

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.

REGULATION OF SACRAMENTAL SERVICES

In accordance with Diocesan discipline mandated by the Primate, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, all sacraments, e.g. funerals, weddings, baptisms and rites of Christian burial may only be administered in the church sanctuary, which has been consecrated for the celebration of these sacred rites.

St. John Armenian Church Festival
Thursday, October 1 – Sunday, October 4, 2009

Armenia ***Land Of Noah's Ark***

OUR THEME FOR THIS YEAR
Each week look for news of upcoming events
that pertain to this year's festival.

The Festival Committee invites you to a special raffle dinner

Spaghetti Dinner

Served in the main hall of St. John Armenian Church
Wednesday, May 20, 2009, 5:30 pm
\$6.00 per person

Includes: Spaghetti with choice of Meat or
Tomato-Basil Sauce, or Buttered Noodles, Salad,
Bread, Dessert, Pop & Coffee

This year's big raffle tickets are \$50.00 Get your raffle tickets
before the dinner. Sale starts this Sunday after church
Only 320 - \$50.00 tickets will be sold!!!

Please call for dinner reservations 248-569-3405

Other raffle dinner dates - all on Wednesdays
June 17, July 22, Aug. 19, Sept. 16

DAY BY DAY . . . AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY
THURSDAY, MAY 21 AT NOON
FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY IN OBSERVANCE OF THE
FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD - HAMPARTZOOM
Bible Study Leader: Yeretzgin Roberta
Bring your Bible and lunch, we will provide the coffee.

Tracking Our "Treasures" - Sunday, May 10

Plate Donations of the Day \$356.00
Candle Donations of the Day \$114.00

AT THE PARISH BOOKSTORE

NEW: REFLECTIONS OF MY CHILDHOOD -Mangootyan Hoosherus
 A collection of traditional Armenian children's songs, rhymes & poetry
 with CD by Houry Yapoujian Schmeizl - \$28.00

NEW: 14K ARMENIAN BIBLE CHARM INSCRIBED WITH THE
"HAYR MER" - \$200.00

NEW: THE PEOPLES OF ARARAT by Armen Asher &
Teryl Minasian Asher – SC - \$16.00

SILVER JERUSALEM CROSSES - \$20.00
GOMIDAS SONGS – CD - 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, May 19 – Senior Lunch – RC – Noon
Annual Town Meeting – 7:00 pm
Wednesday, May 20 – Raffle Spaghetti Dinner - 5:30 pm
Thursday, May 21 – Divine Liturgy – 10:30 am
Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord - Hampartzoom
Sunday, May 24–Morning Service–9am; Divine Liturgy–9:45 am
Second Palm Sunday

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

The gift of happiness belongs to those who unwrap it.

Sunday Bulletin
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St. John's Mission Statement

The Parish of St. John's Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church is a fellowship of Christians committed to proclaiming Christ's Gospel of salvation through worship, education, witness, service and a common life in Christ as expressed in the distinctive faith-experience and heritage of the Apostles and of our ancestors. We invite the faithful to know God through Evangelism, to educate God's people through Discipleship and to demonstrate God's love through Service.

May 17, 2009 - ARMENIAN CHURCH YEAR 1458
APPARITION OF THE HOLY CROSS
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THE LORD'S DAY-SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP

Ժամերգութեան ժամանակացոյց
 Morning Prayers - Առաւօտեան ժամերգութիւն.....9:00 am
 Divine Liturgy - Սուրբ Պատարագ9:45 am

SACRED LECTIONS OF THE LITURGY

Today – Acts 20:17-38, 1 John 3:2-6, John 9:39-10:10
 Next Week – Acts 23:12-25, 1 John 5:13-21, John 12:12-23

LECTOR: Edward H. Korkoian

USHERS: Peter Argnian, Mickey Amboyan, Vince Baylerian,
 Mike Boucher, Paul Andonian, Jerry Dayinian

KOMITAS CHOIR STUDENT DIRECTOR:
ANNA MAMASSIAN

Directing the Choir this morning is Sunday School Senior, graduating today, Ms. Anna Mamassian. Anna has attended the Junior Choir Leadership Program of the Diocese during the past two years and has learned the musical fundamentals and the proper directing techniques of the Armenian *Badarak*.

TODAY’S GOSPEL: John 9:39-10:10

And Jesus said, “For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.” And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, “Are we blind also?” Jesus said unto them, “If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, ‘We see; therefore your sin remaineth.’ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Yeretzgin Patricia Dagley	Valeriy Bagdasarian
Steven Bear (CA)	Paul Derderian
Margaret Jamgochian	Nora March
Jack Hagop Papazian	Lucy Fundukian

SPECIAL BLESSING TABLES The sanctuary is in need of three special wooden tables for conducting blessing services and distributing Holy Communion. The design of tables will be similar to the candle table in the lobby, and the same fabricator will be used to design these new tables with traditional Armenian motifs and designs. If you are interested in contributing toward this project please speak with the pastor

LAST CHANCE TO PICK UP YOUR FREE COPY For those due-paid church members who have not picked up their free copy of "Skylark Farm," copies will be available after worship today. After today, the book will be available at the Parish Bookstore to members and non-members for \$10.00, a reduction from the original price of \$14.95.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
YOUTH HOME IMPROVEMENT BLITZ**

This event scheduled for Saturday, June 6, is designed to allow young people ages 14-18 to contribute to the mission and work of Habitat for Humanity in Pontiac. Projects include landscaping of Habitat homes and headquarters, clearing lots for future habitat homes, painting shelves and trim for future Habitat homes, and assembling birdhouses and bird feeders for Habitat homeowners.

Each youth is asked to bring \$15 to help defray the cost of building materials and supplies. All volunteers will need to wear construction-appropriate clothing and footwear, and no open-toed shoes. Work gloves and tools will be supplied.

Each youth will need to bring:

- Completed liability waiver
- Bag lunch
- Refillable water bottle
- \$15

If you are interested, please contact Roseann or Lisa.

GRADUATES...GRADUATES...GRADUATES!

We are proud of the achievements of our youth as they pass the various milestones of their educational life. The *Torchbearer* will showcase our parish’s high school and university graduates in an upcoming issue. If you would like your son or daughter to be included, please submit information and photos to the church office as soon as possible, or via e-mail to: mkafafian@sjachurch.org.

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS AND PARENTS
The Armenian Renaissance Association Sophia Chapter has released 2009 scholarship guidelines. See lobby carousel. ALSO, Diocesan scholarship applications can be downloaded from armenianchurch.net.

**THE PARISH OF ST. JOHN ARMENIAN CHURCH
CONGRATULATES THE FOLLOWING GRADUATES
OF OUR CHURCH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2009**

Arts of Armenia Full Page

Kathleen Couyoumjian

(will attend Dennison College in Ohio)

Tia Dmuchowski

(will attend Berekeley College of Music in Boston)

Tanya Dmuchowski**

(will attend Berkeley College of Music in Boston)

Brittany Durham

(will attend Schoolcraft College)

Ryan Gregory

(will attend Michigan State University)

Katie Kalajian*

(will attend Central Michigan University)

Anna Mamassian

(will attend Central Michigan University)

Allison Pochas

(will attend Oakland University)

* Valedictorian

** Salutatorian

A Bell Choir at St. John's???

St. John's Musical Director is forming a Bell Choir here at St. John's for ages 11-16. If you have a good sense of rhythm and some basic music skills, please contact Deacon Rubik for more information at 248.569.3405 or rubik@sjachurch.org

CHURCH SCHOOL GRADUATION TEA

**All are invited to join us in the Cultural Hall
for a tea honoring our Church School graduates.**

**We thank Barbara Gumushian and her committee for
organizing today's Graduation Tea.**

UPCOMING WOMEN'S GUILD EVENTS

SUMMER BAKING FOR FESTIVAL 2009 (BAZAAR) will begin Tuesday, June 2, at 9 a.m. Dolly Matoian is chairing the making of *Kharpert Kufteh*. Help will also be needed on the three following **Tuesdays, June 9, 16, and 23.** Come help and have fun as "Many hands make light work!" **EVERYONE IS WELCOME! YOU NEED NOT BE A WOMEN'S GUILD MEMBER TO PARTICIPATE.**

Reminder to Women's Guild members... Book club will meet on Wednesday, May 27, at 7 p.m., to discuss Three Cups of Tea, by Greg Mortenson. Copies of the book are available at area libraries, book stores, and possibly Costco.

Calling all Women's Guild Members – Plan on attending our June Membership/Initiation/Awards Dinner on Wednesday, June 3, at 6 p.m. Meet and greet our new members, and join us in honoring those who have given ten to fifty years of service to our Church through their tireless devotion to the Women's Guild. Please call Anita Kachadurian – 248-669-8769 for reservations.

*The Women's Guild invites you to join our membership...
For more information, please call Linda Assarian,
248-332-0816.*

WOMEN'S GUILD TIGERS OUTING, JUNE 20

All are welcome to join the Women's Guild for a fun afternoon at Comerica Park watching Detroit Tigers vs Milwaukee Brewers, Saturday, June 20. Cost \$30 includes bus and ticket. Bus leaves St. John's parking lot at 2:00 p.m. Game time is 4:05 p.m. Bus returns to St. John's by 8:00 p.m. Families and friends are invited to join in a fun day at the ball park. Seats are located in the lower level left field. For reservations call Joyce Obenhoff 586-754-3984. Hurry. Tickets are limited.

FEAST OF HOLY ASCENSION HAMPARTZOOM THURSDAY, MAY 21

The Feast of Holy Ascension marks the ascent of our Lord Jesus Christ into heaven on the 40th day after his glorious Resurrection. The timing is clearly specified in the Acts of the Apostles, where it is stated that Christ presented himself alive to the Apostles, "appearing to them during forty days and speaking of the kingdom of God" (Acts 1:3).

On the 40th day, after he finished speaking to the Apostles, "as they were looking on, he was lifted and a cloud took him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9). The Gospel according to Mark sums up the same story as follows: "So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God" (Mark 16:19). The same account is also in the Gospel according to Luke, "While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven" (Luke 24:51). There are also several references to this event in some of the other books of the New Testament.

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2009, 10:30 AM

**DIVINE LITURGY WILL BE CELEBRATED
BY FATHER DIRAN PAPAIZIAN**

FOLLOWED BY DAY BY DAY BIBLE STUDY GROUP

EASTERTIDE: The Sacred Period that follows Easter
The 50-day period from Easter Sunday to the Sunday of Pentecost (May 31) is called Eastertide (or Quinquagesima). The first 40 days of Eastertide culminate with the Feast of the Ascension on May 21.

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, May 19 - Town Hall Meeting, 7:00 pm

Wednesday, May 20 - Raffle Spaghetti Dinner

Thursday, May 21 - Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - *Hampartzoom*. Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 10:30 am; Day by Day Bible Study at Noon

Monday, May 25 - Memorial Day - See Grave Blessing schedule on separate page

Sunday, May 31 - Pentecost / *Hokekalousd*

Wednesday, June 17 - Raffle Spaghetti Dinner

**Saturday, June 27 - A NIGHT OF WORLD MUSIC
See full page announcement elsewhere in this Bulletin**

Wednesday, July 22 - Raffle Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, August 16 - ANNUAL PICNIC

Wednesday, August 19 - Raffle Spaghetti Dinner

Wednesday, September 16 - Raffle Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, September 20 - Dinner Honoring Edgar Hagopian

Thursday, October 1 through, Sunday, October 4 - FESTIVAL (BAZAAR) ARMENIA: LAND OF NOAH'S ARK

Saturday, October 10 - AGBU High School Opening

Saturday, November 28 - ACYOA November Dance

Wednesday, December 2-Women's Guild Advent by Candlelight

Sunday, December 20 - Church School Christmas Program

Thursday, December 24 - Western Christmas Eve

Mariam Matossian

Full page

ST. JOHN ARMENIAN CHURCH SUMMER DAY CAMP 2009

St. John's is pleased to offer once again a Summer Day Camp for children ages 5-12. The program consists of: Arts & crafts, Sports Activities: Field Trips, Roller Hockey, Picnics, Armenian Baking, Swimming and more!

St. John's Day Camp is a wonderful opportunity for our children to get acquainted with other Armenian children, to learn about their heritage and to share in the exciting experience of summer day camp. If you require further information or have questions, contact Lisa Mardigian at 248.569.3405 or lmardigian@sjachurch.org

2009 CAMP SESSIONS*

Session 1: June 15-19

Session 2: June 22-26

NO CAMP June 29-July 3
(due to holiday)

Session 3: July 6-10

Session 4: July 13-17

Session 5: July 20-24

Session 6: July 27-31

NO CAMP AUGUST 3-7
(due to Midwest Hye Camp)

Session 7: August 10-14

DEPENDING ON ENROLLMENT

***Sessions are Monday through Friday**

Ages: 5 to 12 PLACE: St. John's Recreation Center

TIME: Check-in 9:00 – 9:30 am; Dismissal at 4:00 pm

FEE: \$125.00 per week (Discount for second child)

Fee includes supplies, refreshments, camp t-shirt, picnics, bi-weekly field trips and transportation to field trips. Parents must provide a sack lunch.

2009 BIKE-A-THON: A Great Success!

Our bikers and their parents were blessed by a bright day of sun at Hines Park on Saturday, May 9 to launch this year's fundraiser for OUR HOME-MER DOON. More than 40 bikers each rode 12 miles along the Hines Park trail and raised over five thousand dollars. Special commendations go to Sevan and Sarine Misirliyan who, together, raised \$1,860.00.

On behalf of the Church School, Mer Doon, and the Bike-a-thon Committee, I would like to thank everyone who participated and supported our Bike-A-Thon. We could not have done it without your support and dedication. We are all very proud of the young ladies and gentlemen who chose to ride and work for a wonderful charity. You should all be very proud of your accomplishment!

It truly was a success and a fun day for all. For those who were not able to join us, don't worry, there is always next year. We look forward to riding and/or working with you!

Roseann Attar
Senior High Coordinator

What is MER DOON?

Established in Armenia in October 2006 in the city of Etchmiadzin, Mer Doon is a project which allows a more permanent solution to the continuing needs of young women over the age of 18 years.

The young women who live in residence at the Mer Doon home are from one of six orphanages in Armenia or from a disadvantaged background. At Mer Doon, they receive upper level education, training for business careers, and a comfortable home shared with other intelligent and motivated young women.

Mer Doon is headed by Mrs. Julie Ashekian, a previous director of CASP.

