

# THE TORCHBEARER • Չահալիր

## St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit

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



## WOMEN'S GUILD HAS A "SWEET" MONTH.....



There's no better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than enjoying Tiger baseball. A group of hearty fans watched the Tigers face the Cleveland Indians on August 5th. The Tigers created an exciting finish winning the game in the last few minutes.

Twenty-two Women's Guild members also traveled to Chelsea, Michigan on August 8th to attend the play "On Golden Pond" at the Purple Rose Theater. The performances were captivating in this tale of life and family relationships at a summer lake home. The Purple Rose, founded by local resident and Hollywood actor Jeff Daniels, provides an intimate theater experience. A wonderful lunch was enjoyed at the Common Grill restaurant. A big thank you goes to Joyce Obenhoff for organizing the fun and entertaining summer outings.

Delicious baked goods were available to those who attended the Annual Church Picnic. The Bake Sale was sponsored by the Women's Guild and the goodies were all provided by our very generous members.

Women's Guild members have had a lot of fun every Monday and Tuesday throughout the summer preparing wonderful Armenian baked goods as we look forward to another successful Fall Festival. Everyone is welcome to join us starting at 9 am in the church kitchen. We are grateful and thankful to our members who show up week after week and especially recognize the dedication and leadership of Dolly Matoian and her team: Almas Derderian, Anita Arslanian, Terry Palaian, Kathy Mekjian, Cathy Atesian, Kim Kalajian, Dawn Aginian, Marianne Dardarian, Charlene Apigian, Yeretzgin Roberta Kochakian and Pam Dayinian.

If you are interested in joining the St. John Women's Guild please contact Terry Palaian at 313.929.0926.

*Pictured above, left: Picnic goers browsing the delicious selection of sweets.*

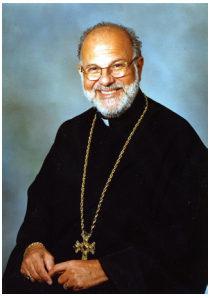
*Pictured above, right: Joyce Obenhoff and Barb Rupas enjoying the weather and a Tiger's game in the "D"! Pictured below: Members of the Women's Guild enjoying lunch at the Common Grill.*



**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

SEPTEMBER 2012



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

Համբարձի գաչս իմ ի լերինս, ուստի եկեացէ ինձ օգնութիւն: Օգնութիւն ինձ ի Տեառնէ եկեացէ, որ արար զերկինս եւ զերկիր:

I lifted up mine eyes to the mountains; from where my help shall come. My help shall come from the Lord; who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 121)

These words filled my mind and heart as I gazed upon the glorious mountains in Canada and Montana during a journey there in August. Yeretzgin Roberta and I, with a group of 38 tourists, found ourselves walking in the hands of God the Creator...seeing the mountains, the glaciers and pathways that His power fashioned and created. Suddenly I heard the echoing words of this beautiful Psalm in my heart and how, for all the days we traveled, our heads had been lifted upward, thrust to the peaks of these mountains, soaring aloft toward the Lord and God who made them.

Thinking about the Greatness of God our Father, how through His creation He is always and forever available to us, it was then I realized that all we need do, every day, is turn our heads upward and our hearts will follow, seeking Him above this planet and searching for Him in the created heavens. When we are wallowing daily in situations in our personal lives, we often create mountains out of mole hills. A mountain and a small mole hill are two quite different things, aphorisms or allegories perhaps, for the most minor issues and situations in our day to day lives that we compare to be big as mountains - if not bigger and beyond our capacity to overcome. Why do we do this? Because our heads are down, our eyes are fixed on things around us, our spirits are stuck and covered in the mud, so to speak, becoming frozen like ice, becoming a daily misery for so many of us.

And, in all this, we forget to contemplate the wonder and Greatness of God, His power and might. We forget to look upward physically and spiritually. We forget God the Lord is our help from above, the One who made heaven to earth. I think that is why God created His mountains and hilltops in the first place: to remind us never to forget to look upward, to look for God, gazing on the powerful peaks that point upward, and He will dress our lives with the lushness of green, and provide refreshment with the flowing falls of spiritual waters that may cover those daily mountains in our lives, giving the refreshment, hope and help we need from God. Remember that those we think help us may just very well BE an angel or a divine presence of the Lord God. When we are overridden by heaps of worry and woe in life, then we need to take a walk into the hills, take a hike, climb a peak, look upward.

This I my suggestion if you want to know where to go for some respite and relaxation and to find the Lord and God who rescues us. We need to experience that pleasant pain in our necks from looking upward toward the heavens, only to remind us that *our help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth.*

Many of God's and man's many awesome victories have occurred on mountains. Moses received God's law on Mt. Sinai, and then from there he parted the seas to save his people. Jesus Our Lord showed God's power on Mt. Tabor with His own Transfiguration when God shined in and through Him. He conquered death and the damnation of hell when He was crucified on Golgotha, His Ascension in glory to heaven, as He opened up the door for us to follow Him.

Jesus tell us in the Gospel of St. Matthew that before He ascended to Heaven, He told the disciples to go to a mountain as the Gospel states...*to which He directed them*...There is no particular name to the mountain and perhaps this is intentional because that mountain can be any mountain in our lives, a place where we can meet God and enjoy His succor and help only when we look upward. The disciples witnessed the awesomeness of His rising into the Father's Glory as they lifted their eyes to the mountains. Like them, we too can behold the awesomeness and power of God's presence in our lives on this good earth as our eyes, hearts, spirits and minds thrust upward toward the heavens.

But of course the choice is yours.

~ Father Garabed

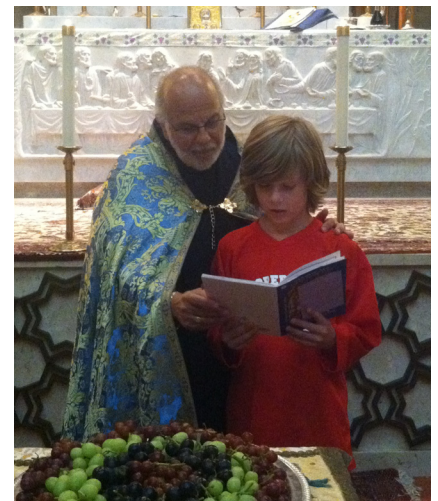
## CAMPERS HELPS IN GRAPE BLESSING.....

The children who attend St. John's Day Camp experience much more than the usual camp activities. In addition to supervised outdoor and indoor activities like swimming, arts and crafts and special theme days, campers learn about their Armenian identity.

Day Camp Director Lisa Mardigian plans hands-on activities that inspire campers and teach them to be proud of their Armenian heritage. Most recently, Lisa arranged with Father Garabed an opportunity for the campers to worship and take part in the Blessing of the Grapes service. In anticipation of the Feast of the Assumption, the children gathered in the church pews at noon on Friday, August 10th. Der Hayr talked about the life of the Holy Mother of God, St. Mary, and had an interactive dialogue with the campers. Our smart little ones had all the right answers! After his instruction, Father Garabed led them into the chancel where he rehearsed with them the singing of *Amen. Alleluia*, a hymn which is part of the Blessing Service.

The children gathered around the table laden with the grapes they had washed and arranged on a large platter as he led them in worship. Campers Aren Bedrosian, Nicole Davtyan, and Bowman Hull offered the readings from the scriptures prior to the blessing. All the children responded beautifully in song as he blessed the grapes. Then the campers headed back to the Recreation Center where they prepared the remaining grapes for the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, August 12th.

*Pictured left: Father Garabed guides Bowman Hull in his lection.*





## ST. JOHN'S TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB KEEPS BUSY.....

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On Tuesday, July 24th, Parish Council Chairman John Yavruian introduced a video presentation of the Arts of Armenia Program. The video was shown by Deacon Rubik Mailian, highlighting the children, ages 8-16, who participated in pottery, painting, rug making and Armenian dancing for one week. Inga Azatyan, a three year participant, an assistant and translator this year discussed her experiences and wish that she could be eight again because she enjoyed the program so much.

The students were taught by instructors from Armenia, Arman Julhakyian and Ella Pepanyan. This year the Komitas Choir and the Day Camp under the direction of Lisa Mardigian combined their energies, resulting in the participation of 27 children. The most ever!

Two dance groups were highlighted in the video: 8-10 year-olds and 10-14 year-olds. The program grew out of Deacon Rubik's vision, shared by those choir members who visited a school in Armenia where children learned the Arts of Armenia. The idea of bringing that experience to our children in the United States caught fire. A gift received from the family of the late Varsenick Apkarian was used to subsidize the first year of the program. Everyone enjoyed the presentation and many of the children in the video were present and watched it with the TLC attendees.

St. John's Tuesday Lunch Club also presented the program "Watch Your Step...How to Reduce your Risk of Falls," the second in an on-going series of talks and demonstrations on topics that matter to people as they age. It was held on Tuesday, August 14, 2012 at St. John's Rec Center. Julie Jenkins from Manoogian Manor Assisted Living was the speaker and easily held the attention of the 30+ attendees.

"Don't be at risk for a fall that will jeopardize your independence!" was the theme of the presentation. Mary Negosian introduced Julie who spoke about the many things that can cause people to fall. She explained how simple things such as not being aware of where you are and trying to multitask while walking may cause a fall.

She explained that improper use of a cane or walker could result in a fall and injury. She provided several suggestions to prevent you from falling which included exercising regularly to improve muscle tone, balance and coordination, keeping walking areas well lit, making sure walking areas are clear of objects you might trip over and removing throw rugs if possible. If you did not attend this interesting and informative presentation, come to the Tuesday Lunch Club and speak to one or more of those who did attend. You just might learn something to help prevent you from having an accident, and you will definitely enjoy the camaraderie and good food.

Julie will be here again on September 11, 2012 to discuss "Achoo, I don't feel so good!!!" She will discuss colds, the flu and the measures you can take to safeguard yourself from catching either of these illnesses. Join us for this FREE presentation beginning promptly at 11:10 am before the lunch. Please make a reservation with May in the Church office (248.569.3405) for the presentation to ensure that our caterer will have ample food available for those who stay with us for lunch. Lunch cost is \$7/person.

- Dan Cristiano -

## GODPARENT AND GODCHILD: A BOND.....

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From the time of birth until adulthood, every child needs a great deal of loving care. To provide this in the best way possible, parents rely on many and their own good instincts. At Baptism God gave us another set of parents when we were washed in waters that changed our lives, opened the doorway to an eternal life with God and all those who likewise were baptized unto salvation sharing with all Christians a life as a new person of a new faith! So then, the role of the Godparent is to provide the spiritual care of the child. John the Forerunner called the Baptist was baptizing converts in the River Jordan, a symbolic ritual cleansing. He told them of the coming of Jesus, who would "baptize them with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Luke 3:16). He baptized Jesus himself, an extraordinary event that became the model for Christian initiation.

In fact, during Jesus' time, the people who changed their lives to follow him were Jews with a deep faith to know God. As the church grew, new Christians had no knowledge of the salvation history that began with creation and led to the birth of the Messiah, nor did they know of the prophecies and the law which our Lord did not come to nullify but to fulfill. They became Catechumens/students learning about Jesus, His mission and Gospel teachings. They sought a sponsor, a knowledgeable Christian to instruct, guide, and pray with them. This was the beginning of the "Godparent," filling in the blanks that even biological parents may not have had the know-how to do. The learning process was lengthy with serious routine of study, prayer, self-examination and sometimes with frequent questioning by the bishop or elder. Great Lent was a time of intensive preparation. The Godchildren 'to be' would then attend the instructional part of the Christian worship but leave just before the Holy Communion segment of liturgy when Communion was consecrated and distributed. We still retain a vestige of this in our *Badarak* when the deacon intones in Armenian *Mi vok herakhayitz* (let none of the Catechumens...be present at this divine mystery.) When Catechumens were ready to be baptized, they were presented to the bishop. The sponsors or Godparents would vouch for the readiness of their Godchildren. Though baptism first focused on individual adults to become members of the Christian Church, entire households including infants were baptized (Acts 16:31-33); and so infant baptism entered the church almost immediately. The ideal day for baptisms was Easter Sunday; today, baptism rituals vary. In some cases where total immersion is not possible, water is poured over the head invoking the name of the Holy Trinity, as a new life in the Father, in the Son and in the Holy Spirit is born. As *Gnkahayr* (godfather) or *Gnkamayr* (godmother), the Godparent has an enormous and beautiful responsibility to be a real presence in the life of his/her Godchild, to be a spiritual role model, and to nurture the child in faith.

Consider some of these opportunities to engage in to stay closely connected with your Godchild...

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ✓ Babysit to get to know your Godchild.  | ✓ Follow your Godchild's Sunday School progress.                                    |
| ✓ Pray for your Godchild. Attend church together, whenever possible, with your Godchild and receive Holy Communion together. | ✓ Make a memory book of photos from the baptism.                                    |
| ✓ Take a trip together: day trip, retreat, museum, baseball game.  | ✓ Send cards on the anniversary of your Godchild's baptism.                         |
| ✓ Talk openly about your faith.  | ✓ Keep in touch.  |
| ✓ Share your memories of that baptismal day with your Godchild.  | ✓ At Christmas and birthdays give religious presents: books, Bible stories, videos. |

# GODPARENTS' AND GODCHILDREN'S DAY

Sunday, September 30, 2012



HAYADK, HOOS, SERVEV MGRDOOTIOON  
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Faith, Hope, Love and Baptism

*It's back!*

ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL IS BACK AND BETTER THAN EVER. WE'RE EXCITED TO INTRODUCE SEVERAL NEW THINGS GUARANTEED TO BE A CROWD PLEASER.



## *Activities for the family*

\*FAMILY PORTRAIT DAY, SEPT. 16TH \* FREE HEALTH FAIR, SEPT. 22ND \* LUNCH & MUSEUM TOURS, SEPT. 26TH  
OPENING NIGHT DINNER, SEPT. 27TH \* FULL BAZAAR OPENS, SEPT. 28TH \* BUILD A BEAR BREAKFAST, SEPT 29TH  
\*KID'S BASKETBALL CLINIC, SEPT 29TH \* \*LEARN CONVERSATIONAL ARMENIAN, SEPT 29TH \* TEXAS HOLDEM, SEPT. 29TH  
BLOOD DRIVE, SEPT. 29TH \* PETTING ZOO AND PONY RIDES, SEPT. 30TH \* CHURCH TOURS, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY  
TAVLOO TOURNAMENT, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

## *Entertainment*

\*AGBU STUDENT DANCE PERFORMANCE, SEPT 28TH \* \*BELL CHOIR PERFORMANCE, SEPT 29TH  
JOHNITE'S BAND, FRI \* NIGOSIAN BAND, SAT. \* \*HARRY KEZELIAN ON THE OUD, SUN.

## *Shopping*

ARMENIAN MARKET PLACE \* "AN ARMENIAN BOUTIQUE" \* CHURCH BOOK STORE \* FINE ARTS EXHIBITION \* GRANDMA'S ATTIC

## *Food*

FULL KABOB DINNERS, SNACK SHOP, HYE BAR \* IN THE COUNTRY STORE: HOMEMADE TOURSHI & JAMS, SARMA, \*CHEE KUFTEH, VOSPOV KUFTEH, \*EETCH, HUMMUS, TABOULI, \*FASSOULIA, PARGARCH, \*BABAGANOUSH, \*HOMEMADE MANTI, \*GERAGOOR & PILAF, BASTARMA SANDWICH, \*HOMEMADE MADZOOM \* HOT FOODS AND BAKED GOODS: KHARPERT KUFTEH, SOU BEOREG, MEAT BEOREG, YAHLANCHI, SPINACH & CHEESE BEOREG, LAHMAJOON, KATAH, KHALKHA, CHEOREG, BOORMA, KHADAYIF, KURABIA, \*RICE PUDDING, \*PARAGHATZ

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## REMEMBERING OUR PEOPLE.....

Every April 24th, people worldwide gather to remember the 1915 Armenian Genocide that took the lives of over 1.5 million innocent souls. They gather, pray, recall, condemn, and most importantly, fight for recognition. Ask any Armenian about April 24, 1915. They will tell you about the story of survival. Ask that same Armenian about the fate of thousands of Baku Armenians in 1988 and they might give you a look of confusion. Many Armenians don't know about a second Armenian ethnic cleansing - one that occurred in our lifetime and was hauntingly similar to the Genocide of 1915.

Read the testimonies of an Armenian who survived the massacres in Van, Kars, or Adana in 1915. Then read about the Baku pogroms of Armenians in 1988. The repetition of history is undeniable: deportations, cruelty, killings, and finally the complete exit of Armenians. The 1988 pogroms, perpetrated by the Azeris, were simply a continuation of the Armenian Genocide. While thousands in the diaspora rallied for recognition of the 1915 Genocide, massacre was occurring in 1988 in Azerbaijan, a neighbor of Armenia, and many knew nothing of it.

From 1988-1991, the population of Armenians in Baku declined drastically from the hundreds of thousands to virtually none. Brutal, inhumane treatment and dangerous living conditions led to fleeing. Many left with only the shirts on their backs and went to Yerevan or Moscow for refuge. Several elderly women escaped for a second time in their life; the first time was due to the Genocide of 1915. These innocent people were targeted for one thing: simply being born Armenian and Christian. Virtually overnight, they became refugees who would and could never return to the place they called home again.

Since then, many have rebuilt their lives and particularly so in the United States. Many major cities are home to this unique variant of Armenian, lovingly called the "Bakutsi" community. Detroit is just one of the many places they have scattered across to create a sustainable future for themselves and their families. St. John's has noticed this growth and presence, and has since started an initiative to bring these Armenians closer to the community and to the Church. Many Armenians say "Never forget 1915!", and St. John's is making sure we also don't forget the terrible events that happened to Baku Armenians from 1988-1991.



For two years now, the Church has designed and planned a monument to be erected in honor of Armenians in Azerbaijan who suffered. An incredible amount of detail and attention has been paid to this project, and the proposed monument will be adjacent to the Armenian Genocide memorial. Slightly smaller in size, it will symbolize a smaller, yet very real, loss of Armenian life. This monument will be the first in the world dedicated to this group of people.

Time is now winding down, and more funds are crucial to make this monument a reality by February 2013, the 25th Anniversary of the pogroms. The Church hopes to spread the news of this worthwhile project and get the support of other Armenians. By creating the monument, the Church wants to spread awareness about these events; if we do not know about genocide, it is bound to be repeated. Remembrance is just as important, and many Armenians from Baku look forward to having something that represents their own recent tragedy to gather around and remember the events that took away so much, and so many, from them. Returning to Azerbaijan for Armenians is still unsafe, and traces of Armenians have been destroyed; people cannot visit their loved ones' graves, as they are desecrated and destroyed. This new monument will provide a place for us all to come to and memorialize.

As Armenians, we cannot ignore the importance of this project. For if we do, 1915 and its meaning becomes diminished. We are movers and shakers, fighters for the recognition and remembrance of the Armenian Cause, *Hye Tad*, which this monument also represents. Although the number killed and injured was significantly less, there is no excuse for purposeful ethnic cleansing. It is our duty to remember the recent events of 1988 and to commemorate them properly. St. John's continues to work through community outreach, but the pressure is high as the 25th anniversary approaches. We ask our fellow Armenians to help make this beautiful dream a reality.

To make a tax deductible donation, please call the St. John Armenian Church office at 248.569.3405.

- Julia Papiyants -



### Baptisms August 2012

- 4 Siena Michele  
Daughter of Marwood & Lisa Polasek  
Godfather: John Kayayan
- 9 Reshmi Nair - Adult  
Godparents: Vlad & Luba Ayrapetyan
- 10 Mila Elizabeth  
Daughter of James & Kari Skubik  
Godparents: Craig Johnson & Marnie Malley
- 23 Mark Mimnaugh - Chrismation
- 24 Nicholas Vowell - Chrismation
- 25 Kevin Joseph III  
Son of Kevin & Lisa Rushlow  
Godparents: Andrew Kasper & Molly Cottrell

### Weddings August 2012

- 5 Tahlene Carlin & Daniel Kelley  
Khachyeghpayr: Michael Stambouljian  
Bestman: Zebulon Hodges  
Maid of Honor: Alexandra Carlin
- 18 Rachel Maresh & James Berryman  
Khachyeghpayr: Todd Berryman  
Maid of Honor: Christina Dobbs

### Funerals July 2012

- 31 Laura D. Sarkesian, 93, Woodlawn

### August 2012

- 1 Vahe Fermanian, 60, Woodlawn
- 14 David Mark Shahinian, 56, Woodlawn
- 17 Harry Aram Keolelian, 85, Woodlawn
- 20 Eliz Samarjian, 90, Evergreen

St. Nersess Armenian Seminary's annual Deacons' Training Program concluded with 22 young men who increased their knowledge to serve the church with new refined liturgical skills and uplifted faith. Our own Garo Matosian, a senior in Sunday School this year, attended for the third year and his skill, knowledge and musical ability has blossomed tremendously. Nine young men came to the program without any knowledge of the Armenian alphabet, leaving nine days later able to read from the church's liturgical books in their original language.



Garo, the son of Dr. Viken and Mary Matosian, faithfully serves the altar and begins his Sunday mornings early participating in Morning service as well as the *Badarak*. Under the tutelage of Deacon Onnig he has been advancing and learning the fundamentals of incensing with the *pourvar*, singing the psalms and joining the Deacons for the litanies.



We are well into Summer. The Council would like to express its deep appreciation to the countless volunteers who made St John's Annual Picnic a truly joy filled event. But the gift that stood out above all was the the one Our Father bestowed on us from above, the weather! It was perfect! Over 550 dinners were sold! Of the \$1,350.00 distributed as prizes in the raffle \$625.00 was gifted back to the Church, making this year's raffle one of the most successful. The Women's Guild Bake Sale netted \$1,340.00, however, this would all be meaningless if we did not see our children enjoying the Dunk Tank and the Slip and Slide. Let's not forget the older children who had their "Classic Cars." Thanks Bob! For those of us who love to dance, we thank Aram, Dikran, Harry, and Daniel (with special appearances by Brandon and Reyna, all pictured above) for providing the music. It was indeed a good day.

Day camp concluded another successful year with an overnight campout. Eighteen children between the ages of 8 and 16 gave up the comfort of their beds for 6.24 acres of a parishioner's backyard in Webster Township. One brave parent with Lisa and two adults managed to survived the ordeal. It was a site to see. We express our deep gratitude to the parents who supported our efforts to bring a different experience to those who participated in our Summer Day Camp Program. The Tuesday Lunch Club continues to offer its twice a month presentations. The Adult Bible Study Group had to move their Wednesday night meeting from the Nursery to the Ararat Room to accommodate the increase in attendance.

All the above events required the dedication of individuals, willing to give of their time talent and treasure. They took the opportunity to make an investment in the well being of their community.

This year the Parish Council chose to forego a summer campaign to raise monies for the operations of our Church. We are hitting a time when cash flow issues take our attention. Our expenditures for the current year are under budget, which is a good thing. We have significant events on the horizon. You will be receiving calls to volunteer for the Festival. We have 130 \$100.00 raffle tickets to sell. We are also asking individuals to step forward and become Sponsors. We are acting on Faith, understanding each person gives, according to their means. Remember what our Lord said of the widow who took from her bag two pennies as her offering? Hers was greater because she gave everything she had. Each of us strives to follow her example, but even though we fall short, we persevere. Let her example guide us. Let our hearts lead us. Let the Light that emanates from within shine. Be generous in spirit, share it unconditionally!

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 -

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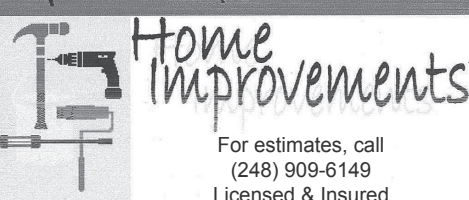
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We welcome your comments and suggestions, so please feel free to contact the Church Office so we may continue to improve the way we bring information to our parishioners, subscribers and the St. John community. If you would like to help defray printing 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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:

[www.stjohnsarmenianchurch.org](http://www.stjohnsarmenianchurch.org)

**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.



## PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.....

### September

- 3 Labor Day - Complex Closed  
5 Evening Bible Study  
8 Nativity of the Holy Mother-of-God  
9 Church School Opens  
Men's Society Pancake Breakfast  
16 **Exaltation of the Holy Cross**  
Family Portraits Sunday  
19 Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study  
26 Museum & Church Tour & Lunch  
27 Opening Night Auction Dinner  
Opening of Fine Arts Exhibition & Sale  
28-30 Armenia: Land of Noah's Ark Festival  
30 Holy Cross of Varak  
Godparents & Godchildren's Sunday

### October

- 7 Men's Society Pancake Breakfast  
19 Men's Society Wine Tasting  
24 Day by Day Afternoon Bible Study

#### St. John's Adult Bell Choir Begins Rehearsals

Rehearsals take place on Thursdays at 7:00 pm. Requirements are: good command of rhythm and basic knowledge of musical notation. If you wish to join please contact Deacon Rubik Mailian at 248.569.3405 or rubik@sjachurch.org.

## IN THE COMMUNITY.....

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

Saturday, February 2, 2012  
Kef Time Keghi is coming to Detroit!

#### *In the Fall and Winter at St. John's*

Sunday, November 4, 2012  
Detroit Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, November 11, 2012  
Primate's Visit, Deacons' Ordination,  
"A Celebration of Service" Awards and Ordination Dinner

Saturday, November 24, 2012  
ACYOA November Dance

Saturday, December 8, 2012  
St. John's Parish Council and Apostolic Society invite you to  
"Celebrate the Season"  
Featuring the inimitable voice of Onnik Dinkjian  
with accomplished musicians Gregory Vosbikian, Leon Janikian,  
David Hoplamazian, Ara Dinkjian and Christopher Vosbikian

Tuesday, December 11, 2012  
"Celebrating the Legacy of 500 Years of Armenian Book  
Printing: 1512-2012"

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

St. John Armenian Church  
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