THE TORCHBEARER . Duhulph

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



NEWS FROM THE MEN'S SOCIETY



The Men's Society has been busy as usual with our monthly pancake breakfasts and brunches. We thank all who have attended and encouraged our efforts. Please don't forget our Mothers on Mother's Day and the wonderful celebration our men are planning to honor the mothers, grandmothers, aunts, godmothers and special women in our lives. Honoring them with a special treat at our dinner on Sunday, May 12 would be a great way to show our love.

Speaking of showing love, we are so proud of one of our own members, Greg Baise, who also serves our Church on the Ushers Corps, Nominating Committee, Habitat for Humanity Partnership, and his role as Chairman of the Annual Free Health Fair at the Annual Church Festival.

And on this particular note, this year Greg was honored on St. Patrick's Day with the "Good Samaritan Award" at Most Holy Trinity Church in downtown Detroit at a Mass known as the "Sharin' 'O' the Green," which refers to paper money received in the collection basket to support the Most Holy Trinity Parish's outreach to the poor through medical clinics and other neighborhood programs. Greg has been a volunteer pharmacist at Most Holy Trinity - Cabrini Clinic since 2005, the oldest free clinic in the United States. As he has set up the Annual Health Fair for St. John's, currently he works as a community pharmacist and as a

pharmacist consultant and has received many awards including the 2012 Michigan Pharmacists Association Bowl of Hygeia Award, a national award given by the State, for Outstanding Community Service. All our fellow St. John's Men's Society members are proud of him as he leads by example, both with the Cabrini Clinic and here in our own parish.

On Monday, March 25, thirteen members of the Men's Society and the following guests and children of our members met to make *Nushkhars* for Easter Sunday: Judy Cristiano, Maral Toukhanian, Isabelle Akarakcian, Caleb and Noah Ivezaj, and Grace and Rebecca Magee. Everyone enjoyed the experience and camaraderie, especially the children. Thank you to all who participated to make sure that we had enough *Nushkhars* for everyone attending Easter Sunday Fellowship.

St. John's Men's Society is blessed with such diverse talents and we recognize our men as true leaders of our community who stand ready to assist our faithful in every possible way. Presently our men are working on projects for upgrading our sound system in the sanctuary and are already involved in planning this year's Picnic in August and even the Annual Festival itself. When our chairmen for these events approach you, male, female, member or not, take their hands when they reach out to you and offer yours to help make our parish and Church Community happy, successful and serving everyone in every way.

Pictured above, left: Greg Baise is honored with the "Good Samaritan Award" at Most Holy Trinity Church. Pictured above: Father Garabed shows onlooking children how to make an Easter Nushkhar.



ST. JOHN'S MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION - SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2013 AT 12:30 PM

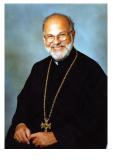
Children under 6: Free! * Children 6 to 12: \$10.00 * Ages 13 to Adult: \$25.00

Reservations are required and must be made by May 5, 2013. Please call Judy Cristiano at 313.291.3194 or email at dcristiano3@gmail.com

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

FROM FATHER GARABED'S DESK



Sacraments and Sacramentals

The Armenian Church observes seven Sacraments, but also has services called 'sacramental' because they are religious rituals conducted in the church. Aside from the Divine Liturgy /Soorp Badarak, we begin with a sacramental service most frequently offered. The Christian Rite of Burial in the Armenian Church.

Funerals

Part 1 - This rite includes three separate services. First, the **Dahn Gark** is held usually the evening before the service in the church. Often it is referred to in English as the service of memorial prayers. In Armenia and the Middle East, this service is conducted in the deceased's <u>home</u> or *doon* (in Armenian). The word **Dahn** means 'in the home' and the word **Gark** means 'service.' It is thus understood as the "Service in the Home." In America, this service may

and the word *Gark* means 'service.' It is thus understood as the "Service in the Home." In America, this service may be conducted in the funeral home. The coffin lid is left open for the *Dahn Gark*, as family and friends visit the family and view the deceased for the last time. Decades ago, the coffin was left open during the burial service in the church, but in America this practice is not observed.

Part 2 - On the day of the burial, family and friends gather in the church to worship for the last time in the presence of the deceased. This service is called **Yegheghetzvo Gark** or Service in the Church. If, for some reason like inclement weather, it is not possible to travel to the cemetery for interment, the burial rite parts of this service may be conducted in the church. The priest should be informed by the funeral director. For the Service in the Church, a homily and words of comfort about the deceased are offered by the officiating priest.

The family should provide the officiating priest with a description of the deceased person's life and important details they feel would be helpful before the day of the *Dahn Gark*. The funeral director will assist and guide them when making arrangements. The length should be no more than one typed page. Other words of condolence by lay individuals may be offered at a family meal following the church rite. In the Armenian Church, neither a fabric pall nor a flag is placed on the casket.

At the conclusion of the church service, the deceased is escorted from the church building to the cemetery, often led by pall bearers. The family will decide who they are to be with the help of the funeral director. As worshippers leave the entrance of the church, the priest will present the Cross to them for veneration and honoring. Each Armenian Orthodox mourner aware of this custom should kiss the Cross, blessing themselves by making the sign of the cross as they exit. Those who are not of the Armenian Orthodox tradition may or may not do this. However, it is nonetheless a visible sign that even death cannot stop our walk with Christ.

Part 3 - According to our tradition, a procession of the clergy and mourners takes the deceased from the church to the burial ground for the final part of the funeral service called *Kerezmanee Gark* / Cemetery Service. There the final prayers are offered as the deceased is lowered into the earth. The grave is blessed and sealed by the priest until the final Resurrection, when *those in the tombs shall rise first*. A custom among the Armenian Orthodox is to invite those present to participate in the 'burying' by inviting them to place a handful of soil into the ground at the conclusion of the service before they depart. The funeral director will assist in distributing soil to all present.

Hokejash (Memorial Meal) Following the cemetery blessing, a memorial dinner or the meal hosted by the spirit of the deceased takes place, usually at the home where the deceased lived. Today, often the Hokejash, as it is called in Armenian, takes place at the church hall or a designated restaurant. The simple meal begins with a prayer by the priest and a toast in remembrance of the deceased. In many places it is the custom to serve wheat halva for dessert. The wheat recalls the words of Jesus which were read at the funeral: unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies it remains alone, but if it does die it bears much fruit. The Armenian Orthodox tradition teaches that we become what we consume. Wheat is used to make flour and bread that becomes Christ's Body at the Divine Liturgy/Badarak. Using wheat at the time of the funeral hokejash points to the new fruit to come forth at the Resurrection when Christ will come again, as Saint Paul teaches, a new life with new bodies.

WE GET LETTERS.....

Dear Alberta:

Just a note of thanks to you, Der Hayr, and the St. John's family for underwriting my hotel and travel expenses for the November 17-18, 2012 weekend.

During these challenging times at the Diocese, we are especially grateful for your generosity.

I was very pleased with the visit - reconnecting with teachers (I only wish the full roster had been able to attend!) and - most of all - the amazing group of parents I met with on Sunday. I so admire you, as well, Alberta, for your hard work and dedication. What you manage to accomplish in a day is mind-boggling...

With appreciation and warm regards for the New Year,

Elise Antreassian

Department of Youth and Education
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

TLC: "HEALTH MYTHS EXPOSED"

On Tuesday, March 12, 2013, Julie Jenkins made a presentation to 14 attendees on "Health Myths Exposed". Myths were considered old wives tales or urban legends. The speaking of myths even showed up in the Bible, 1 Timothy 1.4. Some of the old wives tales we have heard throughout the years include:

✓ That yawning is contagious - true.

✓ Waking a sleep walker will cause them to have a heart attack - false. Eighteen percent of children sleep walk. It has been proven that if you wake someone from sleep walking they may get upset with you but would not hurt you. It is best to lead them back to their beds to continue to sleep safely.

✓An apple a day keeps the doctor away - true. It will help but only if you eat the skin.

Many tales were only to put fear into the people hearing them. We have all heard them as children. We want to thank Julie for making this presentation and are sorry to see her leave for greener pastures. I am sure all who heard her speak only wish the best for Julie in her advancing career. Come and join us on Tuesdays and have lunch with your friends at the Tuesday Lunch Club.

- Daniel Cristiano -

ST. JOHN'S HOLDS 18TH ANNUAL LENTEN RETREAT SEMINAR.....

On Saturday, March 23, 2013, 60 participants were present at St. John Armenian Church for the Annual Lenten Retreat entitled "The Face of Lazarus: Faith, Healing and Revival" led this year by Very Rev. Daniel Findikyan, Director of the Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center at the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church in New York City. 2013 marks Father Daniel's fourth presentation at a St. John's retreat. The retreat was founded by the late Yeretzgin Rosalie Papazian in 1995 and is funded in part by a grant from the Yeretzgin Rosalie Papazian Endowment Fund.

Father Garabed Kochakian, pastor, welcomed everyone and invited the chairlady of the retreat, Mrs. Charlene Goshgarian to guide everyone through the day's activities and give a synopsis of Father Findikyan's biography. A native of Fort Worth, TX Hayr Daniel is a member of the brotherhood of the Holy See of Etchmiadzin. He is a graduate of the St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in NY and holds a doctorate in Liturgical Studies from the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome and a Masters degree in Musicology from City University of New York. Hayr Soorp previously served as Dean and Professor of Liturgical Studies at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary. Father Daniel has published many articles in scholarly journals and books. His latest book is entitled *Frequently Asked Questions on the Badarak*. Father Daniel also shared with the retreat participants that the 2013 theme for the Eastern Diocese is "Living the Gospel of Christ." This led into the theme of the day's presentation.

To begin, Father Daniel spoke about Great Lent as a time for learning, a basic course in reviewing our faith. The day of the retreat he said "ushered in the official end of Lent. On Saturday, the 41st day in all the Eastern Churches, is dedicated to Saint Lazarus - the day before Palm Sunday. These are days of rejoicing to be followed by fasting again during Great and Holy Week. He pointed out that the story of Saint Lazarus, Christ's best friend, and his sisters Martha and Mary is found only the Gospel of Saint John and is the longest story in that Gospel. The raising of Lazarus from death, manifests the divine power of Jesus. Following the opening session the retreat participants broke into Bible study groups where they read the story of Lazarus in depth, and discussed a variety of questions to better understand the meaning.



Father Daniel reminded those present that the existence of the Armenian Church predated the establishment of the written New Testament. It was through art and music he said that Christians learned of the teachings of Christ along with oral tradition. Though the New Testament was accessible in the 4th Century, copies of it were not readily available as they are today. Hayr Soorp stated that time and money were needed to have even one copy produced by hand. Only the clergy and the very wealthy had access to read a handwritten manuscript. The common people, though educated about the teaching of Jesus, were ostensibly dependent upon visual illuminations/images that decorated the pages of the manuscripts to understand those teachings. Most artists, he said, especially in the early church, were ordained clergy and monks.

Father Daniel also sang a few verses of a *sharagan* about Lazarus entitled "Today in Bethany" composed by the 5th Century Catholicos Sahag Bartev, who had worked with St. Mesrob in the creation of the Armenian Alphabet. The first verse and all the following begin with *Today in Bethany*. The opening stanza of each subsequent verse, "takes the message beyond any specific time" Father Daniel noted, and is very much relevant to the present. The example he gave was something like saying, "Today in Southfield," we have access to everlasting life.

"Though they die, yet shall they live." Jesus said, "Our friend, Lazarus, has fallen asleep." Father Daniel concluded by noting that the word for death is not so often used in reference to the departed: instead the word asleep - nunchia (in Armenian) is used. "Jesus wept" shows the depth of love for both his close friend Lazarus as well as the fallen state of humanity that suffers with the horror and degradation of death. Christ revived Lazarus out of love and in the same way comes the resurrection of death and life of the world to come as we say in our Creed. This is the keystone of our Faith and the heart of the Christian message and experience Hayr Daniel concluded. We will not die, we shall have new life, and new bodies, as St. Paul says, as we come to know God through Jesus and will see Him when He returns.

- Charlene Apigian -

IN APPRECIATION

The Pastor and Parish Council express sincere appreciation and thanks to the students who participated in Holy Week services as noted below:

Holy Tuesday Wise and Foolish Virgins Service St. John Armenian Church School

Allison Amboian, Katherine Amboian, Anoush Arslanian, Mariam Habring, Cecile Koceyan, Caylin Kojamanian, Grace Magee, Mara Najarian, Lia Toovalian, and Stephanie Toovalian

Holy Thursday Feet Washing Service St. John Armenian Church School

Nicholas Boyadjian, Zachery Brown, Nicholas Couyoumjian, Masis Habring, Stevie Hagopian, Kyle Johnson, Kyle Kalajian, Alex Koceyan, Michael Ohanesian, Vartan Ohanesian, Noah Stillman, and Nazar Yeranosian

Holy Saturday Scripture Readers A.G.B.U. Alex and Marie Manoogian School St. John Armenian Church School

Sona Avedikian, Karine Calukyan, Nubar Gamburian, Arsinee Hovakimian, Kegham Jalhaian, Alex Koceyan, Cecile Koceyan, Marleen Kothi, Lerna Lacinian, Sevana Mailian, Natalie Nadjarian, Celene Philip, Nayiri Sagherian, and Levon Saghumyan



GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

SACRAMENTS

Funerals March 2013

- 5 Rose Joboulian, 81, Woodlawn
- 8 John V. Reizian, 83, Lexington (Kentucky)
- 12 Shake Minassian, 83, Oakland Hills
- 20 Hayrik Kaspar, 73, Oakland Hills

April 2013

- 3 Simon Tashjian, 99, Woodlawn
- 4 Simon Kechechian, 88, Woodlawn

Baptisms April 2013

- 6 Sona Jaclyn
 Daughter of Morgan & Sara Bell
 Godparents: Walker Bell & Jaclyn Assarian
- 7 Ari Forester Keillor Son of Joshua & Christine Keillor Godparents: Matthew Keillor & Talin Darian

BANQUET CENTER NEWS.....

Over the last few months St. John's Banquet Center hosted "Kef Time Keghi" and "ADL/Tekeyan Cultural Association's Annual Dinner Dance," both grand affairs of which we are honored to be a part. We thank both groups for entrusting St. John's with their catering needs. Coming up will be one of The Hye Adventures monthly meetings and the Evereg-Fenesse Educational Society's convention in August.

Additionally, The LINKS of Oakland County hosted an "Inaugural Ball" here using three of our banquet rooms, all having live TV feed of the different inaugural events in Washington; over 450 guests were in attendance. The March of Dimes celebrated its 60th Anniversary featuring a "Fashion Extravaganza" benefit with 500 attendees. Two pageants, a debutant ball, three fashion shows and five additional benefits and scholarship events for different organizations are booked this year. And we are proud to be hosting Marian High School's Junior Prom for the 14th consecutive year! These events are in addition to wedding receptions, baptismal luncheons, family reunions and birthday parties that are scheduled.

One program being promoted now to businesses and organizations is holding monthly lunch or dinner meetings at St. John's. Three different groups now meet monthly or quarterly at our facility.

We share this news to make you aware of all the different types of rentals taking place at our campus with the hope that parishioners will refer other groups or individuals with similar needs. Remember, we have three catering opportunities: Uptown Catering, Steve and Rocky's, and Two Unique, all of whom our Director of Catering, Paul Yousoufian can help you contact. Please call Paul at 248.569.3446 or cell 313.310.3508. In the future months we will be sharing some of the new programs we will be offering our parishioners and some new concepts for potential customers.

Dear John Vartan,

It is with grateful heart that I write this letter to thank you again for your very generous support of sponsoring the Manukyan family home last year. We were pleased to have Jackie with St. John Armenian church members from Greater Detroit to join and build with the family side by side. The family will remember it forever. They are very happy to live in a lovely home with all facilities and are sending you their greetings.

You and your community changed the Manukyan family life forever. Please see enclosed the Manukyan family profile with completed house pictures. A silver pin with FCHArmenia logo engraved on it is for you as our house donor. And a copy of our annual report from last fiscal year is included for you.

Look forward to see you coming back to Armenia again.

Thank you again for your generous support. God bless you and your family.

With gratitude,

Ashot Yeghiazaryan

President of the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia







Father Daniel Findikyan incensing the congregation on Palm Sunday.



Father Daniel, altar servers, and children kneel at the doors for the *Trnpatzek* Service on Palm Sunday.

The Women's Guild is presenting *A Royal Luncheon* on Saturday, May 18, 2013 at 12:00 Noon. Guests will experience a little bit of Britain with a lovely lunch and fashion show provided by shops from *The Somerset Collection* of Troy. This is a fundraiser to benefit the church and the community. The Women's Guild asks for your support by purchasing raffle tickets, becoming a sponsor and attending the event with friends and family.

Tickets are \$45. For reservations contact: Joyce Obenhoff at 586.754.3984 or shortafoot@comcast.net.

Another successful Palm Sunday Bake Sale was achieved by the generous efforts of our members who worked so diligently, every Tuesday morning in the church kitchen throughout the winter months. Our thanks go to Marilyn Sarkesian and Almas Derderian who chaired the bake sale and to their committee. Special thanks go to Almas Derderian, Kim Kalajian, Alice Argnian and Arick Kasper for faithfully selling baked goods after church each Sunday for the past eight weeks.

Lisa Boyadjian and Nyree Giragosian and their committee presented a beautiful Easter Tea that was enjoyed by our parishioners. The *cheoreg*, cheese, bread and colored Easter eggs were provided by our Women's Guild. Lisa and Nyree created a very special tea which was truly appreciated by all in attendance.

- Nora Noraian -









Pictured above, left: Ladies of the Women's Guild are all smiles during their Palm Sunday Bake Sale. Pictured above, right: Members of the Women's Guild and St. John's children strike a pose at the Easter Tea. Pictured below, left: Sevana Mailian and Victoria Boyadjian are eggs-static! Pictured below, right: Chairwomen of the Easter Tea, Nyree Giragosian and Lisa Boyadjian.

Easter Sunday photos are courtesy of Mrs. Linda Stamboulian.

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LEGACY TO YOUR CHURCH.

The Torchbearer Staff

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.com

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

IN THE COMMUNITY

April	
17	Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study
24	Armenian Martyrs Day Requiem Service
	Dedication of Baku-Sumgait Monument
	Community Madagh Dinner
	Guest Speaker: Chris Bohjalian, author of the
	Sandcastle Girls

May	
2-4	Annual Diocesan Assembly (offsite)
9	Holy Ascension - Hampartsoom
12	Men's Society Mother's Day Brunch
18	A Royal Luncheon & Fashion Show sponsored
	by the Women's Guild
19	Pentecost - Hokekalousd
	Church School Graduation & Tea
22	Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study
27	Memorial Day - Complex Closed
	Grave Blessings at area cemeteries
June	
2	Men's Society Pancake Breakfast
16	High Tea & Book Signing
	Nowhere: A Story of Exile

By Anna Astvatsaturian Turcotte Requiem Prayers at the new

St. John's Summer Day Camp begins

Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study

Baku-Sumgait-Kirovabad Monument, 2:00 pm

Saturday, April 20, 2013, 7:00 pm AGBU Alex & Marie Manoogian School 98th Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide

Special Keynote Speaker
Dr. Susan Karamanian
International Law Expert
Emcee: Judge Lisa Asadoorian
Program will include a presentation by the
AGBU Alex & Marie Manoogian High School students.
Everybody is cordially invited - Reception to follow

Sponsored by The Detroit United Committee:

ADL Detroit Chapter, AGBU, Armenian Congregational Church,
Armenian Research Center at U of M Dearborn, CSAI,
Detroit Armenian Women's Club, Knights of Vartan,
Daughters of Vartan, Tekeyan Cultural Association

Wednesday, May 8, 2013, 6:30 pm, St. John Armenian Church

Leading criminal defense attorneys, Mark Geragos and co-author Pat Harris will be here for a book signing of their book, MISTRIAL: An Inside Look at How the Criminal Justice System Works...and Sometimes Doesn't. Partial proceeds will be donated to The Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR). Wine and cheese reception to follow. For additional information, please contact Mr. Drew Zamanigian, Detroit SOAR Chapter President 248.322.9393.

Saturday, July 20, 2013

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