

THE TORCHBEARER • Ջահապիր

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*
The Reverend Father Diran Papazian ~ *Pastor Emeritus*
Deacon Rubik Mailian ~ *Director of Sacred Music and Pastoral Assistant*



ACYOA OF DETROIT PREVAILS.....



The Detroit ACYOA seniors chapter of St. John's took to the road hoping for consecutive men's basketball championships for the first time since 1982-83. In the end, a 72-57 victory in the championship game over Bayside (Holy Martyrs) brought back home a new championship trophy and the Babayan Cup (Babayan Cup is pictured left with Johnny Jillian, left, and Danny Dardarian, right.)

The ACYOA General Assembly and National Sports Weekend was held Memorial Day Weekend in Chicago. Eight teams opened up group play, including two teams from Detroit. A youthful Detroit 1st team lost their first two games before defeating Toronto. However, based on overall record they were eliminated.

The veteran Detroit 2nd team opened the tournament against Watertown (St. James) and prevailed, 76-54. Two additional wins against Boca Raton (St. David) and Chicago (St. Gregory)

pushed Detroit into the championship round as the highest-ranked team. Bayside (Holy Martyrs), Watertown, and a regional team also advanced past the group stage.

In the semi-finals, Detroit defeated a Midwest regional team (Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin) by a 20-point margin. Meanwhile, in a game that went down to the wire, Bayside defeated Watertown, 64-61, to set up an anticipated final game. The two most successful chapters in the history of the ACYOA basketball tournament, Bayside (11 championships) and Detroit (10 championships), met for the year's bragging rights. Bayside and Detroit met prior to the championship game the last two years, with Detroit prevailing on both occasions.

The 2012 edition featured a back-and-forth competitive first half. Detroit was able to sustain a fast-paced attack in the second half and increase their one-point halftime lead to as high as 20 points. Isaiah Dahlman led the way for Detroit with a flurry of layups and free throws throughout the final game. Jon Banks, Brandon Cassise, Dan Dardarian, Johnny Jillian, Joe Kassis, Ara Kaypejian, Stan Patterson and Shaunt Vanerian also contributed greatly throughout the tournament to lift Detroit to a perfect 5-0 record. Notably, this Detroit team has a 14-1 record over the past three years.

The St. John ACYOA team is pictured above.

- Danny Dardarian -



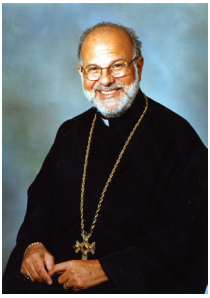
WANTED: USED ARMENIAN BOOKS

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.

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

JULY 2012



FROM FATHER GARABED'S DESK.....

Keeping the Big Picture

Consider this...ten years ago where were you? Where were we? A decade seems like a distant memory...as if it were only yesterday. And here we are today, often caught up and totally consumed in the here and now, so much that our vision of the future doesn't become part of the 'big picture' as it should.

As Christians, as a community of faith, we need to keep an eye on or have a vision of things to come: our souls in the Kingdom of God, our life as a parish and community celebrating our faith, keeping our traditions, learning and remembering who we are in the mosaic of the world around us.

Saint Peter, chosen by Jesus for his ability to look forward, gave us some insight about the need to look ahead and keep our eyes on the big picture. He says to us, "Beloved, don't forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."

In other words, time and eternity converge and they beckon us to look at them as one big picture, remembering as St. Peter says...*all things continue as they were from the beginning...*and then, what is to come will be...*new heavens and a new earth.*

Saint Peter's words tell us that life continues into the future and will not end when we are faithful and reverent to God today. Our Creator values a day as much as a thousand years, affirming the importance of the here and now, but St. Peter tells us that we need to live with a view toward the future as well.

We do not live for ourselves alone, but for our posterity, our children, the coming generations. To enjoy what we have today and for tomorrow, the same Lord, Christ our Savior *who is the same Lord yesterday, today and tomorrow* in the big picture then IS what should be our vision, both our one day and our thousand years. Tomorrow starts today.

Too often we can lose sight of how today's life will impact the life of our church and community tomorrow. It is true that we live for today, but also for tomorrow, never losing sight of our eternal destiny, the Kingdom of God.

The joyful moments of heaven that we feel - those successes we achieve personally or as a parish - are but a vision of things to come only when we keep the faith, live the faith, share the faith and pass it on. When we do, this is the beginning of our eternity, living as a part of the big picture both now and in the years to come.

God gave us life as a gift and what we do with it is our gift to Him.

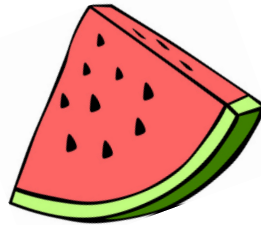
~ Father Garabed

ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL PICNIC

Sunday, August 12, 2012

Assumption Day, Blessing of the Grapes

After Church - 12:30 pm



Presenting for the first time

The Harry Kezelian Band

Also...

Antique Car Show

50/50 Raffle

Water Games for Kids of All Ages

Pie Baking Contest

Dunk Tank

Slip and Slide

(Parents: Bring towels for the kids!)

Bring your tavloo board and playing cards

Picnic Menu: Chicken, Lamb or Veggie Kabobs,
Salad, Pita Bread, Rice or Bulgur Pilaf, Watermelon,
Pop / Hot Dogs for the kids

MEN' SOCIETY NEWS.....

On Sunday, June 3, 2012, the Men's Society of St. John's held a Pancake Breakfast in the main hall. Chairmen Mark Mamassian and Ron Keoleian with their committee, which included Daniel Cristiano, David Dardarian, Gjon Ivezaj, Robert Magee, George Saboonjian, Eric Slowik, Noel Slowik, John Yavruian, and Paul Yousoufian prepared and served the food and also made sure everyone enjoyed their breakfast. A special thank you goes to Miss Maral Toukhanian who helped immensely in the kitchen and deserves a sub-membership within our group.

Approximately 70 people attended the function and they were given the choice of pancakes, waffles, hash browns, sausage, Shepherd's Pie, juice, and coffee. This will be the last breakfast presented by the Men's Society until September 16, 2012, which will coincide with the opening day of the Church School. Mark your calendars and make plans to attend.

Funds raised by Free Will Offerings will go to support the Men's Society and Komitas Choir's audio/visual project for the Sanctuary. All future Men's Society Breakfasts for 2012 will be in support of this project. Please come and join us and give generously.
- Dan Cristiano -



FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL.....

Where much has been given, much is expected. Our Lord continues to bless our community through the generous acts of kindness of our membership. This raises the bar ever higher for those of us entrusted to serve His will. While the current Council has served just over two months, their tree has already begun to show buds and bear blossoms.

I woke up this morning with the knowledge that our Fuller Build Team, led by Jackie ElChemmas, has left to perform another miracle in Armenia. It just so happens that the house they have been assigned to work on has been designated as the 200th home built. St. John has been a major contributor in restoring affordable housing to the most needy in Armenia.

In our own neighborhood, Elise and Garo Papazian decided to donate their parent's home to Habitat for Humanity. St. John will be forming a team of volunteers to join in the restoration. While we are living through challenging times which test our faith, now is not the time to be faint of heart. Der Diran's ordeal shook him to his core, yet through the power of God's love expressed through his children his soul was healed. Who can have any doubt? Talk to him.

The best place to have a conversation with Der Diran is at the Lunch Club on Tuesdays. A group of dedicated parishioners has made it their mission to enhance the experience for a growing segment of our community. This is one of the buds I mentioned earlier.

Love our Lord and our neighbors! This is what each of us has been called to do. How do we do it? Through Good Works! Service! Gratitude! Each of us must find our path, but once found we cannot allow our doubts and fears to inhibit our actions. Our ancestors were survivors, not victims! We can be no less.

As we gather on Sundays to offer thanks, take the opportunity to extend your hand to someone you don't know. Welcome them. We are a large community; be a good neighbor.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide our Community and its Council as we carry the Torch our Forerunners passed on to us.
- John Yavruian -

ITEMS NEEDED FOR GRANDMA'S ATTIC RUMMAGE SALE

We need new or gently used clothing, toys and household items to be sold at the Annual Festival. Drop off your donations at the Maintenance Office in a box or bag clearly labeled GRANDMA'S ATTIC by September 23rd. It is not possible to have anything picked up from your home. A letter for tax deduction purposes is available from the church office.

ST. JOHN'S MEMBERS MARCH FOR A CAUSE.....

Calling themselves *The Hye Steppers*, fourteen proud Armenians joined over 40,000 participants in the 21st annual Susan G. Komen Detroit Race for the Cure. On Saturday, May 26, 2012, our team ventured down to Comerica Park to join in raising awareness and funds to end breast cancer forever.

In 2011, the *Susan G. Komen Foundation* gave grants totaling \$1.47 million to outstanding local breast cancer screening, education and special treatment programs and contributed nearly \$422,000 to the National Research Grant Program of *Susan G. Komen for the Cure*.

Our team members included: Alice Argnian, Kristen Gustafson, Frank and Linda Houhanisin, Kim and Amber Kalajian, Linda Lutz, Carol Ohanesian, Team Captain Barb and Peter Rupas, Anna Sarkisian, Nina Sarkisian, Linda Tiffany, and John Yavruian, pictured left.

Thank you to our contributors who helped us raise \$1,000; Denise Alexanian, friends of Alice Argnian, Charlene Apigian, Bette Beauchamp, Lori Ford, Marianne Dardarian, Rozann Ghoogasian-Vartoogian, Kristen Gustafson, Dr. Harry and Patricia Kezelian, Susan Janigian, Jeanette Keramedjian, Lisa Mashigian, Liesa McDonald, Marygrace Rowlands, Allan Sarkisian, Kevin Tiffany, and Robert Tiffany.

The Race is a source of hope for those confronting breast cancer and a source of pride in an event that lifted the spirit and health of our community. I would personally like to thank each team member for their commitment and support to make a difference.

-Barb Rupas-



VARTAVAR - FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



Sunday, July 15th

Morning Prayers at 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am

Following *Badarak*...

Dedication of Renovated ACYOA Youth Room in Veterans Building

Family BBQ hosted by ACYOA Seniors & Juniors

All are invited!

Altar Flower donations are requested.

Please call the church office.

Please note this is a major feast day.

Therefore, no requiem prayers will be offered.

VIDEOGRAPHER NEEDED TO COMMEMORATE EVENT

The 25th anniversary of the forgotten Armenian genocides, also known as the *pogroms* from 1988-1991, are rapidly approaching us. The Church has been active in creating the Baku-Sumgait Monument; we look forward to remembering this milestone anniversary of the *pogroms* with a *Hokehankist* after *Badarak* at the monument and remembering those who perished. We hope to record a short video that will be shown at the dedication in memory of the victims and in honor of the survivors. As we reflect and commemorate these events in history, we reach out to our community for a helping hand.

If you or someone you know has been gifted from God with the ability to professionally record video, we ask for your help as we undertake another small initiative in remembering the *pogroms* in Baku and Sumgait. For more information please contact Julia Papiyants at 248.924.7335 or julia@sjachurch.org

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED.....



The Eleventh Annual Merit Scholarship Awards sponsored by the Daughters of Vartan Zabelle Otyag No. 23 was held on June 13, 2012 at 7:15 pm at the St. John Armenian Church Cultural Hall. The Chairwoman of the Scholarship Committee is Jane Hovsepian, who for the past eleven years has tirelessly spearheaded this program to recognize the achievements of students in our parish and community. The Chairwoman of the evening was a committee member, Lucille Noraian, who organized a wonderful program for the evening. The recipients for this year's awards were: Monica R. Godoshian, Physical Therapy, University of Michigan; Michael A. Haase, Sports Medicine, University of Michigan; Carly L. Kyriazis, Science and Biology, Wayne State University; Ani G. Masropian, Speech Pathology, Central Michigan University.

Pictured above from right to left: Carly Kyriazis, Michael Haase, Ani Masropian, and Monica Godoshian.

The Arts of Armenia Program

Sponsored by the Komitas Choir of St. John

A premier summer fine arts program taught by professional teachers from Armenia

Children's Session: July 9 - 13, 2012

Monday - Friday

9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Ages 8 - 16

Adult Session: July 5th & 6th, 2012

Armenian Dance: Friday, July 6, 2012 - \$25

Ceramic Arts: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 - \$35

(includes materials)

Miniature Painting: Wednesday, July 11, 2012 - \$35

(includes materials)

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Advanced registration required, enrollment is limited. Specify class when registering; classes to be held at St. John.

To register, contact Denise Karakashian
248.489.4076 or denisekar@hotmail.com

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms and Chrismations

June 2012

- 1 Rachel Kay Maresh - Chrismation
- 2 Eliza Angelle
Daughter of Gregory and Laura Nigoghosian
Godparents: Mark Mardiros and Taleen Baldwin
- 3 Carson James
Son of Daniel and Christina Kujawa
Godparents: James Cassell and Laura Kujawa

Weddings

June 2012

- 23 Georganna Yessaian and Stephen Missirlian
Bestman: Jonathan Missirlian
Maid of Honor: Lindsay Sahagian

Funerals

May 2012

- 26 Martha Akkashian, 78
- 27 Helen Baltayan, 93, Rose Hill Burial Park (Ohio)
- 31 Paris Susluoglu, 85, Bethlehem Cemetery

June 2012

- 1 Steve Varjabedian, 84, Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens
- 5 Elise Keoleian Parsigian, 90, Arborcrest Memorial Park
- 8 Maryam Murad Sarkisian, 83, Evergreen
- 13 Yetvart Bekri, 90, Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens

ST. JOHN'S LUNCH CLUB NEWS.....

The St. John's Lunch Club is introducing an on-going series of talks and demonstrations on topics that matter to people as we age. The first one will be held on Tuesday, July 10, 2012 from 11:10-11:30 am at St. John's Rec Center. Julie Jenkins from Manoogian Manor Assisted Living will be presenting the topic "How to Sleep Like a Baby...Again!"

Getting a good night's sleep is sometimes difficult as we age. But once we understand the keys for sleeping well, we start to sleep like a baby again. This presentation will cover what sleep really is, what causes us to lose sleep and tips for getting a better night's sleep. Join us for this FREE presentation beginning promptly at 11:10 am before the lunch. Please make a reservation for the presentation with May in the Church office (248.569.3405) to ensure that our caterer will have ample food.

And for those of you who are "Early Birds," consider joining the men and women who come to bake on Tuesday mornings from 9:00-11:00 am in the Main Kitchen. Then join the Lunch Club for an informative presentation and lunch. This presentation is open to all.

Scheduled Programs for July and August

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| July 10th | "How to Sleep like a Baby...Again" |
| July 24th | Kids from "Arts of Armenia" Program |
| August 14th | "Watching Your Step" Fall Prevention |
| August 28th | "Paws with a Cause" |

For new students only. Personalized forms are being sent home for returning students.

First Day of Church
School is Sunday,
September 9, 2012

St. John's Armenian Church School
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, Michigan 48075
StJohnsArmenianChurch.org

Please, one form
for each student

REGISTRATION FORM 2012-13

PLEASE PRINT
STUDENT NAME

Last Name

First Name

Middle Initial

Date of Birth _____ Grade Entering _____ Gender M / F
Circle one

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Last Name

First/Mother

First/Father

Address

Number & Street

City

State

Zip

Home Phone Number _____ Mother's Cell _____ Father's Cell _____

In case of emergency on Sunday, Contact

Name

Relationship

Telephone

Family e-mail address _____ Student e-mail address _____

Medical allergies, medications, or specific needs that your child's teacher should be aware of: _____

Educational—special needs (for more focused classroom facilitation) _____

Tuition Tuition includes books, supplies, gifts, and Christmas & Easter dinners.

Church Members \$45 first child, \$35 second child, \$25 third child, \$0 4+ child

Non-members \$55 per child, Max. \$165

An additional donation towards the Church School would be appreciated.

Tuition paid

Additional donation

TOTAL PAID

CHECK # _____ CASH _____

Scholarships are available. For more information contact Alberta Godoshian (248) 476-4638

Additionally for all STUDENTS, including PreK-4

Name of Public or Parochial School _____

Date of baptism _____ Location of baptism _____

Name/ Address of Godfather _____

Name/ Address of Godmother _____

Mother's maiden name _____

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The Torchbearer Staff

Father 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 the Sunday Bulletin, *The Torchbearer*, event information and links to internet sites of interest to our parishioners:

www.stjohnsarmenianchurch.org

FOR SALE

Two graves in the prime area of Grand Lawn Cemetery
\$5,090.00 for both (retail value \$6,000.00)
989.389.1170

*You too can be a
Torchbearer Sponsor!*

CONTACT MAY KAFAFIAN
AT THE CHURCH OFFICE
248.569.3405

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.....

July
4 Independence Day- Complex Closed
10 Lunch Club, "How to Sleep Like a Baby...Again!"
Speaker: Julie Jenkins
14 Detroit Masonic Temple Tour (off-site)
Sponsored by Men's Society
15 **Transfiguration of Our Lord - Vartavar**
24 Lunch Club: Kids from "Arts of Armenia" Program
25 Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study
28-Aug 4 Midwest Hye Camp

August
12 **Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God
Annual Church Picnic**
14 Lunch Club: "Watching Your Step"
22 Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study
28 Lunch Club: "Paws with a Cause"

September
3 Labor Day - Complex Closed
8 Nativity of the Holy Mother-of-God
16 **Exaltation of the Holy Cross**
Church School Opens
Men's Society Pancake Breakfast
Family Portrait Day
19 Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study
22 Free Health Fair
26 Museum & Sanctuary Tour & Lunch
27 Opening Night Dinner & Auction;
Fine Arts Exhibition Opens
28-30 Armenia: Land of Noah's Ark Festival

IN THE COMMUNITY.....

Armenia Fest
Saturday, July 14, 2012
5:00 - 10:00 pm
Royal Oak Farmers Market
Featuring Live Armenian Music
Performance by Hamazkayin Dance Ensemble
Armenian Food and Vendors
Art Show for Armenian Emerging Artists
Open to the general public
Admission & Parking are free

Saturday, October 13, 2012
Daughters of Vartan Women's Symposium

IN THE FALL AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, November 4, 2012
Detroit Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, November 9, 2012
Men's Society Wine Tasting

Sunday, November 11, 2012
Primate's Visit and Deacons' Ornaton

Saturday, November 24, 2012
ACYOA November Dance

Saturday, December 8, 2012
St. John's Parish Council and Apostolic Society
"Celebrate the Season"
Special Vocalist: Onnik Dinkjian

Sunday, December 16, 2012
Oakland Choral Society Performs Complete Messiah

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