

# THE TORCHBEARER • Ջահակիր

## 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*



## WOMEN'S GUILD CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS IN GRAND STYLE.....

We wish to thank Arlene Baylerian and Araxie Choukourian and their committee for the phenomenal Advent by Candlelight 2013 "Let Us Adore Him". This year speakers for the evening were Charlene Apigian, Barbara Haroutunian, Stephanie Dallakian, and Tina Schaffner who each made thoughtful presentations in the spirit of the holiday. Marianne Dardarian coordinated the musical program which included Lance Luce, Denise Karakashian, Kelly Callan, and Sevahn Merian. We wish to thank our hostesses of the evening for their exquisite Christmas table settings and desserts. Advent by candlelight takes place biannually. This is a voluntary event; each hostess sets her own table and invites guests to enjoy a beautiful evening to celebrate the start of the holiday season.

The annual Women's Guild Christmas Dinner and Installation of Officers took place on December 12th. After an outstanding year, Linda Stambouljian was again selected to be our Chairman. Nora Noraian will serve as Vice-Chairman, Joyce Obenhoff - Treasurer, Judy Parks - Assistant Treasurer, Dawn Aginian - Recording Secretary, Virginia Mekjian - Corresponding Secretary. Also serving on the board are Barbara Haroutunian - Assistant Recording Secretary, Sue Vian, and Sara Andonian - Advisors. Pam Dayinian and Barbara Haroutunian will serve as Program Directors. We thank Dawn Karagosian, Pam Dayinian, Rozann Vartoogian and Karmen Santourian for their dedication to the board and the Women's Guild as they complete their term. The chairpersons for the evening, Cathy Atesian, Pamela Dayinian and Cathy Zwinck and their committee prepared a delicious meal and entertainment was provided by the choral group Noteworthy, which was enjoyed by all in attendance. We thank the chairpersons for a wonderful evening and our members for their food donations to Gleaners Food Bank which will help so many in our community.

We are counting down the days to *Poon Paregentan* - An Armenian Mardi Gras Dinner Dance on March 1, 2014. Don't delay if you have not made your reservations. In the Armenian tradition *Poon Paregentan* is the grand party before the austere season of Lent begins, so a Mardi Gras theme seems perfect. Chris Vosbikian from Philadelphia has brought together superb musicians from both Philadelphia and Detroit to create a fabulous all-star Armenian band. Musicians included are: Michael Gostanian-Vocals, Michael Kazarian-Dumbeg, Chris Marashlian-Bass Guitar, David Hoplamazian-Violin, Greg Nigosian-Oud, George Nigosian-Clarinet and Acoustic Guitar and Christopher Vosbikian-Dumbeg.



There will be a delicious dinner as well as appetizers and a sweet table. Attire is dressy casual. Yes, men, that means you don't have to wear a tie. Ladies, come as fabulous as you always do. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Dinner will be served at 7:30 pm.

Please send your reservation with payment payable to St. John Women's Guild by February 20, 2014, to Marilyn Sarkesian at 2338 Heronwood Drive, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302. Tables of 8-10 may be reserved. \$55 includes dinner and dance, \$30 after 10 pm, cash bar.

Everyone is welcome to join us in the church kitchen every Tuesday from 9 am - noon for winter baking. We have a great time making new friends and creating delicious Armenian baked goods. Contact Dolly Matoian at 248.737.9055 for information.

*Pictured below, left: Speakers Tina Schaffner (Candle of Joy) Charlene Apigian (Candle of Love), Arlene Baylerian (Co-chair), speaker Stephanie Dallakian (Candle of Peace), Barbara Haroutunian (Candle of Hope), and Araxie Choukourian (Co-chair).*

*- Nora Noraian -*

**Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9 AM - 5 PM**

After hours in an emergency, please contact: Pastor's Cell: 248.225.9888 • Administrator's Cell: 248.880.8391

FEBRUARY 2014



## FROM FATHER GARABED'S DESK.....

### The Purpose of the Great Lenten Fast

The Great Lenten fasting for Christians is to prepare us for the awesome celebration of Easter Sunday commemorating Our Lord's Resurrection. During this season, called *Medz Bahk*, we give ourselves to mental and spiritual growth to better understand why we fast and what we should do to improve the quality of both our physical and spiritual lives. This is experienced by our custom of fasting from foods, pleasures of life, ordinary daily routines, and by increasing our spiritual life of prayer, good works and charity.

Our fasting is for...

- \* *experiencing hunger...*to remind us it is Christ God who truly satisfies us
- \* *experiencing emptiness...*to remember The Lord who fully fills us in soul and body
- \* *experiencing deprivations...*to remember Our Creator who provides for all our needs
- \* *experiencing self-sacrifice...*to remember Jesus who sacrificed Himself on the Cross for us
- \* *thinking more about what is true and less about the pleasures in life...*to remember what the real treasures in life are when we gain a fuller life in Christ—then 'our treasure becomes our pleasure.'

Fasting and abstaining are ways of seeing people and our possessions in a different way, especially when we sometimes take for granted the value of friendship, companionship and being blessed to have what we do. In keeping the Great Fast / *Medz Bahk* for 40 days, we will see the fruits of our sacrifice and 'experience' our 'becoming' a renewed person with a Christ-like and heavenly attitude. The goal is to emerge from this season of penance with a new outlook on life, through what we say, our charity, our discipleship, and our stewardship.

### Sunday Themes during Great Lent

**Poon Paregentan, March 2nd - Paradise given for our enjoyment**

**Isaiah 58: 1-14, Romans 13: 11-14:10, St. Matthew 6: 1-21**

**The Expulsion, March 9th - Fallout and Recovery: making chaos work for the good**

**Isaiah 33:2-16, Romans 12: 1-21, St. Matthew 5:21-26**

**The Prodigal Son, March 16th - Sin, Forgiveness and Love: connecting the dots, making mistakes and correcting them**

**Isaiah 55: 1-13, 2 Corinthians 6: 1-18, St. Luke 16: 1-9**

**The Steward, March 23rd - A time to commit and care**

**Isaiah 57: 14-21, Ephesians 4: 25-32, St. Luke 18: 1-18**

**The Judge, March 30th - Persistence and Reward**

**Isaiah 65:17-25, Ephesians 4: 4-9, St. Luke 18 1-18**

**Advent, April 6th- God makes great things happen to help us come home to Him**

**Isaiah 66: 15-17, Colossians 3: 12-17, St. Matthew 23: 34-39**

**Palm Sunday, 13th - Homecoming from earth to heaven**

## KOMITAS CHOIR HOSTS OAKLAND CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT.....



Returning to St. John with another holiday concert, the Oakland Choral Society presented a beautiful performance on Saturday evening, December 7, 2013. Scott Hanoian directed with great musicality and command, a sixteen piece orchestra and more than eighty choir voices in Vivaldi's Gloria and Part I of Handel's Messiah, including the popular and much loved Hallelujah. Six soloists sang with beautiful tone and clear dictions adding to the glorious voices in the St. John Sanctuary. Hanoian is also the Music Director and Organist of Christ Episcopal Church Grosse Pointe.

Following the concert the audience and choir enjoyed a delightful reception chaired by Komitas Choir member, Dolly Matoian. The Oakland Choral Society is a favorite at St. John and we look forward to future concerts with Hanoian and his group.



## MANOOGIAN SCHOOL JOINS ST. JOHN'S ON CHRISTMAS EVE.....



Father Garabed welcomes the students from both the AGBU Alex & Marie Manoogian School and St. John Church School who read the sacred prophesies of Christmas eve, including the Prophet Daniel, on Sunday, January 12th.

## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER.....

Although the winter temperatures may be glacial, this season is filled with warmth. The Women's Guild has confirmed their schedule for winter baking. If you are on campus on Tuesday mornings stop and just smell the *choreg*, it is delicious. The ladies, and occasionally a few gentlemen, brave the cold each week to produce those wonderful baked goods that we all crave.

Our Men's Society, refreshed from their third Annual Man Up Retreat, is busy planning their next legendary Pancake Breakfast. Despite the cold weather this is a very happy and active time at our Church. There is such a wonderful variety of upcoming religious occasions and joyful events sponsored by our organizations. For all the details please consult our Church website: [stjohnsarmenianchurch.org](http://stjohnsarmenianchurch.org).

*Your Parish Council Chairman*  
- Karmen A. Santourian -

## A NOTE OF THANKS.....

Dear Women's Guild,

Thank you so much for the package of goodies! During this busy time of the year, it is always nice to have reminders of home. I am so blessed to be a part of such a loving and supportive community. Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity.

Love,

*Monica Godoshian*

MUSIC MINISTRY IN OUR PARISH  
LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD IN 2015



Join the choir in preparing concerts for the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Rehearsals will start in February 2014.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR:

Ages 7-9 rehearse Sunday afternoon 4:00 - 5:00 pm  
Ages 10-13 rehearse Sunday afternoon 5:00-6:00 pm

Rehearsals will be at Deacon Rubik's home

MEN'S CHOIR & WOMEN'S CHOIR:

Will meet Thursdays 7:00 - 9:00 pm at St. John

Celebrate our culture and heritage on this historical and momentous occasion.

Contact Deacon Rubik Mailian to join.

Tel: 248.569.3405 or [rubik@sjachurch.org](mailto:rubik@sjachurch.org)

## SACRAMENTS

### Baptisms and Chrismations

#### December 2013

- 19 Michael Bedrosian Pifer-Chrismation
- 27 John Jeffrey  
Son of Rick & Janelle Yavruian  
Godparents: John Yavruian & Carol Yavruian  
  
Allison Claire  
Daughter of Rick & Janelle Yavruian  
Godparents: John Yavruian & Carol Yavruian
- 28 Delilah Delaney  
Daughter of Steven & Kelly Frost  
Godparents: Dale Goodson & Melissa Morelli  
Steven Frost (proxy)  
  
Emerson Elizabeth  
Daughter of Steven & Kelly Frost  
Godparents: Dale Goodson & Anne Frost  
Steven Frost (proxy)
- 28 Melanie Lilian Deuby-Adult  
Godparents: Ronald & Kathryn Torigian  
  
Timothy Dale Deuby-Adult  
Godparents: Ronald & Kay Torigian
- 29 Aiden James  
Son of Matthew & Jennifer Abdoian  
Godparents: Joseph Abdoian & Angel Abdoian  
  
Brendan Kristofer  
Son of Matthew & Jenifer Abdoian  
Godparents: Joseph Abdoian & Angel Abdoian

#### January 2014

- 12 Mackenzie K.  
Daughter of Bradley & Julie Neher  
Godparents: Brian Neher & Jessica Smith
- 18 Kourtney Louise  
Daughter of Jacob & Lauren Ghannam  
Godparents: Joseph Ghannam & Jessica Longas

### Weddings

#### January 2014

- 11 Ohanes Hovnanian & Dania Daneilian  
*Khachyeghpayr*: Dikran Missak  
Maid of Honor: Aida Toma

### Funerals

#### December 2013

- 27 Charles John Hovanesian, 48, Oakland Hills  
  
Michael T. Minasian, 89

#### January 2014

- 14 Gerard Der Pilibosian, 81, White Chapel
- 20 Peter Egigian, 90, Woodlawn

### Marriages

Arrangements for weddings are to be made at least eight months in advance. Marriage preparation and counseling are required before the celebration of the sacrament. The Bestman (*Khachyeghpayr*) must be a member of the Armenian Orthodox Church. The parish office will make all necessary arrangements for the deacon, organist and soloist. Marriages are not celebrated during Great Lent.

### Baptisms and Chrismations

All baptisms must be scheduled at least two months in advance. Pre-baptismal preparation for the parents and godparents is required. At least one of the godparents must be a member of the Armenian Orthodox Faith.

### Regulation of Sacramental Services

In accordance with Diocesan discipline mandated by the Primate, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, all sacraments, e.g. funerals, weddings, baptisms and rites of Christian burial, can only be administered in the church sanctuary, which has been consecrated for the celebrations of these sacred rites.

## WE GET LETTERS.....

Dear Father Garabed,

On behalf of the Alex & Marie Manoogian School, I would like to thank the Senior Department of the Sunday School for delivering the baskets of food so generously prepared by Mr. George Saboonjian.

The families were overwhelmed by the generosity of so many. The baskets were overflowing with goods and, of course, kind wishes for the holidays. The students are also to be complimented for their participation in the Thanksgiving Dinner on November 17, 2013. Again this year it was wonderful to see so many of our young adults and, most importantly, their parents coming together to prepare Thanksgiving dinner for our Parish. It was truly an example of the Christian Spirit, many helping together for a good cause. I extend my congratulations to Mrs. Roseann Manoogian Attar and Mr. George Saboonjian for their continued dedication to our Church School. They have helped our students to be aware of the concerns and welfare of not only our parishioners but the surrounding communities as well. Thank you again for helping make a holiday season so bountiful for so many families.

Sincerely,

*Dyana Kezelian*

Principal, Elementary and Middle School

### Our Graduates

Katie Kalajian graduated from Central Michigan University summa cum laude with a B.S. in Elementary Education. Katie is the middle daughter of John & Kim Kalajian and granddaughter of Ralph Rose Kalajian.



## THE MEN'S SOCIETY "MANS UP"!

The Men's Society of St. John Armenian Church had their third overnight Retreat of the 21st Century Friday / Saturday, January 24 / 25 at Livonia Embassy Suites. The theme of the Retreat "Living the Gospel of Christ" was facilitated by Father Tateos Abdalian, Director of Department of Mission Parishes of the Eastern Diocese. Der Tateos continued his Mission parish work in Michigan on Sunday celebrating *Badarak* at the Lansing Mission Parish, assisted by two of the retreat participants, Deacon Onnig Boyajian and Deacon David Aprahamian.



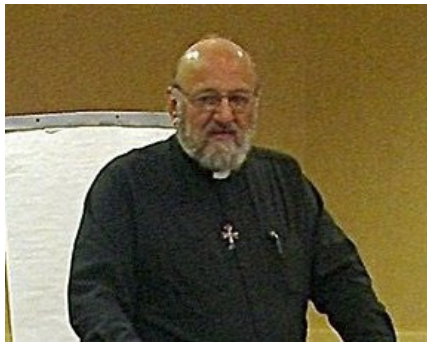
Of the seventeen attendees, fourteen were members of the Men's Society, two non-members and the facilitator. The men met for dinner and then an evening session ensued with George Saboonjian's opening remarks concerning what we were to expect over the two day session. Father Garabed Kochakian introduced Father Tateos, whose mission was to build the faith of the attendees again this year by utilizing the watchwords LISTEN, LEARN, GO, and DO.

Discussion and bonding were much easier this year as everyone provided input during the sessions. Saturday morning began with a breakfast to energize our minds and bodies. Discussions included several different puzzles and meditation exercises. Father Tateos again made learning about the gospel very interesting...so much so it became alive to all participants. When questions were asked concerning expectations and outcomes the answers varied, but many were profound and spiritually impacted each participant with a better understanding of LISTEN, LEARN, GO, and DO.

All left the retreat renewed, inspired and with a greater sense of how to Live the Gospel in the world today. They all agreed that they were looking forward to another inspiring and enjoyable Retreat. At the conclusion of the Saturday session, an extra hour was devoted to asking both Der Garabed and Der Tateos many other questions about the Armenian Church, our faith and traditions.

Thank you to Father Garabed, Father Tateos, and a special thank you to George Saboonjian for organizing the event.

- Daniel Cristiano -



## 'TIS THE SEASON.....



The Church School Christmas program brings joy and celebration to the season.



## 'TIS THE SEASON (CONTINUED).....



The Church School Christmas program brings joy and celebration to the season.

## DSO COMES TO ST. JOHN ARMENIAN CHURCH.....

On Sunday, November 10th the St. John Music Guild presented its second Chamber Concert in collaboration with The Detroit Symphony Orchestra in the magnificent sanctuary of the St. John Armenian Church which once again was memorable. The success of the inaugural Concert was duplicated with an innovative program featuring "Quartets, Duos and Solos" performed by the virtuoso musicians of the DSO. We were privileged to have their top performers who played to an appreciative audience who filled the sanctuary to capacity. To many, their attendance was based on their previous experience at St. John and they were not disappointed. Many expressed their delight at the entire experience. Not only the performances, but the joy the musicians exhibited in their interactions with each other, the music, and the audience created a synergy that was palpable and spread throughout the sanctuary. The energy continued during the lovely reception where guests and musicians mingled and were happy to share the experience.

The featured artists from the DSO Chamber Orchestra included Kimberly Kaloyanides Kennedy, Associate Concert Master, whose solo performance of the beloved Armenian favorite "*Groung*" was masterful. Also a duet for Violin and Viola "*Handel - Halvorsen: Passacaglia*" with Ms. Kennedy and James VanValkenburg was memorable. Of course, the concert began with the "*Hayr Mer*" (The Lord's Prayer in Armenian), creating a moving opening to the concert even for those to whom this prayer is not familiar. The musicians who completed this stellar quartet were Sheryl Hwangbo, Violin and David LeDoux, Cello.

The committee wishes to thank the underwriters and those who attended who made this event possible. We encourage those who have expressed a desire to support these programs at any level in the future to contact the Church. Your participation is imperative to continue these programs for future generations.

Plans for future concerts are ongoing and will be announced when they are finalized. For further information regarding the St. John Music Guild please call May Kafafian at the St. John Church Office at 248.569.3405.

- Jeanette Keramedjian -

## ST. JOHN'S PAYS A VISIT TO THE MANOOGIAN MANOR.....



Father Garabed celebrates the Blessing of Water at Manoogian Manor on Saturday, January 11th, assisted by the Komitas Choir, Deacons and Women's Guild.



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### The Torchbearer Staff

Fr. Garabed Kochakian, *Editor-in-chief*

Julia Papiyants, *Managing Editor, Copy & Layout;*

Harry Avagian, Mary Davidson, Diane Ekizian, May Kafafian, Dolly Matoian

We welcome your comments and suggestions, so please feel free to contact the Church Office so we may continue to improve the way we bring information to our parishioners, subscribers and the St. John community. If you would like to help defray printing and postage costs, and are computer savvy, please consider receiving your *Torchbearer* online as 10% of our readership already does. The added bonus is that it appears in color online! Please contact the Church Office.

If you would be interested in sponsoring an issue of *The Torchbearer*, that is, assuming the costs of producing one, please contact May Kafafian at the Church Office for further information. We also need volunteers who would be interested in helping prepare *The Torchbearer* for mailing. This occurs around the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month and for just a few hours. Again, please contact the Church Office.

We invite you to visit the St. John web site for up-to-date calendar information, the Sunday Bulletin, *The Torchbearer*, event information and links to internet sites of interest to our parishioners:

[stjohnsarmenianchurch.org](http://stjohnsarmenianchurch.org)

### REMEMBER ST. JOHN ARMENIAN

CHURCH IN YOUR WILL



Choose a ministry to support, establish an  
endowment, or supplement the General Fund.  
Contact the Church Office, your Pastor  
or a Parish Council member for ways to  
leave a legacy to your Church.

## PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.....

### February

- 2 Meet the Candidates Tea  
9 ACYOA Juniors Tea  
14 Presentation of our Lord - *Diarrnuntarach*  
16 Blessing of Infants Service  
Pre-Assembly Buffet Lunch  
Annual Parish Assembly  
23 Requiem Service for Armenians who perished  
during Azeri pogroms 1988-1990  
Men's Society Pancake Breakfast  
27 Feast of *Vartanank* (*off site*)

### March

- 1 *Poon Paregentan*-An Armenian Mardi Gras  
Dinner-Dance sponsored by the Women's Guild  
*Poon Paregentan*  
3 Great Lent Begins  
5 ACYOA Fish Dinner; Lenten Vigil Service  
12 ACYOA Fish Dinner; Lenten Vigil Service  
19 ACYOA Fish Dinner; Lenten Vigil Service  
26 ACYOA Fish Dinner; Lenten Vigil Service  
29 Annual Lenten Retreat & Seminar  
Guest Speaker: Dr. Vigen Guroian  
Topic: "The Rhythm of the Resurrection"

### April

- 2 ACYOA Fish Dinner; Lenten Vigil Service  
7 Annunciation of the Holy Mother-of-God  
9 ACYOA Fish & Lobster Dinner; Vigil Service  
13 Palm Sunday; Women's Guild Bake Sale  
ACYOA Day Luncheon  
15 Holy Tuesday: Remembrance of the  
Wise & Foolish Virgins  
17 Holy Thursday: Divine Liturgy  
Feet Washing Service  
Betrayal & Passion of our Lord  
18 Holy Friday, Order of the Crucifixion of Christ;  
Entombment of our Lord  
19 Holy Saturday: Reading of Scriptures,  
Divine Liturgy, Easter Eve Supper  
20 **Easter-The Glorious Resurrection of our Lord  
and Savior Jesus Christ**  
**Easter Tea prepared by the Women's Guild**  
24 Armenian Martyrs Day Requiem Service (*off site*)

## IN THE COMMUNITY.....

Saturday, March 29, 2014, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

### 19th Annual Lenten Retreat Seminar

Sponsored in part by the Yeretzgin Rosalie Papazian

Endowment Fund

"The Rhythm of the Resurrection"

Guest Speaker: Dr. Vigen Guroian, Theologian

Professor, University of Virginia, Charlottesville

In collaboration with:

Rev. Father Garabed Kochakian

Pastor, St. John Armenian Church and Art Historian

Rev. Dn. Rubik Mailian

Director of Sacred Music, St. John Armenian Church

Chairman of the Diocesan Department of Sacred Music

Donation: \$15 includes all materials,

continental breakfast and lunch

To register, phone the church office by March 24th

248.569.3405

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