

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

January 4, 2026
Armenian Church Year 1475

Seventh Sunday of Advent

Guest Celebrant: Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian

Pastor: Very Reverend Father Aren Jebejian

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

Isaiah 51:15-52:3 , Hebrews 13:18-25 , Luke 22:24-30

Lector: Yeretzgin Roberta Kochakian

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 4

Blessing in the highest to our King who became flesh from the Virgin.

Alleluia, Alleluia. Blessing in the highest to our unshakable and firm Hope;

Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

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

Blessing in the highest to the undivided and consubstantial Trinity;

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Today's Gospel Reading

Luke 22:24-30

A dispute also arose among them, which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For which is the greater, one who sits at table, or one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at table? But I am among you as one who serves. "You are those who have continued with me in my trials; as my Father appointed a kingdom for me, so do I appoint for you that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

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, 2026. 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 1:00pm, January 6 at (248) 569-3405. An offering from your heart would be appreciated.

First use of Refurbished Chalice

The Chalice used today was rededicated and blessed last Sunday at the conclusion of Divine Liturgy. It will now go back into a rotation during subsequent Divine Liturgies. The inscription on the chalice reads, "**In memory of fathers Sahag and Andrew/In memory of Vahan Badolow Hagop and Ardemis Norian March 25,1956**" The chalice was ceremonially washed with water, while psalms were read, and then was washed with wine, followed by a litany and a final prayer. We are grateful to John, sons, Alexander and Zachary Norian and Family for sponsoring the refurbishing of this Chalice in memory of their grandparents and great-grandparents.

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		

Memorial Tea

Today's Fellowship Tea is hosted in loving memory of **Simon Javizian's** 40th day by the Javizian Family. Everyone is welcome to attend after Divine Liturgy.

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.

Parish Christmas Card

Thank you to all who donated to the Parish Christmas card.

We collected \$7,240, all proceeds will go to the Social Concern Fund of St. John Armenian Church to help those in need from our community.

St. John Armenian Church Annual Toys for Tots Collection

As a result of your donations, 7 large boxes, 28 bags of new unwrapped toys, foosball table, assorted large toys and fishing pole were sent to Toys for Tots this holiday season. Thank you all who participated in our Toys for Tots drive.

Christmas Eve Service /"Jrakalooys"

In Armenian, this service is referred to as "Jrakalooys." 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 at a nominal cost.

The "lighting of the candles" (Jrakalooytz) 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.

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.



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Requiem Prayers for the Souls of those asleep in Christ

CHARLES ROOPEN KOCHAKIAN, 40th Day

Requested by Father Garabed and Yeretzgin Roberta Kochakian
Jim and Nancy Berryman
David, Rachel, Grace, and JR Berryman
Todd Berryman
Dn. Richard Norsigian
Shant and Victoria Norsigian
Jordan and Kathryn Norsigian
Alice and Sandi Nigoghosian
Dr. Edward and Anna Sarkisian and Family
Stephen and Lisa Derderian
Dr. and Mrs. Gary and Mariann Zamanigian
Ardis Gregory

SIMON JAVIZIAN, 40th Day, Beloved Father, Grandfather, Brother, Uncle, Great-Uncle, and Friend

Requested by the Javizian Family
Garry, Patti Javizian and Madelina
Peggy and Tim Miller
Marlene Fuller
Ron and Laurie Fuller
Father Garabed and Yeretzgin Roberta Kochakian
Dr. Edward and Anna Sarkisian and Family
Gregory and Edith Baise
Linda and Dr. Gary Assarian and Family
Bob and Kiana Rose, Kylie and Michael
Barbara Megregian
Belinda and Armen Kabodian

CAROLE BAGDASARIAN, 40th Day, Loving Mother, Grandmother, Sister, Aunt

Requested by Christine, Josh and Ari Keillor
Talin, Grant and Leland Miars
Vigen and Lynda Darian
Mara Darian
Linda, Michael and Ani Karibian
George and Scott Bagdasarian

VARTOUG KARADOLIAN, 1st Year, Mother, Grandmother, Friend

Requested by Joe, Sevan, Alec and Sophie Sanjian
Hagop Karadolian
Nasayah Shay
Viken Karadolian
Alexander Karadolian
Maral, Peter and Eli Saadi
Vartan and Vache DerSarkisian
Hovsep, Karine, Lara and Garo Koundakjian



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Requiem Prayers for the Souls of those asleep in Christ

ELIZABETH APRAHAMIAN, 2nd Year, Aunt, Great-Aunt, Cousin, Friend

Requested Dn. David and Heidi Aprahamian
Elizabeth Aprahamian
Edward and Mary Aprahamian
Allison Aprahamian
Jeff Aprahamian
Cindy Aprahamian
Lucy Ardash and Family
Dr. Joyce Yeghissian and Dn. Rubik Mailian and Family
Anahid Dilakian and Sarkis Ghazarian and Family
Paul Yousoufian

**RALPH HARRIS KALAJIAN, 4th Year, Husband, Father, Grandfather,
Great-Grandfather**

**BARBARA KAY BERNARDI, 4th Year, Khuname, Mother, Grandmother, Great-
Grandmother**

**AL BERNARDI, 2nd Year, Khuname, Father, Grandfather,
Great-Grandfather**

Requested by Vartouhi Rose Kalajian
Andrew and Sherrie Kalajian and Family
John and Kimberly Kalajian and Family
Katherine and Michael Kudla and Family

JUDGE Y. GLADYS BARSAMIAN, 10th Year, Friend

Requested by Dr. Rose M. Berberian and Family

RICHARD TORIGIAN, 11th Year, Father, Grandfather, Great-Grandfather

Requested by Mark and Deanna Torigian
Kathryn Torigian
Eric, Nicole, Viviana, and Christian Torigian
Karen, Jeff, and Kyle Kalajian
Alec, Emily Torigian, and Gracie Rose Torigian
Andrew and Callie Torigian
Jenna, Jacob and Reese Kathryn Rayis

JOHN KALAJIAN, Father-In-Law

Requested by John Jeffrey, Karen and Kyle Kalajian
The Torigian Khunamees





***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, 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

The Pastor, Parish Council &
SJAC Staff

welcome

2026

HAPPY
new year

This year, may your heart be
lighter, your laughter louder,
and your journey brighter.

ST. JOHN ARMENIAN CHURCH 2025 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

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 / JRAKALOOYTS

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*



Armenian Christmas
Tuesday, January 6, 2026

**TRADITIONAL
LAHMAJON
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



COFFEE WITH HAYR SOORP

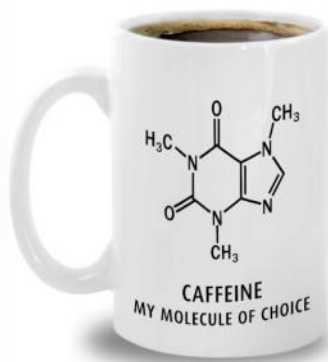
Join Us on Zoom!

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!

THE ANNUAL PARISH *Assembly*



March 1, 2026

The Nominating Committee is seeking dedicated and enthusiastic stewards to run for election for Parish Council, Auditing Committee and Nominating Committee at the 2026 Annual Parish Assembly! This is a wonderful opportunity to take an active role in the leadership of SJAC, guiding the direction of our parish. If you would like to volunteer, or would like to nominate someone,

Contact:

PAUL ANDONIAN, HOWARD ATESIAN, DENISE BOYAGIAN, MARILYN DADIAN OR KIM NAJARIAN

St John Armenian Church



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



St. John Armenian Church

BIBLE STUDY

LED BY FR. AREN



JANUARY 12, 2025

TWICE A MONTH,
IN-PERSON
MONDAYS FROM 7:00PM - 8:30PM

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!

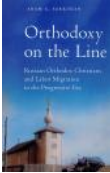
Featured Items



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/



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 the 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

6:00pm - Conference Room

Save the Date

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

Following Divine Liturgy

Year - End Statement

Church stewards who require a tax statement itemizing 2025 donations should contact the Church Office at (248) 569-3405 or office@sjachurch.org

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