

Welcome Diocesan Pastoral Intern Reverend Father Vazgen Andreasyan & Family

Contributors: Alice Argnian and Dr. Gary Zamanigian

At the request of His Grace Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church, Reverend Father Vazgen Andreasyan arrived in Detroit from Armenia on Wednesday, August 13, 2025 to begin a Pastoral Internship at St. John Armenian Church under the supervision of Very Reverend Father Aren Jebejian. He was accompanied by his wife, Yeretzgin Tiruhi and their son Hovhannes.

Father Vazgen was born in the Armavir Province of Armenia into a loving family. In addition to his parents, he has two brothers, and they attended church services regularly at Holy Virgin Mary Armenian Church in the village of Aratashen.

Inspired by many Armenian clergymen in the Arax Region, Father Vazgen entered Vaskenian Theological Seminary of Sevan where he received his Bachelor of Arts in Theology. Father Vazgen says that his faith in God became stronger in his second year as a seminarian while studying the Bible and it was at that time he knew, unequivocally, that his decision to become a priest was indeed unerring.

Upon completion of his undergraduate studies in 2015, Father Vazgen enlisted in the armed services and ministered as an Army Chaplain during the Artsakh War. Afterward, he entered the Kevorkian Theological Seminary in Etchmiadzin where he received his master's degree.

In 2024, Father Vazgen was ordained a priest and soon after, he along with three other priests were assigned to serve as pastors of St. Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral in Yerevan. Father Vazgen said, "All of the challenges that I faced as a pastor not only helped nurture my faith but actually strengthened it."

When asked what his expectations were during his internship in our diocese, Father Vasken said, first and foremost that he would like to familiarize himself with American culture so that when he preaches the word of God to American Armenians, his message will be meaningful and relevant to them. Concurrently, he also feels that it is his responsibility to help American Armenians keep their identity.

Please take a moment on Sundays to welcome Father Vazgen and his family to our parish by introducing yourself; they will appreciate it.