

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 all who are here today for the celebration of Kotz Badarak or Veiled Divine Liturgy. Communion is not openly offered during Lent. During the period of Great Lent we refrain from taking communion while we are in a state of prayer and fasting. Should anyone feel the need to receive Holy Communion, arrangements can be made with the Pastor at any time. As a reminder, during Lent, Hokehankist or Requiem can be offered and Mas is distributed.

March 13, 2016

The Armenian Church Year 1464

SUNDAY OF THE ADVENT (SIXTH Sunday of Lent)

Celebrant: V. Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian

THE LORD'S DAY - SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP

The Sunrise Office / Արևադարձ ...9:00 am

Divine Liturgy / Առաքելություն ...9:45 am

SACRED LECTIONS OF THE LITURGY

ISAIAH 66:1-24

COLOSSIANS 2:8-3:17,

MATTHEW 22:34-22:39

LECTOR: HARRY KEZELIAN III

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

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.

Congratulations

Congratulations to all who ran for church offices during the Parish Assembly. We especially congratulate George Boyagian, Marianne Dardarian, Gary Hachigian, Michael Kazarian, Christopher Korkoian and Donn Vahratian. We are waiting on official notification from the Diocese for these positions to be ratified.

Today's Gospel

Matthew 22:34-22:39

But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they came together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think of the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I put your enemies under your feet'? If David thus calls him Lord, How is he his son?" And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did any one dare to ask him any more questions.

Then said Jesus to the crowds and to his disciples, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; so practice and observe whatever they tell you, but not what they do; for they preach, but do not practice. They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with their finger. They do all their deeds to be seen by men; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues, and salutations in the market places, and being called rabbi by men. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brethren. And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Neither be called masters, for you have one master, the Christ. He who is greatest among you shall be your servant; whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, Hypocrites! because you shut the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither enter yourselves, nor allow those who would enter to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you traverse sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.

"Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'If any one swears by the temple, it is nothing; but if any one swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.' You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? And you say, 'If any one swears by the altar, it is nothing; but if any one swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.' You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? So he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by everything on it; and he who swears by the temple, swears by it and by him who dwells in it; and he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law, justice and mercy and faith; these you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you cleanse the outside of the cup and of the plate, but inside they are full of extortion and rapacity. You blind Pharisees! first cleanse the inside of the cup and of the plate, that the outside also may be clean.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but within you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, saying, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' Thus you witness against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of innocent Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. Truly, I say to you, all this will come upon this generation.

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! Behold, your house is forsaken and desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

2016 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE
THE GREAT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY, MARCH 20-PALM SUNDAY

Morning Service-9:00 am

Church School Procession with Palms / Divine Liturgy-9:45 am

Opening of the Doors-1:00-1:20 pm (Service in English)

ACYOA DAY

Fellowship hosted by the ACYOA

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, VESPERS SERVICE

Remembering the Wise and Foolish Maidens – Vespers – 7:00 pm

(Service in English)

Refreshments will be served and hosted by the Church School

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY

Divine Liturgy commemorating the Last Supper

Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian, Celebrant -10:30 am

Tuesday Lunch Club 12:00 noon in the Cultural Hall

Washing of the Feet – 7:30 pm

Betrayal and Passion of Our Lord – 8:30 pm

7 Gospels – 7 Knots

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

Order of the Crucifixion of Christ – 11:30 am

The Entombment of Our Lord Jesus Christ – 7:30 pm

2016 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE
THE GREAT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP cont'd

SATURDAY, MARCH 26 – GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY

Divine Liturgy & Family Service, Holy Communion & Easter Eve Supper
Reading of Scriptures – 4:00 pm - Divine Liturgy – 5pm

A complimentary Easter supper will be served to all children
sponsored by the Church School.

Adults - \$15.00 RSVP (Tables Only)

Alberta Godoshian – 248-476-4638

SUNDAY, MARCH 27 – EASTER SUNDAY

**THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD & SAVIOUR
JESUS CHRIST**

Morning Service – 9 am; Divine Liturgy – 9:45 am

Home Blessing Service 12:00 noon in the Cultural Hall
followed by an Easter Tea prepared by the Women's Guild.

MONDAY, MARCH 28 - MERELLOTZ (Remembrance of the Dead)

11 am – 11:15 am

Requiem/Hokehankist

Prayers for the Sick and Hospitalized

Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian
Yn. Roberta Kochakian
Araxey Barsamian
Elina Cobb
Don McCorkle

Jilber Abajian
Rose Boudakian
Cheryl Giesa
Walter Negosian

David M. Apoian
John Brycz
Ruben Griffin
Charles Sansone

Women's Guild News

Winter Bake Days

Monday March 14, Cheese Beoreg 6-8pm

Tuesday, March 15th, Sou Beoreg 9-12 noon

Thursday, March 17, Simit & Nazoog 9-12 noon

BAKE SALE TODAY following Badarak

BAKE SALE - PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2016 following Badarak

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

Day by Day Bible Study

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

12:00 — 2:00 pm

For more information, call Yeretzigin Roberta at 248.538.9993

Home Blessing

It is the custom to have one's home blessed during the Eastertide (40 days following Easter). Should you desire a house blessing, please call the office to schedule a visit and blessing by the pastor. After you call for a home blessing, the office will notify you when Hayr Soorp will visit.

Tuesday Lunch Club Rescheduled

The lunch on **Tuesday, March 22nd** is postponed and will take place instead on **Thursday, March 24th, at noon** in the Cultural Hall immediately following Last Supper Divine Liturgy which will begin at 10:30 am. For reservations, please call the church office at 248.569.3405.

FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE LORD

We offer our prayers for the servant of God, **John Regish**
who entered his eternal rest this past week.

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

A New Curriculum for St. Nersess Summer Conferences

St. Nersess Armenian Seminary is pleased to announce a new four-year curriculum for its annual Summer Conferences. The curriculum will prepare Armenian students to become leaders in the Armenian Church, including future Sunday School teachers.

Participants will study such topics as early church history, the sacraments, Armenian religious art, Armenian language, and comparative Christian traditions. At the conclusion of the four-year curriculum, students will receive a certificate of completion from St. Nersess Seminary.

Below is the schedule of this year's summer conferences. For more information, visit www.stnersess.edu.

Deacons' Training Program: June 25-July 3

Directed by Fr. Daniel Findikyan

High School Summer Conference A: July 15-24

Directed by Fr. Ghevond Ajamian

High School Summer Conference B: July 29- August 7

Directed by Fr. Shnork Souin

Post-High School Summer Conference: August 9-13

Directed by Fr. Samuel Rith-Najarian

Please see Fr. Aren, Lisa Mardigian, or front office for a conference or scholarship application.



2016 Diocesan Summer Camp Programs

St. Vartan Camp

Ararat Center, Greenville, NY

Staff Training: June 22-25

Session A: June 26-July 9 | Session B: July 10-July 23 | Session C: July 24-August 6

Campers ages 8-15

CITs ages 16 and 17; Staff and volunteers ages 18+

Hye Camp

Camp Hickory, Ingleside, IL

Staff Training: July 27-30

Two Week Session: July 30-August 13

Week 1: July 30-August 6 | Week 2: August 6-13

Register online by visiting www.diocesansummercamps.org

Please see Fr. Aren or Lisa Mardigian for a scholarship application.



BASHDON HOKEHANKUSDYAN
REQUIEM PRAYERS FOR THE SOULS WHO SLEEP IN CHRIST



**HAGOP GIGIAN, 1st Year, Beloved Husband, Father, Father-in-Law,
Grandfather, Great-Grandfather, Khnamee**

Requested by Meline Gigian
Irma and Varujan Kabakciyan
Ani & Vahe Akaraz
Sonia & Steve Kalfayan
Tanya, Larry, Sammy, Talia & Jack Dadian
Natalie, Raffy, Razmig & Nadya Yaghdjian
Rita, Ara & Armen Avedissian
Greg & Christina Akaraz
Micheal & Linda Kalfayan
Zepur Akaraz

**KASPER OHANNASIAN JR., 1st Year, Father, Grandfather, Brother, Uncle,
Friend**

Requested by Cheryl & Keith Messisco & Family
Tonya & Kasper A. Ohannasian & Family
Nancy & Manouk Altounian & Family
Harry Tokatlian & Family

MICHELLE DANIELIAN, 6th Year, Daughter, Granddaughter, Sister, Friend

Requested by Rozann & Michael Vartoogian
Rose Ghoogashian
Chris Danielian
Mike & Linda Tiffany



BASHDON HOKEHANKUSDYAN Cont'd.
REQUIEM PRAYERS FOR THE SOULS WHO SLEEP IN CHRIST



HERMAN MISIRLIYAN, 9th Year, Husband, Father, Grandfather

Requested by Hilda Misirliyan
Dikran & Mona Kurjian
Alec & Vartan Kurjian
Roy & Nayiri Misirliyan
Sevan, Sarine & Ani Misirliyan

GARBIS OHANIAN, Husband, Father, Grandfather, Brother, Uncle

Requested by Sirarpie Ohanian
Neshan & Debra Ohanian
Diana Ohanian
Christian Ohanian
Varujan & Adrine Ohanian
Ara, Lora & Stephanie Kazanjian
Michael & Christina Holody
Richie & Alexandra Apkarian
Elizabeth & Katherine Apkarian

Flowers for Holy Week

If you would like to make a donation to help with the cost of altar flowers, palms, candles, incense or charcoal for the Holy Altar during Holy Week and Easter Sunday, please contact the church office at 248-569-3405. Donors will be acknowledged in the Easter Bulletin.

Memorial Day of Easter (Merelotz - Remembrance of the Dead)

It is a centuries old tradition to remember all deceased loved ones the day after a major feast day known as *Merelotz*. Please give the full name of the person or persons you wish to have remembered on the sign-up sheet placed on the desk in the lobby. **A donation of \$5 for each family will be appreciated.** Hokehankist, Requiem Service, for the repose of the souls of the departed will not be offered during Holy Week or on Easter Sunday. Requests for Hokehankist during this period will be fulfilled on **Monday, March 28, 2016 at 11 am -11:15 am.**

Visit the Parish Bookstore

Genocide T-Shirts with "Forget-Me-Not" emblem and map on back — \$20.00

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

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

Frequently Asked Questions on the Badarak — \$12.00

New: The Guest Room by Chris Bohjalian — HC \$25.00

New: The Hundred Year Walk,

An Armenian Odyssey by Dawn Anahid MacKeen — HC \$24.00

New Items From Armenia

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

Gift to the Church

In memory of Armen Papaghanian, Hokehankist Requiem Remembrance on March 6, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hintiryan presented a gift to the church.



July 2-17, 2016

ARMENIA **service program**

Visit Armenia with the ACYOA

The annual ACYOA Armenia Service Program provides participants (ages 18 and up) the opportunity to travel, serve, and worship in their homeland. This year's ASP will run July 2-17, under the leadership of the Rev. Fr. Tadeos Barseghyan, pastor of St. Sahag Church of St. Paul, MN.

This summer, the ACYOA members will undertake some new service programs and endeavors, in partnership with the Fund for Armenian Relief. Participants will work with children at a summer camp, visit the FAR Children's Center, experience innovative programs, such as "Ayo!," and spend an unforgettable day harvesting apricots side-by-side with local villagers in the fertile Armenian heartland. The group will also visit religious and cultural sites throughout Armenia, including Yerevan, Etchmiadzin, and Sevan.

All participants will receive a \$500 scholarship from the Dadourian Foundation—bringing the cost of the trip to the lowest it has been in a decade.

The registration deadline is March 20. Click on the following links to view a flyer and to download an application form, and visit www.acyoa.org to learn more. For questions, contact Jennifer Morris, the Diocese's director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, at jenniferm@armeniandiocese.org, or (248) 648-0702.

College Scholarships for 2016

Our Diocese will be granting scholarships to undergraduate students for the academic year 2016-2017. These scholarships are earmarked for Armenian American students attending accredited 4-year undergraduate university programs. Preference will be given to those who are active in the life of the Armenian churches of the Eastern Diocese in the ACYOA, altar servers, Sunday or Armenian school teachers, choir members, etc. The scholarship program is open to U.S. Citizens only.

The application and reference forms must be submitted electronically. You will find the form on the Diocesan website at <http://www.armenianchurch-ed.net/programming/scholarships/>

Hosted by the St. John's Men's Society

Mother's Day Celebration

Sunday, May 8, 2016

Following *Badarak* in the Main Hall

Adults: \$25 | Children 6-12: \$10 | Children five and under: free

Assorted artesian dinner rolls, scones, cream cheese, jams and butter

Baby spinach leaves with sliced almonds, tomatoes, red onions,
Romano cheese tossed in a balsamic basil vinaigrette

A combination plate of:

Grilled chicken breast with sundried tomatoes, mushrooms
Lemon and chive encrusted salmon
Anna potatoes, sugar snap peas

For the children: Tossed greens with Italian dressing
Chicken strips, ranch dressing, served with rice pilaf

Creme Brûlée

Chocolate fountain with fresh fruit, assorted cookies, pretzels, marshmallows and assorted dipping goodies
Orange, cranberry and apple juices
Chocolate milk, regular coffee and tea

Limited seating. Table service - reservations required by May 1st.
For reservations contact: Dr. Gary Zamanigian at 248.322.9393

Women's Guild Presents

A Luncheon & Fashion Show

Dedicated to all Mothers

Saturday, May 21, 2016

10:00 am Boutiques and 12:00 pm Luncheon and fashion show

Adults: \$55 | Children 12 and under: \$20

St. John Armenian Church | 22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield, MI 48075

For reservations and information please be in touch with
Linda Assarian by emailing her at linda.assarian@gmail.com

Tickets go on sale April 1

Upcoming Events

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN ARMENIA SUNDAY, March 13, 2016 (After Church Services)

*Want to have an experience of a lifetime?
Ever think about being a Volunteer in Armenia?*
Come learn about the various opportunities
available to you to VOLUNTEER IN ARMENIA



ACYOA LENTEN LOBSTER AND FISH DINNER

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

5:30 - 6:30 pm

Lobster \$20 Fish and Vegan \$10

Lenten vigil service beginning at 7:00 pm

For reservations, please contact 248.569.3405 or email office@sjachurch.org



Man Up

Saturday, April 9, 2016

Presented by the Men's Society of St. John Armenian Church

8:30 am - 3 pm

Breakfast and Lunch will be served

Please call Ara Belian 248-626-8374 or George Saboonjian 248-952-1903

for reservations by April 3, 2016

\$25 check payable to St. John Armenian Church

101st Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide

The Armenian Churches of Greater Detroit Genocide Commemoration Committee will host the 101st anniversary commemoration of the Armenian Genocide on April 24th at St. John Armenian Church, The Divine Liturgy and Service in Honor of the Sanctified Martyrs of the Genocide will begin at 10:00 a.m. The Rev. Fr. Hrant Kevorkian, pastor of St. Sarkis Armenian Church, will celebrate the Holy Badarak and the Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian, Pastor of St. John Armenian Church, will deliver the homily. A reception will follow in St. John's Cultural Hall.

On Sunday, April 17th at 2:00 p.m., the Armenian Churches Committee will host a presentation on understanding the significance of the Sanctified Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide at the Armenian Congregational Church. The Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, Director of the Krikor and Clara Zorhab Center of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church and author of FROM VICTIMS TO VICTORS, will be the presenter.

Please join us to honor our Sanctified Martyrs.

When Exactly Is Easter ?

In the early church there was much discussion and debate as to the proper day for the celebration of Easter. The basic concern was whether to celebrate it on the day of the Judaic Feast of Passover or on the closest Sunday thereto. This discussion was ended in 325 A.D. by the decision of the Ecumenical Council of Nicaea, which decided the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ would be celebrated on the first Sunday following the full moon after the vernal equinox.

This decision and particularly the celebration of Easter on a Sunday was based on the fact that it was a Sunday on which Christ rose from the dead -- the second day of Passover of that year.

The Feast of Theophany and related observances are celebrated by precise chronological (solar calendar) equations and are not variable, no matter on which day of the week they may fall. Likewise, the Feasts of the Holy Mother of God, the Holy Cross, and the Church are celebrated by using the solar calendar.

Easter, however, and the religious observances connected to it, are calculated by the lunar calendar and like the Passover, are variable within a 35-day period. Therefore, Easter may fall between March 22 and April 25.

The variation of the celebration of Easter between the Eastern and Western churches is strictly related to the calendar and the equations thereof, and in no way are theological.

(This article was taken from the Diocesan website)

Prelude to Easter

The Armenian Church calls the final week of Christ's life on earth **Great Week or Holy Week (Avak Shapat)**. During this time, we share in His teachings, His suffering, His death, and His resurrection.

Holy Monday is dedicated to the creation of Heaven and Earth, the foundation for Christ's Second Creation. Christ condemns the fig tree that did not bear fruit (as Israel failed to bring forth the fruits of repentance) and teaches that faith can have the strength to move mountains, overcoming despair and even death.

The parable of the Wise and Foolish Maidens (Matthew 25:1-13) is the focus of **Holy Tuesday**. Ten maidens waited for their bridegroom. (In the custom of that time and place, the bridegroom would fetch the bride from her parents' home to bring her to his own.) Five of the women foolishly took their lamps with no extra oil and when the bridegroom was delayed, could not go out and meet him. The wise maidens went prepared and joined him in the marriage feast. Similarly, we must pray and wait, in a state of perpetual preparation to receive Christ.

In the reading for **Holy Wednesday** (Matthew 26:6-13), a fallen woman anoints Christ with costly oil and kisses his feet. The apostles chastise her for wasting oil that could have been sold to help the poor, but Christ defends her action, perceiving her deed as one of devotion, and knowing that this anointing anticipates His upcoming death and burial.

The morning liturgy service on **Holy Thursday** marks the institution of the New Covenant: Holy Communion, which Christ established at the Last Supper. During a Passover meal, Christ broke and distributed unleavened bread and shared the wine with His apostles, identifying these as elements His Body and Blood. Through this sacrament, mankind participates in the Kingdom of God.

Another episode at the Last Supper is recalled during the evening service on Holy Thursday. "The Washing of the Feet" ceremony commemorates how Christ washed the feet of His apostles, setting an example of humility and love. The priest in turn washes the feet of twelve church members, usually young men.

On Holy Thursday, an all-night vigil is kept in memory of the last sleepless night of our Lord on earth. This service is called Khavaroom (darkness). Before He was arrested, Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane and endured in solitude the agony of His impending death. Six sets of laments are chanted, each followed by a Gospel reading depicting Christ's betrayal, imprisonment, torture, trial, sentence, and crucifixion. Twelve lit candles, 11 white and 1 black (representing Judas), are extinguished in pairs.

Holy Friday is the most solemn and sad day of the Christian calendar. The "Crucifixion Service," usually held at midday, recalls the suffering, execution and death of our Lord, memorialized amid readings from the psalms. In the evening, a white tomb is placed in the chancel of the church for the "Entombment or Burial Service." The tomb is adorned with flowers and during the service is taken in procession around the church. As the faithful leave the church they approach the tomb, kiss the Gospel book, and take a flower in remembrance.

On **Holy Saturday**, also known as the Easter Vigil, the mystery of salvation in the Resurrection of Christ is celebrated. The church is dark, its lights are dim. Then the great verses from Isaiah 60 are read: "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you"-at which point the lights are suddenly turned on. The dramatic, joyful candle-lighting ceremony is called *jrakalouytz*.

Finally, **Easter Sunday** celebrates the joy of the Resurrection and the promise of salvation for all humanity. Armenian Christians around the world exchange the Easter greeting: *Krisdos haryav ee merelotz! Orhnyal eh harootiunun Krisdosee!* Christ is risen from the dead! Blessed is the resurrection of Christ!

(This article was taken from the Diocesan website)

On Leaving the Sanctuary After Badarak

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 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.

