

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.

February 21, 2016

The Armenian Church Year 1464

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON (Third Sunday of Lent)

Celebrant: Fr. Aren Jebejian



THE LORD'S DAY - SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP

The Sunrise Office / Մթնալոյս ...9:00 am

Divine Liturgy / Ս.Պատարագ9:45 am

SACRED LECTIONS OF THE LITURGY

Isaiah 54:11- 55:13

II Corinthians 6:1-7:1

Luke 15:1-32

Lector: Yeretzgin Roberta Kochakian

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

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 15:1-32

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes murmured saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

And he said, "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Prayers for the Sick and Hospitalized

Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian
Araxey Barsamian
Elina Cobb
Don McCorkle
James Shahbazian

Jilber Abajian
Rose Boudakian
Cheryl Giesa
Walter Negosian

David M. Apoian
Marge Brothers
Ruben Griffin
Charles Sansone

Women's Guild News

Winter Bake Days

Monday, February 22nd, evening bake from 6 - 8 pm: *Choreg* led by Marianne Dardarian
Tuesday, February 23rd, 9 am - noon: *Khalkha* with Cathy Atesian

Everyone is welcome to join us. No experience needed!
Come for fellowship and learn how to make your favorite Armenian delicacies.

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

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

Day by Day Bible Study

Wednesday, February 24th
12:00 — 2:00 pm

For more information, call Yeretzgin Roberta at 248.538.9993

Parish Assembly Ballot

2016 Parish Assembly Ballot: The Nominating Committee of St. John Armenian Church is currently recruiting members in good standing for positions on the 2016 Parish Assembly Ballot. The committee has recently begun the process of contacting members for positions on Parish Council, Nominating Committee, Auditor, Secretary of the Day and Chairman of the Day. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the Nominating Committee members if you are interested in filling any of these positions. Please contact Yvonne Korkoian with questions or for more information at 248.254.3029.

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

The Armenian Genocide and Problems of Evil — \$20.00

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

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

New: The Guest Room by Chris Bohjalian — HC \$25.00

New: The Hundred Year Walk, An Armenian Odyssey by Dawn Anahid MacKeen — HC \$24.00

New Items From Armenia

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

Youth Basketball Program 2015-2016

If you know of any young Armenian youth that may be interested in joining our basketball program, 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



BASHDON HOKEHANKUSDIAN
REQUIEM PRAYERS FOR THE SOULS WHO SLEEP IN CHRIST

THOMAS CARL BARDAKIAN, 40th Day, Dear Friend

Requested by Edward, Yvonne, Dr. Laura & Christopher Korkoian
Isabelle Vahratian & Family
Karen & Michael Kazarian & Family

HELEN KASHIAN, 40th Day, Dear Friend

Requested by Marty & Diana Shoushanian & Family
Simon Javizian

KRIKOR MERAMETDJIAN, Husband, Father, Khnamee

Requested by Nennette Merametdjian & Family
Clara Dzovigian & Family

Gifts to the Church

A gift has been presented to the church in memory of beloved husband
Dr. Krikor Merametdjian from Nennette Merametdjian.

Clara Dzovigian and family present a gift to the church in memory of beloved khnamee
Dr. Krikor Merametdjian.

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.

Remembering the Victims of Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Baku Massacres

Armenian churches throughout the Diocese will perform requiem services for the souls of the victims of the Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Baku massacres. St. John's has a very large Baku-Armenian community that we honor on this day.

Requiem prayers for the victims of these pogroms, which occurred from 1988-1991, will be said during *Baradak* next Sunday, February 28th. A blessing will be said at the Baku-Sumgait *khatchkar* as we remember the victims of the massacres immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

Help Needed for Armenian Family

An elderly brother and sister are looking for light help around the house.

Ethnic cooking is a plus! Located in Royal Oak - compensation is negotiable.



For more information, please call 773.251.7195 or 847.867.9312

St. John Armenian Church is Hiring!

St. John's is looking to hire a parish secretary to assist with the day-to-day functions of the church. We are seeking someone with advanced computer knowledge, experience in Microsoft Suite, and English-Armenian language skills. This is a full-time position. For more information, kindly email hr@sjachurch.org.

We Need Your Help!

We are looking for parishioners willing to work with the Parish Council in organizing and being our chairpersons for the Annual Church Picnic and Festival events this year. These are important events for St. John, especially with this year being the Church's 85th anniversary. The Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 14th. The Festival is the weekend of October 21st - 23rd. No previous experience is necessary; just a desire to serve the Church, work with other parishioners, and have fun. If you would like to be involved or want additional information, please contact one of the Parish Council members or the church office.

What is Great Lent?

Great Lent is the 40-day period of spiritual preparation that leads to Easter. In Armenian, the term for Great Lent is Medz Bahk, which means Great Fast. It is the longest and most significant of all the periods of fasting and prayer that precede other Church feasts. It recalls the 40 days Jesus tested and prayed in the wilderness, away from family, friends, food and all distractions.

Read about the story in Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13 and Luke 4:1-13.

When did Great Lent Originate?

The first reference to Great Lent is from the 4th century by St. Athanasius. In one of his letters, he refers to a 40-day fast beginning the sixth week before Easter and including Holy

Week. By the year 340, Lent became universally recognized and practiced, and by the year 384, there is a very clear evidence that Great Lent was fully developed in Jerusalem, including liturgical services that were a part of the tradition of Armenians there.

Are there exactly 40 Days in Great Lent?

The number forty is theologically significant, as it implies completeness. In the Armenian Church, Lent begins on the Monday after the 7th Sunday before Easter, and ends on the 40th day, the Friday before Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday.

How should we practice Great Lent?

Create a fasting regimen that you can reasonably follow and reflects both the Lenten spirit of dedicating yourself to God and the joy of the resurrection of Jesus. Remember that we fast in order to realize our hunger for God, and hunger pangs should become reminders to fill the void with the Word of God through prayer and acts of charity such as giving, sharing and forgiveness. Fasting may include abstaining from something special, such as an activity or hobby. Moderate your fast on Saturdays, and especially on Sundays during Great Lent.

Hosted by the St. John's Men's Society

Mother's Day Celebration

Sunday, May 8, 2016

Following *Badarak* in the Main Hall

Adults: \$25 | Children 6-12: \$10 | Children five and under: free

Assorted artesian dinner rolls, scones, cream cheese, jams and butter

Baby spinach leaves with sliced almonds, tomatoes, red onions,
Romano cheese tossed in a balsamic basil vinaigrette

A combination plate of:

Grilled chicken breast with sundried tomatoes, mushrooms
Lemon and chive encrusted salmon
Anna potatoes, sugar snap peas

For the children: Tossed greens with Italian dressing
Chicken strips, ranch dressing, served with rice pilaf

Crepe Brûlée

Chocolate fountain with fresh fruit, assorted cookies, pretzels, marshmallows and assorted dipping goodies
Orange, cranberry and apple juices
Chocolate milk, regular coffee and tea

Limited seating. Table service - reservations required by May 1st.
For reservations contact: Dr. Gary Zamanigian at 248.322.9393

Women's Guild Presents

A Luncheon & Fashion Show

Dedicated to all Mothers

Saturday, May 21, 2016

10:00 am Boutiques and 12:00 pm Luncheon and fashion show

Adults: \$55 | Children 12 and under: \$20

St. John Armenian Church | 22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield, MI 48075

For reservations and information please be in touch with
Linda Assarian by emailing her at linda.assarian@gmail.com

Tickets go on sale March 15th

Upcoming Events

ACYOA Jr.s Present

Lenten Fish Dinner

Wednesday, February 24, 2016
And all Wednesdays until March 16th

5:30 - 6:30 pm
Lenten vigil service beginning at 7:00 pm

Adults: \$10.00 | Children: \$5.00

Vegan options available.

Save the date for our highly awaited Lenten Fish and Lobster Dinner on March 16th!

For reservations, please contact 248.569.3405 or email office@sjachurch.org



Crisis in the Middle East: Impact on Armenians
Guest speakers Dr. Ara Sanjian, Edmond Azadian, Dr. Vahe Sahakyan

Saturday, March 5th at 7 pm
AGBU School Multipurpose Room



Parish Retreat

Sponsored by the St. John Women's Guild

Saturday, March 12, 2016
9 am - 3 pm

Topic - St. Mary: Then and Now | Led by Fr. Aren Jebejian

Suggested donation: \$15

Please make checks payable to St. John Armenian Church and mail them to the church with attention to the Women's Guild. Please put "Retreat" in the memo. This retreat is open to all!

Annual Parish Assembly and Council Elections

Today, Sunday, February 21st following *Badarak*

Lenten Lunch will be served - donation is \$10 to support the Fuller House Project.

2016 Diocesan Summer Camp Programs

St. Vartan Camp

Ararat Center, Greenville, NY

Staff Training: June 22-25

Session A: June 26-July 9 | Session B: July 10-July 23 | Session C: July 24-August 6

Campers ages 8-15

CITs ages 16 and 17; Staff and volunteers ages 18+

Hye Camp

Camp Hickory, Ingleside, IL

Staff Training: July 27-30

Two Week Session: July 30-August 13

Week 1: July 30-August 6 | Week 2: August 6-13

Register online by visiting www.diocesansummercamps.org

On Leaving the Sanctuary After Badarak

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 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.