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DECEMBER 2019

YETTEM

A publication of St. Mary

Armenian Church

Yettem, California

Commemoration of St. Stephen the Protomartyr and the first martyr

St. Stephen is one of the most beloved saints of the Universal Church, the first person martyred for the sake of Christ's doctrine of love.

According to the hagiographical sources he was from the royal dynasty of Judas and was the son of law-abiding parents. Still a young man he was the servant of the chief priest Kayipaya. According to the same sources when the Lord was taken to home, Stephen took off the cloth from his head and spread it under the Lord's feet thus expressing his true and sincere love. This naturally annoyed the chief priest and he turned Stephen out. Stephen witnessed the death and burial of the Lord but rejoiced with the apostles for the Glorious Resurrection of Christ. According to St. Gregory of Tatev he went to the apostles Peter and John and was baptized. At the moment of baptism an aureole (crown) appeared on the water. After that miraculous event he was called "Stephen" meaning (crowned). From the Acts of the Apostles it is known that after the Pentecost apostles served the tables and gave subsidies to the poor. From day to day increased the number of those who believed in Christ. As the apostles were unable to meet the needs of everybody, asked their disciples to choose 7 persons of good reputation for serving the tables. According to St. Luke the Evangelist one of them was St. Stephen, "... a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6:5). By the power received from Christ apostles ordained him deacon. Thanks to his God-granted virtues and power Stephen worked wonders. Many people tried to argue with him, but no one was as wise as Stephen. So, some ill-willing persons persuaded some people to say that Stephen scolded God and the Prophet Moses. Inciting the people, the priests and the lawyers they took Stephen to the court. In his speech in his defense Stephen proved that Jesus was the promised Messiah, and reproached the Jews for their cruelty. He was stoned out of the city and his cloths were put before a man whose name was Saul and who later became the Apostle Peter. In the beginning he persecuted Christians but later he knew the true God – Jesus Christ, and became the most zealous preacher of the Gospel. St. Stephen was the first person martyred for the sake of Christ and that's why he is called Protomartyr.

According to the tradition Gamaliel, the teacher of the Apostle Peter, and Nicodemus, his brother, who were secrete disciples of Jesus, buried the saint's body in their farm. Soon a priest named Lukianus discovered the relics. And Pontiff Hovhan of Jerusalem put them in St. Sion. In the V century Princess Juliane found the saint's tabernacle in Jerusalem and took it to Constantinople, and later – to Venice and buried it in the Church of St. George (St. Gevorg) island.

Parish Notes

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP
THE DECEMBER 2019 BULLETIN
IS SPONSORED BY
CAROL MARANIAN
IN MEMORY OF
HER BELOVED HUSBAND,
JOHN MARANIAN

CONDOLENCES
Our condolences to Larry Redman and Family on the recent passing of his wife, Rosemary Kutumian Redman. She entered her eternal rest on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 and also to The Family of Violet Simonian Palmer. Violet entered her eternal rest on October 31, 2019. Our thoughts and prayers are with these families.

THANK YOU FROM FR. VARTAN
*Many thanks and sincere appreciation to my brother priests and all those who remembered me with prayers, phone calls, personal visitations, good wishes and remembrances during my various hospitalizations over the past year. All of these have helped along the slow and arduous path to complete recovery which seems to be progressing, as the saying goes – gamatz, gamatz.
God bless
Most Sincerely,
Rev. Fr. Vartan Archpriest Kasparian*

ALTAR CANDLES DONATION
Sandra Choboian has donated altar candles in honor of her brother, John Choboian's birthday on December 24th.

ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS
●November 10 – Mari Louise, Laurie and David Menendian in memory of their cousin, Aram Der Nersesian whose father was Yervant Nersesian

●November 17 – Rose Marie Margosian, Pierre and Melissa Pilavian and Family, Darrell and Tina Peters and Family in memory of George and Margie Kevorkian, Rose Marie's parents and Donny Kevorkian, Rose Marie's brother
●November 17 – Mari Louise, Laurie and David Menendian in memory of Baby Armen Menendian, born on November 14, 1912 and died on May 21, 1913 at six months old

HOKEHANKIST
●November 10 – Aram Der Nersesian, forty days after his passing, requested by Mari Louise, Laurie and David Menendian
●November 17 – Zimit Djerrahian, three years after her passing, requested by Denny and Betty Klaseus
●November 17 - George Kevorkian, forty years after his passing, Margie Kevorkian, thirty-one years after her passing and Donny Kevorkian, twenty-two years after his passing, requested by Rose Marie Margosian, Pierre and Melissa Pilavian and Family, Darrell and Tina Peters and Family
●November 17 – Baby Armen Menendian, requested by Mari Louise, Laurie and David Menendian

HOKEHANKIST (Repose of Soul)
DONATIONS
(October 30, 2019 – November 22, 2019)

For Repose of Aram Der Nersesian's Soul
●California Concept Pools
●Wadda, Ahmed and Arpy

For Repose of Zimit Djerrahian's Soul
●Klaseus, Denny and Betty

For Repose of George and Margie Kevorkian and Donny Kevorkian's Souls
●Margosian, Rose Marie
●Pilavian and Family, Pierre and Melissa
●Peters and Family, Darrell and Tina

Ladies Society News

Our annual **Holiday Bazaar** is ***Sunday, December 8***. This timeless Yetteem tradition offers you something special for the holidays. Delicious homemade Armenian delicacies and hand crafted one of a kind items will be auctioned off. You won't want to miss the opportunity to make your bid! And of course, delicious kufta hand made by our ladies will be for sale. Who can give up this once a year offer to buy the best tasting kufta west of Armenia? Make your plans today to attend our **Holiday Bazaar**.

Speaking of kufta, it could not be possible without the committee chairs, Debbie Sheklian and Madlien Hebesha and their helpers, Ladies Society members Judy Skaff, Gina Ananian, Yn. Adrine Markosyan, Bea Soxman, Sandy Kalfayan, Georgia Davidian, and Janice McWilliams. Also lending a much needed hand were Myron Sheklian, Jim Soxman, John Kalfayan, and Elizabeth Torosian. And who could forget the cooks of the future, Laura and Marley Ananian? They made sure the kufta makers had all the supplies they needed. Thank you all for your unselfish time.

The November general meeting we had elections of officers, delegates, and standing committees. Elected to the executive board were Margie L. Davidian, Mari Louise Menendian, and myself. Shirley Ouzounian was elected as delegate. Reelected to the auditing committee were Debbie Agnew, Nancy Krikorian, and Bea Soxman. Reelected to the nominating committee were Laurie Menendian and Margie A. Davidian. Thank you all for your willingness to service. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year.

I want to thank Julie Pochigian who completed a four-year term as our treasurer. She maliciously kept the books and paid all the bills and made deposits promptly. Thank you, Julie, for your service. Birthday wishes for December goes out to Nancy Hagopian and Renee Yahnian. We wish them both God's blessings.

Merry Christmas,

Linda Farsakian-Wall, Chairlady

ACYO is offering Christmas decorating indoor or outdoor. They will come to your house and do it for you! (See flyer)

Ladies Society 5th Annual Holiday Bazaar will be held on Sunday, December 8, 2019 after Divine Liturgy in the Majarian Hall. (See flyer)

ACYO Christmas Party/Meeting (Election of New Officers) will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2019 at Fr. Zaven's home.

Chairmen's meeting will be held on Sunday, December 15, 2019 after Divine Liturgy.

Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday, December 19, 2019 in the Majarian Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday School Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 22, 2019.

St. Mary Armenian Church Armenian Christmas Luncheon will be held on Sunday, January 5, 2020 sponsored by the Ways and Means Committee. Special Christmas program presented by the Sunday School students. (See flyer)

SAVE THE DATE

Parish Assembly Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 9, 2020.

Sunday School meets on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 11:00 a.m. during the school year. Welcome all children! Armenian Language classes are still available for our parishioners. If you are interested, please contact the church office at (559) 528-6892 or Fr. Zaven at (818) 644-9398.

Armenian Apostolic Church Hymns CD performed by Rev. Fr. Zaven Markosyan is available for distribution and all the donations will go to St. Mary Yettem.

ACYO is selling Reusable Bags for \$5 each, St. Mary Yettem Hats for \$12 each and Yettem shirts for \$10 each. Please see any ACYO member for questions or to purchase.

ST. MARY MEMORIAL WALL

There are now 28 available spaces for new names on the Memorial Wall. The cost for each space is \$200. You can place an order for an additional name(s) by contacting Jim Soxman: ph. 559 - 936-2227, or email: jimbeasoxman@sbcglobal.net

COOKBOOK

By popular demand, a second edition of the "Treasured Recipes from the Garden of Eden" has been made available. 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.

DVD SET FOR SALE: St. Mary Armenian Church, 100th Anniversary, July 2, 2011. DVD set is \$25.00 and can be purchased by calling the church office at (559) 528-6892. A \$6.00 charge for shipping and handling will be added to the price if you would like one mailed to you. (Sponsored by the Ways and Means Committee)

The "Armenian Genocide Survivors and Heroes" book can be purchased for \$40 at the St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church Office. Copies can be mailed for an additional cost. Call the church office at (559) 528-6892 for details.

The St. Mary Armenian Church webpage at www.stmaryyettem.org includes archived copies of church bulletins, pictures from events, a current church calendar, and an improved LIVE Camera System. View services on any desktop, laptop, or tablet!

PAYPAL

You may access PayPal through the St. Mary Yettem web-site (www.stmaryyettem.org) and click on the "Donation" button on the bottom of the Home Page. You may donate for General Donations, Yughakins, Pledges, Membership Dues, In Lieu of Flowers, or pay for Altar Flowers you have ordered on behalf of the Church.

To St. Mary Parishioners: The Parish Council would like to invite any parishioner who may have concerns or questions with anything dealing with Church affairs. The Parish Council meetings are held the third Thursday of each month. To be placed on the agenda of the meeting, please contact Der Zaven at (818) 644-9398 or Bea Soxman Parish Council Chairperson at (559) 623-2390.

To St. Mary Parishioners: If you know of anyone ill or in the hospital, please call Rev. Fr. Zaven Markosyan at the Church Office (559) 528-6892 or his cell (818) 644-9398. St. Mary Armenian Apostolic church office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, from 9:30 -2:30.

If you wish to place any information in the monthly Bulletin, please notify the church office by the 20th of month.

St. Mary Armenian Church, Yettem

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Sunday School meets Ladies Society 5 th Annual Holiday Bazaar	9	10	11	12	13	14 ACYO Christmas Party/Meeting (Election of New Officers) at Fr. Zaven's home
15 Chairmen's meeting after Divine Liturgy	16	17	18	19 Parish Council meeting in the Majarian Hall at 7:00 pm	20	21
22 Sunday School Christmas party	23	24	25 Christmas	26	27	28
29 Berekendan of the Fast of Nativity	30 First Day of the Fast of Nativity	31				

Sunday Schedule:

Morning Service (Matins) 9:45 AM
Divine Liturgy

Father Zaven can be reached at:

559-528-6892 - Office
559-528-6897 - FAX
818-644-9398 - Cell

ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH YETTEM

SAVE THE DATE

PILGRIMAGE TO ARMENIA

JUNE 2020



For more information call to the church office

(559)528-6892

Christmas Decorating

Need help decorating your house Christmas?

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 at (559) 623-3520

Donations are appreciated.



Christmas Bazaar



St. Mary Armenian Church

**Ladies Society 5th Annual Holiday
Christmas Bazaar**

Sunday, December 8, 2019

In the Majarian Hall following Divine Liturgy

Luncheon:

\$12.00 for adults

\$ 8.00 for children 10 and under



**Country Store,
raffle, and live auction!**

**We will also have kufta and manti
for sale!**





**ST. MARY
ARMENIAN CHURCH,
YETTEM
WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE**

**Armenian Christmas Luncheon
Sunday, January 5, 2020**

immediately following the day's worship

Menu

Lulu Kebab

Pilaf

Salad

Rolls

Dessert

Drinks

Adults--\$15.00

Children ten (10) and under--\$10.00

**Special Christmas Program
Presented by the Sunday School Students**

Plan to attend with the entire family and enjoy the delicious luncheon and entertaining program.



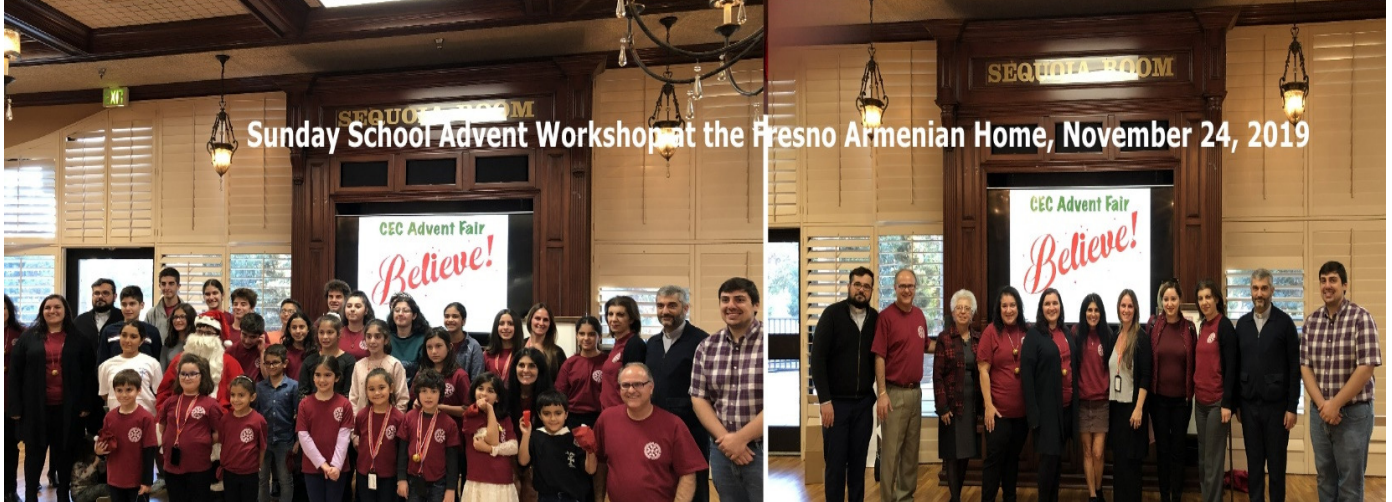
Ladies Society Cooking Class.







Sunday School Movie Day in the Hall, November 10, 2019



Sunday School Advent Workshop at the Fresno Armenian Home, November 24, 2019

St. Mary Armenian Church

P.O. Box 367

Yettam, California 93670

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

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