

Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church

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200 Lexington street, Belmont, MA 02478 – Tel: (617) 489 2280 – Fax: (617) 484 0218

E-mail: holycrossbostonma@gmail.com

Website: www.holycrossarmenian.org

Bulletin for Sunday 29 March 2020

Չ. Կիրակի Քառասնորդաց

Sixth Sunday of “LENT”

All Masses and prayers are private until April 4th in Massachusetts

All are encouraged to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass via Facebook Live using the link:

(<https://www.facebook.com/stgregoryarmenian/>).

The Eparchy will provide a live-stream of non-public Masses celebrated by Bishop Mouradian and the priests of St Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Catholic Cathedral.

Sunday Masses:

at **12:30 PM** (Boston Time) in **English**

and at **02:00 PM** (Boston Time) in **Armenian**.

And starting Monday, March 23rd, a daily Mass will be celebrated

at **11:30 am** (Boston Time).

Arevakali (Prime) office hour prayer prior to Holy Mass at 10:00 AM

This Saturday and Sunday readings: **Col. 2:8-23** **Mt. 22:34-23:12**

First Friday Mass at 06:00 PM): **Gal. 6:14-18** **Jn. 19:25-27**

Every Friday during Lent; Way of the Cross (at 07:00 PM)

Next Saturday and Sunday readings: **Phil. 4:4-7** **Mt. 21:1-17**

Please join us in the prayer during today's Holy Mass for all the sick and their loved ones and also for all those who are struggling financially and psychologically because of the (COVID-19) outbreak, asking the Lord to help and strengthen all of us, spiritually and physically, against this and all other crosses and temptations. And also, for the soul of **Kevork Navrouzian** (40 Days) (Ani Anteriassian's brother), requested by; Stepan&Ani Anteriassian, Raffi&Maria Chapian, John&Salbe Anteriassian, Mike&Lindsey Anteriassian and Sarkis&Silva Anteriassian and their families. And for the soul of **Manuel DerTorossian**, requested by the DerTorossian family. And for the soul of **Krikor Frangulian** (40 Days), requested by Takouhi Frangulian, Carol&Kevin Cotterly and by Benon&Gail DerTorossian. And for the soul of **Hovhannes&Azadouhi Tavitian**, requested by the Tavitian family. And also, for the soul of **Nahima Nehme** (Lebanon), requested by the Bassale family. May the Lord bless their souls and forgiver their and our sins.

-Confession before or after Holy Mass is always welcomed.

Please remember Holy Cross Parish in your will

Prayer List: Please pray with us for the sick in the parish and especially for; **Yeghia Grigorian, Hovsep Topalian, Lucy Aylaian, Nerses Jamsakian** (Hagop's father in Aleppo), **Jim Mahoney, Laith Kenaya and Gary Derlugian** (Stella's brother). Please let the Church know if someone needs prayer and we can add him to this list as long as he wishes!

Sick in the parish: Please let Father know about anyone who is sick, homebound or for any reason cannot come to Church.

Sunday Collection: our collection last Sunday 22 March 2020 was: \$200 and from candles: \$0. (**suggested price for each candle is \$2**). Please note that our weekly expenses are around \$3000. May the Lord bless and compensate you all in this life and the next.

Confession on the first Sunday of Each Month: Please Note that Father **Stephen Bonian** is graciously helping our Parish, every first Sunday of Each month, by hearing our confessions.

Saturday evening Vigil Mass at 5:00 PM in English: We have introduced the vigil Mass in English to our Mass schedule for all those who, for any reason, cannot make it to Sunday Mass.

Members' Dues: Dear Parishioners, we would like to remind you that each family is expected to pay \$100 annual dues in order to defray some of the overwhelming financial costs of our church.

Please find out from the church office if you are up to date with your dues. If you have paid, we thank you wholeheartedly, if not, we would appreciate very much if you can send your Church dues at your earliest convenience.

Altar Flowers: This Sunday's altar flowers are donated by **Anonymous** for the souls of Hovhannes and Azadouhi Tavitian and for the soul of Krikor Frangulian may the Lord bless their souls and forgive their and our sins and compensate you and your families many folds.

We have openings for some Sundays in April 2020. Please let the parish office know if you wish to donate altar flowers for any given Sunday. (you can bring the flowers yourself or give a \$75 donation toward buying them.

Devotion of the Sacred Heart of Jesus: You are all invited to a Holy Mass dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on every first Friday of each month. Next will be on: **Friday the 03rd of April 2020 at 06:00PM** followed by a Eucharistic adoration.

Houses blessing: Dear Parishioners, if you want your house to be blessed please let Father Mikael know. House blessing is an important instrument in the Church used to know people better and preferably have the whole family gathered in one place to meet the family especially those who comes less to services or prefer not to stay for social hours.

Next Eparchial Youth Spiritual retreat & annual Convention 2020 will be in Belmont, MA:

June 26-28 is the Youth Spiritual Retreat. Sunday 28 June Holy Mass at 5:00 PM to Start the Convention followed by a "meet and greet" evening. Monday and Tuesday 29-30 June Convention. Wednesday 1st of July is the Clergy meeting.

Holy Cross Choir Rehearsal: New members of all age groups are invited and welcome to join. **Next choir rehearsal is on the coming Wednesday 08th of April 2020 at 7:30 PM.**

Protecting God's Children: Dear Parishioners in order to comply with the demand to protect our youth in the Church and to continue what we have started with the seminar we had in September 2018 we are still required to complete a CODE of Conduct in the website of www.virtusonline.org If a CODE OF CONDUCT has not been completed, one should be able to go into the online training tab, do so, and then complete a background check. Especially when you see a similar message on your screen:

Your registration is not complete

You must complete a background check

As part of our efforts to maintain a safe environment for the children and volunteers of our diocese, we have chosen Selection.com to do all our background checks.

By clicking this button, you will be directed to their secure website called Fastrax.

Holy Cross Church Easter 2020 Schedule

- Palm Sunday 05th of April 2019:** -Holy Mass 10:30 AM
-Blessing of Palms
-Blessing of Children
-ritual of the opening of the door Դռնբացեք
-Luncheon
- Holy Thursday 09th of April 2019:** -Confession 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM
-Washing of feet Ոսնկուսյ and Holy Mass 4:30 PM
-Tenebrae Խաւարման զիշեր 7:30 PM
- Good Friday 10th of April 2019:** -Confession 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM
-Burial of Christ 6:30 PM
- Easter Vigil 11th of April 2019:** -Confession 3:30 PM -4:45 PM
-Easter Vigil Mass 5:00 PM
- Easter Sunday 12th of April 2019:** -Easter Holy Mass 10:30 AM
-Blessing of the House after Holy Mass
- Monday 13th of April 2019:** -Holy Mass 7:00 PM for our deceased (օր մեռելոց)
- New Sunday 19th of April 2019:** - for the intention of all deceased members of the Parish
(օր մեռելոց)

HOLY CROSS ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

LENTEN 2020 ALMS-GIVING

The foundational call of Christians to charity is a frequent theme of the Gospels. During Lent, we are asked to focus more intensely on "Alms-giving", which means donating money and goods to the needy, as well as performing other acts of charity.

To this end, we've contacted the Waltham Salvation Army Food Pantry and they've provided us with a list of items (see below) that would be appreciated. There will be a collection box at Holy Cross for drop off, until Palm Sunday. On Holy Thursday, our youth will deliver, unload and shelve the collected goods at the food pantry.

We invite all of you to participate and encourage our youth as they organize the 2020 Lenten drive, by donating as many items that you can from the wish list.

Items to donate:

Tuna cans, Soup mixes

Brownie/cookie mixes, Chef Boyardee canned raviolis

Soap, shampoo

Let's help each other help the ones in need, one can at a time!!!!

Thank You

“Urbi et Orbi” 27th March 2020

On that day, as evening drew on, he said to them, “Let us cross to the other side.” Leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat just as he was. And other boats were with him. A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already filling up. Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Quiet! Be still!” The wind ceased and there was great calm. Then he asked them, “Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?” They were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?”*
(Mark 4: 35–41)

Homily of Pope Francis, March 27, 2020

“When evening had come” (Mk 4:35). The Gospel passage we have just heard begins like this. For weeks now it has been evening. Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities; it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void, that stops everything as it passes by; we feel it in the air, we notice in people’s gestures, their glances give them away. We find ourselves afraid and lost. Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realised that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat... are all of us. Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying “We are perishing” (v. 38), so we too have realised that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together can we do this.

It is easy to recognise ourselves in this story. What is harder to understand is Jesus’ attitude. While His disciples are quite naturally alarmed and desperate, He stands in the stern, in the part of the boat that sinks first. And what does he do? In spite of the tempest, He sleeps on soundly, trusting in the Father; this is the only time in the Gospels we see Jesus sleeping. When He wakes up, after calming the wind and the waters, He turns to the disciples in a reproaching voice: “Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?” (v. 40).

Let us try to understand. In what does the lack of the disciples' faith consist, as contrasted with Jesus' trust? They had not stopped believing in Him; in fact, they called on Him. But we see how they call on him: "Teacher, do you not care if we perish?" (v. 38). Do you not care: they think that Jesus is not interested in them, does not care about them. One of the things that hurts us and our families most when we hear it said is: "Do you not care about me?" It is a phrase that wounds and unleashes storms in our hearts. It would have shaken Jesus too. Because He, more than anyone, cares about us. Indeed, once they have called on Him, He saves His disciples from their discouragement.

The storm exposes our vulnerability and uncovers those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities. It shows us how we have allowed to become dull and feeble the very things that nourish, sustain and strengthen our lives and our communities. The tempest lays bare all our prepackaged ideas and forgetfulness of what nourishes our people's souls; all those attempts that anaesthetise us with ways of thinking and acting that supposedly "save" us, but instead prove incapable of putting us in touch with our roots and keeping alive the memory of those who have gone before us. We deprive ourselves of the antibodies we need to confront adversity.

In this storm, the façade of those stereotypes with which we camouflaged our egos, always worrying about our image, has fallen away, uncovering once more that (blessed) common belonging, of which we cannot be deprived: our belonging as brothers and sisters.

"Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" Lord, your word this evening strikes us and regards us, all of us. In this world, that you love more than we do, we have gone ahead at breakneck speed, feeling powerful and able to do anything. Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in things, and lured away by haste. We did not stop at your reproach to us, we were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet. We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick. Now that we are in a stormy sea, we implore you: "Wake up, Lord!".

"Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" Lord, you are calling to us, calling us to faith. Which is not so much believing that you exist, but coming to you and trusting in you. This Lent your call reverberates urgently: "Be converted!", "Return to me with all your heart" (Joel 2:12). You are calling on us to seize this time of trial as a time of choosing. It is not the time of your judgement, but of our judgement: a time to choose what

matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others. We can look to so many exemplary companions for the journey, who, even though fearful, have reacted by giving their lives. This is the force of the Spirit poured out and fashioned in courageous and generous self-denial. It is the life in the Spirit that can redeem, value and demonstrate how our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people – often forgotten people – who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines nor on the grand catwalks of the latest show, but who without any doubt are in these very days writing the decisive events of our time: doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and order forces, volunteers, priests, religious men and women and so very many others who have understood that no one reaches salvation by themselves. In the face of so much suffering, where the authentic development of our peoples is assessed, we experience the priestly prayer of Jesus: “That they may all be one” (*Jn 17:21*). How many people every day are exercising patience and offering hope, taking care to sow not panic but a shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday gestures, how to face up to and navigate a crisis by adjusting their routines, lifting their gaze and fostering prayer. How many are praying, offering and interceding for the good of all. Prayer and quiet service: these are our victorious weapons.

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith”? Faith begins when we realise we are in need of salvation. We are not self-sufficient; by ourselves we founder: we need the Lord, like ancient navigators needed the stars. Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives. Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them. Like the disciples, we will experience that with Him on board there will be no shipwreck. Because this is God’s strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things. He brings serenity into our storms, because with God life never dies.

The Lord asks us and, in the midst of our tempest, invites us to reawaken and put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength, support and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be floundering. The Lord awakens so as to reawaken and revive our Easter faith. We have an anchor: by His cross we have been saved. We have a rudder: by His cross we have been redeemed. We have a hope: by His cross we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from his redeeming love. In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the

proclamation that saves us: he is risen and is living by our side. The Lord asks us from his cross to rediscover the life that awaits us, to look towards those who look to us, to strengthen, recognise and foster the grace that lives within us. Let us not quench the wavering flame (cf. *Is* 42:3) that never falters, and let us allow hope to be rekindled.

Embracing His cross means finding the courage to embrace all the hardships of the present time, abandoning for a moment our eagerness for power and possessions in order to make room for the creativity that only the Spirit is capable of inspiring. It means finding the courage to create spaces where everyone can recognise that they are called, and to allow new forms of hospitality, fraternity and solidarity. By His cross we have been saved in order to embrace hope and let it strengthen and sustain all measures and all possible avenues for helping us protect ourselves and others. Embracing the Lord in order to embrace hope: that is the strength of faith, which frees us from fear and gives us hope.

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith”? Dear brothers and sisters, from this place that tells of Peter’s rock-solid faith, I would like this evening to entrust all of you to the Lord, through the intercession of Mary, Health of the People and Star of the stormy Sea. From this colonnade that embraces Rome and the whole world, may God’s blessing come down upon you as a consoling embrace. Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts. You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: “Do not be afraid” (*Mt* 28:5). And we, together with Peter, “cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us” (cf. *1 Pet* 5:7).