



YETTEM ԵՂԵՄ

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

May 2022

Celebrating Mothers' Day

During May we celebrate Mothers' Day. We have many relationships with people around us that we cherish. The relationship between mother and child is most important, loved, pure and divine. A mother's selfless love, care, and affection make it the most significant and Godly relationship. Quoting Rudyard Kipling's words here, he said, "God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers". We say that God created mankind, but our mothers created us. A mother not only gives us life but provides our upbringing and also protects us.

From the time when a mother conceives her child, she gets emotionally attached to the child. She undergoes immense pain while delivering a child. Yet, she can never see her child in pain or any problem.

She is the protective shield and safeguards her child in all situations. She spends sleepless nights while raising her child but never complains. Her feelings, emotions, love, care, and affection are completely incomparable and selfless.

Mother as Teacher

A mother is our first teacher. She teaches us to walk, to talk and to eat. She teaches us the basic manners and etiquettes. A mother feeds us, cares for our needs and makes us a good human being. She helps us in our studies and also encourages our talents. Her whole life revolves around her children.

She also inculcates qualities of love, care, understanding, helping others, honesty, empathy, etc. in us. She inclines us towards believing and having faith in God. We also learn religious things from her. A mother teaches us many moral lessons.

Mother as a Friend

Our mother is our first and best friend. She understands everything we say and also what we are not able to say. Her shoulder is always there in the times when we feel low. She laughs with us, plays with us, goes out with us, and enjoys with us. A mother never judges us, no matter what wrong we do. She shares her life experiences with us which makes us strong. We can talk about everything to her. She always guides us through difficult times.

Conclusion

All that being said about a mother's love, I would like to conclude by saying that words always fall short when you talk about the sacrifice and love of a mother. A mother teaches us to believe in God and have faith in Him. Her prayers and good wishes are always there with her children.

So, friends and dear believers, we should always love and respect our mother and her thoughts. It is our duty to take care of our parents when they get old as they did in our childhood. If our mother has passed, we should continue to pray for her soul. I request you all to love and respect our parents unconditionally and selflessly and make this world a wonderful place to live. Today, I also take the opportunity to thank my mother and am grateful to her and God for having me in her life. Source:Toppr.com

Parish Notes

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

THIS MAY 2022 BULLETIN
IS SPONSORED BY
RICH AND JANICE MCWILLIAMS

IN MEMORY OF
HARRY DAVIDIAN
TWELVE YEARS AFTER HIS PASSING
AND IN REMEMBRANCE OF
CHAD TELLIAN'S BIRTHDAY

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the Shamshoian and Essepian families on the passing of their aunt and great aunt **Shirley Alyce (Essepian) on March 5th**. Alyce was predeceased by her loving husband Lee Kissling, her parents Steve and Mary Essepian, her sister Mary Shamshoian (husband Barkev) and brothers, Harry, (wife Annamarie) Mike (wife JoAnne) Tommy Essepian, and nephew Danny Essepian. No public funeral services will be held at this time. A Hokehankist has been requested by her family for Sunday, May 1, 2022.

ALTAR FLOWERS DONATIONS

April 17th
Sark Davidian, Jr.
in memory of
Cesily Jade Davidian
and
Pete Majarian
eleven years after their passing

April 17th
Rich and Janice McWilliams and Family,
Alan and Phyllis Borba and Family,
Jeff and Becky Akin and Family,
in remembrance of
Harry and Laura Davidian's
wedding anniversary of
April 17, 1948

HOKEHANKIST REQUEST

April 24th
Vartan Khanjian
four years after his passing,
Requested by Yn. Maral, Fr. Mashdots, Hagop
Pegor
and Family

April 24th
Cesily Jade Davidian
eleven years after her passing,
Pete Majarian
eleven years after his passing,
Requested by
Sark Davidian, Jr.

April 24th
Harry Ananian
twenty-five years after his passing,
Requested by
Shari Ananian and Julie Bair

ALTAR CANDLE OIL DONATIONS

Julie Poochigian
Rich and Janice McWilliams
Lucille Margosian

**BUTTER DONATIONS FOR
WASHING OF THE FEET**

Julie Poochigian
Rich and Janice McWilliams

EASTER LILY DONATIONS

Rich and Janice McWilliams
Myron and Debbie Sheklian
Julie Poochigian

**TOMB OF CHRIST FLOWERS
DONATIONS**

Rich and Janice McWilliams
Marilyn Zerounian
Linda Farsakian-Wall
Yn. Maral Khanjian
Myron and Debbie Sheklian

TRICKY TRAY DONATIONS

ACYO would like to thank those who donated and/or purchased Tricky Tray baskets on Easter Sunday. Between the dinner proceeds and the Tricky Tray sales our ACYO netted \$3,651.00.

PALM SUNDAY AND HOLY WEEK

THANK YOU

During Holy Week there were many parishioners working behind the scenes for our church services and events. Margie L. Davidian cut and delivered palm leaves for the decorative palm crosses and candles made by the Ladies Society members that were distributed to the parishioners at the end of Badarak. The Ways and Means Committee organized and held a highly successful bake sale after Palm Sunday services. Our fantastic ACYO and their supportive parents and grandparents prepared and hosted our delicious Easter luncheon that was enjoyed by all.

NEW PLANTER

Thank you to Debbie Sheklian for spearheading a project to clear out the baren planter on the northside of the Majarian Hall that faces the parking lot and street. Rocks, mounds of over-sprayed stucco from the wall and an old bush were removed and replaced with two yards of topsoil, beautiful blooming plants, and a new drip irrigation system. Debbie and Myron carried out the project and covered all the costs.

PIANO TUNING

A special thanks to Mari Louise Menendian for contacting a local renowned piano tuner to come and tune the piano in the Majarian Hall and cover the costs.

CHURCH REPAIRS

Thank you to Richard Sheklian for making repairs to some of the church pews and refinishing the front doors of the church.

2022 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

The Diocesan Assembly meeting this year will be conducted in person **May 5-6** at the St. Leon Cathedral.

MOTHER'S DAY REQUIEM

At the close of the Divine Liturgy on Mother's Day, **Sunday, May 8, 2022**, a general Requiem Service/Hokehankist will be conducted in memory of all the deceased mothers of our parish.

FOOD FESTIVAL

Assignment letter and tickets for the 44th Annual Armenian Food Festival were sent out. If you can help on **Thursday, May 19th** or need tickets to sell, please contact Margie L. Davidian at (559) 679-8794 or Judy Skaff at (559) 799-1198.

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, May 26th at 6 PM.**

ACYO

The ACYO will be hosting a fellowship on **Sunday, May 22nd** after church services. Following the fellowship, a short meeting will be conducted. ACYO Sports Weekend is **May 28th, 29th and 30th.**

MEMORIAL DAY GRAVE BLESSINGS AT THE VISALIA CEMETERY

Fr. Mashdots is available to conduct grave blessings at the Visalia District Cemetery on **Monday, May 30th** between 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Please call the church office at (559) 528-6892 to schedule a time **before Friday, May 27th.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

GRADUATION season is here once again. We would like to acknowledge our graduates in the June 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, May 20, 2022.

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.**



PARISH COUNCIL CORNER

Armenians annually commemorate the Genocide on April 24th at the site of memorials raised by the survivors in all their communities around the world. But how much is known about Yettef's Armenian Genocide Memorial?

The Yettef Memorial was the gift of the Ladies Society to the Church during the Society's 65th Anniversary Observance on September 9, 1979. A committee was formed consisting of Araxie Menendian, Lucille Margosian, Idalene Barsamian, Roxie Iskenderian and Parish Priest, Fr. Vartan Kasparian. The Society's wish was to leave a significant memento on that occasion and determined that a monument to remember the martyrs of 1915 was an appropriate choice. Parish member Michael Tellian was selected as the architect for the project. Many decisions were made and altered during the five-year period of intricate planning.

The dedication ceremonies of the marble Martyrs' Monument were held October 21, 1984, during Benefactors' Day, with His Eminence, the Primate, Archbishop Vatche Hovsepien presiding. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the entire congregation proceeded toward the site of the Monument for the service of blessing. Led by the Primate, those present placed a single flower on the monument at the conclusion of the service.

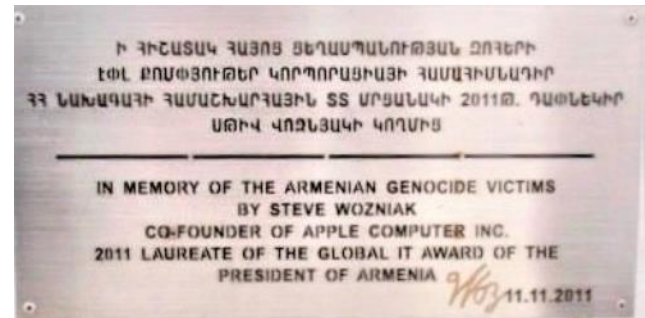
A banquet followed where Yettef survivors of the Genocide were recognized, and the readings of autobiographies were read. The honorees were as follows: Siranoush Gashian, Sam Gashian, Pepron Tamouzian, Haiganoush Ananian, Makroohi Derderian, Surpoochie Kashian, Yughaper Ekizian, Hagop Sousamian, Nazlu Zakian, Martha Noroian, Aghavnie Davidian, Kay Kachadoorian, Serpouhie Ouzounian, Arshaldus Basmajian Cholakian, Mary Boudakian, Hovhannes Hagop Karaboghossian and Takouhie Mikaelian.

The face of the Monument displays several bronze plaques that includes a four-line poem by Bedros Tourian, a biblical verse (John 11:25), a khatch kar (cross stone) from Holy Etchmiadzin, and an artistic piece by St. Mary Ladies Society member Jean Kraus that depicts the plight of the emigrants. Another inscription on the Monument reads "This Monument is humbly dedicated to the two million Armenians who lost their lives defending their Christian faith in the first genocide of the 20th century executed by the Turkish government beginning April 24, 1915. Its dedication extends to **all victims of tyranny in all times and places**". As we pause to remember these now Saints of our past, and in light of the events surrounding us today, we all need to appreciate what we were gifted by the Ladies Society thirty plus years ago.

Myron Sheklian
Parish Council Chair

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

April is the month we commemorate the Armenian Genocide. The conclusion of the Ladies' Society April 2 meeting was a short program related to the topic. This was part of it. More to come later.



Steve Wozniak, the inventor of the first personal computer and co-founder of Apple, is a close personal friend of an Armenian, Harry Nakashian, and became acutely aware of the genocide. Wozniak visited Armenia in 2011, when he was awarded the Global Award of the President of Armenia for Outstanding Contribution to Humanity through IT. This plaque was placed in Yerevan.

Yeretsgin Maral and her team met at the church hall to assemble candles with crosses and ribbons to hand out to congregants on Palm Sunday. Margie L. Davidian again prepared olive tree leaves which Julie Poochigian and Janet Gomes pinned in the form of a cross on lapels of congregants on Palm Sunday. Janet applied labels with our Easter greeting on Easter Day.

YALANCHI and CRESCENT ROLLS

Saturday April 23, Church Hall, 9:00 am. Full steam ahead for our Food Festival. Many came for this busy day packed with food prep, good conversation and great fun. We sure got the giggles. Like Palm Sunday and the fantastic lunch and festivities after Badarak Easter Sunday, we just like being together, don't we?

Annual Mothers' Day Luncheon

Plans proceed apace for our annual Mothers' Day Luncheon. Donna Torosian chairs the committee. She presented us with a venue new for us this year, a restaurant/café in Kingsburg owned and operated by Yettef's Pam Tamouzian Stepanian. We hope everyone gathers at Uptown Sprouts in Kingsburg, Saturday May 7 at 11:30. See the announcement in this bulletin and make your reservations for a lovely day remembering mothers who brought us so lovingly and unselfishly to where we are today.

We celebrate these May birthdays: Tina Peters, Janice McWilliams, Bea Soxman, Judy Skaff, Tina Malek Sarkessians, and Marilyn Zerounian. Happy birthday indeed.

Mari Louise Menendian
Ladies Society Chair, 2022

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

PAYPAL

You may access PayPal through the St. Mary Yetem website (www.stmaryyetem.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 fourth church raffle of 2022 was held on Sunday, April 17th.

Congratulations to...

(\$150) Judy Skaff

(\$100) Rasha Hebesha

(\$50) Alice Toukdarian

Our **fifth raffle drawing** will be held on **Sunday, May 8th**. 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.

PASTORAL VISITATIONS

Now that Covid restrictions have been relaxed, Father Mashdots is willing to make informal visits to the homes of parishioners to get to know them better.

Father Mashdots is also available to visit those who maybe sick at home, hospitalized or may need special prayers. Der Hayr is also scheduling Easter home blessings for those that interested. Please call the church office to inform or schedule any of these requests.



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 Yetem** 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!

Thank you to Chuck and Susie Simonian for being our first donor to the Careasy program through their donation of a 1979 450sel Mercedes. The church netted \$446.87 from their donation.



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.

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Kasper and Danielle Hovannisian on the birth of their son, Theo Martin Hovannisian. Theo was born on March 3, 2022. We also congratulate Theo's grandparents, John and Sharon Kaprielian and Ralph and Janet Hovannisian; and great grandmother Lucille Margosian.

ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

MAY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday of the World Church (Green Sunday)	2	3	4	5 Diocesan Clergy & Diocesan Ladies Society Meetings	6 94 th Diocesan Assembly	7 Mother's Day Luncheon at Uptown Sprouts
8 Red Sunday Mother's Day Sunday School Children Sermon Sunday School to present flowers to all mothers 5 th Raffle drawing	9	10	11	12	13	14 Ladies Society Meeting in the Majarian Hall at 11:30 AM
15 Apparition of the Holy Cross	16	17	18	19 Food Festival at the Visalia Elks Lodge 11:00 – 1:30 4:30 – 7:00 PM	20	21
22 Sunday School Fellowship hosted by ACYO ACYO meeting	23	24	25	26 Ascension of Christ Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 6 PM	27	28 Anniversary of First Republic of Armenian ACYO Sports Weekend
29 ACYO Sports Weekend	30 Memorial Day Grave Blessings at Visalia Cemetery ACYO Sports Weekend	31				

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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

Shirley Megerian Ouzounian



Shirley Megerian was born in Highland Park, Michigan, the first of two children born to Arshalous (Rose) Malkasian and Megerditch (Mike) Megerian. Both sets of her grandparents were from Chomakhlou. Her father was born in Adana, Turkey, and immigrated to the U.S. at the age of 14 to live with his aunt and uncle.

The Armenian church was an important part of the family. Shirley attended Sunday School from the age of four and until she was 18. After completing the requirements of an oral and written exam, and a written term paper which was sent to New York to be reviewed and graded, Shirley was named valedictorian of her Sunday School class of 50 students.

Shirley went to college, majoring in education and minoring in Armenian studies. She worked at Sears, Roebuck and Co. and taught Sunday School throughout these years. She was also very active in ACYOA of the Eastern Diocese. During her senior year, her father passed away on Thanksgiving Day at the age of 48. Seven months after this devastating loss, in June 1970, Shirley graduated from college.

That summer, for the first time ever, Catholicos Vasken I invited ACYOA members in the USA to have a pilgrimage to Armenia to study our culture, language, history, and to tour the country. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity was especially meaningful to Shirley since her father's entire family was in Yerevan. So, a few weeks after college graduation she joined a group of about 30 young Armenian adults from across America for an extraordinary trip! They attended classes in the morning and visited historic sites in the afternoon. After one month in Armenia, the group traveled for another month to Lebanon, Turkey, and Greece.

Upon returning from this amazing experience, Shirley began her teaching career. Meanwhile, Visaliam George Ouzounian visited Detroit. His grandmother and Shirley's grandmother had come to the U.S. together. Long story short, two years later, on June 24, 1972, Shirley and George were married and lived in Visalia. In 1976, the couple were blessed with twins, Craig and Lisa. Shirley was a stay-at-home mom and became involved in church. This year will be George and Shirley's 50th wedding anniversary. They have been blessed with four grandchildren: Audrey 11 and Madelyn 8 Ouzounian and Vaughn 5 and Theo 2 Dermenjian.

Shirley joined Ladies Society in 1983. In 1986, she assumed the chairmanship, at a time when Ladies Society had 103 members. It was an extremely busy year. St. Mary Church was celebrating its 75th anniversary, adding many extra activities to our church calendar. In 1986, St. Mary Yetteem also hosted the Annual Diocesan Assembly, a huge endeavor. Also, the Ladies Society executive board catered dinners to some Visalia companies, preparing the meals and serving them. Der Vartan Kasparian would give a tour of our church and a brief history. This not only brought in funds for the Ladies society, but also the community would learn about our beautiful church and a little history.

Shirley taught Sunday School for many years. She has been parish assembly secretary, Mr. & Mrs. Club recording secretary, Ladies Society diocesan delegate, and has served on hokejash and merchants' luncheon and fashion shows and various other committees. Shirley and Araxie Menendian oversaw the building of the new kitchen facilities, a huge undertaking that everyone has enjoyed and appreciated ever since.

The Yetteem community is fortunate to have such a loyal, enthusiastic, and committed sister as Shirley Ouzounian, our Ladies Society featured member for May 2022.

ST. MARY YETTEM LADIES SOCIETY

Invites You To Our



Annual
Mothers' Day Luncheon

Saturday, May 7, 2022
11:30 AM

UPTOWN SPROUTS
Proprietor our own Pam Tamouzian Stepanian
1467 Marion Street, Kingsburg

*Take exit 111 from CA-99. Turn right onto 18th Ave/S Mendocino Avenue.
Turn left onto Gilroy Street. Gilroy Street turns right and becomes Marion Street.*

Adults \$30 Children \$20

- ① Chinese Chicken Salad and roll***
- ② Turkey Pesto Panini with house salad***
- ③ Turkey Pesto Panini with house chips***
- ④ Children: Chicken Nuggets and Fries***
dessert with all choices

For reservations email your meal choice and number in your party to
lunch@stmaryyettem.org or call the church office at 559-528-6892.

Deadline for reservations is May 1

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

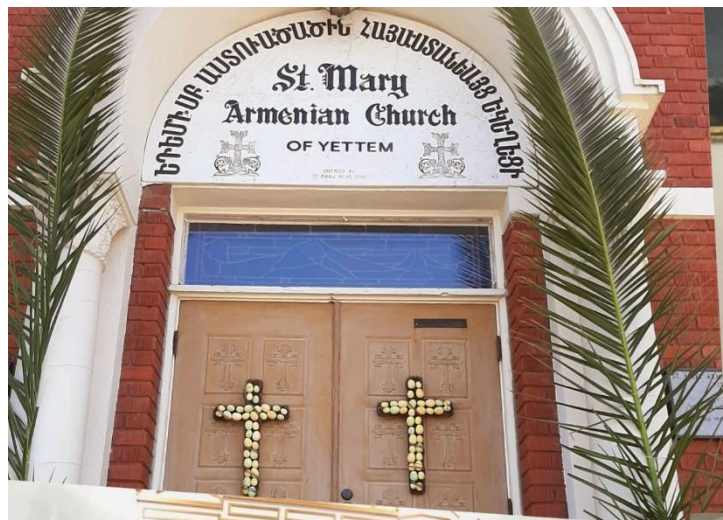
Grape Leaves • Crescent Cookies • Nazook

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



St. Mary Yettem Palm Sunday & Holy Week





Easter Sunday 2022 in Yetteem



St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church

Easter Yughakin

2022

Agajanian, Melvin & Regina	Luisi, Steven & Sharon
Ananian, Bryan and Terry	Margosian, Carrie
Ananian, Charlie and Elizabeth	Margosian, Lucille
Ananian, Serge and Judith	Margosian, Rose Marie
Armo, Dolores and Darla	McWilliams, Richard and Janice
Borba, Alan and Phyllis	Menendian, Laurie and Fredric
Choboian, Sandra	Menendian, Mari Louise
Crowder, Evelyn Boudakian	Mikaelian, Michael and Sandra
Davidian, Annie L.	Nunes, Richard and Joyce
Davidian, Charlie and Christina A.	Oganesyan, Anoush & Stamboulian, Haroutuin
Davidian, Edward and Georgia Ann	Ouzounian, George and Shirley
Davidian, Margie L	Peters, Darrell & Tina
Davidian, Sark Jr.	Pilavian, Pierre & Melissa
Dawson, Shirley	Poochigian, Julie
Ekizian, Lesta	Sarabian, Charles and Lori
Enfiedjian, Sarkis and Hasmik	Shapazian, Jerry
Farsakian, Alan and Marceen	Sheklian, Joann
Farsakian, Larry R. and Wendy	Sheklian, Myron and Debbie
Garoian, Gerard and Sylvia	Simonian, Chuck and Suzie
Gomes, John and Janet	Skaff, Judy and Mike
Groefsema, Bruce and Gail	Soxman, James and Beatrice
Hagopian, Richard and Geraldine	Tamouzian, Mike
Hebesha, Madlien N.	Tateosian, Sevag and Thagik
Jacobo, Betty Skaff	Tolegian, Madelaine
Jendian, Dcn. Allan and Rosemary	Torosian, Patty
Kalfayan, Garo and Nancy	Toukdarian, Alice and Aresa
Kalfayan, John and Sandra	Valencia, Dr. Albert and Tracy
Kaloostian, Linda	Vartanian, Sandra
Kaplan, Rose and Jim	Wall, Mark and Linda
Kaprielian, John Ara and Sharon	Zakarian, Archie and Kathy
Keshishian, Hagop Pegor	Zerounian, Janel E.
Kizirian, Abe and Sandra	Zerounian, Marilyn
Krause, David and Lisa	
Krikorian, Betty	
Krikorian, Gary and Nancy	Total \$8,200.00

St. Mary Armenian Church
P.O. Box 367
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Return Service Required

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