



YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Հրատարակութիւն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

December 2021

The Season of Advent

December is the month of Յիսնակ /*Hisnag* in the Armenian Church. Often called the season of Advent, *Hisnag* refers to the fifty days of preparation (from յիսնիսն/*hisun*, fifty) before the January 6 celebration of Theophany (“Armenian Christmas”). Including both a long fast and the commemorations of some of the most beloved universal saints—St. Nicholas the Wonderworker (yes, *that* St. Nick), St. Abgar the First Christian King, King David, and St. Stephen the Protomartyr, among others—these fifty days are intended to prepare us for the Theophany, the manifestation of God on earth, the Incarnation of the Word of God in the person of Jesus Christ. This happens, of course, through His birth (Christmas) to St. Mary, the “Mother of God” (in Armenian Աստուածածին/*Asdvadzadzin*). St. Mary’s active response to the will of God allows for the Incarnation to occur, as she declares “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior” (Luke 1:46, the “Magnificat” chanted every Sunday morning in the Morning Service of the Armenian Church, the Մեծագուցիկ/*Medsatsustse*).

Just as St. Mary prepared herself for the Birth of the Son of God, we here at St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church of Yettem can likewise prepare ourselves for Christmas, for the Incarnation of the Word of God for the salvation of the world. One way to prepare ourselves for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ is to meditate on the idea that the person of Jesus Christ is miraculously God the Son Himself, the Word of God. If the beginning of the Gospel of Luke offers us the familiar Nativity Scene, the beginning of the Gospel of John directs our attention to the fact of the Incarnation of the Word of God: “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth” (1:14).

This idea of the Incarnation, of the Word of God come into the world and made flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, is not at all easy to understand. In fact, the details of the Incarnation have caused some of the most consequential debates in the history of Christianity. The Armenian Church, for instance, slowly distinguished itself from the Eastern Orthodox Church over the question of exactly how to describe the Incarnation. A Nativity creche and the idea of birth are much more approachable human scenes than God, through His Son who is also the Word, made flesh incarnate.

Yet, Armenian Christians have always had one important way they have helped make sense of the Incarnation: the idea of reading a book, namely the Gospel. When we hear the Good News of the salvation of the world through the Gospel, we also encounter the Word of God. A book, then, is like a “little-i incarnation,” a moment when words become concrete, tangible, made of material. This is one reason we stand during liturgy when the Gospel is chanted: we are in the presence of the Word of God. We should feel some of the same awe the shepherds felt in the presence of Jesus Christ in the manger.

The Gospel, the Bible, and the idea of a book as the concrete materialization of words, can help us understand the idea of the Incarnation, of God the Word made present and manifest for us in the world.

Armenian Christians have long held a deep appreciation for and reverence of books, especially the Gospels and the Bible. Writing from the Netherlands, I can attest to this: it was in Amsterdam in 1666 that the full Bible was first printed in Armenian. Matt'ēos Tsarets'i established one of the earliest Armenian printing presses in the world in Amsterdam. He commissioned the famous Dutch punchcutter Christoffel van Dijk to craft Armenian printing types in 1658. But it wasn't until 1666 that Bishop Voskan Yerevantsi, through much effort, was able to publish the Bible. These early modern Armenian clergymen, supported by pious laypeople, honored the Incarnation of Jesus Christ by making the Word of God manifest in the world through the printing of the Holy Bible.

Let us, then, turn to our Bibles, to the Gospel of Luke to read about the Nativity of Christ. Let us pray with St. Mary, "my soul magnifies the Lord!" Let us turn to the Gospel of John to contemplate the Word of God made flesh, the Incarnation. Perhaps, remembering that the materialization of words in books is a kind of incarnation, we can even turn to other books to prepare ourselves for Christmas. Reading *On the Incarnation*, for instance, we can hear St. Athanasius offer his clear statement on the salvation of the world through Jesus Christ. In remembrance of those who labored to incarnate an Armenian version of the Bible, along with all the saints we commemorate during *Hisnag*, let us prepare ourselves together as the Church for the mystery of the Incarnation to encounter God the Word made present for us, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, sent to earth at Christmas by God the Father through the activity of the Holy Spirit.

Dr. Christopher Sheklian
Postdoctoral Researcher, Radboud University
Department of Comparative Religious Studies
Faculty of Philosophy, Theology, and Religion

A New Beginning for A New Year

We have a wonderful chance to celebrate feasts and various celebrations gathering together in our church. It's obvious that a lot of our parishioners have made this wonderful sanctuary their home. They really made it for themselves a very important part of their life.

As a New Year begins, we need to put the old year behind us. Only as we forgive others and forgive ourselves can we have a "Happy New Year." In order to begin a New Year, we must first make peace with our past and the relationships that have been broken through unforgiveness.

Thank God that because of Jesus Christ and the fact that He is reaching out to us with His love, whatever has happened to us in the past can be put behind us. Today, this is an absolute must if we are to recover and go on to become all that God wants us to be in our life.

Sometimes we need to work at "Restoring Broken Relationships." Perhaps, something happened to you in your youth or in your past or in some other relationship that continues to hurt in your heart. That resentment, that hurt, that brokenness is in control of your life, and it is on your back. It is like a heavy burden that weighs you down. But thank God the Bible talks about how to get yesterday off your back. As we look at what God's Word has to say, let's look at Ephesians 4:31-32. "*Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you*". Here, Paul talks about getting yesterday off your back and moving to recovery.

To all your family, parents, children, and siblings, I wish you a very Happy New Year hoping your goals will be reached with love and peace. I also wish you the peace of mind, physical health, and success in your work, happiness of the heart, wisdom of the thoughts, and that your wishes become true. We pray peace for Armenia and the whole world. May God always be present in your life. Let it be our prayer with which we will try to conclude this year wishing one another a prosperous New Year with new spiritual feelings.

Parish Notes

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we offer our deepest sympathy to Megan and Dean Ametjian Vlazakis on the recent passing of Megan's mother, Tina Moody who entered her eternal rest on Friday, November 5, 2021. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

FUNERAL SERVICE

Sark Yahnian's funeral service was held here at St. Mary Yette on Tuesday, November 2nd.

ALTAR CANDLES DONATION

Sandra Choboian has donated altar candles in honor of her brother, John Choboian's birthday on December 24th.

ALTAR FLOWERS DONATION

November 14th – Myron and Debbie Sheklian

November 28th – Renee Yahnian and family in memory of Sark Yahnian

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

November 7th

Harry Tellalian

Quienne Tellalian

Joy Poochigian

Two years after her passing,
Requested by Randy Tellalian

World War II Soldiers,

Archie Akizian

Jack Cherkizian

Charlie Davidian

Armen Kendig

Requested by Randy Tellalian

November 14th

The Fallen Heroes of the 44 Day War

November 28th

Sark Yahnian

Forty days after his passing,
Requested by Sylvia Yahnian, David and Jennifer Yahnian and family, Renee Yahnian and family, Richard Yahnian and family

HOKEHANKIST DONATION

(October 24, 2021- November 28, 2021)

For Repose of Neshan, Rose and Marguerite

Sheklian's Souls

October 24th – Myron and Debbie Sheklian

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

FOOD FESTIVAL THANK YOU

On behalf of the Way and Means Committee, our sincere thanks to everyone for helping make the October Food Festival a big success. We really couldn't do it without the help of so many people devoted to insuring the future of our beloved St. Mary. It truly is a labor of love and a joy to work side by side with so many amazing people.

With love and gratitude,
Co-Chairs, Margie and Judy

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING ON THEIR BAPTISMS

October 29th

Virgil Anderson

Godfather to Erika Prince

November 13th

Erika Prince

Devan Boudakian's fiancé
Daughter of Ed and Delores Prince

November 14th

Riley Bezik

Daughter of Reymond Bezik and Linet
Grigorian of Bakersfield

November 20th

Kamryn Esraelian

Daughter of Jordan and Ani Esraelian,
Granddaughter of
David and Ardemis Menendian
and Kenneth and Robyn Esraelian

November 20th

Alice Gladys Skaff

Daughter of Kevin and Lynn Skaff,
Granddaughter of
Mike and Judy Skaff and
John and Gladys Saroyan

WEEKLY BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

November 14th issue by - Madelaine Tolegian

PARISH COUNCIL CORNER

Last month in this bulletin it was mentioned that the Ways and Means Committee was working diligently for our church and that the Ladies Society turned over a check for \$10,000. The Ways and Means committee have since turned over a check for \$15,000 to the parish for operating expenses. We continue to be blessed by our auxiliary organizations in supporting this parish.

On November 13th, the Ladies Society held their annual elections for their Executive Board. That meeting was the last for Chairwoman Linda Farsakian Wall who has served on the Executive Committee for four years and must now take at least a year off. Linda has been an incredible chairperson who during her tenure has faced extreme challenges. For countless meetings she had to conduct business virtually using Zoom. Many of the group's fundraisers had to be canceled during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Yet, Linda remained optimistic and found creative ways to hold events safely. Linda also came up with new ideas to encourage fellowship among members and dreamed up new fundraisers. Linda led her executive board of Margie L. Davidian, Mari Louise Menendian, Gina Ananian, Donna Torosian, Janice McWilliams and Renee Ananian wisely utilizing each of their individual talents. Most of you know, that Linda did all of this while facing treatments to rid her body of the cancer that was diagnosed in the middle of this already challenging time. Thank you, Linda, for graciously serving St. Mary Yette.

Outsiders often are amazed on how active our parish remains. It's because of the dedication of individuals and our auxiliary organizations that has kept us going.

Myron Sheklian
Parish Council Chairman

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

The annual **Holiday Bazaar** is here, Saturday, December 5th, following church services! The afternoon features the signature live auction and the sale of savory kufta, delectable baked goods, and fresh produce. The cost of lunch is \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. Make plans to attend. You won't want to miss out!

Please take the time to read heartfelt messages of our "*I am thankful for . . .*" highlighted in this bulletin. Each of the messages touched me. I felt the love that exists in our church community. Thank you to our generous donors of this fundraiser. The pinwheels are up in the church yard, and one can't help but smile at the colorful pinwheels blowing in the wind. They will be up until the end of the year. So, it's not too late to express your gratitude. Your donation of \$100 for one large pinwheel, \$20 for one small pinwheel, or \$100 for 6 small pinwheels, along with your message can be mailed to the church office.

The election of our new executive board members, select elected offices, and delegates was held in November. Congratulations to Mari Louise Menendian, Margie L. Davidian, and Janel Zerounian elected to the executive board; to Debbie Agnew, Nancy Krikorian, and Julie Poochigian elected to the auditing committee; to Laurie Menendian, Tina Peters, and Linda Farsakian-Wall elected to the nominating committee; and to Shirley Ouzounian elected as delegate. These women are valuable members of our church and will continue to carry on the strength of Ladies Society and of our church.

Birthday wishes for December go out to Renee Yahnian. We wish her all God's blessings.

This is my last message as the Ladies Society chairlady since my term of office has expired. I am grateful to the executive board and the body for trusting me with the honor to be the chairlady. I never had to beg or guilt anyone into accepting a job I proposed to them because they are dedicated to our faith and church. These devoted women unselfishly carry on the work of our church, and I had the privilege to be their chairlady. Thank you to the executive board.

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I couldn't have completed the last three years without you. Thank you to our parish priests, Der Zaven Markosyan and Der Mashdots Keshishian and to our Parish Council chairs, Bea Soxman and Myron Sheklian for their support. I often turned to them for their guidance, and it was returned with love. Thank you to you, our church community, for supporting Ladies Society. This monthly news article started because I wanted to stay connected to all of you during the initial months of the pandemic. It turned into something much more. Your words of encouragement helped inspired me to keep going. Thank you all.

God's blessings to all,
Linda Farsakian-Wall
Chairlady

RAFFLE

Tina Peters has sent out information and tickets for our **2022 raffle**. If you don't receive tickets in the mail in the coming days and would like some, contact Tina at (559) 967-2593 by phone or text. (See flier)

RAFFLE WINNERS

Our eleventh drawing for our St. Mary Armenian Church raffle was held on Sunday, November 14th. Congratulations to...

(\$150) David Yahnian

(\$100) Betty Krikorian

(\$50) Janice McWilliams

Our **twelfth church raffle will be held Sunday, December 5th** after church services. The drawing will also be streamed on Facebook. We are wrapping up this year's very successful raffle.

SAVE THE DATE

Armenian Christmas will be celebrated on Sunday, January 9, 2022. The Parish Council along with ACYO, Ladies Society and Ways and Means will be hosting the Armenian Christmas Luncheon. (See flier)

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

If you would like to sponsor either the weekly bulletin for a minimum donation of \$25 or the monthly bulletin for a minimum donation of \$100, please call the church office at (559) 528-6892.

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Do you shop using **AMAZON**? Amazon offers a program called **AmazonSmile** FREE to you that will pay our church 0.5% of all of your purchases. AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support St. Mary Yettem every time you shop. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop with AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit to our church. Yes, you use your same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile.

To use AmazonSmile, simply go to smile.amazon.com on your web browser or activate AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app on your iOS or Android phone within the Settings or Programs & Features menu. On your web browser, you can add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping with AmazonSmile.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will be prompted to select a charitable organization to receive donations from your future eligible AmazonSmile purchases. Once AmazonSmile is activated in the Amazon Shopping app every eligible purchase you make through AmazonSmile will result in a donation to St. Mary Yettem.

ALL services are livestreamed on our webpage at www.stmaryyettem.org. Click the link on the "camera tab" to watch services. The Holy Badarak is streamed on our Facebook page each Sunday beginning at **10:15 AM**.

DONATIONS

Expenses continue during this difficult time. Checks may be mailed to the church office, or you may access PayPal through the St. Mary YetteM website (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.

WAYS AND MEANS

Ways and Means next meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 13, 2022 via Zoom at 7:00 PM.**

ACYO

ACYO meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 28th after church services.**

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held via Zoom on **Thursday, December 16th at 6 PM.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School meets on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, September – June. All children welcome!

Father 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.

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.

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.

PAYPAL

You may access PayPal through the St. Mary YetteM website (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.



Christmas Decorating

Need help decorating your house this Christmas?

St. Mary 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:
Dustin Vartanian
dustyvart@gmail.com
(559) 623-3520

★ Donations are encouraged. ★



ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|--|-----------|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Sts. Thaddeus and Bartholomew, Apostles |
| 5 Ladies Society Holiday Bazaar | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 Conception of the Holy Virgin Mary by St. Anna | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Sunday School | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 6 PM | 17 | 18 St. James the Bishop of Nisibis |
| 19 | 20 | 21 St. Abkar the First Christian king | 22 | 23 Sts. David the Prophet & James the Apostle | 24 | 25 St. Stephen the Protodeacon & first Martyr Christmas |
| 26 Sunday School | 27 Sts. Peter & Paul, Apostles | 28 Sts. James the Apostle & John the Evangelist | 29 Barekendan of the Fast of Nativity | 30 First Day of the Fast of Nativity | 31 | |

7

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

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

St. Mary Ladies Society, I am thankful for . . . Thank you to all our supporters who donated expressing their gratitude and in memory of a loved one. Your messages inspire us to be thankful for all of God's gifts.

I am thankful for my mother, Anetza Akizian, who was an active member of St. Mary Ladies Society until her death at the age of 90. St. Mary's was an important part of my life as well until my marriage in 1951 after which I moved away. *Alice (Akizian) Toukdarian*

In memory of, Sark & Sylvia Davidian, Arshavir & Zarohie Davidian, Yervant & Makroohie Derderian, Billie Jo Ashford, George & Ruth Moody, and Wilson & Tosie Ashford. *Margie L. Davidian*

I am thankful to God for my husband Mike, a very happy marriage, and our loving families, and so much more. *Lesta Ekizian*

I am thankful for the doctors and medical staff who successfully treated my breast cancer, for my husband Mark who never left my side, and my family and friends who were there for me during my treatments. *Linda Farsakian-Wall*

I am thankful for 1) my patient husband, 2) my brother, sister-in-law, sister for keeping family traditions alive, 3) my Yetteem "sisters" who make me laugh, 4) my Armenian Heritage, 5) the wonders we see every day, and 6) my ever strong faith and St. Mary Yetteem. *Laurie Menendian*

I am thankful for 1) my heavenly & loving God Our Father, 2) my wonderful husband, 3) Gina, Darren, Chad, & Layne, 4) Laura, Marley, & Braxton, 5) my church, 6) my parents, and in-laws. *Phyllis Borba*

In memory of my dad, George Ananian. *Renee Ananian*

We are thankful for our family! *Debbie & Myron Sheklian*

We are grateful for my parents, Harry and Laura Davidian. Thank you, mom and dad. God's blessings. Your family loves and misses you. *Janice & Rich McWilliams*

I thank God for all the wonderful years I had with the love of my life, Greg Davidian. I miss you. Love your wife. *Margie Ann Davidian*

We, Dad and Mom, are thankful for our wonderful daughters, Annie and Sara. *Margie Ann Davidian*

We, Daddy and Mimi, thank God for our loving grandchildren Skylar and Gregory. *Margie Ann Davidian*

I am thankful for . . . messages continued:

We are thankful and grateful for God's love, for being healthy, for our family, for our strong faith, and for our lovely parishioners. *Fr. Mashdotz, Yn. Maral, and Hagop Pegor Keshishian*

I am thankful for the kindness and generosity that I see in my family, for good times shared with friends, and for our good health. *Mark Wall*

St. Mary Sunday School students express why they are thankful. . .

I am thankful for my life, my school, my family, and my church. *Jackson Poochigian, 7 years old.*

I am thankful for my family and my church. *Gregory Davidian, 8 years old*

I am thankful for my mom. I help my mom bake cookies. *Myla Danielian, 7 years old*

I am thankful for my brother, my family, and my dog. *Jameson Poochigian, 4 years old*

I am thankful that God took my grandpa to the Kingdom so he could be safe. *Hagop Pegor Keshishian, 8 years old*

I am thankful for my family, my friends, my dogs, and my church. *Sky Davidian, 9 years old*

I am thankful for my teachers, God, my church, and my life. *Laura E. Ananian, 9 years old*

I am thankful for my family and God. *Marley Ananian, 6 years old*

We are continuing these I am thankful . . . for messages through December.

Christmas Bazaar



St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem

Ladies Society

Annual Holiday Bazaar

Sunday, December 5, 2021

following Divine Liturgy

Live auction!

Bake sale!

Kufta sale!

Lunch!



**St. Mary Armenian
Church of Yettem**



Armenian Christmas Luncheon

Sunday, January 9th, 2022

Immediately following the day's worship

Menu

Chicken & Beef Combo Kebab, Bulgar and Rice Pilaf,
Salad, Carrots, Pita Bread, Dessert, and drinks

Adults--\$20.00

Children ten (10) and under--\$12.00

Special Christmas Program

Presented by the Sunday School Students

Please help us plan by calling the church office
at (559) 528-6892, texting (559) 280-7315 or emailing
lunches@stmaryyettem.org



St. Mary Yettem - Ways and Means 2nd Annual Monthly Raffle

| | | | | | |
|------|---------|-------|----------|--|----------|
| Name | Address | Phone | No. 1000 | St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettem MONTHLY RAFFLE TICKET 1st Prize - \$150.00 2nd Prize - \$100.00 3rd Prize - \$50.00 Winner need NOT be present to win This ticket is Valid from January 2022 to December 2022 Ticket Donation: \$20.00 | No. 1000 |
|------|---------|-------|----------|--|----------|

Monthly Raffle Drawing Starts in January 2022

Purchase and Return by December 31, 2021
to have a chance to **WIN** 36 times next year

If you would like tickets, Call or Text
Tina Peters—(559) 967-2593 -Or-
E-mail: hyetinapeters@lightspeed.net

2022 Raffle Drawing Schedule—Dates Subject to Change

January 9 • February 27 • March 13 • April 17
May 8 • June 19 • July 10 • August 14
September 11 • October 8 • November 13 • December 4

St. Mary Yettem T-shirt Order Form



Color: Navy Blue with Gold Print
Cost: \$20 per T-shirt

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

E-mail address: _____

List the Quantity of T-shirts by Size you would like to purchase

X-Small _____ Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ X-Large _____ 2X _____

Total T-Shirt Quantity _____ @\$20 each \$ _____ Total Cost

Send your Check Payable to: St. Mary Church—Ways and Means

PO Box 367, Yettem, CA 93670

Questions: Please Contact Tina Peters-(559) 967-2593 -or-

E-mail—Hyetinapeters@lightspeed.net



Yettem Scenes - November 2021
Kufta Making and Sunday School Baking





St. Mary Yettem
ACYO

GAME DAY

November 7th After Church
2021 Services

St. Mary
Armenian
Church of
Yettem

All St. Gregory Fowler, St. Paul Fresno and St. Mary Yettem ACYO members are welcome to join us for Sunday Badarak and Game Day afterwards. For \$5.00 you will receive lunch and be entered into our Ping-Pong and Tavlioo tournament if you wish. Prizes will be awarded to the winners! Other games will be available to play as well!

RSVP by November 3rd. Contact Dustin Vartanian by phone (559) 623-3520 or email dustinvart@gmail.com. Please notify if you would like to enter the Ping-Pong and/or Tavlioo Tournament.



Lesson On the Cross – Last Sayings of Our Lord

“It is finished” (John 19:30) were the very last words of Jesus Christ as he was dying on the cross.

Man’s life in front of death is like a wink. He remembers his childhood and everything he has done in his life. He is convinced that no more time is left to change the way of life. Words are ineffective and death has arrived.

Jesus was in this same situation by remembering that all his life he spent accomplishing the will of his Father God from his childhood to his adolescence, to his missionary life and to this, his suffering and death on the cross. Jesus during his life on this earth was thinking about God’s will and was trying to finish it. When Jesus said, “It is finished” He brought about the completion of all the Old Testament prophecies, symbols, and foreshadowing about Himself.

God is giving us days to do his will, but one day, we too will also live the last day in front of death. That day and hour, no one knows. For this reason, we must be ready everyday like Jesus was ready for the cross. Every day in his life, Lord Jesus was doing his Father’s will. We should live every day like it is our last one. All of us knows that to continue life, we need our body to be healthy. But we can’t put our trust only on our health, in our surrounding people, or in our wealth. Our trust and faith should be in God and in His will. If God wants to let us live just one day more that means, we have something yet to do before going away from this life and world. Until that moment, we should enjoy the Love of God for us.

We have now explored the seven sayings of Jesus on the cross which became for us a heritage and a source of life. The life in Christ became a heritage for all humanity and changed the history of all humanity. Christ by giving his last breath gave His testament, so all his followers could be responsible and faithful to His sacrifice for love of humanity. For this reason, let us put our life in God’s hands.