



YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

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

July 2021

Armenia is our Mission

With prayers and with faith we humble ourselves before the sacred and holy offering graced upon us by God. This is that moment, more than any other in history, where we must be guided by the Love and Wisdom of God, so that we may offer Armenia to future generations. The ultimate imperative is, that we love and respect one another, that we look and find the image of God in one another, and that we deepen the vision of Armenia within our souls. Therefore, it is our call and our invitation, that together, we pray to God, and solidify our spiritual and national life. Let us be awake and expressive of the Christian ideals.

The soil is not only that upon which we walk, but it is the dust of the bones of our past, from which comes a vision along with the message of vigilance and spiritual renewal.

Let us have the courage to read within the souls of our people the words of our Lord as spiritual nourishment, “Do not be afraid; only believe and be saved!” (Luke 8:50)

“O Lord our God, listen to the voice of supplications of Your servants and keep unshaken the Republic of Armenia, which You restored through the grace of Your mercy.

Hold out Your most generous merciful hand and bless our entire people, namely the Armenian nation, and the Armenian Church, so that a spirit of love, peace, understanding and divine worship would rest upon them. Amen.”

Prayerfully,
Archbishop Hovnan Derderian
Primate

Parish Notes

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Renee Yahnian and family, Sark and Sylvia Yahnian, Richard Yahnian and family and David Yahnian and family on the recent passing of ***Bryan Yahnian*** who entered his eternal rest on Wednesday, June 23rd. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Yahnian families.

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

THIS JULY 2021 BULLETIN
IS SPONSORED BY
LUCILLE MARGOSIAN

ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

June 6th – Harry and Pam Stepanian, Mike Tamouzian, and Charles and Lori Sarabian in memory of their parents, George and Phyllis Tamouzian.

June 20th – The Parish Council in honor of Father's Day

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

June 6th

George Tamouzian

Ten years after his passing

Phyllis Tamouzian

Two years after her passing

Requested by Harry and Pam Stepanian, Mike Tamouzian, and Charles and Lori Sarabian

June 13th

Jack Ananian

Three years after his passing

Requested by the Jack Ananian Family

June 20th

FATHER'S DAY HOKEHANKIST

Deacon Garabed Simonian

Hrant Farsakian

Souren Sam Farsakian

Requested by Alan, Marceen, Nick and Shant Farsakian and Mark, Linda and Ben Wall

Kaloust Ananian

Abel Ferreira

Requested by Charlie and Elizabeth Ananian

Neshan Sheklian

Richard Nicholas

Mihran Sheklian

Yervant Derderian

Requested by Myron and Debbie Sheklian and Family

Armen Menendian

Abraham Menendian

Der Garabed Avak Kahana Kalfayan

Requested by Mari Louise Menendian, Laurie Menendian and Fred Marrs, David and Ardemis Menendian and Family

Artin Zerounian

Hagop Sousamian

Pete Zerounian

Requested by Marilyn Zerounian, and Lori, James and Janel

Harry Davidian

Geragos Davidian

Haig Balakian

Requested by Janice McWilliams, Phyllis Borba, Becky Akin and Families

Humayak "Haig" Sheklian

Yervant Sheklian

Requested by Kohar and JoAnn Sheklian

Jack Ananian

Harry Ananian

Requested by Shari Ananian and Julie Bair

Richard Dudukian

Requested by Mike and Judy Skaff and Family

June 27th

John Maranian

Eight years after his passing

SAVE THE DATE

Pastoral visitation of His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian to St. Mary Armenian Church will be on **Sunday, July 18th**. (See flier)

PARISH COUNCIL CORNER

The Divine Liturgy of the Armenian Church has sustained the Armenian people continuously for more than 1700 years. Our parents, grandparents, and those before them found stability and hope in the regular celebration of the Badarak. Even during the Covid-19 Pandemic, services were held each and every Sunday here in Yettem. I am not sure that we stop often enough to realize the importance of this continuity in our own Yettem Community and how it has happened.

Since our founding in 1911, we have been served by eleven priests – only three since 2003. The spiritual leadership of Father Vartan, Father Zaven and Father Mashdots and those before them have provided us with great stability.

This month, I would like to reflect on the service of our altar servers and choir in their unwavering devotion to St. Mary Yettem.

Later this month, His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian will be ordaining additional altar servers. In 1986, twelve altar servers were pictured in our 75th anniversary book. Here recently, we depend on the service of our ordained: Deacon Randy Tellalian, Deacon Ryan Tellalian, Sub Deacon Alan Farsakian, Sub Deacon David Yahnian and Acolyte Dustin Vartanian to assist Father Mashdots at the altar. Thank you for your dedication.

A large part of our weekly service is singing with the same melodies sung at all Armenian Churches across the world. Traditionally, Orthodox churches did not use instruments, although churches today will have organs. It is the choir that leads the congregation in singing. In our Armenian Church, the faithful are encouraged to sing with the choir because the choir's responses are the people's responses.

We are blessed to have our dedicated St. Mary Armenian Church Choir led by Mari Louise Menendian, who also serves as the organist. Again, looking back to our 75th anniversary book, pictured were thirteen regular choir members, led then by Araxie Menendian – Mari Louise's mother. Today, we thank Kohar Sheklian, JoAnn Sheklian, Janice McWilliams, Laurie Menendian, John Kalfayan, Marilyn Zerounian, Linda Farsakian Wall, Yn. Maral Khanjian, Annie Davidian, Olivia Garabedian and Sharon Luisi who lend their voices to our choir.

We need to remember these servants in our thoughts and prayers and take the opportunity to thank these individuals for their service to our church.

Myron Sheklian
Parish Council Chairman

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

Mark your calendar for July 23rd, 11:30 AM. Yetezgin Maral volunteered to teach us how to make monte. Afterwards we will share the monte meal together. There is no cost for this day. We do ask volunteers to help bring items for the day. We need, ground beef, flour, yogurt, dessert, and drinks. If you would like to attend, please text, or call me at 559-786-1419.

Our Hot Dog Drive-Thru was a success! Despite the ridiculously hot weather, we had a good turn-out. For those that stayed, we were able to open the hall, turn on the air conditioner, and eat inside the church hall. What a treat from last year when Covid prevented us from eating together. Jail n' Bail was also a successful fundraiser. Our Sunday school students were our police officers. Adorned with a policeman's hat, badge, and handcuffs, no one could resist being arrested and escorted to jail by them. Thank you to the Hot Dog committee, to all those who attended, and especially to our adorable Sunday school students. Without all of you, our fundraiser would not have been a success.

I hope you had the chance to read last month's bulletin featuring our member, Sylvia Yahnian. This month we feature Lucille Margosian, a 58-year member of our Ladies Society. Please take the time to read about this wonderful lady.

With such sadness, we express our condolences to our members Sylvia Yahnian and Renee Yahnian and the entire Yahnian family for the passing of their beloved son, husband, brother, father, and grandfather Bryan Yahnian. Bryan is a lifetime member of the Yettem community who was baptized and raised in our St. Mary Yettem church. Bryan held strong his faith and never said no when asked to volunteer. He is loved by many and will be missed by all of us. We pray God's blessings to the Yahnian family to get them through this difficult time.

Birthday wishes for July go out to Karon Penny. We wish her all of God's blessings.

Linda Farsakian-Wall
Chairlady



The Ladies Society Hot Dog Feed Fundraiser

CORRECTION

There was an error in the June bulletin regarding *Graduate Aram Babagian*. Aram graduated from Redwood High School, not Fresno State. He is going to further his education at Fresno State in Ag Business.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Arlen Pilavian and Alina Hokokian from St. Mary Armenian Church in Yettem on their recent engagement.

RAFFLE WINNERS

Our sixth drawing for our St. Mary Armenian Church raffle was held on Sunday, June 13th. Congratulations to...

- (\$150) Jeanette Ekizian
- (\$100) Zoie Margosian
- (\$50) Lucille Margosian

Our seventh raffle drawing will be held on Sunday, July 18th. 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.

WAYS AND MEANS

Ways and Means Committee has no meeting scheduled in July. Their next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 5th via Zoom at 7:00 PM.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, July 13th at 6:30 PM.

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

(May 24, 2021 – June 20, 2021)

For Repose of George and Phyllis

Tamouzian's Souls

July 6th – Mike Tamouzian, Rose Marie Margosian, George and Shirley Ouzounian, Virginia Sarabian

For Repose of Jack Ananian's Soul

July 13th – Tom and Julie Bair

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 these hours, you can email fathermashdots@stmaryyettem.org or text/call (818) 293-9098 or email St. Mary Parish Council Chairman Myron Sheklian at myron@sheklian.com or text/call (559) 280-7315.

Father 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.

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 \$8,100 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.

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 website (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.



STORIES TO PONDER

Everyone Has a Story in Life

A 24-year-old boy looking out from the train's window shouted...

"Dad, look the trees are going behind!"

Dad smiled and a young couple sitting nearby, looked at the 24-year old's childish behavior with pity, suddenly he again exclaimed...

"Dad, look the clouds are running with us!"

The couple couldn't resist and said to the old man...

"Why don't you take your son to a good doctor?"

The old man smiled and said... "I did and we are just coming from the hospital, my son was blind from birth, he just got his eyes today."

Every single person on the planet has a story. Don't judge people before you truly know them. The truth might surprise you.

The Elephant Rope

As a man was passing the elephants, he suddenly stopped, confused by the fact that these huge creatures were being held by only a small rope tied to their front leg. No chains, no cages. It was obvious that the elephants could, at any time, break away from their bonds but for some reason, they did not.

He saw a trainer nearby and asked why these animals just stood there and made no attempt to get away. "Well," the trainer said, "when they are very young and much smaller, we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it's enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away.

They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free."

The man was amazed. These animals could at any time break free from their bonds but because they believed they couldn't, they were stuck right where they were.

Like the elephants, how many of us go through life hanging onto a belief that we cannot do something, simply because we failed at it once before?

Failure is part of learning; we should never give up the struggle in life.



ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

JULY 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 12 Holy Apostles of Christ & St. Paul the 13 th Apostle
4 Barekendan of the Fast of Transfiguration Independence Day	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ	12 Remembrance of the dead	13 Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 2:00 PM	14 St. Isaiah the Prophet	15	16	17 St. Thaddeus the Apostle & Sandoukht the Virgin
18 His Eminence Pastoral Visitation to St. Mary Yettem	19	20	21	22	23	24 Sons & Grandsons of St. Gregory the Illuminator
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 St. Gregory the Theologian

Sunday Schedule:

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

Father Mashdots can be reached at:

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

**PASTORAL VISITATION OF HIS EMINENCE
ARCHBISHOP HOVNAN DERDERIAN**

**ST. MARY, YETTEM
SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2021**



**St. Mary Parish invites all parishioners
and friends to the pastoral visit of
His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian
to receive His spiritual message and blessings. An
ordination will be conducted during this visit. A luncheon
sponsored by the Parish Council will be offered following
services. Details will be forthcoming.**

Lucille Boudakian Margosian

Lucille (Yeghsapert) was born in Yettem on March 24, 1932, to Hacher and Mary Majarian Boudakian. She joined her three older siblings Nazalie Evelyn, Garabed Charlie, and Hartoon Harry. Her brother Hagop Jack was born 7 years later. The family moved to a ranch in Visalia where Lucille was raised. Her parents frequently took her out of school to help during harvest season. She attended Visalia High School where she excelled in the Girls Athletic Association. She then attended and graduated from the College of the Sequoias. All the time she was in school, she divided her time between helping her family and caring for her four cousins, Judy, Armen, Danny, and Dickie.



At an ACYO dance in Fowler, she saw her brothers' friend Amos standing on the side lines and asked him to dance. That was the beginning of their courtship. On their first date, Lucille was told she could go only if she took her cousin Danny. Lucille and Amos were married on November 15, 1953, at St. Mary Yettem.

The couple started their life together living in Monson in the house Amos built. Amos's younger brother George also lived with them. It was not long before their first born, twins Sharon and Karon were born. Then 18 months later Aron was born. Lucille cared for the children and did the book work for Amos and George's ranches. The family moved to their new home on Avenue 384 where Lucille lives to this day.



Lucille now has 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. She loves and supports them as she did her children. It is nothing for her to drop everything at a moment's notice to care for her grandchildren. Every year before school started, she took the grandchildren to sushi and then to Office Depot to buy each their school supplies.

Life was good and the house was always full of people. Lucille enjoyed cooking and hosting. This came in handy because Amos often came in Sunday morning and told Lucille the gang was coming over for dinner that night. At Christmas time, the house was full of family and friends. She also enjoyed the simpler times when her parents came to dinner. No matter the occasion, Lucille set a beautiful table loaded with food.

Lucille learned the importance of supporting her church from her grandfather Katcher Majarian, one of the Godfathers of our church and donor of the land for the church hall. Majarian Hall is named after her grandparents. Being a devoted member of Ladies Society since 1963, Lucille held the offices of treasurer and of advisor for multiple years. She served on the Memorial Dinner committee and was the Salad Bar and Fashion Show chairlady. There wasn't a committee or duty from which she shied away. She is especially proud that she served in the organization with her mother and now with her daughter Karon.

Lucille also served the church in other capacities. She is a Century Club charter member. She taught Sunday school. It was her idea for the Merchants' Luncheon which continues today. She served on the church's 75th and the 100th anniversary committees. She convinced her friend Ralph Moore to develop a miniature rose for the 75th anniversary celebration. It was named SAINT MARY, variety: MORyettem.

Over the years, Lucille showed her strength as a wife, mother, and grandmother. She has dealt with grace the loss of her husband Amos, her son Aron, and her brother-in-law George as well as a car accident which hampered her mobility. Through it all, she held her family together and never abandoned our church.



Congratulations to ARLEN PILAVIAN and ALINA HOKOKIAN who celebrated their engagement on Saturday, May 8, 2021.

The blessing of the rings ceremony was performed by Rev. Fr. Ashod Khachadourian along with Rev. Fr. Mashdoots Keshishian of Yettes, CA, at the home of Arlen's grandparents in Dinuba, CA. Arlen is the son of Pierre and Melissa Pilavian, and the grandson of Rose Marie Margosian and Lena Kalfayan.

Alina is the daughter of John and Vicki Hokokian.

They shared this special day with family and friends and are planning to be married at Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church in February of 2022.

We celebrate the joining of the Pilavian and Hokokian Families.

GRADUATES

Grace Tellian has been promoted from 8th Grade to High School in Paso Robles. Grace's parents are Jared and Kelsie Tellian. Her grandparents are Rich and Janice McWilliams and Michael and Julie Tellian. Her great-grandparents are Harry and Laura Davidian and Abe and Elizabeth Tellian.



Lauren Kneeland graduated from high school and will be attending Baylor University. Her parents are David and Shawna Kneeland and her grandparents are Rich and Janice McWilliams.



We are so proud of our grandchildren!



Sunday School Culmination
June 13, 2021



Jesus's Last Sayings on the Cross

The last moments of a man's life in front of death is full of meaning. Many of us do not think about these moments where He sees all of the emotional life's events and tries to give His life summary to all His lovers. Christ came to this world to do God's will to save you and me. Jesus paid the price of this salvation by shedding his blood on the cross. Jesus spent his last hours nailed on the cross. We can see God's love which is arrived at the top of the cross, and after recognizing this love, spread the love in the world. God's love is supreme and is given to us every day to enjoy it. God asks us to not be indifferent to His love, but to be witness to this love that could change you and me. His first saying while on the cross was "Father, forgive them for they don't know what they do" (Luke 23:24).

When the Roman soldiers were crucifying Jesus, He had mercy on them and said these well-known words because He knows that their hearts were blinded. The soldiers could not know the truth that the person that they were crucifying was our Father God. Jesus wanted to talk more with them to counsel them to open their eyes so they knew what they were truly doing, but the sin blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts. Jesus, during his life, was preaching that the kingdom of Heaven is near. Jesus was inviting all to give penitence and return to Father God, but the world wanted to shut down this annoying voice. Therefore, we see how Jesus directs his words to his Father asking forgiveness for his slayers because He was sure that they did not know the truth of the love of He, who they were crucifying.

My dears, we also make Jesus suffer by our sins. The worst that humans do, is justifying evil by thinking that they are doing good. Jesus facing human cruelty supplicated the Father God to forgive them because He is omnipotent and could love and forgive. He could not obligate the man to love Him, because man sins with his freedom, and justifies his sin. Today, we are invited to know and reflect when we choose to sin, how much pain we give to God's heart by increasing his pain.

St. Mary Armenian Church
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