

# Sunday Bulletin

Կիրակնօրեայ Լրագիր



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

**JANUARY 11, 2009**

**THE ARMENIAN CHURCH YEAR OF 1458**

**THE NATIVITY AND THEOPHANY OF OUR**

**LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST**

**THE GREAT BLESSING OF THE WATERS**

**ՏՕՆ Ս. ԾՆՆԴԵԱՆ ԵՒ ԱՍՏՈՒԱԾԱՅԱՅՏՆՈՒԹԵԱՆ**

**ՄԵՐ ՏԻՐՈՋ ՅԻՍՈՒՍ ԲՐԻՍՏՈՍԻ - ՋՐՕՐՀՆԵՔ**

**SPECIAL COLLECTION TODAY BY THE KOMITAS CHOIR**

During the singing of the *Megheti, Aysor Don Eh* there will be an offertory for our Komitas Choir. We congratulate our Music Director and all choir members for their diligent and dedicated service in the Lord; and we thank our Deacons and Acolytes who faithfully uplift us with their participation.

**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

**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

**ST. JOHN ARMENIAN CHURCH**

Father Garabed Archpriest Kochakian, Pastor

## BLESSING OF INFANTS ON FEBRUARY 15

Forty days after His birth, Jesus was presented to the Jerusalem Temple by his parents for a special blessing by the high priest, Saint Simeon. This Judaic tradition of presenting the firstborn to the temple and dedicating the child to God has been adopted by the Armenian Church as a day on which newly born or newly baptized infants are blessed by the priest. On February 15 at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Fr. Garabed will invite all parents with infants to come forward so that their children may receive a special blessing.

### 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.

## 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 - \$20.00

**NEW: MY GRANDMOTHER: A MEMOIR BY FETHIYE**

**CETIN- \$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

Monday, January 12 – Town Hall Meeting - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, January 13 – Senior Lunch - Noon

Sunday, January 18–Morning Service 9:00 am; Divine Liturgy 9:45 am

### THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

It is by forgiving that one is forgiven.

## SPECIAL HYMNS FOR TODAY

*Megheti* (Melody) – *Aysor Don Eh*

*Tapor* (Processional) – *Khorhoort Medz*

*Jamamood* (Introit) - *Asdvadzadzin Uzkez*

*Jashou Sharagan* (Mid-day Hymn) – *Soorp Asdvadzadzinn*

*Jashou Alleluia* – *Aysor Dzunav*

*Der Voghormia* (Lord Have Mercy) - Komitas

### THE KOMITAS CHOIR UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

Deacon Rubik Mailian, Director of Sacred Music

Margaret Lafian, Organist

### ALTAR FLOWERS

The Christmas 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.

### 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.

**“LIVING THE DIVINE LITURGY” CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE DIVINE LITURGY TODAY...**

### TAKING PART IN THE TAPOR

READING THE LECTIONS

PRESENTING THE GIFTS

GIVING THE KISS OF PEACE

ASSISTING IN THE BLESSING OF WATERS

### FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE LORD

We offer prayers for the servant of God

**AVADIS VAYVALERO**

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

### PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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

## TODAY'S LECTIIONS

**EPISTLE: I Thessalonians 4:12-18**

**GOSPEL: John 11:1-46**

### **CHRISTMASTIDE: The Sacred Period after Christmas**

The first 40 days of Christmastide culminate with the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord to the Temple on February 14. During this 40-day period, the Christmas greeting in the Armenian Church is:

**KRISDOS DZUNAV YEV HAYDNETSAV!  
ORHYAL EH HAYDNOOTYOONN KRISDOSI!**

**CHRIST IS BORN AND IS REVEALED!  
BLESSED IS THE REVELATION OF CHRIST!**

**ՔՐԻՍՏՈՍ ԾՆԱԻ ԵՒ ՅԱՅՏՆԵՑԱԻ  
ՕՐՀՆԵԱԼ Է ՅԱՅՏՆՈՒԹԻՒՆՆ ՔՐԻՍՏՈՒԹ**

Please note that this greeting is NOT part of the Divine Liturgy. *During the Badarak the greeting for the Kiss of Peace remains unchanged. See Bulletin back cover for the correct greeting.*

### **Godfathers of the Cross**

Zaven Charles Dadian, son of Zaven & Marilyn Dadian, served as Godfather of the Cross on Armenian Christmas, January 6.

Armen Arslanian, son of Mirican & Anita Arslanian, takes part today as Godfather in the Blessing of Water for Church School students.

**TODAY...CHURCH SCHOOL  
CHRISTMAS FAMILY LUNCHEON  
AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY  
ALL ARE WELCOME!  
ADULTS: \$15.00; CHILDREN NO CHARGE**

### St. John's New Website

Visit our new and expanded website, and submit your comments and suggestions to the webmaster...

**Stjohnsarmenianchurch.org - or -  
Stjohnsarmenianchurch.com**

## WHY DO ARMENIANS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS ON JANUARY 6?

The festival generally called **Armenian Christmas** is a holy day celebrated as the **Holy Nativity of Jesus Christ**. Christmas is celebrated in the Armenian Church around the main them of the **revelation** and **incarnation of God, Asdvadz-a-haydnootyoon**.

The most important observances of the Armenians in the Christmas period are of the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem and his baptism in the **Jordan River** at the age of thirty. The Holy Nativity of Christ is celebrated in the Armenian Church on January 6. At the end of the Divine Liturgy, Christ's baptism is celebrated in the *Tchrorhnek* (**Water Blessing**) ceremony.

A question often asked is why Armenians do not celebrate Christmas on December 25, as the rest of the world generally does. Just as chronologically there is no clear date for **Christ's Holy Nativity**, the Gospels also do not contain one. But **historically all Christian Churches up until the fourth century celebrated the Festival of Christ's Nativity on January 6.**

According to the Roman Catholic Church, the date of January 6 was changed because the pagan traditional festival celebrated on December 25 that marked the birth of the Sun was declared invalid. But Christians continued to hold to those kinds of pagan festivals on that date. In order to break their influence, the Church hierarchy defined December 25 as Christmas, that is, as the Festival of the Holy Nativity of Christ, while January 6 was defined as the visit of the three magi to the newly born Christ.

Because the Armenians did not experience the problem of **Saturnalia**, i.e. the **Festival of the Birth of the Sun**, and because the Armenian Church was not a satellite of the Roman Church, Armenians were unaffected by this change. According to church traditions, Armenians continue to celebrate Christmas on 6 January.

The **Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt** carries on with the same tradition together with the Armenians. However, the **Ethiopian** and **Russian Orthodox Churches** treat January 6 as the eve of the festival, which is celebrated on January 7.

**NAME DAY CELEBRATIONS:** Avedis, Emmanuel, Manoog, Manuel, Christian, Christine, Christopher, Mariam, Mary, Virginia, Vergine, Srpoohi, Diroohi, Diramayr, Dzaghig, Joseph, Jesse, Joshua, Prgoohi, Dadoor, Diradoor, Nazeli, Nazig, Nazareth, Baghdasar, Gaspar, Kasper, Melkon, Takvor, Takouhi

**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)

## **COMING EVENTS**

### **TOMORROW EVENING**

**Monday, January 12, 2009  
Town Hall Meeting, 7:30pm**

**Sunday, February 15**

***Diarrnuntarach***

**Feast of the Presentation of the Lord to the Temple  
Infants Blessing at the conclusion of Badarak  
Candidates' Tea in the Main Hall**

**Thursday, February 19, 2009**

**Feast of the Holy Vartanank**

**Friday, February 20, 2009, 7:30 pm**

**Annual Parish Assembly**

**Sunday, February 22, 2009**

**Boon Barekendan**

**Monday, February 23, 2009**

**First Day of Great Lent**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2009**

**ACYOA Lenten Fish Dinner, 5:30 pm**

**Lenten Vigil, 7:00 pm**

**Every Wednesday during Lent  
including March 4, 11, 18, 25 & April 1**

**Saturday, March 14, 2009**

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Lenten Retreat**

**Guest Speaker: V. Rev. Vahan Hovhanessian**

**Topic: "In Remembrance of the Lord"**

