



ԵՂԵՍ

Հրատարակություն

Եղեմի Ս. Աստուծածին

Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

YETTEM

A publication of St. Mary

Armenian Church

Yettem, California

DECEMBER 2018

Pastoral thoughts

Dear parishioners:

We have a wonderful chance to celebrate feasts and various celebrations gathering together in our St. Mary church. It's obvious that lots of our parishioners made this wonderful sanctuary as their home. They really made it for themselves a very important part of their life.

Each year appears with new challenges and duties which are also a new opportunity for us to plan new prospects and initiatives. This year is almost over. This is the best time for us to contemplate about our various actions we made within the past year. We have responsibilities as a family member, as a community member, as a parish member and finally as a believer. Here, of course, I would like to concentrate on the last aspect, which is really a very individual phenomenon. It is a relationship between an individual and his/her God. However, it acquires its meaning in the church among believers who are brothers and sisters in Christ. One of our duties is to emphasize this very important thing in our daily life with our behavior toward our Christian fellows.

Especially these days our feelings and thoughts should be accompanied by certain Biblical commandments. It always helps to assemble our thoughts, which has a power also to dispel any kind of worldly commotions. I just wanted to mention here the following words of our Lord Jesus Christ and leave it with you to think and do your own conclusions, wishing you joy and happiness the rest of the year and also happy celebrations;

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35)

Let it be our prayer with which we will try to conclude this year wishing one another a prosperous coming New Year with new spiritual feelings.

With Love of Christ  
Rev. Fr. Zaven Markosyan

Միրելի հավատակիցներ,

Մենք բոլորս, ունենք հիանալի հնարավորություն խմբվելու մեր եկեղեցում և տոնելու, ոգեկոչելու զանազան եկեղեցական և այլ տոնախմբություններ: Ակնհայտ է, որ մեր ծխականներից շատերը Սուրբ Մարիամ եկեղեցին դարձրել են իրենց տունը: Նրանք իրապես դարձրել են այն իրենց կյանքի շատ կարևոր մի մասը:

Ամեն նոր տարի ներկայանում է մեզ նոր մարտահրավերներով և փորձություններով, որը նույնպես հնարավորություն է մեզ համար ծրագրելու նոր հեռանկարներ և նախաձեռնություններ: Այս տարին հասնում է իր ավարտին: Մա ամենալավ պահն է մեզ համար մտածելու անցյալ տարում մեր բոլոր կատարած գործողությունների մասին: Մենք պարտականություններ ունենք՝ իբրև ընտանիքի անդամ, համայնքի անդամ, ծուխի անդամ և վերջապես՝ իբրև հավատացյալ: Բհարկե, այստեղ կուզեի մասնավորեցնել վերջին՝ հավատացյալ լինելու հանգամանքը, որն իրապես անհատական բնույթ է կրում: Այն հաղորդակցություն է անհատի և Աստծո միջև: Այդուամենայնիվ, այն իր իմաստը ձեռք է բերում եկեղեցում, մարդկանց փոխհարաբերություններում՝ իբրև եղբայրներ և քույրեր ի Քրիստոս: Մեր պարտականություններից մեկն է մեր առօրյա կյանքում շեշտադրել այս շատ կարևոր երևույթը դեպի մեր հավատակից Քրիստոնեան:

Դարձյալ այս օրերին մեր մտքերն ու զգացողությունները պետք է առաջնորդվեն ավետարանական պատգամներով: Այն միշտ օգնում է հավաքելու մեր մտքերը, որը նաև ունի զորություն փարատելու մեր այս երկրային անհանգստությունները: Այստեղ կուզեի հիշատակել մեր Տիրոջ Հիսուս Քրիստոսի հետևյալ խոսքերը՝ թողնելով այն ձեզ հետ մտածելու և ձեր սեփական եզրահանգումներն անելու, մաղթելով ձեզ ուրախություն և հաճելի տարվա ավարտ և նույնպես ուրախ տոնակատարություններ:

«Նոր պատվիրան եմ տալիս ձեզ. սիրե՛ք իրար: Ինչպես ես ձեզ սիրեցի, այնպես էլ դուք սիրեք իրար: Սրանով բոլորը կիմանան, որ դուք իմ աշակերտներն եք, եթե սիրեք իրար»  
(*Հովհաննես 13:34-35*)

Թող այն լինի մեր բոլորիս աղոթքը, որով կփորձենք ամփոփել այս տարին՝ ցանկանալով մեկս մյուսին բարգավաճ Նոր Տարի նոր հոգևոր զգացողություններով:

Քրիստոսի Միրով  
Տեր Զավեն քին. Մարկոսյան

## **Parish Notes**

### **BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP**

**THE DECEMBER 2018 BULLETIN  
IS SPONSORED BY  
CAROL MARANIAN  
IN MEMORY OF  
HER BELOVED HUSBAND,  
JOHN MARANIAN  
AND ALSO,  
ED & GEORGIA DAVIDIAN  
IN MEMORY OF THEIR PARENTS  
ARSHAVIR & ZAROOHIE DAVIDIAN  
JOHN & SUE MISAKIAN  
AND FAMILY MEMBERS  
SARK, VERNON, CHARLIE AND  
HOSANNA DAVIDIAN  
AND  
JOHN LEE MISAKIAN**

### **HOKEHANKIST (Repose of Soul) DONATIONS**

*(October 27 – November 23, 2018)*

#### **For Repose of Laura Davidian's Soul**

- *Farsakian, Alan and Marceen*  
**For Repose of Sam Farsakian's Soul**
- *Farsakian, Alan and Marceen*  
**For Repose of Zimit Djerrahian's Soul**
- *Klaseus, Denny and Betty*

### **ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS**

- *November 25 - Richard, Kohar, JoAnn and Michael Sheklian in memory of their mother, Bertha Sheklian forty days after her passing*

### **HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS**

- *November 11 – Jack Poochigian, twenty-one years after his passing, Quienne Tellalian, what would be her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday and the World War II Soldiers, Archie Akizian, Jack Cherkizian, Charlie Davidian and Armen Kendig, requested by Joy Poochigian and the Poochigian Family*
- *November 25 – Bertha Sheklian, forty days after her passing, requested by Richard, Kohar, JoAnn and Michael Sheklian*

*ACYO is offering Christmas Decorating. ACYO will come to your house and do it for you! (See flyer)*

*Ladies Society 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Christmas Bazaar will be held on Sunday, December 2, 2018 after Divine Liturgy in the Majarian Hall.  
(See flyer)*

*Sunday School meets on December 9th and December 23rd. On Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday School will have a Christmas party. Sunday School meets on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 11:00 a.m. Welcome all children!*

*Chairman's meeting will be held on Sunday, December 9, 2018 after Divine Liturgy.*

*Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday, December 13, 2018 in the Majarian Hall at 7:00 p.m.*

*ACYO meeting and Christmas party will be held on Sunday, December 16, 2018 at Bowlero in Visalia at 5:00 p.m.*

*Armenian Christmas Luncheon will be held on Sunday, January 6, 2019 after Divine Liturgy in the Majarian Hall sponsored by the Ways and Means Committee. A Special Christmas Program will be presented by the Sunday School Students. (See flyer)*

*ACYO is selling Reusable Bags for \$5 each, St. Mary Yettem Hats for \$12 each and Yettem shirts for \$10 each. Please see any ACYO member for questions or to purchase.*

**ST. MARY MEMORIAL WALL**

*There is room for 40 new names to be added to the Memorial Wall Column on the south wall. The cost for each name is \$200. Order forms are available in the church office or at the desk as you enter the church. If you wish to participate, or have questions concerning the Memorial Wall, call Jim Soxman at (559) 733-8741 or (559) 936-2227. Jim Soxman, Ways and Means Chairman*

**COOKBOOK**

*By popular demand, a second edition of the "Treasured Recipes from the Garden of Eden" has been made available. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, call the church office at (559) 528-6892 or Debbie Sheklian at (559) 733-4417. The cost of the cookbook is \$30 or \$30 plus shipping if mailed.*

*Armenian Language classes are still available for our parishioners. If you are interested, please contact the church office at (559) 528-6892 or Fr. Zaven at (818) 644-9398.*

*DVD SET FOR SALE: St. Mary Armenian Church, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, July 2, 2011. DVD set is \$25.00 and can be purchased by calling the church office at (559) 528-6892. A \$6.00 charge for shipping and handling will be added to the price if you would like one mailed to you. (Sponsored by the Ways and Means Committee)*

*The "Armenian Genocide Survivors and Heroes" book can be purchased for \$40 at the St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church Office. Copies can be mailed for an additional cost. Call the church office at (559) 528-6892 for details.*

**REMINDER**

*If you have not sent in your 2019 Annual Stewardship Pledge and Voting Member Application, please do so as soon as possible. If you need a form, call the church office at (559) 528-6892.*

*The Parish Council has approved to have our weekly bulletin and the monthly newsletter available for sponsorships. We are not selling ads. If you would like to sponsor an edition of either publication please contact the office, or there is a form at the front desk in the church. The sponsorships for the weekly bulletin are \$25.00 per issue, and to sponsor the monthly newsletter is \$100.00 per issue.*

*The St. Mary Armenian Church webpage at [www.stmaryyettem.org](http://www.stmaryyettem.org) includes archived copies of church bulletins, pictures from events, a current church calendar, and an improved LIVE Camera System. View services on any desktop, laptop, or tablet!*

**EASY MONEY: ESCRIP**

*This is done by 3% rewards earned on purchases at Save Mart, Lucky, and Food Maxx stores. We have 27 registered members in the eScrip program and 18 of these have used the program. To do so, all you have to do is give your phone number as you check out of these stores. If you have not registered in the eScrip program, sign up at Shares...powered by eScrip (<http://www.escrip.com/shares>) and designate St. Mary Armenian Church as your charity of choice. If you have difficulty signing up please call me (Jim Soxman, 733-8741) and I will do it for you.*

**PAYPAL**

*You may access PayPal through the St. Mary YetteM web-site ([www.stmaryyettem.org](http://www.stmaryyettem.org)) and click on the "Donation" button on the bottom of the Home Page. You may donate for General Donations, Yughakins, Pledges, Membership Dues, In Lieu of Flowers, or pay for Altar Flowers you have ordered on behalf of the Church.*

*To St. Mary Parishioners: The Parish Council would like to invite any parishioner who may have concerns or questions with anything dealing with Church affairs. The Parish Council meetings are held the third Thursday of each month. To be placed on the agenda of the meeting, please contact Der Zaven at (818) 644-9398 or Bea Soxman Parish Council Chairperson at (559) 623-2390*

*To St. Mary Parishioners: If you know of anyone ill or in the hospital, please call Rev. Fr. Zaven Markosyan at the Church Office (559) 528-6892 or his cell (818) 644-9398. St. Mary Armenian Apostolic church office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, from 9:30 -2:30.*

**If you wish to place any information in the monthly Bulletin, please notify the church office by the 20<sup>th</sup> of month**

# ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH, YETTEM

## December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Ladies Society 4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Bazaar	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Conception of the Holy Virgin Mary by St. Anna Sunday School Meets Chairman's meeting after Divine Liturgy	10	11	12	13 Parish Council meeting at 7 PM in Majarian Hall	14	15
16 ACYO Christmas Party and Bowling	17	18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice	22
23 Sunday School Meets (Sunday School Christmas party)	24	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29 Barekendan of the Fast of Nativity
30 First Day of the Fast of Nativity	31	<b>Notes:</b>				

### Sunday Schedule:

Morning Service (Matins) 9:45 AM  
Divine Liturgy – 10:30 AM

### Father Zaven can be reached at:

559-528-6892 – Office  
559-528-6897 – FAX  
818-644-9398 - Cell

# Christmas Bazaar



**St. Mary Armenian Church**

**Ladies Society 4th Annual Holiday  
Christmas Bazaar**

**Sunday, December 2, 2018**

**In the Majarian Hall following Divine Liturgy**

**Luncheon:**

**\$12.00 for adults**

**\$ 8.00 for children 10 and under**



**Country Store,  
raffle, and live auction!**

**We will also have kufta and manti  
for sale!**



# Christmas Decorating

Need help decorating your house Christmas?

ACYO will come to your house and do it for you!

Indoor or Outdoor? No problem!



Let us know when you would like it done  
and we will schedule a time to come out.

Contact the church office (559) 528-6892 or  
David Safrazian (559) 802-7593





**ST. MARY  
ARMENIAN CHURCH, YETTEM  
WAYS AND MEANS  
COMMITTEE**

**Armenian Christmas Luncheon  
Sunday, January 6, 2019**

**immediately following the day's worship**

**Menu**

**Beef & Chicken Kebab Combo  
Pilaf  
Salad  
Rolls  
Dessert  
Drinks**

**Adults--\$15.00**

**Children ten (10) and under--\$10.00**

**Special Christmas Program  
Presented by the Sunday School Students**

**Plan to attend with the entire family and enjoy the delicious luncheon and entertaining program.**

WESTERN DIOCESE HOSTS AN EVENT OF FELLOWSHIP  
DEDICATED TO BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS AND  
ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES OF DIOCESAN PRIESTS





Ladies Society Activities - November 2018





Sunday School Students learning about and making mas





Sunday School Students had a movie party to watch "The Star" - a motion picture about the Nativity as seen through the eyes of the animals.



November 11, 2018

Armenian Home, Fresno  
November 18, 2018

St. Mary Yettem Sunday School participated at the Advent event at the Armenian Home in Fresno organized by CEC Chairlady Gail Chelebian. Chairlady Chelebian invited Rev. Fr. Zaven Markosyan to open the event with prayer and after she did a remarkable presentation where she emphasized the importance of hope. After, the children communicated with the Armenian Home residents making Christmas ornaments. A second presentation was made by Chair Chelebian about the symbol of the Christ Star distributing children stars as an escorter for them within fifty days of Advent. The event was closed with prayer lead by Fr. Zaven.



## Commemoration of St. Stephen the Protomartyr and the first martyr



St. Stephen is one of the most beloved saints of the Universal Church, the first person martyred for the sake of Christ's doctrine of love.

According to the hagiographical sources he was from the royal dynasty of Judas and was the son of law-abiding parents. Still a young man he was the servant of the chief priest Kayipaya. According to the same sources when the Lord was taken to home, Stephen took off the cloth from his head and spread it under the Lord's feet thus expressing his true and sincere love. This naturally annoyed the chief priest and he turned Stephen out. Stephen witnessed the death and burial of the Lord but rejoiced with the apostles for the Glorious Resurrection of Christ. According to St. Gregory of Tatev he went to the apostles Peter and John and was baptized. At the moment of baptism an aureole (crown) appeared on the water. After that miraculous event he was called "Stephen" meaning (crowned). From the Acts of the Apostles it is known that after the Pentecost apostles served the tables and gave subsidies to the poor. From day to day increased the number of those who believed in Christ. As the apostles were unable to meet the needs of everybody, asked their disciples to choose 7 persons of good reputation for serving the tables. According to St. Luke the Evangelist one of them was St. Stephen, "... a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6:5). By the power received from Christ apostles ordained him deacon. Thanks to his God-granted virtues and power Stephen worked wonders. Many people tried to argue with him, but no one was as wise as Stephen. So, some ill-willing persons persuaded some people to say that Stephen scolded God and the Prophet Moses. Inciting the people, the priests and the lawyers they took Stephen to the court. In his speech in his defense Stephen proved that Jesus was the promised Messiah, and reproached the Jews for their cruelty. He was stoned out of the city and his cloths were put before a man whose name was Saul and who later became the Apostle Peter. In the beginning he persecuted Christians but later he knew the true God – Jesus Christ, and became the most zealous preacher of the Gospel. St. Stephen was the first person martyred for the sake of Christ and that's why he is called Protomartyr.

According to the tradition Gamaliel, the teacher of the Apostle Peter, and Nicodemus, his brother, who were secrete disciples of Jesus, buried the saint's body in their farm. Soon a priest named Lukianus discovered the relics. And Pontiff Hovhan of Jerusalem put them in St. Sion. In the V century Princess Juliane found the saint's tabernacle in Jerusalem and took it to Constantinople, and later – to Venice and buried it in the Church of St. George (St. Gevorg) island.

St. Mary Armenian Church

P.O Box 367

Yetter, California 93670

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