



# YETTEM ՄԳՆՍ

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

## December 2022

*“Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth”  
(Revelation 1:5)*

You never know how a baby will turn out.

Parents and grandparents have been wondering about babies since time began. It must have been that way when Jesus was born. Luke 2:19 tells us that after the shepherds visited Mary and no doubt shared what the angels had said to them, she “treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.” There was certainly a lot to think about:

“He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end” (Luke 1:33).

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11).

“A sword will pierce your own soul too” (Luke 2:35).

The last verse of Mark Lowry’s beautiful Mary, Did You Know? poses the question this way:

Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?

Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?

Did you know that your baby boy is heaven’s perfect Lamb?

This sleeping child you’re holding is the great I am.

You never know how a baby will turn out, do you?

This one turned out to be the Savior of the world.

But not everyone knows that or understands it or believes it. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, let’s remind ourselves once again who Jesus really is. Revelation 1:5 offers a threefold picture of our Lord. This verse is part of John’s introduction to his book where he introduces himself and wishes his readers grace and peace. Here is his description of Jesus Christ: “Who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.”

These three phrases help us understand the true identity of the baby born in Bethlehem. Each one answers a question we would like to ask about Jesus Christ.

### **Can I Trust Him?**

The first question is the most basic of all. The men and women of this generation have heard the name of Jesus many times. What they want to know is very simple “Can I trust him?” In a world of religious charlatans, this is where we must begin. We discover the answer in John’s first title. He calls Jesus “the faithful witness.” A witness tells what he has seen or heard. A faithful witness is one whose testimony is reliable every time. (Continued on page 2)

(Continued from the front page)

John means that Jesus Christ can be relied upon to tell the truth. When he speaks, he speaks only the truth. His words are absolutely true and authoritative. 1 Timothy 6:13 speaks of “Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate, made the good confession.” What did he say when he stood before Pilate?

“I came into the world to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me” (John 18:37). Jesus Christ is the supreme truth-teller, and those who want to find the truth must listen to him.

Writing several hundred years ago, one commentator said that the title “faithful witness” means four things:

1. What God said, Christ made known.
2. He taught without regard to the words of men.
3. He was faithful even in death.
4. He will reveal the truth in the end.

Every person has to deal with this fundamental issue about Jesus. Can I trust him? Some people will answer yes, others will say no.

Who you gonna believe?” That’s the key question.

Who are you going to believe? Let’s suppose you don’t want to take my word for it. Read the record for yourself. Take 30 days to read the Gospel account. Read the story for yourself and come to your own conclusions. I will tell you what I believe will happen. If you read with an open mind and an open heart, you will come to the inevitable conclusion that what Jesus said is true, that he is the truth, and that his word can be eternally trusted.

I am not saying anything to try to prove it to you. I simply challenge you to read it for yourself. Make up your own mind. When you do, you will find that he is entirely trustworthy.

Can I trust him? Yes I can, for he is the faithful witness.

### **Does He Have The Power To Help Me?**

That naturally leads to another question. “If I trust him, does he have the power to help me?” The answer is found in John’s second title for Jesus Christ. He calls him “the firstborn from the dead.” This refers to his resurrection from the dead. When he rose from the dead, he was the “firstborn from the dead.” What exactly does that mean? It means he is the first person who ever rose from the dead never to die again. During his ministry Jesus raised several people from the dead, including Lazarus who had been dead four days (John 11). Each occasion was a remarkable miracle but they had this in common. All of the people Jesus raised would eventually die again.

But not Jesus himself. When he came forth from the tomb on Easter Sunday morning, he rose once and for all. When he left the grave, he left for good. Jesus is the firstborn from the dead in the sense that he is the first in a long line of people who will be raised from the dead never to die again.

I find great comfort in this. Over the years I have presided at many funerals. I know what it’s like to stand at the graveside and try to say something hopeful in the calloused face of death. It’s not easy to pray when someone you love has been taken from you. No wonder the Bible calls death “the last enemy” (1 Corinthians 15:26).

In those moments I find strength in one thing and one thing only. Jesus has conquered the grave and done what no mortal man has ever done. He has come back from the dead never to die again. What happens to those who believe in him? Thank God, we are not left to wonder or to speculate. God himself has spoken on that subject. 1 Thessalonians 4:14 says, “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.”

“If we believe.” It is as simple and as difficult as that. You will never convince yourself of the resurrection by camping out in a cemetery. If you go to a cemetery and wait for a resurrection, you’ll have to wait a long time. After all, the last one happened over 2,000 years ago. But we have the word of God which overrides anything we can see with our eyes. Our faith in the resurrection of the dead does not rest in what our eyes can see. Our faith rests in that act of God whereby he raised Jesus from the dead. If God can do that, he can do anything.

Does Jesus have the power to help you? Yes he does, for he is the firstborn from the dead. (Continued on the back page)

**Parish Notes**

**BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP**  
THIS DECEMBER 2022 BULLETIN  
IS SPONSORED BY  
**RICH AND JANICE MCWILLIAMS**

**CONDOLENCES**

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Carol Hovannisian, Gail Groefsema and Gary Zarounian and their families on the recent passing of their aunt, **Gladys Zerounian** on Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. Services are pending here at St. Mary, Yetem. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to her family.

**ALTAR FLOWERS DONATIONS**

November 13<sup>th</sup>

**Lucille Boudakian Margosian, Evelyn Boudakian Crowder, and Jack Boudakian**

in honor of their grandparents,  
Khacher and Shahtane Majarian,  
and all the Godfathers of the Church

**Myron and Debbie Sheklian**  
remembering Marguerite Sheklian's  
November 13<sup>th</sup> birthday

November 20<sup>th</sup>

**Richard, Renee, and David Yahnian  
and their families**

in memory of  
Sark and Sylvia Yahnian

**Betty and Denny Klaseus, and family**  
in memory of Zimit Djerrahian  
six years after her passing

**HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS**

(October 24, 2022 – November 20, 2022)

November 13<sup>th</sup>

**For Repose of Khacher and Shahtane Majarian,  
and all the Godfathers of the Church Souls**

Evelyn Crowder  
Armen and Eileen S. Majarian

November 20<sup>th</sup>

**For Repose of Zimit Djerrahian Soul**  
Denny and Betty Klaseus and family

**HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS**

November 13<sup>th</sup>

**World War II Soldiers,**  
**Archie Akizian**  
**Jack Cherkezian**  
**Charlie Davidian**  
**Armen Kendig**  
**Haig Michaelian**

**Marguerite Sheklian**

requested by  
Myron and Debbie Sheklian

**Khacher and Shahtane Majarian,  
and all the Godfathers of the church**

requested by  
Lucille Boudakian Margosian, Evelyn Boudakian  
Crowder, and Jack Boudakian

**And also, the former parishioners and clergy  
that were part of the effort to plan, finance,  
build, furnish and consecrate the sanctuary that  
we appreciate today**

Bishop Vartan Kasparian  
Der Garabed Avak Kahana Kalfayan  
Deacon Andon Cherezian

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Garabed Simonian   | Tateos Tamouzian     |
| Sarkis Simonian    | Hatcher Mikaelian    |
| Simon Kashian      | L. McCormick         |
| Steve Kaplan       | Armen Menendian      |
| Jack Peloian       | Hovhannes Nazaretian |
| Harry Majarian     | Charles Merjanian    |
| Armen Menendian    | Mardiros Tashjian    |
| Haroutun Barsamian | Ezras Tellalian      |
| Sarkis Tamouzian   | Neshan Tashjian      |
| Humayak Sheklian   | Antranig Gogian      |
| Nishan P. Majarian | Herry Barsamian      |
| Vahan Mukhalian    |                      |

November 20<sup>th</sup>

**Sark and Sylvia Yahnian**  
one year after their passing,

requested by  
Richard, Renee, and David Yahnian  
and their families

**Zimit Djerrahian**

six years after her passing,  
requested by Denny and Betty Klaseus,  
and family

## LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

### **BAZAAR TIME**

December 4 after church. The hall will have a festive seasonal feel. There is lunch. Hot apple cider. Kufta, baked delicacies, crafts and more for sale. The highlight is our live auction. This bazaar is a tradition as only Yetteem can do it. We hope everyone joins us.

As described in last month's bulletin, making kufta is a three-day exercise. Debbie Sheklian, chairlady, and her recruits made a record amount of kufta. Here's the crew: Thursday: Yeretsgin Maral, Margie L. Davidian, Judy Skaff, Shari Ananian, Mari Louise Menendian, Debbie. Friday: Yeretsgin, Judy, Mari Louise, Lynn Skaff, Sandy and John Kalfayan, Myron and Debbie Sheklian. Saturday: Tracy and Ani Valencia, Sandra Vartanian, Renee Yahnian, Margie L., Yeretsgin, Mari Louise, Judy, Marilyn and Janel Zerounian, Gina Ananian, Sandy and John, Myron and Debbie. Big thank you to all. Plenty for sale at the bazaar.

Every November we hold our Ladies Society elections. A sincere thank you to Gina Ananian and Donna Torosian, dedicated members who termed out of the Executive Board, having served their maximum four years. Janice McWilliams and Renee Ananian were elected to their second two-year term. Julie Poochigian and Michelle Ananian were newly elected, joining Janice, Renee, Margie L. Davidian, Janel Zerounian, and myself to complete the board. Debbie Agnew, Nancy Krikorian, and Gina Ananian were elected to the Auditing Committee. Laurie Menendian, Tina Peters, and Linda Farsakian-Wall were elected to the Nominating Committee. Judy Skaff and Tracy Valencia were elected as delegates to the 71<sup>st</sup> Assembly next year. Congratulations to these devoted members for their service and commitment.

The general meeting in November is our yearly keshkeg luncheon. Thank you to Laurie Menendian and Linda Farsakian for the keshkeg, and to Laurie's committee for the savory lunch. We all look forward to keshkeg, especially with sokhrats (battered browned onions) on top.

November 13, the Ladies Society provided fellowship after Badarak for the commemoration of the consecration of our church in 1947. Adrienne Poochigian and her committee put on a delicious meal as prelude to this extraordinary afternoon. We watched film footage of the laying of the cornerstones September 29, 1946, the construction, and the consecration just over a year later on November 16, 1947. We renewed our impassioned pride in being Yetteemites. We are unique.

Happy birthday wishes to Margie Lynn Davidian, Yeretsgin Maral Khanjian, and Janet Ananian for November. Last bulletin said October, but they were really our November birthdays.

Happy birthday to our only December birthday, truly a Christmas baby: Renee Yahnian, born December 25.

*Mari Louise Menendian, Ladies Society Chair*

## THANK YOU

Deacon Randy Tellalian for the donation of the shabigs, stoles, and vestments for the Priest

Deacon Alan Farsakian for donating a crocheted altar cover that was made by his mother, Betty Farsakian

Ohsan Madanyan for sewing the lining under the crocheted altar cover

## DONATIONS

Joanne Bazarian

James Kaplan

Betty Skaff Jacobo

Alice Toukdarian

Ladies Society – Armenia Aid

Laurie Menendian and Fredric Marrs – Armenia Aid

Patricia Zeroun donated in honor of her uncle and godfather, Pete Zerounian, and her father, Charley Zeroun.

## LADIES SOCIETY BAZAAR

The Ladies Society **Annual Holiday Bazaar** will be held on **Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**. Live auction, bake sale, kufta sale and lunch. (See flier)

## BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will be held **via Zoom** on **December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM**. Bible Study will be held on the first **Wednesday** of each month.

## PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held via Zoom on **Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM**.

## ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS

**Save the Date:** Armenian Christmas will be celebrated on **Sunday, January 8, 2023**. (See flier)

## WAYS AND MEANS

The Ways and Means Committee **next meeting** will be held via Zoom on **Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 7 PM**.

## PAYPAL

You may access PayPal through the St. Mary Yetteem website ([www.stmaryyettem.org](http://www.stmaryyettem.org)) and click on the "Donation" button on the bottom of the Home Page. You may donate for general donations, yughakins, hokehankists, pledges, membership dues, in lieu of flowers, or pay for altar flowers you have ordered on behalf of the church.



To learn more, contact Linda Farsakian-Wall at 559-786-1419.

### ARMENIA AID

The Western Diocese has sent out a request to all parishioners to possibly help those families in need from the recent attacks on the homeland. Please address your **heartfelt donations** in the form of checks to **St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church**, indicating **Armenia Aid in the memo**.

### ST. MARY MEMORIAL WALL

The St. Mary Memorial Wall was started in 2001 and has been a huge success. Currently there is **space for 28 additional names** at a **donation of \$200/name**. Contact Jim Soxman: ph. 559-936-2227 or email: [jimbeasoxman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimbeasoxman@sbcglobal.net).

### SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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

### BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

If you would like to sponsor either the weekly bulletin for a minimum donation of \$25 or the monthly bulletin for a minimum donation of \$200, please call the church office at (559) 528-6892.

### DONATIONS

Our annual church budget is \$210,000. For a small parish we accomplish much, but your continued support is very necessary. Checks may be mailed to the church office, or you may access PayPal through the St. Mary YetteM website ([www.stmaryyetteM.org](http://www.stmaryyetteM.org)). You may donate for general donations, yughakins, pledges, membership dues, in lieu of flowers, or pay for altar flowers you have ordered for the church.

### 2023 RAFFLE

Tina Peters has sent out information and tickets for our **2023 raffle**. If you don't receive tickets by mail in the coming days and would like some, contact Tina at (559) 967-2593 by phone or text. (See flier)

### RAFFLE

Our eleventh church raffle of 2022 was held on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Congratulations to...

(\$150) John Kaprielian

(\$100) Sandra Vartanian

(\$50) Linda Kaloustian

Our **twelfth raffle drawing** will be held on **Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**. The drawing will also be streamed on Facebook. Thank you to our Ways and Means Committee for this great fundraiser for our church.



## 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY of CONSECRATION

NOVEMBER 16, 1947

St. Mary Church in Yetteem on Sunday, November 13, commemorated the consecration of our church 75 years ago. Yetteem Parish Priest Der Mashdots Keshishian celebrated Badarak. After the Morning Service, Der Mashdots blessed new shabigs, stoles, slippers, and vestments graciously donated by Deacon Randy Tellalian. These were worn for the first time this Sunday. During Badarak, Der Hayr blessed an altar cover donated by Deacon Alan Farsakian and Ohsan Madanyan. Badarak concluded with Hokehankist prayers. Those remembered included former parishioners and clergy who were part of the effort to plan, finance, build, furnish and consecrate the sanctuary that has served the Yetteem parish since 1947. Also remembered were soldiers from Yetteem who died in World War II, and the sixteen Godfathers of the Church who sponsored the cornerstones.

The first church in Yetteem, actually the fifth Armenian church in the United States, was consecrated in 1911. Fire destroyed this church on June 12, 1945, while Parish priest Der Garabed Kalfayan was in Echmiadzin for the election of Catholicos Kevork VI. When Der Garabed received a telegram informing him of the church's loss, he replied, "Don't worry. We will build a better one." The new church would be patterned on St. Hripsimeh Church in Echmiadzin. It would be uniquely Armenian.

Srpazan Vartan Kasparian blessed the foundation stones on September 29, 1946, on the same site as the old church. More than 500 attended the ceremony. Sixteen stones were carried in procession by the Godfathers, washed in water and wine, anointed with Holy Miuron, and laid in the foundation. The names of the Godfathers and those in whose memory they had served were placed in bottles, sealed, and buried with their respective stones, with soil from Armenia. The Godfathers were Leroy McCormick, Armen Ekizian, Hovhannes Nazaretian, Der Garabed Kalfayan, Sarkis Tamouzian, Charles Merjanian, Mardiros Tashjian, Ezras H. Tellalian, Nishan Tashjian, Antranig Frank Gogian, Armen Menendian, Nishan P. Majarian, Khacher Majarian, Tateos Tamouzian, Harry Barsamian, and Vahan Mkhalian.

The new church was built on the site of the old and with the same name. The Building Committee was Khacher Majarian, Hmayak Sheklian Der Garabed Kalfayan, Tateos Tamouzian, Khacher Mikaelian, Steve Kaplan, Jack Peloian, Sark Simonian Harry Majarian, Armen Menendian, Harry Barsamian, and Sark Tamouzian. Architect was L. Cone (Levon Koundourajian). Chief builders were foreman Charlie Garabed Simonian and his assistants Sarkis Simonian and Simon Kashian. Construction was carried out by the Yetteem community. Everyone helped. The result is a building that is acoustically perfect. 105,000 red bricks were hauled from Exeter in trucks by Armen Menendian, Sark Tamouzian, Crosby Shapazian, Jack Peloian, and brothers Nish, Harry, and Paulie Majarian. The bell was originally in the clock tower of the old Bank of Visalia. It was donated to our church by the City of Visalia. It is rung with a rope pull to this day. The script on the arch above the altar was chosen for its distinct significance, two years after World War II war ended. **Blessed Are The Peacemakers. ԵՐԱՆԻ ԽԱՆՏՈՒՄԱՐԱՐԱՅ ԶԻ ՆՈՔԱ ՈՐԴԻՔ ԱՍՏՈՒԾՈՅ ԿՈՉԵՍՅԻՆ:**

Following services Sunday, November 13, 2022, the congregation gathered in the church hall for fellowship. The walls of the hall were filled with pictures and information of our forebears who worked to build the church we have today. We posted lists of contributions, some from across the United States, and even Greece. Mari Louise Menendian was able to locate and contact descendants of ten of the sixteen Godfathers. Many were in attendance Sunday and recognized.

Film footage exists of the construction of the church, the laying of the cornerstones in 1946 and the consecration on November 16, 1947. Jack Peloian's films were converted by Karon Penny into a format that was spliced together into about thirty minutes of video by current Parish Council Chairman Myron Sheklian. We watched the video transfixed and emotional and nostalgic. We recognized our grandparents, our parents, some of us even ourselves. We saw faces forever in our memory. We saw our men working at the top of the bell tower, no OSHA, no safety harness, no hard hats. We saw Srpazan, his vestments reaching to his ankles, climbing a tall ladder with no support to bless the highest cross on the altar. After the consecration, the crowd gathered outside for lunch in our church park. There were long communal tables set under the trees. The film shows clearly the drink was tahn. Der Garabed spoke zealously, fiery as always, for everything Hye.

A generation came to Yetteem and built the first church in 1911. They produced a generation who gave us the holy sanctuary we enjoy today. They nurtured our Armenian faith and nature. By celebrating this anniversary, we have not let their legacy wither. In thriving, we in Yetteem fulfill our debt to them and to our heritage.

*Mari Louise Menendian*

*Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Consecration*



# ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

## DECEMBER 2022

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday                                    | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday   |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|
|  |  |  |   | 1   | 2   | 3<br>Sts. Thaddeus and<br>Bartholomew,<br>Apostles     |
| 4<br>Ladies Society<br>Holiday Bazaar<br>Twelfth Raffle<br>drawing | 5  | 6<br>St. Abkar the First<br>Christian king | 7<br>Bible Study<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday of<br>each month<br>at 7 PM | 8   | 9<br>Conception of the<br>Holy Virgin Mary by<br>St. Anna | 10   |
| 11<br>Sunday School<br>Children Sermon                             | 12   | 13   | 14  | 15<br>Parish Council<br>meeting via Zoom<br>at 6 PM   | 16  | 17<br>St. James the<br>Bishop of Nisibis               |
| 18   | 19   | 20   | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24<br>Sts. David the<br>Prophet & James<br>the Apostle |
| 25<br>Christmas  | 26<br>St. Stephen the<br>Protodeacon & first<br>Martyr | 27<br>Sts. Peter & Paul,<br>Apostles       | 28  | 29<br>Sts. James the<br>Apostle & John the<br>Evangelist<br>Barekendan of the<br>Fast of Nativity | 30<br>First Day of the Fast<br>of Nativity                | 31   |

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### Sunday Schedule:

Morning Service (Matins) 9:30 AM  
Divine Liturgy 10:15 AM

### Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday  
9:30 AM to 2:30 PM

### Father Mashdots can be reached at:

559-528-6892 – Office  
559-528-6897 – FAX  
818-293-9098 - Cell



## Ladies Society Featured Member

### *Janice Davidian McWilliams*

Janice Davidian McWilliams was born May 8, 1950, the first child of Harry and Laura (Balakian) Davidian. Her sisters Phyllis and Becky completed the family. They lived in rural Cutler and were part of the farming community, where almost everyone grew tomatoes. Harry's Z&D Packing Company and the other packing sheds in the area bustled with activity during tomato season. Everyone had a job and worked long hours every day during the summer to provide tomatoes to the rest of the country.

Janice went to Cutler Elementary School. She received the Daughters of American Revolution Award for demonstrating qualities of good citizenship. She attended Orosi High School, where she was a cheerleader, played the flute, sang in the choir, and joined many clubs. She graduated in 1968. On to College of the Sequoias for a year. After college, Janice joined Beta Sigma Phi, an international sorority which provides social and cultural opportunities for women.

Music has been a large part of Janice's life. She took piano lessons for four years. She sang with the California Girls Choir, under the direction of John Vaznaian. The group appeared on television in San Francisco and Los Angeles. The highlight was a two-month European tour which took them to England (Buckingham Palace!), Sweden, Scotland, and France.

And of course, Janice sang in our St. Mary church choir, beginning when she was 13 years old. She sings in the choir to this day. That's 59 years. Her soprano voice comes from deep within.

Janice married at a young nineteen years of age. She tragically lost her first baby Chad at eight days old. She was blessed with twin boys, Jared and Justin. Their youth was active: grade school clogging, sports, clubs, Sunday school, Church Camp. The boys are now 44 years old. Jared lives in Paso Robles and is an engineer. Justin lives in New York and is a fashion photographer.

Janice worked for Bank of America for over 19 years, first in San Luis, then in Visalia. Let's not forget Janice's passion for fashion and image. She trained at Elizabeth Arden in Beverly Hills. She worked at Les Girls and did fashion shows. She had a TV show called "New Image" on local Chanel 26. She gave "Dressing For Success" workshops at Bank of America branches.

Janice married her wonderful husband Rich McWilliams 36 years ago. The family has four children and six grandchildren. They love to travel. Disneyland, Aspen, Oregon, Tahoe, Sierra Summit. She and Rich have been to Hawaii, Germany, France, Italy, Costa Rica, Mexico, Caribbean, Washington D.C., Palm Springs, Seattle, not to mention weekends at the coast or up in Carmel.

Janice's parents were closely involved in the church. Laura joined the Ladies Society in 1947. Harry was greatly pleased that Janice herself is involved. Her early years included Sunday School and Armenian language school, ACYO and AGBU. She is proud to be a member of St. Mary Armenian Church. She has been in the Ladies Society for 22 years, serving on the Nominating Committee, on the Executive Board, where she is an Advisor and her niece Gina is Treasurer, and on many volunteer committees.

Her work on the Ways and Means committee extends beyond planning and kitchen work. Janice is the front line of our Food Festivals when we have dine-in service. She greets guests with a charming and enthusiastic demeanor. She presents the face of Yetteem to the Visalia community at these events.

We are fortunate to have Janice Davidian McWilliams in our church and as our friend.



# Christmas Bazaar



**Ladies Society's  
Annual Holiday Bazaar**  
*Sunday, December 4*  
following Divine Liturgy



**Live auction!  
Bake sale!  
Kufta sale!  
lunch!**



Are you unable to attend, but would like to make a donation to support Ladies Society?  
Send your donation to St. Mary Armenian Church, P.O. Box 367, Yetttem, CA 93670.  
Make checks payable to St. Mary Ladies Society.

*Thank you to all for your support!*

# St. Mary YetteM - Ways and Means 3rd Annual Monthly Raffle

|               |          |  |
|---------------|----------|--|
| Name _____    | No. 0001 | <b>St. Mary Armenian Church of YetteM</b><br><b>MONTHLY RAFFLE TICKET</b><br>1st Prize - \$150.00<br>2nd Prize - \$100.00<br>3rd Prize - \$50.00<br><b>Winner need NOT be present to win</b><br><b>This ticket is Valid from</b><br><b>January 2023 to December 2023</b><br>Ticket Donation: \$20.00 |
| Address _____ |          |  |
| Phone _____   |          |  |

## Monthly Raffle Drawing Starts in January 2023

~You have a chance to  
**WIN** 36 times next year~

If you would like tickets, Call or Text  
Tina Peters—(559) 967-2593 –Or-  
E-mail: [hyetinapeters@lightspeed.net](mailto:hyetinapeters@lightspeed.net)

### 2023 Raffle Drawing Schedule—Dates Subject to Change

January 8 • February 19 • March 5 • April 2  
May 14 • June 18 • July 9 • August 13  
September 10 • October 8 • November 12 • December 3

**St. Paul Armenian Church**  
**Jurakalouyts Badarak**  
**Blessing of Water**  
**& Dinner Buffet**



**Thursday, January 5, 2023**

Reading of Holy Scriptures: 4:30 p.m.  
Divine Liturgy (Jurakalouyts Badarak): 5:00 p.m.  
Blessing of Water (Չրօքհնէք): 6:00 p.m.  
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

**St. Mary Yettem Parishioners are invited to join the Jurakalouyts Badarak and Traditional Dinner.**

Officiating services will be Fr. Mashdots Keshishian (Badarak celebrant), parish priest of St. Mary Yettem and Fr. Yessai Bedros, parish priest of St. Paul Armenian Church, Fresno.

\$20 per person  
\$10 children under 12

*Please RSVP by December 29*

Reservations can be made every Sunday during Fellowship or by calling the church office 559.226.6343  
Or by mail

*Make checks payable to: St. Paul Armenian Church*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Guests: \_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to be seated with: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select one entrée for each guest attending

Fish (per guest) \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken (per guest) \_\_\_\_\_

**St. Mary Armenian  
Church of Yettem**



# **Armenian Christmas Luncheon**

*Sunday, January 8th, 2023*

Immediately following the day's worship

## **Menu**

Chicken & Beef Combo Kebab, Bulgar Pilaf,  
Salad, Bread, Dessert, and drinks

Adults--\$20.00

Children twelve (12) and under--\$15.00

Please help us plan by calling the church office  
at (559) 528-6892, or  
emailing [lunches@stmaryyettem.org](mailto:lunches@stmaryyettem.org)





We wish to thank Deacon Randy Tellallian for donating the beautiful new vestments and shabigs. Also, we would like to acknowledge Deacon Alan Farsakian for donating a crocheted altar cover made by his mother Betty Farsakian. Oshan Madanyan sewed the beautiful lining for the altar cover. All of the items were blessed during services held on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.

# Kufta Making - November 10-12



(Continued from page 2)

### **Will He Take Care Of My Future?**

“Suppose I do trust him, and suppose he does have the power to help me, will Jesus take care of my future?” The answer comes in John’s final title for Jesus Christ. It is breathtaking in its scope. He calls Jesus “the ruler of the kings of the earth.” The word for “ruler” means he is the ultimate authority over all the kings of the earth. They are great, but he is greater. They are mighty, but he is mightier. Millions answer to them, but they answer to him. He is not merely one of the kings. He rules over them all.

Jesus is ruler over them all. It’s true this world is in a mess. That’s why it’s hard to believe this is true. All the evidence seems to move in the opposite direction.

But it only seems that way. Satan has no power except that granted to him by God. In due time and at the proper moment, Jesus will step back on the stage of world history. Think of it. The hands that were nailed to the cross will someday rule the world. Though we do not see it today, it is certain and sure of fulfillment. That’s what the book of Revelation is all about. Read it for yourself and see how the story ends.

In the meantime, right now and at this very moment, he is the ruler of the kings of the earth.

By him they reign. By him they are restrained. By him they are replaced. By him they will be judged.

Will Jesus take care of my future? Yes he will, for he is the ruler of the kings of the earth. You’re in good hands when you are in his hands for those hands rule the universe.

### **Ultimate Questions**

But that wasn’t evident on that first night in Bethlehem. A casual onlooker would not have suspected the earthshaking events that were taking place in a forgotten stable in a tiny village in a remote corner of the Roman Empire. The prospects for the young child didn’t seem very promising.

You can never tell how a baby will turn out.

But this one would surprise us all. And we are still surprised by him 2000 years later.

What is the application? Grip fast to Jesus Christ. There is no security anywhere else. Today as yesterday and tomorrow as today, he is the answer to the deepest questions of life.

Can I trust him? Yes I can, for he is the faithful witness.

Does he have the power to help me? Yes he does, for he is the firstborn from the dead.

Will he take care of my future? Yes he will, for he is the ruler of the kings of the earth.

We all need him and we need him more than we know. This truth is worth repeating: You’re in good hands when you are in his hands, for those hands rule the universe.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King.

Place your life in his strong hands and you will never be disappointed.

Ray Pritchard

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