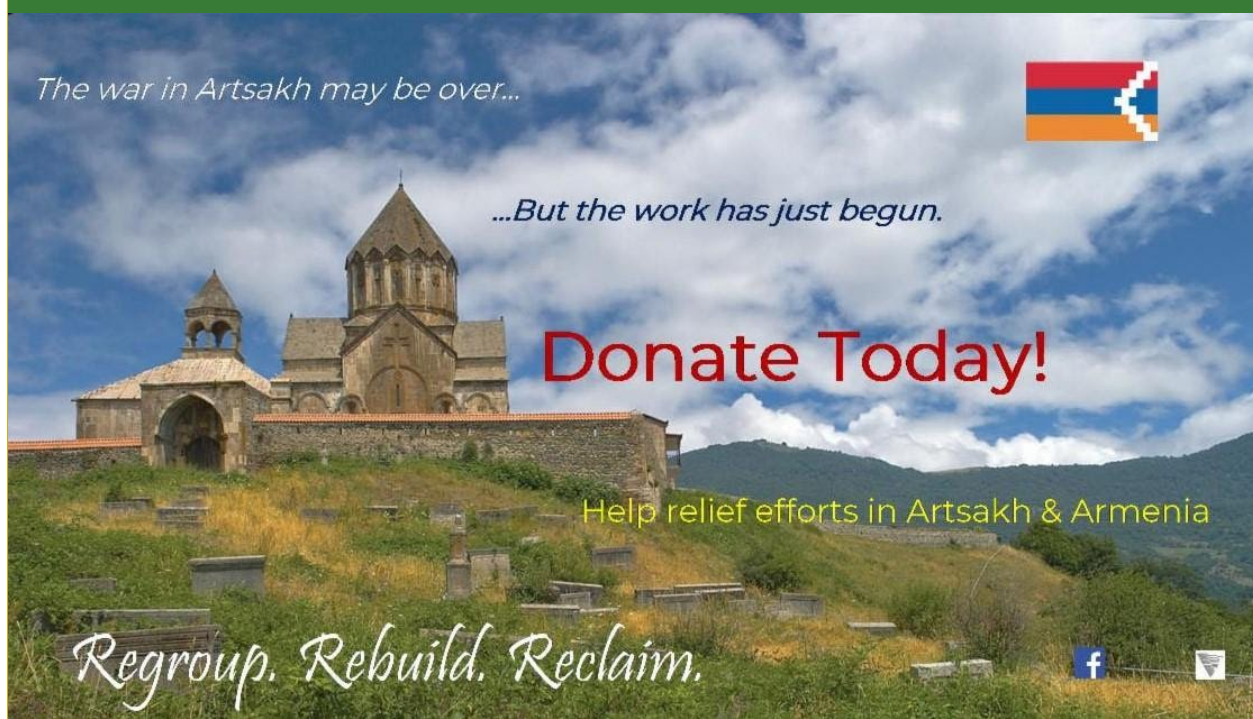




**This Sunday is hosted by members of the Ladies Guild.**

**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.**

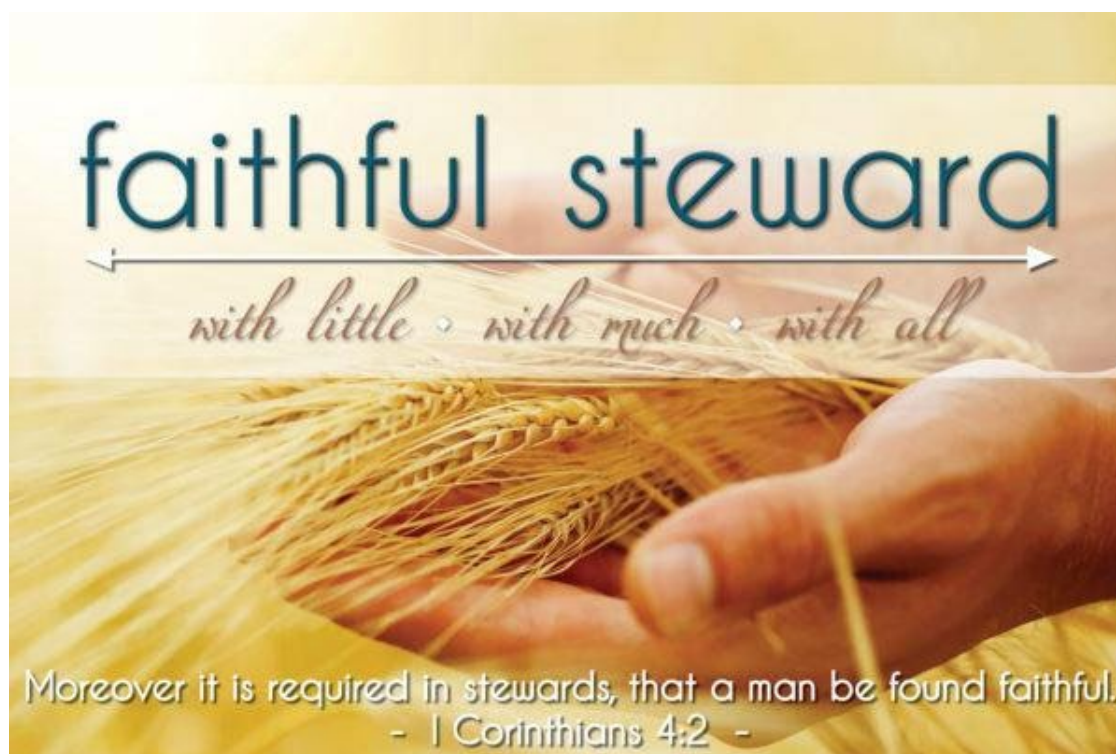
**Your secure donation will help to continue our humanitarian assistance in Armenia.**

### **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!***

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

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

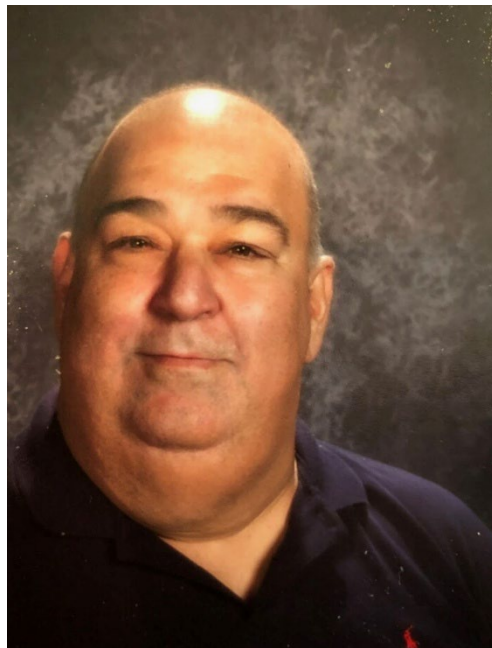


**Altar Flowers and Candles for the Month of May are Donated  
by  
Jeff & Betty Smith and Family in Memory of  
Nish and Vicky Ovian**



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**Altar Flowers and Candles for the Month of May are Donated  
by  
Jeanne and Zachary Papazian  
in Memory of  
David Papazian,  
John & Julia Peterson,  
and George & Varsenig Papazian**



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**Altar Flowers for the Month of May are donated by  
Claire Malkasian and Family  
in Memory of Enoch Malkasian**





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**If you would like to donate Altar Flowers, Candles or Incense  
for any month in 2025,  
Please contact Yeva Der Kosrobian at 508-514-8613 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:**

***Yesayi and Siranush Kalousdian  
Sebouh and Margaret Kalousdian  
Ogsen and Zartoohi Krikorian and Family  
George and Agnes Krikorian  
Mary Krikorian  
Kenneth Krikorian  
Armen and Veranush Samarjian  
Irene, Todd and Deborah Samarjian-Moberg***

**Requested by:**

***Jeffrey Kalousdian  
Van and Priscilla Krikorian and Family  
Francis and Melanie Walker and Family  
Kyle and Mallory Pfantz***

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

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### **Lighting Candles and Prayer Requests**

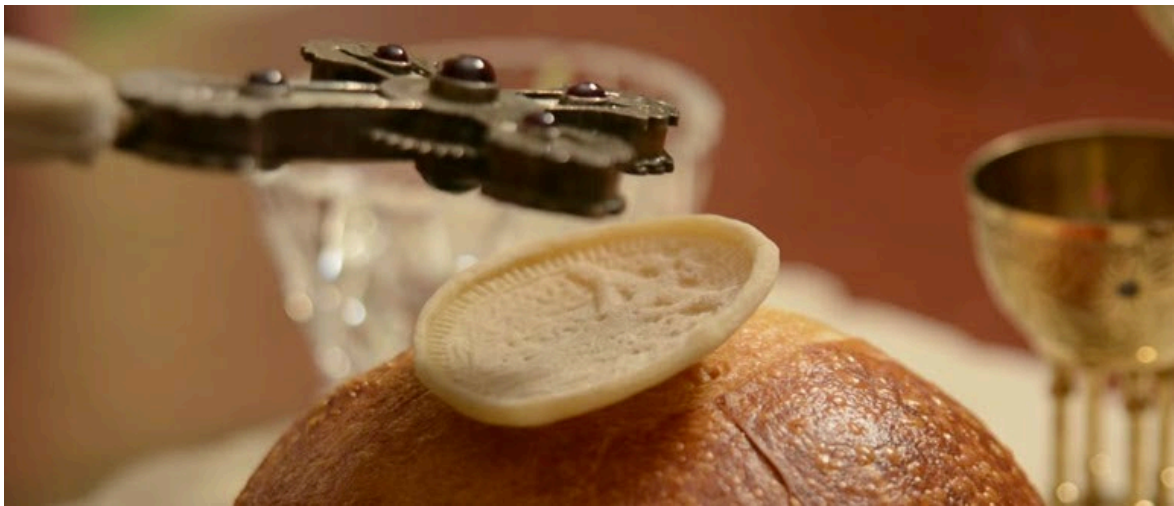
Lighting a candle is a way of extending one's prayer and showing solidarity with the person on whose behalf the prayer is offered.



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

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# Home Blessings



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, 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 home-dwellers, 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.

If you would like to have your home blessed, please contact Der Hayr at [der.mikaeldk@gmail.com](mailto:der.mikaeldk@gmail.com) or 774-462-8041.

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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 [soorpasdvadzadzin@gmail.com](mailto:soorpasdvadzadzin@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 774-462-8041

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES...



Ladies Guild Tea Party - 2018



**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.....***



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### **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.

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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.

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## **2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Please save these dates and support our church.**

May 2-3 — Deacon's Seminar.

May 6 — Bible Study.

May 13 — Bible Study.

May 14 — Peace of Bread.

May 15 — Men's Club Meeting & Dinner.

May 20 — Bible Study.

May 26 — Memorial Day Service at Pine Grove Cemetery.

May 28-31 — National Representative Assembly.

June 3 — Bible Study.

June 10 — Bible Study Dinner.

June 14 — Church Yard Sale.

June 19 — Men's Club Meeting & Dinner.

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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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