



YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Հրատարակուիլն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածիկն Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

September 2024

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross & Grandparents Day

Every work of art and every form and expression of human creativity is beautiful in its own way to people who understand and appreciate it. But ultimately, almost every work of art is the result of one individual's creative labor and talent. Experiencing a live performance of a symphonic orchestra is something quite different. Yes, they still perform music composed by a single individual, but every performance and interpretation is different and unique. It requires absolute coordination and cooperation from a hundred or more musicians. They are all professionals, masters of their instruments and maybe even one of the best in the world. But none of that matters unless they all work together and most importantly learn to recognize and interpret every facial expression and body language of their conductor. The conductor's presence hovers over the entire orchestra. It directs and guides every vibration, every twist and turn of the sound. The orchestra's success depends entirely on their ability to trust, understand and follow a conductor's directions and guidance.

This month, as we celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross and reopen the doors of our Sunday School for our children, let's also examine and reflect what role and impact does the life-giving Cross and Christian faith have in the upbringing of our children and parenting in general. In the same way that a great conductor guides and leads every musician, instrument, sound and vibration in the orchestra, God is actively engaged and present in the lives of our children. He will always be there guarding and watching over them, leading and guiding them. Sometimes, God emerges in our lives powerfully in ways that we can almost physically feel his presence and touch. But a lot of times, God's voice is silenced by all the noise, corruption and sin of the reality we live in. Therefore, it is an essential survival skill for our children to learn how to recognize and discern the gentle loving whisper of the Lord talking to them and guiding them.

This month, we celebrate Grandparents Days as a reminder of the love that parents and grandparents have for their children. As parents and grandparents, we strive and do everything possible and impossible for our children. We teach, guide, mentor, forgive and love, give and provide, encourage and support them tirelessly and selflessly in order to make sure they are healthy, happy and on the right path to success, safety, stability and happiness. But it is often quite easy to overlook the crucial role of faith in parenting and child-rearing.

Much can be said and written about the benefits and absolute necessity of faith in our lives. But above all, it is important for us, as parents, to recognize that no amount of success, education, achievement, status, recognition and wealth can ever make our children happy. While essential and good, these can merely provide our children with stability, safety, security, but never with true joy, purpose in life and happiness. It is our Christian teaching and firm faith that wholeness, true personal peace and joy can only be forged and carved through our relationship with God and the people around us. From the first chapters of the Bible, we learn that we are both physical and spiritual creations, unlike anything God created. Our spiritual side can't simply be silenced, ignored, covered with material gain and success. Any such attempt will eventually result in disappointment and lead our children to despair, loneliness and unhappiness.

Let us continue to actively encourage our children to embrace faith, hope and love, search for and experience the voice of the Lord calling them by name and guiding them. Let us expose children to the life-giving rays of prayer and scripture reading through which God will always speak and support them. Let us help our children to build and forge a friendship and relationship with their only true best friend and Savior who loves them unconditionally, selflessly and will always be there to rescue, carry and guide them.

Fr. Vosgi

Parish Notes

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

THIS SEPTEMBER 2024 BULLETIN
IS SPONSORED BY
JOHN AND JANET GOMES
IN MEMORY OF JANET'S PARENTS
GARABED AND ROSE SIMONIAN

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Sargon and Lilit Benjamin on the passing of Sargon's brother, ***Walter Benjamin*** on Thursday, August 1st. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

August 11th

***Vernon and Carol Hovannisian and Family
Bruce and Gail Groefsema and Family
and Sally Zarounian and family***
in memory of Gary John Zarounian

Julie Poochigian

in memory of Jerry Poochigian,
the Poochigian, Galstyan, Hanenian and Nakashian
deceased family members

August 18th

Mari Louise Menendian

in honor of Asdvadzadzin
and all the ladies named Mary

August 25th

***Nabil Hebesha, Nivin and Craig Velasquez and
family, Rasha Hebesha, and Sharif and Amanda
Hebesha and family***

in memory of Madlien Hebesha

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

in memory of Blanche Parton

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

July 21st

***For Repose of Elizabeth Ananian's Soul
David and Lisa Krause***

July 28th

***For Repose of Gary John Zarounian's Soul
Sally Zarounian***

August 4th

***For Repose of Walter Benjamin's Soul
Sargon and Lilit Benjamin***

August 11th

***For Repose of Gary John Zarounian's Soul
Vernon and Carol Hovannisian
Bruce and Gail Groefsema***

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Joyfully introducing ***Nora Lynn Hairabedian***.
Born on Sunday, August 25, 2024. Welcomed by
her proud parents Daniel and Mikelle Hairabedian.
Proud grandparents are the late Bryan Yahnian and
Renee Yahnian, the late Fr. Yeghia Hairabedian
and Yn. Robert Hairabedian. Nora Lynn is a
blessing, and we are truly blessed to have her in
our lives.

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS FOR AUGUST

August 4th

Walter Benjamin

requested by Sargon and Lilit Benjamin

August 11th

Gary John Zarounian

one year after his passing,
requested by

Vernon and Carol Hovannisian and family
Bruce and Gail Groefsema and family, and
Sally Zarounian and family

George and Jessie Zarounian

Katche and Alice Halbourian

Gladys Zarounian

Bruce Groefsema, Jr.

John, Siranoush, and Gary Zarounian

Vernon and Carol Hovannisian and family
Bruce and Gail Groefsema and family

Jerry Poochigian

three years after his passing,
***the Poochigian, Galstyan, Hanenian and
Nakashian deceased family members***

requested by

Julie Poochigian

August 25th

Madlien Hebesha

forty days after her passing,
requested by

Nabil Hebesha, Nivin and Craig Velasquez and
family, Rasha Hebesha, and Sharif and Amanda
Hebesha and family

Blanche Parton

four years after her passing,
requested by

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

DONATIONS

Sandra Choboian

Betty Skaff Jacobo

Anoush Oganesyian

**SCHEDULED SEPTEMBER
HOKEHANKISTS**

September 1st

Beatrice (Anahid) Soxman
one year after her passing

Hamayag (Haig) Sheklian
sixty years today after his passing

September 8th

Stella Ananian

two years after her passing

ASDVADZADZIN THANK YOUS

Asdvadzadzin is always a very special day in Yетtem 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.

Thank you to our donors of the table grapes that were blessed and offered for parishioners to enjoy:

Todd Kinonian and Mike Tamouzian from Sundale Vineyards for donating six boxes, Darrell Peters for donating six boxes and Michael Missakian from the Fowler Parish for donating six boxes.

Thank you to Davy Vartanian for picking up and delivering the beef to the Vintage Press where it was seasoned and cooked to perfection.

Thank you to the Parish Council members for donating the food items, tablecloths and napkins.

RAFFLE

Our June, July and August church raffles of 2024 were held on Sunday, August 18th.

Congratulations to the June winners...

(\$150) Geraldine Hagopian

(\$100) Judy Kachadoorian

(\$50) Betty Krikorian

Congratulations to the July winners...

(\$150) Alice Toukdarian

(\$100) Raquel Diaz

(\$50) Jim Kaplan

Congratulations to the August winners...

(\$150) Lisa Krause

(\$100) Katherine Kasparian

(\$50) Lisa Krause

Our **September and October drawings of 2024** will be held on **Sunday, September 8, 2024**.

ST. MARY MEMORIAL WALL

The St. Mary Memorial Wall was started in 2001 and has been a huge success. Contact Linda Farsakian-Wall at (559) 786-1419 or email: linda.hyewall@gmail.com

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

Ladies Society is on the move. At our August meeting, we invited young women of our community to join us. As a special treat, we invited the young mothers to bring their children. We were thrilled to meet and get to know 5 young women and 3 beautiful children. What a joy they brought to the afternoon. That day Kohar Sheklian joined Ladies Society and we couldn't be happier. Welcome Kohar! We held the annual Asdvadzadzin bake sale August 18. Thank you to all the bakers and to all of you who bought the goodies. We successfully raised \$1,265.57 for our church.

September 8, we host our annual Grandparents' Day brunch complete with beeshee, rice pudding, egg casserole, and so much more. Make your reservations now! We congratulate our newest grandparents, Debbie and Myron Sheklian on the birth of their granddaughter, Taleen Sheklian Sivaraman. What a blessing!

The Sister Churches luncheon hosted by Pilgram Armenian Congregational Church in Fresno is Saturday, September 21. This annual luncheon brings together all the Armenian churches in the Valley for an afternoon of fellowship. Send your reservation to Linda Farsakian-Wall 559-786-1419.

Paint Night is back! Mark your calendar for Friday, October 18. Details to be sent soon.

Our next meeting is Saturday, September 7, 11:00 a.m. at Martha's Restaurant in Orosi. Please join us. We would love to see you there.

God's blessings to you, Linda Farsakian-Wall

GRANDPARENTS' DAY

The Ladies Society invites you to a brunch in **celebration of Grandparents' Day on Sunday, September 8th**. We also will be **welcoming the Celebrant and Homilist Vicar of the Central Valley Churches, Very Rev. Fr. Anania Vartabed Taturyan**. Enjoy a delicious brunch featuring Beeshee and traditional Grandparents' Day food. To reserve a table or seat(s), email: lunch@stmaryyettem.org or call the church office at (559) 528-6892 by **Wednesday, September 4th**. **Reservations are required.** (See flier)

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 17th** via Zoom at **6:00 PM**.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS

It's almost time for Sunday School to start again! All classes will start on **Sunday, September 8th** and we will be meeting on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at **11:00 AM** during the school year. Welcome all children! If you have any questions, please contact **Adrienne Poochigian** at (559) 679-8452 or email: alskaff@gmail.com

ATTENTION ALL GOLFERS! (AND NON-GOLFERS)

The St. Mary Armenian Church of Yetem Ways and Means Committee is inviting you to participate in our **annual golf tournament**. The tournament, which will take place on **Saturday, September 21, 2024**, at the **Tulare Golf Course** in **Tulare, CA**, is one of two major fund raisers for St. Mary.

Gather your team and join us for a great morning of golf and fun. Cash prizes will be awarded to the first, second, and third place teams. And that's not all - win \$25,000 in the hole-in-one contest!

Your **\$150 entry fee per player** will get you a round of golf in our four-person scramble format, golf cart, breakfast burrito, and a delicious Dean Ametjian lunch.

Not a golfer? You can still join us for lunch. We'd love to have you.

For **questions**, please **contact Alan Farsakian** by phone, text, or email at (559) 284-0871 or sarsakh@sbcglobal.net See you on the course!

United in Faith, United in Action

Christianity unites Armenians around the world, and so does the IMAST app, bringing together Armenians globally for good deeds. By joining the global IMAST community, you can support reliable charitable causes in Armenia and track your contribution's journey through financial updates and news reports. With IMAST, even small but regular donations have the power to create positive change in the lives of Armenians.

Download, donate today, and see your impact tomorrow!



Time to clean out your garage or yard of that old vehicle taking up space and donate it to St. Mary Armenian Church of Yetem. What are you waiting for? Clean out that clutter! Call Linda Farsakian-Wall at 559-786-1419 for more information.

ARMENIAN CAMP 2024



Front row left to right: Marley Ananian and Laura Ananian, daughters of Darren and Gina Ananian, granddaughters of Charlie Ananian and the late Elizabeth Ananian and Alan and Phyllis Borba; Top row left to right: Olivia Garabedian and Dustin Vartanian.



Craig Jon (CJ) Swift is the son of Jon and Kayla Swift, and the grandson of Jeff and Becky (Davidian) Akin and Darwin and Terri Hacobian.



St. Mary Yettem - Ladies Society
Grandparent's are as Sweet as Honey

Grandparent's Day Brunch

Sunday, September 8, 2024

After church services in the Majarian Hall

Un-Bee-Leviabile Brunch Items 

Featuring Beeshee, Basturma, Sujuk & Eggs

Adults—\$15

Children—(10 and under) \$12



-To Reserve a Table or Seat(s)-

E-mail: lunch@stmaryyettem.org –or–

Call the Church Office — (559) 528-6892

by Wednesday, September 4



RESERVATIONS are Requested

**Entertainment by our 'Busy Bee'
 Sunday School Students**



Raffle Drawing

**Tickets will be available to purchase
 during the Brunch!**

\$1 per ticket or \$5 for 6 Tickets



ST. MARY YETTEM - SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Labor Day	3	4	5	6	7 The Ladies Society meeting at Martha's Restaurant in Orosi at 11:00 AM
8 Feast of the Nativity of the Holy Mother-of- God Barekendan of the Fast of the Holy Cross Sunday School Grandparents' Day Raffle	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Exaltation of the Holy Cross	16 Remembrance of the dead	17 The Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 6:00 PM	18	19	20	21 Independence Day of the Republic of Armenia St. Mary Ways and Means Committee Golf Tournament and Lunch at the Tulare Golf Course Sister Churches Luncheon at the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church in Fresno
22 Barekendan of the Fast of the Holy Cross of Varak Sunday School	23	24	25	26	27	28 St. George the Warrior
29 Holy Cross of Varak	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



Asdvadzadzin & Blessing of Grapes August 18, 2024



St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church of Yettem

Physical Address: 14395 Avenue 384, Yettem, CA 93670

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Website: www.stmaryyettem.org

Facebook: SaintMary YettemChurch

Parish Priest

Rev Fr. Mashdots Keshishian

Cell: (818) 293-9098

fathermashdots@stmaryyettem.org

Church Secretary

Sonya Barton

Office: (559) 528-6892

sonya@stmaryyettem.org

Parish Council

Judy Skaff, Chair

judy@thebelmontgroup.com

Annie Davidian, *Vice Chair*

Tracy Valancia, *Secretary*

Tina Peters, *Treasurer*

Mari Louise Menendian, *Advisor*

Julie Poochigian, *Advisor*

Davy Vartanian, *Advisor*

Ladies Society

Linda Farsakian-Wall, Chair

lindahyewall@gmail.com

Janel Zerounian, *Vice Chair*

Margie A. Davidian, *Rec. Secretary*

Michelle Ananian, *Corr. Secretary*

Julie Poochigian, *Treasurer*

Renee Ananian, *Asst. Treasurer*

Janice McWilliams, *Advisor*

Ways and Means

Margie L. Davidian, Co-Chair

zarohie@gmail.com

Judy Skaff, Co-Chair

judy@thebelmontgroup.com

Alan Farsakian, *Rec. Secretary*

Tina Peters, *Treasurer*

Sunday School

Adrienne Poochigian, Superintendent

alskaff@gmail.com

Margo Margosian, *Teacher*

Ani Valencia, *Teacher*

Tracy Valencia, *Sub-Teacher*

Sandra Vartanian, *Sub-Teacher*

CHOIR DIRECTOR/ORGANIST

Mari Louise Menendian

mlmenen@aol.com

YETTEM SOCIAL HYES

Alysse Hovannisian, Co-Chair

alysse.hov@yahoo.com

Brooke Lopez, Co-Chair

brookebedrosian1@gmail.com

Lynn Skaff, *Treasurer*

Davy Vartanian, *Advisor*

Yn Maral Khanjian, *Advisor*

If you are interested in joining any of these committees

please contact the Chair of the Committee

✝ Everyone is welcome ✝

St. Mary Armenian Church
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