



# YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Հրատարակուիլն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուծածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

## March 2024

### THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION OF CHRIST AS AN INVITATION TO AN ABUNDANT LIFE

The much-anticipated Resurrection and the fulfillment of Christ's promise mark the pinnacle of every Christian's journey, wherein we experience a profound spiritual renewal at the core of our being.

Indeed, the mystery of the Holy Resurrection stands as the central pillar of our existence and faith. Without resonating with the truth of Christ's Resurrection, our lives lose their creativity and fruitfulness.

As we celebrate Easter, we perceive life through the prism of Holy Scriptures, recognizing the Son of God as the path to truth and holiness, ultimately leading us to God. At the break of Easter dawn, we receive spiritually the promised light and an abundance of life.

To celebrate Easter means to be in Christ's presence, to believe in His salvific mission, and to journey with Him from the crucifixion at Golgotha to the empty tomb - a symbol of victorious resurrection.

The essence of the Holy Resurrection lies in spiritual rebirth, where the faithful encounter the risen Lord, partaking in the divine presence, hope, and promise emanating from Him. Thus, we are called to witness the mystery of resurrection by being crucified and resurrected with Him.

As we celebrate Easter, we delve into the depths of our souls to revive and nourish whatever lies dormant or lifeless in our personal lives, families, and communities.

Through prayer, we come to understand that "lives illuminated by the light of resurrection strive for perfection, grounded on the solid rock of faith, acknowledging both strengths and growing edges."

Words fall short in explaining the mystery of resurrection. Faith becomes the key to understanding its undefinable and unfathomable meaning. Essentially, resurrection acts as a bridge connecting heaven and earth. Embracing this truth provides the strength and internal resources to excel and improve our lives, preserving the sanctity of family and embodying the spirit of peace.

(Continued on the back page)

## ***Parish Notes***

### **CONDOLENCES**

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to **Mary and Peter Babagian and family** on the passing of Mary's sister **Dana Marie Griffin**. Dana passed away on December 19, 2023. On the weekend of her birthday in April 2024 a private memorial ceremony and celebration of life will be held at the home of Mary and Peter Babagian in Visalia. Family and Friends are welcome to attend. Please feel free to contact any of her children or siblings for further details. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dana's family.

Also, on behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to **Lilit and Sargo Benjamin** on the passing of Lilit's father, **Albert Nahapetyan**. Albert passed away on February 17, 2024, in Armenia. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Benjamin and Nahapetyan families.

Also, on behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to **Debra and Richard Tamouzian and family** on the passing of Debra's mother, **Doris Jean Roque**. Our thoughts and prayers are with Doris' family.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Stephen and Serena Babagian on the birth of their son, Peter (Bedros) Edward Babagian who was born on January 24, 2024. The proud grandparents are Peter and Mary Babagian, Edward Bonn, and Cynthia Peeples.

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

February 4<sup>th</sup>

***The Greg Davidian Family***

in memory of John Davidian, Annie Davidian and Greg Davidian

### **HOME BLESSING**

During **Lent** it is **customary** in the **Armenian Church** for the **parish priest** to visit **parishioners** and **conduct** a **home blessing**. If you would like to schedule a home blessing, please call the church office.

### **DONATIONS**

***Richard Asadoorian and Barbara Cowan***

### **HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS**

January 28<sup>th</sup>

***Benjamin, Garakashyan, Kyurchyan, Hakopyan, Mirichanyan, Papikyan, and Nahapetyan, old and new families,***  
requested by Lilit Benjamin

February 4<sup>th</sup>

***John Davidian, Annie Davidian and their son, Greg Davidian***  
on the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of his passing,  
requested by The Greg Davidian Family

February 11<sup>th</sup>

***Reba Ananian***  
six years after her passing,  
requested by  
The Reba Ananian Family

February 25<sup>th</sup>

***Albert Nahapetyan***  
seven days after his passing,  
requested by Lilit Benjamin

### **HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS**

January 28<sup>th</sup>

***Lilit Benjamin***

in memory of

**Benjamin, Garakashyan, Kyurchyan, Hakopyan, Mirichanyan, Papikyan, and Nahapetyan, old and new families**

February 4<sup>th</sup>

***Annie L. Davidian***

***Shirley Dawson***

in memory of

**John Davidian, Annie Davidian and their son, Greg Davidian**

February 11<sup>th</sup>

***Mike and Joy Ananian***

***Tom and Julie Bair***

***Sharon Ananian and Lydia Montoya***

in memory of

**Reba Ananian**

February 18<sup>th</sup>

***Lilit Benjamin***

in memory of

**Albert Nahapetyan**

### **SOUPER SUPPERS**

Soup will be served at **5:30 PM** followed by a **45-minute service** in the church. All are invited to attend.

## LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

Ladies Society is looking forward to three key sponsored events in the coming days. **Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**, immediately after church, is our annual **Lenten luncheon** with all the Lenten favorites. (See enclosed flier for details). You won't want to miss out on the once-a-year, delicious meal, and fellowship. Is your mouth already watering? Then you won't want to miss the annual **Palm Sunday bake sale, Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**. This year, this tradition is sponsored by Ladies Society with all proceeds going to the church. Finally, our annual **Celebrating Our Mother's luncheon** is **Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**, at the Vintage Press. Bring your mother and/or a photograph of your mother and join as we celebrate the most influential woman in our lives.

The Yetter roses were here and immediately sold out. Thank you to Mari Louise Menendian who spent many hours on this fundraiser from start to finish. I can't wait to see all the pictures of the roses in bloom!

Thank you to vice-chair Janel Zerounian who conducted the February monthly meeting when I was under the weather. Not only did she conduct the meeting, but she also provided the activity following the meeting. Ladies made the cutest Valentine cards under Janel's expert tutelage. Our **March monthly meeting** is **Saturday, March 2** at the church hall. 11:30 is lunch and social hour. The meeting starts at 12:15. Come join us.

*Linda Farsakian-Wall, Chair*

## **St. Mary Miniature Rose**



The St. Mary Miniature Rose was developed and bred in 1986 by local botanist Ralph S. Moore. He is world-famous as the "Father of the Modern Miniature Rose". During his career, Moore developed over 500 new varieties of miniature roses (Wikipedia). Mr. Moore, a Visalia native, was a personal friend of Lucille Margosian. She asked him to develop this rose for the 75th anniversary of our church in 1986. Registration name: **MORyetterm**. Exhibition name: **Saint Mary™ (miniature, Moore, 1986)**. This mauve or purple blend rose, the only one of its kind, grows to about 10 inches with

many, well-formed 1½ inch flowers of mild fragrance. It blooms in flushes throughout the season. Mr. Moore died in 2009, and ownership passed to Texas A&M. The rose is trademarked. Although it does come up on internet search, it is no longer available for purchase.

Nearly forty years have passed since the development of this rose. Many of you were not even aware of its existence. It is time to remind ourselves. May 2022, the original idea was to take cuttings, grow roots, plant at sites in the church yard to grow in perpetuity. June 2022, we asked an expert for advice. Bill Mann was a classmate of David Menendian. He was also the manager of Gottschalks in Visalia. Then he went into the rose business! August 2022, Bill proposed another plan. Our rose is a variety that will root itself. Take cuttings to start propagation; it would take a year to get the plants ready.

December 2022, Bill took cuttings from the bushes in the Menendian yard in Yetter. Bill's colleague/grower in Wasco rooted them. May 2023, Bill texts that the "live" count looks like a harvest of about 55 plants. September 2023, the report was that the cuttings are growing well.

January 27, 2024, Saturday. Bill brings 51 bare roots to the Menendian house, a black and white Saint Mary tag attached to each one. Meanwhile, Mari Louise designed a colorful tag to attach to a branch or cane. Bill had another colleague print the tags with ink that won't fade in the sun.

February 2, Friday. Laurie Menendian brings containers and potting soil to Mari Louise's house. We planted a bare root in each one and threaded gold or silver ribbon through the tags. Mari Louise printed flyers and Rose Planting Guides. Plants, instructions, and tags ready for distribution.

February 3, Saturday. Ladies Society meeting at the hall. February 4, Sunday, Annual Parish Assembly.

It was serendipity that the final steps came together in the space of one week. Roots/canes to Yetter, preparation for purchase, Ladies' Society meeting, Parish Assembly. And dear Parishioners, you took them all. By Monday, there were none left.

Great thanks to Bill Mann for the success of this project. It could not happen without him. We hold him in the highest regard. St. Mary Ladies' Society thanks the congregation for its enthusiasm for this precious living representation of our parish. We hope your plantings grow into full bloom and that you enjoy them for years to come. *Mari Louise Menendian*

### **Palm Sunday – March 24, 2024**

This is the day of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and the love that the crowds showed for Him, waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna!" This great city of kings and prophets received Him with great joy as the new king, Savior and deliverer. On this day the ceremony of the Opening of the Portals is celebrated, a service unique to the Armenian Church, during which the priest knocks at the altar, the curtain is opened again and we, the Church, are re-united with God. We are with Him again, as the people of Jerusalem were with Christ on the first Palm Sunday. Even though we are sinners, God still loves us enough to take us back when we repent and turn to Him. The Opening of the Portals proclaims and celebrates our entrance to the heavenly Jerusalem after Christ's second coming and brings to mind the picture of the day of the Last Judgment. The final day of judgment is not a condemnation, but rather an occasion of confession, repentance and prayer, which are the only way to enter the heavenly doors of salvation.

### **Great and Holy Thursday – March 28, 2024**

There are three services on Maundy Thursday, symbolizing three different events in the last days of the earthly ministry of Christ. The morning service commemorates The Last Supper, at which Jesus instituted the sacrament of the Eucharist by giving Holy Communion to His disciples. In the afternoon the Washing of the Feet service takes place, commemorating the humility and service of our Lord Jesus Christ in washing the feet of His disciples. The somber Vigil service is held in the evening, commemorating the betrayal, arrest, trial, and suffering of Christ. Twelve candles are lit and at the completion of each order of Scripture readings two of the candles are extinguished. After the Bible readings, the lights of the church are dimmed. A single candle is left to remind us of Christ's singular presence in the darkness. The service of Maundy Thursday prepares us to remember the suffering and crucifixion of our Lord on Good Friday.

### **Good Friday – March 29, 2024**

Good Friday is the most somber day of the Christian calendar. On this day we commemorate the crucifixion and burial of Jesus. The tomb of

Christ is recreated and decorated with flowers brought by parishioners. The tomb is placed in front of the Church altar and at the end of the service, parishioners circle the tomb to offer prayers and take one flower home with them from the tomb.

### **Great and Holy Saturday – March 30, 2024**

Easter Eve, or "lighting of the candles", as it is known in the Armenian Church, is celebrated with Divine Liturgy. During this service we read from the Old Testament, specifically the story of the creation of the world in Genesis. This reminds us that when we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ, we are celebrating the creation of the new life that Jesus gave us. Other biblical passages of deliverance are read foreshadowing God's victory over death and evil, at the same time preparing us to receive and celebrate Christ's victory over death and His Resurrection. The lighting of candles is held at the conclusion of Divine Liturgy and faithful return to their homes with lit candles in hand to illuminate their homes with the light of Christ.

### **Easter Sunday – March 31, 2024**

"Christ is risen from the dead! He trampled down death by death, and by His resurrection He granted life to us. Glory to Him for all ages". With the services of Easter Sunday, the whole mood of the church changes. We have been sad and solemn during Lent and Holy Week. Now, with the celebration of Christ's Resurrection and the new life that He gives us, everything becomes bright and joyful. The words Christ is Risen from the Dead are happily declared again and again during the service. Everyone wants to receive Holy Communion, to share in the gift of new life. All has been changed, and death can no longer defeat us because we, as true and faithful followers of Christ, have been promised that we may share in His everlasting life. On this day we read the Gospel story of how the women who went to anoint Christ's body in the tomb found out that He had risen from the grave. At Easter we recall and relive the most important event in human history, Jesus Christ's victory over death. This is in fact the foundation and cornerstone of Christianity and Christian faith, and at the same time Christ's Resurrection is the strongest affirmation of God's unlimited power even over death.

### EASTER SERVICES SCHEDULE

#### Palm Sunday – March 24, 2024

9:30 AM – Morning Service & Opening of the Altar Curtain

10:15 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Children’s Procession and Blessing, Opening of the Portals

#### Great and Holy Thursday – March 28, 2024

9:30 AM – Morning Service

10:15 AM – Divine Liturgy Memorial of the Last Supper

6:00 PM – Service of the Washing of Feet

7:00 PM – Service of the Betrayal & Sufferings of our Lord

#### Good Friday – March 29, 2024

6:00 PM – Service of the Entombment & Solemn Procession

#### Great and Holy Saturday – March 30, 2024

5:00 PM – Evening Service, Scripture Readings & Voch Inch Eh Bido

5:30 PM – Easter Eve Divine Liturgy

#### Easter Sunday – March 31, 2024

9:30 AM – Morning Service

10:15 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Antasdan (Blessing of the Fields)

### BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will be held **via Zoom** on **Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>** at **7 PM** due to the Wednesday evening, Lenten service. Bible Study is normally held on the first **Wednesday** of **each month**. Call the church office if you would like the link.

### WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The **Ways and Means Committee** next **general meeting** will be held on **Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>** at **7 PM**.

The **Ways and Means Committee** **Food Festival planning meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>** at **7 PM**.

### PARISH COUNCIL

The **Parish Council’s** next meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>** via **Zoom** at **6 PM**.

### RAFFLE

Our **March, April and May drawings of 2024** will be held on **Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**.

### ST. MARY MEMORIAL WALL

The St. Mary Memorial Wall was started in 2001 and has been a huge success. Contact Linda Farsakian-Wall at (559) 786-1419 or email: [linda.hyewall@gmail.com](mailto:linda.hyewall@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. Sponsorships for the weekly bulletin are \$25 or more and a \$250 minimum donation for the monthly bulletin.**

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Our church office hours are **Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 – 2:30 PM**. The church office will be **closed December 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>**. The office phone number is (559) 528-6892. If you are in need of something beyond those hours, you can email [fathermashdots@stmaryyettem.org](mailto:fathermashdots@stmaryyettem.org) or text/call (818) 293-9098 or email St. Mary Parish Council Chair Judy Skaff at [judy@thebelmontgroup.com](mailto:judy@thebelmontgroup.com) or text/call (559) 799-1198.

### PAYPAL

You may access PayPal through the St. Mary Yettem website ([www.stmaryyettem.org](http://www.stmaryyettem.org)) by clicking 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.

Give a little luck  
by donating  
your four wheels

Donate Today



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

# ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

## MARCH 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 The Ladies Society Lunch at 11:30 AM Meeting at 12:15 PM in the Majorian Hall
3 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (Steward)	4	5 Bible Study via Zoom at 7 PM	6 Median Day of Lent Souper Supper at 5:30 PM Lenten Service at 6:00 PM	7 The Ways and Means Committee general meeting via Zoom at 7 PM	8	9 Forty Martyrs of Sebastia
10 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Lent (Judge) Sunday School Children's Sermon	11	12	13 Souper Supper at 5:30 PM Lenten Service at 6:00 PM	14	15	16 St. Gregory the Illuminator Commitment to the Pit 9:00 AM Walnut Crescent preparers 10:00 AM Yalanchi rollers
17 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Lent (Advent) St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 Souper Supper at 5:30 PM Lenten Service at 6:00 PM	21 Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 6 PM	22	23
24 Palm Sunday Sunday School Ladies Society Palm Sunday Bake Sale March, April & May Raffle	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Easter Easter luncheon after church services						

### 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

## DEBBIE NICHOLAS SHEKLIAN



I was born Debbie Jean Nicholas on August 30, 1954, in Inglewood, CA, to Richard and Joan Nicholas. I have an older sister, Karen and a younger sister, Lisa. We moved to Sacramento, CA, when I was one year old. I attended our neighborhood elementary school, John Bidwell, Charles M. Goethe Junior High School, and John F. Kennedy High School. I then went to Cosumnes River College and California State University, Sacramento. While attending Cosumnes College I swam competitively for the first time! I received my Bachelor of Arts Degree and several teaching credentials from pre-school through adult education.

My first job was as a WSI certified lifeguard and swim instructor at my high school and later at the community pool in Elk Grove. I also worked for Montgomery Wards in the catalog department. I moved to Elk Grove in an apartment behind my grandmother's home. I taught for the Elk Grove Unified School District for six years, first as an aide in the Adult Education Pre-School for two years, and then as the teacher. I also taught the parents of the preschoolers in an adult education class. In October 1981, I moved to Visalia, CA, to take a position as a sixth-grade teacher at Mountain View Elementary School. I worked there for three years and taught Summer School GATE classes. While at Mountain View, I had the opportunity to learn and teach clog dancing. We had a dance group of fifth and sixth graders that performed at other schools and at the SCICON BBQ.

I grew up water skiing the Delta and on various lakes and rivers including the Kings River. My family and friends from the Los Angeles area would meet and stay at the River Land Resort Motel in Kingsburg for a week every summer for over forty years.

I met Myron in 1981 when I came to Visalia for my teaching job at the same school he was teaching at for several years. We almost immediately began dating - first in secret! During the first summer apart, I worked at a girl's summer camp in Santa Barbara where I studied and received my Amateur Radio license so I could communicate back home to Myron. We got engaged in December of 1982. Our parents met each other for the first time when we had our rings blessed by Father Vartan Kasparian at Rosie and Nish's home. We were married on June 18, 1983, at St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church in Yetttem by Father Vartan Kasparian.

Our son, Christopher Nicholas Yervant Sheklian was born August 13, 1985, in Visalia, and our daughter Melissa Rose Elizabeth Sheklian was born April 23, 1988, in Visalia. Both were baptized and later ordained in the Armenian Apostolic Church.

During their early school years, I was able to be a classroom volunteer, served as a Boy Scout and Girl Scout leader, coordinated the elementary school library, was a field trip chaperone, assisted with fund raisers and shuttled our children and their friends to school, sporting and church activities. Once they were in college, I went back as a part-time elementary intervention teacher. I also worked and taught at a quilt store for several years.

Melissa married Sayanan (Sy) Sivaraman on August 9, 2014, in Mountain View, CA, and Chris married Elizabeth (Lizzy) Hewitt in Warren, VT, on October 3, 2020.

I have been a Ladies Society member since 1985, serving and chairing many committees and holding various Executive Board positions. I was Ladies Society Chairlady from 2013 - 2017. I taught Sunday School for many years and served as the Superintendent.

In my leisure time I like to go to the movies, read, quilt, garden and travel with my husband Myron.



# ***LENTEN LUNCH***

## ***“Meechink”***

Sponsored by

*St. Mary Yettem Ladies Society*

**Sunday, March 10, 2024**

**following church services**

### **MENU FEATURES:**

**vospov kufta (lentil kufta), hearty winter vegetable soup,  
eech (Lenten kheyma), potato piaz, green salad, bread, dessert**

*Donations are appreciated*

**For reservations call**

**Sonya at the church office - 559-528-6892  
or email - [lunch@stmaryyettem.org](mailto:lunch@stmaryyettem.org)**

***The food is delicious, the fellowship is even better!!  
Join in on this Yettem tradition!!!***

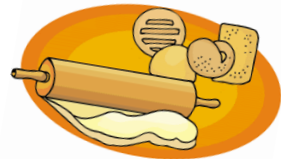


Sponsored by the  
*Ladies Society*

 PALM   
SUNDAY  
**BAKE SALE**

**Sunday, March 24, 2024**

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT OUR CHURCH



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

❧Any Questions❧

Text or Call Linda Farsakian-Wall—(559) 786-1419



*ST. MARY YETTEM LADIES SOCIETY*

**REMINDER**

**PLEASE BRING  
ONE DOZEN COLORED EASTER EGGS**

**TO CHURCH ON EASTER SUNDAY**

*BE PART OF THIS LIVELY*

*EASTER TRADITION*



St. Mary Armenian Church of Yetteem

# Annual Easter Luncheon

Sunday, March 31, 2024

Immediately following church services

## Beef Kebab

Salad, Pilaf, Green Beans, Cheese Borag,  
Armenian Bread, Dessert and Beverages

Adults: \$22 per adult

Children 10 and under: \$15 per child

Reservations Requested by Wednesday, March 20

Call the Church Office—(559) 528-6892 -or-

E-mail—[lunches@stmaryyettem.org](mailto:lunches@stmaryyettem.org)

✂Checks made payable to – St. Mary Armenian Church ✂

## Tricky Tray Raffle

“Fun and Useful” items

\$10 for 26 tickets

If you would like to donate a basket(s) or any item(s) please bring your  
donation on Easter Sunday



St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettam  
Ways and Means Committee

# **46th ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL**

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

**DINE-IN -or- DRIVE THRU**

**Thursday, May 16, 2024**

**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

Prepaid Tickets will be mailed in April!

...We appreciate YOUR SUPPORT...



**INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS - February 25, 2024**

**Parish Council** – Judy Skaff, Chair; Annie Davidian, Vice-Chair; Tracy Valencia, Secretary; Tina Peters, Treasurer; Mari Louise Menendian, Advisor; George Ouzounian, Advisor; Julie Poochigian, Advisor

**Parish Assembly** – Dn. Alan Farsakian, Chair; Adrienne Poochigian, Vice-Chair; Laurie Menendian, Secretary

**Diocesan Delegates** – Davidian Menendian; Shirley Ouzounian; Dn. Alan Farsakian, Alternate; Laurie Menendian, Alternate

**Ladies Society** – Linda Farsakian-Wall, Chair; Janel Zerounian, Vice-Chair; Margie A. Davidian, Rec. Secretary; Michelle Ananian, Corr. Secretary; Julie Poochigian, Treasurer; Renee Ananian, Assistant Treasurer; Janice McWilliams, Advisor

**Ladies Society Delegates** – Judy Skaff; Tracy Valencia; Mari Louise Menendian

**Sunday School** - Adrienne Poochigian, Superintendent; Margo Margosian, Teacher; Ani Valencia, Teacher; Margie A. Davidian, Pianist; Tracy Valencia, Sub-Teacher; Sandra Vartanian, Sub-Teacher

**Ways and Means Committee** – Margie L. Davidian, Co-Chair; Judy Skaff, Co-Chair; Alan Farsakian, Rec. Secretary; Tina Peters, Treasurer

**Yettem Social Hyes** – Brook Lopez, Co-Chair; Alysse Hovannisian, Co-Chair; Lynn Skaff, Treasurer; Davy Vartanian, Advisor; Yn. Maral Khanjian, Advisor

**Auditing Committee** – Gerard Garoian; Debra Agnew; Dustin Vartanian



Our thanks to Vernon and Carol Hovannisian for covering all the costs to pay for a beautification project for our sanctuary. This thoughtful donation was made in memory of Carol's brother Gary John Zarounian who passed away on July 12, 2023.

The area behind and below our two prayer candle stands located in the back of the church was in need of an upgrade for both aesthetic and safety reasons. Soot on the walls and candle drippings on the carpet were a constant cause for worry as can be seen in the top BEFORE picture. The new stone backing and flooring not only looks more beautiful, but protects the surrounding area as can be seen on the AFTER picture on the bottom.



# 2024 ARMENIAN GENOCIDE COMMEMORATION PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24 | 6:30PM  
FRESNO STATE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE MONUMENT

*Keynote Speaker*

Stefani Booroojian  
KSEE24 Anchor & Reporter



ARMENIAN GENOCIDE  
COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE  
FRESNO

agcfresno.com  
instagram.com/agccfresno  
facebook.com/agcfresno

(Continued from the front page)

Blessed are those who quench their spiritual hunger and thirst with the Holy Resurrection. It serves not only as a well of spiritual nourishment but also as a door to our internal world. A scientific mind is not required to grasp the most pivotal and life-changing event in human history—the resurrection of Christ. Humility and faith, coupled with a prayerful life in service to others, suffice, echoing the example set by our forefathers.

Therefore, dear faithful, our Easter message to you is to renew your spiritual life, deepen your faith and spirituality, and above all, to impart Christian teachings to your children, enriching their lives with blessed and prayerful words and deeds. The more spiritually enriched they are, the more protected they will be, enveloped in constant prayer and the truths of Scripture.

Immersed in the mystery of Resurrection, let us defeat the sinful person dwelling within us so that the new person may emerge. Our souls yearn for renewal, echoing the words of St. Nersess the Graceful, "Renewer of the old, make me new, adorn me afresh."

Christ is the door to the new life, and His Resurrection leads to life in abundance.

**Christ is Risen from the dead!  
Blessed is the resurrection of Christ!**

Prayerfully,

Abp. Hovnan Derderian, Primate

Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America



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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No.1