

Christmas History (Repeated from 2014)



"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." And lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh." (Matthew 2:1-11, RSV)

The Armenian Church celebrates the holy birth (*Sourp Dznount*) of Jesus Christ on January 6. In Armenian tradition, this feast day commemorates not only the birth of Christ, but also His baptism by John the Baptist. The latter is remembered through the "Blessing of Water" ceremony, which follows the Divine Liturgy on January 6.

On the eve of the Feast of the Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the *Jrakalouyts* Divine Liturgy (the lighting of the lamps service) is celebrated in honor of the manifestation of Jesus as the Son of God

(theophany). It is custom for the faithful to hold lit candles during this special service.

On the following day, the mystery of our Lord's baptism in the River Jordan is remembered in the ceremony of the *Jurorhnek*, or the "Blessing of Water."

In ancient times, this ceremony was celebrated by the riverside or sea shore, but, for various reasons, it was later confined to the interior of the churches. During the ceremony, the cross is dipped in water, recalling Christ's immersion in the Jordan River. Blessed oil, or Holy Chrism (Muron), is poured into the water from a dove-shaped container, symbolizing the appearance at the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove and the voice of the Father proclaiming to all that Jesus is His Son.

The Holy Chrism is prepared in Holy Etchmiadzin and is blessed by the Catholicos assisted by the bishops. Muron contains olive oil, balsam and the essence of forty different flowers and herbs. At the end of the ceremony, members of the congregation are given the blessed water to drink, thereby sharing in the life giving act of Christ. As water is essential to the life of the body, drinking the blessed water is a reminder that participation in the acts of Christ is essential for eternal life.

Why January 6?

Even at the time of the Holy Apostles, the traditions in the Christian churches in the different parts of the world were not uniform. In fact, Christmas was probably not observed at all in the very early Church. Later, the mysteries of the birth and baptism of Jesus Christ began to be observed on January 6.

By the end of the 3rd century, Christmas in Rome was celebrated on December 25, which coincided with a major pagan feast. The Eastern churches, meanwhile,

continued to observe Christmas on January 6. The Armenian Church has maintained that ancient tradition to this day, whereas the Greek-speaking Christian world switched to the Latin tradition at the end of the 4th century.

--The Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

Shnorhavor Nor Daree yev Soorp Dzuhoont

---The editorial staff of the TLC.

Friends and Family News – Mary Negosian

No Birthdays or Anniversaries to celebrate.

Don't Forget ... - Judy Cristiano

.... Monday, Dec. 5, Bible Study 7-8:30 pm

.... Thursday, Dec. 15, Adult Catechism 7-8:30 pm

.... Monday, Dec. 19, Bible Study 7-8:30 pm

.... Saturday, Dec. 31, Homenetmen New Year's Eve Party, St. Sarkis Armenian Church

.... Saturday, Dec. 31, CSAI New Year's Eve Dinner Dance, St. John Armenian Church

.... Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017, Seven Course Gourmet Dinner, St. John's Men's Society



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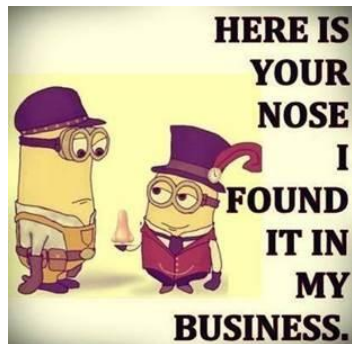
Seta Arslanian will be making a presentation on "Christmas" on Tuesday, December 13, 2016.

UPTOWN
CATERING
2038 Cass Lake Road
Keego Harbor, Mi 48320
Phone: 248.681.9092
Cater here at St. John's
Or at your place

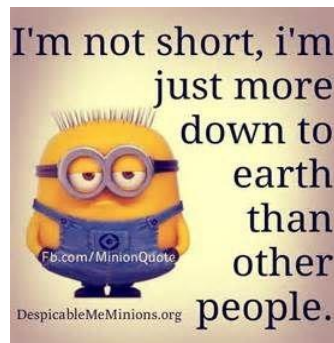
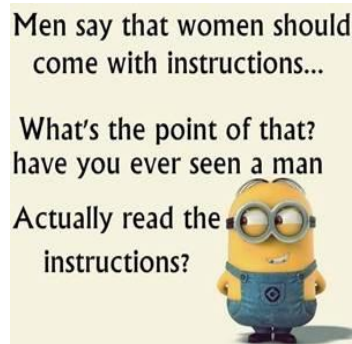
Thought for the month

Think of your loved ones each day.
Don't let your life keep you from
showing them your love and appreciation.

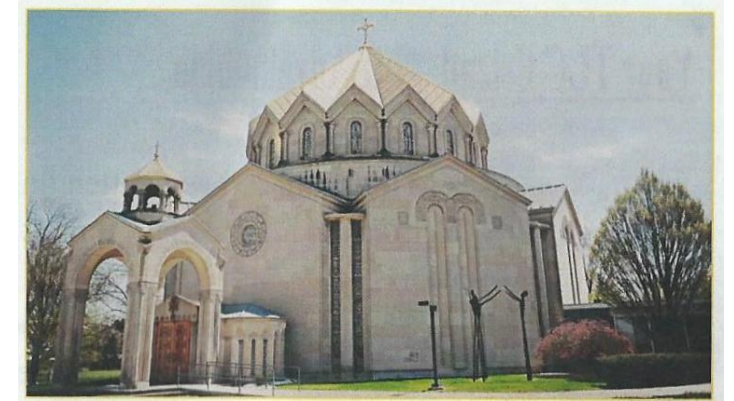
"Monthly Humor" – Dan Cristiano



HUSBANDS ARE THE BEST
PEOPLE TO SHARE
SECRETS WITH.
THEY'LL
NEVER
TELL ANYONE,
BECAUSE THEY
AREN'T EVEN LISTENING.



To all those people that
make me
laugh and
Smile:
I couldn't
live
without
you.



St. John Armenian Church

Tuesday Lunch Club



News

December 2016

Join us for lunch on Tuesdays

We always have a great meal and a good time
with old friends. Come as you are and enjoy the
camaraderie with old friends and new acquaintances.

Every Tuesday in the Veterans Building



Veteran's Building