



YETTEM ԵՌԵՄ

Հրատարակութիւն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ
A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California
Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

June 2022

Who Is the Holy Spirit?

By Billy Graham

It is impossible to understand the Bible, Christian living, the structure of the church or our own relationship with God without understanding the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not an “it.” The Holy Spirit is a person. The Bible says that He is not something. He is Someone. He is God.

To understand this better, let’s talk about the Trinity. There are three persons in the Trinity God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Christians do not worship multiple gods. God the Son, or Jesus Christ, was God in human form. The Holy Spirit lives inside us when we accept Christ and helps us grow closer to God.

The moment we receive Christ as Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to live in our hearts. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is all-powerful and present everywhere. The Holy Spirit teaches us and takes us deeper into God’s truth as we go along in our Christian life.

There is not a person anywhere who can be a Christian without the Holy Spirit. There is not a person who can follow Christ without the help of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit sees everything that goes on. He knows what goes on in our hearts. He knows what goes on in our minds. Nothing is hidden from Him.

“The Holy Spirit sees everything that goes on. He knows what goes on in our hearts. He knows what goes on in our minds. Nothing is hidden from Him.” Billy Graham

The Holy Spirit is also called holy. The Bible says, “Be holy, because I am holy” (1 Peter 1:16). One of the Holy Spirit’s ministries is to help make us holy to become more like Christ.

How Does the Holy Spirit Work?

First, the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin.

“And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” (John 16:8). He uses a mother’s prayers, or a tragic experience, or a pastor’s sermon, or some other experience to convict us of sin and of our need to give our lives to Jesus Christ. He points to us and says, “You are a sinner. You need to repent.” (Continued on the back page)

Parish Notes

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we offer our deepest sympathy to the following families:

Judy Kachadoorian, Kandy Kachadoorian Basmajian, Kris and Aida Kachadoorian and family, and also the Mikaelian and Agnew families on the passing of ***Kaye Kachadoorian, Jr.*** on Tuesday, April 26th. Services were held at St. Mary Yetterm on Tuesday, May 10th.

James Kaplan, David and Marianne Kaplan and family, and the Barsamian families on the recent passing of ***Rose Kaplan*** on Wednesday, April 27th. Services were held Tuesday, May 10th at the Old Ararat Armenian Cemetery in Fresno.

Marceen and Alan Farsakian, Nickolas and Shant on the passing of Marceen's father ***Chris George Yaldezian*** on May 7th Church services were held at St. Peter Armenian Church in Van Nuys on Tuesday, May 31st. A memorial lunch was held at the Karagozian Hall and burial services were at Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills.

Jeff and Becky Akin on the passing of Jeff's father, ***Donald Akin*** on March 21st. Church services were held at the Gateway Church in Visalia on May 7th.

Vars and the extended Hovannisian family on the recent passing of ***John Hovannisian*** on May 17th. Church services were held at Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church in Fresno on Monday, May 23rd.

Our thoughts and prayers are with these families.

ALTAR FLOWERS DONATIONS

May 8th

Judy and Mike Skaff

in memory of

Richard Dudukian

and in remembrance of

Richard and Alice Dudukian's

May 1, 1954,

wedding anniversary

May 15th

Julie Poochigian and Family

HOKEHANKIST REQUEST

May 8th

Richard Dudukian

twelve years after his passing,

Requested by Judy and Mike Skaff

Mothers' Day Hokehankist Requests

Rose Megerian

Rosie Sheklian

Joan Nicholas

Sylvia Davidian

Takhouhi Mikaelian

Carolyn Mikaelian

Marian Hovannisian

Araxie Kalfayan Menendian

Yeretsgin Kaghtserig Der Nersesian

Kalfayan

Ovsanna Iskenderian Menendian

Yeretsgin Elbitsa Ekizian Der Nersesian

Lucinne Menendian Bennett

Anna Der Hagopian Kalfayan

Lois Nelson

Eva Hatounian Der Hagopian

Elimon Sheklian

Bertha Sheklian

Nancy Sheklian Swearingen

Roxie Coppola

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

(April 24, 2022 – May 23, 2022)

For Repose of Harry Ananian's Soul

April 24th – Shari Ananian

For Repose of Richard Dudukian's Soul

May 8th – Judy and Mike Skaff

MEMORIAL DONATION

C.D. Simonian Insurance Company in memory of David Simonian.

ADDITIONAL EASTER YUGHAKIN

DONATIONS

Stella Ananian

Richard and Lillian Safrazian

Amy Shuklian

Marion Shuklian

PARISH COUNCIL CORNER

This month we continue to learn more about our beautiful church and the icons found within the sanctuary. An icon is a painting or a picture that represents Jesus, St. Mary, saints, or any biblical scene. Every Armenian church contains many sacred paintings that decorate the internal part of the sanctuary. These paintings are not merely for beauty, but they have the role to connect the faithful with the heavenly realities. Beginning in the eighth century, the Armenian Church formed a cannon to bless icons with Holy Muron.

As we enter St. Mary Armenian Church in YetteM and when we are sitting and standing facing the Holy Altar, our eyes quickly focus on the stained glass and paintings that adorn the main altar. Like in every Armenian Church, directly above the Holy Altar is a picture of the Madonna and Christ Child. This beautiful piece of stained glass was originally gifted by the Armen and Araxie Menendian Family in memory of their parents and consecrated by His Eminence Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian on February 20, 1977. This piece replaced a painting of Mother Mary and Christ Jesus that graced the altar from 1947 that was donated in memory of a Reverend Father Khachig and Yeretsgin Serpouji Krouzian and family and is painted and signed by artist Krouzian. The original painting was moved to the back wall of the sanctuary and is used when we hold services at our outside altar.

On the front face of the Holy Altar, is another stained glass piece depicting the Last Supper. This work of art was donated by Sark and Sylvia Davidian to cover the previous blank area and consecrated at the same time. A light box was constructed, installed, and donated by Pete and Marilynn Zerounian to illuminate the Last Supper from the front side.

In 2015, Parish Council Chairman Chuck Simonian and the Parish Council spearheaded a project to enhance the two stained glass paintings on the altar with LED back lighting. The pain-staking job of removing each piece of cut glass from the original wood backing was done by John Joy Art Glass Studios in Scotts Valley California. Each piece was then affixed to a tempered glass sheet that was carefully framed and remounted in their original places. The reconstruction of the pieces was graciously funded by the children of the original donors. Our thanks to Mari Louise, Laurie and David Menendian and Charlie, Sark Jr. and Margie Davidian for their generosity.

In future months we will explore even more icons within our church.

Myron Sheklian

Parish Council Chair

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

The Ladies Society held our Executive Board and General monthly meetings May 14. The general meeting was our annual dessert meeting. Thank you to Tracy Valencia for heading the committee that laid out delicious treats to satisfy everyone's sweet tooth.

We enjoyed our Mothers' Day Luncheon May 14 at Uptown Sprouts in Kingsburg. The Executive Board, hosted, with Donna Torosian chairing. But we can say our hostess was Pam Tamouzian Stepanian, who was absolutely delighted to have us at her very own restaurant. Each place setting included a single rose, plus a See's truffle donated by Margie L. Davidian, plus a picture of the St. Mary miniature rose, created and named for our church when we celebrated our 75th anniversary. We honored Mother-of-the-Year Shirley Ouzounian and presented her with a dozen red roses. The event was intimate, the food delicious, the talk spirited.

The 70th Annual Ladies Assembly was May 5 at the cathedral in Burbank. I attended along with delegate Shirley Ouzounian and Linda Farsakian Wall. Linda represented the nominating committee of the Central Council. Diran Avagyan, Diocese Program Management and Special Assignments Director, gave a spiritual message. There was a panel discussion on how to grow membership. We broke into groups to further discuss ideas. A review of the reports submitted by local chapters shows that YetteM does rather well in membership. Each year at the assembly, we have a candle-lighting ceremony for ladies who had passed away. From YetteM, we remembered Sadie Derrick, Sylvia Yahnian, and Alice Halbourian. His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian gave closing remarks and spoke about how everyone has gifts, and we need to share our gifts with each other.

Calling all choreg makers

Armenian summer camp needs choreg for their evening snack. Lots of choreg. Four weeks' worth. Let the LS Executive Board know if anybody can bake some.

Happy birthday wishes to our members born in June: Margie Ann Davidian and Sandra Vartanian.

Mari Louise Menendian

Ladies Society Chair, 2022

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Grant and Kelly Bedrosian on the birth of their son, **Kenneth George** born on April 29th. Proud grandparents are George and Gail Bedrosian and Jay and Stephanie Louie.

THANK YOU'S

Every month we are blessed that parishioners come forward to serve our church in many ways:

Richard Sheklian - Oiling of the outdoor benches, bell, and plaques on the Genocide Monument

Serge Ananian – Filling in the asphalt crack in the parking lot

Charlie Ananian – Scraping the weeds from the westside parking lot

MICROPHONES AND SOUND SYSTEM

DONORS

David and Janis Christopher

Sid and Sandy Shamshoian

Anonymous Donor

Anonymous Donor

WAYS AND MEANS

On behalf of the Ways and Means Committee we would like to thank everyone for all their hard work in making our May Food Festival a big success. We sold 1,191 tickets and have a preliminary net income of \$15,517.93. This would not be possible without the help of so many devoted parishioners. We are so thankful for the dedication of so many people, because without you this very important fundraising event would not be possible.

Your Co-Chairs,

Margie L. Davidian and Judy Skaff

ACYO

ACYO Sports Weekend is **May 27th – 29th**.

VISITATION

The Christian Education Committee visitation will be here at St. Mary Yettem on **Sunday, June 5th**. Fellowship will follow Pentecost church services.

WAYS AND MEANS

The Ways and Means next meeting will be via Zoom **Thursday, June 15th at 7 PM.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Last day of Sunday School will be held on **Sunday, June 12th** followed by a fellowship hosted by Sunday School. Sunday School will resume in September.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held via Zoom on **Thursday, June 16th at 6 PM.**

FATHERS' DAY HOKEHANKIST

At the close of the Divine Liturgy, a general **requiem service/hokehankist** will be conducted in memory of all deceased fathers of our parish. If you would like to have your father, grandfather or Godfather mentioned specifically, please call the church office at 528-6892 or email services@stmaryyettem.org by **Wednesday, June 15th**.

RAFFLE

Our fifth church raffle of 2022 was held on Sunday, May 8th.

Congratulations to...

(\$150) Janice McWilliams

(\$100) Evelyn Crowder

(\$50) Katherine Kasparian

Our **sixth raffle drawing** will be held on **Sunday, June 19th**. 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.

GRADUATION season is here once again. We would like to acknowledge our graduates in the July 2022 issue of YETTEM. You are asked to submit the names, pertinent information and a photo to sonya@stmaryyettem.org or call the church office at (559) 528-6892 **no later than Friday, June 17th**.

SAVE THE DATE

Pastoral visitation of His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian to St. Mary Armenian Church will be on **Sunday, July 24th**. (See flier)

DONATIONS

It seems that every month we are challenged with unexpected expenses such as cars running into our property, compressors going out on air conditioning units and replacing old equipment. 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. An envelope has been attached for your convenience.

ARMENIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES

Armenian Language classes are held **TUESDAYS 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

PASTORAL VISITATIONS

Now that Covid restrictions have been relaxed, Father Mashdots is willing to make informal visits.

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**.

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.

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.



Gas prices not what they used to be? Donate that gas guzzling vehicle (car, truck, RV, or boat) to St. Mary Church Yettem. Profits from the sale benefits our church. It's easy! For more information, contact, Linda Farsakian-Wall at 559-786-1419.

Once again, our church property suffered damages early morning Saturday, May 14th when an intoxicated driver ran through the stop sign at Road 144 at 384 and into our cyclone fence. After coming through the fence and running over the concrete barrier, the car came to rest at the mulberry tree that has been hit numerous times before. This tree may have to now be removed. Repairs to just the fence have been running about \$1000 each time. Our insurance deductible is \$1000.

The repairs for the damages to the stairs and the railing from the February 5th incident are still underway. During that daytime accident over \$7000 in covered and uncovered damages incurred. Damages to the shrubs and lawn are not covered. We paid the \$1000 deductible out of the general fund and \$5750 was received to cover the repair costs to our structure.

Your Parish Council has previously worked with Tulare County agencies and Caltrans. After this latest incident, we have formally requested in writing additional safety measures to be considered by the State.

ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

JUNE 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Ladies Society Meeting in the Majarian Hall at 11:30 AM
5 Pentecost Sunday Services Christian Education Committee Visitation Fellowship	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Sunday School Children Sermon Sunday School Commencement Fellowship hosted by Sunday School	13	14	15 Ways and Means meeting via Zoom at 7 PM	16 Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 6 PM	17	18
19 Feast of the Catholicon of Holy Etchmiadzin Father's Day Sunday School to present gifts to all fathers 6 th Raffle drawing	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

9

Sunday Schedule:

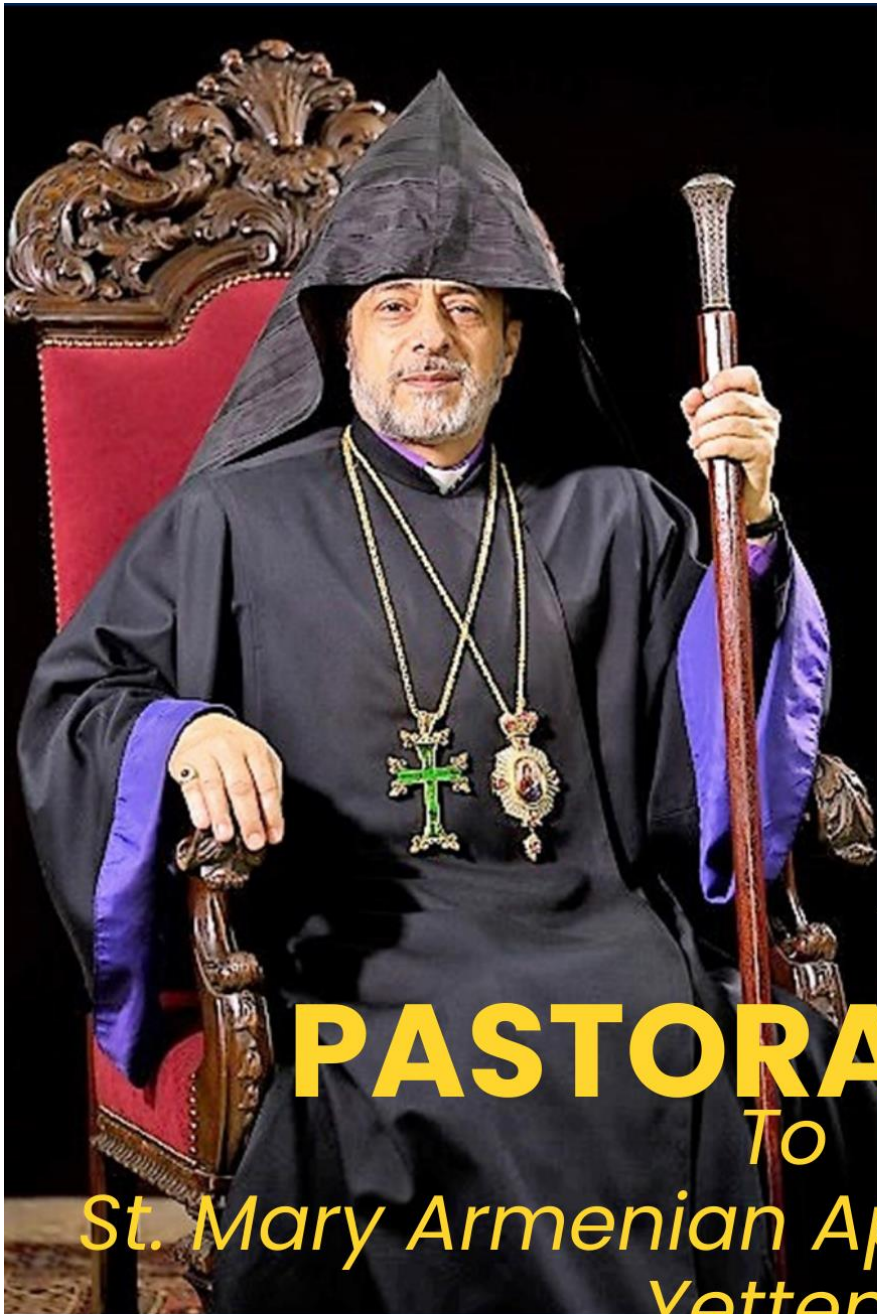
Morning Service (Matins) 9:30 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:15 AM

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



*You're
Invited!*

**His
Eminence
Archbishop
Hovnan
Derderian**

PASTORAL VISIT
To
**St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church
Yettem**

Sunday, July 24, 2022

St. Mary Parish invites all parishioners & friends to this great event!

- Celebration of the Divine Liturgy
- Ordination of Altar Servers
- Bestowing of the Hye Spirit Awards
- Celebrating the 95th Anniversary of the Western Diocese
- Luncheon sponsored by St. Mary Parish Council

Additional details will be forthcoming



KARNIG GEORGE PETERS

Karnig George Peters is a 2022 Graduate of California State University, San Diego, Fowler College of Business, with a Bachelor and Master of Science Degree in Accountancy.

He is the son of Darrell and Tina Peters, Jr. and sister Melina Peters of Visalia. Grandson of Rose Marie Margosian of Dinuba and the late George Margosian, Florence Peters of Fowler and the late Darrell Peters, Sr.

Karnig will be working for PKF San Diego, LLP as an Auditor and will also pursue his CPA License.

May 14, 2022



Ladies Society Mothers' Day Luncheon



More pictures on our website and Facebook pages



Sunday School Student Activities - May 2022

(Continued from the front page)

We don't like to hear that, but without conviction, we could never have our sins forgiven, we could never be saved and we could never go to Heaven.

Second, the Holy Spirit gives new life. The Bible says that we are dead in our sins (Ephesians 2:1). Our spirit within us, made in the image of God, is dead toward God. Mankind needs life. Yet, we have all sinned and, therefore, are dead toward God.

The Holy Spirit, however, gives us new life in Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "No one can see the Kingdom of God unless they are born again" (John 3:3).

But how is someone born again? What does that mean? The Holy Spirit is the one who makes you born again; it is a supernatural act. It isn't the good things we've done, but God's mercy through the Holy Spirit that saves us (Titus 3:5). All we have to do is accept the free gift of salvation by accepting Christ.

Third, the Holy Spirit lives in us. As you read this, you may realize that you are spiritually dead, but God says, "I will put my Spirit in you. I will come to live in you."

That's the reason we should never take anything unclean into our bodies. That's the reason we should discipline our bodies. God loves your body. He doesn't want it polluted by fleshly lusts or harmful substances. The Bible says, "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?" (1 Corinthians 3:16).

Fourth, The Holy Spirit gives you power to serve Christ. "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8). Christ is coming back again, and He is ready to come into your heart by the Holy Spirit and make you a new person. Will you accept Christ as your Savior?

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