

THE TORCHBEARER • Ջահակիր

St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit

22001 Northwestern Highway • Southfield, MI 48075

248.569.3405 (phone) • 248.569.0716 (fax) • www.stjohnsarmenianchurch.org

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



A CELEBRATION OF SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S.....

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese, celebrated Divine Liturgy at St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit, on Sunday, May 18, 2014, and presided over the ordination of Mr. George Boyagian to the rank of Sub-deacon. St. John's pastor, Fr. Garabed Kochakian, was instrumental in training the newly ordained Sub-deacon. Attending this celebration with the Primate was Fr. Garabed Kochakian, Fr. Abraham Ohanesian, and Fr. Diran Papazian, Pastor Emeritus of St. John.

Following Divine Liturgy, a banquet and program were held in the St. John Cultural Hall attended by over 250 parishioners and friends where Mrs. Karmen Santourian, St. John Parish Council Chairman, served as Mistress of Ceremonies.

The program began with St. John Komitas Choir Director Deacon Rubik Mailian singing both the American and the Armenian National Anthems accompanied on the piano by Ms. Margaret Lafian followed by a video presentation, "A Spirit of Giving", honoring Edward and Janet Mardigian and their global benevolence to the Armenian Church. Edward and Janet Mardigian were named *Armenians of the Year* at the 2013 Diocesan Assembly. This year's *Celebration of Service* gave their own parish, St. John's, the opportunity to extend its love to this special couple.

In addition to honoring the newly ordained Sub-deacon, the "Celebration of Service" honored with awards and words of praise, twelve St. John parishioners for their love, dedication, and long years of service in the life and activity of St. John. Srpazan Hayr presented these awards and certificates to them and the Acolytes and five Candle Bearers.

The parish's own *St. John the Forerunner Award* was presented to Elizabeth Aprahamian, Nevart Godoshian, Jane Hovsepian, Helen Mekjian, *Diramayr* Virginia Melkonian, Rose Shahinian, and Sema Tafraian for their dedicated service, support and stewardship to St. John Armenian Church. The St. Vartan Award on behalf of the Armenian Diocese was bestowed upon Roseann Manoogian Attar, Jacqueline Melkonian ElChemmas, Barbara Zamanigian Haroutunian, Dolly Baltayan Matoian, and Katherine Sirapie Mekjian for exemplary service within the life of their parish and for service rendered to the Diocese at large. The program concluded with remarks and words of congratulations and the Benediction given by his Eminence who congratulated all of the recipients once again.

This second occasion of the "Celebration Of Service" has become a tradition for St. John Armenian Church and is intended to be held biennially thus recognizing worthy servants of the parish for their love, devotion, dedication and continued service in the community. Hereafter the Parish will celebrate the service of many more worthy parishioners as well, in Living the Gospel of Christ, honoring their undaunted, unwavering and dedicated service to the parish.

Pictured above: Srpazan Khajag Barsamian poses with Sunday's service participants in the sanctuary.

- Linda Tiffany -



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

MAY 2014

A CELEBRATION OF SERVICE IN PHOTOGRAPHS.....



Pictured above, left: Srpazan Khajag Barsamian with new Sub-Deacon George Boyagian. Pictured above, right: Srpazan Khajag Barsamian and Father Garabed with parishioners who received the St. John the Forerunner Award. Pictured below: Srpazan Hayr and Reverend Clergy with recipients of the Diocesan St. Vartan Award.



Our Youth to Attend Armenian Programs in U.S. and Abroad

Alexandra Hachigian, daughter of Gary and Pat Hachigian, will attend the Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Jerusalem and the ACYOA Seniors Armenian Service Program.

Sarine Misirliyan, daughter of Dr. Roy and Nayiri Mirsirliyan, will attend the ACYOA Seniors Armenian Service Program.

Garo Matossian, son of Dr. Viken and Mary Matossian, will attend the St. Nersess Deacon's Training Program to take place at the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

THE ACOLYTE EXPERIENCE.....

Becoming an Acolyte, with my brother George, has been awesome! It really helped me connect with the church and I have enjoyed it so very much.

I loved training with Deacon David. I have learned where to stand and how to hold the candle. As a group, we learned a bunch about how the *Badarak* works and why we do certain things during the service. One of the most interesting things I have learned was that you cannot walk in front of the altar because it holds last week's communion in a jar.

The best part of being an Acolyte is serving on Sundays! The sweet scent of the *poorvar* and your crisp robe are the best! I love going down to the basement to get your robe and see all the choir members. They are always supportive and very encouraging.

Elizabeth (Deacon David's daughter) and I served on Easter together. That day was the first time we used our secret spy ear pieces for service. Deacon David could direct us around the altar, but we could not talk to him. They worked great!

Finally came the Ordination ceremony. We all got ready and lined up in Ms. Roberta's office. It was so funny in there. All of the older boys were making jokes and having a good time. Despite all of our excitement, there was one thing missing--Srpazan Hayr had not arrived. We had to start the service without him! Finally after waiting for a while, he showed up! I have to say, having Srpazan Hayr come in mid-service was quite exciting! The ordination was AMAZING!

The next day was the Holy *Badarak* service with Archbishop Barsamian and a special luncheon. I really enjoyed the whole experience and I am so happy I could do it with my brother, George!

The whole event felt like a weekend in ARMENIA!

- Gabrielle Anusbigian, 11 years old -



NEWS FROM THE WOMEN'S GUILD.....

The Women's Guild welcomes all parishioners to join us for the summer bake days and evenings. We will be preparing Armenian food for the annual fall festival. This is a great opportunity to learn from the experts or share your skills. We work together, have fun and build new and lasting friendships. Bake days are every Monday and Tuesday starting a 9 am in the church kitchen. Evening cheoreg bakes are on Monday evenings, June 9, July 21, August 18 and Sept. 15 if needed. For questions please contact Dolly Matoian at 248.737.9055.



The Women's Guild held its annual membership dinner on June 4, 2014. We welcomed and initiated new members Kathleen Abrahamian, Lilit Bablounian, Zabel Belian, Lydia Doyon, Lillian Durham, Ann Marie Egigian, Serena Egigian, Linda Kalfayan, Erika Palaian, Christine Santourian and Nevart Torian. Honorees that evening included Denise Boyagian and Rosemary Darian who were presented with a bible for their ten years of service and memberships in the Women's Guild. Additional honored guests that evening, receiving twenty-five year gold pins were Deborah Ohanian and Marcia Hamamdjian. Dedicated members Arlene Baylerian, Araxie Choukourian and Berjouhi Sanjian received a gold pin with ruby for their forty years of service to the Women's Guild. Pepsi Baylerian, membership dinner chairman and her committee prepared a delicious Armenian meal and a delightful evening for all in attendance.

Pictured above, left: The full group of new members with Linda Stamboulion and Father Garabed. *Pictured above, right:* The membership dinner committee.

- Nora Noraian -

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms & Chrismations

March 2014

- 1 Diana Christina York - Chrismation

May 2014

- 4 Avery Joseph
Son of Emil Ann Hargraves
Godfather: Richard Sabol
Godmother: Bethany Hargraves
- Maksim
Son of Pavel Mirzoyan & Yelena Gazaryan
Godfather: Mikhail Gazaryan
Godmother: Eleonora Arutyunova
- 10 Vartan Krikor
Son of Gregory & Nayiri Karapetian
Godfather: Steven Karapetian
Godmother: Sona Birazian
- 20 Isaac Mica
Son of Michael & Angelina Hensley
Godfather: Matthew Farajian
Godmother: Heather Siitek
- Noah Joseph
Son of Michael & Angelina Hensley
Godfather: Matthew Farajian
Godmother: Heather Siitek
- 25 Andrew Evan
Son of Evan & Leza Yousif
Godfather: Artin Khamo
Godmother: Silva Yousif
- 30 Christopher Michetti
Sacramental Reception into the Armenian Church

Weddings

May 2014

- 31 Christopher Michetti & Lisa Palaian
Khachyeghpayr: Alan Semonian
Bestman: Michael Michetti
Maid of Honor: Julia Palaian

Funerals

May 2014

- 14 Gary Charles Keurajian, 58, Woodlawn
- 23 Zareh Peligian, 91, White Chapel
- 28 Marguerite Klavanian, 86, Roseland Park

June 2014

- 2 Margaret Elizabeth Mikaelian, 91, Evergreen
- 3 Sogmon Misak Danealian, 84, White Chapel

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.

RECITING THE HAYR MER.....



The first grade students of Lisa and Steve Derderian dedicated part of their year of learning becoming familiar with the Lord's Prayer / *Hayr Mer*. On Sunday, May 11th at the conclusion of the Senior Class Graduation ceremony, as is tradition at St. John's the first graders led the congregation in reciting the *Hayr Mer*. During the school year, the children worked with Church School Assembly Coordinator Mrs. Anita Arslanian to achieve 'perfection.' Each child was presented with a ceramic *khachkar* tile by the Church School in appreciation for their hard work throughout the year.

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

On Sunday, May 4, 2014, the Men's Society held a Sunday Brunch to Honor Mom. The following Men's Society members helped make this another memorable brunch: Ed Baharian, Dan Cristiano, David Dardarian, Steve Hagopian, Robert Magee, Mark Mamassian, John Pochas, George Saboonjian, Peter Toukhanian and Paul Yousoufian. Seventy-four adults and twelve children attended the brunch and enjoyed the menu consisting of lentil soup, bulghur pilaf, sausage gravy & biscuits, seafood pasta alfredo, penne pasta, plain pasta, chicken & pilaf, roasted potatoes, sausage, Armenian potato salad, field greens salad, assorted bagels, scones and dinner rolls, fresh fruit, desserts, ice cream, juices and Barrista coffee and tea bar.

Funds raised will go to support multiple projects of the Men's Society. 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 -

GRADUATES!

If you would like to be included in the *Torchbearer* section "Graduates 2014," please submit information to the church office by June 30th, or via email to mkafafian@sjachurch.org.

Please limit your submission to name of graduate, name of school and location, type of diploma or degree, type of major/minor, and awards and honors received. For high school graduates, you may include the name of the school you will attend in the Fall, if applicable.

Please limit your submission to 100 words or less. Due to space limitations, we cannot accept photos for publication.



FESTIVAL DONATIONS NEEDED!

Grandma's Attic is now accepting gently used and clean items for the Festival weekend. Donate household items, small electronics, children's toys, games, puzzles, accessories (belts, scarves, jewelry), books, CDs, DVDs, artwork, collectibles, picture frames, dishes, glassware, vases, etc. **NO CLOTHES OR SHOES.** Please drop off your donations at the Maintenance Office. Make sure they are properly wrapped, *especially fragile items*. Receipts are available in the Church Office.

WANTED: USED ARMENIAN BOOKS

The Parish Bookstore is accepting donations of gently used books on Armenian subjects written in English for its **Used Book Sale** at this year's FESTIVAL. Kindly drop off books at the Church Office during business hours or on Sundays. Receipts available in the Church Office.

CONGRATULATIONS, 2014 CHURCH SCHOOL GRADUATES!

Kyle Doyon

Son of Steven & Lydia Doyon

Lauren Hogikyan

Daughter of Dr. Norman & Patricia Hogikyan

Arevik Mamassian

Daughter of Mark & Maral Mamassian

Sarine Misirliyan

Daughter of Dr. Roy & Nayiri Misirliyan

***Nicholas Simonian**

Son of Robert & Kimberly Simonian

Alexana Steck

Daughter of Kathy & Tom Steck

Jared Toomajian

Son of Jennifer & Michael Toomajian

Grace Torossian

Daughter of Hosep & Shoghig Torossian

* Nicholas Simonian received a \$1,500.00 Scholarship from the Haiganoush Mengushian/Gloria and Robert Ajemian Foundation St. John Armenian Church School Scholarship



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Choose a ministry to support, establish

an endowment, or supplement

the General Fund.

Contact the Church Office, your

Pastor or a Parish Council member

for ways to leave a legacy to

your Church.

The Torchbearer Staff

Fr. Garabed Kochakian, *Editor-in-chief*

Julia Papiyants, *Managing Editor, Copy & Layout;*

Harry Avagian, Mary Davidson, 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 also need volunteers who would be interested in helping prepare *The Torchbearer* for mailing. This occurs around the 25th of the month and for just a few hours. Again, please contact the Church Office.

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.org

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.....

June	
29	Welcome Tea for Seminarian Levon Asdourian
July	
4	Independence Day-Complex Closed
27	Transfiguration of our Lord - <i>Vartavar</i>
August	
17	Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God Annual Church Picnic
September	
1	Labor Day - Complex Closed
7	Church School Opens Men's Society Pancake Breakfast
8	Nativity of the Holy Mother-of-God
14	Exaltation of the Holy Cross St. Nersess Seminary Fundraiser sponsored by the Men's Society and the Women's Guild
21	Godparents and Godchildren Blessing Complimentary Reception and live entertainment by the EARTH ANGELS
24	Church/Museum Tour & Lunch Fine Arts Preview Opening & Reception
26-28	Armenia: Land of Noah's Ark Festival
27	Free Health Fair
28	Holy Cross of Varak

IN THE COMMUNITY.....

College Scholarships For Students With Armenian Heritage
2014-2015 Academic Year Armenian Renaissance Association

Sophia Chapter of Detroit

Contact: Sena Harootunian 248.641.9476

E-mail: arasophia@aol.com

Application Deadline: June 30, 2014

Detroit Armenian Women's Club

Dabanian Memorial Scholarship

Contact: Carole Basmadjian 248.879.8637

E-mail: dawc07@aol.com

Application Deadline: June 30, 2014

* * *

Saturday, July 12, 2014, 5:00 - 10:00 pm

ArmeniaFest

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