



The Armenian Congregational Church
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What Mother's Day Is About

Mothers are a gift from God, and every last person has one. So Mother's Day is really a holiday for everyone. A day for thanking God for his goodness in giving us mothers, and an occasion for letting that gratitude play itself out in tangible expressions of love and honor.

Mother's Day is about giving our moms the love and honor they deserve but it is much more than that. Sam Crabtree recently commented about Mother's day in an article and said, *"Mother's Day is not primarily about being a mother and receiving honor, but thanking God for the mother he gave you, and giving honor. The people giving honor should include all moms. Persons receiving honor as moms should also be giving honor for their God-given moms."* So Mother's Day is about giving and receiving, honoring and thanking, and we know that **"every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."** (James 1:17) So although Mother's Day is not a religious holiday, it gives us an opportunity to thank God for the blessing all our mother's have been to our faith and development in Christ.

Mothers are a great example to us. The Scriptures are filled with tremendous examples of faithfulness. Some of the most wonderful examples we have are those of mothers. From Naomi who looked out for her daughter-in-law Ruth, to Hannah who remained faithful to her promise to God and gave her only son Samuel to the service of the Lord. We even have the

example of the Mother of our Lord Jesus, Mary who was faithful to God's call, and seeing all the amazing things going on around her newborn son Jesus, she, **"treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."** (Luke 2:19)

I'm reminded of a story in church history where Monica, mother of Augustine, prayed for years that her brilliant but undisciplined son would be saved. When she sought the counsel of her priest, he listened as she poured out her heart of love and her prayers for this prodigal son of hers. At the conclusion, the priest said, "Go on! Leave me alone. Live as you are living. It is not possible that the son of such tears and prayer should be lost." And if you know the Augustine story, his mother prayed that he would not go to Rome, which was then such a wicked place. But he slipped away and went anyway, but it was there that he came to Christ.

Isn't this always the way of Mothers? A quiet faithfulness but firm convictions, always serving others and sacrificing so much of themselves, and always full of love. Mothers are a real example of God's love for us. We choose one day in May to honor our Mothers, but one day a year is hardly sufficient to truly express how much they are worth to us and how much we appreciate them.

**Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God Alone),
 Rev. Shant Barsoumian**

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 Varsnie Walsh-Missions
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In Christian Sympathy

Entered his rest. Mr. Harout Bedikian on Saturday, March 19, 2016. The funeral services were held on Friday, April 1, 2016, at the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit, officiation Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian and Rev. Shant Barsoumian. May the peace, grace and comfort of our Lord be with the Beidikian family, their relatives and friends.

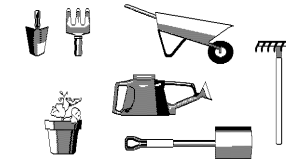
Entered her rest. Ms. Varsnie Walsh on Monday, May 2, 2016. The funeral services were held on Friday, May 6, 2016, at the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit, officiation Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian and Rev. Shant Barsoumian. May the peace, grace and comfort of our Lord be with the Walsh and Baydarian families, their relatives and friends.

Graduates of 2016



ACC would like to honor our graduates by publishing their names and degrees in the monthly and weekly bulletins and at the church on Sunday, June 12. Please submit names of your loved ones graduating this year from Elementary School, Middle School, High School, College, Graduate or post Graduate School. Deadline for submission is May 15.

Spring Clean-Up Day



**Saturday, June 4, 2016
 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Join us in sprucing up ACC, and enjoying some great fellowship all at the same time. Wear old jeans, a sweatshirt, and, plan to have fun! Lunch will be provided for all participants.

We need help in the following areas:

- Pruning Trees, Shrubs and Planting Flowers.
- Cleaning Church Grounds, Balcony, Classrooms, and the Parking Lot.

101st Armenian Genocide Commemoration Service

Once again we gathered together to commemorate the 101st anniversary of the Armenian Genocide united as an Armenian community of the Greater Detroit area. As with the previous few years, all four Armenian churches, the Armenian Congregational Church, St. John's Armenian Apostolic Church, St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church and St. Vartan's Armenian Catholic Church commemorated this anniversary together on Sunday, April 24th 2016.

This year St. John Armenian Apostolic Church was host to the commemoration service. The special service included not only the Divine Liturgy but also a special service to honor the sanctified Martyrs of the Genocide who were sanctified as saints last year during the 100th commemoration, in the Armenian Apostolic church. The Rev. Fr. Hrant Kevorkian, Pastor of St. Sarkis Armenian Church was the celebrant of the service with Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian, Pastor of St. John Armenian Church as the homilist. Rev. Shant Barsoumian, Pastor of the Armenian Congregational Church read the Gospel and Scripture passages in English and Very Rev. Fr. Mikael Bassale, priest of St. Vartan Armenian Catholic Church, read the Gospel in Armenian. And once again we had the Detroit Armenian Chorale, made up of choir members of all the Armenian churches, under the direction of Deacon Rubik Mailian, sing the Divine Liturgy for the service.

In addition to the joint commemoration service at St. John's Armenian Church on Sunday April 24th the committee also invited Rev. Fr. Michael Findikyan to lecture on the Martyrs of the Genocide and the impact of their Sainthood in the Armenian Apostolic church. This event was hosted at Armenian Congregational Church on Sunday, April 17th. We had a great turnout of close to 150 attendees for this event, which was sponsored by the Armenian Churches of Greater Detroit Genocide Commemoration Committee.

**Armenian Congregational Church
 Annual Mother's Day Banquet**

**Sunday May 8, 2016
 at 5:00 p.m.**

**The Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian
 Fellowship Hall
 26210 W. Twelve Mile Road
 Southfield, MI 48034
 248-352-0680**

**Tickets: Adults \$25
 Children ages 6-15 \$10
 (Free 5 and under)**

Annual Father's Day Luncheon

**Sunday June 19, 2016
 12:00 p.m.**

**The Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian
 Fellowship Hall
 26210 W. Twelve Mile Road
 Southfield, MI 48034
 248-352-0680**

**Tickets: Adults \$15
 Children ages 6-15 \$10
 Under 5 Free**