

St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit

22001 Northwestern Highway | Southfield, MI 48075

248.569.3405 (phone) | 248.569.0716 (fax)

www.stjohnsarmenianchurch.org

The Very Reverend Father Aren Jebejian, Pastor

Clergy residing within the St. John parish and community:

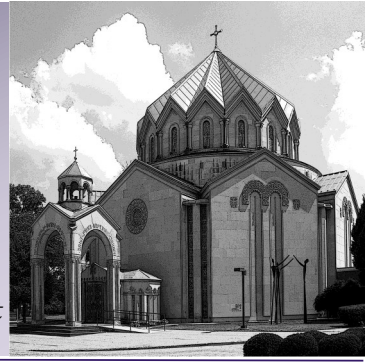
The Reverend Father Diran Papazian

The Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian

The Reverend Father Abraham Ohanesian

Deacon Rubik Mailian, *Director of Sacred Music and Pastoral Assistant*

Ms. Margaret Lafian, *Organist*



Sunday Bulletin **Welcome!**

We welcome you to the Divine Liturgy/*Soorp Badarak* and invite all who are Baptized and Chrismated in, or are in communion with, the Armenian Church to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. If you are new to our parish and would like information about our many parish groups, please ask any Parish Council member on duty at the lobby desk. Make certain you sign our Guest Book before you leave so we can be in touch. Enter to worship the Lord Jesus Christ who loves you and depart with His love to serve others.

December 13, 2015

The Armenian Church Year 1464

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Celebrant: Fr. Abraham Ohanesian

Children's Sermon: Fr. Aren Jebejian

THE LORD'S DAY - SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP

Morning Service / Առաւօտեան Ժամերգութիւն...9:00 am

Divine Liturgy / Ս.Պատարագ9:45 am

SACRED LECTIONS OF THE LITURGY

Isaiah 38:1-8

Hebrews 1:1-14

Luke 17:1-10

Lector: Danielle Sarafian

Our Church and Parish is a place where . . .

- ◆ All people are welcome
- ◆ Every person is a minister
- ◆ The world is our collective responsibility
- ◆ Disciple making is our goal, and
- ◆ Worship is our duty and delight

General Information

Parish Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 am—5:00 pm

Pastor's Office Hours To Be Announced

After hours in an emergency, please contact:

Pastor's Cell: 773.457.4122

Administrator's Cell: 760.832.1142

Visits to the Hospitalized and Homebound Please phone the Church Office when you or someone you love is admitted to the hospital and would like a visit from the Pastor. If you have an upcoming surgery, please consider requesting your name be included in the "Prayers for the Sick and Hospitalized." Those who are homebound and would like to receive Holy Communion at home should phone the Church Office.

Home Blessing If you would like the Pastor to visit your home and offer a home blessing, please contact the Church Office.

Baptism Parents may prepare for the baptism of their child before he or she is born. For more information, phone the Church Secretary.

Marriage Phone the Church Secretary at least nine months in advance of your proposed wedding date. Wedding packets are available at the Church Office.

Parish Membership If you are interested in becoming a member of the St. John parish, please speak to a Parish Council member on Sunday, or phone the Church Office.

Sunday Bulletin Announcements for the Sunday Bulletin are due in the Church Office by 5:00 pm on Wednesday preceding the date of service.

Requiem Requests may be submitted to the Church Office by mail, phone, fax 248.569.0716, or email to office@sjachurch.org no later than 5:00 pm Wednesday preceding the Sunday requested. Request forms are available in the Church Lobby.

Parish Council of St. John Armenian Church 2015

Jeffrey E. Axt, Chairman
Paul Andonian, Vice Chairman
Michael Kazarian, Treasurer
Marianne Dardarian, Secretary
John Yavruian, Ass't Treasurer
Ardis Gregory, Ass't Secretary

Dr. Mary Alani, Advisor
Peter S. Egigian, Advisor
John R. Kalajian, Advisor
Christopher Korkoian, Advisor
Karmen A. Santourian, Advisor
Gary Hachigian, First Alternate
George Boyagian, Second Alternate

Today's Gospel

Luke 17:1-10

And he said to his disciples, "Temptations to sin are sure to come; but woe to him by whom they come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung round his neck and he were cast into the sea, than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. Take heed to yourselves; if your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him; and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, and say, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" And the Lord said, "If you had faith as a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this sycamine tree, 'Be rooted up, and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

"Will any one of you, who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep, say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down at table'? Will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, and gird yourself and serve me, till I eat and drink; and afterward you shall eat and drink'? Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that is commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'"

Day by Day Bible Study

Wednesday, December 30th, 12:00 — 2:00 pm

For more information, call Yeretzgin Roberta at 248.538.9993

Sunday, December 6, 2015 at 12:30 pm

When in the Lord's House

Please be advised that according to the tradition of the Armenian Church, members of the congregation are strongly reminded to refrain from walking in and out of the Sanctuary while services are in progress. You are especially reminded not to do so during the Reading of Lections until the Creed is recited, the Chalice Procession, the Hymn "Der Voghormia," Singing of *Hayr Mer* – Lord's Prayer, during Confession and Communion, and during the Sermon. Please wait in the vestibule until such time when it is proper to enter the Sanctuary.

Prayers for the Sick and Hospitalized

Jilber Abajian
Rose Boudakian
Cheryl Giesa
Walter Negosian
James Shahbazian

David M. Apoian
Marge Brothers
Ruben Griffin
Richard Norsigian

Araxey Barsamian
Elina Cobb
Fr. Untzag Nalbandian
Charles Sansone

Women's Guild News

Get ready for Christmas!

Armenian Christmas Day Luncheon Wednesday, January 6th

All parishioners are welcome!

The Christmas Theophany and Epiphany Festival Divine Liturgy will take place on Wednesday, January 6th at 10:30 am. The women's Guild will host a holiday luncheon following the services. A free will offering is appreciated.

Knitting Group: Please contact Linda Assarian at 248.332.0816 or linda.assarian@gmail.com for more details.

Take the opportunity to make new and lasting friendship while doing service for the Lord.

The Women's Guild invites you to become a member.
For information please call Belinda Kabodian, 248.767.3942

Special Meeting December 16th

The St. John's Greater Detroit Parish was established in 1931. In honor of our 85th anniversary in 2016, we plan to have a year-long celebration of special events involving all of our auxiliary groups and parishioners. We are looking for volunteers willing to work with Fr. Aren and the Parish Council to oversee the planning and coordination of these events. The first 85th anniversary committee meeting is this Wednesday, December 16th at 8:00 pm. If you would like to be involved in this very special celebration and serve on the St. John Jubilee Committee, please contact one of the Parish Council members or the church office.

Visit the Parish Bookstore

Genocide T-Shirts with "Forget-Me-Not" emblem and map on back — \$20.00

Armenian Alphabet Wooden Puzzle — \$35.00

The best selection of Armenian books and CDs plus many gift items: jewelry, Armenian crosses, key chains, cookbooks and many "Made in Armenia" products.

The Armenian Apostolic Church in Recent Times — \$20.00

Defending the Faith — \$20.00

The Lenten Journey...A Walk With God — \$10.00

The Armenian Genocide and Problems of Evil — \$20.00

Water as a Sign of Rebirth in the Armenian Church — \$20.00

The History of Armenian Monasticism and the Rank of Vartabeds — \$20.00

Guardians of Music DVD, "History of Detroit Armenian Music", as seen on PBS — \$25.00

Hand painted Forget-Me-Not Christmas ornaments — \$10.00

Armenian Genocide DVD, as seen on PBS — \$25.00

New Items From Armenia

Variety of "FORGET-ME-NOT" pins, charms, stickers and silver jewelry.

Youth Basketball Program 2015-2016

St. John's Basketball begins next week! If you know of any young Armenian youth that may be interested in joining, please have them come to practice or email

Lisa Mardigian at lmardigian@sjachurch.org

Practice Schedule

TUESDAYS

Biddy A (ages 11 & 12): 5:30 pm- 7:00 pm

Girls (ages 13 & up): 6:30 pm- 8:00 pm

WEDNESDAYS

Junior Boys (ages 13-15)

Intermediate Boys (ages 16-18): 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Joint Practice for conditioning!

THURSDAYS

Biddys (ages 5-8): 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Biddy B (ages 9 & 10): 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Christmas Schedule 2015-2016



Thursday, December 24, 2015, 10:30 pm

St. Stephen The Protodeacon And First Martyr/Western Christmas Eve

Carols (in English) & Scripture Readings

Christmas Tea in Cultural Hall hosted by the ACYOA Seniors

NO CHURCH SCHOOL ON DECEMBER 27, 2015

Sunday, January 3, 2016

Divine Liturgy - 9:45 am

Church School Resumes

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Armenian Christmas Eve / *Jrakalooys*

Vespers and Reading of Prophecies - 6:00 pm

Divine Liturgy - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Theophany / Epiphany / *Don Asdvadzahaydnootian*

Feast of the Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Festal Divine Liturgy - 10:30 am

Blessing of the Waters – *Chrorhnek*

**A Christmas Luncheon will be hosted by the Women's Guild in the Cultural Hall
following Christmas worship services on January 6, 2016.**

Reservation information to follow at a later date.

Sunday, January 10, 2016

Divine Liturgy - 9:45 am

Following the Church School Christmas Pageant in the Sanctuary, the Church School will host a Christmas Dinner in the Cultural Hall.

Adults are \$15.00; no charge for children; Please RSVP to Alberta Godoshian
248.476.4638 (Tables of 8 or more). Everyone is welcome.

Tsez yev mez Medz Avedis — Kreesdos Dzunav yev Haydnetsav

Ձեռք եւ Միայն Միմի Մեծիկ — Քրիստոս Օրհն եւ Յայնճեալ

Christ is Born and Revealed— Blessed is the Revelation of Christ!



BASHDON HOKEHANKUSDYAN

REQUIEM PRAYERS FOR THE SOULS WHO SLEEP IN CHRIST

While we are mourning the loss our loved ones, we also rejoice as they meet
the Lord behind the veil in the Heavenly Jerusalem

DR. OSCAR ASSADOOR APOIAN, 40th Day, Father, Grandfather, Father-in-Law

Requested by Drs. Robert & Arminee Apoian & Annabelle

SUSAN A. CURTISS, 4th Year, Beloved Wife & Mother

Requested by Nick & Matthew Curtiss

DOLORES JAMGOCHIAN, 15th Year

GEORGE JAMGOCHIAN, 11th Year

GEORGE C. JAMGOCHIAN, 7th Year

PAULINE SUBOTICH, 3rd year

Requested by: Susan & Sam Subotich

Linda & David Bryan & Family

Chuck & Lisa & Family

Dianne Jamgochian

Todd & Jackie & Family

ABRAHAM BAROUSALIAN, Son

YEGHIA BAROUSALIAN

Requested by Maral Barousalian & Family

Fr. Abraham & Yn. Shake Ohanesian & Family

AWANES YERANOSIAN, Father, Grandfather, Father-in-Law

Requested by Aramais, Elizabeth, Nayree, & Lena Malkhasian

Rafi & Juliette Yeranosian

Greetings from Your Pastor and Parish Council

On the occasion of the New Year and the Holy Christmas Season, the Pastor and Parish Council wish to extend to our beloved faithful community and friends their sincere prayers and good tidings for a New Year filled with God's abundant blessings.



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION - The Feast of Our Lord's Birth and Baptism is a *Daghavar* / Tabernacle Feast of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church and is a day of Holy Obligation. In accordance with Armenian Church Canon, all the faithful are expected to partake of the Sacrament of Holy Communion at the Divine Liturgies of this Holy Season.

OLD & NEW TRADITIONS OF ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS - *Yughakin* –It is a church tradition to make a Christmas offering for religious and educational programs and charitable deeds to be offered honoring the name of our Lord and Saviour. The Christmas offering, which we call *Yughakin*, means “price of oil.” Before modern times, oil was used to light the lanterns in our churches. In this season of giving, your offering will keep the light of Christ burning brightly as you remember your Church and all the good your gift can do. *Yughakin* envelopes can be found in the church lobby.

Home Blessing – Dnorhnek It is customary to invite the Lord's blessings into our homes during the Christmas Season. If you wish to have your home blessed during Christmas-tide, please call the Church Office at 248.569.3405 to schedule a visit by the pastor, who will – with joy – respond and bring the Blessings of Christ into your home.

Altar Flowers – Festal Candles A beautiful Christmas tradition at St. John's is the adornment of the holy altar and *bema* with poinsettia plants and special candles. If you would like to contribute towards these items, please contact the Church Office.

Fallen Asleep in the Lord

We offer prayers for the servants of God

Albert Peler and Steve Teberian

They entered their eternal rest this past week.
May Christ our Lord shed His eternal light upon their souls.



Why Poinsettias?

The poinsettia, a native plant of Central America, is very popular. The bright red leaves symbolize the burning, divine love of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. The shape of the cluster of leaves and the contrast of the red with the green also remind one of the star of Bethlehem that shone so brightly the night our Savior was born and then guided the Magi to visit Him.

A popular legend surrounds the poinsettia. Long ago, on Christmas Eve, a little Indian girl in Mexico wanted to bring a gift to present to Baby Jesus, lying in the crèche at her Church. Being very poor, she could not buy a gift, as did the other children of the town. So on the way to Church, she gathered some green weeds on the edge of a field. Like the other children, she walked down the aisle of the Church and placed her bouquet at the crèche. Suddenly, the green weeds turned a beautiful red, because she had given the most wonderful gift of all, the gift of genuine love. Since then, the poinsettia has been known in Mexico as *flores de la Noche Buena* (*The Flowers of Christmas Eve*).

As we decorate our homes this year, let us look upon them as reminders of the real meaning of Christmas. Poinsettias are used as Christmas decoration because their flowers are shaped like stars, which remind us of the star that shone at the first Christmas. The flowers are red, which reminds us that the baby born in a manger became the Savior of the world. Jesus shed his blood on the cross so that our sins can be forgiven.

Remembering the Reason for the Season

It's that time of year again. December has come and with it all the joys of Christmas. But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail, turkey dinners with family and friends, snow in the yard, stockings hanging in the living room, and shouts of "Merry Christmas" to those who pass us in the streets? Is this really Christmas?

For many people, Christmas is a time of sorrow. They don't have the extra money to buy presents for their children, family, and friends. Many are saddened at Christmas-time when they think of their loved ones who will not be able to come home for various reasons. Turkey dinners may be only a wish and not a reality for some.

Yet, Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. You see, Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child.

Luke 2: 4-19 says:

"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

(continued...)

This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."

Why did He come? Why did God send His son to this sometimes cruel and hard world? He sent Jesus to us so that one day, He would grow up to become a very important part of history. His story (history) is one of truth, love, and hope. It brought salvation to all of us. Without Jesus, we would all die in our sins.

Jesus was born so one day the price could be paid for the things we have done that are wrong. The Bible says that all have sinned. We are all born with a sin nature. We do things that do not please God. Through the sins of Adam and Eve, we have all inherited that sin nature. We need to have that removed. The only way is through Jesus. Jesus came so He could die on the cross for ALL of our sins. If we believe that Jesus died for our sins, we can ask Him to come into our hearts and forgive us. Then, we are clean and made whole. We can know that heaven is a place where we can go to when this life is over.

"But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong." I John 1:9

We can truly be happy at Christmas! No matter what may be happening, we can know that we are His children. We then become sons and daughters of God. Heaven will be our home one day.

Look at Christmas in a new way this year. This is the year to invite Jesus into your heart. You will then have a "Merry Christmas." The joy and peace you will receive will last all year as you look to God for all your needs to be met.

Jesus Is The Reason For The Season! Rejoice!

On Leaving the Sanctuary After Badarak

When approaching the Holy Gospel at the end of the Divine Liturgy you say:

Heeshestzeh Der zamenaym Badarakus koh.

Յիշեցէ՛ Տէր զամենայն Պատարագս քո:

May the Lord remember all your offerings.

The Priest answers:

*Datseh kez Der usd srdee koom yev
zamenayn khorhoortus koh ee parees na
gadarestseh.*

**Տացէ՛ քեզ Տէր ըստ սրտի քում եւ զամենայն
խորհուրդս քո ի բարիս նա կատարեցէ:**

May the Lord grant you according to your own
heart, and fulfill all your counsel in goodness.
(Psalm 20:4)

**When taking *Mahs* the
GIVER says:**

*Mahs yev pazheen yegheetseen
kez ee Soorp Badarakes.*

**Մաս եւ բաժին եղիցին քեզ ի
Սուրբ Պատարագէս:**

May this be to you a share and
portion of the Holy Sacrifice.

The RECEIVER says:

*Pahjeen eem Asdvadz
haveedyan.*

**Բաժին իմ Աստուած
յաւիտեան:**

My portion is God forever.

The Kiss of Peace

The GIVER says: Christ is revealed amongst us.
Kreesdos ee mech mer haydnetsav.

The RECEIVER says: Blessed is the revelation of Christ.
Orhnyal eh haydnootyoonun Kreesdosee.

Քրիստոս ի մէջ մեր յայտնեցաւ: / Օրհնեալ է յայտնութիւնն Քրիստոսի:

The Psalm of Dismissal - Psalm 34

*Orhnetseets uzDer hamenayn zham, hamenayn zham
ornhootyoon nora ee peran eem.*

**Օրհնեցից ըզՏէր յամենայն ժամ, յամենայն ժամ,
օրհնութիւն նորա ի բերան իմ:**

I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall be at all times in my mouth.