

THE TORCHBEARER • Չահալիր

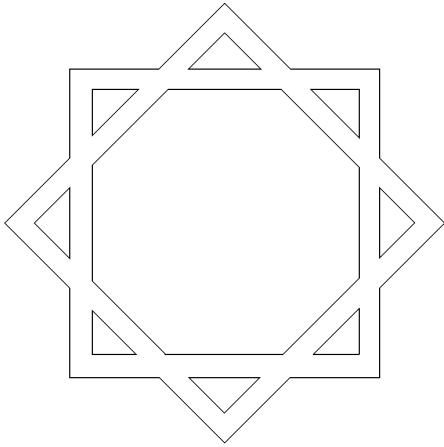
St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit

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*



THE MORE YOU KNOW.....



The eight-pointed Armenian Star, whose points symbolize Christ, has much more to demonstrate. In the west it is called the Bethlehem Star, symbolizing the world Jesus came to save. In the east, eight is the symbol of regeneration, often associated with baptism and resurrection.

Did you know? This eight-pointed star that we see profusely decorating our sanctuary is an important aspect of architectural adornment to Armenian Church architecture. The number eight is significant in all of Orthodox Christian teaching because it connotes time *beyond, eternity, resurgence and resurrection*. From the earliest times, Armenian clergy, many of whom were artists and architects, employed the eight-pointed star in painting and carving stone to give a message of world in the future time. And so, the number eight reflects the Kingdom of God and eternity, “NOW and always and UNTO THE AGES OF AGES,” as we end our prayers.

In fact, this eschatological (a new age, a new time beyond the limits of this worldly time) finds its expression most clearly in the liturgical worship of the Eucharist. Father Alexander Schmemmann, a Russian Orthodox theologian and priest, writes in his well-known book *Introduction to Liturgical Theology*:

The Church belongs to the new aeon, to the Kingdom of the Messiah, which in relation to this world is the Kingdom of the age to come. In Christ's Resurrection, the Kingdom has entered this world and exists in it in the Church. In God it is eternal and actual, as well as future, pointing to “the age to come” while also being in this present world. Christ has inaugurated the “age to come” in His Incarnation and through His Resurrection.

For the Church, the Lord's Day is not a substitute for the Sabbath, as a Christian equivalent. Rather, it is defined as the Eighth Day, the time connected to eternity. The Eighth Day is the day beyond the limits of the cycle outlined by the week and punctuated by the Sabbath - this is the first day of the New Aeon.

Thus, as we see the eight-pointed star on the bema of our altar, it tells us, when we--being in two places at the same time here and in the hereafter--approach it, we are entering the time to come. It all happens at the *Soorp Badarak*, wherein Christ brings heaven to earth.

Further, the eighth letter of the Armenian Alphabet is the letter *ut* - լ, which follows the seventh letter *eh* - է. In Armenian, է means *I am*, and the letter լ signifies the Resurrection. Put them together and we have **I AM THE RESURRECTION**.

Saint Mesrob, who created the Armenian alphabet, certainly knew what he was doing.

- Father Garabed -

WE GET FEEDBACK!

“To all parishioners who attend Sunday services at St. John's Armenian Church. Please try to come for the 9:30 am Morning Service prior to the Divine Liturgy service which starts at 10:30 am. The 9:30 am Morning Service is very beautiful and spiritually moving. It contains some of the most beautiful singing and chanting and is, in my opinion, some of the best of the entire Sunday service experience. Only a few of us know this and get to experience this because most people arrive for the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy. You have no idea what you're missing. Try it once, and you will be hooked and will never miss a 9:30 am Morning Service ever again. Trust me!”

- Donn Vahratian -

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

AUGUST 2013



FROM FATHER GARABED'S DESK.....

The Armenian Orthodox Rite Of Marriage: Rings, Crowns, Thrones and Wine

The Sacrament of marriage in the Armenian Orthodox Church is one of the seven Sacraments. The service is a vivid portrayal of the new life of the husband and wife. Each of the actions during the rite is significant and points to the special life that marriage establishes.

During the first part of the service called the *betrotal* (Armenian, *tserundvootyoon*, meaning giving of the hand), the officiating priest greets the couple at the center nave of the church. He reminds them of the purpose of this new life they have chosen to be sanctified as God ordained from the very beginning of creation, saying *you have come to this church in order to be crowned and wedded into Holy Matrimony*. During his exhortation, the priest joins the right hands of the bride and groom and says, *Taking the hand of Eve, God gave it into the hand of Adam*. This symbolizes their becoming *one flesh*. After declaring to remain faithful until death parts them, the couple receives the rings blessed by the priest who places them on their left ring fingers. Then each passes the rings into place. As the circle symbolizes eternity, the rings likewise are symbols of eternal commitment in the name of the all Holy Trinity, a union without end on this earth, until death.

Now joined in this sacred union, the bridegroom and bride are led to the Holy Altar to be crowned with honor, to be transformed, as a new creation, *no longer two but one*, as scripture declares. The crown has always been perceived as a symbol of authority, responsibility and leadership. During this ritual, the Armenian Church establishes the couple as royalty in the eyes of God; both are equally called to serve, to help, and give themselves to each other as Christ commands...*that you both must help each other and remain faithful to each other*. There are trials and tribulations in life, but the power of God's love in Christ Jesus, planted into their hearts and souls, will save them from all calamity and adversity. The priest reminds them not to forget to call upon the Lord at all times, for with Christ all things are made new, and His divine love will protect them forever.

Now crowned (Armenian, *busagvadz*), the culmination of this new life, their new household, new *kingdom* in the name of Christ, is established with the crowns upon their heads, now a new king and a new queen, likened to Armenia's first Christian monarchs, the sainted King Drtad and Queen Ashkhen. The bride and groom, now rulers of their household, are blessed to reign in all wisdom, justice and integrity, and to procreate, *if it be thy will*, as the priest says to them, as God's partners. The blessing for children and grandchildren is offered with the admonition *to raise them as faithful members of the Church of Christ*. Then, the couple is led by their *kavars* -- the maid of honor and *khachyeghpayr* (Armenian, brother in the cross) -- to be seated and enthroned on chairs specially placed facing the altar of God as they now take charge, transformed to this new reality of life and with the authority granted them by the Lord, ready to begin from this day forward to live honorably as husband and wife.

The concluding seal of this celebration is the sharing of a blessed goblet of wine, recalling Christ's presence at the wedding in Cana of Galilee where He blessed a marriage and made His first miracle occur, changing ordinary water into wine. It is a moment transported back in history, but at the same time, brings Christ into the present, beginning a new history for the couple who are now wedded. God's grace is showered upon them to live with *virtuous behavior and for the honor and glory of God's Holy Name*.

~ Father Garabed

Save The Date: Friday, September 13, 2013, 7:30 PM



Dr. Christina Maranci will present a talk on:

"St. John Reborn: The Sacred Architecture of Zvart'nots and its role in the formation of the present St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit"

Dr. Maranci will discuss the significant impact of the seventh-century Patriarchal Cathedral of Zvart'nots on the architect's design for St. John Armenian Church, a unique jewel of Armenian ecclesiastical building in 20th century Detroit.

Christina Maranci received her Ph.D. in 1998 from Princeton University in the Department of Art and Archaeology. Her first book, *Medieval Armenian Architecture: Constructions of Race and Nation*, was published in 2001. Articles on Armenian art have appeared in the *Revue des etudes arméniennes*, the Journal for the Society of Armenian Studies, the UCLA Armenian History and Culture Series, and other periodicals. She taught Armenian art at the University of Michigan, the University of Chicago, and the University of Wisconsin. In the fall of 2008, she became the Dadian Oztemel Chair of Armenian Art at Tufts University. She is currently at work on a book about the seventh-century architecture of Armenia, entitled *Vigilant Power: Three Churches of Early Medieval Armenia*. She served on the Executive Council of the SAS from 2001-4.

The Parish Council has undertaken the development of a fire emergency and safety evacuation plan for St. John's Armenian Church and Sunday School. This will be the first step in a plan that will encompass several different types of emergencies (i.e. fire, tornado, lock-down). In the fall, we will begin by teaching Sunday School students, teachers, ushers, and Parish Council members the procedures for safe evacuation of the church complex in the event of a fire emergency. We plan on having two "fire drills" involving the entire church and Sunday School in late October and early November. More details will follow as the date approaches. The following is a 10 step procedure we would like you to review within your family.

10 Steps To Safety And Evacuation Fire Emergency

These steps relate to a fire emergency that has become too dangerous to put out with a simple fire extinguisher.

1. Alert all in complex via alarm.
2. Initiate evacuation procedures for any occupants of the affected buildings. Follow Evacuation Maps.
3. Notify Emergency Services - Call 911
4. If church services are in progress, ushers and Parish Council members on duty must guide people out of the sanctuary in an orderly manner using all exit doors leading out of the building. Parishioners go to safe grassy area at the SE side of church.
5. Sunday School staff must guide children out of the building in an orderly manner following Evacuation Map routes.
6. Sunday School staff must keep all children with them and take attendance once they arrive at their assigned evacuation safety location. If all is well, teacher holds up GREEN card. If there is a problem, teacher holds up RED card.
7. Sunday School administrators and assigned Parish Council members must check all classrooms and bathrooms for straggling children. They also must verify that all children are accounted for and out of the building with their teacher.
8. Other Parish Council and maintenance staff check the building as thoroughly as possible to verify that all people are out of the building.
9. Once children are accounted for, if parents arrive to take them from the Sunday School teacher, they must sign for each child in the presence of the teacher or administrator before leaving with the child.
10. No one may return to the building until there has been an "ALL CLEAR" announcement.



FESTIVAL ITEM DONATIONS NEEDED!

Grandma's Attic is now accepting gently used and clean items for the Festival weekend. Donate household items, small electronics, children's toys, games, puzzles, accessories (belts, scarves, jewelry), books, CDs, DVDs, artwork, collectibles, picture frames, dishes, glassware, vases, etc. **NO CLOTHES OR SHOES.** Please drop off your donations at the Maintenance Office. Make sure they are properly wrapped, *especially fragile items*. Receipts are available in the Church Office.

WANTED: USED ARMENIAN BOOKS

The Parish Bookstore is accepting donations of gently used books on Armenian subjects written in English for its **Used Book Sale** at this year's FESTIVAL. Kindly drop off books at the Church Office during business hours or on Sundays. Receipts available in the Church Office.

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms

July 2013

18 Anna Marie Lucaj - Chrismation

August 2013

- 3 Isabella Renee
Daughter of Mark & Seta Franklin
Godparents: Sean Dunkin & Tereza Aram
- 4 Ruby Rosalie
Daughter of Benjamin & Tara Grider
Godparents: Corey & Rebecca Grider

Funerals

July 2013

- 16 Rafik Garibyan, 78
- 22 Polly Aprahamian, 91, Woodlawn
- 25 Elizabeth S. Mamassian, 88, Woodlawn

August 2013

- 5 Kathryn Vartanian, 91, White Chapel

WE GET LETTERS.....

Reverend Father,

Herewith we would like to thank you most cordially for your warm letter of May 13, 2013, as well as for the enclosed check number 54987 with the donation of \$20,000.00 on the occasion of the enthronement.

We are grateful for the foresight and dedication of the contributors who, through their generous donations, seek to serve the needs of the Patriarchate. Regarding the St. Tarkmkanchatz School, we appreciate your efforts, your parish's and Mrs. Barbara Haroutunian's, for remembering our school in the past, and for not forgetting also now the needs in educating our Armenian youth. You have been here and have seen our needs.

The donation will be used for the project you mentioned, upgrading and enhancing the playground for the kindergarteners' playing area, a project that is quite necessary, as Reverend Father Norayr informed you. It is through your donation that this project can be carried out.

In our prayers we bless and remember you, who are always committed to support our beloved Church with prayers, as well as financial assistance.

From Jerusalem, we thank all concerned and pray that our Lord bless you abundantly and help you in your work, be with you in all that you do, and keep you in His care.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Nourhan Manougian

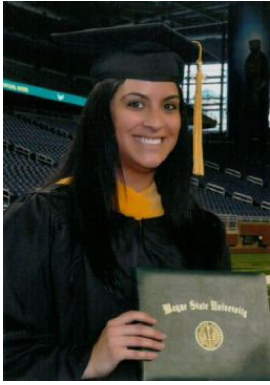
Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem

PICTURE THIS!



Members of the Komitas Choir with family guests at the recent Annual Choir Picnic held on Thursday, July 18th. Thanks go to Gary Melikian (Tenor) who arranged the details and all the donors of the delicious foods. In spite of the heat, it was a 'cool' gathering.

CONGRATS TO OUR NEW GRADUATES, CLASS OF 2013.....



Faith Boucher Chaaban graduated from Wayne State University in May 2013 with a Master of Social Work degree. Faith is currently employed as an Adoption Specialist at Bethany Christian Services. She is the daughter of Michael and Catherine Boucher and the granddaughter of Alice Chavdarian. Faith is pictured left.

Tamura Marie Herrera graduated *summa cum laude* from Kaplan University in Chicago, Illinois with a degree in Bachelor of Science Business Administration in Finance. Tamura is the grandniece of Virginia and Badrik Jooharigian.

Allison Parks received her master's degree in March 2013 from the American University of Paris in global communications. She is living in New York City working for Lazar Partners as an associate. Lazar Partners is a communication advisory firm for healthcare companies with novel products and innovative technologies. Allison is the daughter of Terry and Judy Parks. Allison is pictured center.

Paul Kulhanjian Strauch graduated *magna cum laude* from Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire with a Bachelor of Arts degree and a double major in Government and Economics. While at Dartmouth he was inducted into the National Honor Society, Phi Beta Kappa, and awarded the Rockefeller Prize in International Relations and the Departmental Award in Government. He is the son of Roger and Julie K. Strauch and the grandson of Paul and Esther Kulhanjian. He will be working at Goldman Sachs in New York City. Paul is pictured right.

Passport to Armenia!

*Enjoy gourmet Armenian cuisine stations with wine and dessert while you stroll
and listen to beautiful Armenian music performed by celebrated violinist
Henrik Karapetyan*

*Experience a relaxing evening as you consider the silent auction display
featuring art, fine jewelry, children's items and more!*

Friday, September 20, 2013 6:30 in the evening

St. John Armenian Church - Main Cultural Hall, 22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield, MI 48075

\$25.00 per Person

Please respond by September 12, 2013

*Open individual seating, or contact
Mrs. Isabelle Vahratian, 248-553-2798 for reserved tables of 8 or more guests*

*Please make payment to St. John Armenian Church and mail to:
Passport to Armenia
28535 Quail Hollow Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48331-2789*

We sincerely thank you for your patronage!

ARMENIA ~LAND OF NOAH'S ARK FESTIVAL

Friday, September 20 to Sunday, September 29, 2013

PRE FESTIVAL WEEKEND

Passport to Armenia (Auction Dinner), Friday, 9-20-2013
Free Health Fair, Saturday, 9-21-2013
Renew Your Wedding Vows, Sunday, 9-22-2013
Museum, Sanctuary Tour & Lunch, Wednesday, 9-25-2013
Fine Arts Preview, Thursday, 9-26-2013

FOR THE KIDS

Willie Wonka Extravaganza (lunch & movie)
Basketball Clinic (lunch included)
Petting Zoo, Pony Rides
Displays and educational opportunities
Southfield Fire Truck, Ambulance, Petting Zoo
State Police Bomb Vehicle & Buddy Buckle Bear

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

Live Armenian Music - Dancing
Church Tours, Vesper Services
Conversational Armenian Language Classes
Folk Dance Performances
*****Komitas Choir CD*****

SHOPPING

Fine Arts Exhibit ~ Vendor Booths
Grandma's Attic ~ St. John's Book Store
Country Store

NEW & IMPROVED

Child Care | Friday & Saturday
Dining under the Stars (waiter service) | Friday & Saturday
Earth Angels on Tour | Sunday

ARMENIAN DINNERS

Variety of Shish Kabobs,
Rice / Bulghur Pilaf, etc.

ARMENIAN DELICACIES

Kharperk Kufteh, Sou beoreg
Yalanchi and much more

ARMENIAN BREADS & PASTRIES

Homemade Cheoreg, Katah
Kurabia and other Armenian Delicacies

COUNTRY STORE & MEZZA STATION

Deli Plates, Basterma Sandwiches
Manti, Geragourh, and much more

SNACK SHOPS AND KIDS' GOODIES

Hot Dogs, Pizzas, Ice Cream, Pop & Coffee
Homemade Cookies, Brownies

HYE BAR

New location and outdoor seating
Full Bar with Special Armenian Cocktails

A VERY SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY

Women's Guild Armenian Delicacy Basket Raffle

GAMES OF CHANCE

Texas Hold'Em, Backgammon, Raffles, Auctions

FESTIVAL SETUP PARTY...

For those who want to be part of the inner workings!

Tuesday—Thursday, September 24-26

Pizza & Pop all day

Volunteers are needed for:

Kabob Skewering (Monday-Thursday); Grandma's Attic (Tuesday-Thursday);
Vendor Booths & Food Stations (Thursday); Country Store (Thursday)

Times and contact people will be announced. For information and schedule of events go to:
stjohnsarmenianchurch.org/2013festival

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Choose a ministry to support, establish an
endowment, or supplement the General Fund.

Contact the Church Office, your Pastor
or a Parish Council member for ways to
leave a legacy to your Church.



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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.org



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AUGUST 2013

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.....

September

- 2 Labor Day - Complex Closed
8 Church School Opens
Men's Society Pancake Breakfast
13 Guest Speaker Dr. Christina Maranci
(details on page 2)
15 **Exaltation of the Holy Cross**
18 Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study
20 Passport to Armenia (details on page 5)
21 Health Fair
22 Renewal of Marriage Vows & Blessing
25 Church/Museum Tour & Lunch
26 Fine Arts Exhibit Opening & Reception
27-29 Armenia: Land of Noah's Ark Festival
(details on page 6)
29 Holy Cross of Varak

October

- 11 Men's Society Wine Tasting
23 Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study
27 Discovery of the Holy Cross

November

- 3 Men's Society Pancake Breakfast
10 Veterans Remembrance
21 Presentation of the Holy Mother-of-God
27 Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study
28 Thanksgiving - Complex Closed
30 ACYOA November Dance

IN THE COMMUNITY.....

Saturday, August 31

Evereg-Fenese Mesrobian-Roupian Educational Society Inc.
20th Triennial Convention
Dinner, Music, Fellowship, Fun at St. John Armenian Church
Mezza 6:00 pm; Dinner 6:30 pm
Music by Sin Hielo trio with Sean Blackman at 8:00 pm
For reservation: Janet Deirmengian 586.549.7726

Sunday, September 1, 1:00-4:00 pm

Evereg-Fenese Picnic at Heritage Park, Farmington Hills
25099 Farmington Rd (south of 11 Mile Road)
All are welcome

Friday, September 6, 7:30 pm

"Soiree Musicale" featuring Armenian Musicians
Henrik Karapetyan, Violinist and Ken Hakobyan, Pianist,
Composer
Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward (at Lone Pine)
Bloomfield Hills
Sponsored by Tekeyan Cultural Association
Reservations required: Diana Alexanian 248.334.3636

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