



ԵՂԵՍ

Հրատարակութիւն

Եղեմի Ս. Աստուծածին

Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

YETTEM

A publication of St. Mary

Armenian Church

Yetem, California

JANUARY 2020

**PRIMATE'S MESSAGE  
ON THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY AND THEOPHANY  
JANUARY 6, 2020**

**EMMANUEL – GOD IS WITH US!**

The significance of Christmas is embedded in this simple affirmation. As we celebrate the miraculous birth of Christ, we become more cognizant of God's perpetual presence in our lives. With the birth of Baby Jesus, God himself visits the human race, embarking on His earthly redemptive mission. God becomes incarnate to dwell with us, to give us spiritual birth so that we may align our paths and live according to His commandments and personal examples.

When we celebrate the Nativity and Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, first and foremost, we confess His divine intervention and lasting presence in our lives. We proclaim that God is with us and therefore, with that conviction, we direct our lives toward the good and the beautiful, toward divine perfection and creativity.

When we reflect on God's presence in our lives, we experience a revelation and a spiritual rebirth, which in turn fill our lives with new resolutions, commitments and visions.

Engulfed in the spirit of New Year and Christmas, as a spiritual servant of the Holy Armenian Apostolic Mother Church, I pray to God, beseeching that He transforms our hearts and makes them a warm manger for the newborn King to abide. In our prayer, we recall the words of St. Nersess the Graceful found in the Service of Peace Hour, where he says, "*And a child is born, a son has been given to us, **for God is with us.** And his authority is upon his shoulders, **for God is with us.** And his name is called messenger of great counsel, **for God is with us.** And wonderful counselor, **for God is with us.** And God the mighty prince, **for God is with us.** And prince of peace Father of the One to come, **the Lord God is with us.**"*

Our ancestors lived their lives with that strong conviction that God was with them. That notion gave them strength and confidence to build the Fatherland and the Church, to create spiritual values and missions, high moral standards and culture, science and arts. They have created a great future for the generations to come, for they knew that God was with them.

Emmanuel – God is with us. When we declare this affirmation out loud, we experience a moment of self-reflection, spiritual transformation and a beginning of a new life. In addition, we acquire a higher level of spiritual self-awareness or self-confidence, if you will, to answer God's call and re-evaluate our lives with His presence.

It is unfortunate that due to today's life circumstances, we often times fail to season our lives with prayer. As a result, we distance ourselves from God and reject His presence, resembling an uprooted tree doomed to die in a short period of time. In our case, having time-limited lives means being deprived from spirituality, which is truly fatal. It is part of the human nature to be inseparably united with God, without forgetting that we have been created in His image and likeness. Otherwise, we will cease to live and will wither like the uprooted tree.

Beloved in Christ,

In the Nativity and Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, try to discover new life perspectives. Abide in faith, uphold spiritual and moral values, open up your souls to God and keep your hearts warm for the Fatherland and the Holy Church. Do not hesitate to pass on the sacred values and traditions of our church and nation to your children, so that they may be spiritually armored to withstand any and all challenges of the time.

**CHRIST IS BORN AND REVEALED!**

**BLESSED IS THE REVELATION OF CHRIST!**

May God grant peace and prosperity to the world, continued success to Armenia, strength to the church and longevity to our Pontiff, His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians.

Emmanuel –God is with us. May God be with our nation today, tomorrow and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate

## **Parish Notes**

### **CONDOLENCES**

*Our condolences to Joy Poochigian's family who entered her eternal rest on Tuesday, November 26, 2019 and to Nichole Norian's family who entered her eternal rest on Wednesday, December 25, 2019. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.*

### **ALTAR CANDLES DONATION**

*The Choboian Family has donated altar candles in memory of Marion Choboian.*

### **ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS**

- *December 1 – George and Shirley Ouzounian and Family in memory of Michael Artin and Rose Arshalous Megerian and Carnig and Hanum Malkasian*
- *December 8 – Mike and Judy Skaff in memory of Alice Dudukian*
- *December 15 – Jerry and Julie Poochigian and Family in memory of Joy Poochigian*
- *December 22 – Richard, Lillian, Pete and David Safrastian in memory of Jack Barsamian and Pete and Idalene Barsamian*
- *December 22 – The Mikaelian and Agnew families in memory of Carolyn Mikaelian*

### **HOKEHANKIST**

- *December 1 – Michael Artin and Rose Arshalous Megerian and Carnig and Hanum Malkasian, requested by George and Shirley Ouzounian and Family*
- *December 8 – Alice Dudukian, sixteen years after her passing, requested by Mike and Judy Skaff*
- *December 22 – Jack Barsamian, one year after his passing, Idalene Barsamian, one year after her passing and Pete Barsamian, eleven years after his passing, requested by Richard, Lillian, Pete and David Safrastian*
- *December 22 – Carolyn Mikaelian, one year after her passing, requested by the Mikaelian and Agnew families*

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

*(November 23, 2019 – December 26, 2019)*

#### **For Repose of Alice Dudukian's Soul**

- *Skaff, Mike and Judy*

#### **For Repose of Jack Barsamian's Soul**

- *Richard, Lillian, Pete and David Safrastian*

#### **For Repose of Pete and Idalene Barsamian's Souls**

- *Richard, Lillian, Pete and David Safrastian*

### **Food Festival Chair Open**

*Jim Soxman has resigned as chairman of the Armenian Food Festival and Shish Kebob Luncheon due to physical problems. The Food Festival has been held for 42 years, and the Shish Kebob Luncheon for 11. Both of these are important as major fund raisers in support of the church. In addition, these events provide a way for a large number of members and supporters to show support for the church and Armenian culture. It is vital to continue these efforts, and to do so we need help in the form of a new chairman or chairmen. If you are able and willing to help, we need you to do so in the near future; planning for the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Armenian Food Festival starts in March, 2020. To indicate your interest in serving, please call parish council chairperson Bea Soxman (623-2390), or church secretary Sonya Barton (528-6892).*

*Former chairman Jim Soxman is more than willing to share timelines, contacts, forms and needed supply lists. He will provide any help needed to keep these events going. Please feel free to call Jim (936-2227) for more information on what the chairmanship entails.*

### ***Ladies Society News***

**KRISDOS DZUNAV YEV HAYDNETZAV!  
ORHNYAL EH HAYDNBOOTYOONUN**

**KRISDOSI!** A very warm Christmas greetings to all of you from all of us at Ladies Society.

Our annual **Holiday Bazaar** was **Sunday, December 8**. This timeless Yетtem tradition once again did not disappoint. It was a festive time with our lively auction conducted by John Kalfayan and Charlie Davidian, a fun raffle, and goodies from the Country Store. Thank you to our hard-working committee chaired by Bea Soxman and her committee, Debbie Agnew, Margie L. Davidian, Shirley Ouzounian, Tina Peters, Debbie Sheklian, Donna Torosian, Nancy Krikorian, Tracy Valencia, Janice McWilliams, Adrienne Poochigian, Judy Skaff, Julie Poochigian, Madlien Hebesha, and Sandy Kalfayan. Thank you to each of our ladies and our community members who donated items for the auction, raffle, and country store. The meat for the meal was graciously donated by the Ways and Means Committee. With your help we deposited to date \$7802. We still have more income and expenses to calculate. A very warm and gracious thank you goes to each of you who attended, made a purchase, and helped us make this event a success.

A special executive board meeting was held on December 5 for election of officers. Our 2020 officers are Chairlady Linda Farsakian-Wall, Vice Chairlady Margie L. Davidian, Recording Secretary Annie Davidian, Corresponding Secretary Mari Louise Menendian, Treasurer Gina Ananian, and Advisors Madlien Hesbesha and Donna Torosian.

Our first general meeting for the year is January 11, 11:30 at the church hall. We invite all perspective members to join us.

Birthday wishes for January goes out to Adrienne Poochigian, Donna Torosian, Hasmik Gregory, and Peggy Fernandez. We wish them all God's blessings.

***Peace and joy to all of you this coming year.***

Linda Farsakian-Wall  
Chairlady

***St. Mary Armenian Church Armenian Christmas Luncheon will be held on Sunday, January 5, 2020 sponsored by the Ways and Means Committee. Special Christmas program presented by the Sunday School students. (See flyer)***

***Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday, January 16, 2020 in the Majarian Hall at 7:00 p.m.***

***ACYO Convention will be held January 17-19, 2020 at the Western Diocese in Burbank.***

***Faith of Zion will sponsor fellowship on Sunday, January 19, 2020 after Divine Liturgy and will also have a meeting***

***Ways and Means meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at Ryan's in Visalia at 6:00 p.m.***

### **SAVE THE DATE**

***Parish Assembly Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 9, 2020.***

### **SAVE THE DATE**

***Poon Paregentan will be held on Sunday, February 23, 2020 after Divine Liturgy in the Majarian Hall.***

***Sunday School meets on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 11:00 a.m. during the school year. Welcome all children!***

***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.***

***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.***

***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 are now 28 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)*

**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.*

*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.*

*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!*

**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

## JANUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5 Divine Liturgy/Blessing of Water/Baptism of our Lord Ways and Means Luncheon + Sunday School program	6 <b>Armenian Christmas</b>	7 Divine Liturgy at 10:30 Remembrance of the Dead	8	9	10	11 Ladies Society meeting in the Majarian Hall at 11:30 am ACYO meeting
12 Feast of the Naming of our Lord Jesus Christ Sunday School meets	13	14	15	16 Parish Council meeting in the Majarian Hall at 7:00 pm	17 ACYO Convention January 17-19 at the Western Diocese Burbank	18 ACYO Convention
19 ACYO Convention Faith of Zion fellowship and meeting	20 <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b>	21	22	23	24	25
26 Sunday School meets	27	28	29	30	31	1

### Sunday Schedule:

Morning Service (Matins) 9:45 AM  
Divine Liturgy

### Father Zaven can be reached at:

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

ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH YETTEM

SAVE THE DATE

PILGRIMAGE TO ARMENIA

SEPTEMBER 2020



For more information call to the church office

(559)528-6892



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

**Armenian Christmas Luncheon  
Sunday, January 5, 2020**

**immediately following the day's worship**

**Menu**

**Lulu Kebab**

**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.**





*SAVE THE DATE:*

*Sunday, February 23, 2020*

**POON PAREGENTAN**

*ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH, YETTEM  
MAJARIAN HALL*

*Look for more information in the  
coming weeks...*

**Sponsored by the Ways and Means  
Committee**

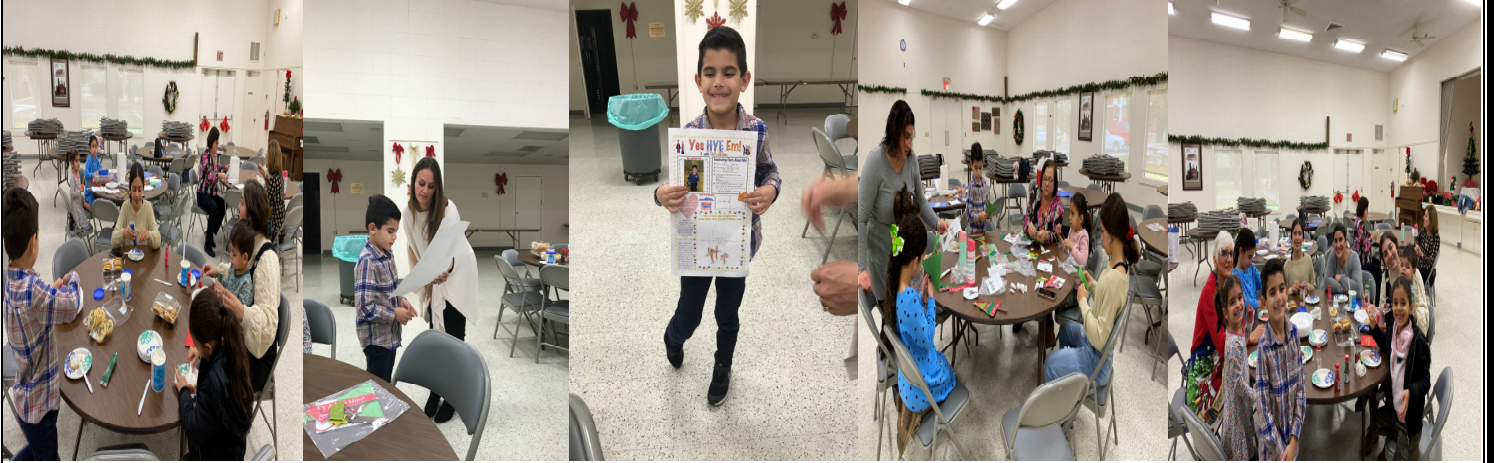




# Annual Ladies' Society Christmas Bazaar



Sunday School Christmas Party  
December 22, 2019



ACYO Christmas Party, Meeting  
December 14, 2019





**Feast of the Holy Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

Each year, on January 6, the Armenian Apostolic Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ, which is the commemoration of the Birth and Baptism of Jesus Christ. God was incarnated and appeared to the people. During the Baptism of Jesus God the Father said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased" (Mt 3:17) and the Holy Spirit descended on Christ in the form of dove, so God appeared to the people for the second time. So, both Theophanies revealed by means of the Birth and Baptism of Jesus Christ are celebrated in the Armenian Church jointly on January 6. the eve, in the and is continued after eve a solemn Liturgy is celebrated solemn Divine Liturgy conclusion of the Blessing of the Waters symbolizing the the River Jordan at of His ministry. By Baptism Jesus blessed



The feast starts on evening of January 5, the midnight. On the Candlelight Divine and on January 6 a is celebrated. At the Divine Liturgy Service is conducted Baptism of Christ in the commencement means of His water.

Celebrant priest pours drop by drop into water. According to take some blessed water with them to use it as a medicinal remedy for the sick. After Blessing of the Waters Service the priests visit the houses of the faithful to proclaim the Christmastide Good News of the Birth of Jesus Christ and hence the tradition of Blessing of the Houses was formed.

out the Holy Chrism water and blesses the the tradition people

The Birth of Jesus happened in this way. "In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ... And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." (Lk 2:1-7) The Son of God was born in poverty, in a manger. The witnesses of His Birth were the shepherds living out in the fields nearby, whom the angels had appeared and brought the good news of the Birth of the Savior singing: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." (Lk 2:18)

St. Mary Armenian Church

Non-Profit Organization

P.O. Box 367

U.S. Postage Paid

Yettem, California 93670

Permit No.1

Return Service Required

