



YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Հրատարակութիւն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

April 2022

EASTER MESSAGE

“Glory to Your Miraculous Resurrection, Lord.”

The Mystery of Christ’s Resurrection is beyond the limits of human comprehension and logic. Christ’s Resurrection can only be felt and lived solely through faith. Faith is the key to immerse in the transparency of the Resurrection and comprehend its influence in the life of humanity, especially throughout various historical periods of our nation.

The Resurrection is the purest expression of Christ’s limitless and unconditional love, the assurance His true promise, with which light overcame darkness, hope prevailed over uncertainty, life defeated death, and good prevailed over evil.

The Resurrection of Christ is the greatest testament to our faith, the framework of the validity of our creed, the undeniable truth of Christ’s divinity for the non-believers and skeptics, and lastly the anchor of our spiritual identity.

In these times, when the chaos of the world is overwhelming, some have resorted to unknowingly pose the following question: “Where is the Resurrected Lord?” Why didn’t God save us from the merciless coronavirus pandemic, why didn’t He send signs of the 44-day Artsakh War, why didn’t He resolve the differences between Russia and the Ukraine, a war between brother countries that may well turn into a global conflict and result in World War III?

The righteous Job also resorted to asking such questions, when he lost everything despite being pious and God-loving. Like others, Job also experienced feelings of hopelessness. However, when listening to Job’s complaints, God answered him *“Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?” (JOB 40:8)*. Hearing this Job regretted his actions and repented by saying *“I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You” (JOB 42:5)*.

Let us not be naive like those who attempted to console Job through empty and wearisome explanations, being the cause of his temptation. The answers to the “Whys” rest in the Cross and the Crucified, the precious blood that He shed in sacrificing Himself for the salvation of humanity. The All Benevolent God does not wish death upon the sinful. The evil and the devastation that occurs in of the world are not His will nor does He command them. They are the result of our free will. St. James the Apostle says it rightfully *“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone” (JAMES 1:13)*.

(Continued on the back page)

Holy Week: A Prelude to Easter

The Armenian Church calls the final week of Christ's life on earth **Great Week or Holy Week** (*Avak Shapat*). During this time, we share in His teachings, His suffering, His death, and His resurrection.

The remembrance of the raising of Lazarus (*John 11:1-44*) on **Holy Saturday** is an example of the coming resurrection of all those who have fallen asleep in Christ when he declares "I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies...". The weeping of Jesus for Lazarus in the reading demonstrates His great love towards mankind.

Palm Sunday celebrates the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem riding atop a donkey when large crowds gathered to meet him spreading their cloaks on the road and branches from palm trees shouting: "Hosanna! Blessed is the King of Israel that comes in the name of the Lord". On Palm Sunday, churches are decorated with branches from palm trees and the Divine Liturgy is celebrated.

The *Trnpatsek* (opening of the door) service takes place on Palm Sunday when the altar curtain is opened following the Lenten period.

Holy Monday is dedicated to the creation of Heaven and Earth, the foundation for Christ's Second Creation. Christ condemns the fig tree that did not bear fruit (as Israel failed to bring forth the fruits of repentance) and teaches that faith can have the strength to move mountains, overcoming despair and even death.

The parable of the Wise and Foolish Maidens (Matthew 25:1-13) is the focus of **Holy Tuesday**. Ten maidens waited for their bridegroom (in the custom of that time and place, the bridegroom would fetch the bride from her parents' home to bring her to his own). Five of the women foolishly took their lamps with no extra oil and when the bridegroom was delayed, could not go out and meet him. The wise maidens went prepared and joined him in the marriage feast. Similarly, we must pray and wait, in a state of perpetual preparation to receive Christ.

In the reading for **Holy Wednesday** (Matthew 26:6-13), a fallen woman anoints Christ with costly oil and kisses his feet. The apostles chastise her for wasting oil that could have been sold to help the poor, but Christ defends her action, perceiving her deed as one of devotion, and knowing that this anointing anticipates His upcoming death and burial.

The morning liturgy service on **Holy Thursday** marks the institution of the New Covenant: Holy Communion, which Christ established at the Last Supper. During a Passover meal, Christ broke and distributed unleavened bread and shared the wine with His apostles, identifying these as elements His Body and Blood. Through this sacrament, mankind participates in the Kingdom of God.

Another episode at the Last Supper is recalled during the evening service on Holy Thursday. "The Washing of the Feet" ceremony commemorates how Christ washed the feet of His apostles, setting an example of humility and love. The priest, in turn, washes the feet of twelve church members, usually young men.

On Holy Thursday, an all-night vigil is kept in memory of the last sleepless night of our Lord on earth. This service is called *Khavaroom* (Darkness). Before He was arrested, Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane and endured in solitude the agony of His impending death. Six sets of laments are chanted, each followed by a Gospel reading depicting Christ's betrayal, imprisonment, torture, trial, sentence, and crucifixion. Twelve lit candles, 11 white and 1 black (representing Judas), are extinguished in pairs.

Holy Friday is the most solemn and sad day of the Christian calendar. The Crucifixion Service, usually held at midday, recalls the suffering, execution, and death of our Lord, memorialized amid readings from the psalms. In the evening, a white tomb is placed in the chancel of the church for the Entombment or Burial Service. The tomb is adorned with flowers and during the service is taken in procession around the church. As the faithful leave the church they approach the tomb, kiss the Gospel book, and take a flower in remembrance.

On **Holy Saturday**, also known as the Easter Vigil, the mystery of salvation in the Resurrection of Christ is celebrated. The church is dark, its lights are dim. Then the great verses from Isaiah 60 are read: "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you"-at which point the lights are suddenly turned on. The dramatic, joyful candle-lighting ceremony is called *Jrakalouytz*.

Finally, **Easter Sunday** celebrates the joy of the Resurrection and the promise of salvation for all humanity. Armenian Christians around the world exchange the Easter greeting: *Krisdos haryav ee merelotz! Orhnyal eh harootiunun Krisdosee!* Christ is risen from the dead! Blessed is the resurrection of Christ!

Easter Sunday is followed by a period of 40 days, during which time there are no saints' days or fasting days. This period, dedicated to the glory of Christ's Resurrection and to the 40 days He spent on earth after His Resurrection, leads up to Ascension Day, commemorating our Lord's entry into heaven.

Sourced in part: www.armenianchurch.us

Parish Notes

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

THIS APRIL 2022 BULLETIN

**IS IN HONOR OF
LUCILLE MARGOSIAN'S
MARCH 24th - 90th BIRTHDAY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

SPONSORED BY
ROSE MARIE MARGOSIAN,
PIERRE, MELISSA, ALIK,
ARLEN & ALINA PILAVIAN,
DARRELL, TINA, KARNIG &
MELINA PETERS

ALTAR FLOWERS DONATIONS

March 13th – Lesta and Marty Ekizian and Rick and Gayle Barton and Family in memory of Mike Ekizian and Michael Ekizian

HOKEHANKIST REQUEST

March 13th

Mike Ekizian

two years after his passing,

Mikael Ekizian

nine years after his passing,

Requested by

Lesta and Marty Ekizian and
Rick and Gayle Barton and Family

March 20th

Sahag Yetenekian

Araxie Arshagian

Kohar Arshagian

Requested by

Siranoush Yetenekian

HOKEHANKIST DONATION

(February 21, 2022 – March 27, 2022)

For Repose of Pete Zerounian's Soul

February 27th – Marilyn Zerounian and Family

**For Repose of Mike and Michael Ekizian's
Souls**

March 13th – Lesta Ekizian, and an anonymous donor

**For Repose of Sahag Yetenekian, Araxie
Arshagian, and Kohar Arshagian's Souls**
March 20th – Siranoush Yetenekian

ARMENIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES

The Armenian Language class will be held **TUESDAY** at **7 PM**. The short 15–20-minute classes on Zoom taught by Father Mashdots teaches simple conversational Armenian and classes are not sequential. Attend as many weeks as you can. Feel free to join us and find out about this great opportunity by clicking on this Zoom link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3292527222?pwd=QVh6NTdPa0JzSkFRcTFvWWdLdGprUT09>

Meeting ID: 329 252 7222

Passcode: 6HmFDy

EASTER SERVICES SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday – April 10, 2022

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 – April 14, 2022

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 – April 15, 2022

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

Great and Holy Saturday – April 16, 2022

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

5:30 PM – Easter Eve Divine Liturgy

Easter Sunday – April 17, 2022

9:30 AM – Morning Service

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

PARISH COUNCIL CORNER

New visitors to St. Mary Armenian Church in Yetteem are usually awestruck by the beauty of two dozen stained glass windows found in our sanctuary. St. Mary Yetteem's stained glass windows have an interesting history of how they came about. Fortunately, the story of these windows written by the then Reverend Father Vartan Kasparian, was included in the 65th Anniversary Book compiled in 1976 as a keepsake for parishioners. In my quest to promote an appreciation for what we have today given to us by earlier generations, I am duplicating some of what Der Vartan wrote forty-six years ago.

A dream began to form in the minds of many to somehow show their joy in receiving, by giving, in the true Christian spirit, something material to their church, in the hope of further enriching their beloved church, enhancing its beauty, bringing warmth and generally make the house of worship even more inviting to the faithful.

A permanent committee was formed when the A.C.Y.O. of Yetteem in 1972 undertook the sponsorship of replacing all windows in our church with stained glass. Members of the permanent committee were chosen as follows: President: Rev. Father Vartan Kasparian; Chairman: Sirag D. Kalfayan; Co-Chairman: Harry Ekizian; Co-Chairman: Larry Farsakian.

A lengthy search to find a qualified firm to undertake the fabrication of these stained glasses resulted in the commissioning of Mr. Robert W. Hill and Mr. Cecil Brusey, noted designers and craftsmen of stained glass in Soquel, California, in March 1972. After much correspondence, the committee was able to come to terms with the above firm for the design, fabrication and installation of all the windows. The task of finding donors for this project, was perhaps the easiest. People responded generously when two circulars were mailed requesting their participation. Within a short period of time all the windows were committed and paid for. The difficult problem of selecting proper scenes and inscriptions of donors, was finally resolved with the help of the permanent committee, an advisory group formed from two members of our auxiliary organizations; representing Mr. and Mrs. Club, Sarkis Yahnian and Richard Dudukian; Choir, Richard Hagopian and Mike Derderian; A.C.Y.O., Randy Tellalian and Eddie Derderian; Ladies Society, Araxie Menendian and Miritz Barsamian and Parish Priest, Rev. Father Vartan Kasparian.

(Continued on the next column)

There were many delays due to circumstances beyond the control of any one person. Unforeseen problems arose requiring vents, increase in plexiglass costs and increase in costs of material in general. It was decided by the committee not to seek additional moneys from original donors to defray these unforeseen expenses, but rather to invest moneys collected in a savings institution which would yield the greatest interest without risk. The end result is one, the Stained Glass Project is completed and paid for; second, the A.C.Y.O. has two beautiful stained-glass windows in their name, as a permanent memento for posterity.

By the way, the total cost of the project that included the increased costs mentioned above was \$15,764.28!

Myron Sheklian

Parish Council Chair

POON PAREGENTAN

The Ways and Means Committee once again featured the all-you-can-eat Spaghetti Luncheon for Poon Paregentan with home-made sauce, meatballs, and of course a vast variety of delicious desserts.

2021 "The Covid-19 Year" we were limited to take-out and outdoor dining only. This year we were excited about decorating the hall and tables with the bright colors of Mardi Gras. We were also able to bring back the 50/50 raffle where Chuck Simonian has perfected the selling of cards and keeping the participants in suspense as he slowly reveals the winner which this year was "JoAnn Sheklian". Congratulations to JoAnn!! We also had games for kids which Linda Farsakian-Wall headed up outdoors with badminton, croquet, parachute games and ring toss keeping them entertained until it was time for BINGO! Kids and adults gathered around the bingo tables as Marlene and Colleen Majarian called out the numbers. Everyone was a winner!

Sarkis and Hasmik Enfiedjian, two of our groups' advisors surprised everyone by driving from Southern Californian to help celebrate Poon Paregetan with us. It was great to see them and pictures of their grandchildren.

The February Ways and Means Church Raffle was also held on Poon Paregentan. Congratulations to the winners!

It was truly a day filled with fellowship and good times.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this event. Looking forward to next year.

The Ways and Means Committee

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

The Ladies Society held our Executive Board and General monthly meetings March 5th. We enjoyed a lovely Lenten lunch beforehand, with table decorations based on a St. Patrick's Day theme. Thank you to former Chair Linda Farsakian-Wall for heading the luncheon committee.

Our Ladies Society Central Council recognized the global Women's Prayer Day by hosting a gathering at St. Leon Cathedral in Burbank on Wednesday March 2nd. A group of our Yetem ladies watched the event on the Diocesan Facebook page on the wide screen at the church hall. Der Vasken Movsesian spoke on "*Loss and Resilience.*" The message was poignant. If anyone knows about loss and resilience, it is Armenians. We were quite moved.

By the time this April bulletin comes out, the Ladies Society will have hosted a Meechink luncheon on March 27th. We hope many of you enjoyed this traditional mid-Lent fellowship and lovely Lenten meal. Laurie Menendian chaired the committee.

Yeretsgin Maral is again in charge of making beautiful Palm Sunday candles with crosses and ribbons. Margie L. Davidian will gather and wash and prepare olive tree leaves. Julie Poochigian and Janet Gomes will pin two in the form of a cross on the lapels of congregants on Palm Sunday.

Easter Sunday, we have the time-honored message to apply to lapels. The words thereon date from the beginnings of Christianity: Krisdos Haryav ee Merelots, Ohrnyal eh Haroutiounn Krisdosee! Christ is Risen, Blessed is the Resurrection of Christ! Քրիստոս Յարեաւ ի Մեռելոց: Օրհնեալ է յարութիւնն Քրիստոսի!

Not to forget cracking hard-boiled eggs on Easter Sunday, see the reminder in this bulletin. You can read about this age-old tradition all over the internet. Everyone picks an egg, and the battle begins. It's great fun. Somebody with a good egg might go home with an awful lot of hard-boiled eggs!

Birthdays wishes for April go to Shirley Ouzounian, Nancy Krikorian, and Janel Zerounian.

*Mari Louise Menendian
Ladies Society Chair, 2022*

LENTEN SERVICE THANK YOUS

Thank you to Dr. Dn. Christopher Sheklian who was our guest presenter on March 9th speaking on "Nature and Fasting" following the Peace Hour service.

Thank you to our Souper Supper Hosts...

3/02 Linda Farsakian-Wall

3/09 Myron, Debbie and Christopher Sheklian

3/16 Yn. Maral Khanjian

3/23 Margie L. Davidian

3/30 Myron and Debbie Sheklian

4/06 Judy Skaff

SOUPER SUPPERS

Soup will be served from 5:30 to 6:15. Lenten services will begin at 6:15 PM.

Wednesday, March 30th

Wednesday, April 6th

WAYS AND MEANS

The Ways and Means next meeting will be via Zoom **Thursday, April 28th at 7 PM.**

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held via Zoom on **Thursday, April 21st at 6 PM.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School meets on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, September – June. All children welcome!

NEW ST. MARY FACEBOOK PAGE

We are in the process of opening a new Facebook account to better serve the needs of our parish. You can search the new site by entering SaintMary YetemChurch. We hope that you will "friend us" on our new page soon. The old page will be shut down after Easter.

PAYPAL

You may access PayPal through the St. Mary Yetem 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 second church raffle of 2022 was held on Sunday, February 27th.

Congratulations to...

(\$150) John Kaprielian

(\$100) Abe & Sandra Kizirian

(\$50) Judy Skaff

Our third raffle drawing was held on Sunday, March 13th.

Congratulations to...

(\$150) Janice McWilliams

(\$100) Margo Margosian

(\$50) Judy Skaff

Our **fourth raffle drawing** will be held on **Easter Sunday, April 17th**. 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.

ST. MARY CAR DONATION

Spring is here! Time to clean out your garage or yard of that old vehicle taking up space. Donate it is as easy as 1,2,3. 1.) Call Careasy at 855-500-RIDE (7433) or use the website **careasy.org** to complete the online form. 2) Choose **St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettem** as the nonprofit you want to donate to. 3) Arrange with Careasy for your vehicle to be picked up. All proceeds will go to benefit our church. What are you waiting for? Clean out that clutter!

ALL services are livestreamed on our webpage at www.stmaryyettem.org. Click the link on the "camera tab" to watch services. The Holy Badarak is streamed on our Facebook page each Sunday beginning at **10:15 AM**.

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.

Please inform Father Mashdots of those who may be sick at home, hospitalized or may need special prayers. Der Hayr is available for pastoral care, spiritual guidance and support.

COOKBOOK

A second edition of the "Treasured Recipes from the Garden of Eden" has been made available. These cookbooks make a great gift. 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.

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.

What's with all the eggs?

Eggs are a symbol of new life and rebirth, which is fitting for the Christian holiday celebrating Jesus's resurrection, which is one reason we hunt for eggs on Easter.

Another reason is that, during the Lenten season, meat and animal byproducts were forbidden, meaning that people couldn't enjoy eggs for 40 days and 40 nights. When Easter came, people would celebrate by decorating the eggs and then eating them to celebrate Easter and the end of their fast.

Did you know pretzels used to be the Easter food of choice?

Why? Because they looked like a person whose hands were crossed in prayer. So add a little salty to all of your Easter sweets to keep with the lost tradition.

Why do we dye eggs on Easter?

There are some other theories as to why we dye eggs in celebration of Easter. The first and most obvious is that coloring the eggs brilliant colors helps usher in spring. The other is that in the 13th century, King Edward I ordered 450 eggs to be decorated and handed out as gifts, which could have started the tradition in Europe.

A more religious theory suggests that people used to dye eggs red to represent the color of the blood of Jesus Christ.

The art of dyeing eggs originated in Ukraine and is called pysanka. Rather than those cute little dyeing kits you get from the supermarket, pysanka involved pouring melted wax onto the eggs.

ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

APRIL 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 St. Gregory the illuminator Commitment to the Pit Ladies Society meeting in the Majorian Hall
3 6 th Sunday of the Lent (Advent)	4	5	6 Souper Supper at 6 PM Lenten Service	7 Annunciation of the Virgin Mary	8	9 Remembrance of the Raising of Lazarus
10 Palm Sunday Sunday School Children Sermon Ways and Means Bake Sale	11	12 4:00 PM Remembrance of the Ten Virgins	13	14 Great and Holy Thursday 9:30 AM Morning Service 6:00 PM Washing of the Feet/7:00 PM Service of the Betrayal & Sufferings of our Lord	15 Good Friday 6:00 PM Service of the Entombment & Solemn Procession	16 9:00 AM ACYO Set Up Great and Holy Saturday 5:00 PM Evening Service, Scripture Readings & Voch Inch Eh Bido 5:30 PM Easter Eve Divine Liturgy
17 Holy Easter 9:30 AM Morning Service/10:15 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Antasdan (Blessing of the Fields) ACYO Easter Luncheon 4 th Raffle drawing	18 Remembrance of the dead	19	20	21 Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 6 PM	22	23 Preparing Yalanchi and Crescents for the Food Festival at 9 AM
24 Feast of the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide Sunday School	25	26	27	28 Ways and Means meeting via Zoom at 7 PM	29	30

7

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

Sponsored by the St. Mary Yettem
Ways and Means Committee



Palm Sunday

BAKE SALE

After Church Services

Sunday, April 10, 2022

Choreg

Simit

Nazook

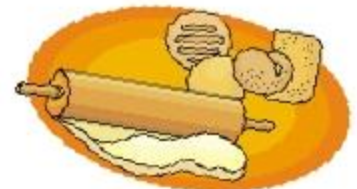
Gata

Kataifi

Bread Sticks

Plus many more

Homemade Baked Goods



****SUPPORT the Ways and Means Bake Sale****

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

Text or Call Judy Skaff—(559) 799-1198



Saint Mary Yettem ACYO

Annual Easter Luncheon

Sunday, April 17, 2022

Immediately following church services in the Majarian Hall

**Delicious 'Filet' Beef Kebab
Salad, Pilaf, Green Beans, Cheese Borag,
Bread, Dessert and Beverages**



Adults: \$20 per adult

Children 10 and under: \$15 per child

For Reservations:

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

E-mail—lunches@stmaryyettem.org

Reserved Seating is available with your advance payment

Fill out the bottom portion (front and back) and
send with your payment by Tuesday, April 12, 2022 to:
ACYO—936 W. Hemlock Avenue, Visalia, CA 93277



ACYO Easter Luncheon—Reservations with Advance Payment

NAME _____ Phone # _____

_____ **Yes, I will attend the ACYO Easter Luncheon.**

Adult Ticket(s): _____ @ \$20 = \$ _____

Children Ticket(s): _____ @ \$15 = \$ _____

My check is enclosed Payable to St. Mary ACYO for \$ _____

A table of Eight (8) can be reserved—if more seats are needed on the table please specify.

Please list the people you are paying for
and/or would like to sit with on **the back of this paper.**



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and/or would like to sit with on **the back of this paper.**



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

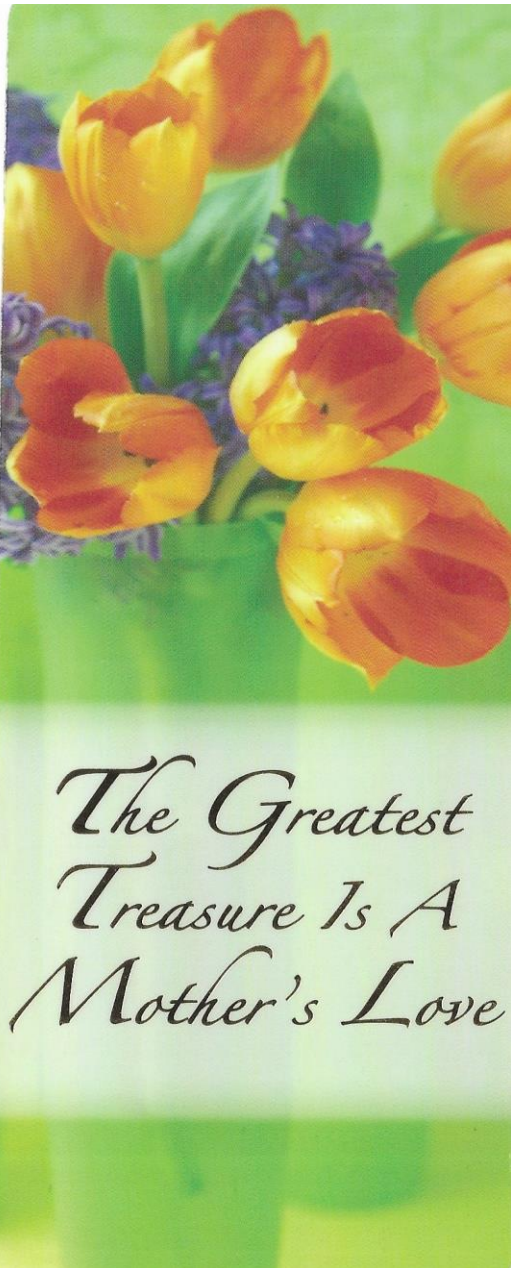


ST. MARY YETTEM LADIES SOCIETY

Invites You To Our

Annual Mothers' Day Luncheon

Saturday, May 7, 2022
11:30 AM



Save the Date

***for this
timeless tradition***

***honoring the mothers
of***

St. Mary Yettem

***Look for more details in the
coming weeks***

St. Mary Yette
Ways and Means Committee

Mark your Calendars

ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

Thursday, May 19, 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~\$18 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

~ Tickets will be sent in April~

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



Congratulations to

Arlen Pilavian and Alina Hokokian

who were joined in Holy Matrimony on Saturday, February 5, 2022 at Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church in Fresno. Officiating the ceremony was Rev. Fr. Ashod Khachadourian, assisted by Deacon Berj Apkarian. The Best Man for this joyous occasion was Mosig Karkazian, friend of the groom, and Maids of Honor were Bridget Paboojian and Talar Yepremian, friends of the bride.

Parents of the groom are Pierre & Melissa Pilavian and parents of the bride are Dr. John and Vicki Hokokian.

Grandmothers of the Groom, Rose Marie Margosian & Lena Kalfayan. Grandfathers of the Groom, the late George Margosian & Jean Pilavian.

Grandparents of the Bride, the late Sam & Mary Hokokian & the late Hagop & Arsho Kismetian.

The newlyweds will reside in Fresno, California.



**Welcome to
Poon Paregentan
February 27, 2022**



(Continued from the front page)

Therefore, such doubts and questions which may arise from our human condition ought to be answered in our partaking in Christ's sufferings, as God demonstrated His salvific power, which ultimately culminated with His Glorious and Victorious Resurrection. It is for this reason that during Holy Week, when we sing "To Your Cross, Christ" (*Khachi ko Krisdos*), we praise and signify Christ's betrayal, passion, burial, and resurrection.

As did our ancestors, we too must live our lives embracing the sunrise of Christ's Resurrection, realizing that the temptations of life are impermanent and temporary. The mystery of Christ's Victorious Resurrection ought to reside in the hearts of our people in Armenia and the Diaspora if we wish to heal our pain and diminish our sufferings. Comfort and consolation is derived from God. At times of doubt, sorrow and great pain, like Job, we bow before His Might. We regret and furthermore, we repent. It is only then that we will become worthy of seeing the Resurrected Lord.

Today, the Armenian Apostolic Holy Church exhorts her faithful to renew their spiritual lives with the mystery of the Resurrection. Our Church commands us to relinquish slanderous discourse, destructive criticism, unsuitable complaints, the relay of self-responsibility on others. Our Church instructs us to express our God-loving nature by demonstrating keenness, care, and love for another, just as God loves us all. We rest assured that our spiritual reawakening and national strength is conditioned upon the realization of these aforementioned exhortations.

The Feast of the Resurrection becomes meaningful when our people embrace a spirit of forgiveness, welcome humility, rely on wholehearted faith signified epitomized by the Christian spirit. How can we become God-loving, if we cannot uphold these virtues? How shall we stand before the power and the glory of the Resurrected Lord, if we are unable to value our God-given gifts of our Homeland, our Holy Etchmiadzin, our language and our culture?

For us, the year 2022 is of great significance as we celebrate the 95th anniversary of the establishment of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America. We have dedicated this year as the year of "The Armenian Christian Family." These occasions oblige us to celebrate the milestone anniversary with feelings of gratitude, emphasizing that the strength of our Diocese is conditioned upon the vivacity of the Armenian Christian family.

When we reflect on these two occasions, the light shines upon the path to an everlasting life.

Therefore, may our souls gaze upon that light wherein our salvation and the salvation of our nation is derived. Let us welcome and embrace Christ's Resurrection proclaiming "Christ is risen from the dead. Blessed is the Resurrection of Christ."

ARCHBISHOP HOVNAN DERDERIAN

PRIMATE OF THE WESTERN DIOCESE OF THE
ARMENIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA
APRIL 17, 2022

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