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YETTEM

A publication of St. Mary

Armenian Church

Yettem, California

**OCTOBER 2020**

### **Who is the Gate?**

*“I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture.” (John 10:9)*

Who is the gate? And what are the conditions for salvation?

Wherever we enter there is always a gate, through which we enter and see who and what is there. Surely, our homes have entrances, which must be strong. There isn't anyone who leaves their entrance door open. We close them to keep strangers and thieves out.

A question to think about is the following: As believers, how have we made our entrance doors? Are they strong and solid with faith? Is our Lord Jesus the guard to our doors? Or have we left our entrances open so that strangers and people can come in and go out freely? For He says, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him” (Revelation 3:20).

Our Lord addresses us and invites us to open our hearts' doors to Him. Jesus Christ says, “I am the door.” If there is any emptiness in your heart and you want to fill it in, come to God, because He is the only gate, the only passage. In Jeremiah (23:24), we read: “Do not I fill heaven and earth” declares the Lord.

The one who has created heaven and earth can surely fill us as well. Open up your hands in front of God and He shall fill it in (Job 12:6). Open up your heart and he will fill you with the power of the spirit (Micah 3:8). If we have spiritual thirst, and we want to satisfy it, let us approach him who said that, “If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink” (John 7:37).

Whoever approaches Jesus is like the tree that rests next to the flowing fountain and is always satisfied. If you ever feel hunger, and you want to fill that hunger, then go to Him who introduces himself as the “Bread of Life” (John 6:48). Do not only persist after the material bread, but at the same time search for the bread that gives life to you and to the whole world (John 6:51). Before you ask for your daily bread, first ask that His Kingdom may come and that you complete His will and God will provide you more than you need (Matthew 6:33).

If you are suffering and you are searching for someone to listen to you, then knock on His door, and tell God your problems, who knows what is in your heart and loves you deeply (Proverbs 24:12). Is it possible that the one who created you doesn't know you and understand you? (Isaiah 29:16). Only the one who understands you can actually help you. If you are searching for an honest and faithful friend, someone who loves you whole-heartedly, and is ready to die for you, here is that friend: the entrance, Christ. No one else can do all of these things, but Christ Himself.

Christ is your friend, your brother, the one who loves you as He loves himself, and is ready to sacrifice for you. He is your father. He is your savior, leader. He is your God, the one who waits for you. “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock” Revelation (3:20). Christ, who wants our hearts to open up to Him, will never close His heart. “I am the passage, who was, is, and will be.” He is here, and he asks for our salvation only. The church is the entrance to Christ. God has created us free, so that we can choose our path to be good or bad. But God's daily work is to save the lost souls and lead them to salvation. God is not a concrete being, He is absolute. But when we approach Him with faith, we see Him. He is here, (gebadarakoui) for our salvation.

Let us approach this gate and be saved. May He be praised.

Father Mashdots Keshishian

## **Parish Notes**

### **BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP**

**THE OCTOBER 2020 BULLETIN IS  
SPONSORED BY**

**MARGIE LYNN DAVIDIAN  
IN MEMORY OF FAMILY MEMBERS  
WHO PASSED AWAY IN  
THE MONTH OF OCTOBER**

**YERVANT DERDERIAN (Grandfather),  
OCTOBER 15, 1962 (58 years after passing)**

**SYLVIA DAVIDIAN (Mother),  
OCTOBER 10, 2015 (5 years after passing)**

**ROSIE SHEKLIAN (Morkoor),  
OCTOBER 24, 2018 (2 years after passing)**

**GARITT DAVIDIAN (Nephew/Godson),  
OCTOBER 3, 2019 (1 year after passing)**

### **CONDOLENCES**

*Our condolences to Ed Parton and family and the Kazarian family on the recent passing of Blanche Parton. Blanche entered her eternal rest on Saturday, August 29, 2020. Also, our condolences to Sandy and John Kalfayan and family on the recent passing of Sandy's mother, Lois Nelson. Lois entered her eternal rest on September 2, 2020. Our thoughts and prayers are with both these families.*

### **THANK YOU**

*Thank you to Charlie Davidian for donating the fresh rehan (sweet basil) from his garden used to adorn the Holy Cross for the service on September 13<sup>th</sup>.*

### **STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE**

*Just a reminder that your Stewardship Pledge is coming due. We will be sending out the Stewardship Pledge approximately the second or third week in October.*

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

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

- September 13 – Parish Council in honor of Grandparents' Day and welcoming Reverend Father Mashdots Keshishian
- September 13 – Alan and Phyllis Borba in honor of their new grandson, Braxton David Borba and their two granddaughters, Laura and Marley Ananian on Grandparents' Day
- September 20 – The Barsamian family in memory of Kay Barsamian
- September 27 – David and Lisa Krause in honor of their twenty-seventh Wedding Anniversary on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS**

September 20

**Kay Barsamian**

*Forty days after his passing, requested by  
the Barsamian family*

*During this time of unusual circumstances the St. Mary Armenian Church webpage at [www.stmaryyettem.org](http://www.stmaryyettem.org) is an important tool for receiving important information affecting our parish. ALL services that are scheduled are livestreamed on our Yetem Cam. The improved LIVE Camera System allows you to watch services on any desktop, laptop, or tablet! The website also includes archived copies of church bulletins, pictures from events, and a current church calendar.*

*On Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese of North America will be making a pastoral visit to Yetem. That Sunday deacons from throughout the Diocese will be making a pilgrimage to Yetem as well. We will be hosting a special luncheon on that day. (See flier)*

*Ladies Society Keshgag meeting will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2020 in the Majarian Hall at 11:30 a.m.*

*Parish Council Zoom meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 2 p.m.*

### **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE**

September was a busy month in Yetem. On September 13<sup>th</sup>, Reverend Father Mashdots Keshishian was the celebrant of the Divine Liturgy for the first time as our newly named Parish Priest. Reverend Father Vazken Movsesian delivered a beautiful message about the Exaltation of the Holy Cross and officially appointed and welcomed Der Mashdots on behalf of His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian. Pilgrims from the Victorville Ladies Society joined as part of the monthly Yetem Pilgrimage Program instituted by Surpazan Hayr.

After services, our ACYO held a highly successful and much appreciated bake sale. The St. Mary Ladies Society once again hosted an outstanding brunch that included all of our favorites to honor grandparents. A special thank you to all those that worked so hard preparing for and working on that day.

We have many exciting things on the horizon coming in October. First, we can now celebrate the Divine Liturgy each and every Sunday with our Parish Priest Father Mashdots. We look forward to the day when all parishioners can attend when they choose. Until restrictions are relaxed, our services will be streamed on our website and Facebook page.

On October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> we will be holding our annual Campout and Sunrise Service. On Friday night at 6:30 PM, a great dinner that includes barbeque ribs, baked macaroni and cheese, beans, desserts and beverages will be served. S'mores will be shared around the campfire. Those who choose will spend the night in tents, in campers, or in the hall. The following morning a Sunrise Service conducted by Father Mashdots and Father Zaven will take place. Afterwards a wonderful breakfast will be served. After breakfast we will hold a volunteer work party to spruce up the yard for our upcoming outdoor service. Look for fliers on our website and Facebook page.

On Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> we will have the privilege of having His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Rev. Father Vazken Movsesian and deacons from throughout the Western Diocese joining us for a pilgrimage titled "A Spiritual Journey to Grow Our Faith". After services a fantastic chicken kebab luncheon will be offered for everyone.

### **LADIES SOCIETY NEWS**

Our annual Grandparents' Day brunch held September 13, was a wonderful success! We served approximately 120 meals. Thank you to our co-chairs Tina Peters and Donna Torosian and their committee, Margie L. Davidian, Nancy Krikorian, Laurie Menendian, Tracy Valencia, and Sandra Vartanian. Also lending a much-needed helpful hand were Gina Ananian, Renee Ananian, Michelle Ananian, and Rose Marie Margosian along with our junior helpers Laura and Marley Ananian and Lauren and Ani Valencia. We were pleased to welcome the Ladies Society members from Victorville who made the pilgrimage to join us. The day would not have been complete without all who attended. A special thank you for supporting Ladies Society.

Our next monthly meeting will be Saturday, October 3 at 11:30 in our church hall. We will be serving our traditional Keshgag lunch. Make your plans to be there. Be assured Covid precautions will be observed.

Would you like keshgag? For \$5, you can purchase some to take home and eat. Call Madlien Hebesha at 559-731-4749 to reserve your portion.

In September, we lost our dear member Blanche Parton. A member of Ladies Society for 30 years, she served on various committees and on the board. Blanche was always the life of the party with her sense of humor and her artistic abilities. She could be found preparing a meal in the kitchen, rolling sarma, or hosting a table at the Christmas luncheon. All of us will miss Blanche. Our condolences to the Parton and Kazarian family.

Our condolences also to member Sandy Kalfayan for the loss of her mother Lois Nelson. Lois was often found in our church kitchen helping to prepare food for the hokigashes and for special events. Although not a member, she unselfishly gave of her time.

Birthday wishes for October goes out to Julie Poochigian, Sandy Kalfayan, Mary Enfiedjian, Laurie Menendian, and Madlien Hebesha. We wish them all God's blessings.

***With God's love and guidance,  
Linda Farsakian-Wall  
Chairlady***

### **Special Thanks!**

*The Covid-19 pandemic has taken a toll on the fundraising efforts of countless organizations throughout the world. Such has been the case for us at St. Mary Yettem. Fortunately, we have some members of our church that are thinking of clever ways to help in making up the huge deficit we are facing and have worked with the Parish Council to institute their ideas.*

*Lisa Krause expanded on an idea that she had devised for the Ananian Trucking family business to commission the design and printing of specialty face masks for our St. Mary Yettem Church. The full-color face masks feature a beautiful picture of our church printed on a black mask. Lisa and David have underwritten all the costs for this project so that any money collected from donations will go directly to the church. The suggested minimum donation for each mask will be \$5. Masks will be available for sale at the church office or at major October functions. We are hoping that parishioners will proudly wear their masks at the events we have coming up. See the flier in this month's bulletin for more information.*

*Tina Peters has put together a plan to hopefully bring in additional revenue and provide a little good fortune to parishioners and friends of St. Mary Yettem throughout 2021. Beginning in October, raffle tickets will be sold for a monthly drawing to be conducted each month starting in January. The Peters family has paid for the printing and mailing of letters to the extended church mailing list and for the cost of the raffle tickets. Look for more information and tickets coming to your mailbox soon. A flier about this raffle can be found in this month's newsletter. Spread the word and encourage your relatives, friends and neighbors to buy tickets.*

*The St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettem FaceBook page has been revived. Both our FaceBook page and website will keep you informed about our church schedules, events and miscellaneous happenings.*

### **ST. MARY MEMORIAL WALL**

*There are now 35 available spaces for new names on the Memorial Wall. The cost for each space is \$200. You can place an order for an additional name(s) by contacting Jim Soxman: ph. 559-936-2227, or email: [jimbeasoxman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimbeasoxman@sbcglobal.net)*

### **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.*

### **COOKBOOK**

*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.*

*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.*

*Armenian Apostolic Church Hymns CD performed by Rev. Fr. Zaven Markosyan is available for distribution and all the donations will go to St. Mary Yettem.*

*If you know of anyone ill or in the hospital, please call the Church Office (559) 528-6892 or Reverend Father Mashdots Keshishian at (818) 293-9098.*

*Church office hours are Tuesday - Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. If you are in need of a priest or something quickly, call Reverend Father Mashdots Keshishian at (818) 293-9098.*

# St. Mary Armenian Church, Yettem

OCTOBER 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3 Ladies Society Keshgag meeting in the Majarian Hall at 11:30 am
4	5	6	7	8	9 Sunrise Service and Campout Dinner at 6:30 pm	10 Sunrise Service at approximately 6 am Church workday
11	12	13	14 Parish Council Zoom Meeting at 2 pm	15	16	17
18 <i>His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate, pastoral visit to Yettem</i>	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Discovery of the Holy Cross	26	27	28	29	30	31 All Saints Day

**Sunday Schedule:**

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

**Father Mashdots can be reached at:**

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

Join us as we welcome  
His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian

*Pastoral Visitation*  
Sunday,  
October 18th

Father Mashdots Keshishian and the Parish Council invite all parishioners and friends to Yettem. His Eminence will celebrate the Divine Liturgy and offer the day's homily outdoors in our beautiful yard. A dinner will follow services.



**St. Mary Armenian Church  
Of Yettem  
Invites you to a special**



**AND Campout**

**Friday, October 9th Dinner – 6:30 PM**

BBQ Ribs, Baked Mac and Cheese, beans, salad and desserts

S'mores around the campfire

**Saturday, October 10 Sunrise Service  
(around 6 AM)**

**Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> Breakfast**

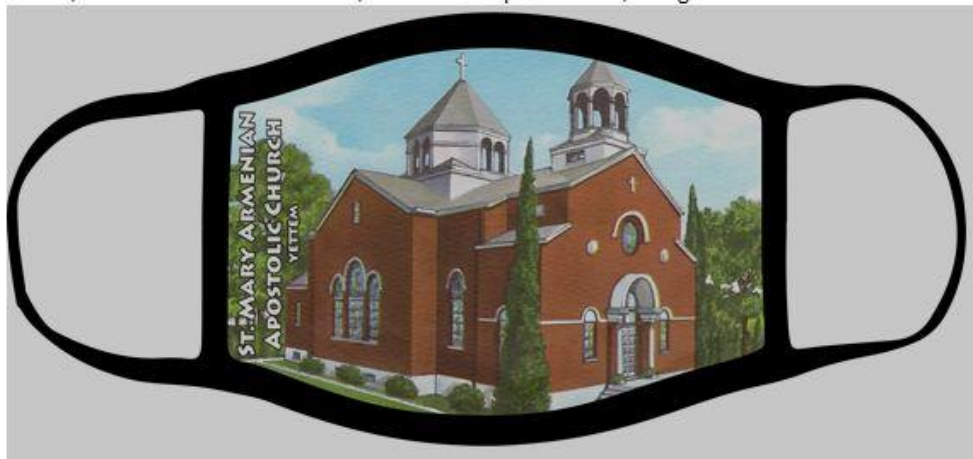
Pancakes, eggs, bacon, juice and coffee

**For More information call Margie Lynn Davidian at (559) 679-8794**



# Why wear a plain and simple mask?

## Coming Soon!

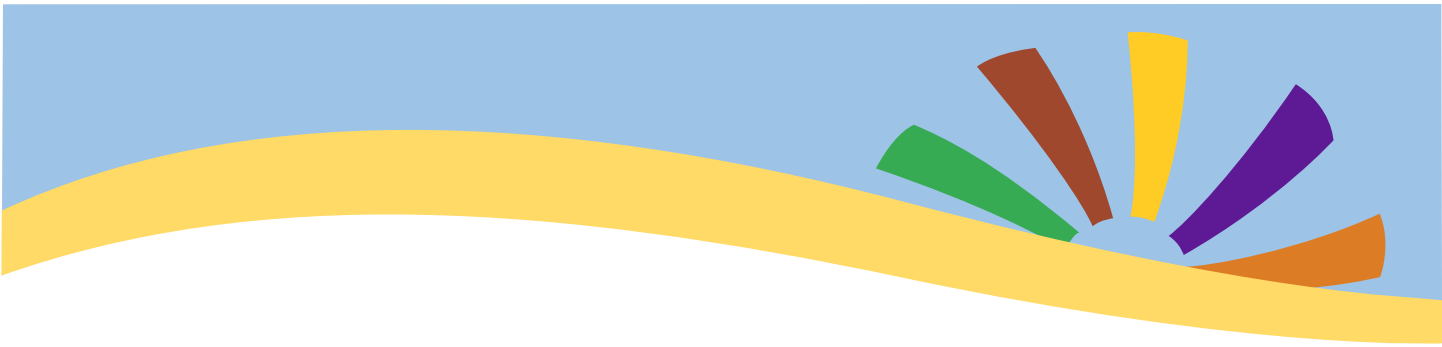


- Full-color mask
- “Hye” quality
- Show your Yettem pride!
- Support St. Mary Yettem
- \$5 Donation



100% of money received on this project goes to the church thanks to a generous donation from David and Lisa Krause.





# St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem Monthly Raffle Fundraiser

Donation  
\$20 per ticket

\* Each month a drawing will be held in which you have a chance to WIN three (3) times each month, starting in January 2021. The drawings will be held at our individual monthly events that take place during the year. You do not need to be present to win.

**First Prize: \$150**  
**Second Prize: \$100**  
**Third Prize: \$50**

For information: email Tina Peters at [hyetinapeters@live.com](mailto:hyetinapeters@live.com) or call/text (559)967-2593





**Exaltation of the Holy Cross  
Celebrating Our New Priest - Der Mashdots  
September 13, 2020**



**Grandparents' Day  
September 13, 2020**



## *A Message from Father Mashdots*

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Saint Mary Church Yettem,

The Lord brings us to the door of our hearts and spirits. He invites each of us to gather our forces together, keep the church, Armenians, schools, culture and our mother tongue unitedly, organized in order to fulfill our duty to us. All of us have the responsibility to encourage our children to preserve the Armenian identity and Christian faith so that we have a strong community in the future. We cling to our tongue and stand up for our church as our strongest faith, so that we can ride the boat of our spiritual life in exchange for winds until we reach the cellar of Christ. Beloved, today more than ever, we need to strengthen our faith in the example of Vartanants so that we can survive and live as true Christians.

After all, never more than before, we need to confirm our identity. Say no to all sorts of false promises that will undermine our identity and the continuation of our existence.

I would like to thank the Yettem community, Parish Council, Ladies Society, Altar Servers, Choir and ACYO for welcoming and supporting my family.

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St. Mary Armenian Church

P.O. Box 367

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