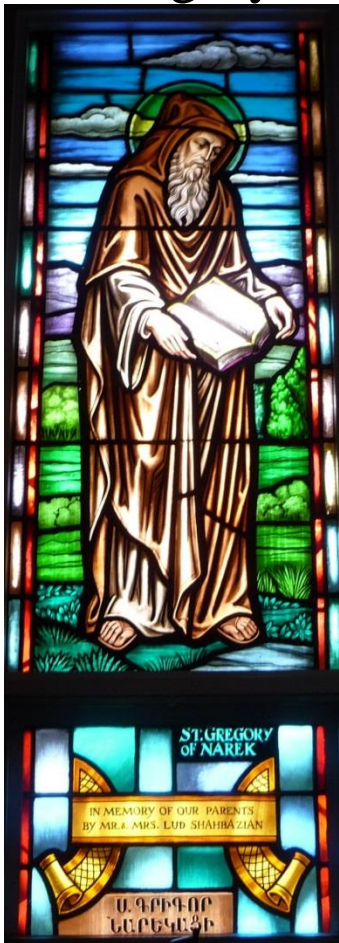


Priceless Legacy from a Monastic Life

“In the face of my darkness, you are light. In the face of my mortality, you are life.”
St. Gregory of Narek 1003

“And when our resources are exhausted, you perform the greatest miracles.”
St. Gregory of Narek 1003

St. Gregory of Narek (Sourp Krikor Naregatzi), is a towering figure in the Armenian Church who is best remembered for his *Book of Lamentations*. Scholars have compared this book of worship with David’s *Psalms* and St. Augustine’s *Confessions*. He wrote this masterpiece in 1103. Known as Narek or Naregatsi for short, the *Book of Lamentations* is a compendium of prayers in poetry and prose comprising 11,000 lines written in old classical Armenian (Krapar) and organized into 95 elegies divided into 366 chapters. Each elegy begins with this intonation: “Words unto God from the depths of the heart.”



St. Gregory of Narek
(950 AD - 1010 AD)

St. Gregory of Narek’s monumental *Book of Lamentations* is regarded with enormous reverence by the common people as well as the intellectual elite as it has sustained the Armenian people through many centuries of strife and oppression. The faithful believe in the miraculous healing powers of the prayer book. The tradition has emerged over the centuries, and it is a very common practice in Armenia today, to place the *Book of Lamentations* under one’s pillow before sleeping.

Window was installed during the 1965 construction in Fair Lawn, NJ. The inscription reads: “In Memory of Our Parents by Mr. and Mrs. Lud Shahbazian”