

# 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](http://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*



## FUN, FRIENDS AND MEMORIES MADE AT SUMMER CAMP!

St. John Armenian Church sponsored an eight-week Summer Day Camp for children ages 5 to 12 at the Church Recreation Center. The Camp ran from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. This year's staff included Lisa Mardigian, Linda Kalfayan, Andrea Karagosian, Tatevik Movsesyan, Sona Movsesian and Paul Oganyan.

Each week had its own theme in which the campers participated in daily activities, arts and crafts, and field trips. Our reading time took place in the Edward & Helen Mardigian Library and baking was coordinated in the recreation center by Mrs. Anita Arlsanian. We extend gratitude to Mr. & Mrs. Mirijan Arslanian and Mr. & Mrs. Ara Oknayan for providing a safe enjoyable environment for our campers to swim on alternating Tuesdays. The transportation was provided by the A.G.B.U. Manoogian School and Ms. Marion Christopher. We thank them for our safe travels.

Our campers and staff were honored to prepare and package the grapes for the "Blessing of the Grapes

Ceremony" under the careful guidance and explanation of Fr. Garabed Kochakian.

During the week of August 2 - 9, thirty of our youth attended the Diocesan sponsored Midwest Regional Hye Camp. Twenty-two of our youth served as staff where they had a three day training session prior to camp. Special thanks to Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian, Hye Camp Director; Jennifer E. Morris, Diocesan Youth Outreach Coordinator; and Kenarr Chiodo, Hye Camp Board Chair for their hard work in assembling one of the best staffs Hye Camp has ever had!!!

Because of St. John's current financial situation, the church was unable to allocate funds for the camp programs this year. On behalf of our Pastor, Parish Council, staff, parents, campers and volunteers we thank Ms. Elizabeth Aprahamian, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Attar and Mr. & Mrs. Mike Kojaian for their generous donations which helped to sponsor some of our campers who otherwise would have been unable to attend our camp programs.

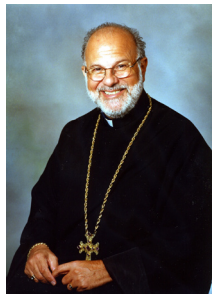


### Church Office Hours

**Monday - Friday: 9 AM - 5 PM**

After hours in an emergency, please contact:

Pastor's Cell: 248.225.9888 ~ Administrator's Cell: 248.802.2861



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

### *All Will Be Yours*

*Then the Devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the Devil said to Him, "All the authority I will give You, and their glory; for 'this' has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship me, all will be Yours."* [Lk. 4:5-8]

Satan promised to give Jesus authority over all the kingdoms of the world. "The father of lies spoke the truth when he boldly declared, "This has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish." But Satan neglected, of course, to mention who had delivered the world powers to him - God the Son Himself, who, as St. Paul says, already possessed the authority over the entire created universe. *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things are created through Him and for Him. And He is before All things, and in him all things consist.* [Colossians 1: 15-18]

Satan didn't know who Jesus was...*the invisible God*; but Jesus knew who Satan was. No wonder Jesus turned him down, one might say. But notice - The Christ did not respond by laying claim to His rightful authority. No. Rather than focusing on the substance of the offer, He responded to its cost. To accept it would have required idolatry – a violation of His Father's unique position as the Lord God who *alone* deserves worship.

Jesus' response compels us to ask: When we receive an enticing offer that, in effect, promises "all will be yours" what do we focus upon - the benefits or the costs? The benefits may be extremely attractive. But what are the costs? Does it involve "selling out" our Lord by compromising His commands, His values, or His honor? There are some things in the world where compromise is not only considerable but even needful, but certainly not when it comes to faith, to honor, to truly love. Christ is unconditional, without compromise. We cannot be Christian and say Christ saves us and thinks it is okay to believe otherwise for convenience sake, which so many may do. When we do this, it is not to our benefit; it will eventually cost.

We call upon the Wisdom of Christ, given to us through His Holy Spirit to know what to do when temptation knocks at our door, lures us, and cajoles us. And, as Jesus did –say, *Get behind me Satan*, realizing that REALLY ...we can't have it all as Satan leads us to believe in him. But 'have all' that is needful with Christ, who IS THE beginning of ALL that we need.

*~Father Garabed*

### **ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND**

JANUARY 15-24, 2010

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To register and for travel information, contact:

**Nadia Charchyan**  
**Educational Opportunities Tours**  
**(863) 648-0383, ext. 1+287**

Registration deadline: November 5

Brochures available in church lobby.

To view itinerary online, go to:

[www.eo.travelwithus.com/find\\_trip](http://www.eo.travelwithus.com/find_trip).

(Tour = HL10, Code = 011510M, ID# = 43749)

### **St. John's Mission Statement**

The Parish of St. John Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church is a fellowship of Christians committed to proclaiming Christ's Gospel of salvation through worship, education, witness, service and a common life in Christ as expressed in the distinctive faith-experience and heritage of the Apostles and of our ancestors. We invite the faithful to know God through Evangelism, to educate God's people through Discipleship and to demonstrate God's love through Service.

Please visit the St. John web site for up-to-date calendar information, the Sunday Bulletin, *The Torchbearer* and links to internet sites of interest to our parishioners:  
[stjohnsarmenianchurch.com](http://stjohnsarmenianchurch.com)



# NEWS FROM THE WOMEN'S GUILD.....

## **WOMEN'S GUILD TO COMPILE ARMENIAN COOKBOOK**

The Women's Guild of St. John Armenian Church is embarking on a project to compile a user-friendly cookbook of "traditional" and "new" Armenian recipes from our community. We are asking you to contribute your favorite Armenian recipes for consideration. Our community has many excellent cooks - young and old - and we need to share and preserve these delicious recipes and food customs for coming generations.

Recipes from the various regions of historic Armenia and countries where Armenians presently live will be gladly accepted. Please send your treasured - tried and true - recipes with exact measurements of ingredients and step-by-step directions (including special hints) to:

**Pamela Dayinian**  
**31070 River's Edge Court**  
**Beverly Hills, MI 48025**

You may send in as many recipes as you like. You may include ideas of how and when you serve this dish also. Please include your name and phone number on each recipe.

Please understand that due to space restraints, we cannot guarantee that all submitted recipes will be included in the cookbook. We will do our best.

**Deadline for recipes is December 1, 2009.**

## **ST. NERSESS SEMINARY IS COMING!**

The weekend of October 23-25, Father Stepanos Doudoukjian will be coming to St. John's to conduct an all - youth mini St. Nersess conference entitled, "Who Do You Say I Am?" Many of our youth have been inspired by Der Stepanos and the staff of the Summer Conferences and, with his visit here, will have yet another opportunity to share in Christian learning and fellowship. This conference is especially well suited for our Church School High School Division. John and Kim Kalajian are working with Der Stepanos to make this a wonderful youth experience for our Armenian Church youth. If you have any questions or would like your children to attend, contact John or Kim (734.421.8624) or Der Garabed. Der Stepanos will also be conducting a seminar for our Deacons, Subdeacons and Acolytes on Friday evening, October 23. Two St. Nersess seminarians currently studying for the priesthood in the Armenian Church will add to the educational fellowship of the two days. On Sunday, Der Stepanos, assisted by the seminarians, will celebrate the Badarak and then offer a special program about the work and mission of the Seminary. The entire parish is encouraged to attend following the Divine Liturgy on October 25.

## **ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT "A GREATER GIFT"**

A Reflection on the  
True Gifts of the Season:  
Love, Joy, Hope and Peace

**Wednesday, December 2, 2009**

This extremely popular event sponsored by the Women's Guild that debuted six years ago is sure to be a wonderful evening once again. We welcome you to attend and we hope that you will consider becoming a table hostess this year. As in the past, the night begins with our very special candlelight dessert and fellowship, after which hostesses and their guests will proceed into the sanctuary for a beautiful inspirational and musical program.

*Reservations to be a Table Hostess will be taken by telephone beginning Monday, November 2, and will close on November 14.*

**Please call Aralynn Haidostian  
248.646.5188**

## **WOMEN'S GUILD THANKSGIVING PIE SALE**

Sunday, November 22, 2009

Pies will be available immediately following Divine Liturgy

Pre-orders are advised and the order forms can be found on the St. John's web site.

**Apple ~ Pumpkin ~ Mixed Berry ~ Pecan**

For further information, call Yn. Roberta Kochakian  
248.538.9993

## **ALL ABOUT THE ARMENIAN CHURCH**

On Wednesday, September 16, Father Garabed and Yeretgzn Roberta conducted a two-hour class on the history, origin, faith, theology, sacraments, customs and traditions of the Armenian Church. Over thirty eager adults, wanting to expand the knowledge of their faith, attended and were uplifted by the skillful teaching methods shared by Der Hayr and Yeretgzn. The next session will take place on Wednesday, October 21 at 7:00 pm in the Vartan Room. The evening's topics will cover the Badarak, worship, customs and traditional practices of faith in culture. We encourage all who missed Session One not to miss this second educational and spiritual opportunity to grow in the faith.

## ANNUAL PICNIC A SUCCESS DESPITE HEAT & HUMIDITY

One of the most anticipated events on the church calendar is the annual picnic, and certainly Sunday, August 16 was no exception. Despite afternoon temperatures in the low 90s and increasing humidity, large numbers of adults and youngsters congregated under tents on the prepared picnic grounds on the east lawn of St. John's campus. Indoors the Vartan Room was available for those seeking a cooler spot.

**Food** - The traditional Armenian barbeque, grilled to perfection, was offered along with pilaf and salad, followed by watermelon and plenty of baked goods provided by the Women's Guild.

**Cake Baking Contest** - An eagerly awaited event of this year's picnic was the cake baking contest chaired by Dolly Matoian. From twenty-four entries, the three judges narrowed the semi-finalists to six, and awarded the first prize to Nancy Berryman's Carrot Cake in a unanimous decision. Judging was based on a blind point system for appearance, taste and texture. Second prize went to Alice Betrosian for her German Apple Cake, and third prize was awarded to 14-year-old Inga Azatyan for her "*Hampooyr*" (Kiss) Cake. The judges, experienced in the field of cake baking, were Fr. Garabed Kochakian, pastor of St. John's, Katherine Altinok, owner of "Catering by Katherine", and Charles Sansone, Corporate Executive Chef of Continental Services and General Manager of St. John's Catering (*pictured at right*). Following the awarding of prizes, close to \$300 was raised by the sale of the cakes. Special thanks to all who participated in this new picnic event.

**Dunk Tank** - To no one's surprise the youth were busy trying to dunk their friends who volunteered themselves as candidates for the chilling experience of the Dunk Tank. Initially, nearly every volunteer expressed fear about being dunked. However, after several dunks into the tank, they enjoyed the cooling waters of the tank on a hot summer afternoon.

**Creatures** - An exciting exhibit of live animals awaited young and old in the Ararat Room, and included a baby crocodile, an iguana, a snake, tropical birds, a gerbil and a turtle. The exhibit was very well received and viewed by over one hundred people.

**Classic Car Show** - A highlight of the afternoon was the Classic Car Show on the church grounds organized by Robert Karakashian. Sixty well-maintained automobile 'elders' had a dual purpose in leaving their garages, as most of them had also appeared the prior day at the Woodward Cruise. The vintage cars not only attracted the attention of young and old, but also became a topic of animated conversation for all who viewed them.

**Noah's Ark Treasure Hunt** - About forty enthusiastic youngsters took part in this challenging search game based on the story of Noah and the Ark organized by Ann Marie Egigian and Carol Yavruian. After listening to the story of Noah's Ark, the participants were directed to locations inside and outside the church property where they found questions about Noah's Ark. If answered correctly, the children received an animal card and a clue to the next location. The object of the hunt was to collect as many animal cards as possible and arrive at the final destination, which was the Ararat Room where they got to view the Creatures Exhibit. Each participant received a Noah's Ark Coloring Book. Thanks go to the participants and the volunteers who helped make this activity a huge success.

**Watermelon Eating Contest** - About a half-dozen brave contestants took part in the Watermelon Eating Contest. Whole watermelons were quartered and placed in front of each contestant. The winner was Anoush Arslanian, who was first to consume her piece of watermelon.

**Parish Bookstore** - A table stocked with a variety of Armenian books, CDs, and gift items from Armenia made its annual trip outdoors for the convenience of the picnic goers.

**Raffle** - A number of fortunate guests were winners of the raffle. The grand prize of \$500 went to Art Keurajian and six prizes of \$100 each went to Mary Davidson, Dr. Harry Joboulian, Ron Keurajian, Lena Montgomery, Silva Sahakian and Bob Yazejian. Congratulations to the winners and a sincere thank you to those who bought raffle tickets, but didn't win. (*Pictured at right: Yvonne Korkoian, Joyce Obenhoff, Gloria Korkoian, Mary Negosian, Emma Betrosian.*)

Special thanks go to the organizers and volunteers who put everything together and made for a relaxing and entertaining afternoon for all who attended. Many thanks go to the hard-working maintenance staff of St. John's for their assistance.

~Harry Avagian and May Kafanian







## CARROT CAKE

This is the recipe that won Nancy Berryman first prize in the Cake Baking Contest at St. John's Annual Picnic on August 16.

2 cups	sifted flour
2 tsp.	baking powder
1 ½ tsp.	baking soda
1 ½ tsp.	salt
2 tsp.	ground cinnamon
2 cups	sugar
1 ½ cups	vegetable oil
4	large eggs
2 cups	finely shredded pared carrots
1 (8 ½ oz.) can	crushed pineapple in juice, drained
½ cup	chopped walnuts
3 ½ oz.	flaked coconut

Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and cinnamon in mixing bowl. Add sugar, oil and eggs. Beat at medium speed with electric mixer for one minute. Stir in carrots, pineapple, walnuts and coconut. Turn into a greased 9x13" oblong pan or tube pan. Bake at 350 degrees 40 minutes or until cake tests done.

## CREAM CHEESE ICING

8 oz.	cream cheese
8 oz.	butter
½ - ¾ box	10x sugar
1 tsp.	vanilla

Mix together, refrigerate until thickened...then frost!

## NEW OFFICE HOURS FOR PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

The Pastor and Parish Council announce that Mr. David Dardarian, Parish Administrator, will have new office hours beginning immediately. He will be available on campus Tuesday through Thursday. If parish groups or parishioners have issues that need Mr. Dardarian's attention, please make those requests during the days of the week he is on campus.

## Komitas Choir News

Deacon Rubik Mailian is in the process of forming a Bell Choir for ages 11-16. Children participating in this project will learn to play hand-held bells. If you have a good sense of rhythm, some basic music skills and would like to take part in this endeavor, please contact Deacon Rubik during business hours at (248) 569-3405 or via e-mail: [rubik@sjachurch.org](mailto:rubik@sjachurch.org). The Bell Choir debut concert will be this Christmas.



If you are interested in becoming part of the Komitas Choir, please contact Deacon Rubik as well.

## CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS.....

On Sunday, September 13, the Church School officially opened its doors once again for a year of learning, worshipping and celebrating our faith in the tradition of the Armenian Church. Father Garabed greeted the children and parents at a special assembly explaining the theme of the year and the many new programs and activities that will take place for all grade levels. At the conclusion of the assembly and before students went to their classrooms, Church School Principal, Mrs. Alberta Godoshian, spoke to the parents and children and presented special awards of recognition to the students who demonstrated exceptional learning during the 2008-2009 session. The following children were recognized for their achievements:

**FOURTH GRADE:** Nicholas Boyadjian **FIFTH GRADE:** Rosanne Ameriguian, Erin Bahm, Jacob Bahm, Ani Freeborn, Michelle Halagian, Ani Misirliyan, Danielle Sarafian, Nicole Sarkisian, Alexis Vahratian **SIXTH GRADE:** Carolyn Andonian, Nicholas Chatas, Zaven Dadian, Lexa Giragosian, Megan Haase **SEVENTH GRADE:** Lauren Hogikyan, Gohar Melkonian, Sarine Misirliyan, Christopher Sarkisian, Grace Torossian **EIGHTH GRADE:** Nicole Vartabedian, Ari Sagherian, Matthew Tarpinian **NINTH GRADE:** Mark Andonian, Mara Darian, Julia Hogikyan, Ani Karibian, Hripsime Mamassian, Grace Mangigian **TENTH GRADE:** Lauren Dolik, Eldari Gogiashvili, Adam Gumushian, Leah Mamassian, Sevan Misirliyan, Carolyn Philip, Ani Stamboulian, Elizabeth Vartabedian **ELEVENTH GRADE:** Matthew Andonian, Emily Hogikyan **PERFECT ATTENDANCE:** Michael Halagian - Kindergarten; Michelle Halagian - Fourth Grade; Matthew Tarpinian - Eighth Grade

## WEDDINGS

### AUGUST

- 29 John Hagopian & Sarah Neale  
Bestman: Steven Hagopian  
Maid of Honor: Lauren Yates

## BAPTISMS

### AUGUST

- 21 Katya Lylee  
Daughter of Michael & Ashkhen Brooks  
Godparents: Hagop Babikian & Sylvia Babikian
- 22 Madeline Seta  
Daughter of Glenn & Charlotte Akarakcian  
Godparents: Michael Harrison & Correne Akarakcian
- Addison Michelle  
Daughter of Christopher & Nicole Bean  
Godparents: Nicole Koptas & Christopher Yuergens
- 23 Giavanna Maryam  
Daughter of Garo & Michelle Boyajian  
Godparents: Raffi Mihalian & Nicole Nys
- 29 Andrew Arman  
Son of Grigoriy & Lana Melkumyan  
Godparents: Sevan & Lillian Calukyan
- 30 Christian James  
Son of James & Carrie Vitale  
Godparents: Thomas Vitale  
& Rebecca Couyoumjian

### SEPTEMBER

- 4 Mane  
Daughter of Father Hrach  
& Yeretzgin Naira Sargsyan  
Godfather: Father Diran Papazian
- 5 William Kemler - Adult

## FUNERALS

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 Shafika Aliyeva, 73, Oakview
- 14 Hayk Snkhchyan, 85, Oakview

## CONGRATULATIONS 2009 GRADUATES!

**Margeaux Reizian** graduated from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, College of Literature, Science & Arts with a Bachelor of Science degree in the field of Cellular and Molecular Biology with high distinction, in May 2009. She is currently pursuing a degree in medicine at the University of Michigan's Medical School. She is daughter of John & Laurie Reizian and the granddaughter of Harry & Mary Keoleian, Dr. Harry Reizian and the late Victoria Reizian.

### 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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**Anna Svirid Sarkisian**

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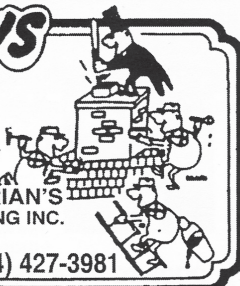
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# PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.....

## Armenia - Land of Noah's Ark St. John Armenian Church Festival

Thursday, October 1 - Sunday, October 4, 2009

Watch the Torchbearer, Sunday Bulletin and the Festival Page  
on the web site for more details

### October

- 24 **An Afternoon of Discovery**  
*presented by St. Nersess Armenian Seminary  
for all ACYOA Seniors and Juniors*
- 24 **ACYOA Family Halloween Dance**  
*Proceeds to benefit St. Nersess Armenian Seminary*

### November

- 14 **Church School Educators Seminar**
- 15 **Church School Senior High School Division  
"Family Thanksgiving Dinner"**
- 22 **Women's Guild Thanksgiving Pie Sale**  
*Refer to page 2 for more information*
- 28 **ACYOA November Dance**

### December

- 2 **Women's Guild Advent by Candlelight**  
*Refer to page 2 for more information*
- 20 **Church School Christmas Program**  
*in the Sanctuary*
- 24 **Western Christmas Eve Service & ACYOA Tea**

### January, 2010

- 5-6 **Armenian Christmas**
- 10 **Church School Armenian Christmas Family Dinner**

### February

- 11 **Vartanantz Service at St. Vartan Armenian Catholic Church**

### 14

**Boon Baregentan – Great Lent Begins  
Feast of the Presentation of the Lord  
Infant Blessing Service**

### March

- 20 **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Lenten Retreat**
- 28 **Palm Sunday**

**HOLY WEEK March 29 – April 2**

### April

- 3 **Easter Eve Worship & Liturgy  
followed by Church School Family Dinner**
- 4 **Easter**

## EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

### October

- 10 **AGBU Manoogian School 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Dinner Dance**

### November

- 25 **Red Wings "Armenian Heritage Night" honoring  
Eric Bogosian of the Atlanta Thrashers.**  
*Joe Louis Arena, 7:30 pm*

### December

- 31 **New Year's Eve Party sponsored by the Knights and  
Daughters of Vartan. Proceeds to be shared equally  
among Detroit's four Armenian churches.**  
*Details to follow.*

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