

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 Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian, *Pastor*

Clergy residing within the St. John parish and community:

The Reverend Father Diran Papazian, *Pastor Emeritus*

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 14, 2014

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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THE LORD'S DAY - SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP

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

Divine Liturgy / *Ս. Պատարագ*9:45 am

Church School / *Կիրակնօրեայ Վարժարան*.....10:15 am

SACRED LECTIONS OF THE LITURGY

ISAIAH 38:1-8, HEBREWS 1:1-14, LUKE 17:1-10

LECTOR: Wesley Howe

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: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:30 am—5:00 pm
After hours in an emergency, please contact:
Pastor's Cell: 248-225-9888
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 mkafrican@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 2014—2015

Karmen A. Santourian, Chairman
Jeffrey E. Axt, Vice Chairman
Michael Kazarian, Treasurer
Marianne Dardarian, Secretary
Jacqueline ElChemmas, Ass't Treasurer
Ardis Gregory, Ass't Secretary

Dr. Mary Alani, Advisor
George Boyagian, Advisor
Peter S. Egigian, Advisor
Ara Hachigian, Advisor
Christopher Korkoian, Advisor
John R. Kalajian, First Alternate
Paul Andonian, 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.'"

Komitas Choir Board for 2015

Chair, Denise Karakashian

Vice-Chair, Annette Mamassian

Treasurer, Gary Melikian

Corresponding Secretary, Yvonne Korkoian

Recording Secretary, Linda Jevahirian

Assistant Corr. Sec., Christine Matoian

Advisor, Charlene Apigian

WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS

Be ready for the Holiday! Pick up your favorite Armenian Baked Goods

The Women's Guild will be selling delicious baked goods for you and your family to enjoy. What better gift is there than *Cheoreg and Khalkha*. Stop by the Women's Guild table in the Cultural Hall after services today.

All Parishioners are welcome to an Armenian Christmas Day Luncheon

Tuesday, January 6th Armenian Christmas Theophany and Epiphany Festal Divine Liturgy will take place on Tuesday, January 6th at 10:30 am. The Women's Guild s will host a holiday luncheon following services for all parishioners. Our chairs for this event are Sara Andonian and Alberta Godoshian. A free will offering is appreciated.

Take the opportunity to make new and lasting friendships while doing service for the Lord. The Women's Guild invites you to become a member.

For information please call Terry Palaian, 313-929-0926.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK AND HOSPITALIZED

Stan Armit
Cheryl Giesa
Aida Petrosyan
Sue Tafralian

Pam Dayinian
Mary Jo Gregory
Richard Santourian
Anita Tootikian

George Douroujalian
Frank Houhanisin
Mary Sarafian

TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB

In observance of Christmas and New Year, the Tuesday Lunch Club will not meet on December 23, 30, and January 6, but will resume January 13.

Please note lunch will be served on January 6th in the Main Hall.

FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE LORD

We offer our prayers for the servant of God

MITCHELL “MIKAEL” DARBOIAN

who entered his eternal rest this past week.

May Christ our Lord shed His eternal light upon his soul.

DAY BY DAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY IN THE NURSERY ROOM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, NOON-2 PM

Please note: This month's Bible Study will be a Christmas Party.

Please bring a dish to pass for lunch.

The topic will be the Birth of Jesus from the Gospel of Luke.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



VISIT THE PARISH BOOKSTORE . . .

The best selection of Armenian books and CDs plus many gift items: boxed Christmas tree ornament featuring St. Vartan, jewelry, Armenian crosses, key chains, cookbooks and many “Made in Armenia” products—great stocking stuffers! Our Parish Bookstore is the largest retailer of Armenian books, recordings and gift items in the Midwest.

STOP BY AND BROWSE!

Question: What is the origin of XMAS?

In ancient Christian art, X or χ and χρ are abbreviations for Christ's name. In the Armenian Church, from as early as the 4th c and in the many Armenian manuscripts books and holy icons, the Greek letter X' (meaning Christ) appears. It is an abbreviation in the Greek language for Χριστός/ Krisdos. This symbol/letter appears also in Armenian as well as the letter Ք Բրիստու which is the Armenian Equivalent of the Greek. Thus the first and last Greek letters **XC** for Χριστός/ Christ [which means *The Messiah*], and ՔՍ in Armenian (Բրիստու) are a shorthand form of writing the name of Christ.

Using the letter X added to the ending 'mas' becomes Xmas - a common abbreviation for the word *Christmas*. It is sometimes pronounced / ɛksməs/, but it, and variants such as *Xtemass*, originated as handwriting abbreviations for the typical pronunciation (krisməs). The "-mas" part is from the Latin alphabet and becomes the Old English word for Mass (*meaning worship for large numbers of people*). The letter X comes from the Greek letter called *Chi*, which is the first letter of the Greek word *Χριστός* that is *theo*, English for Christ.^[2]

Today many interpret the use of Xmas as an attempt to remove the religious tradition from Christmas by taking "Christ" out of "Christmas." Yet in truth, this shorthand for Christmas has existed long before modern times.

Yet many still decry the use of this abbreviation as some kind of blasphemy against Christ and Christianity and to X Christ out of Christmas. And, it could be that this may hold some truth. But when we see the X we know it is an abbreviation for Christ. For Christ is the TRUTH and X stands for the truth also. Whenever someone cannot write and must sign a document, the X is acceptable for their signature as true and binding.

So do not be afraid to use *Xmas* as a shorthand way of saying Christmas. But remember when you read it aloud, don't say *eksmas*, say Christmas. It is up to us to keep Christ in Christmas and celebrate Him by name.



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.

AZNIVE TCHOLAKIAN, 3rd Year, Mother, Grandmother
AVEDIS TCHOLAKIAN, 32nd Year, Father, Grandfather
ARSHALUYCE TERJIMANIAN, 48th Year, Mother, Grandmother
ASSADOOR TERJIMANIAN, 23rd Year, Father Grandfather
HAGOP TERJIMANIAN, 3rd Year, Brother, Uncle
JOHN TERJIMANIAN, 39th Year, Brother, Uncle
SARKIS HANOYAN, (In Armenia), 3 Months, Cousin
AND ALL DECEASED TCHOLAKIAN & TERJIMANIAN FAMILY MEMBERS

Requested by Arsen, Shoghig, Armen, Michael, & StepanTerjimanian

DANIEL SHAHAN, 11th Year, Beloved Father, Grandfather, Friend
NEVART SHAHAN, 38th Year, Beloved Mother, Grandmother, Friend

Requested by Robert & Linda DePietro
Ryan & Christine DePietro
Christopher & Claudia Swink & Daniel
Zaven Dolik

VICTORYA & GARBIS KALFAYAN, Parents, Grandparents
Iskender & Kalfayan Families

MELKON & SOORPOOHI CHIEFGIAN, Beloved Grandparents
NISHAN & ARSHALOUS JANIGIAN, Beloved Parents
DR. ARAM JANIGIAN, Beloved Brother
Requested by Susan Janigian

IN THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS, WE WOULD LIKE TO REMEMBER OUR DEAR FRIENDS IN FLORIDA WHO WE HAVE LOST IN THE PAST 20 YEARS. WE ENJOYED OUR THURSDAY MORNING BREAKFASTS. WE SHALL NEVER FORGET YOU.

**ALEX CHAVDARIAN
MOE CHOLMAKJIAN
JACK CROSS
EDDIE DARIAN
JACK JONIKIAN
JOHN KALE
HARRY & TERRY KELCH
JACK & SONIA KEZELIAN
JIMMY & FLORENCE OHANESSIAN
KARL SARAFIAN
ANDY & ANN TARPINIAN
AMALIA GRIGORIAN TOPALIAN
LOUISE TOPALIAN
CARL VARADIAN**

Requested by Peter & Agnes Hovsepian

**YEGHSAPET SAGHERIAN, Mother, Grandmother
VARTIVAR SAGHERIAN, Father, Grandfather
AZNIV MKSIAN, Mother, Grandmother
MIHRAN MKSIAN, Father, Grandfather
TRVANDA KALAYJIAN, Grandmother, Great Grandmother**

Requested by Garo, Maida, Vartivar, Nareg, & Laurie Sagherian

**HAIGANOUSH TASHJIAN, Mother, Grandmother
PARSEGH TASHJIAN, Brother, Uncle**

Requested by Knarig & Toros Topakbashian & Family

Oorakh Ler Soorp Yegeghetzi

Last Sunday, December 7th, Deacon Benjamin Rith-Najarian was ordained to the Holy Priesthood in the Armenian Church by His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian and was consecrated Rev. Father Samuel. He was the Deacon in Charge of the St. Sarkis Armenian Church of Charlotte, North Carolina. Following his 40-day retreat [*karasoonk*] at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, Father Samuel Rith-Najarian will become the pastor of St. Sarkis in Charlotte. We congratulate him and pray for his fruitful ministry in the Armenian Church.

ALTAR FLOWERS

A beautiful Christmas tradition at St. John's is the adornment of the holy altar and *bema* with poinsettia plants. If you would like to contribute towards the flowers, please contact the Church Office. Your gift will be acknowledged in the Christmas Bulletin January 6th.

MEN'S SOCIETY 2014-15

President, Father Garabed

Chair, Peter Toukhanian

Vice Chair, John Lucassian

Treasurer, David Dardarian

Secretary, Gregory Baise

Programs, Daniel Cristiano

Have you paid your annual pledge for 2014?

If not, there is still time before the deadline of December 31, 2014.

Pledges may be paid by phone and charged to your

Visa, Mastercard or Discover card.

Please phone the church office between the hours of

8:00 am and 5:00 pm 248-569-3405

REMINDER: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2015
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY AND ELECTIONS



Christmas Schedule



**NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2014
CHURCH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

Cultural Hall following Divine Liturgy.

Please join us to see our children tell the Christmas Story.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2014 – WESTERN CHRISTMAS EVE
ST. STEPHEN THE PROTODEACON AND FIRST MARTYR**

Carols (in English) & Scripture Readings - **10:30 pm**

Christmas Tea in the Cultural Hall hosted by the ACYOA Seniors

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2015—NEW YEAR'S DAY DIVINE LITURGY—11AM
FEAST OF ST. BASIL/ SOORP PARSEGH/GAGHANTEE OR**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2015 - ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS EVE / JRAKALOOYTS
Vespers and Reading of Prophecies - 6:00 pm; Divine Liturgy - 7:00 pm**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2015 - THEOPHANY-EPIPHANY, *DON ASDVADZAHAYDNOOTIAN*
FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

Festal Divine Liturgy - **10:30 am** Blessing of the Waters – *Chrorhnek*

Godfather of the Cross: Nicolas Sarafian

**The Women's Guild will host an Armenian Christmas Luncheon in the
Cultural Hall following worship services on January 6th.**

Please RSVP by January 2nd to the Church Office at 248.569.3405.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2015—DIVINE LITURGY
Church School Christmas Luncheon in the Cultural Hall following worship.**

Adults \$15.00; Children—no charge

RSVP: Tables of 8 or more to Alberta Godoshian 248.476.4638

**"The Journey of a Pilgrim" will be presented by ACYOA Senior Alexandra
Hachigian, who will share her experiences in Jerusalem and Armenia this summer.**

Everyone is welcome.

MORE EVENTS

TODAY, 12:30 - CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

St. John's Rec Center - Sponsored by the Knights & Daughters of Vartan

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2014—Choir Christmas Party at the Italian American Club.

Have you made your reservations with Yeretzgin Roberta or Dolly?

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2015, 2:00 PM

Nor Keghi Association Informational Meeting at St. Sarkis Church

All Keghetzis and friends are invited. Please join us.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2015

A Special Children's Divine Liturgy will begin at 10:15 am.

Our children will sing the responses of the *Badarak* with the senior Komitas Choir.

A shorter *Badarak* of 1-hour duration will be celebrated with their full participation.

Morning Service on this Sunday will begin at 9:30 am.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2015

Annual Parish Assembly and Elections immediately following the Divine Liturgy

THE GOSPEL LECTIONS FOR ADVENT AND WHAT THEY TEACH US

December 14th - Luke 17:1-10

Forgiveness is a divine imperative and we shall do all that God commands us to do.

December 21st - Luke 18:9-14 -

Humility is what raises us high in the sight of God and of others.

December 28th - Luke 19:12-28

**When we strongly show our faith, what we believe even more [strength to believe]
will be given to us.**

January 4th - Luke 22:24-30

Those who are the greatest are those who serve others.

IN THE ARMENIAN TRADITION

About Noah's Ark

When the waters of the great flood subsided, the Ark that Noah had built finally settled on Mount Ararat as indicated in the Holy Bible in the Book of Genesis chapter 8, verse 4. Mount Ararat was once part of historic Armenia. Although today this holy biblical mountain is located inside the borders of eastern Turkey, Armenians around the world identify with the image of Mount Ararat. All people who know the Bible also know the location of this important mountain as the resting place of Noah's Ark, a symbol of protecting God's created beings. Also the Ark is the tangible sign of the solemn promise or covenant made by God with Noah, that He would never destroy the earth or humankind again. To further seal this promise God set a colorful rainbow in the sky after the flood as a sign of his love. When some people see rainbows they make a wish, but Christians knowing the history of the rainbow offer a prayer to God thanking Him for his saving power and love.

I set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. [Genesis 9: 13]

For centuries, explorers have tried to find the remains of Noah's Ark. Saint James of Medzpin [Nisibus], a revered 4th century saint in the Armenian Church, attempted to climb the Holy Mount Ararat to find the Ark. But he was too old to climb high enough. While he rested and slept on the mountain slope, tradition tells us that an angel appeared to him in a vision and gave him a gift: a piece of the Ark.

About the first Christian King and Queen of Armenia

In the fourth century, the King and Queen of Armenia made a very bold decision for their people. That decision was to become a Christian Nation. There were many people in Armenia who had become followers of Jesus Christ since the time of Saints Thaddeus Jude and Bartholomew, the Lord's Apostles who had preached in our motherland. This was a difficult time as the majority of Armenians were still pagans. At that time, King Drtad himself was pagan and because of that all people who were Christian had to conceal their faith in Christ the Lord, because King Drtad had banned Christianity from Armenia and imprisoned those who were revealed as Christian believers, even executing them. It was Saint Gregory the Enlightener [or Illuminator] who taught King Drtad and his wife Queen Ashkhen about Christ and then baptized them. This was Armenia's historic moment of transformation when Christ reigned and still reigns in our land of Armenia. This great moment of change occurred in AD 301.

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.

Տաղէ 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
orhnootyoon 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.