



YETTEM ԵՊԵՄ

Հրատարակուիլիս Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածիկ Քայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

November 2022

How Has God Worked in Your Life?

Some people have a deep understanding of what God has done in their life. Maybe they have felt God has given them all they could possibly want, and more. Or, maybe they have experienced God answering their prayers very directly. Still others can point to miracles, medical or otherwise, to show how God has worked in their life.

Most people, however, can't point to specific situations when God stepped in and worked in their own life. But that doesn't mean God has not been doing so behind the scenes. Sometimes we need to take a step back and look at the big picture of our lives in order to see God's hand in it. Rest assured, God is in control, and He has guided your entire life so far, from the little everyday tasks to the life-changing events. Take a moment to reflect on your life, the different paths it has led you down, and try to see how God was with you the whole way.

God Works through Others

Sometimes we don't give enough credit to God, who uses other people in our lives to accomplish His will. He often uses family and friends to guide us, strengthen us, and encourage us. If you have had a family member or friend offer to help you out financially when you really needed it, taken care of you when you needed it, or given you food or clothing when you needed it, God was using that person to reach you.

Furthermore, God uses others as voices of reason for us, even when we are too wasted on drugs or alcohol to make the right choices ourselves. If anyone has encouraged you to get clean, to seek treatment, or to turn your life around, you can be sure God had a part in that conversation and He is working through others in your life. Listen to those people and get professional help if you need it.

God Works through the Church

We can't begin to understand the mind of God, but we can learn a lot about Him through His word. God uses His word, and those who share it with others, to work in your life. The church is there to provide access to God's word and help you understand it, but also to give godly guidance and advice. Listen to the solid advice you get from fellow Christians and spiritual leaders. They are the voice of God speaking to you. In order to see God continuing to work in your life, go to church, study the Bible, and pray, and actively look for what God is saying to you, how He wants you to turn your life around, and how He promises to guide you the whole way.

(Continued on the back page)

Parish Notes

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

THIS NOVEMBER 2022 BULLETIN
IS SPONSORED BY
EVELYN BOUDAKIAN CROWDER
WISHING EVERYONE A
HAPPY THANKSGIVING

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Nancy, Gary, and Gregory Krikorian on the recent passing of Nancy's mother, Ann Sarafian on Saturday, October 22, 2022.

Also, our condolences as a parish go out to Marilyn Shapazian Fowler and the extended family of Steve Fowler who entered his eternal rest on October 12th.

Our thoughts and prayers are with these families.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Skylar and Gregory Davidian who were baptized on Sunday, October 23rd after church services. Skylar and Gregory are the children of Annie L. Davidian and the grandchildren of Margie A. Davidian, and the late Gregory Davidian and the great grandchildren of Shirley Dawson.

Also, congratulations to Kevin and Lynn Skaff on the birth of their newborn son, Suren Michael Skaff born October 8th.

ALTAR FLOWERS DONATIONS

October 2nd

In honor of St. Sarkis Pilgrims

Mari Louise Menendian

in memory of Jim McOmish

October 16th

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

in memory of their mother, Stella Ananian

October 16th

Darrell and Tina Peters

in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary
on October 18th

October 23rd

***Janice, Phyllis, Becky,
and their families***

in memory of their mother, Laura Davidian

Greg and Margie A. Davidian

in honor of Skylar and Gregory's baptism

October 30th

Steve and Sharon Luisi

Mike, Lisa, and Jenna Cavanagh

In memory of Steve Fowler

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

October 9th

All Knights & Daughters of Vartan
requested by
all the family members of
Knights & Daughters of Vartan

Deacon Hagop Keshishian

fifteen years after his passing,
requested by
Fr. Mashdots, Yeretsgin Maral Khanjian and
Hagop Pegor

Jim McOmish

seven years after his passing,
requested by
Mari Louise Menendian

October 16th

Stella Ananian

forty days after her passing,
requested by
Lisa and David Krause, Bryan and Terry
Ananian, Renee, and Michelle Ananian

Sylvia Davidian

seven years after her passing,
requested by her children

Yervant Derderian

sixty years after his passing,
requested by his grandchildren

October 23rd

Rosie Sheklian

four years after her passing,
requested by
Myron and Debbie Sheklian

Laura Davidian

five years after her passing,
requested by her daughters
Janice, Phyllis, Becky, and their families

Anna Kalfayan

six years after her passing,
requested by
The Kalfayan Family

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

Ever wonder where mas comes from? Your Ladies Society has a committee chaired by Gina Ananian. When supply runs low, they make it, most recently early on the morning of our October 8 monthly meeting. More on this another time, but for now, did you know what the one who receives mas says?

Բաժին իմ Աստուծոյ յաւիտեան: "Pazheen eem Asdvadz havidyen" God is my portion forever.

Fall is always a busy time for us. September we had Grandparents' Day and this year we hosted the regional Sister Churches Luncheon. Saturday October 15, we made yalanchi and crescent cookies for the Food Festival October 20. Keep in mind, on Friday some of us make yalanchi fill and rinse and lay out derev *տկրի* grape leaves. Saturday, everybody gathers to roll sarma and crescent rolls. Everybody means Yettemites at heart, old friends and new, not only Ladies' Society members. We finish about noon and then enjoy lunch, generously donated by Margie L. Davidian, Linda Farsakian-Wall, and sisters Marlene and Colleen Majarian. Atmosphere is filled with laughs and warm fellowship.

Next month, we make kufta, an endeavor similar to yalanchi, except with *two* days of prep first. Thursday, make the fill, heat on the stove and stir. For hours. Stir stir stir. One arm gets tired, switch to the other, take a break, someone else takes over. Stir stir stir. → Refrigerator. Friday, make balls of the filling. → Freezer. Finally, Saturday, the gang gathers to wrap the filling with kheyimah, itself made onsite. Kuftas → Freezer. Not finished yet. Still have to package them for sale at the bazaar.

Speaking of which, BAZAAR Sunday December 4. Now is the time to start getting your donations ready. Baked goods! Crafts! Gift packs! Christmas things! And more! Nobody has as lively an event as Yette does.

Our next meeting is November 5, and a busy meeting it is. Prepare to enjoy keshkeg, always a favorite. Laurie Menendian is chairing the lunch committee. We have elections for our executive board and various committees. Please plan to attend.

November 13, the Ladies Society will provide fellowship after Badarak, for the special commemoration of the anniversary of the consecration of our church in 1946.

Happy October birthdays: Margie Lynn Davidian, Yeretsgin Maral Khanjian, and Janet Ananian.

Mari Louise Menendian
Ladies Society Chair

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

(September 25, 2022 – October 23, 2022)

October 16th

For Repose of Stella Ananian's Soul

Serge and Judith Ananian for Stella Ananian

For Repose of Sylvia Davidian and Yervant Derderian's Souls

Margie L. Davidian

October 23rd

For Repose of Laura Davidian's Soul

Alan and Phyllis Borba

Rich and Janice McWilliams

Haig Balakian

Betty Krikorian

For Repose of Rosie Sheklian's Soul

Myron and Debbie Sheklian

For Repose of Anna Kalfayan's Soul

John and Sandy Kalfayan

Garo and Nancy Kalfayan

BAPTISM DONATIONS

October 23rd

Annie Davidian in honor of Skylar and Gregory Davidian's baptism

Myron and Debbie Sheklian in honor of Skylar and Gregory Davidian's baptism

DONATIONS

The parishioners of St. Sarkis Armenian Church
Evelyn Boudakian Crowder
Rose Marie Margosian

FOOD FESTIVAL

The Ways and Means Committee would like to thank the countless people who volunteered their time days and weeks prior to, the day of, and days following the Food Festival.

The event was a success, and we couldn't have done it without your dedication to our church.

There are frozen vacuum sealed Chicken and/or Lulu Kebabs available for purchase five for \$20.00.

May God bless you ALL.

Thanks again,

Co-Chairs, Margie L. Davidian, and Judy Skaff

PARISH COUNCIL CORNER

On Sunday, November 13th following church services, we will gather in the Majarian Hall for a special fellowship in which we will commemorate the consecration of our current church sanctuary. During the time we have together we will watch some actual video footage of the building of the church and the church consecration service that took place on Sunday, November 16, 1947. Those in attendance will also be given a chance to share any keepsakes or memories of the event with others present.

The story of the building of our current sanctuary is written in our first St. Mary Anniversary book published in 1977 and in an album titled Yettem – A Cursory Overview prepared by Reverend Garabed Kalfayan in 1947.

In May 1945, St. Mary Parish Priest Fr. Garabed Kalfayan was selected to represent the clergy of the Western Diocese as a delegate for the election of the Catholicos in Holy Etchmiadzin. On his way home from that assignment he received a telegram from Neshan Tashjian (Chairman of the Board for St. Mary Armenian Church) containing the message “The Armenian Church of Yettem was destroyed by fire on June 12, 1945. Secure the necessary plans from Etchmiadzin and Jerusalem.” In response, Father Garabed immediately wired back: “Do not worry about the church’s being burned. We will yet build an even better one.”

Several meetings were held beginning in July of 1945 to discuss where to rebuild the church – Dinuba, Visalia or Yettem. By a vote of 59 to 6, the membership finally decided to rebuild in Yettem. The Parish Board at that time consisted of Khacher Majarian, Harry Barsamian, Tateos Tamouzian, Humayak Sheklian, and Hacher Mikaelian. The board selected seven younger men to serve them to become the Building Committee. The seven included: Jack Pelorian, Armen Menendian, Harry Majarian, Sarkis Tamouzian, Stephen Kaplan, Sarkis Simonian and Karnig Genian. Father Garabed made the recommendation to the greatest extent possible; the builders and workers be Armenian. Hence, Levon Koundourajian (Lawrence Cone) was selected as the architect for the project.

On September 29, 1946, on the Feast of the Holy Cross of Varak, sixteen stones were washed in water and wine and blessed with Holy Muroun (oil) and then placed as part of the foundation. (The

names of the Godfathers or sponsors will be included on a poster on

November 13th). The sixteen stones are for Christ’s 12 Apostles, two evangelists who were not Apostles, St. Paul, and St. Gregory the Illuminator.

The building of the new church was begun almost immediately. Builders worked under the supervision of Garabed Simonian, assisted by Sarkis Simonian and Simon Kashian. Others who worked on the building were Mardiros Ekizian, Sirag Kalfayan, Marderos Mekaelian, and Garabed Shuklian. Many other parishioners worked voluntarily on this project as well.

To learn much more about this marvelous endeavor please join us for services and the fellowship on Sunday, November 13, 2022.

Myron Sheklian
Parish Council Chair

THANK YOU

A special thank you to Janice McWilliams for the beautiful stainless paper towel holders she purchased and donated to the hall kitchen.

Also, a thank you to Charlie Ananian for maintaining the west parking lot and trimming the bushes on the east side privacy fence prior to the picnic.

WAYS AND MEANS

The Ways and Means next meeting will be via Zoom **Thursday, November 3rd at 7 PM.**

LADIES SOCIETY

The Ladies Society annual Keshkeg meeting, and elections will be held on **Saturday, November 5th in the Majarian Hall at 11:30 AM.**

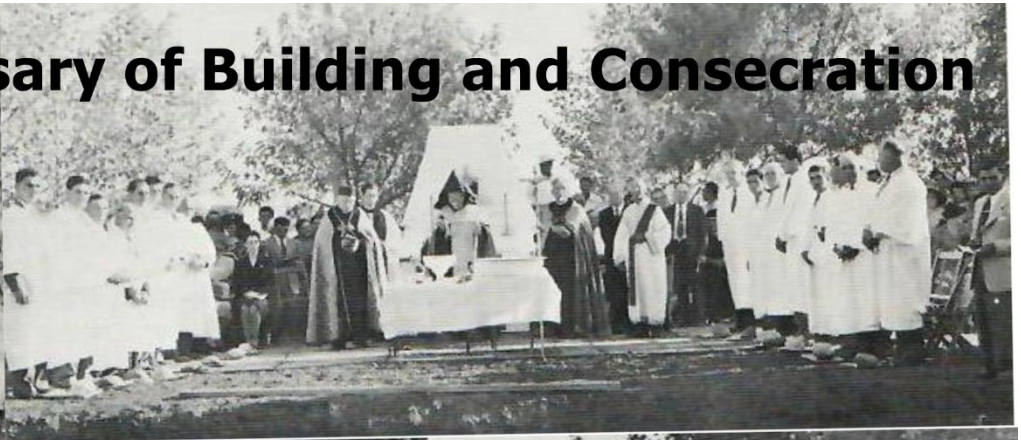
KUFTA TIME!

We need your help on **Saturday, November 12th at 9:30 AM.**, in the **Majarian Hall** to **make kufta** to sell at the bazaar. If you can help, please call Debbie Sheklian at home (559) 733-4417 or cell (559) 799-8041.

FELLOWSHIP

The Ladies Society will be hosting fellowship on **Sunday, November 13th.** We will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of the consecration of our present sanctuary.

75th Anniversary of Building and Consecration



PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held via Zoom on **Thursday, November 17th at 6:00 PM.**

LADIES SOCIETY BAZAAR

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

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.**

LANDSCAPING

The Parish Council authorized a payment of \$1,200 for the trimming and disposal of the landscaping along the whole north fence line.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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

RAFFLE

Our tenth church raffle of 2022 was held on Sunday, October 9th.

Congratulations to...

(\$150) Sandy Kalfayan

(\$100) Kasper Hovanissian

(\$50) Dolores Omartian

Our **eleventh raffle drawing** will be held on **Sunday, November 13th**. The drawing will also be streamed on Facebook. Thank you to our Ways and Means Committee for this great fundraiser for our church. If you would like tickets, contact Tina at (559) 967-2593 by phone or text.

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). 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 altar.

PAYPAL

You may access PayPal through the St. Mary Yettem website (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.



Christmas Decorating

Need help decorating your house this Christmas?

St. Mary ACYO will come to your house and do it for you!

★ Indoor or outdoor? No problem! ★

Let us know when you would like it done and we will schedule a time to come out.

Please contact:
Dustin Vartanian
dustyvart@gmail.com
(559) 623-3520

Donations are encouraged.

ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|-----------|-----------|--|---------------------------|--|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 Ways and Means meeting via Zoom at 7 PM | 4 | 5 Holy Archangels Gabriel & Michael Ladies Society Annual Keshkeg/Elections meeting in the Majarian Hall at 11:30 AM |
| 6 23 rd Anniversary of the Enthronement of H.H. Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 Veterans Day | 12 Sts. Andrew & Philip Ladies making Kufta for the Bazaar in the Majarian Hall at 9:30 AM |
| 13 Sunday School Children Sermon ACYO meeting after church services Ladies Society hosting fellowship Eleventh Raffle drawing | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 6 PM | 18 | 19 All Saints' Day |
| 20 Barekendan of the Fast of Advent | 21 Presentation of the Holy Mother-of-God to the Temple | 22 | 23 | 24 Thanksgiving Day | 25 | 26 |
| 27 Sunday School | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |

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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

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Stephen and Serena Babagian who were married in our church on October 1st. Stephen is the son of Peter and Mary Babagian. Serena is the daughter of Edward Bonn and Cynthia Peoples Escobedo. Best wishes for a long, happy, and fruitful marriage.





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. Sarkis Pilgrimage October 2, 2022



Knights of Vartan Outdoor Badarak & Picnic October 9, 2022

Ways and Means Armenian Food Festival 2022



(Continued from the front page)

God is with You during Challenges

No one likes to face challenges, but God uses even the tough times to work in our lives. The poem, Footprints in the Sand, is a picturesque example of this. In the story, a man is walking along the beach with the Lord, as scenes from his life flash by him, both good and bad times. At the end of his life, as the man looked back, he saw footprints in the sand along the path he walked. He saw that most of the time, there were two sets of footprints: one belonged to him and the other belonged to God. But he also noticed that at the darkest times of his life, the most challenging times, there was only one set of footprints. The man was troubled and asked God why, when he was going through the biggest struggles, God left him. God answered, "My son, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of suffering, when you could see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

We don't often see it, but God does indeed work in our lives through trouble and hardship. Sometimes He uses these times to help us grow or to benefit those around us. He might use challenges to stop us from doing something harmful or to motivate us to do what is right. Sometimes He just allows trouble to enter our lives to bring us closer to Him. Remember this the next time you are facing a difficult day, God is with you and will see you through.

God works through You

Finally, God works in your life through the things you say and do. Part of being a Christian is sharing God's love with others. If you have known God's love and guidance through your life, you need to share that with others. If you have a loved one who is experiencing some difficulty or has made some bad decisions, talk to them and offer your godly advice. If you see someone in need and you can help, do something about it. Be that source of encouragement and love that the world so desperately needs. Know that as you work to put God first and live a sober life of renewal, God is using you to work in others' lives as well.

By wpengine

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