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YETTEM

A publication of St. Mary

Armenian Church

Yettem, California

MAY 2018

Pontifical Encyclical of His Holiness Karekin II On the Occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the First Republic of Armenia

KAREKIN II, SERVANT OF JESUS CHRIST, BY THE MERCY OF GOD AND THE WILL OF THE NATION CHIEF BISHOP AND CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS, SUPREME PATRIARCH OF THE PAN-NATIONAL PREEMINENT ARARATIAN SEE THE APOSTOLIC MOTHER CHURCH OF UNIVERSAL HOLY ETCHMIADZIN. CHRIST-BEQUEATHED GREETINGS OF LOVE AND PONTIFICAL BLESSINGS TO THE CATHOLICOSATE OF THE GREAT HOUSE OF CILICIA, TO THE ARMENIAN PATRIARCHATES OF HOLY JERUSALEM AND CONSTANTINOPLE, TO ARCHBISHOPS, BISHOPS, PRIESTS AND DEACONS, TO DIOCESAN ASSEMBLIES, DIOCESAN AND PAROCHIAL COUNCILS AND OFFICERS, AND TO ALL BELOVED FAITHFUL ARMENIAN PEOPLE

“This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.” (1 John 5:4)

We give thanks and praise to God, that our nation meets the 100th anniversary of the First Republic of Armenia and the heroic battles of May with restored statehood in Armenia and Artsakh and with achievements. On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of these significant events, we send our Pontifical Message to our beloved people, voicing the message that “This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith”.

A century ago, our people were on the verge of life and death. Ottoman Turkey, taking advantage of the confusion of World War I, carried out its Armenian Genocide program. Western Armenia and Armenian settlements were ruined in Turkey, the Turkish troops even entered Eastern Armenia, thus threatening the existence of our people.

In this fateful hour, in the battles of Sardarapat, Aparan and Karakilisa our people, united into one will, made a stand against the enemy. The call of the Catholicos of All Armenians George V

inspired and encouraged with unity, a spirit of victory awoke in people's hearts, closing escape route. Behind us there was a small portion of our homeland, behind us there was the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, our sacred sanctuary established by Christ, the cradle of our faith and the bases for our identity. The Supreme Patriarch-Catholicos of All Armenians refused to leave the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin managed to unite the people for the fight, saying "I have always believed in the spirit of my people. I know the path of bitterness along which they have traversed. I am also convinced that my Armenian nation has to have the last word. And this word will be victorious."

Our whole nation that had united into one will and one soul, stood up to save the homeland, its life, its sacred places, to protect its right to live freely in the native land. Eastern Armenia was saved from the ruin and massacre, and after a long pause of five and a half centuries the Armenian statehood was restored. Thanks to God, the heroic spirit of faith, patriotism and devotion united and defended our people that in their supreme effort under the auspices of the Armenian statehood raised their lives in the homeland and the Diaspora and walked on the path of ascension.

Today, the 100th anniversary is an invitation to remain dedicated to our national awakening, to keep our homeland strong and to be consolidated in the homeland. This significant jubilee is also a new milestone for devoting ourselves to strengthening our country and national life, to continue consistent efforts for the settlement of the Artsakh issue, strengthening our army so that peace can be safeguarded within our homeland. The 100th jubilee brings a message of national unity, development of Motherland-Diaspora relations, and the re-establishment of unity in our Church.

Beloved and pious faithful, each of us in our service, throughout our lives preserving the Christian faith, must be able to avoid losses, steering the course from victory to victory, with awareness of service for the welfare of our nation and homeland. Statehood is a foundation of an organized society, the roads of progress, it is a stronghold for living by your own list of values, demonstrating your spiritual power, it is the guarantee of continuing existence as a nation. We should not forget about our sacrifices and sufferings, and supporting each other, build the bright future for all Armenians. We must remember our great ancestors who had given their lives for our Church and nation, we shall surpass ourselves in peace and the love for our homeland, so that our decisions made today will benefit to overcoming the challenges facing our national life and homeland. May our unshakable faith and love for our homeland guide us to make the idea of our homeland forever crowned by Ararat and the prosperity of the Holy See reality. "This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith."

We extend Our Pontifical Message from the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin to our nation, diocesan and parish organizations of the Armenian Church, national, scientific, educational and cultural institutions, exhorting to celebrate the jubilee with multiple events, turning it into the power of patriotic spirit, civic awareness, sense of duty, unity of the Church and nation, renewal of faith and encouragement for good deeds for the welfare of Homeland and nation.

We pray that our Lord Jesus Christ keep our nation's faith pure and bless its efforts for the strengthening of our cherished Homeland, the prosperity of our Holy Church and our bright future. May the Lord grant peace to our nation, country and the whole world. Let the mercy, grace and blessings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ remain with us all, evermore. Amen

Parish Notes

ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

- April 1 – ACYO in honor of Easter
- April 1 - Jerry & Julie Poochigian in honor of Easter
- April 22 – Mike & Judy Skaff and Family in memory of Judy's father, Richard Dudukian
- April 22 – Faith of Zion in remembrance of the Genocide

EASTER LILY DONATIONS

- Ed and Georgia Davidian
- Jerry and Julie Poochigian
- The Sheklian Family
- Jim and Bea Soxman

FLOWER DONATIONS FOR GOOD FRIDAY

- Gerard and Sylvia Garoian
- Mike and Judy Skaff
- Jim and Bea Soxman

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

- April 8 – The Armenian Soldiers that were killed in battle on April 2, 2016
- April 22 – Richard Dudukian, eight years after his passing, requested by Mike & Judy Skaff and Family

Thank you to the Ways and Means Committee for the Palm Sunday Bake Sale and to all the parishioners who supported this program.

2018 Easter Luncheon again was sponsored by ACYO. We would like to thank the parents who so generously helped out in every phase of the luncheon.

Ladies Society and Clergy Meet for Diocesan Assembly on Thursday, May 3, 2018 at St. Geragos Armenian Apostolic Church in Las Vegas, Nevada

Diocesan Assembly will be held on May 4, & 5, 2018 at St. Geragos Armenian Apostolic Church in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Ladies Society will be sponsoring fellowship on Sunday, May 6, 2018 after Divine Liturgy in the Majarian Hall.

The ACYO meeting will be held on Sunday, May 6, 2018 after church services.

The 41st Annual Armenian Food Festival on Thursday, May 17, 2018 at the Visalia Elks Lodge. (See flyer)

GRADUATION season is here once again. We would like to acknowledge our graduates in the June 2018 issue of YETTEM. Accordingly, you are asked to e-mail a short paragraph of pertinent information and a photograph by May 25, 2018 to sonya@stmaryyettem.org or call the church office at (559) 528-6892.

ACYO Bingo Night will be held Saturday, May 19, 2018 in the Majarian Hall. (See flyer)

Parish Council will be sponsoring fellowship on Sunday, May 20, 2018 after Divine Liturgy in the Majarian Hall.

Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday, May 24, 2018 in the Majarian Hall at 7:00 p.m.

ACYO Sports Weekend will be held May 25, 26, & 27, 2018 at Clovis West High School, 1070 E. Teague Ave., Fresno, CA 93720. St. Mary, Yettem ACYO will have a senior basketball team and dodgeball team.

Ladies Society meeting (Bingo Picnic) will be held on Saturday, June 2, 2018 at the Majarian Hall.

Faith of Zion will be sponsoring fellowship on Sunday, June 3, 2018 after Divine Liturgy in the Majarian Hall.

**WESTERN DIOCESE ARMENIAN
CAMP WEEKS 2018**

*Week 1: July 16 – July 21
Week 2: July 23 – July 28
Week 3: July 30 – August 4
Week 4: August 6 – August 11*

ACYO is selling Reusable Bags for \$5 each and St. Mary Yettem Hats for \$12 each. If interested in purchasing, please contact David Safrazian at (559) 802-7593 or email David at dsafrazian@yahoo.com (See flyer)

Sunday School meets the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

COOKBOOK

By popular demand, a second edition of the “Treasured Recipes from the Garden of Eden” has been made 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.

Armenian Language classes still available for our parishioners. If you are interested, please contact the Church Office at (559) 528-6892 or Fr. Zaven at (818) 644-9398.

DVD SET FOR SALE: St. Mary Armenian Church, 100th Anniversary, July 2, 2011. DVD set is \$25.00 and can be purchased by calling the Church office at (559) 528-6892. A \$6.00 charge for shipping and handling will be added to the price if you would like one mailed to you. (Sponsored by the Ways and Means Committee)

The “Armenian Genocide Survivors and Heroes” book can be purchased for \$40 at the St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church Office. Copies can be mailed for an additional cost. Call the church office at 528-6892 for details.

REMINDER

If you have not sent in your 2018 Annual Stewardship Pledge and Voting Member Application, please do so as soon as possible. If you need a form, call the Church Office at (559) 528-6892.

The Parish Council has approved to have our weekly bulletin and the monthly newsletter available for sponsorships. We are not selling ads. If you would like to sponsor an edition of either publication please contact the office, or there is a form at the front desk in the church. The sponsorships for the weekly bulletin are \$25.00 per issue, and to sponsor the monthly newsletter is \$100.00 per issue.

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.

To St. Mary Parishioners: The Parish Council would like to invite any parishioner who may have concerns or questions with anything dealing with Church affairs. The Parish Council meetings are held the third Thursday of each month. To be placed on the agenda of the meeting, please contact Der Zaven at (818) 644-9398 or Bea Soxman Parish Council Chairperson at (559) 623-2390

To St. Mary Parishioners: If you know of anyone ill or in the hospital, please call Rev. Fr. Zaven Markosyan at the Church Office (559) 528-6892 or his cell (818) 644-9398. St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, from 9:30 -2:30

The St. Mary Armenian Church webpage at www.stmaryyettem.org includes archived copies of church bulletins, pictures from events, a current church calendar, and an improved LIVE Camera System. View services on any dekstop, laptop, or tablet!

If you wish to place any information in the monthly Bulletin, please notify the Church Office by the 20th of month.

GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENT
Alan Torosian and Donna Torosian announce the graduation of their son, Alex, from Immanuel High School. He will be attending California State University, San Francisco, in the fall. His grandparents are Johnny Torosian, Blanche Torosian, and Jim and Bea Soxman. Please join us in celebrating his accomplishments. The celebration will be held at St. Gregory Armenian Church-Fowler (229 S. 3rd St., Fowler) on Saturday, June 2, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.

We congratulate Blanche Parton on her 90th birthday and we wish her good health with her lovely husband, Ed.



Armenian Genocide program was held at St. Mary, Yettem. There was a short historical movie presented. Fellowship was sponsored by Faith of Zion

Armenian Genocide Commemoration for the Central Valley was held on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at the Fresno State Armenian Genocide Monument.



St. Mary Armenian Church, Yetttem

May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Ladies Society and Clergy Meet for Diocesan Assembly in Las Vegas	4 Diocesan Assembly in Las Vegas	5 Diocesan Assembly in Las Vegas
6 Fellowship sponsored by Ladies Society ACYO meeting after church services	7	8	9	10 Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ	11	12
13 Mother's Day Sunday School Meets	14	15	16	17 Food Festival	18	19 ACYO Lahmajoon & Bingo Night in the Majarian Hall at 5:00 p.m.
20 Feast of Pentecost Fellowship sponsored by Parish Council	21	22	23	24 Parish Council meeting at Majarian Hall at 7 PM	25 ACYO Sports Weekend	26 ACYO Sports Weekend
27 Sunday School Meets ACYO Sports Weekend	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31	Notes:	

Sunday Schedule:

Morning Service (Matins) 9:45 AM
Divine Liturgy – 10:30 AM

Father Zaven can be reached at:

559-528-6892 – Office
559-528-6897 – FAX
818-644-9398 - Cell

St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church

Easter Yughakin Donations

Easter 2018

Agajanian, Melvin & Regina	Margosian, Lucille
Ananian, Charlie and Elizabeth	McWilliams, Richard and Janice
Ananian, Serge and Judith	Melkonian Family Trust
Borba, Alan and Phyllis	Menendian, Laurie
Crowder, Evelyn Boudakian	Menendian, Mari Louise
Davidian, Charlie and Christina A.	Ouzounian, George and Shirley
Davidian, Edward and Georgia Ann	Parton, Blanche and Edward
Davidian, Margie L	Peters, Darrell & Tina
Davidian, Sark Jr.	Poochigian, Brian and Adrienne
Derrick, James E. and Sadie	Safrazian, Richard and Lillian
Ekizian, Jeanette	Sarabian, Charles and Lori
Enfiedjian, Sarkis and Hasmik	Sheklian, Myron and Debbie
Farsakian, Larry R. DDS & Wendy	Sirag and Ann Kalfayan Family
Garoian, Gerard and Sylvia	Skaff, Judy and Mike
Gomes, John & Janet	Soxman, James and Beatrice
Groefsema, Bruce and Gail	Tabibian, Neshan
Hagopian, Richard and Geraldine	Takvorian, Takvor & Bonnie
Hebesha, Madlien N.	Tellian, Michael L.
Jendian, Dcn. Allan & Rosemary	Toukdarian, Alice and Aresa
Kaprielian, John Ara & Sharon	Valencia, Dr. Albert and Tracy
Krause, David & Lisa	Wall, Mark and Linda
Krikorian, Gary and Nancy	Zakarian, Archie and Kathy
Margosian, George and Rose Marie	Zerounian, Marilyn
Total Easter Yughakin	\$4,420.00

ST MARY MEMORIAL WALL

In 2001 the Ways & Means Committee started the Memorial Wall with 10 columns, 38 blocks, and space for 456 names. Thirteen years later the Wall is filled. The empty spaces you see have been purchased by families for future use.

A new column of 4 blocks has been ordered. This new column will be located on the wall next to the priest's office and will have room for 48 new names.

The price for each name on the original wall was \$150. However, the price/block has more than doubled, and the cost of engraving has increased by more than 30% since 2001.

This has necessitated an increase in price to \$200 for each name on the new addition. Order forms are available in the church office or at the desk as you enter the church.

If you wish to participate or have questions concerning the Memorial Wall call Jim Soxman at (559) 733-8741. Completed forms and payment of names should be mailed to:

Jim Soxman

2405 E. Hillcrest Ct.

Visalia, CA 93292

St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettam

41st ANNUAL

ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL 2018

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2018

VISALIA ELKS LODGE

(3100 W. Main – just east of County Center Dr.)

- MENU -

LULU KEBAB or CHICKEN KEBAB

RICE PILAF SALAD

BEVERAGE BOURMA

PEDA BREAD

Donation \$15.00

Per Person

Luncheon from 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Dinner from 5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

DINE IN or DRIVE THRU TAKE-OUT

Come Support the
St. Mary Yettem ACYO
 For A Fun Night of
**LAHMAJOON &
 BINGO**

Saturday, May 19, 2018

In the St. Mary Yettem Church Hall

B	I	N	G	O
2	17	31	48	63
6	20	38	51	68
7	22	FREE	54	69
12	23	39	57	72
15	27	44	60	75

Join the Fun at 5:00pm

\$15 per Adult and/or Child



Cost Includes:

- **Dinner—Lahmajoon** (Armenian Pizza), Pilaf, Salad •
- **Desserts and Snacks all night!** •
- **Two (2) Bingo Cards to use all Night!** •



Additional Bingo Cards will be sold for \$2 per card

Lots of Fun and Useful Prizes to win
 or choose a raffle ticket to win a Mystery Prize!

Tickets **WILL BE Sold** at the Door —or—
 Prepay by May 11 (Please Make Check Payable to: ACYO)
 Send to Dustin Vartanian 6729 W. Wren Ave., Visalia, 93291



ACYO Fundraiser

Reusable Bags:
\$5 Each

Yettem Hats:
\$12 Each



Thank
You
for
suppo
rting

your
ACYO 😊



Checks Payable to: St. Mary ACYO
Contact David Safrazian if interested at (559) 802-7593 or dsafrazian@yahoo.com

St. Mary Yettem Palm Sunday March 25, 2018





Holy Week and Easter 2018
St. Mary Yettem

SUNDAY SCHOOL IN QUANTUM LEAP



St. Gregory Ladies Society

Presents

A Mother's Day Luncheon

11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 12, 2018
Pardini's Banquet Hall
2257 W. Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93711

**Join Us for a Stroll Down
Memory Lane**

With

**Martin Viramontes and
"Sounds of the Legends"**

Frank Sinatra, Neil Diamond, Tom Jones, and More!

*** Mezza * Raffle * Champagne ***

Adult Menu: Chicken Lavash Wrap, Organic Greens Salad with Vinaigrette Dressing and Fresh Fruit

Children's Menu: Chicken Strips

Adults \$30.00 Children (12 and under) \$15.00

Reservations and Checks must be received by April 30, 2018

Please Note: Tickets will **NOT** be sold at the Door

DONATIONS:

DONATIONS TO ST. GREGORY LADIES SOCIETY MAY BE MADE IN MEMORY OF, OR IN HONOR OF YOUR SPECIAL MOTHER, AND, IF RECEIVED BY MAY 4, 2018, YOUR MOTHER'S NAME AND UP TO 10 WORDS TELLING US WHY SHE IS SPECIAL, WILL BE PRINTED IN OUR LUNCHEON PROGRAM BOOKLET WITH DONOR'S NAME.

NAME _____ MOTHER'S NAME _____

DISPLAY:

BRING UP TO 3 CREATIVE ITEMS, UNIQUE TO YOUR MOTHER, WITH HER NAME AND SHORT DESCRIPTION TO SHARE WITH US ON OUR DISPLAY TABLE.



RESERVATIONS:

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO ST. GREGORY LADIES SOCIETY & MAIL TO :
ST. GREGORY CHURCH, P.O. BOX 246, FOWLER, CA. 93625, BY APRIL 30, 2018.

NAME _____ PHONE # _____

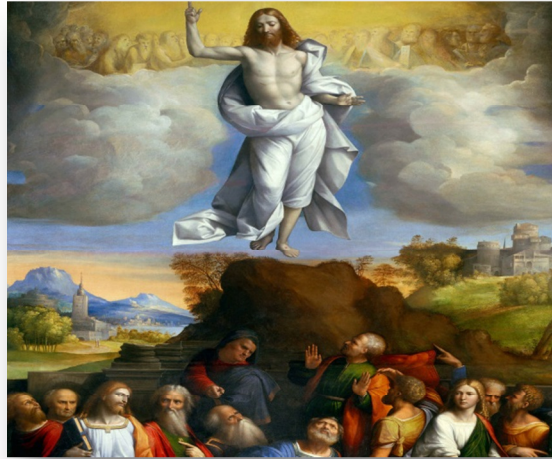
PLEASE LIST NAMES OF GUESTS ON BACK OF RESERVATION SLIP.

WISH TO BE SEATED WITH _____

WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO ACCOMMODATE YOU. TABLES OF 8 AVAILABLE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Feast of Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ



The Armenian Church celebrates the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord on the fortieth day following the Feast of the Glorious Resurrection of Our Savior Jesus Christ.

Following His Resurrection and defeat of death, Christ remained on earth for forty days, and continued to appear to His disciples. On the fortieth day, Christ is seen by His disciples for the last time. He blesses them and leaves them with instructions, after which He ascends into heaven.

Two of the Gospel writers, St. Mark and St. Luke, testify about Christ's ascension. There is also an account of it in the Acts of the Apostles.

Following a final meeting of Christ with the eleven remaining apostles, St. Mark writes, "So then, after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God." (Mark 16:19)

St. Luke gives a little greater detail as he writes, "And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen." (Luke 24: 50-53)

But by far the most beautiful account of the Ascension can be found in the Book of Acts: "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:9-11)

In the Armenian Church, the day of Jesus Christ's Ascension is also commemorated for another reason as well. On this date in 1441, the See of the Catholicosate of All Armenians was returned to its historical origins. Following a resolution of the National Assembly gathered in Vagharshapad, the Patriarchal See was relocated from the city of Sis in Western Armenia to the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. Following his vision of Christ striking the ground with a golden hammer, St. Gregory the Illuminator had founded the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin in 303. However, less than 200 years later, in 484, the Patriarchal See was forced to relocate, and for the next 1000 years, settled in various cities throughout Armenia. The decision to return the throne of the Catholicos to the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin was the fulfillment of a national dream for the Armenian people.

St. Mary Armenian Church
P.O. Box 367
Yettem, California 93670
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