

THE TORCHBEARER • Ջահակիր

St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit

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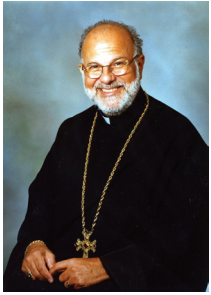
The Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian - Pastor

The Reverend Father Diran Papazian - *Pastor Emeritus*

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



2011 - THE YEAR OF "LAY MINISTRY"



From Father Garabed's Desk - "What is Lay Ministry?"

When Jesus called the disciples saying **"Follow me,"** He wanted them to know that they were empowered to continue His works. Likewise, He tells us the same...

"The Spirit of the Lord Is Upon...You!"

Consider this-

If you've ever assumed that God's work in the world is accomplished primarily by ordained clergy - bishops, priests, deacons - then you need to look carefully at Jesus' words to the 'hometown crowd' of Nazareth and even to us at St. John's.

Our Lord declared when he entered the synagogue to pray... **"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,"** applying an Old Testament prophecy to Himself (*Luke 4:18-19, Is. 61:1-2*). **"Today the scripture is fulfilled in your hearing,"** said our Lord. (*Luke 4:21*)

The promise fulfilled was that the Messiah had come and would do all of the things foretold in the ancient text. But the text went on to make more promises about what would happen *after* the Messiah's initial work: **"You shall be named the priests of the Lord, they shall call you the servants of our God (*Is.61:6*.)"**

This would be a profound change. The tasks or ministry would no longer be done just by priests, rabbis, or clergy, but by all of God's people. Just as the Spirit of the Lord had come upon Christ, enabling Him to accomplish God's work, so the spirit would also enable Christ's followers to accomplish God's work.

If we are all followers of Christ the Lord, baptized into the Church, and truly believe in Christ, His Mission and His Ministry, then we know that God, our Father, working in the words of Christ's great commission... 'go and preach and teach', is working in us, too. You also have been empowered by His Holy Spirit. As participants in this aspect of the 'priesthood' - the laity, laymen and laywomen, **YOU** are called to action and to do and accomplish what the ordained are also called to do. We all have been assigned our work, our ministry, from the moment we came to Christ.

The question then to contemplate is this - ***Are you carrying out Jesus' assignments for you?*** If not, it is never too late to begin. Because in His House there are many rooms, and in those rooms many tasks, and works to be done.

~Father Garabed

The year 2011 was designated by our Diocesan Primate, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, as the year of "Lay Ministry" in an effort to educate our laity, our community, in the importance of everyone's participation in the Lord's work and the life of our parish and beyond. Many events were held over the year as well as projects to expand our parish "Lay Ministry" activities. Please refer to our website to view past issues of *The Torchbearer* where these activities are spotlighted! The web site for the Armenian Church, Eastern Diocese is also a wealth of information on how you can pursue your own "Lay Ministry"!

www.stjohnsarmenianchurch.org/publicationsandinfo/torchbearer.html

www.armenianchurch-ed.net

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

Veterans Honored

The traditional observance of Veteran's Day took place in the sanctuary of our church following Fr. Garabed Kochakian's celebration of the Divine Liturgy. At the observance some 19 men and women who had served in our nation's armed forces were honored for their supreme sacrifice to defend our nation in multiple wars. This unique yearly observance began when Fr. Garabed Kockakian arrived in Detroit as our parish priest and it has become a part of our parish's fabric.

Many parishoners may not know that the original name of Veteran's Day was Armistice Day symbolizing the Armistice between Germany and the Allied Nations in World War I. Recently the United States Department of Defense stated to the media that since World War I greater than 25 million men and women have served in our military. On our church campus we are fortunate in that we have a Veterans building to provide all of us with a lasting reminder of the brave men and women ready to defend a nation committed to democratic human values.

-Harry Avagian

The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure

This popular Detroit event which is scheduled for Saturday, May 26th in downtown Detroit, includes a 5K Run, a 5K Walk and a 1 Mile Walk and supports breast cancer awareness, education and research.

For more information on the Race itself, refer to the web site: <http://www.karmanos.org/racefortheuredetroit> or contact St. John's chair, Barbara Rupas at 248.643.7666 or troyfam@comcast.net.

The team needs a name, so if you have any creative ideas, feel free to contact Barbara at the contacts above. We look forward to a great team in support of this worthy cause.

Kef Klub Calendar-2012

The gatherings of the increasingly popular **Kef Klub** on Friday nights in 2012 will be as follows:

January 20 • February 17 • March 16

April 20 • May 18 • June 15

July 20 • August 17 • September 21

October 19 • November 16 • December 21

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!

BAPTISMS

November

- 6 Grant Richard
Son of Jeremy & Lauren Gershonowicz
Godparents: Alex & Nicole Calderone
- 12 Emilia Nairi
Daughter of Zorair & Albina Kazazian
Godparents: Sergio Davtyan & Gayane Agababyan

WEDDINGS

November

- 5 Dana Rose Hedke & Jahr McPherson Turchan
Bestman: Robert Todd Hedke
Maid of Honor: Alison Noelle Hedke

FUNERALS

November

- 16 Christine Lucy Zevzavadjian, 62
- 19 Araksi Kavcan, Woodlawn
- 22 Harold Palaian, 80, Christian Memorial

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.

*Please refer to page 3 for the individuals, services and businesses that support the publication of **The Torchbearer**.*

*We appreciate their participation and hope that **you** will support **them** as well.*

Christmas Schedule of Worship

Տոնակարգ Ս. Ծննդեան Շրջանի

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2011

Matins / Առաւօտեան Ժամերգութիւն	9:00 am
Divine Liturgy / Ս. Պատարագ	9:45 am
Requiem Service / Հոգեհանգստեան Պաշտօն	12:00 pm
MEN'S SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PANCAKE BREAKFAST	12:30 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2011

WESTERN CHRISTMAS EVE – Քրիսմսի Նախօրեակ “A Family Christmas Worship”

Carols (in English) & Scripture Readings	5:00 pm
Yuletide Refreshments in the Lobby	6:00 pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2011

ST. STEPHEN THE PROTODEACON AND FIRST MARTYR

Matins / Առաւօտեան Ժամերգութիւն	10:30 am*
Divine Liturgy / Ս. Պատարագ	11:00 am
Special Service for Deacons	
Յատուկ Սարկաւագաց Արարողութիւն՝ Ս. Ստեփաննոս Նախասարկաւագին եւ Առաջին Մարտիրոսի Տօնին առիթով	

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2012

Matins / Առաւօտեան Ժամերգութիւն	9:00 am
Divine Liturgy / Ս. Պատարագ	9:45 am

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2012

ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS EVE / JRAKALOOTS

Vespers and Reading of Prophecies	6:00 pm
Ճրագալոյց / Խթման Գիշեր / Դանիէլի Մարգարէութեան Ընթերցում եւ «Երից Մանկանց» Candlelight Divine Liturgy / Ս. Պատարագ	7:00 pm

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2012

THEOPHANY / EPIPHANY / DON ASDVADZAHAYDNOOTIAN

Տօն Ս. Ծննդեան եւ Աստուածայայտութեան FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST Festal Divine Liturgy / Հանդիսաւոր Ս. Պատարագ	10:00 am
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**A Christmas Luncheon will be hosted by the Women's Guild following worship services
on January 6. Free will offering accepted. RSVP 248.569.3405**

*Տօնական Ճաշկերոյթ պիտի սպասարկուի Տիկնաց Միութեան կողմէ:
Կ'ընդունուի կամովի Նուիրատուութիւններ:*

*Please note later time.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2012 - ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS FAMILY WORSHIP

Matins / Առաւօտեան Ժամերգութիւն

9:00 am

Divine Liturgy / Ս. Պատարագ եւ

9:45 am

Blessing of Waters / Զրօքինք

Godfather of the Cross: David Ameriguian / Խաչի Կնքահայր՝ Տէյվիտ Ամերիկեան

A Christmas Family Luncheon will be hosted by the Church School following worship services.

Adults \$15.00; Children no charge. RSVP Alberta Godoshian 248.476.4638

*Տոնական Ճաշկերոյթ պիտի սպասարկուի Կիրակնօրեայ Վարժարանի կողմէ:
Մուտքի նուէր \$15.00 - Աշակերտներու համար մուտքը ազատ է:*

Ձեզ եւ Մեզ Մեծ Աւետիս - Քրիստոս Ծնաւ եւ Յայտնեցաւ

Tsez yev mez Medz Avedis - Kreesdos Dzunav yev Haydnetsav

Christ is Born and is Revealed - Blessed is the Revelation of Christ!

GREETINGS FROM YOUR PASTOR AND PARISH COUNCIL

On the occasion of the New Year and the Holy Christmas Season, the Pastor and Parish Council wish to extend to our beloved faithful community and friends our sincere prayers and good tidings for a New Year filled with God's abundant blessings.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Feast of Our Lord's Birth and Baptism is a *Daghavar* / Tabernacle Feast of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church and is a day of Holy Obligation. In accordance with Armenian Church Canon, all the faithful are expected to partake of the Sacrament of Holy Communion at the Divine Liturgies of this Holy Season.

OLD & NEW TRADITIONS OF ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS

Yughakin - Իւղագին

It is a church tradition to make a Christmas offering for the perpetuation of religious and educational programs and charitable deeds to be offered in the name of our Saviour. Enclosed is an envelope for your Christmas gift, which we call *Yughakin* in Armenian, meaning "price of oil." Before the modern era, oil was used to light the lanterns in our churches. In this season of giving, keep the light of Christ burning brightly and remember your Church and all the good it can do with your support.

Home Blessing – *Dnorhnek – Տնօրհնէք*

It is customary to invite the Lord's blessings into our homes during the Christmas Season. Individuals who wish to have their homes blessed during Christmastide may call the Church Office at (248) 569-3405 to schedule a visit by the pastor, who will – with joy – respond and bring the Blessings of Christ into your home.

Altar Flowers – *Խորանի Ծաղիկներ*

A beautiful Christmas tradition at St. John's is the adornment of the holy altar and bema with flowering red and white poinsettia plants. If you would like to contribute towards these flowers, please contact the church office.

Festal Candles – *Տոնական Մուկեր*

To honor the Feast of Our Lord's Birth and the Baptism of Christ, The Light of the World, special candles are placed on the Bema for the Holy Season and Christmastide. If you wish to honor or remember a loved one with Christmas Candle, please contact the Church Office.



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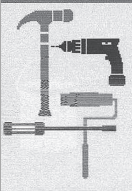


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The Torchbearer Staff

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.....

December 2011

- 4 Baku Memorial Monument Benefit Dinner
Allegro Restaurant, 7295 Orchard Lake Road
West Bloomfield, 5:00 pm
Reservations: 248.569.3405 by December 1, 2011
- 9 Conception of the Holy Mother-of-God
- 14 Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study
- 16 Kef Klub, 6:00 pm, Recreation Center
- 18 Men's Society Christmas Pancake Breakfast
- 24 A Family Christmas Worship, 5:00 pm
- 25 Special Service for Deacons (*see page 3*)
- 26 Complex Closed for Christmas
- 29 *Barekendan* of the Fast of Nativity

January 2012

- 1 Divine Liturgy
- 2 Complex Closed for New Year's
- 5 Armenian Christmas Eve (*see page 3*)
- 6 Armenian Christmas (*see page 3*)
- 8 Armenian Christmas Family Worship (*see page 3*)
- 20 Kef Klub, 6:00 pm, Recreation Center
- 25 Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study

February 2012

- 12 Infant Blessing Service
- 14 Feast of the Presentation of Jesus to the Temple -
Diarrnuntarrach
- 16 Vartanantz Day
- 17 Kef Klub, 6:00 pm, Recreation Center
- 19 *Boon Barekendan*
Memorial Tea for Armenians of Baku-Sumgait
Program to follow
- 20 Great Lent Begins
- 22 Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study
- 26 Annual Parish Assembly

EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY.....

Thursday, February 16, 2011, 7:00 pm

Divine Liturgy Commemorating Vartanantz
and Fellowship Reception
St. Vartan Catholic Church at Sacred Heart
Byzantine Catholic Church, 29125 West Six Mile Road, Livonia

Saturday, February 18, 2012, 7:00 pm

"Manti 'n' More Goes Carnival"
St. John's Recreation Center
Sponsored by the Daughters of Vartan
Reservations: Gloria Korkoian 313.730.6698

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

Evereg-Fenese Educational Society Christmas Party

Sunday, December 4, 2011, 12:30 pm
St. John's Recreation Center
Donation: Adults \$20.00
Students 6 to 12: \$8 5 & under - free
RSVP to Anita Kachadurian: 248.669.8769

Knights and Daughters of Vartan Christmas Party

Sunday, December 11, 2011 at 12:30 pm
St. John's Recreation Center
Children under 5 - free; Children 6 to 12 - \$5
Children 13 and over and adults - \$12
Please RSVP by December 9 to Gloria Korkoian:
313-730-6698 or gkorkoian@gmail.com

Moms and Menoogs

- play group meets once or twice a month.
For dates, contact Kristen Gustafson: 248.765.0471

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