

# THE TORCHBEARER • Ջահակիր

## St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit

22001 Northwestern Highway • Southfield, MI 48075  
248.569.3405 (phone) • 248.569.0716 (fax) • [stjohnsarmenianchurch.com](http://stjohnsarmenianchurch.com)

The Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian ~ *Pastor*

The Reverend Father Diran Papazian ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

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



**The 95<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of Armenian Martyrs' Day**  
**will be Sunday, April 25, 2010,**  
**immediately following the Divine Liturgy.**  
**Our guest and main speaker will be**  
**the former Ambassador to Armenia,**  
**The Honorable John M. Evans.**



John Evans was confirmed by the Senate on June 25, 2004 and was sworn in as the U.S. Ambassador to Armenia on August 11, 2004. He served for two years in Armenia, but then departed on September 10, 2006, in the wake of differences with the Administration over the issue of the Armenian Genocide.

A native of Williamsburg, Virginia, Mr. Evans studied Russian history at Yale (B.A., 1970) and Columbia, where

he began a Ph.D. before joining the Foreign Service. In the first part of his career, he served in Tehran (1972-74), in Prague (1975-78), in the Executive Secretariat and Office of the Secretary of State (1978-80), in Moscow (1981-83), at the U.S. Mission to NATO (1983-86), and as Deputy Director of the Soviet Desk (1986-89). His role in coordinating the American response to the Armenian earthquake of 1988 earned him a medal and statement of appreciation from the Armenian government of that time.

On his return to Washington in 1999, Mr. Evans assumed direction of the State Department's Office of Analysis for Russia and Eurasia, winning a Meritorious Honor Award and the CIA Director's Exceptional Performance Award. From May 2002 until his appointment to Yerevan, he directed the Office of Russian Affairs.

Ambassador Evans speaks Russian, French, Czech and some Farsi, and has studied Eastern Armenian. He is married to Donna Evans, former President of the World Affairs Council of Washington, and has a daughter, Jennifer, who lives in New York. The Evanses live in Washington and collect folk art representations of Adam and Eve.

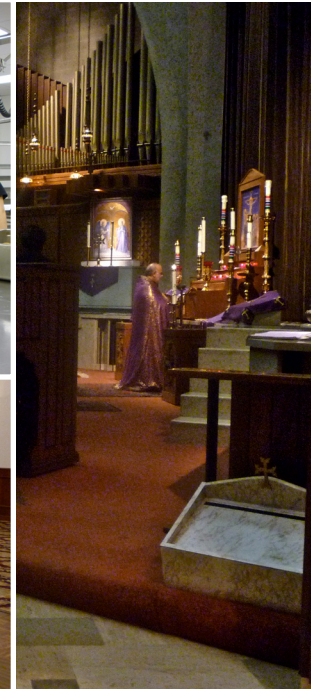
**Please refer to page 5 for the schedule of services and events for the 2010 Armenian Martyrs' commemoration.**

### Church Office Hours

**Monday - Friday: 9 AM - 5 PM**

After hours in an emergency, please contact:

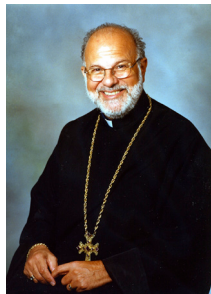
Pastor's Cell: 248.225.9888 ~ Administrator's Cell: 248.802.2861



### Wednesday evenings a time of Lenten observances

St. John's members and friends gather at Church Wednesdays for what has become a Lenten tradition with a new twist. Children enjoy games and crafts, as the **ACYOA members** prepare and serve the always delicious Lenten Fish dinners. Following the meal, we gather in the sanctuary for the Lenten Vigil service, which includes this year a continuing presentation by Father Garabed on the 'seven deadly sins' that we recall from our weekly confession. This has become a weekly Lenten interlude for all who attend. Great appreciation to all those volunteers and ACYOA members who make these evenings possible.

In an effort to economize and streamline our parish communications, we are again incorporating holiday information within the *Torchbearer*. On pages 4 and 5 you will find the Easter Worship Schedule as well as the *Yughakin* appeal and envelope for your convenience. This *Torchbearer* also will reach our wider readership in an effort to encourage your active membership and participation in the St. John's community. You will find Fr. Garabed's monthly message, Stewardship, organization, and event information within as well as 'Save-the-Date' on the back page. Please complete the form on page 2 and we urge you to support our loyal sponsors on page 7. We welcome your comments to help us make the *Torchbearer* a valuable tool for the St. John parish family.



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

### *The Last Becomes the First*

When Christ was crucified on the Cross, He uttered his last breath and word saying,  
**"It is finished" (meaning it is 'completed').**  
But it was not finished; there was and is more.

*Consider this:*

What would you like to be your last words to your closest family and friends? Whatever they might be, imagine the impact if you returned from the grave to speak them. Jesus did. He came back from the dead, returned from the darkness of the tomb to give His followers yet another word. Seeing Him alive again, hearing Him speak again, His words were the first words. As a result, His instructions carried unusual weight when He said to Mary Magdalene, *"Go to my brethren and tell them I am ascending to My Father and Your Father"*. Later, as Our Lord ascended to Heaven, His words continued with what has come to be known as the "Great Commission", because the Christ charged His followers with a mighty and awesome task. All four Gospel writers - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John - have written about these words in their own way and have made it clear that Jesus gives us the privilege and responsibility, as well as telling the Good News, the *Avedis*, as we say in Armenian, about His provision of forgiveness and eternal life to all who will listen.

Do your family members and friends know what Christ has done for them? Do you know what He has done and is doing in your life? Can you afford to deprive them of having that Good News so they can consider for themselves?

Our Lord's last words become His first words for us to tell of the fulfillment of His promise that He would rise from the grave and restore to eternal life all who believe. His last words became the first words, our first words of Life, Hope of resurrection and Promise fulfilled in the risen Lord. With Christ, in Christ, by Christ the Last Words become the first words of a new dawn and day. And so we say *"Krisdos Haryav ee Merelotz"* - *"Christ Is Risen"*, and we take a new breath proclaiming these words that become for every Christian believer the first day of the rest of their lives here and in eternity with God.

*~Father Garabed*

### TORCHBEARER • Զահարար

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ (Will not be shared)

- ☐ I would like to be included in an e-mail system that will bring me timely parish and community news and be notified when the *Torchbearer* or other documents can be accessed on line. 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. (There will be a special code available only to members of the parish to have such access.)
- ☐ 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 - *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* will be in the homes of our community eleven times a year and is a valuable promotional tool.)
- ☐ 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.



## NOTICE

St. John's Armenian Church has been issued a liquor license for use by all individuals and groups which use our facilities. Accordingly, we must abide by the guidelines set forth by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission regarding the purchase and serving of liquor. For more information, please contact St. John's Administrator at the Church Office.

## TOMORROW Starts Today

### THE STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY

Stewards are parishioners who serve the Church with their time, talents, treasures and financial ability. Their annual commitment of spiritual and financial support is a gift for the perpetuation of our faith and Armenian identity. If you are interested in becoming a Steward in 2010, please contact the Church office or any Membership & Stewardship Advisory Board member.

#### Stewardship Mission:

As Stewards of St. John's Armenian Church, we join fellow parishioners in recognizing our Church as a treasure that must continue to serve as the religious and cultural home to many generations of Armenians in the greater Detroit area.

It is through our commitment that the Church will continue to serve the spiritual needs of our parish, expand valuable programs for our members, and ensure a thriving St. John's Armenian Church community.

## Together, We Will Light the Pathway for Tomorrow.

*The Women's Guild of St. John's Armenian Church*  
presents  
*"The Wedding Party"*



The Women's Guild of St. John's Armenian Church is proud to present "The Wedding Party", a luncheon and fashion show of vintage wedding attire. This event, to honor mothers, will be held at twelve o'clock on Saturday, May 8, 2010 at the St. John's Cultural Hall in Southfield, Michigan.

Join us for this memorable event. For further information and reservations, please

contact Marilyn Sarkesian at 248.332.6570.

The vintage photos of St. John's brides captured the interest of our readers. They were Hamaspyr Baylerian, 1921; Jane Hovsepien, 1954; Denise Karakashian, 1977. Can you guess this final bride?!

~Paulette Apkarian, Event Chair

**The Men's Society** is in search of anecdotes for a booklet being prepared about the six historic western provinces of Armenia, Erzeroun, Van, Bitlis, Kharpert, Diyarbekir, Sivas (Sepastia) and the surrounding regions.

"A Personal Memory" section of this book will share treasured stories of family life in historic Armenia. We are looking for uplifting, humorous, heartwarming stories. This will be a wonderful way to explore with our young children family experiences in historic Armenia before the Genocide.

Additionally, these anecdotes will be added to St. John's Archives and placed in the Edward and Helen Mardiagian Library for future generations to enjoy. The booklet will be handed out at the June 11th wine tasting event.

The booklet will include an opening article on the historic western provinces of Armenia, maps and pictures of the region, a brief history of each province, family stories from Armenia, selected Armenian proverbs to ponder, and useful Armenian phrases you should know.

Please e-mail to: [dcristiano@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dcristiano@sbcglobal.net) or mail to:  
Men's Society of St. John Armenian Church  
22001 Northwestern Hwy  
Southfield Mi 48075

We are requesting stories be submitted by May 7<sup>th</sup>. Pictures with stories are acceptable but must be sent electronically. If you have questions please contact

Dan Cristiano 313.291.3194 / Liz Aprahamian 248.851.3119  
Paul Yousoufian 313.310.3508



Quickly becoming a monthly favorite, the **Men's Society Pancake Breakfasts** are drawing great crowds. Featuring a "meatless meal" in March of pancakes with all the trimmings, "huevos rancheros" (scrambled eggs with salsa), fruit, juice and beverages, parishioners socialized until the early afternoon supporting in the process the fund to send our young members to Hye Camp this summer.

**The Men's Society** is preparing an *Armenian Web Directory* which will then be published for Armenian business owners and Armenians in business. Please refer to the Church web site for the application. There is no charge for St. John members and \$25 for others in the community. For more information, please contact Paul Yousoufian at 313.310.3508 or at [pramy1@gmail.com](mailto:pramy1@gmail.com).

## The Great and Holy Week Schedule of Worship

### Աւագ Շաբթուայ Ժամանակացոյց

#### Sunday, March 28 - Palm Sunday - Ծաղկազարդ

9:00 am Morning Service / Առաւօտեան Ժամերգութիւն

9:45am Opening of the Doors – Դռնբացէք – *Trnpatsek*

Church School Students Procession with Palms - Թափօր Կիրակնօրեայ Աշակերտութեան՝ Արմաւենիներով

10:15 am Divine Liturgy / Ս. Պատարագ

ACYOA & YOUTH DAY BRUNCH / ACYOA-ի եւ Երիտասարդաց Օր Պռանջ

#### Tuesday, March 30 - Great & Holy Tuesday – Աւագ Երեքշաբթի

Remembering the Wise and Foolish Virgins – Յիշատակ Տասն Կուսանացն

7:30 pm Vespers / Երեկոյեան Ժամերգութիւն

FOLLOWING VESPERS, THE CHURCH SCHOOL WILL SPONSOR A TEA

*Յաւարտ Երեկոյեան Ժամերգութեան՝ Թէասեղան մը պիտի սպասարկուի Կիրակնօրեայ Դպրոցի կողմէ:*

#### Thursday, April 1 - Great and Holy Thursday – Աւագ Հինգշաբթի

10:30 am Divine Liturgy commemorating the Last Supper

7:30 pm Washing of the Feet / Ոտնլուայ / *Vodnluva*

8:30 pm Betrayal and Passion of Our Lord / Խաւարում / *Khavaroom*

#### Friday, April 2 - Great and Holy Friday – Աւագ Ուրբաթ

11:30 am Order of the Crucifixion of Christ – Կարգ Խաչելութեան Քրիստոսի

7:30 pm The Entombment of Our Lord Jesus Christ – Կարգ Թաղման Քրիստոսի

#### Saturday, April 3 - Great and Holy Saturday - Աւագ Շաբաթ

Divine Liturgy & Family Service, Holy Communion & Easter Eve Supper

4:00 pm Reading of Scriptures / Ընթերցումներ; 5:00 pm Divine Liturgy / Ս. Պատարագ

7:00 pm - Complimentary Easter supper will be served to all children by the Church School.

Adults - \$15.00 Please contact Alberta Godoshian 248.476.4638 for tables of 8-10.

*Յաւարտ Ս. Պատարագի, Տօնական մասնաւոր ընթրիք պիտի սպասարկուի բոլոր Կիրակնօրեայ Դպրոցի կողմէ:*

*Մուտքի նուէր \$15.00 - Աշակերտներու՝ ձրի*

#### Sunday, April 4 – Easter: The Glorious Resurrection of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ

Սուրբ եւ Հրաշափառ Յարութիւն Տիրոջ Յիսուսի Քրիստոսի

9:00 am Morning Service / Առաւօտեան Ժամերգութիւն

9:45 am Divine Liturgy / Ս. Պատարագ

The Blessing of the Four Corners of the Earth – *Antasdan* – will take place in the sanctuary immediately after the Divine Liturgy. Then, all are invited to Easter Tea prepared by the Women's Guild.

*Ս. Պատարագէն վերջ՝ Անդաստանի արարողութիւնը պիտի կատարուի որմէ ետք Տիկնանց Միութիւնը պիտի սպասարկէ Զատիկուայ Թէյասեղան մը:*

*No requiems will be offered on Palm Sunday and Easter.*

*Հոգեհանգիստները Ծաղկազարդին եւ Զատիկին զանց առնուած են:*

## **Sunday, April 11–New Sunday/Memorial Day -Մենելոց**

**9:00 am Morning Service / Առաւօտեան Ժամերգութիւն**

**10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Ս. Պատարագ**

**11:45 am Requiem Service / Հոգեհանգստեան Պաշտօն**

## **Sunday, April 25 – Commemoration of Armenian Martyrs**

**9:00 am Morning Prayers / Առաւօտեան Ժամերգութիւն**

**10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Ս. Պատարագ**

**12:00 pm Requiem Service & Wreath Laying Ceremony at Martyrs Monument; *Madagh* Dinner and Program immediately following worship – All Are Welcome**

**Guest Speaker: Honorable John M. Evans, Former U.S. Ambassador to Armenia**

### **FASTING FOR HOLY COMMUNION**

In accordance with Armenian Church Canon Law, all church members should receive the sacrament of Holy Communion on Easter. For persons in good health, it is necessary to fast, abstain from food and participate in the sacrament of Confession before receiving Holy Communion. For those of ill health who are on special medication, a light breakfast is permitted. For the evening *Badarak*, fasting should begin after the midday meal and continue until the evening *Badarak* has been celebrated.

### **YUGHAKIN – EASTER OFFERING**

It is the pious tradition in the Armenian Church to make a special offering to our parish home for the perpetuation of religious and educational programs as well as charitable deeds to be offered in the name of our Saviour. With the enclosed *Yughakin* offering envelope, we pray that you will respond to this special appeal and thereby keep alive and vibrantly burning the spiritual flame ignited by Christ and transmitted to us by our illustrious Illuminator Saint Gregory over 1700 years ago.

### **HOME BLESSINGS**

Easter is the season to renew the sanctity of the home and family. Father Garabed would like to visit your home and bring the blessings of the Holy Resurrection. Please contact the church office at (248) 569-3405 to schedule a time for your home blessing.

### **CANDLE AND FLOWER DONATIONS FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**

Please contact the church office for donations of candles or flowers. Your donation can be your personal gift to Christ to remember or honor a loved one.



**ՔՐԻՍՏՈՍ ՅԱՐԵԱՒ Ի ՄԵՌԵԼՈՅ  
ՕՐՀՆԵԱԼ Է ՅԱՐՈՒԹԻՒՆՆ ՔՐԻՍՏՈՍԻ**

**KRESDOS HARYAV EE MERELTZ!  
ORHNIAL EH HAROOTYOONN KRESDOSEE!**

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BLESSED IS THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST!**

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### ACYOA DAY

**Palm Sunday Brunch  
Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Immediately following the Divine Liturgy**

*Detroit ACYOA member  
Subdeacon Aram Sarkisian  
will enlighten us with his experiences in  
Jerusalem focusing on:*

**"Prayers Shall Be Offered In  
Jerusalem: The Armenian  
Church in the Holy Land."**

As a special treat,  
following the brunch and program,  
Walled Lake High School's Youth Touring Choir  
will present a brief concert in the sanctuary.

For reservations and more information:  
E-mail Karen Dardarian: [Detroitacyoa@gmail.com](mailto:Detroitacyoa@gmail.com)  
or call (248)661-0617

### Funerals

#### February

26 Margaret Cholakian, 89, Woodlawn

#### March

3 Florence Karagosian, 86, White Chapel

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

CHOOSE A MINISTRY TO SUPPORT,  
ESTABLISH AN ENDOWMENT,  
SUPPLEMENT THE GENERAL FUND.  
CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE,  
YOUR PASTOR OR A PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER  
FOR WAYS TO LEAVE A LEGACY TO YOUR CHURCH.

### 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 Best-man (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.

### The Torchbearer Staff

Fr. Garabed Kochakian, *Editor-in-chief* • Anna Sarkisian, *Managing Editor, Copy & Layout*  
Harry Avagian, Diane Ekizian, May Kafafian, Dolly Matoian

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 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:

[stjohnsarmenianchurch.com](http://stjohnsarmenianchurch.com)



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[daginian@yahoo.com](mailto:daginian@yahoo.com)

*You can help bring the Light of Christ!!*

The youth of our parish returned from the St. Nersess Summer Conferences with a special hand-painted donation box for the ongoing work at the Seminary where the future priests and Christian educators for the Armenian Church in America are trained. This colorful box now is placed on the candle table in our church lobby as a reminder that your donations, no matter how great or humble, can make a difference. Every week when you purchase a candle or two, don't forget St. Nersess Seminary in your spiritual prayers and with your donations as well. Make a gift that will keep alive and bright the light of Christ in our Church, in our parishes, and in our homes.

# PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.....

**HOLY WEEK March 29 – April 2**  
Schedule on pages 4 and 5

- April**  
9 A Khapert Kufteh Family Dinner sponsored by the Women's Guild  
11 Men's Society Pancake Breakfast  
16 "Kef Klub" at St. John's Recreation Center  
18 Town Hall Meeting  
24 Armenian Martyrs Day  
25 Armenian Martyrs Day - Divine Liturgy, Requiem Service, Madagh Dinner & Program  
26-28 Annual Clergy Conference (Chicago, IL)  
29-May 2 Annual Diocesan Assembly (Chicago, IL)
- May**  
2 Men's Society Pancake Breakfast  
8 St. John's Church School Bike-a-thon/Walk-a-thon, 8:30 am at Hines Park  
8 "The Wedding Party" - a luncheon and fashion show of vintage wedding attire presented by the Women's Guild  
*See page 3 for further details*  
9 Church School Graduation & Tea  
19 "Kef Klub" at St. John's Recreation Center  
22 **Camp Kef: An Evening of Memories**  
*Dancing and mezza to remember Camp Ararat. Proceeds to establish a scholarship fund to attend Hye Camp in Illinois. Details to follow.*  
31 **Memorial Day**  
*Details for cemetery services to follow*

- June**  
6 Men's Society Pancake Breakfast  
11 Men's Society Wine Tasting  
18 "Kef Klub" at St. John's Recreation Center  
Moms and *Manoogs* play group sponsored by the Women's Guild  
First and third Tuesdays in the Nursery at 10 am

## KOMITAS CHOIR NEWS....

**ARTS OF ARMENIA**  
*The premier summer fine arts program for aspiring artists and dancers returns.*

**Two sessions from July 5 - 30, 2010**  
**Sponsored by the Komitas Choir**

For registration information contact Nicole Matoian at:  
NMatoian@comcast.net or 248.562.7553

## KOMITAS CHOIR PLANS OCTOBER CONCERT

Our Komitas Choir is planning a major concert in October 2010.  
We have designated this concert as a fundraiser for St. John's.  
We are in need of additional voices.  
Rehearsals are planned for Thursday evenings.  
Interested individuals should contact Deacon Rubik at 248.569.3405 or: [rubik@sjachurch.org](mailto:rubik@sjachurch.org).

St. John Armenian Church  
22001 Northwestern Highway  
Southfield, MI 48075

Postmaster: Dated material - please deliver by March 31

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