OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am-5:00 pm Monday–Friday
(248) 569-3405
After hours in an emergency, please contact:
Pastor's Cell: (248) 225-9888
Administrator's Cell: (248) 802-2861

Sunday Bulletin

Կիրակնօրեայ Լրագիր

ENTER TO WORSHIP THE LORD
DEPART TO SERVE HIM

DECEMBER 21, 2008
THE ARMENIAN CHURCH YEAR OF 1457
FIFTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
ՅԻՍՆԱԿԻ ՀԻՆԳԵՐՈՐԴ ԿԻՐԱԿԻ

CELEBRANT: REV. FR. HRACH SARGSYAN

THE LORD'S DAY - SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP

Matins - *Առաւօտեան Ժամերգութիւն*.....9:00 am
Divine Liturgy - *Սուրբ Պատարագ*.....9:45 am
Church School - *Կիրակնօրեայ Դպրոց*.....10:15 am

SACRED LECTIONS OF THE LITURGY

Today – Isaiah 40:18-31, Hebrews 4:16-5:10, Luke 18:9-14
Next Week – Isaiah 41:4-14, Hebrews 7:11-25, Luke 19:12-28

LECTOR: Dr. Salpi Toroyan

THE NICENE CREED WILL BE CHANTED IN ARMENIAN

ST. JOHN ARMENIAN CHURCH
Father Garabed Archpriest Kochakian, Pastor

DAY BY DAY . . . AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY
THURSDAY, JANUARY 22 AT NOON
Bible Study Leader: Yeretzgin Roberta
Bring your Bible and a meal to share, we will provide the coffee.

Tracking Our "Treasures"	Sunday, December 14
Plate Donations	$355.50
Candle Donations	$145.00

AT THE PARISH BOOKSTORE

NEW DVD: EVERYONE PRAYS AT HOLY ETCHMIADZIN - $20.00

NEW CD: GOMIDAS SONGS
By Isabel Bayrakdarian - $20.00

NEW: WHAT WILL YOU REMEMBER?
By Elise Papazian – Softcover - $20.00

NEW: MY GRANDMOTHER: A MEMOIR BY FETHIYE CETIN - HARDCOVER – $20.00

500 PRESENTS FOR PENELOPE POTTS
A Christmas story for children by Lisa Yaldezian - $20.00

GADOO: THE CAT, AN ARMENIAN FOLK TALE
By Susan Kadian Gopigian - $17.00

WEEKLY SCHEDULE
Tuesday, December 23 – SENIOR LUNCH – Noon
Wednesday, December 24-Worship & Carols-10:30 pm
ACYOA Tea in Main Hall following service
Thursday, December 25-Comples Closed for Christmas Holiday
Sunday, December 28 –SIXTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Special Deacons Service commemorating the Feast of St. Stephen, Protodeacon and First Martyr

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK
You make a living from what you get...
but you make a life from what you give.

SPECIAL HYMNS FOR TODAY

Megheti (Melody) – *Ov Bardeezban*
Tapor (Processional) – *Parekhosootyamp*
Jamamood (Intriot) - *Miadzin Vorti*
Jashou Sharagan (Mid-day Hymn) – *Takavoriats Asdvadz*
Jashou Alleluia – Orhnetsek Uzder…

THE KOMITAS CHOIR UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
Deacon Rubik Mailian, Director of Sacred Music
Margaret Lafian, Organist

USHERS: Art Barsamian, George Godoshian, Harry Karebian, Kevork Terterian, Michael Hovey, Michael Karebian, Ardag Tachian

ALTAR FLOWERS

The red and white poinsettias adorning the altar today and for the remainder of the Christmas season were presented by Mrs. Susan Kapagian in loving memory of her brother, Al Kapak.

The wedding flowers adorning the altar today were presented by Noel & Dawn Aubry on the occasion of their marriage.

GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

Thank you to Mike & Dolly Matoian for donating the porcelain nativity set on display in the lobby for the Christmas season.

CROWN THEM WITH GLORY AND HONOR

We rejoice in celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Crowning and have asked Christ our God to bless the marriage of
Noel Slowik & Dawn Aubry

GOSPEL READING: Luke 18:9-14

He also told his parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Is any among you sick? Call for the elders of the Church, and let them pray over him…and the prayer of faith will save the sick… James 5:14-15

We pray for the restoration to health and the spiritual comfort for the names listed here:

Yeretzgin Patricia Dagley

Robert Ajemian	**Harry Avagian**
Valeriy Bagdasarian	**Steven Bear (CA)**
Harry Carman	**Gregory Derderian**
Edgar Hagopian	**Judy Hovnan**
Margaret Jamgochian	**Marybeth Sutton**
Lucy Torigian	**Christine Danielian Vaughn**

Mr. Vartges Melidosian requests prayers for the speedy recovery of his wife of 60 years, Alice Melidosian.

The names of people who are ill and convalescing are part of our weekly prayers. We hold them in prayer for one month from the time their names are requested by family and friends. If there is a desire to continue prayer requests for the successive month, please call the church secretary. Names are not placed without request or permission to do so.

ASK THE PASTOR

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "MAHS" BREAD AND HOLY COMMUNION?

At the beginning of the Divine Liturgy, after the curtain has been closed for the first time, the deacon presents a tray of unleavened bread to the priest, including several small, round loaves called "nushkhar." The priest blesses the bread, then selects one of the "nushkhar," which he places on the paten ("maghzman"). This is the bread which will be the focus of all of the prayers of the Divine Liturgy, and which will be distributed in holy communion. We believe that by God's grace, what we receive in holy communion is not mere bread, but the life-giving body of Jesus Christ. The remaining blessed bread is put aside. This "mahs," which means "portion" in Armenian, is offered to the faithful at the end of the Divine Liturgy. It is especially intended for those who for some reason were not able to receive holy communion. It is often taken home to loved ones who were unable to come to the *Badarak* to receive communion. It becomes for them their "portion" of the day's Eucharistic meal.

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, December 24, 2008, 10:30 pm
Western Christmas Eve Service & ACYOA Tea

Sunday, December 28, 2008
Remembrance of St. Stephen, the First Deacon

Monday, January 5, 2009
Armenian Christmas Eve
Readings, 6:30 pm; Divine Liturgy, 7:00 pm

Tuesday, January 6, 2009
Armenian Christmas Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am
Women's Guild Luncheon to follow

Friday, January 9, 2009
Komitas Choir Piano Recital
(see inside back cover)

Saturday, January 10, 2009
Armenian Heritage & Culture Lyceum opens
All classes in session

Sunday, January 11, 2009
"Living the Divine Liturgy"
Christmas Morning Service, 9:00 am
Festive Divine Liturgy/Blessing of Water, 10:00 am
Christmas Family Luncheon /Visit from Santa

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
Monday, January 12, 2009
Town Hall Meeting, 7:30pm

SPECIAL MUSIC EVENT: Concert of Armenian Music of Grikor Mirzaian Suni - 7pm, Friday, January 2, 2009, Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave, Ann Arbor, presented by a chamber ensemble of musicians including Grikor Suni's great granddaughters violinists Sevan Suni, and Anoush Suni (who will also play oud), their mother pianist Armena Marderosian, tenor Rubik Mailian, and soprano Anahit Toumajan.

REQUIEMS - continued

ISHKAN ISHKANIAN, Husband, Father
KOKO ISHKANIAN, Son, Brother
Requested by Linda Ishkanian
Ida Ishkanian

LUCY TOROSIAN, 28th Year, Mother
Requested by Janice Torosian

❄ ❄ ❄ TODAY! ❄ ❄ ❄

CHURCH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

IN THE CHURCH HALL
FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY
ALL ARE WELCOME

DOCUMENTARY TO AIR ON ABC-AFFILIATED STATIONS AROUND THE NATION – EXCEPT METRO DETROIT

Everyone Prays at Holy Etchmiadzin **is a documentary that details the history and spiritual heritage of the Armenian Church. It was produced under the auspices of His Holiness Karekin II and by order of H.E. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian. It has been aired on ABC-affiliates in Grand Rapids and Flint, but not in metro Detroit. If you wish to see this documentary broadcast in the Detroit area, it is imperative that you phone the local ABC-affiliate to make your wishes known. The local station is WXYZ-TV Please tell the station that Armenian Christmas is on Tuesday, January 6 and ask that this film be aired on or near that date.**

WXYZ-TV PHONE: 248.827.7777
EMAIL: talkback@wxyztv.com

ABOUT OUR DIVINE LITURGY

The Holy Sacrifice – The Eucharist

After the Anaphora or Eucharistic Prayer, the Sanctus is sung…"Soorp, Soorp, Soorp"…"Holy, Holy, Holy." The angelic song of the three holies is the hymn sung by the angels in the unending praise of God in heaven (Is 6:3, Rev 4:8). The heavenly hosts are God's perfect worshipers. Christ's self-revelation and sacrifice have restored us from our former state of exile from God and made us worthy to worship God our Father as perfectly as the angels do, by joining their choir of praise.

WESTERN CHRISTMAS EVE
Wednesday, December 24
Worship and Carols at 10:30 pm
ACYOA Seniors Tea to follow
❄
Come and begin our Christmas Season celebration!

NEW YEAR/CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

St. John's Church Office will be closed on:
Thursday, December 25, 2008, Thursday, January 1, 2009
Tuesday, January 6, 2009

AT THE PARISH BOOKSTORE
MURDER AT THE ALTAR, A HISTORICAL NOVEL
BY TERRY PHILLIPS – SOFTCOVER - $15.00

U-M ARMENIAN STUDENTS TO HOST CHARITY DANCE

Friday, January 23, 2009, at Polo Fields Golf and Country Club All profits will be donated to Mer Doon in Armenia.. Samantha Simonian at ssimonia@umich.edu or Ani Toumajan at altoumaj@umich.edu. See bulletin board announcement for details.

WELCOME . . . We welcome our visitors who are attending the Divine Liturgy at St. John's parish, and we pray that your participation has been enriched through word and worship. We invite those visitors who are baptized and/or confirmed in the Armenian Church or are members of a church which is in communion with the Armenian Church to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. If you are a member of the Armenian Church and a newcomer to our community and would like information about our Christian Education program or any of our parish auxiliary groups, please call our office and we will be happy to respond to your questions. The Lord Jesus Christ loves you and desires that you share His love with others, making this holy community your spiritual home.

MARRIAGES

Arrangements for weddings in our holy sanctuary are to be made at least eight months in advance. Marriage preparation and counseling are required before the celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. Marriages are NOT celebrated during the season of Great Lent according to Armenian Church Canon Law.

BAPTISMS AND CHR1SMATIONS

All Baptisms must be scheduled no less than two months in advance. At least one of the godparents must be a member of the Armenian Church, i.e. baptized in the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox faith. Baptisms are NOT celebrated during the season of Great Lent according to Armenian Church Canon Law.

CHURCH AND HOME...ONE IN SPIRIT

If a people progresses, it takes its first step from the family home;
If illuminated, its light derives from the family lamp;
If united, its spirit and bond is the family;
If empowered, its strength and arm is the family;
If it prospers, its treasury and treasurer is the family;
If a people wants to inherit heaven after earth by
Keeping its religion, faith and church, then, yes,
The altar that maintains these holy
Traditions incorruptible and whole is the family.

Khrimian Hayrig (1820-1907)

PIANO RECITAL

ACYOA SENIORS FOOD DRIVE FOR THE NEEDY

From December 14 to January 11 please bring to church any dry or canned foods. There will be labeled containers at the lobby entrance of the church. Please help the less fortunate during this holiday season.

TODAY

Ready to Cook Frozen Kufteh
from Women's Guild Dinner Dance
Only 10 doz. Available
Special Holiday Price: $28.00
See Almas or Dolly

ARMENIAN HERITAGE & CULTURE LYCEUM TO BEGIN CLASSES SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

There is still time to register students for this wonderful language and enrichment program in Armenian culture being held on our campus on alternate Saturdays, from 10:00 am – 1:30 pm. Students must be at least 6 years of age and no older than 14 years. The curriculum includes Armenian language and history, Armenian music and art, Armenian cooking, and Armenian dance. Classes will continue through June 13, 2009. For more information, please contact Deacon Rubik at 248.569.3405 or via email at rubik@sjachurch.org. Give the gift of heritage to a child…they will remember it for a lifetime!

NEW SIGNS TO GUIDE OUR WORSHIPPERS AT FRONT ENTRY AND LOBBY ENTRANCE

In an effort to help the faithful better understand why there are times during the Holy Badarak the entrance to the sanctuary is suspended, new signs will be posted by the ushers to clearly describe why the faithful should wait courteously until it is time to enter.

✠

BASHDON HOKEHANKSDYAN **– REQUIEM SERVICE FOR THOSE WHO SLEEP IN CHRIST**

We offer our prayers as the community of St. John's for the souls of the departed servants of Christ.

DAVID DARAKJIAN, 40th Day, Husband, Father, Grandfather, Khnamee, Friend

Requested by Rose Mary Darakjian
David Michael & Virginia Darakjian
Kathy & John Tosoian
Jennifer & Jeffrey Tosoian
Edna Avedesian
George Elian & Family
Anita Kachadurian & Family
Paul & Esther Kulhanjian
Roger & Julie Strauch
Bill & Laura Conrow
Virginia & Souren Keoleian
Dave & Terri Mears
Ernie, Chris & Matt Peacock

GEORGE CHARLES JAMGOCHIAN, 40th Day, Brother, Brother-in-Law, Grandson, Uncle, Nephew, Cousin

GEORGE JAMGOCHIAN, 4th Year, Father, Grandfather, Son, Brother, Uncle

Requested by Sam & Susan Subotich
David & Linda Bryan, Amber, Kayla & Cody
Charles & Lisa Jamgochian & Nickolas
Dianne Jamgochian
Todd & Jacqueline Jamgochian, Matthew, Samantha & Jenna
Margaret Jamgochian
June Mekjian
Chuck & Rosanne Simon & Family
Marcia Simon & Family
Robert Simon

MICHAEL MARIAN, 1st Year, Nephew, Cousin

Requested by Edward, Janet, Matthew & Grant Mardigian

GARABED KAYPEKIAN, 3rd Year
KRIKOR KAYPEKIAN, 20th Year
VERGINE KAYPEKIAN, 21ST Year

Requested by the Kaypekian Family