



# YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Հրատարակուիլն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածիւն Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

May 2023

## Why Did God Create the World?

Creation is God's great work of art and an indication of His love, meant to reveal Himself so that the world would respond to Him with a celebration (Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:20). Creation is God's gift to Himself, and creation is a gift that leads to celebration.

In the Bible, God did not create the world to fulfill a need. He created the world to display His glory (Isaiah 43:7; Isaiah 60:20; Romans 11:36). When the biblical writers mention God's glory, they dance at the edge of language, struggling to explain the honor, significance and beauty of an incomprehensible God. God's glory is His mysterious beauty, power, love and wisdom resisting the limitations of all human thought and speech.

### The Creation Story

While many places in the Bible refer to God's creation of the world and explain His purposes, the Book of Genesis presents the story of creation. Before there was anything else, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit enjoyed one another as distinct persons in a loving relationship. At some point before time, out of nothing, God spoke the world into existence in a series of events over six days: the sky and ground; the sun, moon and stars; plants, animals and human beings (Genesis 1:1-31). And everything was good (Genesis 1:31).

Adam and Eve, the first human beings, were the crowning jewel of God's creation. God designed them to serve Him as His royal priests in His temple garden, the garden of Eden (Genesis 2:15; cf. The Bible Project, "The Royal Priests of Eden"). While in the lush garden of Eden, God set up a test for Adam and Eve. They were free to eat the fruit of every tree in the garden except one: the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:16).

God's test was a choice. Adam and Eve could choose to serve God as His royal priests, or they could choose to cast off all limits and boundaries and eat from God's forbidden tree. If Adam and Eve chose to eat of God's forbidden tree, He promised that they would die. The penalty for disobedience was death.

One day, while she was tending the garden, Eve was approached by a serpent. The serpent claimed that the forbidden tree had power. It granted knowledge of good and evil and would free them from God's service. It would make them gods (Genesis 3:1-5). So Adam and Eve, believing the serpent, ate the tree's fruit and suffered the consequences. They came to know good, evil, nakedness and shame. God cast them out of the garden, sending them out into the world to work, suffer and wait. With a death penalty hanging over their head, God promised to save them through a descendent of Eve, a child who would defeat evil, death and the serpent.

Because of Adam and Eve's failures, the world changed. God's good creation became flawed. Human beings exploit each other for personal gain, drain the world of its natural resources and set up economies and societies that struggle to maintain justice. All the world's problems resulted from the choice to eat of God's forbidden tree.

The good news of Jesus Christ is that God is healing His fractured world through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. God is working to renew His now-flawed creation. But when God renews the world at the second coming of Jesus, creation will become perfect.

(Continued on the back page)

## ***Parish Notes***

### **CONDOLENCES**

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish we wish to extend our sympathy to Dottie Whitlock, Jackie and Craig Brueckner and family, Brian and Michelle Boudakian. Also with the Margosian, Kaprielian and Penny families on the recent passing of **Jack Boudakian** on Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Our prayers are with his family. **Services are pending.**

### **FUNERAL SERVICE**

Services were held at St. Mary Yettem on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> for Evelyn Nazali Boudakian Crowder who passed away on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. A burial service was held at the Visalia Cemetery followed by a lunch in Visalia.

### **EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS**

*Myron and Debbie Sheklian  
Marilyn Zerounian*

### **ALTAR CANDLE OIL DONATIONS**

*Lucille Margosian  
in memory of Aron Margosian  
Rich and Janice McWilliams*

### **BUTTER DONATIONS FOR WASHING OF THE FEET**

*Rich and Janice McWilliams*

### **DONATIONS**

*Patrick Balakian  
in memory of Laura Davidian  
Shirley Dawson  
in memory of Greg Davidian's 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday*

### **HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS**

(March 27<sup>th</sup> – April 23<sup>rd</sup>)

April 23<sup>rd</sup>

For Repose of Kaye Kachadoorian, Jr.'s Soul  
*Judy Kachadoorian and family*

April 23<sup>rd</sup>

For Repose of Joseph Donabed, Jr.'s Soul  
*Peggy Donabed*

For Repose of George Tamouzian's Soul  
*Charles and Lori Sarabian*

For Repose of Triple-X Brothers' Souls  
*Richard and Debra Tamouzian  
Gary and Nancy Krikorian*

### **ALTAR FLOWERS DONATIONS**

April 23<sup>rd</sup>

*Judy Kachadoorian, Kandy Kachadoorian  
Basmajian, Kris and Aida Kachadoorian and  
family*  
in memory of Kaye Kachadoorian, Jr.

April 23<sup>rd</sup>

*The Margosian, Kaprielian, and  
Penny families*  
in memory of Amos Margosian, Aron Margosian,  
George Margosian and Harry Davidian and all the  
rest of the Triple X members

April 30<sup>th</sup>

*Judy and Mike Skaff and family*  
in memory of Richard and Alice Dudukian

*Mary and James Peloian*  
in memory of Mike Derderian

### **HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS**

April 16<sup>th</sup>

*Vartan Khanjian*  
five years after his passing,  
requested by Yn. Maral, Fr. Mashdots, Hagop  
Pegor and family

April 23<sup>rd</sup>

*Kaye Kachadoorian, Jr.*  
one year after his passing,  
requested by Judy Kachadoorian, Kandy  
Kachadoorian Basmajian, Kris and Aida  
Kachadoorian and family

April 23<sup>rd</sup>

The Sequoia Chapter of the Triple X Fraternity  
requested Hokehankist for their deceased  
**63 Fraternity Brothers**

April 30<sup>th</sup>

*Richard and Alice Dudukian*  
requested by Judy and Mike Skaff and family

*Mike Derderian*  
thirty years after his passing,  
requested by Mary and James Peloian

### **THANK YOU TO TRIPLE-X**

Thank you to the Sequoia Chapter of Triple-X for  
hosting a wonderful luncheon opened to all  
following church services on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**THANK YOU**

*Hrair Hamamjian* for donating all the pita bread for the Easter luncheon.

On Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> approximately 20 members of our community gathered to prepare yalanchi, sarma and walnut crescents for the May 19<sup>th</sup> Food Festival. Thank you, volunteers!

**BIBLE STUDY**

Our Bible study class will be held on **Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>** via Zoom at **7 PM**. Bible Study is held on the **first Wednesday of each month**. If you have questions, call Der Mashdots at the church office.

**LADIES SOCIETY**

The Ladies' Society dessert meeting will be held on **Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>** in the **Majarian Hall at 1:00 PM**.

**ARMENIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES**

Armenian Language classes will be held via Zoom on **Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>** and **Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>** at **7 PM**. Call the church office if you would like the link.

**PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held via Zoom on **Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup>** at **6 PM**.

**YETTEM SOCIAL HYES**

The Yettem Social Hyes meeting will be held via Zoom on **Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>** at **6 PM**.

**WAYS AND MEANS**

The Ways and Means Committee next meeting will be held via Zoom on **Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>** at **7 PM**.

**RAFFLE**

Our fourth church raffle of 2023 was held on Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- Congratulations to the raffle winners
- (\$150) John Kaprielian
- (\$100) Abe Kizirian
- (\$50) Sarkis Enfiedjian

Our **fifth drawing of 2023** will be held on **Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**. The drawing will also be streamed on Facebook. Thank you to our Ways and Means Committee for this great fundraiser for our church.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS**

Sunday School meets on the **second and fourth Sundays** of each month at **11:00 AM** September-June.

**WEEKLY EMAIL UPDATE**

If you would like to have your email address added to our weekly update email blasts, please call the church office or email [sonya@stmaryyettem.org](mailto:sonya@stmaryyettem.org).



Every donated vehicle helps keep our doors open at St. Mary Yettem. For more information, contact Linda Farsakian-Wall at 559-786-1419.

**BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP**

If you are interested in **sponsoring the Easter week mailing or a monthly bulletin, 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 Jim Soxman: ph. (559) 623-2390 or email: [jimbeasoxman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimbeasoxman@sbcglobal.net)



# ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

## May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Bible Study via Zoom at 7 PM	3	4	5 96 <sup>th</sup> Diocesan Assembly	6 Ladies' Society Dessert Meeting in the Majarian Hall at 1:00 PM
7 Apparition of the Holy Cross	8	9 Armenian Language Class via Zoom at 7 PM	10 Meeting for Fr. Vartan's Anniversary Banquet via Zoom at 7 PM	11	12	13 Ladies' Society Mother's Day Luncheon at the Vintage Press at 11:30 AM
14 Mother's Day Sunday School Children's Sermon Fifth Raffle Drawing	15	16	17	18 Ascension of Christ Ways and Means Food Festival at	19	20
21 Second Palm Sunday	22	23 Armenian Language Class via Zoom at 7 PM	24	25 Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 6 PM	26	27 Fr. Vartan's Anniversary Banquet at 5 PM ACYO Sports' Weekend
28 Anniversary of First Republic of Armenian Sunday School ACYO Sports' Weekend	29 Memorial Day ACYO Sports' Weekend	30	31			

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**Sunday Schedule:**  
Sunrise Service (Matins) 9:45 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

*St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church*

**Easter Yughakin**

**2023**

Agajanian, Melvin and Regina	Krikorian, Gary and Nancy
Ananian, Charlie and Elizabeth	Margosian, Carrie
Ananian, Gary and Janet	Margosian, Lucille
Ananian, Serge and Judith	Margosian, Rose Marie
Asadoorian, Richard and Cowan, Barbara	McWilliams, Richard and Janice
Borba, Alan and Phyllis	Menendian, David and Ardemis
Davidian, Edward and Georgia Ann	Menendian, Laurie and Fredric
Davidian, Margie L	Menendian, Mari Louise
Davidian, Sark Jr.	Mikaelian, Michael and Sandra
Dawson, Shirley	Nunes, Richard and Joyce
Donabed, Koharig H.	Omartian, Dolores
Ekizian, Jeanette	Ouzounian, George and Shirley
Ekizian, Lesta	Peters, Darrell and Tina
Enfiedjian, Sarkis and Hasmik	Pilavian, Pierre and Melissa
Farsakian, Alan and Marceen	Safrazian, Richard and Lillian
Farsakian, Larry R. and Wendy	Sarabian, Charles and Lori
Fowler, Marilyn H.	Shapazian, Jerry
Garoian, Gerard and Sylvia	Sheklian, JoAnn
Gomes, John and Janet	Sheklian, Myron and Debbie
Groefsema, Bruce and Gail	Skaff, Judy and Mike
Hagopian, Richard and Geraldine	Soxman, James and Beatrice
Hebesha, Madlien N.	Surmeian, Lynne
Hovannisian, Vars	Tabibian, Dr. Neshan
Kalfayan, Garo and Nancy	Tamouzian, Mike
Kaloostian, Linda	Tolegian, Madelaine
Kaprielian, John Ara and Sharon	Torosian, Patty
Kizirian, Abe and Sandra	Toukdarian, Alice and Aresa
Krause, David and Lisa	Valencia, Dr. Albert and Tracy
Krikorian, Betty	Zerounian, Janel E.
	Zerounian, Marilyn

**Total Easter Yughakin Donations - \$7,370**

*ST. MARY YETTEM LADIES SOCIETY*  
*Annual Luncheon*

*CELEBRATING WOMEN*

*by*

*HONORING OUR MOTHERS*

*Saturday, May 13, 2023*  
*11:30 AM*

*VINTAGE PRESS*

*Adults \$40 Children \$20*

*Chicken Crepes Curried Chicken Salad Chicken strips*

*Bring a framed picture of your mother to display at your table.*

*For reservations email your meal choice and number in your party to*  
*[lunch@stmaryyettem.org](mailto:lunch@stmaryyettem.org) or call the church office at 559-528-6892.*

*Deadline for reservations is May 5*  
*Checks payable to St. Mary Ladies Society*  
*Mothers' Day Luncheon in the memo line.*

*Mail to St. Mary Church*  
*14395 Ave 384 Yettem, California 93670*

St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettam  
Ways and Means Committee

# **45th ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL**

Don't miss the Only Food Festival offered this year!

**DINE-IN is back -or- DRIVE-THRU**

**Thursday, May 18, 2023**

**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 Dessert

Donation~\$20 per person

**DINE-IN or DRIVE THRU**

Lunch Served — 11:00am—1:30pm

Dinner Served — 4:30pm—7:00pm

**Bake Sale**

Grape Leaves • Crescent Cookies • Nazook

Kurabia • Simit • Bourma

Buy Your Tickets at the Door or at the Drive-Thru  
Donation—Check, Cash or Zelle

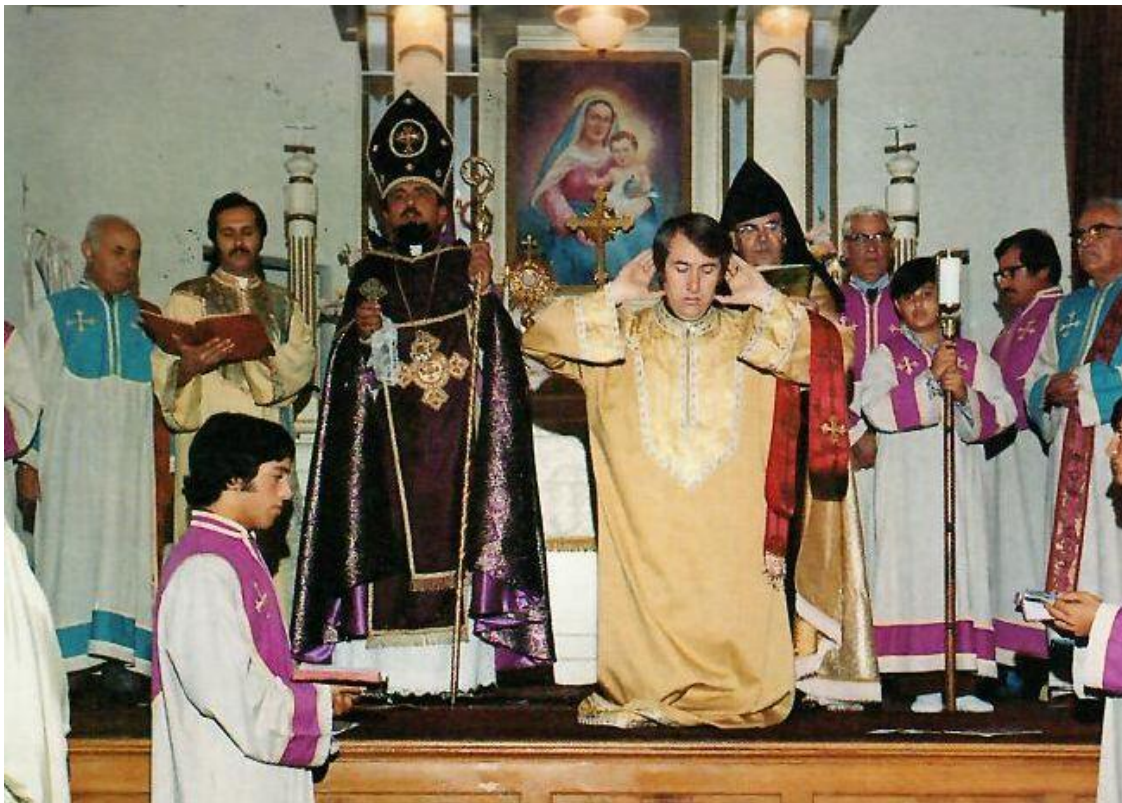
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF HIS EMINENCE ABP. HOVNAN DERDERIAN

PRIMATE OF THE WESTERN DIOCESE

AND BY INVITATION OF THE

**ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH PARISH COUNCIL AND ORGANIZATIONS**

*A Celebration of  
Archpriest Rev. Father Vartan Kasparian's  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination into the sacred Priesthood*



**MAY 27, 2023      5:00 PM**

**ST. MARY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF YETTEM**

**MEZA AND TRI-TIP AND CHICKEN DINNER IN THE MAJARIAN HALL**

**ADULTS \$50 PLEASE RSVP AND PAY BY MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (559) 528-6892**





*To the ladies of St. Mary*

*Oh dear!*

OUR

*Sweet little*

Baby Keshishian

*is almost here!*

Saturday, June 3rd, at 11:30 AM

Garabedian Residence

1080 Rorden Ave, Selma CA 93662

Kindly RSVP to Olivia by May 27th

(559) 917-0227

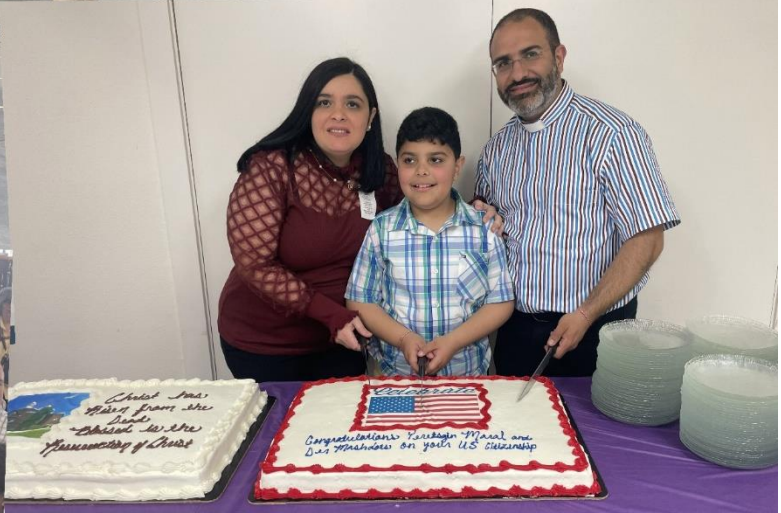
Registered at Target and Amazon



# St. Mary Yettem Holy Week 2023



# Easter Sunday - April 9, 2023



(Continued from the front page)

### **1. God wants you to enjoy Him through the world He created.**

God created the world to display His glory (Isaiah 43:7; Isaiah 60:20; Romans 11:36). And human beings can perceive God's glory through creation (Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:20). In the Bible, God gave Israel feasts to celebrate to remind "them of God's goodness as the one who makes all things and from all things come."<sup>3</sup> These feasts included Sabbath rest (Exodus 16:23, 20-8, 31:15, 35:2; Leviticus 23:3), the Feast of Firstfruits (Exodus 23:19; Nehemiah 10:35-36), the Feast of Harvest (Exodus 23:16, 34:22) and the New Moon Feast (Numbers 10:10, 29:6; 1 Samuel 20:5; Psalm 81:1-3).

For Christians, all of creation displays God's goodness and love, providing a way to enjoy God through His created world. Many of the contemplative spiritual practices like solitude, silence and the Prayer of Examen can be ways to enjoy God through the created world.

### **2. God wants you to enjoy the world He created.**

In Isaiah 25:6, the prophet speaks of God's future victory over death as a time for feasting on rich foods and well-aged wines. Revelation 19:7-10 refers to this same time period as the wedding supper of the lamb. Throughout Jesus' ministry, He attended weddings and celebrations and described the kingdom of God as a wedding banquet and feast.

God stands against greed, indulgence and excess (Isaiah 28:1; Matthew 23:25-26; Proverbs 23; Ephesians 5:3,18; Titus 1:7). But God does not withhold celebrations, feasts and the enjoyment of creation. Healthy Christian spirituality doesn't just enjoy God; healthy Christian spirituality enjoys the world God created without giving into greed, indulgence or excess.

Many activities built around friendship, community and celebration like Bible studies, prayer meetings, community groups and ministries to the poor can be spiritual practices and ways to enjoy the world God created.

### **3. God wants you to care for the world He created.**

God created human beings in His image and likeness to reflect and represent His goodness, justice and love (Genesis 1:26; Psalm 8:4-8; Hebrews 2:5-8). God then gave them a responsibility to care for the world. In the Garden of Eden, God gave Adam and Eve the responsibility to tend His garden, symbolizing that human beings are God's royal priests (Genesis 2:15; Revelation 1:6, 5:10).

As servants of God, human beings are responsible to care for God's world. This includes caring for the poor and marginalized people in every society (Leviticus 19:10; Deuteronomy 15:11; Isaiah 61:1; Matthew 25:34-40; Galatians 2:10; James 2:6). Thus it's consistent with Christian values to work toward economies that are just and environmentally sustainable and to build societies that uphold safe business practices, fair labor laws, justice and compassion.

Many activities like community organizing, social work, ministries to the poor or environmentalist movements can be spiritual practices and ways to care for the world that God created.

### **Conclusion**

The world is God's work of art, created to display His glory. This teaching is at the heart of Christianity and gives life to Christian spirituality and worship. Because God created the world, Christians are meant to care for it, embrace it and enjoy God through it.

Silverio Gonzalez

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St. Mary Armenian Church  
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Yetter, California 93670  
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