

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*



“RIVER KEF” A DELIGHTFUL HIGHLIGHT OF THE SUMMER.....

In what is likely to become an annual summer event on Lake St. Clair, approximately 115 individuals, mostly from the St. John community, enjoyed a well planned evening of elegant food, fellowship and dancing on the three decks of the luxury cruise ship “Ovation” on the evening of Thursday, August 26, 2010.

The *River Kef* committee consisting of Bernie Akkashian, Rick Akkashian, Howard Atesian, Tom Krikorian, Norman Messelian and Marty Shoushanian worked hard to organize this unique event and provide an enjoyable alternative to gatherings typically held on the church campus. In addition, Gary Reizian donated a portion of the cost of the mezza, and Marty Shoushanian donated all of the printing and banners.

Many thanks go to Continental Services which donated a portion of the food for this event; its staff's professionalism in the preparation and serving of the food was evident. The crew provided narrative about the yacht, its history and Lake St. Clair, which was especially interesting to guests with limited experience touring the five Great Lakes.

Guests seeking a venue to dance to live music were entertained by the Nigosian Band on the top deck of the ship. This group of musicians volunteered their talents to an appreciative crowd. A little known fact to many who were present that evening is that the use of the luxury yacht was donated by the Infinity-Ovation Yacht Charters for this extraordinary St. John's fundraiser.

The committee's goal that evening was to generate funds for St. John Armenian Church and, of course, lift the anchor of faith and spirit of all who attended. Their efforts are appreciated!

~Harry Avagian



Armenian Cuisine - Preserving Our Heritage

The latest project of the St. John's Women's Guild has arrived! The cookbook is a comprehensive collection of over 450 Armenian recipes from the Detroit metropolitan area made current for the 21st century. Full descriptions of all cooking and baking methods make this cookbook very “user friendly” with up-to-date and modern techniques. Co-Chairmen Pam Dayinian and Dolly Matoian along with their energetic committee have diligently and lovingly prepared and tested these authentic recipes handed down from generation to generation. Our thanks to all those who submitted recipes from their personal family collections. Having these treasures enables us to preserve our heritage through Armenian cuisine.



Armenian Cuisine
PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

We would like to acknowledge with sincere appreciation Martin Shoushanian and Mark Mamassian for their invaluable professional assistance in creating this one-of-a-kind cookbook, and Jeanette Keramedjian for the numerous press releases she prepared for the Greater Detroit media.

Armenian Cuisine, Preserving Our Heritage can be ordered via the St. John's website: stjohnsarmenianchurch.org or by contacting Marianne Dardarian (248.661.0617). Price is \$25.00 per copy. This cookbook is a must for every household!

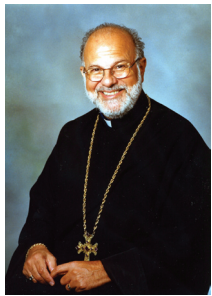
~Marianne Dardarian

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

OCTOBER 2010





Our Faith, Our Culture

Consider this...

In the month of October the Armenian Church celebrates the culture of her faithful. What is that culture: language, art, history, music, science? All of these aspects are part of who we are, but most importantly, what makes them shine is our Christian Faith that forms what Armenian culture and heritage is. We are a culture of Christians. But sometimes, in the journey of teaching our children our great legacy as their inheritance, as parents, teachers, church leaders we confront despair because the transmission of our culture, the Armenian Faith Heritage falls by the wayside. Our children forget their roots, their faith, their tradition. They get lost.

While scripture urges parents to raise their children "in the training and admonition of the Lord" [Ephesians 6:4], it makes no guarantees about how one's children will turn out. Nor can it: each individual decides whether to follow the Lord or depart from His ways. Parents can point their children in the right direction, but once young people become adults, they determine which way they will go.

This, then, helps explain why some godly parents have children who are spiritually rebellious and culturally blind. But flipping the coin, though, people of great faith, with passion for their Armenian Christian culture and with loving compassion have many times come from homes where God was dishonored and even unknown, where one's Armenian identity was merely a name ending in ...ian.

This is why our Church is understood to be 'our mother' and the Gospel 'our father'. Together the word of God and essence of our humanity, define our identity. And this is why the Church is so important; as an institution to provide guidance and information for the growing young minds and hearts she nurtures and feeds. Parents and guardians of the home, working in tandem with the Church, provide the first steps for our children to find themselves.

It may be hard to love the way Christ loves us... with patience, understanding, forbearance and forgiveness, but remembering the story He told about the Prodigal Son who discovered his identity in the milieu of his family culture, as parents and leaders of our parish, we need to ask Our Lord in our prayers that His Holy Spirit empower us to love as God, with wisdom and grace and when we do, that is when an Armenian Christian is born.

~ Father Garabed

The Colors of Our Faith

~Father Garabed Kochakian

Fall is the season of the Holy Cross in our Church and a time when many colors come together in the beautiful foliage which we shall soon see.

Colors play a significant part in expressing our feelings and emotions as well. Even in the life of the Church and in our celebration of many events in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, colors have an important message for us. For instance, we just left a season of *blue*, now we are dressed in *green* and then there will be other seasons that will be colored in *red*, *white*, *purple*, *gold* and *black*. The choice of these shades of faith is not arbitrary but has Biblical origin. In fact everything in the Armenian Church is based upon Biblical origin, from the colors we see dressing our altars, to the music, the art and vessels, customs and practices employed during our worship and praising God.

Let's take a look at the seasons of our faith and how 'the Church is dressed for the occasion' in certain colors as described in the scriptures and in Christian art and iconography.

All the seasons of the Cross and Pentecost

Green is a color used in the Bible to describe decaying of life, but more often used to signify the sustenance of life; in marriage with the birth of children and how a couple's union becomes productive; in the feast of Pentecost - the birth of the Church; the Holy Cross as a symbol of salvation and new birth into the eternal life of Christ in His Kingdom.

The Virgin Mary

Blue is used in several features of the tabernacle and the Temple's royal robes worn by the High Priests, and by the Blessed Mother to signify her royal position as Mother Of God.

Easter - The Resurrection of Christ

Red (in several shades) is used in the Temple to signify royalty [crimson], sacrifice [vermillion], passion [rose] and worn

by priests when celebrating New Life and Our Lord's and our own final Resurrection that points to our Salvation. Also it is seen in a garment of the Blessed Mother who is sometimes shown with a red veil signifying that she has borne salvation into the world.

Great Lent

Purple is the most precious of ancient colors and used to adorn the Temple curtains, cloths and the dress of the priests. It also signifies the wealth of faith and possessions, the color of robes worn by all royalty and by Christ Himself. Purple additionally suggests our sacrifices to God; and, that is why during the season of Great Lent, the color purple is used to remind us of Christ's sacrifice, our sacrifices made for Him as He made for us.

Black is one of the most prominent colors found in the scriptures. It signifies the darkness of death, the suffering of humanity, and the darkness of the night which describes our human condition of separation from God caused by sin; how a Christian, following Christ - the light of God - cannot be overpowered by darkness which our Savior conquers at the dawn of eternity.

Ascension/ Transfiguration of Christ, Theophany and Christmas

White is the color that portrays purity, righteousness, forgiveness, love, angelic revelations, transfigured and changed life. White horses symbolize victory, and in Christian art, the Throne of God.

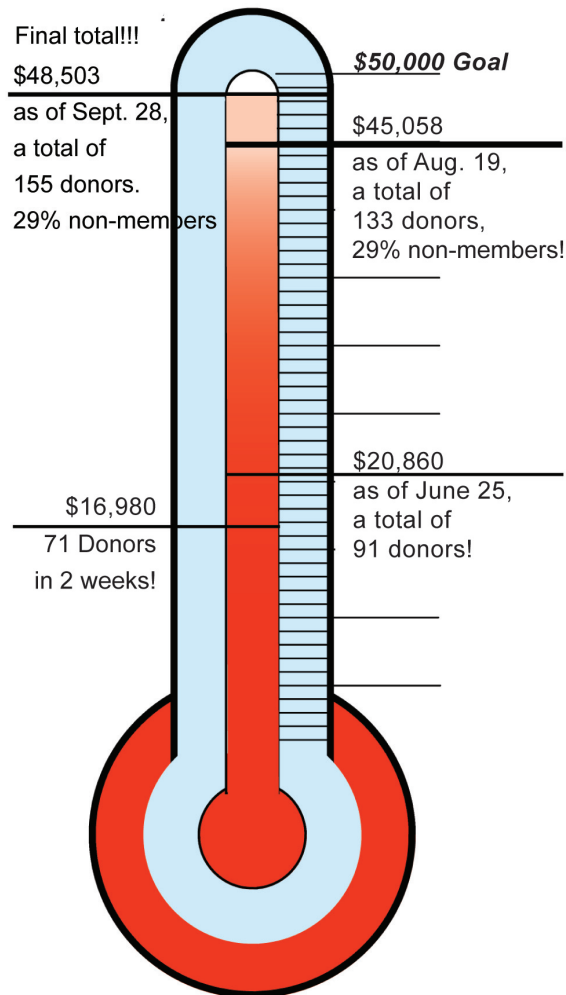
Gold reflects the glory of God in all things, everywhere, on earth and in the heavens. That is why golden trim on all things indicates that they came into existence by God, they shine and are themselves His creation.

And as a footnote,

Grey is used to signify the wisdom of the elderly. Grey is seen in Christian art, in most icons of the glorified saints of the Old and New Testaments and in images of the Holy Fathers of the Church.

The Memorial Day to Labor Day Capital Campaign comes to an end!

Sincere thanks to everyone who has participated in this Capital Campaign. Though the final result was just shy of the goal, it was gratifying to see so many parishioners and friends, 155 in all, participate in the success of the Campaign. We thank you for opening your hearts to help St. John's during these times of financial challenge for all of us. Members and friends are still welcome to contribute to the campaign and take it over the top!



A special request for e-mail users

Due to the less frequent access to news through newspapers, many of our faithful hear about deaths in our community too late to attend services. Taking note of this concern and requests by many for the Church to pass on this information, the Parish Council has approved a trial program — an email blast to those who wish to be informed about *Dahn Gark* and Funeral services. If you wish to be on the list, please contact the Church Office.



Dr. David Aprahamian was baptized here at St. John's. He has served two full terms (four years) on the Parish Council and is currently serving a third term. He is the current chairman of the Men's Society. He began serving at the altar several years ago, and was ordained a sub-deacon in 2008. This year he has also taken on the task of training St. John's brand new altar servers as they prepare for ordination to the minor ranks.

"I have a simple goal of helping to preserve and build St. John's for our children and grandchildren."

Paul Yousoufian came to St. John's in 1993 as a caterer representing the Golden Mushroom Restaurant and became a parishioner. His support of the Church has included working on Bingo, picnics, Bazaar/Festival, Men's Society and other church committees as well as activities of other Armenian organizations. Presently, he serves as treasurer of the Men's Society and is involved in expansion of the Internet and WIFI, and developing a business web directory for the Church.

His future goal is to work on committees that will attract new members, to inspire our current members and help create a bond between Armenian organizations to enhance the Church within the community. As Event Coordinator of the Festival, with the parishioners' commitment, he hopes to alleviate some of the financial burdens that face the Church.

Taniel Koushakjian speaks about the Armenian Genocide

The one issue that all Armenians appear to be in complete agreement with is the urgency to have H. Res 252 passed by the United States House of Representatives.

On Sunday, September 20th following church services, parishioners had an opportunity to meet and hear Taniel Koushakjian, Grassroots Director, Armenian Assembly of America. Mr. Koushakjian articulated the attempts that have been made in recent years to have H. Res 252 approved by the House of Representatives.

Since all 435 districts of the House are up for re-election this November, he urged the gathering to make an earnest effort to write, call or email their district representatives thereby urging them to support the House Resolution. (Unfortunately, because of political considerations our government has avoided formally the passage of the Resolution.)

A lively discussion session took place prior to the adjourning of the meeting. Mr. Koushakjian provided the audience with printed information that reviewed the historical attempts to have the House Resolution approved. Unfortunately, to date there has not been a grassroots effort by Armenian-Americans in large enough numbers to get the attention of legislators in Washington D.C.

St. John's Church School classes have been in session since September 12th. Students and parents were welcomed by Principal Alberta Godoshian at an assembly. Achievement and Attendance Awards were distributed to students for the 2009-2010 academic year.

There were thirty-eight achievement and four attendance awards given. Matthew Tarpinian, a 9th grade student, was recognized for having perfect attendance since entering kindergarten. Matthew is the son of Matthew and Lisa Tarpinian.

Our goal is to offer a variety of experiences to students and teachers by building their knowledge of the Divine Liturgy and meaningfully teaching their faith through regular worship.

Church School Board members extend their deep appreciation to all staff, parents and students who participated in raising \$11,700 to build a house in Armenia. Of this amount \$10,500 was our sponsorship donation to build the house through Fuller Center, and \$1,200 was used to purchase necessities for the Arshakyan family. The house was built in June, 2010.

His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian will ordain six candidates to the order of *Tbir* (Acolyte) on Sunday, November 21st. They are Jacob Bahm, Nareg Bezjian, Nicholas Boyadjian, Spencer Keoleian, Danielle Sarafian and Andon Der-Ghazarian. The ordination service will be followed by a Thanksgiving Family Dinner in the Cultural Hall sponsored by the Church School students of the High School Division.

***The Sunday before Thanksgiving,
November 21, 2010,
Come Celebrate the Ordination
of Our Newest Acolytes.***

***His Eminence,
Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate
will celebrate the Divine Liturgy
and ordain six of our youngest Altar Servers
to the four minor ranks of the Armenian Church.***

***A unique family Thanksgiving Dinner
prepared by our Senior High School students
will follow the Divine Liturgy.***

***Guests from
the Saint Nersess Armenian Seminary
will join us as well.***

***Let us Celebrate Vocations and Service!
(Watch for more details)***

Church Sanctuary and Museum Tour welcomes community

On Wednesday, September 22, as a prelude to the 2010 Festival "Armenia: Land of Noah's Ark", a Church Sanctuary and Museum Tour including a buffet lunch, was offered to the public.

The group gathered excitedly and promptly at 10 am hearing the beautiful sounds of our spectacular pipe organ.

Father Garabed Kochakian, a talented artist with a Master's Degree in Art History and a specialization in Armenian Art and Architecture described in detail the history, the art and architecture of our church: the Armenian icon tile mosaics in the niches; the technical conundrums of wiring for the organ; the process of the painting of the *Madonna and Child* by Zabel Khatchadurian; the importance of having just a few windows in the sanctuary; and other explanations as well that left a mesmerizing effect on the audience. The conclusion of the sanctuary visit was an impressive *a cappella* 'Der Vorghmia', *Lord Have Mercy*, sung by Father Garabed.

The elated and energized visitors then proceeded to the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum, to hear our knowledgeable curator, Lucy Ardash, introduce us to its history and some of the contents; from a rug woven by little orphan girls in the early 1900's and an Armenian wedding dress to numerous ancient relics. The seven gallery rooms filled with articles of our history, a treasure trove of our heritage, invited our visitors to meander at their own pace to discover the mysteries for themselves.

After this vast cultural immersion, it was time for one of our favorite parts of our culture: food. Our guests enjoyed a buffet lunch of chicken kebab, pilaf, salad, bread and *khadayif* for dessert and then learned about the new release of the Women's Guild cookbook, *Armenian Cuisine, Preserving Our Heritage*.

To conclude, a new short film by Detroit Armenian, Roza Matevosian, called "The Green-Eyed Boy", was shown; a touching tale showing the power of the human connection across traditional barriers. The film maker introduced the film and thanked Father Garabed for his support of her efforts and the film production and exposure.

This event was conceived with the intent of sharing our heritage with the community. We look forward to future opportunities to expand on this concept in many different formats including weekend, evening, family and youth events with Armenian food or Continental Catering services.

Please contact the church if you would like to arrange a visit to our Museum.

~Diane Ekizian

THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF
THE TORCHBEARER WILL FEATURE
COVERAGE OF ALL THE EVENTS OF
FESTIVAL 2010
ARMENIA: LAND OF NOAH'S ARK.

What our kids have to say about the "Arts of Armenia" program sponsored this summer by the Komitas Choir.

In your mind, create a picture of happy children playing, dancing, creating art, and having fun. Now picture children you know, such as your child, grandchild, niece, or nephew as if they were doing what the children in your first picture are doing. Do these youngsters look happy? Do they seem to enjoy what they are doing? If you think that a child you know would enjoy spending two weeks learning Armenian dance and art, "Arts of Armenia" is perfect for them.

I loved the experience we had at "Arts of Armenia." I have participated in it twice. I was surrounded by my Armenian friends. The culture of Armenia is amazing, beautiful, and one that will be cherished forever. Each day I brought a lunch and separated into two groups, the older children and the younger children. I would go into two classes each day, dance and art. Each is taught by a teacher from Armenia, coming here especially to teach and nurture the minds of the children.

In the art class, we made things out of clay, drew on silk, made detailed pictures with special pens on paper, and wove rugs with Armenian designs on them. This class is taught by *Degeen Ella*. In the class, there is a translator, who translates the Armenian to English, because some of the students don't speak Armenian, and neither of the teachers speak English. Each person's art will be displayed at the end of the sessions.



The dance class is taught by *Baron Armand*. In each session, you will learn one or two dances that you will perform at the end of the two sessions in classic Armenian costumes on the stage in the great hall. In the beginning of class, you warm up by running, walking, stretching, and doing ballet movements. After that is done, you learn and practice the dance and everyday, *Baron Armand* adds more moves until the dance is complete with its song.

At the end of the two sessions, you can invite family and friends to see you perform your dance on stage and to see art displayed on tables in the great hall. There will also be some sweets and refreshments. Your work will be showcased at the back entrance of the church for people to admire until next year, when you get your artwork back.

I would recommend this camp to all Armenian children and teenagers. "Arts of Armenia" is truly an amazing camp and brings us closer to our culture.

~ *Nayri Carman*, "Arts of Armenia" participant

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Donation:
Adults: \$25.00
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Adult tickets at the door: \$30.00
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You can help bring the Light of Christ!!

The youth of our parish returned from the St. Nersess Summer Conferences with a special hand-painted donation box for the ongoing work at the Seminary where the future priests and Christian educators for the Armenian Church in America are trained. This colorful box now is placed on the candle table in our church lobby as a reminder that your donations, no matter how great or humble, can make a difference. Every week when you purchase a candle or two, don't forget St. Nersess Seminary in your spiritual prayers and with your donations as well. Make a gift that will keep alive and bright the light of Christ in our Church, in our parishes, and in our homes.

Important
DATE!

*The A.C.Y.O.A
of St. John Armenian Church
is celebrating its
64th Annual November Dance
Saturday, November 27th
Come join us
and help keep this tradition alive!*

*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.

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 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

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms & Chrismations

September

- 2 Katherine Morykwas - Adult
5 Madeline Manushak Talar
Daughter of Garo & Michelle Boyajian
Godparents: Hampar & Lusi TokHovsepyan

Weddings

August

- 28 Raffy Yaghdjian & Natalie Kabakciyan
Khachyeghpayr: Rouben Yaghdjian
Maid of Honor: Tanya Dadian

September

- 17 Shahin Ozkaya & Tabita Nakas
Khachyeghpayr: Nuran Nakas
Maid of Honor: Jerri Nakas

Funerals

August

- 31 Richard Eginian, 97, Woodlawn

September

- 3 Eleanor Arshalous Hechman, 88, Woodmere
20 Vartges Melidosian, 88, Great Lakes National
28 Kevork Haig Terterian, 92, Woodlawn

October

- 1 Sylvia Samarjian, 50, Evergreen

Seeking volunteers for the Torchbearer.

If you would be available to help prepare the Torchbearer for mailing around the 25th of the month, please contact May Kafafian at the Church Office.

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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krogercommunityrewards.com
and be sure to have your
Kroger Plus card handy.
Follow the directions on the website.

Call the Church Office if you need help.
Thanks for participating in this program
and helping the Church grow.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.....

October

- 3 Men's Society Pancake Breakfast
- 15 "Kef Klub" at St. John's Recreation Center,
6:00 pm sponsored by the ACYOA
- 20 "The Signs & Symbols of our Faith &
Tradition: A visual lecture & presentation"
by Fr. Garabed and Yn. Roberta Kochakian
in the Holy Sanctuary, 7:00-9:00 pm
- 24 Feast of the Discovery of the Holy Cross –
Dohn Soorp Khachee Kyoodeen

November

- 7 Men's Society Pancake Breakfast
- 14 Veterans Blessing & Tea
- 19 "Kef Klub" at St. John's Recreation Center,
6:00 pm
"A Concert of Armenian Folk Music"
presented by The Komitas Choir

November

- 21 Episcopal Divine Liturgy; Ordination of
Acolytes by Diocesan Primate,
Archbishop Khajag Barsamian;
Presentation of the Holy Mother of God;
First Sunday of Advent;
Church School Thanksgiving Dinner
- 25 Thanksgiving – Complex Closed
- 27 ACYOA November Dance

December

- 5 Men's Society Pancake Breakfast
- 24 Western Christmas Eve Service,
Caroling & ACYOA Tea

Moms and *Manoogs* play group sponsored by the Women's Guild:
first and third Tuesdays in the Nursery at 10 am

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

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