



YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Հրատարակուիլիս Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածիլս Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

September 2022

95TH ANNIVERSARY REFLECTIONS

Anniversaries are great opportunities to reflect in prayer and in solitude on our personal lives or on a given institution.

Our initial feeling is that of wholehearted gratitude to the Almighty granting us the the precious gift of life and for those visionary individuals who have been the reason of the institution's prosperity.

For us and undoubtedly for the Diocesan clergy and lay people, the 95th anniversary of the Western Diocese is an invitation to self-reflection, to research and study the history of the Western Diocese and to gain a perspective for the future. The Western Diocese celebrates its 95th anniversary this year. According to historical documents, the Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church of North America was officially established in 1898 by the Pontifical Encyclical of His Holiness Mkrtych I Khrimian. Later, in 1927, as the Armenian population in the Western United States began to grow and expand and taking into consideration numerous other circumstances, the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America was established by the Pontifical Encyclical of His Holiness Kevork V Sureniants.

During the course of 95 years, the religious mission of the Western Diocese begins to thrive with the formation of a number of new communities and institutions.

The Western Diocese further expanded as a result of an influx of immigrants from the Middle East due to political instability and civil unrest, and from Armenia due to economic uncertainty, following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

We are blessed to witness that the missions of the Western Diocese continue to thrive and expand. Attesting to this fact is the construction of new churches, the founding of national institutions, whose purpose is the preservation of the Armenian identity through an indestructible bridge connecting to the Motherland and Holy Etchmiadzin.

Today, we stand before new challenges. However, we shall not stumble but rather remain resolute in our vision. We shall continue to enrich our lives remaining with callings and obligations.

(Continued on the back page)

Parish Notes

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to The Kochian family and Dr. Hartune Neffian on the recent passing of ***Diane Kochian***. No services will be held. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Also, on behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of ***Mary Majarian Craft*** who entered her eternal rest on Sunday, August 14th. Mary is survived by her nieces, Sharon Luisi, Colleen and Marlene Majarian, Chrissy Carlson, and Kathy Wright. No services will be held.

Our thoughts and prayers are with these families.

ALTAR FLOWERS DONATIONS

August 14th

The Poochigian Family

in honor of Asdvadzadzin

Mari Louise Menendian

in honor of Asdvadzadzin and all the ladies named Mary

August 21st

The Poochigian Family

in memory of Jerry Poochigian

August 31st

***The Parton, Kazarian, Nunes, Zakarian
and Fernandes families***

in memory of Blanche Parton

HOKEHANKIST REQUEST

July 31st

Nazaret Kalfayan

forty-nine years after his passing,

Arshalouis Kalfayan

eighteen years after her passing,
requested by Madlien Hebesha

August 21st

Jerry Poochigian

one year after his passing

Requested by

The Poochigian Family

August 28th

Blanche Parton

two years after her passing,

requested by

The Parton, Kazarian, Nunes, Zakarian,
and Fernandes families

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

(July 25, 2022 – August 21, 2022)

For Repose of Kurken and Satenig Garoian,

Mugerdich and Cheristan Bezdigian,

Diran and Zanazan Garoian, Edward and

Gladys Tejerian, Mildred Tejerian, and

Tom Tejerian's Souls

June 31st

Gerard and Sylvia Garoian

For Repose of Nazaret and Arshalouis

Kalfayan's souls

July 31st

Madlien Hebesha

For Repose of Jerry Poochigian's soul

August 21st

Julie Poochigian and Family

MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

July 24th

Derik and Adrineh Ghookasian

George and Gail Bedrosian

in honor of their nephew Dustin Vartanian on his
ordination to the rank of Sub Deacon

Gary and Nancy Krikorian

in honor of Dustin Vartanian on his ordination to the
rank of Sub Deacon

Jack Boudakian

Evelyn Crowder

Linda Kaloostian

Patty Torosian

in honor of Rose Marie Margosian
receiving the Hye Spirit Award

David and Ardemis Menendian

in honor of Laurie Menendian
receiving the Hye Spirit Award

August 14th

The Paul Armo Family

Our love of Jesus Christ and
his blessings for all St. Mary

Davy and Reilly Vartanian

Grape blessing

August 16th

Betty Skaff Jacobo

PARISH COUNCIL CORNER

[Ecclesiastes 3:1–8](#) is a well-known passage that deals with the balanced, cyclical nature of life and says that there is a proper time for everything. Often read at funerals to reflect on a person's life, I think it also can apply to the life of a church. The Armenian Apostolic Church and for us, St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church in Yettem, has been here from the beginning for many of us and for a significant amount of time for others.

For whatever reason, this "time" of year is always a very busy period of activity in Yettem. For years now, in July, His Eminence Hovnan Derderian the Primate of our Diocese, travels to Yettem for an annual pontifical visit and the bestowing of Hye Spirit awards. Three or four weeks later we celebrate Asdvadzadzin, the name day of our church, and the blessing of the grapes. Then a month later we celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross – one of the five major feasts of the Armenian Church, and the most important of the four feasts of the Holy Cross. This year that day also marks the beginning of Father Mashdots third year as Parish Priest in Yettem and our Ladies Society will again host a spectacular luncheon to honor Grandparents. Six days after that the Yettem Ladies Society will host the Sister Churches Luncheon for all of the Armenian parishes in the Central Valley of California. On October 9th, the local chapter of the Knights & Daughters of Vartan will sponsor a family picnic on our church grounds for the entire community. We end this three month "season" on Thursday, October 20th, with our Ways and Means Committee coordinating an "all hands on deck" event – the Armenian Food Festival – that is a major fundraiser for our parish.

For a small parish, we hold a huge number of events all through the year. This can only be accomplished because we have such dedicated members of our organizations that give freely of their time and energy. However, we cannot continue to exist at this pace unless we have many more that will step up to serve on committees when asked to do so. For those that cannot physically help, we ask for your prayers, your attendance at events and your monetary support if you are able.

Our church is here for us when we are born, when we are building up our lives, when we laugh and dance, when we celebrate birthdays, engagements, weddings and births of children and grandchildren, when we need to be embraced when we are sick, when we mourn, and when we die. Throughout all of our seasons, we need to support our church that is here for us.

Myron Sheklian
Parish Council Chair

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

The Ladies Society held our Executive Board and General monthly meetings August 6. The fall season is always busy for us, especially this year. Grandparents' Day is September 11. Everyone loves seeing the Sunday School children celebrate their grandparents. Everyone please join us!

We are welcoming ladies from throughout the valley for the Sister Churches Luncheon September 17. There are so many different and important elements in the plans. Among them, we will have a hostess at each table to personally greet our guests and spark conversation. In other words, present the face of Yettem.

Srpazan has called for Ladies' Society Town Hall meetings. Venue for the Central Valley Ladies' Societies was here at St. Mary, the day of Srpazan's pastoral visit. About thirty attendees from St. Paul Fresno and St. Gregory Fowler joined us after the luncheon and program on July 24. Discussion was spirited. There are some really interesting ideas for Central Valley Ladies' Society regional activities.

≈ Did you know there is a Greek monastery up by Dunlap? Holy Convent of the Theotokos Orthodox Monastery. We can arrange a tour. Der Moushegh Tashjian says our Armenian priests even had a retreat there years ago.

≈ William Saroyan Art exhibition in Saratoga included a speech by author and journalist Mark Arax on Saroyan and his influence, how he viewed the world he lived in, and what he would have to say about the world today. We can invite him to speak.

≈ Do you remember Jimmy Baloian? He and his family lived here in Yettem for a while, actually in Nishan and Araxie Tashjian's place on Road 144. Jim is a poet and has written about Yettem. He is in the Bay Area now. We would love to have him present his work and visit the village that so touched his heart.

Ladies Society Executive Board decided to alternate new and long-time members in the articles in the monthly bulletin. This provides an opportunity in both cases to become better acquainted with their lives, interests, and histories of our members. Among our newest members are sisters Shari Ananian and Julie Bair, who joined the Ladies Society in 2021. We are delighted to have them.

Members celebrating September birthdays: Lynn Skaff and Lillian Safrazian

Mari Louise Menendian
Ladies Society Chair, 2022

ASDVADZADZIN THANK YOU

Asdvadzadzin is always a very special day in Yettem as we not only remember the Assumption of Mary into Heaven but also celebrate the name day of our parish and conduct the blessing of the grapes.

We would like to thank the following individuals and groups who helped to make this day very successful.

Thank you to Charlie Davidian, Sarkis Enfiedjian, and Brian Poochigian for contacting the growers and packers who made the grape donations.

Our donors of the table grapes that were blessed and offered for parishioners to enjoy:

Michael Missakian of Fresno who has donated multiple boxes for several years.

Sundale: Tk, Shaun, Brady, and Sugar Rush

Mountain View: Mike Thurlow and Jeff Mele

Harold Crawford Company: Mike Hearn

Brian Taylor

Mark Savage

Myron Sheklian

We would also like to recognize:

Saturday's set up and food preparation committee consisted of Adrienne Poochigian, Mari Louise Menendian, Gerard Garoian, John and Sandy Kalfayan, Ardemis Menendian, and Myron and Debbie Sheklian.

The Sunday kitchen and cooking committee consisted of Judy Skaff, Adrienne Poochigian, Davy and Reilly Vartanian, and Myron and Debbie Sheklian.

A special dessert was provided by Lilit Benjamin. Lilit baked and donated three delicious sheet cakes.

Our Ways and Means Committee for organizing the fantastic Bake Sale. Thank you to those who donated items and to those who purchased them. The Ways and Means Committee profited \$1,044.

ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

The Armenian Food Festival (drive-thru only) will be held on **Thursday, October 20th** at the Visalia Elks Lodge in Visalia. (See flier)

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

If you would like to sponsor either the weekly bulletin for a minimum donation of \$25 or the monthly bulletin for a minimum donation of \$200, please call the church office at (559) 528-6892.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Sunday School is back. The first class of the year is **Sunday, September 11th at 11:00 AM**. Sunday School meets on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, September-June. All Children are welcome! (See flier)

GRANDPARENTS' DAY

St. Mary Ladies Society invites you to a brunch in celebration of **Grandparents' Day on Sunday, September 11th** after church services. To reserve a table or seat(s) email: lunch@stmaryyettem.org or call the church office at (559) 528-2892 by **Wednesday, September 7th**. Reservations are required. (See flier)

SISTER CHURCHES LUNCHEON

The Sister Churches Luncheon hosted by our St. Mary Yettem Ladies Society will be held on **Saturday, September 17th at 11:30 AM**. (See flier)

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held via Zoom on **September 22nd at 6 PM**.

PILGRIMAGE

On **Sunday, October 2nd** members from the St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church of Santa Clarita will be making a pilgrimage to Yettem. The group will be led by former St. Mary Yettem Priest Rev. Fr. Zaven Markosyan and his family.

WAYS AND MEANS

The Ways and Means next meeting will be via Zoom **Thursday, October 6th at 7 PM**.

SAVE THE DATE FOR A FAMILY PICNIC

An outdoor Badarak will be conducted on **Sunday, October 9th**. After services the Knights & Daughters of Vartan will sponsor a family picnic here at St. Mary Yettem. The community is invited! Flier will be in the October bulletin.

PAYPAL

You may access PayPal through the St. Mary Yettem website (www.stmaryyettem.org) and click 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.

RAFFLE

Our eighth church raffle of 2022 was held on Sunday, August 14th.

Congratulations to...

(\$150) Betty Krikorian

(\$100) Shana Penny

(\$50) Margo Margosian

Our **ninth raffle drawing** will be held on **Sunday, September 11th**. The drawing will also be streamed on Facebook. Thank you to our Ways and Means Committee for this great fundraiser for our church. If you would like tickets, contact Tina at (559) 967-2593 by phone or text.



Save a little
← of this!

**Keeping that extra car
running is expensive**

Donate your vehicle

Keeping that extra vehicle is expensive. Donate it and save some money while also getting a tax-deduction. Donating it is easy. Pick-up is free. It's a win for you and a win for our church! For more information, call Linda Farsakian-Wall at 559-786-1419.

ALTAR FLOWER INCREASE

Effective May 2022 Peter Perkins has increased the price of delivery of altar flowers to our church. The new cost for two altar flowers is \$125. If you choose to supply your own flowers already in vases, they must be here at church before 10:00 AM on Sunday.

DONATIONS

Our annual church budget is \$182,0000. For a small parish we accomplish much, but your continued support is very necessary. Checks may be mailed to the church office, or you may access PayPal through the St. Mary Yettem website (www.stmaryyettem.org). You may donate for general donations, yughakins, pledges, membership dues, in lieu of flowers, or pay for altar flowers you have ordered for the church altar.

ST. MARY MEMORIAL WALL

The St. Mary Memorial Wall was started in 2001 and has been a huge success. Currently there is **space for 28 additional names** at a **donation of \$200/name**. Contact Jim Soxman: ph. 559-936-2227 or email: jimbeasoxman@sbcglobal.net.



DEACONS TRAINING

Sub Deacon Dustin Vartanian recently participated in a Deacon training program offered by our Diocese at our camp. Dustin is a self-motivated individual who wants to learn as much as he can to serve his church.



ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Ladies Society meeting in the Majarian Hall at 11:30 AM
4 Barekendan of the Fast of Holy Cross	5 Labor Day	6	7	8 Feast of the Nativity of the Holy Mother-of-God	9	10
11 Exaltation of the Holy Cross Ladies Society Grandparent's Day Brunch & ACYO Bake Sale Sunday School begins Der Mashdots 2 nd Anniversary 9 th Raffle drawing	12 Remembrance of the dead	13	14	15	16	17 Sister Churches Luncheon hosted by St. Mary Yetteem Ladies Society in the Majarian Hall at 11:30 AM
18	19	20	21 Independence Day of the Republic of Armenia	22 Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 6 PM	23	24 St. George the Warrior
25 Holy Cross of Varak Sunday School Children Sermon	26	27	28	29	30	

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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

Ladies Society Featured Member

This month, we feature sisters Sharon (Shari) Ananian and Julie Ananian Bair. Shari and Julie joined the Ladies Society in 2021. They are committed members of the St. Mary Church community and both volunteer and attend church regularly. They especially enjoy the fellowship when the ladies get together to make kofta and yalanchi and choreg. They feel they are serving their church and preserving and honoring the heritage of their grandmother Haiganoush and mother Reba.

Sharon Marie Ananian

Shari was born February 3, 1966, in Visalia. Her parents were Reba and Jack Ananian. Her grandparents were Harry and Haiganoush Ananian, who came to Yettem from Chomaklou, Turkey, the village of origin of so many of Yettem's early settlers. Her older siblings are Julie Bair, Mike Ananian, and Jeff Ananian.



Other than going off to college for a little while, Shari has lived on Avenue 388 in three different homes most of her life. One of her fondest memories of living on Avenue 388 was the haunting sound of the horns of the trains passing on the tracks just a quarter mile up the road.

In 1984 Shari graduated from Orosi High School and immediately attended DeVry Institute of Technology in Phoenix, where she studied computer programming. This was followed by general studies at Arizona State in Tempe in 1985. After college she returned home and worked in banking for the next 33 years. She started at Imperial Savings in Dinuba and then Bank of the West in Dinuba, Orosi, Tulare, and Orosi again until her retirement at the age of 55 in 2021.

Shari spends her retirement time golfing and camping, and has a special passion for rock collecting. In 2012 she joined the Tule Gem and Mineral Society where she volunteers and hunts for gems and minerals in California and Nevada. Proof is in her back yard, with an amazing display of all kinds of fascinating rocks and minerals.

Shari's new stage in life will also include an adventure into a new world by selling her home on Avenue 388, boarding a camper trailer and moving to another state with her partner and two dogs Denver and Lulu by April of 2023 - Destination Unknown.

Julie Marie Ananian Bair

On January 13, 1965, a daughter was born to Reba and Jack Ananian. They named her Julie Marie. She was their 3rd child, after brothers Mike and Jeff. Being the only daughter was short lived as her sister Shari was born just a year later!



Julie was raised on Avenue 388 between Cutler and Yettem in a strong family environment that included her grandparents Harry and Haiganoush Ananian and Gura and Belulah Walls. Living on a farm, as you know, means everyone learns the value of hard work. Julie and her family worked long hours in the fields and packing shed to make sure all the work got done.

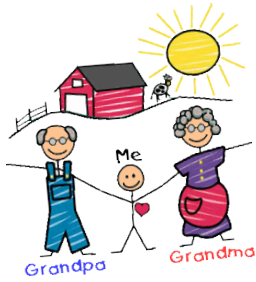
Julie began school at Cutler Elementary and continued to Orosi High School where she graduated in 1983. The summer after graduating, Julie went to work for the California Division of Forestry where she worked and learned secretarial skills from Evelyn Boudakian Crowder.

The next fall Julie left for Arizona to attend DeVry Institute of Technology where she received her bachelor's degree in computer science. After graduating from college, Julie moved to Colorado and for the next seven years she worked in accounting and explored the great outdoors of the Rocky Mountains.

In 1995 Julie moved back to the valley to be closer to her family. She went to work for Cal Bennett's and has been there ever since. At that time, Julie met her sweetheart and soon to be husband Tom Bair. Together they have a daughter, Kathryn Marie, born in 2005.

Julie's hobbies are gardening, going shopping with her daughter, and cooking.

St. Mary Yettem - Ladies Society



Annual Brunch
in Celebration of



'Grandparents' Day'

Sunday, September 11, 2022

Immediately following church services in the Majarian Hall

∞ **Enjoy a Delicious Brunch**
featuring—Beeshee and
Traditional Grandparents Day foods ∞

****Cost **Adults(\$15) **Children(\$10)****

-To Reserve a Table or Seat(s)-

**E-mail: lunch@stmaryyettem.org –or–
Call the Church Office —(559) 528-6892
by Wednesday, September 7**

{Sunday School will honor our Grandparents'}



RESERVATIONS are Requested

Celebrate our dear Grandparents



Please Join Us As We Gather Once Again For Our
Sister Churches Luncheon

Hosted By

The Ladies Society of Saint Mary Armenian Church, Yettem

Saturday, September 17th. 2022 11:30 a.m.

Yettem Church Hall 14395 Avenue 384, Yettem California

Donation \$30.00 per Guest

Please Send Your Reservations Along With Payment by September 12th.

To:

Saint Mary Armenian Church / Office

P.O. Box 367

Yettem, CA 93670

We Look Forward to Sharing an Inspirational Afternoon with Our Sisters From

First Armenian Presbyterian Armenian Church, Holy Cross Armenian Church

Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church

St. Gregory Armenian Church

St. Paul Armenian Church

&

Sts. Sahag-Mesrob Armenian Church

*Yettem
1911-2022*

Contact Linda Farsakian-Wall @ 559 786-1419 With Any Questions



St. Mary Armenian Church, Yetttem
Ways and Means Committee

Mark your Calendars

ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

Thursday, October 20, 2022

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 Bourma

Donation~\$20 per person

Lunch Served — 11:00am—1:30pm

Dinner Served — 4:30pm—7:00pm

Bake Sale

Grape Leaves • Crescent Cookies • Nazook

Kurabia • Simit • Choreg

DRIVE THRU ONLY

If you are not already on the list to receive tickets in advance
Contact Tina—(559) 967-2593 or hyetinaeters@lightspeed.net

Asdvadzadin August 14, 2022



(Continued from the front page)

It is the time to renew our faith life. Let us beseech God's presence in our lives in order that we may truly live in accordance with the teachings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As Ambassadors of Christ, we shall:

1. Bring the faithful closer to God, guiding them on the path of righteousness.
2. Establishing the Church as the true House of God, wherein the faithful will bear God's love and wisdom.
3. Ensuring that faith, prayer, and the orthodox lifestyle accompanies new priests throughout their life's journey as they spiritually prepare to shepherd the flock of Christ.
4. In parallel with the preparation of new priests, to provide Christian education to the laity, regardless of age, ensuring professionalism and perpetuity in the process.
5. Reject modern-day trends with echoing spiritual messages in order to contribute to the growth of the expression of God's love in the hearts of the faithful.
6. We ought to reform our church. By reform, we do not mean the condensing or altering our heritage, as was the case with the Western "Reformation-Protestant" movement. Rather we are referring to the presentation, interpretation and sharing of our traditions and moral values with the faithful.
7. Lastly, we are obliged to return to our roots and work tirelessly and relentlessly, for we must give our account to the Lord for our stewardship.

Motherland Armenia, as our homeland, is the center of our history and culture. Holy Etchmiadzin, as the God-established spiritual center of our people, has instilled in our hearts the calling of our ancestors to live "for Christ and for the Motherland."

ARCHBISHOP HOVNAN DERDERIAN
PRIMATE

August 2022

St. Mary Armenian Church
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