

Our St. John Armenian Church Bookstore

Contributors: Alice Argnian and Lucy Ardash

For more than thirty years, the St. John Armenian Church bookstore has been a treasured part of our parish life. More than just shelves of books and gifts, it stands as a cultural and spiritual hub within the church complex — a place where faith, heritage, and community come together.

The bookstore offers parishioners and visitors alike a wide selection of resources and treasures. From inspiring books and devotional materials to jewelry, art, and authentic Armenian souvenirs, every item reflects our rich heritage and helps preserve the traditions we hold dear. Every Sunday, you'll be warmly welcomed by Lucy Ardash, Anahid Dilakian and Dr. Joyce Yeghissian who are always ready to answer questions and guide you through the collection.

Lucy fondly recalls the bookstore's humble beginnings, when books were simply laid out after Sunday service. Today, the space has grown into a vibrant destination filled with colorful prints of Armenian landscapes, historical landmarks, and a wealth of literature both new and old. Passed down through the years, Treasured Armenian Recipes continues to be a timeless favorite. In addition, the bookstore includes a gift shop. You can find many Michael Aram pieces that cannot be found elsewhere.

Our buyer, Anahid Dilakian, brings many beautiful pieces from Armenia, including a wide variety of silver and gold crosses. Some of these crosses are purchased for baptismal purposes. There is also a full collection of "Made in Armenia" keepsakes, including beautiful scarves and other artisan items.

The St. John Armenian Church bookstore's newest book is *The Repatriate Returns: Home, Family and the FBI* by Tom Mooradian (2025), a moving sequel to his first book, *The Repatriate: Love, Basketball, and the KGB*. Tom

Mooradian, a Southwestern High School graduate, left for the Soviet Union in 1947. His newest book is a compelling story about how life in the U.S. was much different after his return — a powerful story of resilience and his search for belonging. The FBI changed his life in the U.S. through questions, scrutiny, and suspicions. It is worth checking out this compelling Armenian story.

Whether you are searching for a meaningful gift, a book to deepen your faith, or a piece of Armenian culture to bring home, the St. John Armenian Church bookstore is here to serve you. Stop by after Sunday Badarak and discover something that speaks to your heart.