

THE TORCHBEARER • Ջահապիր

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*



40TH ANNIVERSARY CHALICE ARRIVES AT ST. JOHN'S



On the Feast of the Assumption, August 16, Father Garabed administered Holy Communion from the 40th Anniversary Chalice donated by His Holiness Karekin II the Catholicos of All Armenians to the St. Vartan Cathedral on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of its consecration in 1968.

The chalice has been used in almost all of the Diocesan Parishes during the past and present year and will be returned to the Mother Cathedral of our Diocese when the journey is completed.

ARTS OF ARMENIA SUMMER PROGRAM GREAT SUCCESS!

The Komitas Choir's trip to Armenia two years ago sparked memories of a spectacular school for children specializing in traditional Armenian arts. The choir's plans of bringing two instructors from Armenia to teach our own young people was realized this July when Ella Pepanyan and Arman Julhakian brought their expertise to students who enrolled in this premier summer fine arts program. Ella, a master ceramic designer and painter, and Arman, an internationally renowned dancer and teacher, worked with the children for two two-week sessions, as well as four adult master classes.

On Friday, July 31st, a recital was held in St. John's Cultural Hall featuring the two groups of youngsters. They surprised their parents, family and guests with what they had learned in such a short period of time. The audience gave them several standing ovations for their traditional Armenian group dances. Afterwards, guests walked among two tables of art work, ceramic displays of pomegranates, cats, etc., as well as paintings on paper and silk. The guests mingled and congratulated teachers and students, while enjoying an Afterglow sweet table provided by the Komitas Choir.

The Komitas Choir plans to continue this program, perhaps expanded, next summer. The program would not have been possible without the multitude of volunteers too numerous to mention.

-Dolly Matoian



1 - The adult master dancing class. 2 - The final recital.
3 - Young artists at work.

New Summer Church Office Hours

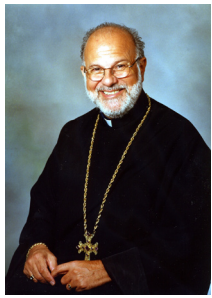
Tuesday - Friday: 8 AM - 6 PM

Closed Mondays: June 15 - September 17

After hours in an emergency, please contact:

Pastor's Cell: 248.225.9888 ~ Administrator's Cell: 248.802.2861

On the Diocesan website you can access the "Church and Home" tutorials for language, music and Armenian culture. It is a wonderful teaching aid for the home. Just click on... www.armenianchurch.net and see for yourself. It's a total Armenian Faith and culture experience.



FROM FATHER GARABED'S DESK.....

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

On this Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, we remember the euphoria, joy and hope felt by Christians in Armenia when the true Cross of our Lord - rescued from captivity in Persia in 628 A.D. - was brought through Armenia on its victorious return to Jerusalem.

Even though today as we follow and honor the Holy Cross with a special feast day, nonetheless we still encounter difficulties and hardships in life. We wonder perhaps how our Lord's Cross can rescue us from our personal despair? Yes, we are daily facing a shaky economy, the housing market is depressed, people have lost much, and are still struggling. The Cross does not solve these problems, but strengthens our energy and spirits to look for and find ways to repair a life in disrepair.

Our problems are not unique; these things and much worse have happened in the past. And somehow our fathers and mothers survived the pressures of such challenging times because they wore the Cross like their clothing; they recalled Our Lord upon the Cross and His victory over death itself. They framed their minds, hearts and souls upon the holy image of the Cross and that helped them overcome. And that's what the Holy Cross becomes for Christians today: a symbol of victory like the words from that well known hymn ... *we shall overcome*.

In a world where faith in Christ our God is a daily question for many that spawns seeds of doubt and despair, we see that life today is really no different than that ancient world over thirteen hundred years ago. Today, faith is still very much a human need. We still need direction and guidance; we need to see a sign that can give us hope for a better life. The Holy Cross is that sign of hope for us all. It took one man to make this happen, a man named Yeshua/Jesus, in whom God became life and breath – as His Son. His Cross changed life and became the words of hope... *we shall overcome*.

The Holy Cross then is like the very clothing of our bodies. The Holy Cross dresses us with physical and spiritual strength and, as it was lifted up and exalted before crowds of people centuries ago, it can lift us as well and give us hope that life in these times will get better. Our Lord calls us to be patient, to bear our crosses, wear our crosses, and share our crosses with each other. He promises that we too shall overcome.

A seminary professor of mine, Fr. John Meyendorff, of blessed memory, once said that to doubt and to question is not necessarily bad...because it also indicates a deep interest in finding God.

*O Lord – from Your Cross You promised to come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead.
Help us to live in faith as we await Your coming
that we might lift up our hearts, souls and minds in joy to see your return.
Keep us from doubt and unbelief, so that saved from death by the power of Your Cross,
we might be free from fear .
Give hope to those who still deny You and to us
the blessed medicine of immortality that flows from Your Cross. Amen.*

- from *The Desert Fathers* (fourth-sixth centuries)

*For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God (1 Cor. 18).*

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Sunday, September 13, 2009

Divine Liturgy & Antasdan

The *Antasdan* or Blessing of the Four Corners of the Earth service will take place at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. On the Feast of the Holy Cross all faithful of the Armenian Church are obligated to receive Holy Communion. *According to our Church ordinance, all baptized members of the Armenian Church should take Holy Communion on this feast day.*

WOMEN'S GUILD VISITS ST. SABBAS MONASTERY

On Thursday, July 16, approximately forty-two Women's Guild members traveled to Harper Woods to visit St. Sabbas Orthodox Monastery. The monks' monastery was founded in 1999 as a center for liturgical arts, and is comprised of six acres including the monastery, library, gift and candle shops, bakery and restaurant. The grounds are surrounded by beautiful gardens, fountains and mosaic shrines very much in the style of ancient Orthodox monasteries. The ladies were given a tour and delightful story of the history of the monastery by Father Pachomy, Abbot of the Monastery. Rich colors, ornate decoration and gold leafing were all used to create the distinctive iconographies that graced the walls and ceiling of the sanctuary. The ladies were then treated to a seven-course Tea (more like a luncheon!) which included individual tea pots with a wide variety of teas to choose from, finger sandwiches, a delicious *borscht*, and wonderful pastries. The lovely day was capped off with strolls admiring the scenery. Much appreciation goes to Marilyn Sarkesian for arranging such a wonderful outing.

-Marianne Dardarian

TIME TO CHECK YOUR GARDENS!

Yes, summer is the time for produce, fruits, vegetables and a flowery garden. As we approach the season of the Holy Cross in September and the special feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross to be celebrated on Sunday, September 13, we will need fresh green or purple basil to adorn the holy temple/church. If you have BASIL growing in your garden and wish to donate some for this special 'tabernacle feast/daghavar' contact the church office **bring your donation to the parish office no later than Saturday, Sept. 12.**



Women's Guild members enjoying the Sanctuary and the gardens of St. Sabbas Monastery.

ST. JOHN'S YOUTH RECEIVE MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS FROM DAUGHTERS OF VARTAN

On June 10, 2009 the Detroit Chapter of the Daughters of Vartan held its 8th Annual Scholarship Awards Program. Five outstanding young men and women each were the recipients of \$1,000. To date, twenty-two scholarships have been awarded totaling nearly \$16,000. Pictured below are this year's recipients:

Christopher Sarkesian, son of Peter and Marilyn Sarkesian, attends Indiana University in Bloomington where he is an honor student majoring in business. He is a graduate of St. John's Church School and has been a member of the Junior and Senior ACYOA. His goal is to become an Investment Banking Analyst and attend Graduate Business School.

Dannielle Dakhlian, daughter of Stephen and Debbie Dakhlian, is a graduate student at the University of Michigan in the School of Pharmacy. She will earn her Doctorate in Pharmacy in 2010, and plans to be a Specialized Clinical Pharmacist. Dannielle is a graduate of St. John's Church School, and a former Church School teacher.

Lauren Sarkesian, daughter of Peter and Marilyn Sarkesian, graduated from the University of Michigan with Honors, majoring in English and Political Science. This fall Lauren will enter Law School at Loyola University in Chicago. She is a graduate of St. John's Church School and an ACYOA member.

Matthew Rupas, son of Peter and Barbara Rupas, is a business marketing major at Michigan State University. His goal is to head a marketing team for a major corporation. He is a graduate of St. John's Church School, and served seven years on the altar at St. John's.

Michael Stamboulion, son of Jimmy and Patricia Stamboulion, attends the College for Creative Arts in Detroit, majoring in metalsmithing and jewelry design. Michael is a graduate of St. John's Church School, and active in the ACYOA sports program. He has been a counselor at St. John's Summer Day Camp working with children in arts and crafts. He plans on being a Studio Artist and teaching.

-Past Grand Matron Jane Hovsepan



Armenia "Land of Noah's Ark" ~ Armenia "First Christian Nation"

A HERITAGE ALL ARMENIANS ARE PROUD OF - THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL

October 1- 4, 2009 Thursday thru Sunday



A great year to invite your non-Armenian friends and coworkers to share in our Culture, we hope all of you will plan on attending and experiencing all the new venues in this celebration. On these two pages are only some of the highlights of the week. We could not print all the activities on the space allotted. We ask that you take a minute to review the web page - stjohnsarmenianchurch.org - go to 2009 festival

A Great Weekend For Our Kids and Teens

This year's festival will bring a great time for all our youth. We have listed some highlights. Please look at the schedule on our web site for times & locations.

Teen Dance Friday, October 1, 7:30 pm - \$5.00 entrance fee

Recommended 6th to 12th grade, 175 maximum guests, limited availability - Email your reservation to

psarkisian@comcast.net

DJ playing Armenian and American Music

Snacks and beverages, late night pizza snack provided

Displays and educational opportunities

Ambulance, Southfield Fire truck, FBI tent

State Police Bomb Vehicle and Buddy Buckle Bear

Lego Display and play area

CHIP, Child Identification Program

(Parent or legal guardian must be present)

Fun, Interactive events

Performance by "Harpbeat" children's band

Armenian Storytelling by Anahit Toumajan

Yoga Class for adults & children

Armenian Folk Dance Lesson

Reading & Book Signing by Lori Wagner, author of the children's book, *Bachik, the Birthday Kiss*

Games and Crafts for the Kids

Seven Children's Carnival Games with prizes

Six Arts & Crafts tables, Cake Walk to win pastries

Wash-off tattoos, Armenian Face Painting, Caricature Artist

Other things to do

Shop in our Finders' Keepers' Emporium

Stop and get a snack, watch a movie in our quiet room

Special Parent & Child Event Armenian "Hye" Tea

Saturday, October 3 at 10:30 am

Sponsored by Evereg Fenesse Educational Society

Tickets are \$5.00 for children 12 & under; \$10.00 for adults.

Please make checks out to St. John Armenian Church & mail to 22001 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield MI 48075 - c/o Hye Tea

Checks must be received before September 27.

Please include # of adults & # of male & female children.

Limited seating - tickets must be purchased in advance.

See St. John's website "2009 FESTIVAL" for details.

Auction Items Needed

We are looking for items to auction at this year's Opening Dinner, Weekend Auction, and Tin Can Raffle.

Suggestions: Gift Certificates of any denomination,

Sports Memorabilia, Tickets to Sporting events,

Tickets to performances or concerts,

One, two or three night stays at hotels,

Cruise tickets, Special bottles of wine,

Special gifts like lap top computers, Nintendo,

Wii & DS games, American Girl Dolls,

Children's Toys, Books, DVD's

Pottery, Paintings, Sculptures, Antiques,

Gift Certificates for a service, like Lawn Care

Gift Cards for Movies, Restaurants, Malls,

Painting, Handyman work, Car Services,

Flight miles or Airline tickets, Limo Services

Big ticket Items: Time Shares, Car Leases,

Trips, Vacations

Small donations will be grouped together to form larger baskets, so remember no gift is too small.

If you are uncertain your item will fit in please call:

Anita Arslanian 248-360-697; Rita Jury 248-433-3145

Paul Yousoufian 313-310-3508

Donations may be sent or delivered to St. John's.

A tax deduction letter will be sent to you within the week.

Insight into our Culture

Armenian Language Class

A quick, fun way to learn Armenian conversation phrases

Video Presentation

Everyone Prays at Holy Etchmiadzin

Church Tours

Bring your non-Armenian friends.

Vespers Service

5:30 pm, a 15-minute Sundown Service

Children's Concert

A 15-minute Concert will be performed in the Sanctuary led by Deacon Rubik Mailian.

Armenian Dance Team

Children from St. John's Arts of Armenia program and a team of young adults will perform.



Health O Rama

Professional Care Services

Blood Pressure Checks, Blood Sugar

Information and Hands on Displays

Information on Interactive Cancer,

Domestic Violence, Drug & Alcohol Abuse

Interactive Programs

The Gift of Life, Chair Massage,

Car Seat Check, Bike Safety and Helmet Check

Ask the Doctor

Dr. Neshan Ohanian, MD - Anesthesiologist

Dr. Alexandra Ohanian- Apkarian MD /Resident of Ophthalmology

A Pediatrician and Dr. Edward Sarkisian DDS



shopping

Finders Keepers Emporium

New and gently used baby & children's store

Grandma's Attic, Country Store

Fine Arts, Nigosian Oriental Rugs and Boutique

Gift A Rama vendors to date:

Ilene Lee Custom made Jewelry **Exotic Art & Antiques** Jewelry

Ohannes Bouladian Armenian Monogrammed knick-knacks

Love a Little Glitz Jewelry & accessories **Trends in Fashion**

Soda J. Handbags & Accessories - Zabel Belian Assorted Pottery

Names & Knits Personalized blankets & baby items

Shoushanian Boutique Children's clothes & gifts made in Armenia

YesHiEm Fine arts reproduction, printing on t-shirts & other items

Arda Eurdekian Hand knit items **Escapades** Gifts & accessories

Nancy Kaplan- Rubin Jewelry gifts and accessories

\$50.00 Raffle Tickets

We still have raffle tickets available.

Please help support this event by purchasing tickets on Sundays after church, Tuesdays at the Senior Lunch, or you can call Dan Cristiano at 313-291-3194 to make arrangements.

Texas Hold'Em

**Blackjack & Texas Hold'Em Poker with
Casino Qualified Dealers**

Saturday, October 3 - Blackjack starts at 6:00 pm,

Poker Tournament begins at 8:00 pm

\$40. Buy-In Poker Tournament prepaid before 9-15-09

\$60. after 9-15-09 - Save \$20 by Pre-Registering

All checks written to St. John Armenian Church.

Application form is at the Church and on the website.

Opening Night Dinner

Featuring: *Small Businesses of Michigan*
Owned and operated by Armenian Men and Women
Associated with St. John Armenian Church

Through their generosity we present to you a special event that has never been done before by St. John's:

Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 5:00 pm

A Wine & Mezza Reception and a sit-down dinner will be held to boost some of the Armenian talent within our church community.

To make this evening more attractive.....

A Special Silent & Live Auction will give you an opportunity to bid on and win some of our best auction items ever.

Our Chefs and sponsoring companies donating their products and services are:

Faouzi's Catering Chef Faouzi El Chemmas

Uptown Catering Chef Gary Reizian

Mexico Lindo Restaurant Kasper Tokatlian

Sweet & Savory Bakery Pastry Chef Christina Papazian

Westborn Market Anusbigian Brothers

Zingerman Coffee Steve Mangigian

Michigan Harp Center Harpist Kelly Yousoufian

Crave Creative Group, Lilly Marinelli

\$30.00 per person

(Dinner is valued at \$65.00)

The Menu and Auction Items will be updated on St. John's website weekly.

This event is limited to 115 guests.

Payment is required for your reservation.

We ask all who join us for this opening event to come with the intention of participating in the auctions.

Our goal for this evening is \$10,000.

We hope you will enjoy this special evening, and after the dinner you will have an opportunity to visit the Fine Arts Exhibition, and Nigosian Oriental Rug & Boutique

Please view St. John's website "2009 Festival" for schedule, menu and auction items updates.

Tavloo Tournament

1st & 2nd rounds will be held at St. John's after the Spaghetti Dinner on Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30pm.

\$25.00 Registration fee includes dinner (5:30 pm) at the first round of play offs.



LYCEUM RETURNS FOR THE 2009-2010 ACADEMIC YEAR

In response to community interest by both parents and students, we are pleased to announce that the Lyceum program initiated during 2008 will return this Fall. The orientation will take place Saturday, September 26th at 10:00AM

The goal of the school is to educate our children in their Armenian culture with hands on approach through song, dance, art, history and food preparation.

The Lyceum admits all Armenian children of our community between the ages of 6-14. The year long tuition is \$250, with reduced tuition for additional members from the same family. The sessions take place on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month from 10:00AM to 1:00PM. The academic year commences on September 26th and ends in May, 2010.

Additional information and registration form may be obtained from St. John's website, www.stjohnsarmenianchurch.org or by contacting Deacon Rubik Mailian at (248) 569-3405, rubik@sjchurch.org

-Harry Avagian

WANTED: USED ARMENIAN BOOKS

The Parish Bookstore will be sponsoring a Used Book Sale at the upcoming ARMENIAN FESTIVAL, OCTOBER 1, 2, 3 & 4 along with regular priced new books. We are accepting donations of gently used books on Armenian subjects – art, history, novels, cooking, etc. Please drop off books at the Church Office during business hours or on Sundays. Thank you for your support.

*Remember
St. John Armenian Church
in your will.*

CHOOSE A MINISTRY TO SUPPORT,
ESTABLISH AN ENDOWMENT,
SUPPLEMENT THE GENERAL FUND.
CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE,
YOUR PASTOR OR A PARISH COUNCIL
MEMBER FOR WAYS TO LEAVE
A LEGACY TO YOUR CHURCH.

BAPTISMS

JULY

- 31 Joseph Avak
Son of Avak & Eda Habring
Godparents: Vroyr & Shoghik Mardigian

AUGUST

- 2 Michael Henry
Son of Vincent & Stephanie Miconi
Godparents: Matthew Bedikian
& Diane Ronchetto
- 9 Sarah Elizabeth
Daughter of Robert & Jacqueline Neale
Godparents: Steven & Natalie Hagopian

WEDDINGS

AUGUST

- 1 Andrew Steffens & Melissa Mikhjian
Khachyeghpayr: Peter Mikhjian
Bestman: Eric Loeswicz
Maid of Honor: Andrea Mekjian
Matron of Honor: Nicole D'Angelo

FUNERALS

JULY

- 18 Valentine Topakbashian, 92, Oakland Hills
- 20 Anoush Papelian, 85
- 25 Nora March, 87, 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.

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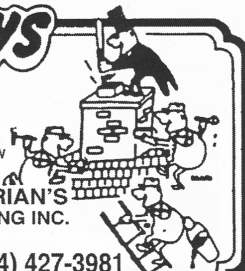
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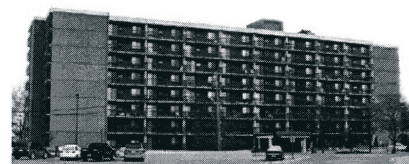
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19230 Ford Road • Dearborn, Michigan 48128
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All prospective residents must meet the following criteria:

- 1 person - not to exceed \$24,450
- 2 persons - not to exceed \$27,950

Rent is based on 30% of the gross annual income

For additional information, please contact:

Audrey Markarian, Manager
313-336-7404

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.....

Church Sunday School opens on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross September 13, 2009.

Make sure to register your child[ren]. A surprise awaits you in the upstairs classrooms. Come and see.

St. John's Festival Committee invites you to the last "Raffle Spaghetti Dinner"

Wednesday, September 16 - 5:30 pm

St. John's Cultural Hall. \$6 per person

Includes complete spaghetti dinner, beverage & dessert

\$50 Big Raffle tickets will be available for purchase

Only 320 tickets will be available for purchase

Call for reservations: 248.569.3405

Armenia - Land of Noah's Ark

St. John Armenian Church Festival

Thursday, October 1 - Sunday, October 4, 2009

Watch the Torchbearer, Sunday Bulletin

and the Festival Page on the web site for more details

November

**15 Church School Senior High School Division
"Family Thanksgiving Dinner"**

21-22 Women's Guild Thanksgiving Pie Sale

28 ACYOA November Dance

December

2 Women's Guild Advent by Candlelight

20 Church School Christmas Program

24 Western Christmas Eve

EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

September

**20 Dinner honoring Edgar Hagopian
Royal Park Hotel, Rochester**

October

**10 AGBU Manoogian School 40th Anniversary
Dinner Dance**

Please visit the St. John web site for
up-to-date calendar information, the Sunday Bulletin,
The Torchbearer and links to internet sites
of interest to our parishioners:
stjohnsarmenianchurch.com

St. John's Mission Statement

The Parish of St. John Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church is a fellowship of Christians committed to proclaiming Christ's Gospel of salvation through worship, education, witness, service and a common life in Christ as expressed in the distinctive faith-experience and heritage of the Apostles and of our ancestors. We invite the faithful to know God through Evangelism, to educate God's people through Discipleship and to demonstrate God's love through Service.

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