

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:

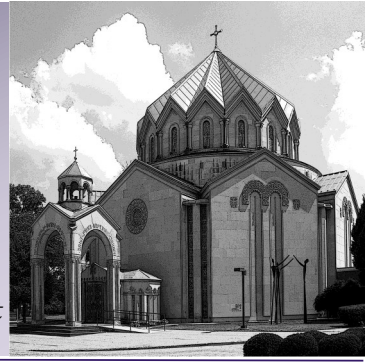
The Reverend Father Diran Papazian

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.

November 8, 2015

The Armenian Church Year 1464

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Celebrant: Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian

THE LORD'S DAY - SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP

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

Divine Liturgy / Ս.Պատարագ9:45 am

SACRED LECTIONS OF THE LITURGY

Isaiah 24:1 12

Ephesians 5:15 33

Luke 8:49 56

Lector: Michael Boucher

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: 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 8:49 56

While he was still speaking, a man from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well." And when he came to the house, he permitted no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and the mother of the child. And all were weeping and bewailing her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once; and he directed that something should be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed; but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.

Today after Divine Liturgy

The Men's Society invites all parishioners for a pancake breakfast honoring Armenian American Veterans following *Badarak* today. Free will offerings are accepted and appreciated!

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers adorning the Holy Altar today are presented by the St. John Music Guild.

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 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.

Prayers for the Sick and Hospitalized

Jilber Abajian

Rose Boudakian

Cheryl Giesa

Fr. Untzag Nalbandian

Fr. Shnorhk Souin

Stan Armit

Elina Cobb

Ruben Griffin

Walter Negosian

Charles Sansone

Ron Ware

Araxey Barsamian

Dn. Artin Dermenjian

Joe Kludjian

Richard Norsigian

James Shahbazian

Armenian American Veterans of Greater Detroit

**Honoring all men and women who have served and are serving our Armed Forces
Celebrating 70 years of service to our nation and community**

Honor Guard - Dinner - Music and Dancing
The Nigosian Band featuring Hachig Kazarian
Margaret Lafian - Saluting America and the Armed Forces

Saturday, November 14, 2015, 6 pm

St. John Armenian Church

Dinner tickets: \$40 and cash bar

For reservations please call Edward and Yvonne Korkoian at 248.254.3029

We will have a wall of honor for our veterans. If you would like to participate, send a photo, branch of service, rank, and period of service. Please send all information to Gloria Korkoian, 100 S. York Street, Dearborn, MI 48124

Day by Day Bible Study

Wednesday, November 18th

Wednesday, December 30rd

12:00 — 2:00 pm

For more information, call Yeretzgin Roberta at 248.538.9993

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.

NEW

The Armenian Apostolic Church in Recent Times — \$20.00

Defending the Faith — \$20.00

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

The Armenian Genocide and Problems of Evil — \$20.00

Water as a Sign of Rebirth in the Armenian Church — \$20.00

The History of Armenian Monasticism and the Rank of Vartabeds — \$20.00

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

Hand painted Forget-Me-Not Christmas ornaments — \$7.00

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

New Items From Armenia

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



Women's Guild News

The Women's Guild baked goods will be available for purchase following *Badarak*. Please check out our table to purchase Kufte, Khalkha, Cheoreg, Meat Beoreg, Nazoog, and Spinach Beoreg while they last!

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

Advent by Candlelight 2015 – Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Joyfully Sponsored by St. John's Women's Guild

Guild members are invited to hostess tables by reservation, November 1st - 10th.

Please look for more information in your newsletter.

Non-Guild individuals may apply to sponsor a table from November 11th-18th.

Please contact Sara Andonian at 248.515.9264.

Take the opportunity to make new and lasting friendship while doing service for the Lord.

The Women's Guild invites you to become a member.
For information please call Belinda Kabodian, 248.767.3689

Icons in the Armenian Church



The icon of HOLY MARTYRS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE was commissioned by the Catholicos of All Armenians, His Holiness Karekin II, and painted by Tigran Barkhanajyan specifically for the 2015 ceremony of canonization, marking the 100th year of remembrance of the Armenian Genocide.

It is a unique work of iconography, depicting the first “new” Saints to be recognized by the Armenian Church in several centuries: the martyrs who (in the words of the official prayer of intercession) “gave their lives during the Armenian Genocide for faith and for the homeland.” The Holy Martyrs are portrayed in the dress typical of the Ottoman empire in 1915, and represent all ranks of Western Armenian society: men, women, children, and the elderly; merchants, intellectuals, artists, clergymen, farmers—all of whom perished in the brutal crime of 1915.

Although the icon directly depicts God the Father and the Holy Spirit, the figure of Christ is not explicitly shown. However, the artist’s intention is that the multitude of figures represents the mystical Body of Christ: his holy Church. In this way, all three Persons of the Holy Trinity are present in the icon.

What are icons, and how are they used in the Armenian Church? Simply stated, an icon is an artistic image, likeness, or representation of someone or some event. Often they are paintings depicting Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary, saints, angels, or biblical scenes.

But an icon is more than just a painting. Icons are images of the holy which provide access to the holy. They are hung and displayed in churches and homes, sometimes illuminated with candles or oil lamps. During liturgical services, they are venerated with incense. Sometimes a candle is placed in front of an icon of a saint, in which case it is customary to ask for the intercession of that particular saint. We bow before them and even kiss them in reverence of the holiness they represent.

Wall-paintings, mosaics, and stone carvings give us our earliest depictions of Christ, Mary, and the saints. From these early efforts, Christian art developed and the church accepted sacred imagery as objects of veneration. With the growth of Christianity in Armenia holy images proliferated, and praying before them became a popular expression of piety. The internal and external walls of Armenian churches became adorned with images, particularly with images of the cross, of Christ, of the saints and Biblical scenes.

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Eventually a theology of icons in the Armenian Church developed. A treatise written around the year 600 and attributed to Vertanes Kertogh, Locum Tenens of the Catholicate at Dvin, describes holy images as having an educational and inspirational purpose, serving as kind of visual theology. Vertanes' treatise is the oldest defense of icon veneration preserved in any language.

When speaking of images of Jesus Christ, Vertanes emphasizes that Christians do not worship thematerial artwork, but Him whom the image represents:

“When we prostrate ourselves before the Holy Gospel, or when we kiss it, we are not prostrating ourselves before the ivory and the paint, purchased from barbarian countries, but before the Word of the Savior which is written upon the parchment.... By the same token one bows before the icons not because of their pigment, but because of Christ, in whose name they have been painted.”

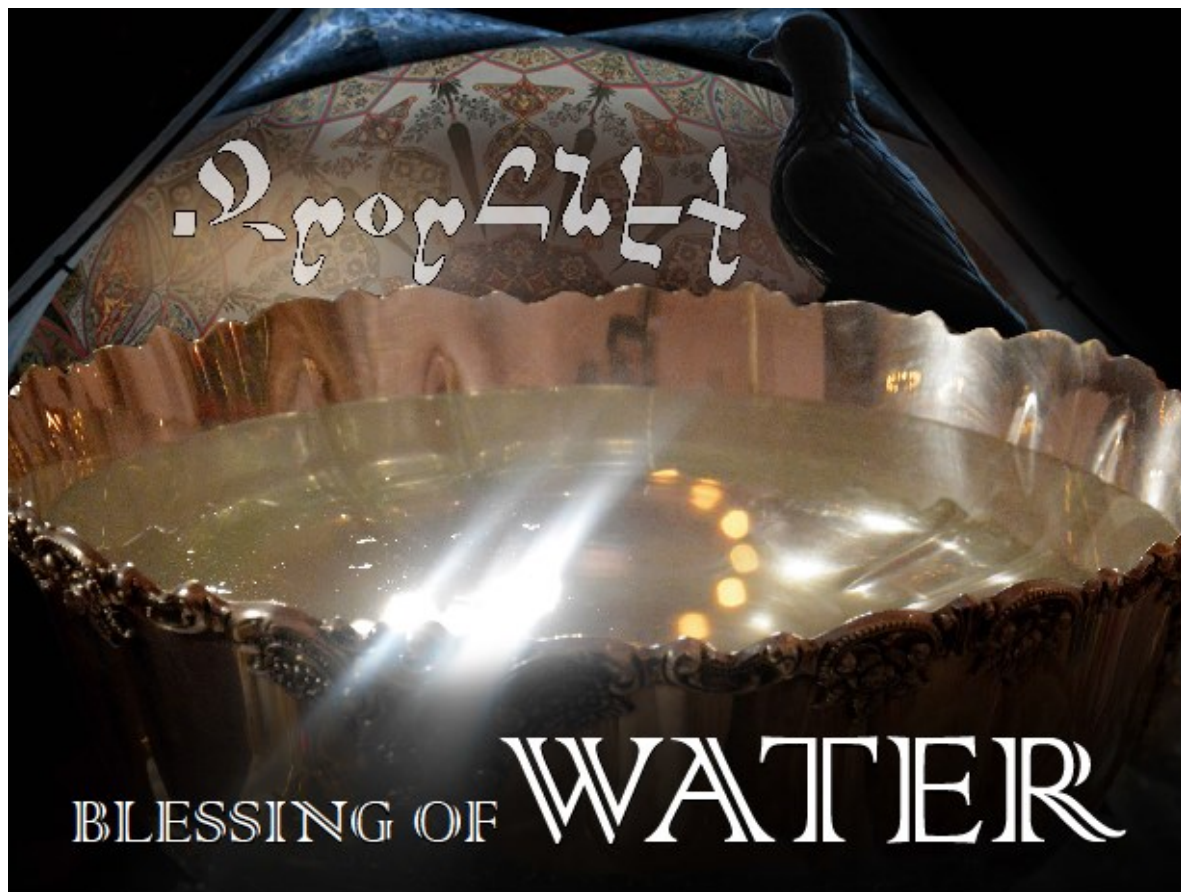
In the eighth century St. John of Odzoon (Catholicos at Dvin, 717-728) developed an even deeper, mystical theology of icons in the Armenian Church tradition. He explained that it is possible to represent the image of God because of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Since God took human, material form in the person of Jesus Christ, when bowing down before an icon of Christ, we are actually bowing before Christ enthroned; while looking at the visible, we recall to our mind the invisible.

Although there have been times when the veneration of icons was in dispute among Christians, or suppressed by non-Christian foreign powers, today in the Armenian Church the practice of painting, consecrating, and venerating icons endures. This devotional practice reflects a deep Christological understanding of holy images. Consider the tradition of placing an image of the Virgin Mary and Infant Christ over the altar table where badarak is celebrated. The image of the Mother-of-God and Christ Child glorifies the virtue of her consent to become the “living temple” of the Incarnate Lord. Through Mary, the gift of salvation entered the world in the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ. What better image to place above the holy altar, where the gifts of bread and wine become the Body and Blood of our Lord?

The theology of icons and the practice of image-veneration developed in the Armenian Church over the centuries, becoming more defined and focused through the writings of our Armenian Church fathers.

They teach us that icons are not merely visual aids or decorations, but are reminders that all things fashioned by the Creator are transfigured through the power of God. They are powerful spiritual signposts to enhance the faith of all who encounter them in our churches.

Adapted from Art in the Armenian Church: Origins & Teaching, by Fr. Garabed Kochakian (1995).



BLESSING OF WATER

Join us for a special Blessing of Water service on
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2015

On September 27, His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, blessed the Holy Muron—the holy oil employed in all the church's sacramental anointing services—and proclaimed it the "Muron of Victory" in commemoration of the centennial year of the Armenian Genocide. The newly-blessed Holy Muron will be distributed to pastors at St. Vartan Cathedral in New York in early November. On Sunday, November 15, parishes will conduct a special Blessing of Water service with the new Holy Muron.

St. John Armenian Church

Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian, *Celebrant*

22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield, Michigan

Divine Liturgy begins at 9:45 a.m.

#VictoryMuron

Consecrating the Icon of the Holy Martyrs of 1915

The Blessing of an Icon begins with a ritual washing with wine and water. These are the elements of the Church's two central mysteries (or sacraments), Holy Communion and Holy Baptism. By washing the icon with wine and water we dedicate it to the Church. We declare the icon to be no mere photograph or work of art, but an instrument of our own sanctification in the Church. We chant or recite Psalm 113 while the icon is being washed. The words of the Psalm speak of God's unsurpassed power and of God's desire to heal the world: God "is more glorious than the heavens," yet "He lifts the poor and needy from dust and ashes."

The washing is followed by the main prayer of consecration. Speaking as always on our behalf, the priest asks that the Lord accept this work of human hands and elevate it so that "Whenever we look at this icon, [it may] be a reminder to us of the great sacrifice of the Holy Martyrs and cause us to worship the Holy Trinity."

Now the priest will anoint the icon three times with the holy *muron*. Prized since ancient times as a nutrient, a food preservative, a light and energy source, a fragrance, a medicine and emollient, among other uses, oil has always been treasured as one of God's most miraculous gifts. In the Old Testament, kings, prophets and priests were anointed with oil as a sign that they were God's delegates to advance God's work in this world. By anointing the icon with holy *muron* we affirm its new function in the Church, to inspire, challenge and elevate us to live godly lives and to be God's delegates with Jesus Christ, so that we might do God's will in this world.

Following the anointing, the priest swings the censor, spreading incense around the holy icon and filling the church with the sweet fragrance of heaven. As the choir sings the hymn composed especially for the Holy Genocide Martyrs, we declare this holy icon to be an instrument in the Armenian Church's work to spread the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Two readings from sacred Scripture are now read. In the Epistle to the Hebrews, St. Paul reminds us that for people of faith in Jesus Christ, first appearances are not necessarily what they seem. The Cross of Jesus Christ is proof that God has the power to bring life out of death, to redeem the most ghastly evil, even Genocide. The Blessing of the Icon concludes with the deacon's proclamation and prayer for the intercession of the Holy Genocide Martyrs.

Following the ceremony and the dismissal, we are each invited to come forward and to kiss the newly blessed and anointed icon as a tangible sign of our love and personal commitment to following Jesus Christ and doing God's will. And that is the greatest blessing.

We Need Your Help!

The St. John's Greater Detroit Parish was established in 1931. In honor of our 85th anniversary in 2016, we plan to have a year-long celebration of special events involving all of our auxiliary groups and parishioners. We are looking for volunteers willing to work with Fr. Aren and the Parish Council to oversee the planning and coordination of these events. If you would like to be involved in this very special celebration, please contact one of the Parish Council members or the church office.

PAST • PRESENT • FUTURE



ACYOA ANNUAL 2015

NOVEMBER

DANCE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28th

FEATURING: DJ M-KAY

OPEN BAR: 9:00PM - 10:00PM

DANCE: 9:00PM - 2:00AM

**22001 NORTHWESTERN HWY
SOUTHFIELD, MI 48075**

\$25 DONATION

**Attendees must be 18 years or older. 16 and 17 year olds may
attend if accompanied by an adult.**

Youth Basketball Program 2015-2016

St. John's Basketball begins next week! If you know of any young Armenian youth that may be interested in joining, please have them come to practice or email Lisa Mardigian at lmardigian@sjachurch.org

Practice Schedule

TUESDAYS

Biddy A (ages 11 & 12): 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Girls (ages 13 & up): 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS

Junior Boys (ages 13-15)
Intermediate Boys (ages 16-18): 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Joint Practice for conditioning!

THURSDAYS

Biddys (ages 5-8): 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Biddy B (ages 9 & 10): 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 22, 2015 after *Badarak*

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Sponsored by the Church School
High School Students

All proceeds to support CASP
(Children of Armenia Sponsorship Program)

All are welcome to attend

Donation is \$10.00 for adults; \$5.00 for children

To reserve, please phone Roseann Attar at 248.980.3221

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.*

**Տացէ՛ 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
ornhootyoon 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.