

St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit

22001 Northwestern Highway | Southfield, MI 48075

248.569.3405 (phone) | 248.569.0716 (fax)

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.

**MARCH 3, 2013—THE ARMENIAN YEAR 1463
SUNDAY OF THE STEWARD—ՏՆՏԵՍԻ ԿԻՐԱԿԻ**

THE LORD'S DAY AND GREAT LENTEN SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP

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

Sunrise Service / *Արեւագալի Ժամ*.....9:45 am

followed by Divine Liturgy / *որմէ ետք Ս. Պատարագ*

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

Wednesday Eve Vigil / *Չորեքշաբթի Երեկոյեան Հսկում*.....7:00 pm

SACRED LECTIONS OF THE LITURGY TODAY

THIS WEEK: Isaiah 56:1-57:21, Ephesians 4:17-5:14, Luke 16:1-31

NEXT WEEK: Isaiah 65:8-25, Philippians 3:1-4:9, Luke 17:20-18:14

Lector: Noel Slowik

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 16:1-31

He also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a steward, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.' And the steward said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the stewardship away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do, so that people may receive me into their houses when I am put out of the stewardship.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' The master commended the dishonest steward for his shrewdness; for the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous mammon, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal habitations.

"He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all this, and they scoffed at him. But he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts; for what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God."

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK AND HOSPITALIZED

William Carlin

Gayaneh Kachadourian

Cindy Rauch

Dr. Haig Tashjian

Rev. Fr. Garen Gdanian

Cheryl Giesa

Steve Daniels

GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

**The following gifts were presented on the happy occasion of
Father Diran Papazian's 90th Birthday: (additional)**

**Helen Karibian & Family
Harutun & Nadya Vaporciyan
Osep & Nadya Sarafian**

**The following gifts were presented on the happy occasion of
Harry Mardirosian's 90th Birthday: (additional)**

**Alice Berberian Haidostian
Simon Javizian**

**Joe Kludjian presents a gift to the church on the happy occasion
of his birthday.**

**DAY BY DAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20TH, NOON-2:00 PM
IN THE NURSERY ROOM
BRING YOUR LUNCH AND YOUR BIBLE
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

REMINDER—PLEASE NOTE

**SENIOR LUNCH NEXT WEEK—MARCH 5, 2013
WILL BE RELOCATED TO ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH
CULTURAL HALL FOR ONE DAY ONLY. SIGNS WILL BE POSTED.**

**This is due to the AGBU Manoogian School testing in the
Recreation Center all week.**

**THE FOLLOWING WEEK (MARCH 12TH) SENIOR LUNCH WILL
RETURN TO ITS REGULAR LOCATION.**

**PLEASE NOTE:
REQUIEM PRAYERS WILL NOT BE OFFERED...
MARCH 24TH—Palm Sunday & MARCH 31ST—Easter**



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

VERY REVEREND FATHER GHEVONT SAMOORIAN, 40th Day, Very Dear Friend

Requested by Diocesan Primate and Clergy of the Eastern Diocese
Diramayr Virginia Melkonian
Jacqueline & Faouzi ElChemmas & Family

**SERGEY MARKAROV, 40th Day, In Loving Memory: Husband, Father,
Father-in-law, Grandfather, Great grandfather, Friend and Mentor**

Requested by Nora Markarova
Gennady & Elmira Gevorkyan
Zhanna & Boris Gukasov & Grandkids
Greg & Lana Melkumyan & Great Grandkids
Marcus & Anna Jackson & Great Grandkids

SOPHIE NAGOHOSIAN, 1st Year, Wife, Mother, Grandmother

Requested by John Nagohosian
Michele, Nicole & Michael Ducato
Sandy, Greg, Alexis, Lisa & Natalie Jamian

FLORENCE KARAGOSIAN, 3rd Year, Wife, Sister-in-law, Aunt

Requested by Harry Karagosian
Alice Mavian
Cheryl & Harry Joboulian
Diana & Hagop Alexanian

KOKO ISHKANIAN, 16th Year, Loving Brother

ISHKAN ISHKANIAN, 8th Year, Beloved Father

LINDA ISHKANIAN, 2nd Year, Loving Mother

Requested by Ida Ishkanian

EASTER PASCHAL CANDLES

**If you wish to donate one or more Easter candles, please phone
the church office to make the necessary arrangements.
Thank you.**

THE PURPOSE OF THE GREAT LENTEN FAST

The Great Lenten fasting for us, as Christians, is our entrance and participation in the experience of God in Christ our Saviour, and how He liberates us from the total dependence on the material and physical with the gift of the spiritual by:

- Experiencing hunger to remind us Christ God who truly satisfies us
- Experiencing emptiness to remember The Lord who fully fills us in soul and body
- Experiencing deprivations to remember Our Creator who provides for all our needs
- Experiencing self-sacrifice to remember that Jesus sacrificed Himself on the Cross for us
- Remembering what true pleasures and treasures in life are when we gain in Christ

Fasting and abstaining are ways of more clearly seeing people and possessions we sometimes take for granted in our lives.

In keeping the Great Fast / *Medz Bahk* for 40 days, we may be able to see the fruits of our sacrifice and **experience** the renewed person we have become with a Christ-like and heavenly life by what we say and how we demonstrate our charity, our discipleship, and our stewardship.

Save the date - The Men's Society is hosting a Mother's Day Celebration on Sunday, May 12, 2013. It will be a sit-down dinner and a chance for all of your family to come to Church services and then join us for a celebration. Enjoy the day with friends and family at St. John's rather than another afternoon in a restaurant again this year. Give your grandmothers, mothers, wives and aunts a special day out. The cost of this event is \$25/adult, \$10/6 to 12 years old and free for 5 and under. Reservations are required by May 5, 2013: Judy Cristiano 313-291-3194 or dcristiano3@gmail.com.



THE FOURTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

SUNDAY OF THE STEWARD

Prayer of Service by St. Basil of Caesarea

O Lord, teach us to recognize and to use every opportunity of service. Let us be givers without counting the rewards, without causing injury, workers without seeking rest, servants without expecting compensation, with the awareness that we are doing your will. Amen.

This Sunday's lesson also reminds us of gains and losses. The steward was the highest functionary of the noble families of ancient times; he oversaw the finances of the family and administered all the affairs of the house. Like the prodigal son, the steward is guilty of misusing the gifts he is given, of spending the belongings of others for his personal use. This is a difficult parable but we can understand it better if we remember that Jesus spoke of two different groups of people. The "children of light" are those who live for heaven and therefore by God's laws. On the other hand, the "children of this world" live just for this world and therefore live by its values. The steward is a typical "child of the world," clever and far-sighted about his own welfare. He has misused his master's possessions and is asked for an accounting. Afraid he will be dismissed, the steward reduces the monies owed his master by others so that they would welcome him into their employ.

This is commended by the master! Perhaps what Jesus means by this story is that if people use all their means to gain security for their worldly lives, shouldn't believers do the same for their spiritual welfare? This parable calls us to be vigilant in the use of the world's ways for heavenly purposes.

Read: Luke 16:1-14

Do: Make a list of three of your family's values and provide a detail of how each value is made manifest in your household.

Reflect or discuss as a family: What does Jesus mean when He says "No one can serve two masters"? What "masters" pull you away from God? What is the most important lesson to be learned from this parable?

NEW AT THE PARISH BOOKSTORE

Historical Atlas of Armenia , Edited by Vartan Matiossian
With CD, SC-\$40.00

Armenian geography, history, culture from ancient times to the present, illustrated with photos and full-page maps in color, in Armenian and English—an excellent reference book for all ages.

Stylized Armenian alphabet posters by Siroun Yeretian
\$15.00

Nowhere: a Story of Exile
by Anna Astvatsaturian Turcotte - SC - \$20.00

A riveting, heart-wrenching story told through the diary entries of an 8-year old Armenian girl documenting the organized terror in Baku, her life as a refugee, and her struggle to find herself.

The Sumgait Tragedy: Pogroms against Armenians in Soviet Azerbaijan, Volume I—Eyewitness Accounts
Edited by Samuel Shahmuratian, Forward by Yelena Bonner
HC - \$50.00

The long awaited sequel to *A Summer Without Dawn*
The Young Man in the Gray Suit by Agop Hacikyan
SC - \$20.00

A Summer Without Dawn by Agop Hacikyan-SC - \$20.00

Forty Days of Lent Cookbook
Selected Armenian Recipes by Alice Antreassian
Spiral-bound SC - \$15.00

Includes Lenten meal plans, detailed recipes and interesting facts about Lenten customs and traditions.

Stop by and browse . . .

PRAYER OF MANASSEH

O Lord Almighty, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
and of their righteous offspring.

RESPONSE: ALMIGHTY LORD, FORGIVE ME MY SINS

Thou, who hast made the heaven and the earth
and all the array therefore.

RESPONSE: ALMIGHTY LORD, FORGIVE ME MY SINS

Thou, who has hounded the sea by the word of Thy command, who hast
shut up the deep and hast sealed it with Thy fearful
and glorious holy name.

RESPONSE: ALMIGHTY LORD, FORGIVE ME MY SINS

Before the power of Thy fearful countenance everything shudders
and trembles.

RESPONSE: ALMIGHTY LORD, FORGIVE ME MY SINS

The majesty of the glory of Thy holiness is infinite, the wrath of Thy
threatening against sinners is dreadful, the mercies of Thy promises
are immeasurable and unsearchable.

RESPONSE: ALMIGHTY LORD. FORGIVE ME MY SINS

Thou art the Lord most high, compassionate, long-suffering, abundant
in mercy and Thou repentest Thyself of the evils of men.

RESPONSE: ALMIGHTY LORD. FORGIVE ME MY SINS

Thou, O God, hast not appointed repentance the righteous, unto Abraham,
Isaac and Jacob who have not sinned against Thee.

RESPONSE: ALMIGHTY LORD, FORGIVE ME MY SINS

But thou hast appointed repentance unto me that I am a sinner, for I
have committed sins more numerous than the sands of the sea and
my transgressions have been multiplied.

RESPONSE: ALMIGHTY LORD, FORGIVE ME MY SINS

I am not worthy to behold and see the heights of heaven by reason
of the multitude of mine iniquities.

RESPONSE: ALMIGHTY LORD, FORGIVE ME MY SINS

I am bent down by reason of the violence of fetters of iron
and there is no respite for me

RESPONSE: ALMIGHTY LORD, FORGIVE ME MY SINS

I have provoked Thy wrath and did that which was evil in Thy sight,
I set up images and I multiplied offenses

RESPONSE: ALMIGHTY LORD, FORGIVE ME MY SINS

And now, O Lord, I bow the knee of mine heart and I beg for
Thy kindness.

RESPONSE: ALMIGHTY LORD, FORGIVE ME MY SINS

I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned and I by myself acknowledge
mine iniquities.

RESPONSE: ALMIGHTY LORD, FORGIVE ME MY SINS

I beseech and ask Thee, forgive me, O Lord, and be not mindful of my
evil deeds, and do not pass sentence against me with them that have
gone down into the lowest part of the earth with their evils.

RESPONSE: ALMIGHTY LORD, FORGIVE ME MY SINS

For Thou, O God, art the God of them that repent, and show forth
Thy goodness in me that am unworthy

RESPONSE: ALMIGHTY LORD, FORGIVE ME MY SINS

Thou wilt save me according to Thy abundant mercy and I will praise
Thee all the days of my life.

RESPONSE: ALMIGHTY LORD, FORGIVE ME MY SINS

For all the host of heaven praise Thee, O Lord;
and Thine is the glory forevermore. Amen.

RESPONSE: GLORY TO THE FATHER AND TO THE SON AND TO THE
HOLY SPIRIT; NOW AND ALWAYS AND UNTO THE AGES OF AGES.
AMEN.

ABOUT THE PRAYER OF MANASSEH

Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign; he reigned 55 years in Jerusalem [from 698-642 BCE]. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominable practices of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel.

Manasseh misled Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that they did more evil than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed before the people of Israel. The LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they gave no heed. Therefore, the LORD brought against them the commanders of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh captive in manacles, bound him with fetters, and brought him to Babylon. While he was in distress, he entreated the favor of the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his ancestors.

He prayed to him, and God received his entreaty, heard his plea, and restored him again to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD indeed was God. He took away the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the LORD, and all the altars that he had built on the mountain of the house of the LORD and in Jerusalem, and he threw them out of the city. He also repaired the altar of the LORD, and offered on it sacrifices of well-being and of thanksgiving and he commanded Judah to serve the LORD the God of Israel.

[2 Chronicles 33:1-2, 9-13, & 15-16]

In the Armenian Orthodox Church the Prayer of Manasseh is offered during Great Lent as a constant reminder of the need to ask for forgiveness and to know that when it is done with a sincere, open and honest heart and spirit, God our Heavenly Father will open his arms to embrace and receive anyone who turns back to him from the most evil of ways.

The Prayer of Manasseh is a short work of 15 verses of the penitential prayer of the Judean king Manasseh. He is recorded in the Bible as one of the most idolatrous. However, after having been taken captive by the Assyrians, he prays for mercy and turns from his idolatrous ways. And so, we are reminded that it is not uncommon for us to call out to God for help when troubles seem to overpower us, and then to forget our promises to God when everything returns to normal. This prayer during Great Lent keeps us on the straight path to his mercy.

The Sin Of Omission

by Margaret Sangster

It isn't the thing you do;
It's the thing you leave undone,
Which gives you a bit of heartache
At the setting of the sun.

The tender word forgotten,
The letter you did not write,
The flowers you might have sent,
Are your haunting ghosts to-night.

The stone you could have lifted
Out of your brother's way,
The bit of heart some counsel
You were hurried too much to say;

The loving touch of the hand,
A gentle and winsome tone,
That you had no time nor thought for,
With troubles enough of your own.

The little acts of kindness,
So easily out of mind;
Those chances to be angels
Which every one may find

They come in night and silence
Each chill, reproachful wraith
When hope is faint and flagging
And a blight has dropped on faith.

So life is all too short,
And sorrow is all too great;
To suffer our great compassion
That tarries until too late;

So it's not the thing you do
It's the thing you leave undone,
Which drowns you with much heartache
At the setting of the sun.



**ACYOA Juniors
2013 Lenten Fish Dinners
are back again!
Every Wednesday during Great Lent**

March 6th and March 13th

March 20th - LOBSTER DINNER!!

Dinners will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 pm

Donation \$10.00/adult

\$5.00/child (fish or grilled cheese)

Please make your reservations in advance with the

Church Office (248) 569-3405

Lobster Dinner (March 20th only) Donation is \$20.00

LENTEN VIGIL SERVICE AT 7:00 PM

IN THE SANCTUARY FOLLOWING DINNER

CHURCH SCHOOL FUNDRAISING DURING LENT

During the period of Great Lent, our Church School students have a special project which will teach them the importance of helping others by collecting donations for the Diocesan-wide Church School Lenten Drive which will benefit:

Relief for Syrian Armenians—The need is ongoing and the crisis is not over. Thousands of Armenians are facing dangers, food shortages, and extreme wartime conditions in Syria.

Tovuz Village Day Care Center in Armenia—Children aged 3-6 are looked after in a day care setting that provides two small meals per day, beds and bedding for rest, love and psychological support in a sub-standard building without water and electricity. We can help Tovuz villagers renovate their day care center and provide healthy meals.

When you are approached by a Church School student with a Lenten Canister, please give generously.

**St. John Armenian Church
18th ANNUAL LENTEN RETREAT SEMINAR**

Sponsored in part by the Yeretzgin Rosalie Papazian Endowment Fund

Saturday, March 23, 2013

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

St. John's Cultural Hall

The Face of Lazarus: Faith, Healing & Revival



Guest Speaker: Very Rev. Father Daniel Findikyan

Director, Zohrab Information Center
Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church, New York

**DONATION: \$15 INCLUDES ALL MATERIALS, CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH. TO REGISTER, CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 248-569-3405 BY MARCH 18TH . PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
ST. JOHN ARMENIAN CHURCH (MEMO: RETREAT)
22001 NORTHWESTERN HWY, SOUTHFIELD, MI 48075**

LENTEN SERIES: THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS—Part III

During Great Lent, we reflect on this season of penance and spiritual renewal and think more deeply upon the Sacrament of Confession and the seven great sins we acknowledge. We ask God to forgive and restore us to his grace and communion from the actions of **Pride, Envy, Anger, Sloth, Covetousness, Gluttony and Lust.**

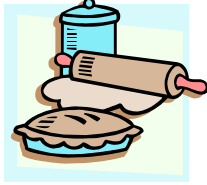
5. Greed - in Armenian *Akahootiun*.

The economic engine of our nation, and indeed the world, depends upon a constant sense of discontent that motivates each consumer to desire more, and more and more. At Christmas time we hear *I have to have...for Christmas, or I need* People's securities, bankbooks and wallets are depleted by a world consumerism, the tempting ploy of Satan who said to Adam and Eve ... *If you want it you can have it...you deserve it; it's all yours. TAKE IT.* Greed—perhaps a fear of being poor - has become the seed of theft and a cause for physical and spiritual death, which can happen and very often does when we fall into the trap of this sin. When can we say we have enough? Greed tempts us to move our focus from people to things. It's when you reach old age that you realize that you do have enough - maybe TOO MUCH. Try to clean your house of the excess you save over the years. How many TVs do you need, how many computers, how many cars, how many, how much and why? *Consider the lilies of the fields*, Jesus says, *My Father will provide for them.* Will Christ our Lord not provide for you?

6. Gluttony - in Armenian *Vogramolootiun*

Every year the 'big gulp' drinks and super-size French fries get bigger and bigger, as do our waistlines. We as a nation are just beginning to see this happen. The other day I was at Cosco and asked for a small drink to go with my pizza, and the girl handed me one huge cup. I said 'small please' and she answered we only have one size - BIG. Did you know that currently 64 % of Americans are overweight, with half of the % qualifying for obese. Their health is at risk, danger for the heart, high cholesterol, and high blood pressure. And then of course there is the TV program, *The Big Loser*. If only our spirituality was as BIG as our Pride to look good and be in shape, the weightiness of the flesh and human passion of gluttony, then just imagine what a healthy *soul* you would have. Remember - When we, like weakened and tempted Adam and Eve, choose to want it all and never think of the consequences of our actions, then we lose to sin. We need to be always on guard not to breathe in that stench and sour smell of the Devil in his disguise, rather the aroma and fragrance of Christ.

WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS



Armenian Baked Goods will be available for purchase after worship today.

Winter Baking continues on **Tuesday, March 5th at 9 am** in the church kitchen. Charlene Apigian and Marianne Dardarian will lead us in making ***Cheoreg***. We will continue with Winter Baking every Tuesday until Holy Week. Everyone is welcome. For questions contact Marianne Dardarian at 248-661-0617.

Moms and Manoogs meet for social interaction and fun activities. Our meeting days are flexible and we'd love to have you and your Manoogs join our group. For more information contact Kristen Gustafson at kristeng@outlook.com or 248-765-0471.

Knitting Club – Join us on **Thursday, March 21st from 10:00-12:00 Noon**. Please contact Linda Assarian at 248-332-0816 if you are interested in participating.



A Royal Luncheon -Saturday May 18, 2013 - Save the date for a special event as the Women's Guild presents an elegant lunch and program.

*The Women's Guild invites you to become a member.
For information please call Terry Palaian, 313-929-0926.*

Women's Guild Best-Selling Cookbook

ARMENIAN CUISINE – PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

is available in our Church Bookstore.
This beautifully photographed hard cover cookbook includes all festival recipes, as well as hundreds of kitchen-tested Armenian favorites from our community.

\$25.00

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 departing 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

*Orhnetseets uzDer hamenayn zham, hamenayn 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