



A Beautiful Church For A Memorable Day

The wedding ceremony for Don Cronin and Arlene Couyoumjian at St. John's Armenian Church, of Southfield, will be performed by Father Paren Avedikian. Possibly there will be a few variations in the traditional ceremony depending upon the wishes of the young couple.

One departure will be the presence and participation of Brother Leo of St. Scholastica Monastery. Father Avedikian doesn't view this as highly unusual saying that he has participated in many ecumenical ceremonies in Washington, D.C., New York and Detroit where he has served other churches.

The ceremony itself is in the ethereal setting of the gold domed church.

The length of the ceremony will be somewhat determined by the hymns which Don and Arlene select. They also have a choice of having the service said in either Armenian or English. Father Avedikian said "Recently the trend is more and more to English."

The wedding ceremony is not a Mass, although it includes an

instructive portion of the Mass. While the couple is in the chancel the vows and rings are exchanged and their hands are joined.

After that the couple and the best-man and honor attendant follow the clergyman to the Bema, an elevated area which is the extension of the altar. Here the epistle and gospel are read and the gospel chanted to designate the good news. This is followed by the Creed, most likely the Nycian creed. At this point either crowns or chaplets (a string with a small cross) are placed on their heads.

After the great matrimonial prayer the couple are seated on two, high chairs in the chancel. While the congregation stands, the hymn dedicated to the first Christian King and Queen of Armenia is sung by the Deacon and the officiating clergymen.

When asked if a choir sings the hymn, Father Avedikian said that the Deacon and the clergyman sing, and that although the Deacon is close to 80 years old, he can sound "like a whole choir."

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