

**St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit**

22001 Northwestern Highway | Southfield, MI 48075  
248.569.3405 (phone) | 248.569.0716 (fax)  
[www.stjohnsarmenianchurch.org](http://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*



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*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 8, 2015**

**SUNDAY OF THE STEWARD**

**CELEBRANT: REV. FR. GARABED KOCHAKIAN**

**THE LORD'S DAY - SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP**

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

**SACRED LECTIONS OF THE LITURGY**

**ISAIAH 56:1-57:21, EPHESIANS 4:17-5:14, LUKE 16:1-31**

**LECTOR: CHARLENE APIGIAN**

***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](mailto: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 16:1-31**

He also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a steward, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.' And the steward said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the stewardship away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do, so that people may receive me into their houses when I am put out of the stewardship.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' The master commended the dishonest steward for his shrewdness; for the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous mammon, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal habitations.

"He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will entrust to you the true riches? and if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

### **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.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18**

**NOON—2 PM**

**DAY-BY-DAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY IN THE NURSERY**

**BRING YOUR BIBLE AND YOUR LUNCH**

**ALL ARE WELCOME.**

### **VISIT THE PARISH BOOKSTORE**

**NEW: Remembering the Genocide T-Shirts Youth & Adult sizes \$20.00**

**“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: ARE THERE EXACTLY 40 DAYS OF GREAT LENT?

The number forty is theologically significant, as it implies completeness. When John the Evangelist writes about Jesus spending 40 days in the wilderness he was suggesting that Jesus spent ‘enough time’ in the desert away from the world to fulfill what was required by God His Father, and necessary for Himself to begin bringing the message of Salvation to the world.

Subsequently Churches began to adjust their ways of worship and liturgical practices and calendars to make Great Lent exactly 40 days as well. In the Armenian Church, Great Lent always begins on a Monday after the 7th Sunday before Easter and ends on the 40th day which is the Friday before Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday.

### What can we eat during Great Lent?

- The authentic fasting tradition of the Armenian Church can be found in various writings of our Church Fathers. In taking a look at some of these writings, this is what we have come to know about fasting and what to eat during Great Lent and why?

- There is not ONE ABSOLUTE, Universal set of fasting rules and practices. Fasting rules varied from one church to another, the Church in Armenia vs. the Church in Egypt. Also even in Armenia itself, from one monastery to another monastery, from one region in Armenia to another region in Armenia. Why? Perhaps because communication was not like it is today, instant, easily shared. So, it is not surprising for variances.

- In Armenia fasting was very strict, and in some places and monasteries [vanks] the Lenten diet consisted only of salt, bread and water; as we say in Armenian Agh Hatz and Choor. Overtime Great Lent was often referred to as the season of Aghoohatzis [salt and bread]. Even some lay people followed this regimen as well.

- No animal products were eaten during Great Lent. Why? Because it was proper to abstain from all ‘flesh/meats’ to honor only the Flesh of Christ and get ready to receive Him in His Holy Communion on Palm Sunday and Easter when the time of abstaining [staying away from] ended. For Christ feeds us with the most satisfying of nourishment, Himself.

- We should note here the term flesh means both fish and animal meats. Even during Great Lent fish was understood as the flesh of the sea.

- There is no certainty surrounding the consumption of alcohol, oils, olives, honey, and some other similar types of foods. The strict followers of the Great Fast of Lent even stayed away or abstained from these as well, while others who were less strict consumed them. So the types of non-meat foods was a matter of personal choice rather than obliged practice.

- By tradition, Saturdays and Sundays were not considered as days of fasting in the Armenian Church. Saturdays are devoted to remembering the great Saints of our Church and celebrate them. And Sunday is the Day of the Lord *GIRAGEE* or *DEROONAGAN* OR also a day of ‘celebration’. As such, it is spiritually incompatible to fast on days of celebration. Over time, the custom of the Great Lenten fast extended and even included Saturday and Sunday as well, which was contrary to the ancient practice and tradition of our Church.



***BASHDON HOKEHANKUSDYAN***

**REQUIEM PRAYERS FOR THE SOULS WHO SLEEP IN CHRIST**

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

**MIRIDJAN KRALIAN, 28th Year, Beloved Father**

Dick Kralian

**BYUZAND GHARIBYAN, 6th Year, Beloved Father & Grandfather**

Arsho, Sebouh, Sona, & Leah Avedikian

**GARABET AVEDIKIAN, 29th Year, Beloved Father & Grandfather**

Arsho, Sebouh, Sona, & Leah Avedikian

**JOHN HAIG BILIZEKJIAN, 40th Day, Cousin**

Edward and Yvonne Korkoian & Family

David and Marianne Dardarian & Family

Michael and Diana Dardarian & Family

Dr. Sharon Dardarian

**BERJ ARA ADAM, 1st year, Brother & Uncle**

Azniv Hintiryan & Family

**MARY DOUROUJALIAN, 5th year, Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother,**

**Mother-in-law, Aunt, Great Aunt, Wonderful Friend to Many**

Diane, Bruce, & Kirsten Kezlarian

Courtney, Mike, & Amelia Abela

Donna and Lindsay Portrey

Ryan, Liz, & Cole Portrey

George, Yvette, & Blake Douroujalian

Bryan and Dominic Douroujalian & Amanda Munafo

**FALLEN ASLEEP WITH THE LORD**

We offer our prayers for the servant of God,

**BERJ KURKECHIAN**

Who entered his eternal rest this past week.

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

**FLOWERS FOR HOLY WEEK—WE NEED YOUR HELP**

If you would like to make a donation to help with the cost of flowers or candles for the Holy Altar during Holy Week and Easter, it would be greatly appreciated.

Donors for Easter lilies, Palm Sunday flowers, and flowers for the Holy Tomb of Christ are needed. If you wish to make a donation please call the Church Office at 248-569-3405 by March 20th.

*Donors will be acknowledged in the Easter Bulletin.*

## ***METRO DETROIT EVENTS FOR THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE CENTENNIAL***

***[www.armeniangenocidecentennialmi.com](http://www.armeniangenocidecentennialmi.com)***

**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, Alumni House—academic 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.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 7:00 PM**—AGBU Manoogian School, 100 Years Later: The Armenian Genocide. Raffi Bedrosyan, writer and advisor to the Zoryan Institute, presents his findings from a 2014 trip to Armenia and Turkey. Presented by the 2015 Detroit United Committee.

**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](mailto:info@armeniangenocidecentennial.org)**

**[www.armeniangenocidecentennial.org](http://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](http://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

## **GIFT TO THE CHURCH**

A gift to the church was presented by Harry Karagosian in memory of his beloved  
wife Florence Karagosian

### ***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 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

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### **ACYOA LENTEN FISH DINNERS EVERY WEDNESDAY DURING GREAT LENT**

**5:30-6:30**

**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 10, Choreg (chairman, Dolly Matoian), Tuesday, March 17, Khata ( chairmen Joy Callan & Terry Palaian). Please contact Dolly Matoian 248-737-9055 for more details.

*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*

## **T H E G R E A T L E N T E N S E A S O N**

**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.*

**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.**