

ԵՂԵՄ

Հրատարակություն

Եղեմի Ս. Աստուծածին

Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցոյ



AUGUST 2016

YETTEM

A publication of St. Mary

Armenian Church

Yettem, California

Pastoral thoughts

On Sunday, August 14, 2016, we will celebrate the Assumption of the Holy Mother of God.

Saint Mary lived a heavenly life in Her earthly life. Her life was full of spiritual feelings and devotion. In Her earthly life, She was an exclusive example for believers.

God created man in perfection and within the history of mankind it was accepted by individuals. God is perfect and a man whom God created with His likeness should've been perfect. Nevertheless, every individual is free to make his/her own decision. Our life consists of decisions, and we have perfect freedom to organize it. However, it becomes meaningful when we observe our own life within spiritual content which in turn assumes community life.

“Asdvadzadzin” that’s how we call the Holy Mother of God in Armenian. Being the Mother of God, Holy Virgin, has shown Her maternal love for all people. Her unselfish dedication bestowed her perfect divine presence in which, with all her believers has been glorified with the living breath of God.

Her enthusiasm has never been diminished, which encouraged people to follow Her. She endured and passed through all kinds of temptations and proved that God's creatures have the abilities to ignore and avoid any kind of adversary.

She acted with the same love of Christ. Even at the very last moment of Her earthly life, she was thinking about comforting and strengthening believers. Her perfect being was the incarnation of perfect love and care toward humankind. It is very remarkable that Her last action in the last moment of Her earthly life was to ask God to help Her to leave Her image on the board as consolation for believers. As She prayed, She crossed Herself and asked God by means of Her image that people would be cured from disease.

The Sacrament of Assumption is a call upon us to live pious lives and direct our outlook toward heaven where God admits all dedicated and worthy believers in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

With Love of Christ
Rev. Fr. Zaven Markosyan

Հովվական

Օգոստոս 14-ին մենք կտոնենք Աստվածածնի Վերափոխման տոնը: Իր երկրային կյանքում Սուրբ Մարիամը ապրեց երկնային կյանք, որը լի էր հոգևոր զգացողություններով և նվիրվածությամբ: Նա եղավ բացառիկ և կատարյալ օրինակ հավատացյալների համար:

Աստված մարդուն ստեղծեց կատարելության մեջ և մարդկության պատմության ընթացքում շատ անհատներ հաստատեցին այդ հանգամանքը: Աստված կատարյալ է, և մարդը՝ ում Աստված ստեղծեց պետք է լիներ կատարյալ: Այնուամենայնիվ, ամեն անհատ ազատ է իր անձնական որոշումները կայացնելու: Մեր կյանքը բաղկացած է որոշումներից և մենք ունենք կատարյալ ազատություն նաև կազմակերպելու այն: Սակայն, կյանքը դառնում է ավելի իմաստայից, երբ մենք դիտարկում ենք մեր այն հոգևորի շրջանակներում, որն իր հերթին ենթադրում է համայնքային կյանք նաև:

Լինելով Աստվածամայր՝ Սուրբ Մարիամը բաշխեց Իր մայրական սերը բոլոր հավատացյալներին: Իր անշահախնդիր նվիրվածությունը շնորհեց իրեն կատարյալ աստվածային ներկայություն, որի մեջ բոլոր հավատացյալներն, Իր հետ միասին, փառավորվեցին Աստծո կենդանի շնչով:

Աստվածածնի խանդավառությունը երբեք չնվազեց, ինչն իր հերթին ոգևորում էր իր շուրջը եղած մարդկանց: Նա համբերությամբ անցավ բազմաթիվ փորձությունների միջով՝ հաստատելով թե Աստծո արարծը ունի բոլոր հնարավորությունները շրջանցելու չարի ոտնձգությունները: Սուրբ Կույսն ապրեց և գործեց Քրիստոսի նույն սիրով: Նույնիսկ Իր երկրային կյանքի վերջին պահին Նա մտածում էր մարդկանց մխիթարության և հավատքի գորացման մասին: Խորհրդանշական է Նրա վերջին արարքը, Իր կյանքի վերջին պահին: Սուրբ Մարիամը խնդրեց Աստծուն օգնել Իրեն թողնելու Իր պատկերը փայտե կտորի վրա և խնդրեց, որ նրանով մարդիկ մխիթարվեն և նրանց ցավերն ու հիվանդությունները բուժվեն:

Սուրբ Աստվածածնի Վերափոխման խորհուրդը կոչ է բոլոր հավատացյալներին, ապրելու բարեպաշտ կյանք և ուղղելու մեր հայացքները դեպի երկինք, ուր վերջապես Աստված պետք է ընդունի Իր հավատավորին՝ մխիթարելով նրան ամեն տեսակ զրկանքներից:

Քրիստոսի Սիրով՝
Տեր Զավեն քին. Մարկոսեան

Parish Notes

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP
**THIS 2016 AUGUST BULLETIN IS
SPONSORED BY
SANDRA CHOBOLIAN**

CONDOLENCES
Our condolences to Mr. Herbert Kaprielian and Family on the recent passing of Beverly Kaprielian. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS
*July 10, 2016
Ladies Society
July 24, 2016
The Sheklian Family in memory of Neshan Sheklian
July 31, 2016
Gerard and Sylvia Garoian in memory of Kurken and Satenig Garoian and Ed and Gladys Tejerian.*

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS
*July 24, 2016
Neshan Sheklian ten years after his passing,
Requested by the Sheklian Family
July 31, 2016
Kurken and Satenig Garoian and Ed and Gladys Tejerian,
Requested by Gerard and Sylvia Garoian*

ACYO is selling YetteM T-Shirts for \$10 at church each Sunday.

ACYO meeting (BBQ & Swim Party) will be held on Sunday, August 7, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Ladies Society has no meeting in August. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at Ryan's Place Restaurant on Mooney Blvd. in Visalia at 6:00 p.m.

Ladies Society is offering manti for sale as a fund raiser. You may purchase one or more packages on Sundays from Ladies Society board members or by stopping in at the church office on Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The manti is from Ohanyan's Food Company in Fresno and are one pound packages. We are selling them for \$10.00 each.

Grapes for Feast of the Assumption are needed for Sunday, August 14, 2016. It is a unique feast dedicated to St. Mary, the mother of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is one of the five major feasts of the Armenian Church. One of the marks of this feast is the Blessing of Grapes which is conducted at the end of the day's liturgy. (See flyer)

Ways and Means Bake sale will be held on Sunday, August 14, 2016. (See flyer)

Parish Council meeting will be held Thursday, August 18, 2016 in the Majarian Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Fellowship will be hosted by ACYO on Sunday, August 28, 2016.

We have started a Monthly Movie Club. As a group we will attend a movie the last Friday of each month. Our next movie date is Friday, August 26, 2016. If you are interested, please call Debbie Sheklian at (559) 733-4417.

Sister Churches Luncheon will be held Saturday, September 10, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. at Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, 2226 Ventura Street, Fresno, CA 93721. Please see flyer for your reservation. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 11, 2016.

Grandparents' Day Brunch will be hosted by the Ladies Society on Sunday, September 11, 2016 after Divine Liturgy in the Majarian Hall. (See flyer)

ACYO Bake Sale will be held on Grandparents' Day, Sunday, September 11, 2016 after Divine Liturgy in the Majarian Hall. (See flyer)

Save Mart Shares
program changing to eScrip

St. Mary Armenian Church has received nearly \$7,800 from the Save Mart SHARES program since we enrolled. SHARES cards were distributed to our parishioners to swipe at Save Mart, Lucky, Food Maxx and Smart Foods stores. Your participation has generated these funds that directly benefit our Church.

Unfortunately, the program is being changed, and the SHARES cards are not valid after March 31, 2016.

A new program known as eScrip began on April 1 and you may still sign up for free with your phone number at checkout when you shop at the stores listed above. Save Mart/eScrip will donate 3% of your qualifying grocery purchase to St. Mary Armenian Church, YetteM. Sign up at: <http://www.escrip.com/shares> and you will be able to designate St. Mary Armenian Church as your charity of choice.

I have already registered 27 of you and when you give your phone number at checkout the program will work for you. I encourage the rest of you to sign up; this is an easy way to help our Church financially.

If you have difficulty signing up, please call me (733-8741) and I will do it for you. Thank you for supporting the SHARES program and signing up for the eScrip program.

*Jim Soxman
Ways & Means Chairman*

Ladies Society has "Bracelets" for sale from their 100th Anniversary event for \$8.00. Please contact the Church Office at (559) 528-6892 if you are interested in purchasing one.

DVD SET FOR SALE: St. Mary Armenian Church, 100th Anniversary, July 2, 2011. DVD set is \$25.00 and can be purchased by calling the Church office at (559) 528-6892. Cost of mailing will be \$25.00 plus \$6.00 for shipping and handlings, a total of \$31.00. Sponsored by the Ways and Means Committee The "Armenian Genocide Survivors and Heroes" can be purchased for \$40 at St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church in YetteM or contact the Church Office at (559) 528-6892. If you wish a book or books mailed to you, the cost of mailing one, two, or three books will be an additional \$5.00. The cost of mailing four or five books will be an additional \$6.00.

PAYPAL

Our Parish has opened a "PayPal" account to make it convenient for you to make donations. 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, Pledges, Membership Dues, In Lieu of Flowers, or pay for Altar Flowers you have ordered on behalf of the Church.

REMINDER

If you have not sent in your 2016 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.

St. Mary Spiritual Conversation meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 2:00 p.m., home rotation. Please come and join in. If you have any questions, please call the Church Office at (559) 528-6892 or Fr. Zaven at (818) 644-9398.

The Parish Council has approved to have our weekly bulletin and the monthly newsletter available for sponsorships. We are not selling ads. This was done to help offset costs. 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.

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 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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.

The St. Mary Armenian Church webpage at www.stmaryvettem.org has been redesigned. The old format was originally designed in 2010. The new design will work better with today's web browsers on home computers, laptops, tablets and smart phones. If you haven't visited the website lately, try it out and see all the information that can be found online.

If you wish to place any information in the monthly Bulletin, please notify the Church Office by the 20th of month.

Sunday Schedule

Morning Service [Matins] – 9:45 A.M.
Divine Liturgy – 10:30 A.M.

Sunday School – Will resume on Sept. 11, 2016

Fr. Zaveni can be reached at:
559-528-6892 – Office;
559-528-6897 – FAX
1-818-644-9398 – Cell

St. Mary Armenian Church, Yettem

August 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Berekendan of the Fast of Assumption ACYO meeting (BB) & Swim Party) at 6:00 p.m.	8	9	10	11	12	13 Showers of Radiance of Holy Etchmiadzin
14 Assumption of the Holy Mother of God/Blessing of Grapes/Ways and Means Bake Sale	15 Remembrance of the Dead	16	17	18 Parish Council meeting in the Majarian Hall at 7:00 p.m.	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Movie Day	27
28 Fellowship/ACYO	29	30	31			



FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

**St. Mary Armenian Church
Yettem, California**

Blessing of Grapes

Sunday, August 14, 2016

Morning Service – 9:45 A.M.

Divine Liturgy – 10:30 A.M.

**Remember that since this is one of the five major feasts of the Church,
ALL are encouraged to receive Holy Communion during the
celebration of the Divine Liturgy**

Blessing of Grapes at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy

**Immediately following Church Services a Family Luncheon sponsored by
the Parish Council will be served in the hall.**

**Donation: \$15.00 Adult
\$12.00 Children 10 and under**

***Those wishing are invited to bring a bag of their own grapes for blessing. These
should be plainly marked and given to the Parish Council upon entering the
church.***

Plan to attend with the entire family for a day of worship and fellowship.

Ways and Means Committee announces.

Bake Sale

Sunday

August 14, 2016

Feast of the Assumption

Asdvadzadzin & Grape Blessing

Immediately after the day's worship

*your favorite Armenian delicacies
will be available*

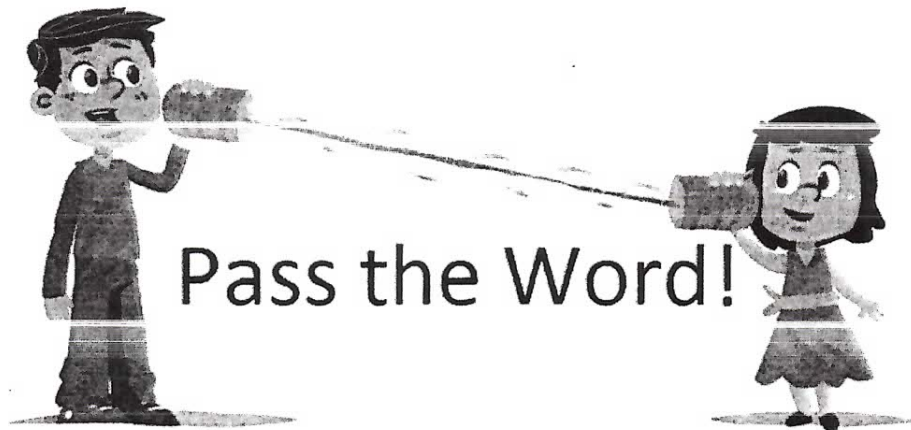
✓ *Cheoreg*

✓ *Simit*

✓ *Nazoog*

✓ *Bread Sticks*

✓ *Plus lots more*





Sister Churches Luncheon

Hosted by

Ladies Guild

Saturday, September 10th, 2016 at 11:30 AM

Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church

2226 Ventura Street

Fresno, CA 93721

Donation \$35.00 per person

Pardini's Catering

Holy TrinitySossie Djabrayan 681-4001
First Armenian Presbyterian.....Mary Lou Bagdasarian 255-6630
Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church.....Diane Kassabian 299-1307
St. Gregory Fowler.....Jane Kazarian 834-2919
St. Mary, Yetem.....Debbie Sheklian 733-4417
St. Paul.....Darlene Chardukian 226-6343
Sts. Sahag and Mesrop, ReedleyStella Balakian 638-4095

Reservation deadline: Monday August 25th, 2016
Tickets must be prepaid, no tickets sold at the door

Fill and return this portion with your check payable to your church by August 25th.

Name: _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

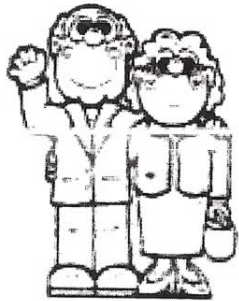
Number of Tickets _____ @ \$35.00 per person Total _____

Please select your entrée: _____ Beef _____ Chicken _____ Vegetarian

I like to be seated with _____

Tables of 8 and 10 available

“Grandparents are people you can always look up to no matter how tall you get!”



**St. Mary Ladies Society
Invites you to a Brunch
in Celebration of**

‘Grandparents’ Day’

Sunday, September 11, 2016

Immediately following church services in the Majarian Hall

**∞ Enjoy a Delicious Brunch
featuring Beeshee
and many other specialties ∞**

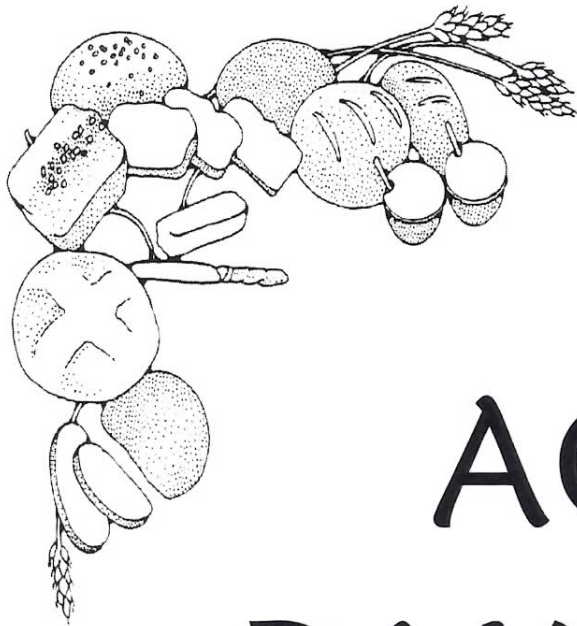
Entertainment to follow...

\$12 per Adult

\$8 per Child (10 and under)



-NO Reservations Required-



ACYO BAKE SALE

After Church Services
Sunday, September 11, 2016
(Grandparent's Day)

Freshly Baked Armenian Desserts
Handmade by
the ACYO Members



ALSO AVAILABLE
St. Mary Yettem
T-shirts
For only \$10.00



**Join St. Mary Armenian Church
2nd Annual Family Fun Day
Organized by Faith of Zion**

September 25, 2016

**Church Services start at 10:30 with
festivities following**

**Hot dogs, Hamburgers, Salads, Chips, Desserts,
Drinks (1 included w/ meal)**

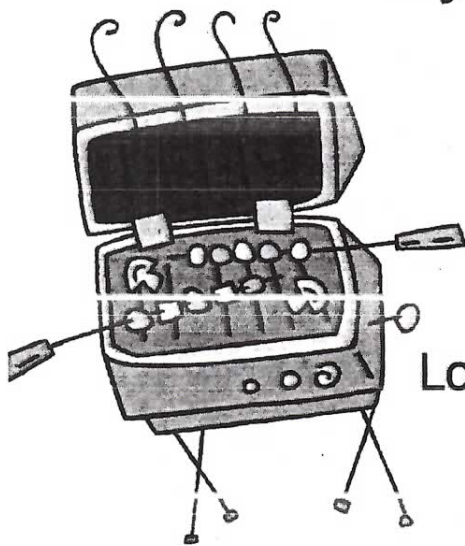
\$12 for adults, \$8 for kids (10 and under)

**Enjoy games for the whole family!
Tavloo tournament, bean bag toss, ladder
ball, and more!!**

Enjoy music by Richard Hagopian

**Chuck Simonian has also continued
Betty Farsakian's genealogy endeavor,
with family trees available for
printing on site!**

**Looking forward to good old-fashioned
family time!**



Archbishop Hovnan Derderian in Yettem July 10, 2016



Hye Spirit Award to George Ouzounian



Hye Spirit Award to Gerard Garoian



Hye Spirit Award to Dr. Neshan Tabibian



Recognition Awards to Parish Council Members



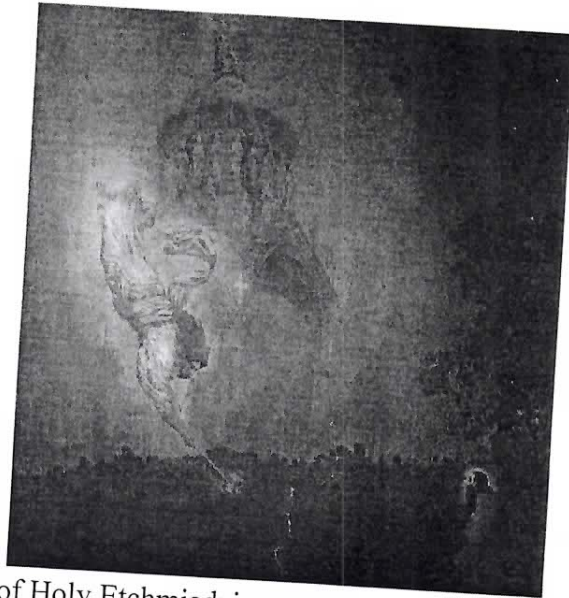
Recognition of Ladies Society Board Members

Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother of God



Each year on the Sunday closest to the date of August 15, the Armenian Church celebrates the Feast of the Assumption of St. Mary, the Holy Mother of God. In the Calendar of the Armenian Church, this feast is the fourth of five major feasts that are commemorated, and is the oldest one dedicated to St. Mary. In the Holy Bible, there is little information concerning the details of St. Mary's life. As a result, the story of her Assumption has been preserved and passed on to us through the Holy and Sacred Tradition of the Apostolic Church. Following the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, the Holy Virgin remains in Jerusalem, and lives under the care of St. John the Evangelist. For nearly 12 years, St. Mary lives by praying, fasting, and often visiting the empty tomb of her beloved Son. During one such visit to the tomb, the Archangel Gabriel appears and gives her the news of her imminent assumption to heaven. St. Mary relays the news to her relatives and all Christians, asking them to bury her in the valley of Gethsemane. St. Mary also asks the Apostle John to celebrate a Divine Liturgy, so she may receive Holy Communion one final time. After receiving Holy Communion, St. Mary returns to her room. As the Apostles prepare to mourn her death, St. John asks the Mother of God to leave an image of her face on a board of wood. St. Mary takes the board, crosses herself and brings it close to her face. Moistening the board with her tears, she asks God that by means of the board, people would be cured from disease. As the Apostles surround St. Mary, an indescribable light appears. The Son of God and the angels of heaven appear in the room. Seeing Christ, St. Mary dies. St. Bartholomew the Apostle was absent and did not participate in the burial service of St. Mary. Upon his return to Jerusalem, he wishes to see St. Mary for the last time. Per his request, the Apostles open the tomb, yet they do not find the remains of St. Mary. According to His promise, Jesus Christ had delivered His mother to His heavenly kingdom. The Apostles give the board of St. Mary to St. Bartholomew for consolation. According to Moses of Khoren, St. Bartholomew brings the board to Armenia. It is kept in the Province of Andzav, in a location called Darbnots. Years later, a church is built there in honor of St. Mary, and a convent is opened. On the Feast of the Assumption of St. Mary, the Ceremony of the Blessing of the Grapes is conducted, and the harvest for the entire year is blessed on that day. The Armenian Church has a deep and abiding respect towards St. Mary. Special emphasis is placed on her being a mother, her honesty, her unique spirit of humility, her virtuous behavior and her unselfish dedication. For Armenian women, the Holy Virgin is the embodiment of virtue, pious motherhood, and the protector of family sacredness.

Feast of the Apparition (“Shoghakat”) of Holy Etchmiadzin



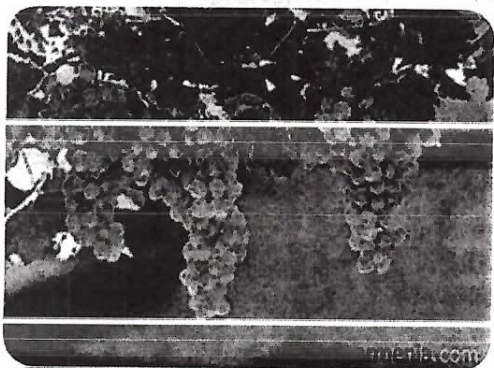
The Feast of “Shoghakat” of Holy Etchmiadzin commemorates the inauguration of the Cathedral of the Mother See. The fifth century historian Agathangelos tells us of St. Gregory the Illuminator’s divine vision, wherein our Lord Jesus Christ descends from Heaven and strikes the ground with His golden hammer. In view of biblical Mount Ararat, in the city of Vagharshapat, the place where the Only Begotten descended identified the site for the foundation of the new cathedral of the Christian Armenian Nation. The vision of Gregory became known as “Shoghakat”, as the Saint saw a fiery column descending from the sky.

The foundation was laid in 301 A.D. and the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin was consecrated in 303 A.D. on the day of the Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother of God. We learn from Archbishop Malachia Ormanian that as the Mother Cathedral of the Armenian Church and Nation is dedicated to St. Mary, the feast of her foundation and inauguration is celebrated in the Armenian Church on the Saturday preceding the Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother of God.

For 1,700 years, the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin has been, and continues to be, the spiritual heart and center of the Armenian Church, and is her most sacred sanctuary. Her spiritual, national and historical significance has only increased through the centuries. Through the vision of St. Gregory, God Incarnate descended upon the soil of Armenia and predetermined her future, making Armenia the first nation in the world to adopt Christianity as its official religion.

ST. MARY, YETTEM

ASSUMPTION OF THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD



St. Mary Armenian Church

P.O Box 367

Yettem, California 93670

Return Service Required

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit No. 1