

Sunday Bulletin

Կիրակնօրեայ Լրագիր



**ENTER TO WORSHIP THE LORD
DEPART TO SERVE HIM**

DECEMBER 7, 2008

THE ARMENIAN CHURCH YEAR OF 1457

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ՅԻՍՆԱԿԻ ԵՐՐՈՐԴ ԿԻՐԱԿԻ

ST. NICHOLAS THE WONDER WORKER

BAREKENDAN OF THE FAST OF ST. JAMES (HAGOP)

ԲԱՐԵԿԵՆԴԱՆ Ս. ՅԱԿՈԲԻ ՊԱՀՔԻՆ

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 37:14-38, 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12, Luke 14:12-24

Next Week – Isaiah 38:1-8, Hebrews 1:1-14, Luke 17:1-10

LECTOR: Dr. Salpi Toroyan

THE NICENE CREED WILL BE RECITED IN ARMENIAN

ST. JOHN ARMENIAN CHURCH

Father Garabed Archpriest Kochakian, Pastor

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

DAY BY DAY . . . AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT NOON

Bible Study Leader: Yerezgin Roberta

Bring your Bible and lunch, we will provide the coffee.

Tracking Our "Treasures"

Sunday, November 30

Plate Donations

\$346.25

Candle Donations

\$165.00

AT THE PARISH BOOKSTORE

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

Lisa Yaldejian - \$20.00

"ARMENIAN MUSIC OF GRIKOR MIRZAIAN SUNI"

Featuring Deacon Rubik Mailian & Maro Partamian

Recorded live at The Armenian Congregational Church

DVD - \$30.00 CD - \$20.00

ONE TAKE by Mal Barsamian – CD - \$18.00

Great Dance Music!!!

GADOO: THE CAT, AN ARMENIAN FOLK TALE

By Susan Kadian Gopigian - \$17.00

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 9 – SENIOR LUNCH – Noon

Sunday, December 14 –FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

You can't control the length of your life,
but you can control its width and depth.

SPECIAL HYMNS FOR TODAY

Megheti (Melody) – Donemk

Tapor (Processional) – Parekhosootyamp

Jamamood (Intriot) - Miadzin Vorti

Jashou Sharagan (Mid-day Hymn) – Orhnootyoon

Jashou Alleluia – Ari Der Asdvadz...

THE KOMITAS CHOIR UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

Deacon Rubik Mailian, Director of Sacred Music

Margaret Lafian, Organist

USHERS: Berj Kurkechian, George Elian, Gary Javizian, Roger Gregory, Stephen Derderian, Richard Santourian, Jim Berryman

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers adorning the altar today were presented by Norman and Janet Ankers in loving memory of Chester Ankers on the sixth year of his passing.

Flowers were also presented in memory of Angel Mugerdichian by her family

FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE LORD

We offer prayers for the servant of God

ANGEL MUGERDICHIAN

May Christ our Lord shed His eternal light upon her soul.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

H.B. Mesrob Mutafian, Patriarch of Istanbul

Fr. Vahram Hazarian (Chicago)

Yerezgin Patricia Dagley

Donna Adams

Bud Mulder

Gregory Derderian

Chris Wigent

Marybeth Sutton

Robert Ajemian

Christine Danielian Vaughn

Valeriy Bagdasarian

Marge Dakesian

Edgar Hagopian

Margaret Jamgochian

Steven Bear (CA)

Paul Tootikian

Lucy Torigian

GOSPEL READING: Luke 14:12-24

He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your kinsmen or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

When one of those who sat at table with him heard this, he said to him, "Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the Kingdom of God!" But he said to him, "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'"

ATTENTION WOMEN'S GUILD MEMBERS—Please join us for the next event coming up in December.

Tuesday, December 9—WG Knitting Group—10:00 am—Noon

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Monday, January 12, 2009

Town Hall Meeting, 7:30pm

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 21, 2008, 12:30 pm
Church School Annual Christmas Program

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 at 7:00 pm

Tuesday, January 6, 2009
Armenian Christmas Divine Liturgy at 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 10:00 am
Christmas Family Luncheon /Visit from Santa

SPECIAL MUSIC EVENT: Concert of Armenian Music of Grikor Mirzaian Suni - 7pm, Friday, January 2, 2009 - at the 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 Maillian, and soprano Anahit Toumajan.

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 CHRISMATIONS

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)



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

**REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF THE DEVASTATING
EARTHQUAKE IN ARMENIA ON DECEMBER 7, 1988 – MAY THE
LORD GOD REST THE SOULS OF THE THOUSANDS WHO
PERISHED FROM THIS EARTH, BUT NOW REST IN THE
EMBRACE OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER**

Offered by the Parish of St. John's
Elizabeth Aprahamian
Lucy Ardash & Family
Mirican, Anita, Armen & Anoush Arslanian
Anahid & Sarkis Ghazarian, Sevag & Hiyk
Ladjvart Grishkian
Armine Harutunian
Stephan & Shnorhig Karougian
Dn. Rubik Mailian & Dr. Joyce Yeghissian, Sevana & Areg
Harry & Alice Terzian Family
Isabelle Vahratian

**REMEMBERING THE AMERICANS WHO WERE KILLED IN THE
ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR DECEMBER 7, 1941**

Requested by the Parish of St. John's

ZAVEN DILAKIAN, 20th Year, Husband, Father, Grandfather, Friend

Victim of the 1988 Earthquake in Armenia

Requested by Ladjvart Grishkian
Anahid & Sarkis Ghazarian, Sevag & Hiyk
Armine Harutunian
Dn. Rubik Mailian & Dr. Joyce Yeghissian, Sevana & Areg
Elizabeth Aprahamian
Lucy Ardash & Family
Mirican, Anita, Armen & Anoush Arslanian
Stephan & Shnorhig Karougian
ShaKay Kaypekian
Isabelle Vahratian

**AROUSIAG BUDAGYAN, 40th Day, Mother, Mother-in-Law,
Grandmother, Great-Grandmother, Aunt**

MALVINA SARKISOV, 8th Year, Sister, Mother, Grandmother, Cousin

Requested by Larisa Budagyan
Ellada & Alexander Arutyunov

EDWARD CHOLAKIAN (California), 40th Day, Brother, Uncle

Requested by Alice Prudian & Family

VASKEN GEORGE LAKTZIAN, 40th Day, Husband

Requested by Ann Lakztian, Loving Wife

VICTORYA KALFAYAN, 1st Year, Mother, Grandmother, Friend

GARBIS KALFAYAN, 5th Year, Father, Grandfather, Friend

Requested by Steve, Sonia, Michael & Linda Kalfayan

Loris, Vartuhi & Andre Iskender

Serco, Alice, Lauren & Selina Iskender

Hagop & Meline Gigian

Vahe, Annie & Greg Akaraz

Zepur Akaraz & Hirip Hingigian

Ara & Rita Avedissian

Varujan, Irma & Natalie Kabakciyan

Mr. & Mrs. Simon Astzian & Family

Sarkisian Family

Meri Pabuccian

Garo & Knar Goncaer

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Chevikian

Hilda Misirliyan

Agnes & Peter Hovsepian

Father Garabed & Yerezgin Roberta Kochakian

Mirican, Anita, Armen & Anoush Arslanian

Marie Vanerian

Rita Jury

Barur & Ardem Damlama

Bedros & Suzy Civelek

MARY MASON, 2nd Year, Wife

Requested by John Mason

ARCHBISHOP MESROP ASHJIAN, 5th Year

ZAVEN OHANNES HINTIRYAN, 30th Year, Father, Grandfather

KOHARIK HINTIRYAN, 6th Year, Mother, Grandmother

ARET HINTIRYAN, 8th Year, Brother, Uncle

ALEX GIRITLIAN, 9th Year, Friend

Requested by Mr. & Mrs. Herman Hintiryan & Family

Bedros & Suzy Civelek

ANITA KASPER, 34th Year, Daughter, Sister, Aunt

Requested by Arick Kasper

Michael & Darleen Kasper

David & Anita Kasper

Lisa & Kevin Rushlow

Andrew, Alison & Ethan

**ZAVEN OHANNES HINTIRYAN, 30th Year, Father-in-Law,
Grandfather, Khnamee**

Requested by Mrs. Aznif Hintiryan
Dr. Arlet & Arthur Dakessian & Sophie Arlett
Lillian, Sevan, Alec & Arlene Calukyan
Kevork Terterian
Kazar & Marina Terterian & Family
Fr. Abraham & Yn. Shakeh Ohanesian & Family
Arpik & Ron Devio & Family

DANIEL SHAHAN, 5th Year, Dearly Beloved Father, Grandfather

Requested by Bob, Linda, Ryan & Michael DePietro
Christopher, Claudia & Daniel Swink
Zaven Dolik

CHESTER ANKERS, 6th Year, Father, Husband

Janet & Norman Ankers
Mrs. Charlotte Ankers

LEVON TARKEDJIAN, 10th Year

Requested by Ani & Tanya Tarkedjian
Mr. & Mrs. Tamar & Yeprem Boursalian
Arsen & Shoghig Terjimanian & Family

SARKIS YARJANIAN, 50th Year, Father, Grandfather

Requested by the Yarjanian Family

ARDASH MARDIGIAN, Father, Grandfather, Great-Grandfather

STEPHAN & AGAVNI MARDIGIAN, Grandparents

EDWARD MARDIGIAN, Uncle

Requested by Arthur & Rose Mardigian
Steven, Armen & Anoush Mardigian
James, Laura & Stephen Armen Leacock
Lisa Mardigian
Zaven, Marilyn & Zaven Charles Dadian

**CHARLES & MARY OHANESIAN, Parents, Grandparents,
Great-Grandparents**

ALICE HAIG, Sister, Aunt, Great-Aunt

ROSEMARY HOPLAMAZIAN, Sister, Aunt, Great-Aunt

Requested by George & Victoria Kurajian
George & Lisa Kurajian, Olivia & Caroline
Matthew & Peggy Kurajian, Lisa & Phillip
Mary, Scott & Karen

WOMEN'S GUILD EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS INITIATED

In a traditional initiation ceremony held in the sanctuary, the newly elected Executive Board members of the Women's Guild took the oath of office and received the blessing of Father Garabed. The new board consists of:

Chairman	Linda Tiffany
Vice-Chairman	Diane Khachaturian
Treasurer	Jackie El Chemmas
Ass't Treasurer	Carol Aprahamian
Corresponding Sec'y	Kathy Mekjian
Recording Sec'y	Kim Kalajian
Advisor-Newsletter	Cathy Zwinck
Advisor-Programs	Marilyn Sarkesian
Advisor	Linda Assarian

ABOUT OUR DIVINE LITURGY

The Holy Sacrifice - The Eucharist

After the Laying of the Gifts comes the third part of The Eucharist, The Kiss of Peace.

The earliest Christians greeted one another "with a holy kiss," a sign of their unity and love in Christ. In the Eucharist Christ comes to unite his people to each other and to himself by offering them his Body and Blood. For our part in this divine union, we must see to it that we are completely reconciled with each other so that in the Eucharist we can truly become Christ's body, the Church.

It is perfectly acceptable for the faithful to greet each other with a kiss on each cheek, or, with a more ritualized inclination of the head, first to the left, then to the right of the person being greeted. The person offering the Kiss of Peace says, "Christ is revealed among us." The reply is "Blessed is the revelation of Christ."

In Armenian, we say:

**Kreesdos ee mech mer haydnetsav...
Orhnyal eh haydnootyoonun Kreesdosee.**

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IN REMEMBRANCE OF PEARL HARBOR

Today, December 7th is the 67th anniversary of the Japanese attack upon Pearl Harbor. The surprise attack upon our nation's naval forces resulted in the death of thousands of our military forces as well as civilians. This event became a defining moment in world affairs as it became our nation's entry into World War II. We honor those brave men and women who gave their lives so that democracy will continue to live on as our way of life.

* * *

U-M Armenian Students' Cultural Association Host Annual Event

The annual **Hye Hop Charity Dance** will be held on Friday, January 23, 2009, at Polo Fields Golf and Country Club (located at 5200 Polo Fields Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48103). All profits will be donated to Mer Doon, a place dedicated to helping Armenian youth transitioning from orphanages or a disadvantaged life. For more information on the charity, please visit <http://mer-doon.org>.

Tickets are \$25 for students and \$35 for adults. The dance features a dinner buffet, cash bar, DJ, and live All-Star Armenian band. Dress attire is semi-formal. All are welcome!

Last year's event, with over 200 guests in attendance, enabled us to donate \$3,000 to the Orran Center of Armenia, a place dedicated to providing life's necessities to at risk children and families. If you have any questions, or would like to donate in advance, please contact Samantha Simonian at ssimonia@umich.edu or Ani Toumajan at altoumaj@umich.edu.

AT THE PARISH BOOKSTORE

JERUSALEM CROSSES

Handcrafted in Olive Wood

Blessed in Jerusalem

\$5.00 each

Feast of the Conception of the Virgin Mary

Often Armenian Orthodox are confused about the name of this feast, misunderstanding it as the “Immaculate Conception” which is a Roman Catholic theological observance and NOT an Armenian Orthodox one. The term “immaculate” is the point of differentiation. In this feast we remember the Virgin Mary’s conception in the womb of her mother St. Anna, a life conceived through human means to glorify God our Father. Like us, Mary was born with the inheritance of human weakness and sin, but because of her purity and innocence as a young child brought up in the temple under the tutelage of the priests, she found favor with God and was chosen to bear His son, Jesus, thus becoming understood as pure and, as humanly possible, sinless, the Ever Virgin and the Mother-of-God exalted above all saints. The Roman Catholic teaching infers that her immaculate conception was sinless. We Orthodox reserve sinlessness and perfection to Jesus Christ only.

Feast of Saint Nicholas, the Wonder Worker

Saint Nicholas is the common name for Nicholas of Myra, a Lycian saint and Bishop of Myra in Lycia of Anatolia (located today in the Turkish province of Antalya), then a Greek-speaking Roman province. Because of the many miracles attributed to his intercessions, he is also known as Saint Nicholas, the Wonder Worker.

St. Nicholas had a reputation for secret gift-giving, such as putting coins in the shoes of those who left them out for him, and is now commonly identified with Santa Claus. Nicholas was never officially canonized; his reputation simply evolved among the faithful as was the custom in his time. In 1087, his relics were transferred to Bari in southern Italy. For this reason, he is also known as Saint Nicholas of Bari.

The historical Saint Nicholas is remembered and revered among Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican and Lutheran Christians. He is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, archers, children and students.

Some Facts about Saint Nicholas

Born: c. 270, Patara, Lycia

Died: December 6, 343, Myra, Lycia

Major Shrine: Basilica di San Nicola, Bari, Italy

Feast: December 6 (main feast day)

May 9 (translation of relics)

WHAT IS ADVENT?

Advent means “coming.” It is the season of the church year where we prepare our bodies, minds and spirits for the coming of the Messiah. Advent means “coming” in three different senses:

HISTORY – The coming of the Messiah in the flesh, to be celebrated at Christmas. Christ came in history so we might have a new life in him and be heirs to his Father’s kingdom.

MYSTERY – The coming of Christ in Word and Spirit is part of the mystery of our faith and is to be pondered throughout the church year. We believe that Jesus comes to each of us personally. He does this in the sacrament of Holy Eucharist. He calls us to respond and to help him in his work. It is up to us to listen to his call and go preach the good News. Just as the star of Bethlehem called the shepherds in the fields to lead them to Jesus, we too are called through the church to follow him.

MAJESTY – The coming of Christ in glory at the end of time. How we respond to Jesus now in our everyday lives is part of our preparation for the final coming at the end of the world.

During the Advent season, we take time to think about the many ways Jesus comes to us in our lives today. He comes to us in the sacraments, reading of Holy Scripture, prayer, the Church, in those who guide us in his name and in our conscience. Let us open ourselves to his call and invited Jesus to dwell within our hearts and souls.

WHEN DOES ADVENT BEGIN?

The Armenian Church, along with other Eastern Churches, observes Advent for a period of 50 days (in Armenian, this period is called **HEESNAG**). Advent always has six Sundays. This year Advent began on November 23, which is the sixth Sunday preceding January 6, the Feast of the Nativity.

The season of Advent dates back to the 4th century. At the beginning of the 7th century the Western Churches limited the Advent season to four week. Celebrating the Nativity on December 25. That is why we will see some Advent wreaths with four candles rather than the traditional six-candle wreath. The Armenian Church and some other Eastern Churches are faithful to the old tradition of Christianity. We continue to celebrate Christmas (the Birth of Christ) and the Baptism of Jesus on the same day – **January 6**.

Emergency Telephone Numbers

These are more effective than 911

When -

You are sad, phone John 14

You have sinned, phone Psalms 51

You are facing danger, phone Psalms 91

People have failed you, phone Psalms 27

It feels as though God is far from you, phone Psalms 139

Your faith needs stimulation, phone Hebrews 11

You are alone and scared, phone Psalms 23

You are worried, phone Matthew 8:19-34

You are hurt and critical, phone 1 Corinthians 13

You wonder about Christianity, phone 2 Corinthians 5:15-18

You feel like an outcast, phone Romans 8:31-39

You are seeking peace, phone Matthew 11:25-30

It feels as if the world is bigger than God, phone Psalms 90

You need Christ like insurance, phone Romans 8:1-30

You are leaving home for a trip, phone Psalms 121

You are praying for yourself, phone Psalms 87

You require courage for a task, phone Joshua 1

Inflation's and investments are hogging your thoughts, phone Mark 10:17-31

You are depressive, phone Psalms 27

Your bank account is empty, phone Psalms 37

You lose faith in mankind, phone 1 Corinthians 13

It looks like people are unfriendly, phone John 15

You are losing hope, phone Psalms 126

You feel the world is small compared to you, phone Psalms 19

You want to carry fruit, phone John 15

Paul's secret for happiness, phone Colossians 3:12-17

With big opportunity/ discovery, phone Isaiah 55

To get along with other people, phone Romans 12

ALTERNATE NUMBERS

For dealing with fear, call Psalms 47

For security, call Psalms 121:3

For assurance, call Mark 8:35

For reassurance, call Psalms 145:18

ALL THESE NUMBERS MAY BE PHONED DIRECTLY.

NO OPERATOR ASSISTANCE IS NECESSARY.

ALL LINES TO HEAVEN ARE AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY.

FEED YOUR FAITH, AND DOUBT WILL STARVE TO DEATH