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Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

JUNE 2020

YETTEM

A publication of St. Mary

Armenian Church

Yettem, California

St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church of Yettem Safe Worship Guidelines

Federal, state, county and municipal authorities are relaxing restrictions put in place because of the Covid-19 pandemic. In accordance with guidance we have received from our Western Diocese and from state and local advisories, we are taking steps to create a safe and clean environment for a common-sense and gradual opening. Our highest priority is to provide for the physical and spiritual needs of our parishioners. The following information is provided for **YOU** to make a decision when **YOU** are comfortable physically returning to church

- Parishioners who are health -compromised, sick, or who have family members who are ill should stay at home and watch using our streamed services at www.stmaryyettem.org
- The front doors of the church will be propped open and windows will be open to allow fresh ventilation
- Face coverings are strongly recommended
- Physical distancing of congregants is imperative for non-immediate family members
- Parishioners should sit away from the ends of pews and leave one or two pews between them and other families
- Choir members not living in the same household should sit six feet apart utilizing the front two pews if necessary
- Collection plates will not be passed. Instead you are encouraged to leave your offering in the drop slot as you enter the sanctuary.
- The “Kiss of Peace” will be conducted with a distance bowing of the head without the usual physical approach
- Holy Communion will only be partaken by the celebrant priest on behalf of the faithful. Parishioners who wish to receive Holy Communion may make a request to receive Holy Communion AFTER church services.
- The “Final Blessing” will be delivered from a distance
- The priest will make adaptations and give explanations to other parts of the service that require modification in order to meet new restrictions
- Hand sanitizer will be available near the entrance/exit door
- The drinking fountain will be covered and be marked “out of order. Parishioners are encouraged to bring personal water bottles instead.
- Parishioners should distance themselves when exiting the church and are requested to not congregate in close groups after services.
- There will not be any fellowships held during June and July.
- These guidelines will be reviewed at least monthly and could be subject to change at any time

May 28, 2020



WESTERN DIOCESE OF
THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

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HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP HOVNAN DERDERIAN, PRIMATE

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 26, 2020

To: Parish Priests and parish Councils

From: The Western Diocese of the Armenian Church

Subject: NEW COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP

As part of a phased-in restoration of activities in places of worship, the California Department of Public Health along with the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) has issued a new COVID-19 Industry Guidance for Places of Worship and Providers of Religious Services and Cultural Ceremonies.

Similar guidances and recommendations were issued by the CDC and other state and municipal public health authorities.

The Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America is committed to supporting a safe and clean environment for its clergy, employees, volunteers, congregants and visitors. The physical and spiritual well-being of our people is of utmost priority. Therefore, we urge all the Parish Priests and Parish Councils to strictly adhere to the guidelines and recommendations, if they choose to reopen the churches. Please note that neither the Western Diocese nor these guidances obligate places of worship to resume in-person activity.

Once again, we exhort you to be in compliance with the rules and regulations set forth by the federal, state and local governments and exercise common sense at all times. Taking the recommended precautionary measures are crucial whether or not you decide to re-open the church. As emphasized in the document, social distancing, face coverings, proper cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation are still required.

Primate's earlier directive to the clergy of the Western Diocese in regards to administering Holy Communion, passing the plate, and sharing peace of kiss is extended until further notice.

We pray God to safeguard His people and grant good health in body, mind and soul.

CHANCELLERY OF THE WESTERN DIOCESE

3325 North Glenoaks Blvd., Burbank, CA 91504

TEL: 818.558.7474 • FAX: 818.558.6333 • EMAIL: info@armenianchurchwd.com • WWW.ARMENIANCHURCHWD.COM

Parish Notes

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP
**THE JUNE 2020 BULLETIN IS
SPONSORED BY
ROSE MARIE MARGOSIAN,
PIERRE, MELISSA, ALIK AND
ARLEN PILAVIAN,
DARRELL, TINA, KARNIG AND
MELINA PETERS
IN MEMORY OF
GEORGE MARGOSIAN,
ONE YEAR AFTER HIS PASSING**

CONDOLENCES
Our condolences to Sadie Derrick and family on the recent passing of her husband, James Derrick. He entered his eternal rest on May 6, 2020. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

ALTAR FLOWER DONATION
● *May 24 – Myron and Debbie Sheklian and family in memory of Marguerite Sheklian*

HOKEHANKIST
● *May 24 – George Margosian, one year after his passing, requested by Rose Marie Margosian, Pierre, Melissa, Alik and Arlen Pilavian, Darrell, Tina, Karnig and Melina Peters*
● *May 24 – Marguerite Sheklian, five years after her passing, requested by Myron and Debbie Sheklian and family*

During this time of unusual circumstances the St. Mary Armenian Church webpage at www.stmaryyettem.org is an important tool for receiving important information affecting our parish. ALL services that are scheduled are livestreamed on our Yettem 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.

Parish Council

On Sunday, May 24th, Father Zaven celebrated his last Holy Badarak as Parish Priest of St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church in Yettem in an empty sanctuary because of the Covid-19 restrictions. Fortunately, there were many that were supportively watching from home through modern technology.

Father Zaven's first celebration of the Holy Badarak as Parish Priest on August 12, 2012, was quite different. On that day, the church was packed as we welcomed our new parish priest, came together for Asvadzadin and observed the name day of our parish.

We have been so fortunate to have Father Zaven for almost eight years. Together, we have commemorated many momentous occasions both in our personal and collective lives. We have also been recipients to his guidance and love during times of anguish.

As a parish, we were also blessed to be able to enjoy watching his two girls grow up among us. Yn Adrine for years now has been our organist freeing up Mari Louise to direct the choir. More recently, as Der Zaven was required to celebrate the Divine Liturgy with limited numbers in church, daughter Maneh joined her mother in singing the entire choir portion of all services for several Sundays and during Holy Week. Of course, daughter Sarah, was always present with her smiling face.

We are saddened to have the Markosyan family leaving us but wish them well as they share their love and God-given talents with the parishioners of St. Sarkis.

*Myron Sheklian
Parish Council Chair*

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

Come one, come all to our first ever Drive-Thru Hot Dog Feed! Save the date, Saturday, June 6 for this Ladies Society event taking place in our church parking lot from 11:30 – 1:00. Your meal includes, 1 hot dog, bag of chips, cookies, and bottle water for only \$5. Additional hot dogs are \$1 each. A bonus, the church will be open for those that would like to say a prayer or light a candle. See you there! A huge thank you to my executive board for their enthusiasm in making Mother's Day and Member Day a huge success. They made signs, baked cookies, and picked and arranged flowers for all 40 of members. Then they willingly drove to each member's house from Clovis to Terra Bella to deliver the goodies. They are an awesome group and I appreciate each one of them!

Our condolences to Sadie Derrick for the loss of her husband James Derrick. Command Sergeant Major Derrick serviced over 20 years in the U.S. Army. We are grateful for his service. May his soul rest in peace. Birthday wishes for June goes out to Margie Ann Davidian, Sandra Vartanian, and Yn. Adrine Markosyan. We wish them all God's blessings.

I'd like to close with a few words regarding Der Zaven's departure. His unwavering faith and love of God was an inspiration to me to spend time with God. His faith was always first and foremost in his heart and in his pastoral guidance. For these qualities, I will remember first about him. His family was also an integral part of our parish. Yn. Adrine was a dedicated member of Ladies Society serving on various committees and never said no when asked. She also served as our church organist and in Sunday school. Their daughters Maneh and Sarah attended Sunday school faithfully, entertained us during church programs, and most importantly were special friends to all the students and teachers. The Markosyan family is part of our Yetem family, and their departure leaves a hole in our hearts. We wish them well in the next parish. What a lucky parish to have them!

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

*Dear Der Zaven, Yn. Adrine, Maneh, and Sarah,
On behalf of St. Mary, Yetem Sunday school I would like to thank you for your guidance, dedication, support and love over the past 8 years that you've given to each of us. I know I am speaking for each Sunday school student, parent and family when I say each of you mean the world to us and we wish you with very best in the future. To Maneh and Sarah, always remember how you brightened each Sunday school meeting and event with your smiles, talent and love. We will miss you dearly and each of you are forever in our Yetem hearts and prayers.*

*With love,
Tracy Valencia
Sunday School Superintendent*

CHOIR

The choir experience with Der Zaven has been wonderful. We have enjoyed his support over the years. We may have been few in number sometimes, but Der Zaven's enthusiasm has been unwavering. A special thanks to Yeretsgin Adrine for her work at the organ. And to Maneh, whose voice adds so much. No one who has heard her sing Soorp will ever forget it. On a personal note, I am grateful that Der Zaven made a place for me in the choir, first as a choir member when I came back after forty years, then as director after Dr. Neshan left, and as organist when I was needed. We are lucky to have this servant of God and our Armenian Apostolic Church, and especially St. Mary Yetem, for these many years.

We will miss you, Der Zaven. We will miss your beautiful voice. We will miss your family. We wish you success in this new chapter of your life. Come back to visit anytime. You might see us in your new church anytime too. You're not that far away. Մտնելուդ ձեզ հեռու չլինի:

Mari Louise Menendian, Director

During this Coronavirus outbreak, office hours are varied. If you are in need of something quickly, call Parish Council Chairman Myron Sheklian at 280-7315.

WAYS AND MEANS

The Ways & Means Committee wishes to thank Reverend Father Zaven Markoysan for his years of service to the Yettem Church, and his strong support of activities the Committee has undertaken. It was always clear that Der Zaven would always be available to provide spiritual guidance to the faithful of the Yettem congregation.

The primary purpose of The Ways & Means Committee is to provide financial support to the Yettem Church. Der Zaven helped with all our events, attended our meetings, offered ideas, and gave direction to our purpose. His presence at our fund-raising efforts gave support, guidance, and substance to these events. He will be greatly missed.

The members of the Committee, and, indeed, the entire Yettem community is sad to see Der Zaven leave us. We wish him and his family well as they bring their amazing variety of talents to a new congregation and community. Thank you again for all you have done for us.

Jim Soxman; Chairman, Ways & Means

ACYO

*Der Zaven,
On behalf of ACYO, we all want to thank you tremendously for your service over the years with helping our group grow stronger together and always providing us with love and support. Your dedication and passion was never unnoticed and we appreciate your efforts and the fun energy you brought around us all. We wish you and your family the best of luck on your new journey with your new parish and we have no doubt that you will continue to be a bright spot in everyone's lives as you continue to serve the Armenian church so beautifully. Thank you for everything and this is not a goodbye, just a see you soon. May God Bless you and your family.*

*With love,
ACYO
Pete Safrazian
Chairman*

FAITH OF ZION

*Der Zaven,
We will forever be indebted to you for all the wonderful things you brought to our parish. Your aspirations were immeasurable. From the girls of Faith of Zion, thank you for forming our small but MIGHTY group. We wish you and your amazing family the best of luck in L.A. but hope you'll always remember our Eden.*

*Julie Simonian
Chairman*

Here is the Sunday's schedule for June 2020. Subject to change, check the website for updates:

June 7 – Deacon Service

June 14 – Visiting Clergy, Rev. Fr. Vatche Harabedian

June 21 – Father's Day, Deacon Service

June 28 – Deacon Service

The Parish Council will be holding their monthly meeting on Zoom on Wednesday, June 17, 2020.

DONATIONS

Expenses continue during this pandemic. Checks may be mailed to the church office or you may access PayPal through the St. Mary Yettem 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, Pledges, Membership Dues, In Lieu of Flowers, or pay for Altar Flowers you have ordered for the church altar.

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

If you know of anyone ill or in the hospital, please call the Church Office at (559) 528-6892 or Parish Council Chairman Myron Sheklian at 280-7315.

St. Mary Armenian Church, Yetteem

JUNE 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6 11:30 to 1:00 Ladies Society Drive-thru Hot Dog Feed
7 Deacon Service	8	9	10	11	12	13 St. Gregory the Illuminator Deliverance from the Pit
14 Feast of the Catholicon of Holy Etchmiadzin Visiting Clergy Rev. Fr. Vatche Harabedian	15	16	17 Zoom Parish Council meeting	18	19	20 St. Nerses the Great
21 Father's Day Deacon Service	22	23	24	25	26	27 St. Gregory the Illuminator Discovery of His Relics
28 Deacon Service	29	30	1	2	3	4

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



GRADUATE

David Safrazian has graduated from Fresno State with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and a minor in Armenian Studies. David will be attending CHSU School of Pharmacy in Clovis beginning this fall.

GRADUATES

Anahid (Ani) Valencia, daughter of Albert and Tracy Valencia, and Granddaughter of Jim and Anahid Soxman, completed 8th grade at Granite Ridge Junior high school in Clovis. Ani will be attending high school at Clovis North in the fall.

Elizabeth Torosian, daughter of Alan Torosian and Donna Torosian, and granddaughter of Johnny Torosian and Blanche Torosian and Jim and Anahid Soxman, graduated from Fresno State with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology with an emphasis on Archaeology. She will be furthering her education in Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

Our family couldn't be more proud of these two talented and beautiful cousins. Please join us in celebrating their successes and wishing them a bright future ahead.

The Valencia, Torosian, and Soxman families



Isolated & Hungry?

Let us Feed YOU...AND

Bring the WHOLE FAMILY too!



Drive-Thru



(St. Mary Yettem Church Parking Lot)

Hot Dog Feed

Saturday, June 6, 2020

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

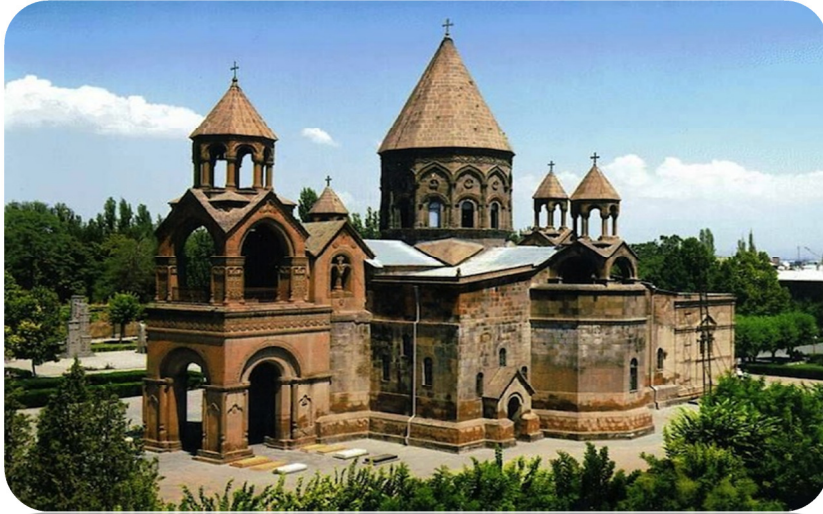


☪ Church will be Open for those who would like to

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

Organized by the St. Mary Yettem Ladies Society

Feast of the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin JUNE 14, 2020

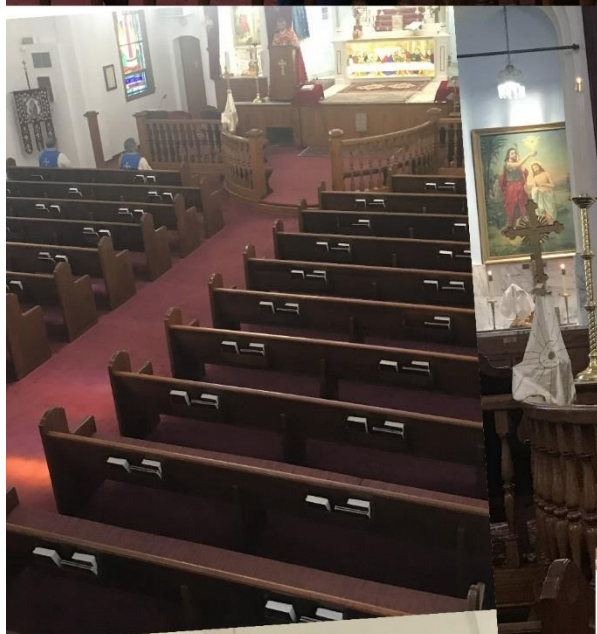
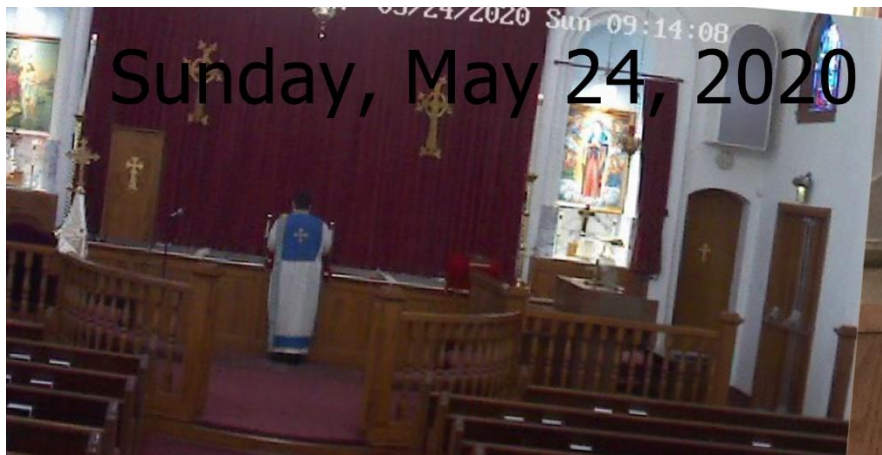


One of the most celebrated feasts of the Armenian Church is the day when the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin was established, according to the inspired vision of St. Gregory the Illuminator. According to tradition, and hagiographic sources, following the declaration of Christianity as the Official Religion of Armenia in 301 AD, St. Gregory has a famous vision, wherein the Only Begotten Son of God – Jesus Christ, descends from Heaven, his face lit aglow, and with the strike of a golden hammer designates the site where the Mother Cathedral for the entire Armenian nation is to be founded. Hence, the name of the spiritual center for the Armenians, “Etchmiadzin”, means “the Descent of the Only Begotten” (Etch - descent, mi - only, dzin - begotten.)

St. Gregory relayed the story about his vision to the Armenian King Tiridates, under whose royal auspices and support the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin was built. King Tiridates and Queen Ashkhen participated in the construction, as did the entire capital city of Vagharshapat by bringing stones from the biblical mountain of Ararat to lay the foundations. In the site marked by Christ, a Holy Altar of Descent was built.

According to Patriarch Malachia Ormanian, from the days of her establishment, the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin has been the residence of the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians. Thus, it is the Mother See of the Armenian Church, and as such, her universal, spiritual and administrative headquarters.

Another title bestowed upon the cathedral is “Catholic” - not to be confused with the Roman Catholic faith. Catholic is a Greek word meaning “Universal”. Theologically, the cathedral has been called “catholic” as a description of the catholicity (universality) of the Church. The feast of the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin is celebrated 64 days following Easter. A Divine Liturgy is celebrated, and during services, a special hymn is sung, written by the eighth century Catholicos Sahak of Dzorap, telling of St. Gregory’s vision and the Cathedral’s construction.



St. Mary Armenian Church

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