



YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Հրատարակուիլիս Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածիկ Քայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

July 2023

Transfigured in Pain and Joy

Hundreds of thousands of Christian pilgrims visit Israel every year with a hope to retrace the footsteps of their Lord and Savior. They want to touch the stones he touched, walk the paths he walked, see, feel, and experience everything He saw and felt. All in the hope to gain spiritual closeness and connection with Christ. Many of the pilgrims visit Mount Tabor, the sight of the Transfiguration of our Lord which we are celebrating today. Once the pilgrims reach the mountain, they have to exit their busses and take a taxi to the top of Mount Tabor. They say that the taxi drivers of Mount Tabor are especially loved by God because there is usually more praying happening in those taxis than the rest of the day as they rush to get the pilgrims up and down the narrow road of the mountain.

Transfiguration is a story about a divine encounter. It is about finding, meeting, and experiencing the extraordinary God within our ordinary lives. It is about Jesus taking three of his disciples, Peter, James, and John, with him to Mount Tabor. There, the disciples were presented with a rare and precious opportunity to see Christ revealed in his full glory and majesty. There Jesus appeared radiating with bright light of holiness along with the great prophets of Israel and the voice of the God the Father manifesting his divinity and exhorting the apostles to listen to him.

Imagine how the disciples felt when they saw and witnessed everything they believed and hoped for suddenly become a reality. Imagine what they experienced when their entire faith and heritage suddenly came to life. Imagine what it might feel like to see Christ in all his glory, to be able to hear the voice of God talk to you. For the disciples, this undoubtedly was a moment of utmost surprise and utter joy filled with the presence and blessing of God.

It is quite easy to feel the presence of God in our lives when things work out, when we are surprised by joy, when something good beyond our imagination happens in our lives. But that is not how life always works. How can our lives be transfigured by God's presence and

(Continued on the back page)

Parish Notes

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

THIS JULY 2023 BULLETIN
IS SPONSORED BY

MARK AND LINDA WALL

“Congratulations to our nephew **Troy Farsakian** and our new niece **Marissa Nemec** on their recent marriage at St. James Armenian Church, Evanston, IL on May 27th. We couldn’t be happier to see our family grow. Troy’s parents Larry and Wendy Farsakian were married in the same church 40 years ago this month. Happy Anniversary to my brother and sister-in-law!”

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Regina Agajanian and family on the passing of **Melvin Agajanian** on May 15, 2023. Services were held on May 30, 2023.

Also, to the family of **Luther J. Khachigian** who passed on June 20, 2023. His services were held here at St. Mary Yetteem on June 27, 2023.

Our thoughts and prayers are with these families.

THANK YOU FROM DER VARTAN

To Fr. Mashdots, Parish Priest, Myron Sheklian, Parish Council Chairman, and all the parishioners and friends of St. Mary Armenian Church of Yetteem:

My most sincere thanks and appreciation for the commemorative activities of Saturday, May 27, 2023, marking the 50th anniversary of my ordination to the sacred order of the priesthood. I was deeply moved from the moment I entered the hall. May all of your God-inspired efforts serve to strengthen our Holy Church for generations to come. And may our good Lord bless you all.

Archpriest Rev. Fr. Vartan Kasparian

THANK YOU FROM THE KESHISHIAN FAMILY

A special thank you to our Yetteem Social Hye's from Der Mashdots, Maral and Hagop Pegor for showering baby Keshishian at the Garabedian residence and to those who attended.

ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

June 25th

Renee Yahnian, Jordan Yahnian and Family, Kevin Yahnian and Family, Daniel and Mikelle Hairabedian
in memory of Bryan Yahnian

Carrie, Amos, Maria, Zoie, and baby Aron, and Margo Margosian
in memory of Aron Margosian
five years after his passing on June 26, 2018

The Jack Ananian Family
in memory of their father, Jack Ananian

Myron and Debbie Sheklian
in honor of their 40th wedding anniversary
on June 18th

ALTAR CANDLE OIL

June 25th

Altar candle oil was donated in memory of
Aron Margosian by his grandchildren,
Zoie and Baby Aron Margosian

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

June 18th

All the deceased fathers

Henrik Andreasian
one year after his passing
requested by Lilit Benjamin

June 25th

Bryan Yahnian
two years after his passing,
requested by Renee Yahnian, Jordan Yahnian and Family, Kevin Yahnian and Family, Daniel and Mikelle Hairabedian

Jack Ananian
five years after his passing,
requested by the Jack Ananian Family

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

(May 22nd - June 25th)

June 18th

For Repose of Henrik Andreasian’s Soul
Lilit Benjamin

DONATION

Carrie Margosian

in memory of Aron Margosian five years
after his passing on June 26, 2018

THANK YOU

A thank you to Charlie Ananian for trimming the
bushes on the north side fence and spraying.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to Jordan and Nina Yahnian on
the birth of their son, ***Nikos Bryan Yahnian*** on
Friday, May 26th. He weighed 6 lbs, 10 oz. Nikos
proud grandparents are Renee Yahnian and the
late Bryan Yahnian and Zepur Geuvjehizian and
the late Mousheg Geuvjehizian.

SUMMER EXPENSES CONTINUE

During the summer months donations to our
church typically trail off. Enclosed in this
month's bulletin is an envelope where we hope
you might include a donation to help with our
ongoing expenses.

MAKING CHEOREG

Ladies Society has once again been asked to
make cheoreg for summer camp. The
cheoreg making party is scheduled for **Saturday,
July 8th at 9:00 AM** at the **Majararian Hall.**
Please text Laurie Menendian (559) 731-
7050, Debbie Sheklian (559) 799-8041, or
Mari Louise Menendian (559) 901-6683 **if
you can attend.**

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held
via Zoom on **Thursday, July 13th at 6 PM.**

LADIES SOCIETY

The Ladies' Society has **no meeting** in the
month of **July.** The **next scheduled luncheon
meeting** is **Saturday, August 5th at 11:30 AM** in
the Majararian Hall.

ASDVADZADZIN

Asdvadzadzin and the **Blessing of the Grapes**
will be held on **Sunday, August 13th.** (See flier)

ASDVADZADZIN BAKE SALE

The Ways and Means Committee Bake Sale and
Farmers Market will be held on **Sunday, August
13th** immediately following the day's worship.
Your favorite Armenian delicacies will be
available: cheoreg, simit, nazoog, bread sticks,
plus lots more. (See flier)

RAFFLE

Our May and June raffle drawings were held on
Sunday, June 11th.

Congratulations to our May winners...

(\$150) Lisa Krause

(\$100) Regina Agajanian

(\$50) Lucille Margosian

Congratulations to our June winners...

(\$150) Gregory Krikorian

(\$100) Olivia Penny

(\$50) Mason Groefsema

Our **July and August raffle drawing** of 2023
will be held on **Sunday, August 13th.** The
drawing will also be streamed on Facebook.
Thank you to our Ways and Means Committee
for this great fundraiser for our church.

YETTEM SOCIAL HYES

The Yettem Social Hyes next meeting will be
held via Zoom on **Tuesday, August 22nd at 6
PM.**

WAYS AND MEANS

The Ways and Means Committee next meeting
will be held via Zoom on **Thursday, August 31st
at 7 PM.**

SAVE THE DATE

Grandparents' Day will be held on **Sunday,
September 10th** after church services.
Reservations are requested. (See flier)

SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Sunday School will resume on **Sunday,
September 10th.**

ST. MARY YETTEM GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Ways and Means Committee will be hosting
a **golf tournament** at the **Tulare Golf Course** on
Saturday, September 23rd. (See flier)

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.

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.** 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



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



PARTICIPATING IN THE DIVINE LITURGY

Response during Procession (Tapor)

Congregant to Celebrant:

Heeshescheer yev zees arachee anmah
Kareenun Asdoodzoh.

Remember me, also, before the immortal
Lamb of God.

Celebrant's response:

Heeshyal leecheek arachee anmah Kareenun
Asdoodzoh.

May you be remembered before the immortal
Lamb of God.

Kiss of Peace (Voghchooyñ)

The one who gives says:

Kreesdos ee mech mer haydnetsav.

Christ is revealed among us.

The one who receives says:

Orhnyal eh haydnoutiunun Kreesdosee.

Blessed is the revelation of Christ.

Receiving Holy Communion

As we approach the Chalice, we say:

Meghah Asdoodzoh or I have sinned against
God.

The celebrant responds:

Sa yeghitsi kez ee kavutyun ye vee toghutyun
meghats.

This be to you expiation and forgiveness of
your sins.

Kissing the Gospel

As we approach the Gospel book, we say:

Heeshestzeh Der zamenayn Badarakus ko.
May the Lord remember all your sacrifices.

Celebrant's response:

Datzeh kez Der usd surdee koom.

May the Lord grant to you according to your
heart.

Distribution of Mahs

Mahsun yev pajheen yegheetzee kez ee Soorp
Badarakes.

May this be your portion and share of this
Holy Badarak.

The receiver of mahs says:

Pajheen eem Asdvadz haveedyan.

May my portion be God forever.

ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

JULY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Sts. Tridates the King & Queen Ashken
2	3 1911 Consecration Day of St. Mary Yettem Church	4 Independence Day	5	6 St. Sahag & Mesrob Translators	7	8 12 Holy Apostles of Christ & St. Paul the 13 th Apostle Ladies making cheoreg for summer camp at 9:00 AM in the Majarian Hall
9 Barekendan of the Fast of Transfiguration	10	11	12	13 Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 6 PM	14	15 12 Holy Apostles of Christ & St. Paul the 13 th Apostle
¹⁶ 16 Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ	17 Remembrance of the dead	18	19	20 St. Isaiah the Prophet	21	22 St. Thaddeus the Apostle & Sandoukht the Virgin
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Sons & Grandsons of St. Gregory the Illuminator
30	31					

5

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 *Janel Zerounian*

Janel Zerounian was born in Visalia on April 28, 1965, the youngest child of Pete and Marilyn Zerounian. She is the granddaughter of Artin & Lucia Zerounian and Hagop & Varsenig Sousamian and niece of Sylvia and Sark Yahnian. With her older siblings, Lori and James, she had a fun-filled childhood and was raised with a strong sense of family and culture. Countless days were spent playing on the farms and in the walnut orchards of her grandparents and aunt and uncle, Almost all visits ended around a dining table surrounded by an abundance of family, food, laughter and love!

Janel went to school at Willow Glen Elementary, Green Acres Junior High, and Redwood High School. High School was an especially active and energetic time. Janel sang in the choir. She danced in school musicals Irene, Pajama Game, and Music Man. She was a song leader. She was involved in student government, where she represented the pep squad. She was editor of the yearbook her senior year. Throughout these “growing up years” Janel regularly attended St. Mary Armenian Church, where she went to Sunday School and was a member of A.C.Y.O. She also enjoyed many summers at Armenian Church Camp / Sugar Pine.

Janel attended College of the Sequoias. She went on to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, to pursue a degree in Human Development and Psychology. She joined the Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority.

Janel moved back to Visalia after graduating from Cal Poly. She started working at Starbucks on Main Street in Visalia in October 1999. Nineteen years later, in October 2018, she left Starbucks where she had been store manager for years. It was time to find a better work-life balance. Janel is now employed by College of the Sequoias managing the Food Services Department. Following in her mother’s and grandmother’s footsteps, she joined the St. Mary Ladies Society in the Fall of 2020. She is currently on the Executive Board and holds the office of secretary, both recording and corresponding. She can do Ladies Society work because she found that work-life balance.

Janel enjoys baking and reading and is an avid coffee enthusiast. Finding inspiration and joy in all things creative, she loves art, fountain pens, handmade paper and is a self-taught calligrapher who can often be caught with “inky fingers”.

When Janel moved back to Visalia after university, she eventually met Joseph Hernandez, a musician and music educator. Janel and Joey share a home with their adorable Bernese Mountain Dog, Luca. They love to cook, dabble in mixology making all kinds of esoteric cocktails, watch movies and listen to music together.



Sponsored by the
St. Mary Yettem
Ways and Means Committee



~Asdvadzadzin~

BAKE SALE &
FARMERS MARKET

After Church Services

Sunday, August 13, 2023

- Homemade Baked Goods•
- Fruits and Vegetables•

****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

AUGUST 13, 2023

Divine Liturgy will be
celebrated at 10:15 AM



ASDVADZADZIN

BLESSING OF THE GRAPES



DONATION
\$20 for Adults
\$12 for
Children
under 10

Guest Celebrant:

Very Rev. Fr. Yeremia

Abgaryan

Diocese Youth Director

LUNCH WILL FEATURE:

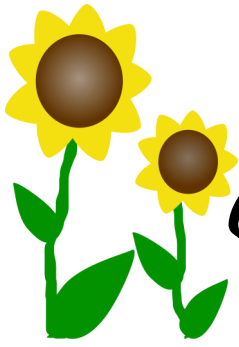
- Chicken Kebab
- Cooked Carrots
- Rice Pilaf
- Dinner Roll
- Salad
- Desserts

**PLEASE RSVP BY
AUGUST 8TH**

 lunches@stmaryyettem.org

 **(559) 528-6892**

St. Mary Yettem - Ladies Society



God's Blessing Are Grandparents



Grandparents' Day Brunch

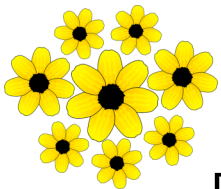
Sunday, September 10, 2023

After church services in the Majarian Hall

✧Delicious Brunch Items✧

Beeshee, Basturma, Soujouk and Eggs
And many more Brunch items to enjoy!

●Adults \$15 ● Children-(10 and under) \$12●



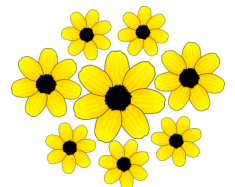
-To Reserve a Table or Seat(s)-

E-mail: lunch@stmaryyettem.org –or–

Call the Church Office — (559) 528-6892

by Wednesday, September 6

RESERVATIONS are Requested



Raffle Drawing

Tickets will be available to purchase during the Brunch!
\$1 per ticket or \$5 for 6 Tickets



Be a Sponsor!

Event Sponsor - \$3,000

Name prominently displayed on Welcome Banner

Name or Company Logo on tournament shirt complimentary to each player

4 player entry fees – which includes lunch

Golf Ball Sponsor - \$2,500 (One Available)

Name on Welcome Banner

Name or Company Logo on golf balls

(complimentary golf balls to each player)

Golf Towel Sponsor - \$2,500 (one available)

Name on Welcome Banner

Name or Company Logo on golf towels

(complimentary golf towels to each player)

Gold Sponsor - \$1,500

Name on Welcome Banner

Tee Sponsorship – one hole

2 lunch tickets

Silver Sponsor - \$500

Name on Welcome Banner

Tee Sponsorship – one hole

2 lunch tickets

Tee Sponsor - \$100

Name on tee sign

3-hole Tee Sponsor - \$250

Name on tee signs at three holes

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Sponsorship Level: _____

Name to appear on Signage: _____

Please complete form and mail to: St Mary Armenian Church

Golf Tournament

P.O. Box 367

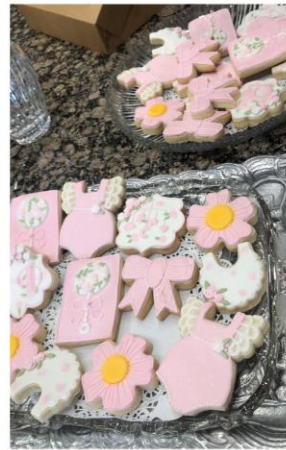
Yetteem, CA 93670

Payment: ___ by check made out to St. Mary Armenian Church (included)

___ by Zelle: email payment and application to : YetteemWMC@gmail.com

For information contact:

Linda Farsakian-Wall (559)786-1419 * Janice McWilliams (559) 786-4202 * John Kalfayan (559)280-3855



Yn. Maral's Baby Shower

(Continued from the front page)

blessing when we are surprised not by joy but by the realization of our worst nightmare? When the heaven appears to be silent to our prayers, and the world we live in is indifferent to our pain?

In fact, the story of the Transfiguration answers these questions in the greater context of the biblical narrative. The story of Christ's passion and crucifixion offers a strange parallel and contrast to Transfiguration. I believe these stories and events are deeply connected. Both stories take place on a mountain or a hill. All three disciples are present in both of the stories. In Transfiguration, Christ is revealed in glory and during crucifixion in shame, defeat, and betrayal. Here, his clothing shines in white; there, he is stripped off his clothing. Here, two of the greatest symbols of Jewish faith appear along Christ to endorse and proclaim his ministry; there, He is abandoned by his disciples and friends. During Transfiguration a bright cloud covers the skies; and during Crucifixion, darkness takes over the scene. Here, Peter is astonished by the glory of Christ; there, he denies ever knowing him.

Ultimately, both Transfiguration and Crucifixion are about being surprised by the humility, love and power of God. Though the circumstances are radically different, it is the same God, the same Savior and glory revealed in both of the stories. As we see so clearly in the story of Christ's betrayal, passion, and crucifixion – God is indeed able to step in, relate and reveal himself within human grief, loss, betrayal and pain. He does so by transfiguring and transforming the very fabric and essence of human pain and suffering into an opportunity for salvation. Yes, it is hard to comprehend and see how God is present in our moments of hopelessness, loss and grief. It is hard to understand how He transforms and is present in the tribulations of our lives. Yet, today as we celebrate the Transfiguration of our Savior, we are also reminded about the abundant and unconditional love of God which is transfigured and revealed also in our moments of darkness and struggles.

Fr. Voski

St. Mary Armenian Church
P.O. Box 367
Yettem, California 93670
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