

THE GREAT LENTEN SEASON

During the period of Great Lent in the Armenian Church we observe the following:

- *The altar curtain is closed*
- *There is no Kiss of Peace during the Divine Liturgy*
- *Holy Communion is not offered during the Divine Liturgy*
- *The Holy Gospels Book is not venerated after worship*
- *Hymns are sung in penitential melody*
- *Names of saints are not remembered*
- *The organ is not played when you depart from the sanctuary*
- *All should remain silent when exiting the sanctuary after worship in respect to those who remain for devotional prayers*
- *Weddings and Baptisms are not celebrated*

THE PSALM OF DISMISSAL – PSALM 34

*Ornetseets uzDer hamenayn zham, hamenayn zham
orhnootyoon nora ee peran eem.*

Օրհնեցից ԿՏէր 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: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday – Friday
(248) 569-3405**

After hours in an emergency, please contact:

Pastor's Cell: (248) 225-9888

Parish Council Chairman's Cell: (248) 877-3456

Administrator's Cell: (248) 802-2861

Sunday Bulletin

Կիրակնօրեայ Լրագիր



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

**MARCH 1, 2009 - THE ARMENIAN YEAR OF 1457
SUNDAY OF THE EXPULSION – ԱՐՏԱՔՍՄԱՆ ԿԻՐԱԿԻ**

THE LORD'S DAY - SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP

Ժամերգութեան ժամանակացոյց

Morning Service - Առաւօտեան Ժամերգութիւն.....9:00 am

Lenten Divine Liturgy - Սուրբ Պատարագ10:00 am

Sunrise Service - Արեւագալի Ժամ11:00 am

Today – Isaiah 33:2-22, Romans 12:1-13:10, Matthew 5:17-48

Next Week – Isaiah 54:11-55:13, 2 Corinthians 6:1-7:1, Luke 15:1-32

LECTOR: Bill Derouchie

THE NICENE CREED WILL BE RECITED IN ARMENIAN

ST. JOHN ARMENIAN CHURCH

Father Garabed Archpriest Kochakian, Pastor

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)

FRIDAY, APRIL 24 COMMEMORATION OF ARMENIAN MARTYRS AT ST. JOHN'S

7:00 pm Requiem Service in the Sanctuary

7:30 pm *Madagh* Dinner in the Cultural Hall

All Are Welcome

8:00 pm Presentation & Discussion of *Skylark Farm* by
Antonia Arslan in the Cultural Hall

St. John Armenian Church is honored to host Ms. Antonia Arslan, the highly acclaimed author of *Skylark Farm*, as our speaker at the *Madagh* Dinner. *Skylark Farm* is a beautifully crafted story of an Armenian family in Anatolia and their suffering at the hands of the Ottoman Turks in 1915.

In order to prepare our parish for her visit, St. John's is pleased to offer a copy of *Skylark Farm* to each interested dues-paid member/family. In offering the books it is our goal that our parishioners will read it in preparation for her visit and discussion. Books will be available on Sundays after church services, in the lobby, **through Sunday, March 29**. Books are limited and are will be available on a first come, first served basis. Dues paid member/families may only pick up their own personal copies.

**TODAY immediately following Church services-
sign up for Armenia Build. For more info, please
contact Jackie Elchemmas (248)762-1312**

DAY BY DAY . . . AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY
THURSDAY, MARCH 26 AT NOON
Bible Study Leader: Yeretzgin Roberta
Bring your Bible and lunch, we will provide the coffee.

<u>Tracking Our "Treasures"</u>	<u>Sunday, February 22</u>
Plate Donations	\$223.00
Candle Donations	\$162.75

AT THE PARISH BOOKSTORE

EVERYONE PRAYS AT HOLY ETCHMIADZIN
DVD - \$20.00

NEW CD: GOMIDAS SONGS (Nominated for Grammy Award)
By Isabel Bayrakdarian - \$20.00

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

MY GRANDMOTHER: A MEMOIR BY FETHIYE CETIN
Softcover - \$20.00

BACK IN STOCK: YOUR JOURNEY INTO ARMENIA
By George Mouradian - Softcover - \$12.00

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Tuesday, March 3 – SENIOR LUNCH - Noon
Wednesday, March 4 – ACYOA Lenten Fish Dinner-5:30 pm
Thursday, March 5 – Komitas Choir Rehearsal-7pm
Sunday, March 8 – SUNDAY OF THE EXPULSION
MATINS AT 9:00 am DIVINE LITURGY AT 10:00 am
SUNRISE SERVICE AT 11:00 am

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

True friendship is like sound health:
the value of it is seldom known until it is lost.

GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

On the occasion of his birthday March 5th,
Joseph Kludjian presents a gift to the church.

A gift is presented to the church by Barbara & David Goldman
on the occasion of Sirvart Mezian's 90th birthday.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Yeretzgin Patricia Dagley	Robert Ajemian
Valeriy Bagdasarian	Steven Bear (CA)
Gregory Derderian	Margaret Jamgochian
Walter Negosian	Marybeth Sutton
Lucy Torigian	Alice Melidosian

FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE LORD

We offer prayers for the servant of God
who entered her eternal rest this past week.

MARY SEMEROFF

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

TODAY'S GOSPEL: Matthew 5:17-48

"Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

"You have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother shall be liable to the council, and whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be liable to hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Make friends quickly with your accuser, while you are going with him to court, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the Judge to the guard, and you be put in prison; truly, I say to you, you will never get out till you have paid the last penny. (continued on next page)

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that every one who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, makes her an adulteress; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

"Again you have heard that it was said to the men of old, Thou shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' But I say to you. Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist one who is evil. But if any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also; and if any one would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well; and if any one forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to him who begs from you, and do not refuse him who would borrow from you.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you. Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

EASTER FLOWERS ☩ PASCHAL CANDLES

It is the tradition of the Armenian Church to decorate the sanctuary with flowers and candles for the special Holy Week and Easter services. If you would like to honor a loved one in this way, please call the church office to make the necessary arrangements.

THE SUNDAYS OF LENT take us through the history of God's relationship with us, from Creation to the present moment.

TODAY, THE SUNDAY OF THE EXPULSION...we face our great sin: pride. Humankind had all they needed in the Garden of Eden, their lives with God were complete. But Satan appealed to their pride and tempted them to eat the fruit of the forbidden tree. When Jesus was later tempted to turn stones into bread in the wilderness, He knew that we do not live by bread alone but by God's Word.

NEXT WEEK, THE SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL gives us a Biblical case history of a proud young man who demands his father's inheritance, leaves home, ends up poor and alone and returns to his father for forgiveness. When he comes to his senses and says, "I will arise and go to my father" he sounds a Lenten rallying cry for all of us.

Fund Raising During the Lenten Season

Charity and good deeds are known also as "ALMSGIVING." This means simply to do a good deed. Our children should emulate the great benefactors of our parish and community by offering their help in the spirit of love and compassion to help those who do not enjoy the same comforts as they themselves do. This is the *sacrifice* of Great Lent, giving up and giving over to others. This year the projects which will receive the proceeds of this Lenten fundraising are: Anti-Malaria Bed Nets, and Project Smile (assistance to children in need of corrective surgery for hairlips). Please be generous when our Church School students ask for your donation.

WHAT CAN YOU DO AT HOME DURING LENT?

- At the dinner table pray each night for peace in the world and in your family.
- Ask Christ to show you as a family how to communicate better, share your thoughts and hopes.
- Always ask for each other's forgiveness before eating. It will certainly make the meal tastier.
- Observe a moment of silence to think about Jesus before you eat. This is better than the salt and pepper we put on our food.
- Read from the Holy Bible.
- Embrace each other at the table before ending your meals. It is sweeter than dessert [which by the way you might give up for Lent].

These are just a few ways to observe the Holy Season of Great Lent at home.
Father Garabed

THE MEANING OF LENT: ARE YOU READY?

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And he fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was hungry.” (Matthew 4:12)

This is the biblical basis of the period called Lent, given to us to prepare for the Feast of Feasts, the Resurrection. Just as we need time to prepare for any great event in life, we need time to make ourselves ready to participate in the blessed and wondrous event commemorated by Easter.

Lent gives us the opportunity to:

- Renew our commitment to god
- Reflect on our lives and let them be directed by God
- Respond to Jesus' call for love and mercy toward all of God's children

Lent is a special time in the year when we guard against worldly distractions and make room for the Holy Spirit to fill us. During Lent we go into our own inner wilderness “caused by sins, spiritual laziness, and empty vanity.” There we confront the devil. Through prayer, fasting, Bible reading, and self-examination, we gain the strength to work at being more loving, humble and gentle. After a successful Lenten journey, we should each be able to say, “Be gone, Satan.” We also will find ourselves hungry after this long effort, hungry for the only thing that can truly fill the place we have worked hard to clear: the beautiful fruit of the Resurrection, which is Life Everlasting with Christ our Lord. The heart of Lent is inner penitence and reconciliation with God. Begin with self-examination and inner healing. Set aside this period to examine and evaluate your life as a Christian. Spiritual renewal is possible only if you are willing to repent for your sins and change your life for God.

Uniting with God involves:

SORROW FOR SINS – Changing your life begins when you admit that Christ suffered and died for your sins

SPIRITUAL GROWTH – Christian maturity begins when you acknowledge dependence on God. Resolve to accept and carry out His will.

COMMITMENT – Realize that commitment to God is more than just going to church. It involves carrying out God's will daily, whatever the circumstances.

PERSEVERANCE – Keep your hope and faith in Easter's promises alive all year long, every year. Realize that Christians of every age have experienced times of testing and have overcome temptation and despair.

Source: armenianchurch.net/worship/lent/index.html

ACYOA Juniors

Lenten Fish Dinners

Wednesdays during Great Lent

March 4, 11, 18 & 25, Lobster Dinner: April 1

Dinner served from 5:30p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Dinners include fish entrée, vegetable, potato & salad, beverage & dessert -\$10.00 per person

Alternate Dinner: Grilled Cheese \$5.00

Please phone the church office EARLY to make reservations for dinner: (248) 569-3405

LENTEN VIGIL SERVICE AT 7:00 PM

PROGRAMS FOLLOWING VIGIL SERVICE

MARCH 4 – FILM

**ETCHMIADZIN AND THE SPIRIT OF ECUMENISM
IN THE VARTAN ROOM**

MARCH 11 - SPEAKER

**THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SUREN PILAFIAN,
ARCHITECT OF ST. JOHN ARMENIAN CHURCH
FEATURED SPEAKER: MICHAEL KAPETAN
IN THE VARTAN ROOM**

MARCH 18

No program scheduled

MARCH 25 – FILM

**THE CONTINUING MISSION OF HOLY ETCHMIADZIN
IN THE VARTAN ROOM**

APRIL 1 – CONCERT & FILM

**KOMITAS CHOIR TO PRESENT A CONCERT OF
SACRED LENTEN MUSIC IN THE SANCTUARY.
SELECTIONS INCLUDE: “SEVEN LAST WORDS OF
CHRIST,” “OOR ES MAYR IM,” GOSPEL MUSIC**

**FILM: THE PASTORAL VISIT OF HIS HOLINESS
KAREKIN II TOST. JOHN'S NOVEMBER 4-7, 2007
IN THE VARTAN ROOM**

UPCOMING WOMEN'S GUILD EVENTS

CHEOREG AND SOU BEOREG ON SALE TODAY

General Body Meeting on Wednesday, March 4 at 11:30 am. Yn. Roberta will give a presentation on **Shnorhavor of Papert**. Marilyn Sarkesian and Cathy Zwinck will be preparing our lunch which will be followed by our program and meeting. Hope to see you there!

WINTER BAKING – Pam Dayinian is chairing a **Khadayif Bake** on **Tuesday, March 10 at 9:30 am.** Come help and have fun as “many hands make light work!” All are welcome. You need **NOT** be a Women's Guild member to participate.

KNITTING CLUB – We'll be knitting and chatting **Tuesday, March 10, 10 a.m. – Noon.** Please join us as we make items for preemies, newborns, etc.

SAVE THE DATE – Dolly Matoian is chairing a **Khalkha bake** on **Tuesday, March 17, at 9 am.** Come and join the fun and fellowship as we work together. **Everyone is welcome!**

WOMEN'S GUILD RETREAT

This year's theme is **“GOD...OUR HOPE,”** and our featured speaker will be **Yn. Valerie Goekjian Zahirski.** Our overnight retreat will be held at the **St. John's Retreat Center** in **Plymouth, MI,** from **6 pm Friday, March 27 through 3 pm on Saturday, March 28.** This has been a highly praised event in the past, so if you are interested in attending, please contact **Pam Dayinian, (248-644-8028), ASAP** for more information. Registration forms are available on candle desk.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING TIME CHANGE:

General Body Meeting on Wednesday, April 1 will begin at 4 pm just prior to the Lenten dinner.

OUR YOUTH IN ACTION

On Friday, March 6, members of St. John's ACYOA Seniors will take part in an ACYOA Senior Leadership Conference in New York City.

NOTICE

Anyone wishing to take part in the Church School Bike-athon Committee, please contact Roseann Attar at 248.980.3221.