

THE TORCHBEARER • Ջահակիր

St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit

22001 Northwestern Highway • Southfield, MI 48075
248.569.3405 (phone) • 248.569.0716 (fax) • stjohnsarmenianchurch.com

The Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian ~ *Pastor*
The Reverend Father Diran Papazian ~ *Pastor Emeritus*
Deacon Rubik Mailian ~ *Director of Sacred Music and Pastoral Assistant*



SPRING - TIME FOR RENEWAL, REMEMBERING, LOOKING AHEAD....



Olympia Dukakis **Hove** Shirleyann Kaladjian
(The Wind)



Martyrs Day, Monday, April 25th

This year Easter falls on April 24th, therefore, the 96th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and the Remembrance of the Armenian Martyrs will be held on Monday, April 25th at St. John's. Worship and Requiem in the sanctuary will begin at 7:00 pm followed by Wreath Laying at the Martyrs Monument on the church grounds, and the traditional *Madagh* Dinner to be served at 8:00 pm in the Cultural Hall.

After dinner, the program will include the screening of a 12-minute film entitled "Hove" ("The Wind") starring Academy Award-winning actress Olympia Dukakis and Detroit native Shirleyann Kaladjian Webb.

We will be honored to have with us that evening the film's director, Alex Webb, an award-winning New York stage and film director, writer and actor, who will talk about the film and how it was made. Alex Webb is the recipient of the Panavision New Filmmaker Award. His first film, "The Girl in 2C," received a silver medal at WorldFest-The Houston International Film Festival, and was also seen at the acclaimed Clermont-Ferrand Festival in France. His script, "Welcome to L.A." was awarded Honorable Mention at Cinequest, a top ten film festival.

"Hove" co-star Shirleyann Kaladjian Webb will join her husband to present the film to our community. She has toured the U.S. in *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Cyrano de Bergerac*, and the Middle East and Eastern Europe in "Broadway Cabaret" sponsored by the U.S. Information Agency. In New York, she has appeared with the Aquila Theatre Company, Magnet Theatre and Upright Citizens Brigade. TV and film appearances include "Law and Order: SVU," John Waters' "A Dirty Shame," "The Girl in 2C" and "It's About My Brother" on IFC. She has also appeared in a variety of national commercials.

"Hove" has been an official selection at the Montreal, Palm Springs, Los Angeles, Boston, Palm Beach and Cleveland International Film Festivals. It has been selected by the esteemed educational organization Facing History to be used in classrooms across the U.S.

This short but compelling story, not to be missed, is our own. Reserve this date and join us!

Plan your events at St. John's!!!

Did you know that St. John Armenian Church is restructuring its catering venture? Not long ago the agreement with the former in-house catering company concluded. A committee was formed to evaluate catering services in our complex. The group meets nearly once a week and with parishioner input, has identified the major future goals of the catering operation. Parishioner needs will always take priority along with St. John Armenian Church organizations and other local Armenian groups. There are many advantages for St. John Armenian Church parishioners who host their social and other events in our complex. Of course, as the annual schedule permits, the public will continue to be served in one of the many beautiful rooms that can accommodate from 12 to 600 guests for dinners, business meetings, luncheons, weddings, and more. Most recently, the committee has conducted preliminary interviews with a variety of catering companies and industry professionals to select a permanent catering provider. In the interim, catering needs will continue to be met by our own resident professional staff. If you are planning an event, please click **catering** on the Church web site, <http://www.stjohnsarmenianchurch.com>. When you click on the pictures, you will find sample menus and all the details you need to plan a successful affair. You can also call the *St. John Armenian Church Catering Office* at 248.569.3446 for more information.

This issue reaches everyone in the St. John family and includes the Easter Worship Schedule. We hope you enjoy it.
Please take time to complete the form on page 2 so we may better serve you!

Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9 AM - 5 PM

After hours in an emergency, please contact: Pastor's Cell: 248.225.9888 • Administrator's Cell: 248.880.8391

APRIL 2011



FROM FATHER GARABED'S DESK.....

With Him we too, are Risen!!!

It is not too often that the Feast of Our Lord's Resurrection truly 'hits home' as it does this year in the very core of our people's hearts. Victory over death. The eternity of the soul and spirit.

This year April 24th is truly a significant celebration for the Armenian Church because it is both Easter and the Remembrance of the Martyrs of the Genocide in 1915. As Armenian Christians, the Resurrection is the very pulse and heartbeat of our faith. It is our hope of renewal, regeneration, rebuilding and our own resurrection when Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Since the dark and painful days of 1915, when on Easter Sunday, April 24th this horrific crime began, taking 1.5 million of our family away to death, until today and the dawning of a regenerated Armenian people, we have never let the death and destruction of the past prevent our eternal spirit of faith in Christ from being victorious. With Him our faith tramples the doors of hell.

Easter and the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus from death to life is that significant moment every year and especially this year with coinciding dates, when, in spite of what happened in 1915, we, as a Christian people revived and renewed, rise above the gates of hell, the powers of destruction, the forces of oppression, and in loving memory bring to life once again those who perished and sleep in the Lord. For them, we proclaim, "Christ is Risen from the Dead" and in Him is our return from the grave to eternal life.

As Jesus said to the Apostles,

***What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.
Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Christ is Risen.***

As we let Christ enter us and proclaim the joy of His return to life once again this year, we remember the Martyrs of 1915 and we believe. For all who rest we, the living, pray the words, "*Christ is Risen, Krisdos Haryav ee Merelots,*" so that He becomes the way we all enter eternity and remain forever a part of His Kingdom.

We celebrate that reality and that Easter is the faith of eternal life with God forever.

Blessed is the Resurrection Of Christ!

~ Father Garabed

Please take the time to complete the form below so we may better meet the needs of our parish family! Thank you!

THE TORCHBEARER • Զահակիր

Please check all that apply for your household in the form below and return to the Church Office. Thank you!

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Email _____ (Will not be shared)

- ☐ I would like to be included in an e-mail system that will bring me timely parish and community news, and notified when *The Torchbearer* or other documents can be accessed online. My e-mail address will be shielded from view as part of a group and not shared with anyone.
- ☐ I would like to receive *The Torchbearer* online as part of an effort to reduce printing and postage cost to the parish. I will be notified by email when the issue will be available.
- ☐ As a non-member of the parish, I would like to subscribe to *The Torchbearer* at a cost of \$30 year. I have included a check made payable to "St. John Armenian Church - *The Torchbearer*".
- ☐ I would like to be a professional or business sponsor of *The Torchbearer* or I have been an advertiser in the past. Please contact me with information. (*The Torchbearer* is published eleven times a year and is a valuable promotional tool as well as a way to support St. John's.)
- ☐ I would like to receive information on becoming a member of St. John's and/or becoming a Steward.
- ☐ I would like to make a donation to the success of *The Torchbearer*. I have enclosed a check.

Parish Council Goals for 2011

Build our "Community of Faith" by reaching out to Armenians from different geographical locations with different cultural customs.

Celebrate St John's 80th Birthday.

Establish permanent committees for Membership, Stewardship and Facility.

Support the education and ordination of our deacons and sub-deacons.

Implement our *Child Protection Policy*.

Maintain the fiscal integrity of our church. Balance the 2011 Budget!

Erect a memorial to all who suffered from the genocide of Armenians in Azerbaijan from February 28, 1988 through 1991.

Implement a catering plan that serves the community, while providing a revenue stream for the upkeep of the facility.

Complete the renovation of the ACYOA Room in the Recreation Center.

Maintain and enhance the grounds and the physical structures within the complex:

~ Install wireless Internet access

~ Develop a comprehensive site-landscaping plan that includes a memorial and "Bridal Garden," a soccer field, which unifies the campus and increases safety while maintaining and enhancing the available parking.

Develop the current online presence of the church into a full service website capable of delivering information, processing transactions, serving our community's needs and keeping our community connected.

The Kroger Community Rewards Program has been contributing over \$100 per quarter to St. John's, with just a handful of participants. Just imagine that if every parishioner was able to participate, the annual revenue to the church could be significant. It is a very easy way to help our church.

The program requires yearly enrollment/re-enrollment. All current participants must re-enroll starting in April 2011 to continue to earn funds for St. John's. In order to participate, or to continue participating, you must visit www.krogercommunityrewards.com.

Once at the site, to enroll and participate for the first time, click on "michigan" and "enroll." If you have participated in the last year, click on "michigan" and "re-enroll."

This program is only available to internet/email users. If you have any questions you may contact the church office at 248-569-3405. Thank you for your consideration.

Identifying and Meeting the Needs of the St. John Family

At the 2010 Parish Assembly, the first Membership and Stewardship Advisory Board (M&SAB) was elected in an effort to encourage increased membership and stewardship enrollment, schedule and oversee drives and activities, maintain accurate membership lists and stewardship rolls, identify trends, demographic changes, needs and gauge progress. The Board is responsible for seeking the volunteers to complete the work of both the Membership and Stewardship components and advising them in their efforts.

In 2010, under the leadership of Dn. Richard Norsigian, and the dedicated efforts of our Diocesan Delegates, St John's experienced a net gain of 11 new members this past year. The Church also made its budget when it came to income from pledges. This was a major achievement and could not be accomplished without the commitment of our Diocesan Delegates.

It should also be noted, that even with the highly successful Summer Capital Campaign, the Stewardship donations in 2010 increased by 15%. Sincerest thanks to all who gave so generously.

As the St. John community becomes more aware of the role and activities of the M&SAB we hope that we all can become more active individually in identifying new members as well as retaining our current membership rolls. We intend to reach out to those who may have disengaged themselves from the community and help them recognize the importance and value of being a dues-paying member of St. John Armenian Church, not only to secure its financial stability, but also as a means of being part of the decision making process which will ensure the perpetuation of this wonderful and historic institution.

Whatever role you choose to have in our St. John community, may you, as individuals or as a family, decide how you will share your time, treasure and talent with our beloved church. In the next year, the goal of the Parish Council and the M&SAB will be to attract more of our community into the active life of St. John's in any way they choose and to reinforce the zeal of those who currently invest so much of themselves into the life of our church. It is vital that we identify the needs of all the different groups and people within our St. John family and try, as best we can, to meet them. The future of our people as the St. John family must be at the forefront of our efforts. Please join us! Answer the call. Help us bring the issue of commitment to St. John's to the forefront and when asked, have an answer to the question "Are you a member of St. John's?" And then be proud to say "Yes! I Am a Member: Are You?"

~M&SAB & Parish Council

NEW AT THE BOOKSTORE.....

The Greedy Sparrow

An Armenian folktale with a moral lesson

retold by Lucine Kasbarian - Hardcover \$17.00

Armenian Dictionary in Transliteration

by Thomas Samuelian - Softcover \$20.00

A variety of cookbooks, history and art books, cd's, dvd's and crosses are available.

The Great and Holy Week Schedule of Worship

Աւագ Շաբթուայ ժամանակացոյց

Sunday, April 17 - Palm Sunday - Ծաղկապարդ

9:00 am Morning Service / *Առաւօտեան ժամերգութիւն*

9:45am Opening of the Doors – *Դռնբացէք* – Trnpatsek

Church School Students Procession with Palms - *Թափօր Կիրակնօրեայ Աշակերտութեան Արմաւենիներով*

10:15 am Divine Liturgy / *Ս. Պատարագ*

ACYOA Day Tea and Fellowship honoring Edward Papelian - Cultural Hall

Tuesday, April 19 - Great and Holy Tuesday - Աւագ Երեքշաբթի

Remembering the Wise and Foolish Virgins – *Յիշատակ Տասն Կուսանացն*

7:30 pm Vespers / *Երեկոյեան ժամերգութիւն* Church School students will participate.

Following vespers, the Church School will sponsor a tea. *Յաւարտ Երեկոյեան ժամերգութեան՝*

Թէասեղան մը պիտի սպասարկուի Կիրակնօրեայ Դպրոցի կողմէ:

Thursday, April 21 - Great and Holy Thursday - Աւագ Հինգշաբթի

10:00 am Divine Liturgy commemorating the Last Supper

Day By Day Bible Study will meet following the Divine Liturgy

7:30 pm Washing of the Feet / *Ոտնլուայ / Vodnluva* Church School students and fathers will participate.

8:30 pm Betrayal and Passion of Our Lord / *Խաւարում / Khavaroom*

Friday, April 22 - Great and Holy Friday - Աւագ Ուրբաթ

11:00 am Order of the Crucifixion of Christ – *Կարգ Խաչելութեան Քրիստոսի*

7:30 pm The Entombment of Our Lord Jesus Christ – *Կարգ Թաղման Քրիստոսի*

Saturday, April 23 - Great and Holy Saturday - Աւագ Շաբաթ

CELEBRANT: REV. FR. ABRAHAM OHANESIAN

Divine Liturgy & Family Service, Holy Communion & Easter Eve Supper

4:00 pm Reading of Scriptures / *Ընթերցումներ:* 5:00 pm Divine Liturgy / *Ս. Պատարագ*

7:00 pm Complimentary supper will be served to all children by the Church School.

Adults - \$15.00 Please contact Alberta Godoshian 248.476.4638 for tables of 8-10.

Յաւարտ Ս. Պատարագի, Տօնական ընթրիք պիտի սպասարկուի բոլոր երախաններուն՝

Կիրակնօրեայ Դպրոցի կողմէ: Մուտքի նուէր \$15.00 - Աշակերտներուն՝ ձրի

Sunday, April 24 – Easter-The Glorious Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Սուրբ եւ Հրաշափառ Յարութիւն Տիրոջ Յիսուսի Քրիստոսի

9:00 am Morning Service / *Առաւօտեան ժամերգութիւն* 9:45 am Divine Liturgy / *Ս. Պատարագ*

The Blessing of the Four Corners of the Earth – *Antasdan* – will take place in the sanctuary immediately after the Divine Liturgy. Everyone is invited to Easter Tea prepared by the Women's Guild.

Ս. Պատարագէն Վերջ Անդաստանի արարողութիւնը պիտի կատարուի որմէ ետք Տիկնանց

Միութիւնը պիտի սպասարկէ Զատիկուայ Թէյասեղան մը:

Requiems will not be offered on Palm Sunday and Easter.

Հոգեհանգիստները Ծաղկապարդին եւ Զատիկին զանց առնուած են:

Monday, April 25 – Commemoration of the 96th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide

7:00 pm Requiem Service for the Armenian Martyrs, Wreath Laying Ceremony at Martyrs Monument, *Madagh* Dinner and Program. Guest Speaker: Writer/Director/Actor Alex Webb will present his film, "*Hove*" ("The Wind") starring Olympia Dukakis and Shirleyann Kaladjian Webb - a short but compelling story not to be missed!



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 a church tradition to give an offering during the Easter season for the perpetuation of religious/educational programs, and charitable deeds to be offered in the name of our Savior. Enclosed is an envelope for your gift, which we call *Yughakin* in Armenian, meaning "price of oil." Before the modern era, oil was used to light the lanterns in our churches. In this season of giving, keep the light of Christ burning brightly and remember your Church and all the good it can do with your support.

HOME BLESSINGS

Easter is the season to renew the sanctity of the home and family. Father Garabed would like to visit your home and bring the blessings of the Holy Resurrection. Please contact the church office at (248) 569-3405 to schedule a time for your home blessing.

CANDLE AND FLOWER DONATIONS FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Please contact the church office for donations of candles or flowers. Your donation can be your personal gift to Christ to remember or honor a loved one.



**ՔՐԻՍՏՈՍ ՅԱՐԵԱՎ Ի ՄԵՌԵԼՈՅ
ՕՐՀՆԵԱԼ Է ՅԱՐՈՒԹԻՒՆՆ ԲՐԻՍՏՈՍԻ**

**KREESDOS HARYAV EE MERELTZ!
ORHNIAL EH HAROOTYOONN KREESDOSEE!**

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

KOMITAS CHOIR NEWS....

On Thursday evening, March 10th, St. John's was treated to a very special piano recital by our own Natalia Kazaryan. This was the third time Natalia has graced us with her remarkable talent. We have seen and heard her grow and mature from a teenager to a confident young woman extremely proficient and masterful who takes your breath away with her piano playing. Her program included pieces by Scarlatti and Ravel as well as "The Dawn" by Beatrice Ohanessian. She concluded by performing a very difficult Chopin – 24 Preludes, Op. 28. Of course, Natalia's fingers flew over the keys with beautiful tonality, phrasing, and technique. She truly has a gift from God and we are so fortunate that she graces us with her time and talent.

A few days later, Natalia entered a music competition at Oakland University, and to no one's surprise, she won first place! Natalia has also received a Fulbright Fellowship to study in Paris. "Tserkerut dahlar" Natalia! We wish you all the best.

~Marianne Dardarian

DIOCESAN NEWS.....

Diocesan Internships Available

The Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church has announced it will work in partnership with the AGBU New York Summer Intern Program to offer an eight-week internship (June 12-August 6) at the Diocese for young adults between the ages of 19 and 26. According to individual career goals, interns may choose to work in areas such as communication, accounting, development, Christian education, Armenian studies, music or the Zohrab Information Center. This is the perfect program for young adults interested in career experience and leadership development. Interns will participate in the AGBU orientation, be housed with other AGBU interns in New York University dormitories, and engage in various AGBU-sponsored educational, cultural, and social activities that highlight current and Armenian topics. However, they will be supervised and guided here at the Diocese and will be offered other growth opportunities such as Bible study, language classes and excursions. All application and participation fees (as well as housing) will be covered by the Diocese; the application deadline is May 2. For more information or to receive an application, please contact Nancy Basmajian, ACYOA Executive Secretary at acyoa@armeniandiocese.org or 212-293-1248. The interns will be chosen by committee and be informed of their acceptance by the end of May.

WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS....



Women's Guild members (and friends!) have been busy baking every Tuesday and will continue through April 12. The delicacies, including *Cheoreg*, *SouBeoreg*, *Khalkha*, *Tepsee Cheese Beoreg*, individual *Cheese Beoreg*, *Spinach Tepsee Beoreg* and *Khalkha* are for sale every Sunday after church until Palm Sunday. The Festival baking will begin in June, so watch for dates and details.

~Joyce Obenhoff

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms & Chrismations

March 2011

5 Anna Nareh
Daughter of Ara & Liana Karamanian
Godfather: Dr. Artur Petrosyan

Funerals

March 2011

1 Frank Arslanian, Woodlawn
4 Rose Horasanian Brooks, 87
7 JoAnn Manoogian Sworek, 60, White Chapel
9 Rose Avakian, 100
11 Sylvia Sadoway, 89, 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.



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CONTACT MAY KAFAFIAN
AT THE CHURCH OFFICE
248.569.3405

St. John Armenian Church's Banquet and Conference Center of Southfield

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!!

YOU WILL BE SURPRISED AT THE CHANGES
WE HAVE MADE ALREADY.
PLEASE GIVE US AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW YOU.
LET US PERSONALIZ A MENU
FOR YOUR NEXT FAMILY GATHERING OR SPECIAL EVENT.
GIVE US A CALL: 248.569.3405

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.....

April

- 3 Men's Society Pancake Breakfast
Christian Parenting Workshop presented by
Elise Antreassian
- 6 ACYOA Fish Dinner; Lenten Vigil
- 7 Feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary
- 13 ACYOA Fish & Lobster Dinner; Lenten Vigil
- 15 Kef Klub with special presentation of the
2010 Fuller Center for Housing - Armenia
6:00 pm, Recreation Center
- 17 Palm Sunday - ACYOA Day (*see right*)
- 19 Great & Holy Tuesday
- 21 Great & Holy Thursday; Afternoon Bible Study
- 22 Great & Holy Friday
- 23 Great & Holy Saturday
Church School Family Dinner
- 24 **Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord –
Easter;** Women's Guild Easter Tea
- 25 Armenian Martyrs Requiem Service,
Wreath Laying, Madagh Dinner, Screening of
"Hove" ("The Wind") and presentation by
Director Alex Webb and Actress
Shirleyann Kaladjian Webb (*see page one*)
- 25 - 27 Annual Clergy Conference, Cambridge MA
- 28 - 1 Annual Diocesan Assembly, Cambridge MA

May

- 1 Men's Society Pancake Breakfast
- 15 Church School Graduation & Tea
- 20 Kef Klub
- 25 Afternoon Bible Study
- 30 Memorial Day - Complex Closed
Grave Blessings at area cemeteries

Moms and *Manoogs* play group sponsored by the Women's
Guild: first and third Tuesdays in the Nursery at 10 am.

Note: All events at St. John's Church and Cultural Hall unless specified.

Palm Sunday ≈ ACYOA Day

Sunday, April 17th

Tea and Fellowship honoring Edward Papelian,
Detroit ACYOA founding member

Followed by annual White Cross Project

*Remember a loved one or village
by sponsoring a white cross*

For more information please contact Taline Kalandjian:
Taline.Kalandjian@gmail.com or cell: 586-354-7127

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS OF ARMENIAN HERITAGE FOR 2011-2012 ACADEMIC YEAR

Armenian International Women's Association, Inc. Scholarship Committee

65 Main St #3A; Watertown MA 02472

E-mail: aiwayinc@aol.com

Web: www.aiwa-net.org

Deadline: April 5, 2011

John M. Azarian Memorial Armenian Youth Scholarship Fund

6 Prospect Street, Ste 1B; Midland Park NJ 07432

Contact: Matthew Scozzari (201) 444-7111 ext 16

E-mail: info@azariangroup.com

Web: www.azariangroup.com/scholarship.html

Deadline: May 31, 2011

Detroit Armenian Women's Club Dabanian Memorial Scholarship

Contact: Carole Basmadjian (248) 879-8637

E-mail: dawc07@aol.com

Deadline: June 30, 2011

Postmaster: Time sensitive material

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