

# 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*



## IN MEMORIAM: ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN (1919-2012)



With deep sorrow, the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America mourns the passing of His Beatitude Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, the 96th Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, and the long-serving former Primate of our own Diocese.

Patriarch Torkom entered his eternal rest on October 12, 2012, at age 93. He was interred in Jerusalem, at the Patriarchal Cemetery, on Monday, October 22. In 2012, he suffered a serious decline in health. In January he was admitted to a hospital in Jerusalem, and subsequently was cared for in the city's Franciscan hospice, close by to the Armenian Patriarchate, where he was visited by friends and relatives. It was there that he fell asleep in the Lord.

Prior to his election as Patriarch of Jerusalem, Archbishop Torkom served for a quarter-century as Primate of the Eastern Diocese. To thousands of people across this country-not only in our parishes, but in the surrounding society-he was the vigorous, compassionate, always impressive face of the Armenian Church of America. He was also the beautiful, poetic voice of our people, advocating in a principled and forceful way for our concerns and aspirations, while embodying the great Armenian civilization that had bestowed works of profound art and spirituality on world culture.

His Beatitude was born in 1919 near Baghdad, Iraq, where his parents had sought refuge from the mass exterminations of Armenians in Ottoman Turkey known as the Armenian Genocide. As a boy he was enrolled in the Monastery of St.

James in Jerusalem, and was ordained a priest of the Armenian Church in 1939.

He arrived in the United States in 1946, to serve as pastor of the Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia. Continuing his education at the graduate and post-graduate levels in America and Jerusalem, he was made a bishop in 1962, shortly after his election as Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. In 1966, Bishop Manoogian was elected as Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America-the largest Armenian Church diocese outside of Armenia itself-and two years later was elevated to the rank of archbishop.

During his quarter-century as Primate, Archbishop Manoogian became a recognized and respected figure in ecumenical and civic settings, serving in an executive capacity for various ecumenical and interfaith organizations, and as an outspoken champion of human rights.

In April of 1990, after the passing of the previous patriarch, Archbishop Manoogian was elected as the 96th Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem by the members of the St. James Brotherhood, and was officially enthroned on October 27, 1990. In his two decades serving the patriarchal throne, he took steps to revitalize the Patriarchate, and to preserve and extend its age-old role as a center for learning, pilgrimage, and scholarship for the Armenian Church.

When His Holiness Vasken I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, passed away on August 18, 1994, the church's bishops and archbishops elected Archbishop Manoogian as the "Locum Tenens," or interim leader, who would serve as head of the Church until the election of a new Catholicos of All Armenians. Under the Patriarch's leadership, the proceedings for the history-making election of a new Catholicos were organized; with the selection of a successor, Patriarch Torkom returned to the Holy City, to continue his own historic effort in the Armenian holdings of Jerusalem.

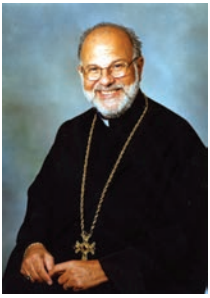
As we mourn his passing, we are consoled in the knowledge that his gentle soul has found rest and peace in the welcoming arms of our Risen Lord, whom he loved and served with such dignity, integrity and distinction throughout his life. His Beatitude was interred at the Patriarchal Cemetery in Jerusalem, among the great Armenian churchmen of past ages.

- From the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America -

**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

NOVEMBER 2012



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

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### Called to be Saints

Inside of us all there is a divine echo from the voice of God to become one with Him. In every world religion there are people who are the heroes of faith, individuals who through their lives have shown us what it really means to become one with God.

In Christian teaching our word is **Saint**. To be good and saintly is to be holy, to do godly works, to model our lives so that all we do and say pleases our Heavenly Father. Sainthood is a calling to be like Jesus, who is one with God in every way and in everything.

Being Christian is synonymous with being a saint. Then, are we all saints? The answer is yes. The potential is there for us all to be proclaimed one day as heroes of the church like the apostles, early leaders, and many inspired preachers in the beginning of the Church. All saints start out on earth as scripture describes them to be: *the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight, people who sing praise to the Lord* (Psalm 16:3); *saints who give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name* (Psalm 30:4). Saint Paul often greeted believers as saints, saying, *Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ; beloved of God, called to be saints: (Romans 1:5-7)*

There are examples of such people past and present. The Blessed Mother Theresa of Calcutta was an advocate of the poor and needy as she brought hope and love to all in India. Saint Gregory the Illuminator helped the emotionally disturbed and mentally ill king and cured him. The saintly head of our church in recent times, His Holiness Vasken I was a true hero of the faith as he challenged the evils of Communist atheism in Armenia.

We thank God for their example. They lived and died giving life to others and they are alive in heaven and are one with God. Such potential is in us all. Inside us all that seedling of sainthood is germinating.

**Jesus says, by their fruit you will recognize them (Matt.7:20). All we need do is the work of God, living and showing that we are at one with Him.**

~ Father Garabed

## WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS.....

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Our dedicated members have done it again with record breaking sales in hot foods and bake goods at the Fall Festival. We cannot thank our members enough for their generosity and time.

The knitting club held its first meeting on October 18th. Our next meeting will be on December 15th. After the holidays, we will meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 10 am until noon. Please contact Linda Assarian at 248.332.0816 if you are interested in participating. If you are just learning, or a pro, everyone is welcome to join the group! We will be focusing on making blankets for charity.

November is election month for the country and for the Women's Guild board. At our November meeting we prepared gift bags for the alternative home for girls. They were filled with generous donations from our members and the church community. A big thank you goes to Sue Vian for her years of dedication leading us in this worthy cause.

The Pajama/Book Project was a great success this year. Under the leadership of Carol Ohanesian and the Women's Guild Social Service Committee, 70 pairs of pajamas and 191 books were donated to Orchard Children Services. We would like to thank the parishioners for their donations.

- Nora Noraian -

## MEN'S SOCIETY KEEPS THINGS COOKIN'.....

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On Sunday, October 14, 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 Edward Baharian, Greg Baise, David Dardarian, Gary Hachigian, Steve Hagopian, Craig Johnson, John Kalajian, Robert Magee, John Pochas, George Saboonjian, Peter Toukhanian, John Yavruian and Paul Yousoufian prepared and served the food and also made sure everyone enjoyed their breakfast. A special thank you to non-member Clark Couyoumjian who also helped.

Approximately 150 people attended the function and they were given the choice of pancakes, hash browns, sausage, basterma and eggs, plain eggs, Cinnamon rolls, salad, pasta, bread, fruit salad, juice and coffee. If you did not attend this event, you really missed a fantastic feast.

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.

- Dan Cristiano -

## MUSEUM TOUR PROVES TO BE A BIG HIT.....

Father Garabed Kochakian, Deacon Rubik Mailian, Museum Director Lucy Ardash and Paul Yousoufian hosted an eager and enthralled group of 88 guests participating in the St. John Sanctuary and Museum Tour on Wednesday, September 26 starting at 10 AM. After an enlightening and entertaining religious, art and architecture tour of the sanctuary and a stunning vocal performance by Deacon Rubik, the group moved to the Manoogian Museum to see numerous fascinating antiquities within. Following was a delicious lunch prepared by Paul Yousoufian finished with Pam Dayinian's famous Khadaif dessert.

A small group of loyal St. John Women's Guild members helped to make the day special for the guests. The event, intended as an outreach to the Metro Detroit area, attracted some Armenians, a group of Bloomfield Seniors and people from Detroit to Canton to Rochester and most cities in between. Responses were very positive and included inquiries on repeat performances of the day, requests for more information regarding upcoming concerts in the sanctuary and future Festival dates. It was our pleasure to share our beautiful Armenian heritage through our "Church with the Golden Dome."

- Diane Ekizian -

### *Clip of the Month*

Calouste Gulbenkian, one of the wealthiest men of the 20th century, amassed a huge fortune and an art collection which he kept in a private museum at his Paris home. Following his death in Portugal, a museum and charitable foundation were established on the site of his former home in Lisbon.

*For a virtual tour of the incredible art collection Mr. Gulbenkian donated to the country of Portugal, please visit:*

[www.tinyurl.com/GulbenkianMuseum](http://www.tinyurl.com/GulbenkianMuseum)

## "TLC" PAWS-ES TO LEARN.....

On Tuesday, October 9th, the Tuesday Lunch Club had the pleasure of a presentation from "Paws With A Cause®." Paws With A Cause is a national not-for-profit organization that was founded in Michigan in 1979. 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/deaf, Seizure Response Dogs for people with seizure disorders and Service Dogs for Children with Autism, for families living with autism. PAWS® has trained and certified close to 3,000 Assistance Dog teams.

Linda Tiffany introduced our Service Dog Sirius, a golden retriever, and his trainer and owner Liz Smith-Yeats. Using dogs to help people with disabilities began in the 1800's and increased after WWI when Leader Dogs for the Blind was started. Sirius was very obedient and he showed many of the things he has been trained to do, such as helping to remove a person's gloves, retrieve keys, pencils and other items his charge might need. The twenty-four in attendance were very impressed with Sirius. The TLC presented Liz Smith-Yeats with a donation to Paws®.

On October 23rd, Julie Jenkins made a presentation on "Exercise & Benefits of Exercise." Julie gave several examples of how important exercise is for an independent lifestyle. The several attendees were provided with several ideas to help increase their use of exercise in their lives.

- Dan Cristiano -







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

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featuring

Onnik Dinkjian

with

Gregory Vosbikian ~ oud      Leon Janikian ~ clarinet  
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Christopher Vosbikian ~ dumbeg

Saturday, the eighth of December

Two thousand and twelve

Strolling Dinner at seven o'clock

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## BAPTISMAL VOWS REMEMBERED.....

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Upon the invitation of Father Garabed, nearly 100 Godparents and Godchildren took part in a special service at St. John following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, September 30th in remembrance of the Sacrament of Baptism that brought them together years ago.

In his homily that day, Father Garabed reminded the congregation of the importance and meaning of Baptism. He reaffirmed the Christian values of Faith, Hope, Love and Baptism that are the building blocks of faith and membership in the Armenian Church.

It is hoped that this service will become an annual tradition at the end of our parish's festival celebrations. Indicative of public reaction, the following letter was received from a St. John parishioner:

Dear Father Garabed:

I have some things to share with you. First thank you for the AWESOME service you had on Sunday for the blessing of the Godparents and Godchildren. My daughter Rebecca and her Godmother Kim were able to participate. It was beautiful. What a great service to end our Festival.

Tricia Magee

- Harry Avagian -

## LEARNING ABOUT THE OSKANIAN BIBLE.....

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*We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the world of life...(1 John 1:1)*

These words have travelled not just from one place to another, but also from generation to generation. From the time of St. John writing them in the 1st century, the words from sacred scripture have been recited, chanted, listened to—in every language under the sun including Armenian. But it wasn't until the 15th century that they could actually be read - not merely by the few who had access to handwritten manuscripts like the monks and donors of such books, but by common people who had the blessing of literacy.

Johannes Gutenberg, a knight of Mainz, Germany, invented the movable type printing process in 1440 and published his 42-line Bible 15 years later. Gutenberg's invention and publication sparked one of the world's great communications revolutions that to this day has been the primary means for communicating the eternal words of the Holy Bible.

In the 16th century, it also inspired some leaders of the Armenian Church. With printed volumes spreading throughout Western Europe, a humble but ambitious servant of our people named Hakob Meghapt took it upon himself to establish an Armenian printing press. He set up shop in Venice, Italy. This became the world's first Armenian printing house, publishing the first six printed Armenian books between 1509 and 1513. In 1585, the Armenian Catholicos Azaria of New Julfa (1584-1601) recognized Meghapt's efforts and by letter, requested help from Pope Gregory XIII in Rome, with a proposal to support the efforts of Meghapt with the printing of a complete Armenian Bible in Venice.

That request was never answered; but the idea lived on and captured the imagination of the Armenian community,

whose members with a thirst to read firsthand the holy words of God galvanized themselves and provided the necessary funding by contributing to the project. In a sense they became translators by lending their financial support and making it possible for Armenian clerics to progressively set up printing houses in many cities. At last, under the pontificate of Catholicos Philippos I Aghbaketsi (1633-55), the first printed Armenian Bible was published.

Oskan Erevantsi (1614-74) had started a printing press in Amsterdam with the help of affluent Armenian patrons. In 1666 he printed the first complete Armenian Bible, which in his honor is known as the Oskanian Bible.

The Oskan volume consisted of 1,462 double pages, with 159 engraved illustrations by the Dutch artist Christoffel van Sichem. They are considered masterpieces of the arts of printing and bookbinding, and a valuable artifact of the Armenian Christian heritage. There are four specimens owned by our Manoogian Museum and one that is continually on display. The Krikor and Clara Zorhab Information Center of the Eastern Diocese is home to one of the early copies of the Oskanian Bible as well.

These relics of history printed in the classical Armenian *k'rapar* continue to sing out to the reader and inspires a kind of spiritual connection with those who have handled them in the past, and with the artisans who created them three and a-half centuries ago.

Today we can still encounter them on the printed page and in the music of its immortal verses. Best of all, we can experience the Bible in church in the company of our fellow believers in our eternal, welcoming home.

"I have much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink; instead I hope to see you soon, and we will talk together face to face." (3 John 1:13-4)

## SACRAMENTS

### **Baptisms & Chrismations**

October 2012

- 5 Celine Nova  
Daughter of Nova & Sherin Palanjian  
Godparents: Krikor Sarkis & Darin Michail
- 6 Jacob Andrew  
Son of Andrew & Melissa Steffens  
Godparents: Peter Mikhjian & Andrea Mekjian
- 20 Noah Thomas  
Son of Charles & Jennifer Wick  
Godparents: Jonathan Richardson  
Thomas Wick & Julie Chaplis
- 21 Nina Lucine  
Daughter of Gjon & Anoosh Ivezaj  
Godparents: Raffi Bogosian & Linda Juncaj

### **Weddings**

October 2012

- 27 Timothy Kanasty & Melissa Reeves  
Khachyeghpayr: Richard Kaloustian  
Best Men: Eric Kanasty & Greg Kanasty  
Matron of Honor: Jennifer Pfister

### **Funerals**

October 2012

- 18 Alexander Mihran Jobouljian, 26, St. Patrick Calvary
- 20 Frances A. Korkoian, 94, Oakview
- 26 Mida Giragosian, 48

## FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL.....

Thanksgiving is a time to be with family and give thanks to God. Through the grace of our Lord, we have harvested the fruits of our labor. We are thankful to all who have given so generously of their Time, Talent and Treasure.

As the end of the year approaches, the Council's attention turns to the task of creating the 2013 Budget, after reviewing our income and expenditures in 2012.

While each year presents unique opportunities and challenges, we knew entering this year that achieving a balanced budget in 2012 would be a challenge. Last year the Council unanimously decided not to include a summer campaign in this year's budget.

Year to date, our revenues have not kept up with our projections. Fortunately, our expenses are less than what we budgeted, easing the negative impact on the bottom line. Due to the tightness of our budget, it is imperative that we reach our targeted income for Pledges and Stewardship. We have sent out notices to those who still have remaining balances. If it is within your means, please make your payments as soon as possible. For those who have already covered their commitments, if

### **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.

there is any extra you can offer, any amount would be greatly appreciated.

Last year we were blessed with unexpected gifts and unanticipated revenues from the celebration of our Eightieth Anniversary. We were able to put monies aside. If necessary, we can tap a portion of those reserves. It is not our first choice. This Council is committed to reining in our expenses while enhancing our revenue stream.

To that end, we have formed an Endowment and Gift Committee. As we move forward, we will present opportunities for the creative building of our Endowment Funds. We all need to remain open and flexible to all avenues so that we can ensure the viability of our Church for future generations in the greater Detroit area.

We pray that the Holy Spirit continues to guide our Community and its Council. With God's blessings upon our works let us carry forward the Torch our Forerunners passed to us.

Together in His Service,  
- John Yavruian -

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NOVEMBER 2012



## PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.....

### 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 Directed by  
Elise Antreassian, Coordinator, Christian  
Education  
18 Parenting Workshop directed by Elise  
Antreassian, Coordinator, Christian Education  
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 *Barekendan* of the Fast of Nativity

## IN THE COMMUNITY.....

### Celebrating the Legacy of Five Centuries of Armenian Language Book Printing: 1512-2012

A Joint Exhibit Being Presented By  
The Armenian Research Center,  
University of Michigan-Dearborn  
The Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum, Southfield

**Tuesday, December 11, 2012**

5:30 pm - Reception/Exhibit  
6:30 pm - Lecture by Levon Avdoyan,  
Armenian and Georgian Area Specialist, Library of Congress  
At the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum  
Exhibit Will Continue Until January 31, 2013

**Saturday, February 2, 2013**

Kef Time Keghi! 6:39 pm  
St. John Armenian Church Cultural Hall  
Featuring the Keghetzi All-Star Armenian Band  
For reservations contact Barbara Norsigian at 248.661.2342

**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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