

## Armenian Christmas

### **Why Do Armenians Celebrate Christmas on January 6th?**

by Hratch Tchilingirian

"Armenian Christmas," as it is popularly called, is a culmination of celebrations of events related to Christ's Incarnation. Theophany or Epiphany (or Astvadz-a-haytnootyoon in Armenian) means "revelation of God," which is the central theme of the Christmas Season in the Armenian Church. During the "Armenian Christmas" season, the major events that are celebrated are the Nativity of Christ in Bethlehem and His Baptism in the River Jordan. The day of this major feast in the Armenian Church is January 6th. A ceremony called "Blessing of Water" is conducted in the Armenian Church to commemorate Christ's Baptism.

It is frequently asked as to why Armenians do not celebrate Christmas on December 25th with the rest of the world. Obviously, the exact date of Christ's birth has not been historically established-it is neither recorded in the Gospels. However, historically, all Christian churches celebrated Christ's birth on January 6th until the fourth century.

According to Roman Catholic sources, the date was changed from January 6th to December 25th in order to override a pagan feast dedicated to the birth of the Sun which was celebrated on December 25th. At the time Christians used to

continue their observance of these pagan festivities. In order to undermine and subdue this pagan practice, the church hierarchy designated December 25th as the official date of Christmas and January 6th as the feast of Epiphany. However, Armenia was not affected by this change for the simple fact that there were no such pagan practices in Armenia, on that date, and the fact that the Armenian Church was not a satellite of the Roman Church. Thus, remaining faithful to the traditions of their forefathers, Armenians have continued to celebrate Christmas on January 6th until today.

### **Friends and Family News – Mary Negosian**

Birthdays:

Dan Cristiano (74<sup>th</sup>)    Ken Khezarjian (71<sup>st</sup>)

Sarkis Shavoian (86<sup>th</sup>)

### **Don't Forget ... - Judy Cristiano**

.... Sunday, January 1, Divine Liturgy 11 am

.... Thursday, January 5, Armenian Christmas Eve  
Services begin 6 pm

.... Friday, January 6, Armenian Christmas Services  
Begin 10:30 am, followed by Women's Guild  
Luncheon. Please RSVP to Yerchanig Callan  
At 248-254-3955



15775 Middlebelt Rd,  
Livonia Michigan 48154  
Phone: 1-734-522-5780  
Manoogianmanor.com

There will be no presentations during January and February.

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*

*"To laugh often and much;  
To win the respect of intelligent people  
and the affection of children...  
To leave the world a better place...  
To know even one life has breathed  
easier because you have lived.  
This is to have succeeded."  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson*

***And let us not forget the generosity of the Mardigian family  
in subsidizing our luncheons.***

**"Monthly Humor" – Dan Cristiano**



Whatever happened to Preparations A through G?

Why, why, why do we press harder on the remote control when we know the batteries are getting weak?

Why do banks charge a fee due to insufficient funds when they already know you're broke?

Why is it that when someone tells you that there are one billion stars in the universe you believe them, but if they tell you there is wet paint you have to touch it to check?

Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but duck when you throw a revolver at him?

If people evolved from apes, why are there still apes?

Why is it that, no matter what color bubble bath you use, the bubbles are always white?

Is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?

Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?

Why do people run over a string a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it and then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance?

How do those dead bugs get into the enclosed light fixtures?

Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table, you always manage to knock something else over?

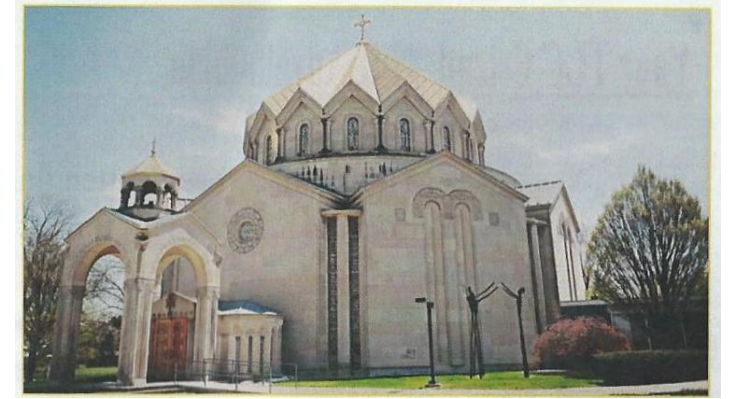
Why, in winter, do we try to keep the house as warm as it was in summer when we complained about the heat?

The statistics on sanity say that one out of every four persons is suffering from some sort of mental illness. Think of your three best friends. If they're OK, then it's you!

REMEMBER, a day without a smile is like a day without sunshine!

And a day without sunshine is, like.....night!!!!

***St. John Armenian Church***



***Tuesday Lunch Club***

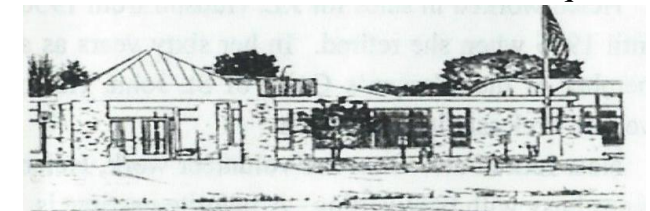


***News***

**January 2017**

**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.



*Veteran's Building*

**Every Tuesday in the Veterans Building**