

Saint Gregory The Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church



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BINGHAMTON, N. Y. 13803
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December 6, 1998

Dear Faithful,

You have all read my report from last year in which I detailed the activities of the parish. The liturgical and ecumenical programs continue. Sunday School is meeting more frequently and now there is Armenian School. We have continued to have lectures and activities. The Armenian community is also receiving very nice coverage in the Press & Sun Bulletin. The Women's Guild has been working steadily implementing programs and education for its members. The Choir is dedicated and enjoyed a wonderful workshop with Maestro Khoren Meikhanedjian. Beatrice Injajigian diligently cares for the altar and makes the mas. Hagop Injajigian and Kevork Papazian faithfully serve at the altar. Louise Rockwell has been doing an excellent job coordinating the coffee hours. We have had many wonderful people help prepare meals (especially Mike Medzigian, Kevory Papazian, and Demos Kontos) and coffee hours. Alice Bogdasarian, has selflessly served the community, as delegate for many years. The parish council is working hard to continue to organize and revitalize the parish. Thanks to Dr. Garabed Fattal, Mrs. Sonig Kradjian, Dr. Vahe Garabedian, Mr. Robert George, Diramayr Ursula Findikyan, Dr. Aristaks Kachadourian, and Mr. Gregg Sarkisian, the Parish Council Members. And thanks to each and every one of you for your service over the past year.

**Simply said, the community is moving in a very healthy direction.
The last two years and a half are the proof that our community is
thriving.**

The key questions you and I need to ask are:

How can you and I serve God more faithfully?

Can you and I give more to support the church?

What can you and I do to participate in the growth of the parish?

Really Important Things to ponder:

Pray each day to ask God to guide St. Gregory's parish and cleanse our hearts

Parish projects need to have a team captain or coordinator

There are simple things anyone can do to help the parish

Coordinate the Christmas Greeting List

Be the contact person for the Christmas Poinsettia Donations

Help organize the monthly dinners

Come up with new ideas and implement them

Host a visiting clergyman

The fact that St. Gregory's of Binghamton is a small parish is an asset

It is important to grow in our respect for one another more and more

As for me, I ask that you respect my public life as a pastor and also my private life

The community needs to understand the responsibility of
the pastor, each organization, and being a parishioner

**Today, God is calling on you to answer
with your love, with your resources, and with your time!**

Today, the Lord is sending out a charge to get involved!

Today, is the day to commit to serving the Armenian community of Binghamton in some
large or small way!

Do you want to see miracles happen in our midst?

We have seen God's hand protect and heal members of our community.

We have seen a prosperous two and a half years.

We can see greater things when we participate actively in the life of this community.

You can be part of the miracle and part of God's calling by answering today.

Do you want to see a miracle today?

Who will stand up for God, today?

Today, make the decision to give of your time!

Today, make the decision to give of your resources!

Who will give \$1 a day to support the parish?
Besides pledges if 40 people do this, the church will have an additional \$14,600.

Open your hearts and let the Holy Spirit inspire you!

Today, there are people who need a friendly call.

Who will call name today?

Who will call name today?

Who will call name today?

Who will visit name today?

Who will visit name today?

There is one more point that I need to share, but it is not time yet.

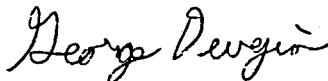
I hope that you will see that
I share these things for the good of the parish and not for my sake.

Our service is not human service for which we seek earthly approval;
we are rendering heavenly service to please our Father in heaven.

**Today is the day that the Lord has made.
Today God is calling us to service.
Today we can reach out and serve God.**

**Will you volunteer for one or two projects?
Will you give and sacrifice a little more?
Will you love a little more?**

Respectfully yours,



Rev. Dn. George Devejian