



YETTEM ԵՌԵՄ

Հրատարակութիւն Եղեմի Ս. Աստուածածին Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ

A Publication of St. Mary Armenian Church Yettem, California

Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian, Parish Priest

September 2021

A RIGHTFUL EXPECTATION

"A house divided cannot stand" (Matthew 12:25)

The Church is our home. The mission of the church is whole when the ranks of the clergy fulfill their entrusted spiritual stake, which possesses the accrual of centuries. Over the past six decades our home has been divided, and as a result the Armenian Church has weakened, especially becoming powerless to face the trials and difficulties arrayed against our homeland and nation with the united force that is necessary.

The recently published article entitled *"The Armenian Church and Politics,"* among many other issues, emphasized in particular the present hierarchical division within the Sees of the Armenian Apostolic Church, which is possible to characterize as the greatest catastrophe of the second half of the 20th century in the life of our nation. The author of the article correctly describes its consequences, and on that basis we want to firmly state our position that there are no explanations which can justify this situation any longer. Even during these most difficult of days for our homeland, not to say critical, both the imperative for the existence of our native statehood, and the vision to establish unity with our church have been forgotten. If there are dark forces that are consuming us, then we must awake and by securing its internal unity, strengthen the church established in the faith of our forefathers. And if we are well aware of all the details of history, which have already become outdated, then, with the courage of faith we must purge out our vain-pride, self-idolatry, ambitions, and self-interests just like Christ the Lord cast out the money changers from the temple. In doing so we can leave this world having seen the realization of the dream of our people: the unification of the church.

As our young people come of age, we no longer have any logical explanation for them. The Soviet years are long gone, and it is time for a coveted union and sincere brotherhood to be established between all of the hierarchical sees of the Church. As in the past, today is the time to reconsider the division of our diocesan structures, and to bring forth the most suitable candidates from all hierarchical sees to serve the needs of the diocese and strengthen the church.

The present divisions between hierarchical sees, to some degrees, weakens within us all the vision for a strong church, sanctified in its mission. This separation is purely artificial and, therefore, prompt measures are needed that will return us to our former days wherein all clerics were duty-bound by a spirit of brotherly love, abiding in mutual accord.

(Continued on the back page)

Parish Notes

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of our St. Mary Parish family, we offer our deepest sympathy to the following families:

Julie Poochigian, Brian and Adrienne Poochigian, Kristin Yoshida, Marjorie Hill, Jeff Poochigian and Gail Ross and their families on the recent passing of Jerry Poochigian who entered his eternal rest on Wednesday, August 11th.

The Zarounian, Hovannisian and Groefsema families on the recent passing of Alice Halbourian who entered her eternal rest on Thursday, August 19th. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family. Alice's funeral will be held on **Friday, September 10th at 10:30 AM in Yettem.**

Jeanette Ekizian, Jeff Ekizian and the entire Ekizian family on the passing of their granddaughter and daughter, Mikayla Lynne Bentley who entered her eternal rest on Saturday, July 17th.

Our thoughts and prayers are with these families.

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

THIS SEPTEMBER 2021 BULLETIN
IS SPONSORED BY

DR. DENNIS & PAULETTE KALEBJIAN
IN MEMORY OF PAULETTE'S PARENTS,
PAUL AND HARRIET BOGHOSIAN

ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

August 1 – Renee Yahnian and Family in memory of Bryan Yahnian.

August 15 – Mari Louise Menendian in honor of Asdvadzadin and all the ladies named Mary.

August 29 - The Parton, Kazarian, Nunes, Zakarian and Fernandes families in memory of Blanche Parton.

HOKEHANKIST REQUESTS

August 1st

Bryan Yahnian

Forty days after his passing

Requested by Renee Yahnian and Family

Also Requested by

Sako and Sonia Sorfazian

Mrs. Freeda Shekerdeman

Mr. and Mrs. Varouj Shekerdeman and the Sorfazian Family

August 29th

Blanche Parton

One year after her passing

Requested by the Parton, Kazarian, Nunes, Zakarian and Fernandes Families

HOKEHANKIST DONATIONS

(July 26, 2021 – August 22, 2021)

For Repose of Bryan Yahnian's Soul

August 1 – David and Lisa Krause, Steve and Ann Yahnian, Sako and Sonia Sorfazian, Mrs. Freeda Shekerdeman, Mr. and Mrs. Varouj Shekerdeman, and the Sorfazian Family.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Kevin and Lynn Skaff on the birth of their daughter, Alice Gladys on **Wednesday, August 25th**. Proud grandparents are Mike and Judy Skaff and John and Gladys Saroyan.

THANK YOU

Our thanks to an anonymous donor who realized one of our sanctuary speakers needed replacing and donated a matching set to replace them. This has made an enormous difference in the quality of the sound. Thank you!

DEACON TRAINING

Acolyte Dustin Vartanian recently participated in a Deacon Training program offered by our Diocese at our camp. Dustin is a self-motivated individual who wants to learn as much as he can to serve his church.

PARISH COUNCIL CORNER

In 1959, Dinah Washington released a famous song "What a Difference a Day Makes". A twist on that theme has been running through my mind as we are coming to the first anniversary of securing Father Mashdots as our parish priest on September 13th here in Yettem.

Last August we were a couple of months into our search for a parish priest when I wrote the following that appeared in this bulletin:

Who would be the perfect candidate for our St. Mary Yettem parish? For some of us, the most important qualifications would be an individual fluent in Western Armenian and English, a strong speaking voice, a powerful and beautiful singing voice, and an ability to deliver a formidable yet succinct sermon. For others the most important wishes would be the ability to connect perfectly with both the very young and our senior members, an individual with innovative ideas, a priest who will honor and maintain our many traditions here in Yettem, a priest that is available when parishioners call the office, a priest who visits the homebound and those in the hospital. Still others would prioritize a shepherd who works tirelessly to bring new members into the flock, an individual competent on all social media, a man of the cloth that is not concerned about salary, a great family man and a priest who is available to attend all auxiliary organization meetings. The perfect priest, of course, would be all of these things and would be able to do all of these things.

I stated then that the "perfect" priest does not exist. I still stand by that statement, but in re-reading what I wrote, I believe we have been blessed in coming quite close! Thank you Der Mashdots for your hard work, deep faith, and conviction to our parish.

Congratulations to Father Mashdots and Yn. Maral on reaching one of the ideals of the "American Dream" of owning their own home. Der Mashdots, Yn. Maral and Hagop Pegor moved into a beautiful home at the end of August after renting for the past year in Visalia.

We often ask of our parish priests to pray for us and our families and friends during times of need. Let us remember that we too should be praying for our parish priest and his family throughout the year. May God bless you Der Mashdots, Yn. Maral and Hagop Pegor so that we may spend many more years together.

*Myron Sheklian
Parish Council Chairman*

ASDVADZADZIN THANK YOU

Asdvadzadzin is always a very special day in Yettem as we not only remember the Assumption of Mary into Heaven but also celebrate the name day of our parish and conduct the blessing of the grapes.

We would like to thank the following individuals and groups who helped to make this day very successful.

Jerry and Julie Poochigian who made a generous donation to underwrite the entire cost of the Asdvadzadzin luncheon. Jerry had requested this prior to his passing.

Our donors of the table grapes and stone fruits that were blessed and offered for parishioners to enjoy:

Michael Missakian of Fresno who has donated multiple boxes for several years and a special thanks to Sarkis Enfiedjian for again facilitating this donation.

Vartush Oganessian, Anush Oganessian, Mari Oganessian, and Anna Deberdt who decorated two baskets and a box of grapes.

Brian and Adrienne Poochigian for arranging the following donations:

Aaron Goularte of Visalia Produce Sales, Cory Lubin of Harold Crawford Company, Mountain View Sales.

Mike Tamouzian for donating from Sundale Vineyards.

Charlie Davidian for arranging donations from the Macklin Ranch.

We would also like to recognize:

Der Mashdots and Acolytes Hagop-Pegor and Jackson Poochigian who cleaned and decorated the Holy Altar.

Our dedicated Deacons and altar servers for assisting Der Mashdots at the Altar.

Our wonderful choir under the direction of Mari Louise Menendian.

Our Ways and Means Committee for organizing the fantastic Bake Sale and Farmer's Market.

Parish Council members Judy Skaff, Adrienne Poochigian, Mari Louise Menendian, Gerard Garoian and great support from Michael Skaff, Yn. Maral, Margie Lynn Davidian, Charlie Davidian, Michelle Ananian, Renee Ananian who prepped the meal, set up tables, decorated and washed the grapes and stone fruit.

Lori Sarabian who baked and donated all of the beautiful cookies at each of the tables.

Our BBQ team of Charlie Davidian, Brian Ananian, David Vartanian.

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

Grandparents' Day is right around the corner! Who would want to miss honoring our grandparents, especially while feasting on the delicious brunch featuring beeshig, egg casserole, and fresh fruit? This Yettem tradition is **Sunday, September 12th** following church services. Reservations are required by calling the church office at 559-528-6892 or emailing lunch@stmaryyettem.org. Don't miss out!

St. Gregory Ladies Society of Fowler is hosting the annual sister church luncheon on **Saturday, September 18th**. Keynote speaker is Malia Mooradian, a member of St. Gregory Fowler, has her degree in divinity from Fresno Pacific University. Reservations are required and mailed to me by **Tuesday, September 7th**. You do not have to be a Ladies Society member. ALL women are invited to attend. Come join the fellowship of Armenian Christian Women throughout the Central Valley.

Thank you to Rose Marie Margosian for her generous donation in recognition of the article on Lucille Margosian that appeared in the church newsletter.

Thank you to Yn. Maral Khanjian for inspiring and instructing us in our monti making cooking class. The class was attended and thoroughly enjoyed by 30 eager cooks. After learning to make this mouthwatering traditional Armenian dish, we feasted on our bounty. A fun time was had by all! We can't wait for more cooking classes!

August was a sorrowful month for three Ladies Society families. These losses once again remind me to keep God close to my heart, to be loving and kind, and to treasure each day with the ones I love. Life is too short to not spend time with God, our families, and our friends. I pray peace and comfort to each family in this difficult time.

Our condolences to the Zarounian, Hovannisian, and Groefsema families for the passing of our past member Alice Halbourian. Alice joined Ladies Society in 1992 and even though she moved out of the area, she continued to support the activities of Ladies Society. We are truly grateful for her support.

Our condolences to Jeanette Ekizian, Jeff Ekizian and the entire Ekizian family for the passing of their granddaughter and daughter, Mikayla Lynne Bentley. To lose a child at such a young age is never easy. We pray God comforts them.

Our condolences to our member Julie Poochigian, to member Adrienne Poochigian, and all the Poochigian family for the loss of Jerry Poochigian. Jerry was a jovial personality and warm at heart. He volunteered numerous times to help us in the kitchen and you could always find him at the barbeque pit cooking for the annual food festival. We will miss him.

Birthday wishes for September go out to Lillian Safrazian. We wish her all God's blessings.

Please join us for our next monthly luncheon meeting, **Saturday, September 4th, 11:30 AM** at the church hall.

God's blessings to all,
Linda Farsakian-Wall
Chairlady

RAFFLE WINNERS

Our eighth drawing for our St. Mary Armenian Church raffle was held on Sunday, August 22nd. Congratulations to...

(\$150) Charles Sarabian

(\$100) Steve Fowler

(\$50) Gerard Garoian

Our ninth raffle drawing will be held on **Sunday, September 12th**. It's not too late to take part in the fun! If you don't have tickets or need additional ones, please contact Tina Peters at (559) 967-2593 by phone or text.

WAYS AND MEANS

Ways and Means next meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 2nd via Zoom at 7:00 PM.**

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council's next meeting will be held via Zoom on **September 23rd at 6 PM.**

Sunday School is back. The first class of the year is **September 12th at 11:00 AM**. Sunday School meets on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, September – June. All children welcome! (See flier)

St. Mary Ladies Society invites you to a brunch in celebration of **Grandparents' Day on Sunday, September 12th** after church services. To reserve a table or seat(s) email: lunch@stmaryyettem.org or call the church office at (559) 528-2892. Reservations are required. (See flier)

ACYO Bake Sale will be held on **Sunday, September 12th (Grandparent's Day)** after church services. Come and enjoy freshly baked Armenian desserts handmade by the ACYO members. (See flier)

The Sister Churches Luncheon hosted by St. Gregory Ladies Society will be held on **Saturday, September 18th. Social at 11:30 AM and Lunch at 12:00 Noon.**

SAVE THE DATE

The Armenian Food Festival (drive-thru only) will be held on **Thursday, October 21st** at the Visalia Elks Lodge in Visalia. (See flier)

Our church office hours are Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 – 2:30 PM. The office phone number is (559) 528-6892. If you are in need of something beyond these hours, you can email fathermashdots@stmaryyettem.org or text/call (818) 293-9098 or email St. Mary Parish Council Chairman Myron Sheklian at myron@sheklian.com or text/call (559) 280-7315.

Father Mashdots is available for pastoral care, spiritual guidance, and support. Please inform Der Hayr of those who may be sick at home, hospitalized or may simply want to talk.

COOKBOOK

A second edition of the "Treasured Recipes from the Garden of Eden" has been made available. These cookbooks make a great gift. 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.

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 \$100, please call the church office at (559) 528-6892.

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.

ARMENIANS OF LEBANON

During history there are times that demand us to extend our hands to our brothers and sisters in need. Right now, Lebanese Armenians are living in difficult times deprived of basic living conditions - food, water, utilities and more. Please open your hearts and consider making a donation to assist the Armenians of Lebanon. Checks can be made out to St. Mary Armenian Church with "Lebanese Armenian Assistance" on the memo line. We are working with our Western Diocese and the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia to direct your donations to those in need.

ALL services are livestreamed on our webpage at www.stmaryyettem.org. Click the link on the "camera tab" to watch services. The Holy Badarak is streamed on our Facebook page each Sunday beginning at 10:15 AM.

The St. Mary Armenian Church of Yetem Facebook page and website will keep you informed about our church schedules, events, and miscellaneous happenings. Make sure you stop and visit often as we are always adding lots of pictures and information.

PAYPAL

You may access PayPal through the St. Mary Yetem 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.



ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH

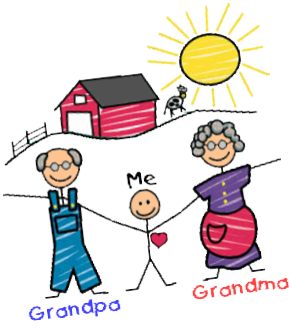
SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Ways and Means meeting via Zoom at 7:00 PM	3	4 Ladies Society meeting at 11:30 AM in the Majorian Hall
5 Barekendan of the Fast of Holy Cross	6 Labor Day ACYO meeting via Zoom at 5:00 PM	7	8 Feast of the Nativity of the Holy Mother-of-God	9	10	11
12 Exaltation of the Holy Cross School resumes at 11:00 AM Ladies Society Grandparents' Day Brunch ACYO Bake Sale	13 Remembrance of the Dead	14	15	16	17	18 Sister Churches Luncheon hosted by St. Gregory Ladies Society Social 11:30 AM Lunch 12:00 PM
19 Barekendan of the Fast of Holy Cross of Varak	20	21 Independence Day of the Republic of Armenia	22	23 Parish Council meeting via Zoom at 6:00 PM	24	25
26 Sunday School Holy Cross of Varak	27	28	29	30		

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

Father Mashdots can be reached at:
 559-528-6892 – Office
 559-528-6897 – FAX
 818-293-9098 - Cell



St. Mary Ladies Society
Invites you to a Brunch
in Celebration of



'Grandparents' Day'

Sunday, September 12, 2021

Immediately following church services in the Majarian Hall



∞ Enjoy a Delicious Brunch
featuring—Beeshee and
Traditional Grandparents Day foods ∞

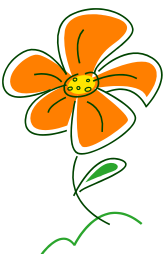


****Cost **Adults(\$15)**Children(\$10)****

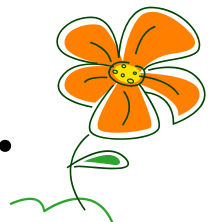
-To Reserve a Table or Seat(s)-

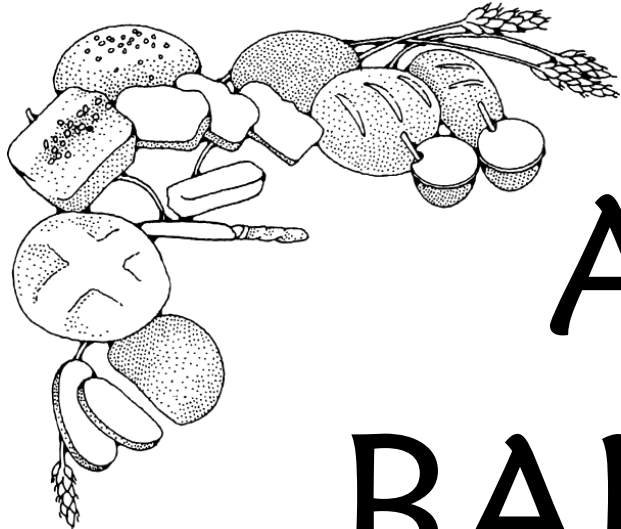
**E-mail: lunch@stmaryyettem.org —or—
Call the Church Office — (559) 528-6892
by September 4**

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED



Celebrate our dear Grandparents...





ACYO BAKE SALE

After Church Services
Sunday, September 12, 2021
(Grandparent's Day)

Freshly Baked Armenian Desserts
Handmade by
the ACYO Members.



****SUPPORT your ACYO YETTEM Bake Sale****
Donations of any Armenian Baked Goods or
Specialty Desserts will be greatly
appreciated and accepted
the day of the Bake Sale.
If you would like to donate any Baked Goods
Contact: Dustin Vartanian
Cell: (559) 623-3520 or E-mail: dustyvart@gmail.com



St. Mary Yettem
Ways and Means Committee

We are back “AGAIN” this Year!

ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

Thursday, October 21, 2021

Visalia Elks Lodge

(3100 W. Main—just East of County Center Dr.)

• Menu •

Choice of Two Entrée Plates

Lulu Kebab -or- Chicken Kebab

Pilaf, Salad, Peda Bread and Bourma

Donation~\$18 per person

NEW Serving Times

Lunch Served — 11:00am—1:30pm

Dinner Served — 4:30pm—7:00pm

DRIVE THRU ONLY

For your convenience there will be Two Drive Thru Lines

Available for Purchase

• Armenian Pastries and Grape Leaves •

Tickets Available Starting in September!



COME READY TO
SING, LEARN, PLAY &
PRAY BECAUSE...



SUNDAY
SCHOOL IS
BACK!

FIRST CLASS OF THE YEAR IS
SEPTEMBER 12TH @ 11AM

REMEMBER: SUNDAY SCHOOL
MEETS EVERY 2ND & 4TH SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER- JUNE

Contact Tracy Valencia
With Any Questions @ 559.824.0913





(Continued from the front page)

We conclude by reminding you once again of the Lord's message "*A house divided cannot stand*" (Matthew 12:25). Today, we are blessed that the people have taken it upon themselves to safeguard the inner unity of the children of the church, which should exert moral pressure on us to hasten the process of reestablishing unity. It has been said a thousand times that the church must stay far from politics and free from its influences so that we may be able to reform and reinforce it. Meanwhile, we are never surprised to witness today a situation, in Armenia and the diaspora, wherein our nation is torn apart by various religious currents.

There is one primary approach to rectifying this situation, which we must make visible and tangible, and that is to humble ourselves before one another with Christian love and take upon our shoulders the vision and the cross of the mission of the Armenian Church.

And if we falter in this step, then our internal strength will collapse, and the children of the same church will be estranged from one another.

The mission field of the Armenian Church is waiting for the clergy with renewed vigor and a righteous sense of faith. At least, by this approach, lessened will be the trials and current difficulties of returning one lost sheep to the flock.

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate

Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America* and Mexico

Lessons On the Cross - The Third Saying

The third saying that Jesus said on the cross was addressed to his mother when he saw His mother and the disciple standing by her whom He loved. He said unto His mother, "*Woman, this is your son!*" (John 19:26). He said to the disciple: "*Here is your mother*" (John 19:27).

Many people promise us not to let us alone in our life, but unfortunately, faced with a first problem they let us down. We can talk a lot about loyalty, but only some of us could live it like Jesus did when He was nailed on the cross. He only found His mother and His beloved disciple who loyally rested until the last moments of His life. Jesus, during his life on earth lived far from every glamorous and richness and from every affection to any person.

Do you remember what Jesus said? *Who is mother? Who is my brother?* (Matthew 12:48) insisting that who does the Will of His Father. They will be His mother, brothers, and sisters, but where are those disciples who were listening to Him? Why were they not present under the Cross with Jesus? In fact, to those who have been loyal to Him, He gave them his heritage by confiding His mother to his beloved disciple and His loyal disciple to His dear mother. Therefore, in our life the precious person in our life must be our mother because she is the loyal person to us.

Jesus who is the head of the church and His beloved disciple represents the faithful of the church and his mother is given as a mother of the entire church. He gave to you and to me his heritage for this reason. We should remember that the Virgin Mary became the mother of the Church. She will not let us alone, especially in the difficulties of life. We must not forget the role of Virgin Mary on our life because she became our heavenly mother who will intercede always for us. In the end, we should know that all of us, by baptism we died with Jesus, and reborn again in the heart of the church. In that church we must be loyal to the crucified through our love and testament.