



ԵՂԵՍ
Հրատարակություն
Եղեմի Ս. Աստուծածին
Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

YETTEM
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Armenian Church
Yettem, California

January 2019

**PRIMATE'S MESSAGE
ON THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY
JANUARY 6, 2019**

The Birth of Christ is an invitation to a New Covenant
(Christmas Reflections)

“Christ is Born and Revealed.
Blessed is the Revelation of Christ.”

By the Grace of the Almighty, the dawn of the New Year is upon us, which is sanctified through the Miraculous Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The true meaning of newness would have been impossible to comprehend had it not been for God's intervention in human spirituality. The concepts of time, life, and space cannot be perceived through the prism of newness without the mystery of Christ's Incarnation. This is not merely a thought but rather an expression of living faith. Each time we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity, our essence is filled with profound spiritual bliss, to which we succumb willingly, so that our joy may be complete.

Humanity celebrates the Birth of Christ with cognizant faith. We realize that the Son of God, the Newborn Christ, delivers the divine love of the Father, the message of humility, peace, and appreciation for the God-given gift of life. The most essential aspect in this is that we are created in the image of God and are granted the power to become co-creators with the Almighty. The Birth of Christ is the most wondrous miracle, which gives birth to a new person within us. As we celebrate Christmas, we pose for a moment for spiritual reflection and self-examination in order to align our lives with the will of God.

Words cannot explain the mystery of the Incarnation. This miraculous sensation ought to be lived and experienced. That is why the folk tradition says: “We should rejoice the Birth of Christ like a child, for the heart of a child is as immaculate and pure as untouched snow.” The Birth of Christ gives meaning and purpose to the life of that child, reaffirming the covenant with God. As we set our New Year's resolutions, similarly, we are called to renew our covenant with Christ, our Lord to once again reinstate the spiritual richness that lies deep within us. Therefore, in this New Year, we eagerly await the return to the state of child-like innocence.

May the miraculous Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ increase in us the courage of faith so that we fill our lives with new commitments. Christ's life has become a path of service in the life of humanity. Therefore, let us follow that path by serving each other with renewed hearts. Like a lighthouse, His earthly life illuminated the world with radiant messages. Our Lord's divine commandments continue to shed light on every aspect of our personal lives to this date. The greatest commandment of all, I believe,



remains the conveyance of forgiveness. For a Christian, emancipation from inner captivity is achieved through forgiveness.

The miraculous Birth of Christ leads to a New Life in order that humanity may be granted a turning point and live not in accordance with their own will but rather the will of God. These life-giving messages stem from Christ's sacred teachings and the Holy Scriptures. God's message of New Life is aptly addressed to the sons and daughters of our nation so that we internalize the love and wisdom of God and bring blessings to the Armenian Church and the Motherland. For us, celebrating the Birth of Christ means embracing the miraculous event, which in turn transcends our inner being wholly so that we may better serve Armenia and Holy Etchmiadzin with joyful hearts. Blessed are those who put their faith into action and accept the invitation to lead new lives.

The Birth of Christ, the Descent of the Son of God to earth, is the essence of humility conveyed to us by God so that we may ascend and inherit the Heavenly Kingdom. And if humanity responds to this divine call, we would gain a New Life with God.

With a blissful heart, we proclaim the miraculous Birth of the Son of God so that we may be born anew with Christ, the Child.

“Christ is Born and Revealed.
Blessed is the Revelation of Christ.”

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate
Western Diocese of the Armenian Church
North America

Feast of the Nativity 2019

**ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴ ՍՐԲԱԶԱՆ ՀՕՐ
ՍՈՒՐԲ ԾՆՆՂԵԱՆ ՊԱՏԳԱՍԸ
ՅՈՒՆՈՒՄԸ 6, 2019**

Յիսուսի Ծնունդը՝ Հրաւեր Նոր Խոստումի
(Սր. Ծննդեան Խորհրդածութիւններ)

Քրիստոս Ծնաւ եւ Յայտնեցաւ:
Օրինեալ է Յայտնութիւնն Քրիստոսի:

Աստուծոյ առաջնորդութեամբ մարդկութեան առջեւ կը բացուի Նոր Տարին, որը կը նուիրագործուի Յիսուս Քրիստոսի Ծննդեամբ: Նորին խորհուրդը ընդհանրապէս դժուար պիտի ըլլար ըմբռնել, եթէ երբէք Աստուած չներգործէր աշխարհի կեանքին մէջ, մարդկանց հոգիներէն ներս: Ժամանակը, կեանքն ու տեղը կարելի չէ նորին պրիսմակէն տեսնել առանց Քրիստոսի մարդեղութեան խորհուրդին: Եւ այս սոսկ մտածում մը չէ կամ մտածումի մը արդիւնք, այլեւ՝ ապրուած հաւատքի արտայայտութիւն: Քանզի ամէն անգամ, երբ տօնախմբենք Սուրբ Ծնունդը, ներքին անբացատրելի հոգեւոր զգացումներով կը լեցուի մեր էութիւնը եւ ինքնըստինքեան անձնատուր կ'ըլլանք Աստուծոն եւ մեր ուրախութիւն կ'ըլլայ անչափելի:

Յիսուսի Ծնունդը մարդկութիւնը կը տօնախմբէ գիտակից հաւատքով: Քաջ կ'ըմբռնենք այն ճշմարտութիւնը, որ Աստուածորդին՝ Յիսուս մանուկը մեզի կը բերէ Աստուծոյ սէրը, խոնարհութեան պատգամը, խաղաղութեան շունչը, կեանքին մէջ նոր կեանք մը բանալու



խորհուրդը եւ տակաւին բազում դասեր, որոնց մէջ էականը կը մնայ այն, որ մարդն ստեղծուած ըլլալով Աստուծոյ պատկերին համաձայն՝ իր մէջ ունի նաեւ ստեղծագործելու ոգին ու ուժը:

Յիսուսի Ծնունդը՝ աստուածային այն անկրկնելի հրաշքն է, որ մեր մէջ ծնունդ կու տայ նոր մարդուն: Սբ. Ծննդեան տօնը, հետեւաբար, դադար մը կը հաստատէ մեր կեանքին մէջ, որպէսզի ունենանք անդրադարձումի ու քննութեան պահը եւ ապա մեր կեանքի ճանապարհը պայմանաւորուի Աստուծոյ կամքին համաձայն:

Յիսուսի Ծնունդը դժուար է բացատրել բառերով, այն պէտք է ապրիլ, զգալ եւ մանաւանդ հաղորդակից ըլլալ անոր խորհուրդին: Եւ ի գուր չէ, որ յաճախ ժողովրդական բացատրութիւնն ու խոսքը կ'ըսէ հետեւեալը, թէ պէտք է մանուկի մը պէս հրճուիլ եւ ուրախանալ Յիսուսի Ծնունդին ի տես, քանզի մանուկի մը սիրտը մաքուր է ինչպէս սպիտակ ձիւնը: Յիսուսի Սբ. Ծննդեան տօնը կու գայ իմաստաւորելու այդ մանուկին կեանքի խոստումն ու յանձնառութիւնը, որպէսզի ան ըլլայ օրինակելի: Եւ ինչո՞ւ նոյնպիսի խոստում ու յանձնառութիւն չկատարենք չափահասներս, որուն այնքան պէտք ունինք, որպէսզի մեր էութեանը մէջ արմատաւորենք ներքին հոգեւոր հարստութիւնը եւ խաղաղութիւնը: Այս ամանորին Քրիստոսի Ծնունդով վերստին մանկանալու հրաշքին ակնդէտ կը սպասենք:

Թող մեր Տիրոջ եւ Փրկչի Յիսուսի հրաշալի Ծնունդը մեր էութեան մէջ խորացնէ հաւատքի քաջութիւնը՝ որպէսզի նոր խոստումներով լեցնենք մեր կեանքը: Յիսուսի կեանքը դարձաւ ծառայութեան ճանապարհը մարդկութեան կեանքին մէջ: Ուրեմն մենք եւս կատարենք նոյնը՝ մէկզմէկու ծառայութեամբ: Անոր երկրաւոր կեանքը լուսաւորեց աշխարհը այնպիսի պատգամներով, որոնք ցայսօր փարոսի պէս կը լուսաւորեն մեր կեանքին խորայատակ ծալքերը: Եւ գուցէ Քրիստոսով մեզի հաղորդուած կեանքի դասերէն մեծագոյնը կը մնայ ներողամտութիւնը: Եթէ մարդը կ'ուզէ ինքզինք ազատել գերութենէ, ապա պիտի կարողանայ ներողամտութեամբ ապրիլ, որպէսզի ճշմարտապէս ապրի քրիստոնէայի կեանքով:

Յիսուսի Սբ. Ծնունդը ողջ մարդկութեան կեանքը կ'առաջնորդէ նոր կեանքի, որպէսզի մարդիկ սթափումի պահ մը ունենան եւ կեանքը ապրին ոչ թէ իրենց կամքին համաձայն, այլեւ՝ Աստուծոյ: Այս կեանց պատգամները մեզի կու գան Քրիստոսի վարդապետութենէն եւ Սուրբ Աւետարաններէն:

Յիսուսի Սբ. Ծնունդը նոր կեանքի պատգամը կը յղէ նաեւ մեր ազգի զաւակաց, որպէսզի կեանքն ապրինք հաւատքով Աստուծոյ սերն ու իմաստութիւնը իւրացնելով մեր մէջ, որպէսզի օրհնութիւն բերենք մեր Հայրենիքին ու Սբ. Եկեղեցւոյն: Յիսուսի Սբ. Ծնունդը տօնախմբել հայ քրիստոնէային համար կը նշանակէ նորոգեալ հաւատքով սիրել Հայրենիքն ու Սբ. Էջմիածինը, նորոգեալ յանձնառութիւններով իմաստաւորել մեր աստուածատուր կեանքը: Եւ երանելի է այն հայ քրիստոնէան, ով իր հաւատքը կ'ապրի գործնապէս եւ Յիսուսի Ծնունդը կը տօնախմբէ որպէս հրաւերը՝ նոր կեանքի:

Յիսուսի Սբ. Ծննդեան խորհուրդով ապրինք կեանքը: Յիսուսի Ծնունդը՝ Աստուածորդու Երկինքէն Երկիր խոնարհումն է մարդկութեան կեանքին մէջ, որպէսզի Անոր հետ բարձրանանք առ Աստուած: Եւ եթէ մարդկութիւնը ունենայ իր մէջ Աստուծոյ աչքին խոնարհ կեանք մը ապրելու ձգտումն ու տեսիլքը, ապա այն ժամանակ ողջ աշխարհը կ'ապրի նոր կեանքը մը ի Քրիստոս:

Ուրախ սրտով կը յայտարարենք Ծնունդն Աստուածորդու, որպէսզի Աստուած նորոգէ մեր հոգին եւ մանուկ Յիսուսի հետ նոր կեանքին ծնունդը ապրինք նաեւ մենք:

Քրիստոս Ծնաւ եւ Յայտնեցաւ:
Օրհնեալ է Յայտնութիւնն Քրիստոսի:

Յովնան Արք. Տէրտէրեան
Առաջնորդ Հիւսիսային Ամերիկայի
Արեւմտեան Թեմի

Պըրպէնք, Գալիֆորնիա



Parish Notes

Our condolences to the family of Randal Allen Boudakian who entered his eternal rest on November 25, 2018. Also, to Mike Mikaelian and Family on the recent passing of Carloyn Mikaelian who entered her eternal rest on December 20, 2018, and also, to Jack Barsamian's family on his recent passing. Jack entered his eternal rest on December 25, 2018. Our thoughts and prayers are with these families.

WEEKLY BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

●December 2 – Ed and Georgia Davidian in memory of their parents Arshavir and Zaroohie Davidian, John and Sue Misakian, and family members Sark, Vernon, Charlie and Hosanna Davidian and John Lee Misakian

HOKEHANKIST (Repose of Soul) DONATIONS

(November 24, 2018 – December 21, 2018)

For Repose of Rose Sheklian's Soul

●Myron and Debbie Sheklian

For Repose of Betty Farsakian's Soul

**●Alan and Marceen Farsakian
●Richard and Geraldine Hagopian**

For Repose of Alice Dudukian's Soul

●Mike and Judy Skaff

ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

- December 2 - Ed and Georgia Davidian in memory of their parents Arshavir and Zaroohie Davidian, John and Sue Misakian and family members, Sark, Vernon, Charlie and Hosanna Davidian and John Lee Misakian**
- December 2 - Myron and Debbie Sheklian and Children in memory of Myron's mother, Rose Sheklian, forty days after her passing**
- December 9 – The Farsakian Family in memory of Betty Farsakian, five years after her passing**
- December 9 – Mike and Judy Skaff, fifteen years after Judy's mother, Alice Dudukian's passing**
- December 23 – Jerry and Julie Poochigian**

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

- December 2 - Arshavir and Zaroohie Davidian, John and Sue Misakian, Sark Davidian, Vernon Davidian, Charlie Davidian, Hosanna Davidian, John Lee Misakian, requested by Ed and Georgia Davidian**
- December 2 – Rose Sheklian, forty days after her passing, requested by Myron and Debbie Sheklian and Children**
- December 9 – Betty Farsakian, five years after her passing, requested by the Farsakian Family**
- December 9 – Alice Dudukian, fifteen years after her passing, requested by Mike and Judy Skaff**

Armenian Christmas Services are as follows:

Saturday - January 5, 2019 – Eve of Theophany/Christmas Eve

Evening Service Scripture Readings and Voch Inch Eh Bido at 5:30 p.m.

Divine Liturgy at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday – January 6, 2019

Feast of the Nativity and Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ

Morning Services at 9:45a.m.

Divine Liturgy at 10:30a.m

Blessing of Water/Baptism of the Cross will take place at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy

*Godfather of the Cross – Gerard Garoian
Celebrant & Preacher – Rev. Fr. Zaven Markosyan*

Ways and Means Committee Luncheon after Sunday's worship and a Special Christmas Program presented by the Sunday School Students.

Monday – January 7, 2019 - Remembrance of the Dead

Divine Liturgy at 10:30am

Sunday School meets on January 13th and January 27th, plus they will have a church tour after church services. Sunday School meets on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 11:00 a.m. Welcome all children!

Ladies Society meeting will be held on Saturday, January 12, 2019 in the Majarian Hall at 11:30 a.m.

ACYO meeting will be held on Sunday, January 13, 2019 after Divine Liturgy in the Majarian Hall.

Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday, January 17, 2019 in the Majarian Hall at 7:00 p.m.

ACYO Convention will be held January 18-20, 2019 at St. John in San Francisco.

Ladies Society will be sponsoring fellowship on Sunday, January 20, 2019 after Divine Liturgy in the Majarian Hall.

Thank you to everyone who donated, participated or worked our 4th Annual Ladies Society Christmas Bazaar held on December 2. It was a fun day with great food and fellowship. With your help our Ladies Society made approximately \$6,000 for our church.

SAVE THE DATE: Poon Paregentan will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2019 in the Majarian Hall. (See flyer)

ACYO is selling Reusable Bags for \$5 each, St. Mary Yettem Hats for \$12 each and Yettem shirts for \$10 each. Please see any ACYO member for questions or to purchase.

ST. MARY MEMORIAL WALL

There is room for 40 new names to be added to the Memorial Wall Column on the south wall. The cost for each name is \$200. Order forms are available in the church office or at the desk as you enter the church. If you wish to participate, or have questions concerning the Memorial Wall, call Jim Soxman at (559) 733-8741 or (559) 936-2227.

Jim Soxman, Ways and Means Chairman

COOKBOOK

By popular demand, a second edition of the "Treasured Recipes from the Garden of Eden" has been made available. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, call the church office at (559) 528-6892 or Debbie Sheklian at (559) 733-4417. The cost of the cookbook is \$30 or \$30 plus shipping if mailed.

Armenian Language classes are still available for our parishioners. If you are interested, please contact the church office at (559) 528-6892 or Fr. Zaven at (818) 644-9398.

DVD SET FOR SALE: *St. Mary Armenian Church, 100th Anniversary, July 2, 2011. DVD set is \$25.00 and can be purchased by calling the church office at (559) 528-6892. A \$6.00 charge for shipping and handling will be added to the price if you would like one mailed to you. (Sponsored by the Ways and Means Committee)*

The “Armenian Genocide Survivors and Heroes” book can be purchased for \$40 at the St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church Office. Copies can be mailed for an additional cost. Call the church office at (559) 528-6892 for details.

REMINDER

If you have not sent in your 2019 Annual Stewardship Pledge and Voting Member Application, please do so as soon as possible. If you need a form, call the church office at (559) 528-6892.

The Parish Council has approved to have our weekly bulletin and the monthly newsletter available for sponsorships. We are not selling ads. If you would like to sponsor an edition of either publication please contact the office, or there is a form at the front desk in the church. The sponsorships for the weekly bulletin are \$25.00 per issue, and to sponsor the monthly newsletter is \$100.00 per issue.

The St. Mary Armenian Church webpage at www.stmaryyettem.org includes archived copies of church bulletins, pictures from events, a current church calendar, and an improved LIVE Camera System. View services on any desktop, laptop, or tablet!

If you wish to place any information in the monthly Bulletin, please notify the church office by the 20th of month

EASY MONEY: ESCRIP

This is done by 3% rewards earned on purchases at Save Mart, Lucky, and Food Maxx stores. We have 27 registered members in the eScrip program and 18 of these have used the program. To do so, all you have to do is give your phone number as you check out of these stores. If you have not registered in the eScrip program, sign up at Shares...powered by eScrip (<http://www.escrip.com/shares>) and designate St. Mary Armenian Church as your charity of choice. If you have difficulty signing up please call me (Jim Soxman, 733-8741) and I will do it for you.

PAYPAL

You may access PayPal through the St. Mary Yettem web-site (www.stmaryyettem.org) and click on the “Donation” button on the bottom of the Home Page. You may donate for General Donations, Yughakins, Pledges, Membership Dues, In Lieu of Flowers, or pay for Altar Flowers you have ordered on behalf of the Church.

To St. Mary Parishioners: The Parish Council would like to invite any parishioner who may have concerns or questions with anything dealing with Church affairs. The Parish Council meetings are held the third Thursday of each month. To be placed on the agenda of the meeting, please contact Der Zaven at (818) 644-9398 or Bea Soxman Parish Council Chairperson at (559) 623-2390

To St. Mary Parishioners: If you know of anyone ill or in the hospital, please call Rev. Fr. Zaven Markosyan at the Church Office (559) 528-6892 or his cell (818) 644-9398. St. Mary Armenian Apostolic church office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, from 9:30 -2:30.

St. Mary Armenian Church, Yetteem

January 2019

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|-------------------------|-----------|--|---|---|
| | | 1 New Year's Day | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 Evening Service Scripture Readings and Voch Inch Eh bido at 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy at 6:00 p.m. |
| 6 Armenian Christmas Services Morning Service 9:45 Divine Liturgy 10:30 Blessing of Water/Baptism of Cross Ways and Means Christmas Luncheon + Sunday School Program | 7 Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m. - Remembrance of the dead | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 Ladies Society meeting in the Majarian Hall at 11:30 a.m. |
| 13 Sunday School meets ACYO meeting | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Parish Council meeting in the Majarian Hall at 7:00 p.m. | 18 ACYO Convention January 18-20 at St. John in San Francisco | 19 ACYO Convention |
| 20 ACYO Convention Fellowship/Ladies Society | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 Sunday School meets + Church tour after church services | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

Sunday Schedule:

Morning Service (Matins) 9:45 AM
Divine Liturgy – 10:30 AM

Father Zaven can be reached at:

559-528-6892 – Office
559-528-6897 – FAX
818-644-9398 - Cell



**ST. MARY
ARMENIAN CHURCH, YETTEM
WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE**

**Armenian Christmas Luncheon
Sunday, January 6, 2019**

immediately following the day's worship

Menu

**Beef & Chicken Kebab Combo
Pilaf
Salad
Rolls
Dessert
Drinks**

Adults--\$15.00

Children ten (10) and under--\$10.00

**Special Christmas Program
Presented by the Sunday School Students**

Plan to attend with the entire family and enjoy the delicious luncheon and entertaining program.



SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, March 2, 2019

POON PAREGENTAN

*ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH, YETTEM
MAJARIAN HALL*

*Look for more information in the
coming weeks....*

**Sponsored by the Ways and Means
Committee**



Santa Visits the Ladies Society Bazaar



On December 6, 2018 was held a St. Mary Yettem ACYO meeting and Christmas Party. Kids had a great time bowling. During the meeting they voted for their new Executive Board members for 2019. We were happy to have with us our guests participants form Fresno.

Chairman: Dustin Vartanian

Vice Chairman: David Safrazian

Secretary: Melina Peters

Treasurer: Pete Safrazian





Feast of the Holy Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Each year, on January 6, the Armenian Apostolic Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ, which is the commemoration of the Birth and Baptism of Jesus Christ. God was incarnated and appeared to the people. During the Baptism of Jesus God the Father said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased" (Mt 3:17) and the Holy Spirit descended on Christ in the form of dove, so God appeared to the people for the second time. So, both Theophanies revealed by means of the Birth and Baptism of Jesus Christ are celebrated in the Armenian Church jointly on January 6. the eve, in the and is continued after eve a solemn Liturgy is celebrated solemn Divine Liturgy conclusion of the Blessing of the Waters symbolizing the the River Jordan at of His ministry. By Baptism Jesus blessed



The feast starts on evening of January 5, the midnight. On the Candlelight Divine and on January 6 a is celebrated. At the Divine Liturgy Service is conducted Baptism of Christ in the commencement means of His water.

Celebrant priest pours drop by drop into water. According to take some blessed water with them to use it as a medicinal remedy for the sick. After Blessing of the Waters Service the priests visit the houses of the faithful to proclaim the Christmastide Good News of the Birth of Jesus Christ and hence the tradition of Blessing of the Houses was formed.

out the Holy Chrism water and blesses the the tradition people

The Birth of Jesus happened in this way. "In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ... And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." (Lk 2:1-7) The Son of God was born in poverty, in a manger. The witnesses of His Birth were the shepherds living out in the fields nearby, whom the angels had appeared and brought the good news of the Birth of the Savior singing: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." (Lk 2:18)

St. Mary Armenian Church

Non-Profit Organization

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