

Hymn (Sharagan) for the Sunday of Advent

The terrible manifestation of Your glory which will be in Your second coming David foresaw and announced beforehand by the Holy Spirit's inspiration, God will come openly, fire will burn before Him. Then, O Jesus, spare us, have compassion, O Christ and have mercy.

Mother of God unwedded, bride of heaven on earth, when in the sight of light You sit at the right hand of your only-begotten beseech Him for us to deliver us from the awful flame, to number us with the righteous that we also may sing glory with the heavenly ones.



STS. VARTANANTZ ARMENIAN CHURCH
SUNDAY BULLETIN

April 6, 2025

Sunday of the Advent – Գալստեան Կիրակի
St. Gregory The Enlightener – Commitment to the Pit – April 5



Khor Virap (“Deep Pit”) is one of the most popular destinations in Armenia, primarily because it is where St. Gregory the Illuminator (Soorp Krikor Loosavorich) was imprisoned for 13 years before curing King Trdat III of a disease. To this day, you can visit the underground chamber, climbing down a steep hole, where he was imprisoned, located in the St. Gevorg Chapel apart from the main church.

Sunrise Service.....9:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy (Սուրբ Պատարագ)

Sermon (Քարոզ)

Installation of 2025 Parish Council and Delegates

Don't forget to make your reservation for the ACYOA Palm Sunday Luncheon and Program, April 13. Please see any ACYOA member after church services.

Բարի Գալուստ Սրբ Վարդանանց Եկեղեցի
Տեր Խաչատուր Քահանայ Բեսապլեան, Հովիւ
Welcome to Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church
Rev. Father Khachatur Kesablyan, Pastor

Scripture: Isaiah 66:1-24; Colossians 2:8-3:17; Mathew 22:34.

Today's Gospel Reading: Mathew 22:34-23:39 - Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet" ' ? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions. Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father--the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted. "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you lock people out of the kingdom of heaven. (See the Holy Bible for complete reading).

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6

Church and Community Calendar

April 11– 56th Annual Very Rev. Ghevont Samoorian Lenten Program of Spiritual Renewal. Worship – Dinner – Program. 6:30 p.m.

April 13 – Palm Sunday, ACYOA Luncheon and Program.

April 17 – 20 Holy Week Services.

April 25 – 110th Anniversary of Armenian Genocide to be observed at the Chamber of the House of Representatives, Massachusetts State House, 10:30 a.m.

April 27 – 100th Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide at the Armenian Heritage Park. 6:00 p.m.

April 27 - Remembrance of the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide. Armenian Churches of Merrimack Valley to celebrate Divine Liturgy at the Armenian Church at Saints Vartanantz followed by luncheon and program. Please save the date.

May 15 - Men's Fellowship Dinner-Meeting. Featured speaker, Karen Guregian, Sport Writer for MassLive.com. This event is open to the public. All parishioners welcome.

June 8 - Early Bird Men's Fellowship Father's Day Brunch following Church Services.

July 27 – Annual Vartavar Water Festival

August 3 – Annual Church Picnic.

October 24 – 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Priestly Ordination of Father Khachatur. His Eminence Bishop Parsamyan, Primate, to preside. Save the date.

November 22 - Annual Food Festival.

Please see middle page of the Sunday Bulletin for a full schedule of Armenian Genocide Commemorations

Sunday of Advent

This Sunday, the sixth and final Sunday of Lent, is the “Sunday of Advent” (Galstyan Kiraki). On Advent Sunday we are asked to ponder on the mystery of the first coming of Christ and especially His second coming, which is mentioned in the prayers read this Sunday. Christ came to the world for the salvation of humankind. He will come again for the judgment of sinners, and when the righteous will become worthy of entering the Kingdom of God. Advent Sunday has its own special hymn, which proclaims that the apostles knew the mystery of the advent of Christ. The story of the expulsion from paradise is repeated and an appeal is made to Christ to ask the Heavenly Father to establish peace on earth.

Altar Curtain to Open Next Sunday

At the end of Great Lent, the church celebrates the service of the Opening of the Great Doors (*Toor'un Patzek*) on Palm Sunday whereby the faithful beseech God to admit them back into Paradise.

Diocesan Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR) - Reaching out to the Most Needy - Ashot Hayrapetyan, 66, at one time was a young journalist with a promising career ahead of him. “Before the Soviet collapse, I worked at Navasard, Hrushak, and Urvat newspapers, covering everyday life and sports. But everything



changed in the 1990s. I lost my job, and after that, I had to take on whatever work I could find just to get by,” he says. About ten years ago, after his wife passed away, Ashot found himself struggling to cope. He and his only son barely managed. That’s when he discovered FAR’s Nor Nork Soup Kitchen, and is now among 170 people—mostly elderly, low-income individuals, many struggling with illness, that receive hot meals five days a week along with dignity, and a place where they are seen and heard. You can kind donation will support the heart-warming efforts of FAR.

<https://www.farusa.org/donate-to-far>.

St. Gregory the Enlightener, Commitment to the Pit *Սուրբ Գրիգոր Լուսավորիչ խոր Վիրապ Մուտքը*

St. Gregory (258-325,) regarded as the patron saint of the Armenian Church, is referred to as St. Gregory the “Illuminator” in recognition of being one of the great missionaries of the universal Christian church. On Saturday, the Armenian Church commemorated one of the defining moments in her 1700 glorious history - the imprisonment of St. Gregory in a deep “Pit” known as *խոր Վիրապ* - Khor Veerap for 13 years by King Trdat III in 287, after the saint refused to acknowledge the goddess Anahit. The pit was reported to be full of snakes and other rodents. St. Gregory survived this horrible ordeal for thirteen years, being secretly fed by a pious woman, believed to be King Trdat's sister, St. Khosrovidukht, or someone sent by her. She had received a command in a dream to prepare a loaf of bread everyday and throw it down into the pit. After long years of persecution and great suffering, St. Gregory emerged from the pit full of faith, and set forth to heal King Trdat, who ever since committing St. Gregory to the pit, had been afflicted with severe depression and moods of animal behavior. When convinced that the only person who could possibly cure him was Gregory, the king released him from the pit. The king’s afflictions soon disappeared. Inspired by Gregory’s great faith, the King proclaimed Christianity Armenia's state religion. In St. Gregory’s honor, the Church of Khor Virap was constructed in the shadow of Mount Ararat, and is today regarded as one of the most sacred sites of Armenia. We pray that the faith of St. Gregory prevail among the faithful of the Armenian Church in order that our church forever remain unshaken in her beliefs.

Happy Name Day to all the faithful who bear the names **Krikor, Gregory, Krikorian or Grigorian** in commemoration of the Feast of St. Gregory’s imprisonment in a deep pit. A devotional altar has been placed in front of the wonderful icon of St. Gregory, embracing the Mother Cathedral in Etchmiadzin on the south wall of our church.

Holy Week Donations for the Church Sanctuary - Parishioners are invited to make donations for the needs of the church during Holy Week in memory of a loved relative or friend. Donation requests can be dedicated for wine for the divine liturgy, palms, sweet incense, altar flowers, candles for the Holy Light of the Resurrection, vigil lamp candles, butter for Washing of the Feet, and Flowers for the Tomb of Christ. Donations will be listed in the Bulletin for Easter Sunday. Please contact Deacon Ara, 617-803-2612 or ara.a.jeknavorian@gmail.com.

Diocesan College Scholarship Applications Available Online - Each year the Diocese awards scholarships to promising youth who are headed to college. The Diocese seeks students who are active in their local parishes and have assumed leadership roles in their communities. Applications for Diocesan scholarships are now available online. The application deadline for the 2025-26 academic year is May 19, 2025. Got to <https://armenianchurch/scholarship> to obtain an application.

Parishioners welcome to Host Fellowship Hour following Sunday Church Services – Parishioners looking to mark a special occasion such as a requiem anniversary, birthday or wedding anniversary, or to celebrate some happy family event are invited to host a Fellowship (coffee) Hour following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Please email Dave Kazanjian, dkazan@verizon.net, to make arrangements.

Scholarships available for all Diocesan Camps, Conferences and Armenia Service Programs - Sts. Vartanantz offers up to 40% tuition scholarships to participants of Diocesan Programs (St. Vartan Camp, St. Nersess and ASP). The Sts. Vartanantz Scholarship Fund charter is to promote and encourage participation in these life-changing experiences for parish families as a membership/stewardship benefit. If you meet the criteria please request and complete an application before June 1, 2025. Please contact us at SVSF@earthlink.net.



THE STS. VARTANANTZ ACYOA CORDIALLY
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US ON

PALM SUNDAY

2025 ACYOA Day Banquet”
April 13th

Honoring our “Friend of the
”ACYOA ,” Ben Balian
Former ACYOA advisor
Guest Speaker
~Samantha Oldham~

ADULTS.	\$20
STUDENTS(6-16)	\$12
CHILDREN UNDER 6	Free

**For reservations please call or email by
April 8th**
Sona Taktakyan (857)-777-9299.
stsvartanantzacyoa@gmail.com

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO “ACYOA” C/O:
STS. VARTANANTZ ARMENIAN CHURCH, 180 OLD
WESTFORD ROAD, CHELMSFORD MA 01824

With all your heart trust the Lord, don't rely only on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5

110th Anniversary of the
Armenian Genocide

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE COMMEMORATION

Friday, April 25th, 2025
Massachusetts State House
Boston, MA
10:30 AM

Sunday, April 27th, 2025
Armenian Heritage Park
Boston, MA
6:00 PM

Installation of 2025 Parish Council and Diocesan Delegates – Following the Divine Liturgy, the 2025 Parish Council and newly elected Diocesan Delegates will be installed: Bruce Kayajanian – Chair; Hagop Jarkian – Vice Chair; Debra Barry – Recording Secretary; Peter Bogosian – Treasurer; Roger Kelesoglu – Ass’t Treasurer; Dn. Arman Shirikyan – Corresponding Secretary; Richard Madanjian – Advisor; and Delegates Dn. Ara Jeknavorian and Isabelle Hamel.

During the chanting of *Der Voghormya (Lord Have Mercy)*, all the faithful are called upon to pray for the souls of departed loved ones. Please especially pray for:

- † That our Lord guide our path through life, that we be instruments of peace and love in this world, and that we can help our fellow man find true happiness in this life.
- † The good health of family members and friends who may be experiencing physical, emotional, or spiritual distress.
- † That our ever compassionate Lord help us turn away from wicked ways of those who wish to cause harm, and that he helps us to bring peace and healing to our world that so desperately needs it.
- † Immediate release of Armenians held captive in Azerbaijan.
- † Victims of the terrible storms in across the Midwest and southeast USA.

ACYOA Lenten Retreats Bring Youth Closer to God, and to Each Other -Members of the ACYOA Central Council traveled across the Eastern Diocese during the season of Lent, to lead three regional day-long retreats for ACYOA Seniors and young adults. More than 70 participants came together among all three locations to explore this year’s theme: “Made in His Image.” The New England area retreat was held at St. James Church in Watertown, MA. Attending from Saints Vartanantz were **Father Khachatur and ACYOA**

member, Milla Shirikyan. The retreats included worship, Bible study, and use of crafts to foster spiritual development.

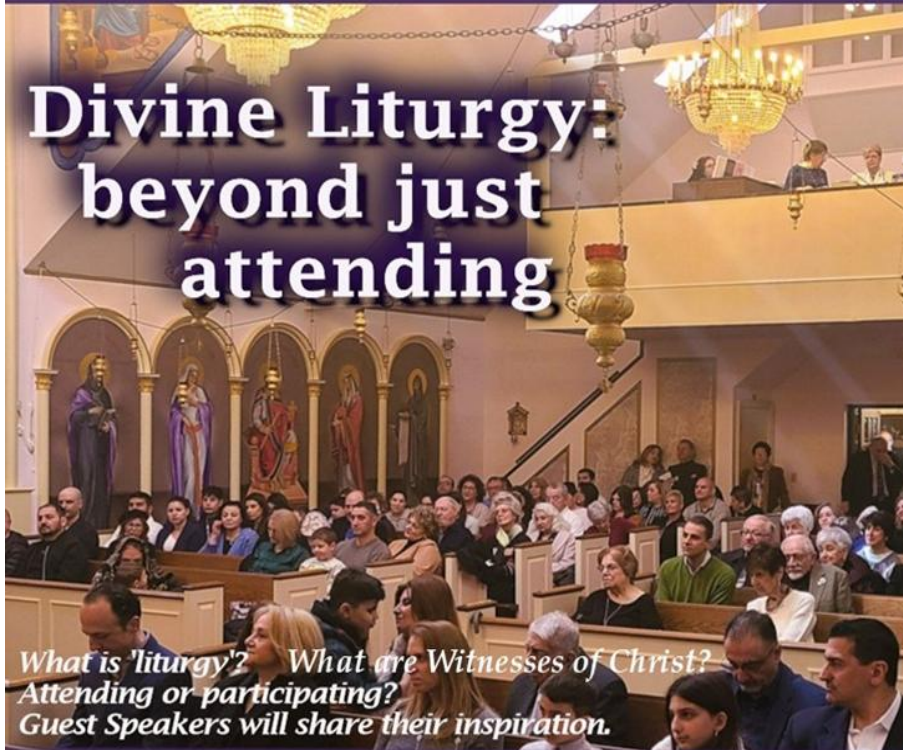




56th
YEAR

The Very Rev. Father Ghevont Samoorian
Annual Lenten Program of Spiritual Renewal

Divine Liturgy: beyond just attending



*What is 'liturgy'? What are Witnesses of Christ?
Attending or participating?
Guest Speakers will share their inspiration.*

"Liturgy" is from the Greek and means 'service'. The Divine Liturgy is the primary worship experience for the faithful and properly means "at God's service". The Armenian term is "*Soorp Badarak*" (literally 'Holy Sacrifice') with a focus on the faithful being at God's service during the 'sacrificial offering'. Speakers will offer what brings them to Church every week and how the Divine Liturgy prepares them to be a witness to the Orthodox faith in the challenges of their everyday life.

Each Friday of Great Lent at 6:30PM

Worship - Light Lenten Meal - Program

Saints Vartanantz Armenian Church
180 Old Westford Road - Chelmsford, MA 01879 | www.stsvartanantz.com
Rev. Father Khachatur Kesablyan, Pastor

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A New Lenten Project by the Saints Vartanantz Church Schools

"WE SAY AYO!"

Our Church School Lenten project this year will be supporting two worthy causes:

Restoration/renovation of our beloved St Vartan Armenian Cathedral in New York City, which underscores the tradition of having the children from across our Diocese participate in charity fundraising during the Lenten season. Our goal is to help our Diocesan Cathedral be strong and sturdy for generations to come.



Support the reconstruction of the Sahag-Mesrob Armenian Christian School that completely burnt down in the terrible California wildfires this year. Our goal is to help the school get back on its feet and help provide students a wholesome Christian educational experience.

Donations either by cash or check will be collected each Sunday during this Lenten season until Easter Sunday, and donor names will be posted on the church school bulletin board located in the church lobby. Please make checks payable to "Sts. Vartanantz Church Schools." To make donations when not attending church services, please contact Patty, Patty K @ 978-937-9379 or email: pkcookie@comcast.net

Please Join Us and Say Ayo!

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

Proverbs 22:9: "The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor."

Saints Vartanantz Armenian Church

4th Pilgrimage to our Armenian Homeland

Led by Fr. Khachatur Kesablyan

Sep 4-Sep 17, 2025



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

E-mail: fatherkk2005@gmail.com

Phone: 978-256-7234



Armenian Genocide Proclamation to be Read at Chelmsford, MA and Windham, NH Select Board Meetings, Monday, April 7 - Chelmsford and Windham residents of Armenian heritage are encouraged to attend the April 7th meetings of the Chelmsford and Windham Select Board meetings during which proclamations in remembrance of the Armenian Genocide are to be read. The Chelmsford Select Board meeting will be held at 50 Billerica Rd at 6:00 p.m., while the Windham Select Board will meet at the Community Development Department, 3 North Lowell Road, Windham, 7:00 p.m. Both meetings will be broadcast on their respective local cable TV stations. The Chelmsford Proclamation has been arranged through the efforts of the Armenian National Committee of the Merrimack Valley, while parishioner, Steve Serian, has coordinated the proclamation for the town of Windham. Steve has also authored an op-ed piece titled, *Choosing Kindness over Hate, A Reflection on the Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide*, which will be published along with the Proclamation in the local Windham newspaper.

Saints Vartanantz Parish Pilgrimage Wednesday, May 21, 2025



❖ Saint Vartan Cathedral, New York

- Prayer Service
- Reception with Primate, His Eminence Bishop Mesrob Parsamyan
- Lunch
- Tour of the Cathedral



❖ Tour of Saint Nersess Armenian Seminary, Armonk, NY



**Bus Leaves Saints Vartanantz,
Chelmsford at 7:30 a.m. Sharp**
(Expected Return – 8:00 p.m.)

\$75 includes Transportation and Lunch.

Payment due April 15.

Open to Saint Vartanantz Parishioners

For reservations, contact Linda Jarkian, ljark@verizon.net

The Saints Vartanantz Parish Pilgrimage provides a unique opportunity to have a wonderful reception with our Primate, Bishop Mesrob Parsamyan, a tour of our magnificent St. Vartan Cathedral, and a tour of the beautiful Saint Nersess Armenian Seminary.

Saints Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church

Reverend Fr. Khachatur Kesablyan, Pastor

2025 SCHEDULE OF HOLY WEEK



-  **April 13 PALM SUNDAY - ACYOA Youth Day**
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
12 Noon Opening the Doors (to Heaven) Service
ACYOA- Youth Day Palm Sunday Banquet and Program

-  **April 15 HOLY TUESDAY - Remembrance of the Ten Virgins**
7:00 p.m. Evening Service

-  **April 17 HOLY THURSDAY - Remembrance of the Last Supper**
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
7:00 p.m. Ceremony of the Washing of the Feet (Vodnluvah)
7:30 p.m. Commemoration of the Passion of Our Lord (Khavaroom)

-  **April 18 HOLY FRIDAY**
3:00 p.m. Scripture Readings - Crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ
7:00 p.m. Commemoration of the Burial of our Lord Jesus Christ

-  **April 19 HOLY SATURDAY - EASTER EVE**
5:15 p.m. Church Schools Easter Egg Hunt
6:30 p.m. Holy Scripture Readings
7:00 p.m. Candlemas Easter Eve Divine Liturgy (Jrakaloozt Badarak)
8:00 p.m. Procession of the Light of the Resurrection
Home Blessing and Reception to Follow

-  **April 20 FEAST OF THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST - Easter (Zadig)**
9:00 a.m. Matins
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy; Blessing of Four Corners of the World



EASTER OFFERING (Youghkin)

Please remember Saints Vartanantz this holy season of Easter. Your offering is an expression of your faith, which will help the church continue and grow its holy ministry of salvation.

**Christ is Risen from the Dead!
Blessed is the Resurrection of Christ!**

Lenten Program of Spiritual Renewal Continues of Friday, April 4

This past Friday, three of our senior parishioners – **Beverly Koltookian, Arthur Omartian, and Joan Poladian** - beautifully shared their experiences as Witnesses of Christ at the 56th Lenten Program of Spiritual Renewal. Being a Witness for Christ means to live and speak in a way that reflects our Christian faith, sharing our personal stories, and beliefs to inspire others. Beverly,



Arthur, and Joan, who participate in the Divine Liturgy on a regular basis, shared though inspiring testimony, how their prayers during the Divine Liturgy (Soorp Badarak) has impacted how they handle the ups and down of everyday life. Their well-prepared personal testimonies, presented before a large audience, was a clear demonstration of their faith and love of our church. Appreciation is extended to our Men's Fellowship for hosting the Lenten Dinner. For the last Lenten program on Friday, April 11, Rev. Fr. Tadeos Barseghyan, pastor of the Armenian Church of Our Savior in Worcester, will be the guest speaker.

We can be a witness for God when we know Him, when we trust Him, and when we feel secure in His loving care.



Armenian Genocide Commemorative Committee

OF MERRIMACK VALLEY

Հայկական Յեղասպանութեան Յիշատակման Յանձնախումբ
Remembrance of the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide

Հայոց Յեղասպանութեան Սուրբ Նահատակների Յիշատակը

Sunday, April 27, 2025 10:00 a.m.



*Celebration of Divine Liturgy by the
Combined Armenian Churches of the Merrimack Valley
Sunday School Program for the Youth*



*Procession and Prayer Service at Church's Martyrs Monument
Luncheon and Cultural Program to follow*

Guest Speaker

*Mr. Aram Arkun, Managing Editor of the Armenian-Mirror Spectator
and Executive Director of the Tekeyan Cultural Association.*

Cultural Performance by the Sayat-Nova Dance Ensemble

*Saints Vartanantz Armenian Church
180 Old Westford Rd., Chelmsford, MA*



*Icon of the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide canonized in the
Armenian Church, April 2015*

Sts. Vartanantz Men's Fellowship Dinner Meeting and Social Night

Thursday, May 15, 2025 6:30 p.m.

Losh Kebab-Pilaf with Salad, Dessert, & Drink

Featured Speaker

Karen Guregian

**Veteran Award-Winning
Sports Columnist**

**A super opportunity to get the inside
story on the 2025 Patriots Season.**



**Reservation for Dinner Required
NO LATER THAN Monday, May 12**

**Please contact Ara Jeknavorian, 617-803-2612,
ara.a.jeknavorian@gmail.com**

Donation - \$20

All parishioners are most welcome to attend!!

*"Genocide against the Armenians is one of the reasons that
injustices continue to this day," Samantha Powers, U.S.
Ambassador to United Nations," in her remarks honoring Elie
Wiesel.*

*Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ
who strengthens me."*

Armenian Genocide Remembrance Month



April is recognized as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Month, commemorating the Armenian Genocide, which began on April 24, 1915, when the Ottoman Empire began systematically murdering Armenian 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children. What distinguishes the Genocide of the Armenian from the Jewish Holocaust or the Genocide of the Tutsis in Rwanda or Cambodians, for example, is that in the case of the Armenian Genocide the perpetrator continues to deny this crime against humanity. For over a century, the Turkish government has tried to erase the all traces of Armenian civilization from our historic Armenian homeland.

The local commemorative events below, organized by the Armenian National Committee (Merrimack Valley), the Armenian Genocide Commemorative Committee (Merrimack Valley), and the Boston Armenian Genocide Committee are to remind the world that the sacrifice of our Armenian Martyrs will never be forgotten, and that we, the ancestors of Armenian genocide survivors, will never cease to demand recognition and a just solution to the unspeakable suffering experienced by our saintly martyrs. Attend these events and let your voice be heard! Please contact Ara Jeknavorian, 617-803-2612, if any questions.

TOWN/CITY	Event	Date, Time	Location
Windham, NH	Proclamation	April 7, 7:00 p.m.	3 N. Lowell Rd., Windham, NH
Chelmsford	Proclamation	April 7, 6:00 p.m.	Chelmsford Town Hall
Andover	Proclamation	TBD	Andover Town Hall
No. Andover	Proclamation	April 14; 7:00 p.m.	North Andover Town Hall
Manchester, NH	Flag/Proclamation	April 18; 12 Noon	Manchester City Hall
Nashua, NH	Flag/Proclamation	April 24; 1:00 p.m..	Nashua City Hall
Boston	Commemorative Program	April 25; 10:30 a.m.	MA State House, Boston
Lowell	Flag/Proclamation	April 26; 10:30 a.m.	Lowell City Hall
Chelmsford	Divine Liturgy and Commemorative Program	April 27; 10:00 a.m.	Saints Vartanantz Armenian Church, Chelmsford, MA
Boston	Commemorative Program	April 27; 6:00 p.m.	Armenian Heritage Park, Boston
Methuen	Flag/Proclamation	April 25; 12 noon	Methuen City Hall
Salem, NH	Flag/Proclamation	April 12; 10:30 a.m.	Salem Town Offices