

Sunday Bulletin

Կիրակնօրեայ Լրագիր



**ENTER TO WORSHIP THE LORD
DEPART TO SERVE HIM**

**FEBRUARY 8, 2009
THE ARMENIAN CHURCH YEAR OF 1458**

CELEBRANT: REV. FR. DIRAN PAPA ZIAN

THE LORD'S DAY - SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP

Matins - *Առաւօտեան Ժամերգութիւն*.....9:00 am
Divine Liturgy - *Սուրբ Պատարագ*9:45 am
Church School - *Կիրակնօրեայ Դպրոց*.....10:15 am

SACRED LECTIONS OF THE LITURGY

Today – Isaiah 63:7-18, 2 Timothy 3:1-12, John 6:22-38
Next Week – Isaiah 63:18-64:12, Titus 1:1-11, John 7:37-52

LECTOR: Dr. Norman Hogikyan

THE NICENE CREED WILL BE RECITED IN ENGLISH

ST. JOHN ARMENIAN CHURCH
Father Garabed Archpriest Kochakian, Pastor

**OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday – Friday
(248) 569-3405**

After hours in an emergency, please contact:
Pastor's Cell: (248) 225-9888
Administrator's Cell: (248) 802-2861

DAY BY DAY . . . AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26 AT NOON
Bible Study Leader: Yeretzgin Roberta
Bring your lunch, we will provide the coffee.

<u>Tracking Our "Treasures"</u>	<u>Sunday, February 25</u>
Plate Donations	\$ 404.00
Candle Donations	\$ 181.00

AT THE PARISH BOOKSTORE

EVERYONE PRAYS AT HOLY ETCHMIADZIN
DVD - \$20.00

NEW CD: GOMIDAS SONGS (Nominated for Grammy Award)
By Isabel Bayrakdarian - \$20.00

WHAT WILL YOU REMEMBER?
By Elise Papazian – Softcover - \$20.00

MY GRANDMOTHER: A MEMOIR BY FETHIYE CETIN
Softcover - \$20.00

BACK IN STOCK: YOUR JOURNEY INTO ARMENIA
By George Mouradian - Softcover - \$12.00

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Tuesday, February 10 – Senior Lunch-Noon
Sunday, February 15 - Morning Prayers 9 am; Divine Liturgy 9:45 am
Blessing of Infants following Requiem Service

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

Love all, trust a few. Do wrong to none.

THE KOMITAS CHOIR UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
Deacon Rubik Mailian, Director of Sacred Music
Margaret Lafian, Organist

USHERS: Berj Kurkechian, George Elian, Ardis Gregory, Roger Gregory, Stephen Derderian, Richard Santourian, Bill Derouchie

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Yeretzgin Patricia Dagley	Robert Ajemian
Valeriy Bagdasarian	Kathy Bandol
Steven Bear (CA)	Gregory Derderian
Margaret Jamgochian	Mary Semeroff
Marybeth Sutton	Lucy Torigian

TODAY'S GOSPEL READING: John 6:22-38

On the next day the people who remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. However, boats from Tiberias came near the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks. So when the people saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. "When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you; for on him has God the Father set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see, and believe you? What work do you perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven, and gives life to the world. They said to him, "Lord, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me; and him who comes to me I will not cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me."

TODAY AFTER WORSHIP

BUILD FOR ARMENIA MEETING FOR TEAM MEMBERS

WELCOME . . . We welcome our visitors who are attending the Divine Liturgy at St. John's parish, and we pray that your participation has been enriched through word and worship. We invite those visitors who are baptized and/or confirmed in the Armenian Church or are members of a church which is in communion with the Armenian Church to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. If you are a member of the Armenian Church and a newcomer to our community and would like information about our Christian Education program or any of our parish auxiliary groups, please call our office and we will be happy to respond to your questions. The Lord Jesus Christ loves you and desires that you share His love with others, making this holy community your spiritual home.

MARRIAGES

Arrangements for weddings in our holy sanctuary are to be made at least eight months in advance. Marriage preparation and counseling are required before the celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. Marriages are NOT celebrated during the season of Great Lent according to Armenian Church Canon Law.

BAPTISMS AND CHRISMATIONS

All Baptisms must be scheduled no less than two months in advance. At least one of the godparents must be a member of the Armenian Church, i.e. baptized in the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox faith. Baptisms are NOT celebrated during the season of Great Lent according to Armenian Church Canon Law.

CHURCH AND HOME...ONE IN SPIRIT

*If a people progresses, it takes its first step from the family home;
If illuminated, its light derives from the family lamp;
If united, its spirit and bond is the family;
If empowered, its strength and arm is the family;
If it prospers, its treasury and treasurer is the family;
If a people wants to inherit heaven after earth by
Keeping its religion, faith and church, then, yes,
The altar that maintains these holy
Traditions incorruptible and whole is the family.*

Khrimian Hayrig (1820-1907)

COMING EVENTS

Next Sunday, February 15

Diarrnuntarach

**Feast of the Presentation of the Lord to the Temple
Infants Blessing at the conclusion of *Badarak*
Candidates' Tea in Main Hall**

Thursday, February 19, 2009, 7:00 pm

Feast of *Vartanank*

**St. Vartan Armenian Catholic Church
at Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church
29125 W. Six Mile Rd. (East of Middlebelt – South of Six Mile)
Afterglow prepared by St. Vartan's Women's Guild**

<p>Friday, February 20, 2009, 7:00 pm Annual Parish Assembly</p>
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Sunday, February 22 - Boon Barekendan

Monday, February 23 - First Day of Great Lent

Wednesday, February 25 - ACYOA Lenten Fish Dinner

**5:30 – 6:30 pm; Lenten Vigil, 7:00 pm
(see program offerings elsewhere in Bulletin)**

Friday, February 27 – Sunday, March 1
Michigan/Ohio Regional ACYOA Jrs. Retreat
Camp Ohiyesa, Holly MI

Sponsored by the Diocesan Dept. of Youth & Education

Contact: Youth Coordinator Jennifer Morris
jenniferm@armeniandiocese.org

Forms also available on St. John's web page
stjohnsarmenianchurch.com

ASK THE PASTOR

Question: *It is an oddity to note that since we are accustomed to having a passage of scripture suggested for each day to be read in order to help our souls, why are there no prescribed scriptures for the past five days this last week?*

THE PRE-LENTEN FAST or ARACHAVORATS

In ancient times, this week was designated as a period of fasting for those who would be instructed and prepared for baptism, just prior to the celebration of Easter. THE FAST OF THE CATECHUMENS also is marked in a special way. There are no liturgical readings prescribed during this time. It is also a period known as the 'preliminary fast' before Great Lent begins.

During the 8th century, the Armenian theologian Grigoris Arsharuni developed a highly allegorical interpretation of this 5-day period, called in Armenian *Arachavorats*, [composed of two words, *arach* meaning 'before' and *avor* meaning 'days' thus, 'days before' or Preliminary Fast]. His interpretation had two levels of meaning. First, each of the five days symbolized the five patriarchs of the Old Testament Abel, Enoch, Abraham, Isaac and Noah. On another level, each day of the *Arachavorats* Fast signified the purification of the five senses, which were soiled by Adam's disobedience when he and Eve fell from God's grace in the Garden of Eden.

This type of allegory was typical of the medieval Armenian theologians. This in no way implies that it was a Canonical rule, rather just an interpretation. It was his own understanding of a period that really was Preliminary to the Great Lenten fast of 40 days. In as sense it was a practice of fasting, getting ready and used to what was to come for 40 days.

During the 365 days of the Armenian Church calendar, not every day had a Bible reading assigned to it. Therefore, the church fathers chose this 5-day period of fasting from the senses (sight, hearing and understanding) to refrain from obligating the church to read, hear and understand the scriptures. They used the 'interpretation of Grigoris' to rationalize these days of the Preliminary Fast as a fast from scripture and, therefore, did not have scriptural passages assigned to them. It was a period of total fast from food for the body as well as food for the soul.

So, as the body fasts from foods during the 5-day period of *Arachavorats*, so, too, does the mind, the eyes and the ears [three of the five senses] fast from the lections. It is an oddity, but nonetheless meaningful.

Why fast?

Fasting or refraining from something you love to do helps the focus of the spiritual senses in the same way as the physical senses to look at the **reason** for the deprivation: **CHRIST**. This total fasting should be replaced with one word, Christ, who is the food of eternal life.

ANTONIA ARSLAN TO SPEAK HERE ON APRIL 24

Ms. Antonia Arslan, author of *Skylark Farm*, will be our speaker at the Friday, April 24th Genocide Commemoration Madagh Dinner. In order to prepare our parish for her visit, St. John's is pleased to offer a copy of *Skylark Farm* to each interested dues-paid member/family. In offering the books it is our goal that our parishioners will read it in preparation for her visit and discussion. Books will be available on Sundays after church services, in the lobby, from **Sunday, February 15 thru Sunday, March 29**. Books are limited and will be available on a first come, first served basis. Dues paid member/families may only pick up their own personal copies.

Friday, February 20, 2009, 7:00 pm
Annual Parish Assembly

**Come early for delicious Armenian dinner of
loula kebab, pilaf and salad - \$10 per person -
served at 5:30 pm. For reservations
please call the church office 248.569.3405**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Friday, February 13, 7:30 pm
**AGBU Manoogian School Las Vegas Night/
Texas Hold'em Tournament @ Rec Center**
Phone 248.569.2988 for reservations

ADL/Tekeyan MASQUERADE BALL
Saturday, February 21, 7:30 pm
RSVP: 248.334.3636

WARM YOUR HEART . . . WARM YOUR BODY
WARM THE LOVE FROM GOD TO ONE WHO IS IN NEED.
CAN YOU DONATE TOWARD OUR BLANKET PROJECT??
The Sunday School students (grades 9 - 12) will be making blankets for the Salvation Army to provide children and families in need. If you can donate to this valuable Blanket Project, please contact Roseann Attar: vart@comcast.net or cell 248-980-3221

St. John's New Website

We have launched a new and expanded website for our parish and the world! There are many new additions to keep you informed on what is going on in our community. Visit soon and submit your comments and suggestions to the webmaster.

Stjohnarmenianchurch.org OR
Stjohnsarmenianchurch.com

**The 2008 Annual Report will be available
for pickup by dues-paid members
next Sunday, February 15.**

WOMEN'S GUILD TO SELL CHEOREG AFTER CHURCH

WINTER BAKING: MORNINGS AND EVENINGS

Roxie Choukourian and Yerezgin Roberta are chairing a Khalkha bake day on **Tuesday, February 10 at 9 am**. Come help and have fun as "Many hands make light work!" All are welcome. You need **NOT** be a Women's Guild member to participate.

Plan to join us on **Monday, February 16, 6 pm – 8:30 pm** for an evening Cheoreg bake, chaired by Marianne Dardarian, also on **Tuesday, February 17 at 9 am** when we'll be making Sou Beoreg under the leadership of Anita Arslanian.

KNITTING CLUB

Guild members, please note the date change for Knitting Club.

This month we'll be knitting and chatting on **Thursday, February 12, 10 am – Noon**.

ATTENTION WOMEN'S GUILD MEMBERS AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS!

On **Saturday, February 21, at 10:00 a.m.** we will be making "No-Sew Fleece Blankets" to donate to the Methodist Children's Village in Redford. Join us (no experience necessary!) to spend a morning of helping hands and conversation. A light lunch will be served. To attend please call Linda Assarian 248-332-0816.



BASHDON HOKEHANKSDYAN – REQUIEM SERVICE FOR THOSE WHO SLEEP IN CHRIST

Today during the Divine Liturgy we offer our prayers as the community of St. John's for the souls of the departed servants of Christ.

DOROTHY KASH (Milwaukee), 40th Day, Aunt, Great-Aunt
Requested by Judy & Terry Parks
Allison, Amy & Emily Parks

**EDWARD K. TOROSSIAN, 40th Day, Husband, Father, Grandfather,
Great-Grandfather**
Requested by Mrs. Rosalie Torossian
Jerry & Linda Torossian Penson, Kyle & Lauren
Joe & Celia Turner
Chris & Kim Dana & Kate
Elaine Torossian & Emily
Steve & Julie Torossian Marciniak, Noah & Mariel

**AVEDIS VAYVALAKO, 40th Day, Husband, Father, Brother, Uncle,
Friend**
Requested by Gulizar, Thomas & Lisa Vayvalako
Mr. & Mrs. Agop & Seta Afacanyan, Johnny & Natalie
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Kalfayan & Family

**RAISA KHACHATUROVA, 1st Year, Friend
ROBERT SHARMAZANOV, 21st Year**
Requested by Natalya Sharm-Mosesov & Family

**LUCY MAMASSIAN, 37th Year, Mother-in-Law, Grandmother, Great-
Grandmother**
Requested by Marie Mamassian
Darwin, Ruth, Laura & Brian Mamassian
Mark, Maral, Hripsime & Arevik Mamassian
Jeffrey Mamassian

**ISGOUHI TOPALIAN, 16th Year, Mother, Grandmother, Great-
Grandmother**
Requested by Marie Mamassian
Darwin, Ruth, Laura & Brian Mamassian
Mark, Maral, Hripsime & Arevik Mamassian
Jeffrey Mamassian
John & Vartouhi Topalian & Family
Jack Topalian & Family (Florida)

