



SOORP ASDVADZADZIN

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
OF WHITINSVILLE



E-Newsletter: Friday, June 20, 2025

Join Us for Prayer & Worship this Sunday

Morning Service: 10:30

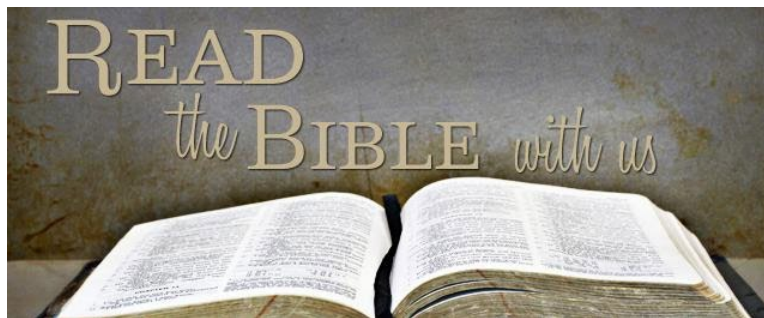
Archpriest Fr. Gomidas Baghsarian presiding

with Deacons & Choir

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Our Lord and Savior, you miraculously designed in luminous form Holy Etchmiadzin. You made it a storehouse of your unfading divine grace so that it may be the parent, teacher, and overseer of all the Armenian churches. Keep her without blemish, firm and bright for the glory of our churches and children until the end of the world, so that they may always glorify your name. Lord, please keep watch over your faithful people and the holy soil of Artsakh and Armenia, now and always. Foil every aggressor against our homeland. Defend the innocent and voiceless, Lord. Deliver the world from every single conflict, and bestow your peace on all mankind. Amen.

Let's Read the Bible! Readings of the week



Monday, June 23:
Holy Innocents of Bethlehem
Proverbs 29:2-7; Isaiah 18:7; Hebrews 2:14-18; Matthew 2:16-18

Tuesday, June 24:
Sts. Nuneh and Maneh, Virgins

Isaiah 27:11-13; 1 Peter 5:8-11; John 12:24-26

Wednesday, June 25:

Romans 4:13-22; Matthew 10:34-42

Thursday, June 26:

Proverbs 6:1-5; Isaiah 33:5-8; Romans 8:18-27; Luke 21:12-19

Friday, June 27:

Romans 5:12-21; Matthew 11:25-30

Saturday, June 28:

Catholicos St. Nerses the Great

Wisdom 2:23 - 3:8; Isaiah 57:15-16; Hebrews 13:7-9; Matthew 10:16-22

SUNDAY BIBLE READING
Bible Readings for Sunday, June 22, 2025

Feast of Holy Etchmiadzin

HEBREWS 9:1-10

Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was constructed, the first one, in which were the lampstand, the table, and the bread of the Presence; this is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain was a tent called the Holy of Holies. In it stood the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which there were a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot speak now in detail.

Such preparations having been made, the priests go continually into the first tent to carry out their ritual duties; but only the high priest goes into the second, and he but once a year, and not without taking the blood that he offers for himself and for the sins committed unintentionally by the people. By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the sanctuary has not yet been disclosed as long as the first tent is still standing. This is a symbol of the present time, during which gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper, but deal only with food and drink and various baptisms, regulations for the body imposed until the time comes to set things right.

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO

JOHN 10:22-30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

LITURGICAL CALENDAR AND NEWS FROM PRELACY CROSSROADS

**CATHOLICOS PRESIDES OVER PLENARY SESSIONS OF
COUNCILS IN ANTELIAS, CALLS FOR RENEWAL**



His Holiness Catholicos Aram I presided over the plenary sessions of the Religious and Executive Councils of the Central Executive Council of the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia at the Holy See in Antelias from June 10 to 14. The sessions brought together all Prelates of the Catholicosate and representatives of the Prelacies' Executive Councils. Directors and trustees of all institutions and endowment funds of the Catholicosate also participated to report on their work.

The agenda included matters and projects related to the Seminary, the Khoren I Center, the Birds' Nest Orphanage, the Azounieh Armenian Clinic, the Nursing Home, Christian education, Bible translation, liturgical reform, inter-church and interfaith relations, the Cilicia Library and Museum, the Armenian Genocide Orphans' Aram Bezikian Museum, the Cilicia Analytical Platform, the Communications and Youth departments, construction, financial and administrative affairs, cultural programs, priestly formation, the journal Hask, and the general activity of each diocese.

Also discussed were the reorganization of the Catholicosate's Diaspora prelacies, the need for rejuvenation, the development of programs relevant to contemporary times, and the adoption of new methodologies.

Under the agenda item “Relations with the Patriarchal Sees and the Republic of Armenia,” the Assembly specifically discussed the aggressive conduct of the Armenian authorities toward the Catholicos of All Armenians and the high-ranking clergy of Holy Etchmiadzin. In this regard, the Assembly stated:

a) The relevant clauses of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia establish the principles of Church-State relations, primarily affirming their separation and, consequently, the independence of the Church. Promoting such interference is contrary to the Constitution.

b) Matters regarding the Church and clergy are governed by ecclesiastical canon law. Therefore, the State has no legal basis to intervene in Church-related issues.

c) The tone used in the public discussion of Church-related matters is strongly deplorable.

d) Faced with existential threats to the homeland and national security, purposeful efforts are called for to reject divisive actions.

e) Based on the principle of “One Nation, One Church,” the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia, as always, reaffirms its solidarity with the Catholicosate of All Armenians, rejecting all encroachments against it.

The Assembly expressed satisfaction that the prelacies of the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia are well-organized and vibrant. Despite events in the Middle East and severe security concerns, our historic prelacies in the region continue their active and community-oriented mission.

At the conclusion of the working sessions, His Holiness Catholicos Aram I emphasized the need—arising from ever-changing circumstances—to develop new conceptual approaches, adopt new methodologies, and especially to rejuvenate our institutional structures. He also highlighted the urgency of re-energizing the Diaspora through reorganization and revitalization. Finally, His Holiness stressed the need to unite around our supreme and shared values and ideals in the face of the crises

confronting our homeland and nation, steering away from actions that deepen internal divisions.

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](#)



FEASTS OF THE WEEK

Thursday, June 19: St. John the Baptist and Athenogenes the Bishop.

Saturday, June 21: St. Gregory the Illuminator—Deliverance from the Pit.

Sunday, June 22: Feast of Holy Echmiadzin.

Monday, June 23: The Holy Children of Bethlehem, Acacius the Martyr, Mucius the Priest, and Codratus the Soldier.

Tuesday, June 24: Sts. Nooneh and Maneh the Virgins.

SAINT JOHN THE FORERUNNER



On Thursday, June 19, we celebrated the Feast of St. John the Baptist (also called the Forerunner). John the Baptist is prominent in each of the four Gospels. He is associated with the beginning of the ministry of Jesus and regarded as the “forerunner” to Jesus the Messiah. He baptized those who repented their sins, and he preached the coming of one after him who is greater than he and would baptize not with water but with the Spirit. In the third chapter of Matthew, John is reluctant to baptize Jesus and does so only after encouragement from Jesus. The Armenian Church considers St. John the Baptist as one of the three prime intercessors to Jesus, the other two being the Holy Virgin and St. Stephen the Protomartyr.

FEAST OF ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR: DELIVERANCE FROM THE PIT



This Saturday, June 21, is the Feast of St. Gregory the Illuminator's deliverance from the pit (Khor Viraben Yelkuh). Gregory is revered as the patron saint of the Armenian Church. He is recognized and memorialized in both eastern and western hierarchical churches. The Armenian liturgical calendar reserves three feast days in his honor: Entrance into the pit; deliverance from the pit, and discovery of relics. In addition to these three days, there are several feast days to which he is closely connected, namely the feast days for Sts. Hripsimiantz, Sts. Gayaniantz, Shoghakat, Holy Etchmiadzin, and King Trdat. The Roman Catholic Church, Orthodox churches, and Oriental Orthodox churches have special days in their calendars for the veneration of St. Gregory, who is considered to be one of the Fathers of the early Christian church.

Gregory was condemned to the pit in 287 AD by King Trdat and the persecution of Christians began. After the martyrdom of a group of nuns who came to Armenia from Rome led by Hripsime and Gayane, Trdat was stricken with strange maladies. His sister, Khosrovidukht, had a dream that Gregory was the only person who could heal her brother. Miraculously, Gregory was still alive after many years in the pit, thanks to the daily visits of an angel. Gregory emerged from the pit; the king was healed and baptized, and he declared Christianity to be the official religion of Armenia.

Gregory was not the first to preach Christianity in Armenia. That distinction belongs to the apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew who came to Armenia in the first century, and thus gave the Armenian Church its apostolic designation. Nevertheless, Gregory is revered and is considered by Armenians to be the father of their faith. Hundreds of churches have been built and named in his honor.

“The ancient calendars of the still undivided Church celebrated him [Gregory] on the same day in both the East and the West as a tireless apostle of truth and holiness. The father in faith of the whole Armenian people, St. Gregory still intercedes from heaven today, so that all the children of your great nation may at last gather round the one table prepared by Christ, the divine Shepherd of one flock.”

Pope John Paul II in his “Apostolic Letter for the 1700th Anniversary of the Baptism of the Armenian People,” issued February 2, 2001.

FEAST OF HOLY ETCHMIADZIN



Its name, Etchmiadzin, means “The Place Where the Only Begotten Came Down,” and its eternal message—that the Son of God touched the earth, shared in our humanity, even mystically struck the soil of our homeland—is as deeply meaningful today as it was seventeen centuries ago.

This Sunday, June 22, the Armenian Church celebrates the Feast of the Catholic Church of Holy Etchmiadzin (canonically known as Don Sourp Etchmiadzini Gatoghiguh Yegeghetzin).

The cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin was built in A.D. 303, after St. Gregory the Illuminator had a vision in which Christ struck the ground with a golden hammer and instructed Gregory to erect a church on the site.

The feast day commemorates the founding of the Universal Church (the idea that there was one church, founded by Jesus Christ and spread by the Apostles) and St. Gregory’s vision. It follows the Feast of St. Gregory the Enlightener’s Deliverance from the Pit, which will be observed tomorrow.

Etchmiadzin is the oldest example of a four- pillar, cruciform church in Christian architecture. More than 1,700 years old, it is the oldest surviving Armenian Christian site. Relief sculptures on the exterior walls are some of the oldest examples of the Christian Armenian art of sculpting.

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

SOORP ASDVADZADZIN CHURCH NEWS

Church Yard Sale This Saturday (Tomorrow)

The rain last Saturday prevented us from having our annual yard sale. But the event will take place tomorrow, June 21 starting at 8 AM.

Lunch will be available, a delicious combo meal of 1 Losh Kebab, Pilav and bottled water for \$10.

Don't miss out on the great deals and our delicious meals!

**SOORP ASDVADZADZIN ARMENIAN CHURCH OF
WHITINSVILLE'S ANNUAL COMMUNITY YARD SALE**



SATURDAY, JUNE 14 • 8AM TO 2PM
315 Church Street, Whitinsville

Dealer Spaces Available! It's like having your very own yard sale on church grounds!

- Dealer space donation is \$15 per spot.
- A limited number of tables are available to rent at \$5 each while supplies last.
- If you would rather donate items, the church will have its own yard sale table.
- Invite your friends and neighbors to set up too! All are welcome!

Save the Date: Admission to the buying public is free!

A few rules and requests for dealers:

1. Please bring home what you don't sell. There is no disposal for unsold items.
2. Your space will be clean, please return it in the same condition.
3. Please no chemicals, hazardous materials, anything illegal.
4. Dealer set up begins at 7am. Grounds must be cleared by 3pm.
5. \$15 space rental fee can be made on morning of yard sale in cash or check payable to "Armenian Church".

For more information and to reserve a dealer space contact Jeff at katama@gmail.com

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY (AM & PM)



Bible Study Will Resume in September

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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

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

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

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

Men's Club Hosts Kheyima Night!



Nearly 80 people were served their choice of kheyma or oven baked chicken during the Men's Club event on Wednesday evening. The church hall was filled with laughter, fellowship and good food. Some stayed past 9pm enjoying each others company.

Several more Kheyma/Chicken dinners are being planned and will be announced in the coming weeks. We hope to see everyone at the next gathering!

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 soorpasdvadzadin@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.

Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church Presents the 14th Annual



Dave Papazian
Memorial Golf Tournament

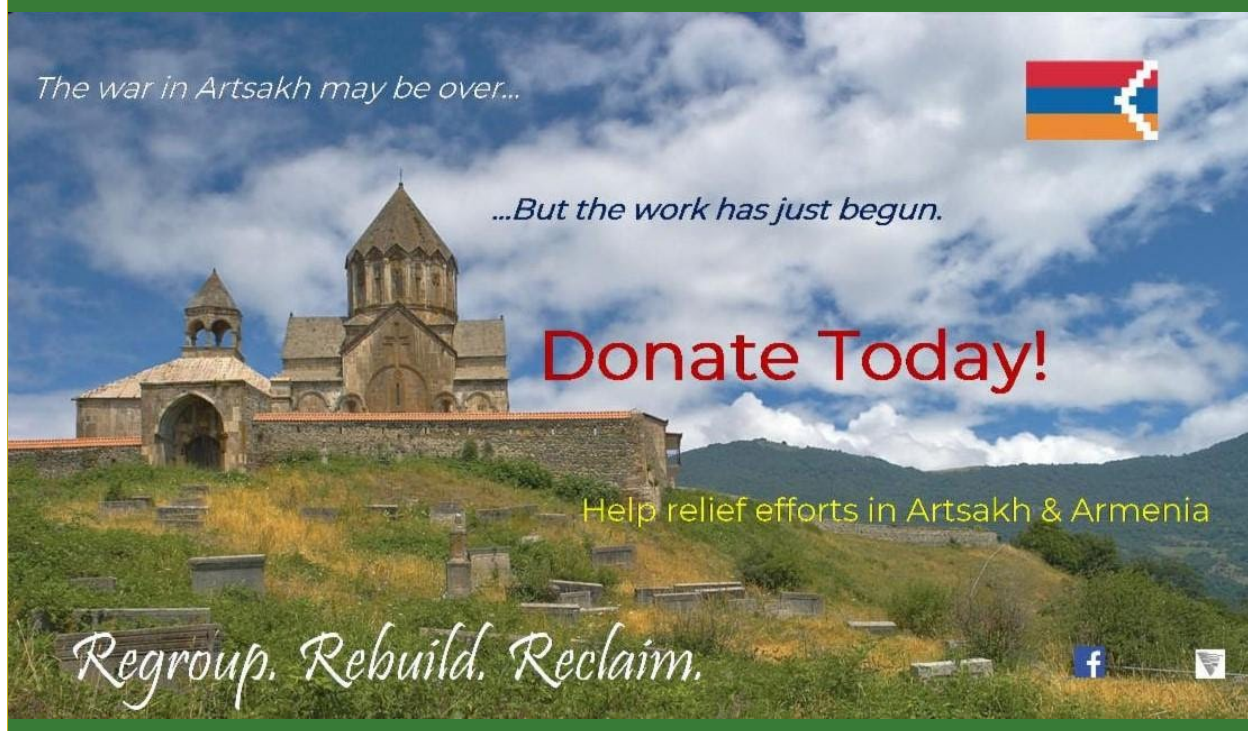
**Monday, August 4, 2025 at Highfields Golf & Country
Club**

**Save the Date and join us for a great day of golf and
fellowship!**



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 for the Month of June are Donated by

**Nadine & Gary Premo and Linda Bagdasarian
in Memory of
Alice Asdourian**



**If you would like to donate Altar Flowers, Candles or Incense
for any month in 2025,
Please contact Yeva Der Kosrofian at 508-514-8613 or via email
yevaderk23@gmail.com or you may 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: 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 soorpasdvadzadzin@gmail.com
Mobile: 774-462-8041

FROM OUR ARCHIVES...



Hagop Antranigian with one of the winning foursomes of the 2019
Dave Papazian Memorial Golf Tournament.

**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.....



The pastor stood before the congregation and said,

“I have bad news, I have good news, and I have more bad news.”

The congregation got quiet.

“The bad news is: the church needs a new roof!” the pastor said.

The congregation groaned.

“The good news is: we have enough money for the new roof.”

A sigh of relief was heard rippling through the gathered group.

“The bad new is: it’s still in your pockets”

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

2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 22 — Church Yard Sale.

August 4 — Annual Dave Papazian Memorial Golf Tournament.
August 17 — Annual Church Picnic.

September 6 — Ladies Guild Meeting.

November 2 — Thanksgiving Dinner following Badarak.
November 22 — Fall Festival (Bazaar)

December 24 — Christmas Eve Candle Light Service.

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