



---

# Holy Cross

## Armenian Catholic Church

200 Lexington Street, Belmont MA 02478  
+1-617 489.2280 surpkhach@gmail.com <http://fmwww.bc.edu/EcclArm>  
Rev Fr Raphael Andonian, OMEch · Pastor

---

02 November 2008

The Eighth Sunday of the Holy Cross · Ը. Կիրակէ Խաչվերացի:

Readings · Ընթերցուածք աձ / 1a

Prophecy · Մարգարէականն  
Isaiah 22.15–25

Epistle · Առաքելականն  
Ephesians 01.01–14

Gospel · Ս. Աւետարանն  
Luke 08.17–21

Requiem service · Հոգեհանգիստ  
—George Ganjian; Margaret and Avedis Seferian

08 November 2008

The Holy Archangels Gabriel, Michael, Raphael, the Seraphim, the Cherubim and all the heavenly hosts · Սրբոց Կրեշտակապետացն Գաբրիէլի և Միքայէլի, Ռաֆայէլի, Սերովբէից, Քերովբէից և ամենայն երկնային զօրացն:

---

09 November 2008

The Ninth Sunday of the Holy Cross · Թ. Կիրակէ Խաչվերացի:

Readings · Ընթերցուածք դկ / 4b

Prophecy · Մարգարէականն  
Isaiah 24.01–13

Epistle · Առաքելականն  
Ephesians 5.15–33

Gospel · Ս. Աւետարանն  
Luke 08.49–56[57]

Requiem service · Հոգեհանգիստ  
—for Sonya Grigorjan

Commemoration · Յիշատակութիւն  
—For the living and deceased members of the Charchaflian, Zeghert and Sarafian families

11 November 2008

Saint John Chrysostom, Patriarch of Constantinople ·

Սրբոյ Յովհաննու Ոսկեբերանի Կոստանդնուպոլսոյ Հայրապետին:

---

16 November 2008

The First Sunday of Advent · Ա. Կիրակէ Յիսնակաց::

Readings · Ընթերցուածք դձ / 4a

Prophecy · Մարգարէականն  
Isaiah 29.11–20

Epistle · Առաքելականն  
Philippians 04.08–24

Gospel · Ս. Աւետարանն  
Luke 11.01–13

21 November 2008

The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God ·

Տօն ընծայման Սրբոյ Կուսին Մարիմու Աստուածածնի:

23 November 2008

The Second Sunday of Advent · Բ. Կիրակէ Յիսնակաց:

Readings · Ընթերցուածք դէ / 3b

Prophecy · Մարգարէականն  
Isaiah 36.01–09

Epistle · Առաքելականն  
1 Thessalonians 1.01–10

Gospel · Ս. Աւետարանն  
Luke 12.13–31

---

30 November 2008

The Third Sunday of Advent · Գ. Կիրակէ Յիսնակաց:

Readings · Ընթերցուածք գձ / 3a

Prophecy · Մարգարէականն  
Isaiah 36.22–37.11

Epistle · Առաքելականն  
1 Thessalonians 4.01–13 [3.01–11]

Gospel · Ս. Աւետարանն  
Luke 13.01–09

Requiem service · Հոգեհանգիստ  
—for Edward Seferian

---

## Blessed Gomidas (Կոմիտաս Քէն. Քէօմիւրճեան)

Three hundred and one years ago, on 05 November 1707, Turkish authorities at the command of the vizir Ali Pasha beheaded an Armenian Catholic priest who had chosen not to deny his Catholic faith nor to apostasize to Islam in order to save his life. Father Gomidas Keumurgian <sup>1</sup> had earlier worked with Abbot Mekhitar to bring the Armenians of Constantinople into union with Rome, and he even succeeded to the point that six of the twelve priests at the large Armenian parish of St George had followed his example.

But Gomidas was caught up in the political intrigues of the time and was denounced and arrested twice for being a “Frank”.

He refused to flee or to seek the protection of the French embassy, and at his trial he impressed the vizir with his repartee:

*Vizir:* Do you hear they <sup>2</sup> say that you have deserted your religion?

*Komitas:* Which seems to you the best among the Christian faiths?

*V:* To me they are all equally disgusting.

*K:* Then why does it matter to you which one I choose?

Very much like Pilate at the condemnation of Jesus, Ali Pasha showed reluctance to condemn him and offered him the possibility of converting to Islam, which he refused four times.

His wife and children followed him to the place of execution at Parmak Kapu, where he knelt facing east and refused the order to face south. Then he began reciting the *Havadamk*.

In the gospel at the beginning of November Jesus says that “to him who has will more be given, and from him who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away”.

This sounds cruel until we realize that our Blessed Lord is telling us that we must be in a state of grace in order to increase in grace, and that those who are not so have nothing, even if they mistakenly think they are in a state of grace.

How many of our fellow Catholics today sadly try to define their faith on their own terms?

Gomidas, declared ‘Blessed’ by the Roman Catholic church in 1929, stood firm and would not be moved, just as our Lord said that His true family “are those who hear the word of God and do it”.

---

<sup>1</sup> Arm: *Komitas K'ëomiwrčean*.. Tk: *Kömiürçyan*., sometimes also called by the Italian name *di Carbognano*

<sup>2</sup> the Armenian Apostolic clergy who denounced him