



YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Հրատարակուիլն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

February 2024

Great Lent – The Lord’s Prayer

We are about to step into the Great Lent, a very special time of the year which the Mother Church, in her infinite love for our salvation and well-being, sets apart and designates as a period of reflection, prayer, acts of mercy, fasting, and spiritual growth. Of course, how we observe the Lenten period and what spiritual practices and disciplines we incorporate into our daily routines ultimately are a matter of personal choice and preference. But the manner in which the church guides us through our Lenten journey is also a corporate act. We all follow the same Lenten calendar, the special Sunday Gospel themes, read the same scripture readings, celebrate the same weekly and Sunday Lenten liturgies together. In the spirit of this sacred unity, I decided to try something different this year. Instead of a regular Sunday homily each week, I will prepare and share with you one challenge for us to reflect on and incorporate into our weekly Lenten observance.

This monthly bulletin's challenge will be focused on the Lord’s Prayer. When the disciples came to Jesus and asked Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray,’ he taught them this very prayer.

I invite and encourage you to pray the Lord’s Prayer every day during in the Great Lent. And if you already do it, then more frequently than you would normally do. You might want to pray it in the morning when you start your day, in the afternoon before your lunch, in the evenings, or before bedtime. But most importantly, I would like to ask you to pray for it with fervor and reflection.

This is a very familiar prayer for all of us. We know it by heart in Armenian and English, and we are familiar with every word and phrase in it. So why do we need to focus on this particular prayer? Why now? And how doing so will help us in our Lenten journey and spiritual pilgrimage toward Easter?

The reason for such a choice is that the Lord’s Prayer is extraordinary in many ways. The prayer is consecrated and filled with divine presence and power because our Lord Himself used it. It was given to us directly by our Lord himself and is not the result of human creativity, imagination, or

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Parish Notes

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to **Sandra Reitz-Mikaelian and Michael** on the passing of Sandra's father **Benjamin "Gene" Eugene Reitz**. Gene passed away on December 16, 2023, and gravesite services were held on Thursday, December 28 at 11:00 AM at Fresno Memorial Gardens. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Reitz and Mikaelian families.

ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS

ALTAR CANDLES

January 7th

Linda and Mark Wall
"In honor of our parents"

ALTAR FLOWERS

January 7th

Brian and Adrienne Poochigian

"In honor of our son Jackson serving as the Godfather of the Cross"

January 14th

Debbie and Myron Sheklian and Family

in memory of Debbie's family members, John Crawford, Hildur Crawford, Maydia Nicholas, Carol Neely, Richard Nicholas, and Joan Nicholas

January 21st

The George Ananian Family
in memory of their father

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

January 14th

John Crawford, Hildur Crawford, Maydia Nicholas, Carol Neely, Richard Nicholas, and Joan Nicholas

requested by

Debbie and Myron Sheklian and Family

January 21st

George Ananian

thirteen years after his passing,
requested by

The George Ananian Family

January 28th

Betty Zerounian

Forty days after her passing,
requested by her sister-in-law, Sarah Kahaian

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

January 14th

Myron and Debbie Sheklian

in memory of John Crawford, Hildur Crawford, Maydia Nicholas, Carol Neely, Richard Nicholas, and Joan Nicholas

January 21st

David and Lisa Krause

in memory of George Ananian

January 28th

Sarah Kahaian

in memory of Betty Zerounian

DONATIONS

▪ **Patricia Zerounian**

in memory of Artin and Lucy Zerounian, Charley Zeroun, Mary Zerounian Eskender, and Pete Zerounian

▪ **Betty Skaff Jacobo**

▪ **Olivia Garabedian**

For all the sweet new little ones from 2023!

Nikos Yahnian

Vart Ann Keshishian

Brody Bedros Lopez

Avo John Hovannisian

Juliette Azniv Skaff

THANK YOU

Thank you to Brian and Adrienne Poochigian for covering all the expenses for the Armenian Christmas Luncheon.

HOME BLESSING

During the **Christmas** season 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.

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING

The **Annual Parish Assembly meeting** will be held on **Sunday, February 4th** after church services. A light lunch will be offered. Please make every effort to attend.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will be held **via Zoom** on **February 7th** at **7 PM**. Bible Study is held on the first **Wednesday** of **each month**. Call the church office if you would like the link.

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

Ladies Society is off to a grand start in 2024. We are grateful to past chairman Mari Louise Menendian and past vice-chair Margie Lynn Davidian for their dedicated service the last 4 years. Good thing they aren't going far because we can use their expertise.

Our first monthly meeting was held on January 13 at Marie Calendar's restaurant in Visalia. We all enthusiastically greeted one another after a long hiatus following the Christmas holidays. In the spirit of getting to know each other a little better, we had a variety of questions to ask our neighbor. The questions ranged from "What is your favorite holiday movie" to "What family heirloom or treasurer is meaningful to you and why." The room buzzed with joyous chatter as we found out more about each other.

The executive board decided to make small changes to our monthly meetings. Each board meeting will be held via Zoom the Thursday evening before the general meeting. General meetings will be held the first Saturday of the month starting at 11:30 am with lunch and social hour, followed by our meeting at 12:15 pm. An activity ranging from educational, cultural, to creative fun will follow each meeting. We encourage mothers and grandmothers to bring their children and grandchildren to the meetings. At the January meeting, we were joined by Hagop Pegor and Mila. I can say with much certainty they had as much fun as the ladies.

Join us Saturday, February 3, at the church hall for our next gathering, 11:30 for lunch/social hour and 12:15 meeting. After the meeting, our activity features Janel Zerounian leading us in making valentine cards.

See you on the 3rd,
Linda Farsakian-Wall, Chairman

LADIES SOCIETY

Ladies Society **Executive board meeting** will be held on **Thursday, February 1st via Zoom at 7 PM.**

The Ladies Society next meeting will be held on **Saturday, February 3rd in the Majarian Hall. Lunch is at 11:30 AM and the meeting will begin at 12:15 PM.**

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 15th at 6 PM.**

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The Ways and Means Committee next scheduled meeting will held on **Thursday, March 7th at 7 PM.**

RAFFLE

Our January and February church raffle of 2024 was held on Sunday, January 7th.

Congratulations to the January winners...

(\$150) Danielle Hovannisian

(\$100) Jenna Cavanagh

(\$50) Marie Margosian

Congratulations to the February winners...

(\$150) Sharon Kaprielian

(\$100) Zoie Margosian

(\$50) Doug Penny

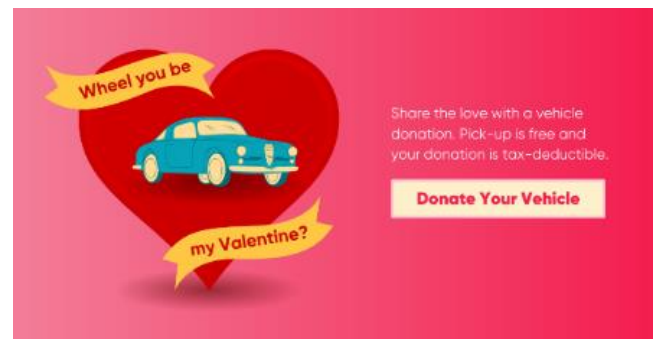
Our **March and April drawing of 2024** will be held on **Easter Sunday, March 31st.**

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

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.**



All vehicles running, or not are eligible for donation. For more information, contact Linda Farsakian-Wall at 559-786-1419.

FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 The Ladies Society Executive board meeting via Zoom at 7 PM	2	3 St. Sahag Barteve Catholics The Ladies Society meeting is in the Majorian Hall Lunch at 11:30 AM Meeting at 12:15 PM
4 Annual Parish Assembly meeting at 12 Noon	5	6 St. Ghevont the Priest & his Companians	7 Bible Study via Zoom at 7 PM	8 St. Vartan the Warrior & his Companians	9	10
11 Great Barekandan Sunday School Children's Sermon	12 First day of Lent Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Presentation of the Lord to the Temple Valentine's Day	15 Parish Council meeting at 6 PM	16	17
18 2 nd Sunday of the Lent (Expulsion)	19 Presidents' Day	20	21 Souper Supper at 5:30 PM Lenten Service at 6 PM	22	23	24
25 3 rd Sunday of Lent (Prodigal Son) Sunday School	26	27	28 Souper Supper at 5:30 PM Lenten Service at 6 PM	29		

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:

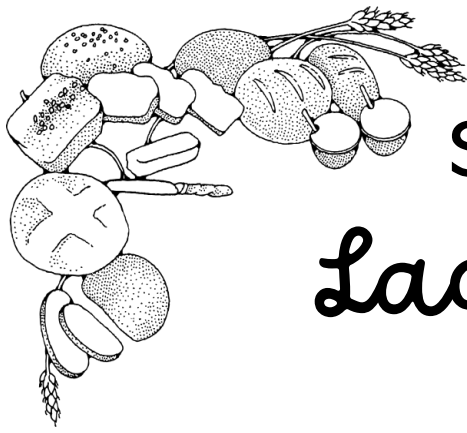
559-528-6892 – Office
559-528-6897 – FAX
818-293-9098 - Cell

St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church

Christmas Yughakin 2024

Agajanian, Regina	Margosian, Rose Marie
Ananian, Charlie and Elizabeth	McWilliams, Rich and Janice
Choboian, Sandra	Menendian, Laurie and Fredric Marrs
Davidian, Annie L.	Menendian, Mari Louise
Davidian, Edward and Georgia Ann	Mikaelian, Michael and Sandra
Davidian, Margie L	Mortanian, Ronald and Barbara
Davidian, Sark Jr.	Nunes, Richard and Joyce
Ekizian, Jeanette	Omartian, Dolores
Ekizian, Lesta	Peloian, James and Mary
Emerzian, Leslie and Janice	Peters, Darrell and Tina
Fowler, Marilyn H.	Pilavian, Pierre and Melissa
Garoian, Gerard and Sylvia	Poochigian, Brian and Adrienne
Groefsema, Bruce and Gail	Poochigian, Julie
Hagopian, Richard and Geraldine	Sarabian, Charles and Lori
Hampar, Arthur	Sheklian, Myron and Debbie
Hebesha, Madlien N.	Skaff, Judy and Mike
Hovannisian, Vars	Tabibian, Neshan
Kalfayan, Garo and Nancy	Tamouzian, Mike
Kalfayan, John and Sandra	Torosian, Patty
Kaloostian, Linda	Toukdarian, Alice and Aresa
Kaprielian, John Ara and Sharon	Vartanian, Davy and Reilly
Kizirian, Abe and Sandra	Vartanian, Sandra
Krikorian, Gary and Nancy	Zakarian, Archie and Kathy
Margosian, Carrie	Zerounian, Janel E.
Margosian, Lucille	Zerounian, Marilyn
Melkonian, Maile	

Total Christmas Yughakin - \$9,230



Sponsored by the
Ladies Society



Palm Sunday

BAKE SALE

After Church Services

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



**Armenian Christmas
January 7, 2024**

(Continued from the front page)

even faith. Though commonly referred to as the Lord's Prayer, some also call it the Disciples' Prayer, because it was really for the benefit of his disciples and followers like you and me that the Lord gave us this precious gift. However, the prayer can only truly be ours if we are not only receding it but also spending time with it and getting to know it by examining the words and phrases we say, reflecting on what they say and show us about God and ourselves.

So, pray and recite the Lord's Prayer as you would normally do, but also notice and remember all the phrases and ideas that stand out for you. Keep these ideas in your heart and reflect on them throughout your day. Examine them within the context of the prayer, the entire Bible, and all you know about your faith and Christian tradition.

Here are a few examples:

1.- The prayer refers to God as OUR Father. What does that tell us about the corporate nature of our faith? How is God revealed in our lives through others? What is the spiritual significance of our relationships with others vs. God? How do they overlap and depend on each other?

2.- Though the prayer was recorded and preserved in Greek within the Gospel, Jesus, like most of the Palestinian Jews at the time, spoke Aramaic. Therefore, the language in which Jesus uttered this prayer was probably Aramaic. There were several words in use at the time for father, but many biblical scholars are convinced that Jesus used a very particular word – Abba, which means something close to our word, "Daddy." The term was used by children for their earthly fathers and denoted warmth and intimacy in the security of a loving father's care. What does the use of this particular word tell us about our heavenly father and our relationship with him?

3.- Notice the flow and order of priorities embedded within the structure of the prayer – First, Thy name, Thy kingdom, Thy will; and only then, give us ... What does this show and teach us about the priorities of our life and faith?

Fr. Vosgi

St. Mary Armenian Church
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