



YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Հրատարակութիւն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

May 2024

Mother's Day

“Mothers are the ambassadors of God’s love and providence on earth,” wrote the Patriarch Shnork Kaloustian.

In it, he casts his mind back to the qualities of Armenian motherhood throughout history: qualities that are at least as responsible for the perseverance of the Armenian people as any other factor.

His reflections are especially poignant because Patriarch Shnork had been orphaned at the age of two, and raised in an orphanage run by American missionaries, so he never really knew his own mother. His plea towards the end that “Nothing on this earth could be more precious than good mothers,” is deeply affecting from the perspective of his own life experience. Some of what he says here might be considered “of its day”; but Patriarch Shnork’s deepest insights into motherhood are surely profound, and eternal.

One of the finest customs in the United States of America is the setting aside of one day in the year in honor of the mothers of this land. It is a day in which we want Mother to know that we think of her constantly and that we love her deeply. It is also a day to meditate upon the virtues of motherhood, to appreciate Mother more and even to be inspired by her.

There is nothing in the world that can rival mother’s love either in intensity of feeling or sincerity. Love, which is the essence of motherhood, is the greatest thing in this world and in the world to come. One day everything material will pass away, including this world itself, but love shall abide forever.

Let us mention briefly, on this occasion, some of the characteristics of the Armenian Mother for which she has been noted.

Her first noble quality has been her whole-hearted devotion to her family. She sacrifices herself, her pleasure and her time for the sake of her children and husband.

The Armenian woman has kept her home life sacred through the centuries. This fact has gained the admiration of well-known travelers and historians. No honor can be greater to a real Armenian mother than to see her offspring following this code of purity and family loyalty. Divorce was something practically unknown in Armenia for centuries. Only through our contact with other so-called “civilized nations” has this social curse, divorce, been introduced into Armenian families.

(Continued on the back page)

Parish Notes

ALTAR CANDLE DONATIONS

April 14th

***Janice and Rich McWilliams and Family
Phyllis and Alan Borba and Family, and
Becky and Jeff Akin and Family***
in honor of Harry and Laura Davidian,
and Chad Tellian

April 28th

***Marceen, Dn. Alan, Nickolas, and
Shant Farsakian***
in memory of Chris Yaldezian, Maggie
Yaldezian, Toros Avikian and Luceen
Lopopolo

ALTAR FLOWERS

April 14th

***Janice and Rich McWilliams and Family
Phyllis and Alan Borba and Family, and
Becky and Jeff Akin and Family***
in honor of Harry and Laura Davidian,
and Chad Tellian

April 28th

Judy and Mike Skaff
in memory of Judy's father, Richard Dudukian

DONATIONS

Richard Asadoorian and Barbara Cowan
in memory of Colonel and Mrs. Gerard Cowan
(West Point Class of 1932)

ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

We will be holding our **46th Annual Food Festival Luncheon and Dinner** this year on **Thursday, May 16th**. This annual event sponsored by the St. Mary Ways and Means Committee will be held again at the Elks Lodge in Visalia. This is a major fund raiser for our church and depends on the willingness of the extended Armenian community and their friends to help work on that day. Letters were mailed out to many of our volunteers. If you can help for a shift on May 16th, please contact Ways and Means Co-Chairs Margie L. Davidian at 559-679-8794 or Judy Skaff at 559-799-1198. Mark your calendars and spread the word. (See flier)

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

April 14th

Harry and Laura Davidian
in honor of their passing and
their wedding anniversary
Chad Tellian

forty-eight years after his passing,
requested by Janice and Rich McWilliams and
Family, Phyllis and Alan Borba and Family,
and Becky and Jeff Akin and Family

April 28th

Chris Yaldezian
two years after his passing,
Maggie Yaldezian
one year after her passing,
Toros Avikian

two years after his passing,
Luceen Lopopolo
one year after her passing,
requested by Marceen, Dn. Alan, Nickolas,
and Shant Farsakian

Richard Dudukian

fourteen years after his passing,
requested by Judy and Mike Skaff

2024 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

The **97th Annual Diocesan Assembly** will be held on **May 3, 2024**, at St. Apkar Armenian Apostolic Church in Scottsdale, Arizona. Representatives from Yettem who will be attending are Rev. Father Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Council Chair Judy Skaff, David Menendian and Shirley Ouzounian.

Representing our St. Mary Yettem Ladies Society the day before at the Ladies Society of the Western Diocese Assembly will be Chair Linda-Farsakian Wall along with Mari Louise Menendian, Judy Skaff and Tracy Valencia.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 9th** via Zoom at **6 PM**.

MOTHER'S DAY REQUIEM

At the close of the Divine Liturgy on Mother's Day, **Sunday, May 11, 2024**, a general Requiem Service/Hokehankist will be conducted in memory of all the deceased mothers of our parish.

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

Our annual **Celebrating Our Mothers and Women luncheon** is **Saturday, May 11**, at the Vintage Press. Bring your mother and/or a photograph of your mother and join as we celebrate the most influential woman in our lives. Reservations are required. See flier for further details.

Last month our annual Meechink luncheon was a success! Thank you to chairman Laurie Menendian and her committee, Mari Louise Menendian, Yn. Maral KH Keshishian, Lillian Safrastian, Margie A Davidian, Sandra Vartanian, and Gina Ananian. The food was delicious, and fellowship was heartwarming. We also sponsored our first Palm Sunday bake sale. And what a success it was. We raised \$1,481 for the church. Thank you to all the bakers. The fundraiser was a success because of all the delicious goodies you prepared.

We invite you to our **Family Picnic, June 1, 11:30 a.m.** at Blain Park, 3101 S. Court St., Visalia. Bring your family and join us for a lunch feast and a fun day of games for all. Lunch is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. R.S.V.P. to lunch@stmaryyettem.org. Bring the whole family. You won't be disappointed!

Linda Farsakian-Wall, Chair

GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENT

GRADUATION season is here once again. We would like to **acknowledge our graduates** in the **June 2024** issue of YETTEM. You are asked to submit the names, pertinent information and a photo to sonya@stmaryyettem.org or call the church office at (559) 528-6892 **no later than Monday, May 20, 2024.**

MEMORIAL DAY GRAVE BLESSINGS AT THE VISALIA CEMETERY

Fr. Mashdots is available to conduct grave blessings at the Visalia District Cemetery on **Monday, May 27th** between 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Please call the church office at (559) 528-6892 to schedule a time **before Friday, May 24th.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Sunday School meets on the **second and fourth Sundays** of each month at **11:00 AM** September-June.

ST. MARY MEMORIAL WALL

The St. Mary Memorial Wall was started in 2001 and has been a huge success. Contact Linda Farsakian-Wall at (559) 786-1419 or email: linda.hyewall@gmail.com

RAFFLE

Our **June, July and August drawings of 2024** will be held on **Sunday, August 18, 2024.**

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

If you are interested in **sponsoring a monthly bulletin** or a **weekly bulletin**, please call the church office at (559) 528-6892. **Sponsorships are a good way to remember or honor family members or friends. Sponsorships for the weekly bulletin are \$25 or more and a \$250 minimum donation for the monthly bulletin.**



Spring is here! Time to clean out your garage or yard of that old vehicle taking up space and donate it to St. Mary Armenian Church of Yetem. What are you waiting for? Clean out that clutter! Call Linda Farsakian-Wall at 559-786-1419 for more information.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Our church office hours are **Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 – 2:30 PM.** The office phone number is (559) 528-6892. If you are in need of something beyond those hours, you can email fathermashdots@stmaryyettem.org or text/call (818) 293-9098 or email St. Mary Parish Council Chair Judy Skaff at judy@thebelmontgroup.com or text/call (559) 799-1198.

WEEKLY EMAIL UPDATE

If you would like to have your email address added to our weekly update email blasts, please call the church office or email sonya@stmaryyettem.org.

PAYPAL

You may access PayPal through the St. Mary Yettem website (www.stmaryyettem.org) by clicking on the “Donation” button on the bottom of the Home Page. You may donate for general donations, yughakins, hokehankists, pledges, membership dues, in lieu of flowers, or pay for altar flowers you have ordered on behalf of the church.

NEW QR CODE BELOW

Click to Donate to
St. Mary Yettem
With PayPal or Credit
Cards



ST. MARY YETTEM PARKING LOT

Your St. Mary Yettem Parish Council recently took on a project to fill the cracks and re-seal the church parking lot. The parking lot was dug out and new asphalt was installed prior to our 100th anniversary in 2011. Since then, periodic maintenance was done twice to prolong the life of the lot. With the tremendous amount of rain that we have recently received, the cracks were getting worse, and it was time to seal once again. The proceeds from the interest earned from the George and Stella Memorial Fund were used to pay for this improvement project.



MAY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 The 97 th Diocesan Assembly in Scottsdale, Arizona	3 The 97 th Diocesan Assembly in Scottsdale, Arizona	4
5	6	7	8	9 Ascension of Christ Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 6 PM	10	11 St. Mary Yette Ladies Society Mother's Day Luncheon at the Vintage Press at 11:30 AM
12 Mother's Day Sunday School Children's Sermon	13	14	15	16 Annual Food Festival at the Visalia Elks Lodge	17	18
19 Pentecost	20	21	22	23	24 ACYO Sports Weekend at Roosevelt High School in Fresno	25 ACYO Sports Weekend at Roosevelt High School in Fresno
26 Remembrance of the Prophet Elijah Sunday School ACYO Sports Weekend at Roosevelt High School in Fresno	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday Schedule:

Morning Service (Matins) 9:30 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:15 AM

Office Hours
Tuesday – Friday
9:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Father Mashdots can be reached at:

559-528-6892 – Office
559-528-6897 – FAX
818-293-9098 - Cell

St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church
Easter Yughakin
2024

Armstrong, Ty and Judith (Barsamian)	Margosian, Rose Marie
Bagdasarian, Sam and Debby	McWilliams, Richard and Janice
Borba, Alan and Phyllis	Menendian, David and Ardemis
Davidian Family, The Greg	Menendian, Laurie and Fredric Marrs
Davidian, Edward and Georgia Ann	Menendian, Mari Louise
Davidian, Margie L.	Mortanian, Ronald and Barbara
Dawson, Shirley	Nunes, Richard and Joyce
Donabed, Koharig H.	Omartian, Dolores
Ekizian, Jeanette	Ouzounian, George and Shirley
Ekizian, Lesta	Peters, Darrell and Tina
Emerzian, Leslie and Janice	Pilavian, Pierre and Melissa
Farsakian, Dn. Alan and Marceen	Poochigian, Julie
Farsakian, Larry R. and Wendy	Safrazian, Richard and Lillian
Fowler, Marilyn H.	Sarabian, Charles and Lori
Gomes, John and Janet	Sheklian, JoAnn
Groefsema, Bruce and Gail	Sheklian, Michael and Brenda
Hagopian, Richard and Geraldine	Sheklian, Myron and Debbie
Hampar, Arthur	Simonian, Chuck and Susie
Hebesha, Madlien N.	Skaff, Judy and Mike
Kalfayan, Garo and Nancy	Skaff, Kevin and Lynn
Kalfayan, John and Sandra	Tamouzian, Mike
Kaloostian, Linda	Tolegian, Madelaine
Kaprielian, John Ara and Sharon	Torosian, Patty
Klaseus, Denny and Betty	Toukdarian, Alice and Aresa
Krause, David and Lisa	Valencia, Dr. Albert and Tracy
Krikorian, Betty	Vartanian, Dustin
Krikorian, Gary and Nancy	Vartanian, Sandra
Majarian, Colleen	Wall, Linda and Mark
Majarian, Marlene	Yahnian, David and Jennifer
Margosian, Carrie	Zakarian, Archie and Kathy
Margosian, Lucille	Zerounian, Marilyn

Total Easter Donations - \$8,725

•THANK YOU for your donations•

ANI VALENCIA

Please join us in honoring Ani for her high school graduation. We would love to celebrate with you!

PLEASE JOIN US
IN CELEBRATING THE
GRADUATION OF

Ani

CLOVIS NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

SATURDAY, JUNE 1
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR
AT 5 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

3524 PRESCOTT AVENUE
CLOVIS, CA 93619
RSVP TO 559.824.0913
BY MAY 27TH



*Please Join The Yettem Ladies Society
For Our Annual Luncheon
As We Celebrate Women & Honor Our Mothers*

Saturday, May 11th. 2024 11:30 a.m.

The Vintage Press Restaurant

216 N. Willis Street, Visalia

Chicken Crepes or Curried Chicken Salad \$45.00

Chicken Strips (Children's Meal) \$21.00

Coffee or Tea & Dessert Included

Mail in Your Reservation With Your Meal Choice(s)

And Number of Guests in Your Party By May 4th.

Checks Are Payable To: St. Mary Ladies Society

P.O. Box 367 . Yettem . Ca 93670

*Please Bring a Picture of Your Mother, Grandmother or Inspirational
Woman in Your Life to Share at the Table.*



Name _____

No. Of Guests _____ *(Indicate # of meal choices below)*

Chicken Crepes _____ *Curried Chicken Salad* _____

Chicken Strips _____

St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettem
Ways and Means Committee

46th ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

Don't miss the Only Food Festival offered this year!

DINE-IN -or- DRIVE THRU

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Visalia Elks Lodge

(3100 W. Main—just East of County Center Dr.)

• Menu •

Choice of Two Entrée Plates

Lulu Kebab -or- Chicken Kebab

Pilaf, Salad, Peda Bread and Dessert

Donation~\$20 per person

DINE-IN or DRIVE THRU

Lunch Served — 11:00am—1:30pm

Dinner Served — 4:30pm—7:00pm

Bake Sale

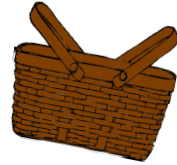
Grape Leaves • Crescent Cookies • Nazook

Kurabia • Simit • Bourma

Prepaid Tickets will be mailed in April!

...We appreciate YOUR SUPPORT...

JOIN LADIES SOCIETY



for our

FAMILY PICNIC

Saturday, June 1, 11:30 a.m.

Blain Park
3101 S. Court St, Visalia



Plenty of food!

Fun activities and games

\$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 12

R.S.V.P. to: lunch@stmaryyettem.org



Preparing for May 16th Food Festival



(Continued from the front page)

Purity inspires courage and self-confidence. The Armenian woman had this virtue of heroism as well. To protect her honor, she fought fiercely. She faced death as a relief rather than be captured to live in slavery. There are many stories, especially during the massacres and deportations of 1915, of many Armenian women who threw themselves from cliffs or jumped into the fires of their burning homes, or into rivers, in order to escape slavery and apostasy. They preferred to die with courage when they saw that it was impossible for them to live with dignity and in their Christian faith.

Another characteristic of the Armenian woman is her great working capacity. She is a tireless housewife. No amount of poverty and difficulty is too great for her to cope with. When she has to toil for the bread and maintenance of her family, no work is too menial for her, as long as she is earning honorably the daily bread of her family.

The most outstanding characteristic of the Armenian mother has been her piety, her Godliness, and her devotion to her Church and to charitable institutions. She went to church daily, as there were morning and evening church services every day. At her work, she turned her inner eyes to heaven and entreated God to help her in her daily life, to protect her children and to give good health to all sick people. She believed in the power of prayer. She received Holy Communion as frequently as she could and without fail at Easter and Christmas. With great reverence and with a clean heart she approached the altar for Holy Communion, first forgiving others and then seeking forgiveness of others.

Here in America, she works for the building of churches and for their upkeep, giving to these God-pleasing endeavors part of her time. She contributes generously to church and charitable institutions; she gives to work of charity her time and energy, which sometimes are more important and valuable than money itself.

These are some of the characteristics of the Armenian mother. We give thanks to God, on this Mother's Day that there are still wonderful mothers living among us. My prayers shall be to ask God to help us to preserve these good mothers in these United States, because this country needs nothing so much as good mothers. They will be one of the greatest and best contributions to this great country.

On Mother's Day we openly and lavishly express our deep love and respect for our mothers, with gifts and sweet surprises. However, we can render no greater honor to our mother, deceased or living, than to follow in her footsteps, to carry on in our own family life her devotion, her loyalty, her courage, and hard-working spirit, and last, but not least, her intense devotion to God, to the Church and community. Such an honor extends far beyond the second Sunday in May into the whole year and into even everlasting life.

Nothing on this earth could be more precious than good mothers. Mothers are the ambassadors of God's love and providence on earth. We all love Mothers.

May God bless all Mothers, giving them patience and wisdom to keep on living their devoted lives on earth as an inspiration for their children and for the greater glory of God.

By Patriarch Shnork Kaloustian (1913-1990)

St. Mary Armenian Church
P.O. Box 367
Yetter, California 93670
Return Service Required

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No.1