



ԵՂԵՄ

Հրատարակութիւն

Եղեմի Ս. Աստուծածիմ

Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

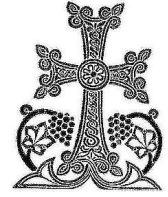
NOVEMBER 2020

YETTEM

A publication of St. Mary

Armenian Church

Yettem, California



Why Is It Important to Go to Church?

Many people might indeed answer that, "*It is not important to go to church every Sunday.*" They may feel that three or four occasions are all that are necessary for those who go to church. A true believer goes to the church every Sunday, hardly making such an assertion.

The reasoning is quite different. Some non-church members are motivated, and some are not. Whenever such people decide to come to church, they generally answer: "*If we did not have a guest, or if something had not happened, we would come.*" As a result, there are a significant number who are far from the church.

If we happen to meet such people and quiz them, "*Why did you not get to church on Sunday?*" who knows what absurd answers we would receive. "*My wife did not wake me*". "*I lost track of my time.*" "*A friend called me and spoke for two hours*". "*I slept late in the night*". "*My wife was wearing my shirt*". "*My shirt was in the washing machine.*" "*My daughter forced me to go to her hairdresser.*" Such expressions are not words of a godly person. A loving man or woman should love to go to God's house. For a person of God, going to church should be a priority.

How can a believer who has become a son of Christ not abide in His house on Sundays, when He is sacrificed and distributed on the holy altar of Christ at the Church? Would it be right for you to rest at your house quietly when your friend is dying for you to be with them? You should not be by yourself when he dies for you. The true bride did stay beside the bridegroom who was suffering and offering sacrifices. Who is the grieving groom, if not the Christ, and the true bride, if not the church of the believers?

The church is not only a place of prayer, but also a place of worship, a place of praise, a door of the kingdom, an inspiration of hope, a source of hope, a way of righteousness, a rock of life, a pillar of fire that shines in the path of salvation, a pillar of cloud of God's kingdom.

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian

Parish Notes

ALTAR FLOWERS

- October 4 – Ed, Brian and Lisa Parton and the Kazarian family in memory of Blanche Parton
- October 11 – Mari Louise Menendian in memory of Jim McOmish
- October 11 – The Davidian family in memory of Sylvia Davidian
- October 18 – Parish Council
- October 25 – Gerard and Sylvia Garoian in memory of their family members

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

October 4

Blanche Parton

Forty days after her passing, requested by Ed, Brian and Lisa Parton and the Kazarian family

October 11

Jim McOmish

Five years after his passing, requested by Mari Louise Menendian

October 11

Sylvia Davidian

Five years after her passing, requested by the Davidian family

October 18

Bertha Sheklian

Two years after her passing, requested by Richard, Kohar, JoAnn and Michael Sheklian

October 25

Rosie Sheklian

Two years after her passing, requested by Myron and Debbie Sheklian and family

October 25

Kurken and Satenig Garoian
Mugerdich and Cheristan Bezdigian
Diran and Zanazan Garoian
Edward and Gladys Tejerian
Mildred Tejerian
Tom Tejerian

Requested by Gerard and Sylvia Garoian

OCTOBER THANK-YOUS

Alan Farsakian, Myron Sheklian, Gerard Garoian, David Menendian and Alan Borba for their hard work building the outdoor pavilion for our parish.

Tina and Darrel Peters, Bea and Jim Soxman, Judy and Michael Skaff, Debbie and Myron Sheklian for funding the Pavilion Project.

Margie Lynn Davidian for all her time planning and then paying for our Sunrise Service dinner and breakfast in memory of her mother, Sylvia Davidian.

Reverend Father Mashdots Keshishian, Margie Davidian, Judy Skaff, Gina Ananian, Phyllis Borba, Alan Borba, Debbie Sheklian, Myron Sheklian, Alan Farsakian, Hagop-Pegor Keshishian, Laura Ananian and Marley Ananian for their work cleaning up the church and hall on our October 10th workday.

Selma Flea Market partners Alan Borba and Michael Mikaelian for paying for the replacement of the plexiglass covers on the front stained-glass windows. Thank you to Alan for removing and installing the panels.

Gina and Darren Ananian for paying for the cleaning of the curtains in the hall entry way and for paying for their cleaning lady Curly to help Gina and their girls dust and clean the hall windows, walls, baseboards and trophy case.

Alan and Phyllis Borba for hiring Frank to wash all the outside windows on the hall and Sunday School wings.

Margie Davidian, Judy Skaff and Debbie Sheklian for prepping and spray painting the front entry gate. Thank you, Debbie, for also painting the water softener enclosure.

Charlie Davidian for continuing to be our maintenance manager and always lending a hand on all projects. Thank you, Charlie, for also scheduling and directing the major yard clean-up by our gardener Salvador prior to our October 18th visitation by the Bishop and Deacons.

Sonya Barton, our fantastic church secretary who not only does so much for us in the office, but also helps Charlie Davidian water the dry spots to keep our church lawn looking so nice.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE

October was a busy month in our parish. On Monday, October 5, work began on our outdoor pavilion project. One week later, it was done! This new focal point on our south lawn not only provides us with a place to conduct outdoor services, but will also be used in the future by our Sunday School students, ACYO and parishioners of all ages for outside activities. The project was funded by donations by Tina and Darrell Peters in memory of Tina's father George Margosian, by Anahid and James Soxman in memory of Anahid's parents Hacher and Takouhie Mikaelian, by Judy and Mike Skaff in memory of Judy's parents Richard and Alice Dudukian and by Myron and Debbie Sheklian in memory of Sheklian and Derderian family members. The hand-crafted cross was made and donated by Alan Farsakian in memory of Farsakian and Simonian family members.

Then on October 9th and 10th, we held our annual Sunrise Service and Camp-out. It was a huge success with more participants this year than what we have had in recent years. This year, we had the pleasure of having Father Markosyan and his family re-joins us for this special event. Both Father Mashdots and Father Zaven led the prayers during the weekend that included recognition for the soldiers and civilians who lost their lives in Artsakh. Donations were collected and were included with other monies collected to support our brethren.

After the breakfast on Saturday, parishioners gathered together to spend a couple of hours cleaning up around the church. Projects included pruning trees and bushes, hosing down cobwebs, washing rails and sidewalks, refinishing the front door of the church, painting the outside water softener cabinet, prepping for painting the front gate and filling holes in the lawn. Later in the week, the front gate was painted, curtains in the hall were removed and cleaned, windows were washed inside and out, the hall entry way and window sills were thoroughly cleaned and the yellowed Plexiglas covering the front church windows were replaced.

On October 18, 2020, deacons and altar servers from throughout the Western Diocese made their

way to Yetem to join with His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Reverend Father Vazken Movsesian and St. Mary Yetem Parish Priest Father Mashdots Keshishian to celebrate the Divine Liturgy. The beautifully adorned altar, under the newly built pavilion in the center of the peaceful church yard, created a spiritual setting for the 135 faithful who gathered to worship.

A fantastic lunch was offered for those who gathered. Parishioners and guests carefully adhered to recommendations to wear masks and follow other now common social etiquette. Long-time parishioners Sarkis and Hasmik Enfiedjian were honored for their faithful service to our Yetem Parish.

Despite these trying times, once again our church community came together to praise God and support each other. Thank you to all those who attended these great events.

Myron Sheklian
Parish Council Chairman

St. Mary Yetem Outdoor Pavilion

GOLD DONOR

In Memory of our Dad and Grandpa,
George Margosian
Forever loved and in our thoughts,
Darrell, Tina, Karnig and Melina Peters

SILVER DONOR

Anahid and Jim Soxman
In Memory of:
Hacher and Takouhie Mikaelian

BRONZE DONORS

Judy and Mike Skaff
In Honor of:
Richard and Alice Dudukian

Debbie and Myron Sheklian
In Honor of
The Sheklian and Derderian Families

CROSS CONSTRUCTION AND DONATION

Alan Farsakian
In Honor of
The Farsakian and Simonian Families

Dedicated October 18, 2020

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

Our next monthly meeting will be Saturday, November 7 at 11:30 in our church hall. We will be electing new officers. Make your plans to be there. Be assured Covid precautions will be observed.

Plans are on the way for our annual bazaar. This year will be a little different. We are having a bake sale and silent auction instead of a live auction and a country store. We are offering the same delicious delicacies and one-of-a-kind crafts, just selling them in a different format. A take-out only lunch of deep pit sandwiches and all the trimmings is offered too. For just \$12 a meal, you will take home a feast! Save the date, Sunday, December 6, following church services.

With joy, we say welcome to our newest member Michelle Ananian. Michelle is a life-long member of our Yetem family and now she is a member of our Ladies Society. Welcome Michelle!

With sadness we say good-bye to two of our faithful members, Hasmik Enfiedjian and Mary Enfiedjian. They both served our chapter with love, grace, and unselfish dedication. They will both be missed immensely. We wish them well in their new community. May your home always be filled with family, friends, and God.

Congratulations to our member Debbie Sheklian and parish council chairman Myron Sheklian on the marriage of their son Christopher to Elizabeth "Lizzy" Hewitt. We pray God's blessings to the newlyweds.

Birthday wishes for November goes out to Margie Lynn Davidian and Sylvia Yahnian. We wish both God's blessings.

This month of thanksgiving, I want to thank my church family for all the love and prayers I have received. I am grateful to each of you. I feel truly blessed.

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

WAYS AND MEANS

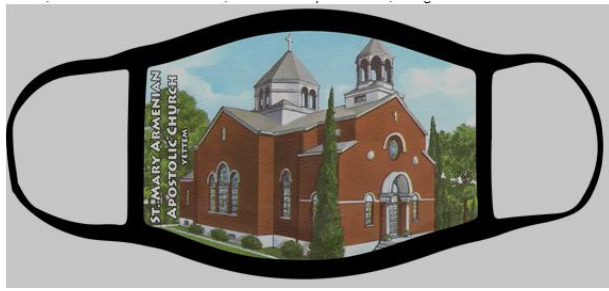
We will be starting up our Ways and Means Committee again in a couple of weeks. We are looking for some new members and hoping some of our charter members will stay on with us to advise us. The Ways and Means Committee, since its inception in the year 2000, has raised and contributed over \$340,000 to our church. The committee serves a very important role in providing us with financial stability. Our next meeting will be a Zoom meeting at 7PM on Tuesday, November 10th. If you are interested in joining, or attending the meeting, call the church office or email myron@sheklian.com.

Parish Council Zoom meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 2 p.m.



Our raffle ticket sales are off to a good start. Chairwoman for the project, Tina Peters, reports that 425 tickets have already been sold for the raffle that begins in January 2021. The Peters family has paid for the printing and mailing of letters to the extended church mailing list and for the cost of the raffle tickets. This means that we have already collected \$8,500! Please encourage your relatives, friends and neighbors to buy tickets. You might also consider buying tickets as Christmas presents or stocking stuffers!

The St. Mary Armenian Church of Yetem Facebook page and website will keep you informed about our church schedules, events and miscellaneous happenings. Make sure you stop and visit often as we are always adding lots of pictures and information.



St. Mary Yettem face masks are available for purchase in the church office or at the parish council desk on Sundays. Full color face masks feature a beautiful picture of our church printed on a black mask. Lisa and David Krause have underwritten all the costs for this project so that any money collected from donations will go directly to the church. Suggested minimum donation for each mask is \$5.

ST. MARY MEMORIAL WALL

There are now 35 available spaces for new names on the Memorial Wall. The cost for each space is \$200. You can place an order for an additional name(s) by contacting Jim Soxman: ph. 559-936-2227, or email: jimbeasoxman@sbcglobal.net

PAYPAL

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 on behalf of the Church.

COOKBOOK

A second edition of the "Treasured Recipes from the Garden of Eden" is available. 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.

*ALL services are livestreamed on our webpage at www.stmaryyettem.org and Facebook page. There are links on our Camera Tab for **INSIDE** and **OUTSIDE** services. For outside services, clicking the link will take you to a Facebook page. You **DO NOT** have to join Facebook to view these services.*

Armenian Apostolic Church Hymns CD performed by Rev. Fr. Zaven Markosyan is available for distribution and all the donations will go to St. Mary Yettem.

Fr. 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, so that he can organize a time to contact them. (559) 528-6892 or Reverend Father Mashdots Keshishian at (818) 293-9098.

Church office hours are Tuesday - Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

*Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian
Email: fathermashdots@stmaryyettem.org
Cell: (818) 293-9098*

*Myron Sheklian, Parish Council Chairman
Email: myron@sheklian.com
Cell: (559) 280-7315
Home: (559) 733-4417*

*Sonya, Church Secretary
Email: sonya@stmaryyettem.org
Church office (559) 528-6892*



**Artsakh Need Your Support
Please make a secure online donation
SAVE ARTSAKH AND ARMENIA
DONATE NOW
www.ArmeniaFund.org/donate**

St. Mary Armenian Church, Yetteem

NOVEMBER 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 21 st Anniversary of the Enthronement of H.H. Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians	2	3	4	5	6	7 Ladies Society meeting (election of new officers) in the Majarian Hall at 11:30 am
8	9	10 Ways and Means Zoom meeting at 7 p.m.	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14
15 Barekendan of the Fast of Advent	16	17	18 Parish Council Zoom meeting at 2:00 p.m.	19	20	21 Presentation of the Holy Mother- of-God to the Temple
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

Sunday Schedule:

Morning Service (Matins) 9:45 AM
Divine Liturgy

Father Mashdots can be reached at:

559-528-6892 – Office
559-528-6897 – FAX
818-293-9098 - Cell

St. Mary Yettem Vemkar

In Armenian, the word Vemkar (vem=rock, kar=stone), refers to a flat stone that is consecrated by a Bishop and embedded within the center of the altar upon which the chalice or Gospel book rests during Badarak. In some churches, the Vemkar rests in a recessed area of the altar where it can be removed to be used on special occasions outside of the church. Our Vemkar in the Yettem St. Mary Armenian



Church altar is permanently grouted and can not be removed. (See picture to the left).

During the consecration of an Armenian church, this principal stone, the Vemkar as well as the twelve wall-crosses (representing the Ten Apostles, St. Gregory the Illuminator, and St. Paul the Apostle) are first cleansed with water and wine, and then consecrated with the Holy Miron.

In reality, the only portion of the altar necessary to celebrate Holy Badarak is the Vemkar. To celebrate the Holy Badarak, a priest can position the Vemkar on any convenient table and place the chalice upon it during the consecration of the host. Without a Vemkar, Holy Badarak can not be celebrated under normal circumstances.

When we observed our first outside Holy Badarak this year on Asvadzadzin, Father Vazken Movsesian brought with him a Vemkar from the Diocese. This was done again for our second outdoor liturgy on September 13. With the building of our pavilion and our outside altar, a request was made of His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian to help us secure a Vemkar for our use. On his Pontifical Visit here on October 18, Surpazan graciously presented us with this Vemkar. (See picture to the right).



Christmas Bazaar



**St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem
Ladies Society
Annual Holiday Bazaar**

Sunday, December 6, 2020

following Divine Liturgy



- Bake sale!**
- Silent auction!**
- Kufta sale!**
- Take-out lunch!**





Sunrise Service and Campout October 9 - 10

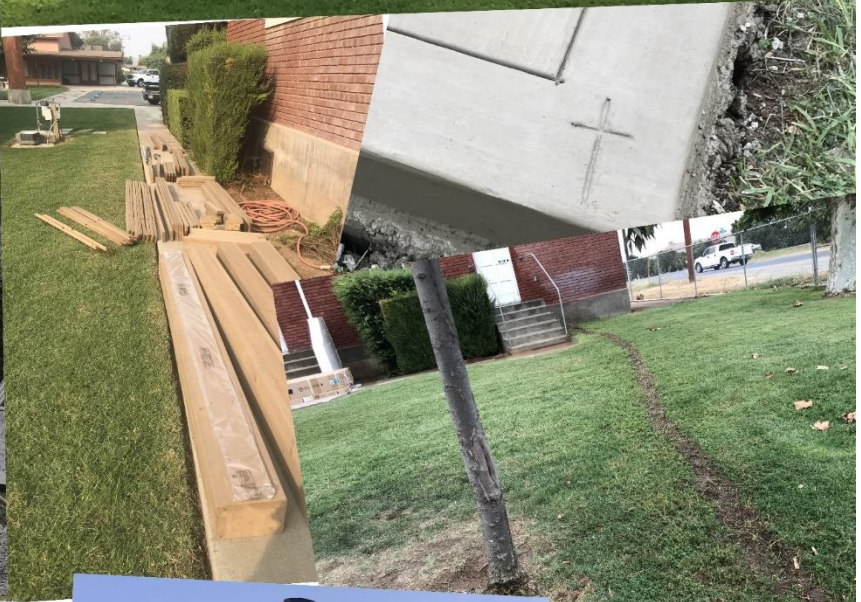




Monday, October 5, 2020



Building Our Outdoor Pavilion
October 5 - 11



Sunday, October 11, 2020



Photos courtesy of David Menendian



Pontifical Visit to Yettem October 18, 2020



Photos courtesy of David Menendian



Why Go to Church?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. *"I've gone for 30 years now,"* he wrote, *"and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."*

This started a real controversy in the *"Letters to the Editor"* column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: *"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this... They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"*

Support for Soldiers

Thank you for your bravery, strength, hard work, commitment, dedication and willingness to do hard things that are required of you day in and day out. You have given up everything to fight for Artsakh. Wish you all the best of luck and may you all safely return to your families with a victory.

St. Mary Armenian Church

P.O. Box 367

Yettem, California 93670

Return Service Required

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit No.1