



YETTEM ԵՂԵՄ



Հրատարակութիւն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ
A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California
Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

April 2021

PRIMATE'S EASTER MESSAGE

*“The human race rejoiced,
Hearing of Your Resurrection,
Adorned anew,
With the Resurrection of the Only Begotten” (Nerses Shnorhali)*

The mystery of the Victorious Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the guiding light that leads the life of humanity. For Christians, Christ's Resurrection is the sole source of our Faith, for it symbolizes the dawn of New Life. The Resurrection is the initial step into the gateway of New Life.

The world around us is filled with numerous trials and tribulations. They resemble an opaque curtain, with the purpose of blocking the beauty and wonder of God's creation. The world has always battled the flames of fiery ordeals but those who have embraced Resurrection of the Lord have emerged strong, rejecting all weaknesses. For Christians, the cross has been a symbol of victory, the defeat of death and sin. The Resurrection has been the luminous path to the New Life.

Beloved faithful, how do we perceive Christ's Resurrection in our lives today? What does it convey to us personally and collectively? Simply, Christ's Victorious Resurrection is the invitation to a prayerful life, for the ultimate destination of a life filled with prayer is a life lived with Christ. The Resurrection of Christ is the foundation of our faith life and prayer adorns it. The second message that we receive from the mystery of the Resurrection is our obligation to accept God's precious gift of life with divine wisdom. It is embracing the vision to renew our lives with the promise to lead a virtuous and a purposeful life, one that is rooted in service, for the glory of God. We must be prepared to wholeheartedly accept these callings, for they have been entrusted to us by the Almighty.

The renewal of life with the promise to lead virtuous and service-oriented lives is entrusted to all, including parents, teachers, scientists, clergy, and civic leaders, without reservation. When we see the frailties and shortcomings in society, that is indicative and is the result of apathy. God has entrusted us with His glorious creation and as co-creators with God, we are obliged to constantly renew our lives for His glory.

Christ's Victorious Resurrection serves as a reminder to us all of another noble calling. As heirs of our ancestral Christian Faith, we are obliged to pass on the resolute and unshakable faith to our children and future generations. What is the ultimate purpose of doing this? To an Armenian Christian, being an heir is possessing the love and knowledge of God. It entails the dedication to the mission of the Armenian Apostolic Church, the Motherland and the Armenian Christian family. These are the visible and tangible expressions of the wholesomeness of our identity, which are shaped by Christ's Resurrection. One's identity is the seal of one's faith. It is the knowledge of one's history and the respect for one's culture. Led by this vision, one values, embraces, and humbles himself before his spiritual and national identity.

"Christ is Risen.

Blessed is the Resurrection of Christ."

Beloved faithful,

Let us open the doors to our souls in order that the mystery of Christ's Victorious Resurrection may dwell within forever. Let us adorn our souls with Christ's Resurrection in order that we may armor our lives and emerge stronger in our calling. Let us not search for words to describe the mystery of Christ's Victorious Resurrection, for our limited minds cannot comprehend God's limitless power. With joyous souls, let us spread the Good News of Christ's Resurrection, for then we will capture and embrace the renewal of our essence. The architect of this renewal is the Risen Christ, Himself, Who adorns our souls with His divine light.

"Christ is Risen.

Blessed is the Resurrection of Christ."

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian
Primate

Easter 2021

Parish Notes

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Sadie Derrick who passed away the week of the 15th.

ALTAR CANDLE DONATION

Sandra Choboian and John Choboian have donated altar candles in memory of their father,

Zanes Choboian

who passed away six years ago, April 22, 2015.

BIRTHDAY DONATION

Rose Marie Margosian donated in honor of
Evelyn Crowder's
95th birthday.

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

February 28th

Pete and Gladys Cottingham

Two years after their passing
Requested by Dickran R. Combs Pelyan.

March 21st

Bedros Stamboulian

Forty days after his passing
Requested by Anush Stamboulian, Lucine Stamboulian and Family, Haroutune Stamboulian, Jacqueline Stamboulian, Anahit Zabounian, Vartush Oganesyian and the Der Boghossian Family.

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

(February 25, 2021 – March 21, 2021)

For Repose of Zaroohie Davidian and Makroohie Derderian's Souls

February 28th – Margie L. Davidian.

For Repose of Pete and Gladys Cottingham's Souls

February 28th – Dickran R. Combs Pelyan.

For Repose of Hripsime Kevishian's Soul

March 14th – Takvor and Bonnie Takvorian.

For Repose of Bedros Stamboulian's Soul

March 21st – Lucine Stamboulian and Family

LET US LIGHT A PRAYER CANDLE FOR YOU!



Ani Mnatsakanyan

Linnet Ter Galestyan

Nara Tekneinyan

Armine Arabaiyan

Georgia Davidian

Sevag Tateosian

Amy Shuklian

Lusine Rzyan

Zara Momiyian

Mark Wortman

Renee Ananian

*Amount goal \$500.00, Amount raised \$505.00
Thank you for your generous donations!*

RAFFLE DRAWING

Our next drawing will be held on Palm Sunday, March 28th. It's not too late to take part in the fun! If you don't have tickets or need additional ones, please contact Tina Peters at (559) 967-2593 by phone or text.

RECOGNITION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The Pan Armenian Council of Western United States (PAC-WUS) and its member organizations have launched an online petition urging President Joseph R. Biden to honor his pledge to reaffirm U.S. recognition of the Armenian Genocide in his annual remembrance statement by properly acknowledging the mass murder of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children by the Ottoman Turkish government as genocide.

The petition aims to collect thousands of signatures by April 24, 2021.

To sign the petition, please visit yesitsgenocide.org

PARISH COUNCIL CORNER

In 1977, shortly after our parish marked a momentous celebration of 65 years in existence, the first Merchant's Luncheon was organized. The idea was conceived by several long-serving members of the church who envisioned an opportunity to bring outside money into the church budget. The original concept was to hold a luncheon in downtown Visalia that would attract local businesspersons and the general community who would enjoy eating Armenian food during the lunch hour. The event was very successful from the beginning and was something that the community looked forward to every year.

From the very beginning, this event required the assistance of many people. Although the nine-member Parish Council was responsible for the event, this became an "all hands on deck" event requiring members from all of the auxiliary organizations to participate in some form. Tickets were distributed to all members of the parish who were encouraged to sell tickets in advance to business owners and merchants, salespeople, bankers, car dealers, doctors, family, and friends. In those early days, some of the top ticket sellers would have sold 100+ tickets each.

As the event grew, hours were expanded. In the years that followed the name of the event was changed to the Armenian Food Festival to indicate it was much more than a lunch for merchants. Still later, the venue was changed from the downtown Veterans' Memorial Building to the Visalia Elks Lodge. The new location provided parking that was very limited in downtown and also offered the opportunity to provide drive-thru lunches and dinners.

Of course, you are all aware that last year our event was canceled because of the pandemic. The Food Festival is a major source of income for our church's operating expenses. This year the new Ways and Means Committee is organizing our May 20, 2021, 43rd Annual Food Festival. Now, more than ever, we will need everyone's help with the preparation of food, cooking, selling of tickets, purchasing tickets, working a shift or two, helping with transporting of items from church to the Elks and back, sign distribution, clean-up, etc. Each year, we depend on volunteers from throughout our extended church family. If you can help, please contact Ways and Means co-chairs Margie Lynn Davidian at (559) 679-8794 or Judy Skaff at (559) 799-1198. For more information about the Food Festival see the flier in this issue of the bulletin.

Myron Sheklian
Parish Council Chair

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

We held our first monthly *in-person* meeting at the church hall. Nineteen ladies and Der Mashdots participated and broke bread over a scrumptious Lenten meal. Even children of our members were there filling the church grounds with their squeals and laughter. What a joy! After the meeting, we learned to make tahini bread, Lenten style. Yn. Maral Khanjian graciously demonstrated how to make it and shared her recipe. It was all a perfect afternoon! The next day Ladies Society hosted a Meechink fellowship/lunch where the tahini bread was part of the featured meal.

We welcome our newest members, sisters and life-long members of our Yetteem community, Julie (Ananian) Bair and Shari Ananian. Their mother, Reba Ananian, was a member of our Ladies Society. Following their mother's footsteps, I know they will be a valuable member.

This month we tragically and unexpectedly lost our cherished member Sadie Derrick. Sadie was an enthusiastic member who never said no to volunteering or rising to the occasion when asked. For many years, she chaired the Ladies Society sponsored fellowships, always setting out a feast of a spread. No one ever walked away hungry! Sadie had a giving and loving soul. She is deeply missed. Our condolences to the Derrick family.

Mother's Day is coming soon. The Executive Committee is putting together a celebration of the St. Mary Yetteem mothers. Save the date, Saturday, May 8. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

Birthday wishes for April goes out to Shirley Ouzounian, Nancy Krikorian, and Janel Zerounian. We wish them all God's blessings.

Linda Farsakian-Wall
Chairlady

LADIES SOCIETY MEMBER FEATURE

We at St. Mary Armenian Church, Yetteem have a rich history of women serving our church as members of Ladies Society dating back to 1914 when Ladies Society was formed as the first organization of the church. Using this church publication, our Executive Committee wants to feature one of our members on a by-monthly basis. This month we feature Rose Kaplan. At 99 years old, she is the oldest living Ladies Society member! What better way to launch our new featured article? See page No. 11.

CALLING ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS!

Sunday School has started back in person classes. Sunday School meets on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 11:00 AM. All Sunday school age students are welcomed and encouraged to attend! Please contact Tracy Valencia for any questions at 559-824-0913.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next Zoom meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 27th at 6:30 PM.

ACYO

ACYO's next Zoom meeting will be held on Sunday, April 18th at 4 PM.

ARTSAKH AID

The parishes of our Diocese play an instrumental role in the rebuilding of our homeland and showed immense support to our homeland during the tragic war in Artsakh. To date our parish and individuals have contributed about \$7,372 to the effort.

As we move forward with these efforts in supporting the humanitarian efforts and strengthening Armenia and Artsakh, we ask that you make your future donations to **St. Mary Armenian Church and write "Armenian and Artsakh Relief" on the memo line.** In this way, we can forward and direct donations to go to Diocese-endorsed programs.

FACE MASKS

St. Mary Yettem face masks are available for purchase in the church office or at the Parish Council desk on Sundays. Thank you to David and Lisa Krause for this project. Suggested minimum donation for each mask is \$5.

ST. MARY MEMORIAL WALL

The St. Mary Memorial Wall was started in 2001 and has been a huge success. Currently there is **space for 28 additional names** at a **donation of \$200/name**. Contact Jim Soxman: ph. 559-936-2227 or email: jimbeasoxman@sbcglobal.net.

ALL services are livestreamed on our webpage at www.stmaryyettem.org. There are links on the "Camera Tab" for INSIDE and OUTSIDE services. The Holy Badarak is streamed on our Facebook page each Sunday beginning at 10:30 AM.

The St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettem Facebook page and website will keep you informed about our church schedules, events, and miscellaneous happenings. Make sure you stop and visit often as we are always adding lots of pictures and information.

COOKBOOK

A second edition of the "Treasured Recipes from the Garden of Eden" has been made available. These cookbooks make a great gift. 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.

PAYPAL

You may access PayPal through the St. Mary Yettem web-site (www.stmaryyettem.org) and click 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.

Fr. Mashdots is available for pastoral care, spiritual guidance, and support. Please inform Der Hayr of those who may be sick at home, hospitalized or may simply want to talk, so that he can organize a time to contact them. (559) 528-6892 or Reverend Father Mashdots Keshishian at (818) 293-9098.

Church office hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM.

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian
Email: fathermashdots@stmaryyettem.org
Cell (818) 293-9098

Myron Sheklian, Parish Council Chairman
Email: myron@sheklian.com
Cell: (559) 280-7315
Home: (559) 733-4417

Sonya, Church Secretary
Email: sonya@stmaryyettem.org

St. Mary Armenian Church, Yetteem

APRIL 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Palm Sunday Ways and Means Bake Sale	29	30 Remembrance of the Ten Virgins	31	1 Great & Holy Thursday	2 Great & Holy Friday	3 Holy Saturday (Easter Eve)
4 Holy Easter	5 Remembrance of the Dead	6	7 Annunciation of the Virgin Mary	8	9	10 Ladies Society Meeting at 11:30 AM
11 New Sunday Sunday School	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Sunday of the World Church (Green Sunday) ACYO Zoom meeting at 4 PM	19	20	21	22	23	24 Feast of the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide
25 Red Sunday Sunday School	26	27 Parish Council Zoom meeting at 6:30 PM	28	29	30	1

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Sunday Schedule:

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

Father Mashdots can be reached at:

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



St. Mary Yettem ACYO

Annual Easter Luncheon

Sunday, April 4, 2021

Immediately following Easter Church Services



Beef Kebab

Salad, Pilaf, Green Beans, Bread,
Dessert and Bottled Water

Enjoy your Lunch

****Outside under the Trees—or—ToGo****

\$20 per person

Please RSVP by Tuesday, March 30

Text or Call Elizabeth Torosian—(559) 623-7801

-or- Email—lunch@stmaryyettem.org

Please specify if you would like your order(s) as
Dine-In or ToGo



Tricky Tray Basket Raffle

\$10 for 26 tickets

If you would like to donate a basket or item(s) contact
Dustin Vartanian at (559) 623-3520 -or- dustylvart@gmail.com



REMINDER

PLEASE BRING

**1 DOZEN
COLORED EASTER EGGS**

**TO CHURCH ON EASTER
SUNDAY**

Be part of this lively

***EASTER
TRADITION***

St. Mary Yettem Ladies Society

Invites You To Our

Annual Mothers' Day Luncheon

Saturday, May 8, 2021

11:30 AM

Save the Date

for this timeless tradition

honoring the mothers of St. Mary Yettem!

Look for more details in the coming weeks.



St. Mary Armenian Church
Ways and Means Committee

We are back this Year!

**43rd Annual
ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL**

Thursday, May 20, 2021

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 Bourma

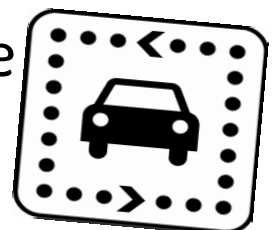
Donation~\$17 per person

Lunch Served—11:00am—2:00pm

Dinner Served—5:00pm—8:00pm

DRIVE THRU ONLY

****For your convenience there will be
Two Drive Thru Lines****



Tickets Available Starting this Month!

Ladies Society Member Feature

Rose (Barsamian) Kaplan



Rose (Barsamian) Kaplan was born on July 20, 1921 in Orosi, CA. She and her twin sister Lillie (Armo) were the first-born children of Harry and Gulimia Barsamian. The family went on to have 3 more children, twins (yes, a second set of twins) Charlie and Pete, and finally the youngest Kay. Serendipitously, both set of twins were born on the same day one year apart. Then some 41 years later, her son Jim was born on the same day! What are the chances?

Rose met her husband Steve Kaplan as most Armenians did at that time, through church, AGBU, and other activities. They fell in love, married in December 1945, and honeymooned in San Francisco. As chance would have it, the newlyweds ran into another Yettem newlywed couple, Armen and Araxie Menendian. The two Yettemite couples had dinner together and had their photo taken with and signed by an up-and-coming bandleader, Lawrence Welk.

Having grown up on a farm, Rose was not afraid of hard work. She attended Visalia Junior College (now College of the Sequoias), worked in the tower at Sequoia Field, and then as a bookkeeper. Marrying Steve meant moving from a farm in Orosi to a raisin farm in Lindsay, CA. She put her energy into helping Steve on the farm, raising their two sons, David and Jim, and keeping the house. The couple eventually sold the farm in 1955 and bought and operated the Cork 'N Bottle in Lindsay for 30 years until their retirement. When she wasn't working, Rose enjoyed flower arranging, gardening, playing bridge, and traveling. These days a trip to Starbucks is a treat!



Rose joined St. Mary Ladies Society in 1946. According to the St. Mary Yetem 65th Anniversary Memorial Book, during the annual Meechink luncheon, she sat at the “new harsus” table with Sylvia Davidian, Sue Davidian, Varsenig Jiggerian, Jessie Zarounian, Araxie Menendian, and Virginia Shulkian, all valuable members of our Ladies Society.

Rose is a humble servant of God who focused on her family. She lived as her father said and taught her, “*Eat big; don't talk big*” meaning do not boast. She did just that, quietly and faithfully serving as a member of St. Mary Ladies Society, St. Mary Century Club, Lindsay Women's Club, and PEO, volunteering at the American Cancer Society's Discovery Shop, working along side her husband in business, and raising their two boys. Rose is proud of the fact both her father and her husband were on the St. Mary Yetem church building committee.

Thank you Rose for being a faithful member of St. Mary Ladies Society!

HOLY WEEK

Holy Week embodies in itself the culmination of the spiritual journey of the Great Lent. Beginning with Palm Sunday and concluding with the Holy Resurrection, we, as faithful, relive the final earthly days of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It is spiritually uplifting and enriching for each Christian to be accompanied on this spiritual journey with Christ, our Lord. Led and strengthened by the prayers and hymns of our Church fathers, we embrace the divine presence of Christ in our lives, striving to emulate the life of the Son of God.

In previous years, we had prepared educational booklets filled with prayers and reflections to serve as guides throughout the Great Lenten journey in order that we may wholeheartedly feel God's presence in our lives. Why did we take this step? Its specific purpose was to relinquish our lives into the Hands of the Almighty in order that we may lead sanctified lives.

Life is God's precious gift to us all. We must live it with the True Faith, enriching it with noble deeds. By emulating the life of Christ, our Lord, we ultimately enter through the Gateway to a New Life, one which is lived in accordance to the will of God.

Palm Sunday, Christ's Triumphant Entry into the Holy City of Jerusalem, is synonymous with New Life, for Christ's entry made the renewal of man's covenant with God in the Old Testament meaningful. Christ's Entry into Jerusalem symbolizes the fulfillment of the law. And those who greeted the Son of God exclaiming "Hosanna," witnessed ever-clearly with the eyes of their souls God's message of a New Life.

"Blessed are those who come in the name of the Lord."

Others who heard the calling of their hearts exclaimed to the God "Lord, open our eyes." They pleaded to God to allow them to understand and embrace the divine. Indeed, throughout Holy Week, our one heartfelt prayer shall be the plight of the blind "Lord, open our eyes" in order that we may baptize our essence in God's divine love and live our lives armored with Christ's Victorious Resurrection and the vision to emulate the Savior.