



YETTEM ՄԳՄՍ



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

August 2023

Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God

The Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God is a non-variable commemoration and the oldest of all those dedicated to St. Mary. The Armenian Church celebrates this feast day on the nearest Sunday to August 15, a practice adopted at the time of St. Nerses the Graceful.

Assumption comprises a week of fasting, Navagadik, and a Memorial Day. In the early centuries, the observance took place over the course of three days; but as arranged by Shnorhali, it was extended to nine days.

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.

According to tradition, following the Ascension of Christ, Mary lived out the rest of her days in Jerusalem, cared for by St. John the Evangelist. She died in Jerusalem some 15 years after Christ's Ascension and was buried in her family tomb in Gethsemane.

After she passed away, all the apostles, save Bartholomew who was absent at that time, conducted her funeral with great ceremony at a cave-like tomb in the Garden of Gethsemane. Later, St. Bartholomew returned and wished to see Mary one last time.

He convinced the apostles to open the tomb, but they could not find her body inside. Angels' voices were heard for three days and nights. The apostles interpreted the angels' singing as a sign that our Lord had assumed, or taken up, his mother into heaven as he had promised her.

They found the empty tomb a confirmation of that promise for she had not been dead, but had fallen asleep. For this reason, the church refers to the end of Mary's earthly life as "the dormition" rather than "death."

The tradition concerning the dormition of the Holy Mother did not become a basic teaching (doctrine) of the church until the 9th century, and it wasn't until the 12th century that the feast was titled "the Assumption."

(Continued on the back page)

Parish Notes

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Sally Zarounian, Carol and Vernon Hovannisian, Gail and Bruce Groefsema and their families, and Priscilla Schott on the passing of ***Gary Zarounian*** on July 12th. A funeral service will be held at St. Mary Yettem on Friday, August 4th at 10:30 AM. Burial to follow at the Visalia Cemetery at 12 Noon. The hokejosh will be held at the Visalia Convention Center in the "Charter Oak" ball room.

Also, on behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Joyce Iskenderian Lewis on the passing of her husband, ***Johnny Lewis*** on June 15th. Our thoughts and prayers are with these families.

ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

July 9th

Lucille Margosian

in memory of

Evelyn Nazalie Boudakian Crowder

Jack Boudakian

Hacher and Mary Boudakian

Charlie and Harry Boudakian

Patricia Boudakian and Kathryn Boudakian

Randy Boudakian

Sherman Crowder and Robert Crowder

Khacher and Shahtane Majarian

Nish Majarian

Estelle Majarian and Danny Majarian

Setrag and Annig Margosian

Amos, Aron, and George Margosian

July 23rd

Gerard and Sylvia Garoian

in memory of

Kurken and Satenig Garoian

Mugerdich and Cheristan Bezdigian

Diran and Zanazan Garoian

Edward and Gladys Tejerian

Mildred Tejerian

Tom Tejerian

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

July 9th

My sister, ***Evelyn Nazalie Boudakian Crowder***
forty days after her passing

My brother, ***Jack Boudakian***
forty days after his passing

My parents, ***Hacher and Mary Boudakian***

My brothers, ***Charlie and Harry Boudakian***

Sister-in-laws, ***Patricia Boudakian***
and Kathryn Boudakian

Nephew, ***Randy Boudakian***

Brother-in-law, ***Sherman Crowder and***
Robert Crowder

Grandparents, ***Khacher and Shahtane Majarian***

Uncle, ***Nish Majarian***

Aunt, ***Estelle Majarian and Danny Majarian***

In-laws, ***Setrag and Annig Margosian***

Family, ***Amos, Aron, and George Margosian***
requested by Lucille Margosian

July 23rd

Kurken and Satenig Garoian
Mugerdich and Cheristan Bezdigian

Diran and Zanazan Garoian

Edward and Gladys Tejerian

Mildred Tejerian

Tom Tejerian

requested by Gerard and Sylvia Garoian

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

(June 26th - July 23rd)

July 9th

For Repose of Evelyn Boudakian

Crowder's Soul

Lucille Margosian

Carrie Margosian

Rose Marie Margosian

The Pilavian Family

The Peters Family

Serge and Judith Ananian

For Repose of Jack Boudakian's Soul

Lucille Margosian

Carrie Margosian

Rose Marie Margosian

The Pilavian Family

The Peters Family

Serge and Judith Ananian

Gerard and Sylvia Garoian

For Repose of Amos Margosian, Aron Margosian,
George Margosian and Lucille Margosian's Family

Members Souls

Lucille Margosian

Carrie Margosian

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

Choreg wrap up: Saturday July 8. Laurie Menendian and Debbie Sheklian chaired the affair. Debbie and Myron Sheklian arrived at 7AM to mix and knead the dough with the big mixer machine in the hall. About 9:00, the rest of the team streamed in. Laurie Menendian and sister Mari Louise Menendian and sister-in-law Ardemis Menendian, Margie L. Davidian, John and Sandy Kalfayan, Sandra Vartanian, Linda Farsakian-Wall, Judy Skaff, Suzie Simonian, and a surprise from Fresno Rosemary and Megan Jendian.

The dough is cut into size for a single choreg, then rolled long and thin with our palms. The trick is braiding into the familiar final form. Menendians learned it from Der Shahe Altounian's Yeretsgin Mary. It's an art. Everybody got pretty good at it. Baste with egg and into the oven for 20 minutes. We ended up with about 50 dozen, bagged and frozen. Unfortunately, (fortunately?), one tray went into the oven without the egg wash. Got to have that egg wash. So we got to taste the result of our labor! Delicious! We were done by 11:00!

Yettem saves the day: What's camp without choreg? Another church made choreg for the first week but they added sesame seeds, an allergy issue. Hye Camp Committee was relieved and delighted to learn that our day to make choreg, sans sesame seeds and sev gundig, was the day before the first week started July 9. Olivia Garabedian of the Committee took our choreg up to camp just in time for the young campers.

Sister Churches Luncheon is Saturday, September 16, hosted by Holy Trinity this year. Flyers will be passed out at our Ladies' Society meeting August 5.

Mari Louise Menendian
Ladies Society Chair

RAFFLE

Our **July and August raffle drawing** of 2023 will be held on **Sunday, August 13th**. The drawing will also be streamed on Facebook. Thank you to our Ways and Means Committee for this great fundraiser for our church.





Biographical Highlight

Edvard Abgaryan was born on April 20, 1984 in the village of Aghavnatun in Armenia's Armavir province.

From 1990 to 2001 he attended school #3 in Metsamor. From 2002 to 2004, Edvard served in the Armenian Armed Forces.

In 2004, he was admitted to the Gevorgian Theological Seminary of Holy Etchmiadzin, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2008. On December 25, 2008, the Feast of St. Stephen the Protodeacon, he was ordained as a deacon by H.E. Abp. Ararat Kaltakjian.

Deacon Edvard graduated from the Gevorgian Theological Seminary in 2010 with a Master of Arts degree. On October 31, 2010, he was ordained as a celibate priest by Bishop Mkrtich Proshyan and was given the priestly name Yeremia.

From 2010 to 2011 he has served as the secretary at the Church and State Relationship Department of the Chancellery of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. He headed the department from 2011 to 2015.

Throughout the Primacy of Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, a number of priests from the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem and various dioceses around the world have been invited to continue their pastoral service at the Western Diocese.

The Very Rev. Fr. Yerima Abgaryan is the newest priest who has been invited by the Diocesan Primate to serve at the Western Diocese. With the blessings of His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, Father Yeremia (baptismal name Edvard) arrived in Los Angeles from the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin on September 10, 2016.

Father Yeremia, will attend a theological university to further his education. Meanwhile, at the Primate's directive, he will serve as a visiting priest.

We will extend a wholehearted welcome on Saint Mary day in the Yetem to the Very Rev. Fr. Yerima Abgaryan.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we want to congratulate Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian and Yn. Maral on the birth of their daughter, **Vart Ann Keshishian** born on July 26th at 12:14 PM. Proud big brother is Hagop Pegor.

DONATIONS

The Paul Armo Family

Judy Barsamian-Armstrong

in honor and memory of my father Pete, my mother, Idalene and my brother Jack Barsamian

Betty Skaff Jacobo

Kenneth and Meredith Khachigian

in memory of Kenneth's brother, Luther J. Khachigian, and Kenneth's parents, John and Elizabeth Khachigian

Ron, Barbara, Paul, Adam, Cortney, and Collette Mortanian

in memory of Mary Mortanian on what would have been her 100th birthday on August 20th

Dianne Philibosian and Thomas Seifert in memory of Mary Berberian Philibosian

Alice Toukdarian

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 10th at 11:00 AM. If you have any questions, please call **Adrienne Poochigian** at (559) 679-8452 or email: alskaff@gmail.com

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

If you are interested in **sponsoring a monthly bulletin** or a **weekly bulletin**, please call the church office at (559) 528-6892. **Sponsorships are a good way to remember or honor family members or friends.** The **weekly bulletin** for a **minimum donation of \$25** or the **monthly bulletin** for a **minimum donation of \$250.**

ST. MARY MEMORIAL WALL

The St. Mary Memorial Wall was started in 2001 and has been a huge success. The original Wall is completely filled. **Two new columns** will be **added soon.** This will make room for an **additional 96 names** at a **donation of \$250/name.** Contact Linda Farsakian-Wall: at (559) 786-1419 or email: linda.hyewall@gmail.com

ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

AUGUST 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 Ladies Society meeting in the Majarian Hall at 11:30 AM
6 Barekendan of the Fast of Assumption	7	8	9	10	11	12 Showers of Radiance of Holy Etchmiadzin
13 Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God Asdvadzadzin Parish Council Luncheon Ways and Means Bake Sale & Famers Market 7 th & 8 th Raffle drawing	14 Remembrance of the dead	15	16	17 Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 6 PM	18	19
20	21	22 Sts. Joachim & Anna, Parents of the Holy Mother-of-God Yettem Social Hyes meeting via Zoom at 6 PM	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Ways and Means meeting via Zoom at 7 PM		

5

Sunday Schedule:
Morning Service (Matins) 9:30 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:15 AM

Office Hours
Tuesday – Friday
9:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Father Mashdots can be reached at:
559-528-6892 – Office
559-528-6897 – FAX
818-293-9098 - Cell

AUGUST 13, 2023

Divine Liturgy will be
celebrated at 10:15 AM



ASDVADZADZIN

BLESSING OF THE GRAPES



DONATION
\$20 for Adults
\$12 for
Children
under 10

Guest Celebrant:

Very Rev. Fr. Yeremia

Abgaryan

Diocese Youth Director

LUNCH WILL FEATURE:

- Chicken Kebab
- Cooked Carrots
- Rice Pilaf
- Dinner Roll
- Salad
- Desserts

**PLEASE RSVP BY
AUGUST 8TH**

 lunches@stmaryyettem.org

 **(559) 528-6892**



Sponsored by the
St. Mary Yettem
Ways and Means Committee



~Asdvadzadzin~

BAKE SALE &
FARMERS MARKET

After Church Services

Sunday, August 13, 2023

- Homemade Baked Goods•
- Fruits and Vegetables•

****SUPPORT the Ways and Means****

Bake Sale—Donations of any Armenian Baked Goods or Specialty Desserts will be accepted the day of the Bake Sale.

Fruits & Vegetables—Do you have a garden, fruit tree(s) in your backyard or access to any fruits or vegetables? Your donation of fruits and/or vegetables would be greatly appreciated to sell at the Farmers Market!

Text or Call Judy Skaff—(559) 799-1198

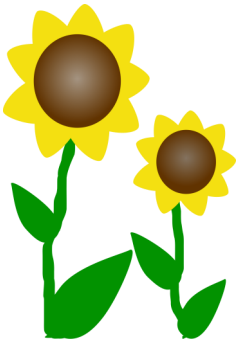
YETTEM SOCIAL HYES



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2023

Come and support our group and enjoy some homemade
treats and baked goods!

After Church Services - Majarian Hall



St. Mary Yettem - Ladies Society

Grandparents Are God's Blessing



Grandparents' Day Brunch

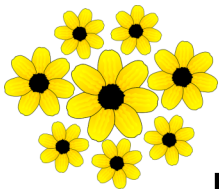
Sunday, September 10, 2023

After church services in the Majarian Hall

✧Delicious Brunch Items✧

Beeshee, Basturma, Soujouk and Eggs
And many more Brunch items to enjoy!

●Adults \$15 ● Children-(10 and under) \$12●



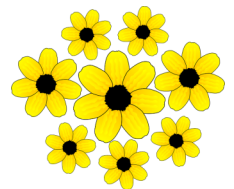
-To Reserve a Table or Seat(s)-

E-mail: lunch@stmaryyettem.org –or–

Call the Church Office — (559) 528-6892

by Wednesday, September 6

RESERVATIONS are Requested



Raffle Drawing

Tickets will be available to purchase during the Brunch!
\$1 per ticket or \$5 for 6 Tickets



*St. Mary Yettem
Armenian Church
Golf Tournament*

Saturday, September 23, 2023

Tulare Golf Course 5300 S. Laspina St. Tulare, CA 93274
Shotgun start 8:00 AM - registration begins at 6:30 AM

\$150/player

includes: 18 holes of golf, cart, breakfast burrito, and famous Dean Ametian BBQ lunch

Four-person scramble format. Winning team cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place finishes

Hole-in-one and win a car! Courtesy of Ed Dena Automotive

Player Registration

Player 1

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____ Handicap _____
Shirt __Men __Women __S __M __L __XL __XXL

Player 2

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____ Handicap _____
Shirt __Men __Women __S __M __L __XL __XXL

Player 3

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____ Handicap _____
Shirt __Men __Women __S __M __L __XL __XXL

Player 4

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____ Handicap _____
Shirt __Men __Women __S __M __L __XL __XXL

For information call: Alan Farsakian 559-284-0871 or Amy Shuklian 559-280-3054

All are invited to join us for lunch. **Lunch only tickets available \$35**

#___ Golfers @ \$150 per player

#___ Additional lunches @ \$35 per person

___ check enclosed

Mail to:

St. Mary Armenian Church – Golf Tournament

P.O. Box 367

Yettem, CA 93670

___ Zelle Payment

YettemWMC@gmail.com

Player registration must be received by September 8, 2023

*Please join us for an afternoon of
faith, friends & fellowship at our..*

Sister Churches Luncheon

Hosted by
Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church Ladies' Guild

Saturday, September 16, 2023

Holy Trinity Social Hall

537 M Street, Fresno, CA 93721

11:30 AM

\$35 per guest

Guest Speaker

Julianne Williams, MPH

International Best Selling Author, Certified Grief Educator, Health Care Consultant

Paid reservations should be sent to your church representative by September 9th.

Please make your check payable to your organization.

Contact Madeline at (559)246-7701 or Linda at (559)779-3803 with any questions

Sister Church Luncheon

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Enclosed is my \$ _____ check for _____ reservation(s)

(Continued from the front page)

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.

The Blessing of Grapes | Khaghogh Orhnek

On the Feast of the Assumption, the blessing of grapes takes place immediately after the Divine Liturgy. The ceremony is rich in symbolism and emphasizes the important role the Virgin Mary assumed in the revelation of God.

The custom of blessing grapes, the first fruits of the harvest, can be traced back to Old Testament times, when farming was a common vocation. Of the vast variety of produce, grapes had a special place of honor and were considered the “first fruits” because they were the first produce of harvest.

Among the Israelites, as among many neighboring cultures, grapes were regarded as belonging in a special way to God since they were the first fruits. It was He who gave the gift of the whole harvest and to offer Him the first fruits was to acknowledge complete dependence on Him. Special services of thanksgiving were conducted by priests in the temple, a tradition that prevailed to the time of Christ.

With the birth of Jesus, these dedications took on a new meaning. Jesus Christ was the first born or the first fruit of Mary and, as such, was offered to God in the temple. (Luke 2:25-30)

Armenian Church doctrine teaches that Mary has a primary place of honor because it was of her and by the Holy Spirit that God became incarnate (took human flesh). She is seen as the image of humanity fully obedient to God and ultimately sanctified by doing God’s will. Therefore, on the feast remembering her dormition (falling asleep in Christ) and Assumption (ascending to heaven), we celebrate the blessing of grapes.

Christ gave His blood to us for eternal life, and in remembrance we bless the grapes, the fruits of the earth.

It is traditional to use seedless grapes to emphasize that this fruit came into being without seed, just as Christ became man without any human agent.

Eastern Diocese

St. Mary Armenian Church
P.O. Box 367
Yettem, California 93670
Return Service Required

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
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