



YETTEM ԵՂԵՄ

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

May 2021

**“Do not quench the Spirit”
(1 Thessalonians 5:19)**

This message uplifts our hearts and brings healing to our suffering nation. Suffering has been infused in the blood of our people. It seems as though the journey of our nation and Motherland will never change, for it will be the path to Golgotha. Having faced this reality, we have thousand reasons to instill in the depth of our hearts the message of the Apostle “Do not quench the spirit.”

We will always follow the message of the Apostle which reminds us all that the journey of our nation has been in harmony with sufferings of Christ, our Lord. Yet it is also the journey leading to Christ’s Victorious Resurrection.

Tonight, gathered with clergy and faithful, we commemorate the memory of the saints of the first genocide of the 20th century. We also pray for the brave soldiers of our nation who sacrificed their lives in last year’s Artsakh War.

The commemoration of the saints of the genocide and the commemoration of the sacrificial lives of young and brave soldiers must be honored with due respect and renewed commitment for the sacred land of Armenia, for the holy traditions of our nation and for the trust in the upcoming generations. If we fail to do so, we then walk the path of doom.

“Do not quench the spirit.” This divine message, addressed to us all, must also echo in our being, for it reminds us the mission of our life “For Jesus, for the Motherland.”

Our ancestors have walked through turbulent paths of sufferings, knowing that through their sufferings, the doorway to everlasting life will open before them and us. Thus, the light of the Resurrection never faded away in their hearts. History has witnessed this reality and we attest to their sacrifice with resolute faith. Any attempt to show weakness in honoring their memory and demanding justice will be the tolerance and acceptance of injustice. In the history of our nation for the past 106 years, countless courageous milestones have been recorded despite the fact that we have been let down numerous times.

Continued on the last page

Parish Notes

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Isabel Chilpighian and family on the recent passing of her brother, Harry Horsanian.

EASTER LILY DONATIONS

Jeff, Melynda, Adam, Faith and
Our little angel Rachel Baskovich
Margie L. Davidian
Jerry and Julie Poochigian
Myron and Debbie Sheklian

EASTER ALTAR CANDLE OIL DONATIONS

Ed and Georgia Davidian
Jerry and Julie Poochigian

UNSALTED BUTTER DONATION

Jerry and Julie Poochigian

ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

April 11th – Margie, Annie, Sara Davidian in honor of Greg and Margie's 46th wedding anniversary, which would have been April 11th.

April 18th – Rich and Janice McWilliams and Family, Alan and Phyllis Borba and Family, and Jeff and Becky Akin and Family in memory of Harry and Laura Davidian and Chad Tellian and in honor of their parents, wedding anniversary.

April 25th – Sark Davidian, Jr. in memory of his daughter, Cesily Jade Davidian and Pete Majarian

ALTAR CANDLE DONATION

April 11th – Sky and Gregory Davidian in honor of their dad, Greg Davidian's 70th birthday on April 5th.

TRICKY TRAY DONATIONS

ACYO would like to thank those who donated and/or purchased Tricky Tray baskets on Easter Sunday. Between the dinner proceeds and the Tricky Tray sales our ACYO netted \$2,900.

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

April 11th

Gregory Davidian

Forty days after his passing

John Davidian

Thirty-two years after his passing

Annie Davidian

Forty-five years after her passing

Requested by Margie A. Davidian and Family.

April 18th

Vartan Khanjian

Three years after his passing

Requested by Fr. Mashdots, Yn. Maral, Hagop-Pegor and Family.

Harry Davidian

Eleven years after his passing

Laura Davidian

Four years after her passing

Chad Tellian

Forty-five years after his passing

Requested by Rich and Janice McWilliams and Family, Alan and Phyllis Borba and Family, and Jeff and Becky Akin and Family.

April 25th

Cesily Jade Davidian

Ten years after her passing

Pete Majarian

Ten years after his passing

Requested by Sark Davidian, Jr.

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

(March 22, 2021 – April 25, 2021)

For Repose of Gregory Davidian's Soul

April 11th – Annie L. Davidian, Shirley Dawson, Serge and Judith Ananian, Jeff and Janet Belknap, David and Lisa Krause

For Repose of Laura and Harry Davidian and Chad Tellian's Souls

April 18th – Rich and Janice McWilliams



THANK YOU

During Holy Week there were many parishioners working behind the scenes for our church services and events. A special thank you to Deacon Randy Tellalian for cleaning and preparing the Holy Altar for services. Charlie Davidian cut and delivered palm leaves for decorating inside and outside the church for Palm Sunday. Members of the Ladies Society made and decorated palm crosses and candles that were distributed to parishioners at the end of Badarak. The Ways and Means Committee organized and held a highly successful bake sale after Palm Sunday services. Our small, but mighty ACYO and their supportive parents and grandparents prepared and hosted our delicious Easter luncheon that was enjoyed by all under our beautiful Yetem trees.



RAFFLE WINNERS

Our fourth drawing for our St. Mary Armenian Church raffle was held on Easter Sunday, April 4th. Congratulations to...

(\$150) Laurie Menendian

(\$100) Karnig Peters

(\$50) Janice McWilliams

Our fifth raffle drawing will be held on Mother's Day, May 9th. 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.

PARISH COUNCIL CORNER

With one weighty word, President Joe Biden made history on Saturday, April 24th, recognizing the historical massacre of Armenians by the Ottoman Empire during World War One as genocide. Biden went further than any previous occupant of the White House. "The American people honor all those Armenians who perished in the genocide that began 106 years ago today," Biden said in his statement marking the annual Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day.

I believe that everything we do at St. Mary Yetem does indeed honor our parents, grandparents, great grandparents, and great-great grandparents who perished or survived the Genocide of 1915.

This past month we celebrated Easter, the Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ, outdoors under a canopy of trees similar to those our forefathers first gathered under. The youth of our parish once again sponsored a luncheon following services, as has been done for years. We continue to flourish in our very active parish as can be documented throughout this edition of the monthly bulletin and to me, that is how we best show our respect and acknowledge the atrocity of the past.



Myron Sheklian

Parish Council Chair

Hall Bathroom Remodeling

We gratefully acknowledge Janice and Rich McWilliams and Phyllis and Alan Borba for a major remodeling of the unisex and accessible bathroom located in the Majarian Hall. The two families joined together to plan, purchase, and install a brand-new sink, vanity, mirror, toilet, and accessories for the restroom. This restroom is used by all ages and by those with mobility issues. Thank you for your continued generosity in the spirit of your long-time St. Mary Yetem family.

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

May is mother's month. Our beloved Virgin Mary showed us the true meaning of motherhood. She willingly accepted God's call to bare his Son, gave her son over to the people, and then bore witness to his crucifixion. She did this all with unwavering love and sacrifice for the whole of mankind. This month we honor her and all the mothers of our church both past and present.

We at St. Mary, Yettem Ladies Society are taking this time to honor the mothers of our church with a Mother's Day luncheon. This glorious event will be held Saturday, May 8th, 11:30 AM under the beautiful church yard trees and catered by the Vintage Press. Menu choices are curried chicken salad or spinach salad topped with strawberries and grilled chicken. Children's menu is chicken tenders with fries. Price is \$30 for adults and \$15 for children. For reservations email your meal choice and number in your party to lunch@stmaryyettem.org or call the church office at 559-528-6892. Deadline for reservations is May 1.

May's monthly meeting is Saturday, May 1st at 1:00 PM at the church hall. This is a dessert only meeting. To honor and remember our mothers, bringing something of your mothers to share.

Get ready! Hot Dog drive thru is back, Saturday, June 5th, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM at the church. Five dollars (\$5) buys you a hot dog, chips, 2 cookies, and bottled water. Additional hot dogs are \$1.00 each.

To kick it up a notch, we are having a Jail 'n Bail Fundraiser along with the drive-thru. For \$20, you can request to have a fellow parishioner jailed. The jailbirds will then have to raise money for the church to get bailed out of jail. Watch out, you won't be able to hide from our deputies!

Birthday wishes for May go out to Tina Peters, Janice McWilliams, Bea Soxman, Judy Skaff, and Marilyn Zerounian. We wish them all God's blessings.

*Linda Farsakian-Wall
Chairlady*

MOTHER'S DAY REQUIEM

At the close of the Divine Liturgy on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9, 2021 a general Requiem Service/Hokehankist will be conducted in memory of all the deceased mothers of our parish.

CALLING ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS!

Sunday School has started back in person classes. Sunday School meets on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 11:00 AM. All Sunday school age students are welcomed and encouraged to attend! Please contact Tracy Valencia for any questions at 559-824-0913.

2021 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

The Diocesan Assembly meeting this year will be conducted in person for clergy only on Wednesday, May 5th. Then on Thursday and Friday the Ladies Society and the Diocesan Assembly meetings will be conducted by Zoom.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Ways and Means Committee next meeting will be held via Zoom on May 13th at 6:30 PM.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, May 18th at 7:00 PM.

ACYO

ACYO's next Zoom meeting will be held on Sunday, May 23rd at 3:30 PM.

GRADUATION season is here once again. We would like to acknowledge our graduates in the June 2021 issue of YETTEM. Accordingly, you are asked to submit the names, pertinent information and a photo to sonya@stmaryyettem.org or call the church office at (559) 528-6892 no later than Friday, May 21, 2021.

HOME BLESSINGS

Father Mashdots has resumed a schedule of **Home Blessings**. Steps have been taken to address current health and safety concerns. If you are interested in having your home blessed, please call the church office or Der Mashdots.

ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

Assignment letter and tickets for the 43rd Annual Armenian Food Festival were sent out at the end of the month. If you can help on that day or need tickets to sale, please contact Margie L. Davidian at (559) 679-8794 or Judy Skaff at (559) 799-1198.

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 \$7,372 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 Yetterm 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.

FACE MASKS

St. Mary Yetterm face masks are available for purchase in the church office or at the Parish Council desk on Sundays. Thank you to David and Lisa Krause for this project. Suggested minimum donation for each mask is \$5.

PAYPAL

You may access PayPal through the St. Mary Yetterm 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, Hokehankists, Pledges, Membership Dues, In Lieu of Flowers, or pay for Altar Flowers you have ordered on behalf of the Church.

Fr. 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, so that he can organize a time to contact them. (559) 528-6892 or Reverend Father Mashdots Keshishian at (818) 293-9098.

Church office hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM.

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian
Email: fathermashdots@stmaryyettem.org
Cell (818) 293-9098

Myron Sheklian, Parish Council Chairman
Email: myron@sheklian.com
Cell: (559) 280-7315
Home: (559) 733-4417

Sonya, Church Secretary
Email: sonya@stmaryyettem.org

St. Mary Armenian Church

MAY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Ladies Society Dessert Meeting in the Majarian Hall at 11:30 AM
2	3	4	5 Diocesan Clergy Meeting in Burbank	6 National Day of Prayer Zoom Diocesan Ladies Society Meeting	7 Zoom Diocesan Assembly Meeting	8 Ladies Society Mother's Day Luncheon at 11:30 AM
9 Mother's Day Sunday School	10	11	12	13 Ways and Means Zoom Meeting at 7:00 PM	14	15
16	17	18 Parish Council Zoom Meeting at 6:30 PM	19	20	21	22
23 Sunday School ACYO Zoom meeting at 3:30 PM	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Memorial Day					

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Sunday Schedule:

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

Father Mashdots can be reached at:

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

St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church

Easter Yughakin

2021

Agajanian, Melvin & Regina	Krikorian, Gary and Nancy
Ananian, Charlie and Elizabeth	Margosian, Lucille
Ananian, Gary and Janet	Margosian, Mrs. Rose Marie
Ananian, Serge and Judith	McWilliams, Rich and Janice
Babagian, Peter and Mary	Menendian, David and Ardemis
Borba, Alan and Phyllis	Menendian, Laurie and Fredric
Borba, Alan and Phyllis	Menendian, Mari Louise
Choboian, Sandra	Nunes, Richard and Joyce
Davidian, Charlie and Christina A.	Ouzounian, George and Shirley
Davidian, Edward and Georgia Ann	Peloyan Combs, Richard
Davidian, Margie L	Peters, Darrell & Tina
Ekizian, Lesta	Pilavian, Pierre & Melissa
Emerzian, Leslie and Janice	Poochigian, Jerry and Julie
Farsakian, Larry R. DDS & Wendy	Shapazian, Jerry
Garoian, Gerard and Sylvia	Sheklian, Joann
Gomes, John & Janet	Sheklian, Myron and Debbie
Groefsema, Bruce and Gail	Skaff, Judy and Mike
Hagopian, Richard and Geraldine	Soxman, James and Beatrice
Hebesha, Madlien N.	Tamouzian, Mike
Jendian, Dcn. Allan & Rosemary	Torosian, Patty
Kalfayan, John and Sandra	Toukdarian, Alice and Aresa
Kaprielian, John Ara & Sharon	Vartanian, Sandra
Kizirian, Abe and Sandra	Wall, Mark and Linda
Kourtjian, Hermena	Zakarian, Archie and Kathy
Krause, David & Lisa	Zerounian, Janel E.
Krikorian, Betty	Zerounian, Marilyn
TOTAL	\$4,820.00



St. Mary Armenian Church
Ways and Means Committee

We are back this Year!

**43rd Annual
ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL**

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Visalia Elks Lodge

(3100 W. Main—just East of County Center Dr.)

•Menu•

Choice of Two Entrée Plates

Lulu Kebab -or- Chicken Kebab

Pilaf, Salad, Peda Bread and Bourma

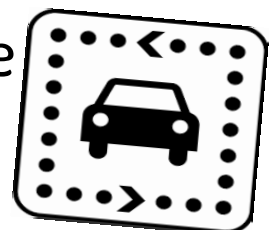
Donation~\$17 per person

Lunch Served—11:00am—2:00pm

Dinner Served—5:00pm—8:00pm

DRIVE THRU ONLY

****For your convenience there will be
Two Drive Thru Lines****



Tickets Available Starting this Month!

Hungry for Hot Dogs?

Let us Feed YOU...AND

Bring the WHOLE FAMILY too!



Drive-Thru

(St. Mary Yettem Church Parking Lot)



Hot Dog Feed

Saturday, June 5, 2021

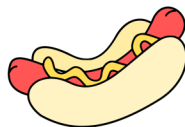
11:30am—1:00pm

\$5.00 per Meal

Meal includes:

1 Hot Dog, 1 Bag of Chips, 2 Cookies, 1 Bottled Water

Additional Hot Dogs -or- Chips -or- Water—\$1.00 each



☞ Church will be Open for those who would like to

“light a Candle and/or say a Prayer” ☞

Organized by the St. Mary Yettem Ladies Society

Palm Sunday and Holy Week 2021





Easter Sunday 2021

The Armenian spirit will be one of resilience against all odds, challenges and tribulations of the times. We carry within ourselves the sufferings of our ancestors yet what flows in our blood is the call for new life. Tonight's Holy Badarak is dedicated to the sacred memory of our saints. Tonight's badarak is the call of the spirit and is the invitation to rebirth so that we may become sons and daughters of a new nation. We must possess the vision of the victorious resurrection in enriching the gift of life with the creative will, with the love for our Motherland in leading our children with the vision of the new dawn.

The late Catholicos Vazken I has given us a clear message of the Resurrection through his exemplary life. He has seen the light of the resurrection in our nation's life and has defined the resurrection of our nation following the genocide in the Battle of Sardarabad. He has called it an "act of a miracle and the stronghold empowering our Motherland."

He has seen in the sufferings of our nation the light of the resurrection. "Guard and be awake so that the hope of the resurrection may never dwindle in your hearts for it is only through the quench of everlasting life that humanity excels and becomes creative. Without this commitment, the spirit of humanity is dead."

The one and most important and practical act for our survival is the life lived with the faith in Resurrection.

The world is progressing in many ways yet our love and dedication for our Motherland, our Church and sacred traditions remains relentless. Nothing equals the sanctity of Holy of Holies, for a nation's journey is enriched ultimately through the legacy of lasting spiritual and moral values.

Today, as we pray together in this Cathedral, we are united in spirit with our brothers and sisters who are leading their steps toward Tsitsernakaberd. The pinnacle which unites us, purifies our souls, strengthens our commitment, enforces on us all to render due respect for one another as tangible form of homage to our martyred saints. Therefore, let this day be the day of spiritual rebirth, the day of unity, the day to absorb the message of the Apostle, the day to remain in prayer, to love our Motherland, the day to infuse in our spirituality, the vision of the new dawn.

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian
Primate