

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.stjohnsarmerianchurch.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*



WOMEN'S GUILD HAS LOTS TO SHARE.....



Fall Festival: The Women's Guild, under the dedicated direction of Dolly Matoian, has worked all summer preparing delicious Armenian delicacies for Festival visitors to enjoy. *Bourma, Cheoreg, Katah, Khadaif, Khalkha, Kufteh, Meat Beoreg, Nazoog, Sou Beoreg, Spinach Beoreg* and *Yahlanchi Sarma* will be available.

Farewell to Tom Stambouljian Jr.: The Women's Guild wishes Tom Stambouljian great success and thanks him for his dedication to the church and our organization as he departs from his position as Administrator of St. John's Parish. Tom has been extremely helpful and patient, always willing to serve us in any way possible. He has come to our aid (even if it means staying until midnight), helping us to get our newsletter out on time, updating our membership list, generating labels for mailings, accommodating last minute requests for printing and making sure our needs were met for all Guild events. Our best wishes to him and his bride to be, Lucinda Selverian, as they make their new life in Philadelphia.

Picnic Bake Sale: The Women's Guild Picnic Bake Sale was a great success thanks to our members' generosity. Members donated homemade baked goods and made financial gifts to support the Church. Bake Sale Chairman Linda Franquist and Co-chair Nora Noraian did an excellent job organizing the event. Our thanks go to our members for their hard work and for all of you who supported the event by purchasing the delicious treats.

Manoogian Manor Visit: The Women's Guild along with Komitas Choir members, Deacon Rubik Mailian, Deacon Onnig Boyagian, *Diratsou* Levon Asdourian, and organist Margaret Lafian accompanied Father Garabed at the Manoogian Manor for the Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God and the Blessing of the Grapes Service on Saturday, August 16th. This year Sandra Jack organized the event, assembling bags of



grapes for the Manor residents. Guild members also in attendance included Sara Andonian, Charlene Apigian, Judy Hovnan, Yvonne Korkoian, Linda Stambouljian and Linda Tiffany.

Pictured above, left: Dolly Matoian and Cathy Zwink roll dough for *Katah* preparations. *Pictured above, right:* Zabel Belian is all smiles with dough ready to be stuffed and baked. *Pictured below, left:* Emma Betrosian and Rose Najarian are just two of the many women that help to make this year's Festival a success.



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

AUGUST 2014



FROM FATHER GARABED'S DESK.....

"When you walk through a storm, hold your head up high..."

In the last Sunday Gospel lection in August, we met Christ again, this time in a boat during a storm, and using His Godly /Divine power There He subdued the rain, the waves and the wind. How wonderful life could be if it were that easy. This miracle of our Lord made me reflect on the stormy months of this past summer: water damage, flooding, and even death. So many accounts we can share. It seems that the storms never end, whether it is the winds, rains, waves, blizzards, tornadoes, hurricanes or situations in our own lives involving family and friends, personal and spiritual. The storms are always there.

If the storms are always there, so is the God of Power who can subdue them. Obviously, the Apostles were not in tune with WHO IS JESUS. There in a boat tossed to and fro amid the raging storm, Jesus sits calmly, as the story tells us, 'asleep' in the back. But was he? God never sleeps, He is always Awake. We just have to poke him and get his attention... like the Apostles did. Seeing they were near possible death, they turned to Christ. They went to him and poked him from his nap, saying: *"Don't you care, we are about to perish."*

Of course, Christ awoke, subdued the storm, and took away their fear. He did it to these men, and He can do it for us. People need to wake up; people need to poke the Lord, and it is done by prayer. God is not sleeping... it is we who are, when we turn to everything and anything to subdue our stormy lives, except Him. He is always there. We just have to pray to him.

So how do you handle the storms in your lives as Christians? This account makes me think of the song written by Rodgers and Hammerstein in 1945 for the Broadway musical *Carousel*. It is called "Walk On." The words are like a prayer for us to use and take to heart. *"When you walk through a storm, hold your head up high and don't be afraid of the dark. At the end of the storm, there's a golden sky and the sweet silver song of a lark. Walk on through the wind, walk on through the rain though your dreams be tossed and blown. Walk on, walk on with HOPE in your heart and you'll never walk alone."*

Remember Jesus' words. He said: "Have no fear, I am here in the boat of your life... and you will never walk alone. Just wake me up and I will be there.

~ Father Garabed

FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF VARTAN.....

On the evening of June 11, 2014, the 13th Annual Merit Scholarship Awards, sponsored by the Daughters of Vartan Zabelle Chapter 12, was held at St. John Armenian Church Cultural Hall, under the capable direction of Chairperson LuCille Noraian. Jane Hovsepien has chaired the Daughters of Vartan Scholarship Program since its inception, thirteen years ago. Over forty collegians have been awarded scholarships during these past years.

The evening was inspiring and hopeful with each recipient's accomplishments and credentials being noted by the scholarship committee. These young individuals have proven to be very worthy of their awards.

The recipients for this year's awards were:

Undergraduates:

Ani Elizabeth Stamboulion, (Journalism) Michigan State University, granddaughter of the late Charles and Anabell Stamboulion and daughter of Jimmy and Patricia Stamboulion

Graduate Students:

Valerie Joy Godoshian, (Public Health) Emory University, granddaughter of Rose and the late George Godoshian and daughter of John & Melanie Godoshian

Kristen Lyn Stamboulion, (Public Policy) Columbia University, granddaughter of the late Charles and Anabell Stamboulion and daughter of Thomas and Linda Stamboulion

Mariam Veronique Tolman, (Human Nutrition) University of Maine, granddaughter of John and LuCille Noraian and daughter of Gary and Cyndi Tolman

WITH GREAT APPRECIATION.....

*St. John's Armenian Church Fuller Center for Housing 2014 Team
and Jacqueline ElChemmas - Team Leader*

Would personally like to thank

St. John's Armenian Church School
Principal, Mrs. Alberta Godoshian and Staff
For raising the funds
to underwrite the cost of this year's home
for the Sahakyan Family in Armenia

*We also thank the following for
their monetary gifts to
our team and our families and
"Mer Doon NGO"*

The Women's Guild of St. John's Armenian Church
Edward and Janet Mardigian
AmeriCare
Greg Jamian
Greg Boyajian
Susan Ameriguian
Tom & Debbie Krikorian
Dr. & Mrs. Vigen Darian
Roy & Joy Callan
Carol Hazergian
Linda Assarian
Rose Babayan
Dolly Matoian
Mitzi Negohosian
Brook Paulian Fullagar



St. John Music Guild is thrilled to announce the Third Annual Fall Concert featuring the Sima Trio of New York - three incredibly gifted Armenian musicians. Cellist Ani Kalayjian, pianist Sofya Melikyan, and violinist Sami Merdinian are highly sought after soloists and chamber musicians. They have performed all over the world in such impressive venues as Carnegie Hall, Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, Shanghai Theatre, Palace de la Musicade in Barcelona, and Yerevan Philharmonic Hall.

Sunday, October 26, 2014, 3:00 PM
St. John Armenian Church Cultural Hall
22001 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield, Michigan
Reception immediately following concert.
Performance sponsored in memory of Michael Minasian

All tickets are General Admission:
Adults \$20 and \$10 for students and children under 18
Contact St. John Church Office 248.569.3405
Make checks payable to: St. John Music Guild
Seating is limited for this event.
Underwriting opportunities are available

ANNUAL PICNIC A GREAT, BIG SUCCESS!

St. John's held its annual picnic on Sunday, August 17th. The day began with a beautiful *Badarak* celebrated by Father Garabed honoring "The Holy Virgin Mary on Her Assumption Day." The service culminated with the blessing of the grapes service. Then all proceeded outdoors to enjoy family, friends, and a great time!

Picnic Chairman David Dardarian led the Men's Society and coordinated with the Women's Guild to present a memorable afternoon of delicious foods, great music, beautiful classic cars, and water fun for the kids.

We wish to thank all of the volunteers from the food preparers to the servers to the cashiers to the clean-up crew! Thanks go to the following: Evie Ezmerlian as head cashier; the Men's Society for preparing and grilling the perfectly seasoned lamb, chicken, and lule kabobs with Paul Yousoufian making the delicious rice and bulghur pilafs; Women's Guild Chairman Linda Stambouljian for organizing the servers; Nora Noraian and Linda Franquist for chairing the Bake Sale which profited over \$2,000!! We also thank Cookie Contest Chairs Terry Palaian and Zabelle Belian and judges Dikran Callan, Brent Palaian, Michael Pifer and Yeretzgin Roberta Kochakian. We congratulate the winners: Dawn Aginian - 1st place for Creme de Menthe squares; Diana Vosganian - 2nd place for walnut crescents, and Carol Aprahamian - 3rd place for strawberry-rhubarb bars.

We thank Bob Karakashian for once again organizing the wonderful display of classic cars for all to admire. Much appreciation goes to George Saboonjian for chairing the picnic raffle. Congratulations to the winners: Marie Vanerian, Vanohe Nicholas and Emma Betrosian. The *Kef Notes* Armenian Band featuring fourth generation picnic go-ers Harry Kezelian III, Dikran Callan and Armen Boyagian delighted and entertained us all afternoon.

With gratitude we thank David Mardigian for his generous donation in memory of his parents. We wish to thank Mr. & Mrs. Hratch Kardachian and Mrs. Seta Garabet for sponsoring the grapes. We also thank John Yavruian for sponsoring the band and Cookie Contest prizes. We also thank Dolly and Mike Matoian for their gift on this occasion. Their thoughtfulness, support and love are greatly appreciated.

The picnic was a huge success with young and old coming together as a community for fun and fellowship. God has truly blessed us.
Pictured above: We thank Nora Noraian and Linda Franquist for chairing the Bake Sale.



Baptisms & Chrismations

July 2014

- 24 Leah Therese Schafer - Received into the Church
31 Mark Mansoor - Chrismation

August 2014

- 9 Alexander Krikor
Son of William & Armenouhi Kemler
Godparents: Armen & Ardemis Boghossian
10 Noah Jack
Son of Peter & Narine Bedrossian
Godparents: Paul Bedrossian & Silva Sagherian
Matthew Matevos
Son of Harry & Olga Hovakimian
Godparents: Vaughn & Noreen Masropian
12 Michael Williams Perales - Received into the Church
13 Scarlett Grace
Daughter of Corey & Rebecca Grider
Godparents: Grant Grider & Tara Gale
30 Stanley Edward
Son of Thomas & Anna Kasprzycki
Godparents: Mark Frever & Lena Montgomery

Weddings

August 2014

- 2 Michael Bedrosian Pifer & Knar Alice Callan
Best Man: Steven Assarian
Maid of Honor: Marin Hoplamazian
8 Sivan Vatche Avakian & Elana Karenovna Mosesova
Best Man: Shirak Avakian
Maid of Honor: Aleen Avakian
23 Timothy Dale Deuby & Lauren Kendall Gillespie
Khachyeghpayr: Ronald Torigian
Best Man: Robert Kowalewski
Maid of Honor: Lyndsay Lloyd
24 Mark Mansoor & Yeva Harutyunyan
Khachyeghpayr: Arman Harutyunyan
Best Man: Danny Abdow
Maid of Honor: Armine Harutyunyan

Funerals

August 2014

- 4 Arshalous Hairabet Keresdejian, 96, Acacia Park
6 Zabel Azad Daneyelian, 68, White Chapel
8 Seta Margo Dilanian, 71, Woodlawn
25 Delphine Wanda Soutanian, 85, Roseland Park

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.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER.....

We wanted to give you abundant notice that the 2014 annual Parish Assembly will occur on Sunday, February 1, 2015, in the main ballroom immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

This is the occasion when we review the accomplishments of the previous year, discuss finances, approve the annual budget, elect members to the Parish Council, Auditing Committee, Nominating Committee, Diocesan Delegates and so much more. We will also be discussing some important events such as the 100th Genocide commemoration.

We want to hear your ideas about how we can continue to strengthen our Parish. The annual meeting is one of the most important events of the year, so please mark your calendar for **February 1, 2015**.

On behalf of the Parish Council,

Karmen A. Santourian
Parish Council Chairman

Requests for Requiem Prayers



Requests for Requiem Prayers may be submitted to the Church Office by mail, phone, fax 248.569.0716, or email to mkafrican@sjachurch.org no later than 5:00 pm Wednesday preceding the date of service.

Request forms are available in the Church Lobby.



FESTIVAL ITEM 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.

JOIN US FOR THE 45TH ANNUAL LAND OF NOAH'S ARK FESTIVAL

COME AND ENJOY THE DELICIOUS FOOD, LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, AND OLD FASHIONED FUN!

**Festival Opens: Friday 5:30 pm; Saturday/Sunday 12:00 noon Food Services Close: Friday/Saturday 10:30 pm, Sunday 4:30 pm
Bazaar Boutiques Close: Friday/Saturday 10:30 pm, Sunday 4:30 pm Bar Closes: Friday/Saturday 12:00 midnight, Sunday
4:30 pm Festival Closes: Friday/Saturday 12:00 midnight, Sunday 4:30 pm**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST

Time: 12:00 Noon

Event: Godparents/Godchildren Blessing after Divine Liturgy, Complimentary Tea and "The Earth Angels"

Location: Sanctuary, Main Hall

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

Time: 10:00 AM

Event: Church and Museum Tour

Location: Sanctuary, Museum, Main Hall

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH

Time: 6:30 PM

Event: Festival Opening Night, Strolling Culinary Reception and Evening with the Arts

Location: Vartan Room, Main Hall

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH

5:30 PM: Opening Festival Prayer - Main Hall

5:30 PM: Dining Opens - Main Hall

5:30 PM: Bazaar Boutiques Open - Lobby

6:00 PM: Guided Tour of Sanctuary - Sanctuary

6:00 PM: Levon Kafafian Loom Demo - Ongoing Near Main Hall

6:00-9:00 PM: Fine Arts Exhibition - Vartan Room

6:00-10:00 PM: Grandma's Attic, Grandpa's Corner, Grandma's Annex - Ararat Room, Conference A

7:15 PM: AGBU Alex & Marie Manoogian School Dance Performance - Main Hall

7:30 PM: Guided Tour of Sanctuary - Sanctuary

7:30-11:30 PM: Johnites Band - Main Hall

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH

11:00 AM-2:00 PM: Health Fair - Veteran's Building

11:00 AM-5:00 PM: Red Cross Blood Drive - Veteran's Building Card Room

12:00 Noon: Bazaar Boutiques - Open Lobby

1:00-8:00 PM: Fine Arts Exhibition - Vartan Room

1:00-9:00 PM: Grandma's Attic and Annex, Grandpa's Corner - Ararat Room, Conference A

2:00-5:00 PM: Petting Zoo & Pony Rides - Church Parking Lot

2:00 PM: Learn Conversational Armenian - Library

2:00 PM: Levon Kafafian Loom Demo - Ongoing Near Main Hall

7:00 PM: Guided Tour of Sanctuary - Sanctuary

7:00-11:30 PM: Nigosian Band - Main Hall

8:45 PM: Texas Hold 'em Tournament - Veteran's Building

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

12:30 PM Bazaar Boutiques Open Lobby

1:00-4:00 PM: Fine Arts Exhibition - Vartan Room

1:00-4:00 PM: Grandma's Attic, Grandpa's Corner, Grandma's Annex - Ararat Room, Conference A

2:45 PM: Bulk Food Sale - Main Hall

3:30 PM: Raffle Announcements - Main Hall

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Choose a ministry to support, estab-
lish 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.....

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 Brunch
 Cosponsored by the Men's Society and Women's Guild
 \$10 adults; \$5 children under 5
 21 Godparent & Godchild Blessing
 Complimentary Reception and Live
 Entertainment by the EARTH ANGELS
 24 Church/Museum Tour & Luncheon
 25 6th Annual Festival Opening Night, Strolling
 Culinary Reception and Evening with the Arts
 Featuring Signed Intaglio Etchings by Artist
 Susan Kachadoorian-Hinds
 Presented by the Fine Arts Committee, 6:30-9:30 pm
 26-28 Armenia: Land of Noah's Ark Festival
 27 Free Health Fair
 28 Holy Cross of Varak

October

- 26 Discovery of the Holy Cross
 Third Annual Fall Concert sponsored by
 St. John's Music Guild, 3:00 pm
 Sima Trio of New York, Internationally acclaimed
 musicians: cellist Ani Kalayjian, pianist Sofya
 Melikyan, and violinist Sami Merdinian
 \$20 adults; \$10 students and children under 18

November

- 2 Men's Society Pancake Breakfast
 9 Veterans Remembrance
 16 Church School Thanksgiving Dinner
 21 Presentation of the Holy Mother-of-God
 27 Thanksgiving - Complex Closed
 29 ACYOA November Dance

IN THE COMMUNITY.....

Friday, September 12, 2014, 7:30 pm

An Evening of Poetry / Wine Reception / Recitations
 Book Presentations by Professor Kevork B. Bardakjian and
 Aireia D. Matthews
 Presented by Tekeyan Cultural Association, Detroit
 Hagopian World of Rugs Birmingham Showroom

Saturday, October 4, 2014, 6:30 pm

A Vintage Affair presented by the Armenian Renaissance Association
 Wine Tasting, Silent Auction, Dinner
 Huron River Hunting Club

Friday, October 12, 2014, 8:30 pm

Raffi Besalyan, Pianist, in Concert
 Presented by Promusica of Detroit
 Max M. Fisher Music Center

Saturday, October 11, 2014

Alex and Marie Manoogian School 45th Anniversary Dinner-Dance
 St. John's Cultural Hall

Saturday, October 25, 2014, 6:30 pm

Kef Time Keghi II presented by the Nor Keghi Association
 St. John's Cultural Hall
www.keghi.org

Sunday, November 2, 2014, 4:00 pm

"In Search of Western Armenia"
 Lecture by Richard G. Hovannisian
 Cosponsored by the Armenian Research Center, U-M-Dearborn
 and the AGBU Alex and Marie Manoogian School

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