



# YETTEM ՄԳՄՍ



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

## October 2023

### SURROUND YOURSELF WITH FAITH AND STRENGTHEN WITH HOPE

We are living in a time of deep sorrow in our national and ethnic life as we are witnessing the bitter reality of how Artsakh was betrayed to forfeiture under the ruthless blows of the enemy.

History is repeating itself when we see the misery and uprooting of our people from their ancestral lands, and the martyrdom of young men in love of their homeland.

In this reality it remains for us to fortify ourselves in prayer, strengthen in faith, so that with our humanitarian actions we may inspire hope in the children of our people who need our support today. During these difficult times, let us remain as messengers of peace, to ensure our inner unity, and to face and overcome the endless trials in our lives.

When His Holiness Vazken I, of Blessed Memory, spoke about Armenia, he would reflect, "Creating a homeland is heroism; To populate a homeland is a virtue."

Today, as we prepare to celebrate the anniversary of independence of our homeland, our spirit is saddened, but it is our request and call to remain hopeful. Let us live with a vision, to reject weakness, and most importantly, let us strengthen ourselves with one another, to crown the future with victory.

Pray persistently. In the coming days, when we make our appeal to you to show your humanitarian support to the Armenians of Artsakh, whose expression of faith during these tragic days will undoubtedly take heart from us.

Pray for our martyrs. Pray for mothers who protect close to their hearts the new generation of brave men of this new era.

Faith will strengthen us. Our request to God is to preserve and protect our Armenian land. May our prayer be engaging, so that we may stand as protector of our native homeland, the precious inheritance entrusted to us by our forefathers.

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian

September 21, 2023

## ***Parish Notes***

### **BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP**

THIS OCTOBER 2023 BULLETIN  
IS SPONSORED BY  
**MARGIE L. DAVIDIAN  
AND KATHY ASHFORD**  
IN MEMORY OF SYLVIA DAVIDIAN ON  
WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN HER 100<sup>TH</sup>  
BIRTHDAY OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

### **CONDOLENCES**

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to James (Jim) Soxman, Donna, Tracy, and their families and also to the Mikaelian and Hovannisian families on the recent passing of ***Beatrice (Anahid) Soxman*** on Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Services were held at St. Mary Yette on September 20, 2023. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bea's family.

Also, on behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of ***Judy Majarian Murch*** who passed away on September 16<sup>th</sup>. **Services are pending.** Our thoughts and prayers are with Judy's family.

### **ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS**

September 3<sup>rd</sup>

***The Menendian Family***

in memory of Armen and Araxie Menendian

September 10<sup>th</sup>

***Lisa and David Krause, Bryan and Terry Ananian and Renee and Michelle Ananian***

in memory of their mother, Stella Ananian

September 24<sup>th</sup>

***David and Lisa Krause***

in honor of their 30<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
on September 25<sup>th</sup>

### **HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS**

(August 28<sup>th</sup> - September 24<sup>th</sup>)

September 3<sup>rd</sup>

For Repose of Armen and Araxie Menendian's  
Souls

***Laurie Menendian and Fred Marrs***

September 10<sup>th</sup>

For Repose of Stella Ananian's Soul

***Serge and Judith Ananian  
Eugene and Yvonne Kandarian***

### **HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS**

September 3<sup>rd</sup>

***Armen Menendian***

eighteen years after his passing,

***Araxie Menendian***

ten years after her passing,

requested by

The Menendian Family

September 10<sup>th</sup>

***Stella Ananian***

one year after her passing,

requested by

Lisa and David Krause, Bryan and Terry Ananian  
and Renee and Michelle Ananian

September 24<sup>th</sup>

***Deacon Hagop Keshishian***

sixteen years after his passing,

requested by

Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Yeretsgin Maral  
Khanjian, Hagop Pegor and Vart Ann

### **RAFFLE**

Our September and October church raffles of 2023 were held on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

Congratulations to the September winners...

(\$150) Lisa Krause

(\$100) Laurie Menendian

(\$50) Linda Farsakian-Wall

Congratulations to the October winners...

(\$150) Joe Kalashian

(\$100) Mari Louise Menendian

(\$50) Dick Safrastian

Our **November raffle drawing** of 2023 will be held on **Sunday, November 12<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.

### **MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS**

Thank you to ***Linda Kaloostian*** for donating in honor of Rose Marie Margosian's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you to Mari Louise Menendian for providing sweet basil (rahan) for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross services that were held on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is back. Sunday School meets on the **second and fourth Sundays** of each month, September-June. All children are welcome! If you have any questions, please call **Adrienne Poochigian** at (559) 679-8452 or email: [alskaff@gmail.com](mailto:alskaff@gmail.com)

### LADIES SOCIETY

The Ladies Society Armenian Heritage month luncheon meeting will be held on **Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>** in the **Majarian Hall** at **11:30 AM**.

### PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held via Zoom on **Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**.

### WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The Ways and Means Committee next meeting will be held via Zoom on **Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>** at **7 PM**.

### WEEKLY EMAIL UPDATE

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



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

### BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

If you are interested in **sponsoring 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.**

### KUFTA MAKING

On **Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup>** at **9:00 AM** we need your help! The St Mary Ladies Society and friends will be **making kufta** in the Majarian Hall to sell at the Annual Christmas Bazaar. No previous experience is necessary! Please call or text **Debbie Sheklian** at **559-799-8041**, if you can help.

### 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** were recently **added**. This will make room for an **additional 96 names** at a **donation of \$250/name**. Contact Linda Farsakian-Wall: at (559) 786-1419 or email: [linda.hyewall@gmail.com](mailto:linda.hyewall@gmail.com)

### STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

Just a reminder that your Stewardship Pledge is coming due. We have attached the stewardship letter and form in this October bulletin on pages 7 & 8. The pledge form helps us to better plan for the coming year.

### VOTING MEMBERSHIP

If you are not yet a voting member of the St. Mary Yettem Parish, you might want to consider membership. Some might ask what constitutes "membership in our church".

If you tell others, you are a "member of St. Mary Armenian Church in Yettem" it is understood that you have an allegiance to our church. That means you have a loyalty to attending here in Yettem. That usually also includes that you support the parish by your attendance and your physical and/or monetary contributions to her well-being.

"Voting Membership" takes this membership to another level. Voting membership is available to any member of the church that is at least eighteen years of age and who has been baptized or chrismated in the Armenian Church. It signifies a higher commitment to attend an annual meeting to be included in the decisions to keep our church strong and to *possibly* hold an elected position. A voting member also pays an annual dues as part of their pledge. The number of voting members we have determines how many delegates we have at the diocesan level.

If you have any questions about voting membership, contact any parish council member or Der Mashdots.

# ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

<b>OCTOBER 2023</b>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 72 Disciples of Christ  The Ladies Society Armenian Heritage Month luncheon meeting in the Majorian Hall at 11:30 AM
8 Sunday School Children's Sermon	9 Indigenous Peoples' Day	10	11	12	13	14 Holy Translators Ladies Society making Kufta in the Majorian Hall at 9:30 AM
15	16	17	18	19 The Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 6 PM	20	21 Holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke & John
22 Sunday School	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Discovery of the Holy Cross	30	31				

**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



The St. Mary Ways and Means Committee would like to thank all those who donated and sponsored our golf tournament.

**Event Sponsors**

Borba, Mikaelian, Inc.  
Sequoia Chapter Triple X  
Schweitzer & Davidian

**Gold Sponsors**

Pinion; Debra Agnew, CPA  
Cal-Western Farms

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Margie Davidian & Kathy Ashford  
Nathan Loeffler, DDS  
Todd Kinonian  
David and Jennifer Yahnian  
Rich & Janice McWilliams  
Sequoia Apparel, Inc.  
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Poochigian Family

**Hole Sponsors**

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Julie Poochigian  
Jerry M. Shapazian  
Richard Tamouzian  
The Ahronian Group  
Ashoori & Co. Jewelers  
Avedian Properties  
Alan, Marceen, Nick Farsakian  
Fistolera Construction  
Jim Melikian  
Brian & Adrienne Poochigian  
Myron & Debbie Sheklian  
Doug & Annie Silvera  
C.D. Simonian Insurance  
Linda & Mark Wall  
Ananian Trucking  
Visalia Tile  
Sandra & Dustin Vartanian  
Amy Shuklian



W a y s & M e a n s G o l f T o u r n a m e n t s

# St. Mary Armenian Church of Yetem

## 2024 Annual Stewardship Pledge Drive

**God Has Blessed  
Each of Us with the  
Gifts of Time, Talent,  
and Treasure.**

Respond to His Loving Generosity.



Dear Parishioners,

The easiest way to understand the concept of *Stewardship* is in terms of accepting responsibility for caring for our Church. From a biblical point of view, stewardship is all-inclusive. It touches every area of life, including our time and talent as well as our treasure. Stewardship is faithfully using whatever God gives us in the way of opportunities, interests, skills, employment, family, talents, spiritual gifts, land and yes - our money.

There is no better Biblical guidance for how to give and share of our *financial* resources through the church than some words of the Apostle Paul. In 2 Corinthians Paul expresses encouragement and gratitude to the Christians in Corinth, because they were freely giving their resources to support their poor brothers and sisters elsewhere. In the midst of these words, he shares:

*Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart. They shouldn't give with hesitation or because of pressure. God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Cor. 9:7)*

Your regular financial gifts are necessary to the life of our church. Toward the end of each year our church's Parish Council is responsible for creating the next year's budget. To be wise stewards of the resources that we share together, we create a balanced (or mostly balanced) budget based on anticipated income. The primary means of determining our anticipated income is through pledges. It is with the use of this attached pledge form that we obtain such information.

Our proposed annual budget for 2024 is approximately \$220,000. The monthly operational cost for St. Mary Armenian Church of Yetem will be approximately \$18,300. The ability to meet the expenses comes in part from your generosity. There are numerous ways to choose to fulfill your pledge from giving annually, semi-annually, quarterly, monthly, or weekly. All of your Stewardship Pledge goes to St. Mary Armenian Church of Yetem to pay on-going expenses. It helps us meet the budgetary needs of our parish like paying salaries, maintaining our buildings and grounds, responding to your sacramental and pastoral needs, funding liturgical needs and educational programs and helping us keep in touch with you. Your Stewardship Pledge goes directly to the St. Mary Church general fund.

We humbly ask that you search your heart in determining what you are comfortably able to pledge for the coming year and to complete the enclosed form and **return by December 8, 2023**, to help us plan.

Sincerely,

*Myron E. Sheklian*

Myron Sheklian  
Parish Council Chairman

*Mashdots Keshishian*

Rev. Father Mashdots Keshishian  
St. Mary Parish Priest



## St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church of Yettem Stewardship Pledge for 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone

**My Total Pledge for the calendar year 2024 is \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

I will contribute  Annually  Semi-Annually  Quarterly  Monthly  Weekly

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

(Detach Here)

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

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