

St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit

Very Reverend Father Aren Jebejian, Pastor

Clergy residing within the St. John parish and community:

Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian

Reverend Father Abraham Ohanesian



Sunday Bulletin

December 21, 2025

Armenian Church Year 1475

Fifth Sunday of Advent

Celebrant: Very Reverend Father Aren Jebejian

Morning Service - 9:00 a.m. | Divine Liturgy - 9:45 a.m.

Isaiah 40:18-31, Hebrews 4:16-5:10, Luke 18:9-14

Fr. Aren will deliver Children's Sermon

Lector: Hermine Dervartanian

Welcome!

We welcome you to the Divine Liturgy (*Soorp Badarak*) and invite all who are confirmed in the Armenian Church, and also those whose churches are in communion with ours, to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. If you are new to our parish and would like information about our many parish groups, please ask any parish council member on duty at the entrance desks. Please also fill out a contact card before you leave. Enter to worship the Lord Jesus, who loves you, and depart with His love in order to serve others.

The Kiss of Peace

The GIVER says:

Kreesdos ee mech mer haydnetsav.

Քրիստոս ի մէջ մեր յայտնեցաւ:

Christ is revealed amongst us.

The RECEIVER says:

Orhnyal eh haydnootyoonun Kreesdosee.

Օրհնեալ է յայտնութիւնն Քրիստոսի:

Blessed is the revelation of Christ.

Plate Collection: Today's collection for the church will be taken during *Badarak* immediately following communion. Your donations remain an essential part of how we support our parish's mission. You can also make an online plate donation through our website, or by scanning this QR code with your smartphone.





St. John Komitas Choir

Deacon Rubik Mailian, Director of Sacred Music and Pastoral Assistant

Midday Hymn

Sung during the Synaxis (at the bottom of page 12 in the Divine Liturgy book)

Resurrection Mode 6

O Christ

You have enlightened the Holy Church by the light of Your divinity

Preserve it unshaken forever.

Today Jerusalem celebrates with the multitude of the faithful

The renewal of the Holy Church

Preserve it unshaken forever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

Now and forever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

The doors of faith of the new Sion were opened

And it receives You, the Immortal Bridegroom, into the wedding chamber

It distributes Your body and blood.

Preserve it unshaken forever.

Today's Gospel Reading

Luke 18:9-14

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Church Office Closed

The church complex will be closed on Thursday, **December 25, 2025** and **Thursday January 1, 2026**, in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Altar Flowers "Poinsettias"

A beautiful Christmas tradition at St. John Armenian Church is the adornment of the Holy Altar and Bema, for Armenian Christmas, with poinsettia plants. If you would like to contribute towards the plants, please contact the church office at (248) 569-3405. Donors will be acknowledged in the Sunday bulletin.



Prayers for the Sick and Hospitalized

Badrik Jooharigian	Imprisoned Bishops and	Samvel Arakelyan
Azniv-Ann Kzirian	Clergymen in Armenia	Yelena Zakaryan
Vladimir Avetisov	Diramayr Marmine Bagdasarian	Nancy Altounian
Joann Mashigian	Dirahayr Mihran Parsamyan	Marus Grigoryan
Charles Sansone	Yeretzgin Tirouhi Boyagian	Nailya Sahakian
Hrayr Mashigian	Mary Helen Altounian	Rose Lucassian
Nick Fernandez	Shoghig Terjimanian	Marge Aramian
Sonia Kalfayan	Valera Ayrapetyan	Zaven Ovian
Edith Baise	Charles Vanerian	Jan Paloian
Rose Baise		

Kiss of Peace

Today our seventh grade Sunday school class will be leading the congregation in receiving and giving the Kiss of Peace.

The following students will approach Altar to receive the kiss then distribute it to the parishioners.

Armen Avedissian

Sona Bell

Sosi Callan

Ruby Gale

Maya Karapetyan

Sophie Kocharyan

Drew Rosenthal

Seeking Stewards Time and Talent Help

Church office requests help with the following projects

- Social Media organization and publishing
- Storage rooms clean-up and re-organize
- Update church event manual
- Volunteers for small repair projects
- Organize tool/shop room

Contact Jim Stambouliau at Church Office



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Requiem Prayers for the Souls of those asleep in Christ

**V. REV. FR. JOHN SVIRIDOV, 21st Year, Father, Grandfather,
Great-Grandfather, Khnamee, Friend**

Requested by Dr. Edward and Anna Sarkisian
Sara, Morgan, Sona and Anya Bell
Dn. Dr. Aram Sarkisian and Dr. Diana Ohanian
Allan, Rachel, Tyler, and Emma Sarkisian
Linda Houhanisin and Family
Barbara Rupas and Family
Lisa and Stephen Derderian

RIMA DANILYAN, Newly Deceased

Requested by the Ayrapetyan Family

PAUL JINGOZIAN, 1st Year

Requested by Messner Family
Minni Family
Tungate Family

**VIRGINIA REGISH, 2nd Year, Dearest Mother, Grandmother, Sister, Aunt,
Cousin**

Requested by Sonja and Joshua Richardson
Lalena Hale and Family
Veronica Gibson and Family
David Apkarian and Family
Richard Apkarian and Family
Edward and Shirley Apkarian

RICHARD MEGREGIAN, 4th Year

Requested by Nancy Megregian and Family
Barbara Megregian

SYLVIA BJORNSTAD, 5th Year, Wife

Requested Harold Bjornstad



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Requiem Prayers for the Souls of those asleep in Christ

SYLVIA BJORNSTAD, 5th Year

Requested by Mary Ann Artinian,
Mike and Pinel Artinian and family,
Julie, Sean and Ryder Temperly,
Kara and Don Cunningham and family

LEVON NADJARIAN

LUCINE NADJARIAN

GIRAGOS NADJARIAN

NADJARIAN FAMILY

MARIE MELKONIAN

MARIAM MELKONIAN

MELKONIAN FAMILY

Requested by Sara Nadjarian

SIMONIAN FAMILIES

OSKOIAN FAMILIES

JEVAHIRIAN FAMILIES

Requested by Margine Simonian
Linda Jevahirian

Fallen Asleep in the Lord

We offer our prayers for the servant of God, **Leo Artinian**,
who entered his eternal rest last week. His funeral was held at
St. John Armenian Church on December 15, 2025.
May Christ our Lord shed His eternal light upon his soul.

We offer our prayers for the servant of God, **Gregory Boyajian**,
who entered his eternal rest last week. His funeral was held at
St. John Armenian Church on December 19, 2025.
May Christ our Lord shed His eternal light upon his soul.



ST. JOHN ARMENIAN CHURCH

2025 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025 - WESTERN CHRISTMAS EVE

Western Christmas Eve Service - 11:00 pm

Afterglow refreshments provided by the ACYOA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025 - SIXTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Morning Service - 9:00 a.m. | Divine Liturgy - 9:45 a.m.

Blessing of Pomegranates at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY, January 4, 2026 - SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Morning Service - 9:00 a.m. | Divine Liturgy - 9:45 a.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026 - ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS EVE / JRAKALOYTS

Vespers and Reading of Prophecies - 4:00 p.m. | Divine Liturgy - 5:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026 - ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Divine Liturgy and Blessing of the Waters/Chrorhnek - 10:00 a.m.

Godfather of the Cross - Wolfgang Axt

Christmas luncheon following the Divine Liturgy,

sponsored by the St. John Women's Guild

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026 - SECOND DAY OF THEOPHANY

Remembrance of the Dead/Merelotz/Hokehankist - 11 a.m.

*St. John Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, MI 48075
(248) 569-3405*



Cups of Cheer & Festive Treats A Christmas Coffee Social

sponsored by Mark, Maral Mamassian and family

grand ballroom

sunday, december 21

after church

Donations to **Ayo! Christmas Wishlist 2025**

free will offerings will be matched up to \$1,000

special guest Sarah Stites

Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR)

Parish Liaison and Ayo! Program Director

project goal

To spread holiday joy and hope to 200 vulnerable
and displaced families in Sisian by bringing
Christmas trees, lights, ornaments, and festive
food packages to restore the magic of the season





ST. JOHN WOMEN'S GUILD

Christmas Cookie Box

**LAST DAY TO PURCHASE IS
SATURDAY**

A winter-themed box filled with 2lbs. of assorted
Christmas cookies made by our members.

Makes a welcome holiday gift

**Pick up SUNDAY 12/21
after church services**

Pre-pay \$35



[Click here to order](https://www.bit.ly/4p6Hplg)

www.bit.ly/4p6Hplg



COFFEE WITH HAYR SOORP

Join Us on Zoom!

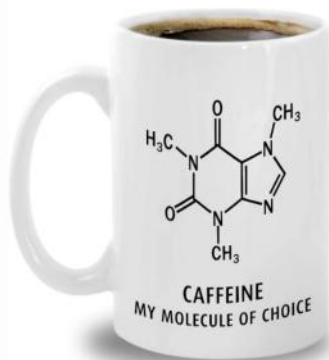
Take a break, grab your favorite cup of coffee, and log on for a half hour relaxed and meaningful conversation with Fr. Aren.

Monday, December 22 at 5:00pm

(Day, date, and time will change week to week)

This is a chance to:

- Connect with fellow parishioners
- Ask questions or share thoughts
- Hear reflections from Fr. Aren
- Simply enjoy each other's company



Scan QR code below for zoom link



All are welcome - come as you are!



Wednesday, December 24, 2025

11:00pm

Western Christmas Eve Service

Led by Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jabejian
with the participation of the Komitas Choir,
our organist and special guest musicians
under the direction of
Deacon Rubik Maillan

Refreshments provided afterwards by the ACYOA



*Hey Doon
At Winter's
Song*

ENJOY
DINNER
FROM
CHIPOTLE!
COMPLIMENTARY!

Movie Night

SATURDAY 12/27 6PM ST. VARTAN ROOM
SEE THE FIRST MILLENNIAL ROM COM SET IN YEREVAN!



Armenian Christmas
Tuesday, January 6, 2026

**TRADITIONAL
LAHMAJOON
LUNCHEON**

Following Divine Liturgy
Presented by
St. John Women's Guild
Suggested donation: \$10 per person



Reservations required
Denise Boyagian; 248-892-9739
dboyagian@yahoo.com





Sunday, January 11, 2026

Church School Christmas Dinner

**Following Divine Liturgy
in the Cultural Hall**

Lamb chop dinner buffet

Everyone welcome

\$30.00 Adult, Children Free

R.S.V.P. Church Office (248) 569-3405

Visit the St. John Parish Bookstore!

Open during Church Office hours and on Sundays after the Divine Liturgy

The best selection of Armenian books and CDs and gift items: Jewelry, Armenian crosses, key chains, cookbooks and many "Made in Armenia" products — some newly arrived!

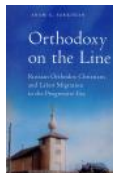
Featured Items



Armenia: The Lone Stone
A Traveler's Guide From Ancient
Stones to Modern Wonders,
by David Karamian (HC \$25)



NEW, Armenia-The Lone Stone
by David Karamian (HC \$70)
Hardcover coffee table book
documenting history of cultural
landmarks



Orthodoxy on
the Line by
Aram G. Sarkisian,
HC \$50.00



New, "The Repatriate
Returns" by Tom
Mooradian SC \$20.00

These and many other Michael Aram pieces now available (10% off)!

Candles



White Orchid Cocktail
Napkin Holder



Noah's Ark
Nut Dish



New! - Armenian Cross
Ornament, 5"x3.5", \$50



New Jewelry from Armenia

Pregomesh Jewelry

Vanq Collection Silver Jewelry Celebrates Artsakh's Rich Heritage



EVENTS AT
ST JOHN
ARMENIAN CHURCH

WWW.SJACEVENTS.ORG

SCHEDULE AN
APPOINTMENT TO VIEW
OUR VENUE & ALL THE
FANTASTIC OPTIONS

WEDDINGS | BAPTISMS
SHOWERS | HOLIDAYS
GRADUATIONS | REUNIONS
BIRTHDAYS | BANQUETS
MEETINGS | ART SHOWS

CALL: 248 569 3405

EMAIL: EVENTS@SJACHURCH.ORG

General Parish Information

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am - 4pm

Parish Secretary: Gayane Hovhanissyan | (248) 569-3405 | office@sjachurch.org

In an after-hours emergency, please contact:

Fr. Aren - Cell: (773) 457-4122 | fraren@sjachurch.org

Administrative Consultant - Cell: (248) 917-6645 | admin@sjachurch.org

Visits to the hospitalized and homebound: Please call the church office if you or someone you love has been hospitalized and would appreciate a visit from the pastor. If you have an upcoming surgery, please consider adding your name to our prayer list for the sick or hospitalized. Those who are homebound and desire to receive Holy Communion should contact the church office.

Home Blessings: If you would like the pastor to visit your home and conduct a home blessing service, please contact the church office.

Baptisms: Parents may prepare for their child's baptism before they are born. For more information, proceed to our website for Baptismal guidelines and application: [Baptism Guidelines – St. John Armenian Church](#)

Weddings: Please contact the church office at least nine months before your anticipated wedding date. We ask that you please make sure to confirm your date with the pastor before booking a reception location.

For more information, proceed to our website for Wedding guidelines and application: [Wedding Guidelines – St. John Armenian Church](#)

Requiem Prayers (*Hokehankist*): Names may be submitted to the church office by mail, phone, email, or via the church website **no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday** preceding the Sunday when prayers are requested. Requiem prayers may be offered any Sunday except for the five Tabernacle Feast Days. To submit an online request, proceed to our website [Requiem Service \(*Hokihankist*\) – St. John Armenian Church](#)

Veils: In the Armenian Church, it is customary for women and girls to wear head coverings when attending the Divine Liturgy, and particularly when receiving Holy Communion. If you do not have a head covering, but wish to obtain one, kindly approach a parish council member.

Sunday Bulletin: Announcements for the print bulletin and e-Bulletin are due to the church office **no later than 5 p.m. Wednesday**.

Parish Membership: If you are interested in becoming part of the St. John parish stewardship program, please speak with any parish council member, contact the church office, or visit stjohnsarmenianchurch.org/membership/

“Please remember St. John Armenian Church in your Will or Trust”

St. John Parish Calendar

For flyers with further information on these and other parish events, scan this QR code to view our e-Bulletin.

You can also find it using your web browser at:
www.stjohnsarmenianchurch.org/sunday-bulletin/



December 22- Coffee with Hayr Soorp

5:00pm - Via Zoom

December 24 - Western Christmas Eve Service

11:00pm - Sanctuary - Afterglow refreshments provided by the ACYOA

December 27 - Hye Doon - Movie Night

6:00pm - St. Vartan Room

January 6 - Women's Guild - Traditional Lahmajoon Luncheon

Following Divine Liturgy

January 11 - Church School - Lamb Chop Dinner

Following Divine Liturgy

January 12 - Bible Study

6:00pm - Conference Room

