# THE TORCHBEARER . Dwhwyhp

# St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit

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



# DEACON RUBIK MAILIAN LAUNCHES ARMENIAN SACRED MUSIC SERIES

Deacon Rubik Mailian, Music Director of the St. John Armenian Church Komitas Choir in Detroit, and Chairman of the Sacred Music Council, presented the first in a series of exciting and enlightening presentations about sacred Armenian songs. The premier event, which took place on July 25, 2013, attracted an audience of more than 65 participants from the four Armenian churches in the Metro Detroit area.

Deacon Rubik captivated participants with his mastery of Armenian sacred music. He delivered a sophisticated topic in a simple and upbeat manner that was easy for non-musicians to understand. The presentation included an overview of the different types sacred songs, including their evolution, characteristics, meaning and purpose.

He opened with an orientation to the context in which Armenian sacred music originated. It was a time of kings, nobles and peasants. The nobles ruled the provinces. The peasants or the ramig lived around the castles where war and starvation was constant. Only the kings and nobles had fire or candlelight. The peasant diet consisted of grain. Travel was slow, on foot, and accommodations were dirty.

The lecture was full of interesting nuances about things that we often fail to notice because they have become so familiar to us. For instance, have you ever wondered why the church service is sung and not spoken? There are specific passages in the bible that refer to the sung service. The service is also easier to sing than to speak, and the music has a way of transforming the inner spirit into feelings of gratitude. Finally, Armenian churches are not acoustically designed for speaking.

The core of the lecture included an overview of the different types of sacred songs. The earliest churches adopted chanting and psalm singing from the synagogues. Services were chanted directly from bibles which were punctuated with prosodic signs directing the intonations of the chant. The oldest marked bible we have is from 887 AD and is located in Moscow. A second one is dated 998 AD and is at the Matenadaran in Armenia.

Over the centuries, the music developed into more songlike forms such as the sharagan, dagh, kantz, avedis, yerk and megheti. During the presentation Deacon Rubik sang some examples and explained how the songs differ based on melodies that range from the simplest one note per syllable of text, to more complex songs that have many notes per syllable. The sheet music we use today is written in western style, however, the original music was written using Khaz notation. This ancient method was studied by Komitas Vartabet, a priest who was master and composer of Armenian folk and sacred music, for almost 20 years. He might have been on the verge of deciphering it, but was unfortunately arrested and tortured during the 1915 genocide.

The church services and the songs have been greatly influenced by the regions in which they live, and have been passed down almost entirely by oral tradition. In particular there are noticeable differences between the teachings in Jerusalem, Istanbul and Etchmiadzin.

If you have not yet thought about joining the St. John Komitas Choir, consider the healthful consequences. Deacon Rubik shared a radio broadcast featuring a physician who talked about scientific evidence that singing in a choir burns calories and lowers blood pressure. And, it is true. After singing the Badarak we all go home a little thinner and a little healthier. Classes are open to the general public and include: Music of the Divine Liturgy (September 19, 2013), Music of the Sacraments, the Wedding, the Baptism, the Funeral (October 24, 2013) and Music of Holy Week (TBA February 2014). There is no charge to attend, however, participants are asked to register in advance with Deacon Rubik Mailian at *rubik@sjachurch.org* or 248.549.3405.

- Linda S. Jevahirian, Board Member and Soprano in the Komitas Choir -

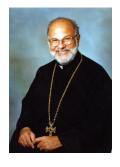
# St. John's Summer Campaign Does it Again!

We are pleased to share the results of this year's summer campaign. The donations totaled \$16,545, from 224 contributors, as of September 4, 2013.

While total revenue was down from previous years, on the brighter side, the campaign participation increased. The number of contributors this year was at an all-time high.

Letters of thanks, signed by the Pastor and Parish Council Chairman, were sent to all those who contributed. The names of those who contributed will also be listed in the upcoming *Annual Torchbearer Yearbook* without amounts. We thank all those who contributed and helped address the church's summer cash flow problem.

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



# We pray for our suffering Christian brothers and sisters, the Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt

Following the ousting of Egypt's president, these past few months filled with violence in the cradle of world civilization have been frightfully troublesome, particularly for the Christian community living under oppressive conditions there. Thanks to God, Armenian Christians in Egypt have been spared for the most part, and their churches and homes have not suffered heavy attacks. Nonetheless, the losses of both Moslem and Christian lives as well as the destruction of sacred places of worship and properties alike, leave that country and its citizens bleeding.

The violence in Egypt coupled with the recent mass killings in Syria makes us question this evil. These are not religious wars per se among citizens in the name of God; rather they are wars of man's inhumanity against God. They reflect the depravity of the human will, not God's will. God does not will war, but peace, not vengeance but harmony, not hatred but love. As we daily follow these hot spots in the world, for both Christian and Muslim, our common goal must be...harmony, peace, justice AND to live according to the will of God.

There is a Muslim saying even many Armenians know...In sha' Allah. It is an expression about plans and events expected to occur in the future in accord with God's will. In Armenian we say, Asdoodzoh Gamkov, Asdvadz oozeh, or Gamok Asdoodzoh. These words acknowledge that "God's Will" ALONE should prevail as we abide and follow His Laws and obediently put ourselves into God's hands, even if one's submission to His will is met with great difficulty. Jesus first taught this in the Lord's Prayer, saying "Thy will be done," not "My will be done." In the Garden of Gethsemane when confronted by His approaching death, Christ's human nature asked to be spared from what was destined by His Father. But Christ put his life into the hands and the Will of His heavenly Father.

But we are still vexed and bothered by this holocaust of humanity in Egypt, Syria and other places where humankind gets in the way of itself, ignores and confuses the real will of God with its own human want. For the discerning believer, God's Will should prevail in all things and at all times as we invoke His blessings, seeking to live in tune and in harmony in this world. Nonetheless, this strife in the Middle East, where death and destruction of God's creation, people's lives, possessions and properties has occurred, as well as countless tragic events in our nation's past. And we ask: IS THIS GOD'S WILL OR NOT? Of course not!

The defenseless Coptic Orthodox Christian community in Egypt, suffered the loss of more than 50 sacred monasteries, churches, schools and countless homes, and is still under attack. The lack of protection for them from the Egyptian government, now and even prior to this unrest, makes it obvious that all Christians who live there--Copts, Armenians and other Orthodox, Catholics, and Protestants--are also objects of oppression and scapegoats by Islamic extremists, angered people who lack the fundamental understanding of God and His will that Jesus our Lord and His Gospel teaches us. Yes, the power of evil still prevails and seduces the minds of a weak, fearful and suspicious people who confuse God and His will with their own lack of respect and reverence for Him and the life he created; and the Devil waits to seduce them and he does.

God's Will is that ALL humankind should know Him. There are still people of faith, thank God, who DO KNOW this -- Christians, Moslems, Jews -- good people who seek harmony, peace, justice AND the Will of God which ultimately is to Love Him and Love each other.

In Egypt good people have formed cordons around Christian churches to protect them, and have provided safe shelter for Christians. Setrak, the Armenian Catholic Patriarch of Egypt acknowledged that in spite of this conflict between the human will and God's Will, he expressed thanks to those Muslims who defended Christians during this political turmoil. Also, The Coptic Orthodox Pope Tawadros noted that though people have lost their humanity with their attacks terrorizing Egypt's citizens, he believes the hand of God is stronger and mightier.

From the Muslim Quran, their own holy book, it is clearly stated... "Muslims should be the most loving and understanding of people of the earth, especially to the non-Muslims. From the Jewish Old Testament Bible it is written in Deuteronomy, Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And then Jesus completes this all and says..."'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with your all your mind;' and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

We pray in times ahead for those who don't understand, those who are confused, those who don't know the Will of God, as it is written, from God and by Christ God. We pray for those who hate another believer and live in the darkness, walk in the darkness, and do not know the way to go, as the darkness has brought on blindness...we pray that these holy words are understood so that those who do the will of God, Love as he commands, will live forever. As we pray...Psalm 40:8 'I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.'

Psalm 143 -Save me, O Lord, from my enemies; I have fled to you for refuge. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Let your good spirit lead me on a level path. For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life. And as we unceasingly pray... may your righteousness bring me out of trouble. Asdvadz oozeh. Amen.

~ Father Garabed

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). This 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 on October 27th and November 3rd. 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.

# PICTURE THIS!

Summer was very eventful at St. John's this year. The beautiful weather allowed for our parishioners to have a great time outside. From grilling fresh meats for the annual picnic to enjoying classic cars on the field, summer 2013 was definitely memorable!





# **Baptisms**

# August 2013

4 Ruby Rosalie
Daughter of Benjamin & Tara Gale
Godparents: Corey & Rebecca Grider

10 Ethan Michael Son of Michael & Valerie Kochakian Godparents: Richard & Jocelyn Kochakian

17 Luke Mitchell
Son of Michael & Erin Merdinian
Godparents: Jason Smith & Michele Zaccagni

Zoe ElleDaughter of Alex & Jessica AlexanianGodparents: Matt Mardigian & Katlyn Abott

# September 2013

8 Salpi Missak
Daughter of Missak & Fera Danielian
Godfather: Souren Danielian

# Weddings

# August 2013

4 Anna Marie Lucaj & Stefan Mikhael Dallakian Bestman: Zaven Hintiryan Maid of Honor: Albina Lucaj

## September 2013

21 Danielle Kalajian & Andrew Woodring Bestman: Jacob Woodring Khachyeghpayr: Andrew Kalajian Maid of Honor: Katie Kalajian

## **Funerals**

## August 2013

29 Sherry Hough, 88, Woodlawn

### September 2013

- 9 Christopher Varjabedian, 55, Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens
- 11 George Krikorian, 87, Evergreen
- 14 Souren Keoleian, 82, Woodlawn
- 16 Edward Nishon, 88, Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens
- 18 Harry Dakesian, 90, White Chapel

# MAJOR FEAST DAY CELEBRATED .....

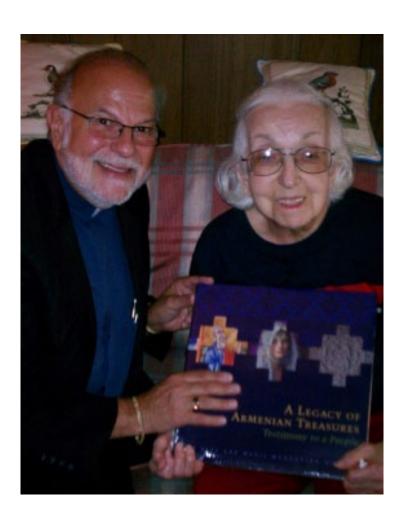
Saturday, August 24, 2013, was a special day at the Manoogian Manor in Livonia as residents, along with Father Garabed Kochakian, Deacon Rubik Mailian and several Komitas Choir members celebrated one of the major feast days of the Armenian Church calendar - the Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God.

On this occasion, the blessing of grapes service was held and Holy Communion was offered to about 40 residents.

St. John's Women's Guild graciously donated the grapes, and Guild members helped distribute them after the service.

- Harry Avagian -

# A JOYOUS MOMENT.....



Ms. Helen Kashian of Dearborn Heights with Father Garabed. We congratulate Ms. Kashian on her 90th birthday and thank her for donating her home to St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit.

On September 8, 2013, the Men's Society held their first monthly pancake breakfast after the summer break. The following Men's Society members helped make this another memorable brunch: Ed Baharian, Jim Berryman, George Boyagian, Dan Cristiano, David Dardarian, Gjon Ivezaj, Craig Johnson, Robert Magee, Greg Mamassian, Mark Mamassian, John Pochas, George Saboonjian, Peter Toukhanian, John Yavruian and Paul Yousoufian.

More than 150 attended the brunch and enjoyed the menu consisting of eggs, basterma & eggs, macaroni and cheese, green bean stew, orential pasta, salad, Italian bread, hash brown potatoes, pancakes, sausage, made to order omelets featuring fish, feta cheese, celery, parmesan cheese, cheddar cheese, blue cheese, tomatos, broccoli and green peppers, fruit salad, ice cream, juices and coffee.

Funds raised by the Free Will Offerings will go to support the Men's Society and Komitas Choir's audio/visual project for the Sanctuary. Please come and join us next time. The members of the Men's Society thank you for your continued support.

- Daniel Cristiano -

# CHAIRMAN'S CORNER .....

This year's Diocesan theme is Living the Gospel of Christ. Through a series of selected Bible studies we shall come to learn that doing as Christ prescribed through his actions and teachings will enrich our lives and help us to understand his Message.



One lesson that is evident is the love for our Church. This is expressed in so many ways by our Parishioners. Many of you offer your time and skill with countless volunteer hours. Our Church successfully functions with this extraordinary commitment.

Similarly, so many in our community recently took part in our Summer Campaign. I am pleased to report that the 2013 campaign resulted in a record number of individual participants. We have documented **224 contributors** for a total of \$16, 545.00. On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to earnestly thank our Parishioners and our community for this wonderful generosity.

The photo above depicts the beautiful surroundings of the sea of Galilee, which is the setting for many Gospel stories.

Your Parish Council Chairman.

- Karmen A. Santourian -

On Tuesday, September 10, 2013, Eric Crisenbery made a presentation to 18 attendees on "Leisure & Aging." There are common misunderstandings about aging and leisure. Aging is viewed as an undesirable period of our lives, while leisure is seen as secondary to the business of life.

Aging should be considered as an opportunity to seek new adventures and enriching the quality of ones life. These and other items were discussed giving those present a different outlook on their future.

Remember that older people are kind, have great wisdom, more dependable, well off financially and are a powerful political force. Leisure does not mean not living an active lifestyle.

We want to thank Eric for making this presentation and look forward to next month's informative presentation. I am sure all that heard him speak were able to realize that aging does have its advantages.

Come and join us on Tuesdays and have lunch with your friends at the Tuesday Lunch Club.

- Daniel Cristiano -

# ST. NERSESS WELCOMES STUDENTS.....

On September 3, 2013, St. Nersess welcomed three new faces to its student body, bringing its total to nine seminarians. "It's an exciting way to begin our new school year," said seminary dean the Reverand Father Mardiros Chevian.



Prior to the start of classes, all of the students took part in an orientation retreat at the Diocese's Ararat Center in upstate New York, led by seminary alumnus the Reverand Father Yeprem Kelegian.

The new seminarians include Dn. Narek Garabedian, born in Canada, married and a graduate of the Armenian Seminary of Jerusalem, who is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree. Kathryn Ashbahian of New Jersey and Arpi Nakashian of Jerusalem are both pursuing Master of Arts degrees, with concentrations in Youth Ministry and Christian Education.

The six seminarians continuing their studies are Dean Vahe Bagdasarian, Dean Aram Kaberjian, Saro Kalayjian, Edgar Gevorgyan, Eric Vozzy, and Levon Asdourian.

The seminarians and staff look forward to relocating to the seminary's new campus in Armonk, NY, in mid-2014.

The church kitchen was filled with wonderful aromas and laughter every Monday and Tuesday and a few Monday evenings as our members prepared delicious baked goods for the Fall Festival September 27-28.

Khalkha, Sou Beoreg, Katah, Yalanchi Sarma, Kufteh, Cheoreg, Meat and Spinach Beoreg will be ready for you to purchase during the festival. Each item is made with love and every effort was made to create perfection in these traditional Armenian recipes. Our deep appreciation and thanks go to our members for the hundreds of hours they have given to the guild and the church preparing the baked goods. A special thanks to Dolly Matoian, Almas Derderian and Marianne Dardarian for their leadership dedication. They made it all happen.

A group of 19 Women's Guild members and friends visited the historic Cranbrook House in Bloomfield Hills on Thursday, July 11, 2013. The ladies were given a guided tour of the home followed by an English style "High Tea." Several of the ladies arrived early and were also able to take a self-guided tour of the

beautiful gardens surrounding the house.

The group met at the entrance of the home which was built in 1904 for George Gough Booth and his wife, Ellen Scripps Booth. The family purchased the neglected, barren farm in Bloomfield Hills because they wanted a place "in the country" away from the city. The home was designed by architect Albert Kahn. George Booth was involved in the creation of the estate including deciding on the hand- crafted furnishings, the art work, the gardens, etc.

The Booths lived in the home until their deaths in the late 1940's raising their children. They utilized their personal funds to establish the Cranbrook Educational Community which includes K-12 schools and Master Degree programs in the arts.

This month, the Women's Guild knitting group also delivered blankets to dialysis patients at a dialysis center on Twelve Mile and Northwestern. After visiting the dialysis center, the group went out for an enjoyable lunch together. This dedicated group is led by Linda Assarian and will resume meeting again in the fall.









Pictured above, clockwise: Bake sale chairs Linda Franquist and Nora Noraian; Women's Guild knitting group members Cathy Zwink, Dawn Aginian, Linda Lutz, Kathy Mekjian, Helen Olson and Carol Ohanesian; Terry Palaian (chair of Women's Guild cookie baking contest) and Setta Hagopian. Miss Hagopian tied with Pam Dayinian for 2nd place in the Women's Guild Cookie Baking Contest. Pictured beneath: Judges for the cookie contest were Diane Khachaturian, Dikran Callan, Michael Pifer, and Mark Mamassian.

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Contact the Church Office, your

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for ways to leave a 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.org

# PLEASE SAVE THE DATE .....

# IN THE COMMUNITY.....

October	
11	Men's Society Wine Tasting
20	Lecture: The Call to Serve in the Armenian Church By Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian
23	Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study
24	Lecture: Music of the Sacraments
	By Dn. Rubik Mailian
27	Discovery of the Holy Cross
	Fire Drill
November	
3	Men's Society Pancake Breakfast
	Fire Drill
10	Veterans Remembrance
	Detroit Symphony Orchestra Concert
	Sponsored by the Music Guild
17	Family Thanksgiving Dinner

Sponsored by the Church High School

Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study

Thanksgiving - Complex Closed

**ACYOA November Dance** 

Presentation of the Holy Mother-of-God

December
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21

27

28

30

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4	Women's Guild Advent by Candlelight
7	Handel's Messiah and Sing-along Carols
	Oakland Choral Society and Orchestra
9	Conception of the Holy Mother-of-God
18	Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study
24	A Family Christmas Worship
25	Western Christmas-Complex Closed

# A Visit from the Dean of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary

Sunday, October 20, 2013

Father Mardiros Chevian, Dean of St. Nersess, will be guest celebrant, and following the Divine Liturgy he will present a program on the mission, ministry and building

campaign at the only Armenian seminary in North America.

Mark this date!

# Catechism Classes offered by Father Garabed Kochakian

"Who am I and what do I believe?

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Tuesdays, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

October 22, 2013

November 5, 2013

November 26, 2013

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