

THE TORCHBEARER • Ջահակիր

St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit

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The Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian, *Pastor*

Clergy residing within the St. John parish and community:

The Reverend Father Diran Papazian, *Pastor Emeritus*

The Reverend Father Abraham Ohanesian

Deacon Rubik Mailian, *Director of Sacred Music and Pastoral Assistant*

Ms. Margaret Lafian, Organist



DEACON RUBIK MAILIAN SPEAKS AT ACYOA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE.....

Four young adults from St. John's represented our ACYOA Seniors chapter at the annual ACYOA Leadership Conference held in Stony Point, New York from November 8-10. Through morning and evening worship, Bible study, interactive group activities, and presentations, participants from across the Diocese reflected on the themes "Communication, Community, and Communion." Sessions focused on all aspects of communication, from the way we share our faith in Christ to the messages we transmit via social media and the internet.

A very special treat for conference participants was a presentation by our very own Deacon Rubik Mailian, who spoke about communication through Sacred Songs and *Sharagank*. By highlighting examples of the beautiful music found throughout our *Badarak*, Deacon Rubik taught participants how our rich tradition of sacred music gives us a powerful means of communicating our faith. Deacon Rubik led participants in singing verses of sacred songs and showcased the intricate variations in mode and melody that give our *Badarak* such mystery.

The entire audience felt very fortunate to be able to hear about the music they are familiar with from Deacon Rubik's unique perspective, and many remarked that they were eager to hear more from the Komitas Choir's newly recorded CD *Songs of Glory!*

The Detroit presence was strong throughout the weekend as Jennifer Morris, Diocesan Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, led participants in interactive sessions focused on communication skills within ACYOA chapters. Detroit native and ACYOA Central Council member Armen Terjimanian was also involved in planning the conference.

To demonstrate the importance of strong communication for effective leadership, participants were asked to fold a piece of paper according to Jennifer's instructions while keeping their eyes closed. Another activity that demonstrated this message was an interactive session where teams of blindfolded participants had to form a perfect square only using a piece of rope to guide them. These types of activities fostered a great sense of teamwork and underscored the weekend's theme. Participants left the conference feeling inspired and equipped to share what they learned with their fellow ACYOA members and parish communities.

Pictured above, clockwise: Jennifer Morris, Christine Santourian, Harry Kezelian, Dn. Rubik Mailian, Alex Hachigian, Jordan Boyadjian, and Armen Terjimanian

- Christine Santourian -



You are cordially invited to attend a

Christmas Luncheon

hosted by the Women's Guild

following Divine Liturgy on *Monday, January 6, 2014*, in the main ball room.

Join your fellow parishioners on this joyous occasion for a delicious lunch.

We suggest a free will offering, however please make your reservations by *January 3, 2014*.

Call the Church office at 248.569.3405

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-DECEMBER 2013

MUSIC OF THE BAPTISM, THE WEDDING, AND THE FUNERAL.....



At the third in a series of lectures about Armenian sacred music, Deacon Rubik Mailian spoke about the songs of the Sacraments of the Baptism and the Wedding, and about the Funeral Service. Sacrament is Latin for mystery. The Armenian word is *Khorhoort*, and the Greek *mysterium*. All seven sacraments in the Apostolic Armenian church are referred to as mysteries.

While presenting the songs of the Sacraments, Deacon Rubik explained where in the Sacramental service each song is sung, and noted the Armenian and English translations. It is interesting to note that many songs are shared with other church services and may be altered from time to time to accommodate the setting.

Baptism (*Mugurdootyoon* or *Gunoonk* - "sealing of the *myooron*") is translated from the Greek meaning "washing by entering the water." It is the first and most important sacrament. Water is the most ancient religious symbol. The symbol of life, destruction, death and purification it gives new life and is used to signify a new birth.

The Wedding Sacrament, or the Holy Crowning (*Amoosnootyan* or *Busagatrootyan Khorhoort*) is intended to strengthen a mystical union of husband and wife. The Order includes the Blessing of the Garments, the Exchange of Vows and Rings, Sharing of the Faith, The Crowning and Enthronement, and Unity in Drinking from the Goblet.

The funeral is not a sacrament, but a rite. It is a three part service: The Home Service (*Dan Gark*), the Church Service (*Yegeghetsvo Gark*) and the Cemetery Service (*Kerezmanee Gark*). Songs are sung at all three services.

Deacon Rubik will complete the four session series in February with the

Music of Holy Week. The date will be announced. For further information please contact him at rubik@sjachurch.org or 248.569.3405.

- Linda Jevahirian -

Soprano and Board Member, Komitas Choir

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Please check all that apply for your household in the form below and return to the Church Office. Thank you!

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Email _____ (Will not be shared) Date _____

- ☐ I would like to be included in an e-mail system that will bring me timely parish and community news, and notified when *The Torchbearer* or other documents can be accessed online. My e-mail address will be shielded from view as part of a group and not shared with anyone.
- ☐ I would like to receive *The Torchbearer* online as part of an effort to reduce printing and postage cost to the parish. I will be notified by email when the issue will be available.
- ☐ As a non-member of the parish, I would like to subscribe to *The Torchbearer* at a cost of \$30 year. I have included a check made payable to "St. John Armenian Church - *The Torchbearer*".
- ☐ I would like to be a professional or business sponsor of *The Torchbearer* or I have been an advertiser in the past. Please contact me with information. (*The Torchbearer* is published eleven times a year and is a valuable promotional tool as well as a way to support St. John's.)
- ☐ I would like to receive information on becoming a member of St. John's and/or becoming a Steward.
- ☐ I would like to make a donation to the success of *The Torchbearer*. I have enclosed a check.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP - Տօնակարգ Ս. Ծննդեան Շրջանի



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2013 – ST. STEPHEN THE PROTODEACON AND FIRST MARTYR WESTERN CHRISTMAS EVE

Ս. Ստեփաննոս Նախասարկաւակ եւ Առաջին Մարտիրոս / Քրիսմըսի Նախօրեակ / “A Family Christmas Worship” Carols (in English) & Scripture Readings / 10:00 pm / Refreshments in the Grand Ballroom will follow.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2014 - ARMENIAN ‘CHRISTMAS EVE’ DAY / ԵՐԱԿԱԼՈՍՅՏ*

Vespers and Reading of Prophecies - Ճրագալույց / Խթման Գիրքեր / Դանիէլի Մարգարէութեան Ընթերցում եւ «Երից Մանկանց» - 10:00 am / Divine Liturgy 11:00 am / Ս. Պատարագ - 11:00 am

A Christmas Family Luncheon will be hosted by the Church School in the Grand Ballroom following worship services. Adults \$18.00; Children no charge. Please RSVP Alberta Godoshian 248.476.4638 by January 3rd for tables of 8 or more.

MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2014 - THEOPHANY / EPIPHANY / DONASDVADZAHAYDNOOTIAN

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST / Տօն Ս. Ծննդեան եւ Աստուածայայտնութեան
Festal Divine Liturgy / Հանդիսաւոր Ս. Պատարագ - 10:30 am
Blessing of the Waters - Զրօրհնէք / Godfather of the Cross: Armen John Lucassian

A Christmas Luncheon will be hosted by the Women's Guild in the Grand Ballroom following worship services. We suggest a free will offering. However, please RSVP by January 3rd to the Church Office at 248.569.3405.

*The timetable of Christmas Eve observance is in accord with Diocesan directives this year.

Զեզ եւ Մեզ Մեծ Աւետիս - Քրիստոս Ծնաւ եւ Յայտնեցաւ
TSEZ YEV MEZ MEDZ AVEDIS - KREESDOS DZUNAV YEV HAYDNETS'AV
CHRIST IS BORN AND IS REVEALED - BLESSED IS THE REVELATION OF CHRIST!

GREETINGS FROM YOUR PASTOR AND PARISH COUNCIL On the occasion of the New Year and the Holy Christmas Season, the Pastor and Parish Council wish to extend to our beloved faithful community and friends our sincere prayers and good tidings for a New Year filled with God's abundant blessings.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION The Feast of Our Lord's Birth and Baptism is a DagHAVAR / Tabernacle Feast of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church and is a day of Holy Obligation. In accordance with Armenian Church Canon, all the faithful are expected to partake of the Sacrament of Holy Communion at the Divine Liturgies of this Holy Season.

OLD & NEW TRADITIONS OF ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS -- *Yughakin* - Իւղագին It is a church tradition to make a Christmas offering for religious and educational programs and charitable deeds to be offered in the name of our Saviour. Enclosed is an envelope for your Christmas gift, which we call *Yughakin*, meaning “price of oil.” Before the modern era, oil was used to light the lanterns in our churches. In this season of giving, keep the light of Christ burning brightly and remember your Church and all the good it can do with your support.

HOME BLESSING - *Dnorhnek* - Տնօրհնէք It is customary to invite the Lord's blessings into our homes during the Christmas Season. Individuals who wish to have their homes blessed during Christmastide may call the Church Office at 248.569.3405 to schedule a visit by the pastor, who will - with joy - respond and bring the Blessings of Christ into your home.

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms

November 2013

- 12 Larica Mirzoyan - Adult
Garry Mirzoyan - Adult
Godfather: Artur Arutunov
- 26 Cameron Robert Michael
Son of Robert & Cassandra Leos
Godparents: Earl Hovious & Sabrina Hovious
- 29 Grace Shnorig Catherine
Daughter of David & Rachel Berryman
Godfather: Robert Todd Berryman

December 2013

- 1 Gina Charlotte
Daughter of Jeremy & Lauren Gershonowocz
Godparents: Brandon Maake & Nicole Calderone
- Vincent Moses
Son of Alexander & Nicole Calderone
Godparents: Christopher Moses & Lauren Gershonowicz

Weddings

November 2013

- 23 Ara Atesian & Christine Schurr
Bestman: Darren Atesian
Matron of Honor: Andrea Schurr Calvaneso

Funerals

November 2013

- 2 Roxie Manoian, 85, White Chapel
- 6 Virginia Jooharigian, Roseland Park
- 12 Dr. Haig Tashjian, 92, Woodlawn

December 2013

- 9 Carl G. Kalayjian, 91, Mt. Hope Memorial Gardens

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.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER.....

We will soon mark the finale of another wonderful year in our Parish. Although the celebration of the Divine Liturgy remains our weekly ideal we also have enjoyed so many festive social, cultural and educational programs in 2013. These endeavors could not have been achieved without the talent and dedication of our Pastor and Yeretzgin, elected and appointed leaders, the members of our various Church organizations, the teachers and administrators of our Church School, standing and special committee volunteers, and our office and building maintenance staff. On behalf of the Parish Council I extend congratulations and heartfelt gratitude for all that our volunteer parishioners and staff accomplish for our Church. We could not function without you and we cherish each of you! *Varskerneat Gadar!*

Your Parish Council Chairman

- Karmen A. Santourian -

HOW SWEET IT IS.....

We again extend heartfelt congratulations and thanks to Cookie Contest Chairman, Terry Palaian and all the participants, especially those lucky judges, Dikran Callan, Diane Khachaturian, Mark Mamassian and Michael Pifer, for their assistance during the Cookie Contest that occurred this past August during our annual Church Picnic.

Melissa Miller Farr Kazanjian (*pictured left*) achieved First Place for her delicious and unique Orange Pecan Cookies, adapted from a treasured family recipe. Melissa loves sweets and enjoys the precision required for exact measurements to always produce a consistent result in all her baked goods. While experimenting in the kitchen she remembers the culinary skill and influence of her dear Grandmother.



As reported in the September edition there was a delightful tie for Second Place; Pam Dayinian for her wonderful Yummy Cherry Chip Cookies, and the youngest contestant, Setta Hagopian for her beautiful Star Cookies. Of course Pam is well known in our community for her outstanding skills. Setta decorated her star cookies making them edible works of art.

Eda Habring (*pictured right*) is an expert home chef. Her Third Place winning Paklava recipe was truly delectable. The layers were hand-made and melted in your mouth. Eda also recently participated in providing a lavish and scrumptious table of Armenian boregs and other specialties during the opening week of our recent Festival. Thank you again to our wonderful bakers and next time you see these talented gals you might ask them for their distinctive recipes.

- Karmen A. Santourian -



POON PAREGENTAN RETURNS TO DETROIT.....

We are very excited to announce the upcoming March 1, 2014, *Poon Paregentan* Party "Day of Good Living" Dinner Dance. Chairman Joyce Obenhoff's desire was to create a fun evening that welcomed guests of all ages. It has been some years since this traditional event, the Armenian version of Mardi Gras, has been hosted in Detroit. It is the grand party before the austere season of Lent begins.

To make sure we had great music, Joyce called upon Christopher Vosbikian from Philadelphia. Chris has brought together superb musicians from both Philadelphia and Detroit to create a fabulous all star Armenian band. Musicians included are: Michael Gostanian - Vocals, Michael Kazarian - Dumbeg, Chris Marashlian - Bass Guitar, David Hoplamazian - Violin, Greg Nigosian - Oud, George Nigosian - Clarinet and Acoustic Guitar, and Christopher Vosbikian - Dumbeg.

There will be delicious food, great music and dancing. Attire is dressy casual. Yes, men that means you don't have to wear a tie. Ladies come as fabulous as you always do. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Dinner will be served at 7:30 pm. Please send your reservation with payment payable to St. John Women's Guild by February 20, 2014 to Marilyn Sarkesian at 2338 Heronwood Drive, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302. Tables of 8-10 may be reserved. \$55 includes Dinner and Dance, \$30 after 10 pm, Cash Bar. Chairman Joyce Obenhoff is pictured with some of the members of her committee for the March 1st Dinner Dance "*Poon Paregentan*" We look forward to seeing you there.

Pictured left, photo 1: Nora Noraian, Joyce Obenhoff, Carol Ohanesian, Linda Stambouljian and Marilyn Sarkesian. Photo 2: Yerezgini Roberta, Kathy Mekjian and Linda Assarian with other Guild members prepare gift bags for Alternatives for Girls.

- Nora Noraian -



CONGRATULATIONS, FATHER GARABED!



Sunday, November 17th, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the Chairman of the Interfaith Leadership Forum of Metropolitan Detroit, Prof. Robert Bruttell presented to our Pastor Father Garabed, a special award in the name of the Religious Leaders Forum and the Interfaith Leadership Council for his dedication to the Religious Leaders Forum as representative of the Armenian Orthodox Church in Metropolitan Detroit.

Father Garabed served the Eastern Diocese as Ecumenical Officer for seven years and has for many years devoted a great deal of his ministry in reaching out to the non-Armenian Church communities by participating in numerous ecumenical programs of education and worship in the name of the Armenian Church. He has been recognized as a vital link through his leadership of the Armenian Church, globally and within our diocese. This award recognizes our beloved parish of St. John's Armenian Church as well.

Along with the Parishioners of St. John Armenian Church, the Parish Council extends heartfelt best wishes to our Pastor. Following *Badarak*, parishioners witnessed the award presentation and personally congratulated Father Garabed.

*Remember
St. John Armenian Church
in your will.*



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ESTABLISH AN ENDOWMENT,

SUPPLEMENT THE GENERAL FUND.

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE, YOUR PASTOR

OR A PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER FOR WAYS

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

On Sunday, November 3, 2013, the Men's Society held a pancake breakfast. The following Men's Society members helped make this another memorable brunch: Ed Baharian, George Boyagian, Dan Cristiano, David Dardarian, Steve Hagopian, Gjon Ivezaj, Craig Johnson, John Kalajian, Robert Magee, Mark Mamassian, George Saboonjian, Peter Toukhanian and Paul Yousoufian. More than 150 attended the brunch and enjoyed the menu consisting of eggs, *basterma* & eggs, green bean stew, hash brown potatoes, pancakes, sausage, made to order omelets featuring chicken, cheeses, roasted vegetables, potatoes, 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 of these functions.

- Daniel Cristiano -

BAGS OF BLESSINGS.....

One rainy afternoon I was talking about church with Aron, my 2 ½ year old grandson. I reminded him of the religious finger puppets and figures in the Bags of Blessings. I was explaining who was who, and after I talked about Moses, Joseph, and Noah, I said, "and let's not forget Mary" and in a sweet, quiet voice, he asked, "had a little lamb?"

Thank you Anoosh and Gjon Ivezaj for donating these Bags of Blessings. Because of you, our little ones will be familiar with the Bible long before they begin Church School.

- Linda Tiffany -

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stjohnsarmenianchurch.org

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.....

December

- 4 Women's Guild Advent by Candlelight
7 Yuletide Christmas Concert featuring
The Oakland Choral Society and Orchestra
9 Conception of the Holy Mother-of-God
18 Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study
21 Men's Society Bible Study
24 Feast of St. Stephen the Protodeacon and First Martyr
A Family Christmas Worship & Tea (see page 4)
25 Western Christmas - Complex Closed
29 *Barekendan* of the Fast of Nativity

January 2014

- 1 New Year's Day - Complex Closed
5 Armenian Christmas Eve
Vespers & Reading of Prophecies
Christmas Family Dinner hosted by the
Church School
6 Armenian Christmas - Theophany/Epiphany
Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ
Christmas Luncheon
Hosted by the Women's Guild
(see page 4 for Christmas Worship Schedule)
22 Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study
24-25 "MAN UP" Men's Society Retreat

February 2014

- 14 Feast of Light - Presentation of our Lord to
the Temple
16 Blessing of Infants
25 Feast of Sts. Ghevontyants
26 Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study
27 Feast of Sts. Vartanank

IN THE COMMUNITY.....

Saturday, March 1, 2014

Poon Paregentan

An Armenian Mardi Gras

Presented by St. John's Women's Guild

(see insert)

Saturday, March 29, 2014, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

19th Annual Lenten Retreat Seminar

Sponsored in part by the Yeretzgin Rosalie Papazian Endowment Fund

"The Rhythm of the Resurrection"

Guest Speaker: Dr. Vigen Guroian, Theologian

Professor, University of Virginia, Charlottesville

In collaboration with:

Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian

Pastor, St. John Armenian Church and Art Historian

Rev. Dn. Rubik Mailian

Director of Sacred Music, St. John Armenian Church

Chairman of the Diocesan Department of Sacred Music

Donation: \$15 includes all materials, continental breakfast and lunch

To register, phone the church office by March 24th

248.569.3405

Postmaster: Time sensitive material

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