



ԵՂԵՄ

Հրատարակություն

Եղեմի Ս. Աստուծածին

Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

YETTEM

A publication of St. Mary

Armenian Church

Yettem, California

DECEMBER 2016

Pastoral thoughts

The year 2016 is almost over. One more year has passed and now we think about all the activities that we organized within this year. Lots of people have worked diligently to make our programs successful and I think this is an appropriate moment to thank them all and to raise our prayers, in front of God, to keep all our people healthy and successful in their mission and in their family life. Dear parishioners, our cooperative works are the most precious accomplishments which we reach due to our faith, respect to each other and mutual confidence. These are values which we need to preserve and convey to our children. Church can bring together souls and glorify them in God's presence.

Working for our church we clean our souls from sins. It helps us to bring satisfaction for our innermost existence. When you do work like this you feel involved among people, and through your devotion to God's people you cooperate in His creation. With this kind of feelings we need to close every year and start the New Year with a new strength and with a new hope. The end of the old year and the beginning of the New Year is a period which is a wonderful chance for us to practice our spiritual preparation. This is the appropriate time for us to be accountable in front of God. Our feelings and our emotions remind us about our responsibilities, when we say farewell to the old year and we celebrate the beginning of the New Year. Unfortunately, the majority of people celebrate the New Year event as a secular celebration, but of course it contains great celestial happiness.

For us as human beings, to enjoy and to be part of this heavenly celebration there are certain things that we need to overcome at the beginning. Confession, communion and renewal are very important circumstances which gain more importance every year when we celebrate the New Year event. I am confident that we all have this consciousness and God will consider us worthy children to help all of us to succeed in our spiritual journey which starts with the New Year. Every year during this period we also live with a wonderful mood of Christmas. Every time when we celebrate Christmas we receive God's blessing to renew our covenant with God, with newborn Jesus. As a Christian we need to focus on this mission. Otherwise we will have a celebration which is empty from spiritual and religious realities. Christmas brings us peace fixed with new thoughts which can establish among people new understanding, new attitude, new hope and new love toward God's creation. We are a major part of this creation as human beings and this understanding should come from us. May God forgive us for our sins and may He consider us worthy children to enjoy the above mentioned heavenly goodness. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

With Love of Christ

Rev. Fr. Zaven Markosyan





Հովվական

Գրեթե իր ավարտին է հասնում 2016 թվականը: Մենք ավարտում ենք ևս մեկ տարի և հիմա մտածում ենք այն աշխատանքների մասին, որ կազմակերպեցինք անցնող 2016 թվականի ընթացքում: Բավականին թվով մարդիկ աշխատեցին ջանասիրաբար, հաջողելու համար բոլոր միջոցառումները, որ ծրագրված էին: Ես կարծում եմ, որ սա շատ լավ առիթ է ևս մեկ անգամ գնահատելու, շնորհավորելու բոլորին և մեր աղոթքները բարձրացնելու առ Աստված նրանց միշտ առողջություն պարգևելու և օրհնելու իրենց առաքելության մեջ, ինչպես նաև ընտանեկան կյանքում: Մեր համատեղ ձեռքբերումներն ամենաթանկ բանն են, որին մենք հասնում ենք շնորհիվ մեր հավատքի, իրար նկատմամբ ունեցած հարգանքի և փոխադարձ վստահության: Մրանք արժեքներ են, որոնք մենք պետք է պահպանենք և փոխանցենք մեր երեխաներին:

Եկեղեցին կարող է միացնել հոգիներն ու փառավորել Աստվածային ներկայության մեջ: Աշխատելով մեր եկեղեցու համար՝ մենք մաքրում ենք մեր հոգին մեղքերից: Այն օգնում է ներքին բավարարվածություն ստանալ, ներգրավված լինել մարդկանց մեջ և Աստծո արարածներին նվիրվելու միջոցով համագործակցել Աստծուն Իր Արարչության մեջ: Նման զգացողություններով մենք պետք է փակենք ամեն անցնող տարի և սկսենք գալիք նոր տարին, նոր ներուժով և նոր հույսով: Ամեն անցնող տարվա վերջը և նոր տարվա սկիզբը մեր երկրային կյանքի հանգրվաններից մեկն է, երբ մենք պետք է փորձենք մեր հոգևոր պատրաստվածությունը: Այն համապատասխան պահն է Աստծո առաջ պատասխանատվության: Մենք կամենանք թե ոչ, մեր զգացողությունները հուշում են մեզ այդ մասին: Դժբախտաբար մարդկանց մեծամասնությունը տոնակատարում են Ամանորն՝ իբրև աշխարհիկ տոնակատարություն: Մակայն այն իր մեջ ներառում է ամենամեծ երկնային ուրախությունը: Մեզ համար՝ որպես մարդկային էակներ կան որոշակի հանգամանքներ, որոնք նախ և առաջ պետք է հաղթահարենք և ապա մաս կազմենք այդ երկնային ուրախությունների: Գիտակցումը մեր մեղքերի, խոստովանություն, հաղորդություն, փոխակերպում սրանք շատ կարևոր պարագաներ են, որոնք ավելի իմաստ են ձեռք բերում Նոր Տարվա տոնախմբման ժամանակ: Ես համոզված եմ, որ մենք բոլորս ունենք այս գիտակցությունը:

Ամեն տարի այս ժամանակահատվածում մենք ապրում ենք Սուրբ Ծննդյան տրամադրություններով: Ամեն տարի, երբ մենք տոնախմբում ենք Սուրբ Ծնունդը մենք ստանում ենք օրհնություն նորոգելու մեր ուխտը Աստծո հետ, Նորածին Հիսուսի հետ: Որպես քրիստոնյա՝ մենք պետք է կենտրոնանանք այս առաքելության ուղղությամբ: Այլապես մենք կունենանք տոնակատարություն գուրկ կրոնական և հոգևոր իրողություններից: Սուրբ Ծնունդը բերում է մեզ խաղաղություն ամրագրված նոր մտածումներով, որոնք կարող են հաստատել մարդկանց մեջ նոր գիտակցություն, նոր վերաբերմունք, նոր հույս, և նոր սեր դեպի Աստծո Արարչությունը: Թող Աստված օրհնի բոլորիս և թող արժանի համարի վայելելու երկնային ուրախությունները: Շնորհավոր Նոր Տարի և Սուրբ Ծնունդ:

*Քրիստոսի Սիրով
Տեր Զավեն քին. Մարկոսյան*

Parish Notes

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

THIS DECEMBER 2016 BULLETIN IS SPONSORED BY CAROL MARANIAN IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND JOHN.

ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

- **November 6, 2016 – Phyllis and Alan Borba in honor of their Granddaughter Marley Ananian's baptism.**
- **November 13, 2016 – The Sheklian Family in memory of what would have been Marguerite Sheklian's 65th birthday on November 13.**
- **November 20, 2016 – Chuck and Susie Simonian in honor of their 11th anniversary.**

HOKEHANKIST

- **November 13– Veterans Archie Akizian, Jack Cherkizian, Charlie Davidian and Armen Kendig who died serving our country during World War II as requested by Mary Jane Poochigian and for Marguerite Sheklian as requested by the Sheklian Family.**

Our condolences to the family of Anna Kalfayan who entered her eternal rest on October 27th in Visalia. Services were held on Friday, November 4th in our church.

The Ladies Society will be holding their 2nd Annual Christmas Holiday Bazaar on Sunday, December 4th following church services. For more information see the flier in this month's bulletin.

The regular monthly Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday, December 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the hall.

The Parish Council will be hosting Fellowship on Sunday, December 18, 2016, after the Divine Liturgy in the Majarian Hall.

ACYO will be having their Christmas Party at Visalia Lanes on Sunday, December 18, 2016, beginning at 6PM. For more information contact David Safrazian.

Our ACYO members are offering to put up Christmas lights and other decorations for our parishioners who want some help. For more information or to schedule an appointment call David Safrazian at (559) 802-7593.

Armenian Religious and Language classes will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month after the Divine Liturgy. If you are interested, please contact the Church Office at (559) 528-6892 or Fr. Zaven at (818) 644-9398.

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

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

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.

EASY MONEY: ESCRIP

We began the eScrip program in April. As of July 20 St. Mary Church has earned \$189.40. This is done by 3% rewards earned on purchases at Save Mart, Lucky, and Food Maxx stores. We have 27 registered members in the eScrip program and 18 of these have used the program. To do so, all you have to do is give your phone number as you check out of these stores. If you have not registered in the eScrip program, sign up at Shares...powered by eScrip (<http://www.escrip.com/shares>) and designate St. Mary Armenian Church as your charity of choice. If you have difficulty signing up please call me (Jim Soxman, 733-8741) and I will do it for you.

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. 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 St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church in Yetteem 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 Yetteem web-site (www.stmaryyetteem.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.

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 -2:30.

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.stmaryyetteem.org includes archived copies of church bulletins, pictures from events, a current church calendar, and an improved LIVE Camera System. With the new camera system, it is possible to watch services on any desktop, laptop, or tablet system. 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.

St. Mary Armenian Church, Yettem

December

2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Ladies Society 2 nd Annual Holiday Christmas Bazaar	5	6	7	8 Spiritual Conversation At 2 PM	9	10
11 Sunday School	12	13	14	15 Parish Council Meeting at 7 PM	16	17
18 Religion and Armenian Language Class after Liturgy Fellowship sponsored by Parish Council ACYO Christmas Dinner at Visalia Lanes at 6 PM	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Western Christmas Sunday School	26	27	28 Religion and Armenian Language Classes at 6:30 PM	29	30	31 New Years' Eve

Sunday Schedule:

Morning Service (Matins) – 9:45 A.M.

Divine Liturgy – 10:30 A.M.

Sunday School – 2nd & 4th Sundays @ 11 A.M.

Father Zaven can be reached at:

559-528-6892 - Office

559-528-6897 - FAX

Christmas Bazaar



St. Mary Armenian Church

**Ladies Society 2nd Annual Holiday
Christmas Bazaar**

Sunday, December 4, 2016

In the Majarian Hall following Divine Liturgy

Luncheon:

\$12.00 for adults

\$ 8.00 for children 10 and under



**Country Store,
raffle, and live auction!**

**We will also have kufta and manti
for sale!**



Christmas Decorating

Need help decorating your house Christmas?

ACYO will come to your house and do it for you!

Indoor or outdoor? No problem!

Let us know when you would like it done
and we will schedule a time to come out.

Please contact:

David Safrazian at (559) 802-7593



Donations are appreciated.



Armenian Martyrs' Monument Project



The fathers and mothers of our parish commemorated our Armenian Martyrs' in the first genocide of the twentieth century by locating a Martyrs' Monument on our church grounds. The monument is now in need of repair. The cost of repair is \$12,600 which is beyond our budgeted expenditures. Please donate towards this repair project so we can proudly carry on the wishes of our church fathers and mothers.

___\$500 ___\$250 ___\$100 ___\$50 ___\$25 ___{other – list amount}

Name _____

Address _____

Dona Hovhannisyan Presents Program to Ladies Society

November 5, 2016



On Saturday, November 5, 2016, Dona Hovhannisyan, current Armenian foreign exchange student, spoke at the Ladies Society meeting. She made a poster board presenting Armenian national culture that showed Armenian national foods, dresses and pictures of churches. Her presentation also included some historical references.

She says: "I am proud that I am Armenian and I had a chance to present my country for St. Mary, Yetem congregation. Thanks to all Armenians in Visalia and my host mom for letting me share my thoughts and feelings about our country."



ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH , YETTEM
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

*Armenian Christmas Luncheon
Sunday, January 8, 2017*

immediately following the day's worship

Menu

*Lulu Kebab
Pilaf
Salad
Cheese Beorag
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 program.*



WESTERN DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA
90TH ANNIVERSARY
2017

In 2017 the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of the North America will celebrate 90th Anniversary. The Diocese was formally established in 1898 as one region and later, in 1927, it was divided into three separate regions (Eastern United States, Western United States and Canada).

Information about the celebrations will follow.



Commemoration of St. Stephen the Protomartyr and the first martyr



St. Stephen is one of the most beloved saints of the Universal Church, the first person martyred for the sake of Christ's doctrine of love.

According to the hagiographical sources he was from the royal dynasty of Judas and was the son of law-abiding parents. Still a young man he was the servant of the chief priest Kayipaya. According to the same sources when the Lord was taken to home, Stephen took off the cloth from his head and spread it under the Lord's feet thus expressing his true and sincere love. This naturally annoyed the chief priest and he turned Stephen out. Stephen witnessed the death and burial of the Lord but rejoiced with the apostles for the Glorious Resurrection of Christ. According to St. Gregory of Tatev he went to the apostles Peter and John and was baptized. At the moment of baptism an aureole (crown) appeared on the water. After that miraculous event he was called "Stephen" meaning (crowned). From the Acts of the Apostles it is known that after the Pentecost apostles served the tables and gave subsidies to the poor. From day to day increased the number of those who believed in Christ. As the apostles were unable to meet the needs of everybody, asked their disciples to choose 7 persons of good reputation for serving the tables. According to St. Luke the Evangelist one of them was St. Stephen, "... a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6:5). By the power received from Christ apostles ordained him deacon. Thanks to his God-granted virtues and power Stephen worked wonders. Many people tried to argue with him, but no one was as wise as Stephen. So, some ill-willing persons persuaded some people to say that Stephen scolded God and the Prophet Moses. Inciting the people, the priests and the lawyers they took Stephen to the court. In his speech in his defense Stephen proved that Jesus was the promised Messiah, and reproached the Jews for their cruelty. He was stoned out of the city and his cloths were put before a man whose name was Saul and who later became the Apostle Peter. In the beginning he persecuted Christians but later he knew the true God – Jesus Christ, and became the most zealous preacher of the Gospel. St. Stephen was the first person martyred for the sake of Christ and that's why he is called Protomartyr.

According to the tradition Gamaliel, the teacher of the Apostle Peter, and Nicodemus, his brother, who were secrete disciples of Jesus, buried the saint's body in their farm. Soon a priest named Lukianus discovered the relics. And Pontiff Hovhan of Jerusalem put them in St. Sion. In the V century Princess Juliane found the saint's tabernacle in Jerusalem and took it to Constantinople, and later – to Venice and buried it in the Church of St. George (St. Gevorg) island.

St. Mary Armenian Church

Non-Profit Organization

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