

THE TORCHBEARER • Ջահակիր

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*



CONGRATULATIONS, FULLER PROJECT!

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." - Matthew 5:16

Fuller Center for Housing Armenia is celebrating the 200th home milestone, which means that already 200 families have forever forgotten the status of the homeless, 200 families already have the basis for well being in many areas - health, education, psychology. "This house is like a fairy tale. I still can't believe it is true. First time in his life my 8 year old son was having a "real shower," not the one he was used to with pots, and he didn't want to get out of the bathroom. I can never forget how happy he was..." said Marine, the mother, through tears, but these were already tears of happiness.

For many of us the term "real shower" can sound strange. Very often we can't even imagine what running hot water or a bathroom in the house means to a family who have never had it, dared only dream about it as luxury they could never have. For a very long time the Manukyan family of six from Vayots Dzor region, the village of Areni have been living in a metal container (*domik*) in unbearable conditions without a kitchen and a bathroom. The family is a hard working one - both parents work at the local winery; they also have their small orchard and are engaged in farming. However, with the needs of the growing family these hard working people were able to build only part of their own house and couldn't complete the construction due to financial difficulties. In the same village Fuller Center for Housing Armenia assisted another family in 2011 and the Manukyans volunteered to build this house praying that one day they may qualify and build their own home. In early 2012 the family was selected as a partner family. Now thanks to the assistance of St. John's, the family house construction is completed. Every year the church supports a group of volunteers to visit Armenia and join Fuller Center for Housing to build side by side with the family in housing need. This partnership transforms lives, giving the families the opportunity for a better and brighter future. "You gave my children the chance to succeed in life; we are so grateful, let this happiness find others too," said Vasil, the family father.

"As Armenians in the Diaspora, we all have a strong desire to help Armenians in our homeland. We are fortunate that St. John's has a large community and that we have been able to sponsor each home we've worked on. We were privileged to work alongside the Manukyan family to help them further the process of their home and make their day to day life easier. The team feels that they are their new family. Each member felt a bond with the family and our ties to Armenia are even stronger. Each home is a labor of love. Mr. John Yavruian, who underwrote the cost of the Manukyan home, has also participated in two previous home build teams," says Jackie Elchemmas, the team leader, who is already 6 years leading volunteer teams to Armenia. The whole experience of working alongside an impoverished family to

create a safe and more comfortable functioning home is an experience that cannot be described in words. It is a feeling that you have in your heart that tells you that you are doing a good thing, doing a good deed that will deeply impact a family, expressed a team member.

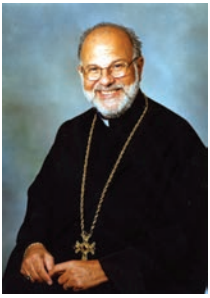
This partnership between Fuller Center and St. John's has become a bridge between two countries that gives the two sides the feeling that they are doing a good thing, the feeling that they are making a difference in the lives of many Armenian families in need. *Pictured above, right:* The Manukyan family poses for a photo beside their new home. *Pictured left:* The Fuller Project team, with leader Jackie Elchemmas pictured center. See page 3 for additional photographs from the Fuller Center's accomplishment.



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

OCTOBER 2012



FROM FATHER GARABED'S DESK.....

A new tradition in the life of St. John Armenian Church has begun.
Render therefore to all their due: ...honor to whom honor is due. - Romans 13:7

As part of one's Christian love and devotion in serving our Lord in our parish, stewardship is a celebrated virtue of Christian living, caring for the needs of our parish community, from leading the faithful at worship to the ministering of the community's diverse educational, spiritual and social needs. This year we will inaugurate a new tradition at St. Johns and lift up in "A Celebration of Service" to give honor to whom honor is due, a program to be held hereafter each year.

How befitting it is that our parish during the Thanksgiving Holiday season plans to honor those who have been the 'Good and Faithful servant' our Lord Jesus calls us to be. And in the spirit of thanksgiving, offering our gratitude to God for their unwavering leadership, devotion, dedication to our parish and to the Armenian Church community, we congratulate and honor those avatars who are the Good and Faithful servants.

Two young men, Aram Sarkisian and David Aprahamian, will be ordained and take up greater roles and responsibilities to nurture the faithful of St. John's parish in guiding all as Deacons in worship.

The chosen twelve we honor with **The St. John the Forerunner Award** Deacon Deacon Ohannes Boyajian, Almas Derderian, Peter Egigian, Mary Egigian, Alberta Godoshian, Sooren Gozmanian, Agnes Carman Hovsepian, Harry Keoleian (posthumously), Sirvart Mezian, Edward Papelian, Charles Stambouljian, and Simon Tashjian. We celebrate their longevity of service, stewardship and their God-given gifts shared from generation to generation illuminating the pathways of many with the Light of Christ.

Eight good and faithful servants, Howard Atesian, Dr. Vincent Baylerian, Simon Javizian, Edward H. Korkoian, Arthur Mardigian, Deacon Richard Norsigian, Dr. Edward Sarkisian and Dr. Gary Zamanigian, themselves exemplars of sound leadership in our home and in the broader ministry in the Armenian Church in the Eastern Diocese, whose good works grounded upon our Christian faith will be honored with the coveted Diocesan **St. Vartan Award** to be presented by the Diocesan Primate for their decades of continued service and their important places in the mosaic of leadership in our parish and Diocese.

And to complete our day of celebration Archbishop Khajag on behalf of His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians in Holy Etchmiadzin will honor and present the **Saint Gregory Medal and Encyclical (Gontag)**, to Mrs. Emma Tabibyan Sogioian for her and her late husband Kalousd's continued support of the Holy Mother See in Armenia, giving in great love thier assistance to the diverse needs of the Armenian Church and Armenian nation.

Plan to join us and offer your good wishes to the honored guests Sunday, November 11, 2012 immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

~ Father Garabed

A VERY HAPPY CAMPER.....

Dear Father Garabed and Men's Society,

I had a great time at Hye Camp. Thank you so much for the scholarship to my 1st Hye Camp experience. I appreciate it. Now here are some of the reeeaaaallllyyy fun things we did at camp. Well, first on a regular day we went to breakfast, morning service, then cabin clean up. Next we had classes such as religion, dance, language, culture, and art. After all of our classes we had lunch, free time, sports and swimming. Then we had some more free time. And finally all of that led up to dinner. Yummmmm, the salad bar was my favorite! Right after dinner we went to church, then to the main lodge for snack and the W-HYE News. After this tiring day, some of the priest's came and prayed with us and then it was lights out for me. ZzZzZ. Some of the best things at camp were the games played at sports (such as nucom, basketball, and the Olympics), art with Ms. Angie, meeting Armenian kids from all over the United States, the Dance! and SWIMMING! Once again thank you soooooo much for the Hye Camp scholarship, I had such an amazing time.

Love,

Gracie Magee

WOMEN'S GUILD NEEDS YOUR HELP!

DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, THE WOMEN'S GUILD SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE WILL BE COLLECTING NEW PAJAMAS (ANY SIZE) AND/OR BOOKS FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN, INFANT TO YOUNG ADULT.

WE WILL BE DELIVERING THEM TO ORCHARD CHILDREN SERVICES IN SOUTHFIELD, WHICH WILL DISTRIBUTE THEM THROUGH THE "PAJAMA PROJECT," A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION. LOOK FOR THE COLLECTION BINS THAT WILL BE PLACED THROUGHOUT THE CHURCH COMPLEX.

WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL HELP US IN OUR OUTREACH PROJECT TO HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR CHILDREN IN OUR AREA WHO ARE IN NEED.

THANK YOU!

- CAROL OHANESIAN -

MEN'S SOCIETY KEEPS COOKIN'.....

On Sunday, September 9, 2012, opening day of the Church School, the Men's Society of St. John's held a Pancake Breakfast in the main hall. Chairmen Mark Mamassian and Ron Keoleian with their committee, which included Glenn Akaracian, Edward Baharian, James Berryman, Daniel Cristiano, David Dardarian, Gjon Ivezaj, Craig Johnson, Robert Magee, Peter Toukhanian, and Paul Yousoufian prepared and served the food and also made sure everyone enjoyed their breakfast. A special thank you to Miss Maxine Toukhanian who helped immensely in the kitchen.

Approximately 175 people attended the function and they were given the choice of pancakes, hash browns, sausage, basterma and eggs, plain eggs, veal parmesan, salad, fresh vegetables, rolls, orange sherbet, juice and coffee. If you did not attend this feast, you missed a culinary bonanza.

Funds raised by Free Will Offerings will go to support the Men's Society and Komitas Choir's audio/visual project for the Sanctuary. All future Men's Society Breakfasts for 2012 will be in support of this project. Please come and join us and give generously. The members of the Men's Society thank you for your continued support of these projects.

- Dan Cristiano -

"TLC" STAYS BUSY.....

On September 5th, the Tuesday Lunch Club presented a movie after lunch entitled "From Ararat to Zion" as part of our ongoing series of movies for our group. We had 17 attendees who enjoyed the movie and hopefully we will have more at our next movie presentation.

On September 11th, Julie Jenkins from Manoogian Manor held a presentation on "Achoo! I Don't Feel So Good." Fall is in the air, and that means that COLD & FLU SEASON is going to be quickly upon us. But there are ways to guard ourselves against the dreaded cold season, and a way to protect ourselves from the flu. Julie presented several ideas for us to utilize during the coming months.

Re-scheduled for October 9th, "Paws With A Cause," a national not-for-profit organization that was founded in Michigan in 1979 will make a presentation to the TLC. The agency is dedicated to serving people with disabilities by training and placing Assistance Dogs. Assistance Dogs include Service Dogs for people with physical disabilities, Hearing Dogs for people who are hard of hearing or deaf, Seizure Response Dogs for people with seizure disorders and Service Dogs for Children with Autism for families living with autism. Since December 2010, PAWS® has trained and certified more than 2,300 Assistance Dog teams.

On October 23rd, Julie Jenkins will make a presentation on "Exercise & Benefits of Exercise." If you plan on attending our luncheons, please make a reservation with May in the Church office (248.569.3405) to ensure that our caterer will have ample food available. The cost of lunch is \$7 per person. We look forward to seeing you!

- Dan Cristiano -

CHURCH SCHOOL GIVES AWARD.....



Mark Joseph Andonian, son of Paul and Kristine Andonian, has been chosen to receive the Robert Ajemian Scholarship given to an outstanding St. John Church School graduate.

The scholarship was established in 2012 with a generous gift to the Church School from the Robert Ajemian Foundation with the express purpose to award a scholarship to an exemplary student graduating from the Church School and based on academic achievements, service to church and community and writing ability.

We congratulate Mark on his accomplishment and wish him continued success in his undergraduate studies at the University of Michigan School of Engineering.



Volunteers helping to build the Manukyan's new home.



The Fuller Center's youngest helper and recipient of new home, Hayk.



The Manukyan's home before Fuller Center worked its "magic."



The Parish Council and Apostolic Society of St. John Armenian Church

invite you to

Celebrate the Season

featuring

Onnik Dinkjian

with

Gregory Vosbikian ~ oud Leon Janikian ~ clarinet
David Hoplamazian ~ violin Ara Dinkjian ~ keyboard
Christopher Vosbikian ~ dumbeg

Saturday, the eighth of December

Two thousand and twelve

Strolling Dinner at seven o'clock

St. John Armenian Church Cultural Hall

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\$30 after ten o'clock



Please list the guests at your table and return this reservation with your check

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For additional information, please call Marilyn Sarkesian 248.332.6570

The Pastor and Parish Council
IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE AND INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE

**ORDINATIONS
AND
A CELEBRATION OF SERVICE TO OUR PARISH
ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2012**



IT IS OUR HONOR TO ANNOUNCE THAT
HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP KHAJAG BARSAMIAN
DIOCESAN PRIMATE
WILL CELEBRATE THE DIVINE LITURGY AND
SHALL ORDAIN OUR SUB-DEACONS
TO THE HOLY ORDER OF THE DIACONATE

Dr. David Aprahamian and Aram Sarkisian

FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY AND ORDINATION
JOIN US IN THE CULTURAL HALL AS A CELEBRATION OF SERVICE CONTINUES
HONORING MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FOR THEIR LOVE, DEVOTION AND LONG YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR PARISH
AND THE ENTIRE ARMENIAN CHURCH

A SPECIAL GONTAG WILL BE PRESENT FROM HIS HOLINESS THE CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS TO

Mrs. Emma Sogvian

THE DIOCESAN ST. VARTAN AWARD WILL BE PRESENTED TO

**HOWARD ATESIAN, DR. VINCENT BAYLERIAN, SIMON JAVIZIAN, EDWARD H. KORKOIAN, ARTHUR
MARDIGIAN, DEACON RICHARD NORSIGIAN, DR. EDWARD SARKISIAN, DR. GARY ZAMANIGIAN**

THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED ST. JOHN THE FORERUNNER AWARD HERE AFTER TO BE ANNUALLY PRESENT IN OUR
PARISH, THIS YEAR WILL BE GIVEN TO

**DEACON OHANNES BOYAJIAN, ALMAS DERDERIAN, PETER EGIGIAN, MARY EGIGIAN,
ALBERTA GODOSHIAN, SOOREN GOZMANIAN, AGNES CARMAN HOVSEPIAN, HARRY KEOLEIAN
(POSTHUMOUSLY), SIRVART MEZIAN, EDWARD PAPELIAN,
CHARLES STAMBOULIAN, SIMON TASHJIAN**

ADULTS: \$30
CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER: \$15

FOR RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE.
248.569.3405

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms & Chrismations

September 2012

- 2 Zaven
Son of Serj & Nanor Andonian
Godparents: Viken & Nor Minassian
- 7 Timothy Ernest Kanasty - Chrismation
- 8 Elizabeth Deborah
Daughter of Richard & Alexandra Apkarian
Godparents: Christian Ohanian & Kristen Vosbikian
- 15 Mason Paul
Son of Paul & Denise Choukourian
Godparents: Michael Choukourian & Mackenzie Teichner
- 16 Noah Michael
Son of Nicole Matoian
Godparents: Gregory Megerian & Christine Matoian

Funerals

August 2012

- 21 Marilyn Seranian, 81, Evergreen

September 2012

- 1 Armen Verdiyan, 32, Arbor Crest Memorial Park
- 20 Meline Boyacian, 84, Woodlawn

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL.....

Fall has arrived. For all the attention we gave to St John's Annual "Festival-Bazaar" it is now history. Time does not stop. As mortals in God's Creation, we live our lives seeking His Eternal Love. Imperfect, we make mistakes. Mistakes become our teachers as we strive to follow the example of our Lord. As a community we have been blessed in many ways and on Sundays we gather to give thanks for the blessings God has bestowed on us.

Last year the Parish Council made a decision to inaugurate an event called "A Celebration of Service." We recognized that through the years we, as a community, had been remiss in not taking the time to acknowledge the many souls that dedicated themselves to the Service of our Lord and His Community. This omission occurred because of a stated fear that, as mortals, we would make mistakes. As a consequence, generations of service went unrecognized. The endowed gifts bequeathed to us were accepted with no thought of recognition. This was the result of letting fear determine our path, rather, than trusting in our Faith to drive us to do what is right.

On November 11, 2012 our Primate, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian will visit our Parish to ordain two individuals who have trained and dedicated themselves to serve our Church as Deacons (*Sargavakner*). Following the *Badarak*, there will be a banquet luncheon recognizing the service of those who came before us and celebrating the service of those who are still with

THANK YOU, FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS!

The Pastor and Parish Council express sincere gratitude and thanks to ALL who made the 2012 Festival a great success. From all indications, the celebration of our culture was spiritually and materially successful beyond expectation.

For those that want more information about it, complete Festival coverage will appear in the November issue. If you have any photos you'd like to share with *Torchbearer* readers, please feel free to submit them to Julia Papiyants at julia@sjachurch.org

Our parish is blessed to have so many dedicated groups and individuals who truly reflect the living Christian spirit by giving their time, talent and treasure toward the sacred mission of the Church.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

us today. We know that there are many individuals in our parish yet to be recognized and thanked. Each and everyone of you deserves recognition and rewards for all you devoutly do for our parish, but we know that God is at work too. He sees everything and everyone, and that He is the One who will grant you the best of everything according to your God-pleasing good deeds. As a community, we have been blessed with many generous spirits. It is the intention of the Parish Council that this Celebration becomes an annual event in the life of St John. In celebrating the Service of those yet among us, we acknowledge the example that our Lord set for us and his disciples. "*For it is in giving, we receive.*" (Acts 20:35)

There is one more upcoming event I would like to share with you. A week before the Archbishop's visit, the newly formed Music Guild of St John's Church with the participation of our Komitas Choir has invited some of the DSO's most acclaimed musicians to perform a concert in our Sanctuary on November 4, 2012. A labor of love, this concert is a part of the DSO's Neighborhood Series. This represents an opportunity to reach out to the Community at large and invite them into our home. We hope to fill the Sanctuary with all those who love music. Tell your friends and invite them.

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit continues to guide our Community and its Council, always asking God's blessing upon our works as we carry forward the Torch our Forerunners passed to us.

- John Yavruian -

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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:

www.stjohnsarmenianchurch.org

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OCTOBER 2012

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.....

October

- 14 Men's Society Pancake Breakfast
- 17 Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study
- 19 Men's Society Wine Tasting
- 28 Discovery of the Holy Cross

November

- 4 Detroit Symphony Orchestra
- 11 Episcopal Divine Liturgy celebrated by
His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Deacons Ordination Service
'A Celebration of Service' Awards Dinner
- 17 Church School Teachers Workshop
- 18 Workshop: Parenting Our Children to Discover
a Godly Life
- 21 Presentation of the Holy Mother-of-God
to the Temple
- 22 Thanksgiving - Complex Closed
- 24 ACYOA November Dance
- 28 Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study

December

- 8 Celebrate the Season Dinner Dance
Sponsored by the Parish Council and Apostolic
Society
- 9 Conception of the Holy Mother-of-God
- 11 Celebrating the Legacy of 500 Years of
Armenian Book Printing: 1512-2012
Sponsored by the Armenian Research Center,
University of Michigan-Dearborn and the Alex
and Marie Manoogian Museum
- 16 Oakland Choral Society performs
Handel's "Messiah"
- 24 Family Christmas Worship & Tea - 5:00 pm
- 25 Western Christmas-Complex Closed
- 26 Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study
- 29 *Barekandan* of the Fast of Nativity

IN THE COMMUNITY.....

Friday, October 12, 2012, 7:30 pm
Tekeyan Cultural Association 2012 Lecture Series
"The Caves of Armenia" Slide Presentation/Commentary
by Charles G. Chavdarian, Ph.D.
AGBU Alex and Marie Manoogian School
Reception to follow

Saturday, October 13, 2012, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Daughters of Vartan Women's Symposium
"A Woman's Life" with keynote speakers on family, health,
nutrition and fitness
The Inn at St. John's, Plymouth, MI
\$50.00 per person
For information and reservations, contact
Joyce Obenhoff 586.754.3984

Thursday, October 18, 2012
Armenian Research Center
5:00 pm - Reception/View Exhibit
6:30 pm - Lecture: "The Three Eras of Armenian Literature"
Guest Speaker: Levon Avdoyan, Armenian and Georgian Area
Specialist, Library of Congress
Mardigian Library
University of Michigan-Dearborn
4901 Evergreen Rd, Dearborn MI 48128
Light refreshment to follow
Exhibit sponsored by the Robert Ajemian Foundation

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS NOVEMBER 4TH
SET CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR!

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH

Please note: Community events are open to the public
with free admission unless otherwise specified.
All events are subject to change. Please confirm date and
time before planning to attend an event.

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