



YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Հրատարակուիլն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

December 2024

The Call of Christmas: We Will Respond We Will Bear the Light of Christ!

The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is a profound reminder of God's love for humanity, a love so deep and unconditional that He humbled Himself to be born as a child, in the simplest of conditions, so that we might be saved. The birth of Christ is not merely a historical event; it is the fulfillment of God's promise to bring light into the darkness and hope into a broken world.

This sacred feast is a call to reflection, gratitude, and action. As we celebrate the Nativity, we are invited to consider what it truly means to welcome Christ into our lives and hearts. The light of Christ, which shone so brightly on that first Christmas night, is not something to keep to ourselves. Instead, it is a gift to be shared, a light that transforms us and radiates through us. With this in mind, we will bear the light of Christ in our lives and bring it to the world around us.

The humility of Christ's birth is our first lesson. Born in a stable and laid in a manger, He chose simplicity and poverty over wealth and power. This profound humility teaches us that true greatness is found in serving others, in putting aside pride, and in living with a heart full of love. Following His example, we will strive to embody humility in our lives. We will serve those in need, reach out to the lonely, and offer compassion for the hurting. In doing so, we will glorify God and reflect His love.

The angels who appeared to the shepherds proclaimed a message of peace and hope: *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men"* (Luke 2:14). Like the shepherds, we will respond to this message with faith and action. We will bring the good news of Christ's birth to those around us, not only through words but through our deeds. Every act of kindness, every moment of forgiveness, and every gesture of love becomes a proclamation of the Gospel.

Christ's light is not meant to remain hidden. As He Himself said, *"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden"* (Matthew 5:14). This is both a calling and a responsibility. We will let His light shine through us in all that we do. Whether it is in our families, our workplaces, our communities, or our church, we will be bearers of His light, illuminating the lives of others and guiding them toward His love and grace.

(Continued on the back page)

Parish Notes

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Jeremy, Lenna and Addison Evans, Debby and Sammy Bagdasarian, Nicholas and Christina Bagdasarian and family, Judy and Mike Skaff and family, Rick and Tanya Dudukian and family, and Renee Yahnian and family on the recent passing of ***Gina (Bagdasarian) Evans*** on November 18th. Services will be held on **Thursday, December 5th at 11:00 AM** at **Holy Trinity in Fresno**. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

CONGRATULATIONS

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we want to congratulate ***Annie Davidian*** on her win for the Monson-Sultana Elementary School Joint Union Governing Board Area 4 position. We want to also applaud ***Sandra Kizirian*** who was re-elected for another term to the Dinuba Unified Governing Board Area 1 post. ***Amy Shuklian*** secured her re-election to the position of Tulare County Supervisor for District 3 in the March primary and did not have to run in November. ***Brian Poochigian***'s term as a council member for the City of Visalia was not up for re-election this November and he currently serves as mayor until the middle of December. Our community is well served by our St. Mary Yetem Armenian Church members!



MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Charlie Ananian
in memory of Elizabeth Ananian

Betty Skaff Jacobo

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

November 10th
For Repose of WWII Veteran,
Charlie Davidian's Soul
Margie L. Davidian

THANK YOU

A very special thank you to ***Charlie Ananian, Jeff Ananian, and Myron & Debbie Sheklian*** for their hard work cleaning up around the church grounds on Monday, November 11th. Jeff Ananian brought in his backhoe to reposition the cement barrier and remove the damaged shrubs caused by the car accident on October 4th. Jeff also removed the old palm tree behind the Majarian Hall. Also, a special thank you to ***Charlie Davidian*** for stepping in and to ensure the completion of the new railing on the back stairs on the north side of the church. (See collage)

ALTAR FLOWERS

November 3rd
The Parish Council
in honor of the 40th birthdays of
Der Mashdots Keshishian and
Yeretzgin Maral Khanjian

November 17th
The Menendian Family
in memory of
Zabelle Menendian Goolkasian,
Lucinne Menendian Bennett and
Arshalous Menendian Chitjian

November 24th
The Yahnian Family
in memory of
Sark and Sylvia Yahnian

SCHEDULED DECEMBER

HOKEHANKISTS

December 8th
Alice Dudukian
twenty-one years after her passing,
requested by
Mike and Judy Skaff and Family

December 15th
Betty Farsakian
eleven years after her passing,
requested by
Dn. Alan, Marceen and Nick Farsakian,
and Linda and Mark Wall

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

Sunday, December 8th, is our annual bazaar. Live auction, country store, kufta, and delicious lunch is in store. You won't want to miss this timeless event! (See the flier for details). Did someone say "Kufta"? Yes, kufta! The process of making the kufta started on Wednesday with shopping for the ingredients, picking up the meat, and chopping the vegetables. Thursday was cooking the inside "por" of the kufta. Thanks to Margie Lynn Davidian who organized and prepared the ingredients, the "por" was cooked to perfection. Friday, the ladies were back at the Hall shaping the "por" which were then frozen. Saturday, the ladies with the help of Myron Sheklian made 69 ½ dozen koftas! Sunday, the koftas were packaged and ready for sale at the bazaar. This 4-day process was a labor of love from our Ladies Society to our Yettem community. Enjoy! **See you at the bazaar!**
*God's blessings to each of you,
Linda Farsakian-Wall*

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

November 10th
World War II Soldiers
*Archie Akizian
Jack Cherkizian
Charlie Davidian
Armen Kendig
Haig Michaelian*

November 17th
**Zabelle Menendian Goolkasian,
Lucinne Menendian Bennett, and
Arshalous Menendian Chitjian**
requested by
The Menendian Family

November 24th
Sark and Sylvia Yahnian
three years after their passing,
requested by
The Yahnian Family

LADIES SOCIETY

Ladies Society will be having a **meeting** with the **new and outgoing board** at **Linda Farsakian-Wall's home** on **Wednesday, December 4th** at **6:00 PM**. No members general meeting will be held in December.

Year End Tax Donation

Are you in need of a tax deduction before yearend?

Please consider donating to the St. Mary Armenian Church in Yettem.

Any amount of support would be greatly appreciated.

Hassle Free online donation

– Visit our website – www.stmaryyettem.org –
Select Donate or Checks appreciated too!

THANK YOU ALL

*Dear Parish Council and Beloved Parish Family,
We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to each of you for making our 40th birthday celebration so meaningful.
To the Parish Council, we sincerely thank you for your thoughtful planning, dedication, and unwavering support in organizing this special occasion. Your efforts truly made the event remarkable.
To all who joined us, your presence, kind words, and prayers touched our hearts in ways we will never forget. It is because of you that this day became such a cherished memory.
We are truly blessed to be part of such a loving and supportive community, and we are deeply grateful for your continued love and encouragement. Thank you for sharing this milestone with us.
May God bless you all abundantly.
With gratitude and blessings,
Fr. Mashdots & Yn. Maral*

RAFFLE

Our November and December drawings of 2024 will be held on **Sunday, December 8th**.

2025 RAFFLE

Tina Peters has sent out information and tickets for our **2025 monthly raffle**. If you don't receive tickets by mail in the coming days and would like some, contact Tina Peters at (559) 967-2593 by phone or text. (See flier)

ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS

Save the Date: Armenian Christmas will be celebrated on **Sunday, January 5, 2025**. (See flier)

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

If anyone would like help with Christmas decorating, inside or out, please call the church office at (559) 528-6892.



ST MARY YETTEM
LADIES SOCIETY
PRESENTS OUR ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

DECEMBER 8TH

Following church service in
Majarian Hall

Lunch Tickets

\$15 Adult Meal -- \$10 Kids Meal

ENJOY OUR:
LIVELY LIVE AUCTION
COUNTRY STORE
HOMEMADE KUFTA SALE
STAR GUEST SANTA CLAUS

RSVP BY 12/03

LUNCH@STMARYYETTEM.ORG
OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE
559-528-6892

**St. Mary Armenian
Church of Yettem**



Armenian Christmas Luncheon

Sunday, January 5th 2025

Immediately following the day's worship

Menu

Brisket, Pilaf, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls & Dessert

Adults--\$20.00

Children twelve (12) and under--\$15.00

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



St. Mary Yettem ~ Ways and Means

5th Annual Monthly



RAFFLE

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 2025 to December 2025

Ticket Donation: \$20.00

Name

Address

Phone

No. 0001

No. 0001

2025 (Sunday) Raffle Drawings —Dates Subject to Change

January 5 (Armenian Christmas)—January, February, March

April 13 (Palm Sunday)—April, May, June

August 17 (Asdvadzadzin)—July and August

September 7 (Grandparents Day)—September, October, November

December 7 (Christmas Bazaar)—December

If you would like tickets, Call or Text Tina Peters

(559) 967-2593 Or E-mail: hyetinapeters@lightspeed.net



Happy 40th Der Hayr and Yn. Maral





Ladies Society Kofta Making for Annual Bazaar



Church Yard Projects November 2024



St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church of YetteM

Physical Address: 14395 Avenue 384, YetteM, CA 93670

Mailing Address: PO Box 367, YetteM, CA 93670

Church Office: (559) 528-6892

Website: www.stmaryyettem.org

Facebook: SaintMary YetteMChurch

Parish Priest	Ways and Means
<p align="center">Rev Fr. Mashdots Keshishian Cell: (818) 293-9098 fathermashdots@stmaryyettem.org</p>	<p align="center">Margie L. Davidian, Co-Chair zaroohie@gmail.com Judy Skaff, Co-Chair judy@thebelmontgroup.com Alan Farsakian, <i>Rec. Secretary</i> Tina Peters, <i>Treasurer</i></p>
Church Secretary	Sunday School
<p align="center">Sonya Barton Office: (559) 528-6892 sonya@stmaryyettem.org</p>	<p align="center">Adrienne Poochigian, Superintendent alskaff@gmail.com Margo Margosian, <i>Teacher</i> Ani Valencia, <i>Teacher</i> Tracy Valencia, <i>Sub-Teacher</i> Sandra Vartanian, <i>Sub-Teacher</i></p>
Parish Council	CHOIR DIRECTOR/ORGANIST
<p align="center">Judy Skaff, Chair judy@thebelmontgroup.com Annie Davidian, <i>Vice Chair</i> Tracy Valencia, <i>Secretary</i> Tina Peters, <i>Treasurer</i> Mari Louise Menendian, <i>Advisor</i> Julie Poochigian, <i>Advisor</i> Davy Vartanian, <i>Advisor</i></p>	<p align="center">Mari Louise Menendian mlmenen@aol.com</p>
Ladies Society	YETTEM SOCIAL HYES
<p align="center">Linda Farsakian-Wall, Chair linda.hyewall@gmail.com Janel Zerounian, <i>Vice Chair</i> Margie A. Davidian, <i>Rec. Secretary</i> Michelle Ananian, <i>Corr. Secretary</i> Julie Poochigian, <i>Treasurer</i> Renee Ananian, <i>Asst. Treasurer</i> Janice McWilliams, <i>Advisor</i></p>	<p align="center">Alysse Hovannisian, Co-Chair alysse.hov@yahoo.com Brooke Lopez, Co-Chair brookebedrosian1@gmail.com Lynn Skaff, <i>Treasurer</i> Davy Vartanian, <i>Advisor</i> Yn Maral Khanjian, <i>Advisor</i></p>

Upcoming December & January Events & Meetings
Ladies Society New and Outgoing Board Meeting - Wednesday, December 4 – 6:00 PM (Linda Wall's Home)
Ladies Society Christmas Bazaar – Sunday, December 8 – after services (Church Hall)
November & December Raffles – Sunday, December 8 – after services (Church Hall)
Bible Study Class - Wednesday, December 11 - 7:00pm (via Zoom)
Parish Council Meeting - Thursday, December 19 – 6:00pm (via Zoom)
Sunday School – Sunday, December 8 & December 22 - 11:00am (Classroom)

ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesda	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Ladies Society meeting with the new and outgoing board at Linda Farsakian-Wall's home on at 6:00 PM	5	6	7
8 Sunday School Children's Sermon Ladies Society Christmas Bazaar after church services November & December Raffles	9 Conception of the Holy Virgin Mary St. Anna	10	11 Bible Study via Zoom at 7:00 PM	12	13	14 St. James the Bishop of Nisibis
15	16	17	18	19 The Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 6:00 PM	20	21 St. Abkar the First Christian King
22 Sunday School	23 Sts. David the Prophet & James the Apostle	24 St. Stephen the Protodeacon & first Martyr Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26 Sts. Peter & Paul, Apostles	27	28 Sts. James the Apostle & John the Evangelist
29 Barekendan of the Fast of Nativity	30 First Day of the Fast of Nativity	31 New Year's Eve				

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

(Continued from the front page)

As we celebrate Christmas, we also remember that it is not just a single day or season, it is a way of life. The joy, peace, and hope of the Nativity should fill our hearts every day of the year. Each moment is an opportunity to live out the meaning of Christ's birth.

This Christmas, let us resolve to keep Christ at the center of everything we do. We will prioritize prayer, seek His guidance in our decisions, and remain steadfast in our faith. As a community, we will support one another in living out this calling, encouraging each other to grow in faith and love.

Let us also remember that bearing the light of Christ is not always easy. The world is filled with challenges, distractions, and moments of darkness. But just as the star led the Magi to Christ, so too will His light guide us through every difficulty. We will trust Him, knowing that His presence is with us always.

At the heart of the Nativity is a message of peace. Christ, the Prince of Peace, entered a troubled world to bring reconciliation between humanity and God, and between one another. We will strive to be peacemakers in our homes, our church, and our communities, just as Christ called us to be. As it brings to mind the words written upon our church vault altar "*Blessed are the PEACEMAKERS, for they shall be called the children of God*" (Matt. 5:9)

Peace begins in our hearts, grows in our relationships, and extends outward to the world. In our divided and often chaotic world, we will be instruments of His peace, reflecting the harmony and love that the Nativity promises.

May the light of Christ shine brightly in every heart and every home. We will be His hands and feet, His voice and love, bringing the message of His birth to all we meet. And may His peace reign on earth, as it does in heaven, now and always.

Christ born and revealed, blessed is the revelation of Christ.

Fr. Mashdots