

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 28, 2025

Armenian Church Year 1475

Sixth Sunday of Advent

Celebrant: Very Reverend Father Aren Jebejian

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

Isaiah 41:4-14, Hebrews 7:11-25, Luke 19:12-28

Lector: Sevana Mailian

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 5

Let all the earth bless Christ the King with a song of praise.

Let all the earth dedicate a hymn of praise,
with thanksgiving to the Creator of heaven and earth.

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

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

To the Trinity and the one Divinity let us give honor and adoration forever. Amen.

Today's Gospel Reading

Luke 19:12-28

He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive kingly power and then return. Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten pounds, and said to them, 'Trade with these till I come.' But his citizens hated him and sent an embassy after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' When he returned, having received the kingly power, he commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by trading. The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your pound has made ten pounds more.' And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.' And the second came, saying, 'Lord, your pound has made five pounds.' And he said to him, 'And you are to be over five cities.' Then another came, saying, 'Lord, here is your pound, which I kept laid away in a napkin; for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man; you take up what you did not lay down, and reap what you did not sow.' He said to him, 'I will condemn you out of your own mouth, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow? Why then did you not put my money into the bank, and at my coming I should have collected it with interest?' And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the pound from him, and give it to him who has the ten pounds.' (And they said to him, 'Lord, he has ten pounds!') 'I tell you, that to every one who has will more be given; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them before me.'" And when he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

Church Office Closed

The church complex will be closed on **Thursday January 1, 2026**, in observance of the New Year's holiday.

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		

Dedication of Refurbished Chalice

Today at the conclusion of Divine Liturgy, we will rededicate and bless a chalice which needed to be refurbished. The inscription on the chalice reads, **“In memory of fathers Sahag and Adrew / In memory of Vahan Badolow Hagop and Ardemis Norian March 25, 1956”**

The chalice will first ceremonially be washed with water, while psalms are read, and then will be washed with wine, followed by a litany and a final payer.

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.

Thank you

Thank you to **Westborn Marken** and the **Anusbigian Family** for the generous donation of pomegranates for today's Pomegranate Blessing Service.

Today, at the conclusion of Divine Liturgy, each family may come forward to receive one pomegranate per family.



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.



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.

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, January 6 at (248) 569-3405.

Men's Society Outreach

Continuing their partnership with **Motor City Mitten Mission**, the Men's Society of St. John Armenian Church prepared hot lunches twice in December for the homeless of Metro Detroit. The Men's Society thanks **Linda M Jenkinson** for her donation to underwrite the cost of these lunches.

We are currently in need of volunteers to help us prepare meals twice a month in the main kitchen. If you are available and would like to help, please contact **Harry Dulger at 313-333-6915**.

Additional Hokihaankist Donation

Zee, Susan and Diane Sarkesian made a donation in memory of Nina Sarkisian's 40th day Hokihaankist, which took place on December 21, 2025.

Asdvadz Hokin Loosavoreh!

AYO Collection Totals this past week

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the whole St. John community for raising \$6,466 between December 20 and 24 in support of Ayo's annual Christmas Wishlist project. Your generosity helped bring warmth and cheer to more than 200 socially vulnerable families in Armenia's Syunik region. In the new year, we will use overflow funds to purchase appliances for families from Artsakh who have recently acquired permanent housing in Syunik.

Our thanks to Mark and Maral Mamasian for their \$1,000 matching donation which brought Sunday's collection total to \$4,237. Aren Ghazarian collected \$1625. The ACYOA Christmas Eve collection brought in an additional \$604 for a total of \$6,466 credited to St. John Armenian Church Community. Thank you to everyone who participated.



ՊԱՇՏՕՆ ՀՈԳԵՀԱՆԳՍՏԵԱՆ

Requiem Prayers for the Souls of those asleep in Christ

ARCHBISHOP GHEVONT TOURIAN, Former Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, Entered Eternal Rest on December 24, 1933

Requested by Arthur and Rose Mardigian

HARRY TERZIAN, 6th Year, Beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather

ALEXAN TERZIAN, Father, Grandfather, Great-Grandfather

GADARINE TERZIAN, Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother

EMILY TERZIAN, Sister, Aunt, Great-Aunt

HOVNANIAN Family

FERESHETIAN and BOYADJIAN Families

SUZANNE NAJARIAN

Requested by Alice Terzian

Alex Terzian

Kim, David, Mara and Myles Najarian

Kathy, Tom and Cecile Steck

Alexana, Farshad, Sophia and Avedis Niayeshpour

HERMAN and BETTY STECK

Kathy, Tom and Cecile Steck

Alexana, Farshad, Sophia and Avedis Niayeshpour

Alice Terzian

Alex Terzian

Kim, David, Mara and Myles Najarian

MARY ARGNIAN, 33rd Year, Mother

SAM ARGNIAN, 30th Year, Father

Requested by Alice and Peter Argnian

RICHARD VAHRATIAN, 30th Year, Father

Requested by Anjel Vahratian and Michael Vlaikov

OHANES YERANOSIAN, Husband

ARDASH AKSARELIAN, Father

JAYRAN AKSARELIAN, Mother

Requested by Juliet Yeranosian

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 / 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*



ACYOA HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP

hosted by Fr. Aren

Sunday, December 28th from 6-8pm

Crispellis

WEST BLOOMFIELD LOCATION!

RSVP to Lisa Mardigian (586) 808-2202



COFFEE WITH HAYR SOORP

Join Us on Zoom!

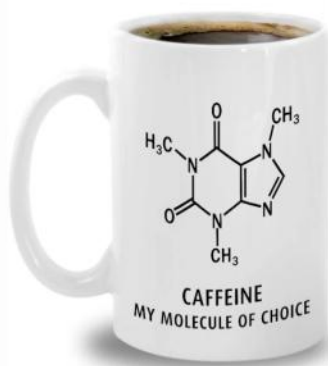
Take a break, grab your favorite cup of coffee, and log on for a half hour relaxed and meaningful conversation with Fr. Aren.

Tuesday, December 30 at 1:00pm

(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*



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



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



St. John Armenian Church

BIBLE STUDY

LED BY FR. AREN



JANUARY 12, 2025

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

Armenian Students' Cultural Association

Hye Hop 2026

Michigan League 911 N University Ave.
January 10th, 2026 Ann Arbor, MI 48109



*All proceeds will go to Orran
Dinner will be from 6:30-8:00.*

*Join us for a night with live music, delicious food, a cash
bar, and a silent auction.*

Please email our ASCA President, Jacqueline Zoryan, with any questions
jzoryan@umich.edu

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!

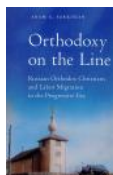
Featured Items



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 28 - Blessing of Pomegranates at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy

December 28 - ACYOA Holiday Fellowship

6:00pm

December 30- Coffee with Hayr Soorp

1:00pm - Via Zoom

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



Year - End Statement

Church stewards who require a tax statement itemizing 2025 donations please 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 Stambouljian at Church Office