

THE TORCHBEARER • Ջահակիր

St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit

22001 Northwestern Highway • Southfield, MI 48075

248.569.3405 (phone) • 248.569.0716 (fax) • stjohnsarmenianchurch.com

The Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian - Pastor

The Reverend Father Diran Papazian - *Pastor Emeritus*

Deacon Rubik Mailian - *Director of Sacred Music and Pastoral Assistant*



HAPPY SUMMER!“TO EVERY THING THERE IS A SEASON,
AND A TIME TO EVERY PURPOSE UNDER HEAVEN....” *Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Pilgrimage to Jerusalem

I was honored and fortunate to be a participant in the “Leadership in the Light of Our Lord” pilgrimage to Jerusalem and the Holy Land from June 2-12, 2011. Led by Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, thirty-four youth leaders from parishes throughout the Eastern Diocese traced the footsteps of Our Lord Jesus Christ through Bethlehem, Nazareth, Galilee, and Jerusalem.

I was truly overwhelmed walking into the churches of The Virgin Mary in Gethsemane, The Holy Sepulcher, and The Church of the Holy Nativity in Bethlehem and seeing the Armenian presence in the Holy Land. Looking up and seeing the ivory colored eggs attached to the hanging lanterns was awe inspiring. Every day we had Bible studies relating to the region we were visiting which made this experience spiritual and meaningful; it was the Bible coming to life! We reflected on the verses and how it related to our lives in today’s world, which built a special bond among all of us, especially as we visited these holy sites. We also talked about leadership, identity, and our future in the Armenian Church.

It was very interesting to witness both the birthplace as well as the Tomb of Christ, both in one day. Experiencing the Holy Land from swimming in the Dead Sea to praying at the Badarak in the Holy Sepulcher at three o’clock in the morning were memories I will never forget. I was also very happy to see His Beatitude, Patriarch Torkom Manoogian, who enlightened us with his words of wisdom. Deep appreciation goes to Mr. Aso Tavitian for his generosity in sponsoring this memorable trip. (*Check the Diocese web site for more on the Pilgrimage. Group photo below*)

- Karen Dardarian



*The Great Feast Day of the
Transfiguration of our Lord
(Vartavar)*

Date Change!!!

St. John Armenian Church

Annual Picnic

Sunday, July 31, 2011

After church (12:30pm)



In addition to terrific picnic foods,

Car Show, Ice Cream Corner,

Tavloo and card games

there are new features:

Pony Rides for the kids

Water Games for kids of all ages

Dunk Tank

Potato Salad Contest

This year we will find who makes the best Potato Salad!

It is an Armenian tradition

to pour water on one another on this day.

Be prepared!! **Parents, bring towels for the kids.**

2011 Summer Fundraising Campaign

Summer has arrived! This year our Church will celebrate its 80th Birthday. It is a time to appreciate our history and anticipate our destiny. This year also marks the 4th and final year of our \$50,000 annual payments to the Apostolic Society for the \$200,000 interest free loan they provided the Church for the kitchen and hall renovations.

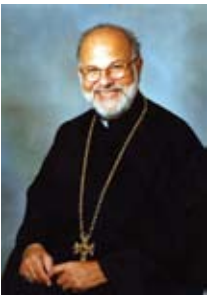
We have established a “Summer Fundraising Campaign” this year to assist us in completing these obligations and to meet our 2011 Budget. To date we have received \$7,185 from 48 contributors. We are humbly grateful for those who have stepped up to contribute so quickly. We appreciate the generosity of spirit and treasure of all those who will make this endeavor successful. No donation is too small. Look to the “Thermometer” in the Church Lobby on Sundays when you come to worship our Lord and experience His Spirit in the acts of love and kindness of our community members.

-Your Parish Council

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

SUMMER 2011



FROM FATHER GARABED'S DESK.....

A Forgotten Genocide to be Remembered.....

Seeking global recognition and justice for the terrible events of 1915, the Genocide of the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, has been at the forefront of every Armenian community throughout the world for the past 96 years. Yet there has been a more recent tragedy that likewise has captured the attention of the world, a tragedy that has rendered the Armenians who lived in Azerbaijan to become victims of a merciless plan of ethnic cleansing and genocide as well—a Forgotten Genocide also in need of resolution and healing.

The Sumgait pogrom (also known as the Sumgait Massacre or February Events) was a pogrom that targeted the Armenian population of the seaside town of Sumgait in Soviet Azerbaijan during February 1988. On February 27, 1988, mobs made up largely of ethnic Azeris formed into groups that attacked and killed Armenians both on the streets and in their apartments. Widespread looting and a general lack of concern from police officers allowed the situation to worsen. The violence in Sumgait was unprecedented in scope in the then Soviet Union and received heavy coverage in the Western media.

The massacres took place during the early stages of the Nagorno-Karabakh independence movement and until today have suffered a fate similar to the tragedy in 1915—a Forgotten Genocide. The official death toll released by the Soviet Procurator General at that time initially exceeded hundreds at first, with many more who perished later. Furthermore, on February 28, a small contingent of local military troops entered the cities of Sumgait and Baku and unsuccessfully attempted to quell the rioting. The situation was finally defused when more professional military units entered with tanks and other armored vehicles one day later. The forces sent by the Azeri government imposed a state of martial law and a curfew to bring the crisis to an end.

It has been 22 years since the terrible days of those pogroms in Azerbaijan and the great losses incurred. In 1988, thousands of innocent lives in Sumgait and Baku were destroyed by the forces of the Azerbaijan government. The native Armenians were forced from their homes, their properties were confiscated, their churches closed, sacred burial grounds and graves were even destroyed, reducing to rubble numerous Khachkar monuments. A viable ethnic community of Armenians, then living peacefully among the Azeris, came to an end.

We are approaching yet another anniversary year of remembering the souls of our brothers and sisters who perished in these pogroms, the newest forgotten genocide. Armenians in Azerbaijan were unwelcome in the lands where they had lived for centuries. The wounds from this tragedy which forced an entire community of Armenians to flee the oppression of the Azeri government have not healed nor have they been forgotten. Many who fled are now in America to begin new lives.

Until now many still suffer the great emotional, spiritual and physical aspects of this 'forgotten genocide.' We pray for them, and especially we pray for those who perished during this recent tragedy.

Many have come to Michigan and have become part of our St. John Armenian Church family. In recognition of their pain and need for healing and the discourse of these events, the Pastor and Parish Council met with members of the Baku Armenian community to discuss how best to commemorate and remember the Armenians who lost their lives in Azerbaijan.

After several meetings, it was decided that an appropriate monument be placed on the grounds of St. John Armenian Church, a Memorial Armenian Cross similar to the existing Khachkar opposite the entrance of the church. Such a monument would become an expression of love in memory of those who died and a testament to the survivors who are now part of our worshipping family.

A parish-wide appeal is now under way to raise the funds needed to acquire this appropriate memorial with the assistance of many members of the Baku Armenian community. With this effort it is our hope that the people of our community will also come to know more about this contemporary and unresolved tragedy.

Remembering the tragedy which the Armenians from Baku have suffered, with the loss of life incurred, and in light of the *Medz Yeghern* which began on April 24, 1915, we need to commemorate this more recent crime against humanity as well.

We ask you to take part in this community-wide recognition and support this worthwhile project with a tax-deductible donation payable to St. John Armenian Church, indicating "Baku Memorial Fund" in the memo portion of your check. Please send your donation to: St. John Armenian Church "Baku Memorial Fund," 22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield MI 48075. You may charge your donation to your Mastercard, Visa, or Discover card by phoning the church office at 248-569-3405 Monday-Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

The monument when completed will be appropriately placed close to the existing Khachkar monument which remembers the Genocide of the Armenians in 1915. The date of the dedication is slated for October 23, 2011, which coincides with the 80th Anniversary of St. John Armenian Church.

~Father Garabed

Major Feast Days this Summer

SUNDAY, JULY 31

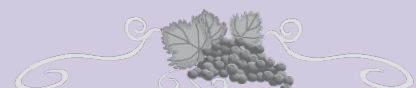
**FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST—VARTAVAR**

Please note change of date for . . .

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC & CAR SHOW

All cars of interest welcome!

**For information,
call Bob Karakashian 248-477-7776**



SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

**FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF
THE HOLY MOTHER-OF-GOD
BLESSING OF GRAPES**

Summer Schedule of Sunday Worship

Morning Service - 9:00 am

Divine Liturgy - 9:30 am

**Requiem Prayers, when offered - 10:45 am
(July 3, 17; August 7, 12; September 4, 18)**

Church School Reopens September 11

The Church School of St. John's will begin another school year Sunday, September 11, 2011. Classes begin at 10:15 am and are dismissed at 12:15 pm. Our goal is to offer a variety of age-appropriate experiences to students by building their knowledge of the Divine Liturgy and meaningfully teaching their faith through regular worship. Through regular and punctual attendance, children will have a disciplined growth in awareness of God, our rich Christian heritage and presence in this world as a child of God. All students who were registered last year will receive a completed application form in the mail. If you are registering a child for the first time, you may download an application from St. John's website: stjohnsarmenianchurch.com. Or you may request an application be mailed to you by phoning the church office at 248.569.3405. Questions concerning the curriculum and related matters may be referred to Church School Principal Alberta Godoshian at 248.476.4638.

Fuller Center Build Armenia Team

St. John's Facebook page currently has many photos from Armenia posted by Dikran Callan, who is part of St. John's home building team in Armenia this summer. Facebook users may view photos of our team as they work on Fuller Center projects and travel throughout Armenia. Login to your Facebook account and search for St. John Armenian Church. Or, if you have no Facebook account, paste this URL to view the photos:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/St-John-Armenian-Church/124725074245511?sk=photos>

Your computer and internet connection has a wealth of information from St. John's for you. Become a friend with your Facebook account, access the St. John's web site as well as the Armenian Church Eastern Diocese site for all manner of information and insight for your daily life. There is a new APP for your iPhone or iTouch called "Vemkar" updated daily by the Diocese featuring activities throughout the U.S., blogs, inspirational readings and more. Make the internet work for you in your daily spiritual life!

Volunteer Drivers Needed

Would you be interested in serving St. John Armenian Church to drive parishioners to church who are unable to drive themselves? If so, please phone Ardis Gregory at 248.682.6936.

Are you trained or talented in graphic design, desktop publishing, photography or other computer work? Would you like to share your skills with St. John's? Keep your skills sharp and help with projects as they come up. Contact the Church Office!



SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2011
DETROIT KEF TIME

A Musical Celebration of the 80th Anniversary of St. John Armenian Church

Featuring
Hachig Kazarian, Richard Hagopian,
Bruce Gigarjian, Michael Kazarian & Harold Hagopian

For Information and Reservations contact Isabelle Vahratian at 248.890.2185

ACYOA NEWS.....

ACYOA Seniors Bring Home Babayan Cup

The 2011 ACYOA General Assembly and National Sports Weekend was held Memorial Day Weekend in Philadelphia, PA, and our St. John's Chapter was awarded the Babayan Cup after a successful weekend on the basketball court.

Both the men's and women's basketball teams finished in first place in their respective tournaments. For the men, it is St. John's first ACYOA basketball championship since 1987. Our St. John's team defeated a dual chapter team from St. Vartan Cathedral (New York City) and St. Leon's (Fairlawn), 40-36, in the Sunday championship. For the women, their victory continues a streak of four-straight first place finishes. St. James of Watertown, last year's winners of the Babayan Cup, captured the volleyball championship.

This is the first time since 1993 that Detroit has been awarded the Cup. The Babayan Cup was initiated in 1974 and is given to the chapter that accumulates the highest number of total points in all of the athletic competitions combined. It was donated by Mrs. Peroz Babayan of Toronto, Canada, in an effort to foster competitive Christian fellowship amongst the ACYOA chapters in the Diocese.

It was also announced at the General Assembly that the 2012 event will take place in Chicago, where our ACYOA members will defend the Babayan Cup.

-Dan Dardarian



Second Annual Wine Tasting Successful

What a memorable night! One hundred guests joined members of St. John's Men's Society at its second annual Wine Tasting event on June 10, 2011. This year's event was dedicated to the memory of Edgar Hagopian and his lifelong work for the Armenian community, locally and around the globe.

The Men's Society partnered with the Vintage Wine Shop of Lathrup Village, which provided an amazingly diverse assortment of wines for tasting. Featured were reds and whites from France, Spain, California, Australia, and Argentina, over 28 varieties. In addition there were five kinds of Scotch, two bourbons, three vodkas, and a new liquor called "Cotton Candy," all made possible by Vintage Wine Shop. Also debuted were the first wines made by members of the Men's Society in their first winemaking class which were excellent.

Complementing the wines were individual food stations prepared by ten Men's Society members and their families. Their support of this event has had a significant impact on the future of the Men's Society at St. John's. The following is a listing of the food stations:

David Aprahamian and Family

(Tepsee Beoreg and Chemen Meatballs)

Greg Baise and Family

(Hummus, Basturma and Pita)

Brian Boyadjian and Family

(Stuffed Jalapeño wrapped in bacon, Pepperoni Spread, Chicken Brochette)

David Dardarian and Family

(Pasta Station)

Gary Hachigian and Family

(Eech, Sarma, Lentil Kufta, Pita)

John Lucassian and Family

(Sampling Men's Society's First Wine Making Class)

Robert Magee and Family

(Crudites, Cheese, Wafers, Fruit Wafers)

Eric and Noel Slowik and Families

(Chocolates, Nuts, Dried Fruits, Berries)

Ardag Tachian and Family

(Coordinating Assorted Sweets & Pastries by:

Belinda Kabodian, Silva Sagherian,

Nayiri Misirliyan, Terry Palaian, Salpi Tachian)

Peter Toukhanian and Family

(Pasta Salad and Antipasto Platter)

John Yavruian and Family

(Smoked Pork Loin, Roasted Turkey Breast)

To make it interesting, the food stations were rated on creativity. A gift certificate for dinner for two at Steve and Rocky's was awarded to Eric and Noel Slowik for the best looking table.

Our success would not have been possible without help from the following: Ruth Pinto-Cieslak, St. John's administrator, office and maintenance staff, and our baby sitters, Grace Magee and Sona Toukhanian. We also thank Liz Aprahamian for being a major supporter of this event for the past two years, and George Boyagian for his ad in the event booklet.

During the evening, the Men's Society announced it had achieved the first phase of its internet fundraising goal. Wireless service is now available in St. John's complex, and this was demonstrated on the big screen that evening.

There was plenty of food and drink for everyone. If you attended this affair we thank you for your support; if you didn't, you missed a great evening.

Photo Road Rally Scavenger Hunt Saturday, August 6, 2011

St. John's Men's Society invites you to a great afternoon adventure open to the first 48 brave souls who register! This is how it will work: at 12:00 Noon on Saturday, August 6th participants will meet at St. John's, enjoy munchies, get the rules and the clues, and form teams of 4. At 1:00 pm it will be time for teams to hit the road with a snack bag and one digital camera per car. At 4:00 pm get your pictures developed at a CVS or wherever you like and meet back at St. John's by 5:00 pm to assemble your photos for scoring. Dinner will be at 5:30 pm and winners will be announced at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$20.00 each plus any expenses your team has in developing the film. Flyers/registration forms are available in the church lobby. For questions, email John Lucassian at hyejohn@yahoo.com.

WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS.....

The Women's Guild marked the beginning of summer in June with our Annual Membership Dinner. Thank you to co-chairs Linda Tiffany and Carol Aprahamian for an enjoyable evening. Also, Father Garabed Kochakian initiated new members Dawn Aginian, Carol Bagdasarian, Linda Jevahirian, Jennifer Toomajian and Sandy Williams. Congratulations to our long time members Alice Betrosian, Emma Betrosian, Lynne Kojamian, June Mekjian and Mary Ann Nersessian for 10 years; Judy Mardossian, 25 years; Jane Toomajian, 40 years and Silva Sahakian, 50 years. May you have many more years in our organization.

Festival Baking has begun on Tuesdays in June and Mondays and Tuesdays from July through September. We hope to see everyone there. The more we make, the more we can sell to benefit our Church.

October 22, 2011 - keep the date open. A joint event is being planned with the Men's Society - a Kef Night with our own Hachig Kazarian, Richard Hagopian and an all star band as part of a celebration of the 80th anniversary of St. John's. What a night it will be!

KOMITAS CHOIR NEWS.....

Komitas Choir Preparing CD Recording

For many years the Komitas Choir of St. John Armenian Church has enhanced thousands of church services which have taken place throughout the nearly 80 years of our parish. Uniquely, the Komitas Choir has additionally sponsored cultural events for our community to learn about and appreciate the historical basis for many of the musically related events we often attend.

For years members of our parish have asked that this dedicated group of singers prepare a recording which can become a permanent item enjoyed at home. In response to these many requests, St. John's Director of Sacred Music, Deacon Rubik Mailian, has decided to engage the church choir in weekly Thursday evening rehearsals beginning at 7:00 PM in the cultural hall complex.

To make this recording event truly reflective of our parish, our choir director is inviting previous choir members to join with the Komitas Choir for this recording. Please contact him for additional information at 248.569.3405 or rubik@sjachurch.org. Rehearsals are scheduled for Thursdays at 7:00 pm.

- Harry Avagian

WE HONOR OUR GRADUATES.....

Kelly Karakashian Callan received a Masters in Business Administration from Michigan State University in May. Previously, she received a BA in Physics from Kalamazoo College, a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Michigan, and an MS in Mechanical Engineering from Lawrence Technological University. She is currently employed by BAE Systems as a mechanical engineer. Married to Dikran Callan, she is the daughter of Denise and Robert Karakashian.

Jamie Michele Colcer graduated Cum Laude from the Max M. Fisher College of Business at Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Jamie is employed by Abercrombie & Fitch in the Merchandising Department and is working in the Columbus, Ohio headquarters. She is the daughter of Alan and Christine Colcer, and the granddaughter of George and Virginia Cross.

Danielle Kalajian graduated from Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Management, Minor in Industrial Engineering, Certificate in Entrepreneurship & Innovation, and a Certificate in DiversiKey. She is now living in Chicago, IL where she attends St. James Armenian Church in Evanston and works as a Guest Services Manager at Club Quarters Central Loop Hotel in downtown Chicago. She is the daughter of John and Kimberly Kalajian.

Paul Arthur Mikhjian graduated from Rochester Adams High School, Rochester Hills, and plans on attending college in the fall. He is the son of Sarkis and Lisa Mikhjian, and the grandson of Arthur and Virginia Mekjian.

Sevan Misirliyan graduated from Northville High School with the honors of Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude, and the President's Award for Educational Excellence. She will be attending The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in the fall. Additionally, she recently graduated from the St. John's Church School. She is the daughter of Roy and Nayiri Misirliyan.

Amy Parks graduated Magna Cum Laude from Georgetown University with a degree in finance/ international business and minors in French and art. She was the coxswain on the Georgetown crew team. Amy was active in the Georgetown Armenian Club and was president her senior year. She studied abroad last year in Nantes, France. Amy volunteered at the Armenian embassy and tutored children in the D.C. area. In August, Amy will move to NYC to work as a consultant for Price Waterhouse Coopers. She is the daughter of Terry and Judy Parks.

Emily Parks is a Birmingham Seaholm High School graduate. She was a member of the Seaholm marching /symphony band for four years and a 1st chair flute player. While in high school Emily also played the piano and played on the Seaholm soccer team. In the fall Emily will be attending Miami University in Ohio studying business. She is the daughter of Terry and Judy Parks.

Carolyn Philip graduated from Mercy High School of Farmington Hills. She is a recipient of the President's Education Award and was a member of both the National Honor Society and French Honor Society. Additionally, she graduated from Sunday School at St. John

Armenian Church. She is excited to be attending the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in the fall. She was pre-admitted to the Taubman School of Architecture and Urban Planning, where she hopes to study architecture and urban design. She is the oldest daughter of Dr. Philip Philip and Viva Ohanian.

Laurie D. Sagherian graduated from U.C.L.A. School of Law with a Juris Doctor degree and full honors. She is the daughter of Garo and Mayda Sagherian and a 2003 graduate of our Church School program.

Aram Gregory Sarkisian graduated from the University of Chicago on June 11, receiving a degree from the Masters of Arts Program in the Social Sciences. Aram focused his coursework and research on American religious and political history, submitting a thesis entitled "Not Just Strangers, but Also Our Own People: Federal Anti-Radical Investigations and the Archdiocese of North America and the Aleutian Islands of the Russian Orthodox Church, 1917-1924." After spending a year in Detroit, Aram anticipates continuing his work in a PhD program in the 2012-3 academic year. He is the son of Dr. Edward and Anna Sarkisian and the grandson of Nina Sarkisian.

Allison Marie Seremjian graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Deaf Education. She will start her student teaching this fall at Spencer Elementary School in Brighton. She is the daughter of Charles and Brenda Seremjian, and the granddaughter of Mary Seremjian.



On Wednesday, June 8, 2011 the **Daughters of Vartan, Zabelle Chapter** held the 10th Anniversary of their Merit Awards Program at St. John Armenian Church. Scholarship Committee Chair Jane Hovsepian spoke briefly and Event Chair Lucille Noraian introduced committee members Alice Argnian, Mary Negosian, Dr. Nadya Sarafian and Linda Stamboulion, who introduced the recipients and presented awards of \$1,000.00 to each scholar. Current year and prior years' recipients are pictured above. Front row, left to right: Lauren Sarkesian, Kelly Karakashian Callan, Valerie Joy Godoshian, Rosemarie Ani Mousigian, Lynne Apkarian Kojamanian. Back row left to right: Samantha Lynn Simonian, Maria Palaian, Angela Palaian, Margeaux Anahid Reizian, Jennifer Isobel Morgan. Not pictured, 2011 recipient David Movses Movsesian.

ST. JOHN'S SUMMER DAY CAMP 2011 SEASON NOW IN SESSION!

St. John Armenian Church is pleased to again offer a **Summer Day Camp** for children ages 5 to 12, a wonderful opportunity for our children to get acquainted with other Armenian children, learn about their heritage and share in the exciting experience of summer day camp. **Contact Summer Day Camp Director Lisa Mardigian with any questions 248-569-3405 or lmardigian@sjachurch.org.** Campers have a week of indoor/outdoor supervised, safe, fun activities including swimming, sports, games, special themes, crafts, nature walks and more. **Wednesdays feature Armenian baking, religious and cultural activities with special guests!**

DAY CAMP SESSION THEMES & FIELD TRIPS

MINI SESSION 3: JULY 6-8 SCAVENGER HUNT

Swim Day-Paddleboating-Scavenger hunts

SESSION 4: JULY 11-15 FOOD NETWORK

Swim Day-California Pizza Kitchen

SESSION 5: JULY 18-22 ART & CREATIVITY

Swim Day-Tiger Baseball Game-DIA

SESSION 6: JULY 25-29 CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Swim Day-Karaoke-Tiger Baseball Game-Hard Rock Cafe

NO CAMP July 30 - August 6 due to HYE CAMP 2011

SESSION 7: AUGUST 8-12 CULTURAL WEEK

Swim Day-Arab American Museum

Holocaust Museum

SESSION 8: AUGUST 15-19 SURPRISE THEME

Swim Day-Surprise Adventure

SCHEDULE MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

TIME: Check in 9:00-9:30 am; Dismissal 4:00 pm.

FEE: \$125.00 per week (\$25.00/day) with discount for second child

Includes supplies, refreshments, camp t-shirt, picnics, field trips and transportation for field trips.

Parents must provide a sack lunch!

What is Hye Camp?

Hye Camp is a unique, week long, Christian-based youth camp for Armenian children 8 to 15 years of age who want to learn more about their heritage and the teachings of the Armenian Church. The program includes a variety of educational and fun activities. Through the leadership of caring and concerned clergy, staff, parents, and teachers, Hye Camp promotes the Christian values of good character, responsibility, and sportsmanship. Lifelong friendships are created by the bonding among campers during daily worship as well as classes in culture, religion, sports, arts and crafts, and swimming. The camp is located at: 26202 W. Nippersink Rd. in Ingelside, IL. V. Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian is camp director.

Sessions and Costs:

Hye Camp offers one session from **July 30-August 6, 2011**. The cost for campers is \$400 and the cost for CITs is \$200 and includes three meals a day, lodging, snacks, and a camp t-shirt. There are no refunds.

Camp Registration

For more information, please contact Jennifer Morris, coordinator of youth outreach, by calling (212) 686-0710, ext. 118, or via email – jenniferm@armeniandiocese.org. Visit the website of the Armenian Diocese: www.armenianchurch.net and select "Diocesan Camps" for more information and registration materials.

Baptisms

June

- 5 Rohan Simon
Son of Rajiv & Andrea Iyer
Godparents: John Kalajian & Tiffany Defibaugh
- 14 Hasmik Movsesyan - Adult
Artak Movsesyan – Adult
Anahit Movsesyan – Adult
- 18 Audrey Valerie
Daughter of Andre & Valerie Yastchenko
Godparents: Konstantin Aganesov & Tamara Yesayan
- 18 Vanessa
Daughter of Razmig & Carla Haladjian
Godparents: Byron & Nanor Hacopian
- 19 Axsel Nazaret
Son of Saro & Araxie Ozdamar
Godparents: Zaven Hintiryan & Natalie Kizmazoglu
- 24 Lev Vladimir
Son of Armen & Anna-Maria Grigorian
Godparents: Lev & Elmira Grigorian
- 24 Tegrar Terhach
Son of Armen & Anna-Maria Grigorian
Godparents: Lev & Elmira Grigorian
- 25 Lorin
Daughter of Arthur & Arlet Dakessian
Godparents: Sevan & Lillian Calukyan

Weddings

June

- 25 Kevin David Orr & Holly Anne Smith
Khachyeghpayr: Ryan Zavadil
Bestman: Walter Turturro
Maid of Honor: Dana Smith

Funerals

June

- 1 Clara Kalayjian, 89, Mt. Hope
- 11 Michael Thomas Assarian, 61, White Chapel
- 15 John Malkasian, 83, Woodlawn
- 16 Harry Amirkanian, 92, Woodlawn
- 27 Alice E. Javizian, 77, Boca Raton Mausoleum

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.



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**DONATE YOUR CAR TO
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Members and Friends
are urged to participate
in the Charity Motors program.

Check their web site
<http://www.charitymotors.org/>
or contact Charity Motors at
888.908.CARS
to see how you can participate
and see the proceeds donated
to St. John's!

The Torchbearer Staff
Fr. Garabed Kochakian, Editor-in-chief
Anna Sarkisian, 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 25th 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.com

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.....

July

- 3 Men's Society Pancake Breakfast
- 4 Complex Closed for Independence Day
- 15 Kef Klub
- 27 Afternoon Bible Study
- 31 **Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord – Vartavar;**
ANNUAL PICNIC

August

- 6 Men's Society Photo Road Rally
- 7 Men's Society Pancake Breakfast
- 14 **Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God -**
Asdvadzadzin
(Note: Annual Picnic date has changed.)
- 19 Kef Klub

Dates in bold are Tabernacle Feasts.

Moms and Manooogs

- play group first and third Wednesdays in the Nursery at 10:30 am.

Note: All events at St. John's Church and Cultural Hall unless specified.

AT THE PARISH BOOKSTORE.....

Armenian Cuisine—Preserving Our Heritage
HC-\$25.00

*Nationally acclaimed cookbook
presented by St. John's Women's Guild*

Your Journey into Armenia by George Mouradian
SC-\$12.00

*Short account of Armenian history with color illustrations
for late elementary through high school students*

**St. John's Parish Bookstore is the largest retailer
of Armenian books, CDs and gifts in the Midwest.**

Stop by and browse.

Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study

will be held on Wednesdays each month.

**The next gathering will be July 27 at 12 noon
in the Nursery.**

This monthly Bible study group
is led by Yeretzgin Roberta Kochakian.
Bring your Bible and your lunch - coffee will be provided.
Join us!

COMMUNITY EVENTS.....

ARMENIA FEST

SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2011

6:00—10:00 PM

ROYAL OAK FARMERS MARKET

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION.....

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

FOR STUDENTS WITH ARMENIAN HERITAGE

2011-2012 ACADEMIC YEAR

Armenian Renaissance Association
Sophia Chapter of Greater Detroit
c/o Sena Harootunian

1561 Brentwood; Troy MI 48098
(248) 641-9476 or E-mail: arasophia@aol.com

Deadline: July 11, 2011

The John M. Azarian Memorial Armenian Youth Scholarship Fund
has extended the deadline to submit application for the 2011-2012
academic year to July 15, 2011. To download an application and all
other necessary forms, please visit:

www.azariangroup.com/scholarship.html

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