

THE TORCHBEARER • Ջահակիր

St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit

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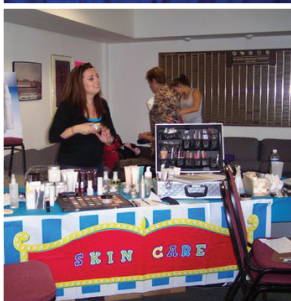
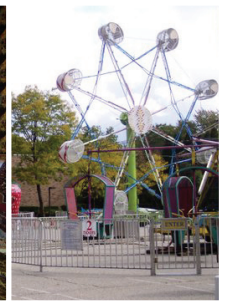
The Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian ~ *Pastor*
The Reverend Father Diran Papazian ~ *Pastor Emeritus*
Deacon Rubik Mailian ~ *Director of Sacred Music and Pastoral Assistant*



AND WHAT A FESTIVAL IT WAS!!!



Armenia ~ Land of Noah's Ark, was the theme of the St. John Armenian Church Festival. For a recap of all the exciting events of October 1 - 4, 2009, please turn to page 4.



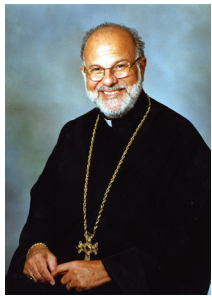
Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 9 AM - 5 PM

After hours in an emergency, please contact:

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

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



FROM FATHER GARABED'S DESK.....

On Discovering Christ in Public

Consider this . . .

October is a month of discovery. As Americans we remember the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus. As Armenians, we celebrate the discovery of our golden age of culture with the creation of our alphabet by St. Mesrob and, as Christians, we learn that the Cross of Christ really existed when it was discovered by Queen Helena. All these discoveries are examples of people driven by faith and pursuit who brought their efforts to the world, to the public.

Much of Christianity that comes down to us today dwells on 'private' spirituality—prayers, private devotions and reading of sacred scripture, and also on self-examination, building personal holiness, individual acts of charity, and so on. This is all to the good, inasmuch as Christ is a Person who seeks a relationship with us. But what about the public side of our faith?

How do we, as believers, live as Christians in the public arenas of work, community, relationships, civic responsibilities? As communities of faith, as a Church, as a parish, how vibrant and strategic is our collective witness as God's people to a watching world? How does our private and personal relationship with Jesus Christ drive us to influencing public life, institutions and the values of humankind?

These challenging questions do not have easy answers, but we cannot afford to ignore them, not when we consider the public aspect of Our Lord's ministry. He actively engaged people as a preacher and teacher, interacting with leaders, welcoming the crowds and their questions, reaching out to the financially and spiritually poor.

In short, Jesus helped us understand that faith is not just a private matter but a public witness and testimony, helping us transform the life of someone, and life around us. We need to discover this for ourselves every day: how to live our faith in visible, tangible public ways in order to powerfully impact the world.

- Columbus took a dream and a personal hope forward and discovered America.
- St. Mesrob, by creating an alphabet for the Armenian people, helped us discover Christ as the Lord and Eternal God.
- St. Helena's discovery of the Holy Cross of Jesus Christ assures His followers that His way for the world, for the public, is the way to Salvation.

What we do with our private personal faith in bringing it to the world, to the public, is what will and can change life for the good and bring Christ as the best discovery ever into the hearts and minds of those who are still seeking and searching.

So consider this . . . How can your personal faith make a difference, a discovery for someone, somewhere, somehow?

~Father Garabed

**The 95th commemoration of
Armenian Martyrs' Day
will be Sunday, April 25, 2010,
immediately following the Divine Liturgy.**

**Our guest and main speaker will be
the former Ambassador to Armenia,
Mr. John Evans.
There will be more details to follow.**

Stewardship Sunday

DECEMBER 6 – SAVE THE DATE!

A "Stewardship Tea" is being planned for Sunday, December 6 after Divine Liturgy. All Steward levels are invited to attend. If you are not currently a Steward, please consider becoming a *Steward of Faith, Love, Hope, The Light or The Cross*. For more information, please contact Jim Stambouljian at 248.735.3783 or the Church Office.

NEWS FROM THE WOMEN'S GUILD.....

The Women's Guild sincerely thanks all those members who gave of their time and talents at St. John's Festival. This was an outstanding Festival and it was apparent that Guild members were involved in EVERY aspect!! *"Tserket dollahr"*! (Your hands do good work!)

The Women's Guild never quits!! We are like the Energizer bunny! There are a number of activities in the works:

Pies for Sale! Yn. Roberta Kochakian is once again chairing a Thanksgiving Pie Sale. Orders will be taken in advance for delicious homemade apple, pecan, mixed berry or pumpkin pies boxed individually for the Thanksgiving holiday or for later in your freezer. Look for order forms in the Sunday Bulletin, the church lobby carousel, St. John's website at: stjohnsarmenianchurch.com or call Yn. Roberta at 248.538.9993. Pick up will be Sunday, November 22 in the main hall following the Divine Liturgy.

NEW MEN'S SOCIETY EMERGING...

The Men's Society is gearing up once again. In the first week of November we will have our first meeting. The date and time will be posted on the St. John's web site and in the Sunday Bulletin. If you would like to hear our ideas, please contact Paul Yousoufian at pramy1@gmail.com or 313.310.3508, or David Arapahamian at 248.924.2638.

Soon to come...

St. John Armenian Church presents
a once a month

"Kef Klub"

Come one, come all for dinner,
fellowship & fun activities!!!

St. John's Recreation Center
3rd Friday of every month
beginning January 15, 2010

Watch for further details.

Anyone interested in sponsorship or volunteering
for this exciting new initiative,
please contact:

Diane Ekizian (248.851.4069)
or Marianne Dardarian (248.661.0617).

Pam Dayinian is heading up an **Armenian Cookbook Project**. If you have a special recipe please send it to Pam with exact measurements and specific user-friendly directions. Mail to: 31070 River's Edge Ct., Beverly Hills, MI 48025. Email to: wgmail@sjachurch.org. The deadline is December 1, 2009.

Aralynn Haidostian and her committee are busy planning **"Advent by Candlelight"**, Wednesday, December 2. This is always a very special evening for the women of our community with dessert and an inspirational program to prepare our hearts and minds for the Christmas Season. Reservations to be a Table Hostess will be taken by telephone starting Monday, November 2 – 14. Please call Aralynn at: 248.646.5188.

IN OUR PARISH.....

The following university students received scholarship grants from the **Armenian Renaissance Association** at its September 26, 2009 dinner-dance:

Emily Movsesian ~ Michigan State University
(Barkey and Satenie Aranosian Merit Scholarship)

Melissa Megerian ~ Albion College
(Jack and Zarrouhe Shoushanian Merit Scholarship)

Armineh Kasparian ~ University of Michigan
(Armenian Renaissance Association Scholarship)

Matthew Rupas ~ Michigan State University
(Armenian Renaissance Association Scholarship)

Angela Palaian ~ Wayne State University
(Lucy Torigian Scholarship)

Maria Palaian ~ Madonna University
(Archie Torigian Scholarship)

Johnny El Chemmas ~ University of Michigan
(Andrew Kalagian Graduate Scholarship)

BUILD ARMENIA 2010.....

Once again there will be a building project in Armenia in 2010 led by Jackie ElChemmas. The building project and trip will be the same format as in previous years and will be part of *The Fuller Center for Housing/Armenia*. The tentative dates will be mid-June with return by July 4, 2010. The first meeting for all those interested will be November 22, 2009, after Divine Liturgy. Contact Jackie ElChemmas for more information at 248.851.4018 or by email at Jackie@stonesoap.com. Join the team for the experience of a lifetime!

FESTIVAL WEEKEND: ARMENIA - LAND OF NOAH'S ARK

This is a brief overview of our festival weekend. In the coming weeks, St. John's website will have a more detailed account of this wonderful event with color photos and video. We would like to thank the over two hundred volunteers who took the time and their own finances to make this weekend a success.

Opening Dinner

We kicked off the weekend with a first-time Auction Dinner that realized over \$12,000 in contributions. We thank all the chefs and business owners who contributed to the dinner, Anita Arslanian and Rita Jury and their team that ran the auction, and all who donated to this event.



The Food

The true reason for all the hoopla is the food with more than 28,000 pieces of *mezza*, sweets and goodies. The women of St. John's created another very successful weekend. We thank Dolly Matoian and her team who worked so hard to prepare these special dishes.

Community Service

You succeeded in giving thirty-nine pints of blood, the largest amount donated by St. John's in three decades. We would like to thank Gary Gumushian for donating \$500 to St. John's to pay for the dinners given to all those who donated blood, and especially Ruth Pinto for organizing this blood drive. Your generosity brought in over 700 cans of food for Forgotten Harvest. At this point no pets were adopted from Almost Home pet adoption agency, but three families are still in contact with the agency looking at different pets. Again this year we invited the kids from City Mission, and through your generosity made thirty children very happy. Our thanks go out to Danny and Judy Cristiano, David and Marianne Dardarian, George and Denise Boyagian, Manuel Cook and Bill Derouchie for donating the funds to make this happen.



Community Services Come to St. John's
Southfield Fire Department did an excellent tour of a fire truck for our kids on Saturday and the hit of the day was the FBI

booth where several people had a chance to talk with agents. On Sunday, the Michigan State Police brought in a patrol car and a bomb protection truck complete with robot, protection gear and vehicle. And members of a local community ambulance service allowed kids to explore the inner workings of their vehicle. Our thanks go to Ruth Pinto and Dr. Heidi Aprahamian for organizing these events.

Kids' Programs

This was the WOW factor of the weekend starting with a teen dance on Friday with seventy teens enjoying the music and a good time. A parents and children's "Hye Tea" sponsored by the Evereg Fenesse Educational Society was held Saturday



morning complete with Armenian sing-along, Armenian storytelling and a magician. The "Hye Tea" was followed by the Harpbeat band which opened the carnival games, arts and crafts, Wii and Guitar Hero games, face painting, cake walks, a Children's Yoga Class and Mother-Daughter Makeup Class. Our thanks go to Dr. Heidi Aprahamian, Chris and Pam Sarkisian, Mary Negosian and the Evereg Fenesse team, Renee Baharian, Lisa Johnson, Sarkis Toroyan, Anoush Ivezaj, Lilly Marinelli and all those who helped in these programs. Our thanks to artist Michael Stambouljian and Glenn Akarakcian, who built the wonderful backdrop of Noah's Ark for family pictures taken throughout the weekend.



Shopping Venues

An incredible display of works by Nigosian Oriental Rugs and the vendors working with them created Nigosian Boutique. Together with St. John's Fine Arts Committee, Giftarama and Grandma's Attic,

a contribution of over \$8,000 was realized. Our thanks go out to Karen Nigosian, Dr. Garabed Belian and his committee, Cathy Atesian and Dawn Derouchie.



The Cultural Side

Everything from church tours and vespers services to book signings with four Armenian authors, video presentations, mini Armenian language class and dance class and a wonderful performance by the

children and teens of the Arts of Armenia Program. Our thanks go to Father Garabed, Deacon Rubik Mailian and Armine Harutyunyan.

Pre-Festival Raffle Dinners

A big thank you goes to Raffle Chairman Danny Cristiano and his wife Judy, Mary Negosian and her team for organizing the various raffle dinners. Thanks also to Maral Thomas, Lisa Boyadjian and Nyree Giragosian for organizing the big weekend raffles. Together the dinners and raffles raised over \$9,000.

Special Features

A great deal of work went into these special features. Our appreciation goes to Bob Karakashian for inviting our Armenian friends to exhibit their classic cars, Brian Thomas for running the Texas Hold'em Tournament, Bruce Mugerian for organizing the Sports Memorabilia Show, and Ruth Pinto for lining up Lego Display and arranging for all of our Healtharama teams, LJ Amusements for bringing in carnival rides for children to enjoy, and Bill Derouchie for taking on the challenges of recruiting and managing the runners and dining room staff. Our thanks go to the Nigosian Band, the Johnites Band, and DJ Mike Kalfayan for providing listening and dancing music.



Donors Sponsoring Festival

A very special thank you goes to all the following who donated to this year's Festival. You have made this into a great success both financially and inspirationally.

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Kojaian	\$3,500
Ms. Marie Vanerian	\$3,500
Mrs. Rose Assarian	\$2,000
Glenn Maas Agency	\$1,000
Dr. & Mrs. Norman D. Hogikyan	\$1,000
Mr. & Mrs. Mihran Hoplamazian	\$1,000
Dr. & Mrs. Mark Karabajakian	\$1,000
Mr. Simon Tashjian	\$1,000
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Vartanian	\$1,000
Mr. John Yavruian	\$1,000
Mr. & Mrs. Edward H. Korkoian	\$500
Mr. George Manoogian	\$500

Donors Sponsoring Activities

\$750.00	Harpbeat Band & Crafts ~ Drs. David & Heidi Aprahamian
\$650.00	Petting Zoo ~ Paul Andonian
\$500.00	Children's Area ~ Liz Aprahamian
\$500.00	Blood Drive ~ Gary Gumushian
\$400.00	Printing Raffle Tickets ~ Javizian Funeral Home
\$400.00	Noah's Ark T-Shirts ~ Joyce Yarbedian-Slowik
\$300.00	D.J. Services ~ Lee Khachaturian
\$200.00	Arts & Crafts ~ Edward H. Korkoian

A special thank you to the Armenian organizations that assisted throughout the weekend: Evereg Fenesse Educational Society, Knights and Daughters of Vartan, and Tekeyan Cultural Association.

YOU CAN STILL HELP

. . . We still have baked goods and other foods to sell during the week and after church on Sundays. Your purchases will help us realize our goal of \$100,000 and your support will be a wonderful way of thanking all who worked so hard for this year's Festival.



~ Report submitted by the 2009 Festival Committee.
Photos submitted by Daniel Cristiano.

WEDDINGS

SEPTEMBER

- 19 Mark Peznowski & Dana Karagosian
Khachyeghpayr: Timothy Karagosian, Jr.
Bestman: David Bembas
Maid of Honor: Tamara Karagosian
- 26 Charles Sansone & Lisa Abajian
Bestman: Peter Abajian
Maid of Honor: Nicole Matoian

FUNERALS

SEPTEMBER

- 21 Rose Mardossian, 97, Woodlawn
- 27 Andrew Tarpinian, 79, Woodlawn
- 30 Harry Terzagian, 78, Woodlawn

OCTOBER

- 7 Yeretzgin Patricia Dagley, 50, Woodmere

*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

SEPTEMBER

- 20 Paul Khachig
Son of Wesley & Gail Howe
Godparents: David & Sylvia Wiegel
- 27 Madelyn Elizabeth
Daughter of Justin & Kristen Waterstrat
Godparents: John Daguanno & Allison Chapman

OCTOBER

- 11 Talia Rose
Daughter of Garen & Rita Sarafian
Godparents: Darrell & Maro Meyer
- Andrew Jake
Son of Darrell & Maro Meyer
Godparents: Raffi & Nora Manoukian

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.

*You can be a
Torchbearer Sponsor, too!*

CONTACT MAY KAFANIAN
AT THE CHURCH OFFICE
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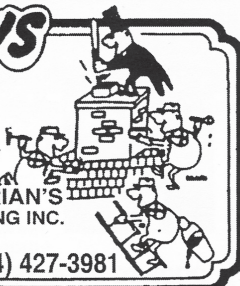
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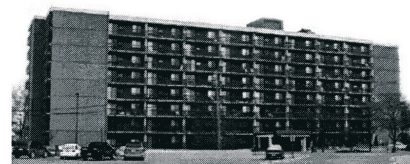
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Audrey Markarian, Manager
313-336-7404

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.....

November

8 **Armenian-American Veterans' Sunday, Blessing after Divine Liturgy, Prayers at Veterans' Monument, Veterans' Tea at St. John's Recreation Center.**

14 **Church School Educators Seminar**

15 **Church School Senior High School Division "Family Thanksgiving Dinner"**
Anniversary of the consecration of St. John's

18 **"Food, Culture and Identity: An Illustrated Talk about Armenian Food Traditions" by Dr. Susan Pattie, of London, England. She founded the Armenian Institute there to make Armenian culture and history a living experience. 8:00 p.m. at St. John's.**

22 **Women's Guild Thanksgiving Pie Sale**
Refer to page 2 for more information

28 **ACYOA November Dance**

December

2 **Women's Guild Advent by Candlelight**

6 **Stewardship Sunday Tea**
Refer to page 2 for more information

13 **Concert of Armenian songs by a group of young singers from St. Gregory of Narek Church, Cleveland, OH.**
Sponsored by the Komitas Choir immediately following the Divine Liturgy in the Sanctuary. Free of charge.

20 **Church School Christmas Program**
In the Sanctuary

24 **Western Christmas Eve Service & ACYOA Tea**

January, 2010

5-6 **Armenian Christmas**

10 **Church School Armenian Christmas Family Dinner**

15 **First monthly "Kef Klub" in St. John's Recreation Center**
Refer to page 3 for more details of this new event.

February

11 **Vartanantz Service at St. Vartan Armenian Catholic Church**

14 **Boon Baregentan – Great Lent Begins
Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
Infant Blessing Service**

March

20 **14th Annual Lenten Retreat**

28 **Palm Sunday**

HOLY WEEK March 29 – April 2

April
3

**Easter Eve Worship & Liturgy
followed by Church School Family Dinner**

4

Easter

May
22

Camp Kef: An Evening of Memories

Dancing and mezza to remember Camp Ararat. Proceeds to establish a scholarship fund to attend Hye Camp in Illinois. Details to follow.

EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

November, 2009

25 **Red Wings "Armenian Heritage Night" honoring Eric Bogosian of the Atlanta Thrashers.**
Joe Louis Arena, 7:30 pm

December

31 **New Year's Eve Party sponsored by the Knights and Daughters of Vartan. Proceeds to be shared equally among Detroit's four Armenian churches.**
Details to follow.

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