



YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Հրատարակուիլն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածիկ Քայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

November 2024

Grateful Hearts Come Together

Our journey takes us back to the remarkable story of Sarah Josepha Hale, a woman who fervently believed in the power of Thanksgiving to unify a nation. In the mid-19th century, the United States was a country divided and on the brink of civil war. It was Sarah who saw Thanksgiving not just as a harvest festival, but as a beacon of hope, a unifying force that could bring together a fractured nation. Her relentless campaign, which led to Abraham Lincoln declaring Thanksgiving a national holiday, was rooted in her belief that shared gratitude could heal and unite people.

Sarah's story teaches us an essential lesson: the act of coming together on Thanksgiving is not just a nice tradition; it is a powerful tool for building community and fostering unity. In our current times, where loneliness and division often prevail, embracing the spirit of Thanksgiving as Sarah envisioned it becomes even more necessary.

Why is this so important? Firstly, gathering and expressing gratitude, especially with those different from us, breaks down barriers. It allows us to see the common humanity in each other, fostering empathy and understanding. In a world often focused on individual success and self-promotion, Thanksgiving invites us to look outward, to appreciate others, and to recognize our interdependence.

Such gatherings and opportunities can be profoundly healing. Modern research in psychology shows that gratitude and social connections are vital for our mental and emotional well-being. When we come together in a spirit of thankfulness, we create a positive environment that nurtures our mental health and strengthens our relationships.

But most importantly, this practice reflects the love of God. The Bible tells us in 1 John 4:11-12, "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete

(Continued on the back page)

Parish Notes

ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

October 13th

Mari Louise Menendian
in memory of Jim McOmish

October 27th

The Charlie Ananian and Serge Ananian families
in honor of their parents
Kaloust & Kaghstrig Ananian

REQUESTS FOR OCTOBER

October 13th

Jim McOmish
nine years after his passing,
requested by
Mari Louise Menendian

Sylvia Davidian
nine years after her passing,
requested by her family

October 27th

Kaloust and Kaghstrig Ananian
40 years after their passing,
requested by
The Charlie Ananian and Serge Ananian families

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

October 13th

For Repose of Sylvia Davidian's Soul
Margie L. Davidian

SCHEDULED NOVEMBER

HOKEHANKISTS

November 17th

Zabelle Menendian Goolkasian
and
Lucinne Menendian Bennett

requested by
The Menendian Family

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

If anyone would like help with Christmas decorating, inside or out, please call the church office at (559) 528-6892.

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

Wow! What a fun packed month Ladies Society had! We celebrated Armenian Cultural month as we baked food, celebrated travel to Armenia, danced, and held a paint night.

October was Armenian cultural month, and we celebrated it with a bang! We started with Yn Maral leading a lahmajoon class. Anyone walking into the Hall kitchen would have thought chaos was happening. But a closer look would have shown ladies chopping, mixing, spreading the meat on the dough, baking, and indubitably heard the sweet sound of chatter. An Armenian themed lunch followed the class. The star of the lunch was of course lahmajoon! After lunch, we heard about the life changing adventure from the ladies who recently returned from Armenia. Not a dry eye was in the house as each heart felt story was told. We topped that with Phillip and Andrew Hagopian captivating us with Armenian music. Before dancing to each song they played, they educated us as to the genre, the composer, the region, and the era from which it came. Their in depth knowledge of the songs made each dance more meaningful. So much joy emanated from each attendee as we baked, ate, and danced! Thank you to Der Mashdots and Yn Maral who graciously donated all the ingredients to make the lahmajoon. Thank you to the lunch committee headed by Debbie Sheklian who provided and donated all the side dishes and desserts. Thank you to Phillip and Andrew for donating their time and sharing their talent and knowledge.

If that wasn't enough fun for you, we also held Paint Night on Friday, October 18. Fellowship, mazza, and drinks greeted each person before the start of the painting. So much delicious food! With tummies properly stuffed, we ventured to the paint tables. The chatter faded as we concentrated on our Fall themed paintings. Each one gave the painting their own unique touch. Such artists in the house! Thank you, Gina Ananian, for organizing the food committee. And thank you to Levon Taylor of Paint With Me – LT for making us look and feel artistic!

Sunday, December 8th, we hold our annual bazaar. Live auction, country store, kufta, and delicious lunch is in store. You won't want to miss this timeless event!

God's blessings to each of you,
Linda Farsakian-Wall



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we want to congratulate Kasper and Danielle Hovannisian on the birth of their son, **Max Ara Hovannisian** who was born on August 26, 2024, weighing 8lbs, 11oz and 21.5 inches long. Proud big brother is Theo Martin Hovannisian. Proud grandparents are John and Sharon Kaprielian, and Ralph and Janet Hovannisian. Great-grandmother is Lucille Margosian. Uncles and Auntie are Ara Kaprielian, Josh and Natalie Hovannisian and Cousin Teni.

LADIES SOCIETY

The Ladies Society **kesheg/elections luncheon meeting** will be held on **Saturday, November 2nd at 11:30 AM** in the Majarian Hall.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study has resumed on the first **Wednesday of each month**. The next bible study is **Wednesday, November 6th at 7 PM** via Zoom. Please contact Fr. Mashdots at the church office if you have any questions.

ACYO REGIONAL MEETING

On **November 10th**, the Central Council will host a **Regional Meeting** for the Central Valley region of the Western Diocese at **St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church, Yetem, CA**.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The Ways and Means Committee meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 12th at 6 PM** via Zoom.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 21st at 6 PM** via Zoom.

RAFFLE

Our **November and December drawings of 2024** will be held on **Sunday, December 8th**.

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.

A MESSAGE FROM VICAR OF CENTRAL VALLEY: REV. FR. ANANIA TSATURYAN

On October 12th, 2024, Rev. Fr. Anania Tsaturyan reflects on the Feast of the Holy Translators, honoring the Armenian scholars who created the Armenian alphabet and translated sacred texts. He praises St. Mary Parish for continuing this legacy by preserving Armenian customs and values. On this special occasion, he sends his blessings and heartfelt appreciation to the community through a letter. **See page 5 for the full message.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Sunday School **meets on the second and fourth Sundays** of each month at **11:00 AM**, September-June. **Welcome all children!** If you have any questions, please contact **Adrienne Poochigian** at (559) 679-8452 or email: alskaff@gmail.com

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

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

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



Tired of those costly repairs? Save money and donate it! Donating is easy. Pick-up is free. It's a win for you and a win for our church! For more information, call Linda Farsakian-Wall at 559-786-1419.

ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 All Saints' Day The Ladies Society keshkeg/elections luncheon meeting at 11:30 AM in the Majarian Hall
3 Daylight Saving Time ends 40 th Birthdays of Der Mashdots & Yn. Maral - Compli- mentary Lunch	4	5 25 th Anniversary of the Enthronement of H.H. Karekin II, Catholikos of All Armenians	6 Bible Study at 7 PM via Zoom	7	8	9 Holy Archangels Gabriel & Michael
10 Sunday School Children's Sermon ACYO Regional meeting after church services	11 Veterans' Day	12 The Ways and Means Committee meeting 6 PM via Zoom	13	14	15	16 Sts. Andrew & Phillip Apostles
17 Barekendan of the Fast of Advent	18	19	20	21 Presentation of the Holy Mother- of-God to the Temple The Parish Council meeting at 6 PM via Zoom	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving Day	29	30 Sts Thaddeus and Bartholomew Apostles

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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

October 12, 2024



St. Mary Armenian Church, Yettem

From a national and cultural point of view, one of the Armenian Church's most important and unique feasts is the feast of the Holy Translators. The Armenian people dedicated this feast to all of the translator teachers whose deep understanding of the difficulties and challenges of their time gave them the wisdom to resolve those issues by creating an alphabet for the Armenian language. Armed with that alphabet, they undertook the monumental task of translating into Armenian not only the divinely inspired and inspiring Bible, but also liturgical texts and many important writings by the Church's Fathers. Taking these from other languages, they made them Armenian in words and in spirit, laying the foundation for Armenia's own, original literature.

By bringing worldwide Christian thought into Armenian, the movement that the translator teachers created became in reality a movement for national liberation — the basis for Armenia's spiritual, intellectual and cultural independence.

It is not too much to say that this feast commemorates the welding together of Armenia's Church, culture, and political life as one. It is this unbreakable connection that we celebrate every October.

My dear faithful friends, brothers and sisters of Yettem's St. Mary parish! You too possess the spirit and inexhaustible grace of the most holy translator teachers. I can say without hesitation that by their prayers on your behalf, you are doing the same work that they did, here on American soil; you are keeping your ancestors' cherished dreams alive by keeping alive and well all of those excellent customs and cultural values that they first entrusted to you, and that you now pass on to the generations that will come after you.

As a small token of my love and appreciation for your community on the occasion of this wonderful celebration, I send you my humble blessings and best wishes through your beloved pastor, Fr. Mashdots Keshishian.

Prayerfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anania Tsaturyan".

Rev Fr. Anania Tsaturyan

Renee Denise Ananian



Born February 17, 1964, in Visalia to George and Stella Ananian, Renee is the 3rd of their 4 children. Renee has two older siblings, Lisa Ananian Krause and Bryan, and one younger sister Michelle. Following her birth, Renee was brought home to the family's Cutler home, the same home she currently shares with her sister Michelle. Sixty years in the same home! Not many can say that! Renee attended Cutler Elementary School from Kindergarten – 4th grade, transferred to Monson-Sultana Elementary School through the 8th grade, and graduated from Dinuba High School in 1982.

Renee has many fond childhood memories. She helped on the family farm siphoning water through the irrigation lines, fertilizing the crops, and working in the tomato packing shed. Family Sunday dinner was often with her “Fresno grandparents”, Joseph and Katch Kaprielian. Spending time with grandparents Kaloust and Kaghtsrig Ananian meant fun with cousins. Christmas time included dinner at her godparents, Mike and Carolyn Mikaelian, a tradition that continues today at Debbie and Rob Agnew's house. Attending Triple X conventions, trips with AGBU, and Kef Time in Dinuba with Richard Hagopian helped shape her love of the Armenian culture.



Farm work was not Renee's destiny. Her first job outside the family's farm was at J.C. Penney's. She continued her work in retail at Gottschalks, Macy's and Walmart. She worked for 15 years at Gottschalks where she fondly remembers often helping Rosie Sheklian, Marguerite Sheklian, and Anna Kalfayan. More recently she worked for 3 years for Cutler-Orosi Unified School District as an aide. For the last year, she has been an aide for Visalia Unified School District at Sycamore Valley Academy. Renee loves working with people, especially children.

Renee's strong Christian faith is a guiding light in her life. She loves worshipping in the YetteM church and her YetteM church family. She grew up attending Sunday School and participating in the Sunday School Christmas program. She was a member of YetteM A.C.Y.O. where she served as Corresponding Secretary. Ladies Society is an important part of Renee's life. She joined in 2020 and did not hesitate to volunteer and serve the organization. She serves on the executive committee as an advisor and serves on the maas, kufta, yalanchi and bake sale committees. She also serves at the annual Food Festival. On most Sundays, you can spot Renee worshipping in the back pews of the church and after church socializing with her church family.



Knowing Renee is to learn how much she loves her animals and the compassion she has for rescued animals. One day she heard whimpering in the orange trees outside the house. Investigating the sound, she found a small, malnourished dog with an extended belly and full of fleas and worms. She did not hesitate to rescue the dog who is now her beloved Chelsea dog. Renee's love for animals extends to all animals. Renee has helped save many animals by reposting pictures of animals needing to be rescued. Each year for her birthday, instead of asking for gifts for herself, she requests donations to be made to the local animal shelter.

After 4 years of dedicated service on the Ladies Society board, her term ends this December. We know she will continue her faithful service to God and to our church. Thank you, Renee, for your dedication and your service.



Please join us to celebrate



**The 40th Birthdays of
Der Mashdots and Yeretzgin Maral**

Sunday, November 3

A Complimentary Lunch will be served

After church services



RSVP—Church Office—(559) 528-6892 or lunches@stmaryyettem.org

St. Mary Yettem ~ Ways and Means

5th Annual Monthly



RAFFLE

St. Mary Armenian Church of Yettem MONTHLY RAFFLE TICKET

1st Prize - \$150.00

2nd Prize - \$100.00

3rd Prize - \$50.00

Winner need NOT be present to win

This ticket is Valid from

January 2025 to December 2025

Ticket Donation: \$20.00

Name

Address

Phone

No. 0001

No. 0001

2025 (Sunday) Raffle Drawings —Dates Subject to Change

January 5 (Armenian Christmas)—January, February, March

April 13 (Palm Sunday)—April, May, June

August 17 (Asdvadzadzin)—July and August

September 7 (Grandparents Day)—September, October, November

December 7 (Christmas Bazaar)—December

✧ Tickets will be mailed in November ✧



Yettem Members Make Pilgrimage to Armenia
September 23 - October 2





Ladies Society Paint Night

October 18, 2024



St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church of Yettem

Physical Address: 14395 Avenue 384, Yettem, CA 93670

Mailing Address: PO Box 367, Yettem, CA 93670

Church Office: (559) 528-6892

Website: www.stmaryyettem.org

Facebook: SaintMary YettemChurch

Parish Priest	Ways and Means
<p align="center">Rev Fr. Mashdots Keshishian Cell: (818) 293-9098 fathermashdots@stmaryyettem.org</p>	<p align="center">Margie L. Davidian, Co-Chair zaroohie@gmail.com Judy Skaff, Co-Chair judy@thebelmontgroup.com Alan Farsakian, <i>Rec. Secretary</i> Tina Peters, <i>Treasurer</i></p>
Church Secretary	Sunday School
<p align="center">Sonya Barton Office: (559) 528-6892 sonya@stmaryyettem.org</p>	<p align="center">Adrienne Poochigian, Superintendent alskaff@gmail.com Margo Margosian, <i>Teacher</i> Ani Valencia, <i>Teacher</i> Tracy Valencia, <i>Sub-Teacher</i> Sandra Vartanian, <i>Sub-Teacher</i></p>
Parish Council	CHOIR DIRECTOR/ORGANIST
<p align="center">Judy Skaff, Chair judy@thebelmontgroup.com Annie Davidian, <i>Vice Chair</i> Tracy Valencia, <i>Secretary</i> Tina Peters, <i>Treasurer</i> Mari Louise Menendian, <i>Advisor</i> Julie Poochigian, <i>Advisor</i> Davy Vartanian, <i>Advisor</i></p>	<p align="center">Mari Louise Menendian mlmenen@aol.com</p>
Ladies Society	YETTEM SOCIAL HYES
<p align="center">Linda Farsakian-Wall, Chair linda.hyewall@gmail.com Janel Zerounian, <i>Vice Chair</i> Margie A. Davidian, <i>Rec. Secretary</i> Michelle Ananian, <i>Corr. Secretary</i> Julie Poochigian, <i>Treasurer</i> Renee Ananian, <i>Asst. Treasurer</i> Janice McWilliams, <i>Advisor</i></p>	<p align="center">Alysse Hovannisian, Co-Chair alysse.hov@yahoo.com Brooke Lopez, Co-Chair brookebedrosian1@gmail.com Lynn Skaff, <i>Treasurer</i> Davy Vartanian, <i>Advisor</i> Yn Maral Khanjian, <i>Advisor</i></p>

Upcoming November & December Events & Meetings
<p>Ladies Society Keshkeg/Elections Meeting - Saturday, November 2 - 11:30am (Church Hall)</p> <p>40th Birthdays of Der Mashdots & Yn Maral – Sunday, November 3 (Church Hall)</p> <p>Bible Study Class - Wednesday, November 6 - 7:00pm (via Zoom)</p> <p>Sunday School – Sunday, November 10 - 11:00am (Classroom)</p> <p>Ways and Means Committee Meeting – Tuesday, November 12 – 6:00pm (via Zoom)</p> <p>Parish Council Meeting - Thursday, November 21 – 6:00pm (via Zoom)</p> <p>Ladies Society Christmas Bazaar – Sunday, December 8 (Church Hall)</p>

(Continued from the from front page)

in us.” When we open our homes and hearts to others, especially during times of celebration

like Thanksgiving, we are living embodiments of God’s love. We create a space where His presence can be felt and experienced, where His love can heal and unite.

So, how do we live out this lesson in our daily lives? It starts with extending an invitation – to a neighbor, a new friend, a member of our community or even someone with whom we’ve had differences. It’s about creating a welcoming table where all can share in the bounty and feel the warmth of the community.

It’s also about carrying this spirit beyond the Thanksgiving table. Let’s practice gratitude daily, acknowledge the good in others, and seek ways to connect and support those around us. Each act of kindness, each gesture of inclusion, reflects God’s love.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this year, let us remember Sarah Josepha Hale’s vision and make it our own. By bringing people together in gratitude, we can heal divisions, build stronger communities, and experience the profound love of God in our lives. Let this Thanksgiving be more than just a feast; let it be a celebration of unity, love, and the transformative power of shared gratitude.

Fr. Vosgi

St. Mary Armenian Church
P.O. Box 367
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