

**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*  
Ms. Margaret Lafian - *Organist*

*Sunday Bulletin*

**OUR CHURCH AND PARISH IS A PLACE WHERE . . .**

All people are welcome . . . **Every member is a minister . . .**

The world is our collective responsibility . . .

Disciple-making is our goal . . . And worship is our duty and delight.

**DECEMBER 25, 2011—THE ARMENIAN YEAR 1460**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / ՅԻՍՆԱԿԻ ՀԻՆԳԵՐՈՐԴԻ ԿԻՐԱԿԻ  
ST. STEPHEN THE PROTODEACON AND FIRST MARTYR/Ս. ՍՏԵՓԱՆՈՍ  
ՆԱԽԱՍԱՐԿԱԻԱԳ ԵՒ ԱՌԱՋԻՆ ՄԱՐՏԻՐՈՍ  
HOLY APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL / Ս. ՊԵՏՐՈՍ ԵՒ Ս. ՊՈՂՈՍ  
ԱՌԱՔԵԱԼՆԵՐ**

**THE LORD’S DAY—SCHEDULE OF SUNDAY WORSHIP**

Morning Service / *Առաւօտեան Ժամերգութիւն*.....9:00 am

Divine Liturgy/ *Ս. Պատարագ* .....9:45 am

Church School / *Կիրակնօրեայ Կարժարան*.....10:15 am

**SACRED LECTIONS OF THE LITURGY TODAY**

THIS WEEK: Isaiah 41:4-14, Hebrews 7:11-25, Luke 19:12-28

NEXT WEEK: Isaiah 51:15-52:3, Hebrews 13:18-25, Luke 22:24-30

**Lector: Michael Boucher**

**Welcome!**

We welcome you to the Divine Liturgy / *Soorp Badarak* and invite all who are Baptized and Chrismated in, or are in communion with, the Armenian Church to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. If you are new to our parish and would like information about our many parish groups, please ask any Parish Council member on duty at the lobby desk. Make certain you sign our Guest Book before you leave so we can be in touch. Enter to worship the Lord Jesus Christ who loves you and depart with His love to serve others.

## TODAY'S GOSPEL: Luke 19:12-28

He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive kingly power and then return. Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten pounds, and said to them, 'Trade with these till I come.' But his citizens hated him and sent an embassy after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' When he returned, having received the kingly power, he commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by trading. The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your pound has made ten pounds more.' And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.' And the second came, saying, 'Lord, your pound has made five pounds.' And he said to him, 'And you are to be over five cities.' Then another came, saying, 'Lord, here is your pound, which I kept laid away in a napkin; for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man; you take up what you did not lay down, and reap what you did not sow.' He said to him, 'I will condemn you out of your own mouth, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow? Why then did you not put my money into the bank, and at my coming I should have collected it with interest?' And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the pound from him, and give it to him who has the ten pounds.' (And they said to him, 'Lord, he has ten pounds!') 'I tell you, that to every one who has will more be given; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them before me.'" And when he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

## GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

A gift was presented by Lucille Belbeisi and Family  
in memory of her son Nadeem, who will be missed at Christmas.

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Vahan Aglamishian  
Rose Boudakian  
Siranush Demirjian  
Agnes Hagopian  
Terri Karebian  
Walter Negosian

Seta Akarakcian  
Yetvart Bozajian  
Dr. Harry Dermenjian  
William Pugh  
Susan Yester  
Sirvart Mezian

Valrich Andonian  
Helen Daiyan  
George Godoshian  
George Zallakian  
Harry Carman  
Berj Kurkechian

# CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

**Thursday, January 5, 2012, ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**Reading of Prophecies—6:00 pm**  
**Candlelight Divine Liturgy—7:00 pm**

**Friday, January 6, 2012, ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS**  
**FEAST OF THE NATIVITY AND THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD**  
**ՏՕՆ ԱԾՆՆԴԵԱՆ ԵՒ ԱՍՏՈՒԱԾԱՅԱՅՆՈՒԴԵԱՆ**  
**Տօնակա՛ն Festal Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am**  
**Women’s Guild Christmas Luncheon-RSVP 248.569.3405**

***Sunday, January 8, 2012—ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS***  
***FEAST OF THE NATIVITY AND THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD***  
***Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Waters-9:45 am***  
***(No requiems offered on this day.)***

***Family Christmas Dinner—Sponsored by the Church School***  
***Adults \$15.00; Children no charge***  
***RSVP Alberta Godoshian (248) 476-4638***

## **PRAYERS AND VISITS FOR THE SICK**

We ask our faithful that when there is a request for visit or prayers for an ailing or infirm parishioner, a FAMILY MEMBER must call the church office to add a name to our prayer list or request a clergy visit to offer prayers of healing and comfort in person. When we do not have direct notification from the family, we are hesitant to respond as information may not be accurate or reliable.

*Are any of you sick? Then send for the elders of the church to pray over you. Ask them to anoint you with oil in the name of the Lord (James 5:14).*

**REQUIEMS WILL BE OFFERED ON . . . JANUARY 15, 22, 29;**  
**FEBRUARY 5, 19, 26; MARCH 4, 11, 18, 25**

## THE FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN

**The Feast of Saint Stephen** (*Don Soorp Stepanosi*) is a very special feast celebrated in the Armenian Church on **December 25** honoring the first martyr and protodeacon of the Church. It is a day when all the deacons of the Armenian Church are remembered and honored as well.

Saint Stephen (Saint Stepanos) was the first of seven deacons to be ordained by the twelve apostles, and the first Christian martyr. The responsibility of these seven deacons was to take care of the secular needs of the Hellenic (Greek-speaking) Jewish and Christian community in Jerusalem. If we read Acts 6 & 7 we see that Saint Stephen did much more. In Acts 8, we learn that Stephen began to preach the word of God, and “Stephen, full of the grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.”

Truly feeling the power of God, Saint Stephen worked hard to spread God’s name and love in the Jewish community of Jerusalem. However, he became controversial, falsely accused, and was taken to the Sanhedrin, charged with blasphemy and convicted. He was stoned to death as he was cast out of the city. The site of his martyrdom was the eastern gate of Jerusalem, later named after him. As he was being stoned, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them” Acts: 7.59.

**In summary:** Saint Stephen was the first martyr and also the first protodeacon. His feast day holds much meaning for us as Armenian Christians. Saint Stephen has been an example of Christian life. We honor him on his feast day and honor those who have followed his path.

Today we honor our Deacons and Subdeacons in remembrance of their patron Saint. We thank the Lord for their diligent service to our Holy Church by serving at the Altar for worship, by teaching and instructing our youth to service at worship, by carrying out benevolent acts of charity for the poor and needy, and for rendering the talents and skill for the good and growth of our beloved parish of St. John Armenian Church.

At the conclusion of *Badarak* today His Grace Bishop Paren Avedikian will offer a blessing upon:

**Deacon Mihran Hoplamazian**  
**Deacon Onnig Boyajian**  
**Deacon Shahin Uzunjian**  
**Deacon Richard Norsigian**  
**Deacon Rubik Mailian**  
**Subdeacon Aram Sarkisian**  
**Subdeacon David Aprahamian**

May the Lord's Holy Spirit continue to guide them and grace them with the same zeal and dedication of their Patron Saint Stepanos, the first witness and confessor of Faith and Deacon of the Church.

**CHURCH COMPLEX & OFFICE CLOSINGS**  
**Monday, December 26—Complex closed**  
**Monday, January 2—Complex Closed**  
**Friday, January 6—Office Closed**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY ELECTED  
MEN'S SOCIETY BOARD**

**Chairman—David Aprahamian**  
**Vice-chairman—John Kalajian**  
**Treasurer—David Dardarian**  
**Corresponding Secretary—Robert McGee**  
**Recording Secretary—Craig Johnson**

**This was the first elected board since the restructure of the  
Men's Society in 2009.**

## ORIGIN OF “THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS”

There is one Christmas carol that has always baffled us. We may ask what in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

There is an explanation frequently shared about “The Twelve Days of Christmas.” It is supposed that from 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a secret catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could easily remember.

- ◆ The partridge in a pear tree was **Jesus Christ**.
- ◆ Two turtle doves were **the Old and New Testaments**.
- ◆ Three French hens stood for **faith, hope and love**.
- ◆ The four calling birds were **the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John**.
- ◆ The five golden rings recalled **the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament**.
- ◆ The six geese a-laying stood for **the six days of creation**.
- ◆ Seven swans a-swimming represented **the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy**.
- ◆ The eight maids a-milking were **the eight beatitudes**.
- ◆ Nine ladies dancing were **the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control**.
- ◆ The ten lords a-leaping were **the Ten Commandments**.
- ◆ The eleven pipers piping stood for **the eleven faithful disciples**.
- ◆ The twelve drummers drumming symbolized **the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed**.

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**Saturday, January 14, 7:00 pm**  
**Handel's MESSIAH**  
**Armenian Congregational Church**  
**(see flyer on bulletin board)**

**SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, February 11, 2012**  
**Daughters of Vartan Manti and More Carnival**  
**St. John Armenian Church Main Hall**

### **AT THE PARISH BOOKSTORE**

**"It's Christmas: A Musical Journey" by Harry Hovakimian CD—**  
**\$10.00**

**Proceeds will go to Baku Monument Fund**

**NEW: 7000 KM TO GO: a Road Rally through the Balkans, An-**  
**atolia and the Caucasus-by Ric Gazarian-HC-\$25.00**

**NEW TALINE DVD FOR KIDS: Let's Have Fun in Armenian-\$20.00**

**Armenian Cross Handbag Hanger with pouch—\$10.00**

**Armenian Cuisine—Preserving Our Heritage—HC—\$25.00**

**Armenian Dictionary in Transliteration —SC—\$20.00**

**Who are the Armenians? (with CD)—SC-\$20.00**

***Kef Time CDs—\$15.00***

### **REMINDER: St. John's Members**

**Pledges (for years 2011 & prior) are due by**  
**December 31, 2010**

**to avoid being considered in arrears.**

**Please note that members whose pledges are current**  
**as of December 31, 2011**

**may participate and vote in the**  
**Annual Parish Assembly to be held**

**Sunday, February 26, 2012**

## ON LEAVING THE SANCTUARY AFTER BADARAK

Q. What do I say when approaching the Holy Gospel at the end of the Divine Liturgy?

You say:

*Heeshetzeh Der zamenaym Badarakus koh.*

**Յիշեցէ Տէր զամենայն  
Պատարագս քո:**

May the Lord remember all your offerings.

The Priest answers:

*Datseh kez Der usd srdee koom yev zamenayn khorhoortus koh ee parees na gadarsestseh.*

**Տացէ քեզ Տէր ըստ սրտի քում եւ զամենայն  
խորհուրդս քո ի բարիս նա կատարեսցէ:**

May the Lord grant you according to your own heart, and fulfill all your counsel in goodness. (Psalm 20:4)

Q. What do I say when I take *Mahs*?

The GIVER says:

*Mahs yev pazheen yegheetsee kez ee Soorp Badarakes.*

**Մաս եւ բաժին եղիցի քեզ ի  
Սուրբ Պատարագս:**

May this be to you a share and portion of the Holy Sacrifice.

The RECEIVER says

*Pahjeen eem Asdvadz haveedyan.*

**Բաժին իմ Աստուած յաւիտեան:**

God is my portion forever.

## THE KISS OF PEACE

The GIVER says:

Christ is revealed amongst us.

*Kreesdos ee mech mer haydnetsav.*

The RECEIVER says:

Blessed is the revelation of Christ.

*Orhnyal eh haydnootyoonun Kreedosee.*

## THE PSALM OF DISMISSAL - PSALM 34

*Orhnetseets uzDer hamenayn zham, hamenyn zham  
orhnootyoon nora ee peran eem.*

**Օրհնեցից ըզՏէր յամենայն ժամ, յամենայն ժամ,  
օրհնութիւն նորա ի բերան իմ:**

I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall be at all times in my mouth.

**Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**After hours in an emergency, please contact:**

**Pastor's Cell: 248.225.9888**

**Parish Council Chairman's Cell: 248.688.1214**

**Administrator's Cell: 248.880.8391**