



# YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ



Հրատարակութիւն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

## April 2023

### CHRIST HAS RISEN FROM THE DEAD!

Once again, the church proclaims the good tidings of Christ's resurrection, which fills our souls with unfathomable joy. Words are unable to express the inscrutable mystery of Christ's resurrection, which brings us renewed life through faith. Through the "Golden Chain" of Lenten Sundays, spiritual reflection, and prayer, our spiritual journey leads us to Holy Easter. This not only brings us closer to God but also prompts us to adopt and live the new life in the likeness of Christ, cleansed from the stains of sin. This is the true essence of the resurrection of Christ, which can and will work miracles in our lives if we commit to living by it.

Holy Easter invites us to live a prayerful life so that we may feel God's divine touch and become peacemakers and children of light in the spirit of forgiveness. Thus, we can create the New Church with faith, love, and hope. Today, our message to you is this: Live life with hope and become embodiments of love through words and deeds. When life is void of Christian virtues, it becomes a hollow space where materialism may breed. Material riches are corruptible and transient, yet Christian values reflect what is sacred and divine. Look at the people who dwell in darkness. The kindle of God's love has extinguished in them, and the significance of Christ's resurrection is distorted in them. The dormant seeds of the divine can revive only through the power of prayer. Solitary prayer alone with the Lord is powerful. It enlightens our hearts, souls, and minds. Prayer with the community, however, is most powerful. When we pray in the church with our faithful brothers and sisters, the resurrected Christ is revealed through our prayers. Together, we become part and parcel of the mystery of resurrection.

We direly need Easter renewal in our national life – be it in Armenia or in the Diaspora. The everyday challenges weigh heavily on us, and our souls wither from the gusty winds blowing from right and left. In order to withstand those winds, we need empowerment and inspiration stemming from the faith of our forefathers. In their testimony of faith, we see the radiating love of God, influencing their families, churches, and communities at large. We cannot change the world, but we can change ourselves. We can influence our families by instilling Christian values in the hearts of our children and encouraging them to live prayerful lives. The more we are challenged, the more we must rely on our faith, especially on the mystery of resurrection. Every time we find ourselves in the snares of evil, we must make the sign of the cross and find strength in the crucified and resurrected Christ.

Every time we proclaim the resurrection of Christ by saying, "Christ is risen from the dead; blessed is the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," we declare the defeat of the evil one. The more we draw on our faith, the more we banish sin away from us. Today, we boldly announce that we are the children of the resurrected Christ. We have been the adopted children of Christ from the beginning of time, when we embraced Christianity as our state religion. Our forefathers lived by their Christian faith, thus surmounting every obstacle that stood in their way.

Our prayer and hope are that we can emulate the faith of our ancestors and live life through the mystery of Christ's resurrection, defeating death and embracing life.

### CHRIST HAS RISEN FROM THE DEAD! BLESSED IS THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST!

Prayerfully,

Abp. Hovnan Derderian, Primate, Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America and Mexico

## ***Parish Notes***

### **CONDOLENCES**

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Kathy Ashford, Margie L. Davidian and their extended family on the recent passing of Kathy's father, ***Kermit Ashford*** on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. **Services** to be held at the **Fowler Cemetery at 10:00 AM on Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**.

Also, on behalf of our St. Mary Parish, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the Boudakian, Margosian and Crowder families on the recent passing of ***Evelyn Nazali Boudakian Crowder*** on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. **Funeral Services** will be held at **St. Mary Yettem on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM**. Burial and memorial luncheon (Hokejosh) to follow in Visalia.

### **FUNERAL SERVICE**

Services were held at St. Mary Yettem on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> for Edward Zahigian who passed away on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. A memorial lunch was held in Visalia followed by burial services at the Visalia Cemetery.

### **DONATIONS**

***John and Rosemary Iskenderian***

***Larry, Diana (Kashian), and Mihran Gayer***  
in memory of Diana's grandmother, Surpoohi Kashian, her uncle, Ed Kashian, her mother and father, Simon and Lois Kashian

### **ALTAR FLOWERS DONATION**

March 5<sup>th</sup>

***Marilyn Zerounian and family***  
in memory of Pete Zerounian

### **HOKEHANKIST REQUEST**

March 5<sup>th</sup>

***Pete Zerouonian***

sixteen years after his passing,  
requested by Marilyn Zerounian and family

### **HOKEHANKIST DONATION**

(February 20<sup>th</sup> – March 26<sup>th</sup>)

March 5<sup>th</sup>

***For Repose of Pete Zerounian's Soul***  
Marilyn Zerounian and family

### **LADIES SOCIETY**

Ladies' Society monthly meeting will be held on **Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>** in the **Majarian Hall** at **11:30 AM**.

### **BAKE SALES**

The **Ways and Means Committee Bake Sale** and **Farmers Market** will be held on **Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>** after church services.

**Yettem Social Hyes** will be having their first **Easter Sunday Bake Sale** on **April 9<sup>th</sup>** after services.

### **EASTER SERVICES SCHEDULE**

#### **Palm Sunday – April 2, 2023**

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 6, 2023**

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 7, 2023**

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

#### **Great and Holy Saturday – April 8, 2023**

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

5:30 PM – Easter Eve Divine Liturgy

#### **Easter Sunday – April 9, 2023**

9:30 AM – Morning Service

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

### **ARMENIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES**

Armenian Language classes will be held via Zoom on **Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>** and **Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>** at **7 PM**. Call the church office if you would like the link.

### **PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held via Zoom on **Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>** at **6 PM**.

### LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

Your Ladies Society hosted a special fellowship after Badarak March 19, 2023. We served a Mid Lent Luncheon, a Meechink. In the Armenian church, the median day of Lent is called Meechink (meecheen [միջին] means median in Armenian). Easter Advent and Lent bring spring, reawakening, renewal, rebirth. Meechink connects us to our ancestors since the beginning of Armenian Christianity. This connection to the founding of the Armenian Church over 1700 years ago is a mighty cable. It will never break.

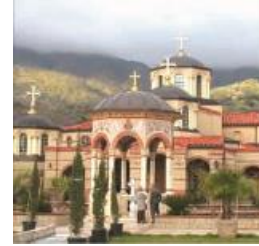
Great thanks to my sister Laurie Menendian for chairing this fellowship, continuing her lifetime of gifts to this church. The food was according to Lenten restrictions. Mari Louise Menendian made vospov kufita, Janel Zerounian made eech. Marilyn Zerounian brought bread. Tina Peters made salad. Linda Farsakian-Wall provided dessert and fruit. Laurie made piaz, dessert, and two different soups, and she created a lovely setting with blue tablecloths and vases of colorful tulips.

Our regular monthly meeting is April 1. After the meeting, we'll prepare candles with crosses and ribbons for Palm Sunday, with Yeretsgin Maral and Debbie Sheklian in charge. Margie L. Davidian gathers palm fronds and olive leaves and washes and prepares them for these candles. Julie Poochigian and Janet Gomes will pin two olive leaves in the form of a cross on the lapels of congregants Palm Sunday.

Don't forget cracking hard-boiled eggs on Easter Sunday. Renee Ananian and Janet Ananian oversee the hunt for eggs hidden in our church yard. Then comes the cracking. 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!

There's something different afoot. Yettem, Fresno, and Fowler Ladies Society chairmen are developing plans for a visit to the Greek monastery up by Dunlap. **Holy Monastery of the Theotokos the Lifegiving Spring Orthodox Monastery.**

We have a blessing from the Abbess for our visit **April 29, 2023**. We will extend invitations to all the denominations of Armenian churches in the Central Valley and of course to everyone in our communities. The visit begins with a tour. They serve us lunch. We'll provide details soon after Easter. See pictures elsewhere in this bulletin.



Krisdos Haryav ee Merelots, Ohrmyal eh Haroutiounn Krisdosee!

Christ is Risen, Blessed is the Resurrection of Christ!

Քրիստոս Յարեաւ ի Մեռելոց: Օրհնեալ է յարութիւնն Քրիստոսի!

*Mari Louise Menendian  
Ladies Society Chair, 2023*



### SOUPEr SUPPER THANK YOUS

Thank you to our Souper Supper Hosts...

3/01 Myron and Debbie Sheklian

3/08 Judy Skaff

3/15 Margie L. Davidian

3/22 Linda Farsakian-Wall

3/29 Fr. Mashdots Keshishian and Yn. Maral

### LADIES SOCIETY

**Ladies' Society** monthly meeting will be held on **Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>** in the **Majararian Hall** at **11:30 AM**.

### BIBLE STUDY

Our **Bible study class** will be held on **Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>** via Zoom at **7 PM**. Bible Study is held on the **first Wednesday of each month**. If you have questions, call Der Mashdots at the church office.

### WAYS AND MEANS

The Ways and Means Committee next meeting will be held via Zoom on **Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>** at **7 PM**.

### YETTEM SOCIAL HYES

The Yettem Social Hyes meeting will be held via Zoom on **Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>** at **6 PM**.

### THANK YOU

Thank you to **Charlie Davidian** for attending to the church grounds and for opening and closing of the church gate during all the flooding.

Thank you to **Rosemarie Margosian** for graciously donating a new larger wall clock for the Majarian Hall.

### RAFFLE

Our February and March church raffles of 2023 were held on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Congratulations to the February raffle winners  
(\$150) Maria Margosian  
(\$100) Katherine Kasparian  
(\$50) Ben & Ann Iskenderian

Congratulations to the March raffle winners  
(\$150) Theo Hovannisian  
(\$100) Kasper Hovannisian  
(\$50) Sandra Vartanian

Our **fourth drawing of 2023** will be held on **Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**. The drawing will also be streamed on Facebook. Thank you to our Ways and Means Committee for this great fundraiser for our church.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Sunday School meets on the **second and fourth Sundays** of each month at **11:00 AM** September-June.

### WEEKLY EMAIL UPDATE

If you would like to have your email address added to our weekly update email blasts, please call the church office or email [sonya@stmaryyettem.org](mailto:sonya@stmaryyettem.org).



Every donated vehicle helps keep our doors open at St. Mary Yettem. For more information, contact Linda Farsakian-Wall at 559-786-1419.

### BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

If you are interested in **sponsoring the Easter week mailing or a monthly bulletin, weekly bulletin**, please call the church office at (559) 528-6892. **Sponsorships are a good way to remember or honor family members or friends.** The **weekly bulletin** for a **minimum donation of \$25** or the **monthly bulletin** for a **minimum donation of \$250**.

### ST. MARY MEMORIAL WALL

The St. Mary Memorial Wall was started in 2001 and has been a huge success. The original Wall is completely filled. **Two new columns** will be **added soon**. This will make room for an **additional 96 names** at a **donation of \$250/name**. Contact Jim Soxman: ph. (559) 623-2390 or email: [jimbeasoxman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimbeasoxman@sbcglobal.net)



Thank you to our Sunday School students who provided decorations for our bulletin.

# ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

## April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> Remembering of the Raising of Lazarus Ladies Society Luncheon Meeting in the Majarian Hall at 11:30 AM
<b>2</b> Palm Sunday Ways and Means Bake Sale ACYO, Yettem Social Hyes, & All Kids Blessings	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Remembrance of the Ten Virgins Armenian Language Class via Zoom at 7 PM	<b>5</b> Bible Study via Zoom at 7 PM	<b>6</b> Great & Holy Thursday	<b>7</b> Good Friday Annunciation of the Virgin Mary	<b>8</b> Holy Saturday (Easter Eve)
<b>9</b> HOLY EASTER Sunday School Children's Sermon ACYO Easter Luncheon	<b>10</b> Remembrance of the dead	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Ways and Means Meeting via Zoom at 7 PM	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> New Sunday	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Yettem Social Hyes meeting via Zoom at 6 PM Armenian Language Class via Zoom at 7 PM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 6 PM	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Sunday of the World Church (Green Sunday) Sunday School	<b>24</b> Feast of the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Red Sunday						

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**Sunday Schedule:**

Sunrise Service (Matins) 9:45 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

# Margie Ann Dawson Davidian



I was born to Clyde and Shirley Dawson at Alta Hospital in Dinuba, which later became my office years later when I spent 28 years there as a registered nurse. My younger sister, Janet Belknap, lives less than one mile from me. I grew up attending Orosi First Baptist Church. At the age of nine, I began playing piano for the Sunday morning and evening services, as well as Wednesday evenings for Bible study and choir practice. I was taught from a young age that if God gave you a talent you should use it for His glory.

At age 6, I began piano lessons, and my teacher quickly handed me off to a professionally trained pianist from Texas, Mrs. Malcolm Crawford. We spent the next 15 years together in piano study and friendship. When I was 21 years old, Mrs. Crawford said, "Margie, there is nothing more that I can teach you."

Being a concert pianist opened many doors and experiences for me. I played at events all over the valley, making friends along the way. At age 15, I was chosen as the Young Concert Artist for the Tulare County Symphony. Immediately after, I was offered a full scholarship to both UCLA and Mount St. Mary's University in Los Angeles. As exciting as this was, I couldn't bear to leave home and this area. I loved my life here in this beautiful valley. I participated in many activities that teens my age normally weren't interested in. I was the youngest member of the Tulare County American Cancer Society and an officer in the Young Republicans club.

I attended Monson-Sultana grammar school, Orosi High School, Reedley College, Fresno State, and COS Nursing School. At Monson-Sultana, my kindergarten and lifelong friends were Sharon and Karon Margosian. At age 11 at Monson-Sultana, a boy three years older than I caught my eye. He wore a red sweater and carried a soft leather briefcase. Being in the younger section of school, I didn't catch his eye until seven years later! This young man went to Alice Khachigian (my neighbor and the woman who mentored me in Armenian cooking and how to be an Armenian "hars") asking her to help him arrange a date with me. In exchange for two dozen canning jars, she arranged my first date with Greg Davidian. I was over the moon, knowing he was "the one." We were married on April 11, 1975, in the Saint Mary Armenian Church in Yetttem. After God sent me the most perfect husband, five years later he blessed us with a daughter, Annie (named after Greg's mother, Annie Ananian Davidian). Annie was very involved in the musical world, and I played piano for many COS musicals that she was involved in. I was on the founding board of the Visalia Enchanted Playhouse theatre company. In 1992, Greg and I were blessed with another daughter, Sara, an unexpected and lovely addition to our family.

Throughout the years, Greg and I grew cherry tomatoes for Z & D packing. It was some of the hardest work, but we had a blast doing it! I worked at Alta Hospital for 18 years and loved it very much. I worked as a substitute teacher in medical administration at San Joaquin Valley College and many years at Cigna as a nurse reviewer. I ended my working career as editor of *Citrograph* magazine at the Citrus Research Board in Visalia. I could not resist retirement when our first grandchild, Skylar, entered the world, followed seven months later by Gregory. Greg and I felt as if we were starting our married life all over again, having these children to love. Greg and I were married 46 years. The last eight of those Greg was in his glory with these grandchildren.

When I was nine, I attended a Billy Graham Crusade with my family. During the call to come forward, I had the most spiritual experience. My chest was actually hurting. I wanted to go up by Billy Graham and devote my life to Jesus. Two months later, I was baptized, and I have never forgotten that night as it marked the hour when I gave myself to the Lord. I was baptized again, in our church, when I married Greg. Harry Davidian was my Godfather. I love our church. I've been a Sunday School teacher, a music teacher, and director of church plays. With the encouragement of my mother-in-law, Annie, I joined Ladies Society in 1976. I formed a group called Hye Angels, where ten Sunday School girls performed for church events. 22 years ago, I began hosting a light lunch after every church service. I did this for eight years, and thoroughly enjoyed planning these weekly fellowships. I loved watching our members visit with one another and catch up with each others' lives. During these years, I played the organ in our church. The music dimension of my life remains as significant as ever. I was happy to contribute then, and to this day whenever I am needed.

I am ever so thankful for our church in Yetttem.



Saint Mary Yettem ACYO

# Annual Easter Luncheon

## Sunday, April 9, 2023

Immediately following church services in the Majarian Hall

### 'Filet' Beef Kebab

Salad, Pilaf, Green Beans, Cheese Borag,  
Armenian Bread, Dessert and Beverages

Adults: \$22 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 4, 2023 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): \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$22 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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.

# Are you lucky?? Tricky Tray Basket Raffle

“Unique, Fun and Useful” items  
will be available to try your luck!

**\$15.00 for 26 tickets**

If you would like to donate a basket for the Tricky Tray

Please Call/Text/E-mail — Lauren or Ani Valencia

Lauren—559-349-4647 • Ani—559-779-7705

laurenvalencia@mail.fresnostate.edu • anivalencia19@gmail.com

-OR- bring your item(s) the day of the luncheon!

## - Basket Ideas -

Movie Night

Coffee Lovers

Dinner Out on the Town

Cross/Religious

Gift Cards

Bakers Delight

Princess/Barbie Items

Cars/Tractor Items

Armenian Treasures

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### Easter Luncheon—Table #1.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

### Easter Luncheon—Table #2.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_





Sponsored by the  
Ways and Means Committee

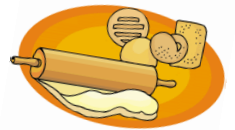
# Palm Sunday

## BAKE SALE &

## FARMERS MARKET

After Church Services

Sunday, April 2, 2023



\*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 accepted the day of the Bake Sale.

**Fruits & Vegetables**—Do you have a garden, fruit tree(s) in your backyard or access to any fruits or vegetables?

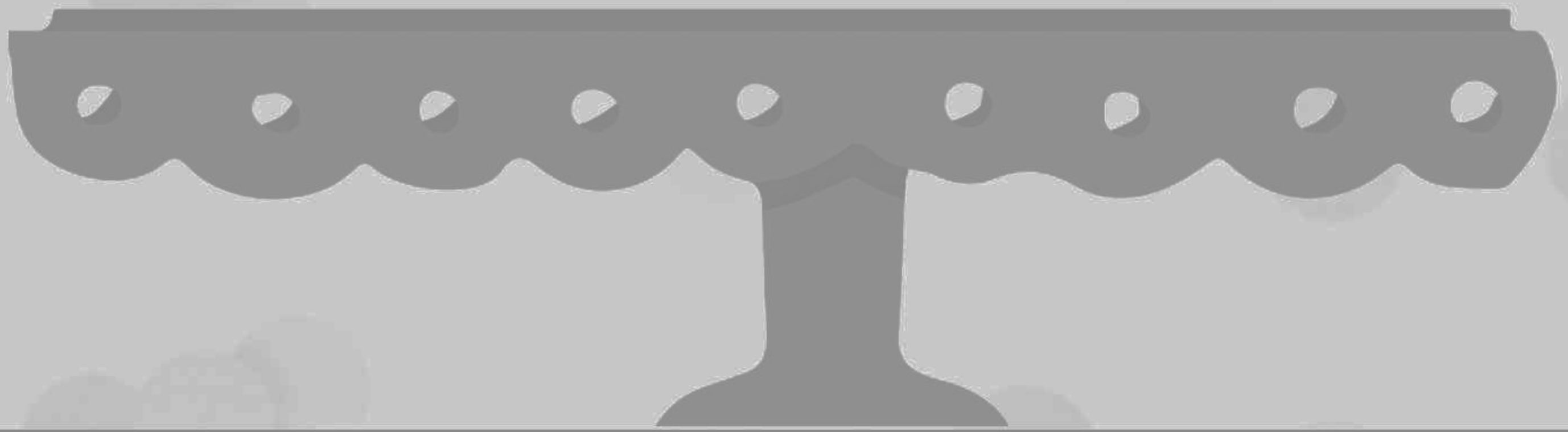
Your donation of fruits and/or vegetables would be greatly appreciated to sell at the Farmers Market!

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

Yettem Social Hyes

Easter Sunday

**BAKE SALE**



**After Church Service  
Sunday April 9, 2023  
St. Mary Yettem Social Hall**

Please Come and Support our  
Fund Raiser! There will be  
Homemade Armenian Baked  
Goods



*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*



## **Rest of Souls**

The Sequoia Chapter of the Triple X Fraternity is requesting a Hokehankist for the 63 Fraternity Brothers who have passed away.

Location: St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church, Yettem

Date: April 23, 2023

The Sequoia Chapter Brothers will host a Fellowship luncheon after Church services.

All Parishioners, Trex Brothers, and families are welcome to join us in the Church Hall for a memorial luncheon and to honor our brothers who have passed away.

### **Departed Brothers of Sequoia Chapter Triple X Fraternity**

PGM Moses Ametjian, John Bazarian, Wally Bazarian, Sam Gemian, Nish Hovesejian, Jack Hovsejian, Kay Khachadorurian, Pete Markarian, Marvin Aharonian, Tim Aharonian, George Ananian, Vaughn Ananian, Mark Avedian, Steve Babagian, Hovagim Barsamian, Jack Barsamian, Pete Barsamian, Paul Bogosian, Peter Cherian, Max Choboian, Marshal Choboian, Mike Cholakian, Greg Davidian, Harry Davidian, John Davidian, Sark Davidian, Mike Derderian, Joseph Donabed Jr., Richard Dudukian, Art Ekizian, PGM Dick Ekizian, Mike Ekizian, John Gimian, John Hovannisian, Ralph Hovannisian, Kay Hagopian, Vern Hagopian, Walter Jebejian, Sirag Kalfayan, Kay Kandarian, Harry Karagenian, Abe Kazarian, Harry Krikorian, Sam Kutumian, Howard Lester, Harry Majarian, Amos Margosian, Aron Margosian, Bob Margosian, George Margosian, Mike Mikaelian, Chuck Ouzounian, Basil Perch, PGM Jerry Poochigian, Vience Sarabian, Armen Shuklian, George Shuklian, Steve Shuklian, George Tamouzian, Bryan Yahnian, Sark Yahnian, George Zarounian, Pete Zerounian

*ST. MARY YETTEM LADIES SOCIETY*

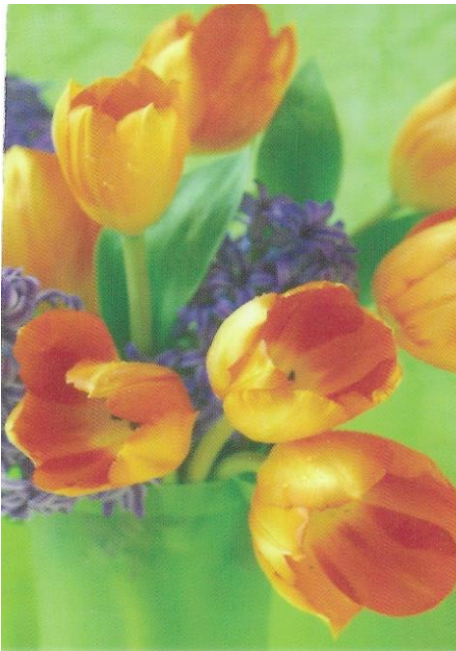
*Invites You To Our*

**Annual Luncheon**

**CELEBRATING WOMEN**

**by**

**HONORING OUR MOTHERS**



*The Greatest  
Treasure Is A  
Mother's Love*

*Saturday, May 13,  
2023*

*11:30 AM*

*Save the Date*

*for this tradition*

*Look for details in the coming weeks*

St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettam  
Ways and Means Committee

# **45th ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL**

Don't miss the Only Food Festival offered this year!

**DINE-IN is back -or- DRIVE-THRU**

**Thursday, May 18, 2023**

**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 Dessert

Donation~\$20 per person

**DINE-IN or DRIVE THRU**

Lunch Served — 11:00am—1:30pm

Dinner Served — 4:30pm—7:00pm

**Bake Sale**

Grape Leaves • Crescent Cookies • Nazook

Kurabia • Simit • Bourma

Buy Your Tickets at the Door or at the Drive-Thru  
Donation—Check, Cash or Zelle



ARMENIAN GENOCIDE  
COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE  
F R E S N O

# 2023 ARMENIAN GENOCIDE COMMEMORATION

**MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2023**

*Fresno State, Armenian Genocide Monument*

● **6:30pm | Laying of Flowers**

● **7:00PM | Religious Program**

● **7:30PM | Civic Program**

● *Keynote Speaker*

**Karnig Kerkonian, Esquire**  
International & Appellate Lawyer

Karnig Kerkonian is a lawyer, writer, and co-host of **Frontlines**, a program on law, human rights, and the Armenian experience.



More information

[agcfresno.com](http://agcfresno.com)

[instagram.com/agccfresno](https://www.instagram.com/agccfresno)

[facebook.com/agcfresno](https://www.facebook.com/agcfresno)

## 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.

**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 hanyav 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](http://www.armenianchurch.us)*