

## 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 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.

*December 20, 2015*

*The Armenian Church Year 1464*

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Celebrant: Fr. Aren Jebejian**



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

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

**Divine Liturgy / Ս.Պատարագ .....9:45 am**

### **SACRED LECTIONS OF THE LITURGY**

Isaiah 40:18-31

Hebrews 4:16-5:10

Luke 18:9-14

**Lector: Yerchanig Joy Callan**

*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 To Be Announced**

**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](mailto: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 18:9-14**

He also told his parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

### *Day by Day Bible Study*

Wednesday, December 30th, 12:00 — 2:00 pm

Please bring a dish for our Bible Study Christmas Potluck that day.

*For more information, call Yeretzgin Roberta at 248.538.9993*

### *Tea Following Church Service Next Sunday*

Thomas, Lucinda, and their baby Lucy Seera Stambouljian are sponsoring the coffee hour following church service next Sunday, December 27th, in appreciation of their family and friends at St. John's.

### *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.

## *Prayers for the Sick and Hospitalized*

Jilber Abajian  
Rose Boudakian  
Cheryl Giesa  
Walter Negosian  
James Shahbazian

David M. Apoian  
Marge Brothers  
Ruben Griffin  
Richard Norsigian

Araxey Barsamian  
Elina Cobb  
Fr. Untzag Nalbandian  
Charles Sansone

## *Women's Guild News*

**Get ready for Christmas!**

**Armenian Christmas Day Luncheon Wednesday, January 6th**

*All parishioners are welcome!*

The Christmas Theophany and Epiphany Festival Divine Liturgy will take place on Wednesday, January 6th at 10:30 am. The Women's Guild will host a holiday luncheon following the services. A free will offering is appreciated. Please call Joy Callan for reservations at 248.254.3955.

**Knitting Group:** Please contact Linda Assarian at 248.332.0816 or [linda.assarian@gmail.com](mailto:linda.assarian@gmail.com) for more details.

*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, 248.767.3942*

## *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

## *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 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 — \$10.00

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

### *New Items From Armenia*

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

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## *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](mailto: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

# Christmas Schedule 2015-2016



*Thursday, December 24, 2015, 10:30 pm*

**St. Stephen The Protodeacon And First Martyr/Western Christmas Eve**  
Carols (in English) & Scripture Readings  
Christmas Tea in Cultural Hall hosted by the ACYOA Seniors

NO CHURCH SCHOOL ON DECEMBER 27, 2015

*Sunday, January 3, 2016*

**Divine Liturgy - 9:45 am**  
Church School Resumes

*Tuesday, January 5, 2016*

**Armenian Christmas Eve / Jrakalooys**  
Vespers and Reading of Prophecies - 6:00 pm  
Divine Liturgy - 7:00 pm

*Wednesday, January 6, 2016*

**Theophany / Epiphany / Don Asdvadzahaydnootian**  
Feast of the Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
Festal Divine Liturgy - 10:30 am  
Blessing of the Waters – *Chrorhnek*

**A Christmas Luncheon will be hosted by the Women's Guild in the Cultural Hall following Christmas worship services on January 6, 2016.**  
Reservation information to follow at a later date.

*Sunday, January 10, 2016*

**Divine Liturgy - 9:45 am**

Following the Church School Christmas Pageant in the Sanctuary, the Church School will host a Christmas Dinner in the Cultural Hall.

Adults are \$15.00; no charge for children; Please RSVP to Alberta Godoshian 248.476.4638 (Tables of 8 or more). Everyone is welcome.

***Tsez yev mez Medz Avedis — Kreesdos Dzunav yev Haydnetsav***

*Gloria to Uty Uto Utyuphu — Ppnpnpnu Oluru to Zuyyilitayun*

*Christ is Born and Revealed— Blessed is the Revelation of Christ!*

## *St. Domna and the Martyrs of Nicomedia*



Saint Domna was one of those who suffered with the Hieromartyr Anthimus of Nicomedia during the persecution against Christians under the Emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Maximian (305-311). The persecution became particularly intense after a fire at the imperial court at Nicomedia. The pagans accused the Christians of setting the fire and reacted against them with terrible ferocity.

In Nicomedia alone, on the day of the Nativity of Christ, as many as 20,000 Christians were burned inside a church. However, this monstrous inhumanity did not frighten the Christians, who firmly confessed their faith and endured martyrdom for Christ.

Holy Virgin Martyr Domna, a former pagan priestess, looked after the holy relics and wept over them, especially over the body of her spiritual friend, the Martyr Indes. After giving the holy martyrs an honorable burial, she refused to leave the graves so dear to her heart. Each day she burned incense before them, sprinkling them with fragrant oils.

When the emperor was told of an unknown youth who offered incense at the graves of executed Christians, he gave orders to behead him. The Martyr Euthymius was also executed along with Domna.

## *Greetings from Your Pastor and Parish Council*

On the occasion of the New Year and the Holy Christmas Season, the Pastor and Parish Council wish to extend to our beloved faithful community and friends their sincere prayers and good tidings for a New Year filled with God's abundant blessings.



**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION** - The Feast of Our Lord's Birth and Baptism is a *Daghavar* / Tabernacle Feast of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church and is a day of Holy Obligation. In accordance with Armenian Church Canon, all the faithful are expected to partake of the Sacrament of Holy Communion at the Divine Liturgies of this Holy Season.

**OLD & NEW TRADITIONS OF ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS** - *Yughakin* –It is a church tradition to make a Christmas offering for religious and educational programs and charitable deeds to be offered honoring the name of our Lord and Saviour. The Christmas offering, which we call *Yughakin*, means "price of oil." Before modern times, oil was used to light the lanterns in our churches. In this season of giving, your offering will keep the light of Christ burning brightly as you remember your Church and all the good your gift can do. *Yughakin* envelopes can be found in the church lobby.

**Home Blessing – Dnorhnek** It is customary to invite the Lord's blessings into our homes during the Christmas Season. If you wish to have your home blessed during Christmastide, please call the Church Office at 248.569.3405 to schedule a visit by the pastor, who will – with joy – respond and bring the Blessings of Christ into your home.

**Altar Flowers – Festal Candles** A beautiful Christmas tradition at St. John's is the adornment of the holy altar and *bema* with poinsettia plants and special candles. If you would like to contribute towards these items, please contact the Church Office.

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## *Fallen Asleep in the Lord*

We offer prayers for the servant of God, **Archie Samouelian**, who entered his eternal rest this past week. May Christ our Lord shed His eternal light upon Archie's soul.



## ***BASHDON HOKEHANKUSDYAN***

### **REQUIEM 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

#### **JEVAN "MEMO" BOGOSIAN, 40th Day, Husband, Father, Grandfather, Brother**

Requested by Nancy Bogosian  
David Bogosian & Family  
Jevan Bogosian & Family  
Nan Bogosian  
John & Lu Bogosian & Family  
Joe & Eileen Bogosian & Family  
Rebecca & Reed Brown & Family

#### **JOHN NORAIAN, 40th Day, Beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather, Brother, Uncle, Cousin**

Requested by LuCille Noraian  
John M. Noraian, Jr.  
Cynthia & Gary Tolman  
Mariam V. Tolman, Connor Tolman  
George Noraian  
William Noraian  
Vicki & Tom Bernitt  
Gary Noraian  
Nora Noraian  
Kirk & Monica Noraian  
Quentin & Marlene Burchill  
Stephen & Lai Burchill  
Jerry Norian  
Johnno Norian

#### **VICKII AMERIGUIAN, 4th Year, Sister**

#### **GENE AMERIGUIAN, 5th Year, Brother-in-Law**

#### **OVSANNA BOGOSIAN, 16th Year, Mother**

#### **KAZAR BOGOSIAN, 56th Year, Father**

Requested by Nan Bogosian  
John & Lu Bogosian & Family  
Joe & Eileen Bogosian & Family  
Rebecca & Reed Brown & Family

#### **LUCY TOROSIAN, 35th Year, Mother**

Requested by Janice Torosian

#### **LEVON NADJARIAN**

#### **LOUSIN NADJARIAN**

#### **GIRAGOS NADJARIAN**

#### **MELKONIAN FAMILY**

Requested by Sara Nadjarian

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## *Celebrating Jesus with Candy Canes*



The traditional Christmas candy cane is white with red stripes and flavored with peppermint. Though several accounts make their claim to be the “true story” of the origin of the candy cane, history reveals that, most likely, it took several centuries and the contributions of several countries for the candy cane to evolve into its current form.

It appears that the candy cane has its origin in the plain white candy sticks invented in the early 1400s. The most credible story for how the sticks became canes is based on an incident that took place more than 200 years later in Germany. In 1670, the Cologne Cathedral hosted a living Nativity Scene for its Christmas celebration. The choirmaster had great difficulty keeping the children of the choir in order, so he got creative. Plain white candy sticks were popular with the children, and the choirmaster believed that if they were kept busy licking candy, they wouldn’t chatter so much. But the choirmaster wanted more than just keeping the children quiet; he wanted them to learn something of the significance of the Nativity. He appealed to a local candy maker to bend the sticks in the form of shepherd’s staffs.

Legend holds that the choirmaster used his ingenious design to encourage the children to watch how the shepherds of the Nativity used their canes to direct the live animals. More importantly, the choirmaster could instruct the children to consider how Jesus became the “Good Shepherd.”

The shape and purpose of a shepherd’s cane is significant. The design is meant to literally hook sheep by the neck in order to lead them to better nourishment (pastures, water, etc.) or to rescue them from harm. For nervous and fearful sheep, the sight of the shepherd’s staff is a great comfort. Surely that is why the psalmist David could say to the Lord his shepherd, “I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4b).

The choirmaster’s idea became so popular that the practice of passing out candy canes at living Nativity scenes spread throughout Europe. They could be used not only as a teaching tool, but to serve another practical purpose — their shape made them an ideal decoration to easily hang on a Christmas tree.

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(continued...)

In regard to the red striping on candy canes, it is possible that the Swedish town of Granna (known as the peppermint candy capital of the world) influenced the addition. Peppermint candies with red stripes first appeared in the town in the mid-19th century. At this time, candy canes were still portrayed in plain white on Christmas cards throughout Europe and America. However, by the early 20th century, candy canes were depicted with their familiar red stripes.

Though some popular stories credit American confectioners with inventing the candy cane, historical evidence conflicts with these claims. It is possible, however, that an American was the first to infuse the candy cane with extensive Christian meaning. Though the candy cane was not designed with intentional symbolism (beyond its shape), it has proven to be a useful teaching tool. It seems appropriate to use it as such, particularly if its original form was meant to teach children about Christ, the Good Shepherd. The most common symbolism is as follows:

The hard candy reminds us that *Jesus is our rock*.

— Psalm 61:2

The cane shape reminds us of a *shepherd's staff* and the shepherds that came to worship Jesus. It also reminds us of how Jesus came into the world to be a shepherd of his people.

— Luke 2:8-15 and John 10:11

The upside-down candy cane forms the letter "J" and reminds us of the name of Jesus which means "*God saves*."

— Matthew 1:21

The peppermint flavor reminds us of the *gift of spices* from the Wise Men.

— Matthew 2:11

The white candy reminds us of *purity and holiness*. It recalls the virgin birth of Christ, the sinless life of Christ and the holy life that Jesus wants his people to live.

— Matthew 1:23 and 1 Peter 1:15

The color red reminds us that *Jesus became a real flesh and blood man* and spilled his blood to save his people.

— Hebrews 2:14

The stripes remind us of the *lashes Jesus received* when he suffered for us and ultimately bore our sins that we might be healed.

— 1 Peter 2:24-25

*Jesus Is The Reason For The Season! Rejoice!*

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# On Leaving the Sanctuary After Badarak

**When approaching the Holy Gospel at the end of the Divine Liturgy you say:**

*Heeshetzeh 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.