# THE TORCHBEARER $\cdot \Omega$ which have $\Omega$ and $\Omega$

St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit 22001 Northwestern Highway • Southfield, MI 48075 248.569.3405 (phone) • 248.569.0716 (fax) • *www.stjohnsarmenianchurch.org* The Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian, *Pastor* 

Clergy residing within the St. John parish and community: The Reverend Father Diran Papazian, Pastor Emeritus The Reverend Father Abraham Ohanesian Deacon Rubik Mailian, Director of Sacred Music and Pastoral Assistant Ms. Margaret Lafian, Organist



## WOMEN'S GUILD: POON PAREGENTAN A GREAT SUCCESS!



The sounds of Armenian music filled the Cultural Hall. The superb musicians from Philadelphia and Detroit created music enjoyed by all of the guests. A delicious buffet dinner was provided by Gary Reizian of Uptown Catering. The meal was complimented with appetizers and a sweet table prepared by our own dedicated members. Decorations in purple, green and gold with colorful masks added to the Mardi Gras theme of the event. Congratulations to chairman Joyce Obenhoff and her committee for undertaking this tremendous affair. Committee members included, Women's Guild Chairman Linda Stamboulian, Marianne Dardarian, Charlene Goshgarian, Diane Khatchaturian, Gloria Korkoian, Linda Lutz, Nora Noraian, Carol Ohanesian, Marilyn Sarkesian, and Deborah Zazaian.

Easter is just around the corner and we are busy baking for the upcoming Palm Sunday Bake Sale. Everyone is welcome to join us every Tuesday in St.

John's kitchen from 9:00 am until noon as

we prepare delicious Armenian pastries including: *Cheoreg, Khalkha, Beoregs, Nazoog, Simit, Bourma, Katah and Sou Beoreg.* Please join us on Tuesday and be sure to stop by our sales table every Sunday after services leading up to Palm Sunday to purchase some of your family's favorites.

The weather has been a challenge this winter. Our February luncheon meeting was rescheduled after another polar vortex snow storm hit Detroit. Sue Vian was featured as our guest speaker. She did a wonderful detailed demonstration on making pies. Pam Dayinian prepared a different assortment of quiches and a salad for the lunch. Sue graciously served her pies for dessert



along with other donated desserts. Thank you to Sue, Pam and our members for their perseverance.



On January 11, 2014 members Marianne Dardarian, Linda Stamboulian, Denise Karakashian, Judy Hovnan and Linda Tiffany joined members of the St. John Armenian Church Komitas Choir on a visit to Manoogian Manor. We thank Father Garabed for officiating the beautiful Blessing of Water Service and Holy Communion.

Pictured above, left: Committee members Marilyn Sarkesian (reservation chairman) and Marianne Dardarian (raffle co-chair) welcome guests. *Right:* Women's Guild Chairman Linda Stamboulian and Event Chairman Joyce Obenhoff are all smiles. *Bottom left*: Musician and oud player Greg Nigosian - *Nora Noraian* -

## THE GREAT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP ԱՒԱԳ ՇԱԲԹՈՒԱՑ ԺԱՄԱՆԱԿԱՑՈՑՑ

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 13 - PALM SUNDAY - Omphungung

Morning Service / Առաւօտեան ժամերգութիւն Opening of the Doors - Դռնբացէ <i>ը – Trnpatsek</i> Church School Procession with Palms / Divine Liturgy	8:45 am 9:45 am
Թափօր Կիրակնօրեայ Աշակերտութեան՝ Արմաւենիներով / Ս. Պատարագ	10:15 am

The children of the Church School will gather in the Main Lobby where Father Garabed with deacons and choir will celebrate the traditional *Trnpatsek* - Opening of the Doors. Upon conclusion, all will enter the church in procession. For those attending morning service, please be aware to join the children in the lobby for this special service.

The ACYOA Seniors present "Ayo! Local Solutions to Local Challenges," an interactive demonstration by guest speaker Andre Berg of new charity Ayo! at their annual Palm Sunday fellowship following the Divine Liturgy.

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 15 - GREAT AND HOLY TUESDAY - ULUH BUB PEREMUAR

**Remembering the Wise and Foolish Virgins** – *Bh2umuuh Suulu Yncuuluugu* 

Vespers / Երեկոյեան Ժամերգութիւն Refreshments will be served in the Main Lobby after the service.	7:30 pm		
ΤΗ∨RSDAY, APRIL 17 - GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY – <b>Աւագ Հինգ₂աբβի</b>			
Divine Liturgy commemorating the Last Supper - Fr. Abraham Ohanesian, Celebrant Washing of the Feet / Ուոքվուայ / Vodnluva Betrayal and Passion of Our Lord / Խաւարում / Khavaroom	10:00 am 7:30 pm 8:30 pm		
FRIDAY, APRIL 18 - GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY – Աւագ Ուրբաթ			
Order of the Crucifixion of Christ –կարգ Խաչելու թեան Քրիստոսի The Entombment of Our Lord Jesus Christ – Կարգ Թաղման Քրիստոսի	11:30 am 7:30 pm		
SATORDAY, APRIL 19 - GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY – <b>Աւադ Շարաթ</b> Divine Liturgy & Family Service, Holy Communion & Easter Eve Supper			
Reading of Scriptures / Ընթերցումներ Divine Liturgy / <i>Ս. Պատարադ</i>	4:00 pm 5:00 pm		
A complimentary Easter supper will be served to all children by the Church School. Adults - \$18.00 RSVP (Tables Only) - Alberta Godoshian - 248.476.4638. Տօնական ընթրիք պիտի սպասարկուի Կիրակնօրեայ Դպրոցի կողմէ։ Մուտքի Նուէր \$18.00 -Աշակերտներու` ձրի			
SUNDAY, APRIL 20 - EASTER SUNDAY THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD & SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST UNTOP BT 2017UTUTUTION BUANTION BUANT			
Morning Service / Առաւօտեան Ժամերգութիւն Divine Liturgy / Ս. Պատարագ	9:00 am 9:45 am		
The Blessing of the Four Corners of the Earth - Antasdan - will take place in the sanctuary immediately after			

he Blessing of the Four Corners of the Earth - *Antasdan* - will take place in the sanctuary immediately after the Divine Liturgy. Then all are invited to Easter Tea prepared by the Women's Guild.

> Ս. Պատարագէն յետո` Անդաստանի արարողութիւնը պիտի կատարուի որմէ ետջ Տիկնանց Միութիւնը պիտի սպասարկէ Զատկուայ Թէյասեղան մը:

No requiems will be offered on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Հոգեհանգիստները Ծաղկաղարդին եւ Զատիկին ղանց առնուած են:

#### FASTING FOR HOLY COMMUNION

In accordance with Armenian Church Canon Law, all church members should receive the sacrament of Holy Communion on Easter. For persons in good health, it is necessary to fast, abstain from food and participate in the sacrament of Confession before receiving Holy Communion. For those of ill health who are on special medication, a light breakfast is permitted. For the evening *Badarak*, fasting should begin after the midday meal and continue until the evening *Badarak* has been celebrated.

#### YUGHAKIN - EASTER OFFERING

It is the pious tradition in the Armenian Church to make a special offering to our parish home for the perpetuation of religious and educational programs as well as charitable deeds to be offered in the name of our Saviour. With the enclosed *Yughakin* offering envelope, we pray that you will respond to this special appeal and thereby keep alive and vibrantly burning the spiritual flame ignited by Christ and transmitted to us by our illustrious Illuminator Saint Gregory over 1700 years ago.

#### HOME BLESSINGS

Easter is the season to renew the sanctity and holiness of your home and family. Father Garabed would like to celebrate Easter and visit your home bringing the blessings of the Holy Resurrection. Please contact the church office at 248.569.3405 to schedule a day and time when he may visit. You should prepare a bowl of salt, cup of water and piece of bread on a tray for him to bless.

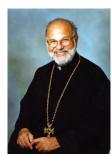
#### CANDLE DONATIONS FOR HOLY WEEK

Please contact the church office by Friday, April 4 for donations of candles. Your donation may be your personal gift to Christ to remember or honor a loved one.

### ՔՐԻՍՏՈՍ ՅԱՐԵԱՒ Ի ՄԵՌԵԼՈՑ ՕՐՀՆԵԱԼ Է ՅԱՐՈՒԹԻՒՆՆ ՔՐԻՍՏՈՍԻ

#### KREESDOS HARYAV EE MERELOTZ! ORHNIAL EH HAROOTYOONN KREESDOSEE!

CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD! BLESSED IS THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST!



### FROM FATHER GARABED'S DESK.....

There is a most compelling parable that Jesus tells in response to the Apostles when they asked for more faith. At first, the answer seems slightly baffling as Jesus says, "Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded?" Our Lord doesn't leave it there; he goes on and says, "So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves.'" Those words "ordered" and "worthless" have a different nuance when we really understand what Our Lord was getting at. His words were not harsh at all; rather they were for an everyday accounting of what discipleship and faith mean for us. They were a reminder of our servitude to Christ and serving others as well.

When we've done everything expected of us, a matter-of-fact response from us should be, 'The work is done. What we were told to do, we did, and, is there anything else to be done?" As a parish, a Christian community, and as faithful individuals in living out our faith, we should know in truth that <u>our work is really never done</u>. When we read the Gospel of our Lord and put all those lessons we learn from the life of Jesus 'into action' doing what we are called to do as he commands, then we become alive in Christ and are indeed Living *the Gospel of Christ*; we are living in ways however great and small that reveal Christ, God's Light of the World in our midst.

Think of it this way, if we weren't living out our faith in everyday moments, His light would be drained out of the world! We can't wait until the time when our lives are perfect and our ducks are all in a row to start *doing what we ought to have done* in everyday moments. Many people do exactly that; by putting off what should be done now, they miss some of the greatest opportunities and happiness in their lives. Because they are so consumed with the present, the real fulfilling, living experience of Christianity may never come to them. The greatest regret is NOT HAVING DONE what we could or should have done. Learning how to be Christ-like, and doing what we are called to do is not for later, but for NOW.

Simply put, for Christians, the Christian lifestyle is not one of waiting to do what is commanded, but one of starting now, for the sake of Jesus Christ and His love, by sharing Him with others and showing Him to others no matter who they are: believer or unbeliever. Serving Him is *Discipleship and Stewardship*. To be a Disciple and Steward is an honor, a gift from God, fulfilling one's call, so we can say, 'We have done only what we ought to have done!' I pray that the Lord and His Holy Spirit continues to guide us all to be and remain the *Living Gospel of Christ* for each other and to the world doing only what we all should do.'

~ Father Garabed

## SACRAMENTS

### **Baptisms and Christmations**

#### January 2014

14 Lauren Kendall Gillespie - Chrismation

#### February 2014

8 Christine Margaret - Adult Baptism Daughter of Jeff & Linda Heath Godfather: Doug Manoogian

> Adam Ahmad Chaaban - Adult Baptism Son of Muhiddine & Fatma Chaaban Godparents: Michael & Catherine Boucher

Charlotte Catherine Daughter of Adam & Faith Chaaban Godparents: Chad & Juliette Daniels

Armen Vahe Son of Ara & Rita Avedissian Godparents: Gregory Akaraz & Christina Bastajian

15 Lilyana Brook Daughter of James & Tina Schaffner Godparents: Adam & Amy Baylerian

#### March 2014

1 Diana Christina York - Chrismation

#### Weddings

#### February 2014

8 Adam Chaaban & Faith Boucher
*Khachyeghpayr*: Michael Boucher
Bestman: Chad Daniels
Maid of Honor: Juliette Daniels

### Funerals

### February 2014

- 9 George Hachikian Cross, 87, Woodlawn
- 17 Arthur Krikorian, 87, Woodlawn

### Marriages

Arrangements for weddings are to be made at least eight months in advance. Marriage preparation and counseling are required before the celebration of the sacrament. The Bestman (*Khachyeghpayr*) must be a member of the Armenian Orthodox Church. The parish office will make all necessary arrangements for the deacon, organist and soloist. Marriages are not celebrated during Great Lent.

### Baptisms and Chrismations

All baptisms must be scheduled at least two months in advance. Pre-baptismal preparation for the parents and godparents is required. At least one of the godparents must be a member of the Armenian Orthodox Faith.

### 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, can only be administered in the church sanctuary, which has been consecrated for the celebrations of these sacred rites.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are pleased to announce that our Parish will be visited by a Seminarian, Levon Asdourian from mid-July until approximately the end of August 2014.

Levon is a first year graduate student at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary. He was born in Philadelphia and grew up at Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church (Wynnewood, PA.) Levon received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the State University of New York at Purchase. He is enrolled in the joint Master of Divinity program at St. Nersess and St. Vladimir's Seminaries.

Levon grew up in an Armenian-speaking household and is fluent in Armenian. Before beginning at St. Nersess, he served in the United States Marine Corps and is a certified trainer. Levon trained the Youth Marine Corps physical fitness team for 10 years at his local high school in Philadelphia.

While he is with us Levon will be working closely with Der Garabed to better understand the daily responsibilities of a Parish Priest. In addition, Deacon Rubik will offer musical instruction. As our community is well known for our wonderful hospitality, we will schedule a reception when Levon arrives so that we can all welcome him to Michigan.

In the interim, the Parish Council is inquiring if you are interested in providing lodging and hosting Levon in your home during his stay, (about 6 weeks), providing a vehicle for his use, or contributing financially to help make his visit more meaningful. Please contact the Parish Administrator, Thomas Stamboulian Jr. at 248.569.3405 for more details. Thank you for your consideration.

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Building on FAR's successful medical education programs of the 1990's, the FAR Continuing Medical Education Program (CME) has for the past seven years given Armenia's doctors the opportunity to change the face of healthcare. This program makes it possible for physicians from Armenia's rural regions to spend one month in Yerevan and work with leading experts at top medical centers. This powerful program is generously supported by the FAR Board of Directors and friends. By providing opportunity and education to physicians, the broader effect is immense: healthy and empowered Armenians and a stronger Armenia.

In 2013, Dr. Gary Zamanigian from Bloomfield Hills, MI made a significant contribution to the program, allowing FAR to help even more people to improve their quality of life.

Fund for Armenian Relief, an organization founded following a devastating earthquake in 1988, has served hundreds of thousands of people through more than 225

relief and development programs in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh. It has channeled more than \$290 million in humanitarian and development assistance by implementing a wide range of projects including emergency relief, construction, education, medical aid, and economic development.

Pictured above: Dr. and Mrs. Gary and Mariann Zamanigian

A Celebration of Service MAY 17 & 18, 2014

Saturday, May 17 During Vesper Services His Eminence, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian Diocesan Primate will ordain twenty-one acolytes and candle bearers

Saturday, May 18 His Eminence will celebrate the Divine Liturgy and will ordain George Boyagian to Sub-Deacon

Following the Divine Liturgy the celebration continues with a luncheon honoring the recipients of THE DIOCESAN ST. VARTAN AWARD THE ST. JOHN THE FORERUNNER AWARD

> For additional information, please call the Church Office at 248.569.3405

## ACYOA JUNIORS RETREAT NEWS.....



The first of eight planned ACYOA Juniors retreats took place at St. John Armenian Church on the weekend of February 8-9. Participants included young people from St. John Church and St. Gregory of Narek Church of Richmond Heights, OH.

The retreat focused on the Diocesan theme "Living the Gospel of Christ." Presentations were made by the Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian, pastor of St. John Church; the Rev. Fr. Hratch Sargsyan, pastor of St. Gregory of Narek Church; and Jennifer Morris, the Diocese's director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

On Sunday, Fr. Sargsyan was the guest celebrant at St. John Church. Following the Divine Liturgy, the ACYOA Juniors hosted a presentation on the Diocesan summer camp programs and celebrated the 50th anniversary of Hye Camp.

Despite a Sunday morning snow storm on February 9th, a yearly tradition took place after celebrating the Divine Liturgy when Fr. Garabed invited parents with infants to come forward so their children could receive a special blessing.

Significant to remember, 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.

Impressed by the number of infants that have received this yearly blessing, this event has become a regular celebration of our parish. - Harry Avagian - On Tuesday, February 11, the Tuesday Lunch Club had the pleasure of a presentation from Eric Crisenbery on "Sleep and Aging." The fourteen attendees were made aware that there are two types of sleep: non-rapid eye movement and rapid eye movement. It was interesting to learn that we cycle through these two types of sleep approximately every 90 minutes. Older adults require seven to nine hours of sleep every night. Many of us have trouble falling to sleep at night, waking up many times each night, waking up early and unable to fall back to sleep, waking up and feeling tired, which are all symptoms of insomnia. Small lifestyle changes can help you sleep at night. You should also notify your doctor if you have these symptoms and he may be able to provide a solution to your problem.

Eric's next presentation will be in March. We hope to see you then and afterwords you can join us for lunch. Remember, a good night's rest will keep you healthy, wealthy and wise. - Daniel Cristiano -

## FATHER GARABED BLESSES STUDENTS AND NUSHKARS .....





On Sunday, February 2nd, Father Garabed blessed the students and the *Nushkars* presented to them from Ms. Sara Andonian's Kindergarten Class.

## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOYAL SPONSORS

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Therapeutic diets Medications, monitored and dispensed 
Podiatry services Medical care, x-ray, laboratory, visual/dental/hearing services Beauty/barber shop 
Daily activities and social hour Private pay & SSI (Medicaid) accepted Short Term and Long Term Respite Care Available hye on ho MANOOGIAN MANOR LUCINE TOROYAN TARMAN Assisted Living for Seniors REAL ESTATE SALES ASSOCIATE 15775 Middlebelt Road, Livonia, Michigan 48154 248.275.8944 | www.HyeOnHomes.com | lucine@hyeonhomes.com

### The Torchbearer Staff

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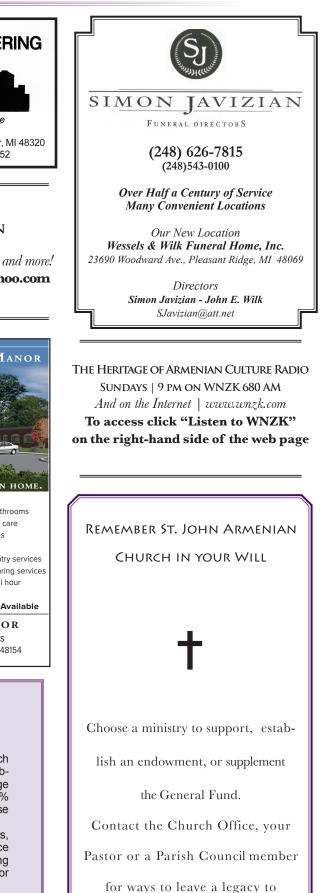
Fr. Garabed Kochakian, Editor-in-chief Julia Papiyants, Managing Editor, Copy & Layout; Harry Avagian, Mary Davidson, Diane Ekizian, May Kafafian, Dolly Matoian

We welcome your comments and suggestions, so please feel free to contact the Church Office so we may continue to improve the way we bring information to our parishioners, subscribers and the St. John community. If you would like to help defray printing and postage costs, and are computer savvy, please consider receiving your Torchbearer online as 10% of our readership already does. The added bonus is that it appears in color online! Please contact the Church Office.

If you would be interested in sponsoring an issue of The Torchbearer, that is, assuming the costs of producing one, please contact May Kafafian at the Church Office for further information. We also need volunteers who would be interested in helping prepare The Torchbearer for mailing. This occurs around the 25th of the month and for just a few hours. Again, please contact the Church Office.

We invite you to visit the St. John web site for up-to-date calendar information, the Sunday Bulletin, The Torchbearer, event information and links to internet sites of interest to our parishioners:

stjohnsarmenianchurch.org



your Church.

## PLEASE SAVE THE DATE ......

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## IN THE COMMUNITY .....

March 16	Fellowship "Thank You" Tea hosted by	Saturday, March 29, 2014, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm
19	The Fuller Center for Housing-Armenia ACYOA Fish Dinner; Lenten Vigil Service	19th Annual Lenten Retreat Seminar
26 29	ACYOA Fish Dinner; Lenten Vigil Service Annual Lenten Retreat & Seminar	Sponsored in part by the Yeretzgin Rosalie Papazian
	Guest Speaker: Dr. Vigen Guroian Topic: "The Rhythm of the Resurrection"	Endowment Fund
April		
2	ACYOA Fish Dinner; Lenten Vigil Service	
7	Annunciation of the Holy Mother-of-God	"The Rhythm of the Resurrection"
9	ACYOA Fish & Lobster Dinner; Vigil	
Service		Guest Speaker: Dr. Vigen Guroian, Theologian
13	Palm Sunday; Women's Guild Bake Sale ACYOA Day Luncheon	
15	Holy Tuesday: Remembrance of the Wise & Foolish Virgins	Professor, University of Virginia, Charlottesville
17	Holy Thursday: Divine Liturgy Feet Washing Service	In collaboration with:
	Betrayal & Passion of our Lord	Rev. Father Garabed Kochakian
18	Holy Friday, Order of the Crucifixion of Christ;	
	Entombment of our Lord	Destan Ct. John American Chumch and Art Historian
19	Holy Saturday: Reading of Scriptures,	Pastor, St. John Armenian Church and Art Historian
.,	Divine Liturgy, Easter Eve Supper	
20	Easter-The Glorious Resurrection of our Lord	Rev. Dn. Rubik Mailian
20	and Savior Jesus Christ	
	Easter Tea prepared by the Women's Guild	Director of Sacred Music, St. John Armenian Church
24	Armenian Martyrs Day Requiem Service (off site)	·
24	Armeman martyrs bay kequiem service (0) site)	Chairman of the Diocesan Department of Sacred Music
May		chairman of the Diocesan Department of Sacred Music
<b>May</b> 1-3	Annual Diocesan Assembly (offsite)	
4	Men's Society Pancake Breakfast	
	Church School Graduation & Tea	
11		Donation: \$15 includes all materials,
18	Celebration of Service Awards Dinner	
27	Last day of Church School	continental breakfast and lunch
26	Memorial Day - Complex Closed	
20	Grave Blessings at area cemeteries	
29	Holy Ascension - Hampartsoom	
		To register, phone the church office by March 24th
		248.569.3405

## Postmaster: Time sensitive material Southfield, MI 48075 22001 Northwestern Highway St. John Armenian Church