

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

The Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian ~ *Pastor*

The Reverend Father Diran Papazian ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

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



THE ST. JOHN ARMENIAN CHURCH FAMILY CONGRATULATES THE CHURCH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2009!



Photos courtesy of Brian Kemian

The Valedictory Address can be accessed on the web site at:
www.stjohnsarmenianchurch.com/publications.html



Sunday May 17, 2009

Katie Kalajian, Valedictorian • Ryan Gregory

Brittany Durham • Kathleen Couyoumjian

Fr. Garabed Kochakian • Tanya Dmuchowski, Salutatorian

Allison Pochas • Tia Dmuchowski • Anna Mamassian

A NEW TORCHBEARER TO SERVE YOU BETTER

Thank you for your patience while we created a new look for the *Torchbearer*. We have retained most of the features you are used to seeing in the *Torchbearer*, but in a more concise and space-saving design, and we have added more issues. If this is the first time you are receiving the *Torchbearer*, we hope you enjoy reading about events and programs at St. John's in this introductory issue. The next issue will feature a special section, *Graduates 2009*. Submit your graduate's information to the Church Office by June 22.

If you like what you see in the *Torchbearer*, consider joining St. John's as a student, single or family member, and receive the *Torchbearer* as one of the many benefits of membership.

New Summer Church Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday: 8 AM - 6 PM

Closed Mondays: June 15 - September 17

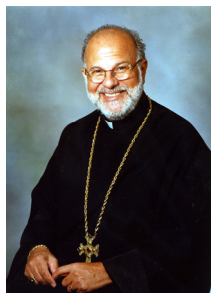
After hours in an emergency, please contact:

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

We suggest that you refer to the form on page 2 of this issue to become part of the new communications program developed to keep our community well informed. One of the options you will see there is that if you are not a member but are interested in receiving the *Torchbearer* at home, a one-year subscription is \$30.00. Please make your check payable to *St. John Armenian Church* and mail to 22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield MI 48075, or charge your subscription with your MasterCard, Visa or Discover card.

In addition, you are currently able to view the *Torchbearer* on line. Please visit St. John's web site: <http://www.stjohnsarmenianchurch.com/publications/torchbearer.html>.

Please phone the Church Office at 248.569.3405 or email mkaafian@sjachurch.org for any requests or with any comments and suggestions.



FROM FATHER GARABED'S DESK.....

Competition vs. Compassion

Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest. And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a little child and set him by Himself and said to them, "Whoever receives this little child in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you all will be great." [Lk. 9:46-48]

In this passage from the Gospel according to Saint Luke, Jesus Our Lord challenges us.

Consider this...

Do you compete to prove your significance? Do you crave greatness? Do you measure your self-worth not only by whether you win, but by how much?

Jesus saw that His followers were in the grip of this common way of thinking. So, He placed a child in front of them and affirmed that being like a child and having trusting humility is more desirable to God than any type of competition driven by one's puffed up self-image.

Christ went so far as to state that welcoming the child in His name would be like welcoming Him. While the disciples aspired to positions of power and prestige, their Lord exalted the humble act of serving a child dutifully as more important.

Jesus calls us to follow a very different value system than a world-driven system: What is God-pleasing as opposed to what is self-serving. Position, success, and beating the competition fade in comparison to caring for those around us who are weak, lost or forgotten. Our Lord beckons us as His followers to replace competition with compassion. So consider this: who near you needs affirmation and help?

~Father Garabed

TORCHBEARER • Չահալիր

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.

CHURCH SCHOOL 2009 BIKE-A-THON: A GREAT SUCCESS!

Our Church School bikers and their parents were blessed by a bright day of sun at Hines Park on Saturday, May 9 to launch this year's fundraiser for *OUR HOME-MER DOON*. More than forty bikers each rode twelve miles along the Hines Park trail and raised \$7685.00. Special commendations go to Sevan and Sarine Misirliyan who, together, raised \$1,860.00!

On behalf of the Church School, *Mer Doon*, and the Bike-a-thon Committee, I would like to thank everyone who participated and supported our Bike-a-thon. We could not have done it without your support and dedication. We are all very proud of the young ladies and gentlemen who chose to ride and work for a wonderful charity. You should all be very proud of your accomplishment! It truly was a success and a fun day for all. For those who were not able to join us, don't worry, there is always next year. We look forward to riding and/or working with you!

Roseann Attar
Senior High Coordinator



What is MER DOON?

Established in Armenia in October 2006 in Etchmiadzin, *Mer Doon* is a project which allows a more permanent solution to the continuing needs of young women over the age of eighteen years. The young women who live in residence at the *Mer Doon* home are from one of six orphanages in Armenia or from a disadvantaged background. At *Mer Doon*, they receive upper level education, training for business careers, and a comfortable home shared with other intelligent and motivated young women. *Mer Doon* is headed by Mrs. Julie Ashegian, a previous director of CASP.

ARTS OF ARMENIA SUMMER PROGRAM

Inspired by an experience during the recent Komitas Choir tour of Nork Children's Center in Armenia, Deacon Rubik Mailian and the Choir are sponsoring the *Arts of Armenia Summer Program*. Two professional teachers from the Nork school will reside here in our community where they will undertake two two-week sessions during the month of July for children ages 8 – 16. Scheduled Monday – Friday from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm on the St. John Campus, the students will experience authentic Armenian dance, ceramic arts, painting, rug weaving and more. Tuition is \$300 per child for a two-week session, with a discount for the second child. Session 1 will be from July 6-17, followed by Session 2 from July 20-31. The two sessions will offer different programs. Enrollment in both sessions is possible if space permits. Masters programs will be scheduled as well for adults if interest is shown. For more information on this exciting program, please contact: Deacon Rubik Mailian at 248.569.3405 or rubik@sjachurch.org; Yvonne Korkoian at 248.398.9192 or ykorkoian@aol.com.

A Bell Choir at St. John's?

**Deacon Rubik Mailian,
St. John's Musical Director,
is forming a Bell Choir
for young people
ages 11 – 16.**

**If you have
a good sense of rhythm
and some basic music skills,
please contact Deacon Rubik
for more information at
248.569.3405
or rubik@sjachurch.org.**

107TH DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

St. John Armenian Church was well represented at the 107th Annual Eastern Diocesan Assembly April 30 – May 3, 2009 in Philadelphia, PA. The hosts of St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church in Wynnewood, PA, warmly entertained the participants and provided an atmosphere conducive to the deliberations on the theme of “Vocations: The Call to Serve” at both the Clergy Conference and the Assembly that followed. Attending from St. John’s along with several family members were Fr. Garabed Kochakian, Fr. Diran Papzian, Fr. Hrach Sargsyan and Deacon Rubik Mailian; Diocesan Council Member and delegate Janet Mardigian; Parish Council Chair John Yavruian; Diocesan Delegates Howard Atesian, Jackie ElChemmas, Edward Haig Korkoian, Richard Norsigian, Dr. Edward Sarkisian and Dr. Gary Zamanigian; Women’s Guild delegates Marianne Dardarian, Yvonne Korkoian, as well as Women’s Guild Central Council members Barbara Haroutunian and Kathy Mekjian; and ACYOA Central Council Member Johnny ElChemmas. To see the highlights of the Assembly in photos and video go to: www.armenianchurch.net/annualassembly2009/index.html



The Assembly Banquet held at the Constitution Center. Standing: Johnny ElChemmas, Dr. Edward Sarkisian, Jackie ElChemmas, Howard Atesian, John Yavruian, Marianne Dardarian, Edward H. Korkoian, Dr. Gary Zamanigian, Yvonne Korkoian, Kathy Mekjian and Anna Sarkisian. Seated: Barbara Haroutunian, Fr. Diran Papazian, Virginia Melkonian.

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

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE,
YOUR PASTOR,
OR A PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER
FOR WAYS YOU CAN LEAVE A LEGACY
TO YOUR CHURCH.

2009

St. John Armenian Church Summer Day Camp

St. John Armenian Church is pleased to again offer a Summer Day Camp for children ages 5 to 12. St. John Armenian Day Camp is a wonderful opportunity for our children to get acquainted with other Armenian children, to learn about their heritage and to share in the exciting experience of summer day camp. If you require further information or have any questions contact Lisa Mardigian at: (248) 569-3405 or lmardigian@sjachurch.org

DAY CAMP SESSION THEMES & FIELD TRIPS

SESSION 1

June 15 – 19 Sports & Fitness
Swim day~movies~Detroit Zoo

SESSION 2

June 22 – 26 Mad Science
Swim & fishing day~Tiger Baseball Game

SESSION 3

July 6 – July 10 Scavenger Hunt
Swim day~Detroit Science Center

SESSION 4

July 13 – 17 Food Network
Swim & canoe day~Bowling~Zap Zone

SESSION 5

July 20 – 24 Art & Creativity
Swim day~Tiger Baseball Game

SESSION 6

July 27 – 31 Christmas in July
Swim day~movies~Surprise field trip

NO CAMP August 3-7 due to HYE CAMP 2009

SESSION 7

August 10 – 14 Talent Show
Swim day~Nature Center
Motown Museum/Hard Rock Café

SESSION 8

August 17 – 21 Hawaiian Luau
Beach Party~Lucky Strike

**Wednesdays: Armenian religious activities
and instruction!**

SCHEDULE MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!

TIME: Check In 9:00 – 9:30 am • Dismissal 4:00 pm

***FEE: \$125 per week (Discount for second child)**

***Fee includes: Supplies, Refreshments, Camp T-Shirt,
Picnics, Field Trips and Transportation for Field Trips.**

KHARPERT KUFTĒH NIGHT!!!

More than 140 adults and children left the St. John's Recreation Center in a very good mood as they gave their compliments to the committee members for a sumptuous meal. On Friday, May 15, 2009 the Women's Guild ventured into the realm of a good old-fashioned Armenian meal of Kharpert Kuftha, Spinach Pie and Bulgur Pilaf. Add a modern touch with a Salad Bar extraordinaire and the usual array of delicious and beautifully presented desserts made by Guild members and you had an unbeatable combination. Verdict? Success!

Dinner Chairperson, Charlene Apigian, had a committee of imaginative and hardworking ladies. Committee members were Anita Kachadurian, Dolly Matoian, Arlene Baylerian, Jackie El Chemmas, Joyce Obenhoff and Pam Dayinian. These ladies were aided by Alice Prudian, Karen Mangune, Kathy Mekjian, Emma Betrosian, Alice Betrosian, Diane Khachaturian, Yvonne Korkoian, Yn. Roberta Kochakian and the indefatigable Carol Aprahamian. Thanks to Diane Ekizian for her photo art work on the tables and to Anna Sarkisian for help on the flyer. Great job everyone!

ALL ABOUT KUFTĒH

Kharpert Kufteh...what memories these words conjure up in the fading memory of my childhood years. Sitting in the kitchen I watched my mother, Vergine Cheteyan, a native of Palu (a few miles east of Kharpert) feed pieces of very lean lamb into her trusted electric food grinder. (Years before, she used a manual grinder, which had a long snake like handle.) I watched with giddy joy as the meat was extruded through the many holes in the grinder's adaptor, making its way out like so many swollen red worms.

The ground lamb was salted and chilled overnight. Meanwhile the filling was prepared: onion, ground meat, parsley and spices were sautéed to perfection and cooled. The next day, the kneading of the ground meat began. I watched with interest as she added fine *bulghur* to the meat between sprinklings of ice cold water. Her hands worked wonders as the wheat fused with the meat. "*Peran't pats*." (Open your mouth!), she would order, as she slipped a sample for me to taste for saltiness.

Once the mixture was "done" she formed it into egg-shaped mounds and set them aside. The filling was brought out and the stuffing began. She took a mound of the meat-wheat mixture and nestled it in the palm of her hand. With the other hand she dug a hole in the mound with her thumb, and used her fingers around the perimeter of the hole to create a deep bowl. Into the bowl went a heaping spoonful of filling. The hole was sealed and the shaping began.



The shape of the finished product indicated whether the *kufteh* was truly *Kharpertsi*. It was flying-saucer like and raised in the middle, top and bottom. The flicking of her wrists was magical as she applied drops of cold water to smooth the meat shell. Finally with fingers close together, she slapped the top and bottom of the *kufteh* with her palm, all the while turning it round and round in her well-practiced hands to create the signature edge around the midsection.

Again and again she repeated these steps until about 50 *kuftehs* rested in her white enamel basin with red trim, waiting to be immersed into a deep pot of boiling lamb broth. "When they float to the top, they are done," she advised me. I removed them carefully from the pot, one by one, and set them down to cool. This was the only job I was allowed to do.

In later years I tried and tried to duplicate her movements. I got the taste right, but I could never get the shape just right. Persistence being one of my family's traits, I will keep trying. And when I finally get it right, my mother will say, "*Abrees, tsakoogus*" ("Well done, my little one"). My mother passed away on January 15, 2009 in New York.

By V. May Kafafian

ACYOA NEWS

ACYOA General Assembly and Sports Weekend: A delegation from St. John's attended the Weekend in New York and won the prestigious "Chapter A" Award.

Bible Study: Continuing in our series of Bible Studies with Fr. Hrach Sargsyan, we met at 6:00 pm, Friday, May 29 at Church. The gatherings have been a success and the ACYOA Seniors encourage everyone to join us for our next one! Food and drink is provided. Watch for details.

Service Project: For our next service project we will be volunteering at World Medical Relief, a group in Detroit which sends medical supplies to needy communities around the world. Volunteers package and sort the medical supplies for shipment. Our volunteer slot is **Saturday morning, June 13.** We will meet at Church between 8 and 8:15 and leave at 8:30 am sharp. We are not able to wait as we need to be there on time. World Medical Relief is located on Rosa Parks Boulevard in Detroit off of the Lodge Freeway. We volunteer until 11:30 am. Lunch together afterward is a possibility! ***IMPORTANT: YOU MUST LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE ATTENDING!*** Stay tuned for more events!

DABANIAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP Administered by Detroit Armenian Women's Club

In memory of Hranoush Dabanian, Charter Member of the DAWC, and her daughter, Rose Dabanian, long-time member and friend of the DAWC, the Sarkesian-Dabanian Family is offering a \$1,500 scholarship to college students for the fall of 2009. Scholarship criteria are:

Full-time college student (undergrad or graduate)

Must have completed Freshman Year

Minimum 50% Armenian

Resident, State of Michigan

Minimum 3.0 GPA

For inquiries contact Carole Basmadjian: 248.879.8637
For application form, send requests to: DAWC07@aol.com

Completed application forms must be post-marked no later than **June 30, 2009.**

The 2009 - 10 Church School Registration Form
can be accessed on the web site at:
www.stjohnsarmenianchurch.com/images/CS05282009.pdf

BAPTISMS & CHRISMATIONS

May 2009

- 3 Gabriel Jonah
Son of Dan & Delaney Geisner
Godparents: Brian Siebert & Cheryl Giefer
- 16 Dylan Jozef
Son of Donald & Rima Horne
Godparents: Robert Hakopian & Karen Facherpour
- 20 Mark Peznowski - Adult
Son of Patrick & Cynthia Peznowski
Godfather: Cary Kojamarian
- 23 Savannah Grace
Daughter of Patrick & Julia Caplis
Godparents: Matthew Caplis & Jennifer Wick
- 24 Samuel David
Son of Kevin & Margaret Gray
Godparents: David Engoren & Elizabeth Engoren

WEDDINGS

May 2009

- 9 Ronald Adam Keoleian
& Sarah Emily Jane Eschedor
Khachyeghpayr: Jordan Keoleian
Maid of Honor: Elizabeth Wolford

FUNERALS

May 2009

- 4 Rose Mardirosian, 83, Woodlawn
- 30 Rose Choukourian, 97, Woodlawn

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.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOYAL SPONSORS

Edward Korkoian Funeral Home

836 N. MAIN STREET
ROYAL OAK, MI 48067
(248) 541-4800 • (248) 541-8325
WWW.EDWARDKORKOIANFUNERALHOME.COM

Celebrating Our 60th Anniversary SINCE 1949,

THE EDWARD KORKOIAN FUNERAL HOME
HAS HONORABLY SERVED OUR
ARMENIAN COMMUNITY
WITH THREE GENERATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL,
COMPASSIONATE AND DEDICATED SERVICES.

We offer:

- OUR OWN FUNERAL HOME FACILITY AS WELL AS OTHER FUNERAL HOMES IN THE GREATER METRO DETROIT AREA TO MEET YOUR NEEDS
- TRADITIONAL FUNERALS
- CREMATION AND OTHER OPTIONAL FUNERAL SERVICES
- ADVANCE FUNERAL PLANNING PROGRAM

Finishing / Refinishing / Fireplace Mantels

The Sawmill

Fine Wood Furniture

316 N Center St.
Northville, MI 48167
Phone: 248.349.8585
Fax: 248.349.5877

Mon - Fri: 10 - 7
Saturday: 10 - 5
Sunday: 12 - 4

www.thesawmill.net

NUIMAGE medspa

Spider Veins
Skin Tightening
Age & Sun Spots
Botox & Fillers

Cellulite & Fat
Fine lines & Wrinkles
Acne
Facials & Massage



~ Gift Certificates Available ~

Mention this sponsorship
and 5% will be donated to the
St. John's Women's Guild

For a complimentary
physician consultation call:

248.594.3067

Dr. Greg Derderian

700 N. Old Woodward - Suite 100
Birmingham, MI 48009

EDWARD G. SARKISIAN, D.D.S.

PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION



DENTISTRY FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN

22190 GARRISON, SUITE 201
DEARBORN, MI 48124

(313) 277-8900

WWW.SARKISIANDENTAL.COM

Anna Svirid Sarkisian

Event Publications

Weddings and Special Occasions

Programs • Brochures • Bulletins • Flyers

Phone 248.344.4321 • Cell 248.770.4343 • Fax 248.344.4321

SarksArk@comcast.net



SIMON JAVIZIAN

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

(248) 626-7815

(313) 869-4100

Over Half A Century Of Service
Many Convenient Locations

Simon Javizian Funeral Home

17550 Woodward Avenue Detroit, MI 48203

Mailing Address

4167 Wendell Road West Bloomfield, MI 48323

SJavizian@msn.com

ST. JOHN'S BANQUET & CONFERENCE CENTER OF SOUTHFIELD



(248) 569-3446 www.stjohnsbanquets.com

GEORGE B'S

Home Improvements

George Boyagian
(248) 909-6149
Licensed & Insured

*You can be a
Torchbearer Sponsor, too!*

CONTACT MAY KAFAFIAN
AT THE CHURCH OFFICE
248.569.3405

Armenia - Land of Noah's Ark St. John's Festival: October 1 - October 4, 2009

Every year our Bazaar, now named "Festival", grows to meet the desires of our parishioners and to attract more people to visit our Parish. You will find weekly updates coming soon to St. John's web site on the "Festival". There is so much more in the planning, but some of the new features this year are:

Children's Activities in the Recreation Center

A teen dance on Friday night • Parent-child High Tea Saturday morning • Performances by "Harpbeat" (a children's band) • Parent-child Yoga Class • Armenian storytelling and movies • Mother-daughter skin care and makeup demonstrations • Carnival games • Arts and crafts • Cake Walk • Face painting • Wii and Guitar Hero station • Used children's toy, book and DVD sales • Displays for kids to enjoy: a fire truck, police car, ambulance, and a FBI tent • Food concessions.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the children's activities, please contact Heidi Aprahamian at 248.924.2638 or e-mail HARADC@aol.com. Heidi is asking for donations of slightly used or new children DVD's, books, toys, games and craft supplies.

Big Raffle

To respond to the economic times, we have reduced the cost of tickets to \$50.00 and increased the ratio of prizes to our winners. Our big request from everyone is to buy a \$50.00 raffle ticket! You can send a check to the church requesting a ticket, buy one at a Raffle Dinner or stop by the Big Raffle table on Sunday.

Seven Raffle Spaghetti Dinners are scheduled and the cost has been kept at \$6. Dinners will feature samplings of activities from the Festival weekend. Volunteers for the dinners please contact Mary Negosian at 248.541.6511 and volunteers for the Big Raffle contact Danny Cristiano at 313.291.3194 or email cristiano@sbcglobal.net.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.....

**St. John's Festival Committee invites you to
the "Raffle Spaghetti Dinners" - 5:30 pm
Wednesdays, June 17, July 22, August 19 and September 16**

*St. John's Cultural Hall. \$6 per person
Includes complete spaghetti dinner, beverage & dessert
\$50 Big Raffle tickets will be available for purchase
Only 320 tickets will be available for purchase
Call for reservations: 248.569.3405*

**June
27 A Night of World Music - 7:00 pm
Featuring Mariam Matossian
in concert with Free Planet Radio
St. John's Cultural Hall**

**August
16 St. John's Annual Picnic, Noon - 5:00 pm
Church grounds ~ Something for everyone!**

**Armenia - Land of Noah's Ark
St. John Armenian Church Festival
Thursday, October 1 - Sunday, October 4, 2009
*Watch the Torchbearer, Sunday Bulletin
and the web site for more details***

**November
28 ACYOA November Dance**

**December
2 Women's Guild Advent by Candlelight**

20 Church School Christmas Program

24 Western Christmas Eve

EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

**June
5 CSAI presents a lecture by Garo Lacinian
"Broken Bits of Constantinople: Unknown important relics
left from the Byzantine Empire" at 8:00 pm - AGBU School**

**September
20 Dinner honoring Edgar Hagopian
Royal Park Hotel, Rochester**

**October
10 AGBU Manoogian School 40th Anniversary
Dinner Dance**

Please visit the St. John web site for up-to-date calendar information, the Sunday Bulletin,
The Torchbearer and links to internet sites of interest to our parishioners:
stjohnsarmenianchurch.com

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 647
Southfield, MI