



# YETTEM ԵՂԵՄ

Հրատարակութիւն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

## November 2021

### THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a national holiday here in America celebrated every year on the third Thursday of November. Set to follow the Fall Harvest, it was a worthwhile opportunity to get together and thank God for all His provisions and blessings. Yet, the profound meaning of Thanksgiving must not be limited to the fancy tables, abundance of food and the joy of having our beloved members of the family under one roof.

For us every day is a Thanksgiving Day. Our Badarak on Sundays is a Thanksgiving in itself based on the memory of our Lord at the Last Supper. Our Lord broke bread and shared it among His disciples, took the cup, *thanked* God, drank from it, and gave it to the disciples. Thanksgiving is all about sharing! Sharing happiness as well as sadness and sharing at times of abundance as well as at times of want.

Each time you fill your stomach always remember, somewhere someone longs for food. Sometimes, even a dollar makes a difference! Share when opportunity falls upon you!

We all know that God is always with us to guide us throughout our lives and for that we are all thankful to Him. But Thanksgiving Day is meant to inspire all of us to remember the Lord and give Him thanks for all that He has done for us. We thank Him for our sweet family, for the delicious dinner, for the turkey and for all other things that He has blessed us with. This “giving thanks to the Lord” is the very spirit of the Thanksgiving celebration. God has always been there for us and on Thanksgiving Day we let Him realize that we also care for Him and love Him”.

On this Day of Thanksgiving let us give hearty thanks to God for all visible and invisible gifts through which He has blessed us as a church and community. Most of all let us praise God and give thanks for those good people who have shown particular interest for their church, and have given not only from their material goods, but from their precious time and talent, doing big or small deeds voluntarily in their parish. The presence of such people should give us the greatest joy and we should give special thanks to God for them. We should pray that God may accept their work and their toil for the benefit and prosperity of our parish. Their efforts for the church and community are in fact “thanksgivings” in action, speaking louder before God than our words. May God bless them and increase their number for the further benefit and progress of the Church and for the greater glory of His Holy name, which is blessed now, forever, and ever, Amen.

## ***Parish Notes***

### **BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP**

THIS NOVEMBER 2021 BULLETIN  
IS IN HONOR OF  
LINDA FARSAKIAN-WALL  
AN AMAZING WOMAN  
FROM AUNT REGGIE

### **CONDOLENCES**

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

Sylvia Yahnian, Richard Yahnian and Family, Sub-Deacon David and Jennifer Yahnian and Family, Renee Yahnian and Family, Marilyn Zerounian and Family on the recent passing of Sark Yahnian who entered his eternal rest on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Funeral services will be held at St. Mary Yettem on **Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 AM**, the Visalia Cemetery at **12 Noon** and then return to the Majarian Hall for Hokejosh at **1:00 PM**.

The family of Lucine Kroeckel. She was the daughter of Nazlu Zakian, younger sister to Elizabeth Tellian and older sister to Anna Kohler. She entered her eternal rest on Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. Graveside services were held on **Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>** at Smith Mountain Cemetery in Dinuba.

Our thoughts and prayers are with these families.

### **ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS**

October 10<sup>th</sup> – Mari Louise Menendian in memory of Jim McOmish.

October 10<sup>th</sup> – Laurie Menendian in memory of Armen and Araxie Menendian and Lucinne Bennett.

October 24<sup>th</sup> – Myron and Debbie Sheklian in memory of Neshan and Rose Sheklian and in honor of Marguerite Sheklian's birthday.

### **HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS**

(September 26, 2021 – October 24, 2021)

#### **For Repose of Alice Halbourian's Soul**

September 26<sup>th</sup> – Bruce and Gail Groefsema, Vernon and Carol Hovannisian

#### **For Repose of Sylvia Davidian's Soul**

October 10<sup>th</sup> – Margie L. Davidian

### **HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS**

October 10<sup>th</sup>

#### ***Sylvia Davidian***

Six years after her passing,  
Requested by her children

#### ***Armen Menendian***

Sixteen years after his passing,

#### ***Araxie Menenian***

Eight years after her passing,

#### ***Lucinne Bennett***

Eleven years after her passing,

Requested by their family

October 10<sup>th</sup>

#### ***Jim McOmish***

Six years after his passing,

Requested by Mari Louise Menendian

October 10<sup>th</sup>

#### ***Bertha Sheklian***

Three years after her passing,

Requested by Kohar, JoAnn,  
Richard and Michael Sheklian

October 10<sup>th</sup>

#### ***Rosemary Kutumian Redman***

Two years after her passing,

Requested by Kohar and JoAnn Sheklian

October 24<sup>th</sup>

#### ***Rose Sheklian***

Three years after her passing,

#### ***Neshan Sheklian***

15 years after his passing

#### ***Marguerite Sheklian***

### **DONATIONS**

Arnold and Carol Dadian  
in memory of

#### ***Nazar and Almas Dadian.***

A special prayer was conducted for

#### ***Alice Halbourian***

on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>,

Requested by Joanne Noto.

### PARISH COUNCIL CORNER

Congratulations to our Ways and Means Committee for organizing a fantastic fund raiser for our church on October 21<sup>st</sup>. As some of you might remember, the Ways and Means Committee was first established in 1987 to help in financially supporting our church and then re-activated in 2000. This year, the Committee accepted the role of organizing BOTH the May Armenian Food Festival (originally started as a Parish Council-sponsored event since 1977) and the October dinner that the group originally started as a shish kebab luncheon. Since 2000, over \$350,000 has been raised to help meet our on-going expenses in maintaining this parish. Our thanks go out to the Ways and Means Executive Committee of Co-chairs Margie Davidian and Judy Skaff, Secretary Alan Farsakian and Treasurer Tina Peters for their leadership in pulling together other members of their committee and 60+ parishioners and friends to put on this event that realized a profit in excess of \$16,000.

November is the month in which our parish organizations seek and begin the process of electing officers for the coming calendar year. Please consider volunteering to serve or keep an open mind if you are approached to become a board member of any of our parish organizations. We all have other obligations that include our family and work. However, we should also include time to serve our church. This past month you received a letter asking for your financial support in the form of a stewardship pledge. Stewardship not only means supporting your church financially but supporting the church with your God-given talents. Please give this some serious thought.

*Myron Sheklian*  
*Parish Council Chairman*

### LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

November, the month of giving thanks. Each morning I wake up, I am grateful to God for granting me another day. I am humbled and feel blessed. Not only do I have my family, I also have my St. Mary Yettem church family who surrounds me with love. Throughout the last year as treatment for breast cancer left me physically and emotionally weakened, I felt the strength of God's love from each of your prayers and well wishes. Thank you to each of you for your love, prayers, and support.

Ladies Society is celebrating the month of thanksgiving with an "*I am thankful for . . .*" fundraiser. Each of us is thankful for someone or something. This is a way you can show your gratitude while also supporting Ladies Society at the same time. For a donation of \$100, a large pinwheel will be placed in the church. For a donation of \$20, a smaller pinwheel or 6 smaller pinwheels for \$100 will be placed. In addition, your name and message of thankfulness will be printed in the church's monthly bulletin. In November, you will see the church yard decorated with your colorful pinwheel blowing in the wind.

Let the baking, cooking, sewing, and crafts begin! The annual Holiday Bazaar is coming Saturday, **December 5<sup>th</sup>** following church services. And yes, the live auction is back! The afternoon will feature lunch, a bake sale, kufta sale, and the signature live auction. Make plans to attend. You won't want to miss out!

Our condolences to our member Sylvia Yahnian, Richard Yahnian and family, to Sub Dn. David Yahnian and family, and to member Renee Yahnian and family for the passing of Sark Yahnian. Sark was a dedicated member of St. Mary Yettem who volunteered countless hours of leadership and services to our church. We are very thankful for his service. He will be missed.

Birthday wishes for November go out to Margie Lynn Davidian, Yn. Maral Khanjian, Sylvia Yahnian, and Janet Ananian. We wish them all God's blessings.

Please join us for our next monthly luncheon meeting, **Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 AM**, at the church hall.

God's blessings to all,  
*Linda Farsakian-Wall*  
*Chairlady*

### **HOUSEWARMING THANK YOU**

We would like to express our sincerest thanks for attending our housewarming party. We want to thank everyone for their thoughtfulness, blessings, gifts, and kind wishes.

Fr. Mashdots, Yn. Maral, and Hagop Pegor

### **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

We wish to thank Nickolas Farsakian for his willingness to help out wherever needed. Nick is often seen volunteering at the Parish Council desk and with our Sunday School students' activities. Thank you, Nick!

### **THANK YOU TO OUR LADIES SOCIETY**

A special thanks to the St. Mary Ladies Society for submitting a check for \$5,000 to complete their annual assessment to our parish. Through their creative projects they have continued to graciously support the day-to-day operations of our church.

### **DEACON EZRAS TELLALIAN PUBLISHES "HUMANITY DURING WAR"**

Many of you are aware that Ryan Ezras Tellalian had traveled to Artsakh during the war in Nagorno-Karabakh. Ryan has published a book entitled *Humanity During War*, which is a photographic portrayal of various aspects of civilian life during the 2020 war in Nagorno-Karabakh to the indigenous Armenians. A third-generation Armenian-American descendant of the genocide, Ryan travelled to the war zone to capture the experiences of civilians caught up in an unwanted geopolitical conflict with deep ethnohistorical roots. His photographs, intertwined with simple yet deep descriptions of the people he encountered, give light to typically neglected wartime narratives in which the human drives for life, peace, and love are stronger than the desires to kill, to destroy, and to hate. In an often-overlooked corner of the world, *Humanity During War* powerfully and personally depicts the toll of daily shelling and displacement on everyday people while acknowledging their resilience and hope. All profits earned by the book will be donated to trustworthy organizations in Artsakh and Armenia that are providing humanitarian and psychological aid in order to address the consequences of the war. To learn more, and/or to order a book go to <https://www.humanityduringwar.org/>.

### **RAFFLE WINNERS**

Our tenth drawing for our St. Mary Armenian Church raffle was held on Sunday, September 12th. Congratulations to...

(\$150) Lesta Ekizian

(\$100) Madlien Hebesha

(\$50) Debbie Agnew

Our eleventh raffle drawing will be held on **Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>**. It's not too late to take part in the fun! If you don't have tickets or need additional ones, please contact Tina Peters at (559) 967-2593 by phone or text.

### **DONATIONS**

Expenses continue during this difficult time. Checks may be mailed to the church office, or you may access PayPal through the St. Mary Yettem website ([www.stmaryyettem.org](http://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 for the church altar.

### **WAYS AND MEANS**

Ways and Means next meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, via Zoom at 7:00 PM.**

### **LADIES SOCIETY**

Ladies Society (elections) meeting will be held on **Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup> in the Majarian Hall at 11:30 AM.**

### **ACYO**

ACYO meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup> after church services.**

ACYO Game Day will be held **Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> after church services.**

ACYO will be decorating again for Christmas starting after Thanksgiving. (See flier)

### **PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held via Zoom on **Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6 PM.**

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

### 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 \$100, please call the church office at (559) 528-6892.

### 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](mailto:jimbeasoxman@sbcglobal.net).

### PAYPAL

You may access PayPal through the St. Mary Yettem website ([www.stmaryyettem.org](http://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.

### THANKSGIVING STORY

Some of the most moving lessons are taught by your students.

When Mrs. Klein told her first graders to draw a picture of something for which they were thankful, she thought how little these children, who lived in a deteriorating neighborhood, actually had to be thankful for. She knew that most of the class would draw pictures of turkeys or of bountifully laden Thanksgiving tables. That was what they believed was expected of them.

What took Mrs. Klein aback was Douglas’s picture. Douglas was so forlorn and likely to be found close in her shadow as they went outside for recess. Douglas’s drawing was simply this:

A hand, obviously, but whose hand? The class was captivated by his image. “I think it must be the hand of God that brings us food,” said one student.

“A farmer,” said another, “because they grow the turkeys.”

“It looks more like a policeman, and they protect us.” “I think,” said Lavinia, who was always so serious, “that it is supposed to be all the hands that help us, but Douglas could only draw one of them.”

Mrs. Klein had almost forgotten Douglas in her pleasure at finding the class so responsive. When she had the others at work on another project, she bent over his desk and asked whose hand it was.

Douglas mumbled, “It’s yours, Teacher.”

Then Mrs. Klein recalled that she had taken Douglas by the hand from time to time; she often did that with the children. But that it should have meant so much to Douglas ...

Perhaps, she reflected, this was her Thanksgiving, and everybody’s Thanksgiving—not the material things given unto us, but the small ways that we give something to others.



**Christmas Decorating**

Need help decorating your house this Christmas?

St. Mary ACYO will come to your house and do it for you!

★ Indoor or outdoor? No problem! ★

Let us know when you would like it done and we will schedule a time to come out.

Please contact:  
Dustin Vartanian  
[dustyvart@gmail.com](mailto:dustyvart@gmail.com)  
(559) 623-3520

Donations are encouraged.

# ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

## NOVEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Ways and Means meeting via Zoom at 7PM	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Holy Archangels Gabriel & Michael
<b>7</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Enthronement of H.H. Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians  ACYO Game Day after church services	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Veterans Day	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Sts. Andrew & Phillip, Apostoles  Ladies Society (elections) meeting in the Majorian Hall at 11:30AM
<b>14</b> Sunday School  Raffle Drawing	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 6PM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> All Saints Day
<b>21</b> Barekendan of the Fast of Advent Presentation of the Holy Mother-of-God to the Temple	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Thanksgiving Day	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Sunday School ACYO meeting After church services	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

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**Sunday Schedule:**

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

**Father Mashdots can be reached at:**

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

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING ON THEIR ENGAGEMENTS



Davy Vartanian and Reilly Reis  
To Be Married On  
June 11, 2022



Stephen Babagian and Serena Bonn  
To Be Married On  
October 1, 2022



# St. Mary Yettem ACYO

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# GAME DAY

**November 7<sup>th</sup>  
2021**

**After Church  
Services**

**St. Mary  
Armenian  
Church of  
Yettem**

***All St. Gregory Fowler, St. Paul Fresno and St. Mary Yettem ACYO members are welcome to join us for Sunday Badarak and Game Day afterwards. For \$5.00 you will receive lunch and be entered into our Ping-Pong and Tavloo tournament if you wish. Prizes will be awarded to the winners! Other games will be available to play as well!***

**RSVP by November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Contact Dustin Vartanian by phone (559) 623-3520 or email [dustyvart@gmail.com](mailto:dustyvart@gmail.com). Please notify if you would like to enter the Ping-Pong and/or Tavloo Tournament.**



# St. Mary Yetteem Ladies Society



## *I am thankful for . . .* fundraiser

Each of us is thankful for someone or something. This is a way you can show your gratitude while also supporting Ladies Society.

For a donation of \$100, a large pinwheel will be placed in the church yard. For a donation of \$20 a smaller pinwheel or 6 smaller pinwheels for \$100 will be placed. Plus, your name and your message of thankfulness will be printed in the month bulletin.

.....

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my \$ \_\_\_\_\_ check for \_\_\_\_\_ large pinwheel(s); \_\_\_\_\_ smaller pinwheel(s)

I am thankful for \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to St. Mary Ladies Society.

Mail check to Ladies Society, St. Mary Armenian Church, P.O. Box 367, Yetteem, CA 93670

# Christmas Bazaar



**St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem**

**Ladies Society**

**Annual Holiday Bazaar**

*Sunday, December 5, 2021*

following Divine Liturgy

**Live auction!**

**Bake sale!**

**Kufta sale!**

**Lunch!**





**Armenian**  
**Food Festival**  
Visalia Elks Lodge  
3100 W. Main St.  
11 AM - 1:30 PM 4:30 PM - 7 PM  
**THIS THURSDAY!**

Food Festival - October 21, 2021

## Lesson On the Cross – Last Sayings of Our Lord

*“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”* are the words recorded in Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34.

Loneliness.

Who hasn't experienced loneliness? Or who hasn't experienced it's consequences? Loneliness doesn't mean only living alone and the feeling of abandonment. Even in the presence of others we could fill loneliness because the right person who by his presence could get us out of this loneliness has become unavailable. God also, didn't want to live alone but created man to enjoy his love and presence. When man feared God's presence because of his own sin, God questioned him and said: "Adam where are you?" Similarly, the new Adam, Jesus Christ (even though He is equal to God) emptied himself and took the form of a slave who carried the sins of the whole world and walked to death on the cross.

Only God can fill the life of man and save him from the sharpness of loneliness, especially in suffering. We often seek a person's presence by asking them to not let us alone and be with us because we take our strength from them. We forget that the presence of others is temporary and limited. Everyone is worried about his/her own life and cares more about their interests and priorities in their life. All of this has not escaped His mind, because He knows that His only strength is in God the Father. Therefore, Jesus wanted to be protected by his father's presence during his last hours to complete his plan for salvation. During our pain, we must examine our own consciousness. Who among us doesn't let us down when we need them? If we haven't found Him, we should continue to search. If we have found Him, let's not lose Him from our lives.