

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



Armenian Christmas Bulletin

January 5-6, 2026
Armenian Church Year 1475

January 5, 2025

Eve of Nativity and Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ

Celebrant: Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian

Monday - Schedule of Worship

Reading of Prophecies - 4:00 p.m.

Divine Liturgy - 5:00 p.m.

Titus 2:11-15, Matthew 2:1-12

Lecture: Deacon Rubik Mailian

January 6, 2025

Feast of the Nativity and Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ

Celebrant: Very Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian

Blessing of the Waters/*Chrorhnek*

Godfather of the Cross Wolfgang Axt

Schedule of Worship

Divine Liturgy - 10:00 a.m.

Titus 2:11-15, Matthew 1:18-25

Lecture: Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian

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.



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)

Nativity and Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ

My soul shall magnify the Lord;

And my spirit shall rejoice in God my Savior.

We bless and magnify the Holy Mother-of-God.

The angel rejoiced with the Holy Virgin

and brought her the good news of the Savior's birth, saying;

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

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

Rejoice, O Full of Grace, for the Lord of Lords is with you

Why January 6?

Even at the time of the Holy Apostles, the traditions in the Christian churches in the different parts of the world were not uniform. In fact, Christmas was probably not observed at all in the very early Church. Later, the mysteries of the birth and baptism of Jesus Christ began to be observed on January 6.

By the end of the 3rd century, Christmas in Rome was celebrated on December 25, which coincided with a major pagan feast. The Eastern churches, meanwhile, continued to observe Christmas on January 6. The Armenian Church has maintained that ancient tradition to this day, whereas the Greek-speaking Christian world switched to the Latin tradition at the end of the 4th century.

Armenian-American households may exchange Christmas gifts on December 25, since it is the custom in American society to do so. In some of our churches in the United States, it has become traditional to observe the feast of St. Stephen the Proto-Martyr on Christmas Eve (December 24), though that feast is movable and may not always fall on December 24.

If possible, the faithful should fast during the seven-day period preceding January 6 and should inform their children that they are fasting as a way of preparation for Christmas. On the evening of January 5, families should attend church and participate in the celebration of the Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy. They should do the same on the morning of January 6.

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.

January 5 / Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: `And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

January 6 / Christmas Divine Liturgy Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his Mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel!" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

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.



Special Plate Collection: Tuesday, January 6, on the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, the St. John Komitas Choir will be taking a special plate collection during the singing of "Amen, Yev unt hovkvoot koom" (p.36).

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		

Merelotz Service

After Feast of the Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

It is a centuries old tradition to remember all deceased loved ones after a major feast day, known as *Merelotz*. Because the Feast of the Nativity and Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ is on Tuesday, January 6, Merelotz will be on Wednesday, January 7, at 11:00am.

Please submit the full name of the person or persons you wish to have remembered either typed or electronically sent to gayane@sjachurch.org or call the Church Office by Tuesday afternoon, January 6 at (248) 569-3405.

An offering from your heart would be appreciated.

Altar Candles

Dr. Rose M. Berberian and Family present a donation for altar candles in loving memory of **Judge Y. Gladys Barsamian** on the 10th anniversary of her death.

Plastic cups used for Holy Water

Please return plastic cups used for holy water to the designated area in the lobby so they may be disposed of properly. We ask that used plastic cups and holy water not be poured into the sewer system. Thank you for helping us treat this sacred element with care and reverence.

Christmas Eve Service / "Jrakalooyts"

In Armenian, this service is referred to as "Jrakalooyts." For this service we ask that you bring the lanterns you had previously purchased. If you do not have your own lantern, they will be available for purchase for \$10.

The "lighting of the candles" (Jrakalooyts) marks the beginning of our celebration of Christmas and the spreading of the light of Christ. At the end of Monday's Divine Liturgy, parishioners will be invited up to the chancel to light their lamps and take home the flame and the light of Christ.



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





***We Thank the Following Contributors for Their
Generosity in Donating Towards the Beautiful
Poinsettias Adorning the Holy Altar and Bema***

Mr. Levon Aghassian

*Mr. and Mrs. Vahe and Ani Akaraz - In loving memory of
Nazaret, Zepur, Hagop, Meline*

Mrs. Pat Akkashian - In loving memory of her husband Bernie Akkashian

Scott, Renee, Cynthia, Michael and Reagan Apkarian and Family

*Alice Argnian and Peter Argnian - In loving memory of
their grandparents, Dikran and Takouhi Koloian, uncle William Koloian
and parents Mary Argnian and Sam Argnian*

The Asadoorian Family

The Ayraprtyan Family

*Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Lisa Bahm and Family in memory of
George and Marian Elian*

Mr. and Mrs. Greg and Edith Baise

Gloria Baykian

Dr. and Mrs. Steven and Jacqueline Boskovich, Melanie and Andrew

*Mr. Jerry Dayinian - In loving memory of
deceased family members and friends*

Mr. and Mrs. Jacqueline and Faouzi Elchemmas and Family

Mrs. Ardis Gregory - In loving memory of her husband Mr. Roger Gregory



Mr. and Mrs. Khatchig and Marcia Hamamdjian

Mr. Stephen Kaurala

***Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Maral Mamassian and Family -
Wishing all a Merry Christmas and remembering our
ancestors who risked their everything for us***

***Linda Lutz and Carol Ohanesian - In loving memory of
James and Florence Ohanesian, and Diramayr Ursula Findikyan***

Mr. and Mrs. Mike and Dolly Matoian

Mr. and Mrs. Harry and Janice Megerian and Family

***Mrs. Nennette Merametdjian - In loving memory of
her daughter, Myda Kalandjian***

***Mr. and Mrs. Cross and Karen Mooradian and Family -
In loving memory of Andonian, Kralian, and Mooradian families***

***Merrily Seranian and Catherine Kaczmar - In loving memory of
their mother, Patricia Neuriza Borman (Seranian)***

Mrs. Margie Simonian - In loving memory of Marjorie Ovoian, (Mass)

***Mr. and Mrs. Kazar and Marina Terterian - In loving memory of
their parents***

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald and Kay Torigian

Dr. Salpi Toroyan and Nishan

Mrs. Angel Vahratian and Family - In loving memory of Richard Vahratian

Mrs. Loretta Yarjanian - In loving memory of her husband, Ara Yarjanian

COFFEE WITH HAYR SOORP

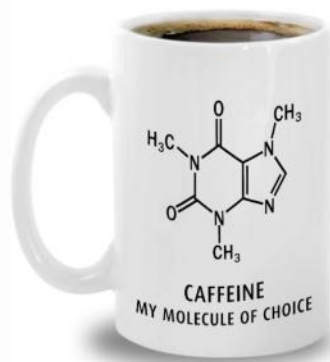
Join Us on Zoom!

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

Thursday, January 8, at 4:00pm
(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!



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!

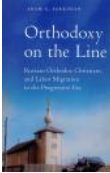
Featured Items



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

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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/



January 5 - Armenian Christmas Eve/Jrakalooys

4:00 pm - Vespers and Reading of Prophecies

5:00pm - Divine Liturgy

January 6 - Armenian Christmas Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

10:00am - Divine Liturgy and Blessing of the Waters/Chrorhnek

Christmas Luncheon - Sponsored by the St. John Women's Guild

Following Divine Liturgy

January 7 - Merelotz/Hokehankist Service

11:00am

January 8 - Coffee with Hayr Soorp

4:00pm, Via Zoom

January 11 - Church School - Lamb Chop Dinner

Following Divine Liturgy

January 12 - Bible Study

7:00pm - Conference Room

Save the Date

Annual Parish Assembly Meeting in the Cultural Hall Sunday, March 1, 2026

Following Divine Liturgy

Seeking Stewards Time and Talent Help

Church office requests help with the following projects

- Social Media organization & publishing (Facebook, Instagram, Website, other)
- Storage rooms need clean-up, re-organize, some shelving units & cabinets
- Update church event manual & procedures (update/enhance from prior years)
- Volunteers for minor repair projects (paint, light fixture, podium, moldings, install bumper guards)
- Organize tool/shop room (need tool bench, cabinet or peg board, shelves)

Contact Jim Stamboulian at Church Office