

## 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 8, 2009 - THE ARMENIAN YEAR OF 1457  
SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON- ԱՆԱՌԱԿԻ ԿԻՐԱԿԻ**

**CELEBRANT: REV. FR. HRACH SARGSYAN**

**THE LORD'S DAY - SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP**

*Ժամերգութեան ժամանակացոյց*

*Morning Service - Առաւօտեան ժամերգութիւն.....9:00 am*

*Lenten Divine Liturgy - Սուրբ Պատարագ .....10:00 am*

*Sunrise Service - Արեւազայի ժամ.....11:00 am*

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

Next Week – Isaiah 56:1-57:21, Ephesians 4:17-5:14, Luke 16:1-31

**LECTOR: Lisa Bahm**

**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.

**IF you would like to sign up for Armenia Build.  
please contact Jackie Elchemmas (248)762-1312**

## NOTICE

Church School Bike-a-thon Committee will meet today in the Conference Room opposite the museum right after church.

### DAY BY DAY . . . AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAY, MARCH 26 AT NOON

Bible Study Leader: Yerezgin Roberta

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

### Tracking Our "Treasures"

Plate Donations

Candle Donations

Sunday, March 1

\$244.00

\$158.00

### AT THE PARISH BOOKSTORE

**NEW: GATES OF CONSTANTINOPE** by Garo Lacinian  
Photographs of ancient Byzantine structures surrounding  
Constantinople with translation of Greek & Latin  
inscriptions - Softcover - \$65.00

Proceeds to benefit St. John's & Terchoonian Home for  
Orphans in Gumri, Armenia

**SILVER JERUSALEM CROSSES - \$20.00**

**GOMIDAS SONGS** by Isabel Bayrakdarian - \$20.00

**WHAT WILL YOU REMEMBER?** by Elise Papazian - \$20.00

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

**YOUR JOURNEY INTO ARMENIA** by George Mouradian - \$12.00

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Tuesday, March 10 – SENIOR LUNCH - Noon

Wednesday, March 11 – ACYOA Lenten Fish Dinner-5:30 pm

Thursday, March 12 – Komitas Choir Rehearsal-7:00 pm

Saturday, March 14 – ANNUAL LENTEN RETREAT-9:30 am – 3 pm

Sunday, March 15 – SUNDAY OF THE UNJUST STEWARD

MATINS AT 9:00 am DIVINE LITURGY AT 10:00 am

SUNRISE SERVICE AT 11:00 am

### THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

It is more important to know where you are going than to get there quickly – do not mistake activity for achievement.

## GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

A gift to the church is presented in memory of James and Irene Baharozian, by Olga Boloyan of Lake Wylie, South Carolina.

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Robert Ajemian

Steven Bear (CA)

Margaret Jamgochian

Valeriy Bagdasarian

Gregory Derderian

Walter Negosian

## FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE LORD

We offer prayers for the servants of God  
who entered their eternal rest this past week.

**LUCY TORIGIAN**

**SOORAN YAVRUIAN**

May Christ our Lord shed His eternal light upon their souls.

## TODAY'S GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-32

And he said, "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. (continued on next page)

"Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

#### **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.*

**TODAY, 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.

**NEXT WEEK, THE SUNDAY OF THE UNJUST STEWARD** relates how a household steward makes his master's debtors grateful to him by reducing their bills. The master praises him for looking out for himself. A strange story unless we read carefully, for we are being asked to be clever and use the things of this world not for ourselves but for God's glory.

#### **Fund Raising During the Lenten Season**

"ALMSGIVING" means to do a good deed. Our children should emulate the great benefactors of our parish by offering their help in the spirit of love and compassion to those who do not enjoy the same comforts as they 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.

#### **LENTEN PRAYER**

**○ Lord and Master of my life,  
Take from the spirit of sloth, faint-heartedness,  
Lust of power and idle talk but  
Grant to me instead the spirit of charity,  
compassion and love for humankind.  
You ○ Lord and King, first, let me see my own  
sinfulness and not be a judge to others,  
And remember me, like the Prodigal Son. Amen**

#### **UPCOMING WOMEN'S GUILD EVENTS**

##### **CHEOREG AND SOU BEOREG ON SALE TODAY**

**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, 10am–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.

## THE MEANING OF LENT: ARE YOU READY?

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.

## YOU CAN HELP...

In a recent issue of the *Torchbearer*, the pastor called for parishioners with online access to advise the church office of their e-mail address so that St. John's may develop a more timely and efficient means to circulate news and information to the parish. Your e-mail address will not be shared with another third party, and it will be grouped in a blind address not visible to anyone else. This will help the church greatly reduce printing and mailing costs.

## THE TORCHBEARER

As many of you may be aware, there will some changes in the *Torchbearer*. The format will change from a magazine to a newsletter. It will be published 10 times a year with a special Annual Memorial Yearbook in January. The next issue, the first for 2009, will be published online and may be viewed and downloaded from the church web site:

[stjohnsarmenianchurch.com](http://stjohnsarmenianchurch.com)

## EVENTS sponsored by CSAI at AGBU School

Friday, March 27, 8 pm: LECTURE on Bedors Tourian  
Guest Speaker Msgr. Andon Atamian

Saturday, March 28, 7:30 pm: LENTEN DINNER  
RSVP before March 23 to Grace Karougian  
(248) 661-2776

## ACYOA Juniors Lenten Fish Dinners Wednesdays during Great Lent

March 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 11 - GUEST 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

**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**

**AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-DEARBORN,  
BERKOWITZ GALLERY, THIRD FLOOR OF THE  
MARDIGIAN LIBRARY**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 2 in the Berkowitz Gallery,**

**7:00 pm Refreshments**

**7:30 pm Presentations & Discussion**

Featured Speakers:

**Samuel Totten**, The University of Arkansas

**“Confronting the Scourge of Genocide: From Knowledge to Action”**

and

**Roger Smith**, College of William and Mary

**“Should We Teach About Genocide? And If So, What Should We Teach?”**

**PLEASE RSVP BY MARCH 27, 2009 TO: 313-593-5236 or by email  
at: library-event-rsvp@umd.umich.edu**

Sponsored by: The Voice/Vision Holocaust Survivor Oral History Archive (UM-Dearborn), The Armenian Research Center (UM-Dearborn), The Armenian Studies Program (UM-Ann Arbor), The Cohn-Haddow Center for Judaic Studies (Wayne State University) and The Mardigian Library (UM-Dearborn)

**IN OUR COMMUNITY. . .**

**Programs Honoring Lady Caroline Cox**

Recently Lady Cox was appointed to a permanent visitor professorship at Oakland University. In this capacity, she will be championing the Armenian cause through various avenues, including teaching.

To honor her humanitarian efforts for Armenia and Karabagh, Oakland University will establish a *Chair of Global Studies* and will sponsor a number of programs related to her ministry for Research and Education Advocacy for Children's Health (REACH). These programs will ultimately benefit Armenia and Karabagh.

The following programs will take place, which are open to the general public. The local Armenian community are invited to take part.

**April 21 3:00-5:00 pm Reception/TEA at St. John's sponsored by the Daughters of Vartan**

**April 22 6:00-10:00 pm Institute Dinner Honoring Lady Cox at Meadow Brook Hall of Oakland University**

**April 23 3:00-4:00 pm Public Lecture at Meadow Brook Hall**

**For questions, contact Dr. Robert Kachadourian (248) 310-7307**



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

**VARSENICK APKARIAN, 1<sup>st</sup> Year, Mother, Grandmother, Aunt,  
Khnamee, Friend**

Requested by Rick & Paulette Apkarian

Christopher & Kristen Vosbikian

Rich & Alexandra Apkarian

Dawn & David Karagosian & Family

Renee & Scott Apkarian & Family

Cynthia Apkarian

Lynne & Cary Kojamanian & Family

Jack & Lillian Kojamanian

Florence & Harry Karagosian

Fred, Jackie & Adam Klugman

Mirican & Anita Arslanian & Family

Rita Jury

Marie Vanerian

Azad & Minas Arslanian

Don, Carolyn & Anto Arslanian

Dawn, Nicole & Lyle Dadian

Dn. Mihran & Gayle Hoplamazian

**HERMAN MISIRLIYAN, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year, Husband, Father, Grandfather,**

Requested by Hilda Misirliyan

Roy, Nayiri, Sevan, Sarine & Ani Misirliyan

Dickran & Mona Kurjian, Alec & Vartan

Jacqueline & Mike Oknayan

Mr. & Mrs. Koko Oknayan & Family

Barur & Ardem Damlama

**SARAH BALIAN, 15<sup>th</sup> Year, Mother, Grandmother, Aunt, Khnamee**

Requested by Dr. Ed & Judy Balian (California)

Linda (Balian) & Tom Stamboulian

Tom Stamboulian Jr.

Charlie Stamboulian

Kristen Stamboulian

Garo Baligian

Anabell & Charles Stamboulian

Jim & Patricia Stamboulian

**AVEDIS TCHOLAKIAN, Father, Grandfather**

**PENTEZIAN DECEASED FAMILY MEMBERS**

**HANOYAN DECEASED FAMILY MEMBERS**

Requested by Arsen, Shoghig, Armen, Michael & Stepan Terjimanian

