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.

MARCH 1, 2015 SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON CELEBRANT: REV. FR. GARABED KOCHAKIAN

THE LORD'S DAY - SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP

Morning Service / Առաւօտեան Ժամերգութիւն 8:45 am Sunrise Service /Արեւագալի Ժամեգութիւն 9:30 am Divine Liturgy / Ս.Պատարագ 10:30 am

SACRED LECTIONS OF THE LITURGY ISAIAH 54:11 55:13, II CORINTHIANS 6:1 7:1, LUKE 15:1 32 LECTOR: EDWARD KORKOIAN

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 mkafafian@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 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

Stan Armit Rose Boudakian Pam Dayinian
George Douroujalian Cheryl Giesa Frank Houhanisin
May Kafafian Walter Negosian Aida Petrosyan
Richard Santourian Mary Sarafian Anita Tootikian

Alice Prudian

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2015, 9:00 am—3:30 pm
20TH ANNUAL LENTEN RETREAT SEMINAR
"VICTORS FOR CHRIST: Who is a Saint?" Guest Speaker:
Dr. Roberta Ervine
TO REGISTER, CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE BY MARCH 12TH.

BOTTLES AND CANS NEEDED

Nicole Sarkisian, an 11th grader in St. John's Church School, will participate in a Mission Trip to Armenia this summer to work in Armenian orphanages helping with education, nutrition and clothing programs of the Paros Foundation*. Between now and April, Nicole will be collecting empty pop cans and bottles to raise funds to donate to the Paros Foundation in conjunction with the service portion of her trip. Please drop off your empty cans or bottles in the container labeled "Nicole's Mission Trip" at the Museum entry from the parking lot. Thank you. However, if you wish to make a monetary donation to the Paros Foundation, you may give your check to Nicole directly.

VISIT THE PARISH BOOKSTORE

NEW: "When I Was Baptized"—Children's Board Book—\$12.00
"Mariam's Easter Parade" - Children's Book,
by Marianne Markarian HC \$16
The best selection of Armenian books and CDs plus many gift items:
jewelry,

Armenian crosses, key chains, cookbooks and many "Made in Armenia" products.

SPECIAL: 2-CD SET BY ROGER KRIKORIAN.

GREAT LENT MEDZ BAHK: A Time to Look at your 'spirit'

O-Who is God, Who am I and How can I be like him.

A-God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit and we know Him through Jesus Christ, called Son of God, but for Christians- The Revelation of God

It is our life's journey as Christians to become Godlike, as Jesus teaches us You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. Great Lent is the time of perfecting the human spirit and soul, a 40 day period of spiritual and physical perfecting before we celebrate the MOST PERFECT... Christ God's Resurrection from the Dead on Easter. Great Lent also helps us remember the 40 days when Jesus Himself fasted and prayed in the wilderness, away from family, friends, foods, and distractions as he prepared His Ministry in helping us find Godly perfection.

During these 40 days we also fast and pray more, we focus on the kingdom of heaven and not on the world only; trying to find the answers to the questions, Who is God, Who am I and How can I be like Him?

WHEN DID GREAT LENT ORIGINATE?

The first reference to Great Lent is from a 4th century Saint named Athanasius. In one of his letters, he speaks about a 40 day fast beginning in the sixth week before Easter Sunday which includes the week before Easter called Holy Week. By the year 340, Great Lent became universally recognized and observed. By 384 it was officially a practice of the Church in the Holy City Jerusalem with fully organized services of worship that even Armenians living there started to practice and make part of Armenian Christian tradition.

HOW DID GREAT LENT ORIGINATE?

Most likely, Great Lent originated as time to prepare for Baptism into the Christian faith and church. It was before Easter Sunday that this life of seeking 'perfection' took place. In the early days of Christianity, Baptism into the Church was aligned with the celebration of Easter and the Resurrection of Christ. During these days, all who wanted to be Christian were taught the faith, learned how to worship and pray as a community; and how to pray as an individual as well. On Easter Eve, they were baptized into the Church. Over time this season of 40 days in learning the ways of a Christian life became formalized as a time of instruction not only for becoming a Christian but came to be observed by all Churches and for all who were already themselves Christian. It was called a period of Great Keeping as we say in Armenian Medz Bahk. And, it was during this time, the entire church adopted 40 days to prepare for the greatest of feast days, the Holy Resurrection of Jesus Christ.



BASHDON HOKEHANKUSDYAN REOUIEM 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.

ESTHER JANIGIAN, 40th Day, Friend

Requested by Mr. & Mrs. Vahram Papaghanian Agop Demirdjian & Christine Sherameta Varastad & Houpi Janikian Karen & Alex Kayayian Lena & Mark Amerazian & Family Lucy Sahakian & Jacques Aram & Rose Pambookian Karnik & Manya Kazazian Seta & Anto Kazazian Vatche, Arek, John & Paul Nadjarian Jerry & Anna Wallace Mr. & Mrs. Nerses Markarian Yervant & Mary Bedikian & Family Susan Janigian

Edward, Yvonne & Christopher Korkoian

Mr. and Mrs. Manouk and Sona Derovakimian

SOPHIE NAGOHOSIAN, 3rd Year, Wife, Mother, Grandmother

Requested by John Nagohosian Michele, Nicole & Michael Ducato Greg, Sandy, Alexis, Lia & Natalie Jamian

LUCY TORIGIAN, 6th Year, Friend

Requested by Edward & Yvonne Korkoian & Family

FLORENCE KARAGOSIAN, Wife, Mother, Grandmother

Requested by Harry Karagosian Robert Karagosian Tim & Robin Karagosian David & Dawn Karagosian Harry Jr. & Joann Karagosian Grandchildren

REQUIEMS CONT'D

ARET HINTIRYAN, 15th year, Husband, Father, Grandfather

Requested by Azniv Hintiryan Lilian, Sevan, Alec, & Arlene Calukyan Dr. Arlet, Artusu, Sophie, & Laurene Dakesian

Pope Francis Declares Armenian Saint Doctor of the Universal Church

(Vatican Radio) Pope Francis has declared Armenian poet and monk, Saint Gregory of Narek, a Doctor of the Universal Church. Meeting with Cardinal Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Cause of Saints on Saturday ahead of his departure for Aricca on Lenten retreat, the Pope confirmed the proposal put forward by the Plenary Session of the Congregation to confer the title of Doctor of the Universal Church on the 10th century saint.

St. Gregory of Narek is widely revered as one of the greatest figures of medieval Armenian religious thought and literature. Born in the city of Narek in about 950 A.D., St. Gregory came from a line of scholars and churchmen.

St. Gregory received his education under the guidance of his father, Bishop Khosrov, author of the earliest commentary on the Divine Liturgy, and from Anania Vartabed, abbess of Narek Monastery. He and his two brothers entered monastic life at an early age, and St. Gregory soon began to excel in music, astronomy, geometry, mathematics, literature, and theology.

He became a priest at the age of 25 and dedicated himself to God. He lived most of his life in the monastery of Narek, where he taught at the monastic school. St. Gregory began his writings with a commentary on the "Song of Songs," which was commissioned by an Armenian prince. Despite his reservations that he was too young for the task, the commentary became famous for its clarity of thought and language and its excellence of theological presentation.

He also wrote a number of famous letters, *sharagans*, treasures, odes, melodies, and discourses. Many of his prayers are included in the Divine Liturgy celebrated each Sunday in Armenian Churches around the world.

St. Gregory's masterpiece is considered to be his *Book of Lamentations*. Also known as *Narek*, it is comprised of 95 prayers, each of which is titled "Conversation with God from the depth of the heart." A central theme is man's separation from God, and his quest to reunite with Him. St. Gregory described the work this way: "Its letters like my body, its message like my soul." He called his book an "encyclopedia of prayer for all nations." It was his hope that it would serve as a guide to prayer for people all over the world. After the advent of movable type, the book was published in Marseille in 1673, and has been translated into at least 30 languages.

St. Gregory of Narek is remembered by the Armenian Church in October of each year.

METRO DETROIT EVENTS FOR THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE CENTENNIAL

www.armeniangenocidecentennialmi.com

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 7:30 PM—Isabel Bayrakdarian In Concert, Ford Performing Arts Center, Dearborn (Tickets available at \$50, \$35, \$25 through Leslie Balian 248-303-4690). This concert will be an all-Armenian program in honor of the martyrs. Participating will be Serouj Kradjian, pianist, and Henrik Karapetyan, violinist with string quartet.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 7:00 PM-8:30 PM— Holocaust Memorial Center, Farmington Hills, lecture by Taner Akcam, Kaloosdian/Mugar Professor of History at Clark University. Topic: "The State of Armenian Genocide Studies: Problems and Challenges"

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 9:00 AM-6:00 PM WORKSHOP: "Teaching about Genocide: Approaches and Challenges" Organized by Melanie Tanielian, Assistant Professor, History, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 10:30 AM—Wayne State University, lecture by Eric Nazarian. Musical performance by Nune Milikian, Siberian-born Armenian violinist, jointly sponsored by Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee & Cohn-Haddow Center for Judaic Studies at WSU.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 7:00 PM—Holocaust Memorial Center, Farmington Hills – Lecture by Khatchig Mouradian (on Armenian Genocide) and a second speaker on the Holocaust (to be announced). Co-sponsored by University of Michigan-Dearborn, Holocaust Memorial Center.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 7:00 PM— Ecumenical Service, St. Mary's Antiochian Orthodox Basilica, 18100 Merriman Rd., Livonia. Clergy from various faiths have been invited to take part. Choirs from Armenian churches will sing. Principal homilist, Abp. Allen Vigneron, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Detroit. Sponsored by 4 Armenian churches of Detroit.

FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 19— St. John's Komitas Choir will sponsor a concert to celebrate Armenian culture by the Armenian Community Chorale at the Max Fisher Orchestra Hall, Detroit.

NATIONAL COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE CENTENNIAL

info@armeniangenocidecentennial.org www.armeniangenocidecentennial.org

On May 7, 8 and 9, 2015, thousands will gather in Washington, D.C. to commemorate the centennial of the Armenian Genocide. While remembering those who were lost, we will also give thanks for the creation of a new Armenia and for thriving Armenian communities around the world. Please refer to the announcement in the main lobby for details.

THE NATIONAL CATHEDRAL, MAY 7, 7:00 PM

His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, and His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, will lead Armenian clergy and representatives of other faiths in an ecumenical service. Present will be Armenia's President Serge Sargsyan and other dignitaries.

THE MUSIC CENTER AT STRATHMORE, MAY 8, 8:00 PM

The acclaimed Hover Chamber Choir of Armenia and other renowned musicians will present "A Journey Through 100 Years of Armenian Music." The program will include a range of music from the classic melodies of Komitas Vartabed to contemporary pieces composed for this centennial.

NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, MAY 9, 10:00 AM

His Holiness Karekin II and His Holiness Aram I will lead a unified celebration of the Armenian Divine Liturgy. The liturgy will be sung by a united choir from Armenian churches around the country. The 3,000-seat basilica is on the campus of Catholic University.

THE MARRIOTT MARQUIS HOTEL, MAY 9 AT 6:00 PM

A reception and banquet offer "A Time to Give Thanks." The keynote speaker will be Dr. Vartan Gregorian, President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Mark Giragos will host the evening of musical performances and awards.

EXHIBITIONS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, MAY 7-9

Innovative workshops, films, and exhibits will be mounted in public spaces in the nation's capital and around the Marriott Marquis. Activities will be provided for children, with entertainment and childcare available during the banquet.

TO OBTAIN THE NCAGC SPECIAL ROOM RATE OF \$159 PER NIGHT, BOOK THROUGH THIS LINK: resweb.passkey.com/go/441f5d02

ARMENIAN PROGRAMMING ON DETROIT PUBLIC TELEVISION

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 8:00 PM—Armenian Culture Night on Detroit Public Television will show the film "THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE"

9:30 PM—WORLD PREMIERE OF 1-HOUR DOCUMENTARY "GUARDIANS OF MUSIC: A HISTORY OF ARMENIAN MUSIC IN DETROIT" PRODUCED BY ARA TOPOUZIAN

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, (TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED) - "VOICES FROM THE LAKE: THE SECRET GENOCIDE" by J. Michael Hagopian

A GIFT TO THE CHURCH

A gift to the church is presented by Joe Kludjian in honor of his birthday on March 5th.

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ON FASTING

DO YOU FAST?

GIVE ME PROOF OF IT BY OUR WORKS.

IF YOU SEE A POOR MAN, TAKE PITY ON HIM.

IF YOU SEE A FRIEND BEING HONORED, DO NOT ENVY HIM.

DO NOT LET ONLY YOUR MOUTH FAST, BUT ALSO THE EYE, AND THE EAR AND THE FEET, AND THE HANDS, AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF OUR BODIES.

LET THE HANDS FAST, BY BEING FREE OF AVARICE.

LET THE FEET FAST, BY CEASING TO RUN AFTER SIN.

LET THE EYES FAST, BY DISCIPLINING THEM NOT TO GLARE

AT THAT WHICH IS SINFUL.

LET THE EAR FAST, BY NOT LISTENING TO EVIL TALK AND GOSSIP.

LET THE MOUTH FAST FROM FOUL WORDS AND UNJUST CRITICISM.

FOR WHAT GOOD IS IT IF WE ABSTAIN FROM BIRDS AND FISHES,

BUT BITE AND DEVOUR OUR BROTHERS?

THUS FASTING IS MUCH MORE THAN DOING WITHOUT FOOD, THAT IS THE LEAST PART. IT IS FASTING FROM ALL PRIDE, SELFISHNESS, SIN AND GREED.

SUNDAY THEMES

TODAY —The Prodigal Son:

Sin, Forgiveness and Love - connecting the dots. Making mistakes and correcting them. Isaiah 55: 1-13, II Corinthians 6: 1-18, Luke 15:11-32

MARCH 8—The Steward: A time to commit and care. Isaiah 57: 14-21, Ephesians 4: 25-32, St. Luke 16:1-13

MARCH 15—The Judge: Persistence and reward. Isaiah 65:17-25, Philippians 4: 4-9, St. Luke 18 1-8

MARCH 22—Advent: God makes great things happen to help us come home to Him. Isaiah 66: 15-17. Colossians 3: 12-17, St. Matthew 22: 34 - 23: 39

March 29- Palm Sunday: Homecoming from earth to heaven Zecariah 9:9-15, Philippians 4:4-7, St. Matthew 20:29-21:17

ACYOA LENTEN FISH DINNERS EVERY WEDNESDAY DURING GREAT LENT 5:30-6:30

MARCH 4, MARCH 11, MARCH 18 - Adults, \$10.00 - Children, \$5.00

MARCH 25 - \$20.00—Lobster Dinner

PLEASE PHONE THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR DINNER RESERVATIONS

248-569-3405

LENTEN VIGIL SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY 7 PM

Women's Guild News

Women's Guild Bake Sale: The women have been baking each week and, through the double doors to the hall, the table is filled with several items to buy: khalkha, large and small cheoreg, cheese beoregs, tepsee beoregs, katah, nazoog, simit, boorma, and sou beoreg. You can pre-order your sou beoregs (sold in small trays for Palm Sunday Bake only).

Winter Bake Days: Everyone is welcome to participate!! Please join us for our following bake days to learn how to make your favorite Armenian delicacies. 9am - noon: Tuesday, March 3, Simit (chairman, Joy Callan), and Tuesday, March 10, Choreg (chairman, Dolly Matoian), Tuesday, March 17, Khata (chairmen Joy Callan & Terry Palaian). Please contact Dolly Matoian 248-737-9055 for more details.

Next Women's Guild Meeting: Wednesday March 4th: The Saintly Women's Day Meeting, 12pm, Contact Joy Callan for reservations: 248-254-3955 or Yerchanigc@gmail.com

The Social Service Committee is asking Guild members to help donate new books, at a first or second grade level, for students of Katy Kalajian (daughter of Guild member Kim Kalajian). These children live in an economically disadvantaged area of North Carolina and do not have books of their own. Please bring your book donation to the March meeting. Let's help "Katie's Kids."

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

THE GREATLENTEN SEASON

During the period of Great Lent in the Armenian Church we observe the following:

- The altar curtain is closed.
- There is no Kiss of Peace during the Divine Liturgy.
- Holy Communion is not offered during the Divine Liturgy.
- The Holy Gospels Book is not venerated after worship.
- Hymns are sung in penitential melody.
- Names of saints are not remembered.
- The organ is not played when departing from the sanctuary.
- All should remain silent when exiting the sanctuary after worship in respect to those who remain for devotional prayers.
- Weddings and Baptisms are not celebrated.

THE PSALM OF DISMISSAL - PSALM 34

Orhnetseets uzDer hamenayn zham, hamenayn zham orhnootyoon nora ee peran eem.

Oրհնեցից 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.